

**HAWKS — OWLS:** The first Broad-winged Hawk of the season was seen at Ely Park in Binghamton 8/20 (R. Sheffield). A Rough-legged Hawk was seen 11/27 (Hannan). The last Osprey was seen near Unadilla 10/10 (Wisner). A Duck Hawk was noted near Bainbridge 9/12 (E. J. Smith).

A Florida Gallinule with 6 small chicks was seen at Boland's Marsh 8/8 and the last one was noted at the same place 9/19 (TCNC).

A Pectoral Sandpiper at Whitney Point 10/10 (Bemont), a White-rumped Sandpiper at Boland's Marsh 8/8 (TCNC) and a Sanderling at Whitney Point 8/27 (Bemont) were the high points of a somewhat better than normal shorebird migration.

The first Herring Gull of the season was noted at Campville 9/25 (North & Bemont).

A Black Skimmer was found at Mead's Pond above Norwich 10/17 (R. S. & L. White). This was the second day after Hazel passed through and the bird still seemed exhausted as it allowed observers to approach within 15 feet and then flew only reluctantly.

There were two reports of late Yellow-billed Cuckoos — 9/26 at Norwich (R. White) and 9/28 at Bainbridge (E. J. Smith).

Screech Owls seem to be increasing in numbers around Binghamton (TCNC).

**GOATSUCKERS — SHRIKES:** Three very late Nighthawks were reported from the Binghamton area 10/11 (Sheffields), and the last Chimney Swifts were seen over Binghamton 10/3 (TCNC). The last Ruby-throated Hummingbird was observed at Hillcrest, just north of Binghamton, 9/27 (Mrs. R. P. Easton).

An early Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was found in Binghamton 9/8 (Marsi).

Crested Flycatchers were last seen near Binghamton 9/5 (Sheffields & Ohrbergs) and the last Phoebe 10/10 in Endicott (Washburn) and at Norwich (S. White).

A Brown-capped Chickadee came to a feeder in Hillcrest 11/22 (Easton). The following day two appeared and have been regular customers since. Up at Norwich a flock of 6 Brown-caps were seen 11/28 (R. White).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were first reported at Deposit 8/26 (Wilson) and at Norwich 3 or more were noted 8/29, another 9/5 and 3 more 9/6 (S. & R. White). All these reports are ahead of the usual early date. Reports from other areas indicate the bird to be definitely up in numbers.

Two Short-billed Marsh Wrens were found at North Norwich 7/15 (R. White). One was seen at the same place 8/14 (Sheffields & R. White).

There were two reports of late Hermit Thrushes, both in Binghamton, one 10/31 (TCNC) and one 11/13 (Carpenter).

Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Norwich 8/29 (S. White) were almost a month early. A flock of twenty or more American Pipits at Oxford 11/2 (Stratton) constituted the only report of the bird received all fall.

**VIREOS — WARBLERS:** A Brewster's Warbler was found behind Boland's Marsh 8/8 (TCNC). This is the second report of this hybrid this year. An early Cape May Warbler 9/6 and 2 late Palm Warblers 10/20 were seen at Norwich (R. White).

**BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:** The first Evening Grosbeak was a single bird at Oxford 11/12 (Stratton). Small flocks have since been reported from Oneonta and Sidney and a flock of 20-30 at Unadilla 11/17 (Atkinson).

The first Pine Grosbeaks were a flock of 12 at Chenango Valley State Park near Binghamton 11/20 (Sheffields). They have since been found in two other spots around Binghamton as well as in Bainbridge and Oxford.

The only Pine Siskins reported were a flock of 15 or more near Norwich 10/20 (R. White).

Dr. E. Wolf of Oneonta State Teachers College writes that Slate-colored Juncos were present during the summer, although he doesn't mention any definite breeding record.

