

A late Greater Yellowlegs was seen along the Genesee River near Letchworth Park Nov 23 (Robert McKinney). Purple Sandpiper: unreported. A Long-billed Dowitcher was carefully studied in direct comparison with the commoner species at SA Sep 12 (MO, RTO). Two Hudsonian Godwits appeared at Salmon Creek Oct 11 (WCL, LM, NM) and one remained around BB until Oct 31 (HSM). Sanderlings seemed scarce. Red Phalarope: only record — one on the ES Nov 21 (WCL). Wilson's Phalarope: one on WS from Aug 20-30 (WCL et al). Northern Phalarope: unreported. Six hundred Bonaparte's Gulls were seen at Forest Lawn Nov 24 (HSM). This number is not unusual as feeding conditions seem especially favorable in this area. A Little Gull was seen at Charlotte from Aug 15-29 (RTO), another at ES Sep 19 (AAS et al), and another at the Irondequoit Bay Outlet Nov 1 (AEK); these three reports may concern one bird only. An immature Sabine's Gull was seen at the ES Sep 26 (JD, JF, HSM, RTO); the bird was carefully studied while on a sandbar and also in flight in direct comparison with a small flock of Bonaparte's Gulls; the flashing white patches on the back side of the wings and the forked tail were clearly seen by all the observers.

A late Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen at SA Oct 18 (JF, AM). The first Snowy Owl of the fall season was seen on the WS Oct 25 (EWH) and by the last of November, four or five could be seen in a day along the WL with scattered individuals reported from other points in the area. Other owls seemed to be scarce with the Screech Owl apparently notably so.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Red-headed Woodpecker: one at Palmyra Nov 9 (WH). A very late Barn Swallow was at BB Oct 24 with Tree Swallows (MS). While the Tufted Titmouse was reported from Irondequoit, Webster, and Powder Mill Park, the numbers were small and the bird has not made any gains locally. The fall flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches was light. A very late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen at the WS Oct 17 (WCL, AAS). Water Pipits: scarce. Bohemian Waxwing: one with a small flock of Cedar Waxwings at Powder Mill Park Nov 22 (JD, HSM). Occasional Northern Shrikes were reported but the fall flight of this species so far has been light.

Vireos — Warblers: Orange-crowned Warbler: unreported. Parula Warbler: only one. An extremely late Ovenbird was reported in DEP Nov 29 (PW); survival of this bird is very doubtful. A late Northern Warbler-thrush was seen in Webster Oct 4 (JM, TM). In general, the fall flight of Warblers went through early and seemed rather light.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: After years of steady increase, the numbers of Cardinals seem to have fallen off. Of course, this decrease may be more apparent than real. The count of this species on the coming Christmas census will be very interesting. A Dickcissel appeared at the Allentoff feeder in Greece Oct 25 and was present until Oct 31. The fall flight of northern finches so far has consisted of five Pine Siskins in DEP Nov 15 (GOS hike) and one of the same species at BB later in the month (WCL). Purple Finch: rare. American Goldfinch: very common. Vesper Sparrow: one, Palmyra Nov 9 (WH); this species is a very rare winter resident locally, although with the increase of feeders, it may become slightly more regular. An Oregon Junco appeared at the Kemnitzer feeder in Webster Nov 1 and was still present the last of the month. A very early Fox Sparrow was seen at the same place Sep 15 (AEK). Lapland Longspur: flock of five at BB Nov 19 (WCL) — only report. Snow Bunting: appeared in average numbers but had almost disappeared by the end of the period.

54 Luella Street, Rochester 14609

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

Drought conditions were even worse, over-all, than a year ago, although an occasional very light rain somewhat eased fire danger. Areas normally wet were completely dry, and places which had water (such as Montezuma

Refuge) were thronged with waterfowl. Sapsucker Woods pond was at its lowest level ever. Even so, the shorebird flight, while above average, was not that of the fall of '63. It was surprising that the wild fruit crop was as heavy at it was.

At Montezuma, Manager Morse reported that ducks peaked at 28,000 around October 12 (compared with 16,950 in '63) and Canada Geese at 7,000 around October 19 (compared with 3,500 in '63). This was an all-time high fall count for Geese. The ducks which showed a marked increase over last year were: American Widgeon (17,280, compared with 8,160); Redhead (4,500, compared with 200); and Canvasback (3,000 compared with none, last year).

