

numerous Oct 29 Dryden (M. Baker); scarce Keuka area, only 2 banded Penn Yan (ML). White-throated Sparrow: over 100 banded Penn Yan (ML). Fox Sparrow: last Nov 17 Elmira (R. Knapp). Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 Oct 6 n of Ithaca (MB,MS); 2 banded Oct at Penn Yan (ML). Lapland Longspur: first, 1 Oct 31 Harris Hill Elmira (WH,DL). Snow Bunting: first, 2 Oct 28 MNWR (T. Carrolan, G. Randorf); largest flock reported, 75-100 Oct 31 Dutch Hill Elmira (WH,DL).

419 Triphammer Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850 and "Aviana," Etna, N.Y. 13062.

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

This being the first report from the Susquehanna Region in four issues it is more concerned with recording some of the more important reports that have accumulated in a full year than with the fall migration, the normal subject matter in this issue. One of the more obvious features of this neglected fall migration that can be reported in a minimum of space is the almost complete absence of incoming "winter finches." Only a very few Evening Grosbeaks have been reported so far to go with our more or less permanent resident Purple Finches and Goldfinches. Even the latter two species are less than abundant suggesting a colorless winter at the feeders.

Two seemingly contradictory trends that have been with us for a number of years seem accentuated when we look at a whole year's records at one time: namely, the extension of the range of some more southerly species into our area and the presence of more and more of several more northerly breeding species during the summer. There can be no doubt that the increase of Cardinals, Mockingbirds and Tufted Titmice is real, over the years, and possibly we should consider Barred Owls and Turkey Vultures from the same point of view. The last two years might even make us optimistic about Kentucky Warblers also moving in, but that is probably too much to hope for. We should remember that Carolina Wrens and Yellow-breasted Chats never seem to quite make it.

The increase in the number of northern species reported in the summer time could, however, be the result of observer education and better coverage, particularly since these species are usually reported from more remote locations and higher elevations. The number of Golden-crowned Kinglets, Myrtle Warblers, Red-breasted Nuthatches and White-throated Sparrows being reported now makes that hard to believe, however. Some of the other species that can be considered in this group are Common Mergansers, Goshawks and Hermit, Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes. Only the Common Mergansers can really be considered to be extending their range.

Another trend of an entirely different nature is the increase in the number of House Finches. We now have our first breeding record and seem to be approaching the population explosion that has been close to inevitable since the success of the species introduction to the east coast.

Many of the species reported below would normally be listed as rarities but perhaps the Sandhill Crane and the Purple Gallinule should head the list, with the Blue Grosbeak not far behind. The almost identical circumstances under which a Double-crested Cormorant, a species seldom reported in the Region, and the Purple Gallinule, a species never before reported in the Region, were obtained is just an unexplainable coincidence.

Observers Initials: MB—Margaret Coon Bowman; LC—Mrs. Lynn Clark; GC—Gail Corderman; MC—Mitchel Cubberly; A,MD—Anna & Marilyn Davis; EF—Elizabeth Feldhusen; CG—Clinton Gerould; JAG—John A. Gustafson; CH—Claude Howard; VH—Virginia Hudson; RK—Richard Kaskan; ML—Margaret Lynch; M,DL—Margaret & Dwight Lynch; JN—John New; MS—Mary Sheffield; DW—Donald Weber; CW—

Cora Wellman; MW—Mildred White; R,SW—Ruth & Sally White; RW—Ruth Williams; KW—Kathryn Wilson; SW—Stuart Wilson.

Other Abbreviations: BBS—Breeding Bird Survey; BC—Binghamton Christmas Count, Jan. 1, 1970; WP—Whitney Point.

