

REQUEST FOR HABITAT PHOTOGRAPHS

The time has come when each of us can contribute to New York ornithology in an important way. The forthcoming *BIRDS OF NEW YORK*, under preparation for the past three years by John Bull, is now within a year of completion. One ingredient essential to the format of this prodigious work is in short supply, however, and I am requesting the aid of all Federation members and their friends to overcome the following problem.

New York State has a highly variegated avifauna due to the diverse habitats found within its borders. The state book will illustrate as many of these habitats as possible in the form of black and white reproductions of photographs. We need pictures of representative habitats. It is not necessary that any birds be present in the photograph. Good examples can be found in *THE BIRDS OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER REGION* by Beardslee and Mitchell, and the habitat photographs in the breeding bird census issue of *AUDUBON FIELD NOTES*.

Please go through your files, contact those whom you know are likely to have such photographs, and send *all* of them to either John Bull, Dept. of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History, New York, N.Y. 10024, or to me at the address below. If you know of any unique or representative habitat in your area not yet photographed, use whatever means you can to have someone secure a photograph. If the photos are in color, either have a black and white copy made, or send us the original and we will do it. In this way we can all share in what I know will be one of the great ornithological works of our day.

Needless to say, credit for the prints used in the book will be printed—so, like it or not, the contributors will be preserved for posterity in the *BIRDS OF NEW YORK*.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON

August 16—November 30

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In their recent paper entitled "A continentwide view of bird migration on four nights in October" Lowery and Newman (*Auk*, 83: 584. 1966) make the following statement: "no effect of physiography asserts itself except for indications that a sizeable proportion of migrants may detour the Great Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico." This statement could be taken as a challenge to the bird watchers of this state. In trying to piece together an overall pattern in migration for New York State one is struck that the type of information available is still basically similar to that at the turn of the century. Although methods of study evolved during the last two decades have revolutionized our knowledge of migration these techniques have remained as the tools of a small number of researchers. A combination of techniques makes it possible to study migration in considerable detail. Radar can be used to obtain the wide, generalised picture. Moon-watching (the method used by Lowery and Newman)

gives quantitation by sampling a number of small areas. Mist-netting (used extensively only on Long Island), tower-kills and general observation gives information on the actual species involved. A coordinated study of this type would give invaluable information on the importance or otherwise of such geographic features as Lakes Ontario and Erie and the mountains of the Adirondacks and Catskills. The general impression of this fall's migration was that there were no pronounced waves and that the numbers of warblers and vireos were rather low.

Late October brought a heavy inland flight of Common (or Black) Scoter with an unprecedented 2,000 on Warner's Lake (Region 8), 300 Pepacton Reservoir (Region 4) and over a hundred on Seneca Lake (Region 3). Other scoters, including the normally commonest White-winged were not recorded in unusual numbers. Along Lake Ontario scoter flights were described as more numerous than usual in Region 6 and "somewhat down in numbers" in Region 2 and a maximum of 12 in Region 1. Thus there is no evidence of a major flight on the Great Lakes at this time.

Some of the most interesting range expansions are now taking place in the Adirondacks. The increase in the numbers of Cardinals has been most marked there this fall; an increase was also noted in Jefferson County. There is also a record of Tufted Titmouse from the Adirondacks. At the same time as the expansion of these southern species into the ecologically most northern part of the state there is an increase of a northern species, the Raven, into this area. Following on the first breeding record of this species in recent years, the number of sightings this fall suggests that establishment of this species is likely.

A state-wide flight of Evening and Pine Grosbeaks occurred in late October and early November. The early arrival suggests food shortage to the north, an idea supported by the Region 7 report. Other winter finches do not appear to have been affected. The only exception to the above picture appears to be Long Island where the two commonest winter finches were Evening Grosbeak and Pine Siskin. There were only two records of Pine Grosbeak for Region 10.

Hurricane Gladys provided Long Island with several interesting records including a Sandwich Tern and several hundred Cory's Shearwaters. One off-shore trip recorded three species of Jaeger. Long Island also had a fine flight of Buff-breasted Sandpipers.

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It is regretted that the Region 5 report was not available for inclusion in this summary.

Abbreviations used in regional reports: arr—arrival, arrived; Co—County; imm—immature; L—Lake; max—maximum one-day count; mob—many observers; Pk—Park; Pt—Point; R—River; Rd—Road.

All numbers given are the number of individuals unless otherwise stated.