

Valley when they have previous been reported only from the city of Cortland within the county. Evening Grosbeaks were first reported at Oneonta Oct 25 (J. New) and next at Maine Oct 30 (J. Beaver). They were fairly common almost from the beginning and by about the middle of November they were making frequent, if not regular, appearances at feeders. At Deposit trapping did not start until Nov 22, but 40 of them were banded by the end of the period (S. Wilson). There were a few Redpolls reported, usually single birds in flocks of Tree Sparrows. The first was at Highland Lake Oct 14 (E. Austen). A flock of 25 White-winged Crossbills, the only ones so far reported, was seen near Oneonta Nov 25 (J. New). Rufous-sided Towhees seemed especially common in migration. The last ones were seen Oct 17 at Choconut Center (R. & M. Sheffield). A Vesper Sparrow reported at Unadilla Oct 16 (Shaver) was our last. Slate-colored Juncos moved into Endwell Oct 3 (L. Bemont) but have been only moderately plentiful. A single Tree Sparrow at Choconut Center Oct 26 (R. & M. Sheffield) seemed very early but within a week roadside thickets were full of them. White-crowned Sparrows were present from Oct 3 to Oct 26 and were only moderately common. White-throated Sparrows arrived Sep 19 at Maine (J. Beaver) and were mostly gone after Oct 31, but a few stragglers remained through November. A few Fox Sparrows were present at Choconut Center from Oct 26 thru Nov 7 (R. & M. Sheffield) but were unreported elsewhere. Lincoln's Sparrows were found in some numbers at Maine Sept 19 (J. Beaver).

710 University Avenue, Endwell

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Fritz Scheider

The latter half of Aug continued hot and dry with occasional thunder storms and no major migrational movements. Sep was similarly dry (two inches less than normal rainfall) and warm without major wind shifts until Sep 12-20 when west and northwest winds triggered wave after wave of migrant landbirds, shorebirds, dabbling ducks, and the last of the swallows. The very wet conditions of Oct contrasted sharply with the dryness of Aug and Sep; in the first two weeks of Oct five-plus inches of rain fell and by the end of the month a total of 7.15 inches, twice the normal amount, had fallen. This converted marshes and streambeds that had dried up and vegetated to near-flood conditions. Oct was quite warm to the first frost on Oct 19 and generally cool thereafter. Steady northwest winds Oct 17-20 induced a fine waterfowl flight, mainly geese, dabblers, and mergansers, but sorely deficient in diving ducks. Nov extended the wet and cold of Oct (almost five inches of precipitation with 16.6 inches of snow). Sharp frosts in the first week of Nov initiated the expected blackbird-sparrow-dabbler exodus, a movement given further impetus by low temperatures (16° and 17°) on Nov 17-18. The wet conditions and early freeze-up sealed many marshes quite early and late Nov half-hardies usually frequenting such places were scarce. A 10-inch snowfall Nov 27-28 produced a rush of half-hardies, especially Icterids, to feeders.

Early Oct mild weather contributed to abundant insect life and late swallows and flycatchers. Conifers, weedy plants, and berry-bearing bushes produced bumper crops. The four (Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep) months of dry weather produced a natural draw-down of local marshes with abundant weed growth along the margins; these weedy, seed-laden perimeters became favorite feeding grounds of ducks, sparrows, and blackbirds. These natural draw-down conditions were comparable to draw-down pond-management practiced by the N. Y. S. Conservation Dep't. at Howland's Island Game Management Area. There the 30-acre Headquarters Pond was drained in Oct 1958, allowed to dry out and grow up to smartweed — 5-foot specimens! — thru the past summer, to be reflooded in late Sep this year. The resulting abundance of food attracted thousands of ducks and hundreds of geese to this one pond, an example of concentrations obtainable thru careful, studied management.

Positive aspects of the fall movement include 1) an extremely heavy sparrow-junco-finch flight, reinforced in Nov by a wave of winter finches (q.v.), 2) fine shorebirding with high counts and notable variety (32 species), 3) a heavy Brant-Canada Goose flight (the chief talk of local waterfowl hunters), 4) late dates for many early fall migrants (terns, swallows), 5) early northerners (Glaucous Gull,

Tree Sparrow, Snow Bunting), 6) above-normal numbers of warblers and flycatchers, and 7) increased Accipiter and Buteo counts. An influx of resident southern species occurred in late Oct and early Nov with more Cardinals at Lacona, Sandy Pond, Rome, and Oneida, Tufted Titmouse at Baldwinsville (Bisdeq) and Skaneateles (Hiscock), Carolina Wren at Selkirk Shores State Park (Evans), and scattered Red-bellied Woodpeckers (q. v.). Singles of Northern Shrike (early Nov) and Snowy Owl (Nov 15, Sandy Pond - Spofford) hint at possible irruptions this winter.

Negatively speaking, 1) the extremely poor counts of diving ducks, lower than last year and most marked in the Aythya group, and 2) the low numbers of gulls and terns engendered abundant comment.

Regional rarities for the period show a distinct northeast or coastal element — Purple Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Parasitic Jaeger, Kittiwake, Dovekie; this is especially remarkable in view of the scarcity of pre-disposing northeast storms. Other finds include Avocet, Prairie Warbler, and Hoary Redpoll.

