

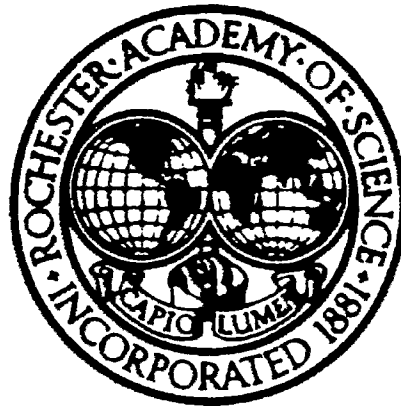
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THE BIRDS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY, NEW YORK



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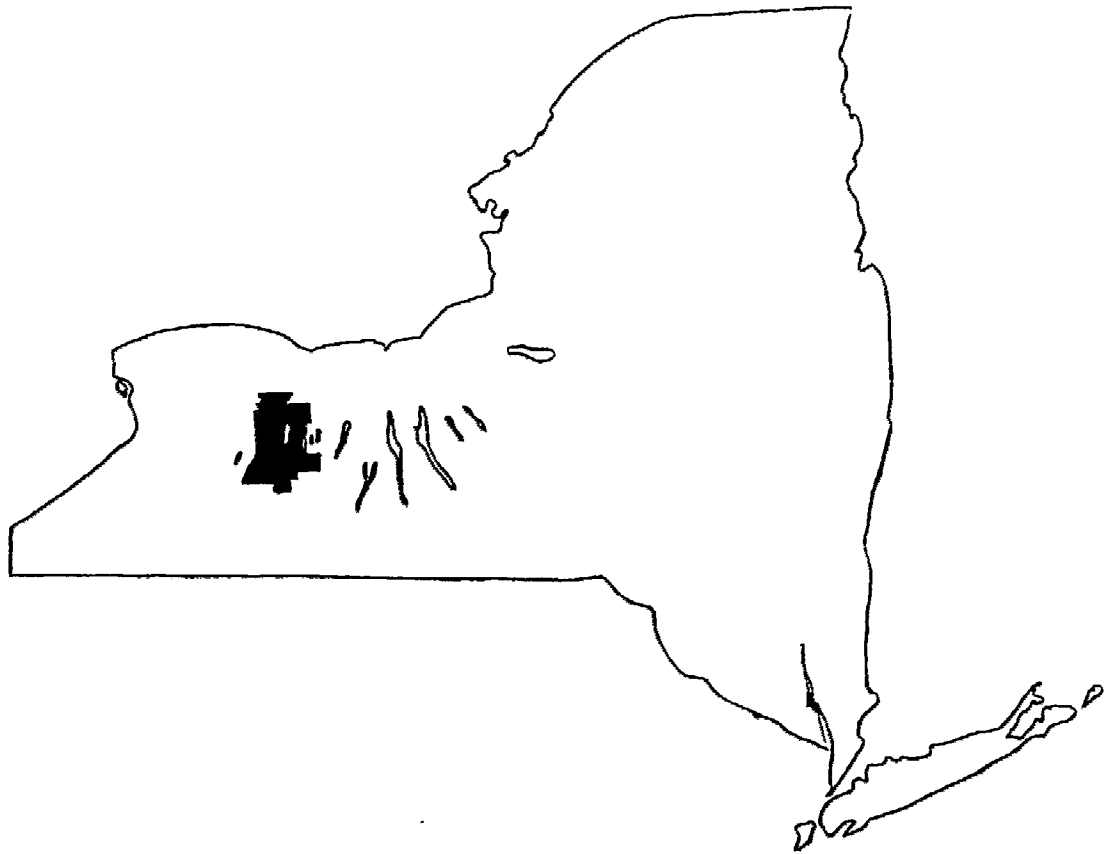
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The Birds of Livingston County, New York

Kurt A. Fox



To Dave and Doug -
And all of those who have knowledge
about our natural world and
graciously share that knowledge

“Where the daisies march in white procession down the hill,
and the notes of the bubbling bobolinks are never still.”
- Anonymous

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INTRODUCTION

PREFACE

When I was first starting out as a birder, I stumbled upon Richard Rosche's annotated list of the birds in the county in which I was raised, Wyoming County, NY. At the time of my 'discovery', I had not realized that such publications existed. I later found the Genesee Ornithological Society (GOS) annotated list to Monroe County and found it a very useful guide to dates and species. Beardslee and Mitchell's supreme coverage of all of Western NY was (and still is) useful, not only for the date ranges it provided, but also the notes on maximum counts and locations of the birds. Ever since being inspired by the annotated list on Wyoming County, I have pondered at the idea of updating that list and improving it.

Initially, this work began as a private investigation. Where have birds been found close to my home and what birds can be found there? The more I searched the more I learned. I learned quite a bit of local birding history by digging through various references. Often, I was reminded of Richard Rosche's annotated list. I was awed at the content and information that it had provided. I was perplexed at the notion that such a guide did not exist in the county that I currently reside, Livingston County. Knowing how much work was already accomplished in my own searches, my opinion swayed from updating the Wyoming County booklet to producing an unprecedented piece on Livingston County. After months of diligent work, the fruits of my labors have finally produced this annotated list.

The purpose of the document is two-fold. First, it is meant to be a contribution to ornithology and all the purposes that ornithology serves. It has its place solely as a historical piece summarizing the avian life of the county in the late twentieth century. If this document can be used to document population trends or abundance of species in the county, particularly sensitive environments, then this document serves a conservation role as well. Secondly, I hope that this document helps beginning birders understand where and when to bird in Livingston County just a little better. I also hope it inspires other individuals to produce similar works for their own local area as much as Rosche's, Eaton's, and Beardslee and Mitchell's works inspired me. You *can* make a lasting contribution to the hobby you enjoy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Nobody birds alone and without help forever. Nor does one write a book without help. I would like to thank all those who have helped along the way. And, really, every person who has ever reported a bird in Livingston County record deserves thanks. Many people helped answers questions and provided information, but too many have helped to list all their names here. However, some went above and beyond the call of duty to assist in this work.

In addition to providing access to unpublished Genesee Ornithological Society records and many of the more recent issues of *The Goshawk* which provide many noteworthy records for the region, Robert Spahn provided local records of the atlas data which helped confirm breeding status. He graciously spent much time answering questions and provided much support and encouragement. Many thanks go to Bob. Likewise, William D. Symonds and Jeanne Skelly greatly assisted in providing access to the many unpublished local records and publications (*The Little Gull*) of the Rochester Birding Association. Richard T. O'Hara provided many volumes of *The Kingbird*, *The Goshawk* and *The Prothonotary* that could not be found elsewhere. Additionally, he spent much time answering many questions about past birding experiences in the region.

John Foster patiently answered many questions about past Livingston County records. Mr. Foster also provided invaluable checklists and notes of Jean Haller. Likewise, Douglas Bassett untiringly answered any and all questions about the natural world in and around Letchworth State Park. Robert McKinney graciously provided many years worth of CBC data from the "Little Lakes" CBC. Dr. Robert C. Beason provided access to the collection catalog from the SUC Genesee collection. Robert Cooper, Arthur Clark and Craig Ludwig at the Rochester Museum and Science Center, Buffalo Museum of Science, and the Smithsonian Institute respectively, assisted in providing details about their collections. Further afield, Bruce Peterjohn and Kathy Klimkiewicz provided the government data of the Breeding Bird Survey and Bird Banding Lab, respectively.

Sharon Skelly and Elizabeth W. Brooks patiently gave opinions and provided answers to many questions. I would like to thank Thomas G. Lathrop for patiently listening to many ideas relating to this and other projects. I would like to thank William D. Symonds, Kevin C. Griffith, Robert Spahn, Denny Van Horn, Robert McKinney, Sharon and Tom for reviewing and proofreading copies of this manuscript.

Finally, I would like to thank the great woman behind the man, my wife Jeannine, for the many hours she allowed me to be involved with this undertaking. Any errors, of course, are mine.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

TOPOGRAPHY

Livingston County lies in western New York about halfway between Lake Ontario (to the north) and the Pennsylvania border (to the south). Coordinates of the extreme lat/long points are approximately: North 43 00', South 42 28', East 77 30', West 78 04'. It borders six other counties: to the north by Monroe, to the east by Ontario, to the south by Steuben and Allegany and to the west by Wyoming and Genesee.

The county came into existence on February 23, 1821 (Doty, 1925, p 887) and is now composed of 17 townships, with the county seat residing in Geneseo. A recent census (1990) cited a population of 62,372 residents of Livingston County (US Census Bureau, 1990), which is only slightly more than the 43,400 residents in the 1840 census (Doty, 1925, p 887). The southern half of the county is sparsely populated. The primary business is agriculture and 58% of the land area is farms, with only 78% of that being cultivated in any given year (Clements, 1989).

The highest point in the county is at 2260 feet located northeast of the town of Springwater. The lowest point (520 feet) lies along the Genesee River at the northern county line east of Caledonia. Average elevation is 1740 feet (Bailey, 1934). Although Letchworth State Park contains several deep canyons, the greatest change in elevation in the county is near the southern end of Hemlock Lake up Marrowback Hill - a change of 1,120 feet in elevation. All totaled, the county acreage is slightly over 400,000 acres (about 630 square miles), of which 8.5 square miles is water surface. (Bailey, 1934 and Clements, 1989)

The major bodies of waters in Livingston County are Conesus Lake, Hemlock Lake, the Genesee River, Canaseraga and Keshequa Creeks. Conesus Lake is the largest body of water within the county, approximately 7.8 miles long and about a mile at the widest point at the southern end. Conesus Lake lies at an elevation of 818 feet above sea level and is about 70 feet at its deepest. The watershed is close to 70 square miles (Anderson, 1976). It is an over-developed recreational lake that usually freezes over in winter. Anderson (1976) states that in 1872, the summer cottages around the lake (including Lakeville) numbered only about 100. In 1969, over 1600 dwellings were found. Development continues even today. The automobile was "largely responsible for the lake's 'downfall' with the shortage of houses following WWII being the initial impetus" (Anderson, 1976). Since the mid-1950s, a major shift to year-round residence has occurred.

Hemlock Lake is the second largest body of water within the county, approximately 8 miles long, about a quarter to a third of a mile wide. From the surface of the lake to the highest hill is a climb of 1,120 feet in elevation, the steepest anywhere within the county (Rauber, 1976). Hemlock Lake (and Canadice Lake, in Ontario County) remains undeveloped as a source of clean water for the city of Rochester. All three, plus Silver Lake just west of the county line in Wyoming County, are the westernmost lakes of the Finger Lakes region. For the most part, the eastern county line runs down the east side of Hemlock Lake except at the south end, where a small portion of the waters reside in Ontario County.

The Genesee River basin drains almost the entire county, with the only exception being the southeast corner of the town of Springwater. The Genesee River has its headwaters in Pennsylvania and runs north through Allegany County and forms the border of Livingston and Wyoming County in the majestically carved "Grand Canyon of the East", Letchworth State Park. It then runs northeast through Livingston County, forms part of the Monroe/Livingston County border near Avon and runs north through Monroe County, emptying into Lake Ontario. Three major waterfalls exist in Letchworth State Park (the Upper, Middle and Lower Falls). The flood control dam at Mt. Morris, which is the largest concrete gravity dam east of the Mississippi River (1028 ft long, 215 ft above the riverbed), was built between 1948 and 1951 (US Army Corps of Engineers, 1991). Undoubtedly, this man-made feature has a great effect on the water levels above and below the dam, which in turn greatly affects the avian life in the area. In some years, snow melt and spring rains can raise the water levels which affects 3300 acres behind the dam, all the way back to the Lower Falls (US Army Corps of Engineers, 1991). The dam also reduces flooding of the Genesee River plains below the dam all the way to Rochester, an area that formerly provided a large habitat for migrating ducks.

The largest tributary to the Genesee River in the county is Canaseraga Creek. The Canaseraga Creek headwaters start within the county at the southern border near Rattlesnake Hill WMA. It runs south, out of the county, curves back north and re-enters the county near Dansville. Running north, the creek helped form the large fertile valley between Dansville and Geneseo. Formerly, the Canaseraga Creek meandered through the valley and a swamp (Canaseraga Swamp), flooded in the spring creating large floodplains

for waterfowl, and eventually drained into the Genesee River. Keshequa Creek, along with Bradner Creek, also drain the southern portions of the county and empty into Canaseraga Creek (DeLorme, 1993).

Smaller, yet interesting, topographical features include the Conesus Lake outlet creek (Conesus Creek), Little Conesus Creek, "Fallbrook", Jaycox Creek, and Little Beards Creek, all of which drain into the Genesee River. The Silver Lake outlet stream enters the county near Letchworth State Park and creates a steep gully emptying into the Genesee River. The non-freezing springs near Caledonia are noted for the historical trout streams and trout hatchery and provide year-round open waters. The springs in Springwater may be more numerous, but do not coalesce into an open water, such as that which exists in Caledonia. Hemlock Creek (the Hemlock Lake outlet stream) drains northeast into the Honeoye Creek, which is part of the Livingston and Ontario County border near Lima.

On a larger scale, three major geological components are within the county. The Great Lakes (Lake Ontario) floodplain is in the northern and central portions of the county. The Allegheny Highlands is in the southwest portion of the county. The Finger Lakes highlands occupy the south and southeast portions of the county. These components are comprised of different soils and different elevation that affect the flora in the areas, hence affecting the fauna and avifauna. Much of the north end and central valley is comprised of limestone bedrock with cultivated farmland over the gently rolling hills. Much of the hilly southern part is forested with maple, beech, pine, spruce (most are tree plantations) and some hemlock, especially in the deep stream gullies. The major forest component in the north is oak and hickory, with willow and cottonwood on the banks of the Genesee. Of the four old growth forests that exist in Letchworth State Park, only one is in Livingston County. Additionally, old growth forests also exist at Livingston County Park in Mt. Morris and at Reynolds Gully near Springwater (Battaglia, *et al*, 1996).

BIRDING POINTS OF INTEREST

The following provides some details about locations in Livingston County that have provided the majority of records contained in the species accounts. Future readers, or readers not familiar with these locations, can use this section as a frame of reference. The intent is to describe where a site is located and a small description of the major habitats at the current time. It is not intended to be a complete birding site guide, but might be used as a brief guide. A map of birding sites mentioned in this book is located in the appendix.

A few major highways provide means to traverse the county. The most obvious thoroughfare (and a dominant man-made feature) is the four lane Interstate-390, or the I-390, (the portion in Livingston County was built between 1977 and 1981) which stretches from Rochester to the southern tier (NYS DOT, pers. comm.). It is the major road providing access to Rochester for commuters in Avon, Geneseo, Mt. Morris and Dansville. Many of the smaller communities can be reached by automobile within minutes of leaving the I-390. The major east/west road is State Route (SR) 5 and U.S. Route (US) 20, which merge just west of Avon and run through the northern portion of the county. The minor, north-south highways are SR 15, 15A, 36, 39 and 63. The minor, east-west highways are US 20A and SR 436. Many roads are paved, but a number of dirt roads exist. Seasonal roads (not maintained, hence inaccessible, from Nov 1 to Apr 1) are plentiful, especially in the southern half of the county. Winter road conditions on most other roads, due to plowing and salting, are favorable for travel and most of the county is accessible at any given time of the year. Suburban areas provide different habitat than rural areas. The largest suburban areas (i.e. small towns) are along the I-390: Avon, Geneseo, Mt. Morris and Dansville. In this county, Conesus Lake, Hemlock Lake, the Genesee River, and Canaseraga Creek are the major bodies of water that attract birds.

Many of the major birding areas center on the Genesee River and its tributaries. Letchworth State Park, Nations Road, and Retsof lie along the Genesee River. The lesser-known birding areas of Groveland Flats, the Genesee River Flats, the Street Farm, Golah, Log Pong, Canaseraga Swamp, Homestead Woods, and the Big Tree Farm can all be considered to lie along the Genesee as well.

Letchworth State Park spans the boundary of two counties: Livingston and Wyoming. This state park currently encompasses over 14,000 acres, which includes a variety of habitats, and hence many birding points of interest, within the confines of Livingston County. The gorge and the Genesee River are the dominant geographic features. Several old growth forests exist in the park and are inaccessible to loggers (Battaglia, *et al*, 1996). Much of the park was formerly cultivated agricultural land, and is now in various states of forest succession. Much of the north end is scrubby field habitat, or second growth. Much of the mature stands are on the steep banks of the river, or at the southern end of the park. Reforestation projects have supplied unbroken stands of conifers. A small

marsh exists on SR 436. Streambeds that have been dammed by beavers have created several swampy areas throughout the park. The immediate surrounding area on the east side is primarily agricultural land, which is on a harvested and fallow field rotation.

In the boundaries of Letchworth State Park, 225 species have been recorded, which is 51.1% of the NYS total (Smith, 1994). The National Audubon Society has designated it as an Important Bird Area. The area between Portageville and the Middle Falls contains one of the highest diversity of breeding species in all of Western NY. According to the park naturalist Doug Bassett (pers. comm.), the warbler mapping project in the park has provided data that indicates that the highest diversity (10 to 15 species) of warblers has been around the lawn of the Parade Grounds, probably all within earshot of the Parade Grounds boulder. The Dishmill Trail and the old Genesee River canal (Lewis' Switch) areas also provide high diversity and access to the mature, mixed woods on the east side of the gorge. River Road, although technically outside of the park is often referred to as "Letchworth" by Rochester birders. River Road is primarily a dirt road (part of it is seasonal), starting at SR 408 and ending on SR 436. The land along the road is currently used for agriculture with some fallow fields and hedgerows that are ideal for grassland birds. The Genesee River, especially around the Mt. Morris Dam at the north end can hold some interesting birds. The Mt. Morris Dam and the gorge itself is unlikely to change habitat-wise and are a source for vultures, swallows and waterfowl. The scrub brush area existing between the dam site and Livingston County Park in Mt. Morris can be interesting bird-wise as well. At the south end, the Route 436 marsh (locally called Cartwright's Pond) is a marsh near the intersection of the seasonal section of River Road and SR 436. It is a unique marshy and swampy area that provides a few interesting sightings of birds, including some of the few reports of rails. To give an idea of the diversity of the birds here, D. Bassett and P. Conklin regularly recorded 100-120 species solely within the boundaries of this park during a single day in May (spring census) in the 1980s.

Historically, the Genesee flats were unique in Upstate NY as the area was always a grassland and prairie habitat. One of the first settlers in the region "asserts that he can every season cut wild grass on his farm sufficient to maintain 2000 head of cattle through the winter" (Doty, 1925, p 878).

Nations Road is a beautiful, pastoral region. The area is appreciated by birders and horse-lovers alike and has also been designated as an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society. In this area, the Genesee Valley Conservancy protects over 3700 acres under a conservation easement. Nations Road leaves SR 39, north of Geneseo, and ends on Fowlerville Road in Avon. However, birders use the term Nations Road to describe the nebulous region pertaining to the area east of the Genesee River between Fowlerville Road and Geneseo (and sometimes even the area described as "Retsof" below). The primary road that is birded is, obviously, Nations Road. All the side roads and SR 39 may be birded as well. The primary habitat is grasslands and pasturelands (fallow fields are slowly grazed by horses, deer and cattle), agricultural farm fields such as corn or alfalfa, and oak woods (all privately owned). Wheeler's Gully is an extensive tract of oak woods that exists along Jaycox Creek to the east of Nations Road. Jaycox Creek is a small stream that has steep cliffs cutting deep through shale and slate bedrock. The Grainger Woods is another stand of oak woods which exists on Roots Tavern Road and is often birded from the road. Two more tracts of oaks exist: the Big Woods (which is west of Nations Road, but east of the river, extending from the Nations Farm to Oxbow Lane) and Onondaga Woods (which is south of Nations Road near Jaycox Creek, but east of the old railroad bed). Both are unbirded but likely hold the same birds as Wheeler's Gully and the Grainger Woods. The small marsh on Nations Road north of Little Road often attracts some birds of interest. For birders, the primary interest of "Nations Road" is grassland birds, wintering raptors (and other wintering field birds) and the strong foothold of the year-round Red-headed Woodpeckers in the oak woods. For horse-lovers, the annual historic Genesee Valley Hunt (the oldest foxhunt in the nation) and a steeplechase are held in this area every autumn.

Retsof is another nebulous region that can refer to several townships in addition to Retsof, such as Fowlerville, York, Piffard, Geneseo, Greigsville, Wadsworth, Leicester or Cuylerville. It generally includes the area south of Fowlerville Road, but north of US 20A, west of the Genesee River, but east of SR 36. The primary road that is birded is River Road (which is a different River Road than mentioned earlier). Like "Nations Road", the primary habitat is farm fields (some of which remain idle or are slowly grazed by horses, deer and cattle) interspersed with wooded tracts containing mostly oak. Most birding interest lies in the grassland birds in the fallow fields around the Genesee Abbey and for winter raptors at the abbey and on the farms on Caledonia and River Roads.

Conesus Lake is an overdeveloped lake which includes a few public vantage points from which to view the lake (Vitale Park, Long Point Park, and the DEC Boat Launches). It is the largest body of water in the county and, therefore, attracts the majority of waterbirds. The diversity and regularity of some species is incomparable in the county. Formerly, Conesus Lake was undeveloped. According to Anderson (1976), it was not until the advent of the automobile, and the repeal on rationed gasoline after WWII that the housing along the lake became overdeveloped.

The Conesus Lake area also refers to the inlet, swamp and the diked area south of Sliker Hill Road but north of Guiltner Road. All of this is owned and maintained by the DEC as a Wildlife Management Area. The inlet area has a public boat launch and can be used to view the south end of the lake. The lake sometimes funnels migrants (primarily sparrows) which forage in the inlet area. The former cedar swamp has dramatically changed since Bailey's time in 1934. The cedar swamp was diked in 1991 to "improve" the waterfowl habitat. More open water now exists and the waters have killed most of the unique cedar grove. Water birds, particularly marsh and swamp birds, are attracted to the area in breeding season and migration. The habitat located here might be considered rare in Livingston County. Be aware that the area is well used during the fall hunting season.

Hemlock Lake spans the eastern border with Ontario County. It is owned and maintained by the City of Rochester and the Monroe County Water Authority. The clean water is a benefit to Livingston County, but curiously, most waterfowl and waterbirds are absent from its waters (perhaps due to the fluctuating water levels). Since the early 1800s, engineers studied the lake for elevation and cleanliness. A private company started building wooden troughs around Honeoye Creek during the Civil War, but the project was abandoned. It was not until 1956 that the Monroe County Water Authority (MCWA) built the current facilities (D. Krywell, MCWA employee, pers. comm.).

The south end of Hemlock Lake (Springwater) has been home to a unique Bald Eagle eyrie for several decades and thus has been designated as an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society. The steep hills provide interesting forest species. Rochesterians used large amounts of water during the summer drought of 1981, which lowered water levels. This, in turn, exposed a muddy flat at the southern end, which attracted numbers of shorebirds, which produced the only records for the county for some species. The greatest change in elevation in the county is along the Marrowback Hill. Marrowback Road heads out of Springwater and heads north up Marrowback Hill and into the township of Livonia. The entire township of Springwater is potentially interesting, although private property and relatively underbirded. High elevations and wooded, relatively unpopulated terrain makes a potentially attractive place for breeding birds.

Doran Road is on the eastern border of the county in the township of Lima. Doran Road runs south from SR 5/20 to the Livingston/Ontario County border and becomes a dirt road at the far end. Doran Road, Chase Road and (Lima/Richmond) Townline Road traverse some productive grassland and winter raptor areas. The habitat is similar to Retsof and Nations Road, but perhaps less expansive and lacking the oak woods and, resulting in less avian variety.

Guy Bailey often mentioned Canaseraga Swamp in his works. Although the location was not explicitly stated, maps of breeding locations and textual clues indicate that it was a swampy area near Sonyea in the Canaseraga Creek area. Since Bailey's time, topographic maps indicate that the area was irrigated in a few places to provide abundant monoculture farmland. Additionally, I-390 was built through the middle of it in 1978 (NYS DOT, pers. comm.). Access to this area is limited, excepting a few roads (some private) crossing private lands and farmers' fields.

The Groveland Flats, perhaps part of the same area that Bailey called Canaseraga Swamp, are the large flat farmlands to the west of Groveland which provided an interesting habitat in the county. The number of spring waterfowl that appeared in the flooded fields (which sometimes flood the roads, too) was unmatched. Several past commissioners of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) recognized its value for waterfowl and tried to obtain funds to purchase about 2000 acres around the "Groveland Flats." In 1976, NYS DEC commissioner Peter Berle killed the plans to acquire the lands, stating that the project "could cause serious drainage problem and reduce yields for adjacent landowners" and "[the land] was more valuable as fertile farmland than freshwater wetland" (*Little Gull*, Oct 1976). Since farms are exempt from the State Wetlands Act, the creeks and floodplains were diked and straightened and the swamp was drained. Later, Interstate 390 (I-390) was placed through the valley and over the former swamps. Spring snowmelt occasionally closes the roads across the flats and waterfowl still migrate through the region, but not in former numbers. Some of the few shorebird records appear here, as well as some wintering field birds. This is an immense area and, currently, only a portion of it can be seen from a car, mainly from SR 258, SR 36, White Bridge Road and Pioneer Road. Access is limited.

The other area known as the "flats" is the Genesee River Flats. In the late 1940s and 1950s, this area was birded by Rochester and Buffalo bird clubs because it was the home to nesting Bald Eagles, Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers. The area encompassed the Street Farm and Log Pond (an oxbow lake remnant of the Genesee River). Across the river are Golah and the Golah Swamp. The area was known to be relatively remote and contained some large trees along a large stretch of the Genesee River. Excellent information about the habitat in that decade can be found in the article "The Bend in the River" by J. Brown (1952) or in the "fictional" text of *Something for the Birds* by Amber Dean (1959).

The Birds of Livingston County

Golah Swamp is another location not explicitly stated, but alluded to, by Bailey. The hamlet of Golah lies near the Genesee River north of Avon (in Monroe County), but the swamp to which Bailey refers may be east or west of River Road and the exact location is unknown. It is in the general vicinity east of Caledonia and north of US 20A. Veteran Rochester birders knew this location to be the first (and for a long time, the only) major foothold of the Red-bellied Woodpecker in the Western New York. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, an active Bald Eagle nest was near here. Currently, a cement and gravel company is nearby on River Road and whether or not their activity affects the birding productivity of the huge swampy site is questionable. Access is limited.

Rattlesnake Hill WMA, Canaseraga State Forest (SF), and Ossian SF provide a large portion of publicly accessible state land in the higher elevations on the southern border of the county. The state forests bordering Allegany County are maintained as state lands primarily for logging interests. The logging harvest (conifers) is rotated to provide habitat at higher elevation in all stages of forest succession. Rattlesnake Hill WMA (also bordering Allegany County) does not have the logging interest, but is well maintained (and well used during the fall hunting season). Hiking trails exist in Rattlesnake Hill WMA and old logging access roads provide passage in the state forests.

Sonyea SF is another reforestation project by the state. It is located southwest and just outside Sonyea in the central part of the county. The forest is mixed deciduous and conifer, much of it being mature growth. It has a few steep hillsides formed by the fast moving Keshequa Creek. Access into the woods is limited, and the northern border adjoins a non-accessible state correctional facility. It is well used during the fall hunting season.

Because of the proximity of the Homestead Woods to Geneseo (Bailey's hometown), Bailey often visited this site and mentioned it several times in regards to summer breeders. The site is located south of the town of Geneseo, in the oak woods east of US 20A and SR 39/63. It is currently private property and can not be birded by the public, but it probably remains as the same type of oak woods habitat as in the time of Bailey. The Roemer Arboretum on the Geneseo campus, which is located opposite the Homestead Woods, is a small public piece of habitat maintained by the college. Bailey birded the Big Tree Farm, which now lies west of the SUC Geneseo campus, west of SR 63, east of the Genesee River and encompasses the Geneseo airstrip. Bailey also birded nearby Dewey Hill (the hill which US 20A and SR 39 traverse from SR 63 to the flats) and Fallbrook (the stream and waterfall just to the south of Dewey Hill).

Several other minor sites exist. In the 1950s, Jean Haller birded the Lacey Road Swamp, which is between Lacey Rd and Feeley Rd east of the town of Caledonia, just south of the Monroe County line. Spring Creek in Caledonia attracts a variety of waterfowl and Yellow-rumped Warblers in winter. The warblers are attracted to the stoneflies that inhabit the area in winter (which also provide food for the trout). High elevations and wooded, relatively unpopulated terrain makes a potentially attractive place for breeding birds. The township of Springwater is on the edge of an area known as the "Bristol Hills." The more interesting birds regularly found in the "Bristol Hills" are those of a more northerly affinity, or those requiring larger tracts of unbroken and undisturbed forests. The change in elevation, the height of elevation and conifer-forested terrain offers an interesting mix of habitats and potential. Willet's Pond, in Portage, is at a large farm on SR 436, at the intersection of Short Tract Road and SR 70. A pond on the south side of the road, to the east of the barns has produced a few interesting birds. Scott/Grove Conservation Ponds is a set of ponds established in 1979 by D. Barber in the township of Groveland between Conesus Lake and the Groveland Flats. Waterfowl are sometimes attracted to these ponds, although the waterfowl evacuate these ponds when they freeze. Many other smaller "birdy" ponds exist throughout the county, such as the one at the east end of Lima Road in Geneseo, the ponds at the DEC Twin Cedars and the several farm ponds near Lima.

BIRDING BY THE SEASON

The climate for the county is cold in winter, but warm and mild in summer. The annual average temperature is 48 *F*. Average January temperatures range from lows of 16 *F* to highs of 33 *F*. July averages 58 *F* for lows and highs of 84 *F*. The average annual snowfall is 57 inches with the annual precipitation averaging 30 inches. The last freeze is usually mid-May and first freeze is early October with a growing season of about 143 days. Winds prevail from the southwest in summer, but the northwest in winter. The sun shines an average of 50% of daylight hours (Clements, 1989).

Winter

Winter temperatures in Livingston County are cold. Livingston County is far enough from the Great Lakes to not gain a warming effect during the winter, and fortunately is largely not prone to the whims of the so-called lake effect storms. Larger weather fronts do, however, produce substantial precipitation, especially in the higher elevations. In frigid years, winter seems to last from November through March, but in warmer years only December through February. The area is often treated to a mid-winter "January thaw".

The places to visit in winter include Nations Road, Doran Road, Retsof, Conesus Lake and Letchworth State Park. Conesus Lake remains open late into the winter (in warmer years) and may hold large concentrations of waterfowl including Redhead, Canvasback, both scaup, Hooded Merganser, American Coot, Tundra Swan and Mallard and American Black Duck. Nations Road, Doran Road and Retsof may have wintering birds of the open field, such as Horned Lark, Snow Bunting, and Lapland Longspur. Also included here are wintering raptors such as American Kestrel, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Short-eared Owl and Northern Shrike. Letchworth State Park may hold wintering vultures, perhaps an eagle, or some waterfowl near the dam. One should check for winter finches in the pines in Letchworth State Park and the higher elevations to the south.

Spring

Spring is a welcome relief in Livingston County. Temperatures are still quite cool and the precipitation is often mixed rain and snow. The wooded areas and higher elevations have snow lingering long after it has melted in the rest of the county.

Spring starts slowly with increasing numbers of waterfowl in the Groveland Flats, below the Mt. Morris Dam on the Genesee River and perhaps on Conesus Lake. Wintering raptors linger at Nations Road and Retsof. Great Blue Herons arrive at the Fowlerville Road heronry in early March. Visits to the area in late spring should include Letchworth State Park and Hemlock Lake. The Genesee River valley and the Letchworth Gorge funnel some birds during migration, including a minor number of hawks. Many birds stop along the way and remain in Letchworth. The hills around Hemlock Lake hold many northern affinity species that sing in late spring.

Summer

Summer temperatures in Livingston County are warm and often hot. Just as winter does not fall prey to lake effect snows, summer in the county is not graced with cool lake effect breezes. Higher elevations and dark wooded forests provide some relief from the heat and humidity ... but not much.

Visitors in summer should search for breeding birds. Locations to visit include Letchworth State Park and Hemlock Lake. Some birders suggest that Letchworth State Park is unsurpassed (other say only better documented) in variety of Nearctic-Neotropical migrants in all of Western NY. Nations Road should be birded for the specialty grassland birds, but also for woodpeckers, bluebirds and Upland Sandpiper. Retsof and Doran Road provide additional grassland areas to visit.

Autumn

Autumn is felt early in Livingston County. Temperatures decrease and frosts often occur here weeks before they reach the lakeshore. The rolling hills and deciduous trees bless the county with their colorful presence and are a treat to see.

Migrating waterfowl can be observed in autumn on Conesus Lake after the weather hinders the vacationers and boaters. The waterfowl migration remains into winter until the waters freeze (which is sometimes as late as January ... or not at all). Other than the waterfowl, the fall migration is not as pronounced as the spring. Autumn is the time to check for early arrivals of wintering raptors, and field birds (such as Snow Bunting).

BACKGROUND

REFERENCES

Going back into history, early works by Elon H. Eaton are among the first for the county. Volume one (1910) of his monumental two-volume set contains a list of 162-163 species of which 80 were claimed to be breeding. Albeit primarily limited to breeding birds located near Geneseo and the central part of the county, Guy Bailey's Master's thesis (1934) provides an invaluable historical perspective that has not been found elsewhere. In addition to the avian life, transportation, optics and the basic level of knowledge has changed dramatically since those times. One must also consider the extent of coverage at the time. Beardslee and Mitchell (1965) explain that before "1910 few people had cars and poor roads made trips into the country hazardous." Additionally, statements like using the "ring on the bill" to separate Herring from Ring-billed Gull can only lead one to speculate the accuracy of the Larid accounts. The entire population of gulls throughout the nation has expanded since the turn of the century as well as our knowledge of their plumages and identification. Statements in Eaton indicating that Barrow's Goldeneye, not Common Goldeneye, occur here can only be credited to either editing errors, printing errors or misidentification, perhaps due to poor optics. Thus, some of these old records are treated with caution and noted in the individual accounts.

Other literature references include John Bull's 1974 classic *The Birds of New York State*, which was often utilized for statewide trends and occurrences, whereas Beardslee and Mitchell (1965), Rosche (1967), and S. W. Eaton (1981) exposed more localized Western NY trends. A. C. Bent's Life History Series was searched as well.

Much data for this document was acquired from old records of the local birding clubs. Data was obtained from the Geneseo Ornithological Society (GOS) publication, *The Goshawk* (1947- June 1998). Data from unpublished GOS records (mostly checklists and field trip reports) from December 1969 to 1996 has been included, plus some additional data from years previous (most of the rest being unavailable as they were likely discarded). A few early records were found in the Buffalo Ornithological Society (BOS) from their publication *The Prothonotary*, from 1948 to 1956. Likewise, data was gleaned from the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs (FNYSBC) publication *The Kingbird*. Unpublished checklists and field trip reports (1975-1996) from the Rochester Birding Association (RBA) as well as their publication, *The Little Gull* (1975- June 1998) were utilized. The records of regular observers in the county supplemented my personal records. Many individuals contributed records, but the following birders deserve special mention because they had many important sightings or many years worth of useful data: Douglas K. Bassett, Carolyn Cass, Mike Davids, John Foster, Jean Haller, Harriet Hamilton, Jim Kimball, Walter Listman, J. Haywood Madden, Thomas E. Tetlow and Donald Wolf.

Museum specimens were interesting to review. The extensive Cornell University collection (over 48,000 specimens) was searched yielding only five specimens of four species. The Rochester Museum and Science Center (RMSC) collection held 23 specimens of 15 species, including two mounted Passenger Pigeons, but the Buffalo Museum of Science collection (over 9,000 specimens) had no records. Housed in Livingston County itself, the SUC Geneseo collection contains the largest number of specimens from the county with over 125 specimens of 62 species.

At the time of this writing, of the over 315,000 specimens (about 53%) at the Smithsonian Institute electronically searched, only four specimens were found. These four are interesting historically because the nationally known author Arthur Cleveland Bent donated his egg collection to Smithsonian Institute. In that collection were four sets from Livingston County. All four sets were collected by E. B. Peck in the town of York (in April 1897 and April 1898) (USNM Bird Collection, 1996). E. B. Peck is not mentioned as a local oologist in Beardslee and Mitchell (1965), nor is his name found in any other local reference (such as Doty, 1925), including the Bent Life History Series.

Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) data was helpful in determining the breeding status of many birds within the county. The project divided NYS into 10km x 10km "squares" with each square further divided into four 5km x 5km "blocks". Breeding status was recorded for species within each of those "blocks". The number of blocks wholly or mostly within Livingston County is 80 blocks. Of these, local records from the bird clubs provided data from 75 of these blocks; the rest being unavailable. Several of the blocks required "blockbusters" who spent limited time within the blocks recording species which exemplified the aspect of observer bias. Of the 75 blocks, less than half (only 35) reached the original atlas goal of "adequate coverage" (76 species with over half of them confirmed). For unusual records on bordering blocks (i.e. Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Northern Parula, etc), an effort was made to contact

the original observer and determine if the bird was observed within the county or not. If the bird was not in the county or origin could not be determined, the record was not eliminated from the data set (to preserve the per-block totals) but the questionability of the record is mentioned in the text of that species account.

Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data, produced from 50 three minute point counts, is available only in summarized "pages" of data (5 pages - 10 stops per page). Portions of three BBS routes fall within the county: the Mt. Morris route (37 stops), the Swain route (7 stops) and the Mendon route (19 stops). The Mt. Morris route (#052) starts at the Perry entrance of Letchworth State Park near the western county line, runs north to Mt. Morris, stops, and resumes a southward journey across the Genesee River opposite the starting point. The Swain route (#046) starts in Rattlesnake Hill Wildlife Management Area (WMA) near the southern edge of the county and heads south across the county line from there. The Mendon route (#051) starts in Monroe County, travels south into Livingston County (for 16 stops) near the eastern border, travels south into Ontario County, and ends once again in Livingston County (the last 3 stops). Only when the majority of the page (seven or more stops) fell within the county, was the page included. This resulted in six pages of data (from three routes) for a span of thirty years.

A few notes on the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count (CBC) data: The "Little Lakes" CBC (LL CBC) (sometimes called "Conesus-Hemlock" CBC) includes four small western Finger Lakes - Honeoye, Canadice, Hemlock and Conesus. Conesus Lake falls entirely within the county. The majority of Hemlock Lake falls within the county, but a small portion resides in Ontario County. The LL CBC was run in 1948, 1951, 1953, 1954, and 1956 (*Goshawk*, Vol. 11, No. 1) by fewer than four observers (*Goshawk*, Vol. 12, No. 1). The CBC records, since 1961, partitioned the count circle into five areas - one for each lake, and the north area. Fortunately, records have been kept for all the areas. Only one area falls entirely within the county - Area 1, the Conesus Region. When the LL CBC is mentioned, it refers to the Conesus Region. Portions of Areas 2 (Hemlock) and Area 5 (North) fall within the county. Data from these regions, if recorded within the county (such as the majority of the waterbirds and the Bald Eagles), has been mentioned in the text.

The other CBC which falls partially within the county is the Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC (L-SL CBC). This CBC is divided into four quadrants, none of which fall entirely within the county. Data from the NE (Leicester) and SE (Letchworth) quadrants, if recorded within the county, has been mentioned in the accounts.

Many of the records from Letchworth State Park and the Hemlock Lake area were reviewed. Those unique records that could not be traced to exact origin had to be excluded, as did portions of the quadrants of the CBC data and BBS routes not solely within the boundaries of the county. Regrettably, this undoubtedly led to a smaller data set. Many older GOS records declared Scottsville as the site of many field trips. Several veteran birders claim that although the records say "Scottsville", they were more than likely well south of Scottsville and into Livingston County, such as the "Scottsville" eagles. Tracing Scottsville records to determine exact location proved difficult because Reed Road Swamp is in Scottsville and many of those records could not be included.

The basic climate and weather data was extracted from Clements (1989). For those wishing to find more information on the weather or climate of the region, the Northeast Regional Climate Center (NRCC) maintains "cooperative" weather stations in Livingston County: Avon (since 1948), Mt Morris (since 1948), Hemlock Lake (since 1926) and Dansville (since 1941) (NRCC, pers. comm.). No weather data is kept at SUC Geneseo (R. Lougeay, pers. comm.). The topography of the county is transitional from the higher hills in the south to the plains in the north and each of these above weather stations is near the borders of the county. I believe that none of the above single weather stations accurately represent the weather and climate data for the entire county. Therefore, I used the aforementioned reference.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDS

The *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* (1988) contains an essay on archaeological records in NYS. Livingston County was fortunate enough to have three sites referenced in that essay. Of the three sites, only two of them contained avian records. The Markham and Puffer Estate site had no data. The Scaccia site, dated to 2820 BP (Before Present), had records of Snow Goose, Wild Turkey and an unidentified duck. The Cole Gravel Pit Site (dated to the late Archaic - around 3300 BP) provided a wealth of avian data. The species there included a Common Loon, Great Blue Heron, Mallard/American Black Duck, Gadwall, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, N. Bobwhite, Mourning Dove, Passenger Pigeon, E. Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, American Crow, American Robin, as well as an unidentified dabbling duck and an unidentified hawk. Particularly interesting are the now extinct Passenger Pigeon and the now extirpated N. Bobwhite. The archaeological record of Gadwall is interesting in light that Bull (1974) states that, prior to 1940, it was "considered very rare to rare in the east."

Two Livingston County post-Columbian Seneca sites are described by Wray, *et al* (1991). The Cameron Site (circa 1575 AD), which resides on a drumlin above the valley of Spring Brook, contained records of Passenger Pigeon and *Aythya* species (Redhead or Ring-necked Duck). Likewise, the Tram Site (circa 1600 AD), which resides on a drumlin above the valley bottoms, contained records of Passenger Pigeon, *Aythya* species (Redhead or Ring-necked Duck) plus other additional unidentified birds. Wray, *et al* (1987), describe the Adams Site (circa 1565-1575 AD) in Livonia which contained Common Loon, Passenger Pigeon and an unidentified passerine.

Many additional archaeological sites (such as the McCauley complex and Squashpatch sites) exist in Livingston County. Excavations have found dump sites containing numerous bone fragments (upwards of 6000 fragments), but most remain unidentified (E. Kintz, pers. comm.).

Historically, some extinct species had former ranges in this part of NYS. Accounts of the Passenger Pigeon are given in the annotated list. The Carolina Parakeet (*Conuropsis carolinensis ludovicianus*) and Heath Hen (*Tympanuchus cupido cupido*) were known to exist in New York, although their range is troublesome for bio-historians. Beardslee and Mitchell (1965, p 273) cite credible references of Carolina Parakeet in West Seneca, and McKinley (1958) quotes a diary of Benjamin S. Barton which places a very large flock of parakeets at 25 miles northwest of Albany in mid-winter. John James Audubon claimed they ranged over much of the eastern half of the country as far north as New York and the southern fringes of the Great Lakes, Lake Ontario and Western NY (Beardslee and Mitchell, 1965, p 273-274).

The Heath Hen (actually the nominate subspecies of the Greater Prairie Chicken) was said to exist "east of the Appalachians". An account mentioned in Doty (1925) gives credence that wild grasslands and Heath Hen habitat existed in the Genesee Region. Perhaps the grasslands and Heath Hen existed here many years past, perhaps not.

No references to Common Murre (*Uria lomvia*) could be found. In the late 19th and early 20th century, major influxes of these birds yielded records in many inland sites, including several at the Finger Lakes just to the east in 1951 (Belknap, 1951). It is quite likely that they occurred, but went unreported, on Conesus or Hemlock Lake. Likewise, former ranges and migration paths of Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*) are troublesome and it was recorded in Monroe and Wyoming Counties (Eaton, 1910) in the late 1800s. The accounts of Carolina Parakeet, Heath Hen, Common Murre and Eskimo Curlew are, of course, speculative, as I could not find any specific mention to these birds in this county in any reference.

ACCURACY AND AUTHENTICITY OF RECORDS

Some of the classifications are explicitly stated as estimations, preceded by the words "Presumably" or "Hypothetical". A status marked "Presumably" indicates that some data exists to support the presumed status or abundance, although not to the extent claimed. A status marked "Hypothetical" indicates that no data exists to confirm the claim of status or abundance. It is expected that additional fieldwork would confirm the presumed or hypothetical status or abundance. Much of the presumed or hypothetical information is based upon the author's knowledge of field work in neighboring counties, or previously published works in neighboring counties, such as Wyoming (R. Rosche, 1967), Cattaraugus (S. W. Eaton, 1981), Monroe (RAS, 1985) and the Niagara Frontier (Beardslee and Mitchell, 1965).

Future readers may question the authenticity of some records. Detailed accounts were sometimes published. In other cases, verification reports were submitted to the local bird clubs, but never published. In some cases, particularly prior to the existence of a formal review by local and state records and statistics committees, older records provided little or no details or documentation. An attempt was made to gather as much detail as possible about certain records, without becoming excessive in the species accounts. If available, the source of published information is cited in the individual accounts. Additional details provided by pers. comm. is sometimes provided. An attempt was made to judge the credibility of some of the records, but it is certainly not as rigorous as Bull (1974), nor Beardslee and Mitchell (1965). Very little was rejected by the author and subjective statements regarding authenticity are often enclosed by square brackets ("[" and "]"). This work is an attempt to encompass and present almost every record known at the current time (pre-1997). Readers may wish to judge the records themselves, and information and citations are provided here. Although some questions and misgivings are mentioned in some accounts, a reader might rightly conclude that this piece is primarily a summary of previously published (and unpublished) information.

AVIAN NOMENCLATURE AND CLASSIFICATION

The following is a Criterion of Frequency, Abundance and Seasonal Occurrence as adopted by the State Bird Book Committee of the Federation of NYS Bird Clubs (Feb 20, 1954).

