

migration was very poor. Many species were not seen at all and those that were were in small numbers. The last Nashvilles were seen Sep 28 at Choconut Center (Sheffields) and the last Magnolias Sep 24 at Ely Park in Binghamton (Bemont). Cape Mays were reported twice, Sep 8 and Sep 21, both times at Choconut Center (Sheffields). Myrtles were the only species seen in any numbers and only until Oct 27 at Norwich (Whites) and Choconut Center (Sheffields). A Palm Warbler was at Choconut Center Oct 5 and 6 (Sheffields). A Yellow Palm was at Norwich Oct 5 (Whites) and another was at Choconut Center Oct 12 (Sheffields). A Mourning Warbler was found near Binghamton Sep 17 (H. Marsi).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** On Oct 24 a flight of Redwinged Blackbirds about a mile long and numbering "probably millions" was seen flying south against a strong headwind over Oxford (Stratton). Not many were seen after Oct 27 but a male came to a feeder at Unadilla Nov 11 and returned regularly to the end of the month (Wisner). A flock of six to ten Baltimore Orioles spent a week, starting Aug 20, at Oxford living on blackberries (Stratton). A Scarlet Tanager, in full color, was at Norwich Aug 22 (Whites).

After their absence last year Evening Grosbeaks appeared early this year. Two at Hillcrest, north of Binghamton, Sep 30 (Hubbard) were the first. There have been a number of scattered reports from all parts of the region since, but only at Homer (Gustafson) and Deposit (Wilson) do reports indicate they have settled down and been seen in the same area regularly. At Deposit they appeared Nov 8 and by Nov 30, 41 had been banded and two foreign retraps taken. On Oct 26 a banded female Evening Grosbeak killed itself bumping into a picture window. The Banding Office reports the bird was banded 18 months earlier at State College, Penna. On Nov 3 a single Pine Grosbeak was found near Binghamton (Saunders, E. Washburn). Since then there have been scattered reports from all over the region. Most reports of this normally flocking bird are of one, two or three individuals. Pine Siskins were at Choconut Center Nov 10 (Sheffields). A Red-eyed Towhee was still near Binghamton Nov 17 (Bemont). A flock of over 100 Vesper Sparrows was found in the Binghamton area Oct 27 (Bemont). Tree Sparrows arrived in the Triple Cities area Oct 27 and several times during November have been heard singing a song not usually heard until spring (Sheffields). White-crowned Sparrows were first seen at Oxford Oct 9 (Stratton) and most were gone after Oct 15, but an immature was still coming to a feeder in Choconut Center Nov 17 (Sheffields). White-throated Sparrows arrived Sep 16 (Carter, Marsi) and haven't been reported since Nov 11. Fox Sparrows were first seen Oct 8 at Oxford (Stratton).

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## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Fritz Scheider

Late August and windy September produced a mediocre flight of warblers, thrushes, and vireos, but this was more than compensated for by a superb shorebird flight. The warbler-vireo migration terminated abruptly with the severe frosts of 26-29 Sep. However, shorebird numbers and variety held up well thru this frosty period. Late September and October saw a heavy waterfowl migration (literally *all over*), poor only in Canada Geese, Scaup, Buffleheads, and Red-breasted Mergansers. Most notable in October, however, were the many early-arriving "northerners", very marked in the winter finches; this despite the fact that Oct was not a harsh month weather-wise in central New York. November easily made up the cold and wet that October lacked, but this only intensified the southward movement of the "northerners" and the waterfowl. On 25-26 Nov a cold snap quickly sealed off many marshes and small lakes, and Sandy Pond was two-thirds frozen over in one night. Aside from this severe spell, the approaching winter has been open and relatively snowless.

Across the Region weed seeds are enormously abundant, but the tree

seed crops and winter berries are only fair. A "mouse count" at the Cornell Biol. Station, Shackleton Point, Oneida Lake showed 125 mice/acre; this finding probably explains the recent large number of hawks and owls along Oneida Lake's south shore. (Ed.: But contrast with 10,000/acre plague in western U. S. now).