LOONS—DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: May 17 WP (MS), seen soon after 3 Commons—smaller, much slenderer, upturned bill and shorter neck, only the third record for the Region in 18 years. Red-necked Grebe: 1 Apr 5 WP (MS). Double-crested Cormorant: 1 May 21 Endwell (L. Loomis), picked up from a city lawn and held by a veterinarian a few days. Snowy Egret: May 13 Owego (MW), no details. Mute Swan: Apr 18 Cheningo Swamp at Truxton (M. Card). Whistling Swan: 1 Mar 27 Campville (RW), the only report. Brant: 1 week of Oct 9 Oneonta (JN). Snow Goose: Apr 20 Cortland (JAG). Blue-winged Teal: 3 Mar 29 Smithboro (RW), early but several more scattered reports within a few days; 9 Aug 30 Owego (MW, CG). Redhead: 3 Jan 31 Flemingville Creek (M,DL); 2 Mar 8 Cortland (W. Stupke). Common Scoter: 12 Oct 18 on pond north of Johnson City (MS, R. Sheffield). Common Merganser: 3 on BC; 42 on waterfowl count in mid-Jan; 3 broods at East Branch, Jun 20 8 ducklings one-half adult size, Jul 21 8 one-half adult size and Jul 22 11 three-quarters adult size (MB); first flight after molt Aug 25, max 19.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 1 Mar 15 Hancock (R. Dirig); reported from many parts of Region in Apr and May; 11 at East Branch Jun 24 (MB) the maximum count; 9 Jul 15 Cannonsville Reservoir (R,SW); 8 Jul 22 Cherry Valley (Mrs. H. W. Moore). Black Vulture: one with turkey vultures Jul 22 at Cherry Valley (Mrs. H. W. Moore), "white wingtips so was apparently a black vulture, rare in this latitude," Mrs. Moore a frequent visitor to Florida so experienced with species. Goshawk: 2 on BC (MS); seen frequently in area before and after; 1 Dec 7 Oneonta (KW,EF); Jan 17 Deposit (SW); 1 Feb 15 Andes (MC), after trying for and missing a tame duck perched on wire in back yard, allowing close inspection; 1 Mar 29 Candor (DW) dark wing tips and black head markings plainly visible as it flew past at close range; May 29 and 30 "a pair screaming through woods" in remote area at Milford, nest with two chicks found Jun 8, 1 fledged Jun 23 and other believed safely fledged later (CW); a successful nesting near Scott, in Cortland County (P. Kelsey). Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Jan 4 Milford (EF,KW); at 3 places near Milford in Apr and May (CW). Broad-winged Hawk: a nesting pair at East Branch successfully fledged 4 young (MB). Rough-legged Hawk: 2 on BC, very few other reports; 1 Oct 4 Andes (I. Wright); 1 at Oxford Nov 24 and 30 (A. Stratton). Bald Eagle: 6 reports from Feb 5 to Apr 14, all in Otsego and Delaware Counties, including one report of two adults feeding on deer carcass in ice on Pepacton Reservoir Mar 5 (MC); Jul 4 South Owego (D. Bendle); an immature over Choconut Center Sep 26 (MS). Marsh Hawk: 10 reports from Feb 1 to May 31; 3 reports from Aug 26 to Oct 18. Osprey: 1 Mar 15 at Goodyear Lake near Oneonta (Gridley, Conner), the only one before Apr 10; then 21 reports to May 19; most common around Apr 25 and 26; 6 reports from Aug 28 to Oct 27. Peregrine Falcon: 1 Jan 31 and again Feb 8 Owego (CG), perched in tree near house—"at close range saw the face patches clearly." Pigeon Hawk: Apr 12, 14 and 16 at Cortland Water Works (Phil Clark); May 9 Delhi (LC). Bob-white: May 9 Freetown in Cortland County (Lois Stone); Jul 2 Nichols (VH). Turkey: 20 Jan 4 between Caroline and Richford (RK), said to be present regularly; at Delhi all winter (LC); also reported at Owego (D. Bendle) in Mar; 5 near Oquaga in eastern Broome County Oct 3 (S. Finkelstein). Sandhill Crane: 1 May 31 in Town of Virgil, Cortland County (Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Wood), grey with red patch on head, gave a rolling call "similar to drawing your thumb nail over the edge of a comb"—identification completed by picking call from tapes played for him at the Laboratory of Ornithology at Sapsucker Woods and by comparison with captive cranes there; the second record in the Region in the last

