

Vireo: 30 along the lakeshore Sep 2 (ST). Philadelphia Vireo: one in Rochester Sep 19 (ST). Orange-crowned Warbler: one at SB Oct 2 (AEK, WCL). Yellowthroat: one at Manitou Nov 5 (JD).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: A huge flock of Common Grackles, estimated at 30,000 birds, was at SB Oct 24 (MS et al). Evening Grosbeak: max 50, HBP Nov 11 (DG, AEK). Pine Grosbeak: first, five in DEP Nov 7 (JM, TM et al); max 32 in DEP Nov 21 (WL, MS); two in WP Oct 31 (WL, RM). Common Redpoll: first, five in Irondequoit Oct 30 (LM, NM); max 200 at HBP Nov 6 (AEK, WCL). Pine Siskin: max 200 at DEP Nov 8 (JD) and 750 at SB Nov 20 (JD). White-winged Crossbill: max 20 in DEP Oct 31 (NR) and 11 in Irondequoit, same day (LM, NM). Fox Sparrow: one to two, Webster Oct 8–31 (AEK, BK). This species seemed scarce this fall. Lincoln's Sparrow: two in Island Cottage Woods Sep 25 (WCL). Lapland Longspur: eight in Ogden Nov 8 (WCL). Snow Buntings seemed rather uncommon.

54 Luella Street, Rochester 14609

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

Throughout most of the Region the drought was less severe than last fall, with light rains at intervals soaking into the ground with no run-off. Streams and ponds barely rose, and precipitation for the year is still many inches below normal. Temperatures have been near normal or below, but with few extremes. A killing frost occurred however, on August 28 in most areas which finished off some of the food supply for some species, and migration was accordingly advanced a little. Wild food is fairly abundant, especially thornapples, birch catkins, acorns and hemlock cones.

The season very early gave promise of being as good as last year was poor. It appears that every winter finch is going to be represented by at least small flocks, for Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, Red and White-winged Crossbills, Pine Siskins, Redpolls and Snow Buntings have all been around, plus Purple Finches and Goldfinches. In addition, Black-backed Woodpeckers have been spotted in several locations, Boreal Chickadees in two, Red-breasted Nuthatches are numerous, and a few Rough-legged Hawks have appeared in the northern areas.

At Montezuma, the personnel report a Goose peak of 4,620, the third week in November, and the astonishing peak of over 45,000 for ducks. This is a 60% increase over last year, and probably reflects the extreme drought in outer areas, which concentrated waterfowl in refuges. The Widgeon count of 27,000 compares with 17,000 in '64. Mallards and Blacks had increased, also.

From figures supplied me for the Elmira TV tower kill, it appears to have been spread out over a longer period, with fewer birds picked up at any one time. For example, with a big migration heard going over the night of Sep 23, and low clouds, only six warblers were picked up on the 24th and 21 on the 25th. Likewise, the flight was heavy the night of the 29th but only 18 were found dead the next day. The last tower pick-up was on October 6, with one each of Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Magnolia. Wilson's. Bay-breasted, Chestnut-sided and Black-throated Green Warblers, Slate-colored Junco, White-throated and Song Sparrows.

Contributors: JBa—Jamesine Bardeen; JBr—Jack Brubaker; WEB—Walter E. Benning; VD—Vernon Dewey; HAF—Helen A. Fessenden; FGr—Florence Graham; WG—William Groesbeck; FG—Frank Guthrie; HH—Herbert Hendrickson; WH—Wilfred Howard; EJ—Eric Johnson; PMK—Paul M. Kelsey; ML—Malcolm Lerch;

DM—Dorothy McIlroy; GM—Glenn MacMillan; ER—Esther Ruggles; FR—Fred Ranson; MR—Margaret Rusk; BS—Betty Strath; GAS—Gustav A. Swanson; MS—Mary Smith; WRS—Walter R. Spofford; MPW—Mary P. Welles; JW—Jayson Walker.