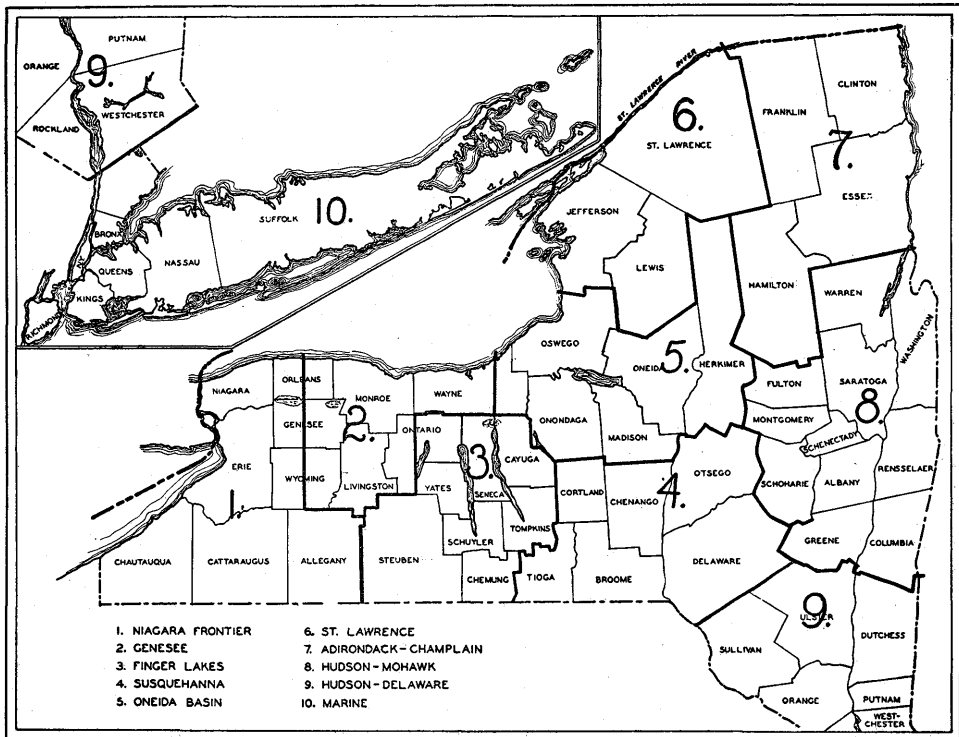
R. D. 3, Binghamton, N. Y.

## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

The cool August was reflected in early dates for some migrants; however, the remainder of the fall was mild and warm with few sharp or prolonged

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weather changes; the exception to this was Hurricane Hazel on 10/15 which roared across the entire region. November had a series of small snows and cold snaps, but none of such duration to drive all representatives of half-hardy species south. As a consequence, several latest recorded dates were achieved.

In general, the fall landbird migration was excellent, especially warblers and thrushes. The shorebirds were disappointing in numbers, but variety was good. Marsh ducks were down, diving ducks up. The mouse population is quite low, and correspondingly few hawks and owls were reported in late November, a fact especially notable in the low Rough-legged Hawk figures and the complete absence of Short-eared Owls.

**LOONS — DUCKS:** Common loon — fair to poor flight thru region, 1st date 5 on 9/4 at Sandy Pond. Red-throated Loon and Red-necked Grebe — 1 report of each this fall, 5 and 2 respectively on 10/20 at Selkirk Shores State Park. Horned Grebe — very common with high of 196 on 11/25, Oneida Lake. Double-crested Cormorant — 1 on 10/20, Selkirk; 2 on 11/7, Oswego. American Egret — present at only one locality in region, Shackleton Point, Oneida Lake (Aug.). Green Heron — last date, 1 on 10/12, Syracuse. Least Bittern — young bird with down on head but capable of flight on 9/4, Sandy Pond, probably indicates a late nesting. Canada Goose — poor flight, difficult to find concentrations in excess of 500 at usual places. Brant — on 10/31, 3000 (est.) were observed in a solid raft just south of Selkirk Shores State Park; all day long flocks of 50-300 joined this raft from the north; probable total count at end of day was 4,500; also 2000 were reported from Oneida Lake in 1st week of Nov.; last date 2 on 11/27 at Selkirk Shores State Park. Pintail — early flight, only fairly common. Baldpate — reverse of Pintail, late flight and very common. Shoveller — only report is flock of 17 on 9/27 thru 10/3, Selkirk. Diving Ducks — heavy flight, Scaup & Canvasback very abundant, Red-head less so; started in third week of Oct., peak in second week of Nov. Bufflehead — 1st date of 2 females on 10/10, Oneida Lake, is early. American and Surf Scoter — 10/17, Sandy Pond, Fide Listman; also 7 female Surf Scoter on 11/7, Oswego. White-winged Scoter — heavy flight (flocks of 100 or more) along eastern end of Lake Ontario; 1st date, 1 female on 9/5, Sandy Pond. Ruddy Duck — 4 reports, earliest on 9/26, Mexico. Red-breasted Merganser — 1st fall date, 1 female on 9/4, Sandy Pond.