few years. Virginia Rail: Aug 22 Newark Valley (M,DL); 1 Sep 6 Sherburne (R,SW). Purple Gallinule: 1 May 14 Binghamton (L. Loomis), picked up from lawn, injured foot, and cared for by a veterinarian and consequently seen by a number of people. Common Snipe: Feb 15 Cortland (Phil Clark). Upland Plover: May 3 and 9 Homer (JAG). Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 Aug 15 Sherburne (R,SW); 3 Aug 21 Oneonta (KW,EF). Short-billed Dowitcher: May 17 WP (MS) and Binghamton (H. Marsi, C. Gottschall, GC). Common Tern: 2 Aug 2 WP (MS). Screech Owl: 1 on Oneonta Christmas Count Dec 21; 1 on BC; occasional reports from almost everywhere in Region; in Jan at Candor 1 came to a porch for suet and a road-killed rabbit (DW); 14 reports from Jun thru Nov. Barred Owl: 1 on BC; in Apr and May reported from Berkshire, Milford, Hancock and Binghamton; 1 Jun 14 McDonough BBS (CH); 3 reported from Otsego County during summer, 2 from Tioga County and young heard Jun 26 south of Binghamton (GC). Saw-whet Owl: Mar 20 Binghamton (R. & J. Saunders), Apr 23 Owego (D. Williams).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: heard several times from May 2 to 14 at Candor (DW); 1 heard and seen at Vestal May 17 to Jun 4 (RK). Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 Dec 21, '69 Cortland Christmas Count; May 9 Cortlandville (JAG) and Delhi (LC); May 13 Owego (MW); one adult brought 3 young to a feeder near Cortland for suet most of summer (Mr. & Mrs. A. H. Martin); a pair nested at Oneonta Country Club (Mrs. C. Koenig, Mrs. P. Dobinsky). Eastern Phoebe: in Aug one observed taking flies off the backs of two deer (A,MD) near Chenango Forks. Acadian Flycatcher: May 7 Delhi (LC), no details; Jun 25 Richford (M, DL), no details. Boreal Chickadee: 1 Dec 28, '69 Berkshire (ML), Feb 5 Endicott (ML), Mar 27 Newark Valley (ML). Tufted Titmouse: regular at 4 different feeders in Binghamton area during winter of '69-'70 in addition to scattered reports from the Cortland, Oneonta, Delhi and Owego areas; continued regular at 3 Binghamton localities and East Branch thru summer and into fall; a "family" at Endwell Jul 5 (F. Linaberry). Winter Wren: singing at 6 places around Milford commonplace; at Berkshire and Owego in June; at Unadilla (J. Tuttle), Choconut Center (MS) and Oct 16 at Vestal (RK). Carolina Wren: 3 on BC; also at Owego Jan-Mar (D. Bendle); 1 Aug 6 at East Branch (MB). Mockingbird: 8 on BC; reported quite frequently from many parts of Region during spring although not yet commonplace; at Berkshire and Owego in Jun, at Unadilla (J. Tuttle), Choconut Center and Berkshire in Aug and at Choconut Center thru Oct, even singing several times. Varied Thrush: a male at Andes Dec 21, '69 (MC), on or near feeder all day then disappeared; one at Delhi Dec 19 to Jan 10 seen at 3 different feeders (LC). Hermit Thrush: heard singing in 5 places near Milford (CW) and several other summer records in Chenango and Broome Counties; first fall migrants Oct 16 at Vestal (RK) and 1 Nov 8 Gilbert State Park (R,SW), the last. Swainson's Thrush: 1 heard at East Pharsalia Jun 14 and again Jul 18 (R,SW); migrants Sep 18 and 19 Chenango Forks (A,MD); 1 Oct 18 Oneonta (KW,EF) the last of 3 Oct records. Gray-cheeked Thrush: Jun 13 near Walton on Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society field trip; no reports of fall migrants. Eastern Bluebird: sharp decline in nesting pairs in Cortland area and low numbers in Binghamton area; 11 pairs fledged 25 young by Jun 4 on one property at Candor (DW). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Apr 26 Cortlandville (E. Spainhower); May reports from Candor (DW), Chenango Forks (M. Layton) and Owego (RW); a pair fledged a young one at East Branch Jun 18 (MB); Jul 22 adults feeding young at Chenango Forks (A,MD). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 14 heard singing or calling in spruce stands in Cortland, Chenango and Delaware Counties Jun 23 to 26 (R. Andrie), at elevations ranging from 1200 to 1900 feet. Water Pipit: Oct 28 Andes (MC); 3 Nov 8 (KW,EF). Northern Shrike: 17 reports Dec thru Mar; one singing Feb 14 (RK).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Philadelphia Vireo: Apr 28 Newark Valley (L. Dean); May 17 Binghamton (H. Marsi, GC, C. Gottschall, E. Washburn). Worm-eating

