

Nov 9 and the last Nov 18, Ingraham Hill (CH). White-crowned Sparrow: Sep 29, Choconut Center (MS); never particularly numerous; 1, Nov 27, Cortland, (A. Morey). White-throated Sparrow: first noted Sep 14, peak numbers in late Sep, quite common thru Oct and stragglers still present at the end of Nov. Fox Sparrow: 1, Oct 11, Ingraham Hill (CH); 89, Nov 3, Chenango Forks (M,AD), coming into brush lot to roost as they had for several days previously; in numbers until Nov 18. Lincoln's Sparrow: 1, Sep 27, Ingraham Hill (CH); Sep 29, Choconut Center (MS). Swamp Sparrow: Oct 27, Vestal (HM). Song Sparrow: common to end of Nov. Snow Bunting: 3, Oct 27, Broome County Airport (MS); Nov 3, Homer (JG); only reports.

710 University Ave., Endwell 13763

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

DAVID B. PEAKALL and MARGARET S. RUSK

Weather during the period was record-breaking and had a considerable effect on the bird life of the Region. September was cold (second-coldest on record), sunny, and dry. The first frost, on September 24th, was the earliest ever recorded. October was the driest ever, the total rainfall being only two-tenths of an inch compared to the normal of just over three inches. A new record high temperature and percentage of sunshine were also established. The hot dry conditions necessitated a statewide closing of the woods and a delay of three weeks in the opening of the hunting season. November was also exceptionally warm but, in contrast with October, the rainfall was considerably above average.

The long warm spell was responsible for a slow, unspectacular migration with few noticeable peaks or waves, and for a number of record-late departure dates. Such an abundance of late thrushes, vireos, and warblers has not been seen locally since 1954 when Hurricane Hazel on October 15 apparently **turned back** the migrants in their southward paths to bring Central New York a wealth of October and November late dates. In 1963 the heat seems to have **held** the various tropics-bound species here. (See below for particulars).

During the unseasonably hot October a good variety of winter finches began arriving; the flight of White-winged Crossbills is already the largest since Regional **Kingbird** reports have been written.

Abbreviations: BBFS — Dr. Ben Burt's feeder survey, held the first week of Nov and of Dec; counts reduced to per 100 reports; HIGMA — Howland's Island Game Management Area; Oakwood — Cemetery, Syracuse; Onon — Onondaga; SP — Sandy Pond; SSSP — Selkirk Shores State Park; Skan — Skaneateles; Syr — Syracuse; TRGMA — Three Rivers Game Management Area; VBSP — Verona Beach State Park; arr — arrived; imm — immature; L — Lake; max — maximum; n — north; s — south.

Regular observers: DA — Dorothy Ackley; HA — Hazel Aspinwall; MB — Maude Bitz; EE — Emma Evans; HN — Harmon Nodecker; PP — Paul Paquette; DP — David Peakall; JP — Jean Propst; MR — Margaret Rusk; CS — Christian Spies; WS — Walter Spofford; BS — Betty Starr; IS — Ina Stone; RT — Ruth Thomas; R,SW — Ruth and Sally White.

Loons — Ducks: Red-throated Loon: no fall reports at all; in previous years a few have always been seen. Horned Grebe: arr Oct 6; fall max 50-75 on L Ontario, late Oct — early Nov. Green Heron: one Tully, Oct 23 (JP) is record late. Black-crowned Night Heron: an adult Onon L Aug 14 and an imm SP Sep 21 are the only records. Bittern: last, Scott Swamp, Oct 22.

Brant: one Nov 3, L Ontario is the only report; although an erratic species in this area, it is often seen in hundreds along L Ontario. and

