

Island Cottage Woods 1 Sept (NH); Tennessee: one Webster Park 17 Nov (TG), very late, but the same date as the last record last year; Orange-crowned Warbler: at least nine records; Yellow Warbler: one Livonia 26 Sept, late; both waterthrushes, Connecticut, and Mourning missed; and Am. Redstart: one Greece 1 Nov, late.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: E. Meadowlark departed the region early; no stragglers after late Oct. **WESTERN MEADOWLARK:** one Pt. Breeze 26 Sept (MD, WLi), conveniently burst into song one last time. Other icterids of note included: Red-winged Blackbird: 15,000+ H 19 Nov, not normally a roost site; **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** one imm male H 1 Nov (MD, WLi), in the same farmyard where the region's first flock was found this spring; and **BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE:** one male BB 19 Sept (MD, WLi, mob), at the same time the pelican was sighted, for whatever that association may be worth. The winter finches were all reported (except Hoary Redpoll), at least briefly in good numbers, beginning with Pine Siskin flocks in Sept. Some of the best counts were: Pine Grosbeak: 15 D 27 Oct. Com. Redpoll: several estimates of about 50; Red Crossbill: 25 Hilton 24 Oct; and 30-40 H 7 Nov; and White-winged Crossbill: 25 H 28 Oct; and eight D 25 Oct-2 Nov. House Finch continues to spread and increase. Dark-eyed Juncos appeared early, late Sept, in good numbers. **DARK-EYED "OREGON" JUNCO:** one male Webster 20 Nov thru (MAS, mob, photos), was established at a feeder. The grassland sparrows dropped to virtually zero early with Grasshopper and Henslow's not reported at all. Tree Sparrows arrived by mid-Oct and were present thru in better numbers than in the past couple of years. A good find was **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** one Lakeshore School yard, Greece 20 Oct (KG). A measure of the abundance of both White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows was White-crowned: 600+ WL 27 Sept. Counts of this magnitude for either species were possible for about two weeks about this date, but, as usual, were not done by most observers. Lincoln's Sparrows 8-12 WL 10 Oct, is typical of peak counts of this species in the fall. With no really severe cold, both Swamp and Song Sparrows entered the winter in good numbers. Lapland Longspur reports were few, but Snow Bunting numbers were good at early dates: 300+ Carlton 31 Oct; and max 3000 K 1 Nov (MD, WLi).

716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

Fall 1981 was rainy, cloudy and cool thru October with killing frosts 10-15 Oct. Ithaca had five inches of rain in September and eight in October. November averaged about normal, but with very little snow.

The Elmira report for this period was most interesting. First, the TV tower kill there was low, totaling only 178 birds of 20 species, mostly warblers, with Magnolias, Ovenbirds and Bay-breasteds accounting for forty per cent of the total. The first week of September brought a big Common Nighthawk flight. Elmira usually has a good nighthawk migration but this one was unbelievable (see the species report below for the details). Hawks moved through 9-11 September and a good warbler flight occurred 18 September. While shorebirding was dull and unexciting in most of the region, Wilfred Howard hit the jackpot at Elmira. On 2 September she spent several hours in a pouring rain watching four hundred shorebirds of seven species coming in and landing on gravel islands in the Chemung River. For details read the shorebird section of the species report below.

One always scans the fall reports for signs of what the winter finch picture will be during the coming winter. All but Red Crossbills have been sighted during the period.

Besides the above there were the following seasonal positives: 1) Double-crested Cormorants lingered well into the fall at MNWR; 2) an excellent Brant flight; 3) most raptors seem to be slowly recovering from the low point of a few years ago; 4) Ruffed Grouse numbers holding at a high level; 5) Turkeys continue to expand in Yates and Schuyler Counties; 6) a LeConte's Sparrow well seen and documented by reliable observers north of Ithaca.

Seasonal negatives: 1) few Horned Grebes; 2) no Whistling Swans; 3) very little good shorebird habitat; 4) few half-hardies attempting to overwinter; 5) a poor Yellow-bellied Sapsucker migration; 6) few Warbling Vireo reports for the second consecutive year; 7) no shrikes; 8) few Tree Sparrows.