Localities: Cay L—Cayuga Lake; Sen L—Seneca L; Steub Co—Steuben County; Tomp Co—Tompkins County; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: good numbers on Cay L in early Nov. Red-throated Loon: no reports. Red-necked Grebe: one, Oct 7 Chemung R (WH), rare in Region. Great Blue Heron: max 89, Aug 29 MNWR (WEB), rather high count. Cattle Egret: one, Nov 4 Beechtree Rd near Throopsville—late date, but well documented by observer, Ruth Borst. Common Egret: max 22, Sep 18 MNWR (WEB); one (last) Oct 12 MNWR (DM). Least Bittern: scattered reports at MNWR; two, Aug and first two weeks Sep, Penn Yan Marsh at head of east branch Keuka L (not seen there very often).

Whistling Swan: one (first) Sep 12, MNWR; max 56, Nov 14 (55 left, one remained, still present Nov 30) (VD). Canada Goose: migration through Region from third week Sep to end Nov, normal. Peak 4,620 third week Nov MNWR, below last year's 7,000; 4,600 still there Nov 30. One Brant Nov 14 at Refuge. Snow Goose: max 8 Oct 24 MNWR; 3 (last) Nov 28. Blue Goose: max 50, Oct 24 MNWR; 9 still there Nov 30. Mallard: increase in numbers at MNWR, with 5,000 still there, Nov 30. Ditto for Black Ducks with 4,000 on Nov 30. At SWS, 180 Blacks is a high count this fall. European Widgeon: two, various dates in Sep and Oct, MNWR (mob). American Widgeon: first migrants at end of August; 220 on Sep 4; 7,000 Sep 14 (MR); 27,000 peak, end Sep. (Est. by Refuge personnel) Wood Duck: max 65–70, SWS, early Oct; most had left at end of third week Oct. Redhead and Canvasback: first for s. end Sen L, Nov 9 (JBr). Canvasback: 1,000 (high) at MNWR, last of Nov. Lesser Scaup: 24 (first) s. end Cay L, Oct 16 (FR). Redhead: three Oct 18 (first for s. end Cay L) (FR); 3,500 at MNWR end of Nov, 1,000 less than a year ago. Oldsquaw: one, Oct 1 Sen L—early (JW); one, Nov 16 Chases' Pond, Breesport, first fall record for Elmira area (GM). Ruddy Duck: two Oct 18 s. end Cay L (FR); not often seen near Ithaca.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: numerous reports; max 14 Aug 28, n. of MNWR (WEB) Goshawk: Nov 14, one chasing Rough-leg, Star Stanton Hill near Dryden, (WRS); two alive and one dead, same place, Nov 15 (PMK); one or two other reports in area in Nov. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 imm female shot near Ithaca in mid-Nov; a few reports during migration. Cooper's Hawk: only two reports near Ithaca, both birds trapped at State Game Farm; one, Nov 1, near Watkins Glen (JBr). Broad-winged Hawk: one adult (first), Sep 4 Etna (WRS); only small Sep flight noted here. Rough-legged Hawk: only two reports at southern end of lakes; up to 4 at MNWR in Nov. Golden Eagle: a freshly shot first year Golden Eagle (wt. 9½ lbs) was found Nov 11 in Steub Co between Cameron and Bath (Eaton). Bald Eagle: no reports in Cay L Basin this fall, but an adult seen, Bluff Pt, Keuka L Aug 28. The nest tree and old nest of the Bald Eagle, long a land-mark on the Storage Pond at MNWR, blew down in high winds of Nov 1. Marsh Hawk: three—four reported regularly at MNWR, rare elsewhere. Peregrine Falcon: one, Oct 3 just s. of Ithaca over Swanson farm (GAS); one other reported, Oct 10, MNWR but no verification report filed. Ruffed Grouse: abundant, at least four hit windows in Ithaca area, one surviving. Turkey: on increase in Steub Co; flocks of 14, 17 and 30 seen near Greenwood (fide WG). BLACK RAIL: one, Oct 13, found dead e. of Penn Yan (ML) being mounted for Keuka College Museum—first record for Region, so far as I can determine.

Shore-birding was good at MNWR, good at several places near Elmira (esp. Sep 1 and Sep 27), but poor at Ithaca, where the long-famous "Hog Hole" (s.w. corner of

Cay L) is fast disappearing in the face of efforts to fill and "improve" the lake front.