At the Elmira TV tower, dead birds were picked up during the week of September 13-22: by several members of the Chemung Valley Audubon Society. There were 286 individuals of 31 species, of which 244 were Warblers. Many of the specimens are being used for studies of syringes at Cornell.

There is no advance indication of a finch flight this winter. Snowy Owls, reported north of here, have been only casually noted in the Finger Lakes, and almost no Rough-legged Hawks have been seen.

Contributors: EGA-Elsa G. Allen; CB-Clark Baker; JB-Jamesine Bardeen; JBr-Jack Brubaker; WEB-Walter E. Benning; PAB-Paul A. Buckley; NC-Neil Case; HAF-Helen A. Fessenden; HF-Herbert Foxall; RF-R. Foxall; EG-Edward Gates; FG-Frank Guthrie; JG-John Green; GK-George Ketola; DAL-Douglas A. Lancaster; ML-Malcolm Lerch; CM-Carl Mrozek; DM-Dorothy McIlroy; EM-Eugene Morton; JM-John Morse, DP-David Peakall; FR-Fred Ranson; BS-Betty Strath; FS-Fritz Scheider; SHS-Sally H. Spofford; WRS-Walter R. Spofford; WS-William Swallow; JW-Jayson Walker; JSW-John S. Weske; RW-Ruth Williams; TZ-Timothy Zorach.

Localities: MNWR-Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Cay L-Cayuga Lake; Sen L-Seneca Lake; SWS-Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; SCoBC-Schuyler Co. Bird Club; THS-Texas Hollow Sanctuary.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: one (first), Sep 5, MNWR, (HAF); migration noted on two dates: 51 Oct 26, near Aurora on Cay L (DM); 41, Nov 28, s. end Cay L (JG). Red-throated Loon: one, Nov 12, Corning-Watkins Rd. (JB). Pied-billed Grebe: 35 (peak), Oct 17, MNWR (FS); two, Nov 14 (last date), (WEB). Great Blue Heron: 25 (high), Oct 17, MNWR, (FS); one still present s. end Cay L Nov 30. Common Egret: 21 (max), Sep 12 MNWR (WEB); four, (last date) Oct 11 (WEB). Snowy Egret: one, Aug 21-28, MNWR (Ref. personnel); second bird there Aug 28. Canada Goose: first migrants at MNWR Sep 20; peaked at 7,000 Oct 19 (JM), highest fall count ever, twice that of fall of '63; still 600 last week Nov; 50 remained at marsh at Penn Yan until late Nov; 100 remained at s. end Cay L (usually only 20-30 remain). Brant: two, Sep 7 (early), Stewart Park, Ithaca (FR); 14, Oct 11, MNWR (DP); no other reports. Snow Goose: five (max), Oct 17, MNWR (WEB). Blue Goose: nine (max), Oct 17, MNWR (WEB). One hybrid, same date. Mallards: 800+ (peak), SWS, last week Nov. European Widgeon: one, Aug 30 through mid-October, MNWR; two on Oct 14. American Widgeon: 17,280 (peak), mid-Oct, MNWR (JM); this is twice last year's peak. Wood Duck: 113, Sep 9, SWS (HAF) compared with peak of 35 last fall. Redhead: 4,500 (peak, compared with 200 peak last year), end of Nov, MNWR (JM). Ring-necked Duck: 25, (first) Oct 8, MNWR; (FS); 130 (peak), Nov 29. Canvasback: 3,000, end of Nov MNWR, none there last year. Greater Scaup: six, (first of fall) Oct 10 MNWR (WEB). Common Goldeneye: one, Oct 25 (first), MNWR (WEB). Bufflehead: one female, Oct 8 (first), MNWR (FS). Old-Squaw: one, Nov 20, MNWR (WEB); unusual in shallow water of refuge. Surf Scoter: one, Oct 10, 11, MNWR (WEB, DP), early and uncommon. Ruddy Duck: 19 (max) Oct 25, MNWR (WEB); none on Keuka L this fall — unusual (FG).