Though in fall one almost expects the unexpected, this season has produced an unusual flurry of rarities, e. g. Pacific Loon, all three Phalaropes, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Parasitic Jaeger.

**Loons — Ducks:** Common Loon: fall arrival date is Sep 5, one, Sandy Pond; numbers very low (5-8/trip) with a fall high of 25 on Oct 26. Red-throated Loon: one to four seen from Sep 28 (early) to Nov 28, all from Lake Ontario (Evans, Rusk, Scheider). **Pacific Loon:** a winter-plumage bird of this species was carefully studied in comparison with a Common Loon at Sandy Pond, Nov 24; the size, straight bill, even color of upper parts with slightly lighter head, head shape, and back markings were carefully noted (Nisbet, Spofford, Scheider, et al). Horned Grebe: arrival date is Sep 15 (very early), two, Selkirk Shores St. Pk. (Evans); heavy flight (100-200/day) on Lake Ontario and Oneida Lake with a high of 275 on Nov 16.

American Egret: last report is Oct 21, ten, Howland's Is. GMA (Ernst). Green Heron: high of 45 on Sep 5; departure date is Oct 15, one, Clay Swamp. Black-crowned Night Heron and American Bittern: both very scarce this fall; last Bittern seen Nov 16, one, Sandy Pond.

Canada Goose: a late, low-count flight; first birds on Oct 1, high of 280 on Nov 10 with departure date Dec 7, 15, Beaver Lake; a Canada Goose X Snow Goose hybrid stayed at Howland's Is. GMA thru Oct and early Nov. Brant: fall arrivals noted Oct 13, 60, Selkirk Shores St. Pk. (Evans); the peak count is 2000, Oct 26, Derby Hill, east of Texas; one Nov 24, Sandy Pond, is the last; reported in flocks of 300-500 at Oneida Lake (Laible) and Howland's Is. GMA (Ernst) in late Oct and early Nov; five on Nov 9 at Sylvan Beach (Whites).

Mallard, Black Duck, Baldpate: very heavy, widespread flight with highs of 3000, 3200, and 3500 respectively on Oct 27, Howland's Is. GMA (Rusk, Scheider). Gadwall: high of 25, Oct 27, Howland's Is. GMA; **unrecorded** from other areas. Pintail: arrival date is Sep 5; in contrast to the other dabblers, fall counts were low (high of 550); two still present, Dec 15, Oswego. Green-winged Teal: date range Aug 2 to Nov 24, with an all-time high of 415, Oct 13, Clay Swamp. Blue-winged Teal: last is Nov 28, two, near Oswego (Weeks). Shoveler: scattered reports, the most unusual, Sep 15-24, from eastern Onondaga Co. where previously unrecorded; high of 31, Oct 27, Howland's Is. GMA. Wood Duck: fall high count is 257, Oct 13, Clay Swamp; six appear to be wintering with the breeding stock at Howland's Island GMA.

Redhead, Canvasback, & Scaup: arrival dates are Sep 15, Oct 12, and Oct 12 respectively; a mixed flock of 50,000 — mostly Canvasbacks and Scaup — spent the last week of Oct off Shackleton Point, but in mid-Nov either shifted on the lake or left entirely; late Nov counts there were very low (a few 100/day). Golden-eye and Old-squaw: first fall migrants noted on Oct 12; a flight of 350 Old-squaw were noted moving west past Derby Hill near Texas, Dec 1. Bufflehead: fall high count is 40, Oct 26, in a very large merganser-golden-eye-scooter flight at Sandy Pond; all other reports less than 15/day. Harlequin Duck: one female seen Nov 23, off Sandy Pond (Spofford, Nisbet) is an exciting fall find. Eider (sp?): a flock of six noted flying low over Sandy Pond, Nov 23 (Spofford, Nisbet). White-winged Scoter: first noted Sep 21; heavy flight along Sandy Pond with peak of 270 on Oct 12; this and Surf Scoter were present until Dec 1. American Scoter: present along Lake Ontario from Oct 12 to Nov 16 with four/day as the best count. Red-breasted Merganser: greatly reduced flight — peak was 2000 (1/5 of normal), Nov 28 — along Sandy Pond and Selkirk Shores St. Pk. Hooded Merganser: encouraging numbers on many ponds this fall; a count of **330**, Nov 17, at Howland's Is. GMA and Beaver Lake is a record high.

