

Nov 24 CL (WCL). Bobolink: 75 Aug 8-26 Sweden (WCL). Scarlet Tanager: nine Aug 31 Powder Mill Pk (ST). Northern finches were scarce or unreported. Pine Siskin: one Sep 11 Hamlin (AEK). Vesper Sparrow: two Nov 13 Newark (ES)- a late date. Fox Sparrow: one Nov 14-28 Penfield (GD). Lincoln's Sparrow: five Oct 1 SB (AEK, WCL); two Oct 24 Webster (WCL).

ADDENDUM: A record of four Whimbrel Aug 9 on WS (RL) was received too late for the October *Kingbird*.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

The period was very open with above normal temperatures, including an occasional high in the 60's in November. Precipitation was almost normal for the first time in years. Birds have been scarce at feeding stations, probably partly due to the abundance of wild food and lack of snow cover. There has been no indication of an invasion of northern finches, but of course that could develop later in the winter. On the other hand there seemed to be fewer than usual late-lingering 'half-hardies' such as Robins, Flickers and White-throats.

At Elmira, dead birds were again collected at the TV tower, the night of 19-20 September, and brought to Cornell for use in the skeleton and skin collection. Eight families were represented, 192 individuals of 27 plus species (the Empidonax were not identified to species). Of note were 63 Ovenbirds, 20 Olive-backed Thrushes, 13 Wood Thrushes and 11 Bay-breasted Warblers. These four accounted for over half of the kill.

At Montezuma the personnel reported a peak of 3,500 Canada Geese (on Nov. 23) below last year's peak of almost 5,000. The duck peak was around 50,000, Baldpate accounting for 26,000 of this. Only Mallards, Blacks and Buffleheads showed an increase, however. The largest drop was in Redheads (from 2,600 last year to 200 this year) Wood Ducks (from 3,900 last year to 645 this year), and Blue-winged Teal (4,200 last year to 415 this year).

Outstanding records for the season were: Marbled Godwit (first record), American Avocet and Buff-breasted Sandpiper.

Observers cited: EGA—Elsa G. Allen; JB—Jamesine Bardeen; MB—Morris Bardeen; LB—Leona Beardsley; JBr—Jack Brubaker; HAF—Helen A. Fessenden; BG—Bob Giddings; WG—William Groesbeck; FG—Frank Guthrie; EH—Ernest Hemphill; WH—Wilfred Howard; CL—Charles Leck; EM—Elmer MacDougall; FO—Francis Orcutt; GR—Glenna Rowley; FGS—Fritz G. Scheider; BS—Betty Strath; MS—Mary Smith; WRS—Walter R. Spofford; PT—Paris Trail; JAW—Jayson A. Walker; MPW—Mary P. Welles; RW—Ruth Williams; SEW—Sam E. Weeks.

Abbreviations: MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; Cay L—Cayuga Lake; Sen L—Seneca Lake.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: one Aug 18 Cay L (early); 60 Oct 16 East Varick (RW). Red-throated Loon: one Nov 13 Sen L near Geneva (JAW et al). Red-necked Grebe: one Newark Reservoir Oct 2 (JAW). Great Blue Heron: max 25 Sep 17 MNWR (FGS); reported in good numbers at s. end Sen L (JB). LITTLE BLUE HERON: one imm Oct 21 MNWR (WEB). Cattle Egret: one only, Oct 21-23 near Wellsburg (MS). Common Egret: max 16 Sep 8 MNWR (WEB); one (last) Oct 9. Black-crowned Night Heron: max 27 (high) Sep 15 MNWR (WEB);

rare at Elmira where once common. Mute Swan: unconfirmed report of the shooting of two of the five that have been moving from lake to lake. Whistling Swan: more reports than usual; one early Oct Sen L Inlet (MB); 16 including one imm Nov 7 Keuka L (N.E.Sharp); two Nov 11 Sen L (BS); 20 Nov 12 Burdett (JB); two Nov 19 Loon L, Wayland (WG); six Nov 9 MNWR. Canada Goose: good flight over Elmira noted Oct 17; an interesting report is of geese flying at 8,000 feet near Elmira Oct 10, seen from private plane. Brant: 11 near n. end Cay L Oct 16 (RW); two Nov 1-4 Watkins Glen (mob); 75 Nov 2MNWR; one most of Nov Stewart Pk, Ithaca; no other reports. Snow Goose: max five Oct 22 MNWR (CL). Blue Goose: max 29 Oct 19-26 MNWR.

