

Blackbirds — Sparrows: BOBOLINKS were last reported Aug 26 from Boland's Marsh (TCNC). MEADOWLARKS were seen regularly but in small numbers, until Nov 4 in the Binghamton area (TCNC) but four were at Guilford Nov 25 (Whites). They were heard singing in two different places Oct 14. REDWINGS were still around at the end of Nov. Several large flocks of BRONZED GRACKLES were seen around Endwell during the last few days of Sep and after that there was a sharp drop in their numbers but a few were seen until Nov 4 (TCNC). A flock of 2500 COWBIRDS was seen on the IBM Country Club fairways Sep 2 and from Sep 22 to 30 flocks numbering in the hundreds were seen flying over Endwell, away from the Country Club in the morning and towards it in the evening (Bemont).

Twelve EVENING GROSBEAKS seen just north of Binghamton on Oct 10 or a day or so earlier are the only ones reported from the whole region so far (Kent). A flock of 30 or more REDPOLLS was found at Oxford Nov 22 (Stratton) but no others. A few TOWHEES stuck it out until Oct 14 when the last ones were seen in the Binghamton area (Marsi). SLATE-COLORED JUNCOS arrived Oct 13 in the Binghamton area (Sheffields) and TREE SWALLOWS Nov 14 (Marsi). The last CHIPPING SPARROWS and FIELD SPARROWS were at Vestal Cemetery Nov 4 (R. Sheffield, Bemont). WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS arrived Oct 14 in the Binghamton area (Bemont) and were last seen there and at Norwich Oct 21 (Whites). They were not very numerous. WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS showed up Oct 7 and were gone after Nov 4 (TCNC). They seemed fairly common in the Binghamton area but were not reported from other areas. A few FOX SPARROWS were seen from Oct 28 to Nov 1 in the Binghamton area (TCNC).

710 University Ave., Endwell

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Fritz Scheider

The latter half of Aug and all of Sept continued the wet, cool weather experienced through the summer. Oct and Nov alternated long, soggy stretches with the haze and warmth of days of classical Indian Summer weather. The exceptions to this pattern were severe frosts and freezing spells in three distinct periods — Oct 9-11, Nov 8-12, and Nov 18-25; the first ended the warbler watching, as poor as it was, the second eliminated the late shortbirds, and the third terminated the excellent dabbling duck variety and counts.

The abundant wet weather of Aug and Sept created hundreds of pasture pools which attracted good numbers but produced widespread scattering of the "mud" sandpipers (both Yellow-legs, Solitary, Least, and Pectoral Sandpipers, and Wilson's Snipe). Earlier high water plus later poor feeding conditions at Sandy Pond and Oneida Lake account for the low numbers seen at those places. The fall landbird flight was notable chiefly for its absence. All observers, particularly daily watchers, noted a great paucity of migrant landbirds, most marked in the warblers, vireos, thrushes and some of the sparrows. In contrast, the waterfowl flight with the exceptions of Canada Goose, Scaup, and Bufflehead was the finest noted in six years; and an equally good flight of some sparrows was reported. The numerous NYS Conservation Dep't. marshes and ponds have greatly enhanced the waterbird potential of northern Onondaga and Oswego Cos.

The latter Nov records show a remarkable collection of late-staying semi-hardies and a veritable flood of Rough-legged Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, and Harriers. (Mice are present in great abundance thru northern Onondaga and southern Oswego Counties). Winter finches are to date unreported except for a few Pine Siskins.

Loons — Ducks: COMMON LOON: only fair numbers; first reported on Aug. 31 (early), Shackleton Pt., Oneida Lake. RED-THROATED LOON: three records, all in Nov and from Lake Ontario. RED-NECKED GREBE: one report only, Oct 25, Muskrat Bay, Oneida Lake (Evans). AMER. EGRET: last seen on Sept 23, Oneida Lake. LITTLE BLUE HERON: an immature of this species was seen in the last week of Aug at a Conservation Dept. pond near Parish, Oswego Co. (Weeks). CANADA GOOSE: fall flight very poor; highest count before me is 500, Nov 11, near Selkirk; last reported Nov 30, Oneida Lake. BRANT: flocks of 40 to 500 reported from Oct 15 to Nov 11; the first week of Nov saw many flocks (up to 100) on Oneida Lake (Laible). SNOW GOOSE: one adult on Oct 14, Otisco Lake (Burt); two were shot there in late Oct.