Frequency

On an average basis,

- Regular - recorded every year
- Irregular - recorded less often than once every year, but more than one in four
- Occasional - recorded between one year in four and one year in every nine
- Sporadic - recorded between one year in ten and one year in every twenty
- Casual - recorded less than one year in every twenty
- Exotic - recorded, but because of its range, not expected to occur again

Abundance

Occurring in such numbers that a competent observer, in a single day, at the proper time and place might see:

- Abundant - 500 or more
- Very Common - 100 to 500 individuals
- Common - 25 to 100 individuals
- Fairly Common - 5 to 25 individuals
- Uncommon - 1 to 5 individuals, but no more than 25 per season
- Rare - not more than 5 per season
- Very Rare - not more than 1 per season

Seasonal Occurrence

- Transients - birds of passage which occur in spring and/or fall but do not breed; may occur as spring transients or fall transients
- Visitants - non-breeding birds which occur as temporary visitors; may occur as summer visitants, winter visitants or vagrant visitants
- Residents - breeding species, may occur as summer residents or permanent residents

Thus, all species will fit into one of the above seven classification: spring transients, fall transients, summer visitants, winter visitants, vagrant visitants, summer residents or permanent residents. All classifications carry a sense of regularity, except that of vagrant visitant. The term "resident" carries the sense of breeding.

ORGANIZATION OF THE ANNOTATED LIST

Each species account conforms to the following generic format:

COMMON NAME (Genus species)

<Frequency> <Abundance> Winter <Seasonal Occurrence> *
<odd dates> (Normal range of expected dates) <odd dates>
<Frequency> <Abundance> Spring <Seasonal Occurrence> *
<Frequency> <Abundance> Summer <Seasonal Occurrence> *
<Frequency> <Abundance> Fall <Seasonal Occurrence> *

<Text of account>

LL CBC Data: Years recorded; First recorded; Maximum and year recorded
Eaton (1910) Status
Bailey (1934) Status
Breeding Status

* See Avian Nomenclature and Classification section above

The expected range of dates is often included following seasonal occurrence. Normal range of dates are enclosed in parentheses ("()"). Earlier or later than normal dates may exist outside that range. Rather than pick an arbitrary fall departure date for many species that linger into winter (particularly waterfowl), the last date in the date range is the last date that the winter bird was recorded. For example, Green-winged Teal migrate in the fall, but sometimes linger into January. Thus, the date range is "(20 Oct - 31 Jan)".

Miscellaneous notes exist below the Avian Nomenclature and Classification section. It may emphasize unusual dates, historical records, unique findings, maximum counts or other topics of note. Several common sources are used and abbreviated. For example, (*The Kingbird* Vol. XVIII, No. 2 (May 1968)) would be abbreviated (KB:18,2). All records cited in this manner from *The Kingbird* originate from either the "Highlights of the Season" or "Region 2 - Genesee" (or its predecessor). Likewise, the *Goshawk* is abbreviated GH, the *Little Gull* - LG, and *The Prothonotary* - PT. All records originate from the "Noteworthy Records" columns, and rarely from the articles in those issues. Unpublished GOS and RBA records are abbreviated UGR and URR, respectively. J. Haller's Notes were searched and are abbreviated (J. H. notes). Sometimes data was obtained from the Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA), Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), the Christmas Bird Counts (Little Lakes - LL CBC, or Letchworth-Silver Lake L-SL CBC) and rarely the Bird Banding Lab (BBL). Personal communication with knowledgeable persons would be abbreviated "(pers. comm.)" and personal observation would be abbreviated "(pers. obs.)". Status by Eaton and Bailey are given. Several references were extremely helpful and are cited in the bibliography. Records not found in the aforementioned sources are cited in the footnotes of the accounts. The data from the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* (1988) (Breeding Status) is abbreviated: Possible (PO:) Probable (PR:) Confirmed (CO:) Total (T:). Breeding data not mentioned in the BBA is mentioned in the text.

The accounts and scientific names follow the taxonomic order published by the American Ornithological Union (AOU) checklist (Sixth edition, 41st supplement 1997).

ANNOTATED LIST

GAVIIFORMES**GAVIIDAE****RED-THROATED LOON***(Gavia stellata)*

Irregular Rare Winter Visitant
 (07 Dec - 02 Jan)
 Occasional Rare Spring Transient
 (13 Apr - 05 May)
 Casual Very Rare Summer Visitant
 (Presumably Irregular) Uncommon Fall Transient
 (01 Nov - 09 Nov)

This species was first recorded in the county in Springwater (Hemlock Lake) on 15 Apr 1951 by Spitz and Folker (GH:4,2). The only summer record is from 13 Jun 1992 at Hemlock Lake when one adult was seen on a GOS field trip (GH:48,8). A maximum of six was seen on Conesus Lake 13 Apr 1997 (pers. obs.).

LL CBC: Recorded 1 year; First in 1990; Maximum 2 in 1990
 Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

COMMON LOON*(Gavia immer)*

Regular Uncommon Winter Visitant
 Regular Fairly Common Spring Transient
 (13 Mar - 01 Jun)
 Occasional Rare Summer Visitant
 Regular Fairly Common Fall Transient
 (25 Sep - 15 Jan)

All county records are from either Conesus Lake or Hemlock Lake. Although numerous summer records of singles or pairs exist on Conesus, Hemlock and nearby Canadice lakes, no evidence of breeding has ever been observed. Historically, Bailey (1934) specifically stated that they do not breed.

The spring maximum of 199 was seen on 17 Apr 1997 on Conesus Lake by J. and K. Fox (pers. obs.). This is indicative as numbers of this species peak in spring in early to mid-April. On a GOS field trip to Conesus Lake, a fall maximum of 55 was seen by C. Cass on 28 Nov 1992 (GH:49,1). Again, this is indicative as fall peak numbers are late November and early December. Birds linger into winter until the lake starts freezing, thus there are no February records. Specimens (2) exist in the SUC Genesee collection.

LL CBC: Recorded 18 years; First in 1964; Maximum 5 in 1990
 Eaton (1910) Status: Rare Transient Visitant
 Bailey (1934) Status: Common Transient Visitant

PODICIPEDIFORMES

PODICIPEDIDAE

PIED-BILLED GREBE

(*Podilymbus podiceps*)

Regular Uncommon Winter Visitant
Regular Fairly Common Spring Transient
(19 Mar - 05 May)
Occasional Rare Summer Resident
Regular Fairly Common Fall Transient
(11 Sep - 13 Jan)

It can be found on larger ponds throughout the county, but Conesus Lake is the most likely place to find this bird during migration or winter. G. Perrigo observed the maximum of 24 on 28 Dec 1978 on Conesus Lake (URR). Like the Common Loon, this species peaks as a spring migrant in early to mid-April and lingers into winter as long as open water exists. No February records exist.

The BBA record is in a block that borders Wyoming County near Portageville. The exact location could not be determined. However, two juveniles were located in the Conesus Swamp in Jul 1997 (pers. obs.) which indicates successful breeding in the county.

LL CBC: Recorded 23 years; First in 1961; Maximum 30 in 1975
Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded
Bailey (1934) Status: Common Transient Visitant, Possible Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 1 PR: 0 CO: 0 T: 1

HORNED GREBE

(*Podiceps auritus*)

Irregular Fairly Common Winter Visitant
(Presumably Regular) Fairly Common Spring Transient
(13 Mar - 26 May) 30 May
Regular Fairly Common Fall Transient
(30 Sep - 13 Jan)

During the peak of migration, this grebe can be found on all the larger ponds and lakes. Earlier or lingering migrants are found primarily on Conesus Lake. All maxima are from Conesus Lake. M. Davids *et al*, counted 60 on 26 Dec 1983 (GH:40,2). J. and K. Fox counted 44 on 28 Mar 1997 (pers. obs.). R. Spahn tallied 40 on 01 Jan 1984 (GH:40,3). A specimen exists at SUC Geneseo.

LL CBC: Recorded 21 years; First in 1961; Maximum 45 in 1983
Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

RED-NECKED GREBE

(*Podiceps grisegena*)

Sporadic Rare Winter Visitant
(Presumably Irregular) Rare Spring Transient
(19 Mar - 24 Apr)
(Presumably Irregular) Rare Fall Transient
(16 Oct - 09 Jan)

This migrant is primarily found on Conesus Lake, although one record exists from Hemlock Lake and Bailey (1934) mentions them on the Genesee River. Surprisingly, it has never been recorded on the LL CBC. The maximum of four was recorded on 21 Mar 1996 by J. and K. Fox (pers. obs.).

Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded
Bailey (1934) Status: Uncommon Transient Visitant

EARED GREBE

(Podiceps nigricollis)

Sporadic Very Rare Winter Visitant
Casual Very Rare Spring Transient

All four records are single birds on Conesus Lake. W. Listman recorded the first for the county on 01 Jan 1965 (GH:11,1, KB:15,2). On 02 Jan 1966, J. W. Brown and W. Listman found one bird (GH:22,3, KB:16,2). A., D. and D. Strong observed one on 26 Dec 1995 (GH:52,2). On 28 Mar 1997, J. and K. Fox tallied one spring transient from Vitale Park (GH:53,5, LG:23,4).

LL CBC: Recorded in the count week on the 1964 CBC (01 Jan 1965, as above, KB:15,2)
Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

PROCELLARIIFORMES

PROCELLARIIDAE

MOTTLED PETREL

(Pterodroma inexpectata)

Very Rare Exotic Visitant

The account of this vagrant is undeniably the most noteworthy avian story having occurred within the county. Eaton (1910) recalls the interesting account around the discovery of the type specimen bird by the famed ornithologist William Brewster. In Brewster's words:

"Some months since while passing the natural history store of W. J. Knowlton, Tremont Street, Boston, my attention was attracted by a mounted petrel, which, with spread wings, hung conspicuously in the window. I saw at once it was a species new to me and, upon entering, was greatly astonished to learn it had been received only a short time before in the flesh, and in comparatively fresh condition. Further inquiries elicited information that it had been mounted for Mr. E. H. Woodman of Concord, N.H., and upon writing to that gentleman, I was very kindly put in possession of the following particulars. The bird had been sent to him by a client, Mr. Nathan F. Smith, who conducts a large farm at Mt. Morris, Livingston Co., New York. One of the laborers while ploughing an old cornfield, noticed it running in a freshly turned furrow and despatched it with a stick. It was apparently exhausted, for it made no attempt to escape. This was early in April 1880, probably not far from the 5th of the month, as I find its reception recorded on Mr. Knowlton's book as April 10. A letter afterwards received from Mr. Smith confirms all of these facts, but adds nothing of interest, save that the farm comprises what is known as flats, lying along the Genesee River, about 40 miles south of Lake Ontario." (Eaton, 1910, p161-162)

Other specimens have since been taken in New Zealand, one of which is in the State collection" (Eaton, 1910).

Beardslee and Mitchell (1965, p 88) provide additional details of weather stating that "...there was an intense storm during the first week of April, 1880. High winds from the south and southeast along the Atlantic Coast verified gale warnings from Fort Macon to Sandy Hook... This was during the period April 3 - 5, 1880."

J. Belknap (1971) adds that,

"Brewster, then 28 years of age, was already a leader in American ornithology having been the moving spirit in the formation of the Nuttall Club and later one of the founders of the AOU. Brewster purchased the specimen. ... For years, the specimen was considered the only one extant and was so designated in the 3rd edition of the AOU checklist (1910). Later, [it was found to belong] to a south Pacific species that has been known since 1844. The confusion started from the fact that the Livingston Co bird was an immature with somewhat different markings from an adult P. inexpectata... It has been called Scaled, Peale's and Mottled Petrel. Breeding restricted to New

Zealand oceans in South Pacific, 13th parallel to Australia. There are few records from Pacific Coast of North America. The bird wandered 5000 miles from home." (Belknap, 1971)

The original collection number was "No. 5224 Collection W. Brewster." For more details, refer to Beardslee and Mitchell (1965, p 88), Eaton (1909, p 160-162), or the original complete description in the *Auk* (Vol. 3, p 389-393). The first account revealing the bird to the scientific world is in the *Bulletin Nuttall Ornithological Club* (Vol. 6, p 91-97). The story was repeated in A. C. Bent's (1922) *Life Histories of North American Petrels, Pelicans and their Allies* (p 117-120). An article appears in *The Kingbird*, Vol. XXI, No. 2 (May 1971), p 66, "A Misplaced Petrel" by John B. Belknap.

Eaton (1910) Status: Once April 1880

Bailey (1934) Status: Not recorded

PELICANIFORMES

PHALACROCORACIDAE

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT

(*Phalacrocorax auritus*)

Sporadic Rare Winter Visitant
(Presumably Irregular) Rare Spring Transient
(01 Apr - 15 May)
Irregular Rare Summer Visitant
Irregular Uncommon (formerly Very Rare) Fall Transient
(16 Sep - 31 Oct) 10 Nov

This species has become increasingly more common and more regular in the northeast in the past two decades. The first record for the county was on 26 Sep 1981 when C. Cass recorded one on Hemlock Lake (UGR, URR). The only winter record is of an immature seen by several observers on Conesus Lake from 01 Jan to 05 Jan 1983 (GH:39,3, KB:33,2, LG:9,2). The individual on 28 Nov 1992 was either a late fall migrant or an early winter visitant. The maximum count was on 25 Sep 1996 when 18 were recorded on Conesus Lake (pers. obs.).

LL CBC: It has twice been found in the count circle on Honeoye Lake, but not within Livingston County
Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

CICONIIFORMES

ARDEIDAE

AMERICAN BITTERN

(*Botaurus lentiginosus*)

(Presumably Regular) Rare Local Summer Resident
(10 Apr - 09 Aug) (presumably later)

A single transient bird was observed leaving a marsh on Cold Springs Road on 23 Apr 1997 (pers. obs.). It proceeded to gain altitude, level off and fly north. Presumably, this is a commoner event than is recorded.

Both Eaton (1910) and Bailey (1934) declare it as a summer resident, but recent records are few. The BBA record exists entirely within the county to the SW of Fowlerville. Other than the BBA sighting, R. Beason (pers. comm.) observed one flying over the marsh on River Rd north of Mt. Morris just north of the SR 36 in a spring in the early 1980s. In 1997, single calling birds (Probable breeders) were heard at the marsh on Nations Rd and a small ditch on Doran Rd in Lima.

Eaton (1910) Status: Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 1 PR: 0 CO: 0 T: 1

LEAST BITTERN

(Ixobrychus exilis)

(Presumably Occasional) Rare Local Summer Resident

Both Eaton (1910) and Bailey (1934) state that it is a summer resident, albeit uncommon. Both the BBA records are on outlying blocks, both bordering Monroe County. One was north of Avon near Log Pond and the other was near East Avon bordering Rush by Oak Openings Road. Except for the two BBA sightings, no recent records exist.

Eaton (1910) Status: Uncommon Summer Resident

Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 1 PR: 0 CO: 1 T: 2

GREAT BLUE HERON

(Ardea herodias)(Presumably Regular) Uncommon Winter Visitant
Regular Common Summer Resident

This bird is more commonly found throughout the county in the warmer months, although it has been recorded in every month. The three February records indicate that some survive the winter. Sight records and CBC data indicate that the bird is probably a regular winter visitant, at least until Conesus Lake freezes, where the remaining wintering birds may be found at the non-freezing Spring Creek in Caledonia.

Breeders return to heronries around early to mid-March. Bailey (1934) mentions that the bird is found nesting in two spots in the county: Canaseraga Swamp, and Golah Swamp. The "1967 Great Blue Heron Survey" (Benning, 1968) reported five nests and seven young at the Groveland Flats. Currently, the largest rookery in the area is located on Fowlerville Road in Avon, about one mile west of SR 39. Three clusters of nests exist in that block of woods averaging about 40-60 nests each, producing sight records of 100-150 herons annually. This colony (then only eight nests) was discovered in the spring of 1973 by P. Conklin (KB:23,2) who counted the nests from a canoe launched on the Genesee River at Fowlerville. Another heronry (about 30 nests) is at the Conesus Swamp and several small ones in Letchworth State Park. A single specimen exists at SUC Genesee.

LL CBC: Recorded 12 years; First in 1974; Maximum 3 in 1977, 1979 and 1992

Eaton (1910) Status: Fairly Common Transient Visitant

Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 51 PR: 5 CO: 3 T: 59

GREAT EGRET

(Ardea alba)(Presumably Irregular) Rare Spring Transient
(Presumably Occasional) Rare Summer Visitant
(01 Jul - 17 Sep)

The *Atlas of Breeding Birds of New York State* (1988) mentions that the Great Egret is a possible nester in Avon. Although two birds were present for most of the summer of 1984 near the Great Blue Heron rookery, nesting activity was not observed or "even remotely attained" (GH:40,9, KB:34,4, LG:10:7,8,9). Additional summer records exist. J. Foster, T. Tetlow, *et al*, observed one on 14 Aug 1960 at Groveland (KB:10,3), but up to three were seen the following day (J. H. notes). One to two were seen occasionally in the summer of 1961 at the Groveland Flats by T. Tetlow, *et al* (KB:11,3), and stayed until 17 Sep 1961 (J. H. notes). The spring transient record was seen leaving Twin Cedars and flying north on 29 April 1996 (pers. obs.).

Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded

Bailey (1934) Status: This species is not mentioned in the text, but the plates show a single bird in the Conesus Lake Outlet

Breeding Status - PO: 1 PR: 0 CO: 0 T: 1

SNOWY EGRET

(Egretta thula)

Casual Very Rare Spring Visitant

The only record for this bird was on 13 May 1995 when J. and K. Fox observed one at Twin Cedars in East Avon. The bird was observed at the south end of the ponds feeding in the shallows. The pristine white plumage, smaller size and black legs with yellow feet were observed. It warily fed there all day, due to passersby hiking on the trails (GH:51,7, LG:21,6, pers. obs.).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

LITTLE BLUE HERON

(*Egretta caerulea*)

Sporadic Very Rare Summer and Fall Visitant

Both records of this species come from the Mt. Morris area and both were adult birds. The first account of this bird is by J. Foster on 07 Sep 1981 below the Mt. Morris Dam in Letchworth State Park (KB:32,1, LG:7,10). The second bird was feeding in a small pond near Mt. Morris observed by R. Clark on 07 Jul 1987 (KB:37,4, LG:13,9). Both records were accepted by the RBA statistics committee.

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

CATTLE EGRET

(*Bubulcus ibis*)

Sporadic Very Rare Spring and Fall Visitant

Although the first record for the Cattle Egret in Western NY was by G. Seamans and R. Beebe on May 29, 1960 (KB:10,2), it was not recorded in Livingston County until two years later. The first record for the county was 05 May 1962 by Foster at the Groveland Flats (J. H. notes). The maximum of 15 was found the same year on 17 May 1962. It was published as being found in the "Scottsville" area by J. Haller (KB:12,2, KB:13,3). J. Haller's notes indicate that it was on the Street Farm on the Genesee Flats, which is in Livingston County (J. H. notes). One fall record was published: J. Taylor and E. Nickerson observed a single bird feeding in a cattle yard in the Hemlock township on 05 and 06 Nov 1975 (GH:32,1, KB:26,1, J. Foster pers. comm.). R. Beason observed a single bird on Servis Rd in the town of Groveland in October sometime in the early 1980s (pers. comm.).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

GREEN HERON

(*Butorides virescens*)

Regular Fairly Common Summer Resident
(late Apr - 30 Sep)

The only "winter" record was one injured bird that was observed at a farm pond near Avon by J. Haller from 01-05 Dec 1961 (GH:13,2, KB:12,1). The county maximum was 33 recorded on 01 Sep 1997 at the Conesus Swamp by J. and K. Fox (GH:53,10).

Eaton (1910) Status: Fairly Common Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Common Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 36 PR: 7 CO: 4 T: 47

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON

(*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

Casual Rare Year-round Visitant

The first record for the county comes on 25 Apr 1948, when W. Listman, *et al*, observed two at Hemlock and Conesus Lakes (GH:1,3). Three birds were observed in Letchworth State Park on the Mt. Morris BBS route by A. E. Ulrich on the [extremely peculiar date of] 17 June 1975 (BBS). The date suggests breeding birds, but they have not been recorded breeding before or since. No other details could be found.

An immature Black-crowned Night-Heron was observed on an RBA field trip to Conesus Lake on 02 Dec 1979 and was seen by many until 06 Dec 1979 (GH:36,2, KB:30,2, LG:6,1). A. Watson (pers. comm.) recalls a field trip led by W. Harding in early May 1978 when the group observed a single bird on a pond along the deserted railroad bed near York Landing off River Road in York. A list of birds for the county (1974, SUC Genesee, author unknown) listed this bird. A second year bird, which was perched in the dead snags, was observed by K. Fox and J. Milks at the Conesus Swamp from the trail on the dike just before dusk on 14 Aug 1996.

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON

(Nyctanassa violacea)

Casual Very Rare Spring Visitant

The only record for the county was an adult that was observed on 18 Apr 1996 by R. Beason and M. Zettel at the south end of Conesus Lake (GH:52,8). The bird was flushed just before dark, circled overhead three times and was last seen heading northwest (pers. comm.). They described the bird, "The back, dorsal wing surfaces and tail were uniformly grayish. The crown was whitish/buffy colored and separated from a white cheek patch by a black stripe running from the eye to the nape" (UGR).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

THRESKIORNITHIDAE

GLOSSY IBIS

(Plegadis falcinellus)

Casual Very Rare Fall Transient

On 10 Oct 1997, J. Fox discovered the first (and only) *Plegadis* ibis for the county. It was discovered on the edge of a farm pond on Lima Road (a few hundred meters west of West Lake Road) in the township of Geneseo (GH:53,11, LG:23,10). Several observers viewed the bird before it departed on 28 Oct 1997. The bird had a black back with a green glossy sheen and a mottled chestnut head and neck. It was determined to be in adult winter plumage. The facial markings were carefully observed for 20 minutes in excellent light through a spotting scope at 25 meters. No white feathering around the bare parts of the lores were found. Unlike the red iris of the similar adult-winter White-faced Ibis, the iris of this adult alternate bird was definitely dark brown (pers. obs.).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

CATHARTIDAE

BLACK VULTURE

(Coragyps atratus)

Casual Very Rare Winter Visitant

The Letchworth State Park checklist lists this species as occurring less than once every five years. According to park naturalist D. Bassett (pers. comm.), all records come from the gorge.

The most prominent bird (and the only documented record) was one that overwintered in the region at Inspiration Point near the Castile entrance. First observed on 26 Dec 1995 by D. Mark and later seen by many observers (GH:52,2-4, LG:22,1-2), it stayed in the region until early April 1996 (D. Bassett, pers. comm.). It often roosted on the shale rocks facing the morning sun, or in the pines near the Interpretive Center. It fed almost exclusively on roadkill and winter starved deer. Its ferocious feeding habits kept the larger Turkey Vultures at bay. It had been observed a number of times leaving its morning roost flying east into Livingston County and had been seen feeding on roadkill within the county.

Of related interest is that of another winter visitant bird seen by many observers at the Stokoe farms in Scottsville on 22 Dec 1979 just a few miles north of the county line (KB:30,2, *American Birds*: 34, 270, 1980).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

TURKEY VULTURE

(Cathartes aura)

Regular Uncommon Winter Visitant
Occasional Rare Winter Visitant (outside Letchworth State Park)
Regular Common Summer Resident
22 Feb (24 Feb - 2 Nov) 16 Nov, 19 Nov

Bailey (1934) said that this vulture was a common southern bird that occasionally strays north for the summer. He said that it "almost certainly does not nest here" and specifically mentions a bird that was shot, apparently mistaken for an eagle.

It first nested in Western New York in 1927 in the Oak Orchard Swamp (Beardslee and Mitchell, 1965, p. 159). D. Bassett (pers. comm.) said that it has been nesting in the canyons of Letchworth State Park for many years. Typically during the

summer, anywhere from 100 to 200 vultures use Letchworth State Park with cavity nests in all three canyons within the park: Portage (narrowest), Great Bend Gorge (deepest), Mt. Morris Canyon (longest) (Bassett, 1989). D. Bassett (pers. comm.) described a most unusual nesting location where a pair of vultures had to fly to a cliff face, walk up the cliff, then crawl under the roots of a tree and up inside a hollow tree.

One "Fairly Common" winter record of 29 birds was recorded at Letchworth State Park near Inspiration Point (typical wintering location) by many observers on 29 Dec 1995. The overwintering Black Vulture was also seen that day (GH:52,2, LG:22,1). Another "Fairly Common" winter record of 24 birds was recorded at the same site by M. Davids and D. Tetlow on 01 Jan 1998 (GH:54,3, LG:24,3). Bassett (1989) says that they have been regular winter visitants since the winter of 1987-1988. He mentioned "sporadic winter sightings during the mild weather of January thaws" in the 1980s previous to 1987. In Dec 1987, they were spending nights by the administration building in the 100-foot white pines. They would come to roost about 45 minutes before sunset, and leave just after sunrise. In the winter of 1988, a total of 15, including two immature birds, were counted. In the winter of 1989, the 20 birds included two immature birds. Their normal winter feeding range was 3-5 miles from the roosts, usually deer carcasses, but sightings of birds in flight were in a 10-15 mile range oriented along the Genesee River from Mt. Morris to Wiscoy (Bassett, 1989).

The maximum outside Letchworth State Park was the 48 seen from Caledonia and south on 17 Oct 1980 by F. Dobson (UGR).

Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded

Bailey (1934) Status: Occasional Summer Visitant

Breeding Status - PO: 47 PR: 5 CO: 3 T: 55

ANSERIFORMES

ANATIDAE

SNOW GOOSE

(*Chen caerulescens*)

Occasional Uncommon Winter Visitant
(Presumably Regular) Uncommon Spring Transient
21 Feb (18 Mar - 29 Apr) 25 May
Irregular Fairly Common Fall Transient
(23 Sep - 07 Feb)

The first record for the county (37) was 14 Snow and 23 "Blue" recorded on 12 Apr 1960 near Avon by J. Haller (GH:12,2). J. Kimball observed two flocks in the Genesee Flats on 21 Feb 1998 which totalled 500 birds (GH:54,5, LG:24,4, pers. comm.). Two lingering immatures were recorded on 25 May 1997 below the Mt. Morris Dam (GH:53,7, pers. obs.). The fall maximum of 30 "Blue" Geese were observed at Letchworth State Park on 11 Oct 1971 by W. Mulroy (GH:27,10, KB:22,1).

LL CBC Data: Recorded 2 years; First in 1973; Maximum 5 in 1991
Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

CANADA GOOSE

(*Branta canadensis*)

Regular Fairly Common to Abundant Winter Visitant
Regular Abundant Spring Transient
Regular Fairly Common Summer Resident
Regular Abundant Fall Transient

Formerly, it was not a breeder in the region and questioned as a breeder as recently as 1976 (KB:26,4). In fact, it was not recorded on the LL CBC until 1969. In the past two decades, it has become an increasingly common bird as a winter visitant and a summer breeder. It is now a regular breeder on many marshes, swamps and even small ponds throughout the county. It now nests, perhaps, in over half of the BBA blocks.

In spring migration, it can be found, sometimes numbering more than 5000 on the Groveland flats or near the Genesee River below the Mt. Morris Dam or Nations Road. The geese appear to use the area as a feeding station to "refuel" as individuals with US F&WS neck-collars have been observed in these fields for one to three weeks before heading north. First arrivals come in the last days of February and linger to mid- or late-April. In fall migration, they are often seen in many of the farm fields or ponds, especially in harvested corn lots feeding on spilled corn. Fall numbers peak from the last week in September to mid-November.

LL CBC Data: Recorded 22 years; First in 1969; Maximum 772 in 1991
 Eaton (1910) Status: Uncommon Transient Visitant
 Bailey (1934) Status: Common Transient Visitant
 Breeding Status - PO: 2 PR: 0 CO: 2 T: 4

BRANT

(Branta bernicla)

Casual Very Rare Winter Visitant
 Sporadic Rare Fall Transient

Sometime prior to July 1974, W. Harding had tallied a Brant within the county, according to a cumulative checklist found at SUC Geneseo. One was seen 18 Nov 1995 in Mt. Morris by P. Irons (fide J. Kimball) (GH:52,1). Two were seen by R. Beason and M. Zettel on 07 Nov 1996 in the late afternoon on the north end of Conesus Lake (pers. comm.). The only winter record was on 15 Feb 1998 when K. Fox and J. Kimball observed one bird, among hundreds of Canada Geese, on the ice below the Mt. Morris dam (GH:54,4, LG:24,4). It is suspected that they migrate overhead in spring and fall but are not normally grounded and are seldom recorded.

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

MUTE SWAN

(Cygnus olor)

Occasional Rare Introduced Winter Visitant
 Casual Rare Introduced Summer Resident

Introduced from Europe, this bird has been found only on Conesus Lake. The first definitive record for the county (and the maximum) was on 20 Oct 1958. J. Haller observed seven birds comprised of two adults, and five juveniles (J. H. notes). An old checklist by two competent observers from July 1974 at SUC Geneseo listed this species, but no additional details were provided. A bird first observed by J. Bouton and J. Skelly on Conesus Lake on 01 Jan 1986 remained all month (GH:42,3, LG:12,2). R. Beason (pers. comm.) and his ornithology class discovered two adults and one immature on 02 Feb 1998 at Conesus Lake that remained until 25 Feb (pers. obs.).

Due to its tenacity and potentially destructive habit of disturbing other nesting waterfowl, it is fortunate that the waters of Conesus Lake often freeze evicting the swans from a regular territory. Despite the freezing waters, a pair was observed sporadically from 28 Sep 1995 to 26 Jan 1996 (pers. obs.). It was later observed in the spring of 1996 (25 Mar 1996 to 22 Apr 1996) in the Conesus Swamp where a single swan was seen in an incubating position on a nest (pers. obs.). The eggs were taken by DEC personnel (pers. comm.) to control these destructive, introduced birds. Thankfully, the original pair has not been seen since.

LL CBC Data: Recorded 2 years; First in 1985; Maximum 4 in 1995
 Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

TUNDRA SWAN

(Cygnus columbianus)

Irregular Fairly Common Winter Visitant
 (Presumably Regular) Fairly Common Spring Transient
 22 Feb (28 Feb - 26 Apr) 29 Apr
 Regular Fairly Common Fall Transient
 (30 Oct - 28 Jan)

Spring migrants may appear on Conesus Lake but are more often found in large numbers on the Groveland Flats. The spring maximum is 828 on 22 Mar 1997 on the Groveland Flats and Genesee Flats from Groveland to Fowlerville (GH:53,5, LG:23,4, pers. obs.). Another excellent count is 657 on 30 Mar 1968 at the Groveland Flats by A. Maley and T. Tetlow (GH:24,4-5, KB:18,2). Both J. Foster (pers. comm.) and M. Tetlow (pers. comm.) recall seeing an incredible count of 3000-4000 swans on the Groveland Flats in the late 1960s or early 1970s. Neither a date nor a written record of this event could be found.

Fall migrants are usually found on the north end of Conesus Lake starting at the end of November or early December. Many are migrants and leave shortly afterwards, but a few linger into January until the lake freezes. Sometimes they may be found feeding in smaller farm ponds or fields. The fall maximum of 133 was observed on 23 Dec 1995 by C. Cass on Conesus Lake (URR). Formerly, they were rare inland and were still scarce into the late 1950s.

On 25 Mar 1996, J. and K. Fox observed a probable "Bewick's" race bird among the flock of 197 Tundra Swans at Conesus Lake (GH:52,5, LG:22,4). The swan had an enormous amount of yellow at the base of the bill, nearly triple the surface area of any other swan. Whether or not the yellow bridged over the bill at the culmen is unknown (pers. obs.).

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LL CBC Data: Recorded 20 years; First in 1966; Maximum 90 in 1991
Eaton (1910) Status: Rare Transient Visitant
Bailey (1934) Status: Transient Visitant

WOOD DUCK

(*Aix sponsa*)

Irregular Rare Winter Visitant
Regular Common Spring Transient
Regular Fairly Common to Common Summer Resident
(07 Mar - 19 Jan)
Regular Common Fall Transient

In late summer and early fall, these birds are found in numbers on the Conesus Swamp. They are also found on ponds, swamps, streams, and waterways throughout the county both in migration and as a breeder. The spring maximum was recorded at the Groveland flats when T. Tetlow, *et al*, observed 150 on 24 Mar 1962 (GH:13,4, KB:12,1). The fall maximum was at least 100 birds feeding in a corn stubble field on Nations Road on 26 Oct 1996 (pers. obs.).

LL CBC Data: Recorded 5 years; First in 1963; Maximum 1 (five times)
Eaton (1910) Status: Rare Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Fairly Common Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 6 PR: 1 CO: 16 T: 23

GADWALL

(*Anas strepera*)

Irregular Uncommon Winter Visitant
(Presumably Regular) Fairly Common Spring Transient
(11 Mar - 03 May)
(Presumably Regular) Fairly Common Fall Transient
(22 Oct - 15 Jan) 07 Feb

The historical record of Gadwall at the Cole Gravel Pit Site (dated to about 3300 years ago) is interesting in light that Bull (1974) states that prior to 1940 it was "considered very rare to rare in the east." The first record for the county was two birds seen on the Groveland Flats by W. Listman, *et al*, on 25 Mar 1962 (GH:13,4, KB:12,1). The first winter record was two birds on 02 Jan 1965 on Conesus Lake by W. Listman (KB:15,2). Listman also found the maximum of 25 on 09 Dec 1971 at Conesus Lake (GH:28,2). The 18 Feb 1991 date of a single bird at Conesus Lake by M. Davids is an overwintering bird or a very early migrant (UGR, URR). It is most often found on Conesus Lake, but the Conesus Swamp or flooded farm fields may hold this species as well.

LL CBC Data: Recorded 16 years; First in 1964; Maximum 13 in 1991
Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

EURASIAN WIGEON

(*Anas penelope*)

Casual Very Rare Spring Transient

J. Foster found one adult male on 28 Mar 1964 Groveland Flats which was later seen by several observers until 31 Mar 1964 (KB:14,2).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

AMERICAN WIGEON

(*Anas americana*)

Irregular Uncommon to Fairly Common Winter Visitant
(Presumably Regular) Fairly Common (formerly Common) Spring Transient
25 Feb, 28 Feb (07 Mar - 02 May) 06 May
Casual Rare Summer Visitant
(Presumably Regular) Fairly Common Fall Transient
late Sep (10 Oct - 22 Jan) 07 Feb

In migration, this bird is most often found on flooded farm fields, but sometimes in smaller numbers on Conesus Lake. In winter, however, Conesus Lake becomes the favored locale. The spring maximum was on 28 Mar 1971 when J. Claffey, B. and G. Perrigo and J. Doherty recorded 200 on the Groveland Flats (GH:27,5). The only summer record was when W. Listman recorded three on the Groveland Flats on 03 Jul 1961 (KB:11,3).

LL CBC Data: Recorded 14 years; First in 1964; Maximum 15 in 1979
Eaton (1910) Status: Transient Visitant
Bailey (1934) Status: Transient Visitant

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK

(Anas rubripes)

Regular Very Common (sometimes abundant) Winter Visitant
Regular Common to Very Common Spring Transient
Irregular Rare (formerly Regular Uncommon) Summer Resident
Regular Common Fall Transient

This species is usually found in migration on farm ponds, small streams, flooded fields, or on Conesus Lake. Over 1000 were recorded on several locations in the Genesee Valley on several dates in spring, fall and winter, but December and January (after hunting season) seem to hold peak numbers at Conesus Lake and Caledonia (Spring Creek). The maximum was 1500 on 18 Dec 1987 on Conesus Lake by C. Cass (UGR, URR).

Historically, this bird was more common than Mallards. Bailey (1934) considered it the second commonest breeding duck and, in the 1950s, H. Miller considered it about as common as the Wood Duck as a breeder (GH:9,1). Recent state and national trends (since at least 1981) indicate that this bird is declining in numbers while the Mallard is increasing in numbers. The American Black Duck is "in the process of being genetically absorbed by the Mallard" (KB:31,4). Currently, it is possibly extirpated as a breeder. Specimens (2) exist at SUC Genesee.

LL CBC Data: Recorded 35 years; First in 1961; Maximum 794 in 1991
Eaton (1910) Status: Fairly Common Transient Visitant
Bailey (1934) Status: Common Transient Visitant
Breeding Status - PO: 5 PR: 3 CO: 0 T: 8

MALLARD

(Anas platyrhynchos)

Regular Very Common (often Abundant) Winter Visitant
Abundant Regular Spring Transient
Regular Fairly Common Summer Resident
Abundant Regular Fall Transient

The ubiquitous Mallard is found wherever there is water. Formerly, it was a less common breeder, following both American Black and Wood ducks. By the late 1950s, it had become our most common breeder (GH:9,1). Wintering birds are often found in rafts on Conesus Lake, below the Mt. Morris Dam or along the spring fed creeks near Caledonia. The county maximum is 7000 seen by D. and D. Traver at Caledonia on 08 Jan 1994 (LG:20,2). I. Szabo counted 4626 at Letchworth State Park on 19 Dec 1992 (LG:19,1) and the "Tuesday Group" estimated 4000 on Conesus Lake on 06 Jan 1982 (GH:38,3, KB:32,2). Migrants are sometimes found intermixed with Canada Geese on flooded farm fields. Specimens (2) exist at SUC Genesee.

LL CBC Data: Recorded 35 years; First in 1961; Maximum 6363 in 1991
Eaton (1910) Status: Uncommon Transient Visitant, Rare Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Common Transient Visitant, Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 15 PR: 10 CO: 30 T: 55

BLUE-WINGED TEAL

(Anas discors)

(Presumably Regular) Fairly Common Spring Transient
(Presumably Regular) Uncommon Summer Resident
(19 Mar - 20 Oct)
Irregular Uncommon to Rare Fall Transient

The latest stragglers were recorded on an RBA field trip (led by C. Cass and M. Davids) to Conesus Lake on 11 Dec 1983 (GH:40,2, KB:34,2, LG:10,1) and by A. Clarridge and F. Dobson on 28 Nov 1985 (GH:42,1). More easily found in the Conesus Swamp, it can sometimes be found in flooded farm fields, on farm ponds or on Conesus Lake. This bird was formerly more

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common in the area, especially as a spring migrant, but a nationwide trend shows a steady decline in the past decade. Peculiar is the fact that Bailey (1934) did not mention this bird as a breeder.

Eaton (1910) Status: Transient Visitant
Bailey (1934) Status: Transient Visitant
Breeding Status - PO: 6 PR: 6 CO: 3 T: 15

NORTHERN SHOVELER

(*Anas clypeata*)

Sporadic Rare Winter Visitant
Regular Fairly Common Spring Transient
(22 Mar - 14 May)
Casual Rare Summer Visitant
(Presumably Irregular) Uncommon Fall Transient
(24 Oct - 20 Jan)

Bull (1974) stated that the presence of this bird had increased dramatically since the mid-1950s. The first record for the county (and also the spring maximum) was ten birds found on the Groveland Flats on 07 Apr 1961 by W. Listman (KB:11,2). With those numbers, it presumably appeared prior to that time, although no records could be found. The fall maximum of 35 birds was tallied by J. H. Madden on 29 Nov 1978 at Conesus Lake (GH:35,1).

Many observers saw a single bird from 28 Dec 1986 to 04 Jan 1987 on Conesus Lake (GH:43,3, KB:37,2, LG:13,2). Two birds were seen by R. Ambrose on Conesus Lake on 26 Dec 1988 (LG:15,1). M. Davids and J. Skelly observed one bird on 01 Jan 1992 on Conesus Lake (LG:18,2). D. and D. Traver observed one bird on 20 Jan 1997 in Spring Creek in Caledonia (GH:53,3, LG:23,2).

In migration, it is most often found at Conesus Lake, the Conesus Swamp, but is sometimes recorded on flooded farm fields. The BBA record is the only summer account. The BBA bird was record within the county to the NW of York, but W. Symonds could not recall the details (pers. comm.).

LL CBC Data: Recorded 2 years; First in 1986; Maximum 2 in 1986 and 1988
Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)
Breeding Status - PO: 1 PR: 0 CO: 0 T: 1

NORTHERN PINTAIL

(*Anas acuta*)

Irregular Uncommon Winter Visitant
Regular Fairly Common (formerly Abundant) Spring Transient
(27 Feb - 06 May) 15 May
Regular Fairly Common Fall Transient
(24 Oct - 15 Jan) 07 Feb

Once abundant, this bird could be found in the flooded fields in the flats. The spring tally of 1300 was tallied by T. Tetlow, *et al*, on the Groveland Flats on 24 Mar 1963 (GH:13,4, KB:12,1). This count was topped the following year on 30 Mar 1964 with an estimated 3000 tallied by T. Tetlow, J. Foster and J. Haller at the same place (GH:17,3, KB:13,2). Such high counts have not been reached since 1960s and 1970s, and counts of more than 50 birds have not been made in the past 15 years. Curiously, Bailey (1934) did not mention this species in its own account but it was noted in the text of another species as a transient visitant.

LL CBC Data: Recorded 15 years; First in 1961; Maximum 7 in 1978 and 1987
Eaton (1910) Status: Transient Visitant
Bailey (1934) Status: Transient Visitant (see account above)

GREEN-WINGED TEAL

(*Anas crecca*)

Irregular Rare Winter Visitant
Regular Uncommon Spring Transient
(13 Mar - 18 May)
Casual Rare Summer Visitant
Irregular Uncommon Fall Transient
14 Sep (20 Oct - 31 Jan)

Most often found on Conesus and Hemlock Lakes and in flooded farm fields. The maximum occurred when J. Kimball (pers. comm.) estimated 60 at the Geneseo airfield on 10 Apr 1998. One was recorded on the LL CBC on Hemlock Lake (Area 2) in 1980. J. Kimball (pers. comm.) observed one summering bird near Fowlerville Rd in Avon on 12 Jul 1998.

LL CBC Data: Recorded 2 years; First in 1982; Maximum 2 in 1982
Eaton (1910) Status: Transient Visitant
Bailey (1934) Status: Common transient Visitant

CANVASBACK

(Aythya valisneria)

Regular Very Common to Uncommon Winter Visitant
(Presumably Regular) Common to Very Common Spring Transient
05 Mar (09 Mar - 22 Apr) 15 May
Regular Common Fall Transient
22 Oct (28 Oct - 18 Jan)

The fall maximum of 1500 has been recorded twice on Conesus Lake: 12 Dec 1976 by W. Listman (URR), 30 Nov 1980 by an RBA field trip led by M. Davids (URR). The spring maximum of 300 was tallied on 26 Mar 1997 (pers. obs.). F. Templeton recorded an excellent count of 761 on Conesus Lake (GH:23,3, KB:17,2) on the late date of 15 Jan 1967. Generally, this bird lingers late into winter (until the majority of the lake freezes). In the winter of 1997-1998, Conesus Lake did not freeze and at least 150 birds overwintered (pers. obs.). It is often seen among the rafts of Redheads and is found almost exclusively on Conesus Lake. It favors Wild Celery (*Valisneria sp.*) as a forage food that is found at the northern end of Conesus Lake. Specimens (2) exist at SUC Geneseo.

LL CBC Data: Recorded 33 years; First in 1961; Maximum 900 in 1975
Eaton (1910) Status: Rare Transient Visitant
Bailey (1934) Status: Common Transient Visitant

REDHEAD

(Aythya americana)

Regular Common to Abundant Winter Visitant
(Presumably Regular) Common to Abundant Spring Transient
01 Mar (05 Mar - 24 Apr) 03 May
Regular Common to Very Common Fall Transient
01 Oct (10 Oct - 01 Feb) 08 Feb

Found almost exclusively on Conesus Lake, this species lingers in winter even on the smallest spot of open water and returns as soon as there is space for a duck. If Conesus Lake did not freeze, it is suspected that they would linger all winter (as they did in the winter of 1997-1998). The high count on the FNYSSBC Annual Waterfowl Count when G. Hartenstein, *et al*, recorded 2349 on 12 Jan 1997 (UGR) was exceeded by large numbers in late Feb 1998 when numbers of 3000-3500 and 7000-8000 were estimated by different observers (GH:54,3, LG:24,3).

LL CBC Data: Recorded 32 years; First in 1961; Maximum 266 in 1996 (234 in 1991)
Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded
Bailey (1934) Status: Transient Visitant

RING-NECKED DUCK

(Aythya collaris)

Irregular Uncommon to Fairly Common Winter Visitant
(Presumably Regular) Common to Very Common Spring Transient
(05 Mar - 03 May) 09 May, 06 Jun
Regular Fairly Common Fall Transient
14 Oct (15 Oct - 24 Jan)

The largest numbers are found on Conesus Lake in the spring, such as the county maximum of 800 tallied on 28-29 Mar 1997 (LG:23,4, pers. obs.). They are widespread and can be found on a number of smaller ponds or flooded farm fields at that season, such as the 175 that B. and C. Perrigo, J. Claffey and J. Doherty observed on the Groveland Flats on 28 Mar 1971 (GH:27,5, KB:21,2). They linger late into spring and possibly stay as summer visitors, as indicated by the male and female (not as a pair) seen in the Conesus Swamp on 06 Jun 1998 (pers. obs.).

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Fall and winter numbers are slimmer as indicated by the maximum of 112 recorded on Conesus Lake on 19 Dec 1997 (GH:54,2, LG:24,2, pers. obs.). A winter record of one female being tallied by C. Cass on 18 Feb 1991 on Conesus Lake (UGR, URR) is a very late wintering bird or a very early spring migrant. Oddly, it was not mentioned by Bailey (1934), but photos in Volume II showed this species (which he called "Bluebills") near Ithaca.

LL CBC Data: Recorded 19; First in 1966; Maximum 26 in 1995
Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

GREATER SCAUP

(*Aythya marila*)

Regular Common Winter Visitant
(Presumably Regular) Common Spring Transient
24 Feb (26 Mar - 17 Apr) 24 Apr
(Presumably Regular) Common Fall Transient
30 Sep (01 Oct - 24 Jan)

Typically, this bird is found on Conesus Lake. On 14 Jan 1967, H. and R. Dakin tallied 121 on the FNYSSBC Annual Duck Census at that location (GH:23,3). The county maximum by a single observer was 600 recorded by D. Wolf on Conesus Lake on 15 Oct 1949 (GH:2,4). A rare overwintering bird was seen by K. Griffith and M. Davids at the Mt. Morris Dam on 16 Feb 1982 (UGR).

LL CBC Data: Recorded 31 years; First in 1961; Maximum 1800 in 1979
Eaton (1910) Status: Transient Visitant
Bailey (1934) Status: Abundant Transient Visitant

LESSER SCAUP

(*Aythya affinis*)

Irregular Fairly Common Winter Visitant
(Presumably Regular) Common (occasionally Very Common) Spring Transient
06 Mar (20 Mar - 28 Apr) 06 May, 11 May
(Presumably Regular) Common (occasionally Very Common) Fall Transient
29 Sep (23 Oct - 12 Jan) 21 Jan

Almost all records come from Conesus Lake. The fall maximum of 300 on 24 Nov 1983 by M. Davids (URR) was surpassed by the spring (and county) maximum of 600 on 17 Apr 1997 (pers. obs.).