Ducks in general were scarce on Keuka L this fall, especially Blacks, Pintails and Widgeon. Gadwall: rare at Elmira, third record this year, two on Oct 11 (WH). American Widgeon: unusually large flocks reported at n. end Cay L in Oct, probably moving in and out of Montezuma; some reports indicated scarcer elsewhere. Wood Ducks: considerably fewer this year than last everywhere; MNWR had 645 in contrast with 3,965 last year, max at SWS 40. Oldsquaw: two at Odessa and two at Hector on Nov 9, 50 Nov 13 n. end Sen L are earliest reports. Scoters: only one report, two imm Surf Scoters Nov 13 Sen L (JAW). Hooded Merganser: max 600 Nov 16 MNWR, twice last year's peak; 20 Nov 23 Waneta L (JB).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: two reports, three birds, Montezuma-Waterloo area in Nov (JAW) Sharp-shinned Hawk: scarce. Cooper's Hawk: one adult female Oct 2 S. Corning Rd (MPW); two records at Keuka (FG); two reports in Watkins Glen, Odessa area (JB); occasional sightings of the Ithaca family throughout fall (EH). Red-tailed Hawk; fairly abundant according to all observers; JBr felt that ratio of imms to adults was lower than normal. Red-shouldered Hawk; one, Nov 13 (last) Ithaca Fish Hatchery (CL). Broad-winged Hawk: no marked migration noted, except 70 in ten minutes Sep 13 Elmira (WH). Rough-legged Hawk: two unusually early reports- one Sep 25 MNWR (JAW); one Oct 5 n.e. of Ithaca, independently observed by HAF and SEW. Bald Eagle: one imm changing to adult plumage Aug 21 and 24 MNWR (WEB); one adult Aug 28 shot between Ithaca and Dryden, case prosecuted by state; one Cornell campus area Nov 17 (EGA). Marsh Hawk: a few scattered reports. Osprey: two reports from MNWR. Peregrine: one Oct 2 MNWR (PT); one Oct 9 (WEB); one near Tompkins Co airport Sep 28 (CL). Sparrow Hawk: seemed slightly more common in migration than had been as breeding bird in Region. Ruffed Grouse: reported as abundant throughout Region. Sora: noted at usual locations; four imm seen Sep 3 at Watkins Glen Marsh (JBr). Coot: max 660 Nov 9 MNWR in contrast with max 3,200 Oct 26 a year ago; 1,000 near Canoga on Cay L Nov 1 (BS); 50 Oct 14 Chemung R at Elmira, until late Nov, where have been scarce; 80 Brandy Bay Keuka L (FG).

On Sep 17 FGS noted 21 species of shorebirds at MNWR. Benning reported exciting shorebirding from late Aug through Oct. The extreme distance of the sandpiper covered mudflats made accurate counts difficult if not impossible. All following reports are from MNWR and by Walter E. Benning unless otherwise noted. Killdeer: max 123 Aug 21. Golden Plover: max three Aug 20. Black-bellied Plover: max 34 Oct 2; eight (last) Nov 11. Common Snipe: max 44 Aug 21. Whimbrel: none reported. Spotted and Solitary Sandpiper: fewer than normal. Greater Yellowlegs: max 41 Sep 24; seven (last) Nov 19. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 30 Oct 2. Pectoral Sandpiper: max 79 Sep 21; one (last) Nov 6. Baird's Sandpiper: difficult to find this year. Dunlin: Benning's max count was 70 on Oct 14. It is possible that others were located at places on Refuge where they could not be seen and counted, but reports from other areas have been low, too. Short-billed Dowitcher: max 40 Aug 21, last 11 Oct 2. Long-billed Dowitcher: max 22 Sep 25, last three Nov 12. Stilt Sandpiper: max 20 Sep 14. Western Sandpiper: Benning found one only, Sep 24. BUFF-

BREASTED SANDPIPER: third Cayuga Basin record, Sep 21–23 MNWR. MAR-
BLED GODWIT: first record for Region, one of very few interior records, one Sep
7–16 (WEB and mob). Hudsonian Godwit: one to four from Sep 18 to end of Oct.
AMERICAN AVOCET: there are only about five records for Central New York
State; this bird, spotted first by Ernest Hemphill on Oct 25 and seen by others until
Oct 29 is first in Cay Basin since 1955. Northern Phalarope: max four Sep 4, last one
Oct 2.

