

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Yellow Rail and Sharp-tailed Sparrow in Oswego County: A Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) and a Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) were obtained in Scriba, Oswego Co., on 9 October 1991. Both specimens were the result of nocturnal tower collisions. Weather for the thirty-six hours prior to their collection included west to southwest winds of 15-30 knots, which shifted to the northwest and sustained speed until the late afternoon of 8 October 1991. Lake effect rain showers accompanied the winds and continued through this period. By the evening of 8 October 1991 the winds had diminished and shifted back to the southwest; rain showers continued until 11 October 1991. Both birds were found on the morning of 9 October 1991. Both specimens were deposited at Cornell University's birds and mammals reference collection but had not been cataloged as of this writing. It is interesting to note that these birds, which come from similar habitats, were found on the same date and in the same location during their fall southward migration.

The Yellow Rail is the second record from The Oneida Lake Basin Region. During preparation it was determined to be an adult male. The first record was taken in Oneida County on 3 October 1883 (Eaton, E. H. 1910. *Birds of New York*, Part 1:234. Univ. of the State of N.Y., Albany). Eaton notes the bird is chiefly a transient visitor to New York and cites Todd as stating that the Yellow Rail is a regular migrant through New York. He gives the dates 15 Sep to 29 October for migration.

The Sharp-tailed sparrow was also determined to be an adult male, but racial identification had not been established beyond that it had come from one of the interior populations. Prior records of Sharp-tailed Sparrow from the Oneida Lake Basin Region include one fall record on 29 August 1960 from a marsh near the town of Mexico, Oswego Co. (Smith, G. A., and J. M. Ryan. 1978. Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Oswego County and Northern Cayuga County, New York. *Rice Creek Biological Field Station, Bull.*, 5:273. S.U.N.Y. at Oswego). It is listed as accidental in Oswego Co. in the same reference, and there are only four recent prior fall records from Region 5 on dates between 29 August and 28 October.

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