LL CBC Data: Recorded 25 years; First in 1961; Maximum 159 in 1984
Eaton (1910) Status: Transient Visitant
Bailey (1934) Status: Abundant Transient Visitant

SURF SCOTER

(*Melanitta perspicillata*)

Sporadic Rare Winter Visitant
(Presumably Irregular) Uncommon to Rare Fall Transient
(30 Sep - 29 Nov)

All records are from Conesus Lake. The only winter records are the two LL CBC records, the four Surf Scoters tallied on Conesus Lake on 24 Dec 1967 by W. Listman (GH:24,2, KB:18,2) and the one bird on 06-07 Jan 1995 by C. Cass, A. Clarridge and D. Tetlow (URR). The maximum was 16 birds on 30 Sep 1996 (pers. obs.).

LL CBC Data: Recorded 2 years; First in 1967; Maximum 4 in 1967
Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER

(*Melanitta fusca*)

Sporadic Rare Winter Visitant
Occasional Rare Spring Transient
(Presumably Irregular) Rare Fall Transient

It has been recorded only on Conesus and Hemlock lakes. The only winter records were on the LL CBC, which includes one in Hemlock Lake (Area 2) in 1983. Two spring records on Conesus Lake exist: P. Keating two birds on 20 Apr 1983 (UGR) and J. Kimball two birds on 26 Mar 1997 (pers. comm.).

LL CBC Data: Recorded 2 years; First in 1969; Maximum 1 in 1969 and 1987
Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

BLACK SCOTER

(Melanitta nigra)

Casual Very Rare Fall Visitant

On an RBA field trip to Conesus Lake, W. Listman tallied one bird on 03 Dec 1977 (LG:4,2). No additional details were found. C. Cass recorded one on Conesus Lake on 09 Dec 1985, but does not recall if it was a male or female bird (UGR, URR, pers. comm.).

On 09 Nov 1997, a raft of 12 females was seen off Vitale Park on Conesus Lake. Further down the lake, a raft of 22 females and 1 male was seen (LG:24,1). The Vitale park raft lingered until 22 Nov, but the other raft was not recorded again. These sightings follow a count of over 12,000 birds passing Hamlin Beach on Lake Ontario. During this week, Black Scoters were found on many inland ponds and lakes throughout Western NY and Pennsylvania.

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

OLDSQUAW

(Clangula hyemalis)

Irregular Common to Rare Winter Visitant
(Presumably Irregular) Fairly Common Spring Transient
(14 Mar - 24 Apr)
(Presumably Irregular) Fairly Common Fall Transient
(06 Nov - 14 Jan)

Almost all records are from Conesus Lake. The maximum for this species was on 14 Dec 1975 when 150 were counted by G. Perrigo while accompanying an RBA field trip to Conesus Lake (LG:4,2). It often occurs in winter/non-breeding/basic plumage, but summer/breeding/alternate plumaged birds have been found. After an evening of high winds in March 1997, DEC conservation officer R. Thomas (pers. comm.) found a road-killed bird in a peculiar spot far from water in Caledonia.

LL CBC Data: Recorded 13 years; First in 1964; Maximum 110 in 1975
Eaton (1910) Status: Transient Visitant
Bailey (1934) Status: Not recorded

BUFFLEHEAD

(Bucephala albeola)

Regular Fairly Common Winter Visitant
Regular Common Spring Transient
21 Feb (03 Mar - 06 May) 11 May, 29 May
Regular Common Fall Transient
23 Oct, 24 Oct (03 Nov - 15 Jan)

Although easily found on Conesus Lake as a migrant, it can also be found on almost any small farm pond around the county. Early spring migrants usually arrive and are seen in rafts, yet by late-April, they are primarily found only in pairs. The two birds seen by W. Listman on the Groveland Flats lingered until 29 May 1961 (KB:11,2). Spring and fall counts are similar, with the maximum of 383 recorded on Conesus Lake on 09 Nov 1997 (pers. obs.).

LL CBC Data: Recorded 27 years; First in 1964; Maximum 112 in 1996
Eaton (1910) Status: Transient Visitant
Bailey (1934) Status: Not recorded

COMMON GOLDENEYE

(Bucephala clangula)

Regular Common Winter Visitant
 Regular Common to Very Common Spring Transient
 28 Feb (05 Mar - 17 Apr) 22 Apr, 24 Apr
 Casual Very Rare Summer Visitant
 Regular Common to Very Common Fall Transient
 23 Oct, 29 Oct (10 Nov - 01 Feb)

Generally, this bird is only found on Conesus and Hemlock Lakes. The only summer record was one bird recorded on 13 Jun 1987 on a GOS field trip to Hemlock Lake (GH:43,8-9, KB:37,4). The county maximum of 250 was recorded on 14 Dec 1996 on Conesus Lake (pers. obs.), but several other counts of over 200 exist. Some birds overwinter as indicated by the dates of 18 Feb 1991 and 11 Feb 1979. The Barrow's Goldeneye is listed as a transient visitant in Eaton (1910), whereas this species is not listed. This must be regarded as an editing, printing or identification error.

LL CBC Data: Recorded 34 years; First in 1961; Maximum 336 in 1996 (300 in 1972)
 Eaton (1910) Status: Transient Visitant
 Bailey (1934) Status: Common Transient Visitant

HOODED MERGANSER

(Lophodytes cucullatus)

Irregular Fairly Common to Rare Winter Visitant
 (Presumably Regular) Fairly Common Spring Transient
 (Presumably Regular) Uncommon Summer Resident
 Regular Common Fall Transient

A maximum of 739 was tallied on 22 Nov 1997 on Conesus Lake. Counts over 300 were recorded on the previous and following weekends (GH:54,1-2, LG:24,1-2). The previous high count was 350 was seen on Conesus Lake on 01 Dec 1996 (GH:53,2, LG:23,1), which dwindled to 170 on 14 Dec and to 70 by 22 Dec (pers. obs.). Good numbers were recorded by D. Wolf on Conesus Lake on 01-31 Jan 1950 when 2-300 were tallied (GH:3,1). Fall migrants are found in good numbers on Conesus Lake in late November through December. Spring maxima generally do not reach the numbers seen late fall but, on 28 Mar 1997, 120 were tallied on Conesus Lake (pers. obs.). It is strongly suspected that nesting birds would be found more often if sought. The *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* (1988) confirms nesting near Avon and many more are fledged annually just over the county line at the Genesee Country Museum in Mumford. This species breeds in the Conesus Swamp (pers. obs.) and M. Reinhardt confirms nesting in Rattlesnake Hill WMA (pers. comm.). Specimens (3) exist at RMSC.

LL CBC Data: Recorded 24 years; First in 1961; Maximum 124 in 1991 (94 in 1990)
 Eaton (1910) Status: Transient Visitant
 Bailey (1934) Status: Transient Visitant
 Breeding Status - PO: 0 PR: 0 CO: 1 T: 1

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER

(Mergus serrator)

Irregular Fairly Common to Uncommon Winter Visitant
 (Presumably Regular) Fairly Common Spring Transient
 (05 Mar - 05 May) 11 May
 Regular Fairly Common Fall Transient
 25 Oct (16 Nov - 14 Jan)

It is most often found on Conesus and Hemlock lakes, occasionally on the Genesee River near the Mt. Morris Dam, and less often on the farm ponds around the county. A maximum of 300 recorded on Conesus Lake by D. Wolf on 01-31 Jan 1950 (GH:3,1) doubles the spring maximum of 151 on Conesus Lake on 25 Mar 1997 by R. Beason and M. Zettel (pers. comm.). The four recorded on 06 Jun 1948 by D. Wolf on Conesus Lake (GH:1,4) either represent very late migrants or casual summer visitants. Specimens (2) exist at RMSC.

LL CBC Data: Recorded 15 years; First in 1965; Maximum 10 in 1983
 Eaton (1910) Status: Transient Visitant
 Bailey (1934) Status: Not recorded

COMMON MERGANSER

(Mergus merganser)

Irregular Fairly Common (sporadically Very Common) Winter Visitant
 Regular Fairly Common (occasionally Common) Spring Transient
 21 Feb, 05 Mar (10 Mar - 10 Apr)
 (Presumably Regular) Uncommon Local Summer Resident
 Regular Common Fall Transient
 17 Oct, 03 Nov (18 Nov - 24 Jan) 28 Jan, 01 Feb

Transients and wintering birds are found on both Hemlock and Conesus Lakes and the Genesee River. D. Bassett (pers. comm.) stated that birds have been found on the Genesee River in Letchworth State Park in every month of the year. Nesting birds are found exclusively on the Genesee River in or near Letchworth State Park. Likewise, after Conesus Lake freezes, overwintering birds are found below the Mt. Morris Dam. A count of 300 was recorded twice: 01-31 Jan 1950, D. Wolf (GH:3,1) and 02 Jan 1995, by D. and D. Traver (UGR, URR). Strangely, the Travers did not find them the following day despite searching for them. The spring maximum was 100 on 28 Mar 1997 (pers. obs.). Specimens (2) exist at RMSC.

LL CBC Data: Recorded 24 years; First in 1961; Maximum 76 in 1994
 Eaton (1910) Status: Rare Transient Visitant
 Bailey (1934) Status: Transient Visitant
 Breeding Status - PO: 1 PR: 0 CO: 3 T: 4

RUDDY DUCK

(Oxyura jamaicensis)

Irregular Uncommon Winter Visitant
 (Presumably Irregular) Uncommon Spring Transient
 21 Feb, 24 Mar (29 Mar - 18 May) 29 May
 (Presumably Regular) Uncommon to Fairly Common Fall Transient
 06 Oct (10 Oct - 22 Jan)

Beardslee and Mitchell (1965, p. 151) state that early observers claimed that this species was formerly a fairly common migrant, but its presence had become increasingly scarce by the late 1930s. This is contrary to R. E. Horsey's statement (1936) that it was rare prior to 1931 but has been recorded every year since. The status mentioned by Eaton (1910) support Beardslee and Mitchell's claim.

This species is most often found on Conesus Lake, but is sometimes seen on larger ponds. A spring maximum (and the only spring record in the past 35 years, excepting 1997) was tallied by an unspecified observer who found 25 on Conesus Lake on 13 Apr 1957 (KB:7,2). W. Listman found one lingering spring transient on the Groveland Flats on 29 May 1961 (KB:11,2). The fall counts of 45 on 21 Oct 1996 on Conesus Lake (pers. obs.) and 97 on Conesus Lake on 13 Nov 1948 by D. Wolf (GH:1,5) has only been exceeded by the count of 109 on Conesus Lake on 09 Nov 1997 (GH:54,1, pers. obs.). A late lingering winter bird was seen on 21 Feb 1998 (LG:24,4, pers. obs.).

LL CBC Data: Recorded 10 years; First in 1966; Maximum 6 in 1977
 Eaton (1910) Status: Transient Visitant
 Bailey (1934) Status: Not recorded

FALCONIFORMES

ACCIPITRIDAE

OSPREY

(Pandion haliaetus)

Casual Very Rare Winter Visitant
 Irregular (Presumably Regular) Uncommon Spring Transient
 06 Apr (09 Apr - 03 Jun) 11 Jun
 Casual Very Rare Summer Visitant
 Irregular (Presumably Regular) Uncommon Fall Transient
 26 Aug (09 Sep - 15 Oct) 16 Nov

Little suitable habitat exists for this bird to breed within the county. Conesus Lake is overdeveloped and overused. A nest site at Hemlock Lake is possible (and even rumored), but unconfirmed.

A late fall straggler was recorded by R. Dobson on 16 Nov 1986 on Conesus Lake (GH:43,1). The only winter record was on 28 Dec 1987 when T. and B. Bartlett recorded one Osprey in Genesco (GH:44,2, KB:38,2).

Eaton (1910) Status: Transient Visitant
Bailey (1934) Status: Transient Visitant

BALD EAGLE

(*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

Rare (yet conspicuous) Local Permanent Resident
Regular Rare Year-round Visitant

Few records of Bald Eagle exist away from its breeding area. Winter visitants, mostly adults, are primarily observed in the Letchworth gorges (irregular in winter in Letchworth State Park since 1986) and the Little Lakes region.

Although Bailey (1934) easily found eagles in the summer and strongly suspected nesting, he never located a nest. Solid evidence of breeding in the county first appears in "Scottsville". As mentioned in the introduction, many Rochester birders traveled through Scottsville and several miles south (and, consequently, into Livingston County) to see the "Scottsville eagles." This became at least an annual pilgrimage around 1948 by both Rochester and Buffalo birders for both eagles and the then-rare Red-bellied Woodpeckers (Davis, 1948).

The "hard" evidence first indicates a nest on the west side of the Genesee River near Avon. D. Gamble (PT:14,5) recorded two adults and two young on 11 Apr 1948 and again on 18 and 25 Apr. The next year on 30 Jan 1949, A. Kemnitzer saw two eagles and discovered a new nest of an eagle or Osprey (GH:1,3). Perhaps this is the source that spurred the statement by Beardslee and Mitchell (1965, p. 175) that the nest "was abandoned in 1949 in favor of a site on the east bank of the Genesee River." However, personal communication with several local birders indicates that the nest that was used was always on the west bank.

On 10 Jul 1950, A. Kemnitzer and R. McKinney reported two young in the nest (GH:3,1). The next written evidence of breeding is two adults "nesting along the Genesee River, Livingston County again" in June and July of 1951 (KB:1,3), although success was not mentioned. Unpublished accounts by J. Haller indicate nesting at least until 1955. On 07 Apr 1955, she recorded two adults and one young in which one bird sat on the nest. In 1960, Spofford (1960) remarks on the nesting success of the eagles at this site. He states "I do not have comparable nesting information at other eagle sites, but from scattered reports I do not believe the pair in the Genesee Valley is much more successful. In summary, during 10 years of attempted nesting, they have been successful in only 3 (years) raising a total of 3 to 5 eaglets." Written records are scarce prior to the first *Kingbird* (1950), thus the 10 years mentioned by Spofford must have been obtained from the following (perhaps other) records:

4 on 11 Apr, 18 Apr, 25 Apr 1948	(D. Gamble, PT:14,52)
4 on 13 Jun 1948	(J. Chapin, <i>et al</i> , GH:1,4)
1 on 20 Jun 1948	(J. Chapin, <i>et al</i> , GH:1,4)
2 on 30 Jan 1949	(A. Kemnitzer, GH:1,3)
2 on 27 Feb 1949	(D. Wolf, GH:2,2)
2 on 22 Jan 1950	(GOS field trip, GH:3,1)
2 in Jun and Jul 1951	(KB:1,3)
2 on 23 Jan 1952	(Schaffner, PT:18,2)
2 on 15 Mar 1952	(GH:5,2)
1 on 16 Nov 1952	(Brockner, <i>et al</i> , PT:18,12)
1 on 10 Dec 1952	(W. Listman, GH:5,5)
1 on 13 Jan 1954	(W. Listman, GH:7,1)
max 3 on 5 Apr, 7 Apr, 24 Apr 1955	(J. H. notes)
3 on 17 May 1955	(J. H. notes)

Richard O'Hara (pers. comm.) recalls the nest being active for many years on one of the oxbows or switchbacks on the west side of the Genesee River. One year, perhaps 1952, the nest went down in a storm ("and the young went down, too"), but he thinks someone might have saved the young.

In 1948, Allan Klonick (pers. comm.) recalls going down in that area on a GOS field trip, knowing that the eagles were being seen in the area. Joe Taylor, Fred Hall and Klonick were actively searching for the eagles. They were trudging all up and down the river that day and were "just discouraged" and about to leave when they saw a little boy with an old Kodak box camera. They were kind and said hello and on a whim asked him where he was going. He responded, "I'm going down to take a picture of an eagle." They were just about floored. Thus, he became one of the first Rochester birders to 'discover' the eagles.

Klonick remembers that the eagle nest was off the Canawaugus Road (now West River Rd) on or near the Dempsey farm. It was east of the stone house, on the west side of the river and south of Scottsville. He recalls D. Gamble coming out from Buffalo to climb the tree and band the birds. He banded both young and put them back on some of the lower branches. "[The female eagle] could see the two young birds and we knew things would be okay. You could always tell the female - she had a notch in one wing and it never feathered out right. She was around for at least four to six years."

The Avon site was memorable for many. Amber Dean, a local mystery writer, sometimes interwove birding into the plot. A main character is found dead in Avon in the nest tree of the eagle in *Something for the Birds* (1959). The description of Genesee

Valley around Avon in the late 1940s is well depicted in that novel. Furthermore, the site of the eagle's nest (Log Pond), the nest tree (a hickory or a nut tree) and the giant nest (12-15 feet deep) are described in considerable detail (p. 93).

J. Haller sighted one adult in Avon on 06 Apr 1962 (KB:12,2) but whether or not it was breeding is not stated. J. Foster (pers. comm.) said that the nest could be seen from J. Haller's residence on the east side of the river, although he never saw an eagle on the nest. Curiously, a GOS field trip found one mature bird dead in "Scottsville" on 07 Mar 1965 (KB:15,2, but it was published as 29 Mar 1965 according to GH:21,4) in the same year that the Hemlock site was established.

Although W. Listman found a pair of wintering eagles on Hemlock Lake on 28 Dec 1957 (KB:8,1), it was not until 1965 that breeding eagles were found. The Hemlock Lake nest site has a long and interesting history. Rauber's excellent article (Rauber, 1976) summarizes the breeding attempts of the eagles from the spring of 1965 to 1975 at the Hemlock site. Rauber made over 900 visits in 11 years to observe the pair, during which the eagles succeeded only once, in 1973, in raising a young bird. He was there and saw the young eagle on the wing for the first time and remarked that it "flies and soars well." In 1973, this pair was the only one proven to have nested naturally in NYS (Broko 1974). Rauber (1976) describes the conflict of the eagles with Osprey, Great Horned Owls, Raccoon, Hurricane Agnes (which felled the nest tree in June 1972) and even pesticides. Heavy contaminants were the cause of the 1971 nest failure, and egg shells from a destroyed nest in 1975 were 30% thinner and contained DDT and PCBs. It was the third most contaminated egg that they measured that year (Rauber, pers. comm.).

The *Atlas of Breeding Birds of New York State* (1988) further describes the nesting site:

"The history of the Livingston County eyrie is remarkable. A pair of adult-plumaged eagles was in residence at the nest in 1965, making them 4 or 5 years old at that time. Only once, in 1973, did they successfully raise young, although one egg was laid each year until 1979. (Rauber 1976). ... In 1981 an adult male eagle, believed to be one of the Livingston County pair was shot to death near the nest site. The female, however, appeared at the nest in 1981 with a new mate: an eagle hatched in 1977 at MNWR (Nye and Allen 1983). No eggs were laid again, so a dummy egg was put in the nest and then replaced by two eaglets, both of which successfully fledged. In 1982 and 1983 the fostering continued successfully. In 1984, the male came back with a new female... old female presumed dead. They built a new nest, but did not nest. In 1985, pair produced one young; the first natural production at that site in 13 years. At the disappearance of the male and female of the original pair, they would have been at least 20-23 years old respectively."

The Hemlock site remains active, with eggs and/or young being transplanted into the nest. In 1996, three eaglets were in the nest, two belonging to the pair and one transferred to the nest from the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland for the pair to "foster" (Seager, 1997). The female disappeared, presumably shot. The male successfully worked hard to raise all three alone. Furthermore, a female eagle that was raised at the Hemlock site was shot by teenagers in Wayne County in the fall of 1996 (Lane 1997). Currently, an adult eagle was found wintering in the area and found a new mate by the spring of 1997. The pair of adults was seen together that fall.

A captivating anecdote was recorded by E. Murtagh on Conesus Lake on 30 Nov 1986, as he watched one adult eagle dive repetitively on Tundra Swans. "The swans were disturbed and circled closely as the eagle kept this up for a half hour" (URR).

LL CBC: Recorded 4 years; First in 1969; Maximum 1 (four times)

Also recorded within the county on Hemlock Lake (Area 2) irregularly (10 years) from 1975 to 1994

L-SL CBC: Recorded 3 years; First in 1993; Maximum 1 (three times)

Eaton (1910) Status: Transient Visitant

Bailey (1934) Status: Fairly Common Summer Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 0 PR: 0 CO: 1 T: 1

NORTHERN HARRIER

(*Circus cyaneus*)

Regular Fairly Common Winter Visitant
 (Presumably Regular) Fairly Common Spring Transient
 Uncommon Summer Resident
 (Presumably Regular) Fairly Common Fall Transient

The best locations, in both summer and winter, to find this bird are Nations Road, Retsof, Doran Rd in Lima and River Road south of Mt. Morris. They can be seen quartering over the myriad of old farm fields in the county. The 12 seen on Nations Rd by J. Foster and T. Tetlow on 21 Mar 1971 "no doubt represented recent arrivals" (GH:27,5, KB:21,2). On 21 Mar 1978, J. H. Madden observed the county maximum of 21 birds (UGR).

LL CBC: Recorded 22 years; First in 1961; Maximum 3 in 1976

Eaton (1910) Status: Summer Resident

Bailey (1934) Status: Common Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 14 PR: 8 CO: 2 T: 24

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK

(*Accipiter striatus*)

Uncommon (formerly Rare) Permanent Resident
Regular Uncommon (formerly Rare) Winter Visitant
(Presumably Regular) Fairly Common Spring Transient

This bird is most often seen in winter. It is quite conspicuous when visiting feeders and preying upon the seed-eating birds.

LL CBC: Recorded 18 years; First in 1975; Maximum 5 in 1991
Eaton (1910) Status: Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 20 PR: 5 CO: 4 T: 29

COOPER'S HAWK

(*Accipiter cooperi*)

Uncommon (formerly Rare) Permanent Resident
Regular Uncommon (formerly Rare) Winter Visitant
(Presumably Regular) Uncommon Spring Transient

Winter birds are often found visiting feeders preying upon the seed-eating birds. Specimens (2) can be found in the RMSC collection.

LL CBC: Recorded 18 years; First in 1970; Maximum 3 in 1970, 1988 and 1991
Eaton (1910) Status: Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 12 PR: 6 CO: 4 T: 24

NORTHERN GOSHAWK

(*Accipiter gentilis*)

Irregular Rare Summer Resident
Irregular Rare Winter Visitant

As a summer resident, this species is found in the deeper woods, especially at the higher elevations. J. and H. Hamilton have regularly recorded it as a breeder and winter resident on their tree farm in Springwater from 1988 to 1996. Birds have occasionally crashed into screen doors or windows as they made feeder raids. A very curious report by this observer on 26 Apr 1985 states that it made "several passes over their pond, dove into the pond and caught a fish. No doubt on its identity" (UGR). Perhaps the observer saw a large raptor with a bold white supercilium and confused a Northern Goshawk with a ridge-migrating Osprey. Or, it could have been an odd acting Goshawk. Nevertheless, a closely observed feeder raider that regularly and viciously defended its nest against dog or person could not be mistaken for an Osprey, especially at that locale.

M. Davids tallied a county maximum of three on 08 Jan 1994 in Caledonia (KB:44,2). A specimen can be found in the RMSC collection.

LL CBC: Recorded 2 years; First in 1974; Maximum 1 in 1974 and 1983
Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded
Bailey (1934) Status: Occasional Winter Visitant
Breeding Status - PO: 6 PR: 2 CO: 2 T: 10

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK

(*Buteo lineatus*)

Occasional Very Rare Winter Visitant
(Presumably Regular) Rare Summer Resident
(05 Apr - 14 Sep)
Occasional Rare Fall Transient

On breeding territory, it is most often found nesting in the higher hills in the southern portion of the county, such as Springwater and Rattlesnake Hill WMA (regular there since 1994 (M. Reinhardt, pers. comm.)). This bird is declining in the region and few records exist outside the breeding or wintering grounds. Formerly, their numbers equaled those of Red-tailed Hawks. The county maximum was nine on 09 Apr 1948 at Conesus by D. Wolf (GH:1,3).

Fall migrants are few. H. Hamilton saw a single bird in early Oct 1986 in Springwater (GH:42,11, KB:37,1). A. and J. Foster saw one bird on 21 Oct 1985 on Nations Rd (KB:36,1, LG:11,11). An unspecified observer saw one bird on Hemlock

Lake on 14 Sep 1974 (KB:25,1). More winter records exist than fall (due to the CBCs). Several observers saw a single bird over Hemlock Lake on 26 Dec 1977 (GH:34,2, KB:28,2). J. Bouton and E. Brooks recorded one immature 21 Jan 1986 at Retsof (GH:42,3, KB:36,2). A. and D. Strong saw one fly over the waterworks plant on Hemlock Lake on 26 Dec 1992 (GH, 49,2, KB:43,2). The 1992 LL CBC bird was observed in the county by T. Bartlett. It was flying overhead near the north end of Hemlock Lake by the waterworks (D. Strong, pers. comm.). One adult was found by D. Tetlow in Dalton on 21 Jan 1998 (GH:54,3, LG:24,3).

A. C. Bent is linked to local avian history. In his egg collection which was donated to the Smithsonian Institute were two eggs (# B43682) of this species collected on 2 Apr 1897 by E. B. Peck.

LL CBC: Not recorded in the Conesus Area, but recorded in Hemlock area in 1972, 1977 and 1992.
Eaton (1910) Status: Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 3 PR: 2 CO: 2 T: 7

BROAD-WINGED HAWK

(Buteo platypterus)

(Hypothetical Casual Very Rare Winter Visitant)
(Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Spring Transient
Regular Uncommon Summer Resident
03 Apr, 19 Apr (21 Apr - early Oct)

It is most often found on breeding territory in the higher hills in the southern portion of the county where large unbroken tracts of forest exist. In Jan 1984, D. Bassett and W. Hammond observed and photographed an immature wintering bird near Letchworth State Park within a mile of the county line near the Castile entrance (GH:40,4, KB:41,4, pers. comm.). A maximum of eight was tallied on the [curiously] late date of early Oct 1989 in Springwater by H. Hamilton (UGR).

Eaton (1910) Status: Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Uncommon Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 5 PR: 2 CO: 4 T: 11

RED-TAILED HAWK

(Buteo jamaicensis)

Regular Common Winter Visitant
(Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Spring Transient
Regular Common Summer Resident
(Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Fall Transient

This bird is found throughout the county. A maximum of 28 was observed in Retsof on 16 Feb 1982 by K. Griffith (UGR). Determining fall or spring migrants, lingering winter visitants or permanent resident is difficult. Interesting birds include the "albinos" that have been found in the county. From 1975 to 1977 a leucistic bird was intermittently recorded near Lima (GH:33,1, LG:1,3 LG:2,12 LG:3,2). A leucistic bird was also found near Geneseo and intermittently observed between 1992 and 1997.

A. C. Bent is affiliated with local avian history. In his egg collection which was donated to the Smithsonian Institute were three eggs (# B43655) of this species collected on 11 Apr 1897 in York by E. B. Peck. A specimen also exists in the SUC Geneseo collection.

LL CBC: Recorded 34 years; first in 1961; Maximum 44 in 1976; missed only in 1965
Eaton (1910) Status: Common Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Common Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 16 PR: 30 CO: 23 T: 69

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK

(Buteo lagopus)

Regular Fairly Common to Rare Winter Visitant
11 Oct (20 Oct - 31 Mar) 17 Apr, 11 Jun

Eaton (1914) writes, "At intervals of a few years, there appear large flights of these hawks in winter, especially in the Genesee Valley..." However, it does not appear on the Livingston County list in Volume I (1910). Perhaps it was an identification problem or an optics problem or a winter access problem, but Bailey (1934) states that the only bird he ever saw was one which was shot in winter in Retsof. The next record comes from 1946 when a single bird was reported in Springwater. *

The Birds of Livingston County

A field trip by A. Clarridge and F. Dobson to Retsof and Avon on 24 Feb 1988 produced the county maximum of 22 birds (UGR). This surpasses the 15 birds seen on a GOS field trip to the same region in the same year on 14 Feb (GH:44,4, KB:38,2).

A very late spring straggler was observed one mile south of Geneseo on 11 Jun 1972 by B. and G. Perrigo (GH: 28,7, KB:22,4). The bird was well described and identified to be a dark morph adult. It was studied for five minutes from as close as 300 feet as the bird hovered overhead. "The bird was all black except for outstanding white wing patches between the primary tips and the wrist. The topside of bird was all dark except for several thin white bands on the all black tail. The bird also had feathered tarsi. Shape, size and actions were also typical of that species. When last seen, it was still hunting and heading north" (UGR).

A specimen can be found in the RMSC collection.

LL CBC: Recorded: 12 years; first in 1967, Maximum 1 (twelve times)

Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded

Bailey (1934) Status: Rare Transient Visitant

* GOS meeting notes, 11 December 1946

GOLDEN EAGLE

(*Aquila chrysaetos*)

Sporadic Rare Spring Transient
(Hypothetical Rare Fall Transient)

Records from the Letchworth State Park are mostly of birds flying overhead. It has not been recorded in Letchworth State Park in the past decade (D. Bassett, pers. comm.). W. Spofford (KB:9,1, PT:19,5) writes,

"On April 25, 1953 Dr. and Mrs. Axtell and the writer watched a Golden Eagle fly from a perch on the west side of the Genesee River in Letchworth Park, circle over the gorge, and then perch in a live pine tree above a bluff on the other side.

"A Red-tailed Hawk harassed the eagle continuously, the latter sometimes rolling over to meet the vertical stoops of the screaming buzzard. After the eagle had perched among the limbs of the pine, the red-tail continued his assault for several minutes, the eagle turning his head up and crouching at each onslaught. Sometime later the eagle flew to another perch and then disappeared through the trees of a small ravine. This bird was immature, showing white at the base of the tail, but little or none on the wings."

One spring bird (13 May 82) was observed at Hemlock Lake by C. Fleck and C. Peck. The bird was a previously injured bird which C. Peck was actively following.*

Fall records of single birds over the hills of Naples near Hi-Tor and Cummings Nature Center, as well as other sites in Central NY, lend credence to the possibility of fall migrants.

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

* *Goshawk* Vol. 38, No. 7 (July 1982) "fide N. Moon", GOS checklists "fide N. Moon." However, Moon (pers. comm.) does not recall the bird or the situation.

FALCONIDAE

AMERICAN KESTREL

(*Falco sparverius*)

Fairly Common Permanent Resident
Fairly Common Winter Visitant

The American Kestrel is often found throughout the year in grassland areas, such as Nations Rd, Doran Rd in Lima and Retsof. A maximum count of 14 on 13 Dec 1981 on an RBA field trip to Conesus Lake (LG:8,1) was bested by 30 on 02 Jan 1982 by an unspecified observer on a field trip to Conesus and Nations Rd (URR). Specimens exist in the RMSC collection (2) and the SUC Geneseo collection (2).

LL CBC: Recorded 32 years; First in 1961; Maximum 17 in 1976

Eaton (1910) Status: Fairly Common Summer Resident

Bailey (1934) Status: Common Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 7 PR: 25 CO: 35 T: 67

MERLIN

(Falco columbarius)

Occasional Rare Winter Visitant*
 (Presumably Irregular) Rare Spring Transient*
 Sporadic Rare Summer Visitant*
 Irregular Rare Fall Transient*
 (17 Aug - 11 Oct) 10 Nov

The first recent record** for the county came from W. Listman on 02 Jan 1961 near Livonia (KB:11,1).

The following may represent summering birds, or early "Fall" migrants. K. Griffith saw one on 17 Aug 1983 in Avon (GH:39,10). J. H. Madden saw one in Livonia on 30 Jul 1986 (GH:42,9, KB:36,4) and 08 Aug 1986 (GH:42,10, KB:36,4). H. Hamilton observed one in Springwater in early Aug 1990 (GH:46,9).

Site fidelity has been quite consistent of late. J. H. Madden often observed a Merlin snatching feeder birds and perching within 15 feet of his picture window (UGR). A Merlin was recorded in every year from 1981 to 1993 in either Livonia (J. H. Madden) or Springwater (H. Hamilton), often times lingering for several days or several months, although no independent observers ever corroborated any of the Springwater records. Beardslee and Mitchell (1965, p. 181) mention two nestings in Western NY; one by "experienced observers, who on June 25, 1939, found a nest in the top of a dead stub near the Genesee River at Scottsville." Again, the location "Scottsville" is in question (see the introduction). The other breeding record (by E. H. Short) was just over the county line near Naples in Ontario County (which may have been Livingston County). The dates, regular occurrence and site fidelity of recent sightings of the Merlin are interesting in respect to the possibility of nesting birds.

Aside from the Springwater records, it has been recorded in every month, except June. Few late spring records exist (where, oddly enough, it occurs with the most consistency to the north in Monroe County (RAS, 1985)). The only spring records was the one on 13 Apr 1957 (KB:7,2), the one near the Genesee Abbey in April or May of 1979 by R. Beason (pers. comm.) and one on Nations Rd by J. Kimball (pers. comm.) on 28 Mar 1998.

LL CBC: Recorded 5 years; First in 1972; Maximum 1 (five times)
 Eaton (1910) Status: Transient Visitants
 Bailey (1934) Status: Not recorded

* This data excludes the unconfirmed Springwater records.

** The published record by J. Haller "in the vicinity of her feeder" in Avon from 1-31 Dec 1958 (KB:9,1) was actually at Meadowood in Monroe County (J. H. notes).

PEREGRINE FALCON

(Falco peregrinus)

Sporadic Rare Spring Transient
 Sporadic Rare Fall Transient
 08 Sep, 24 Sep, 30 Sep, 01 Oct, 10 Oct

Beardslee and Mitchell (1965) were convinced that they nested on the cliffs of Letchworth. "They were there continuously during the spring months in the early 1930s and as late as June 14, 1932 ... but positive corroboration is lacking." Rosche (1967) gives no specific dates but said they nested in the middle and late 1930s but "definite evidence of nesting and summer sight records are apparently lacking."

Bailey (1934) is unclear about the status of this species. His dates are also confusing. He states "not seen by author nor anybody he knows, but is included as a prophecy" and says that the "shales of Letchworth are not wholly favorable". Yet in the next paragraph, he says that on Apr 30, 1933, the Superintendent of Letchworth shot the young birds (implied successful nesting) at Inspiration Point in 1932 because they were "catching too many birds." He also said that they had nested in 1912 near Portage (presumably in Letchworth State Park). It appears that knowledge of the species changed after the original text was typed and recent information was just appended to the original manuscript. Although April 30th is an early nesting date, it falls within the NYS breeding range stated by Bull (1974).

A rare sighting was made by J. Foster in the Groveland Flats on 10 Oct 1985 (LG:11,11). He was watching a Peregrine flying when, out of nowhere, a Merlin stooped on the Peregrine. It actually hit the Peregrine as Foster recalls seeing a feather fall to the ground (pers. comm.).

Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded
 Bailey (1934) Status: Rare Summer Resident

GYRFALCON

(Falco rusticolus)

Sporadic Very Rare Winter Visitant

Three winter records exist for this bird. The first record for the county was a dark morph flying over Brown Street in Lima recorded by J. Foster on 05 Oct 1981 (KB:32,1, LG:7,11, pers. comm.).

The second record was a juvenile gray morph south of Lima on Chase Road seen by J. Bouton, J. Dodge, K. Griffith, R. Oswald, R. Mather and some other observers on 31 Dec 1988. The bird was first spotted in a field and was observed in a scope for over 30 minutes before it flew off. It was relocated on a utility pole, where it was photographed and studied again. After one more period of observation in a tree, the bird flew off and was not relocated again (GH:45,2, KB:39,2, LG:15,1). The bird was described as having a large mass, long wing almost to the tail, indistinct but visible facial markings (malar stripe), pale supercilium line. A direct size comparison was made with a N. Harrier. Flight revealed broad, pointed wings and it flew with stiff, slow, deep wing beats (Unpublished RBA and GOS verification reports).

The most recent record was a gray morph perched in a tree in Lakeville near the US 20A onramp to the I-390. It was recorded by J. Skelly on 01 Jan 1994 and was last seen flying west (KB:44,2, LG:20,2). According to an unpublished RBA verification report, it was a bulky hawk on a light pole, "heavily streaked on the chest and belly, faint facial pattern with a line from eye downward across the face and had a long barred tail and wings reaching halfway down the tail. The overall size, broad wings and powerful flight was indicative of a Gyrfalcon."

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

GALLIFORMES

PHASIANIDAE

RING-NECKED PHEASANT

(Phasianus colchicus)

Fairly Common (formerly Common to Abundant) Introduced Permanent Resident

The only suggestion of birds in Livingston County in *Birds of Western New York* (Eaton, 1901) is that of Mongolian Pheasants in the Genesee River Valley. DeGraff, in the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* (1988), is quoted as saying that the first successful introduction of the pheasant in New York State was on Gardiner's Island off Long Island in 1892. The second introduction in the state was in Livingston County in 1903. However, Bailey (1934), who lived during that time period states that the first introduction of the bird was in 1888 by Major W. A. Wadsworth on the Wadsworth property in the Genesee River Valley. If Bailey's records are correct, then the first introduction of pheasant in the state was in Livingston County, although Bailey does not mention the success of that release.

According to Benson (1948), the combined efforts of the Wadsworth estate and the state of New York released about 500 pheasants by 1905. By 1909, they were so common that an open season was declared and 4000 cock birds were shot. Older hunters claim that their peak numbers were around 1928, but the DEC indicated 1938 as their peak. High numbers were claimed from 1925 to 1940 and the decline was first noticed in 1941 that continues to the present time (circa 1948) (Bensen, 1948).

In fact, the bird is still in decline in 1997. A state policy in 1970 curtailed the restocking of this species (KB:20,2) and, by 1986, Region 2 editor K. Griffith claimed that the pheasant "was not reported in great numbers. As a gamebird, it has declined drastically. Since its decline in the 1970s it has been a difficult species to monitor" (KB:36,4). Further evidence of its decline is that the bird was recorded in the Conesus area on the LL CBC every year, except the most recent, 1996. The maximum of 165 was on 03 Jan 1970 in Livonia by J. H. Madden (UGR) while on the LL CBC, followed by 56 on Nations Road on 16 Jan 1977 by R. Spahn, M. A. Sunderlin and W. Lloyd (UGR). The maximum in the past decade is a meager 14 birds recorded on 17 Jun 1987 by D. Bassett on the Mt. Morris BBS Route. Specimens (8) can be found in the SUC Genesee collection.

LL CBC: Recorded 34 times; First in 1961; Maximum 165 in 1970 (62 in 1975); missed in 1996

Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded

Bailey (1934) Status: Introduced Common Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 15 PR: 28 CO: 18 T: 61

RUFFED GROUSE

(Bonasa umbellus)

Fairly Common Permanent Resident

Most often found in scrubby understory, especially in the higher elevation in the southern half of the county. A high count of 12 was tallied by H. Hamilton in Springwater in early Jan 1995 (GH:51,3) unless the count of 21 (20 of which were chicks)

seen on an RBA field trip to the Dishmill area of Letchworth State Park in June 1984 is accepted (LG:10,5). In spring, they are most often heard drumming and seldom seen. A specimen can be found in the SUC Geneseo collection.

LL CBC: Recorded 22 years; First in 1961; Maximum 12 in 1987
 Eaton (1910) Status: Common Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Common Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 10 PR: 7 CO: 10 T: 27

WILD TURKEY

(Meleagris gallopavo)

Common Permanent Resident

Early historical records exist for the bird in the county, such as the turkey shoots, circa 1814, that occupied the time of youths (Doty, 1876, p. 679). Audubon never met any in his rambles in New York State and the Great Lakes, circa 1840, although he was informed that they existed (Bent, 1963). Hunting extirpated the bird from the region and New York State by the mid-1800s. Isolated groups of wild birds survived in the hills of Western Pennsylvania (Eaton, 1981).

In 1959, the NYS DEC initiated a trap and transfer program that lasted through the late 1970s. Wild birds in Cattaraugus, Steuben and Allegany counties probably arrived by early restocking efforts or a natural range expansion from the southern tier and Western Pennsylvania. Wild birds were taken from these local strongholds and released elsewhere in the state. The only restocked turkeys in Livingston County were trapped in Steuben County and released into Conesus on Feb (7 birds) and Apr 1975 (1 bird) (NYSDEC, 1978).

In the "Summary of Area Bird Life" (author unknown, 1960, UGR), the Wild Turkey was reported in 1960. "It was known to be present in the 'little finger lakes' area. These are introduced birds...as much of Livingston County is unsuitable for turkey habitat." However, the Wild Turkey is presently widespread throughout all of Livingston County.

The first report of (non-stocked) turkeys in the county from the birding community was sometime prior to 1957 near Ossian (Eaton, 1964). The first actual date found was on 01 Jan 1979 (LG:5,2), when M. Davids tallied 34 in Mt. Morris (which is, excepting a CBC total, also the maximum count for the county). The CBC total of 38 was by M. Davids and C. Cass on 27 Dec 1995 near Conesus (UGR, URR). At the time, rumors (justified below) were that they were being seen in the southern parts of the county in the mid-1970s, and a map in Bull (1974) shows them just south of the county line.

To get an idea of the population explosion of the birds, harvested turkeys during the hunting season is a great indicator. The first fall and spring seasons in the state opened in 1959 and 1968 (NYSDEC, 1978), respectively, but with limited duration and location. The success of the restocking efforts is indicated by the fact that the hunting season in Livingston County opened in the spring of 1971. Since their extirpation in the 1800s, turkeys were first positively recorded in the county again when three turkeys were taken in the spring 1971 hunting season (NYSDEC, 1978). This is long before the first sight record by birders and several years prior to the restocked birds at Conesus indicating a natural range expansion. The first double-digit spring turkey takes were in 1977 and numbers have skyrocketed since then with a seasonal peak of 133 in the spring of 1996, despite establishing a two-bird bag limit in the spring of 1982 (NYSDEC, 1978). The turkey harvest data for fall shows similar trends. In Livingston County, the fall season first opened in 1975, the first birds (3) were taken in 1977, double-digit takes occurred by 1980, a two-bird bag limit was established in 1992, and a seasonal peak of 91 birds was reached in the fall of 1995 (NYSDEC, 1978). Clearly, the bird seems to be rapidly filling its former niche and can be seen throughout the county and the state.

LL CBC: Recorded 2 years; First in 1987; Maximum 38 in 1987
 Eaton (1910) Status: Extirpated
 Bailey (1934) Status: Not recorded
 Breeding Status - PO: 15 PR: 7 CO: 22 T: 44

ODONTOPHORIDAE

NORTHERN BOBWHITE

(Colinus virginianus)

Extirpated (formerly Common) Permanent Resident

Bailey's accounts (1934) detail the extirpation of the bobwhite from the county. He said that they "formerly nested in Groveland, the town of Conesus and edge of Conesus inlet." His records of the last nesting pair from July and August 1910 in which the birds lasted until October. One bird survived the first day of the pheasant season onslaught, but was shot on the second day. He suggests that one cause of the decline of the bobwhite may have been that pheasants were "unfriendly toward quail" and ousted them out of their habitat. His last sight record was in May 1932.

All bird sightings since this time (including those on the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* (1988)) are strongly suspected of being escaped or introduced birds from sportsmen clubs. A specimen can be found in the SUC Geneseo collection.

Eaton (1910) Status: Rare Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Rare Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 1 PR: 1 CO: 0 T: 2

GRUIFORMES

RALLIDAE

VIRGINIA RAIL

(*Rallus limicola*)

(Presumably Regular) Uncommon Local Summer Resident
19 Apr (23 Apr - 15 Sep) 28 Sep

This bird of the marshes is regularly found on the summer field trip to Letchworth State Park at the SR 436 marsh. It can be found at other marshes in the county in the summer as well. The maximum was four on 27 Jun 1985 by W. Symonds in Leicester and York (URR).

LL CBC: Recorded on the count, but not in Livingston County
Eaton (1910) Status: Fairly Common Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Fairly Common Summer Resident and Transient
Breeding Status - PO: 7 PR: 2 CO: 1 T: 11

SORA

(*Porzana carolina*)

(Presumably Regular) Uncommon Local Summer Resident
08 Apr (19 Apr - 02 Aug) (presumably much later)

Like the Virginia Rail, this rail is sometimes found on the summer field trip to Letchworth State Park at the SR 436 marsh and other marshes in the county. A maximum of four was tallied there on 01 Jun 1985 on the annual RBA/GOS field trip (URR, UGR). A specimen can be found in the SUC Geneseo collection.

Eaton (1910) Status: Fairly Common Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Fairly Common Summer Resident and Transient
Breeding Status - PO: 6 PR: 1 CO: 1 T: 9

PURPLE GALLINULE

(*Porphyrio martinicus*)

Exotic Very Rare Fall Visitor

On 04 Oct 1970, R. E. Estes picked up a strange bird along the side of Maxwell Station Rd south of Scottsville a few hundred yards within Livingston County. Neither he, nor his birding neighbor D. W. Schillinger, could figure out what it was. Estes called "Birds Afield" columnist J. W. Brown, who recounts the tale (Brown, 1970). Brown went to the Estes residence and described the bird as "a greenish brownish bird walking around in a bathtub." Obviously a rail, but he did not have the slightest idea which one. They checked all the field guides and the closest was an immature Purple Gallinule shown swimming in the Audubon guide. Brown took the hungry bird to J. Czech, assistant curator of natural history at the [Rochester] Museum and Science Center. Czech confirmed the identification and force fed the bird to get it eating by itself. A day later, it was ready to be released but the late date would be "tantamount to signing its death warrant." It was turned over to the Seneca Park Zoo and resided there for several months. Later notes revealed that it died in captivity on 01 Mar 1971 (UGR).

At the time, it was the first immature of this species in New York State and the first record for the Rochester region. Although no breeding records of this species exist in NYS, Brown notes that they are "not great flyers" and raises the possibility that it was raised in the region. However, there is no certainty of that (KB:21,1).