Hawks — Owls: Goshawk: one, Oct 3, n.e. of Ithaca, (CB); one Oct 5, s.w. of Ithaca (FR). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one Ithaca report, one Keuka report. Cooper's Hawk: one Ithaca report, one Keuka report; scarcer each year recently. No Broad-winged Hawk flight noted in Region. Rough-legged Hawk: Keuka Park, Nov 8 (early); scattered reports near MNWR in early Nov, but none farther south. Bald Eagle: one, near Sampson Park, Nov 7, 8 (HF). Marsh Hawks: reports varied, some areas had more this fall, others had none; several at Montezuma. Osprey: only two or three reports this fall, and for first year in many there was none hanging around south end of Cay L. Peregrine Falcon: one, Oct 3, Jacksonville, (WS); one (imm. female) Oct 8, MNWR (FS); one, ad., Nov 14, Sugar Hill, Schuyler Co. (JBr). Pigeon Hawk: one, Sep 27, SWS (FR); one, Oct 17, n. of Trumansburg, (WS). Sparrow Hawk: continues scarce. Ruffed Grouse and Ring-necked Pheasant: abundant. A Gray Partridge, which was one of a group released by Ithaca Game Farm in late summer, picked up slightly injured almost three months later, near Stewart Park; no other reports of released birds. Coots: 7,000 (max), Oct 17, MNWR, (FS).

Golden Plover: for second year in succession, more reports than usual; one, Sep 6, MNWR, (TZ); one, Sep 7, Ithaca marina (FR); 15 (max), Oct 3, MNWR (WEB); Nov 8, last date. Common Snipe: 51 (max), Oct 14, MNWR (WEB). Greater Yellowlegs: 122 (max), Oct 14, MNWR (WEB); up to five stayed at SWS until early November. Lesser Yellowlegs: 85 (max), Nov 13, MNWR (WEB). Knot: one, Oct 11-14 (uncommon in Region), MNWR (WEB). Dunlin: 4, (first) Sep 20, MNWR (WEB); 400 (unusually high count), mid-October to Nov 1, MNWR; 43 at Lakeside Park, Watkins Glen, late Oct (BS). Short-billed Dowitcher: abundant from mid-August until early November, MNWR. Long-billed Dowitcher: one Sep 22 (first) MNWR (PAB), peak 20, Oct 17, (FS); one, Nov 18 (last), MNWR (WEB). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 300 (max), Aug 16, MNWR (WEB). Hudsonian Godwit: one, Sep 20 (first), MNWR (WEB); five (peak), Oct 17, MNWR (FS); last date Nov 8. Ruff: one, Sep 20, MNWR (WEB). Wilson's Phalarope: one, Sep 22, MNWR (PAB). Northern Phalarope: reported as "abundant" at Refuge. Great Black-backed Gull: present at south end of Cayuga from early Sep on, building up to 20 by late Nov; on Seneca L, however, one on Nov 11 at Dresden is an early record. Bonaparte's Gull: three, Nov 18, (WEB), last for MNWR; 15, s. end Cay L, Nov 29, is a late and high count (WRS). Snowy Owl: one, (first) Nov 1, five miles n. of Willard, (EG); one, Nov 22, near Waterloo (fide JW); one (a very white individual), Nov 25-29, MNWR (WEB); one, Nov 30, near Burdette (JB). Barred Owl: (new station), one, Montezuma Village, Nov 10 (WEB). Saw-whet Owl: (always rare) one trapped, near Penn Yan Oct 15 (ML).

Caprimulgids — Shrikes: Whip-poor-will: one roosting, Sep 29 (late date), SWS (FR) — last report. Common Nighthawk: migration noted at Hornell, Aug 30; 84 birds in 40 minutes. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one (late), Sep 28, Keuka (FG); an extremely late nesting, young in nest Aug 26, left nest Sep 6, at Danby, s. of Ithaca. Red-bellied Woodpecker: Oct 11, THS, (BS), first there in several years. Red-Headed Woodpecker: only one or two reports. Northern 3-toed Woodpecker: a bird answering this description was reported to the Laboratory of Ornithology by four different individuals in Aug and until the end of September; observers were very positive, but the report was never fully verified; however, it seems possible that one of the pair found along Fall Creek last May could have remained, followed Fall Creek down stream, to the location in Cayuga Heights; it will have to remain a question. Western Kingbird: one, late August, near Hector, found by GK and NC, seen by members of SCoBC. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (often missed in fall); one, Aug 29, Etna, mistnetted by JSW; one, Sep 19, Elmira TV Tower. Tree Swallows: 50 still at MNWR Oct 14, (WEB). Rough-winged Swallows: 23 still at MNWR Oct 14. Blue Jays: very abundant everywhere. Common Raven: one, Oct 14-20, Trumansburg, (WS), rare. Common Crow: seemed scarce in Geneva area (JW). Winter Wren: one,