Dabbling ducks: Fall counts show numerous flocks of 100-500 of BLACK DUCK, MALLARDS, BALDPATE, and BLUE-WINGED TEAL; numbers of GREEN-WINGED TEAL and PINTAIL, though lower, were particularly widespread — reported from Otisco Lake, Phoenix, Texas, and Clay in numbers. Other than the counts, the noteworthy features were 13 records of SHOVELLERS, two on Nov 22 as the latest; 5 records of GADWALL from early Oct to Nov 11; BLUE-WINGED TEAL: last reported on Nov 18 — quite late (Weeks, Richardson). WOOD DUCK: the one exception to the fine dabbling flight; highest count before me is 100, Oct 6, Three Rivers Game Management Area, Onon. Co.

Diving ducks: RING-NECKED DUCK and REDHEAD: both abundant at Mud Lake, Onon, Co. until the freeze-up there Nov 25; both very scarce on Oneida Lake where hunting pressure was quite heavy this fall; REDHEAD arrival date is Sept 26, Mud Lake. CANVASBACK: first date is Oct 13, Mud Lake; a flock of two to five thousand has been staying off Shackleton Pt., Oneida Lake, from the last week of Oct to the end of the period. SCAUP: particularly poor flight thru Oct and mid-Nov; by the third week of Nov flocks of 500 to 1500 were being reported, about a third of the usual counts. SCOTERS: a fine fall flight and widely reported with WHITE-WINGED a numerical first by far (in the hundreds); AMERICAN SCOTERS were next in line (groups of 3 to 6) and a few SURF SCOTERS (Sept 30 to Oct 13) reported, the last only from Lake Ontario and Mud Lake.

RUDDY DUCK: widespread flight noted; flocks of 10 to 50 (high count of 75) reported from Ontario, Oneida, and Mud Lake and single birds, mostly females, showed up at various farm ponds in the area. HOODED MERGANSER: fall arrival date is Aug 18 (early), Texas; the high fall count is 11, Nov 18, a time when one can usually see 70 to 80 with no difficulty. RED-BREADED MERGANSER: an enormous flight (10,000 birds) passed north just offshore along Sandy Pond, Oct 28 (Griffin).

Hawks — Owls: 13 migrating singly south, Sep 26, over Three Rivers GMA (Sabin). On Sept 29, R. Wayland-Smith saw a small hawk flight (25 birds in 20 minutes) passing east along the north shore of Oneida Lake; this lake ordinarily does not prove to be a collecting barrier for hawks. ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: first reported on Oct 12, Three Rivers GMA; seen in profusion since (up to ten/dy), mainly from the mouse-riddled farmlands south, west, and northwest of Oneida Lake. FALCONS: remarkably poor flight (one PEREGRINE, Sept 26, Selkirk, E. Evans; two MERLINS, Sept 29, Sylvan Beach, the Whites); late Nov counts of Kestrels strikingly low with two or three the usual tally for a full day of birding. FLORIDA GALLINULE: last date, one on Nov 4, north of Euclid.

Shorebirds: The rain pools and farm ponds in Aug and Sept lured and held flocks of shorebirds, notably both YELLOW-LEGS (mainly numerous small flocks of 10-12), KILLDEER (100-190/flock), SOLITARY (flocks of 6 to 14), PECTORAL (flocks up to 25), and WILSON'S SNIPES (flocks ranging from 6 to 35); however, early (Aug. 15 - Sept 15) counts of SNIPES were usually 1-3/day. GOLDEN PLOVER: five reports, flocks of two to ten, Sept 5 to Sept 22. RUDDY TURNSTONE: small numbers but with a date range from Jul 1 to Oct 17. KNOT: only one reported, Oct 15 (late), Sandy Pond (Evans). BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: one to three reported regularly from Sylvan Beach from Aug 16 to Sept 22 (Paquettes, Ackleys, Whites); reported only once, Sept 8, from Sandy Pond where the shorebirding was in general poor. LEAST SANDPIPER: unprecedented were the counts of this sandpiper which

at times (mid-Aug to mid-Sept) outnumbered the SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER. RED-BACKED SANDPIPER: only fairly common numerically but quite widespread dates (Sept 23 to Nov 11). NORTHERN PHALAROPE: one, Oct 10-12, Sylvan Beach (Evans, Whites); also 5 (sp?), Aug 31, middle of Oneida Lake (Wright). Counts of BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER, SANDERLING, and DOWITCHERS were very low (high counts of 4, 25, and 3 respectively) throughout the entire period. Noteworthy last (and late) dates are: SOLITARY SANDPIPER Oct 4, GREATER YELLOW-LEGS Nov 18, SPOTTED SANDPIPER Oct 14, and SANDERLING Nov 18.