Being a very rare species in New York State, it is curious to know that an adult bird was captured and released near Binghamton in the late spring of the same year (KB:20,4 p. 179).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

COMMON MOORHEN

Casual Very Rare Winter Visitant
 (Presumably Regular) Uncommon Local Summer Resident
 (02 May - 15 Sep) 05 Oct

The Common Moorhen may be found in marshy areas with open water around the county. Likely spots are the south ends of both Conesus and Hemlock lakes. The county maximum of 11 (adult with 10 young) was tallied by J. Kimball on 26 Aug 1997 at the Conesus Swamp (pers. comm.). On 17 Jan 1998, D. Tetlow heard call notes of this species on Spring Creek in Caledonia. He returned on 23 Jan and was able to get sight verification of this bird (in the same field of view as a Wood Duck and a N. Pintail) (GH:54,3, LG:24,3, pers. comm.). A specimen can be found in the SUC Geneseo collection.

Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded
 Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 4 PR: 1 CO: 2 T: 7

AMERICAN COOT

(Fulica americana)

Regular Very Common Winter Visitant
 Regular Common Spring Transient
 05 Mar (20 Mar - 22 Apr) 11 May
 (Presumably Irregular) Rare Local Summer Visitant/Resident
 Regular Common to Very Common Fall Transient
 25 Sep (14 Oct - 25 Jan)

It is most often found on Conesus Lake, although it sometimes can be seen on the larger farm ponds. Sometimes it is found in large numbers in late fall and early winter. At least thrice, 1000 birds were estimated: on 25 Nov 1970 by W. Listman (GH:27,1, KB:21,1), on 28 Dec 1975 on the LL CBC (LG:2,1), and on 02 Feb 1998 by R. Beason (GH:54,4, LG:24,4). It usually remains until Conesus Lake freezes. Returning birds in the spring number less than fall migrants. The spring maximum was 60 recorded on 26 Mar 1997 on Conesus Lake (pers. obs.).

Bailey (1934) considered it a possible summer breeder. Recent summer records are few. Breeders, or perhaps late lingering migrants, have been seen at the Conesus Swamp on 11 Jun 1997 and 06 Jun 1998 at the Conesus Swamp (pers. obs.). Two birds at a marsh along the greenway in Cuylerville on 11 Jul, 14 Jul and 30 1998 are probable summer breeders (J. Kimball, pers. comm.).

LL CBC: Recorded 28 years; First in 1961; Maximum 1000 in 1975
 Eaton (1910) Status: Fairly Common Summer Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Common Transient, Possible Summer Breeder

CHARADRIIFORMES

CHARADRIIDAE

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER

(Pluvialis squatarola)

(Presumably Irregular) Uncommon Spring Transient
 23 Apr (23 May - 02 Jun)
 Irregular Uncommon Fall Transient
 (06 Sep - 18 Nov)

The first record for the county (and maximum) was the eight recorded by J. Chapin at Groveland on 23 May 1948 (GH:40,7/8). An early spring migrant was found on 23 Apr 1998 along Fowlerville Rd in Avon by K. Fox and T. Lathrop (GH:54,6, LG:24,6). This migrant is most often found in fall migration in wet or muddy farm fields that are disked flat.

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER

(*Pluvialis dominica*)

Casual Rare Spring Transient
(Presumably Irregular) Fairly Common to Very Common Fall Transient
(06 Sep - 07 Oct) 7 Nov, 12 Nov, 13 Nov

The first sighting for the county was not recorded until 06 Sep 1970 when A. and J. Foster found 25 in Lima (UGR). This migrant is most often found in fall in wet or muddy farm fields, e.g. 200 birds recorded on 15 Sep 1970 in Lima by J. Foster (KB:21,1) and on 13 Sep 1987 on Nations Rd by J. Foster (KB:38,1, LG:13,10). On 11 Apr 1997, the only spring record was found by J. Kimball near a mud spot on the Genesee flats near the airstrip. The bird, starting to molt into alternate plumage, was seen by several observers prior to leaving on 20 Apr (GH:53,6, LG:23,5).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER

(*Charadrius semipalmatus*)

(Presumably Regular) Fairly Common Spring Transient
(09 May - 02 Jun) 15 Jun
(Presumably Regular) Fairly Common Fall Transient
29 Jul (07 Aug - 06 Oct)

This species is most often found during migration in wet or muddy farm fields. The maximum is 120, 18 May to 31 May 1948, Groveland, J. Chapin (GH:1,3). An unusual record exists for a bird seen 29 Nov 1978 in Livonia (KB:29,1). It is possible that a Killdeer was seen and accidentally marked on the checklist as this species. The observer regularly and primarily recorded feeder birds. Whether a Semipalmated Plover or a Killdeer was really seen is undetermined.

Eaton (1910) Status: Transient Visitant
Bailey (1934) Status: Transient Visitant

KILLDEER

(*Charadrius vociferus*)

Irregular Rare Winter Visitant
Regular Common Spring Transient
Regular Common Summer Resident
Regular Common Fall Transient

In breeding season, this bird is usually found throughout the county and can often be heard flying overhead, even at night. In winter, the bird is most often found on CBC's near water or a spring. Spring arrivals have been seen as early as 17 Feb such as the one seen by A. and J. Foster in Dansville in 1970 (UGR). In Lima on 15 Sep 1970, A. and J. Foster tallied the county maximum of 300 (GH:26,8, KB:21,1).

LL CBC: Recorded 14 years; First in 1963; Maximum 3 in 1973 and 1987
Eaton (1910) Status: Common Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Common Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 12 PR: 5 CO: 55 T: 72

SCOLOPACIDAE

GREATER YELLOWLEGS

(*Tringa melanoleuca*)

Regular Fairly Common Spring Transient
30 Mar (09 Apr - 24 May)
(Presumably Regular) Fairly Common Fall Transient
27 Jul (04 Aug - 23 Nov) 24 Nov

On 23 Nov 1964, R. McKinney recorded one along the Genesee River in Letchworth State Park (KB:15,1). This date was topped when A. and J. Foster and M. Davids recorded 1-2 at Conesus Lake from 20-24 Nov 1983 (URR). This migrant is most

often found in spring or fall on the edges of farm ponds, or flooded farm fields. The maximum was 40 on 29 Oct 1961 at the Groveland Flats recorded by W. Listman (KB:11.4).

Eaton (1910) Status: Transient Visitant
Bailey (1934) Status: Transient Visitant

LESSER YELLOWLEGS

(Tringa flavipes)

(Presumably Regular) Fairly Common Spring Transient
28 Mar, 30 Mar (13 Apr - 22 May)
Regular Fairly Common Fall Transient
28 Jun (10 Jul - 06 Nov) 11 Nov, 24 Nov

This migrant is most often found in spring or fall on the edges of farm ponds, or flooded farm fields. The earliest spring record of a single bird on 28 Mar 1971 on Nations Rd was well described by B. and G. Perrigo, J. Claffey and J. Doherty (GH:27,5, KB:21,2). K. Fox (pers. obs.) and J. Kimball tallied the county maximum of 45-50 on 20 Jul 1998 at the Genesee airfield.

Eaton (1910) Status: Transient Visitant
Bailey (1934) Status: Transient Visitant

SOLITARY SANDPIPER

(Tringa solitaria)

(Presumably Regular) Uncommon Spring Transient
27 Apr (02 May - 30 May) 05 Jun
(Presumably Regular) Uncommon Fall Transient
07 Jul (14 Jul - late Sep) 11 Oct

This migrant is most often found in spring or fall on the edges of farm ponds, flooded farm fields or streams. On 11 Oct 1982, F. Dobson recorded one late bird in Avon (GH:38,12). The maximum was 15 recorded on 14 May 1997 in Lima (pers. obs.).

Eaton (1910) Status: Transient Visitant
Bailey (1934) Status: Transient Visitant

SPOTTED SANDPIPER

(Actitis macularia)

Regular Common Summer Resident
07 Apr (27 Apr - 16 Oct) 10 Nov

The earliest spring bird was discovered on 07 Apr 1970 on the Groveland Flats by F. Templeton (UGR). The latest fall bird was recorded on 10 Nov 1997 from Vitale Park on Conesus Lake by T. Lathrop (GH:53,1, LG:23,1). The maximum of 30 was counted on Hemlock Lake by C. Cass from 07 to 13 Aug 1988 (UGR, URR).

Eaton (1910) Status: Common Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 12 PR: 7 CO: 19 T: 38

UPLAND SANDPIPER

(Bartramian longicauda)

Regular Uncommon Local Summer Resident
12 Apr (26 Apr - 10 Aug) 26 Aug

This grassland bird is usually found in unused farm fields or old pastures with low growing grass. An established colony has existed on the Nations Farm on Nations Rd since at least the late 1950s (and may currently be the only 'permanent' one in the county as the numbers of this species are decreasing). This colony provided the maximum count of 20 on 06 May 1996 (pers. obs.).

Bailey (1934) adds that they arrive in the last week in April or the first week in May. He said that the "blossoming of field daisies is coincident with incubation period." He said that they prefer the land above the flood level, but not on the highland hills

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and that they were increasing in numbers. Although there were no confirmed records in the BBA, J. Foster (pers. comm.) recalls seeing one standing in the middle of the road pipping, and it would not get out of the way of his car. Then, "seven puffs [juveniles] on long legs came out and crossed the road." This observation confirms breeding success that year.

Eaton (1910) Status: Summer Resident

Bailey (1934) Status: Fairly Common Summer Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 9 PR: 9 CO: 0 T: 18

RUDDY TURNSTONE

(*Arenaria interpres*)

Casual Very Rare Spring and Fall Transient

This bird was first recorded in the county by J. Chapin on 18 May 1948 in Groveland (GH:1,3). A single bird was recorded 26 Aug 1981 at Hemlock Lake and seen by many until 13 Sep (UGR, URR).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

RED KNOT

(*Calidris canutus*)

Casual Very Rare Fall Transient

S. and R. Spahn were the only observers to record one bird on 16 Aug 1981 and also on 29 Aug 1981 at Hemlock Lake. Whether this represents one or two individuals is not known (UGR).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

SANDERLING

(*Calidris alba*)

Very Rare Spring and Fall Transient

J. Haller recorded one on 04 Jun 1961 on the Street Farm near Avon (KB:11,3, J. H. notes). At Hemlock Lake, two to six birds were seen by many observers from 04 Aug to 06 Oct 1981 (UGR, URR).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER

(*Calidris pusilla*)

(Presumably Irregular) Fairly Common Spring Transient

03 May, 05 May (17 May - 31 May) 15 Jun

(Presumably Irregular) Fairly Common to Common Fall Transient

07 Jul (19 Jul - 16 Oct) 29 Nov

The spring maximum was 275 recorded on the Street Farm near Avon by J. Haller on 15 Jun 1961 (J. H. notes). The fall maximum was 75 seen by many observers at Hemlock Lake in late Aug 1981 (UGR, URR). Normally, it is found in migration on the edges of farm ponds or muddy flooded fields.

Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded

Bailey (1934) Status: Common Transient Visitant

LEAST SANDPIPER

(*Calidris minutilla*)

(Presumably Regular) Fairly Common to Common Spring Transient

(06 May - 05 Jun)

(Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Fall Transient

28 Jun (14 Jul - late Sep) 06 Oct

This migrant is most often found on the edges of ponds or flooded farm fields as indicated by the maximum for the county of 80 tallied on 18 May to 31 May 1948 in Groveland by J. Chapin (GH:1,3). More recently, 55 were counted on 16 May 1997 in Lima (pers. obs.) and 75 on 15 May 1998 at the Geneseo Airfield by J. Kimball and K. Fox (LG:24,7).

Eaton (1910) Status: Transient Visitant
Bailey (1934) Status: Transient Visitant

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER

(*Calidris fuscicollis*)

Casual Rare Fall Transient
Casual Uncommon Spring Transient

J. Foster observed three on 28 Sep 1974 in Lima (GH:30,9, KB:25,1) for the first record for the county.

On 11 Nov 1997 in a muddy field at the north end of Nations Road, J. Kimball (GH:54,1, pers. comm.) recorded one (possibly two) White-rumps feeding with other shorebirds. "The long wing points, flank streaking and the white rump patch were all obvious."

The only spring record is when J. Kimball and K. Fox (pers. obs.) observed several from 22 to 29 May 1998 (with a maximum count of 12).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER

(*Calidris bairdii*)

Casual Rare Fall Transient

The first record for the county comes from J. Foster and A. Cornell who observed one on 21 Sep 1969 at Hemlock Lake (GH:25,9, KB:20,1). The only other record was three to five birds seen by several observers at Hemlock Lake between 16 Aug and 30 Aug 1981 (GH:37,9, KB:31,4).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

PECTORAL SANDPIPER

(*Calidris melanotos*)

(Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Spring Transient
08 Mar (16 Mar - 05 May) 24 May
(Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Fall Transient
20 Jul (14 Aug - 25 Oct) 11 Nov

At least 300 were seen on 07 Apr 1981 in Lima by J. Foster (KB:31,3, published as 15 Apr according to LG:3,5).

Eaton (1910) Status: Transient Visitant
Bailey (1934) Status: Not recorded

DUNLIN

(*Calidris alpina*)

(Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Spring Transient
11 Apr (28 Apr - 24 May) 15 Jun
(Presumably Occasional Fairly Common) Fall Transient
(11 Oct - 18 Nov) (presumably arrives earlier)

The first record for the county (and the maximum) was 160 birds which were counted from 18 May to 31 May 1948 in Groveland by J. Chapin (GH:1,3). The earliest spring record was when J. Kimball found one bird on 11 Apr 1997 at the Geneseo Airfield (GH:53,6, LG:23,5). The latest spring record was on 15 Jun 1961 when J. Haller found one on the Street Farm near Avon (J. H. notes).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

STILT SANDPIPER

(*Calidris himantopus*)

Casual Rare Fall Transient

W. Listman recorded the first for the county when he found two birds on the Groveland Flats on 17 Jul 1960 (GH:12,2). Several observers saw one to two birds at Hemlock Lake from 26 Aug to 13 Sep 1981 (UGR, URR).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER

(*Tryngites subruficollis*)

Casual Very Rare Fall Transient

The only record for the county is a single bird found by A. and J. Foster on 06 Sep 1970 (GH:26,8, KB:21,1). The bird was found "moving about very actively" in a plowed field east of Clay St, Lima on US 20 in the company of American Golden Plovers and Killdeer. The bird was studied for approximately 20 minutes with binoculars and a spotting scope at a distance of about 100 feet. Noted were the "buffy head and underparts that contrasted very sharply to the darker, scaly looking back. White eye ring, small head, long neck, and light legs were seen. The bill was dark, rather slim and about as long as the head measured from the base of bill to back of head" (Unpublished GOS verification report).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER

(*Limnodromus griseus*)

Casual Rare Spring Transient
Casual Uncommon Fall Transient

The first record for the county was a single bird found by S. and R. Spahn on 16 Aug 1981 at Hemlock Lake (UGR). Numbers increased to 24 and many observers saw the birds until they were last recorded on 06 Oct (UGR, URR). The earliest fall arrival was recorded at the Geneseo airfield on 19-20 Jul 1998 by J. Kimball (pers. comm.) and K. Fox (pers. obs.). The only spring birds were recorded at Twin Cedars on 17 May to 25 May 1995 when the dike created a temporary mud flat (pers. obs.).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER

(*Limnodromus scolopaceus*)

Casual Very Rare Fall Transient

A single record exists for the county. A lone Long-billed Dowitcher was seen on the temporary mudflats of Hemlock Lake on 13 Oct 1997 (GH:53,11, LG:23,10, pers. obs.). The bird was observed with a spotting scope for several minutes at 30 meters. Among several Greater Yellowlegs, the large shorebird with a long bill was determined to be a juvenile because of the lack of molt and freshness of plumage. The bird had a gray-brown back, with each feather having a fine chestnut-rufous edge. The tertials and scapulars did not have any internal markings. The head and neck were "bullish" in proportion and grayish, which contrasted with the warmer upper breast. The breast was unspotted, but the flanks were barred. The uppertail was noted as having fine white lines alternating with large black bars. In flight, the bird had a large white back patch. Its call, heard several times in flight, was described as a single-noted "keek". It was last seen feeding against the west bank of Hemlock Lake within Livingston County.

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

COMMON SNIPE

(*Gallinago gallinago*)

Occasional Rare Winter Visitant
(Presumably Regular) Fairly Common Spring Transient
Regular Uncommon Summer Resident
(20 Mar - 06 Oct) 24 Oct, 05 Nov, 24 Nov
(Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Fall Transient

Migrant snipe seem to prefer damp grassy fields with large puddles. This fits the description of the spot where the spring maximum of 11 was seen on 26 Apr 1997 on Nations Rd. The fall maximum was 12 seen in late Sep 1970 by J. Foster in Lima (UGR). Breeding snipe are regularly found in damp fields and marshes in several sites throughout the county.

Some have overwintered successfully such as the one in Lima in the winter of 1977-78. This bird was in the vicinity of an American Pipit and a Killdeer that overwintered as well.

Determining whether some birds are overwintering or early migrants is difficult. This includes the two seen by J. Foster on 18 Feb 1973 in Lima (GH:29,4) and the four seen by R. Garnham on Hemlock Lake on 17 Feb 1985 (GH:41,4, KB: 35,2).

LL CBC: Recorded 2 years; First in 1972; Maximum 1 in 1972 and 1986

Eaton (1910) Status: Uncommon Transient Visitant

Bailey (1934) Status: Transient Visitant

Breeding Status - PO: 5 PR: 5 CO: 1 T: 11

AMERICAN WOODCOCK

(*Scolopax minor*)

Regular Fairly Common Summer Resident

13 Mar (18 Mar - 20 Sep) 09 Oct, 12 Nov

The timberdoodle is often heard peenting his courtship song at dusk in scrubby hillside fields throughout the county. Appearing around mid-March, the bird is easily detected until he stops "singing" in late May. After June, the bird is seldom recorded unless flushed. A maximum of six has been recorded on several occasions from several sites. A specimen exists at SUC Geneseo.

Eaton (1910) Status: Fairly Common Summer Resident

Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 2 PR: 23 CO: 2 T: 27

WILSON'S PHALAROPE

(*Phalaropus tricolor*)

Casual Very Rare Fall Transient

A very early migrant was observed by R. O'Hara (and others) on 01 Jul 1974 on Nations Rd in Geneseo (KB:24,4, pers. comm).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

LARIDAE

BONAPARTE'S GULL

(*Larus philadelphia*)

(Presumably Occasional) Rare to Uncommon Winter Visitant

(26 Dec - 11 Jan)

(Presumably Regular) Fairly Common Spring Transient

22 Mar (09 Apr - 23 May)

(Presumably Irregular) Rare to Uncommon Fall Transient

23 Oct (12 Nov - 07 Dec)

This bird is often seen in small flocks on Conesus Lake in migration. It can sometimes be seen touching down at small ponds or puddles along the Genesee River during the spring season. The maximum was 60 on 30 Nov 1983 on Conesus Lake by C. Cass, *et al* (UGR, URR).

LL CBC: Recorded 2 years; First in 1983; Maximum 3 in 1983

Eaton (1910) Status: Uncommon Transient Visitant

Bailey (1934) Status: Not recorded

RING-BILLED GULL

(*Larus delawarensis*)

Regular Very Common (sometimes Abundant) Winter Visitant
Regular Abundant Spring Transient
Regular Fairly Common Local Summer Resident
Regular Abundant Fall Transient

Bailey (1934) found this bird on Conesus Lake. He claimed that this gull was difficult to distinguish from a Herring Gull because he seldom was near enough to distinguish the black ring on bill. Field identification techniques have improved since his time, but the bird is still found on Conesus Lake, often in the thousands. This species seems to prefer foraging in nearby fields. In the evening, the foraging birds return, sometimes in flocks of over 100 birds, to roost on Conesus Lake.

In winter, it remains in the county as long as open water exists. In spring, the majority of the earliest migrants are adults returning to breeding grounds as soon as there is open water, with peaks of 10-15,000 gulls in late March (pers. obs.). By mid- to late-April, the majority of migrants are immatures. Finding a summering bird, especially an adult, away from Conesus or Hemlock lakes or a nearby field is a challenge. Numbers (including adult birds) increase in early July and peak in late October and early November.

LL CBC: Recorded 29 years; First in 1961; Maximum 1965 in 1990 (1020 in 1996)

Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded

Bailey (1934) Status: Transient Visitant

HERRING GULL

(*Larus argentatus*)

Regular Common (occasionally Abundant) Winter Visitant
(02 Oct - 09 May) 22 May
Regular Fairly Common Spring Transient
Occasional Rare Summer Visitant
Regular Fairly Common Fall Transient

Formerly, this bird was the most common gull to be observed. Bailey (1934) found the bird to be abundant in migration on Conesus Lake. He also makes a special note of finding them during January floods. Since Bailey's time, gull numbers and species proportions have changed dramatically. The noteworthy 12 recorded by D. Wolf on Conesus Lake on 06 Jun 1948 (GH:1,4) supports the change in status and abundance. Few other summer records exist.

Currently, this bird becomes increasingly more common as the winter progresses and sometimes outnumbers the smaller Ring-billed. The maximum of seen 500 on 16 Nov 1975 on Conesus Lake by W. Listman (URR) has only been exceeded by the 1987 LL CBC tally of 867.

LL CBC: Recorded 31 years; First in 1961; Maximum 867 in 1987

Eaton (1910) Status: Occasional Transient Visitant

Bailey (1934) Status: Abundant Transient Visitant

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

(*Larus fuscus*)

Sporadic Very Rare Winter Visitant

The first record for the county was on 29 Dec 1985 near Long Point on Conesus Lake when J. Skelly, *et al*, tallied the bird on the LL CBC (GH:42,2, KB:36,2, LG:12,1). The details of this report were not reviewed.

Another report, also from Conesus Lake, was on an RBA field trip on 09 Dec 1989 (GH:46,2, KB:40,2). C. Cass (pers. comm.) recalls discovering the bird near the end of the field trip which "started out dreary and got progressively worse". D. Miller and N. Miller write that the bird was "almost field guide perfect [with] sooty back of head, yellow legs, dark slate back etc" (URR). B. and W. Powell (pers. comm.) add that it was smaller than a Great Black-backed Gull. W. Powell recalls that C. Cass flapped her arms to get the flock of ice-sitting gulls into flight so the yellow legs could be observed.

On 18 Dec 1997, one adult bird in winter plumage was seen from Vitale Park at Conesus Lake. All field marks were observed in good light and at close distances. It remained one day only (GH:54,2, LG:24,2, pers. obs.).

LL CBC: Recorded 1 year; First in 1985; Maximum 1 in 1985

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

GLAUCOUS GULL

(Larus hyperboreus)

Casual Very Rare Winter Visitant

The only records of this bird come from Conesus Lake on the LL CBC. The first LL CBC record was a bird found by J. W. Brown and W. Listman on 02 Jan 1966 (GH:22,3, KB:16,2). Details surrounding the second LL CBC record (1968) were not found.

LL CBC: Recorded 2 years; First in 1965; Maximum 1 in 1965 and 1968
Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

(Larus marinus)

Irregular Uncommon Winter Visitant (since 1981)
(18 Nov - 05 Feb)

(Presumably Irregular) Rare Spring Transient
06 Mar, 11-14 Mar, 28 Apr
(Presumably Irregular) Rare Fall Transient

G. Meade first recalls seeing one in Rochester, Monroe County on 03 Mar 1920, but not having it become regular as a winter visitant until the 1940s (Peakall, 1967). Few records exist for this bird in the county. The first county record was a single bird on 03 Dec 1981 by C. Cass (UGR). It has been almost regular since. With the exception of the [incredibly high] 1986 LL CBC tally of 37, the maximum recorded was six on 05 Jan 1983 by A. Clarridge and C. Cass (UGR). It is expected to be more common and more regular than is recorded. All records are from Conesus Lake.

LL CBC: Recorded 4 years; First in 1983; Maximum 37 in 1986
Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

CASPIAN TERN

(Sterna caspia)

(Presumably Irregular) Rare Spring Transient
17 Apr, 24 Apr
(Presumably Irregular) Rare Fall Transient

The first record for the county (and only fall) record is a single bird seen at Hemlock Lake on 16 Aug 1981 by S. and R. Spahn (UGR). The only two spring records are on 17 Apr and 24 Apr 1997 from Conesus Lake and the Conesus Swamp (pers. obs.). It is expected to be more regular than is recorded.

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

COMMON TERN

(Sterna hirundo)

(Presumably Irregular) Uncommon Spring Transient
20 Mar, 09-23 May, 23 May
(Presumably Irregular) Uncommon Fall Transient

The only written records are from the larger two lakes, although it is rarely recorded elsewhere, such as over the Genesee River in Letchworth State Park (D. Bassett, pers. comm.). A count of nine on the [early] date of 20 Mar 1979 was reported at Hemlock Lake by C. Cass (GH:35,6). The numbers and size of flocks of this species are small, as indicated by the spring maximum of 2-12 birds on 09 May to 23 May 1948 at Conesus Lake by J. Chapin (GH:1,3). The only fall record is four seen on 09 Oct 1996 at Conesus Lake (pers. obs.). It is expected to be more regular than is recorded.

Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded
Bailey (1934) Status: Occasional Transient Visitant

BLACK TERN

(*Chlidonias niger*)

(Presumably Irregular) Rare Spring Transient
(05 May - 15 Jun)
Former Fairly Common Summer Resident

At Conesus Lake in 1948, J. Chapin recorded 2-16 from 09 May to 30 May (GH:1,3). D. Wolf returned the following month to count 14-60 birds from 06 Jun to 20 Jun (GH:1,4). Although breeding was not mentioned, it is strongly suspected (due to the numbers on those respective dates).

Very few records exist for this species. J. Haller recorded one on 23 May 1961 and seven on 15 Jun 1961 at the Street Farm and two on 05 May 1962 at Groveland (J. H. notes). Recently, one and two have been recorded at Twin Cedars in East Avon on 17 May and 08 Jun 1995, two on 05 May 1996 at Conesus Lake and one at the Conesus Swamp on 09 May 1997 (pers. obs.).

Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded
Bailey (1934) Status: Rare Transient Visitant

COLUMBIFORMES

COLUMBIDAE

ROCK DOVE

(*Columba livia*)

Very Common Permanent Resident

Doves in the country are found primarily in barns, on bridges, or feeding in fields, and city doves are found roosting on rooftops and feeding on streets and in parks. The National Audubon Society officially started counting these birds on CBCs in 1974, and since then they have been tallied every year. The maximum of 400 estimated by M. Davids on 16 Feb 1982 at Retsof and Nations Rd was exceeded only by the 1978 LL CBC tally of 485. Specimens (5) exist in the SUC Geneseo collection.

LL CBC: Recorded 23 years; First in 1974; Maximum 485 in 1978
Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)
Breeding Status - PO: 9 PR: 11 CO: 50 T: 70

MOURNING DOVE

(*Zenaida macroura*)

Common Permanent Resident

Formerly, this bird was much rarer in winter than it is today as it often made the noteworthy sections of the local birding publications. A single bird recorded on 07 Jan 1952 near Avon by Schaffner (PT:18,2), J. Haller's 18 in Avon on 15 Jan 1959 (KB:9,1) and W. Listman's 100 on 01 Jan 1962 in Fowlerville (KB:12,1) were noteworthy. Since the early 1960s, the Mourning Dove is noteworthy only if a few are *not* found in winter. In fact, the largest numbers in recent years come from wintering flocks. In Monroe County, R. E. Horsey (Addition, 1938) gave a date range of "Mar 11 - Nov 28" and cited an average count of 1-4 with the largest flock of 20. Times have changed and the county maximum of 400 was recorded on 03 Jan 1989 in Lima by J. Claffey (URR). Specimens (2) exist at SUC Geneseo.

LL CBC: Recorded 35 years; First in 1961; Maximum 330 in 1989
Eaton (1910) Status: Common Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Common Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 8 PR: 14 CO: 53 T: 75

PASSENGER PIGEON

(*Ectopistes migratorius*)

Extinct (former Abundant Summer Resident)

Bailey (1934) expressed optimism and disbelief. He writes that it "seems impossible that the birds have been totally exterminated in so short a time.... that there is more than an even chance that scattered pairs of these birds are nesting somewhere in the country, probably in the state and possibly Livingston County." Eaton (1909, p. 383) gives the last date for Livingston County as "Livonia, 1896. Small flock. D. Byron White" although Eaton recorded one nearby in Canandaigua on 12 Sep 1902.

Bull (1974) states that the last known breeding record in NYS was adults feeding a fledgling just over the county line in Scottsville, Monroe County on 30 May 1904. The last sight record in the state was Rennsalaer in the summer of 1907 (Eaton, 1910, p. 386).

According to curator R. Cooper (pers. comm.), two Livingston County specimens of this species reside in the RMSC collection. The specimens were purchased in May 1930 and originated from Henry B. Gale. The birds were collected sometime between 1856 and 1860 in Mt. Morris. One specimen is currently on loan to the National Iroquois Museum. Breeding records were not indicated by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934), but they almost certainly bred here.

Eaton (1910) Status: to 1884

Bailey (1934) Status: to 1896

CUCULIFORMES

CUCULIDAE

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO

(*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*)

Regular Uncommon Summer Resident
(17 May - late Aug) 08 Oct

Second growth forests are where this reclusive bird is found. It is usually heard but not seen and is rarely recorded beyond its song period. It is slightly more common than the Yellow-billed Cuckoo and arrives a few days before the Yellow-billed. It seems to be very vocal on arrival, but is quiet soon after establishing territory. A maximum of four has been recorded on a few occasions. A specimen exists at SUC Geneseo.

Eaton (1910) Status: Summer Resident

Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 15 PR: 14 CO: 4 T: 33

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO

(*Coccyzus americana*)

Regular Uncommon Summer Resident
09 May (19 May - 12 Aug) (presumably later)

Rarely recorded beyond its song period, this shy bird is found throughout the county in second growth forests and in the trees along waterways, such as the Genesee River. Although not as common as the Black-billed, it seems to sing later into the season.

Eaton (1910) Status: Summer Resident

Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 13 PR: 7 CO: 1 T: 21

STRIGIFORMES

TYTONIDAE

BARN OWL

(*Tyto alba*)

Occasional Rare Summer Resident

Bailey (1934) was likely correct when he claimed that this species was "probably more widely distributed than we are aware." His claims that it nests between Geneseo and Dansville is supported by the BBA reports. His last report was one that was shot in Aug 1933 at Big Tree Farm, Geneseo. E. H. Eaton (1953) states that the "Barn Owl is trying zealously to colonize New York from the south." *The Kingbird* editor implied that "it is not, nor ever was, firmly established as a breeder in New York State."

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Few recent records exist. The BBA records could not be traced. From 01 Jul to 17 Aug 1976, D. Yorks, J. Foster, *et al.*, watched one in a green feeder silo on Dalton Rd in Lima (LG:2,8-9). On 23 May 1982, in the town of Leicester at the circle, M. Davids (pers. comm.), K. Griffith (pers. comm.) and C. Taylor recorded one bird which flew within five yards of the car and was last seen near a church steeple (GH:38,7, KB:32,3, LG:8,6). S. Adamson recorded one near the Genesee Abbey on River Road on 16 Apr 1992 (S. Adamson, Notes).

A specimen exists in the SUC Genesee collection.

Eaton (1910) Status: Resident

Bailey (1934) Status: Rare Summer Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 7 PR: 0 CO: 2 T: 9

STRIGIDAE

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL

(*Otus asio*)

Fairly Common Permanent Resident

This bird is commonly found in brushy or scrubby areas near towns and parks. The count of 19 in Leicester on 18 Dec 1982 by W. Symonds on the L-SL CBC (KB:33,2 LG:9,1) was surpassed only by the 25 tallied by G. Perrigo and A. Shea on 26 Dec 1976 for the LL CBC (URR). It has been recorded every year on the CBC, except when it was missed in 1961, probably due to lack of coverage. Specimens (6) exist at SUC Genesee. No records of a red morph individual have been recorded.

LL CBC: Recorded 34 years; First in 1963; Maximum 43 in 1976

Eaton (1910) Status: Common Resident

Bailey (1934) Status: Abundant Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 13 PR: 18 CO: 3 T: 34

GREAT HORNED OWL

(*Bubo virginianus*)

Fairly Common Permanent Resident

The Red-tailed Hawk is replaced as top avian predator at dusk by this species which is, likewise, found throughout the county. The maximum count was by G. Perrigo and A. Shea who tallied 21 on 28 Dec 1975 near Conesus Lake on the LL CBC (incorrectly published as 27 in LG:2,1). Bailey (1934) gives 02 March as his earliest date for a nest with eggs. Specimens (2) exist at SUC Genesee.

LL CBC: Recorded 30 years; First in 1961; Maximum 27 in 1975

Eaton (1910) Status: Fairly Common Resident

Bailey (1934) Status: Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 13 PR: 20 CO: 6 T: 39

SNOWY OWL

(*Nyctea scandiaca*)

Occasional (perhaps Irregular) Rare Winter Visitant
(28 Nov - early Mar)

Although he never personally found them, Bailey (1934) reports that several were taken in the winter of 1926-27. Most birds are recorded in the Genesee flats between Avon and Leicester, although there are a few records elsewhere. Some birds are seen for only a single day while others remain for a few weeks to a few months.

Although quite possibly an early migrant through the area, the one reported on 17 Oct 1994 in the Genesee area (KB:45,1) was not observed by others. Perhaps the albino Red-tailed Hawk in the same area during the same time frame was misidentified as this species.

LL CBC: Recorded four times on the CBC, but not within the Conesus Area.

Eaton (1910) Status: Occasional Winter Visitant

Bailey (1934) Status: Rare Winter Visitant

BARRED OWL

(Strix varia)

Uncommon (Presumably Permanent) Resident

Unbroken forest and wooded swamps are regular haunts of this bird. It has been recorded in the swamps and hills near the south end of Conesus Lake, Hemlock Lake and scattered places in the hills in the southern part of the county. On the LL CBC, one was recorded within the county in the north section (Area 5) in 1981 (A. Clarridge, pers. comm.).

LL CBC: Recorded 2 year; First in 1981; Maximum 1 in 1981 and 1987

Eaton (1910) Status: Resident

Bailey (1934) Status: Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 4 PR: 4 CO: 1 T: 9

LONG-EARED OWL

(Asio otus)

Rare Permanent Resident

This species is likely a permanent resident although most of the records are winter records. Owling, as part of the CBCs, accounts for the odd distribution of dates. Confirmed nesting records are primarily located near Avon and York, although a fair number of winter accounts come from the two large lakes and from the southern part of the county. On the LL CBC, one was recorded within the county on the west side of Hemlock Lake (Area 2) in 1991 (T. Bartlett fide D. Strong, pers. comm.).

The high count of seven that would, along with the local Screech Owls, "listen and call to the music of the guitar" during the summer of 1961 was published as Avon (KB:11,3). That record was actually in Meadowood outside the county (J. H. notes). A single specimen exists at SUC Geneseo.

LL CBC: Recorded 2 year; First in 1988; Maximum 1 in 1988 and 1994

Eaton (1910) Status: Fairly Common Resident

Bailey (1934) Status: Rare Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 2 PR: 1 CO: 0 T: 3

SHORT-EARED OWL

(Asio flammeus)

Regular Fairly Common to Rare Winter Visitant

24 Oct (28 Oct - 26 Apr) 02 May

(Presumably Occasional) Rare Local Summer Resident

The winters of 1976-77 and 1977-78 brought unprecedented numbers of these owls to the Nations Rd area in Avon. Many observers saw the owls, but M. and T. Tetlow counted 52 owls on 23 Jan 1977 (KB:27,2, LG:3,2). Many saw the county high the following winter when 58 owls were tallied between 01 Jan and 31 Jan 1978 (LG:4,2).

Records indicate that the Nations Road (Avon) area was 'discovered' as a wintering site by Haller and Hyder in 1962 when "a large concentration [was found in the] Avon area, with 15 reported Dec 3. Reports from farmers and fox hunters indicate that up to 100 may have been present early Dec" (KB:12,1). Reports from Doran Rd in Lima started appearing in the literature in the early 1970s, perhaps due to the efforts of the Fosters. Retsof appeared in the early 1980s.

Bailey (1934) called the bird a summer resident (but not a wintering or transient bird). He believed that the bird nested in the county and searched the most likely place in the county, the Canaseraga marshes, in May and June without success. A pair probably nested at Doran Rd in Lima in 1997, although neither nest nor young were ever seen (GH:53,7, LG:23,6-7, pers. obs.). Other recent summer records are only represented by the BBA records.

This species has been irregularly recorded on the LL CBC (five years since 1985) within the county in the north section (Area 5) near the county line on Lima-Richmond Townline Road (Doran Rd) (A. Clarridge, pers. comm.).

LL CBC: Recorded 4 years; First in 1961; Maximum 1 in 1961, 1971, 1978 and 1988

Eaton (1910) Status: Transient Visitant

Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 4 PR: 1 CO: 0 T: 5

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL

(Aegolius acadicus)

Sporadic Rare Winter Visitant

(Hypothetical Regular Rare Summer Resident)

Although never seen or heard by him, Bailey (1934) included this bird in his book as a possibility. This prophecy came true on 14 Aug 1948 when D. Wolf recorded the first for the county at Conesus Lake (GH:1,4). The two winter records were from the LL CBC. On 30 Dec 1984, M. Davids and J. Bouton found one bird at Conesus Lake (GH:41,2, KB:35,2, LG:11,2), which was recorded again on 05 Jan 1985. In 1992, M. Davids found two birds at Conesus Lake on 26 Dec 1992. It was recorded again on 01 Jan and 09 Jan 1993 (GH:49,2-3, KB:43,2, LG:19,1-2). A secondhand report of one singing in the Conesus Swamp comes from P. Irons fide J. Kimball (UGR, pers. comm.). Of interest is a banding record from the central part of the county on 04 Jan 1977.

LL CBC: Recorded 2 years; First in 1984; Maximum 2 in 1992

Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded

Bailey (1934) Status: Hypothetical

CAPRIMULGIFORMES

CAPRIMULGIDAE

COMMON NIGHTHAWK

(*Chordeilis minor*)

Sporadic Rare Spring Transient (former Regular Common)

(20 May - 04 Jun)

Former Regular Summer Resident

Sporadic Rare Fall Transient (former Regular Common)

(03 Aug - 10 Sep) 16 Oct

Bailey (1934) remarks that this bird was a common migrant in May and Sept. He heard them in Letchworth and suspected nesting but never found a nest. At that time, it was already "more conspicuously a city bird than a country bird." The last summer record (also the "Probable" BBA record) was one bird recorded by M. Davids on 09 Jul 1984 southeast of Conesus (UGR). All other "Possible" BBA blocks were entirely within the county as well.

The single bird reported on 07 Apr 1991 at Springwater is curious. The only detail provided was the comment on the back of the checklist: "First one seen in years" (GH:47,6, KB:41,3). *The Kingbird* editor appropriately added "? details - the editor", although Beardslee and Mitchell (1965) cite two credible records at that early date. The late bird on 16 Oct 1976 was seen in Lima by A. Foster (LG:2,11). The maximum is an older record with a count of 200 seen in Avon and vicinity by J. Haller on 10 Sep 1962 (J. H. notes). No other counts exceed five birds.

A single specimen exists at SUC Geneseo.

Eaton (1910) Status: Summer Resident

Bailey (1934) Status: Common Transient Visitant, Summer Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 2 PR: 2 CO: 0 T: 4

WHIP-POOR-WILL

(*Caprimulgus vociferus*)

Casual Very Rare Spring Transient

Former Irregular Rare Summer Resident

Bailey (1934) reported as a summer resident in the southeast portion of Livingston County in the region of Springwater. He made a determined effort in 1932 and 1933 to hear this bird and possibly find a nest near Marrowback (near Springwater). Although his attempt was unsuccessful, the only summer account (and last account for the county) was a bird heard a few miles south of Marrowback Hill at Poka-Moonshine all during the month of Jun 1970 by residents, fide Brown (GH:26,8, KB:20,4).

Only two other records exist. One was on 25 Apr 1948 at Conesus Lake by D. Bieber, D. Wolf and W. Listman (GH:1,3), the other was on 19 May 1962 at the edge of the village of Avon by Druschel (J. H. notes).

Eaton (1910) Status: Summer Resident

Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident

APODIFORMES**APODIDAE****CHIMNEY SWIFT***(Chaetura pelagica)*

Regular Common Summer Resident
20 Apr (26 Apr - 05 Sep) 01 Oct

Bailey (1934) had photographs of Chimney Swifts in a nest tree, although he stated that, at the time, they were found primarily in chimneys. On 02 Jun 1973, R. McKinney (pers. comm.) found a dead hollow tree near Jaycox Creek with several dozen swifts flying in and out, presumably nesting. The hollow tree remained a few more years, but in later years, the birds were not seen using the tree. Currently, most birds are found flying over the centers of the small towns during the warm summer evenings.

The county maximum was an incredible 1600 on 02 May 1948 at Conesus Lake by J. Chapin (GH:1,3). The next highest count was 50 on 16 Aug 1970 in Lima by A. and J. Foster (UGR). The latest record in fall was three on 01 Oct 1995 that J. Kimball watched spiral down a chimney on Main Street in Geneseo (GH:51,10, pers. comm.).

Eaton (1910) Status: Abundant Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 19 PR: 23 CO: 14 T: 56

TROCHILIDAE**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD***(Archilochus colubris)*

Regular Fairly Common Summer Resident
03 May (08 May - 27 Sep)

This bird is widespread but is most often seen visiting flowerbeds or feeding stations. A maximum of eight was recorded on the annual RBA/GOS field trip to the east side of Letchworth State Park on 05 Jun 1983 (UGR, URR). A specimen exists at SUC Geneseo.

Eaton (1910) Status: Common Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 38 PR: 17 CO: 8 T: 63

CORACIIFORMES**ALCEDINIDAE****BELTED KINGFISHER***(Ceryle alcyon)*

Irregular Uncommon to Rare Winter Visitant
(Presumably Regular) Fairly Common Summer Resident

Feeding primarily near water, this bird is seldom found elsewhere. Many nest along the banks of the Genesee River and one is almost always recorded nesting along Jaycox Creek on Nations Rd. Wintering birds linger near Conesus Lake until ice over and at the spring fed waters near the trout hatchery in Caledonia.

LL CBC: Recorded 30 years; First in 1961; Maximum 7 in 1990
Eaton (1910) Status: Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 18 PR: 14 CO: 23 T: 55

PICIFORMES

PICIDAE

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER

(Melanerpes erythrocephalus)

Irregular Uncommon Winter Visitant
Regular Fairly Common Summer Resident

The current population stronghold is in the Nations Rd area in the oak woods along Jaycox Creek and near Roots Tavern Rd. The maximum for the county was recorded there with 35 on 12 Mar 1977 by F. and R. Dobson (GH:33,5, KB:27,3). Occasionally, winter records come from Conesus Lake or other sites in the Genesee River Valley such as Leicester or "Scottsville". Bailey (1934) remarked that "no county in the state is so well supplied with Red-headed Woodpeckers." Even though local numbers surely have dropped since that time, they have also dropped statewide and this statement probably still holds true.

It has been recorded in 20 of the past 22 winters (missed only in 1988-89 and 1995-96 despite much searching). Acorn crops (or failure of them) determine whether or not this species overwinters. Specimens (2) exist at SUC Geneseo.

LL CBC: Recorded 16 years; First in 1966; Maximum 8 in 1975; last in 1986
Eaton (1910) Status: Fairly Common Summer Resident, Occasional Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident, Winter Visitant
Breeding Status - PO: 8 PR: 8 CO: 24 T: 40

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER

(Melanerpes carolinus)

Regular Fairly Common Permanent Resident

"Increased greatly since the 1960s and locally common in the Genesee Valley but formerly uncommon and local in western New York," is how Bull (1974) describes this species. Bailey (1934) said that it occurs frequently and nests in the Homestead Woods. He also claims the Red-headed as the "ruffian" for nest competition. R. E. Horsey (1936) mentions a resident pair of this species in Golah. The June 11, 1941 GOS meeting notes mention sightings in Mt. Morris. Rosche (1967) describes it as a very rare resident near Silver Lake (Wyoming County), but mentions a well-established colony in the Genesee River Valley. The Golah site provided many of the early records for both the Rochester and Buffalo birding groups. It was often a targeted species on annual field trips to the area in the late 1940s and early 1950s. As the BBA data indicates, it is now more widespread than the Red-headed Woodpecker. Specimens exist in the RMSC (1) and SUC Geneseo (1) collections.

The maximum of 20 on 12 Mar 1977 at Nations Rd by R. and F. Dobson (GH:33,5) makes the count of 18 by J. Haller on 01-12 Jan 1958 in the Avon area all the more impressive (GH:11,2).

LL CBC: Recorded 35 years; First in 1961; Maximum 32 in 1975
Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded
Bailey (1934) Status: Fairly Common Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 19 PR: 21 CO: 18 T: 58

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER

(Sphyrapicus varius)

Occasional Rare Winter Visitant
(Presumably Regular) Fairly Common Spring and Fall Transient
(Presumably Regular) Uncommon Summer Resident
(05 Apr - 04 Nov) 10 Nov

This bird of a more northerly affinity is regularly found in the higher hills to the south and in the Letchworth State Park area. It is a confirmed breeder at Rattlesnake Hill WMA (M. Reinhardt, pers. comm.). The maximum count of eight was tallied in nearby Canaseraga SF on 19 Jul 1997 (pers. obs.). Winter birds are most often recorded on CBCs or at feeding stations.

LL CBC: Recorded 2 year; First in 1980; Maximum 2 in 1980
Eaton (1910) Status: Common Transient Visitant
Bailey (1934) Status: Common Transient Visitant, Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 6 PR: 0 CO: 6 T: 12

DOWNY WOODPECKER

(Picoides pubescens)

Common Permanent Resident

The BBA data establishes the breeding range of this bird and it is rather widespread. CBC data indicates that this species is two to four times more common than its larger relative (the Hairy). Other than the collective CBC totals, the count of 55 on 26 Dec 1976 at Conesus Lake by W. Symonds while on the LL CBC is the county maximum (URR). Specimens (2) can be found at SUC Geneseo.

LL CBC: Recorded 35 years; First in 1961; Maximum 98 in 1976
 Eaton (1910) Status: Common Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 16 PR: 22 CO: 35 T: 75

HAIRY WOODPECKER

(Picoides villosus)

Fairly Common Permanent Resident

Although not as easily observed as the Downy, this species is still fairly common and often seen within the county. *The Kingbird* editors have stated that an "interesting sidelight on the elm disease is the change in the relative numbers of the Hairies and Downies. Before the disease, the Downy was the commoner of these birds in winter. Now the reverse is true. [There is] some factor which makes dead elms more attractive to the Hairy" (KB:7,4). Since that time, the numbers have reverted back to somewhere between a 2:1 to 4:1 ratio.

