

(AEK). Snowy Owl: two at Pt Breeze Nov 26 (AEK, CM, TM). Short-eared Owl: a fairly good fall flight, max six at BB Nov 25 (WCL). Saw-whet Owl: one netted and banded in Penfield Sep 30 (RM).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Common Nighthawk: 35 seen over downtown Rochester Sep 8 (JF *et al*), most of these doubtless migrating birds. Pileated Woodpecker: one in Irondequoit Oct 14 (LM, NM) was probably a roaming bird as the section is mostly a suburban area where one would not expect the species to be resident. Tree Swallow: four at Sodus Bay Oct 28 (WCL), last date. Tufted Titmouse: three in DEP Nov 19 (GOS hike); regular at feeders in Irondequoit and Webster.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Orange-crowned Warbler: one at Oklahoma Oct 23 (WCL). Yellow-breasted Chat: a very late bird in Webster Oct 14–21 (WL). Am. Redstart: a late bird in Webster Oct 21 (MS), also one seen in the same location Nov 12 (MS).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Scarlet Tanager: a late bird in Island Cottage Woods Oct 21 (JJD, HSM). Evening Grosbeak: five in DEP Nov 10 (JJD); a very few reported at feeders. Common Redpoll: 35 along the WL Nov 13 (JJD, HSM). Pine Siskin: max 20 in DEP Nov 10 (JJD); a few other reports of smaller numbers. Red Crossbill: 14 in Powder Mill Pk Nov 7 (Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Dakin); 50 in DEP Nov 19 (GOS hike). Vesper Sparrow: a rather late bird in Kendall Nov 16 (WCL). OREGON JUNCO: a well marked bird in Irondequoit Nov 19 (LM, NM), not seen subsequently. Fox Sparrow: two rather late birds in Irondequoit Nov 19 (GOS hike).

2080 East Main Street, Rochester, N.Y. 14609

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

The Region experienced every conceivable type of weather during the period and it seemed more unpredictable than usual. After a fairly chilly and wet late August and early September, it warmed up and, except for several dips into the 30's and 40's, stayed above normal until the third week in October, when came the first hard freeze. Precipitation was above normal, with several drenching rains. Fall colors were poor as a result, and the leaves fell suddenly when the freezes finally came. November threatened us at first with snow and ice, but didn't live up to the threat—the end of the month was open and mild.

The shorebird count dropped off after mid-August at Montezuma, and the daily (or weekend) species count was not impressive. No Ruff this year, no Buff-breasted Sandpiper. But a peak of 40 Hudsonian Godwits is almost inconceivable—five is the highest previous count that I know of. Furthermore the Godwits (a dozen or so at least) lingered for several weeks. Other birds of note are the Eared Grebe on Seneca Lake, an immature plumaged Little Blue Heron, a King Rail and the Lesser Black-backed Gull, back again. But by far the most remarkable record was a *Swallow-tailed Kite* (see field note) unmistakably identified by Fish and Wildlife employee Earl Baysinger, Chief of the Bird-Banding Laboratory, en route to the AOU in Toronto. This *may* be the first New York State record this century.

Montezuma was host to almost 80,000 waterfowl this fall, compared with 50,000 last year.

Wild seeds and fruit seem very abundant, but so far this has not lured many winter finches into the area. It looks like a good Rough-legged Hawk year.

Observers cited: WEB—Walter E. Benning; JB—Jamesine Bardeen; JBr—Jack Brubaker; DC—Dwight Chamberlain; TC—Tom Cade; FG—Frank Guthrie; WG—William Groesbeck; CH—Clayton Hardy; WH—Wilfred Howard; PMK—Paul M. Kelsey; EJ—Eric Johnson; CL—Charles Leck; ML—Malcolm Lerch; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; PM—Peter Murtha; BBS—Betty and Barrie Strath; FGS—Fritz G. Scheider; WRS—Walter R. Spofford; JW—Jayson Walker; MPW—Mary P. Welles; RW—Richard Weisbrod.

Area compilers: Jamesine Bardeen, Walter E. Benning, Frank Guthrie, Clayton Hardy, William Groesbeck, Jayson Walker, Mary P. Welles.