JAEGER: an immature was seen on Sept 8 at the Sandy Pond Inlet; the large size, slow flight, and heavy bill noted by all the observers (Listman, Schaffer, Scheider) would seem to indicate an immature POMARINE. ICELAND GULL: first report is a first year bird at Phoenix, Nov 24; quite unusual to have it so far up (south) on the Oswego River so early in the season. GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: first fall date (adult) is Sept 16, Sandy Pond. BONAPARTE'S GULL: very scarce all fall, especially along Lake Ontario; high count is 50, Sylvan Beach. COMMON TERN: flock counts from Oneida Lake, Oswego, and Sandy Pond about 50% of similar '55 figures; last date is 3, Oct 12, Sylvan Beach. SHORT-EARED OWL: extremely interesting is a report of one near Pennellville, Aug 3 (Weeks) as it suggests a possible breeding station.

Swifts — Shrikes: NIGHTHAWK: last seen on Oct. 4 (late), Syracuse. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: last date, two Sept 23, Sandy Pond. FLICKER: Very poor Sep counts along the Sandy Pond dunes (high count is a sparse 12); several noted in late Nov (Nodecker, Chamberlaine) attempting to winter. SAPSUCKER: reports show this to be numerically a rare migrant this fall. HAIRY and DOWNY WOOD-PECKERS: a distinct flight noted along the Sandy Pond dunes and a marked local increase in the 4th week of Oct and the first two weeks of Nov; numbers dropped in late Nov and winter populations appear below normal at present. Flycatchers in general: a very poor flight and, with the exceptions of WOOD PEWEE and PHOEBE, numerically about 10% of the expected fall counts; departure dates, PHOEBE, Oct 15 (early) and WOOD PEWEE, Oct 7 (late) at Rome (Mrs. Aspinwall). BANK and CLIFF SWALLOW: last reported, one each, on Sept 16 near Texas. BLUE JAY: many flocks (5-60) flooded the region (Aspinwall, Paquette, Minor) from late Aug to mid-Nov; late Nov saw a sharp drop in the flocks and counts reported.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH: a fairly common migrant in the last week of Sept and the first two weeks of Oct around Oneida Lake; no flight observed at Sandy Pond. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: a rare migrant this fall; total of reports is four, total number of individuals is eight. CAROLINA WREN: appears to be continuing its spread; one, Sept 3, Morrisville (Carter); one, last two weeks of Nov, Hamilton, are both new stations.

ROBIN: many reports of large migrating flocks; the abundant wild grape and berry crop appears to be holding smaller flocks in the area beyond the usual departure dates for such numbers. BLUEBIRD: this (and the ROBIN) were the only thrushes reported in numbers; many observers (e. g. Nodecker, Spofford) commented on the many migrant flocks (4-20) of BLUEBIRDS this fall; it appears that the breeding season north of us was very successful as local breeding success could not account for such numbers. PIPIT: fall arrival date is 100, Aug 31, near Texas (Evans); very early! Northern Shrike: first reported on Oct 28; one to two/day since with a 2:1 adult: immature ratio.

Vireos — Warblers: Numbers of these two groups were very poor all fall; the few birders who saw any warblers noted small tight concentrations of 20 or 50 birds of 8 to 12 species and then "acres of birdless woods." The most noteworthy reports are the departure dates, many of them being "latest ever" for the area. BLACK AND WHITE: two, Oct. 18, Camillus. GOLDEN-WINGED: one male, Sept 9, Bridgeport (Wright). YELLOW: one, Sept 26, Three Rivers GMA (Sabin). CERULEAN: four, Sept 1, Camillus (Evans, Bitz). YELLOW-THROAT: one, Nov 4, Selkirk (Evans). CANADA: one, Oct 3, Selkirk (Evans). CHESTNUT-SIDED: one immature, Oct. 6, Three Rivers FMA (Wangell). BAY-BREASTED: first fall arrival, one, Aug 18, Sandy Pond. Only CANADA and WILSON'S WARBLERS came within 50% of normal fall counts. Particularly scarce were BLACK-THROATED GREEN,

CAPE MAY, MYRTLES, and REDSTARTS. No reports of ORANGE-CROWNED or CONNECTICUT.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: BOBOLINK: last date, one Sept 30, Sandy Pond (Sabin). MEADOWLARK: like the Flicker, many are attempting to winter (flocks up to 20). A blackbird-starling roost at Clay Swamp, Onondaga Co. increased from 30,000 in mid-Sept to 80,000 in mid-Oct (40% RED-WINGS, 40% STARLINGS); the sharp mid-Nov drop in numbers came with the Nov 8-12 freezing spell.