On 01 Jan to 12 Jan 1958, in the Avon area, J. Haller recorded the single observer county maximum of 13 (GH:11,2).

LL CBC: Recorded 35 years; First in 1961; Maximum 20 in 1966
 Eaton (1910) Status: Fairly Common Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 18 PR: 20 CO: 17 T: 55

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER

(Picoides arctus)

Casual Very Rare Winter Visitant

The only record positively confirmed to be in the county was observed on 23 Nov 1956 in Caledonia by R. O'Hara and H. Miller (GH: 8,2, KB:7,3). Although the written record states that an Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker was seen in "Scottsville", O'Hara (pers. comm.) recalls that it was down in the Genesee River area in Livingston County. "The bird was a female, and between the Hairy and Downy Woodpecker in size. The sides were barred, and the back, wings and crown of the head were black. It had a white stripe below the eye, light bill, and white on sides of tail. The bird was tame and busy peeling bark from a dead willow" (GH:9,2).

A record comes from Avon when J. Haller observed a female on 17 Oct 1963 (KB:14,1). Although published as Avon, it is questionable whether or not this bird was seen in the county. The original checklist describes the sites as "Meadowood, Avon and vicinity" in which Meadowood (a favored birding locale) lies just east of the county line north of Avon.

Noteworthy were the records of birds just over the county lines. In 1956, two sightings were reported in Letchworth State Park (Rosche, 1967). One was a female seen by C. Knox near the Lower Falls on 28 Oct 1956 (KB:7,3). The other, a male, was seen 04 Nov 1956 at Wolf Run by E. Ulrich and his party (KB:7,3). Other records just outside the county come from Canadice Lake on the LL CBC on 02 Jan 1966 (GH:22,3, KB:26,2) and Honeoye Falls on 04 Oct to 05 Oct 1992 (KB:43,1).

LL CBC: Recorded on the CBC, but not within the county
 Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

NORTHERN FLICKER

(Colaptes auratus)

Regular Uncommon to Rare Winter Visitant
 Presumably Regular) Common Spring and Fall Transient
 Regular Fairly Common Summer Resident

Although recorded throughout the year, it is much more visible during the spring and fall migration. On 15 Sep 1970 throughout the course of the day, J. Foster counted 300 in Lima (GH:26,8, KB:21,1, pers. comm.). The next highest tally is less than 50 birds. Specimens exist at RMSC (1) and SUC Geneseo (3).

LL CBC: Recorded 30 years; First in 1961; Maximum 30 in 1994
Eaton (1910) Status: Common Summer Resident, Occasional Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Abundant Transient Visitant, Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 9 PR: 24 CO: 39 T: 72

PILEATED WOODPECKER

(*Dryocopus pileatus*)

Uncommon Permanent Resident

Bailey (1934) had no nest record, although he stated that it undoubtedly breeds, probably in the Hermitage Woods between Groveland Station and Mt. Morris. This bird prefers larger forest tracts and quieter dwellings, such as the woods on Nations Rd, Letchworth State Park, Hemlock Lake and the state lands in the southern part of the county. A maximum of six was recorded on 01 Jan to 12 Jan 1958 in the Avon area by J. Haller (GH:11,2).

LL CBC: Recorded 27 years; First in 1961; Maximum 7 in 1984
Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded
Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 16 PR: 22 CO: 9 T: 47

PASSERIFORMES

TYRANNIDAE

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER

(*Contopus borealis*)

Irregular Rare Spring Transient
(21 May - 05 Jun) 14 Jun
(Presumably Irregular Rare Fall Transient)
(25 Aug - 05 Sep)

This species might be found during spring migration in late May and early June. It has been recorded in late June in Letchworth State Park, but the latest spring date within the confines of Livingston County was on 14 Jun 1997 by M. Davids (pers. comm.). The county first was recorded by W. Harding on 25 Aug 1972 at Groveland (Harding, 1972).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE

(*Contopus virens*)

Regular Common Summer Resident
(17 May - 03 Oct) 08 Oct

In canopied woods and even smaller forest tracts, this bird can be found singing on its breeding grounds. The latest fall date was on 08 Oct, 1958 when J. Haller recorded one on an outing to Log Pond and Nations Rd (J. H. notes). A maximum of 24 was recorded by E. W. Brooks on 19 Jun 1975 while conducting the Swain BBS Route.

Eaton (1910) Status: Common Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 13 PR: 40 CO: 15 T: 68

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER

(*Empidonax flaviventris*)

Irregular Rare Spring Transient
(20 May - 05 Jun)
(Presumably Occasional) Rare Fall Transient

This species might be found during migration, particularly in late May and early June, but it often proves quite elusive.

The first record for the county (and only fall record) is two seen on 15 Sep 1959 in Avon by J. Haller (KB:8,4). It should be noted that *Empidonax* flycatchers are notoriously difficult to identify, especially non-singing birds in late fall when immatures of varying plumages are expected.

On 05 Jun 1994 on Trail 12 (Seneca) in Letchworth State Park, B. Keelan discovered one late migrant (LG:20,6).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER

(Empidonax virescens)

Regular Uncommon Local Summer Resident

(16 May - 17 Jul) (presumably departs much later)

This bird is reliably located each spring at Letchworth State Park in the Dishmill Creek area. It can be found in the remainder of Letchworth State Park and other areas with a similar habitat of a rocky stream coursing through a canopied forest. M. Reinhardt (pers. comm.) has confirmed them nesting in the Rattlesnake Hill WMA.

It is strongly suspected that they remain later than the departure date cited, but it is rarely recorded if not singing. Beardslee and Mitchell (1965) quote Langille (circa 1884) who considered it "a very common summer resident of our upland woods." Bull (1974) stated they were formerly a local breeder but had decreased since the 1900s with no definite breeding records for 45 years. This trend has reversed and now they are becoming more regular and more common. A maximum of six was recorded on 19 May 1990 in Letchworth State Park by many observers (GH:46,7). This species has been regular at Letchworth State Park since 1983 with only two records prior to that date. The first record for the county was 10 Jun 1973 on a GOS field trip to Avon (GH: 29,7). The next record was on 18 Jun 1978 when the Tetlows recorded one in Letchworth State Park (KB:28,4).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

Breeding Status - PO: 1 PR: 0 CO: 2 T: 3

ALDER FLYCATCHER

(Empidonax alnorum)

Regular Fairly Common Summer Resident

(16 May - 25 Jul) (presumably departs much later)

The Alder Flycatcher lives up to its name and prefers alder thickets, which are more often found at the higher elevation in the southern portion of the county. Generally, where the Alder Flycatcher is present, the Willow Flycatcher is absent and vice versa. The Alder and Willow flycatchers were not recognized as separate species early in this century. The split of Traill's Flycatcher was generally recognized in 1973 and both Alder and Willow have been regularly recorded since the split. Neither the Alder, nor the Traill's Flycatcher was on either Eaton or Bailey's list although both the Alder and Willow currently breed here. The first Alder/Willow/Traill's Flycatcher recorded in the county was the Traill's Flycatcher found in the 1967 BBS route. It was seen on the Mt. Morris BBS route (#52) on 22 Jun 1967 by A. E. Ulrich. Presumably, this species was not a recent newcomer to the county as it was found in the first year the BBS was organized.

A Traill's Flycatcher was recorded in late Aug 1970 by J. Foster in Hemlock or Lima (UGR) and an *Empidonax* sp. was recorded on 06 Oct 1995 in Geneseo by J. Kimball (GH:51,10). These late, non-singing birds were not identified to species and may represent either the Alder or Willow.

At least 15 Alder Flycatchers were seen or heard on 31 May 1997 in Springwater (pers. obs.) for the county maximum.

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

Breeding Status - PO: 15 PR: 21 CO: 3 T: 39

WILLOW FLYCATCHER

(Empidonax traillii)

Regular Fairly Common Summer Resident

(16 May - 28 Jul) (presumably departs much later)

Where the Willow Flycatcher is present during breeding season, the Alder Flycatcher seldom is. The Willow Flycatcher seems more at home in the lower elevations and the rich, fertile river valleys and lake plains in the northern portions of the county. On 27 Jun 1985, a maximum of 14 was counted by W. Symonds in Leicester and York (URR).

For more information regarding the historical aspects of this species in relation to Alder and Traill's flycatchers, refer to the Alder Flycatcher account above.

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

Breeding Status - PO: 14 PR: 27 CO: 6 T: 47

LEAST FLYCATCHER

(*Empidonax minimus*)

Regular Fairly Common to Common Summer Resident
(04 May - 14 Sep) late Sep, 06 Oct

Oddly, this is the only *Empidonax* species recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934). It is also easier to identify and slightly more common and more widespread than either the Alder or Willow flycatchers. Perhaps Bailey considered all *Empidonax* to be this species.

K. Griffith totaled a maximum of 12 birds on 07 Jul 1984 in Avon (URR, UGR). It is rarely recorded after it stops singing (July), but J. Kimball observed one *Empidonax* that he believed to be this species on 06 Oct 1985 (UGR, pers. comm.).

Eaton (1910) Status: Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Uncommon Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 21 PR: 24 CO: 9 T: 54

EASTERN PHOEBE

(*Sayornis phoebe*)

Occasional Rare Winter Visitant
Regular Common Summer Resident
(20 Mar - 18 Oct) 11 Nov, 14 Nov

The earliest arriving bug eater usually nests on open porches, gazebos and pavilions or beneath bridges over smaller streams on the back roads. The first winter record was on 30 Jan 1949 when "Dirck Benson and Milt Goff reported observing at close range, and in good light, a bird that looked like a phoebe, engaged in tail wagging like a phoebe, and which in every way answered the description of a phoebe. The bird did not give its call note and since the phoebe is supposed to winter several hundred miles to the south of Rochester, it is understandable that both Dirck and Milt were reluctant to report their "find" to other members of the [GOS field trip]" (GH:2,1). Four years later, W. Listman recorded one on 23 Feb 1953 in Geneseo (GH:4,2). Presumably, this was an overwintering bird and not a very early migrant. It has been recorded in winter on at least five other occasions.

LL CBC Data: Recorded 2 years; First in 1992; Maximum 1 in 1992 and 1995
Eaton (1910) Status: Common Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 11 PR: 17 CO: 37 T: 65

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER

(*Myiarchus crinitus*)

Regular Common Summer Resident
(01 May - 16 Aug) 05 Sep

This is our only cavity-nesting flycatcher. It can usually be seen or found singing from the canopy of mature woodlots throughout the county. A maximum of eight has been tallied on several occasions. A single specimen exists at SUC Geneseo.

Eaton (1910) Status: Common Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 12 PR: 39 CO: 20 T: 71

WESTERN KINGBIRD

(*Tyrannus verticalis*)

Casual Very Rare Fall Visitant

A. and J. Foster recorded the first and only county record of a single bird on 05 Sep 1988 on Roots Tavern Rd in Geneseo (KG:39,1, LG:14,10, pers. comm.).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

EASTERN KINGBIRD

(Tyrannus tyrannus)

Regular Common Summer Resident
30 Apr (04 May - 09 Sep) 29 Sep, 09 Oct

The BBA shows that this bird is widespread (and also easy to find). It prefers open fields and can be seen hawking insects throughout the day. A late bird was observed on 29 Sep 1984 in Avon by S. and R. Spahn (GH:40,11, KB:35,1). This date has been exceeded by the one seen by T. Tetlow on 09 Oct 1972 near Hemlock Lake (UGR). At least 30 were counted by R. Childers on a visit to Nations Rd on 29 May 1984 (UGR). Specimens (2) exist at SUC Geneseo.

Eaton (1910) Status: Fairly Common Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 5 PR: 20 CO: 50 T: 75

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER

(Tyrannus forficatus)

Casual Very Rare Spring Visitant

J. Dombrowski recorded the first and only county record of a single bird on 27 May 1998 on Nations Rd in Avon (LG:24,7). The unusual bird was described as having an obvious, long, forked tail and rose-colored underwings. It displayed flycatching habits of snatching insects on the wing and returning to the same perch. It was observed in a scope for many minutes before heading east over a hedgerow.

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

LANIIDAE

NORTHERN SHRIKE

(Lanius excubitor)

(Presumably Regular) Uncommon to Rare Winter Visitant
25 Oct (29 Oct - 28 Mar)

Hedgerows and scrubby fields seem to be a common place to find these butcher birds in winter. Bailey (1934) declared this a winter visitant arriving in late October and staying until early April. He photographed this species by luring it to his yard by placing a dead sparrow in a *Prosopis* bush. A count of three has been recorded on a few occasions.

LL CBC: Recorded 19 years; First in 1961; Maximum 2 in 1975, 1987 and 1994
Eaton (1910) Status: Rare Winter Visitant
Bailey (1934) Status: Winter Visitant

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE

(Lanius ludovicianus)

Casual Very Rare Spring Transient
Casual Very Rare (formerly Regular Uncommon) Summer Resident

Bailey (1934) found this bird to be a regular breeder southeast of Geneseo. He stated that he never found this bird feeding on other birds, but instead on May Beetles. It is now extirpated as a breeder. The decline, sometimes attributed to the automobile, was noticed as early as 1953 (KB:3,3).

Few recent records exist. On 12 Aug 1951, the Moons found one in Caledonia (GH:4,3). On 19 Jun 1966, J. Haller found one for the GOS field trip to Avon (GH:22,7, KB:16,4). On 09 Mar 1988, J. Foster found one in Lima (KB:38,3). A bird reported on Lima Rd in Geneseo on 20 Jun 1990 was found in "marginal habitat and was not found the following day" (GH:46,7, KB:40,4).

Nationally known author A. C. Bent is tied to local history via this species. The Smithsonian Institute has A. C. Bent's egg collection which contains six shrike eggs (# B45138) collected by an E. B. Peck in York.

Eaton (1910) Status: Uncommon Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident

VIREONIDAE

BLUE-HEADED VIREO

(*Vireo solitarius*)

(Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Spring and Fall Transient
 Regular Uncommon Summer Resident
 (24 Apr - 30 Sep)

This nester of normally northerly climates can be found breeding in the unbroken forests in the southern portions of the county. On 21 May 1997, eight were totaled throughout the county (pers. obs.).

Eaton (1910) Status: Uncommon Transient Visitor
 Bailey (1934) Status: Not recorded
 Breeding Status - PO: 8 PR: 3 CO: 2 T: 13

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO

(*Vireo flavifrons*)

Regular Fairly Common Summer Resident
 (11 May - 10 Sep)

This species is a widespread nester throughout the county that prefers tall trees, such as near the Genesee River and its tributaries.

Eaton (1910) Status: Summer Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 9 PR: 15 CO: 3 T: 27

WARBLING VIREO

(*Vireo gilvus*)

(Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Spring and Fall Transient
 Regular Fairly Common Summer Resident
 (05 May - 15 Sep)

Near ponds, lakes or larger creek beds, this bird can often be heard singing in the surrounding tall trees (often cottonwoods or willow). On 13 Jul 1984, K. Griffith tallied the county maximum of 10 near Dansville (URR, UGR).

Eaton (1910) Status: Common Summer Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Uncommon Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 11 PR: 26 CO: 15 T: 52

PHILADELPHIA VIREO

(*Vireo philadelphicus*)

(Presumably Irregular Uncommon) Spring Transient
 (20 May - 07 Jun)
 (Presumably Irregular Uncommon) Fall Transient
 (09 Sep - 15 Sep) 07 Oct

This species is likely a regular migrant, but is somewhat reclusive and difficult to observe. When found, it is usually found in mixed species flocks during migration. J. Kimball observed the single straggling spring migrant on Nations Rd on 07 Jun 1996 (GH:52,8).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

RED-EYED VIREO

(*Vireo olivaceus*)

(Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Spring and Fall Transient
 Regular Common Summer Resident
 (01 May - 21 Sep) 28 Sep

In the forest canopy, this species can often be heard singing non-stop throughout the breeding season. R. T. Peterson claimed it to be the most numerous bird of the forested landscape. At least 40 were tallied on the east side of Letchworth St. Park on 14 Jun 1997 (pers. obs.). Specimens (# 15750, # 15751) exist in the Cornell University collection.

Eaton (1910) Status: Common Summer Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Fairly Common Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 17 PR: 38 CO: 17 T: 72

CORVIDAE

BLUE JAY

(Cyanocitta cristata)

Common Permanent Resident

Recorded in every BBA block and every month of the year, this bird can be considered both widespread and common. It is quieter and less conspicuous during the breeding season, but still can be seen. Other than the collective CBC totals, a maximum of 75 was recorded by M. Davids on 23 Dec 1982 on an outing to Conesus Lake and Retsof (UGR). A single specimen exists at SUC Geneseo.

LL CBC: Recorded 35 years; First in 1961; Maximum 156 in 1979
 Eaton (1910) Status: Fairly Common Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Fairly Common Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 12 PR: 22 CO: 41 T: 75

AMERICAN CROW

(Corvus brachyrhynchos)

Very Common Permanent Resident

This widespread breeder has been found in every BBA block. A common sight in winter is birds feeding on roadkill, or flocks in fields. In winter, it gathers in large roosts. Two such roosts were recorded in the county in 1964. One roost was 500 birds on 04 Apr in Geneseo and the other was 1200 birds on 24 Feb in Wayland (KB:14,4, "New York State Crow Roost Survey"). Although not documented as such, it is strongly suspected that they gather in these large numbers every winter in some place within the county. Another maximum of note was 900 on 17 Aug 1976 in Lima by the Tetlow family (URR).

LL CBC: Recorded 35 years; First in 1961; Maximum 415 in 1982
 Eaton (1910) Status: Common Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 19 PR: 14 CO: 42 T: 75

COMMON RAVEN

(Corvus corax)

(Presumably Rare Permanent Resident)

Historically, the raven nested throughout NYS, but was driven out by human encroachment. Referring to the early 1900's, Eaton (1953, p. 55) remarks that, "the Raven is now practically, if not entirely, extirpated from the state." During the 1980's, the Common Raven started expanding its foothold in Western NY primarily along the Pennsylvania border.

The first record for the county comes from Rattlesnake Hill WMA when M. Reinhardt reported one on 10 May 1992 (UGR, no verification report). All recent sightings within the county (over a dozen records) have occurred at the higher elevations in the remote southern parts of the county, primarily in three areas: Springwater, Rattlesnake Hill WMA and Letchworth State Park near Portage. Nesting and permanent residence in the county is strongly suspected as it regularly nests in several places just to the south in Allegany County, including Keaney Swamp WMA, and to the east in Ontario County at Hi-Tor WMA. Using the BBA criteria, it is only a possible breeder in Livingston County at this time.

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

ALAUDIDAE

HORNED LARK

(Eremophila alpestris)

Regular Very Common to Uncommon Winter Visitor
Regular Uncommon Summer Resident

Open farm fields seem to be the breeding habitat for this bird. In winter, it is often found on back roads or on the dirt shoulders of main roads. It is always worthwhile to check fresh manure spreads (not liquid manure). Nations Road usually has a small flock or two. In the winter months they gather in larger flocks. A maximum of 500 birds was seen on both 04 Mar 1984 on a GOS field trip to Nations Rd (GH:40.5) and by C. Cass and A. Clarridge on a 13 Jan 1994 visit to Avon (GH:50.3). Peak numbers, often in the 100s, occur from late Dec to early March.

Older generation birders and ornithologists make the distinction between the "eastern" and "prairie" morphs of the Horned Lark. Bailey (1934) noted that the eastern morph was found in summer while the prairie morph was found in winter. Both overlapped in the spring, but there was about a month period around December when no Horned Larks could be found. Whether the birds are permanent residents or shifting morphs is to be determined.

Dr. R. C. Beason (1995) states that the eastern morph (*E. a. praticola*) "began expanding eastward in the 1860s reaching eastern NYS by the 1880s, which coincides with deforestation." Since the 1940s, as grasslands revert to forests, this bird has been declining. Beason (1995) describes 21 subspecies, of which only the *E. a. praticola* breeds and the so-called prairie morph (*E. a. alpestris*) visits during winter. Second only to the Great-horned Owl, this species is our second earliest breeding bird and earliest breeding songbird. Males migrate first by early February, followed by females (1995).

E. B. Peck collected three eggs of this species on 22 Apr 1898 in York. They ended up in A. C. Bent's collection which was donated to The Smithsonian Institution (# B44296). A single specimen exists in SUC Genesee.

LL CBC Data: Recorded 24 years; First in 1963; Maximum 389 in 1985
Eaton (1910) Status: Common Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Winter Visitor, Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 8 PR: 24 CO: 20 T: 52

HIRUNDINIDAE

PURPLE MARTIN

(Progne subis)

(Presumably Regular) Fairly Common Spring and Fall Transient
(Presumably Regular) Uncommon Summer Resident
(20 Apr - 24 Aug) 06 Sep

This largest of the local swallows is most often found near expanses of open water, particularly Conesus and Hemlock lakes. It is not usually found elsewhere, except perhaps in migration. The largest count was a flock of 47 seen by J. and K. Fox on 08 Aug 1997 at the north end of Hemlock Lake (pers. obs.). Bailey (1934) expressed concern for this species because of the competition with Starlings for nest sites. Nationwide, the numbers of this species have declined in the past few decades.

Eaton (1910) Status: Uncommon Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 8 PR: 1 CO: 13 T: 22

TREE SWALLOW

(Tachycineta bicolor)

Regular Common to Abundant Spring and Fall Transient
Regular Common Summer Resident
(28 Mar - 06 Sep) 21 Sep

The first swallow to arrive and last to depart is usually this species. It is widespread and is often seen far from water. Using nest boxes built for bluebirds, the range of this bird now includes open fields. Large numbers of these birds, sometimes upwards of 500, can be found in migration as they stage before leaving. One staging site in recent years has been the Conesus Swamp where at least 500 were estimated on 09 Apr 1997 (pers. obs.).

Eaton (1910) Status: Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Uncommon Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 13 PR: 5 CO: 38 T: 56

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW

(Stelgidopteryx serripennis)

Regular Common Spring and Fall Transient
 Regular Uncommon Summer Resident
 09 Apr, 18 Apr (02 May - 25 Aug) 19 Sep, 05 Oct

This bird can be found foraging over small streams and rivers in the county. It uses nest holes in banks, much like the Bank Swallow. It has been regularly recorded in Letchworth State Park, all along the Genesee River and at the cut bank on Jaycox Creek on Nations Rd. In 1996, a unique nesting site was located in a crevice in the stone Five Arch Bridge in Avon (pers. obs.). A high count of 50 was recorded at the Conesus Swamp on 09 May 1997 (pers. obs.). R. O'Hara reported two birds on 05 Oct 1977 on Nations Rd (UGR). A specimen exists at SUC Geneseo.

Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded
 Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 10 PR: 9 CO: 11 T: 30

BANK SWALLOW

(Riparia riparia)

Regular Common Spring and Fall Transient
 Regular Fairly Common Summer Resident
 18 Apr (24 Apr - 06 Sep) 24 Sep

Along the Genesee River, a large colony exists on Sandhill Road near Hunt off SR 70 (D. Bassett, pers. comm.). The banks along the Genesee River are prime nesting habitat for these birds as well. On several occasions, 100 birds have been tallied.

Eaton (1910) Status: Summer Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 15 PR: 5 CO: 27 T: 47

BARN SWALLOW

(Hirundo rustica)

Regular Common Spring and Fall Transient
 Regular Common Summer Resident
 05 Apr (24 Apr - 13 Sep) 21 Oct

According to the BBA data, this swallow is our most widespread breeder in the county, even more common than the Tree Swallow. It is often seen foraging over fields near barns and farms, where it nests. In migration, it can be found staging among the Tree Swallows (although in smaller numbers) at the Conesus Swamp. At nightfall on 20 Jul 1998, K. Fox and J. Kimball observed a single species flock of an estimated 3000 Barn Swallows coming in to roost at Hemp Pond and the nearby cornfields in the Geneseo flats (pers. obs.). J. Kimball observed an early spring bird on 05 Apr 1997 on Nations Rd (GH:53,6, LG:23,5). Specimens (3) exist at SUC Geneseo.

Eaton (1910) Status: Common Summer Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 3 PR: 1 CO: 70 T: 74

CLIFF SWALLOW

(Petrochelidon pyrrhonota)

(Presumably Regular) Uncommon Spring and Fall Transient
 (Presumably Regular) Uncommon Local Summer Resident
 28 Apr (09 May - 02 Sep)

Bailey (1934) suspected that they nest under bridges in the higher elevation in the southern parts of the county (such as over the Hemlock Lake outlet). They have been found nesting under the eaves of old barns in that area. Both BBA blocks bordered other counties. The Hemlock BBA block was likely in Ontario County on a barn on Coykendall Rd. The remaining BBA block bordered Wyoming County near Perry, although exact location was not mentioned. In general, the population has declined since former times. Nest site competition by House Sparrows has been mentioned as a factor. This species of swallow is probably the hardest to locate in the county. The maximum of 25 seen by C. Cass on 20 Jul 1988 at Hemlock Lake (UGR, URR) is likely staging migrants or several successful breeders and their offspring.

Eaton (1910) Status: Summer Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 0 PR: 0 CO: 2 T: 2

PARIDAE

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

(*Parus atricilla*)

Common Permanent Resident

This bird can be found nearly everywhere. Lack of breeding evidence in the two BBA blocks is surely an oversight. It is most easily seen visiting feeding stations in winter. Other than the collective CBC totals, a maximum of 155 was recorded on 03 Jan 1971 in Livonia by J. H. Madden (UGR). Specimens exist in the RMSC (1) and SUC Geneseo (2) collections.

LL CBC: Recorded 35 years; First in 1961; Maximum 325 in 1977

Eaton (1910) Status: Common Resident

Bailey (1934) Status: Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 5 PR: 16 CO: 52 T: 73

BOREAL CHICKADEE

(*Parus hudsonicus*)

Very Rare Casual Winter Visitor

K. Ballard found this bird within the county on 15 Dec 1984 near the Mt. Morris Dam while participating in the Letchworth-Silver Lakes CBC (KB:35,2, LG:11,2). It has been recorded on the Little Lakes CBC just north of Honeyoye Lake in Ontario County by J. Taylor (fide R. McKinney, pers. comm.).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

TUFTED TITMOUSE

(*Baeolophus bicolor*)

Fairly Common Permanent Resident

This bird of southern affinity was not known by Bailey (1934) or Eaton (1910). S. W. Eaton (1959) remarks that it "is one of a group of four essentially non-migratory southern birds which have become quite regular. The Cardinal was the pioneer of these four ... followed by Titmouse, Mockingbird, and Carolina Wren." S. W. Eaton used the CBC's to suggest an invasion route, which appeared to be "up the Susquehanna-Finger Lakes corridor. As with the Cardinal, little indication of movement up the Hudson River is apparent. The Rochester population of Cardinals appears to have come from the south up the Susquehanna and Finger Lakes county or the Chemung and Genesee River Valleys and the Titmouse seems to be following this route." Additionally, Eaton (1959) states that the "spread of the Cardinal preceded the Titmouse by from ten to twenty years [as well]." That statement seems to be rather accurate.

According to the Aug 9, 1938 GOS meeting notes, our first nesting Northern Cardinal was found in Mt. Morris in 1938. Although the first records for the Tufted Titmouse in Allegany County were in 1928, 1945, then 1954 (KB:5,1), the first written record for Livingston County was about twenty years later than the Cardinal. On 13 Jan 1958, J. Haller recorded Livingston County's first sighting in the Avon area (GH:11,2). Since then, it has been recorded in the Conesus Lake area on every LL CBC since 1961 (except 1973). By 1971, *The Kingbird* regional editor remarked that it "is now so regular east and south of Rush that it is taken for granted in many places" (KB:21,3). Other than the collective CBC totals, a maximum of 12 was recorded by M. Davids on 13 Dec 1981 on an outing to Conesus Lake and Nations Road. A sole specimen exists at SUC Geneseo.

LL CBC: Recorded 35 years; First in 1961; Maximum 45 in 1987
 Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)
 Breeding Status - PO: 17 PR: 12 CO: 13 T: 42

SITTIDAE

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH

(Sitta canadensis)

Regular Fairly Common Permanent Resident
 Irregular Fairly Common to Rare Winter Visitant
 (Presumably Irregular) Fairly Common Spring and Fall Transient

Most records are during breeding season when this bird is regularly found in the higher elevations in the south and in Letchworth State Park, especially near conifer plantations. In some winters, it is irruptive in varying degrees and may be recorded passing through the area to the south or overwintering in the county. W. Lloyd and M. A. Sunderlin recorded the maximum of seven on 04 Jan 1987 in Avon and Retsof (UGR).

LL CBC: Recorded 16 years; First in 1961; Maximum 5 in 1970
 Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded
 Bailey (1934) Status: Transient Visitant
 Breeding Status - PO: 3 PR: 8 CO: 4 T: 15

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH

(Sitta carolinensis)

Common Permanent Resident

More common as a permanent resident than its red-breasted cousin, this bird seems to prefer a more deciduous environment. It is a common feeder bird as well. Other than the collective CBC totals, the maxima of 51 and 55 were recorded on 26 Dec 1976 at Conesus Lake by W. Symonds (URR) and 03 Jan 1971 in Livonia by J. H. Madden (UGR).

LL CBC: Recorded 35 years; First in 1961; Maximum 96 in 1979
 Eaton (1910) Status: Common Summer Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 26 PR: 21 CO: 24 T: 71

CERTHIDAE

BROWN CREEPER

(Certhia americana)

Uncommon Permanent Resident
 Regular Common to Rare Winter Visitant
 (Presumably Regular) Common to Rare Spring and Fall Transient

This species is most conspicuous as a spring singer as indicated by the maximum of 15 tallied throughout the county on 05 Apr 1997 (pers. obs.). In winter, it can often be found foraging in mixed species flocks, such as chickadees, woodpeckers, kinglets and nuthatches. A specimen exists at SUC Geneseo.

LL CBC: Recorded 29 years; First in 1961; Maximum 10 in 1979
 Eaton (1910) Status: Common Transient Visitant
 Bailey (1934) Status: Common Transient Visitant, Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 6 PR: 11 CO: 2 T: 19

TROGLODYTIDAE

CAROLINA WREN

(Thryothorus ludovicianus)

Uncommon (Presumably Permanent) Resident

Like the Tufted Titmouse, this southern affinity bird was not known by Bailey (1934) or Eaton (1910). Although S. W. Eaton (1959) remarks that "the Cardinal was the pioneer [of the southern affinity birds] ... followed by Titmouse, Mockingbird,

and Carolina Wren," evidence in Livingston County places the first sighting of Carolina Wren two years before the Tufted Titmouse and seven years before Northern Mockingbird. The first record for the county was 18 Nov 1954 at Conesus Lake by H. VanBurden (GH:7.4, KB:4.4). The second record for the county was in Geneseo by W. Listman on 14 Mar 1955 (GH:8.1). Subsequent records were on 25 May 1956 and later the same year on 04 Nov near Avon by J. Haller (GH:9.1-2, KB:6.4). It has been recorded nearly every year since 1975, but it is widely observed that harsh winters greatly affect the local populations. When they do occur, they can be found year-round. It has been regularly recorded on the LL CBC since 1974 (though irregularly in the Conesus count area). Most sightings have been in the warmer climates of the northern half of the county, especially near Avon, York, Geneseo and in the protected glens near Conesus Lake. W. Symonds tallied four of the county maximum of five at Conesus Lake on 26 Dec 1977 (URR) on the LL CBC.

LL CBC: Recorded 17 years; First in 1974; Maximum 5 in 1977
 Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)
 Breeding Status - PO: 0 PR: 5 CO: 1 T: 6

HOUSE WREN

(Troglodytes aedon)

Regular Common Summer Resident
 (24 Apr - 30 Sep) 06 Oct, 14 Nov

This wren is likely found in every BBA block in the county. The count of 15 has been tallied on a few occasions. The latest fall straggler was one recorded on 14 Nov 1976 in Lima by A. and J. Foster (GH:33.1, KB:27.1, LG:2.12). A single specimen exists at SUC Geneseo.

Eaton (1910) Status: Rare Summer Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Fairly Common Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 12 PR: 16 CO: 44 T: 72

WINTER WREN

(Troglodytes troglodytes)

Occasional Rare Winter Visitor
 (Presumably Regular) Fairly Common Spring and Fall Transient
 (Presumably Regular) Uncommon Local Summer Resident
 04 Apr (10 Apr - 01 Oct) 08 Oct, 19 Oct

In winter, this bird is found in marshy areas or protected glens. In summer, the protected glens are usually cool and damp, indicating breeding sites for breeding territories. It is likely more widespread than indicated by the BBA data. The BBA data indicates breeding at Letchworth State Park, and at the south end of Hemlock Lake. Although it has not been recorded every summer, it is highly likely that they breed annually in the isolated glens of the southern portions of the county, as suggested by the BBA data and the records from Rattlesnake Hill WMA and Springwater areas. M. Reinhardt recorded five to six on 29 May 1992 at Rattlesnake Hill WMA (UGR).
 On 10 Sep 1971 in Groveland, W. Harding found a single bird in his dining room that apparently had wandered in through the cellar and upstairs (Harding, 1971).

LL CBC: Recorded 4 years; First in 1966; Maximum 3 in 1987
 Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded
 Bailey (1934) Status: Transient Visitor
 Breeding Status - PO: 0 PR: 0 CO: 2 T: 2

SEEDGE WREN

(Cistothorus platensis)

Sporadic Rare Summer Resident
 (29 May - 26 Aug)

J. Foster and T. Tellow found a single bird in Avon on 01 Jun 1970 which remained until at least 30 Jun (GH: 26.8, KB:20.4). Foster (pers. comm.) does not recall the bird. Whether the 26 Aug 1970 individual (GH:26.8, KB:21.1) is the same bird is unknown.
 J. Foster (pers. comm.) does recall the pair of birds found on 14-15 Jun 1976 (GH:32.7, LG:2.7). The birds were located on Chase Rd in Lima across from the golf course.

On 29 May 1987, M. Reinhardt and P. Martin found this species on River Road near Oakland Road south of Mt. Morris (GH:43,7). Nesting status is uncertain, although records show 1-2 in June (GH:43, 8/9) and 3-4 in July (GH:43, 8/9, KB: 37,4). These additional birds likely represent offspring and "an apparent nesting" (KB:37,4).

On 20 Jun 1998, M. DeHart located a pair of Sedge Wrens on Houston Rd near Nations Rd. One bird was carrying fecals sacs indicating successful breeding. This pair was seen by many. J. Kimball later discovered four, possibly six, more singing males in the area that same year.

Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded

Bailey (1934) Status: Bailey wrote an account for this bird, although he does not give any references to it within the county

MARSH WREN

(*Cistothorus palustris*)

Sporadic Very Rare Winter Visitant
(Presumably Regular) Uncommon Local Summer Resident
(11 May - 24 Sep) 16 Oct

This bird is often found clambering among the thick cattails of a healthy marsh. Breeding birds typically do not arrive in the county until late May or early June (perhaps representatives of failed breeders in the Ontario lakeshore marshes). Unfortunately, marshes of any reasonable size within the county are few and large numbers of this bird are not often found. Two winter records exist, both in the same year at separate locations (W. Symonds, pers. comm.). W. Listman and J. Brown found one bird on 16 Dec 1978 in Mt. Morris (KB:29,2, LG:5,1). Later that year, W. Symonds and R. Clark found one bird on 23 Dec at the Conesus Swamp (GH:35,2, KB:29,2).

LL CBC: Recorded 1 year; First in 1978; Maximum 1 in 1978

Eaton (1910) Status: Summer Resident

Bailey (1934) Status: Fairly Common Summer Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 1 PR: 5 CO: 1 T: 7

SYLVIIDAE

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER

(*Poliophtila caerulea*)

(Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Spring and Fall Transient
Regular Fairly Common (formerly Rare) Summer Resident
19 Apr (23 Apr - 02 Sep)

Bull (1974) states that this southern affinity species first nested in the state in June of 1896 in Monroe County, but not again until 1943 in Chautauqua County. Bailey (1934) stated that this bird surely nested in the 1930s in Homestead Woods (which would have provided the second nesting record in NYS), but he had never found a nest (his qualifications for assured nesting). Even in the early 1960s, this bird was somewhat scarce. In that era, J. Haller found the county maximum of 10 on 10 May 1960 (GH:12,2, KB:10,2).

Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded

Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 2 PR: 13 CO: 10 T: 25

REGULIDAE

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET

(*Regulus satrapa*)

(Presumably Irregular) Uncommon Winter Visitant
Regular Fairly Common Spring and Fall Transient
(Presumably Regular) Uncommon Summer Resident

Wintering birds can be found among mixed species flocks, especially around sites with conifers. Summering birds can be found in the same locales. However, greater numbers are recorded during migration as indicated by the maximum of 20 that was totaled on 05 Apr 1997 at several sites (pers. obs.).

This species was generally not regarded as a regular breeder until recently. Two on 28 Jul 1969 in the Ossian township (fide R. Aurdie) indicate probable breeders (KB:19,4), the first as such for the county. M. Reinhardt (pers. comm.) considers it a probable breeder at Rattlesnake Hill WMA, and it is regularly recorded breeding in Leitchworth State Park. A single specimen exists in the SUC Genesee collection.

LL CBC: Recorded 23 years; First in 1961; Maximum 17 in 1984
Eaton (1910) Status: Fairly Common Winter Visitor, Common Transient Visitor
Bailey (1934) Status: Transient Visitor
Breeding Status - PO: 4 PR: 5 CO: 0 T: 9

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET

(*Regulus calendula*)

Sporadic Very Rare Winter Visitor
(Presumably Regular) Fairly Common Spring Transient
(06 Apr - 23 May)

Regular Fairly Common to Common Fall Transient
20 Aug (10 Sep - 28 Oct) 19 Nov

The "Possible" nesting bird within the BBA block was in Wyoming County (D. Bassett, pers. comm.). Given that the habitat also exists on the Livingston County side and throughout the southern tier, it is possible as a breeder, albeit very rare.

Like-wise, it is very rare as a wintering bird. Only three winter records exist within the date and location confines of CBCs. It was recorded by White and Listman on 24 Dec 1967 at Lakeville (GH:24,2, KB:18,2), W. Symonds and R. Clark found one at Conesus Lake on 26 Dec 1976 (KB:27,2). One was recorded 27 Dec 1987 and later 01 Jan 1988 at Conesus Lake by J. Bouton (LG:14,2, KB:38,2). The one recorded on 19 Nov 1985 in Livonia by J. H. Madden represents a very late migrant or an early winter visitor (UGR).

On 27 Apr 1997, a total of 30 was recorded at several sites in the county (pers. obs.). A specimen exists at SUC Genesee.

LL CBC: Recorded 3 years; First in 1967; Maximum 1 in 1967, 1976 and 1987
Eaton (1910) Status: Common Transient Visitor
Bailey (1934) Status: Transient Visitor
Breeding Status - PO: 1 PR: 0 CO: 0 T: 1

TURPIDAE

EASTERN BLUEBIRD

(*Sialia sialis*)

Regular Uncommon Winter Visitor (Probable Permanent Resident)
Regular Common Summer Resident

This species declined in the 1950s and 1960s due to the thinning of old cavity trees and nest site competition with E. Starlings and House Sparrows. Bluebird trails, such as the ones P. Conklin has built (over 200 boxes) in the Genesee valley between Avon and Genesee, increased nesting sites. In addition to the numbers of Tree Swallows, the boxes have clearly made a positive impact on the number of bluebirds, such as the total of 61 fledglings recorded by P. Conklin in 1984 (UGR). The bluebirds have been rebounding since the 1960s when they were "still a scarce nester except near Avon where it was noted in fair numbers" (GH:12,2). They have been regularly recorded in the Conesus Lake area of the LL CBC since 1975. Maxima have exceeded 25 on several occasions in several locales, but the maximum was an excellent count of 40 on 06 Oct 1981 on Nations Rd by A. and J. Foster (KB:32,1, LG:7,11). Specimens exist in the RMSC (1) and SUC Genesee (1) collections.

LL CBC: Recorded 23 years; First in 1963; Maximum 38 in 1994
Eaton (1910) Status: Common Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 16 PR: 8 CO: 31 T: 55

VEERY
(*Catharus fuscescens*)

Regular Fairly Common Summer Resident
(10 May - 19 Jul) (presumably much later)

Although not as widespread as the Wood Thrush, it can be found in wooded terrain, especially with a damp forest floor. A count of 10 has been recorded in several locations by several observers during the months of May and June. This bird is surely present later than 19 Jul and is likely a fall migrant as well.

Eaton (1910) Status: Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 11 PR: 30 CO: 9 T: 50

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH

(Catharus minimus)

(Presumably Irregular) Rare Spring Transient
(Presumably Irregular) Rare Fall Transient

Of the olive-backed thrushes, this species is much easier to find than the Bicknell's Thrush (once again deemed a new species in 1996). The Gray-cheeked Thrush is slightly more difficult to find than the Swainson's Thrush. Two spring and two fall records exist. Presumably, it occurs more often than is reported. The first record for the county was 15 May to 22 May 1948 when D. Wolf recorded one at Conesus Lake (GH:1,3). In late Sep 1970, J. Foster recorded four in Lima (UGR). J. Kimball found one on 24 Sep 1995 in Geneseo (UGR). On 24 May 1997, J. Kimball recorded two on Nations Rd (UGR).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

SWAINSON'S THRUSH

(Catharus ustulatus)

(Presumably Regular) Uncommon Spring Transient
20 Apr (14 May - 27 May) 13 Jun
(Hypothetical) Very Rare Summer Resident/Visitant
(Presumably Regular) Uncommon Fall Transient
(14 Sep - 14 Oct)

Bailey (1934) regarded this bird only as a migrant and specifically stated that it does not nest here. M. Reinhardt also considers it only a migrant at Rattlesnake Hill WMA (pers. comm.), which would be one of the few likely breeding sites due to its elevation. Eaton (1981) says that they occur in small to mid-sized Hemlocks in unglaciated country over 584 meters in elevation. Since the entire county was glaciated and there are few sites over that elevation, breeding accounts, such as the one near Springwater, are suspect. Late migrants are more likely. The BBA record was recorded just over the county line in Harriet Hollister Spencer State Recreational Area in Ontario County.

The one on 20 Apr 1979 at Hemlock Lake by C. Cass (KB:29,3) was rather early. Even more remarkable was the county maximum of 6 recorded in Avon by J. Haller on [the very late for so many date of] 13 Jun 1971 (KB:21,4, *American Birds*, Vol. 25, No. 05 Oct 1971). A single specimen exists at SUC Geneseo.

Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded
Bailey (1934) Status: Transient Visitant
Breeding Status - PO: 1 PR: 0 CO: 0 T: 1

HERMIT THRUSH

(Catharus guttatus)

Occasional Rare Winter Visitant
(Presumably Regular) Uncommon Spring Transient
02 Apr (14 Apr - 13 Oct)
Regular Uncommon Summer Resident
(Hypothetical) Uncommon Fall Transient

In summer, this bird is heard singing in the higher elevations and cooler niches in the southern parts of the county, such as Letchworth State Park and Rattlesnake Hill WMA where they have been confirmed breeding by M. Reinhardt (pers. comm.). A maximum of four has been recorded several times.

In winter, it is occasionally found in sheltered glens. It has been recorded eight times on the LL CBC and twice in the Hemlock Lake area (Area 2) but never in the Conesus area. H. Miller recorded one on 01 Jan 1965 at Conesus Lake (GH:21,1). On 22 Dec 1975, G. Perrigo recorded one at Conesus Lake (URR). The following year, J. Foster reported one from Lima on 14 Nov 1976 (URR). W. Symonds found one on Nations Rd on 02 Jan 1982 (URR).

Eaton (1910) Status: Common Transient Visitor
 Bailey (1934) Status: Not recorded
 Breeding Status - PO: 3 PR: 3 CO: 1 T: 7

WOOD THRUSH

(*Hylocichla ustulata*)

(Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Spring and Fall Transient
 Regular Fairly Common Summer Resident
 (4 May - 29 Sep) 05 Oct, 08 Oct

The "robin of the woods" is a widespread (perhaps breeding in every BBA block) and very vocal nester in the county. Specimens (4) exist at SUC Geneseo.

Eaton (1910) Status: Fairly Common Summer Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 13 PR: 37 CO: 19 T: 69

AMERICAN ROBIN

(*Turdus migratorius*)

Irregular Common to Rare Winter Visitor
 Regular Common Spring and Fall Transient
 Regular Common Summer Resident

Most often seen feeding on lawns in early springs, many locals consider this bird to be the harbinger of spring in late February or early March. However, as the LL CBC data shows, it is often recorded in winter, but generally feeding on berries in shrubby fields or in the woods. Its status as a permanent resident is unknown. Most counts over 100 are wintering flocks, such as the maximum of 300 seen on 18 Feb 1991 at Conesus Lake by C. Cass (UGR, URR). It was confirmed breeding in nearly every BBA block and specimens (8) exist at SUC Geneseo.

LL CBC: Recorded 19 years; First in 1963; Maximum 131 in 1980
 Eaton (1910) Status: Abundant Summer Resident, Occasional Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Abundant Summer Resident, Occasional Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 0 PR: 2 CO: 73 T: 75

VARIABLE THRUSH

(*Icterus naevius*)

Casual Very Rare Winter Visitor

The first county record was a single bird seen for about 20 seconds through binoculars by B. Mongi and S. Skelly on the L-Highbanks Recreation area (GH:47,2, KB:41,2, LG:17,1). The bird was described as follows.

"A thrush-shaped bird was observed perched in a tree approximately 12 feet off the ground. It had orangish wingbars and narrow orange streaks along the outer web of the primaries. When the bird turned to face us, I was able to observe that the underparts from the upper chest to belly were orange in color, broken only by a dark bar across the chest. The back and wings were brown, as was the head" (URR).

The only other published record was reported by single observer (P. Weld) in a tree on Roots Tavern Rd near Nations Rd on [the incredibly late date of] 22 Apr 1997 (GH:53,6). The bird was "seen very well from below - perched. The rusty chest with a dark band across was seen very well. Rusty coloration was well seen extending to neck, shoulder and near eye. Wings not very well seen" (UGR).