(first) Sep 15, SWS (FR); three, Sep 28, SWS (SFH). Long-billed Marsh Wren: reported as abundant at MNWR; last date Sep 20. Mockingbird: at least four reports in Ithaca area. Robins: very abundant in hedgerows all fall; flocks reported eating Phytolacca berries, Sep 20, Ithaca (EGA); with drought making it difficult to get worms, they sought all available fruit. Wood Thrushes: 12, counted along $\frac{1}{2}$ mile trail in SWS, Sep 8 (DAL). Bluebirds: reported absent at Waterloo, but in Ithaca area more reported than for last several fall seasons; largest flock 15, Sep 24, edge of SWS (DAL). Pipit: scattered reports; last date Nov 15, MNWR (CM). Cedar Waxwing: abundant. Loggerhead Shrike: two reports in Ithaca area; one, MNWR, Sep 20 (RF et al).

Vireos — Warblers: Solitary Vireo: one, Oct 13 (last date) (DM). Philadelphia Vireo: one, Aug 23 (early), MNWR (WEB). Warbler migration poor at Keuka (FG). Prothonotary Warbler: one (rare in Region outside of MNWR), Sep 30, SWS, (FR). Orange-crowned Warbler: one, Oct 27 (last date), Waterloo (JW). Myrtle Warbler: (peak) "hundreds", 3rd week Sep, Stewart Park, Ithaca (FR). Connecticut Warbler: two, Sep 27, s.w. corner Cay L (RW). Elmira TV tower kill of warblers, Sep 13-22 included:

8 Black-and-white	13 Chestnut-sided	1 Chat
16 Tennessee	33 Bay-breasted	6 Wilson's
12 Nashville	5 Blackpoll	9 Canada
39 Magnolia	49 Ovenbirds	3 Redstarts
5 Black-throated Blue	6 N. Waterthrush	
17 Black-throated Green	2 Mourning	244 individuals of 18
6 Blackburnian	14 Yellowthroats	species

Blackbirds — Sparrows: A report from the Eaton Bird Club (Geneva-Waterloo area) indicates that the Icterid flight in that area was irregular — the largest flock of Redwings was estimated at 10,000, other flocks much smaller, with periods of no flocks in same area; grackles were more numerous, but also flocked through irregularly; cowbirds were in better numbers this fall than last. Baltimore Oriole: one at Grinnell feeder in Ithaca in late November is a late date; an early December report two miles away may have been the same individual. Three Scarlet Tanagers and one Rose-breasted Grosbeak were included in the Elmira Tower kill reported above. Dickcissel: one, Sep 11, Etna (EM). White-throated Sparrows: abundant in Geneva area, scarce at Ithaca; few seem to be wintering. Lincoln's Sparrow: seven in Elmira TV kill, Elmira, Sep 19. Lapland Longspurs: two, Oct 17 (first), MNWR (FS). Snow Buntings: two, Oct 17 (first), MNWR (FS).

Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

The drought that we shared with much of the northeast continued through the middle of November. Precipitation was roughly normal during the latter half of November, but, of course, did little to offset the driest May through October period on record. There were no measurable snowfalls. Temperatures averaged on the cool side, but close to normal, through October, but November was decidedly warmer than normal. There were scattered frosts in mid September but general freezing temperatures were delayed until October 6.

One of the more significant observations during the period was the detection of a major flight of Broad-winged Hawks. No less than four September Rough-legged Hawk reports from different areas were puzzling to say the least. It will be interesting to know if other regions report a similar occurrence. The two Saw-whet Owl records during the period bring the total for the year to five, more than for the previous twelve years together. It seems probable that this reflects a genuine population increase,