Rarities: Barnacle Goose, Peregrine Falcon, Western Sandpiper, Forster's Tern, Monk Parakeet, Common Raven, Fish Crow, Boreal Chickadee, LeConte's Sparrow.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; Co—County; L—Lake; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Pt—Point; Schy—Schuyler; Sen—Seneca; SP—State Park.

Contributors and compilers: W. E. Benning, Jack Brubaker (Watkins Glen), John & Karen Confer, Vernon Dewey (MNWR), Bernice Hilfiker, Wilfred Howard, S. F. Kahl (Auburn), Herbert & Polly Keating, Malcolm Lerch (Penn Yan), Dorothy McIroy (Ithaca), Mary Welles (Elmira).

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: ten at Sheldrake 18 Oct and a flight of 39 flying south over Watkins Glen 7 Nov. Horned Grebe: reported from Cay and Sen L and MNWR but in small numbers only. Double-crested Cormorant: four at Elmira 18 Sept; the summering birds at MNWR lingered with two still present 24 Oct. Great Egret: six present at MNWR during Sept with one staying until 22 Oct. Whistling Swan: no reports. **BARNACLE GOOSE:** one, possibly an escape, with a large flock of Canadas on Aurora Bay, Cay L 31 Oct. Among the four observers was Lars Hedin of Sweden who is familiar with the species. Canada Goose: the first month of the migration was unusual in that relatively few flocks stopped in the region with MNWR having only 5,000 birds well into Oct. Flocks were seen flying very high and apparently heading straight for the mid-Atlantic coast. In the waning days of Oct the pattern changed and large flocks dropped in, staying thru the period; for example, 30,000 birds just north of MNWR on 27 Nov. Max. at MNWR, 40,000 on 29 Oct. Brant: an imm. at Elmira 25 Oct-2 Nov; 200 flying south over Queen Catherine Marsh, Schy Co.; 3,160 in 14 flocks going south over Ithaca 29 Oct. Snow Goose: 50 Cayuta mid-Oct; 1,500 mostly blue morph, MNWR 25 Oct.

Maximum duck numbers at MNWR as reported by the Refuge personnel:

Mallard	75,000	30 Nov	Redhead	2,500	22 Oct
Black Duck	11,000	30 Nov	Ring-necked Duck	1,200	30 Nov
Gadwall	8,000	29 Oct	Canvasback	1,000	18 Nov
Pintail	2,500	30 Nov	Greater Scaup	2,500	22 Oct
Green-winged Teal	3,000	29 Oct	Bufflehead	100	30 Nov
Blue-winged Teal	1,500	11 Oct	Ruddy Duck	30	20 Nov
Am. Wigeon	8,000	29 Oct	Hooded Merganser	50	16 Nov
No. Shoveler	2,200	16 Nov	Com. Merganser	200	16 Nov
Wood Duck	1,200	22 Oct	Red-breasted Merganser	150	16 Nov

Canvasback: 100 on a Sen Co. pond 19 Oct. Lesser Scaup: 100 Camp Dittmer, Phelps 19 Oct. Com. Goldeneye: one Big Flats 30 Oct; present on Cay L during Nov but with no