Another bird was recorded a few hundred meters east of the county line on SR 15A on the slopes of Hemlock Lake between Hemlock and Springwater. The Koons (and a few well-known local birders) observed the bird several times during the winter of 1970 until 21 Feb, which became the first regional record (KB:20,2, Times-Union, Feb 5, 1978, p 9B). Bull (1974) shows two records in Livingston County between 1965 and 1970. Presumably, one was the Hemlock Lake sighting, the other record was not found in the local literature.

Nearby, a single bird was observed 29 Oct 1996 just a mile north of the county line in Rush (M. Zettel, pers. comm.).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

MIMIDAE

GRAY CATBIRD

(Dumatella carolinensis)

Occasional Rare Winter Visitant

Regular Common Summer Resident

01 Apr, 23 Apr (28 Apr - 14 Oct) 19 Oct, 04 Nov

This widespread breeder was found in every BBA block. It is usually heard mimicking from the underbrush in scrubby fields.

The first winter record was 21 Jan 1986 when J. Bouton found one on Nations Rd (URR). The next winter record is two seen on 04 Feb 1985 in Livonia by J. H. Madden (GH:41,4). On 09 Jan and 15 Jan 1994, M. Davids found one on Doran Rd in Lima (GH:50,3, LG:20,2). It was recorded on the LL CBC from the North Section (Area 5) on Coy Road in Livonia within the county in 1996 (A. Clarridge, pers. comm.). That bird was relocated on 05 and 08 Jan 1997 but not later in the month (GH:53,3, LG:23,2). It has been recorded twice on the LL CBC in the Hemlock Lake area (Area 2). Specimens (5) exist at SUC Genesco.

LL CBC: Recorded 1 year; First in 1996; Maximum 1 in 1996

Eaton (1910) Status: Abundant Summer Resident

Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 5 PR: 17 CO: 53 T: 75

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD

(Mimus polyglottis)

Fairly Common Permanent Resident

Bull (1974) states that this species was considered a rare visitant in the state. It first nested in 1925 in Erie County. It was not until the 1950s and 1960s that its numbers increased considerably. This southern affinity bird was first recorded in the county on 23 Jun 1963, on a GOS field trip near Avon (KB:13,4) and again by J. Haller on 17 Oct 1963 (J. H. notes) and 23 Nov 1963 (GH:17,6). It was not recorded again until W. Listman, *et al*, found one on 02 Jan 1966 on Conesus Lake (GH:22,3, KB:16,2).

It became more regular and was first recorded on the LL CBC in 1966. It is now firmly established in the northern part of the county and has been recorded on the LL CBC every year since 1979. Rose hips seem to be a major food source during the winter, and they are normally found near scrubby areas and former pasturelands with rose bushes. The maximum was 10 seen by C. Cass on 07 Jun 1989 in Avon (UGR, URR).

LL CBC: Recorded 24 years; First in 1966; Maximum 6 in 1989

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

Breeding Status - PO: 6 PR: 8 CO: 5 T: 19

BROWN THRASHER

(Toxostoma rufum)

Casual Very Rare Winter Visitant

Regular Fairly Common Summer Resident

19 Mar, 15 Apr (19 Apr - 01 Oct) 19 Oct

The bird seen on 28 Feb 1993 in Lima by A. Clarridge and C. Cass (GH:49,4, KB:43,2) was likely a wintering bird. More difficult to determine is the wintering status of the bird seen on 19 Mar 1979 in Livonia by J. H. Madden (GH:35,6). Needless to say, it is a widespread breeder and is fairly common in the summer with a maximum of 12 recorded on 21 Jun 1970 in Avon on a GOS field trip (UGR). Nationally, (and locally), this species is in decline.

LL CBC: Recorded on the Little Lakes CBC, but not within the county

Eaton (1910) Status: Fairly Common Summer Resident

Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 21 PR: 19 CO: 20 T: 60

STURNIDAE

EUROPEAN STARLING

(Sturnus vulgaris)

Very Common Permanent Resident

Only about 100 starlings were introduced in NYC in 1890 or 1891 (Bent, 1965). They soon spread rapidly across the New England States. Elton H. Eaton stated that it first bred in western NY in Geneva in 1917 (KB:3,3). Bailey (1934) describes the arrival of this bird into the county. The first sighting was in Lima in 1921, first specimen was shot in 1922 and the first nesting was in 1923.

Because of its nest hole preferences, Bailey alluded to nest site competition that could cause a decrease in some species, including [House] Sparrow, Purple Martin, E. Bluebird, Red-headed Woodpecker, Great-crested Flycatcher and E. Screech Owl. He was not hopeful for the E. Bluebird and was undecided about Purple Martin. It turns out that the starlings effect on the E. Bluebird was devastating and the Purple Martin was only less so. With help from bird houses, the numbers of E. Bluebirds have rebounded, but still not to their former numbers. The starling population seemingly continues to grow.

In the fall and winter, it is not uncommon to see several flocks containing hundreds of birds. A large flock (an estimated 6000 birds) was reported in E. Avon on 11 Jan 1996 by D. and D. Traver (URR). That number was topped by a count of 10,000 tallied by M. Davids on 13 Dec 1981 at Conesus Lake and Nations Rd (UGR). Specimens exist at RMSC (2) and SUC Geneseo (1).

LL CBC: Recorded 35 years; First in 1961; Maximum 1760 in 1979

Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded

Bailey (1934) Status: Introduced Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 1 PR: 2 CO: 72 T: 75

MOTACILLIDAE

AMERICAN PIPT

(Anthus spinoletta)

Sporadic Rare Winter Visitor

(Presumably Regular) Fairly Common to Common Spring Transient

(20 Mar - 14 May) 23 May

(Presumably Regular) Fairly Common to Common Fall Transient

(17 Sep - 28 Nov)

This bird seems to pass overhead, often heard but not seen. Those seen on the ground are usually near water or mud holes. A count of 80 was recorded twice. The first was 25 Mar 1966 in Fowlerville by F. Templeton (GH:22,5, KB:16,2). The next was on 21 Mar 1971 on Nations Rd by J. Foster and T. Tellow (GH:27,5, KB:21,2). The fall maximum was 54 seen on 11 Oct 1982 in Avon by F. Dobson (GH:38,12).

The longest winter visitor was a bird found by J. Foster on Dalton Rd in Lima on 12 Feb 1978 that stayed in the vicinity of a Common Snipe and a Killdeer. It likely overwintered successfully and was seen by many until at least 31 Mar 1978 (GH:34,4, KB:28,2, LG:4,2-3). The LL CBC bird was found by G. Perrigo and A. Shea on 28 Dec 1975 near Conesus Lake (LG:2,1). The [unusually high winter] count of 12-15 was reported on [the peculiar date of] 03 Feb 1991 on a GOS field trip to Nations Rd and Retsof (GH:47,3).

LL CBC: Recorded 1 year; First in 1975; Maximum 1 in 1975

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

BOMBYCILLIDAE

BOHEMIAN WAXWING

(Bombycilla garrulus)

Casual Very Rare Winter Visitor

(Hypothetical Very Rare Summer Visitor)

D. Bassett recorded one on 15 Dec to 22 Dec 1981 in Leitchworth State Park (KB:3,2,2). The bird was seen south of Trail 22 on the east side of the park (D. Bassett, pers. comm.).

One recorded on 05 Jul 1991 in Retsof (GH:47,8, KB:41,4) was published as the first mid-summer record for Region 2. The date is unprecedented and a report was submitted to NYSARC, although NYSARC never acted upon it. (It was never formally accepted nor rejected.) It was a lone bird in a small shrub on River Road between the Genesee Abbey and SR 63. It sat for "about two minutes" (UGR). The observer noticed it had a rusty undertail. It was described as a little bigger than a Cedar Waxwing, although no other bird was available for direct size comparison. The observer was "immediately struck by the strong white in the wings" (UGR). The extent and pattern of the white is not mentioned and it should be noted that a Cedar Waxwing has white in the wings as well. "The belly appeared gray" (UGR) but that is a feature of an immature Cedar Waxwing as well. This unconfirmed mid-summer remains dubious.

LL CBC: Recorded once on the Little Lakes CBC, but not within Livingston County
Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

CEDAR WAXWING

(Bombycilla cedrorum)

(Presumably Regular) Common to Rare Winter Visitant
Regular Common Summer Resident

A widespread breeder, this bird is found nearly everywhere in summer. Its status as a permanent resident is unknown, but it can be difficult to locate in winter, when it often feeds in flocks on berries and sumac. On 02 Jan 1995, D. and D. Traver recorded 300 on Nations Rd (URR). Specimens exist in the RMSC (1) and SUC Genesee (7) collections.

LL CBC: Recorded 20 years; First in 1961; Maximum 149 in 1981
Eaton (1910) Status: Abundant Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident, Winter Visitant
Breeding Status - PO: 14 PR: 34 CO: 25 T: 73

PARULIDAE

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER

(Vermivora pinus)

Regular Common Summer Resident
(04 May - 06 Sep) 14 Sep

Although E. Seeber first recorded this species in NYS in the early 1940s near Ithaca (KB:6,2), Parkes described its movement into western New York (*Wilson Bulletin* 61: 48-49) and L. Short, Jr. claimed that the Blue-winged was as common as the Golden-winged by the late 1950s (Short, 1962). It was first recorded in Allegany County in 1955 (KB:5,1, "Allegany County Birds", McMurtry). The first record for Livingston County came on 15 May 1956 when J. Haller observed two birds in Avon (GH:9,1). They were "under observation about every two days from May. 15 to Jun 14. I have not seen or heard it since. On May 15, there were two Blue-wings, but only one was seen after that" (GH:9,1, J. H. notes). That same year, it was also recorded at Letchworth State Park. An unknown author of "The Summary of Area Bird Life for 1961" claimed that they are a "very uncommon spring migrant in Rochester but apparently breed more or less regularly ... near Avon" (UGR). Soon after, it was recorded at Conesus and Hemlock Lakes.

It has become increasingly more common and seems to have already replaced the Golden-winged Warbler as a breeding bird. It is rarely recorded after it stops singing on breeding grounds in mid-July. A specimen exists in SUC Genesee.

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)
Breeding Status - PO: 16 PR: 25 CO: 18 T: 59

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER

(Vermivora chrysoptera)

Irregular Rare (formerly Regular Uncommon) Summer Resident
(16 May - 17 Jul)

Bailey (1934) suspected that they might have nested in the swamp in Canaseraga although he could not locate a colony of breeding birds. He stated that they were present during migration. L. Short, Jr. states that this species was uncommon and local in occurrence in NYS in the late 1940's, and by the late 1950's the Blue-winged was as common as the Golden-winged (Short, 1962). A maximum of four was recorded on a GOS field trip to Avon on 19 Jun 1960 (KB:10,3). On 20 May 1984, P. Conklin and D. Bassett found a female of this species with a singing male Blue-winged Warbler near the Mt. Morris Dam (UGR). Currently, finding a single bird during migration or during the breeding season is a difficult task.

Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded
Bailey (1934) Status: Transient Visitor, Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 9 PR: 8 CO: 1 T: 18

"BREWSTER'S" WARBLER*(Vermivora pinus x chrysoptera : dominant)*

Regular Uncommon Summer Resident
(12 May - 21 Sep)

This hybrid is now more common than one of its parent species, the Golden-winged Warbler. It was first recorded on 18 Jun 1956 in Avon by J. Haller (GH:9,1) which was also the first year that the Blue-winged was recorded in the county. A single bird was observed by J. and K. Fox on the east side of Leitchworth State Park on 21 Sep 1997 (GH:53,10). Bull (1974) noted that the hybrids were most common in extensive interbreeding zones, such as at Leitchworth State Park near Portage.

Breeding Status - PO: 1 PR: 3 CO: 1 T: 5

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

"LAWRENCE'S" WARBLER*(Vermivora pinus x chrysoptera : recessive)*

Sporadic Rare Summer Resident
(21 May - 05 Jul)

This rare hybrid was first recorded by G. Ferrigo in the county on Nations Rd on 04 Jul 1976 (URR).

On a Leitchworth State Park Interpretive Program field trip on 30 Jun 1996, one was seen on the east side of Leitchworth State Park near Portageville (GH:52,8). Apparently, it was paired with a "Brewster's" Warbler and presumably nested in the shrubs underneath the power lines (pers. obs.). The pair was recorded prior to that date (D. Bassett, pers. comm.). The following year (1997), one bred near the Dishmill Trail in Leitchworth State Park and was recorded from 21 May to 05 Jul (GH:53,7-8, LG:23,6-7, pers. obs.). A. Watson (UGR) recorded one from 22 Jun to 24 Jun 1998 in Portage. Unconfirmed reports in 1996 and 1997 suggest a pair of "Lawrence's" near the old canal at Lewis' Switch and a single bird near Nunda, respectively. It was not recorded in the BBA data.

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

TENNESSEE WARBLER*(Vermivora peregrina)*

(Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Spring Transient
(12 May - 31 May)
(Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Fall Transient
(10 Sep - 20 Sep) 17 Nov 80

On 17 Nov 1980 on the east side of Conesus Lake, a carload of observers found a warbler feeding in an Autumn Olive bush. * The bush was newly landscaped and had berries on it (GH:37,1, KB:31,1, pers. comm.). An Orange-crowned Warbler is much more likely in November. However, no details of the bird were given and it was not mentioned why an Orange-crowned was eliminated from identification. A maximum of eight was tallied by C. Cass on 22 May 1993 in Avon (UGR, URR).

Eaton (1910) Status: Rare Transient Visitor
Bailey (1934) Status: Not recorded

* This record was inadvertently marked on the checklist as a Nashville Warbler and was published as a Nashville Warbler in the above references. However, personal communication confirms that it was a Tennessee Warbler and not a Nashville Warbler.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER*(Vermivora celata)*

Casual Rare Spring Transient
Sporadic Rare Fall Transient

One spring and four fall records exist: one on 24 Nov 1966 at Conesus Lake by W. Listman (GH:23,1); one on 09 Sep 1981 and three on 23 Sep 1981 in Livonia by J. H. Madden (GH:37,10); one on 04 Oct 1996 in Portage by A. Watson (UGR). The

only spring record was one singing bird on 02 May 1997 at the Conesus Swamp (GH:53,7, LG:23,6, pers. obs.). As for many records, the dearth of records very likely reflects a lack of observers at appropriate season and location.

Eaton (1910) Status: Rare Transient Visitant
Bailey (1934) Status: Not recorded

NASHVILLE WARBLER

(Vermivora ruficapilla)

Regular Fairly Common Spring Transient
(01 May - 05 Jun) 11 Jun
Occasional Rare Summer Resident
(Presumably Regular) Fairly Common Fall Transient
(25 Aug - 26 Sep)

M. Reinhardt (pers. comm.) considers it to be a probable breeder at Rattlesnake Hill WMA. R. Spahn (pers. comm.) recorded a probable breeder in Dishmill Creek area of Letchworth State Park in June 1996. J. Haller tallied a maximum of 80 on 21 May 1960 in the Avon area (KB:11,2).

Eaton (1910) Status: Fairly Common Transient Visitant
Bailey (1934) Status: Not recorded
Breeding Status - PO: 1 PR: 2 CO: 3 T: 6

NORTHERN PARULA

(Parula americana)

Casual Very Rare Winter Visitant
(Presumably Irregular) Uncommon Spring Transient
(06 May - 19 May) 22 May
(Hypothetical Very Rare Summer Resident)
(Presumably Irregular) Uncommon Fall Transient
(07 Sep - 21 Sep)

This bird often uses *Usnea* lichens as nesting material. A breeding N. Parula was found in three consecutive years on the BBA project in Letchworth State Park on the west side of the river (hence Wyoming County). It nested in a Silver Maple, a willow and an Elm. Every year, it nested within 100 yards of the county line. The willow was so close to the river (the county line) that the branches dangled in river (D. Bassett, pers. comm.). On 30 May 1998, K. Fox and T. Lathrop heard a singing bird in Canaseraga State Forest, indicating a very late migrant or a possible summering bird.

It has been recorded in late November at a suet feeder in Livingston County Park for two years consecutively. It was first recorded on 20 Nov 1996 and remained until 30 Dec 1996 (GH:53,1 LG:23,1). The previous year, it arrived and departed on nearly the same dates (K. Dower, pers. comm.). Whether this represents a very late migrant or an unsuccessful wintering bird is left to the reader.

Eaton (1910) Status: Fairly Common Transient Visitant
Bailey (1934) Status: Not recorded
Breeding Status - PO: 0 PR: 0 CO: 1 T: 1

YELLOW WARBLER

(Dendroica petechia)

Regular Common Summer Resident
(01 May - 26 Sep) 02 Oct

This bird is a widespread breeder in the county in scrubby fields and was found in every BBA block that was surveyed. On the Mt. Morris BBS route (#52), D. Bassett recorded the county maximum of 34 on 21 Jun 1989.

Eaton (1910) Status: Common Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Common Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 5 PR: 15 CO: 55 T: 75

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER

(Dendroica pensylvanica)

Regular Fairly Common Summer Resident
(02 May - 14 Sep)

This warbler is often found in the undergrowth of second growth forests. A maximum of at least 15 was found on 14 Jun 1997 on the east side of Leitchworth State Park (pers. obs.).

Eaton (1910) Status: Fairly Common Transient Visitor
Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 13 PR: 14 CO: 14 T: 41

MAGNOLIA WARBLER

(Dendroica magna)

(Presumably Regular) Fairly Common Spring and Fall Transient
(Presumably Regular) Uncommon Summer Resident
(06 May - 09 Oct) 10 Oct

It is regularly recorded breeding in Leitchworth State Park and M. Reinhardt (pers. comm.) considers it a probable breeder at Rattlesnake Hill WMA.

Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded
Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 10 PR: 3 CO: 3 T: 16

CAPE MAY WARBLER

(Dendroica tigrina)

(Presumably Irregular) Uncommon Spring Transient
(12 May - 26 May)
(Presumably Irregular) Uncommon Fall Transient
(08 Sep - 10 Sep)

Few records of this migrant exist. It is probably more common and more regular than recorded.

Eaton (1910) Status: Rare Transient Visitor
Bailey (1934) Status: Not recorded

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER

(Dendroica caerulescens)

(Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Spring and Fall Transient
Regular Rare Summer Resident
(10 May - 01 Oct) 09 Oct

D. Bassett (pers. comm.) regards this bird as a regular, but rare, breeder at Leitchworth State Park. M. Reinhardt (pers. comm.) considers it a probable breeder at Rattlesnake Hill WMA. The cooler climate, higher elevation and larger forest tracts in the southern part of the county seems to attract this bird as a breeder. On 17 May 1997 at Rattlesnake Hill WMA, the high count of eight was recorded (pers. obs.). A single specimen exists at RMSC.

Eaton (1910) Status: Common Transient Visitor
Bailey (1934) Status: Abundant Transient Visitor, Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 2 PR: 0 CO: 3 T: 5

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER

(Dendroica coronata)

(Presumably Regular Common) Winter Visitant
 Regular Very Common to Common Spring Transient
 15 Apr, 19 Apr (21 Apr - 24 May)
 Regular Uncommon Summer Resident
 Regular Very Common to Common Fall Transient
 (17 Aug - 16 Nov)

Formerly, this bird only occurred as a transient. Recently, it has been an increasingly more common summer resident, although it is unquestionably the commonest warbler in migration, with flocks of 20 to 30 birds being the norm. According to park naturalist D. Bassett (pers. comm.), it first bred in Letchworth State Park in 1986. The nine recorded on 05 Jul 1985 at Hemlock Lake and Springwater by R. Spahn (UGR) surely indicates breeding at that time, perhaps the first for the county. It is usually found breeding at the higher elevations in the southern part of the county with a conifer element, but its range continues to expand. M. Reinhardt considers it a probable breeder at Rattlesnake Hill WMA (pers. comm.).

On 16 May 1997, J. Kimball found the spring maximum of at least 50 on Nations Rd (UGR). The highest count in winter (and county maximum) was 250 tallied by M. Davids and D. Tetlow in Caledonia on 17 Jan 1998 (GH:54,3, LG:24,3). It is likely a regular winter visitant in this area.

The "Myrtle" race occurs here and the "Audubon's" race has not been recorded. A lone specimen exists at SUC Genesee

LL CBC: Recorded 2 years; First in 1974; Maximum 1 in 1974 and 1989
 Eaton (1910) Status: Common Transient Visitant
 Bailey (1934) Status: Common Transient Visitant
 Breeding Status - PO: 4 PR: 1 CO: 3 T: 8

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER

(Dendroica virens)

(Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Spring and Fall Transient
 Regular Fairly Common Summer Resident
 19 Apr (28 Apr - 01 Oct) 02 Oct, 08 Oct

This bird is often found in mature forests where one hears Scarlet Tanagers, Ovenbirds and Red-eyed Vireos. It is more commonly heard than seen as its plumage renders it nearly invisible in the green leaf canopy. A count of 12 has been reported on several occasions on the east side of Letchworth State Park.

Eaton (1910) Status: Common Transient Visitant, Uncommon Summer Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Not recorded
 Breeding Status - PO: 9 PR: 8 CO: 11 T: 28

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER

(Dendroica fusca)

(Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Spring and Fall Transient
 Regular Uncommon Summer Resident
 (10 May - 26 Sep)

In breeding season, it is most often found in damp woods with a Hemlock element. Rosche (1967) considered it the commonest breeding bird of Letchworth State Park, although park naturalist D. Bassett (pers. comm.) would not rank it in the top five breeding warblers. At Rattlesnake Hill WMA, M. Reinhardt (pers. comm.) considers it a probable breeder. A maximum of eight has been recorded a few times.

Eaton (1910) Status: Common Transient Visitant
 Bailey (1934) Status: Fairly Common Transient Visitant, Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 4 PR: 3 CO: 1 T: 8

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER

(Dendroica dominica albilora)

Casual Very Rare Winter Visitant

On the 1988 LL CBC, R. Ambrose and I. Montana found this bird visiting a suet feeder along the shores of Conesus Lake at 140 Pebble Beach Road in Lakeville. It was found sitting in a rain gutter of a house (where several others found it in later days),

but was also quite actively feeding around the yard. The bird was photographed and observed by many. It was first seen on 26 Dec 1988 and last recorded 10 Jan 1989 (GH:45.3, KB:39.2, LG:15.1-2).
The bird was described, "The top of the head, back and tail were grayish black with two white wing bars. The underparts were a bright yellow chin, throat and upper breast with white below. The bird had a strong white line over the eye with other white behind the ear and/or side of neck. There was no yellow in the eyeline and the color of the back was very even. These features eliminate Grace's Warbler" (UGR). Another observer adds that it had black streaks down the breast (UGR). Many observers indicated that the supercilium was white and had no hint of yellow, which indicates the race *D. d. albiflora*.

LL CBC: Recorded 1 year; First in 1988; Maximum 1 in 1988
Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

PINE WARBLER

(*Dendroica pinus*)

Casual Very Rare Winter Visitor
(Presumably Regular) Uncommon Summer Resident
19 Apr (20 Apr - 03 Oct) 14 Oct

The LL CBC bird was observed on 30 Dec 1984 by W. Lloyd, M. A. Sunderlin, D. and D. Traver (GH:41.2, KB:35.2, LG:11.2). It was located on Rix Hill Road, up the hill and to the west of the Hemlock Lake outlet (D. Traver, pers. comm.).
Mature conifer plantations, preferably Red Pines, is a preferred habitat for these birds. M. Reinhardt (pers. comm.) considers it a probable breeder at Rattlesnake Hill WMA.

LL CBC: It has been recorded in the Hemlock Lake Area (Area 2) on the 1984 LL CBC
Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)
Breeding Status - PO: 3 PR: 0 CO: 2 T: 5

PRAIRIE WARBLER

(*Dendroica discolor*)

(Hypothetical Spring and Fall Transient)
(Presumably Regular) Uncommon Rare Summer Resident
(2 May - 19 Jul) (presumably later)

The first record for the county was on 23 Jun 1977 when H. Klabunde found one in Leitchworth State Park at the Highbanks camping site (D4). That bird was described well. It sang repeatedly while perched in the open on a fairly low branch. It had "bright yellow unstreaked throat with black streak on the flanks, two black spots on the face, white wing bars, and a warbler bill" (UGR).
To date, all records, except three, are from Leitchworth State Park, including the maximum of four singing males in June and July 1984 (GH:43.8/9, KB:34.4). The exceptions are the probable breeding pair found in 1995 by M. Reinhardt (pers. comm.) at Rattlesnake Hill WMA, the one to two birds at the tree farm in Springwater on 31 May 1997 (GH:53.7), and the two singing males heard on Snyder Rd in Dalton by E. Brooks on 22 Jun 1998 (pers. comm.).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)
Breeding Status - PO: 1 PR: 1 CO: 0 T: 2

PALM WARBLER

(*Dendroica palmarum*)

Casual Very Rare Winter Visitor
(Presumably Regular) Fairly Common Spring Transient
(01 May - 18 May)
(Presumably Irregular Uncommon) Fall Transient
(27 Sep - 15 Oct) 18 Oct

It was first recorded in winter on 26 Dec 1977 at Conesus Lake by W. Listman (LG:3.1), D. and D. Traver reported one on 10 Jan 1994 on Doran Rd in Lima (GH:50.3, KB:44.2, LG:20.2). Neither winter sighting has been documented or submitted to NYSARC. A count of six was recorded on 12 May 1997 in the Roots Tavern Woods (pers. obs.).

LL CBC: Recorded 1 year; First in 1976; Maximum 1 in 1976
Eaton (1910) Status: Rare Transient Visitor
Bailey (1934) Status: Not recorded

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER*(Dendroica castanea)*

- (Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Spring Transient
 (21 May - 27 May)
 (Presumably Irregular) Uncommon Fall Transient
 (26 Aug - 17 Sep)

This species is found with other mixed species flocks during migration. The maximum is a mere three to four seen by J. Kimball on 25 May 1997 at Nations Rd (UGR). A lone specimen exists in SUC Geneseo.

Eaton (1910) Status: Fairly Common Transient Visitant
 Bailey (1934) Status: Not recorded

BLACKPOLL WARBLER*(Dendroica striata)*

- (Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Spring Transient
 (21 May - 31 May) 06 Jun
 (Presumably Irregular) Uncommon to Rare Fall Transient
 (10 Sep - 14 Sep) 28 Sep

Seeing this bird in spring often signals the end of migration as it is one of the last migrants to pass through the area. They are found with other mixed species flocks during migration.

Eaton (1910) Status: Common Transient Visitant
 Bailey (1934) Status: Not recorded

CERULEAN WARBLER*(Dendroica cerulea)*

- (Presumably Regular Uncommon) Spring Transient
 Regular Uncommon Summer Resident
 (05 May - 14 Aug) (presumably later)

This species seems to favor damp woods with tall oak trees, such as in Letchworth State Park, or tall trees near the edges of water, such as along the Genesee River. It is seldom recorded after it stops singing. Sight records are difficult to obtain at the tops of tall trees in mid-summer. A GOS field trip found a maximum of seven on 21 Jun 1970 in the Avon area (UGR).

Eaton (1910) Status: Local Summer Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 3 PR: 9 CO: 3 T: 15

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER*(Mniotilta varia)*

- (Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Spring Transient
 (01 May - 24 May)
 (Presumably Regular) Rare Summer Resident
 (Presumably Regular) Uncommon Fall Transient
 (02 Sep - 26 Sep)

Steep ravines and gullies with Hemlocks are likely breeding sites for these birds, such as in Letchworth State Park. It is more common as a migrant than a breeder. A specimen can be found in the SUC Geneseo collection.

Eaton (1910) Status: Uncommon Summer Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 4 PR: 1 CO: 1 T: 6

AMERICAN REDSTART

(Setophaga ruticilla)

(Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Spring and Fall Transient

Regular Common Summer Resident

(12 May - 21 Sep) 09 Oct, 29 Nov

Damp woods and low scrub is the place to find this breeding bird. It is often found in migration as well. A maximum of 12 was reported by M. Davids on 7 Jul 1984 near Avon (UGR). No details surround the unpublished sighting of a single bird in Lima seen on 29 Nov 1976 by A. and J. Foster (UGR).

Eaton (1910) Status: Summer Resident

Bailey (1934) Status: Abundant Transient Visitor, Abundant Summer Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 14 PR: 19 CO: 18 T: 51

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER

(Protonotaria citrea)

Casual Rare Spring Transient

Casual Rare Summer Resident

On 15 May 1948, D. Wolf recorded the first sighting of this bird in the county at Conesus Lake (GH:13). R. O'Hara (pers. comm.) said that this species was occasionally recorded in the Golah Swamp and may account for the four or five sightings in the "Scottsville" area that is mentioned in the published records.

D. Bassett (pers. comm.) stated that the only breeding record for Leichworth State Park comes from Livingston County. This southern swamp bird has a stronghold in NYS at Iroquois NWR, and is irregularly found in the swamps around Montezuma NWR. Likewise, it was found nesting in Livingston County in a similar habitat - standing water with lots of dead trees and snags (D. Bassett, pers. comm.). J. Kimball recorded the 26 May 1997 migrant in this type of habitat at Conesus Swamp (GH: 53, 7, LG:23,6, pers. comm.). It was not relocated later (pers. obs.).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

SWAINSON'S WARBLER

(Limnolophus swainsonii)

Casual Very Rare Spring Transient

The first regional record of this species was recorded on 14 May 1990 by M. Reinhardt and on 15 May 1990 by L. Vanderwert (GH:46,7 KB:40,3 LG:16,6). M. Reinhardt (pers. comm.) recognized the song, tracked down and even tape recorded the bird. The bird was found on the east side of Leichworth State Park near River Rd "0.3 miles north of intersection with Dygert Road [in the Town of Portage". It was in a white pine and vine tangle near a stream that drains the pond on the former gun club property and empties into Dishmill Creek. A report was sent to NYSARC (1990-33-A-C) and was accepted (KB:40,3 KB:42,1). Several other observers, including C. Cass (KB:42,1, pers. comm.) and R. McKinney (pers. comm.), were able to relocate the bird that day and the following day before it departed.

The bird was described as having "olive-brown upperparts, brown crown, light eyebrow stripe, dark eyeline, grayish white underparts with a yellowish cast; pinkish-buffy legs, buffy bill no other markings. The bird sang persistently in approximately 15 second intervals; clear ringing song somewhat resembling a Louisiana Waterthrush" (M. Reinhardt, UGR). At a distance of 20-50 feet, the bird was recorded. "A Worm-eating Warbler was eliminated because the bird did not have a striped crown, and the song bore no resemblance. It was very clear that it was not a Louisiana Waterthrush as it had no marks whatsoever on the underparts" (L. Vanderwert, UGR).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

OVENBIRD

(Seiurus aurocapillus)

(Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Spring and Fall Transient

Regular Common Summer Resident

(02 May - 14 Sep) 21 Sep

The best place to find this widespread bird is in mature woods with ground cover and rolling foliage. At least 20 birds were tallied on 17 May 1997 at Rattlesnake Hill WMA (pers. obs.).

Eaton (1910) Status: Common Summer Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Common Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 15 PR: 19 CO: 8 T: 42

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH

(Seiurus noveboracensis)

(Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Spring Transient
 (Presumably Regular) Uncommon Summer Resident
 (04 May - 19 Jul) (presumably much later)

Bobbing on logs or rocks picking insects off the shallow, unmoving water is a common sight for this thrush-like warbler. It is likely that it is more common and more regular in the county than the summer records indicate, due to lack of coverage. Bailey (1934) stated that it does breed in the county and he had regularly found young along Conesus Lake but had never found a nest. Two BBA blocks are entirely within the county. The remaining two blocks are bordering Wyoming County near Portage and Ontario County near Hemlock Lake and Marrowback Hill. At Rattlesnake Hill WMA, M. Reinhardt (pers. comm.) considers it a probable breeder.

Eaton (1910) Status: Fairly Common Transient Visitant
 Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 1 PR: 3 CO: 0 T: 4

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH

(Seiurus motacilla)

Regular Fairly Common Summer Resident
 (presumably earlier) (01 May - 13 Jul) (presumably much later)

Unlike its relative the Northern, this species is found nesting along the edges of fast moving streams bedded in shale or slate. It is common in appropriate habitat. Bailey (1934) regarded it as common throughout the region and found it nesting annually at "Fallbrook" below the falls and at Conesus Lake. R. O'Hara described the bird being "regular" at Conesus Lake (KB:12,3/4). The furthest north breeding record comes in the summer of 1961 when J. Haller noted one young bird in "Wheeler's Gully near [Nations Rd] Avon" (KB:11,3). A maximum of seven was counted on 20 Jun 1964 around Conesus Lake by H. Miller and A. Starling (KB:14,4) although a larger count exists for all of Letchworth State Park.

Eaton (1910) Status: Local Summer Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Common Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 7 PR: 3 CO: 9 T: 19

KENTUCKY WARBLER

(Oporornis formosus)

Occasional Very Rare Spring Transient
 (22 May - 06 Jun)

W. Harding claimed the first record for the county on 24 May 1972 on Bath Rd in Groveland (Harding, 1972). The next report was of a single bird heard on an RBA/GOS field trip to Letchworth State Park on 05 Jun 1983 (GH:39,9, KB:33,4, LG:9,6). This bird remained unseen, but the entire group made a comparison with a tape recording while still in the field. R. Spahn observed the earliest arriving bird on 22 May 1994 near the Mt. Morris Dam on the west side of Letchworth State Park (GH:50,7, KB:44,3). D. Bassett (pers. comm.) has seen this bird several times in Letchworth State Park, all within Livingston County, and at least once near the canal by Oakland and Short Tract Roads. W. D'Anna (pers. comm.) recorded it on the east side of Letchworth State Park on the Genesee Valley Trail on 06 Jun 1992. A single bird was reported on 02 Jun 1996 on the RBA/GOS field trip to Letchworth State Park (east side), although no details were provided and many did not see or hear it (UGR). An additional bird was seen just over the county line on the nature trails at the Genesee Country Museum in Mumfordsville on 18 May 1989 (KB:39,3).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

MOURNING WARBLER

(Oporornis philadelphia)

Regular Fairly Common Summer Resident
 (14 May - 19 Jul) (presumably much later)

This skulker is heard singing (sometimes seen) in a thick understory and brambles. Logging operations create habitat for this species. A good time to check for this species is the first few years after logging. Bailey (1934) considered it common during the breeding season. On the east side of Letchworth State Park, at least 14 were recorded on 14 Jun 1997 (pers. obs.).

Eaton (1910) Status: Fairly Common Transient Visitor, Local Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Common summer resident
Breeding Status - PO: 2 PR: 16 CO: 7 T: 25

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT

(Geothlypis trichas)

Occasional Rare Winter Visitor
(Presumably Regular Common) Spring and Fall Transient
Regular Common Summer Resident
(28 Apr - 06 Oct) 18 Oct, 26 Oct

This common warbler is found breeding in swamps, marshes and scrubland throughout the county. A count of 50 by M. Davids on 09 Jul 1984 southeast of Conesus is indicative of the abundance of this bird (UGR, URR). The absence in one of the BBA blocks is unfortunate.

Three winter records were from Conesus Lake. The first was a male seen on 30 Dec 1984 by M. Davids, *et al* (GH:41,2, KB:35,2, LG:11,2), which stayed at least until 01 Jan 1985 (GH:41,3). The second was a single bird found on 01 Jan 1987 by M. Davids and D. Tellow (LG:13,2). The last was two birds seen on 27 Dec 1987 (KB:38,2) with one of those two was recorded again on 03 Jan 1988 by M. Davids and D. Tellow (LG:14,2). A fourth winter record was a single bird first found on the L-SL CBC near Cuylerville by K. Fox and J. Kimball on 20 Dec 1997. It survived until at least 18 Jan 1998 (GH:54,2, LG:24,2-3, pers. obs.).

LL CBC: Recorded 3 years; First in 1984; Maximum 2 in 1986 and 1987.
Eaton (1910) Status: Common Summer Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 4 PR: 29 CO: 41 T: 74

HOODED WARBLER

(Wilsonia citrina)

(Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Spring Transient
Regular Fairly Common Summer Resident
(02 May - 23 Sep) 14 Oct

D. Bassett (pers. comm.) considers this bird to be one of the most common warblers of Letchworth State Park. It is easily heard singing in the more mature forest tracts in late May through July (and sometimes even in mid-September) throughout the southern portion of the county. Since Beardlee and Mitchell (1965) considered it a fairly common local summer resident in appropriate habitat, it is somewhat peculiar that it was not recorded by Bailey (1934) or Eaton (1910). The first record for the county was one recorded on a GOS field trip to Avon (led by J. Haller) on 13 Jun 1971 (KB:21,4, J. H. notes).
A. Watson found one on 14 Oct 1996 in Portage (GH:52,11). A high count of at least 45 was recorded on 15 Jun 1997 on the east side of Letchworth State Park (pers. obs.).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)
Breeding Status - PO: 4 PR: 6 CO: 9 T: 19

WILSON'S WARBLER

(Wilsonia pusilla)

(Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Spring Transient
(13 May - 21 May)
(Presumably Regular Uncommon) Fall Transient
(08 Sep - 30 Sep)

The first two county records were at Conesus Lake. On 23 May 1948, D. Wolf reported one bird (GH:1,3). W. Listman, *et al*, found one the following year on 15 May 1949 (GH:2,3)

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

CANADA WARBLER

(Wilsonia canadensis)

(Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Spring Transient
 Regular Uncommon Summer Resident
 (10 May - 10 Sep)
 (Presumably Regular Uncommon) Fall Transient

In the GOS meeting notes of June 1936, R. E. Horsey stated, "an interesting find is the Canada Warbler near Mt. Morris. Probably all other warblers reported this month will be nesting nearby." Apparently, this species was quite a find as the meeting notes describe the bird in detail and it was not expected to breed in the area. This is the first record for the county (and perhaps the first possible breeding record).

This bird is often found breeding near damp, shrubby areas with low growth, such as Hemlock ravines near steep banks and gullies. It is regularly found in Letchworth State Park, but formerly was found near Conesus Lake. M. Reinhardt (pers. comm.) has confirmed it breeding in Rattlesnake Hill WMA in 1995. A maximum count of five has been reported on a few occasions. It is rarely reported after mid-July.

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)
 Breeding Status - PO: 4 PR: 2 CO: 8 T: 14

PAINTED REDSTART

(Myioborus pictus)

Exotic Very Rare Winter Visitant

The story of this bird is retold by R. Spahn.

*"Charles and Mary Dilgard of Dansville, Livingston County fed birds for 40 years. On 14 Dec 1979, they saw an unfamiliar bird, then on 22 Dec, again on Christmas and daily thereafter. They identified it as a Painted Redstart. They alerted John W. Brown who writes a weekly birding column in a Rochester Newspaper. On Jan 6, 1980, Mr. Brown confirmed the identification, photographed the bird and ... the rest is history. By 25 Jan, over 750 visitors signed into the Dilgard's guest book, some as far away as Chicago... the Dilgards were perfect hosts, inviting all in to sit and wait ... but on 25 Jan, the group waited in vain. The following day, M. Dilgard found bits and pieces of the bird under some bushes next to the house. A Sharp-shinned Hawk or one of the many cats [were the possible suspects]. It was a sad ending.**

This is the 5th record east of the Mississippi River and the first for New York State. The other records are: 18 Oct 1945 Marblehead Park, MA; 22 Apr 1965 Madison, WI; 15-22 Nov 1970 Cleveland, Ohio; 9 Nov 1971 Ontario, Canada. (Spahn, 1980)

M. Dilgard states that the remaining feathers (some breast feather and a definitive black wing), plus photos, are specimens in the New York State Museum of Science in Albany (GH:36,3, KB:36,3, LG:6,1, LG:6,4). The NYSARC record (1980-6-A-D) was accepted (KB:30,4).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT

(Icteria virens)

Casual Very Rare Winter Visitant
 Irregular Fairly Common to Rare Summer Resident
 (23 May - 02 Aug) (presumably later)

This bird is most often found in thick heavy tangles, brambles and briars. The Mt. Morris Dam preserves the habitat of this species because spring runoff and snow melt backs up water. Water and ice kill off the understory at different elevations depending upon the amount of water that is held behind the dam. The chat is regular within this zone (between 600 and 700 feet in elevation), but trails intersecting this zone are few. Trails 15, 17, and 16 at the north end of Letchworth State Park are the most productive. D. Bassett (pers. comm.) says that this species is usually "a bang or bust breeder" describing the aspect that some years there are many and other years there are few. It is more often heard than seen.

Bailey (1934) says that the "song is probably the striking thing about this bird and baffles description" and that the bird "reminds one of people who are chronically nervous." It is a good thing to see that some things never change.

The first winter record for the region, and for the county, was a bird recorded on 13 Dec 1981 at Gray Shores on Conesus Lake by an RBA field trip. The bird lingered until 02 Jan 1982, was seen by many, but unfortunately was not found on the LL

CBC that year (GH:38,2-3, KB:32,2, LG:7,12, LG:8,1-2). A maximum of four was reported on 14 Jul in Letchworth State Park by an unspecified observer (KB:37,4).

Eaton (1910) Status: Fairly Common Local Summer Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Rare Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 2 PR: 4 CO: 2 T: 8

THRUPIDAE

SUMMER TANAGER

(*Piranga rubra*)

Casual Rare Spring Transient

Two females and one molting male of this species was well seen (as close as 40 feet) and well described (with large pale bills and green wings) by D. Van Horn. The birds were observed on Oxbow Lane near Nations Rd on 16 May 1997 (GH:54,4, pers. comm.). It is interesting to note that a male of this species was found visiting a suet feeder in Irondequoit (Monroe County) just two days after this sighting.

A single male was recorded in Letchworth State Park by P. Conklin and park naturalist D. Bassett on 18 May 1980 (GH:36,7). The bird was observed near the fountain at the Glen Iris Inn by the Middle Falls. It was, perhaps, only 150 yards from the Livingston County border (D. Bassett, pers. comm.). It almost assuredly passed over Livingston County on its way north.

SCARLET TANAGER

(*Piranga olivacea*)

Regular Common Summer Resident
 (10 May - 15 Sep)

Mature woods with an unbroken canopy are good places to listen and find this bird. Thus, it is easily found at many locales in the southern part of the county. The maximum is 11 tallied by M. Reinhardt on 23 Jun 1988 on the east side of Letchworth State Park (UGR, URR). Specimens (2) exist in the SUC Geneseo collection.

Eaton (1910) Status: Uncommon Summer Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 7 PR: 40 CO: 12 T: 59

EMBERIZIDAE

EASTERN TOWHEE

(*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*)

Irregular Rare Winter Visitor

(Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Spring Transient
 Regular Fairly Common Summer Resident
 19 Mar (4 Apr - 17 Oct) 30 Oct
 (Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Fall Transient

A widespread breeder in the county, this bird is still more easily heard, chiming its "Drink-your-teece" song, than seen. Leafy undergrowth seems to be a favored locale. The maximum of 25 was recorded on 27 Apr 1997 in Livingston County Park (pers. obs.). A scattered few irregularly remain into and through the winter.

LL CBC: Recorded 4 years; First in 1969; Maximum 2 in 1969
 Eaton (1910) Status: Local Summer Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Local Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 17 PR: 29 CO: 17 T: 63

SPOTTED TOWHEE

(Pipilo maculatus)

Casual Very Rare Winter Visitant

One bird was observed by D. Sherony and J. Skelly on a scrubby hillside about 2/3 the way down the east side of Conesus Lake on 22 Dec 1990 on the LL CBC (GH:47,2, KB:41,2). At the time, it was only a subspecies of the Eastern (Rufous-sided) Towhee. D. Sherony describes "a male Rufous-sided Towhee which was heavily spotted on the back and folded wings." Further, he mentions "a dark eye, dark back and bright rufous flanks. The back and wings had white spots. The distribution and exact location of the spots were not observed" (URR, UGR).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW

(Spizella arborea)

Regular Very Common Winter Visitant

08 Oct, 18 Oct, 20 Oct (27 Oct - 06 May) 07 May, 12 May

The spritely Tree Sparrow is found in the hedgerows and field edges throughout the winter. The earliest date was recorded by J. Haller on 08 Oct 1958 when two were seen on a field trip to Log Pond and Nations Rd (J. H. notes). The latest spring birds (3) were recorded on 12 May 1972 in Livonia by J. H. Madden (GH:28,7, KB:22,2).

The excellent count of 400 birds was reported on 03 Jan 1977 on Nations Rd by A. and J. Foster (URR). This count was exceeded by the 600 estimated by J. H. Madden in Livonia on 03 Jan 1971 (UGR). The LL CBC data indicates that numbers are steadily dwindling. A single specimen exists in SUC Geneseo.

LL CBC: Recorded 35 years; First in 1961; Maximum 906 in 1977

Eaton (1910) Status: Abundant Winter Visitant

Bailey (1934) Status: Common Winter Visitant

CHIPPING SPARROW

(Spizella passerina)

Sporadic Very Rare Winter Visitant

(Presumably Regular Fairly Common) Spring and Fall Transient

Regular Common Summer Resident

15 Mar (09 Apr - 29 Oct) 15-20 Nov, 26 Nov, 28 Nov

A count of 50 on 11 Oct 1982 in Geneseo by F. Dobson (GH:38,12) was exceeded by the maximum count of 200 which was tallied by J. Foster on 15 Sep 1970 in Lima (KB:21,1). The November records either represent late lingerers or birds attempting to overwinter, such as the three records at three separate sites in 1995 (GH:52,1, LG:21,11). One on 02 Jan 1960 at Conesus Lake by W. Listman, *et al* (KG:10,1), and one on 07 Jan 1995 at Avon by D. Tetlow (GH:51,3, KB:45,2) and one on 17 Jan and 21 Jan 1998 on Nations Rd by M. Davids, D. Tetlow and D and D. Traver (GH:54,3, LG:24,3) certainly represent overwintering birds.

LL CBC: Recorded 1 year; First in 1979; Maximum 1 in 1979

Eaton (1910) Status: Abundant Summer Resident

Bailey (1934) Status: Common Summer Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 2 PR: 14 CO: 59 T: 75

FIELD SPARROW

(Spizella pusilla)

Irregular Rare to Uncommon Winter Visitant

Regular Common Summer Resident

(29 Mar - 26 Nov)

This bird was given a very apt name. It is likely to be found in fields and haylots throughout the county. It was only missed in a few BBA blocks. The maximum of 50 was recorded on 15 Sep 1970 in Lima by J. Foster (GH:26,8, KB:21,1). The November records either represent late lingerers or birds attempting to overwinter.