**Hawks — Owls:** Turkey Vulture: last noted Nov 22 (very late), two, near Cato (Ernst). Goshawk: singles, mostly immatures, reported Oct 14 and Nov 24, Sandy Pond, Oct 25, Euclid, Nov 10, Port Byron. Sharp-shinned Hawk and Cooper's Hawk: sharp rise in reports (8-10 total/week) in last two weeks of Nov. Red-tailed Hawk,

Rough-legged Hawk, and Harrier: wintering numbers very high (20, 20+, 15+/day respectively in late Nov) most concentrated about Bridgeport and Baldwinville. Rough-legged Hawk: one seen Oct 4 Howland's Is. GMA is a record early arrival date (Bauer); small numbers (1-5/day) through Oct with a sharp increase in early Nov. Osprey: one, Oct 27, Howland's Is. GMA is the latest ever recorded here (R&S). Peregrine: an adult and an immature, Oct 6, Sandy Pond, are the only ones noted this fall. Merlin and Kestrel: two and 3, respectively, seen in an hour migrating south on brisk northwest winds along the Sandy Pond dunes, Sep 8.

Virginia Rail and Sora: both reported regularly from muddy pools near East Syracuse and Skaneateles; at Skaneateles a high of 17 Rails (9 Virginia and 8 Sora) in view at once on Sep 8 (Spofford); departure dates are Sep 28, Skaneateles, and Oct 9, East Syracuse, respectively. Coot: one Aug 18 E. Syracuse is a very early migrant; fall numbers consistently low.

From mid-Aug on, the shorebird flight proved progressively more and more exciting. Sandy Pond and Sylvan Beach enjoyed unremitting lowering of water levels and consequent high numbers of shorebirds. Drying marshes and receding farm ponds suited many migrants; a small (10 acre) muddy pool near E. Syracuse attracted flocks of shorebirds (20 species from 15 Aug to 30 Sep) — and birders! Delta Lake near Rome and Onondaga Lake, however, had extremely poor shorebirding because of high water and poor food, respectively. Evidence of the flight's volume are the high counts and last dates, many record-breaking (see below).

Piping Plover: last date is Aug 21, one, Sandy Pond Inlet (Goodwin). Ringed Plover: high count is 38, 9/8, Sandy Pond; last date Oct 26, one, Sylvan Beach, (Whites). Killdeer: high of 270 on Sep 14; last noted Nov 30, three, Oneida Lake. Turnstone: fall numbers up considerably (peak at 15, Sep 8, Sandy Pond) but a sharp drop in late Sep with a last date, Oct 3 (early), one, Sylvan Beach. Black-bellied Plover: fall arrival date is Aug 14 (late), but departure date of Nov 30, four, Oneida Lake, is latest ever; high is 23, Oct 26, Sandy Pond. Golden Plover: date range is Aug 29 to Oct 29 (Evans); however, numbers quite low with high counts of 3 on Sep 21 and Oct 12.

