

Blackbirds — Sparrows: 14 Evening Grosbeaks were in D-EPk Oct 13 (WL, RM). Peak count was 47 along the lakeshore Nov 10 (JM, TM, MS). The birds were not frequenting the feeders at the end of the period. A Pine Grosbeak was at Manitou Nov 3 (WCL) and the same or another bird was at D-EPk the same day (Betty Starr, HSM). Only one additional bird was seen subsequently. The only report of the Common Redpoll was a flock of five birds in D-EPk Nov 2 (HSM, AAS). 21 Red Crossbills were at L Beach Oct 26 (JF, TET) and nine were in Highland Park Nov 20 (AM). Aside from these two reports, the species was scarce. 30 White-winged Crossbills were in D-EPk Oct 19 (HSM, AAS) and for the next three weeks they were generally distributed. Slate-colored Juncos appeared rather early, with the first record at Manitou Aug 24 (WCL). Single Chipping and Field Sparrows were still at Cobbs Hill Nov 24 (HSM). 12 Lapland Longspurs along the W Lake Sept 28 (AEK) is rather early. Peak count was 100 in the same place Nov 2 (AEK, WCL). Peak count on Snow Buntings was 1,200 along the W Lake (AEK).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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September was cold with killing frost in many areas. October brought heat and the worst drought in many years, lasting until the first week in November. The closing of the woods, because of fire hazards, resulted in a lack of coverage of birding areas and therefore a shortage of reports. In general the heat and drought did not seem to influence migration as much as might be expected. Most migrants left more or less "on schedule" — if anything a little earlier. Fruits, nuts, and other seeds, while scarce, were more abundant than anticipated, following the strange weather of this whole year.

Two features of the season stand out: the spectacular shore-bird migration, and the variety and early arrival of winter finches. Montezuma Federal Wildlife Refuge, where often only a handful of shore-birds are to be found, had hundreds this year. Over one weekend 25 species were noted, including a new bird for the Region, the Ruff, and the exceedingly rare Buff-breasted Sandpiper.

Among the finches, both Crossbills, Pine Siskins, Purple Finches and Evening Grosbeaks were reported widely.

A TV tower at Elmira was responsible for the death of over 200 small birds in the period of Sep 29-Oct 4. These were picked up by Wilfred Howard and others of the CVAS and brought to Cornell. The kill included Flycatchers, Vireos, Warblers, Thrushes, Finches, and one Sapsucker.

Abbreviations used: SWS — Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; MFWR — Montezuma Federal Wildlife Refuge; CVAS — Chemung Valley Audubon Society; Cay L — Cayuga Lake; Sen L — Seneca Lake; av — average; max — maximum; yg — young.

Contributors: A. A. Allen (AAA); W. H. Allison (WHA); J. Bardeen (JB); Leslie Bemont (LB); W. E. Benning (WEB); Paul A. Buckley (PAB); Lewis Cartee (LC); David Dunham (DD); John Foster (JF); K. Fudge (KF); Mrs. K. Foster (KFo); Benjamin Gebhart (BG); William Groesbeck (WG); Frank Guthrie (FG); O. H. Hewitt (OHH); Wilfred Howard (WH); Paul Kelsey (PK); Cameron Kepler (CK); Alfred Maley (AM); Dorothy McIlroy (DM); John Morse (JM); Eugene Morton (EM); David Peakall (DP); Richard Rosche (RR); Margaret Rusk (MR); Mark and Tom Stephenson (M&TS); Walter R. Spofford (WRS); Betty Starr (BSt); Betty Strath (BStr); Bruce Sorrie (BSO); L. Utter (LU); Jayson Walker (JWa); John Weske (JW); Mrs. J. Wilkins (JEW); Timothy Zorach (TZ).

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: migration last week October on Cay L. Horned Grebe: one, Aug 28, early, MFWR (DP). Great Blue Heron: av. numbers at MFWR this year; pair summered at SWS, nest not found, left early (Oct); two (last date) Nov 20, MFWR (WEB); 12 imms. during fall,

Hornell (WG). Common Egret: 35 (peak) Sep 7, MFWR (MR); two (last) Oct 13 (WEB).