large flocks. Scoters: no reports. Hooded Merganser: 40 Camp Dittmer, Phelps 24 Nov.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: imm. south of Caroline 5 Sept; at E. Corning the female that nested there was still in the area at the close of the period. Sharp-shinned Hawk: numerous and widespread reports with one observed harassing blackbirds at Cayuga Village. Cooper's Hawk: reported from MNWR, Ithaca, Elmira and the Phelps area. Red-tailed Hawk: good numbers everywhere; a good movement at Elmira 9-11 Sept with counts of 58, 18 and 26 birds respectively. Red-shouldered Hawk: reported at Cornell seminar 5 Oct; one imm. Watkins Glen SP 10 Nov. Rough-legged Hawk: an incursion beginning 10 Oct brought birds to the entire region with a max. of eight at MNWR 23 Nov. To date it has not equalled last year's numbers but appears to be picking up. Bald Eagle: periodic reports of an imm. three subadults and an adult around MNWR; an adult at Mecklenburg late Oct-mid Nov; imm. at Union Springs 8 Nov. Marsh Hawk: being regularly reported in small numbers from the entire region. Osprey: one Schy Co. 9 Sept; one Camp Dittmer, Phelps 1 Oct; the nest at MNWR was destroyed in late Sept when the stub, on which it was placed, was toppled by the wind. However, the birds were seen in the area until 24 Oct. **PEREGRINE FALCON:** an imm. at Ithaca 19 Oct. Ruffed Grouse: reports would indicate the species is still on the high side of its cycle. Ring-necked Pheasant: still very low with two birds being the max. report. Turkey: still increasing with the most encouraging reports coming from Yates and Schy Cos. Sora: the only report was of one flying and calling at Big Flats 15 Oct. Am. Coot: 1,200 MNWR 30 Sept-15 Oct and 500 still there 30 Nov. Killdeer: max. figures 80 Ithaca 5 Sept and 26 Tyre 27 Oct. Black-bellied Plover: 40 Ithaca 5 Sept. Ruddy Turnstone: one Myers Pt. 2 Sept and three Sen L Park 15 Sept. Spotted Sandpiper: two MNWR 29 Sept. and one Sen L Park 2 Oct were both rather late. Greater Yellowlegs: three Elmira 2 Sept; 19 MNWR 25 Oct; one Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca 11 Nov. Lesser Yellowlegs: 300 Elmira 2 Sept. Pectoral Sandpiper: 25 Elmira 2 Sept. Least Sandpiper: five Elmira 2 Sept; latest at Sen L Park 28 Sept. Dunlin: 150 Elmira 2 Sept rather early for so many. Short-billed Dowitcher: two Elmira 2 Sept. Stilt Sandpiper: Myers Pt. 6 Sept. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 12 Elmira 2 Sept; up to 25 at Sen L Park thru 29 Sept. **WESTERN SANDPIPER:** one Myers Pt 2 Sept (Popp). Sanderling: up to ten at Sen L Park thru 23 Sept and a late bird there 5 Nov. Phalaropes: none. Lesser Black-backed Gull: an unconfirmed report of one at MNWR 13 Nov. **FORSTER'S TERN:** one at Stewart Park, Ithaca 5 Sept (JC *et al.*). Caspian Tern: one Stewart Park 2 Sept (JC). Black Tern: lingerers at Elmira 2 Sept and Ithaca 4 and 5 Sept.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: MONK PARAKEET: the previously reported banded bird is still at its "nest" in Elmira Heights. Barn Owl: one Bellona 20 Sept (ML). Short-eared Owl: one at Alpine in Nov and two at Dresden 30 Nov. Com. Nighthawk: Elmira seems to be the nighthawk capital of the region annually during the fall migration. True to form it had 200 birds overhead on 1 Sept and 1000 circling over the Chemung River at 5 P.M. 6 Sept. They were gone by 6 P.M. (WH *vide* MW). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: late hummers were one at Elmira 2 Oct and one at Taughannock Falls SP 10 Oct. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: a poor migration with but few reports.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: a late bird reported at the Cornell Seminar on 26 Oct. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one with white wing tufts showing prominently north of MNWR 11 Sept. Horned Lark: 40 Union Springs 11 Nov, otherwise only very small numbers reported. Swallows: all species left early but a few individuals of each lingered on as follows: Tree: 1,500 at Junius Ponds on 29 Sept dwindled to two by 11 Oct; Rough-winged: at MNWR four birds on 4 Oct and two on 10 Oct; Barn: while most were gone at the start of Sept, one individual was still at MNWR on 23 Oct; Purple Martin: a late bird at MNWR on 5 Oct. **COMMON RAVEN:** one heard in the Arnot Forest 10 Oct. **FISH CROW:** the Ithaca colony hangs on. Black-capped Chickadee: a big fall movement with 250 near Union Springs 11 Nov. **BOREAL CHICKADEE:** a few Boreals were scattered among the above mentioned Black-cappeds near Union Springs on 11 Nov. Red-breasted Nuthatch: good numbers thruout the region with 15 at Camp Dittmer, Phelps on 15 Sept and 12 at Penn