Warbler: May 17 Binghamton (H. Marsi, GC, C. Gottschall, E. Washburn). Blue-winged Warbler: Jul 22 Chenango Forks (A,MD). Parula Warbler: 2 Sep 20 East Branch (MB). Myrtle Warbler: 1 singing male at Preble in Cortland County Jun 32; 2 in Pharsalia area of Chenango County Jun 24; and 1 at Margaretville in Delaware County Jun 24 (R. Andriele); all between 1700 and 1900 feet elevation. Cerulean Warbler: 1 singing near Chenango in Cortland County Jun 23 (R. Andriele). Pine Warbler: 1 Apr 22 Oneonta (J. Koenig); 1 Aug 24 and another Sep 19 Oneonta (I. Wright). Palm Warbler: Sep 26 East Branch (MB); Nov 1 Vestal (GC). Prairie Warbler: again heard almost daily at Vestal Center during most of May and Jun (E. Washburn); 1 Jun 14 on McDonough BBS (CH). Kentucky Warbler: May 3 Newark Valley (LD), very close to window and all diagnostic markings noted; May 9 Homer (JAG); 1 Jun 14 McDonough BBS (CH). Mourning Warbler: 5 reports from May 16 to May 30; Jun 14 McDonough BBS (CH); 2 pair at East Branch (MB) and two other Jun reports; 1 Oct 3 Vestal (RK). Yellow-breasted Chat: May 20 Choconut Center (MS). Wilson's Warbler: Sep 26 East Branch (MB).

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: 1 May 9 Binghamton (L. Thompson), present at same locality previous 2 years; 1 Jun 14 McDonough BBS (CH). Rusty Blackbird: 1 early Jan Owego (MW); 15-20 Oct 17 and 18 East Branch (MB). Cardinal: Jan 26 Delhi (LC), 2 at a neighbor's feeder for the first time ever. Blue Grosbeak: 1 Aug 10 Nichols (VH), "larger than the indigo bunting and the bill is larger, the tail is broader and the color is altogether different. It has the rusty brown wing bars which will really show up. It has dark streaks running down the back." Dickcissel: up to 6 in manure spread north of Endicott the first few days of Jan (L. & D. Bemont, RK). Evening Grosbeak: fair numbers to abundant Dec thru Apr in all parts of the Region; 1 Nov 16 Oxford (A. Stratton) and 20 plus Nov 25 Norwich (R,SW); a few additional sightings at Norwich are the only other fall reports. House Finch: Mar 10 a pair at Newark Valley (ML, et. al.), well described; a pair at Binghamton in early May (R. Karns); 1 at Nichols Jun 18 (VH), description; another pair at Binghamton banded Jun 27 (GC, E. & C. Kirch), a second male not caught—female had large brood patch and young seen later; a pair at Endwell Jul 5 (F. Linaberry). Pine Grosbeak: 25 Dec 21, '69 Oneonta Christmas Count, but few other reports and none after Mar 24. Hoary Redpoll: 1 Feb 21 to 23 Candor (DW), smaller, lighter than Commons, white rump and "frosty;" Mar 3 Berkshire (ML), lighter, not as streaked as Commons, rump patch silvery with no streaks. Common Redpoll: good numbers from late Dec to mid Apr, none after May 17. Pine Siskin: a few all winter, more in Mar and thru mid May, then none. Red Crossbill: coming to feeders from Feb on in fairly good numbers, some still around May 31; 1 Jun 27 near Goodyear Lake in Otsego County (I. Wright). White-winged Crossbill: in much smaller numbers until Mar 25, then none. Oregon Junco: 1 Mar 29 Binghamton (R. Karns), sharp contrast between brown back and black head. Tree Sparrow: last spring record Apr 27 Candor (DW); first fall report Oct 21 Oxford (A. Stratton). Field Sparrow: Dec 28, '69 South Owego (E. Williams). White-crowned Sparrow: 3 Dec 21, '69 Oneonta Christmas Count. White-throated Sparrow: 17 summer records from Otsego, Chenango and Tioga Counties. Lapland Longspur: 3 Jan 1 BC (L. & D. Bemont). Snow Bunting: Oct 25 Broome County Airport (MS).

710 University Ave., Endwell, N.Y., 13760

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

M. S. RUSK AND C. G. SPIES

Weather was mostly wet and warm, especially in the latter part of the period, with few days of north winds. The great amount of rain prevented mudflats from