Only a few high counts and last dates will be given here. Unless otherwise indicated, the figures were furnished by Walter Benning from MNWR. (See shorebird article by Fritz Scheider in this issue.) Golden Plover: 71 on Sep 6 is a very high count; last, Nov 6. Black-bellied Plover: max 29 Oct 9; last, one Nov 14. Spotted Sandpiper: Nov 20 (late date) Hog Hole, Ithaca (FR). Knot: one, Sep 21 MNWR (often missed). Pectoral Sandpiper: max 94 Sep 6; last Nov 14. White-rumped Sandpiper: 13 (high) Oct 27; last, one Nov 14. Baird's Sandpiper: 13 (high) Sep 17; last, one Nov 14. Dunlin: first one Sep 1 Horseheads Dump (MPW); two, Sep 18 MNWR, max 239 Oct 27, 22 still there Nov 14; first at south end Cay L, Oct 2 (FR). Both Dowitchers present in early Sep, MNWR; last definite Long-billed, Oct 31. Stilt Sandpiper: 61 (unusually high) Sep 6. Western Sandpiper: one, Sep 11, Hog Hole (PMK), only report. Hudsonian Godwit: max two Sep 6; last, one Oct 2. Ruff: a bird which was probably this was reported near Elmira, Sep 17 (WH)—no verification report filed; one, Aug 22, Sep 12 and 15 MNWR. Wilson's Phalarope: two, Aug 18, one, Aug 25. Northern Phalarope: first, one MNWR Sep 1; max four Sep 5-6; one photographed near Odessa early Oct (BS).

Great Black-backed Gull: turned up mid-Oct on Sen and Cay Ls; one, mid-Nov, Penn Yan (FG)—only 4 or 5 there in 20 years. Laughing Gull: Aug 16, Ithaca Marina (HH) in what was described as "lousy plumage." Caspian Tern: max 5 Aug 16, Cay L (FG); 12, Aug 23-26, Sen L, several observers. Black Tern: most left at end of Aug, rather early. Mourning Dove: max 108 Sep 8, MNWR (WEB). Great Horned Owl: calling vociferously in Etna in Nov (WRS). Short-eared Owl: one only, found dead Nov 11, Ludlowville. Saw-whet Owl: one only, Sep 5 Compton Rd s. of Ithaca (GAS). Common Nighthawk: W. Groesbeak again watched the migration at Hornell, reports max 128 on Sep 5, one week later than usual.

SWIFTS—STARLING: As usual, a few Belted Kingfishers were still in the area at the end of the period. Red-bellied Woodpecker: raised young at Keuka (FG); at feeders at Branchport, Watkins Glen, Waterburg and Interlaken. Red-headed Woodpecker: scarce or absent everywhere except around Geneva. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: one, Nov 1, Bardeen Farm, Burdett; one male Nov 10 and thereafter, Beebe L, Cornell Campus, feeding primarily on dead hemlock (EJ and others); one, Nov 15, Yellow Barn Hill Rd w. of Dryden (PMK). Northern Three-toed Woodpecker: a good description of what appeared to be a pair of this species came from a point near the Yacht Club on w. shore Cay L on Nov 29. All attempts to locate the birds have been unsuccessful, but hemlocks show some bark-flaking.

Western Kingbird: a verification report for a sighting of two on Hungerford Hill, near Ithaca, Oct 23, has been filed by Bart and Spies; all characters noted except white outer tail feathers and in absence of that key character, definite identification must remain a question. Tree Swallow: heavy migration noted at Waterloo, end of Sep; 5,000 Sep 28; 10,000 Sep 29; Sep 30, 8-10,000 (JW). Crow: flock of 250, mid-Nov, east of Penn Yan, a large number there for recent years (FG). Boreal Chickadee: one, Nov 4, Barton's cottage on Cayuta L (BS); one, Nov 6, Penn Yan, netted and photographed (ML). Very few of this species have ever been reported in Region. Red-breasted Nuthatch: many reports, some remaining at feeders to end of period. Mockingbird: scattered reports, but no apparent increase. Eastern Bluebird: reports from Watkins Glen, Keuka L and Ithaca of good numbers in migration as compared with last few years—e.g., 30 seen Oct 14 near Brooktondale, Tomp Co (HF). Kinglets: unusual numbers of both species noted everywhere from mid-Oct to mid-Nov; best dates at Burdett, Oct 23-24 (JBa). Pipits: in migration, Ithaca area, Oct 12. Loggerhead Shrike: only reports: one, Ithaca area Aug 22 (DM); one Sep 12 Burdett-Logan area (JBa).