Yan 30 Sept. Brown Creeper: max 12 Junius Ponds 8 Oct. House Wren: reported at Cornell seminars thru 26 Oct, late. Winter Wren: one Sapsucker Woods, Cornell 29 Sept; one banded at Penn Yan 25 Sept and one 17 Oct; one at Junius Ponds 30 Sept-11 Oct; four Stewart Park, Ithaca 9 Oct. Carolina Wren: reported only from Phelps and Ithaca. Mockingbird: singing at Elmira at two different locations, one on 31 Oct and one on 1 Nov. Am. Robin: by the close of the period, unlike last year, this species was hard to find. Wood Thrush: a late individual at Buttermilk Falls SP 8 Nov. Gray-cheeked Thrush: the only report was of one killed at the Elmira TV tower. E. Bluebird: after encouraging reports during the spring and summer, there were few fall reports. Penn Yan had a good year and 20 were seen SW of Dryden 29 Sept. Reported at the Cornell seminars thru 12 Oct. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one MNWR 10 Sept only report. Kinglets: large flight of both species at Stewart Park, Ithaca on 9 Oct. Water Pipit: three west of Auburn 18 Oct; 10 west of King Ferry 8 Nov. Shrikes: none of either species reported. Starling: reports seem to indicate that this species is more abundant than ever. For example, 200 plus birds in a residential dooryard in Seneca Falls, comments like "bigger flocks than ever" in the Ithaca area, a flock of 3,000 at Elmira 6 Oct and flocks of several thousand coming from their roosts in the Montezuma marshes in the morning.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Vireos: White-eyed: one Ithaca 24 Sept (C. Malin *vide* DM). Red-eyed: present thru 8 Oct. Philadelphia: one Elmira TV tower kill; two Elmira 18 Sept; one Ithaca 21 Sept; one Stewart Park, Ithaca 9 Oct. Warbling: few reports with Ithaca reporting "none." Warblers: most species were reported altho in relatively small numbers. Those unreported were Golden-winged, No. Parula, Cerulean, Connecticut, Yellow-breasted Chat and Hooded. Black-and-white: a rather late record on 14 Oct at Ithaca. Orange-crowned: one Ithaca 9 Oct; one Montour Falls 11 Nov. Chestnut-sided: one Junius Ponds 8 Oct, late. Waterthrushes: no live birds reported but two Northern and two Louisianas were among the birds killed at the Elmira TV tower.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: No. Oriole: last reports were one at Elmira 1 Sept and two males still in spring plumage near Clyde 3 Sept. Evening Grosbeak: first migrants were at Brooktondale 10 Oct; widespread in small numbers thereafter. Purple Finch: only a minimal number of reports; up to 16 at a Brooktondale feeder all fall. House Finch: continues to widen its territory and increase in numbers. Pine Grosbeak: several east of Ithaca 22 Nov. Com. Redpoll: a female at an Auburn feeder 11 Nov (SFK). Pine Siskin: reported from Ithaca 26 Sept and Schy Co. 20 Oct. Am. Goldfinch: doing very well. White-winged Crossbill: JC notes several reports Sept-Nov; 10-15 west of Trumansburg 25-26 Nov. Rufous-sided Towhee: max. eight at a Brooktondale feeder in Sept with some remaining until 10 Oct; reported at Cornell seminars thru 26 Oct. **LeCONTE'S SPARROW:** one north of Ithaca 10 Oct. Excellent report on file (J & KC)*. Dark-eyed Junco: 80 at a Brooktondale feeder 24 Oct. Tree Sparrow: most observers found them scarce thru Nov. but in the Phelps and Auburn areas the numbers increased by late Nov. Chipping Sparrow: a large flock in Elmira 6 Oct. Fox Sparrow: one Camp Dittmer, Phelps 10 Oct; one Ithaca 25 Oct. Lincoln's Sparrow: one Elmira TV tower kill; nine banded Penn Yan 20-26 Sept; one Camp Dittmer, Phelps 21 Sept; one Junius Ponds 25 Sept. Lapland Longspur: no reports. Snow Bunting: first at MNWR were three 24 Oct with 50 there 29 Oct (VD); 20 Ithaca 29 Oct; Union Springs 11 Nov.

Addendum: a pair of Barn Owls were present in an old barn four miles west of Dryden during May and June 1981. No nest was found.

Corrigendum: delete Yellow-throated Warbler from Vol. XXXI, No. 3, page 168.

R.D. 2, 793 Tyre Road, Clyde, New York 14433