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

LOONS—DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one Nov 9 Cay L first for year, one Nov 23 near Ithaca (EJ). *EARED GREBE*: one Nov 26 n. end Sen L (WEB), same location as several previous years but earlier date. Pied-billed Grebe: max 15 Nov 11 MNWR (WEB). Double-crested Cormorant: one Oct 15–29 MNWR, quite uncommon in fall. Great Blue Heron: up to 100 first week Sep MNWR (WEB), increase over last few years. Green Heron: max 400 on Storage Pond MNWR third week August, highest count in some years (WEB); reported in good numbers around Elmira that same week (WH). Little Blue Heron: one imm Oct 23 Troy Rd, Ithaca on farm pond (Betty Pierce, confirmed by DM); this is almost same date as only report in '66. Common Egret: max 12–15 in Sep MNWR. Black-crowned Night Heron: max 5 Sep 26 compared with max 27 in 1966 (WEB). Least Bittern: Benning had only a single sighting (Sep 4) during weekly or semi-weekly visits to MNWR; this species is decreasing, or becoming increasingly elusive.

Mute Swan: one at MNWR through Oct 15; the whole family on Owasco L was wiped out in early Nov by disease. Whistling Swan: two MNWR through Oct 15 (CH); one from summer through Nov 7 s. end Seneca L; max 17, Nov 27 Cay L (Maguire). Canada Goose: heavy flights Oct 6–8, good flight Oct 17–20; 4500 Oct 15 MNWR, 6500 peak Nov 12. Brant: 300 max Nov 7 over Watkins Glen (JBr); only one at Ithaca Nov 9 (EJ) to Nov 28 (DM). Snow Goose: four–14 end of Oct MNWR (CL, CH). Blue Goose: seven–44, Oct 29–Nov 12 MNWR, higher than '66 counts. Black Duck: reported down in numbers on Keuka L this fall; numbers at SWS end of Nov comparable to last two years. Peak counts (made Nov 12 unless otherwise noted) and dates for waterfowl at MNWR (CH) are as follows: Total waterfowl at peak approx. 80,000; Mallard 15,000; Black Duck 13,200; Gadwall 9,900; American Widgeon 24,700; European Widgeon: one Sep 3 (WEB); Pintail 6,200; Green-winged Teal 2,400; Blue-winged Teal 900; Shoveler 7,400; Wood Duck 450 Sep 7, still 6 on Nov 12; (one pair still present on SWS pond Dec. 1); Redhead 470 Oct 22; Ringnecked Duck 280 Oct 22; Canvasback 145; Scaup 280 Oct 22; Bufflehead 40 Oct 22; Ruddy Duck 34 Oct 22; Hooded Merganser 276 Nov 5; Common Merganser 100; Red-breasted Merganser 318 Nov 5. Oldsquaw: one female Oct 29 MNWR (CL); flock of 80 Oct 29 Watkins Glen (JBr). Common Scoter: one female (rare) Nov 27 near Aurora on Cay L (PM). All MNWR counts by Refuge Personnel unless otherwise noted.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: gradually increasing number of reports; two Sep 20 Hornell and "several other sightings" (WG); 15 Sep 24 near Seneca Falls (DC); one dead Nov 7 Brooktondale (RW), in Cornell collection, late and rare in Ithaca area. *SWALLOW-TAILED KITE*: well authenticated sighting of single bird Aug 20, 25 miles n. of Ithaca on Route 89 (Earl Baysinger)—see field note. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one Nov 8 Turkey Hill n.e. Ithaca (John Kelley); Cooper's Hawk: one Oct 29 Waterloo area (JW); one Oct 7 near Tompkins Co airport (Sam Sweet); two sightings Aug 21 and Nov 25 near Odessa (BBS); one Oct 11 near Dryden (T. Cade); one imm Sep 1 SWS, made unsuccessful passes at birds at feeder; one killed Ithaca Game Farm in Oct. Red-tailed Hawk: good numbers all fall, at least