Oneida L. Gadwell: one Beaver L Oct 27 (MR). Green-winged Teal: first migrants Onon L Aug 14, 150-200 present at HIGMA from early Sep to late Nov. Blue-winged Teal: 250 at VBSP Sep 1; main departure HIGMA Oct 15; last recorded TRGMA Nov 2. American Widgeon: first flocks Oct 7; at Beaver L the numbers built up to 500 by late Oct, then steadily declined in early Nov, with counts down to 50 by the 2nd week of the month. Wood Duck: best counts 500 Scott Swamp Oct 15 and 400 Clay Swamp Oct 17. Ring-necked Duck: at Beaver L first flocks observed Oct 7; number built up to 500 by the end of the month; max 600-700 mid-Nov, remained until freeze-up at end of period. Canvasback: 800 Oneida L Nov 25 and 2600 there Dec 3 are the first fall counts on this scale since 1959. Scaup: arr L Ontario Oct 13; max (to end of period) 200, Skan L Nov 16; no large flocks seen on Oneida L where numbers up to 1-5000 have been reported previous Novembers. Goldeneye: arr Oct 19; 200-400 L Ontario during Nov. Bufflehead: arr Oct 28; fall max tens. Oldsquaw: a flock of 200, Derby Hill, L Ontario, is unusually large (WS). Eider: three imm or female, probably King, L Ontario Nov 16 (MR). White-winged Scoter: arr Oct 11; max 100 early Nov L Ontario. Surf Scoter: one-ten/day L Ontario Oct 11-Nov 23. Common Scoter: two-12 Oct 11-Nov 23, L Ontario. Ruddy Duck: 25 Oneida L Nov 25 is best fall count since 1959. Common Merganser: arr Sep 15 Delta L. Red-breasted: arr Sep 21; peak counts 1000/day late Oct-early Nov, L Ontario.

Hawks — Owls: Goshawk: one SSSP Oct 17 (EE) is the only definite record; a large accipiter seen over Syr Nov 20 (JP) may have been this species. Sharp-shinned: four reports of single individuals. Cooper's: three reports of single individuals. Broad-winged Hawk: two imm observed catching grasshoppers in the mowed grass of the shoulders of Rte 81 at Central Square Sep 14 (MR, WS) — this species is rarely reported in fall. Rough-legged: first date Oct 13; only a few reports since, indicating a poor flight. Marsh Hawk: nine sightings reported, compared to 25 last fall. Osprey: singles Delta L Sep 15, Otisco L Oct 12, and SP Oct 13 are the only records. Pigeon Hawk: one VBSP Sep 1 (PP, MR) is early.

The departure dates of five species of shorebirds set new records; no fewer than 13 species were observed in Nov, when seven would be normal. Ringed Plover: max 50 Onon L Aug 14 and Delta L Sep 15; last, VBSP Nov 2. Golden Plover: up to 25 present at Syr airport Aug 24-Oct 12, with 16 still there on the latter date, late for such a high number; one SP Nov 2 (MR) is nearly three weeks later than the previous latest date. Black-bellied Plover: max 20 Delta L Sep 15; last, VBSP Nov 9. Turnstone: max 12 VBSP Sep 9; last, Oct 12. Upland Plover: four-five with Golden Plover at Syr airport Aug 24-27 — this species is rarely recorded after the breeding season. Spotted Sandpiper: one Onon L Nov 11-12 (CS, DP) is nearly a month later than the previous latest. Solitary: 17 Otisco L Sep 8 is one of the best counts of recent years; last, Sep 27 Otisco L. Willet: one Onon L Aug 29 (JP, MR) is the third modern regional record. Greater Yellowlegs: scarce, with low max of six in late Sep VBSP, and no rise in late fall; last, Nov 11 Otisco L. Lesser Yellowlegs: rather low numbers, max 34 Onon L Aug 14; last, Nov 17 Onon L, a new record late departure date. Knot: one-four SP Aug 17-Sep 20; one-three VBSP Sep 3-29. Purple Sandpiper: one SP Nov 23 (MR) — usual date and place for this scarce but regular migrant. Pectoral: max 40 Otisco L Oct 2-16; last, Otisco L Oct 30. White-rumped: one-four Onon L Aug 14 — Oct 13; one-two VBSP Sep 1-Nov 23 (record late date, R,SW); one Otisco L Sep 24-Oct 9. Baird's: good flight, one-five Onon L Aug 14-Nov 2, one-two VBSP Aug 17-Sep 29, one-five SP Sep 12-Oct 13, one-two Otisco L Sep 18-Nov 11 (record late departure, JP). Least Sandpiper: last Otisco L Oct 12. Dunlin: arr Sep 2 SP; max 75 VBSP early Nov; last, SP Nov 23, rather late. Dowitcher: very scarce, only records are of single birds, SP Aug 17; VBSP Aug 27-Sep 7; Onon L Aug 31; Delta L Sep 1. Stilt Sandpiper: one-two Onon L Aug 20-23; two-three VBSP Aug 27-Sep 7; one Delta L Sep 1. Semipalmated: max 200 VBSP Sep 1; last, Otisco L Oct 23. Western: one Onon L Sep 9-10 (DP, JP). Buff-breasted: an imm Onon L Sep 9 (MR) first record since 1960. Hudsonian Godwit: six SP