Snipe: largest number reported is 21 on Aug 22; however, reports are so widespread —practically every damp spot from Rome to Port Byron — that the total number moving through the area must have been very great; last date is Nov 12, one, Clay Swamp. Upland Sandpiper: departure date is Sep 7 (late) one, E. Syracuse (R&S). Solitary Sandpiper: late Aug numbers very good; last date is Sep 28, one, Skaneateles. Willet: singles reported on Aug 5 and 27, Sandy Pond (Goodwin) are firsts for the new Region. Greater Yellowlegs: greatest number is 24, Howland's Is. GMA, on Oct 27; the departure date of Nov 22, one, is a trifle early considering the other late-staying shorebirds. Lesser Yellowlegs: 40 on Aug 21 is the peak count; last reported on Oct 27 (late), Howland's Is. GMA. Knot: reported from Aug 21, Sandy Pond (Goodwin), to Oct 26, Sylvan Beach (the Whites); peak number is 9, Sep 21, at Sandy Pond. Pectoral Sandpiper: almost as widespread as the Snipe and seen on a number of occasions in dry fields with Killdeers; high of 50, Sep 13, E. Syr.; last date is Nov 7, nine, Howland's Is. GMA. White-rumped Sandpiper: this bird, usually seen singly or at the most in twos or threes, was present in unusual numbers at Sandy Pond this fall; 30 on Sep 8, 24 on Sep 21, with three, Oct 26, as the last; also reported from Sylvan Beach (Whites) and E. Syracuse (Evans) in Sep.

Baird's Sandpiper: date range is Sep 3, one, E. Syr, to Sep 21, one, Sandy Pond, with a high of nine at the latter place on Sep 5 (Listman). Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers: numbers of both were high, but the normal 3 or 2:1 ratio of Semipalmated to Least was present; remarkably late dates are Oct 27, two Least, Howland's Is. GMA (R&S) and Nov 1, ten Semipalmated, Sandy Pond (Evans). Red-backed Sandpiper: arrival date is Sep 14 (early), E. Syr; peak number is 190, Oct 26, at Sandy Pond; last date Dec 1 (late) three, Sandy Pond Inlet. Dowitcher: 12 on Sep 4, Sandy Pond, is the fall high count; very late are 5 on Oct 19, Selkirk Shores St. Pk. (Evans). Long-billed Dowitcher: one present from Sep 21-24, E. Syr, the object of numerous and careful observations (Scheider, Spofford, Evans, etc.). Stilt Sandpiper: first date is Aug 2, one, Sandy Pond; high of nine, Sep 7, at E. Syr; two at the same place on Oct 4 were record late birds (OAS). Western Sandpiper: singles reported regularly thru Sep at Sandy Pond (R&S) and Sylvan Beach (Whites); last report is Oct 13, two, Sandy Pond (Spofford et al).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: two at Sandy Pond on Sep 5 (Listman) and Sep 6

(Goodwin) are **regional firsts**; Sanderling: very scarce in Aug but early Sep showed good numbers (high of 250 on Sep 5) at Sandy Pond; Sylvan Beach numbers were lower (80+) but well above average; departure date is Nov 28 one, Sandy Pond Red Phalarope: 2, both in winter plumage, were seen Nov 24 at Sandy Pond (Spofford, Nisbet, et al); they were seen there again on Dec 1, not ten yards from where they were found on the 24th (Listman et al). Wilson's Phalarope: one in fall plumage present Aug 26 and 27 at Sandy Pond (Goodwin) is first Regional report but is in keeping with increasing fall reports further west (Region I and II). Northern Phalarope: two reports: one, Aug 30, E. Syr (Seaman); two, Sep 5, Sandy Pond (Listman).

Parasitic Jaeger: a burst of records this fall from Sandy Pond; one each on Sep 5 (Listman), Sep 20 (Evans), Sep 21 and Oct 12 (R&S); one on Nov 24, east of Texas, is phenomenally late (Spofford, Nisbet).

Great Black-backed Gull: first fall arrivals are 8, Sep 1, at Sandy Pond; low counts (5-10/day) thru Oct and Nov with a sharp upswing (60+/day) with the cold weather of late Nov. Herring and Ring-billed Gulls: consistently low counts (500/day) at Sandy Pond and Oneida Lake, but marked numbers (8,000 and 15,000 respectively) on Dec 1 at Oswego following a snowstorm. Bonaparte's Gull: very low numbers; high count for the entire fall is 24, Sep 21, Sylvan Beach.