**HAWKS — OWLS:** Goshawks — 2 reports, 1 adult on 10/3, Selkirk; 1 immature on 11/14 near Phoenix. On 9/6 (north wind 10-15 mph) 3 Rochester birders observed 15 Sharp-shins, 1 Red-tail, 3 Broad-wings, 5 Marsh Hawks, 3 Merlin, 8 Kestrel, and 26 unidentified falcons migrating south along the dunes at Sandy Pond. A more intensive survey of this area might show a small, but regular, fall hawk flyway along Lake Ontario's eastern end. Rough-legged — only 1 reported, light phase bird on 11/14 at Bridgeport; also W. R. Spofford saw a large melanistic Buteo, "probably Rough-leg", engaged in aerial fighting with a Red-tail on 8/15 near Fayetteville. Peregrine Falcon — 2 on 9/28, Selkirk, the only fall report. Merlin — 5 birds reported between 9/6 - 9/18; 1 on 10/9, Westernville. Gallinule — last date, 1 on 10/31, Sandy Pond. Coot — poor fall flight with no flock over 35; somewhat late too (last week of Oct. and 1st week of Nov). Golden Plover — 5 reports, 1st on 8/18, last on 9/28; all singles with exception of 2, Delta Lake. Black-bellied Plover — fairly common thru Oct.; 25 on 10/20 high count. Snipe — 35 on 10/31, Selkirk, is highest count in past 4 falls. H. Curlew — 1 on 8/27, Sandy Pond is the only report. Solitary Sandpiper — fairly common in last week of Aug. Knot — 4 reports — 1 on 10/31, Sandy Pond is our latest date. Purple Sandpiper — 1 on 10/31, Selkirk, our first for the region; observers within 3 feet of bird. White-rumped Sandpiper — very scarce, only 3 reports, all in last 3 weeks of Oct. Baird's Sandpiper — total of 6 birds reported from Sandy Pond and Sylvan Beach. Dowitcher — very scarce, only 3 reports all fall. Stilt Sandpiper — 1 on 9/1, Sylvan Beach, is our only report. Western Sandpiper — checks on 'Peep' flocks show this to be a regular bird at Sandy Pond — 1 on 8/19, 1 on 9/5. Northern Phalarope — 1 on 8/21, Delta Lake; 1 on 10/10, Oneida Lake; strangely enough, no reports from along Lake Ontario. Glaucous Gull — 1 on 9/18, Delta Lake (Mrs. May), a remarkably early date. Laughing Gull — Hurricane Hazel dropped numbers of these birds in Region 5 — 2 on 10/16, Oneida Lake; 8 on 10/17, Sandy Pond; 8 on 10/17, Selkirk to Oswego; 1 on 10/18, Selkirk. Forster's Tern — 1 on 10/17, Sandy Pond is our only report; probably a hurricane bird from coast, not one of the usual fall birds wandering from mid-West. Yellow-billed Cuckoos — several Oct. dates, 1 on 10/20, Selkirk, our latest by far. Snowy Owl — 4 birds reported so far, the 1st on 11/14, Oneida Lake. No reports of Short-eared Owls to date.

**SWIFTS — SHRIKES:** Nighthawk — last date, 1 on 9/27, Syracuse. Ruby-throated Hummingbird — last seen on remarkably late date of 11/10, Syracuse. Red-bellied Woodpecker — adult male on 11/28, south of Syracuse, constitutes our first recent (10 years) area record. Kingbird — last date, 1 on 9/29, Selkirk. Wood Pewee — heavy fall (fairly common) flight in 1st 3 weeks of Sept., last date 2 on 9/25. Olive-sided Flycatcher — several dates thru Aug. at Westernville; 2 on