Sep 14 and six Delta L Sep 15 (MR, WS) — these places are about 40 miles apart; one VBSP Oct 12 (R, SW); three have been four previous occurrences of this species. Sanderling: last, Nov 23 SP. Red Phalarope: one Onon L Oct 7 (DP, JP) is the first Oct record ever. All previous occurrences have been Nov or Dec. Wilson's: one Onon L Sep 4 (JP). Northern: one-two Onon L Aug 14-Oct 7; five Onon L Sep 4 (JP).

Great Black-backed Gull: arr Aug 17 SP; max (to end of period) 50, L Ontario late Nov. Bonaparte's Gull: 300 VBSP Sep 1 (MR) is record high count. Common Tern: max 300 VBSP Sep 1; last, SP Oct 6. Caspian Tern: last, Sep 9 Onon L. Black Tern: max 30 Oneida L Aug 17; last, SSSP Sep 2.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one found freshly killed in road Oct 25 (Farnhams) is five days later than previous latest. Snowy Owl: one freshly killed in road nr Mexico Nov 28 (fide P. Buckley); one, Onon L Nov 28 (M. Thomas). Barred Owl: one Oct 17 SSSP (EE) — a new locality.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Whip-poor-will: of interest is one seen on the SP dunes Sep 21 (J. Bart) as there are few local records of fall migrants. Despite the hot Oct, not quite so late as in 1962 was a final Nighthawk Oct 6 at the same Syr dump where they were found last year. Flicker: about six reports, more than usual, after the end of the period. Red-bellied Woodpecker: a new location is Fish Gulf, one Oct 6 (BS) — tho' they have been reported at feeders nearby in winter; up to three (Nov 30) again present L Ontario n of New Haven (IS, RT). Red-headed: two imm Sep 18 n of New Haven (IS, RT), probably from this summer's nearby nesting. Both Three-toed Woodpeckers have been reported from the northern-most corner of the Region: Black-backed, Big Moose Sep 21 (DP), and Northern, Little Five Pond Aug 24 (A. Maley); there is to date no indication of a winter migration out of their breeding area.

Phoebe: last reports Oct 12, about normal. Last two Empidonax (sp?) Oct 3 Syr, a bit late. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Oneida report, Sep (HN) of this uncommon and often unnoticed silent fall migrant. Horned Lark: extremely desultory migration, with no reports of over a dozen together. Tree, Bank, and Barn Swallows, and Martins were flocking for migration, along the s shore of Oneida L Aug 17; a light migration of 30 Tree, 100 Bank, and 20 Barn in an hour noted SP Aug 18. No Oct swallow reports — apparently they had left before the hot Oct weather might have held them here. Tufted Titmouse: again at Mexico (Nov BBFS and fide IS), for the first time since 1960; merely a stray individual, or will the species become established here as it has in Baldwinsville and Brewerton? Crow: an astonishing 12,000 counted at the Onondaga Hill roost by Dwight Chamberlaine on Nov 16.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: widely noted from early Sep thru the end of the period, but the max was a moderate 12 in an hour Sep 20 (a flight day) Syr, and few other counts approached this. By far the max of Brown Creepers was 28 on the extremely warm Oct 26 at Bear Spring, Fulton. Winter Wren: arr SP Sep 14; a fair max of eight SP Oct 6; last migrant Nov 3 SSSP: a few attempting to winter. Carolina: singles, the end of Nov at Solvay (Hastings) and n of New Haven (IS, RT). Long-billed Marsh Wren: a fair max of eight Sep 20 SP: last one Nov 11 SSSP. Four Mockingbird reports: Onondaga Hill Oct 15 (H. Ives); Fayetteville mid-late Oct (D. Mesmer); Baldwinsville Nov 11 (Mrs. G. Barrows) and Mexico in Nov (fide IS) — all localities where Mockers have been previously seen. Catbird: late individuals Central Square (Nov BBFS) and New Haven Nov 4 — this or another individual still there Dec. 5.