four killed at Ithaca Game Farm. Red-shouldered Hawk: few sightings. Broad-winged Hawk; no noticeable flight through this area this year. Rough-legged Hawk; one Sep 17 (early) MNWR (G. Shepherds); one Oct 22 MNWR (CL); one Nov 6 Townsend (JBr); approximately 10 reports during November in Cay L Basin. Bald Eagle: one only, adult Aug 27 over Etna (WRS). Marsh Hawk: scattered sightings at Hornell, Watkins Glen and MNWR. Osprey: singles MNWR, s. end Cay L, Fall Creek Ithaca. Peregrine Falcon: one Sep 30 MNWR (FCS); two Oct 7 MNWR (Warren Lloyd, Maryann Sunderlin). Pigeon Hawk: one Nov 17 MNWR (Ref. personnel)—first fall report in several years. Sparrow Hawk: reported as slightly up in numbers at Keuka and Waterloo; several successful nests near Etna this year.

Ruffed Grouse: decrease over last year. Virginia Rails and Soras continued hard to find. **KING RAIL**: one found dead in Oct, just e. of Odessa, specimen saved but not yet received at Cornell (*vide* JBr and BBS)—first record since 1960. Common Gallinule: max 42 Sep 6 (WEB). Am. Coot: peak 6,850 MNWR Oct 15 (max 660 in 1966).

Shorebirds: scarce at Keuka and Elmira, no mud flats. The following shore bird reports are from MNWR, and by Walter Benning, unless otherwise noted. Numbers after Aug 15 were smaller than prior to that date, though new species turned up. Mudflats extensive, but at a distance, so identification and counts difficult. Killdeer: max 186 Sep 20. Golden Plover: one Sep 13; three Sep 27. Black-bellied Plover: max 3 Aug 26 (max 34 in 1966). Common Snipe: max 45 Sep 20. Spotted Sandpiper: max 12 Aug 19. Solitary Sandpiper: one only Sep 6; none at SWS. Greater Yellowlegs: max 50 (max 41 in 1966). Lesser Yellowlegs: max 114 Aug 29, well above max 30 in 1966. Pectoral Sandpiper: fewer than last year, max 30 (79 in 1966). White-rumped Sandpiper: max 12 Oct 7. Baird's Sandpiper: only one sighting at MNWR this season. Dunlin: max 200 Oct 14. Short-billed Dowitcher: max 113 Aug 20, last date Oct 1. Long-billed Dowitcher: 10 Sep 16, first; max 25 Oct 15; last Oct 29. Stilt Sandpiper: one Sep 20 first; max 13 Oct 1; ten Oct 15 last. Western Sandpiper: one only, Aug 19. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 100 Sep 13 (normal). **HUDSONIAN GODWIT**: (see introductory remarks) first, two Sep 17; 25 Sep 28 (mob); max 40 Sep 30, unprecedented highs. Sanderling: single birds Aug 26, Oct 1. Wilson's Phalarope: one Aug 26. **RED PHALAROPE**: one Sep 30 and Oct 1, a first for Montezuma; species is very uncommon throughout the Finger Lakes. Most shorebirds had left MNWR by Oct 22.

Great Black-backed Gull: first, one imm Sep 16 Cay L Inlet (CL); max six end of Nov. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**: one, possibly two, for fifth year Cay L Nov 18—this is earliest date it has been seen; carefully observed, all characters including yellow mouth-lining noted.

Great Horned Owl: frequent reports of hooting late Nov. Snowy Owl: one (first, early) Oct 30, Ridge Rd n. of Horseheads (Mrs. Leah Benjamin); one, mid-Nov w. of Ithaca (*vide* V. Hannan); one Nov 27 MNWR (*vide* D. B. Peakall); one Nov 30 near Elmira (Mrs. E. Russell). Saw-whet Owl: one Nov 26 SWS (M. Hundley).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Common Nighthawk: no migration flight noted this year at Hornell (WG); one Oct 27 near Elmira, very late date, all details carefully noted (MPW). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Oct 5 Watkins Glen—rather late date (JBr). Yellow-shafted Flicker: many comments on abundance this fall. Red-headed Woodpecker: young seen out of nest mid-Aug Powers Rd King Ferry. Red-bellied Woodpecker: slow increase noted around Keuka (FG). Olive-sided Flycatcher: Sep 17 Connecticut Hill s.w. of Ithaca (JBr)—only report. Eastern Phoebe: seemed scarce. Tree Swallow: still present to end of period MNWR, 20–30 seen Nov 23 (WEB). Boreal Chickadee: several reported "sometime in November" near Elmira (Mrs. E. Russell), no supporting details. Red-breasted Nuthatch: almost no migrants noted, except six Nov 7 at Harris Hill, Elmira (WH). Carolina Wren: only one in Ithaca area, several known in Watkins Glen, Seneca L area. Mockingbird: scattered reports Ithaca, Keuka. Robin: many reports of sizeable flocks in migration;