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Solitary Vireo observed bathing by flying into and out of water, Oct 10 (MS). No heavy Warbler migration noted, but some movement in Ithaca area Sep 5-8. Cardinal: many comments on an apparent sharp decrease in

numbers throughout Region. Evening Grosbeaks were being noted flying over, and in hilly regions by mid-October, first came to feeders early November, but not in large numbers. Pine Grosbeak: first reports Nov 10. Common Redpoll: fairly large flocks Nov 1 on, feeding in tree-tops on seeds and buds, esp. birch. Pine Siskin: mid-October on, but in varying numbers in different parts of Region. White-winged Crossbill: small flocks from Nov 1 on, on road-sides and in hemlocks. Red Crossbill: no marked invasion yet. Vesper Sparrow: max 15 Oct 14 near Brooktondale, Tomp Co (HF). Oregon Junco: one, Nov 6, Elmira (ER). Lincoln's Sparrow: one, Sep 29, Texas Hollow (JBr); only one in Elmira tower kill this year. Snow Bunting: small flocks in Nov in northern parts of Region.

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

The fall weather seemed rather wet but according to Weather Bureau records it was wet only by comparison with the earlier months of the year. The latter half of August had well above normal precipitation, but total September precipitation was only a little heavier than normal and very unevenly distributed. October's precipitation was slightly below normal and November's was decidedly low. There were significant storms August 18 and 26, September 13 and 24, October 7 and 22 and November 17. The last one produced the only appreciable snowfall, but the ground was bare again within a day or so. Well below normal average temperatures were recorded August 29 to 31, September 27 and 28, October 4 to 6 and 28 and 29 and November 2.

As usual the fall waterfowl migration was only sketchily reported, most observers being too prudent to share prime locations with hunters. Also as usual, the best records of the hawk migration were through the efforts of one person at Skyline in Tioga County, the only known location in the Region where appreciable concentrations can be seen with any consistency. Mrs. Williams would welcome help at the appropriate seasons.

The shorebird migration was especially light, even for this Region, but the small land bird migration was roughly normal in volume. Sapsuckers, small flycatchers and the brown-backed thrushes seemed low in numbers, but Red-breasted Nuthatches, Bluebirds and both kinglets were quite numerous. Using the Myrtle Warbler as an indicator, vireo and warbler numbers were good. Magnolia and Wilson's Warblers were the only other species reported in good numbers but the identification problem makes species by species evaluation on the basis of negative results almost useless.

Winter finch prospects look promising. With the exception of the Red Crossbill, every species to be reasonably expected has been reported, but only Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins in large numbers.

Rarities were Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Gray Jay and Golden Eagle.

Observers: LA—Mrs. L. Atkinson, LB—L. Bemont, DB—D. Bendle, MC—M. Cubberly, C, JD—C. & J. Davis, M, AD—M. & A. Davis, L, WD—L. & W. Dean, RD—R. Dirig, AE—A. Evelin, GF—G. Field, CG—C. Gerould, SG—S. Gorton, JC—J. Grant, JAG—J. A. Gustafson, MH—M. Hills, CH—C. Howard, PK—P. Kalka, FL—F. Linaberry, HM—H. Marsi, AM—A. Morey, FN—F. Newman, JO—J. Osadchey, RP—R. Pantle, FQ—F. Quick, MS—M. Sheffield, RPS—R. P. Sheffield, RS—R. Short, AS—A. Stratton, E, NW—E. & N. Washburn, DW—D. Weber, MW—M. White, R, SW—R. & S. White, EW—E. Williams, RW—R. Williams, HW—H. Wisner.