Robin: several observers remarked on the high numbers: maxima of 200-250/day the last third of Sep and first third of Oct (DP, JP, BS), and there had been 80-100 in an hour from mid-Aug thru Sep in Oakwood: eight reports, from various localities, of singles or two in early Dec, is somewhat more than average — resulting from the warm weather or from more linger-

ing, out of the many which passed thru, or both? Hermit Thrush: last three Nov 17 Brookfield (R,SW), about normal. Swainson's: arr Aug 17 SP (A. Starling); a moderate max of 20 Sep 20 (wave day) SP. Tropics-wintering thrushes all set record-late last dates: Wood, several reported Nov BBFS; Swainson's, Oct 27 Bear Spring (MR) plus three others the last week of Oct; Gray-cheeked, Oct 9 Fish Gulf (JP, BS); and Veery, Nov 15 Syr (MB, D. Cummings). Bluebird: except for frequent migrants during Oct thru the Rome vicinity (HA) and — encouragingly — flocks of 15-20 in mid-Sep at Lafayette (M. Redman), only about five other reports, never of more than four birds at once.

Two reports of a Ruby-crowned Kinglet (BBFS) still present in early Dec as well as the usual Golden-crowned, following a slow migration with max Golden-crowned 40 at SP Oct 20, and 20 Ruby-crowned with them (this number of the latter occurred several other days in Oct — there was no sharp peak). Pipit: a good flight SP Sep 14-Nov 2; max 100 Derby Hill Oct 11 (BS), and counts of 50 in a day at both L Ontario and Otisco L in mid-Oct (JP). Northern Shrike: in contrast with the finch situation, this may be a poor shrike winter, with no report in the period, and only two to date, first week of Dec BBFS. Loggerhead: one Sandy Creek Aug 23 (S. Hoyt and D. McIlroy).

Vireos— Warblers: Aug and Sep produced few waves; the only counts over 12 of any species except Myrtle occurred Sep 20-21 at SP, when 20 Nashville (each day), 30 Magnolia (20th), 35 Myrtle (21st), 15 Black-throated Green (20th), 12 Yellowthroat (20th), and 10 Wilson's (20th) plus lesser numbers of Black-and-white, Tennessee, Parula, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Ovenbird, Mourning, and Redstart were tallied. A light Aug 24 migration at SP included a Golden-winged Warbler, unusual so far north; four Palm Warblers were in a moderate Sep 14 SP flight.

In general, the late departures were extreme for a number of species, as follows, rather than moderately tardy for most: Solitary Vireo Oct 24, Syr (MB); Red-eyed Vireo Nov 23, SSSP (S. Morgan, CS); Black-throated Blue Warbler Oct 23, Syr (MR); Blackburnian Oct 20, SSSP (MR); two Palm Nov 9, Oneida (M. Felle); Ovenbird Oct 23, Syr (MR); Yellowthroat Nov 2, SP (DA); and Redstart (of which there was no count over five all fall!) Nov 3, a female or imm at Bear Spring (WS). Four reports of one to three Myrtles, in late Nov and early Dec, is more late records than usual.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolink: the largest migrating flock noted was of 30 at Empeyville (in the Tug Hill country where they are common breeders) Aug 23. Meadowlark: scattered small groups still present in early Dec. A notable flocking of at least 500 Grackles (no other icterids with them) was observed in mixed woods along the Fish Gulf creek Oct 12. A drop-off from tens of thousands to only hundreds of black icterids in the Clay vicinity occurred quite sharply Oct 28, following the first cold snap (DP). Dozens of Redwings and Grackles, and hundreds of Cowbirds, remained beyond the end of the period (Dec BBFS).