9/3, Sandy Pond. Horned Lark — unusually scarce, no flock over 50 reported. Black-capped Chickadee — seem to be everywhere, but flocks never above 20 - 25 birds. Red-breasted Nuthatch — early (9/8) and heavy flight thru region; 1 present thru latter half of Nov. at Oneida (Nodecker). Carolina Wren — 2 Nov. reports from Oneida. Long-billed Marsh Wren — 1 on 10/31, Sandy Pond, is our latest date. Olive-backed Thrush — 1 dead one on 8/12 initiated the fall flight, especially heavy this year, which abruptly terminated at end of Sept.; 1 on 10/17 and 10/19 at Oneida are probably reverse migrants from Hurricane Hazel. Gray-cheeked Thrush — 3 fall reports, 1 banded on 10/7, Syracuse. Veery — 1 found freshly killed on 11/5, Syracuse. Golden-crowned Kinglet — poor fall flight; never above status of common, even in late Oct., its usual peak. Ruby-crowned Kinglet — 1 on 11/12, Oneida, is our latest. Pipit — 1 on 9/3, Sandy Pond, is quite early (about 2 weeks). Northern Shrike — definitely an irruption year with 3 (3 unidentified but probably Northerns) on 10/31, Sandy Pond, as the first; 2-3 birds every week since. Loggerhead Shrike — 1 on 9/5, near Ellisburg is the only fall report.

**WARBLERS — FRINGILLIDS:** Tennessee — 1 on 10/21, Syracuse, is our latest recorded date. Orange-crowned — 2 reports, both in first 2 weeks of Oct. Myrtle — down in numbers, never more than common all fall, 1 on 11/12, Oneida, our latest fall report. Black-throated Green — 2 on 10/17, 1 on 10/18, Sandy Pond, are probably more of Hurricane Hazel's reverse migrants. Chestnut-sided — very poor numbers, no late stragglers. Bay-breasted — common along Lake Ontario in first 3 weeks of Sept. Black-poll — common throughout region in last 2 weeks of Sept. and 1st week of Oct.; 1 on 10/17, Sandy Pond, and also at Oneida, are probably in same class as the Black-throated Greens. Pine — 1 on 11/26, Syracuse; it may winter. Palm — only 1 report, that of 4 on 10/16, Green Lakes State Park. Ovenbird — 1 freshly killed by cat on 11/7, Syracuse, attests to the mild fall. Connecticut — 2 on 9/12, Sandy Pond. Hooded — 1 male on 9/4 migrating with a flock of warblers down the Sandy Pond dunes might suggest a post-breeding wanderer or a more northerly breeding station, as no brooding stations are known north of Selkirk. Wilson's — 17 birds reported this fall between 9/5 and 9/12, more than last 3 years combined. Rusty Blackbird — good flights, flocks of 150-200 in last 2 weeks of Oct. and 1st week of Nov. Evening Grosbeak — first report of a single male on 10/16 at Oneida Lake, the next three weeks show many reports; however, none after 11/7. Purple Finch — remarkably scarce this fall; the exact reverse of last year's many flocks; the only reports of any numbers of this bird from Westernville in mid-October. Pine Grosbeak — certainly a flight year; 1st reported on 11/4 at Oneida Lake; scattered reports (6) of flocks (2 - 12) and singles throughout Nov. Pine Siskin — few birds reported, all in Oct., with 6 as the highest count. Crossbills — 3 Red and 1 White-winged on 11/11, Syracuse, are our only fall reports. White-throated Sparrow — 1 early migrant at Sandy Pond on 9/4.

White-crowned Sparrow — return flight was short and fast, concentrated in 1st 2 weeks of Oct. Lincoln's Sparrow — only 1 date, 1 on 10/2, Three Rivers Game Management Area. Snow Bunting — 1st bird on 10/31, Sandy Pond; seen regularly since, but no flocks over 35 birds; also surprisingly enough several single birds have been seen, an unusual fall occurrence, though not uncommon in late winter and early spring.

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## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

**LOONS — DUCKS:** The most unusual record is the finding of the remains of a Yellow-billed Tropic-bird. A study is being made of other records in the state and the results are being or will be published. John Belknap who found the bird writes, "Yellow-billed Tropic-bird picked up dead Oct. 26 at Southwick's Beach, Town of Ellisburg, Jefferson County. Undoubtedly blown up by the hurricane of Oct. 15. Remains at State Museum in Albany. Identification confirmed by Ralph S. Palmer, State Zoologist."

Horned Grebes were numerous along Lake Ontario in November. An American Egret was seen in the southern part of the region late in August. Least Bittern at