Forster's Tern: first reported Sep 8, four, at Sandy Pond; a high of 7 there Sep 14 and five regularly seen there thru Oct; extremely late (latest ever, in fact!) is one on Nov 24, Sandy Pond Inlet (Spofford, Nisbet, Scheider et al). Common Tern: last date is Oct 13, 20, Sandy Pond; late for so large a number). Caspian Tern: high of ten, Aug 17 and 26, Sandy Pond; departure date is Sep 29, four, Sandy Pond; one seen Sep 21, Sylvan Beach, where it is irregular (Whites); also two, Aug 10, Howland's Is. GMA, on stumps in a wood-rimmed pond are unusual.

Cuckoos: practically absent thru the fall migration; many observers have not seen a single individual of either species this season. Screech Owl: reports of 2-4/evening from Clay Swamp and Bridgeport; this increase over the past two years marked low counts is probably due to the abundant mouse population and more observers. Snowy Owl: one on Nov 16, Sandy Pond dunes, is the first report; no other Nov records. Short-eared Owl: first reported Oct 12, one near Euclid; in the next three weeks singles or "a few" were seen at Pompey, Howland's Is. GMA, and Skaneateles high count is six, Nov 17 and 30, over one field near Bridgeport.

**Swifts — Shrikes:** Red-bellied Woodpecker: up to four/day (Nov 17) reported from Howland's Is. GMA thru Oct and Nov (Ernst). Red-headed Woodpecker: an immature present Nov 16-30 near Manlius (Maxwell) is very late. Sapsucker: fall flight very poor with best count two/day at Sandy Pond. Hairy and Downy Woodpecker: marked flight of both down Sandy Pond dunes in first two weeks of Oct; this compressed flight period is in contrast to the extended date range there for Creepers, Nuthatches, and Chickadees (early Sep - Mid-Nov). Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker: one female seen near Big Moose Lake, Herkimer Co., in the first week of Nov; a pair of American Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen in the same area in the third week of Nov (Farnham).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: date range Aug 17-Sep 21, singles only, Sandy Pond and Selkirk Shores St. Pk. Empidonax flycatchers were scarce — and silent — in the fall flight at Sandy Pond, Oneida, and Rome. Horned Lark: flight of 900+ on Nov 16, Sandy Pond; fall counts prior to that were low, although beginning migration was indicated by 60, Sep 8, Sandy Pond Inlet.

Swallows: enormous flights moved south along the Sandy Pond dunes thru Aug and early Sep; some days the sandflats were black with resting Swallows; high counts at Sandy Pond are: Tree Swallow—11,000, Aug 11; Bank Swallow—15,000, Aug 11; Barn Swallow—9,000, Aug 17; Purple Martin—1,000, Aug 11; last dates are: Tree—Oct 5, six, Peterboro; Bank—Sep 15, two, Sandy Pond; Barn, Oct 2, eight, Howland's Is. GMA; Cliff: Sep 21, two Sandy Pond.

Blue Jay: protracted flight (early Aug to Nov 24) along Sandy Pond; comments indicate widespread numbers from late Sep to early Nov with a sharp drop in the second week in Nov. Black-capped Chickadee and White-breasted Nuthatch: flights of dozens of these birds as early as 17 Aug with 100's of Chickadees and 10's of Nuthatches in Sep and Oct along Lake Ontario; inland numbers of migrating Chickadees appeared to be equally high, but date ranges are less readily determined. Red-breasted Nuthatch: first date is Aug 17, one, Selkirk Shores St. Pk.; reported

from **everywhere** thru Sep; numbers dropped off sharply in the first two weeks of Oct, and reports later than that are exclusively single birds, usually at feeders (Aspinwall, Evans).