Evening Grosbeaks first appeared over SP Oct 13 — not surprisingly early, since birds now summering in the Tug Hill and lower Adirondacks need fly only ten or so miles to appear as migrants along L Ontario; 114 on the Nov BBFS indicates, on the basis of previous years' experiences, that this will be a moderate but not record Evening Grosbeak flight year. Purple Finch: six migrants arr Syr Sep 25 (MB); never more than that reported during Oct, and a total of only five on Nov BBFS — very low in contrast with the spring of 1963. Pine Grosbeak: first fall report is of three males at Rome Nov 30 (HA). Pine Siskin: widespread in Oct with max 100 Derby Hill Oct 11 (JP); fewer in Nov. Crossbills: three or four scattered reports of Reds in late Oct and early Nov, the max being 15 at Highland Forest Nov 11 (JP, BS); but on Nov 26 came the first report (Syr) of what was already at the end of the period a record-breaking irruption of White-winged Cross-

bills, sometimes alone, sometimes accompanied by Reds. Before Dec 1 the max was 150 White-winged with 50 Red at Fish Gulf Nov 27 (E. Estoff, JP), but flocks of 30-50 White-winged were reported from literally every part of the Region, feeding in cedar and hemlock as well as the various spruces.

Towhee: one New Haven Nov 30 and one Fulton Dec BBFS attempting to winter. Junco: 100 or so commonly counted in a limited area from about Oct 11 to Nov 11. Tree Sparrow: first one Oct 21 Jamesville (BS), but most observers found none before the 2nd week of Nov. The hot calm weather seemed to preclude the usual high counts of migrant sparrows; 60 White-throated on Oct 5 at TRGMA was the highest day's tally for any species. White-crowned: arr Sep 20 along L Ontario; max only 20 Oct 11 SSSP; a few at feeders Nov and Dec, but last report in the field is an imm, Syr Nov 27. Fox: widely observed and in good numbers, in contrast with most sparrows; maxima 30+ n of New Haven Oct 27; 30 at Clark Reservation Nov 10; 16 on Nov 11 Highland Forest. Lapland Longspur: singles Nov 2 at Lakeview Army Base on L Ontario (D. McIlroy) and Nov 28 Cicero Bog (F. Scheider). Snow Bunting: arr along L Ontario Oct 13, most of the fall reports from there, with max 35 at the Lakeview Army Base Nov 23.

SUNY Upstate Medical Center, 766 Irving Ave., Syracuse 10

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

The weather was mild and pleasant most of the time. The rainfall in early August had been heavy and so it was some time before the dry weather became noticed. Rain during September and October was light. The woods and fields became very dry by October. November brought plenty of rain and the month ended with a hard rain which changed to snow as the temperature fell.

PRGMA is again used for the Perch River Game Management Area.

Loons — Ducks: Horned Grebe: over 20 at Black River Bay Oct 20. Great Blue Heron: one at Brookside Cemetery, Watertown, at least until Nov 23. Mute Swan: six seen at Perch Lake for several weeks had been placed there by the Conservation Dept. Canada Goose: seen at Perch Lake and along Lake Ontario to the end of Nov. Duck: 1917 ducks were banded at PRGMA this fall. This is more than usual. Most years the total has been between 1000 and 1500. Many of the ducks banded there were Blacks or Mallards. During the first part of the season there was a fairly good supply of ducks, but the late season flight was smaller than usual. Perhaps the weather was a factor. There were fewer scaup this fall. Hooded Merganser: appeared early in Nov. as usual. One seen near Evans Mills Nov 29.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: apparently roosted again near Gouverneur, however, not seen as often as in 1962; last noted early Oct. Rough-legged Hawk: first seen Oct 6 at PRGMA. Noted regularly in Nov. A few, 3-4, have been staying in the Evans Mills-Philadelphia area. Marsh Hawk: seen regularly to latter part of Nov.

The late summer and fall migration of shorebirds was about average, or perhaps a little below average. Most of the reports are about birds seen at El Dorado. Semipalmated Plover: to Oct 27. Killdeer: to end of Oct.

Black-bellied Plover: to Oct 27. Common Snipe: 3 at Sherwin Bay Nov 4. Ruddy Turnstone: Sept 26. Spotted Sandpiper: Sept 1. Upland Plover: 4 near Burrville Aug 16. Solitary Sandpiper: Sep 12. Greater Yellowlegs: Sep 26. Lesser Yellowlegs: Sep 12. Knot: Sep 12. Pectorial Sandpiper: Oct 26. Purple Sandpiper: none could be found in late Nov. Least Sandpiper: Sep 12. Dunlin: 30 Oct 27. Short-billed Dowitcher: Sep 12. Semipalmated Sandpiper: Sep 26. Sanderling: Oct 27. Bonaparte's Gull: 2 at Stony Point Aug 20. Snowy Owl: A local paper says a Snowy Owl was seen at East