The goose flight started about Sep 20, was heavy Oct 3. Canada Goose peak at Montezuma was 3575, Nov 8, compared to 1,500 last year (JM); 2,500, still, Nov 16, MFWR (WEB). One Snow Goose, MFWR, 15 (max) Blue Geese, Nov 8. Brant went through area Oct 26-27 — several reports, Sen and Cay basins.

Ducks at Montezuma peaked at 16,950, compared with 34,280 last fall (JM). This included 6,200 Mallards, 1,800 Blacks, 660 Gadwalls, 420 Pintail, 915 Green-winged Teal, 1,500 Blue-winged Teal, 8,160 Widgeon, 450 Shovelers and 385 Wood Duck. Last year's count was considered unusually high — this year's more normal. Pintails dropped in numbers more than other species.

The first migrant Am. Widgeon were reported at the Refuge on Aug 25 (WEB). One European Widgeon, Oct 12 (JF), Oct 19 (AM) at MFWR. Green-winged Teal: 19 (high) Oct 6, settling basin of Rushville beet cannery (FG). White-winged Scoters: four, Nov 25, s. end Cay L (LC). Hooded Mergansers: 55 (max) Nov 20, MFWR (WEB).

At Sapsucker Woods, 400 Mallards, 100 Blacks, and max 30 Wood Ducks fed all fall.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vultures: below normal nos. at MFWR; one, Oct 6, Varna (JW). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one, Oct 6, Mt. Pleasant, e. of Ithaca (PAB). Broad-winged Hawk: no migration noted in region. Rough-legged Hawk: one (early) Oct 25, SWS (AAA); one (early) Oct 30, MFWR (WEB). Few reports after that. Bald Eagle: adult, Aug 25, MFWR (WEB). Marsh Hawks: scarce; three, Oct 6, MFWR (RR); isolated single reports in Cay Basin during following month. Peregrine: one, Sep 8, MFWR (PK); one Sep 22, MFWR (WEB). Ruffed Grouse: approaching peak of cycle — good numbers. Wild Turkey: one, Oct 23, Harris Hill, Elmira (new location); one, unconfirmed, near Etna, late Oct. Virginia Rail: above normal numbers, MFWR (WEB). Florida Gallinule: normal nos. MFWR, 8 yg. raised at Corning Glassworks pond, Aug 21 (WH). Coots: 2,000 (max), Oct 13, MFWR (WEB).

Montezuma had superb conditions for shorebirds, for first time in record keeping. Mays Pt. Pool (main pond section west of Thruway) plus portion of main pond east of thruway, both north and south of dike, produced spectacular numbers and variety from late August into mid-October. (25 species over weekend of Sep 6-8). Following numbers are, in most cases, maximum counts and at MFWR unless otherwise noted. Semipalmated Plover: 40, Sep 7, (WRS). Golden Plover: (some years no fall records in this Region) one (first) Aug 25 (WEB); three, Aug 28 (DM); 100 (max) west of Geneva, Sep 26, on freshly disked soil (LU). Black-bellied Plover: one, Aug 25, Marina at s. end Cay L (DD); 25 (max) Oct 12, MFWR (WEB); 12 (still) Nov 3 (WEB). Ruddy Turnstones, present but not in unusual numbers. Common Snipe: estimates of 'hundreds'. "Never saw so many" said AAA. 12, still present, Nov 3 (WEB). Whimbrel: no reports. Yellowlegs: both: good numbers; 3-6 Greater still at SWS. first week Nov. Knot (rare in Region): one, Aug 28; four, Sep 18 (WEB). Pectoral Sandpiper: 54 (max) Oct 6 (WEB). White-rumped Sandpiper: 25 (max) Sep 15 (WEB); several, Oct 16, Sen L Inlet mudflats, unusual there, (JB). Baird's Sandpiper: several, several localities throughout the fall. Least Sandpiper: 100 (max) Sep 7 (MR). Dunlin: six (first) Sep 22, MFWR (WEB); five, Sep 27, Hog Hole, Ithaca (M&TS); 75, Oct 6, MFWR (RR); 210 (max) Oct 13, MFWR (WEB). Dowitcher: 15 (high) Sep 7, (WRS). Stilt Sandpiper: 20, Sep 7 (MR). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 300, Sep 7 (WRS). Western Sandpiper: many more than usual — reported high counts not verified. Also several present at Hog Hole, Cay L. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** one, Sep 2-9, Mays Pt. Pond (WEB and many others). Only second record for Cay Basin. Hudsonian Godwit: two, Sep 7 (MR); one, Nov 2 (WEB). **Ruff:** first record for Cay L Basin and for Region 3, first sighted at MFWR on Aug 24, identified positively on Sep 6. Possible second bird, as descriptions varied slightly, though no one person saw both. Sanderling: one (first) Aug 28 (DM). Many later.