Carolina Wren: two each reported regularly from Stokes-Lee Center area north of Rome (Aspinwall) and from Oneida (Nodecker) none since mid-Aug along Lake Ontario. Winter Wren: very high is a count of 15, Oct 6, Sandy Pond. Catbird: last date is Nov 4 (late), one, Selkirk Shores St. Pk. Robin: heavy flight thru Rome (Aspinwall) with major numbers gone from there by Oct 13 (early). Large flights of Olive-backed and Gray-cheeked Thrushes and Veeries were noted passing over Syracuse (up to 20 call notes/min.) at night, Sep 17 and 18. Bluebird: fall counts up by 2 and 3 times with flocks of 15-20 birds reported widely (Spofford, Nodecker, Ackley, Scheider).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arrival date is Sep 21, one, Sandy Pond; high count of 125 there Oct 12; **very scarce** thru Nov. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arrival date of Aug 29 (two weeks early), one, Morrisville (Bergner); high of 115, Oct 12, Sandy Pond. Pipit: first reported Sep 8, one, Sandy Pond; reported widely thru late Sep and Oct with a high of 350, Oct 27, Beaver Lake Area; last reported Nov 16, Sandy Pond. Northern Shrike: this is the fourth winter running that these birds have shown up in numbers; first seen Oct 18, Westernville (May); seen in small numbers (one-three/day) since to the end of the period.

**Vireos — Warblers:** Vireos with the exception of Red-eyed Vireos continued scarce thru the fall migration. Philadelphia Vireo: one banded Sep 13, Oneida (Nodecker).

The warbler movement began early with the first unquestionable migrants (two Bay-breasted) on Aug 11. Numbers were quite low but variety was good and birds widespread (Nodecker's banding and daily records, Aspinwall's garden observations). Notably scarce were Parula, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Chestnut-sided, and Blackburnian. Numbers of Bay-breasted, Black-poll, Myrtle, and Wilson's (10 on Sep 15) Warblers were above average. The late Sep frost pushed most species south hurriedly, but there were a few late departure dates.

Golden-winged: six migrating south along Sandy Pond and Selkirk Shores St. Pk., Aug 17, may indicate breeding stations north of these areas. The same day hundreds of Yellow Warblers were moving south thru the dune woods at Sandy Pond. Tennessee: date range, Aug 17, Sandy Pond (R&S), to Oct 27, Marcellus (Spofford). Orange-crowned: one, Sep 15, two, Sep 21, both Sandy Pond, are the only reports. Myrtle: early are two, an adult and a young bird still begging food, Aug 17, Sandy Pond; reports of singles in late Nov from Westernville (May) and the south side of Syracuse (Chamberlaine). Connecticut: three records this fall; an adult, Sep 8, and an immature, Sep 22, both from Sandy Pond; an immature, Sep 21, at Beaver Lake (R&S).

Late dates are: Palm, Oct 25, one banded, Oneida (Nodecker); Mourning, Oct 6, one female, Sandy Pond (Scheider et al); Bay-breasted, Oct 4, three, Oneida; Yellow-throat, one, Nov 16, Clay Swamp.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Clay Swamp held an enormous roost of blackbirds thru Sep and Oct; high counts are: Red-wing—120,000, Oct 13; Grackle—30,000, Oct. 13; Starling—140,000, Oct 15; Cowbird—12,000, Oct 6. The major blackbird movement came in the last week of Oct, unusually early in view of the mild weather. Rusty Blackbird: peak is 400, Oct 12; last seen Nov 16.

The winter finch flight to date has been the landbird counterpart of the excellent waterfowl and shorebird migrations. Small numbers of Redpolls, Pine Siskins, Pine Grosbeaks, and Snow Buntings appeared very early. In approximately two to three weeks, large numbers of these species flooded the area, and all but the Siskin have remained in good numbers until the end of the period. In contrast, the Evening Grosbeaks came south like a "spring-warbler-wave" in reverse and have dropped off irregularly since.

Cardinal: up to seven reported at Oneida; seen twice in Nov in high (1600+ foot) elevation near Pompey (Maxwill); two at Rome, Nov 23 (Remmell); two females at Lakeport, Oneida Lake, Nov 30 (the south shore of Oneida Lake is notoriously deficient in Cardinals); all of the above would indicate new ground gained in the spread of this species. Indigo Bunting: one banded Oct 15, Oneida, (Nodecker) is late. Evening Grosbeak: first report is Sep 29 (earliest ever!), seven, Morrisville

(Carter); within one week reported by almost every active birder (flocks of 4 to 60); the majority of Oct reports mention many immatures and subsequent reports show an erratic decline thru late Oct and early Nov with many at feeders by Nov 10.