e.g. 60 Nov 21 at Keuka (FG). Wood Thrush: Nov 11 (late) Turkey Hill e. of Ithaca (PM). E. Bluebird: encouraging reports on numbers in early fall. Kinglets: both species abundant in October. Loggerhead Shrike: two reports only, one Aug 31 Mt. Pleasant near Etna (WRS); one Sep 20 Dryden (TC).

VIREOS-SPARROWS: Philadelphia Vireo: one Sep 14 Watkins Glen, one Sep 25 Waterloo (JW), often missed. Warblers: Wilfred Howard continued the Elmira Tower kill pick-up, visiting the area at least once a week from mid-August thru October. Total: 45, of which 17 were warblers. This compared with 260 last year. Fewer accidents or fewer birds? Warbler migration was noted on Sep 15 SWS, Sep 25 at Waterloo Cemetery. Some last dates: Tennessee Oct 28; Magnolia Oct 20; Black-throated Blue Oct 29 (ML, banded); Palm Nov 6. Myrtle: abundant all fall. Blackbirds: for second successive year migration seemed less heavy, Grackles and Brown-headed Cowbirds being noted as definitely fewer at Keuka and Waterloo. Few Rusty Blackbirds. Baltimore Oriole: last dates, Oct 29 MNWR (Diane Beres), Nov 15 at Ithaca feeder (Turk). Scarlet Tanager: female Nov 6 (late) Elmira (MPW) feeding on wild grape, seemed lethargic. Evening Grosbeak: scattered reports of singles or small flocks in Ithaca area, some sections had no sightings, most reports from Watkins Glen area. American Goldfinch: two reports of newly-hatched young, first week in September, near Ithaca. Red Crossbill: one report only, Nov 11 Turkey Hill (PM). Vesper Sparrow: more seen than usual in migration (JW). Oregon Junco: two reports at Elmira, late Oct early Nov; no supporting details. Lincoln Sparrow: two reports only Oct 13, 27, Elmira (WH). Snow Bunting: several reports including one flock 75 MNWR early Nov (CH).

Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

Although temperatures averaged a little below normal and precipitation a little above through October there was very little severe weather to hurry migrants on their way. Apparently for this reason last dates for small land bird species seemed to run late. The official temperature went as low as 32 degrees October 7 for the first time. Traces of snow fell October 19 and 28. November brought more severe cold and several appreciable snowfalls.

The waterfowl migration, only very sketchily reported, seemed low in numbers but produced several surprising species, including all three scoters. The white-winged could be considered a normal fall migrant here, but not the other two. The shore-bird migration, also sketchily reported, did produce most of the ordinary species, but only the pectoral sandpiper that seemed worthy of noting below.

Evidence for an eagerly awaited incursion of winter finches was very meager and not at all promising. A second consecutive winter without them would be rather disheartening.

Abbreviations: Berk—Berkshire; Bing—Binghamton; Chen—Chenango; CC—Chocanut Center; NV—Newark Valley; Pep Res—Pepacton Reservoir; TC—Triple Cities area; WP—Whitney Point Flood Control Dam.

Observers: LB—L. Bemont; DB—Dewey Bendle; MC—Mitchell Cubberly; M,AD—Marilyn and Anna Davis; LD—Louise Dean; CG—Claire Gottschall; JG—John Grant; JAG—John A. Gustafson; J,MH—Jeffrey and Mark Harris; FL—Florence Linaberry; ML—Margaret Lynch; MS—Mary Sheffield; MW—Mildred White; R,SW—Ruth and Sally White; RW—Ruth Williams.