Red Phalarope: one, Sep 18, Elmira, found dead; one, Sep 15-17, Hog Hole, Ithaca. Wilson's Phalarope: two "still present", Aug 26, MFWR (WEB). Northern Phalaropes: up to eight, MFWR, early Sep; one mid-Sep, Hog Hole, Ithaca.

Great Black-backed Gull: one (first) Sep 13, Stewart Park, Ithaca (DD); one, Sep 22, MFWR (WEB); 8-12 by late Nov on Cay L: two (first) Oct 25, Sen L (JB); two, Oct 21, Owasco Lake (WA). Ring-billed Gulls: numbers increased everywhere. Forster's Tern: (irregular) six, Sep 13, MFWR (PAB); one (rare), Sen L (BStr). Short-eared Owl: two reports. Ithaca area, November. Mourning Doves: 80 (high) Nov 28, Interlaken (LB).

Caprimulgids — Shrikes: Common Nighthawk: heavy migration (400+) at Hornell, Aug 28 (WG). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one, Oct 5, downtown Ithaca (CK); one, Oct 20, Penn Yan (JEW) — both late birds. Most left by mid-Sep. with early frost. Pileated Woodpecker: male of Stewart Park, Ithaca pair, shot in October. Red-bellied Woodpecker: new station, Moravia, in November (KPo). Other individual birds in King Ferry, and Brooktondale. Red-headed Woodpecker: one, imm. Nov 10-19, two miles s. of Ithaca on Rte. 96, at feeder at E. J. Miller, Jr. Farm; adults sighted, one, Aug 28, King Ferry; one, Marina, s. end Cay L, Aug 30 (LC); one Sep 4, MFWR (WEB). Black-backed 3-toed Woodpecker: one, Nov 13, Cornell Campus, (BSO). Bank Swallow: 350-400, near Farleys, Cay L, Aug 28 (DM). Rough-winged Swallows, predominant Swallow at MFWR, Aug 25 (WEB).

Titmice: no longer present at Keuka but abundant elsewhere. Red-breasted Nuthatch: half a dozen or more reports in Region. Carolina Wren: new station, Nov 19, home of K. Fudge, Elmira. Mockingbird: one, Oct 16 and 23, north of Hector (BStr); one, back for 5th year, Shakelton feeder, Aurora. Catbird: one, Nov 17 (late), MFWR (WEB); one, Nov 30 (late), Burdett (JB). Robin: heavy migration Oct 6-9. Thrush migration seemed light otherwise. Bluebirds: encouraging reports: 10. Sep 25, near Branchport: 10. Oct 10, Bardeen farm, Burdett: 15. Oct 17, E. Lansing; "in numbers", Sep 28, Harris Hill, Elmira; 20, Oct 23, Hickory Hill Rd., Elmira; other scattered reports of under 10. Pipits: three, Sep 7, MFWR (WRS); 25. Oct 6, MFWR (RR). Cedar Waxwings: large flocks everywhere. Yg. still in nest at SWS Sep 19 (late). Loggerhead Shrike: only one report, Aug 17, Interlaken (LB).

Vireos — Warblers: Philadelphia Vireo: one, Sep 28, near TV tower, Elmira (WH). A Myrtle Warbler, Aug 22 at Interlaken (LB) was probably a wanderer or early migrant. Palm Warbler: Nov 12, Ithaca (OHH) late. Ovenbird: Nov 3 (late), MFWR (BST). Connecticut Warbler: often missed entirely: one, Sep 1, MFWR (WEB); one, Sep 15, Ithaca (DM); one, Sep 26, Ithaca (EM); one, Oct 3, e. of Ithaca (JW); three in early Oct in Elmira TV tower kill.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: While most Blackbirds had left the marshes at north end of Cay L, there were still an est. 10,000 Grackles at the Waterloo Cemetery on Nov 28 (JWa). Rusty Blackbirds noted in numbers first week in Oct. Cowbirds were noticeably scarcer this year than most. Cardinals, decrease in numbers at Waterloo (JWa). Dickcissel: one, Brosseau feeder in Ithaca, Nov 20 on. Probably same bird that had been at McGuire feeder a few days earlier. Evening Grosbeaks: began arriving in October, came to feeders mid-November. Most first records were Oct 20-23. Purple Finch: fewer records at end of period than at beginning. Pine Siskin: early reports, then few. American Goldfinch: increase noted by most reporters. Of interest: one pair still laying, Sep 11, SWS (AAA). Red Crossbills and White-winged Crossbills, reported from many localities from Nov 27 on. Largest flock: 150, near Peruville (BG). Sharp-tailed Sparrow: (unusual) Sep 6, MFWR (TZ). Tree Sparrow: arrived last week of Oct. Seem abundant. White-crowned Sparrows: good migration: one (late) Nov 11, Auburn (WHA). White-throated Sparrow: in numbers, Sep 30,