LL CBC: Recorded 16 years; First in 1961; Maximum 7 in 1996 (6 in 1966)
 Eaton (1910) Status: Common Summer Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Common Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 10 PR: 27 CO: 37 T: 74

VESPER SPARROW

(*Pooecetes gramineus*)

Casual Winter Visitor
 Regular Fairly Common (formerly Very Common) Summer Resident
 27 Mar, 30 Mar (05 Apr - 10 Oct) 11 Oct, 1 Nov

Normally, this bird is found singing on prominent perches in hedgerows bordering grassy fields without a thick mat of dead grass (lots of dirt). Wheat fields or old cornfields with exposed dirt seem to be ideal. This species was decreasing as early as the mid-1950's. H. Miller considered it a common summer resident (GH:7.5). A count of 15 has been reported on a few occasions, but not since 1981.
 J. H. Madden reported one on 01 Nov 1971 in Livonia (UGR). W. Listman found one bird, presumably on the LL CBC, on 29 Dec 1963 (KB:14.2) and later (the same bird?) on 29 Feb 1964 (GH:20.2) near Conesus Lake. R. McKinney's excellent description leaves no doubt that he saw one on 14 Feb 1988 along West River Rd south of Scousville in Livingston County (UGR, pers. comm.).

LL CBC: Recorded 1 year; First in 1963; Maximum 1 in 1963
 Eaton (1910) Status: Common Summer Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 17 PR: 13 CO: 11 T: 41

SAVANNAH SPARROW

(*Passerculus sandwichensis*)

Occasional Rare Winter Visitor
 Regular Common Summer Resident
 12 Mar, 28 Mar (05 Apr - 29 Oct) 17 Nov, 27 Nov

This bird was given a very apt name. It is easily found in the "savannah" fields and haylofts throughout the county. Counts of 30 have been totaled on several occasions and J. Kimball (pers. comm.) tallied 47 on 02 May 1998. On 12 Mar 1977 on Nations Rd, two singing birds were recorded by F. and R. Dobson (UGR, erroneously printed as 22 in GH:33.5). It has been recorded in winter on several occasions. Specimens (2) exist in SUC Genesee.

LL CBC: Recorded 2 years; First in 1970; Maximum 1 in 1970 and 1990
 Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded
 Bailey (1934) Status: Abundant Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 7 PR: 25 CO: 36 T: 68

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW

(*Ammodramus savaannarum*)

Regular Fairly Common Summer Resident
 22 Apr (26 Apr - 27 Aug) 09 Oct

This bird is likely to be found in appropriate habitat throughout the county. Its status in Livingston County has not changed much since the mid-1950s as H. Miller considered them as uncommon summer residents (GH:7.5). Its departure date is likely later than most dates indicate because this bird is difficult to detect when it is not singing. On the late date of 09 Oct 1997, one bird was recorded by J. Kimball on Nations Rd (GH:53.11, LG:23.10). An unprecedented 20 were reported on a GOS field trip to Nations Rd on 07 Jul 1990 (UGR).

Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded
 Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 14 PR: 12 CO: 13 T: 39

HENSLow'S SPARROW

(Ammodramus henslowii)

Regular Uncommon to Rare Local Summer Resident
03 May (09 May - 25 Jul) 17 Aug

This local bird is likely to be found throughout the county in fields with older weed stalks. Recently, it is most often found on Nations Road, or River Rd on the east side of Letchworth State Park. Historically (circa 1950), H. Miller considered the bird to be a "local not uncommon summer resident" (GH:7,5).

R. Spahn tallied a maximum of 12 birds on 23 May 1992 on the east side of Letchworth State Park (GH:48,7). An informal survey in 1997 produced at least 20 birds at eight sites within the county (pers. obs.). In 1998, J. Kimball (pers. comm.) found at least 23 distinct singing males in the Nations Rd area. Its departure date is likely later than the date indicated because this bird is difficult to detect when it is not singing.

Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded
Bailey (1934) Status: Transient Visitant, Possible Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 7 PR: 6 CO: 6 T: 19

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW

(Ammodramus nelsoni)

Casual Very Rare Fall Transient

On 28 Sep 1997, J. Kimball (GH:53,10, LG:23,9, pers. comm.) went to the marsh on the Nations Farm specifically to look for Leconte's or Sharp-tailed Sparrows. The Nations Farm marsh borders pastureland and also a wet field with tall grasses and several species of sedge grass. At the first promising sedge grass and marsh border area, he played a tape of a LeConte's Sparrow. Almost immediately a short tailed sparrow came into view. He watched it "from about 10 yards in clear sunlight and very little wind" with 7x35 binoculars for at least two minutes. His description is: "A sharp-tailed sparrow with distinct orange-brown face pattern around gray ear coverts. Crown was dark somewhat gray. Some distinct gray around the shoulder area. Breast was tawny with no more than a faint hint of streaking near the wings. Throat was white and bill gray. There was streaking on the back, but I did not notice any clear white streaks. Belly was white and the tail was pointed." He was able to slowly check the Petersons Field Guide and then watch it some more while in the field. As he left, the bird made one quiet chip call and sang once (a "wheezy affair very much like the taped song [of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow]") to round out the complete identification of the bird.

Habitat for this species is rare in the county and few people attempt to find this bird in Livingston County. Otherwise, this species might be recorded more often.

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

FOX SPARROW

(Passerella iliaca)

Sporadic Rare Winter Visitant
(Presumably Regular) Uncommon to Rare Spring Transient
17 Mar (26 Mar - 07 May) 16 May
(Presumably Regular) Uncommon to Rare Fall Transient
11-12 Sep (26 Sep - 18 Nov) 23 Nov

As a migrant, this bird occurs in thick underbrush, sometimes with other sparrow flocks. At several sites throughout the county, the maximum count of 10 was totaled on 05 Apr 1997 (pers. obs.). Many unverified and undocumented early and late dates occur from Springwater. This includes a late August date in 1987 in which *The Kingbird Region 2* editor writes "unusually early, exact dates still undetermined" (KB:37,4). Likewise, other dates by the same observer might be considered suspicious, such as the 16 May 1992 date (GH:48,7).

Few winter records exist. J. and R. Ambrose found one on 16 Jan 1972 on the west side of Conesus Lake near the south end (KB:22,2, UGR). It was compared with the nearby Tree and Song sparrows. It was "noticeably larger, was heavily streaked and had a rufous tail" (UGR). On 17 Dec 1977, one was found in Cuylerville and seen by several observers (LG:4,2). On 28 Jan 1980, R. Clark reported one in Mt. Morris (KB:30,2). J. Kimball recalls the unlikely duo of a Field and Fox Sparrow that simultaneously visited his feeder in Geneseo throughout the day on 23 Nov 1995 (UGR, pers. comm.). K. Dower and D. Tetlow recorded two on 29 Jan 1998 in Dalton (GH:54,3, LG:24,3).

Eaton (1910) Status: Transient Visitant
Bailey (1934) Status: Transient Visitant

SONG SPARROW

(*Melospiza melodia*)

Regular Fairly Common to Uncommon Winter Visitant
Regular Common Summer Resident

In summer, the Song Sparrow is cosmopolitan, being found across the county in suburban settings, in fields and shrubby habitat. In winter, it is more commonly found at feeders or swamplier areas but is sometimes found in its breeding locales. F. Templeton recorded the winter maximum of 50 on 20 Dec 1968 at the Conesus Lake Swamp (GH:25,2). That count has been surpassed several times, primarily on BBS routes in June. It was recorded on every LL CBC, except in 1965. Its status as a permanent resident is unknown. It certainly is much more common in warmer months and starts singing in early March when the bulk of summering birds return. Specimens (2) exist in SUC Geneseo.

LL CBC: Recorded 34 years; First in 1961; Maximum 44 in 1976
Eaton (1910) Status: Abundant Summer Resident, Occasional Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Fairly Common Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 2 PR: 12 CO: 61 T: 75

LINCOLN'S SPARROW

(*Melospiza lincolni*)

(Presumably Regular) Uncommon to Rare Spring Transient
(03 May - 25 May)
(Presumably Regular) Uncommon to Rare Fall Transient
(30 Sep - 10 Oct) 28 Oct

As a migrant, this bird occurs in thick underbrush, often in mixed sparrow flocks. The first record for the county (and latest fall date) was a single bird on 28 Oct 1961 near Avon by J. Haller (KB:11,4). It was not recorded again until 06 Oct 1981 by A. and J. Foster on Nations Rd (URR) and then not again until 1996 (pers. obs.). The early date of 03 May 1997 comes from J. Kimball on a drizzly overcast spring day in the Roots Tavern Woods (GH:53,7, LG:23,6, pers. comm.).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

SWAMP SPARROW

(*Melospiza georgiana*)

(Presumably Regular) Fairly Common to Rare Winter Visitant
Regular Fairly Common Local Summer Resident

The Swamp Sparrow has been regularly recorded (although often in small numbers) in the Conesus Lake area on the LL CBC since 1975. Whether this is due to increased coverage, or change in wintering status of the bird is unknown. The first winter record was two seen on a GOS field trip to Avon on 30 Jan 1940 (GH:2,1). Overwintering numbers vary from year to year. The county maximum was recorded by J. Bouton and M. Davids when they tallied 22 on 29 Dec 1985 on the LL CBC (KB:36,2, LG:12,1). Its status as a permanent resident is unknown, but it certainly is much more widespread in warmer months. The Conesus Swamp and other cattail marshes are likely spots to find this bird throughout the year. A specimen exists in SUC Geneseo.

LL CBC: Recorded 20 years; First in 1964; Maximum 22 in 1985

Eaton (1910) Status: Summer Resident

Bailey (1934) Status: Common Transient Visitant, Irregular Winter Visitant, Summer Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 9 PR: 11 CO: 12 T: 32

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW

(*Zonotrichia albicollis*)

Irregular Uncommon to Rare Winter Visitant
10 Sep (19 Sep - 21 May) 30 May

Regular Fairly Common to Uncommon Spring Transient
Sporadic Rare Summer Resident

Regular Fairly Common to Uncommon Fall Transient

In winter, it is most often found at feeders. The LL CBC data verifies that the White-throated Sparrow is more common in winter than its relative the White-crowned. On 20 Dec 1968, F. Templeton tallied the winter maximum of 50 at the Conesus

Lake Swamp (KB:19,2). Flocks of spring and fall migrants often consist of 5 to 30 birds, and several flocks can be found in a good day's outing. A total of 80 were seen on 01 Oct 1958 in Lacey Swamp by J. Haller (J. H. notes).

All the BBA blocks border other counties, but, in summer, this bird might be heard singing in the higher hills in the remote places of Letchworth State Park and the southern parts of the county. It has been recorded in every month except July. The bird seen on 08 Jun 1996 on a GOS field trip to Rattlesnake Hill WMA (GH:52,8) was a breeder or a very late migrant. The birds recorded by E. Brooks on 19 Jun 1975 on the Swain BBS route and on 21 Jun 1998 by D. Sherony (UGR) at Rattlesnake Hill WMA were likely breeding birds. Likewise, the bird tallied on the Mt. Morris BBS route on 24 Jun 1978 by H. Klabunde was a possible breeder.

LL CBC: Recorded 19 years; First in 1968; Maximum 16 in 1980
Eaton (1910) Status: Transient Visitant
Bailey (1934) Status: Common Transient Visitant
Breeding Status - PO: 4 PR: 0 CO: 0 T: 4

HARRIS' SPARROW

(Zonotrichia querula)

Casual Very Rare Winter Visitant

The first and only record for the county comes from Lakeville along Conesus Creek at the site of a sewage treatment plant. On 02 Jan 1972 on the LL CBC, a party of R. Ambrose, R. Clark and J. Robertson saw a very large sparrow (GH:28,3 KB:22,2). The bird was observed several times over the course of 20 minutes as close as 15 feet. The bird had a "very pink bill, blackish-gray crown" (R. Clark, UGR), and it "had black on its upper breast which extended to its 'chin'. The black under the bill was not solid but rather splotchy, alternating with white. This was particularly true near the lower mandible" (J. Robertson, UGR). Both R. Clark and J. Robertson remarked that "when alarmed, the bird seemed to fly up from the ground into lower branches of brush and small trees" (R. Clark and J. Robertson, UGR).

Just over the county line near the Perry entrance into Letchworth State Park, the Kreutter's allowed many observers to view (and photograph) the Harris' Sparrow which frequented their feeder from 10 Dec 1994 through Jan 1995 with two White-throated Sparrows (KB:45,2).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW

(Zonotrichia leucophrys)

Regular (formerly Irregular) Uncommon to Rare Winter Visitant
15 Sep (24 Sep - 24 May) 28 May

Regular Fairly Common to Uncommon Spring Transient

Regular Fairly Common to Uncommon Fall Transient

In winter, this bird is most commonly found at feeders. In recent years, it has been regularly found wintering in the Genesee River Valley, particularly at Cuylerville. D. Tetlow counted the county maximum of 25 on 14 Jan and 29 Jan 1995 in Avon (GH:51,3, KB:45,2). Like the White-throated flocks of spring and fall, migrants often consist of 5 to 15 birds and several flocks can be found in a day.

LL CBC: Recorded 4 years; First in 1971; Maximum 3 in 1995
Eaton (1910) Status: Transient Visitant
Bailey (1934) Status: Transient Visitant

DARK-EYED JUNCO

(Junco hyemalis)

Regular Common to Fairly Common Winter Visitant
Regular Common to Fairly Common Spring Transient
Regular Fairly Common Summer Resident
Regular Common to Fairly Common Fall Transient

The status of the "Slate-colored" Junco (*J. h. hyemalis*) as a permanent resident is unknown, but it certainly is much more widespread in winter months and has higher peak numbers in the spring and fall. Migrants and winter birds arrive in late September and linger into mid-May. A maximum of 60 was recorded throughout the county on 05 Apr 1997 (pers. obs.). In winter, it is often found at feeders or in conifer plantations. During the summer months, it is found in conifer stands in the remote and higher elevation locations. Specimens (3) exist in SUC Genesee.

LL CBC: Recorded 34 years; First in 1961; Maximum 107 in 1985; missed only 1972
 Eaton (1910) Status: Abundant Transient, Fairly Common Winter Visitor
 Bailey (1934) Status: Abundant Winter Visitor, Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 7 PR: 7 CO: 14 T: 28

DARK-EYED "OREGON" JUNCO

(*Junco hyemalis oregonus*)

Occasional Rare Winter Visitor

Presumably all records of this subspecies of the Dark-eyed Junco were found at feeding stations. Five records exist. The first was two recorded by J. Haller in the winter of 1957-58 in Avon (KB:8,1). On 24 Nov 1976, A. Foster recorded one in Lima (LG:2,12). On 26 Dec 1977, W. Listman recorded one in Geneseo (LG:3,1). In Dec 1984, A. and J. Foster recorded one in Lima (GH:35,2). R. Ambrose and I. Montana recorded one at Conesus Lake on 30 Dec 1989 (KG:40,2, LG:16,1).

LL CBC: Recorded 2 years; First in 1976; Maximum 1 in 1976 and 1989
 Not mentioned by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR

(*Calcarius lapponicus*)

(Presumably Regular) Uncommon to Common Winter Visitor
 14 Nov (19 Nov - 08 Mar) 31 Mar

A maximum count of 50 was recorded in several years with all sightings near Avon and Nations Rd. It is most often found intermixed in flocks of Snow Buntings or Horned Larks in open fields and pastures, particularly in fields with fresh manure spreads. Late spring birds are sometimes seen in full alternate plumage.

LL CBC: Recorded 8 years; First in 1963; Maximum 3 in 1977 and 1995
 Not mentioned by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934).

SNOW BUNTING

(*Plectrophenax nivalis*)

Regular Rare to Abundant Winter Visitor
 20 Oct (07 Nov - 30 Mar)

It is most often found in open fields and pastures, particularly in fields with fresh manure spreads. Single species flocks tend to be large, but sometimes individuals are found intermixed in flocks of Horned Larks. J. Skelly and S. Taylor estimated the maximum of over 5000 on 29 Jan 1984 on Nations Rd (LG:10,2). Large counts of over 3000 were recorded by F. Dobson in Caledonia on 28 Jan 1991 (GH:47,3, KB:41,2) and G. Hartenstein on Fowlerville Rd on 25 Mar 1998 (GH:54,5, LG:24,5). On 30 Mar 1974, A. and J. Foster recorded 1000 in Avon (GH:30,5, KB:24,2). Such a large number indicates that they may have lingered later into the spring. A lone specimen exists in SUC Geneseo.

LL CBC: Recorded 19 years; First in 1961; Maximum 500 in 1977
 Eaton (1910) Status: Winter Visitor
 Bailey (1934) Status: Common Winter Visitor

CARDINALIDAE

NORTHERN CARDINAL

(*Cardinalis cardinalis*)

Fairly Common Permanent Resident

S. W. Eaton (1959) stated that the Cardinal was the pioneer of the four essentially non-migratory southern birds (N. Cardinal, T. Titmouse, N. Mockingbird, and Carolina Wren) which have become quite regular. He postulates that there was little indication of invasion up the Hudson River. He suggests that the "Rochester population of Cardinals appears to have come from the south up the Susquehanna and Finger Lakes country or the Chemung and Genesee River Valleys". McMurtury stated that the Cardinal first appeared in Allegany County in 1925 (KB:5,1). G. Meade recalls the excitement that was created when a male appeared in Rochester in Feb 1926 (Meade, 1982). Bailey (1934) said that it was a regular visitor in parks in Rochester, but he

had never seen it in Livingston County. Contradicting that, he stated that he had seen them in Letchworth State Park and thought they may be a possible nester near the Highbanks (which is Livingston County).

As stated in the June 9, 1938 GOS meeting notes, G. Meade found the first nesting pair in the county (and perhaps the region) in Mt. Morris in 1938. "Dr. Meade reported five Cardinals that were seen at Mt. Morris [through the] last of April. They nested nearby (two nests) but the nests were destroyed by Jays which are prevalent in that district. They have not been seen later than the first week in May." The Aug 9, 1939 GOS meeting notes (and again in the June of 1941) state that Dr. [K.] Merkel "reports from Mt. Morris the nest of Cardinals in that place." Rosche (1967) states that although the bird is a fairly common permanent resident, all the earliest records for Wyoming County are from Letchworth State Park. Details for the locations of the first sightings are not given. Rosche's (1967) first record for Letchworth State Park was by Ulrich on 18 May 1941.

Today, it is a common permanent resident that seems firmly established in a widespread area (as also indicated by the BBA status). A few counts of 70 exist. Specimens (3) exist in SUC Geneseo.

LL CBC: Recorded 35 years; First in 1961; Maximum 78 in 1989
 Eaton (1910) Status: Accidental Visitant
 Bailey (1934) Status: Accidental/Hypothetical Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 8 PR: 18 CO: 49 T: 75

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK

(*Phœticus ludovicianus*)

(Presumably Regular Common) Spring Transient
 Regular Common Summer Resident
 28 Apr (30 Apr - 01 Oct) 16 Oct, 10 Nov
 (Presumably Regular Common) Fall Transient

The first birds of the spring are often males seen visiting feeders. Soon afterwards, the females arrive and both can be found in the forests throughout the county. An abnormally late female was reported on 10 Nov 1989 at Conesus (GH:46,1). No details were submitted to describe the bird (or to eliminate a female Purple Finch), and it does not appear in *The Little Gull* or *The Kingbird*. Specimens exist in SUC Geneseo (2) and RMSC (1).

Eaton (1910) Status: Summer Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 12 PR: 24 CO: 28 T: 64

BLUE GROSBEAK

(*Guiraca caerulea*)

Casual Very Rare Fall Transient

A single female was observed on 05 Sep 1977 by A. and J. Foster (KB:28,1, LG:3,10). A first for the region, the bird was observed at close range (20-25 feet) for nearly fifteen minutes as it fed on thorn apples in a scrubby hedgerow by a horse pasture on the dirt road portion of the Michigan Rd extension in the town of Lima (pers. comm.). It had a "grosbeak shape of the bill [and was] generally buffy brown beneath and chocolate brown above with tan wing bars. The wing bars were very distinct." The size, bill shape, wing bars, and lack of streaking in the head and breast eliminate all other possibilities (LG:3,10).

There was an unconfirmed report of a bird being seen intermittently at a feeder for three days in W. Sparta in the spring of 1996. A molting Indigo Bunting is much commoner and often mistaken for this species.

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

INDIGO BUNTING

(*Passerina cyanea*)

(Presumably) Regular Common Spring Transient
 Regular Common Summer Resident
 (04 May - 15 Sep) 24 Sep
 (Presumably) Regular Common Fall Transient

This bright blue bird is often first seen in the spring visiting feeding stations. Its normal habitat is widespread and consists of scrubby fields and early second growth.

A report of a single bird on 31 Mar 1983 in Livonia (GH:39,5) should be questioned. It precedes all local date guides by a whole month. No supporting details were given and its absence in *The Kingbird* is to be noted.

Eaton (1910) Status: Fairly Common Summer Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 8 PR: 28 CO: 34 T: 70

DICKCISSEL

(*Spiza americana*)

(Hypothetical Rare Winter Visitor)
 Casual Rare Summer Resident/Visitor

"Before 1870, the Dickcissel was a common or abundant breeder in the middle states east of the Alleghenies (Eaton 1914)... ornithologists do not know why or exactly when it disappeared from the northeast" (Brooks, 1988). A. C. Bent (1968) says that it commonly nested from the Carolinas to Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York in the 19th century, but by the end of the century it disappeared. Bull (1974) states that they were formerly more common and many of his older and more recent breeding records were from the region (although not in Livingston County, per se). This is supported by the Eaton (1910) list which explicitly states the presence of this bird as "?". But Bailey (1934) did not mention the bird at all, despite the focus on nesting birds.

The first concrete record was a single bird found visiting a feeding station at the Kimball residence in Geneseo on 01-02 May 1996 (GH:52,7, LG:22,6). Later the same year, a singing male was found a few miles north on Nations Rd (possibly the same bird) near Houston Rd. Although it was regularly seen singing between 24 May and 09 Jul 1996, there was no indication of another bird being present or any possible nesting (GH:52,7-8, LG:22,6-7).

In addition to these records, it has been found in summer just north of the county line in W. Rush from 12 Jul to 21 Jul 1967 (GH:14,1, KB:12,3). A summer male singing "on and on and vigorously defending territory but there was no sign of a mate" was found just outside of Letchworth State Park near the Ferry entrance through 07 Jul 1980 (KB:30,4, D. Bassett, pers. comm.). Hypothetically, it is a rare winter visitor as it has been found on a few occasions in winter just north of the county line in Scottsville and Rush.

Eaton (1910) Status: "?"

Bailey (1934) Status: Not recorded

ICTERIDAE

BOBOLINK

(*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)

Regular Common Summer Resident

27 Apr (02 May -17 Aug) 15 Sep

This bird is regularly found in fields and haylots around the county.

F. Dobson tallied 100 (probably mostly migrants) on 03 May 1979 in Avon (GH:35,7). A specimen exists in SUC Geneseo.

Eaton (1910) Status: Common Summer Resident

Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 9 PR: 25 CO: 39 T: 73

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

(*Agelaius phoeniceus*)

Irregular Fairly Common to Rare Winter Visitor
 Regular Abundant Spring and Fall Transient
 Regular Abundant Summer Resident

The ubiquitous redwing is often seen in spring and summer. Flocks of spring and fall migrants, often numbering in the 1000s, settle in for a night's roost in the cattail marshes and swamps around the county. Generally, they arrive in late February and linger into November, irregularly throughout the winter. Winter birds are most often found in swamps or marshes. The winter maximum was noted by J. H. Madden who tallied 90 on 23 Feb 1975 Feb 23 in Livonia (GH:31,4). Specimens (2) exist in SUC Geneseo.

LL CBC: Recorded 14 years: First in 1966; Maximum 44 in 1979

Eaton (1910) Status: Abundant Summer Resident

Bailey (1934) Status: Abundant Summer Resident, Rare Winter Visitor

Breeding Status - PO: 1 PR: 9 CO: 66 T: 75

EASTERN MEADOWLARK

(Sturnella magna)

Irregular Rare to Fairly Common Winter Visitant
 Regular Common Summer Resident

During the summer months, fields and hay lots are common locations in which to find this bird perched atop a fence post or small isolated shrub. Winter birds are found, although with more difficulty, in the same habitat. An RBA field trip to Nations Rd ended up with a total of 14 birds in 03 Dec 1977 (LG:4,2). The earliest birds arrive in late February. Often they linger into November or throughout the winter.

LL CBC: Recorded 4 years; First in 1970; Maximum 18 in 1975
 Eaton (1910) Status: Common Summer Resident, Occasional Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Abundant Summer Resident, Rare Winter Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 9 PR: 25 CO: 40 T: 74

WESTERN MEADOWLARK

(Sturnella neglecta)

Sporadic Very Rare Visitant

J. Haller and Mrs. Sheldon observed a singing bird in Retsof all during the month of June 1964 (KB:14,4). While attending a rodeo on Clay St. in Lima on 06 Jun 1970, A. and J. Foster were fortunate enough to be seated on the back side of the bleachers from where they heard a Western Meadowlark singing (GH:26,8, KB:20,4). J. Foster (pers. comm.) recalls that he tried to find the bird on another day (07 Jun) and found it singing to the south of the original location. Although Bull (1974) cites these as "non-breeding birds," the local literature does not indicate breeding status. The time of year and duration of visits suggests that this species is a Probable breeder.

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

RUSTY BLACKBIRD

(Euphagus carolinus)

Irregular Rare Winter Visitant
 Irregular Fairly Common to Rare Spring Transient
 (07 Mar - 17 May)
 (Presumably Regular) Fairly Common to Rare Fall Transient
 (28 Sep - 31 Oct)

In migration, this bird is often found, sometimes in large numbers, near swamps. A maximum of 15 was counted on 30 Sep 1970 in Lima by J. Foster (UGR).

On 01 Jun and 30 Jun 1985, J. and H. Hamilton reported eight birds of this species in the town of Springwater. According to the literature, the "habitat looked suitable and the reports were adequately documented" (GH:41,7/8-9, KB:35,4). Although accepted by the local records committee, it was later rejected by NYSARC (Report # 1985-40-A) (KB:37,4). The verification report was not reviewed, but statistics committee members stated that the "details were weak" (R. Spahn, pers. comm.).

LL CBC: Recorded 5 years; First in 1970; Maximum 3 in 1970 and 1984
 Eaton (1910) Status: Transient Visitant
 Bailey (1934) Status: Transient, Abundant Fall Transient

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD

(Euphagus cyanocephalus)

Casual Very Rare Winter Visitant

A single female was recorded on Nations Road, Avon between South Avon Road and Hogmire on 01 Jan 1993 by H. and D. Lown (GH:50,3, KB:44,2, LG:20,2). It was seen among a group of thirteen Red-winged Blackbirds and was watched for several minutes at a distance of 25 feet. It was described as a female with "unstreaked brownish gray breast and sides somewhat darker wings and dark eye. She varied in color, striping, shape and attitude from the redwings so that she was apparent in the flock although in size she was about the same" (Unpublished RBA Verification Report). The observers returned later the same day and relocated the bird. The record was the first winter record for the region.

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

COMMON GRACKLE

(*Quiscalus major*)

Irregular Rare Winter Visitor
 Regular Common Spring and Fall Transient
 Regular Very Common Summer Resident
 17 Feb (22 Feb - 20 Nov) 03 Dec

Although this species is a common summering bird, marshes and swamps are favored sites during migration where flocks of hundreds or even thousands are found. One was tallied within the Hemlock Lake area (LL CBC Area 2) in the village of Hemlock within the county on the 1990 CBC (D. Strong, pers. comm.). Specimens (2) exist in SUC Geneseo.

LL CBC: Recorded 1 year; First in 1975; Maximum 1 in 1975
 Eaton (1910) Status: Common Summer Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 12 PR: 6 CO: 55 T: 73

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD

(*Molothrus ater*)

Regular Rare to Fairly Common Winter Visitor
 Regular Common Spring and Fall Transient
 Regular Common Summer Resident

In warmer months, these birds can be found everywhere. In migration, they are often found among the blackbirds with which they migrate. In winter, birds can sometimes be found flocking into feeding stations. The earliest migrants arrive in late February. A maximum of 300 has been recorded on several occasions, primarily as fall and winter flocks.

LL CBC: Recorded 11 years; First in 1966; Maximum 57 in 1971
 Eaton (1910) Status: Common Summer Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Abundant Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 15 PR: 22 CO: 37 T: 74

ORCHARD ORIOLE

(*Icterus spurius*)

Rare to Uncommon Summer Resident
 03 May (14 May - 24 Aug)

The first recent record of this species was an adult male which J. Taylor found near Conesus Lake on 19 May 1957 (KB:7,2). This species was not recorded again until the spring and summer of 1996 (GH:52,7-8, LG:22,7). A first-year male and a female were found on River Rd in Retsof. A week later, a first-year male was found about two miles south of there on Brown St in Cuylerville (pers. obs.). About two weeks later, J. and K. Fox observed an adult male and a female on Nations Rd near SR 39 (pers. obs.). J. Kimball (pers. comm.) soon found a pair of adults in the Roemer Arboretum on the SUC Geneseo campus. This last pair succeeded in nesting and raising at least one or two fledglings, which were last observed on 11 Jul 1996. During this same year, both M. Davids (pers. comm.) and M. Peter (pers. comm.) separately observed this species on Houston Rd near Nations Rd at different times during the month of June.
 In the spring of 1997, several birds (up to nine individual birds at five locations) were recorded returning to the Geneseo area (Roemer Arboretum, Big Tree Farm, and Nations Rd near Wheeler's Gully (GH:53,7, LG:23,6-7). A family of six was the maximum recorded by J. Kimball on 15 Jul 1997 at the Roemer Arboretum (GH:53,8, pers. comm.). In the spring and summer of 1998, J. Kimball (LG:24,7, pers. comm.) and D. Van Horn located several individuals at nine distinct locations in the Geneseo area. Although this bird has historically been tallied primarily only in the old orchards on the Great Lakes Plains, the park-like Pastoral Genesee River Valley is adequate habitat. With so many individuals of possibly many pairs being found in the region in 1996, 1997 and 1998, its status is uncertain. This may have been an unusually large number of birds in an 'invasion' year, or they may have been somehow undetected for many years in an oft-birded locale. Both R. Beason (pers. comm.) and K. Dover (pers. comm.) have irregularly observed these birds in the past, and it is suspected that they occur more frequently and more widely than recorded.

Eaton (1910) Status: Rare Summer Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Not recorded

BALTIMORE ORIOLE*(Icterus galbula)*

Occasional Rare Winter Visitant
 Regular Common Summer Resident
 28 Apr (04 May - 14 Sep) 21 Sep

This colorful summer resident is often found in many places throughout the county, particularly in suburban and park-like settings. J. H. Madden observed one from 21 Dec to 24 Dec 1976 in Livonia (KB:27,2). In the winter of 1980, M. and C. Dilgard politely allowed many observers to see the Painted Redstart at their feeding station that overshadowed the oddity of two female Baltimore Orioles during Jan 1980 (GH:36,3, KB:30,2, LG:6,2). From 01 Dec to 31 Dec 1983, L. Beidleman watched a single bird in Avon (GH:40,2, KB:34,2). A co-worker showed G. Hartenstein one dead adult male lying atop the snow in Piffard on 02 Jan or 03 Jan 1996 (GH:52,3, pers. comm.). A maximum of 20 was recorded on 21 Jun 1970 in the Avon area on a GOS field trip (UGR). Specimens (4) exist in the SUC Geneseo collection.

Eaton (1910) Status: Common Summer Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 7 PR: 11 CO: 55 T: 73

FRINGILLIDAE**PINE GROSBEAK***(Pinicola enucleator)*

Sporadic Uncommon Winter Visitant

This species was first recorded in the county on 08 Feb 1962 when J. Haller observed two on Nations Rd (J. H. notes). Few records exist aside from the birds tallied on the LL CBC. This includes two on 26 Dec 1977 at Conesus Lake by G. Perrigo (URR). An unspecified author tallied at least 11 birds within the county on the east side access road by the Hemlock Lake waterworks (GH:22,1). Also, nine males were recorded within the county just west of Hemlock Lake in Area 2 in 1989 (D. Strong, pers. comm.). J. Kimball found one at his feeder in Geneseo on 22 Apr 1998 (GH:54,6). This seldom-found bird is usually discovered feeding on seed cones in conifer stands.

LL CBC: Recorded 4 years; First in 1968; Maximum 25 in 1973 (20 in 1968)
 Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

PURPLE FINCH*(Carpodacus purpureus)*

Irregular Uncommon to Common Winter Visitant
 (Presumably Regular) Fairly Common to Uncommon Spring Transient
 Regular Fairly Common Summer Resident
 (Presumably Regular) Fairly Common to Uncommon Fall Transient

Besides the breeding season when it is found in conifer stands in the higher elevations, this bird is most often found at feeding stations. J. H. Madden had the highest winter count with 70 birds on 23 Jan 1976 at Conesus Lake (GH:32,3, KB:26,2). On 07 May 1972, T. Tetlow tallied 200 birds in Dansville (GH:28,7, KB:22,3), which is a peculiar date for so many birds. The species has been declining in the area for at least a decade. In the summer of 1986, R. Spahn cited common speculation that the decrease of the Purple Finch is "at times, tentatively linked to the increase in House Finch" (KB:36,3).

LL CBC: Recorded 8 years; First in 1972; Maximum 34 in 1982
 Eaton (1910) Status: Uncommon Summer Resident
 Bailey (1934) Status: Common Transient Visitant, Summer Resident
 Breeding Status - PO: 11 PR: 22 CO: 11 T: 44

HOUSE FINCH*(Carpodacus mexicanus)*

Common to Very Common Permanent Resident

"Hollywood" finches were deliberately released from about 20 pet stores in Brooklyn in 1940 due to fear of prosecution from the US F&WS agents for violating the new Migratory Bird Treaty with Mexico (Cant, 1962). Since that release, the population has exploded, with the first nesting in the state occurring two years later at Jones Beach (Cant, 1962).

In Region 2, they were first recorded breeding on St. Paul St in Rochester in 1971 (KB:21,4). In Allegany County, they were first recorded in 1973 (Klingensmith and Hoover, 1986), but it was not until 1977 that they were first recorded in Livingston County. The first record was two birds seen in Lima on 11 Mar to 13 Mar 1977 by J. Foster (LG:3,4). The second record came almost two years later on 18 Mar 1979 in Livonia by J. H. Madden (GH:35,6). These birds were seen regularly through the remainder of the year, when the parents brought in young to be fed (UGR). This was the first recorded nesting in Livingston County.

It was first recorded on the L-SL CBC on 15 Dec 1979 when W. Litsman recorded 25 (LG:6,1) and then on the LL CBC in 1981. It has been recorded every year since 1981. CBC numbers of these birds skyrocketed to a peak of 483 birds in 1988 and almost as quickly tapered off to numbers of about 100 birds. The decrease in numbers may have been a natural decline, but certainly was affected by House Finch Eye Disease (*Mycoplasma gallisepticum*). First noticed in 1994, the disease apparently only affected House Finches and a very few others species (*Birdscope*, 1996).

LL CBC: Recorded 16 years; First in 1981, but recorded every year since; Maximum 483 in 1988
 Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)
 Breeding Status - PO: 15 PR: 10 CO: 29 T: 54

RED CROSSBILL

(Loxia curvirostra)

Sporadic Rare to Uncommon Spring, Fall and Winter Visitant

Only four records exist. The first for the county was on 28 Nov 1949 when Nelson recorded them near Dansville (GH:2,5). Five were seen on the 1962 LL CBC. The next record is 15 birds seen in Lima on 30 May 1970 by A. and J. Foster (GH:25,7, KB:20,3). A single female was observed by J. Foster at his feeder in Lima from 05 Apr to 12 Apr 1986 (KB:36,3, LG:12,4). It has nested to the south in Allegany County on several occasions including 1997 (PT:63,8) but has not yet been recorded nesting in this county.

LL CBC: Recorded 1 year; First in 1962; Maximum 5 in 1962
 Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL

(Loxia leucoptera)

Sporadic Uncommon to Rare Fall and Winter Visitant

It was first recorded in the county on 29 Oct 1963 when J. Haller found five in Avon (J. H. notes). On 25 Dec 1971, W. Litsman recorded this species at Conesus Lake (UGR). On 26 Oct 1981, J. H. Madden recorded three in Livonia (UGR). The remaining records are from the LL CBC. It has not been recorded in the Conesus Lake section (Area 1) but has been recorded 11 times on the LL CBC (maximum was 33). It has been found five times in the Hemlock Lake section (Area 2). It has also been recorded just outside the county in Meadowood by J. Haller in the spring of 1961 (J. H. notes).

LL CBC: Recorded on the LL CBC but never in the Conesus Lake Section.
 Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

COMMON REDPOLL

(Carduelis flamma)

Irregular Fairly Common to Very Common Winter Visitant
 08 Nov (24 Nov - 23 Apr) 30 Apr

M. and T. Teltow found the county maximum of 500 birds on the LL CBC on 28 Dec 1978 near St. Michael's Mission on the west side of Hemlock Lake (KB:26,2, LG:2,1, pers. comm.). C. Cass estimated the large number of 300 on 01 Jan 1987 on a field trip to Avon and Retsof (UGR, URR).

LL CBC: Recorded 11 years; First in 1968; Maximum 225 in 1993
 Eaton (1910) Status: Occasional Winter Visitant
 Bailey (1934) Status: Winter Visitant

HOARY REDPOLL

Casual Rare Winter Visitant

W. Listman observed two individuals of this species in the company of Common Redpolls on 02 Jan 1960 at Conesus Lake (GH:12,1, KB:10,1), which accounts for the pre-1961 record on the LL CBC.

Two records exist during the winter of 1997-1998. M. Davids and D. Tetlow found one "frosty" individual in a flock of about 300 Common Redpolls in the hamlet of Hemlock on SR 15A on 10 Jan 1998 (GH:54,3, pers. comm.). D. Van Horn watched a single bird at his feeder in the Geneseo township during a four-day period (26 Jan to 29 Jan 1998). The bird was well described as it was well seen at a distance of a few feet (pers. comm.).

Not recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934)

PINE SISKIN

(Carduelis pinus)

Irregular Fairly Common to Rare Winter Visitant

08 Sep (19 Oct - 19 May)

Irregular Uncommon Spring Transient

Occasional Rare Summer Resident/Visitant

Irregular Uncommon Fall Transient

Typically, this "winter finch" is found as a spring and fall migrant visiting feeding stations and irregularly at feeders in winter. The early fall record was one bird seen by J. H. Madden on 08 Sep 1982 in Livonia. A maximum of 115 was recorded by H. Hamilton in Springwater in early Apr 1988 (UGR).

Although confirmed as a breeder in nearby Monroe County following winter invasions, no confirmed breeding records exist for Livingston County (although it is suspected). On 20 Jul 1981, J. H. Madden recorded one bird, which is presumably the BBA data, in Livonia (GH:37,8, KB:31,4). J. and H. Hamilton recorded one to two birds in Springwater in Jun 1988 (UGR), in Jul 1990 and during the month of June in 1992 (GH:48,8).

LL CBC: Recorded 4 years; First in 1972; Maximum 35 in 1972

Eaton (1910) Status: Winter Visitant

Bailey (1934) Status: Transient Visitant, Hypothetical Summer Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 1 PR: 0 CO: 0 T: 1

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH

(Carduelis tristis)

Regular Common Winter Visitant

Regular Common Spring and Fall Transient

Regular Common Summer Resident

The goldfinch is often found in fields feeding on weed seeds and thistle heads. It is also a common feeder bird throughout the year. It has been recorded on every LL CBC in the Conesus area, except 1972. Perhaps the most unusual occurrence of this bird in the county was 4000 birds in a single flock recorded on 09 Feb 1964 by W. Listman in Retsof (KB:14,2). One specimen exists in the Cornell University collection.

LL CBC: Recorded 34 years; First in 1961; Maximum 340 in 1979

Eaton (1910) Status: Common Summer Resident

Bailey (1934) Status: Permanent Resident

Breeding Status - PO: 2 PR: 43 CO: 30 T: 75

EVENING GROSBEAK

(Coccothraustes vespertinus)

Irregular Fairly Common Winter Visitant

16 Oct (22 Oct - 18 May) 23 May, 31 May, 24 Jun

Sporadic Summer Resident/Visitant

These irruptive birds vary in numbers winter to winter and are most often found eating everything at feeding stations. "Prior to the incursion of 1889-1890, it was virtually unknown" (Belknap, 1973). It was an irregular winter visitor with increasing numbers after the late 1940's (Belknap, 1973). J. and H. Hamilton recorded the maximum of 104 in Springwater in early Dec

1986 (GH:43,2). Other than the BBA records, the only summering bird was a single bird recorded in Geneseo on 24 Jun 1996 by J. Kimball (GH:52,8).

LL CBC: Recorded 16 years; First in 1961; Maximum 75 in 1979
Eaton (1910) Status: Not recorded
Bailey (1934) Status: Rare Winter Visitor
Breeding Status - PO: 1 PR: 2 CO: 0 T: 3

PASSERIDAE

HOUSE SPARROW

(*Passer domesticus*)

Very Common Introduced Permanent Resident

It is found wherever houses or horses exist, which is everywhere in the county. Bailey (1934) states that the bird was introduced in the USA in 1860, but places the arrival of this species in the county circa 1875. It has been a common permanent resident ever since. A maximum count of 750 was estimated by J. H. Madden on 03 Jan 1971 (UGR). Specimens (2) exist in SUC Geneseo.

LL CBC: Recorded 35 years; First in 1961; Maximum 1687 in 1979
Eaton (1910) Status: Abundant Resident
Bailey (1934) Status: Resident
Breeding Status - PO: 1 PR: 4 CO: 70 T: 75

RARITIES

What is a rare bird? This is hard to quantify. Given the sparseness of records from Livingston County, a ratio of birds to number of years is not a fair judgement (i.e. recorded less than once every 2 years). A given bird could be a regular breeding bird in the county, but because it is not sought in that county, it is not found every year.

The following is a (subjective) list of birds that the author perceives to be rare in the county. The list is based upon the author's experience with the birds, the habitat within the county and records in neighboring counties with similar habitat. Although perhaps not rare in Western NY or even Region 2, any bird on the following list should be documented if it is found within Livingston County. Many of the birds on the following list (which are rare for Region 2) have been sufficiently documented. Mottled (Scaled) Petrel and Painted Redstart, and quite possibly Purple Gallinule and Swainson's Warbler, are not expected to ever occur in the county again. Perhaps a few of the following birds occur here more often but go unreported - time and coverage will tell.

Eared Grebe	Least Bittern	Snowy Egret
Little Blue Heron	Cattle Egret	Black-crowned Night-Heron
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Glossy Ibis	Brant
Black Scoter	Eurasian Wigeon	Black Vulture
Peregrine Falcon	Golden Eagle	Gyr Falcon
Ruddy Turnstone	Red Knot	Sanderling
White-rumped Sandpiper	Baird's Sandpiper	Stilt Sandpiper
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Short-billed Dowitcher	Long-billed Dowitcher
Wilson's Phalarope	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Glaucous Gull
Caspian Tern	Black Tern	Common Barn-Owl
Snowy Owl	Long-eared Owl	Northern Saw-whet Owl
Whip-poor-will	Black-backed Woodpecker	Western Kingbird
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Sedge Wren	Boreal Chickadee
Varied Thrush	Bohemian Waxwing	Loggerhead Shrike
Yellow-throated Warbler	Prothonotary Warbler	Kentucky Warbler
Blue Grosbeak	Dickcissel	Summer Tanager
Spotted Towhee	Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	Harris' Sparrow
Western Meadowlark	Pine Grosbeak	Brewer's Blackbird
Red Crossbill	White-winged Crossbill	Hoary Redpoll

HYPOTHETICAL SPECIES

The following species are presented here since they may contribute to the ornithology of Livingston County. These species have been reported and are probably correct but either no documentation or insufficient data exists within those documents. Therefore, they are not included on my official list. Unless mentioned otherwise, neither Eaton (1910) nor Bailey (1934) has recorded any of the following.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

(*Anser albifrons*)

(Hypothetical Rare Spring Transient)

Throughout the northeast, these rare birds are often found on the normal flyways with their migrating companion, the Canada Goose. Dr. R. Beason (pers. comm.) mentioned a sighting of a single bird on Fowlerville Rd in a farm field feeding with Canada Geese in a spring in the early 1980's. D. Bassett (pers. comm.) recalls a pair of birds that were seen in a spring in the early 1980's by the Middle Falls at Lechworth State Park. Bassett stated that they appeared to be a mated pair and acted "curious". He was not sure if these birds were of wild origin, although they arrived and departed with the Canada Geese and were wary of humans. During the same year at the same time, another pair was found in the Route 436 marsh at the south end of Lechworth State Park. Bassett was unsure whether or not they represented a second pair. Although recorded by qualified and careful observers, this species is not included in the annotated list since written documentation describing the sighting does not exist, specific dates are lacking and even the origin is in question in one case.

GRAY PARTRIDGE

(*Perdix perdix*)

Extirpated Introduced Permanent Visitor

During the early 1930's, a statewide movement to introduce this species occurred. Bailey (1934) mentions that this bird was introduced and he had seen them "in the wild". He stated that some overwintered, but none had bred to his knowledge. The introduction, like the ones in nearby Monroe and Wyoming County, failed and they are no longer found in the region. Since they had never become established, they are not included in the annotated list.

Bailey (1934) Status: Introduced resident

SPOTTED REDSHANK

(*Tringa erythropus*)

(Hypothetical Very Rare Spring Transient)

On 27 Apr 1995, a black *Tringa*-like shorebird was observed in the midst of both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs at the Twin Cedars DEC pond. The mysterious black shorebird was described having flecks of white and gold in the newly molted plumage. It had long, orange-red legs. The long, slender bill was described as having a small hook at the tip. The bird did not remain at the site and the sighting was not corroborated. An identification of a black Ruff (*Philonachus pugnae*) is the only other alternative, which is interesting on its own account. Both observers lacked experience with a Ruff but noted that it never ruffled its neck feathers and had a slightly hook-tipped bill. A species as rare as this should be corroborated, if a photograph (or specimen) is not taken. The observers, lacking both photo and experience with this shorebird, declined to identify the bird at the time.