PURPLE FINCH: fall counts very low (2-5/day) and no late Nov records. GOLD-FINCH: the late Sept to early Nov movement was numerically impressive (flocks up to 150+ and was commented on my many. Fall sparrows can be nearly divided into two major groups: (1) excellent fall numbers of SONG, SWAMP, FIELD, VESPER, and WHITE-CROWNED in that order of abundance; (2) below par were CHIPPING and SAVANNAH SPARROWS and especially low were WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS and SLATE-COLORED JUNCOS; high flock counts of the last two are 30 and 25 respectively! Late Nov reports of JUNCO are sparse. FOX SPARROW: first fall arrival on Sep 26, Selkirk; fall numbers scant. LINCOLN'S SPARROW: small flight (three to six/day) Sep 26 to Oct 5 at Selkirk (Evans).

151 Seventh North Street, Syracuse 8, New York

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

Loons — Ducks: HORNED GREBES were first seen Oct 5 and were found along Lake Ontario until the end of Nov. LEAST BITTERN—Sep 10 at Russell. RUDDY DUCK—12 at Black River Bay Oct 19. OLD SQUAW—several off Cape Vincent and Stony Point in late Nov.

Hawks — Owls: ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK—at Madrid Oct 17, an early date for St. Lawrence County. Belknap says it was the best flight in several years. They seem to keep close to the lake while moving south. They were seen to the end of Nov. BALD EAGLE—near Redwood (J. Blake). On Oct 3 a DUCK HAWK was seen sitting on a rock in Grasse River near Madrid. PIGEON HAWK—at Stony Point Sep 13 (Belknap). COOT—Nov 13 at Red Mill and several hundred at Lakeview Marsh near Ellisburg Oct 29 and one still there Nov 20. BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER—several the first half of Sep and one at Stony Point Sep 8. VIRGINIA RAIL—Oct 3 at Madrid. GOLDEN PLOVER—one at Stony Creek Outlet Sep 9. Among the birds seen by David Gordon on Sep 8 and 9 at Stony Point were: HUDSONIAN CURLEW, DOWITCHER and RUDDY TURNSTONE. RED-BACKED SANDPIPER—one in marsh at Perch Lake Refuge. SOLITARY SANDPIPER Oct 3 at Madrid. With other species nearby for comparison Nichols saw four WESTERN SANDPIPERS on mossy rocks in the Grasse River at Morley, and one at Madrid the next two days. KILLDEER and MOURNING DOVE—Nov 28 at Waddington. LEAST SANDPIPER—Sep 1 at Madrid. WILSON'S PHALAROPE and NORTHERN PHALAROPE—at Perch Lake Refuge Aug 19 (Gordon). A PARASITIC JAEGER was reported by Harold Evans at Point Peninsula Sep 9. BONAPARTE'S GULL—one at Point Peninsula Sep 9, and 20 at Southwick's Beach Nov 20 which it late (Belknap). BLACK-BACKED GULL—first Sep 18 and several at Chaumont Bay in late Nov. CASPIAN TERN—ten at Stony Point Outlet Sep 5. No Snowy Owls were reported. SHORT-EARED OWLS—late Nov near Philadelphia.

Swifts — Shrikes: YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER—Sep 10 at Madrid. LEAST FLYCATCHER—Sep 19 at Madrid. HOUSE WREN—Sep 29 near Carthage. LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN—Oct 3 at Waddington. One of the most interesting records is that of a MOCKINGBIRD which appeared at the feeder of Mr. and Mrs. Coppernoll near Morristown on the St. Lawrence River on November 25. This was first reported by Louise Blake of Potsdam. The identification was confirmed by John Belknap who saw the Mockingbird at close range at the feeder Dec 9. There were a few BLUEBIRDS seen this summer. Three were near Watertown Nov 21 (Nelson). NORTHERN SHRIKE—first seen Oct 29.