Great Black-backed Gull: one adult Sep 24 (first) Cay L (CL); first on Sen L
Oct 22 (JB); max 16 Nov 27 MNWR, (WEB) high count for Refuge. Ring-billed
Gull: count of 400 at Stewart Park, Ithaca on Sep 30 is high for date (CL). Bona-
parte's Gull: more frequently reported than usual this fall; 15 Nov 1 Sen L (BS).
Common Tern: one Nov 6 Keuka L—late date (FO). Screech Owl: either exceed-
ingly scarce or no longer calling! Not even dead ones being found along roads.
Reports of singles from Jacksonville, Hornell and Etna. Snowy Owl: one only, Nov
27 MNWR (WEB).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Common Nighthawk: W. Groesbeck who has been
checking Nighthawk migration for years, reports: "no real flights of the usual large
numbers." He saw his first four birds Aug 21, no more than 12 on any day thereafter
until mid-Sep. Yellow-shafted Flicker: good numbers noted all fall, frequently feed-
ing on side of road where some were car casualties; few lingered beyond early Nov.
Pileated Woodpecker: another Ithaca bird was shot in Oct. These strikingly hand-
some and conspicuous birds probably suffer far more than we realize at the hands of
the irresponsible gun-toter. Red-bellied Woodpecker: reports again on increase; at
Keuka, FG reported three in one-hour hike along the lake-shore. Tree Swallow: the
Straths reported large flocks of Swallows at MNWR on Sep 27. On Sep 28, W. E.
Benning "Witnessed the greatest Swallow migration I ever saw." Over the storage
pool, the flock extended several hundred feet into the air, over an area of at least
600 acres. Estimating 1,000 per acre—which Benning felt was a conservative estimate
—this adds up to 600,000 Tree Swallows. Even half of that is an impressive number.
House Wren: reported scarce in several areas. Carolina Wren: few reports. Marsh
Wrens: both species scarce. Mockingbird: reported from Keuka, near Hector, at
Reading Center, Montour Falls, Tyre, and at three or four locations near Ithaca.
Brown Thrasher: one Nov 30 Watkins Glen feeding on yew berries (LB)—late date.
Kinglets: both species in numbers around Ithaca Oct 18, ratio of six Ruby-crowns to
one Golden-crown. Loggerhead Shrike: two reports only; one Aug 17 s. of Brook-
tondale (WRS), one Aug 23 near Catherine (JBr). Northern Shrike: two reports at
Elmira during Nov; one Nov 19 MNWR (WEB); one Nov 20 Hanshaw Rd Ithaca
(BG).

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Migration of Warblers noted at Elmira on Sep 23 (GR).
No marked migration noted elsewhere. No Worm-eating Warblers found at Elmira
this year—the one location known in the Region. Brewster's Warbler: rare at any
time and especially in fall, this hybrid was carefully observed Sep 5 w. side
MNWR (WEB). Myrtle Warbler: scarce at Ithaca, abundant at Waterloo (JW).
Wilson's Warbler: many noted Sep 21 Watkins Glen (JBr).

Blackbird migration seemed less heavy this year than recent years. However, large
numbers Rusty Blackbirds 2nd week Oct Ithaca area.

Evening Grosbeak: scattered reports of one or two birds in Nov, no indication that
this will be a big year. Tree Sparrow: slow in coming to feeders in Nov because of
open weather. Flock of these with Slate-colored Juncos, 1,000, Oct 17 Waterloo
(JAW). Lincoln's Sparrow: few reports; two Elmira Oct 7. Lapland Longspur:
numbers noted Oct and Nov near Keuka (FG). Snow Bunting: scattered reports of
fewer than ten, except 20, Nov 27 Watts Rd near Waterloo (EM).

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