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER

(*Picoides tridactylus*)

(Hypothetical Very Rare Winter Visitor)

On the 1965 LL CBC, W. Lloyd and M. A. Sunderlin observed a single bird somewhere near south end of Hemlock Lake after observing a pair of Bald Eagles (GH:22,1-2, KB:16,2), although the exact location could not be determined. Although it is possible that it was recorded in the county, it was still likely that it was recorded in Ontario County.

GRAY JAY

(Perisoreus canadensis)

(Hypothetical Very Rare Visitant)

The Gray Jay is a rare straggler away from its northern boreal haunts. Two published records exist for the county. Both records were accepted by a local record committee and both were rejected by NYSARC. Both come from the high elevations and conifer-laden township of Springwater. Several secondhand reports from several observers come from this tree farm previous to the first published record, but all the secondhand reports were dismissed.

A report dated 17 Sep mentions a sighting a month earlier on 15 Aug 1982. J. Warner observed a bird for 3 to 4 minutes at "40 of my strides" with 8x binoculars with excellent morning light at her back. The description reads, "the jay was sitting high in a Scotch pine, preening himself. Occasional fluffs of feathers would fall. The preening meant that he turned his head around many times, and the white cheek markings and white head were clearly visible. The rest of the bird was darker gray on top than on the breast. It was the size of our Blue Jay but a bit chunkier." This was on Scribner Road in Springwater (UGR). This report was not published, nor submitted to NYSARC.

Another out of season and out of normal range report comes from G. Fram (fide H. Hamilton) who reported one on Giles Road in East Springwater on 27 Jun 1985 (GH:41,9 KB:35,4). The observation lasted about one minute through 7x binoculars at 40 yards during midday sun. The observer "described it accurately as to size, color and flight. After details were given, he was shown a Peterson's Field Guide and positively identified it with no hesitation" (UGR). When asked to eliminate similar species, the response was "It wasn't blue, had black patch on head, distinct gray above with white crown, white throat and pale gray breast." Details were submitted to NYSARC (1985-28-A) but were rejected (KB:37,4).

The most recent (hypothetical) report comes from avid backyard feeder watchers who, literally, fed tons of seed every winter for many years. Both were familiar with many of the common birds, including Blue Jays. The bird that they identified as a Gray Jay "was in a black cherry tree at a distance of 25 feet. The weather was clear and bright and there were no obstructions in our field of view" (UGR). The bird was not described, only named. Two members of the Hamilton family closely observed (without binoculars) this out of range bird before it departed. This occurred on 17 Feb 1993 (GH:49,4). Details were submitted to NYSARC (1993-36-A) but were obviously rejected without a description of the bird (KB:37,4).

Out of normal range reports have been confirmed, but not within the county. It has been verified in similar habitat during the winter in Region 3 on 25 Jan 1958 and 15 Jan 1973 (Kibbe, 1973). Interestingly enough, a bird that was out of season and out of normal range was mentioned by Beardslee and Mitchell (1965). They cite a single hypothetical record seen in mid-summer on 28 Jun 1936 by an observer familiar with the bird.

This species should be considered hypothetical in the county. None of the observations were independently confirmed and no photographs were taken of this very rare bird. Written verifications of the bird have been somewhat weak. Because blue feathers in birds are not a pigment but a diffraction of light, some blue-colored birds can appear gray in different lighting. No mention is made of the lack of either the black necklace of the Blue Jay, or the lack of white spots on the back, or even the lack of the crest of the Blue Jay. Nevertheless, multiple observers independently viewing this species over the course of a decade all within the same township, and even same tree farm, is definitely alluring. It should be considered possible, maybe even highly probable, but not confirmed.

BICKNELL'S THRUSH

(Catharus bicknelli)

(Hypothetical Casual Very Rare Spring Transient)

Bailey (1934) says that this bird occurs only as a migrant. Modern data from surrounding counties indicates that, although possible, it is a rare occurrence, further complicated by a difficult identification. Bailey mentioned a specimen that had struck a window at the Normal School (now called SUC Geneseo).

Accepting a sight record would be questionable, but with a specimen in hand, Bailey could have taken the appropriate measurements to ensure the identification as a Bicknell's Thrush. Bailey's collection may have been donated to the University of Rochester. The University of Rochester collection was, in turn, donated to the RMSC collection. However, many of the identification tags for the specimens from University of Rochester were removed and lost in the move. Bailey's specimen is lost. Since many competent observers have misidentified and mislabeled specimens (particularly Bicknell's Thrush) and this specimen is lost and cannot be re-examined, this account must be treated as hypothetical.

WHITE-EYED VIREO

(Vireo griseus)

(Hypothetical Occasional Rare Spring Migrant)

(23 May - 01 Jun)

Written verification for this species has never been received, although it has been reported a number of times. Almost all reports of this species come from the east side of Letchworth State Park. D. Bassett (pers. comm.) has observed the bird on

several occasions, including one on 23 May 1982 (KB:32.3). M. Reinhardt (pers. comm.) reported one on 01 Jun 1991 (GH:47.8 KB:41.4), which was seen and heard on the east side of Leitchworth State Park, just past Cabin Area "E" (north) on the west side of the road. Although recorded by qualified and careful observers, this species is not included in the annotated list since written documentation describing the sighting and species is non-existent.

(*Oporornis agilis*)

CONNECTICUT WARBLER

(Hypothetical Rare Spring and Fall Transient)

The only published record for this reclusive warbler is on 27 Apr 1994 at the south end of Conesus Lake (near the inlet swamp) (GH:50.6, KB:44.3). A local committee accepted the record, although no additional details of this remarkably early date could be found.

No written documentation describing a sighting exists for a dateless record by a qualified and careful observer. D. Bassett (pers. comm.) recalls sighting this species in Leitchworth State Park north of the Mr. Morris Dam in the 1970s near what is now the extension of the Finger Lakes Trail.

Additionally, a few records exist of this species in "Scottsville" or near the county line in Rush, NY. Three banding records exist for this species, but it is not definitive whether or not the banding station was in the county. This species is not on the annotated list because a peculiarly early April date lacking details must be considered hypothetical. Reports of rare bird sightings should be written reports.

(*Chondestes grammacus*)

LARK SPARROW

(Hypothetical Summer Visitor)

A record of this species was published as being seen in Lima on 11 Jul 1997 (GH:53.8). It was seen in a hedgerow on Towhine Rd, near Clay St. The bird was described as an immature, but the wear on the feathers was not mentioned. The sketch depicted a combination of a breast spot and a streaked breast. This is a feature which is not described in any field guide for an adult nor an immature Lark Sparrow. Furthermore, the description mentioned a strong face pattern, but no further details were provided and the face pattern was not sketched. Being partially hidden by a bush, the critical tail pattern was not observed. A Lark Sparrow, especially an immature, at this time of year is unprecedented in Western NY. Field guides were referenced, but only one of four (Peterson's, but not the advanced sparrow guide) came close to matching a description of the bird. A Vesper Sparrow was dismissed because of the breast spot and the lack of a chestnut shoulder. However, the National Geographic Society (1987) explicitly states "Distinctive shoulder patch not easily seen. Streaking across breast sometimes forms a central spot." A Vesper Sparrow fits the description and is much more likely in this area at this time of year. No further explanation was made as to why it was not a Vesper Sparrow. Because of the aforementioned reasons, it is still considered hypothetical and not included in the annotated list.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD

(*Xenocephalus xenocephalus*)

(Hypothetical Very Rare Fall Transient)

An unconfirmed report of this nearly unmistakable bird comes from W. Sparta during the fall of 1996 (when the possibilities of vagrants are likely). A written report was not submitted and a record was not published.

NEAR MISSES

Some species have occurred so close to the boundaries of the county that it is quite likely that these individuals passed through the county on their vagrancy. Or, because of similar habitats, have occurred within the county but have not been recorded. They are included here as possibilities, prophecies, corrections and curiosities. None of the following has been recorded by Eaton (1910) or Bailey (1934).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE*(Elanoides forficatus)*

(Hypothetical Very Rare Spring Transient)

D. Butler observed one adult on 25 Apr 1986 in Dansville while fishing (GH:42,8, KB:36,3). A report was submitted to NYSARC (1986-12-A) and accepted as occurring on the Dansville Reservoir, Steuben County (KB:37,4). Two reservoirs exist in Dansville: one within the county, the other only a half-mile outside. It is unlikely that the bird occurred on the smaller reservoir within the county, but it is very possible that the kite had continued north into the county. This report is included here because most references cite Dansville (assumed to be Livingston County), but further (inconclusive) evidence indicates Steuben County.

SANDHILL CRANE*(Grus canadensis)*

(Hypothetical Rare Spring and Fall Transient)

In late November 1996, three birds were found in the town of Richmond in Ontario County a few miles to the south of Doran Rd in Lima (pers. obs.). Two birds were found in the same field during the spring of the next year, 1997 (GH:53,7-8, LG:23,6-7), and again in the same field during the fall of the same year, 1997 (A. Kirsch, pers. comm.). With increased sightings of these birds statewide (now annual), and migrants near to the boundaries of the county, it is expected that they will be found within the county within a few years.

KING RAIL*(Rallus elegans)*

(Hypothetical Very Rare Fall Transient)

W. Groesbeck reported a sighting of this species "between Portageville and Letchworth park entrance on Sep 12 [1958]" (KB:8,1 - p 90). The report of the sighting was not accompanied by additional details and the original observer could not be contacted. The location of the bird may have been within Livingston County because two entrances to Letchworth State Park exist near Portageville. Even if the species was recorded within the county, the sighting must be considered hypothetical due to the lack of details. It is a unique sighting in a remarkably strange habitat for this rare bird (or any rails species). Therefore, it is not included on the annotated list.

WHIMBREL*(Numenius phaeopus)*

(Hypothetical Very Rare Spring Transient)

A published record for the county comes at a time of year when one is expected to occur. It is cited as occurring at Conesus Lake on 30 May 1988 (GH:44,7, KB:38,3). It is mentioned here because, although the data was published, further inquiry provided details that suggested a yellowlegs. It was later rejected by a local committee (R. Spahn, pers. comm.). Therefore, it is not included on the annotated list.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE

(Phalaropus lobatus)

(Hypothetical Rare Spring and Fall Transient)

J. Foster and T. Tetlow observed one bird within a mile of the county line on 30 May 1972 (UGR). J. Foster (pers. comm.) recalls that it was feeding at the north end of Canadice Lake. It is expected that this species will be found within the boundaries of the county in the future.

GREAT GRAY OWL

(Strix nebulosa)

(Hypothetical Winter Visitor)

During the winter of 1995-1996, several owls of this species were recorded in the region. The closest one wintered near the Rochester Sunshine Rotary Camp in Rush, just one mile north of the county line. The bird was photographed on 28-29 Mar 1996 and remained until 12-13 Apr 1996 (GH:52,5-6). Although rather rare, it is possible that this irruptive species might be found within the boundaries of the county.

BOREAL OWL

(Aegolius funereus)

(Hypothetical Winter Visitor)

M. Davids (pers. comm.) and D. Tetlow found an adult roadkill Boreal Owl on 01 Jan 1996 on a backroad in Perry near Silver Lake (GH:52,3), which is quite close to the county line. Although rather rare, it is possible that this irruptive species might be found within the boundaries of the county.

WORM-EATING WARBLER

(Helmitheros vermivorus)

(Hypothetical Rare Spring and Fall Transient)

Although not recorded within the county, it has been seen by J. Haller in West Rush on 21 Sep 1969 (GH:25,9, KB:20,1). Many records of this species have been reported during the spring migration throughout NYS. And, they are recorded breeding in West Danby and Dryden near Ithaca in Central NY. One unconfirmed spring sight record comes from Sparta. It is expected to be confirmed in the county in the near future.

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE

(Pipilo chlorurus)

(Hypothetical Rare Winter Visitor)

Reporting on the spring of 1976, *The Kingbird* "Highlights of the Season" editor, R. W. Smart reports that "Another VERY PROBABLE record was that of a Green-tailed Towhee in Nunda observed by W. and M. Barber. Although the local committee did not accept it for a first regional record, the chances are that it was perfectly good" (KB:26,3).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW

(Spizella pallida)

(Hypothetical Rare Summer Visitor)

No records exist for the county, but they have been recorded singing in spruce plantations in late June and July just over the county line in Canadice (KB:13,4), a few miles east in Honeoye (KB: 21,4) and just to the south in Allegany County. It is expected to be confirmed in the county in the near future.

INTRODUCED, EXOTIC AND ESCAPED BIRDS

Several species of birds are not native. These include both the introduced birds and captive birds that have escaped. Established introduced species presented in the main text include Mute Swan, Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon), European Starling, House Finch, and House Sparrow. Also included in the main text are some populations that wholly or partially come from introduced populations, such as Ring-necked Pheasant, Northern Bobwhite, and Wild Turkey.

Three interesting birds of unknown origin, but likely escapes were: Flamingo (GH:23,1), Black-headed Parakeet (KB:35,4) and Common Crane. Brown, Aldrew and Sweeney reported the Flamingo at Conesus Lake on 06 Nov 1966. The Black-headed Parakeet was seen in the county by C. R. Smith (pers. comm.) while conducting the Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) survey "near Wayland" on 29 July 1985. Details were submitted to J. Carroll, BBA coordinator. The Common Crane was seen on 29 Mar 1992 on Van Zandt Rd 1/4 mile west of SR 15 in Livonia and reported to the RBA hotline.

The following species (primarily gamebirds) have been reported within the county but are currently considered escaped or released birds: Shelduck, Ruddy Shelduck, Mandarin Duck, Gray Partridge (see account above), Red-Legged Partridge (specimen in Cornell University), and Chukar. Monk Parakeet and Ringed Turtle dove, although not yet recorded within the county, would also be considered exotic and escaped.

WISH LIST

Many birds have been reliably recorded within 100 miles of Livingston County. Due to migration patterns or habitat similarities, the author expects additional species to be found within the county in the future. Some species that have been reliably recorded within 100 miles of Livingston County are expected to be pass through or over the county, but may not be found in the county due to habitat limitations. The following are the top 20 species on the wish list (in approximate order of expectancy):

White-eyed Vireo, Greater White-fronted Goose, Clay-colored Sparrow, Worm-eating Warbler, Iceland Gull, Sandhill Crane, Little Gull, Barrow's Goldeneye, Fish Crow, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Connecticut Warbler, Laughing Gull, American White Pelican, Red-necked Phalarope, Hudsonian Godwit, Franklin's Gull, Western Sandpiper, Lark Sparrow, King Rail, LeConte's Sparrow.

These are additional birds with fluctuating or expanding ranges or unpredictable wandering tendencies that may be expected (with lower probability) to occur in the county at some time in the future. In no particular order, these species include:

Ross's Goose, Barnacle Goose, Common Eider, King Eider, Marbled Godwit, Forster's Tern, Tricolored Heron, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Ruff, Thayer's Gull, Great Cormorant, Willet, Tufted Duck, Purple Sandpiper, Townsend's Solitaire, Say's Phoebe, Green-tailed Towhee, Harlequin Duck

The next species likely to be found breeding in the county (in no particular order) are Gadwall, Osprey, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Northern Parula, Clay-colored Sparrow and Red Crossbill. Although currently recorded as "Possible" or "Probable" breeders, the American Coot, Short-eared Owls, Common Raven, Golden-crowned Kinglet, White-throated Sparrow and Prairie Warbler are the next species expected to be confirmed.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS OF ANNOTATED LIST

The county is severely under-birded, especially in relation to the variety of different habitats and the number of Monroe County birders. Many bits of information in the data are missing. Typically, Rochester area birders only made annual pilgrimages to the county in December, January, sometimes February, and June. Visits in late November and December were RBA or GOS field trips to Conesus Lake or the Little Lakes CBC or pre-CBC scouting trips. Visits in January and sometimes February were for first of the year birds on Conesus Lake or for RBA or GOS field trips to Nations Road, June RBA or GOS field trips were to Letchworth State Park and Nations Road. For these reasons, fall and winter waterfowl, wintering field birds, wintering raptors, sparrows and breeding birds are well covered, but Nearctic-Neotropical migrants are not. Regular feeder watchers provide substantial records for many seed-eating birds.

Eaton (1910) and Bailey (1934) provided many details of the range expansion of birds into the county and noted some declines as well. Eaton's list was helpful, but somewhat lacking due to insufficient coverage of the county, but it is not a fault of Eaton. Eaton only had two primary observers for the county, Guy Bailey of Geneseo and A. L. Thorne of Sonyea. Bailey's trends and predictions are obvious now. Some proved true (i.e. decline of Loggerhead Shrike, expansion of the Northern Cardinal), others proved false (i.e. undetected existing populations of Passenger Pigeon). Bailey's thesis provided many early nesting records, but its lacking in consistency of abundance and does not even mention abundance in many instances. Still, much of the early history of Livingston County would be lacking without these works. With respect to Bailey and Eaton's time, many ranges or trends in population have changed. Additionally, some nationwide trends have occurred, which can be followed or will likely occur in Livingston County. Specific trends (such as the spread of the House Finch into Western NY) were covered in the individual species accounts in the annotated list.

Compared with nearby counties, Livingston County has a great breeding diversity. Even some of the BBA blocks near the Lake Ontario shoreline can not compare with the numbers found in Letchworth State Park, especially for wood-warblers. Grassland birds and wintering raptors seem to favor Livingston County. However, the county does not compare well with the spring migration on the lakeshore where the birds are concentrated. Thus, numbers and variety are lower overall. Although the Genesee River with its Letchworth gorge may be considered by some to be a minor hawk corridor, it pales in comparison to Braddock Bay.

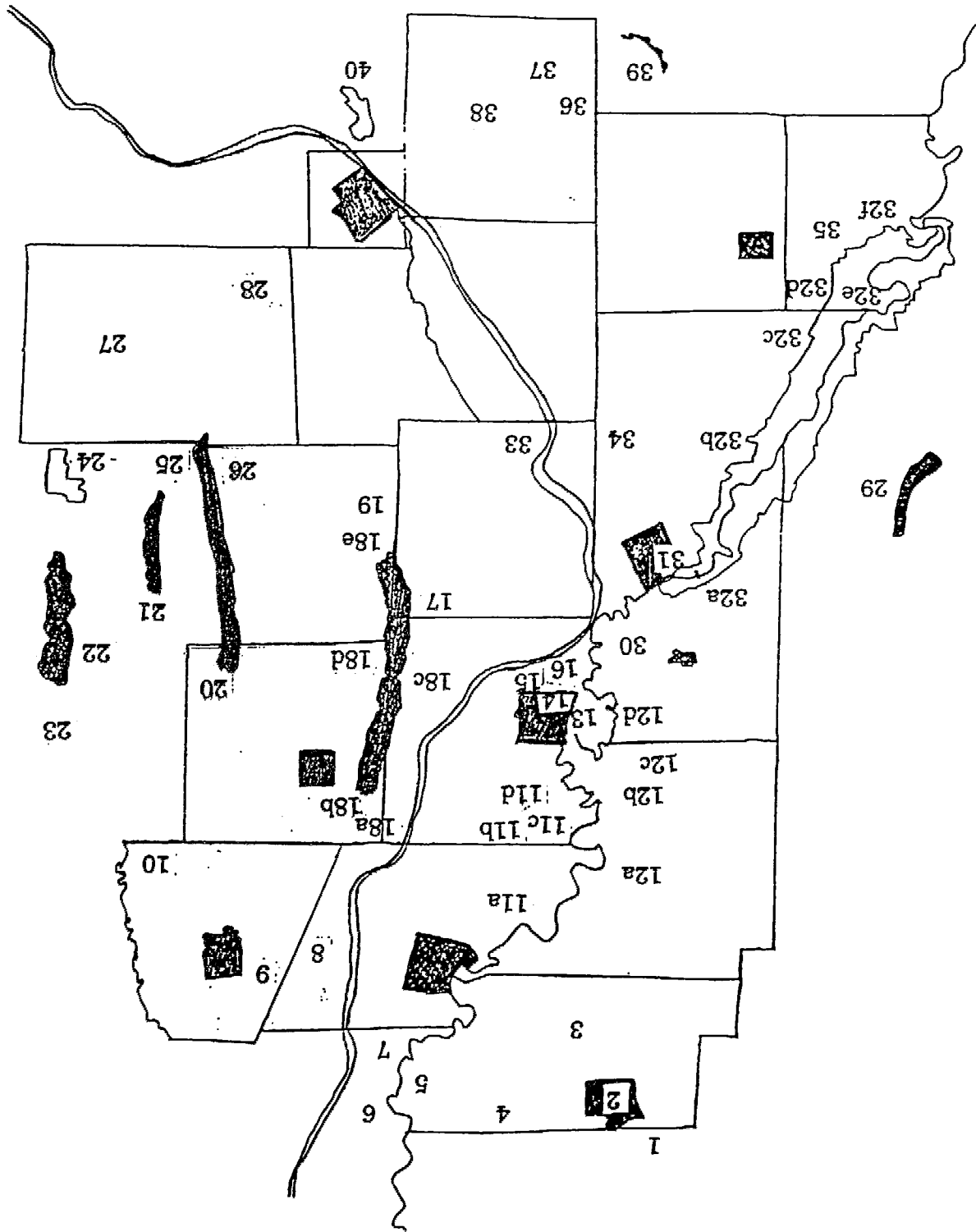
Waterfowl records show some trends. Waterfowl that normally arrive in early September in Western NY (such as Green-winged Teal) tend to arrive later than normal in Livingston County. Likewise, lingering waterfowl in the spring tend to leave earlier. Recreation on Conesus Lake (where most waterfowl are recorded) deters waterfowl from sharing the water with boaters and produces the "late-arrival" and "early-departure" effect. Boat activity (as well as the lack of open roosting sites and lake "churn") probably accounts for the limited number of tern records. The depth profile, lack of shallows, and fluctuating water levels (which affect access to food supply) are most likely responsible for the smaller number waterfowl, gull and terns records from Hemlock Lake. Some fall waterfowl linger into winter. The winter departure date (and likewise the spring arrival date) for much of the waterfowl is not really correlated to the time of year as much as it is to the preference for open water. During the mild winter of 1997-1998, Conesus Lake did entirely not freeze, and most of the waterfowl remained. Species that overwintered successfully during that winter (pers. obs.) included: Canada Goose, Am. Black Duck, Mallard, Canvasback, Redhead, King-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead and Common Merganser, and possibly Hooded Merganser and Ruddy Duck. If Conesus Lake were open year round, I suspect that the diversity of wintering waterfowl would increase, almost to fall proportions. Likewise, wintering Herring and Great Black-backed gulls (and King-billed Gull) would tend to stay throughout the winter rather than departing with ice-over and returning with the open water.

In the late 1950s, H. Miller noted that the Mallard was the most common breeding duck. At that time, the Wood Duck was declining as a breeder and was about as common as the American Black Duck. Whereas a decade earlier, the Wood Duck was the most numerous breeder. The Blue-winged Teal was a distant fourth (GH:9,1). Currently, the ranking of the Mallard and the Wood Duck has not changed. The Wood Duck ranks as the second most common breeder behind Mallard, and is increasing. The Blue-winged Teal ranks as third and still lags considerably behind the Mallard and Wood Duck, but is declining. The Hooded Merganser is now a distant fourth and gaining, surpassing the American Black Duck (perhaps as common as the Blue-winged Teal). The American Black Duck is now the distant fifth, being close to extirpation as a breeder. The Common Merganser is the only other duck that breeds with some regularity, but it is confined to the Genesee River in Letchworth State Park (but breeders on Hemlock Lake are possible).

Eaton and Bailey had few records of shorebirds, probably for the same reason few modern records exist, namely, the lack of habitat. History shows that when temporary habitat does exist, the shorebirds that normally pass over the region undetected take advantage of the temporary food source and observations increase. Since no change in the shorebird habitat in the area is expected, I suspect that this trend will not change. Likewise, records of marsh birds are scarce and unlikely to change.

Eaton does not mention either Golden-winged Warbler or Blue-winged Warbler. Bailey mentions Golden-winged Warbler, but not Blue-winged Warbler. As seen elsewhere, Golden-winged Warbler seems to be undergoing a genetic death with respect to Blue-winged Warbler. As expected without the parent species, neither of the hybrids was mentioned in either of the historic works. The current status of these species follows the trend of falling Golden-winged Warbler numbers. Hybrids, primarily Brewster's, are more frequently found, especially, as Bull (1974) mentions, in the Letchworth State Park area.

Many of the changes in abundance on the continental level can be watched in Livingston County. Songbirds, especially Nearctic-Neotropical migrants, have been declining dramatically. Numbers of grassland birds are falling even faster. These are trends to be watched.



APPENDIX A: MAP OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY BIRDING SITES

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Genesee Country Museum, Monroe Co. | 18e DEC inlet |
| 2 Spring Creek/DEC Trout Hatchery, Caledonia | 19 Conesus Swamp |
| 3 Cold Springs Marsh | 20 Hemlock Lake Waterworks |
| 4 Lacey Road Swamp | 21 Canadice Lake, Ontario Co. |
| 5 Log Pond / Street Farm | 22 Honeoye Lake, Ontario Co. |
| 6 Golah | 23 Taylor Marsh, Ontario Co. |
| 7 Meadowood (J. Haller residence), Monroe Co. | 24 Harriet Hollister Spencer SRA, Ontario Co. |
| 8 Twin Cedars DEC Ponds | 25 Hemlock Lake mudflats |
| 9 Ponds in Lima | 26 Marrowback Hill |
| 10 Doran Road, Lima | 27 H. Hamilton residence |
| 11 Nations Road | 28 Pokamoonshine |
| 11a Fowlerville heronry | 29 Silver Lake, Wyoming Co. |
| 11b Roots Tavern (Grainger) Woods | 30 Bean Plant marsh |
| 11c Nations Farm | 31 Livingston County Park |
| 11d Jaycox Creek / Wheeler's Gully | 32 Letchworth State Park |
| 12 "Retsof" | 32a Mt. Morris Dam |
| 12a Abbey of the Genesee | 32b River Road |
| 12b Salt Mines | 32c Dishmill Creek / Dygert Road |
| 12c Caledonia Road farm | 32d Lewis's Switch / Genesee Canal |
| 12d River Road | 32e Parade Grounds |
| 13 Big Tree Farm | 32f Route 436 Marsh (Cartwright's Pond) |
| 14 Roemer Arboretum | 33 Groveland Flats / Canaseraga Swamp |
| 15 Homestead Woods | 34 Sonyea SF |
| 16 "Fallbrook" / Dewey Hill | 35 Willet's Pond |
| 17 Scotts/Grove Conservation Ponds | 36 Rattlesnake Hill WMA |
| 18 Conesus Lake | 37 Ossian SF |
| 18a Lima Road Pond | 38 Canaseraga SF |
| 18b Vitale Park | 39 Klossner's Pond, Allegany Co. |
| 18c Long Point Park | 40 Stony Brook SP, Steuben Co. |
| 18d J. H. Madden residence | |

APPENDIX B: SUMMARY OF BREEDING STATUS

The following is a summary of the breeding status of the species that have been recorded within Livingston County. The first column represents only the data from the Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) project (*Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*, 1988). The second column is the definitive breeding status that includes any BBA or historical account of breeding. For example, although the Pied-billed Grebe was only found as possible breeder during the BBA project (1980-1984), it has been confirmed as a breeder either before or after that time period. The breeding status level of confidence (Confirmed, Probable and Possible, abbreviated Co, Pr, Po, respectively) conforms to the criteria outlined in the Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) project.

BBA BBA plus Historical
 BBA BBA plus Historical

GAVIIFORMES		ANSERIFORMES	
1) Red-throated Loon	-	22) Snow Goose	-
2) Common Loon	-	23) Canada Goose	Co
PODICIPEDIFORMES		24) Brant	-
		25) Mute Swan	Co
		26) Tundra Swan	-
		27) Wood Duck	Co
Podicipedidae		28) Gadwall	-
3) Pied-billed Grebe	Po	29) Eurasian Wigeon	-
4) Horned Grebe	-	30) American Wigeon	-
5) Red-necked Grebe	-	31) American Black Duck	Co
6) Eared Grebe	-	32) Mallard	Co
PROCELLARIIFORMES		33) Blue-winged Teal	Co
		34) Northern Shoveler	Po
		35) Northern Pintail	-
Procellariidae		36) Green-winged Teal	-
7) Mottled Petrel	-	37) Canvasback	-
PELECANIFORMES		38) Redhead	-
		39) Ring-necked Duck	-
		40) Greater Scaup	-
		41) Lesser Scaup	-
Phalacrocoracidae		42) Surf Scoter	-
8) Double-crested Cormorant	-	43) White-winged Scoter	-
CICONIIFORMES		44) Black Scoter	-
		45) Oldsquaw	-
		46) Butthead	-
Ardeidae		47) Common Goldeneye	Co
9) American Bittern	Po	48) Hooded Merganser	Co
10) Least Bittern	Co	49) Red-breasted Merganser	-
11) Great Blue Heron	Co	50) Common Merganser	Co
12) Great Egret	Po	51) Ruddy Duck	-
13) Snowy Egret	-	FALCONIFORMES	
14) Little Blue Heron	-	Accipitridae	
15) Cattle Egret	-	52) Osprey	-
16) Green Heron	Co	53) Bald Eagle	Co
17) Black-crowned Night-Heron	-	54) Northern Harrier	Co
18) Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	-	55) Sharp-shinned Hawk	Co
Threskiornithidae		56) Cooper's Hawk	Co
19) Glossy Ibis	-	57) Northern Goshawk	Co
Cathartidae		58) Red-shouldered Hawk	Co
20) Black Vulture	-	59) Broad-winged Hawk	Co
21) Turkey Vulture	Co	60) Red-tailed Hawk	Co

61) Rough-legged Hawk	-	-		
62) Golden Eagle	-	-		
Falconidae				
63) American Kestrel	Co	Co		
64) Merlin	-	-		
65) Peregrine Falcon	-	Co#		
66) Gyrfalcon	-	-		
GALLIFORMES				
Phasianidae				
67) Ring-necked Pheasant	Co	Co		
68) Ruffed Grouse	Co	Co		
69) Wild Turkey	Co	Co		
Odontophoridae				
70) Northern Bobwhite	Pr	Co		
GRUIFORMES				
Rallidae				
71) Virginia Rail	Co	Co		
72) Sora	Co	Co		
73) Purple Gallinule	-	-		
74) Common Moorhen	Co	Co		
75) American Coot	-	Pr		
CHARADRIIFORMES				
Charadriidae				
76) Black-bellied Plover	-	-		
77) American Golden-Plover	-	-		
78) Semipalmated Plover	-	-		
79) Killdeer	Co	Co		
Scolopacidae				
80) Greater Yellowlegs	-	-		
81) Lesser Yellowlegs	-	-		
82) Solitary Sandpiper	-	-		
83) Spotted Sandpiper	Co	Co		
84) Upland Sandpiper	Pr	Co		
85) Ruddy Turnstone	-	-		
86) Red Knot	-	-		
87) Sanderling	-	-		
88) Semipalmated Sandpiper	-	-		
89) Least Sandpiper	-	-		
90) White-rumped Sandpiper	-	-		
91) Baird's Sandpiper	-	-		
92) Pectoral Sandpiper	-	-		
93) Dunlin	-	-		
94) Stilt Sandpiper	-	-		
95) Buff-breasted Sandpiper	-	-		
96) Short-billed Dowitcher	-	-		
97) Long-billed Dowitcher	-	-		
98) Common Snipe	Co	Co		
99) American Woodcock	Co	Co		
100) Wilson's Phalarope	-	-		
			Laridae	
			101) Bonaparte's Gull	- -
			102) Ring-billed Gull	- -
			103) Herring Gull	- -
			104) Lesser Black-backed Gull	- -
			105) Glaucous Gull	- -
			106) Great Black-backed Gull	- -
			107) Caspian Tern	- -
			108) Common Tern	- -
			109) Black Tern	- Co#
			COLUMBIFORMES	
			Columbidae	
			110) Rock Dove	Co Co
			111) Mourning Dove	Co Co
			112) Passenger Pigeon	- !
			CUCULIFORMES	
			Cuculidae	
			113) Black-billed Cuckoo	Co Co
			114) Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Co Co
			STRIGIFORMES	
			Tytonidae	
			115) Common Barn-Owl	Co Co
			Strigidae	
			116) Eastern Screech-Owl	Co Co
			117) Great Horned Owl	Co Co
			118) Snowy Owl	- -
			119) Barred Owl	Co Co
			120) Long-eared Owl	Pr Co
			121) Short-eared Owl	Pr Pr
			122) Northern Saw-whet Owl	- !
			CAPRIMULGIFORMES	
			Caprimulgidae	
			123) Common Nighthawk	Pr Pr
			124) Whip-poor-will	- Pr#
			APODIFORMES	
			Apodidae	
			125) Chimney Swift	Co Co
			Trochilidae	
			126) Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Co Co
			CORACIIFORMES	
			Alcedinidae	
			127) Belted Kingfisher	Co Co

PICIFORMES

Co	Co	<i>Sittidae</i>	168) Red-breasted Nuthatch
Co	Co		169) White-breasted Nuthatch

Picidae

Co	Co	<i>Certhiidae</i>	170) Brown Creeper
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Troglodytidae

Co	Co	<i>Troglodytidae</i>	171) Carolina Wren
Co	Co		172) House Wren
Co	Co		173) Winter Wren
Co	Co		174) Sedge Wren
Co	Co		175) Marsh Wren

PASSERIFORMES

Co	Co	<i>Tyrannidae</i>	128) Red-headed Woodpecker
Co	Co		129) Red-bellied Woodpecker
Co	Co		130) Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Co	Co		131) Downy Woodpecker
Co	Co		132) Hairy Woodpecker
Co	Co		133) Black-backed Woodpecker
Co	Co		134) Northern Flicker
Co	Co		135) Pileated Woodpecker

Tyrannidae

Co	Co	<i>Tyrannidae</i>	136) Olive-sided Flycatcher
Co	Co		137) Eastern Wood-Pewee
Co	Co		138) Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Co	Co		139) Acadian Flycatcher
Co	Co		140) Alder Flycatcher
Co	Co		141) Willow Flycatcher
Co	Co		142) Least Flycatcher
Co	Co		143) Eastern Phoebe
Co	Co		144) Great Crested Flycatcher
Co	Co		145) Western Kingbird
Co	Co		146) Eastern Kingbird
Co	Co		147) Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

Laniidae

Co	Co	<i>Laniidae</i>	148) Northern Shrike
Co	Co		149) Loggerhead Shrike
Co	Co		150) Blue-headed Vireo
Co	Co		151) Yellow-throated Vireo
Co	Co		152) Warbling Vireo
Co	Co		153) Philadelphia Vireo
Co	Co		154) Red-eyed Vireo

Vireonidae

Co	Co	<i>Vireonidae</i>	155) Blue Jay
Co	Co		156) American Crow
Co	Co		157) Common Raven

Corvidae

Co	Co	<i>Corvidae</i>	158) Horned Lark
Co	Co		159) Purple Martin
Co	Co		160) Tree Swallow
Co	Co		161) Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Co	Co		162) Bank Swallow
Co	Co		163) Barn Swallow
Co	Co		164) Cliff Swallow

Hirundinidae

Co	Co	<i>Hirundinidae</i>	165) Black-capped Chickadee
Co	Co		166) Boreal Chickadee
Co	Co		167) Tufted Titmouse

Alaudidae

Co	Co	<i>Alaudidae</i>	192) Bohemian Waxwing
Co	Co		193) Cedar Waxwing

Bombycillidae

Co	Co	<i>Bombycillidae</i>	191) American Pipit
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Motacillidae

Co	Co	<i>Motacillidae</i>	194) Blue-winged Warbler
Co	Co		195) Golden-winged Warbler
Co*	Co*		"Brewster's" Warbler
Co*	Co*		"Lawrence's" Warbler
Co	Co		196) Tennessee Warbler
Co	Co		197) Orange-crowned Warbler
Co	Co		198) Nashville Warbler
Co	Co		199) Northern Parula
Co	Co		200) Yellow Warbler
Co	Co		201) Chestnut-sided Warbler
Co	Co		202) Magnolia Warbler
Co	Co		203) Cape May Warbler
Co	Co		204) Black-throated Blue Warbler

Parulidae

Co	Co	<i>Parulidae</i>	194) Blue-winged Warbler
Co	Co		195) Golden-winged Warbler
Co*	Co*		"Brewster's" Warbler
Co*	Co*		"Lawrence's" Warbler
Co	Co		196) Tennessee Warbler
Co	Co		197) Orange-crowned Warbler
Co	Co		198) Nashville Warbler
Co	Co		199) Northern Parula
Co	Co		200) Yellow Warbler
Co	Co		201) Chestnut-sided Warbler
Co	Co		202) Magnolia Warbler
Co	Co		203) Cape May Warbler
Co	Co		204) Black-throated Blue Warbler

205) Yellow-rumped Warbler	Co	Co	245) Swamp Sparrow	Co	Co
206) Black-throated Green Warbler	Co	Co	246) White-throated Sparrow	Po	Po
207) Blackburnian Warbler	Co	Co	247) White-crowned Sparrow	-	-
208) Yellow-throated Warbler	-	-	248) Harris' Sparrow	-	-
209) Pine Warbler	Co	Co	249) Dark-eyed Junco	Co	Co
210) Prairie Warbler	Pr	Pr	"Oregon" Junco	-	-
211) Palm Warbler	-	-	250) Lapland Longspur	-	-
212) Bay-breasted Warbler	-	-	251) Snow Bunting	-	-
213) Blackpoll Warbler	-	-			
214) Cerulean Warbler	Co	Co	Cardinalidae		
215) Black-and-white Warbler	Co	Co	252) Northern Cardinal	Co	Co
216) American Redstart	Co	Co	253) Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Co	Co
217) Prothonotary Warbler	-	Co	254) Blue Grosbeak	-	-
218) Swainson's Warbler	-	-	255) Indigo Bunting	Co	Co
219) Ovenbird	Co	Co	256) Dickcissel	-	Po
220) Northern Waterthrush	Pr	Co			
221) Louisiana Waterthrush	Co	Co	Icteridae		
222) Kentucky Warbler	-	-	257) Bobolink	Co	Co
223) Mourning Warbler	Co	Co	258) Red-winged Blackbird	Co	Co
224) Common Yellowthroat	Co	Co	259) Eastern Meadowlark	Co	Co
225) Hooded Warbler	Co	Co	260) Western Meadowlark	-	Pr#
226) Wilson's Warbler	-	-	261) Rusty Blackbird	-	-
227) Canada Warbler	Co	Co	262) Brewer's Blackbird	-	-
228) Painted Redstart	-	-	263) Common Grackle	Co	Co
229) Yellow-breasted Chat	Co	Co	264) Brown-headed Cowbird	Co	Co
			265) Orchard Oriole	-	Co
			266) Baltimore Oriole	Co	Co
Thraupidae					
230) Summer Tanager	-	-			
231) Scarlet Tanager	Co	Co	Fringillidae		
			267) Pine Grosbeak	-	-
Emberizidae			268) Purple Finch	Co	Co
232) Eastern Towhee	Co	Co	269) House Finch	Co	Co
233) Spotted Towhee	-	-	270) Red Crossbill	-	!
234) American Tree Sparrow	-	-	271) White-winged Crossbill	-	-
235) Chipping Sparrow	Co	Co	272) Common Redpoll	-	-
236) Field Sparrow	Co	Co	273) Hoary Redpoll	-	-
237) Vesper Sparrow	Co	Co	274) Pine Siskin	Po	Po
238) Savannah Sparrow	Co	Co	275) American Goldfinch	Co	Co
239) Grasshopper Sparrow	Co	Co	276) Evening Grosbeak	Pr	Pr
240) Henslow's Sparrow	Co	Co			
241) Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	-	-	Passeridae		
242) Fox Sparrow	-	-	277) House Sparrow	Co	Co
243) Song Sparrow	Co	Co			
244) Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-			

Key

- # Questionable (included in totals)
- ! Hypothetical (not included in totals)
- * Hybrids (not included in totals)

Summary of Breeding Species	BBA	BBA plus Historical
Confirmed (Co) Breeding Species	132	145
Probable (Pr) Breeding Species	10	9
Possible (Po) Breeding Species	6	6
Breeding Species (Co+Pr+Po)	148	160

APPENDIX C: SUMMARY OF ANNOTATED LIST

162	Number of Species*	Historical Status (Eaton 1910)
81	Breeding Species**	
161	Number of Species	Historical Status (Bailey 1934)
2	Hypothetical Species	
-146	Breeding Species	
172	Number of Species	Historical Status (Harding and Orwen, 1974)
271	Confirmed Species	
1	Extinct Species	
5	Introduced Species	
277	Total Species	
10	Unconfirmed Species (Hypothetical)	
10	Unconfirmed Species (Near Misses)	
18	Number of Orders †	
49	Number of Families	
277	Number of Species	
148	Number of Breeding Species (BBA)	
160	Number of Breeding Species (BBA and Historical)	
*	The status of Dickcissel was printed as "?" and is not included in the total.	
**	N. Bobwhite is listed as a former breeder and is included in the total.	
#	Based upon the A.O.U. 6th edition, 1997, 41st Supplement	
†	The only Order on the NYS Checklist that has not been recorded in Livingston County is <i>Psittaciformes</i> .	

APPENDIX D: ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- American Birds*, Vol. 34, No. 270, 1980
- Anderson, 1976. *The Diamonds are Dancing: A History of Conesus Lake*, Helen Traver Anderson. Published by The Conesus Lake Association, Inc. Printed by Brader Publications, Inc. Livonia, NY, 1976
- Bailey, 1934. *Birds of Livingston County*, Guy M. Bailey. 1934
- This was Guy M. Bailey Master's Thesis. This obscure three volume set was not published, but a copy is located in the rare book stacks at the Rush Rhees Library at the University of Rochester. The first volume contains text of the birds of Livingston County. The remaining two volumes solely contain photographs from 1899 (a distant Song Sparrow) to 1934. Although this reference contains data above and beyond Eaton's work with almost three additional decades of observations within the county, the primary focus is on the breeding birds of the county, not migrants or arrival and departure dates. It is an interesting text from a historical perspective, although some of the information is obviously inaccurate or missing. The section on geology in the first volume is excellent and still pertinent.
- Bassett, 1989. "Wintering Turkey Vultures in Letchworth State Park," Douglas K. Bassett. *The Kingbird*, Vol. XXXIX, No. 2 (Spring 1989), p 75
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- This article described old growth forests of Western NY. According to the map, four old growth forests exist in Letchworth State Park (only one is in Livingston County). Additionally, old growth forests exist at Livingston County Park in Mt. Morris and at Reynold's Gully near Springwater.
- BBA, 1988. *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*, Robert F. Andrie and Janet R. Carroll, editors. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY, 1988
- This was a project of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. (FNYSBC), the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology. The state was divided into equal sized (5km x 5km) "blocks" in which breeding status was sought. The data is invaluable and used extensively within this manuscript
- BBC. The Breeding Bird Census.
- This project maintains data about the ten most common birds in a census plot, which is data that is readily available elsewhere. The data was reviewed, but not used.
- BBL. The Bird Banding Lab.
- This project maintains data in 10 minute lat/long blocks. Livingston County falls within nine of these blocks, mostly just on the fringes (only one falls completely within the county). Few banding stations exist in the county, primarily for grassland birds, not skulking migrants. The data was reviewed, but not used.
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- Data (1967 through 1995) from the BBS was obtained from Bruce Peterjohn at that facility and used extensively within this manuscript.
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- Beardslee and Mitchell, 1965. *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region: An Annotated Checklist*, Clark S. Beardslee and Harold D. Mitchell. Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, Volume 22, Buffalo, NY, 1965, 478 pages
- This book only covers part of Livingston County, and only in the earlier years. Originally, the Buffalo region included everything west of the Genesee River that included a small portion of the county. The new Federation of NYS Bird Clubs (*The Kingbird*) boundaries entirely exclude Livingston County from the Buffalo region. This book is a model reference for the status of birds in Western NY.
- Belknap, 1951. "Brunnich's Murre in Northern New York," John B. Belknap. *The Kingbird*, Vol. I, No. 2 (Mar - Apr 1951), p. 13-14
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- Belknap, 1971, 2. "The Turkey Vulture in New York State," John B. Belknap. *The Kingbird*, Vol. XXI, No. 2 (Spring 1971).
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- Bent, 1963. *Life Histories of North American Gallinaceous Birds and Their Allies*, Arthur Cleveland Bent. Dover Publications, New York, 1932, 1963, p.328
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- Bent, 1968. *Life History of North American Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Towhees, Finches, Sparrows and their Allies: order Passeriformes, family Fringillidae*, Arthur Cleveland Bent. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, 1968

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- Broko 1974. "Bald Eagle CBC Data." Martin Broko. *The Kingbird*, Vol. XXIV, No. 3 (July 1974).
- Brooks, 1988. "A Third Post 1875 Nesting of Dickcissel in New York State." Elizabeth W. Brooks. *The Kingbird*, Vol. XXXVIII, No. 4, p. 237-238
- Brown, 1952. "The Bend in the River." John W. Brown. *Goshawk*, Vol. V, No. 2 (Mar-Apr 1952)
- Brown, 1970. "Birds Afield." John W. Brown. *The Times-Union*, Oct 15, 1970
- Buffalo Museum of Science Collection.
- Data (through 1996), or lack thereof (no records found), from this collection was obtained from Arthur Clarke, curator at that facility.
- Bull, 1974. *The Birds of New York State*, John Bull. Doubleday/Natural History Press, 1974. Garden City, NY, 655 pages
- This book is considered the standard for the status of all of NYS birds. Even though it is now a little outdated, it is still a reference that any serious NYS birder should own.
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- Canl, 1962. "The House Finch in New York State." Gilbert Canl. *The Kingbird*, Vol. XII, No. 2 (July 1962), p. 68-74
- Clements, 1989. *Flying the Colors: New York State Facts*, John Clements, 1989.
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- National Geographic Society, 1987. *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, Second Edition. National Geographic Society, 1987, Washington D.C., p. 392
- Novak, 1986. "Loggerhead Shrike," Paul Novak. *The Kingbird*. Vol. 36, No. 4 (Fall 1986)
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the entire collection. For more information about this collection, contact:

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