SWS: at north end Cay L, reported as coming late and leaving early, none after Oct 25. Lincoln's Sparrow: few reports, but undoubtedly many are missed. 10 were found dead at TV tower in Elmira, in period of Sep 29-Oct 4. Lapland Longspur: one, Nov 3, Keuka. Snow Buntings: two, Oct 30 (early), Marina at s. end Cay L (DM).

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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The latter half of August and all of September averaged on the cool side, with about normal precipitation in August but only half the normal amount in September. We had the driest, sunniest and close to the warmest October on record, resulting in the closed woods and delayed hunting season we shared with the rest of this state and Pennsylvania. November continued on the warm side but within hours of the change in calendar pages cloud conditions and precipitation went to the other extreme, allaying fears that we were in for a winter with no moisture in the soil. The first frost came September 23, but there were only four more frost nights before November. The only snow of any importance fell the last day of the period, and it seemed to flush out a few stragglers.

There were many late last dates, some of them, such as a November Broad-winged Hawk, really quite startling. The weather was no doubt a factor in delaying the disappearance of many migrants but the fact that a number of swallows delayed their departure in spite of it being colder than normal at the time of their normal departure in late August demonstrates that "warm fall, late migrants" is a grossly over simplified statement of the relationship. In fact the cold August and September may have delayed the development of fledglings and thus been the real basis for delayed migrants.

A region wide survey of the seed crop indicates that in general it was only fair. The picture with regard to most individual species is more confused with wide variations from one area, and observer, to the next. Standing out is the paucity of the acorn and beechnut crops and the generally good crop of hemlock cones. At Oxford it was noted that gray squirrels were working on the hemlocks, suggesting they, too, have found acorns and beechnuts scarce.

Northern visitors of almost all probable species have been recorded already, but only Evening Grosbeaks and White-winged Crossbills have been represented in force so far. Red Crossbills were also quite numerous in some parts of Chenango County, but were less prevalent than the White-wings.

As usual, the few places in the region that would give any kind of a picture of the waterfowl migration were left pretty much to the hunters so few data were obtained. In conversation Messrs. Maxon and Bartlett of Greene described it as generally normal with only an undated White-winged Scoter report that would add an unusual species to those listed below.

Abbreviations of observers' names used below: WB — W. Bartlett, LB — L. Bemont, DB — D. Bendle, LC — L. Cole, GC — G. Corderman, CJD — C. & J. Davis, MAD — M. & A. Davis, AE — A. Evelien, CG — C. Gerould, JG — J. Gustafson, PPK — P. & P. Kalka, SL — S. Lincoln, LL — L. Loomis, ML — M. Lynch, HM — H. Marsi, RM — R. Maxon, RRP — R. & R. Pantle, FQ — F. Quick, MS — M. Sheffield, AS — A. Stratton, TBC — Tioga Birdwatchers' Club, ENW — E. & N. Washburn, DW — D. Weber, MW — M. White, RSW — R. & S. White, CW — C. Wilkins, RW — R. Williams, SW — S. Wilson, and HW — H. Wisner.

Loons — Ducks: Red-necked Grebe: 2, Sep 15, Susquehanna River between Vestal and Endwell (HM, GC). Horned Grebe: 4, Oct 28, Norwich (R,SW), first fall report; Nov 1 thru 16, Greene (CJD). Great Blue Heron: 1, Nov 18, Norwich (R,SW). Green Heron: 1, Oct 6, Campville (LB), the