**Pine Grosbeak:** Nodecker reported the first (four) on Oct 16 (earliest known date!) at Oneida; late Oct and early Nov saw frequent small flocks (3-12) at Rome, Oneida, Sylvan Beach, Highmarket, and Sandy Pond; however, they were not reported around Syracuse until the second week of Nov and small flocks remain the rule. **Redpoll:** the first were two, Oct 27, Port Byron; by mid-Nov hundreds were reported at Sandy Pond, Howland's Is. GMA, and Bridgeport; there are no reports to date east of Oneida Lake, quite in contrast to the numerous Siskin and Pine and Evening Grosbeak records there. **Pine Siskin:** two on Sep 7, Verona Beach, were the heralds to the heavy flight thru Oct! a noticeable increase at the time of the mid-Nov Redpoll flight; numbers have dropped off sharply since Nov 20. **Goldfinch:** heavy migration with the early Oct sparrow flight (100+/day) and the late Oct Junco - Tree Sparrow movement (200+/day). **Red Crossbill:** two, Aug 18 (very early), Camp Woodland, Constantia (R&S); one, Oct 6, Sandy Pond (Scheider et al).

**Junco:** arrival date is Sep 18, Rome, and Sep 28, Cato (Whitman); high numbers (400+/day) thru Oct but a sharp drop from Nov 14 to Nov 21. **Tree Sparrow:** first seen on Oct 22, Skaneateles; fall numbers low (10-90/day) to the end of the period. **Field Sparrow:** up to 35+/day, Oct 5-14, at Three Rivers GMA. **White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows:** arrival dates of Sep 28 (late) and Sep 1 (early) respectively; flocks of 30-100 of these birds were reported widely; along with Swamp and Song Sparrows, a profusion of wintering White-throats noted. **Last White-crowns** on Oct 27, Howland's Is. GMA and Skaneateles. **Fox Sparrow:** singles seen from Oct 12, Sandy Pond, to Nov 22, Westernville (May). **Lapland Longspur:** one on Oct 6 near Fernwood, Oswego Co. is early; two in the large Horned Lark flight, Nov 16, at Sandy Pond. **Snow Bunting:** arrival date is Oct 12 (earliest ever!), four, Sandy Pond; flocks of 10-85 birds reported widely since then, primarily along Lake Ontario; not reported "inland" (away from Lake Ontario) until Nov 3.

151 *Seventh North Street, Syracuse 8*

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## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

There were early indications that this would be a very interesting time for birders. In September Evening Grosbeaks were seen in St. Lawrence County and they reached Watertown early in October. Pine Grosbeaks came in November and there have been a few Snowy Owls. A European Widgeon was shot at Perch Lake, and a Mockingbird was positively identified in Watertown. After a lapse of some time a Cardinal appeared in Watertown. So with birds coming from the north and others from the south November was a wonderful month to watch birds.

**Loons — Ducks:** Several Northern Loons were seen in November and a Red-throated Loon was seen in Black River Nov 29 (Belknap). Horned Grebes were numerous along Lake Ontario from late October to the end of November, and there was a Red-necked Grebe at Sherwin's Bay Nov 29. The European Widgeon shot at Perch Lake late in November was identified by John Wilson, district game manager. Green-winged Teals were noted near Madrid Oct 8. The duck migration was described as very good by Wilson. The Conservation Dept. airplane survey along the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario from Massena to near Oswego placed the number of ducks at a little over 100,000. There were good numbers of Scaup, Eiders were observed Nov 27 in Lake Ontario near Henderson (Wilson). Surf Scoters as well as both the other scoters were present near Morristown Nov 14. Old-squaws appeared along Lake Ontario late in November. J. Blake found fewer broods of the Red-breasted Merganser.

**Hawks — Owls:** There was a good flight of Rough-legged Hawks between Oct 23 and the end of November. A late Marsh Hawk was observed near Ogdensburg Nov 14. Gordon reports an Osprey at Perch River marsh Sep 28. Hungarian Par-