N. B. In the summary below, the following initials will be used: HIGMA — Howland's Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; TRGMA — Three Rivers Game Management Area near Baldwinsville; SP and SPI — Sandy Pond and Sandy Pond Inlet; SSSP — Selkirk Shores State Park, west of Pulaski.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: first migrants Sep 26 (late) high count is 40 Nov 8 near Texas. Red-throated Loons were scarce and the only Red-necked Grebe reported was Nov 3, SSSP (Evans). Horned Grebe: remarkably late this year; not one reported prior to Oct 31. Pied-billed Grebe: a dead one found at the Syracuse TV towers Oct 3 was a distinct change from the dead small warblers and thrushes there; numbers low thru entire fall.

Common Egret: 11-35 noted thru Sep and Oct with last date Oct 24, one, at HIGMA; up to four in a small heron roost at TRGMA; no other white herons noted. Black-crowned Night Heron: an immature albino of this species with diffuse streaking noted Oct 4 HIGMA (K. Thorpe).

Whistling Swan: two at SSSP in the first week of Nov and two at HIGMA the middle ten days of Nov are the only records. Canada Goose: a superb fall flight with first arrivals on Sep 13 (early); major movements Oct 17-20 and the first week of Nov; counts of up to 1000 were attained where 100 are considered unusual (Rome, Oneida, southern Madison County, Green Lakes State Park); many farm ponds and small marshes had groups of 20-60 loafing thereabouts and flocks of 65-100 still lingered to early Dec; the flight at HIGMA and Sandy Pond seemed definitely up with 1000 Canadas at HIGMA Oct 28; apparent individuals of the hutchinsi (Oct 11) and minima (Nov 22) races noted at HIGMA. Brant: 2200 along Sandy Pond south to Texas plus some 4000 waterfowl, many probably Brant, beyond identification range were noted Oct 18; flocks of 20-60 were frequent there and at Oneida Lake (max. 400), Beaver Lake, and HIGMA; a few stragglers (cripples?) present to the end of the period. Blue Goose: an adult stayed with Canada Geese Oct 13-16 HIGMA (Bauer); nine adults noted flying south over SSSP Nov 3 (Evans) are most unusual. Snow Goose: up to 60 on Oneida Lake in the last week of Nov.

Mallard and Black Duck: fall counts in the thousands with peaks of 2600 and 2400 respectively Oct 11-Nov 22 (Ernst, Taormina). Of interest was a flight of 4000 dabblers, mostly Blacks, Mallards, Pintails, and Teal on Oct 18 off Sandy Pond; at least 3000 of these birds were noted the same day in restive rafts on wind-crazed Mexico Bay with a continual stream of ducks from the north joining the wave-bounced birds and a like stream departing west toward Oswego. Gadwall: seen at Lake Ontario but extremely scarce all fall with no HIGMA count of this species above 10 (Bauer). Baldpate: numerous Sep and Oct flocks 100-600 but persistently outnumbered by the Blacks and Ballards, a ratio quite in contrast to the surfeit of Baldpates at Montezuma NWR just to the west. Green-winged Teal: peak count is 700, Oct 11, HIGMA; small numbers present to Nov. 30. Blue-winged Teal; fall counts good (up to 500/day); rapid fall-off thru Oct; last date is Nov. 3, (early) Beaver Lake. Wood Duck: counts of 60-360 thru Oct with peaks of 300, Tully, and 350, HIGMA but scarce thru entire fall along Lake Ontario (Weeks, Scheider).

Diving ducks have been persistently scarce and, aside from Goldeneye and merganser counts, flights have been nil. The brunt of the hunting toll this fall fell on the dabblers, Brant, Goldeneye, and Scaup, evidence of the scarcity of the more desired Redheads and Canvasbacks. Redheads: counts ranged from 12-60 thru Oct and early Nov; none seen at Shackleton Point, Oneida Lake where normally

hundreds gather. Mr. Laible, the caretaker there, indicates that he knows of none bagged by hunters in the Bridgeport area. Canvasback and Scaup: extremely scarce throughout the fall migration; Scaup counts along Lake Ontario were 20-300, while Canvasbacks were nearly absent; high counts of 4000 and 1000 respectively, both from Shackleton Point, Oneida Lake for a few days in early Nov, but thru the remainder of Nov there the counts ranged from 200-400; the rest of the lake was woefully deficient in birds and the pattern of duck migration there appears to be changing; this year concentrations of 400-600 birds would stay for a few days in favored bays where formerly they rafted up by the thousands for weeks; arrival dates are Canvasbacks Oct 11, Greater Scaup Sep 13 (early), and Lesser Scaup Sep 26.

Goldeneye: first noted in the Oct 18 Sandy Pond flight; late Oct and Nov counts of 200-400 from both Lake Ontario and the south shore of Oneida Lake; the regular absence of this species, mergansers, and both Scaup from the entire north shore of Oneida Lake might point to a general loss of food, both plant and animal, from that sector. Bufflehead and Oldsquaw: arrival dates of Oct 17 and 10 (early) respectively; counts of 50 and 10 respectively (both low) and no late Nov Oldsquaw flight noted. Scoters had a moderately good flight, as usual most marked along Lake Ontario, but Surf Scoter (four) were reported from Beaver Lake Oct 23, and a White-winged Scoter crash-landed on a lawn in Dewitt, Oct 16; arrival dates are White-winged Sep 13, Surf Oct 18, Common Oct 4; range and peak figures are White-winged- 20-300, Surf- two to nine, Common- one-25, all present to end of period. Ruddy Duck: a female, Aug 25, is an early arrival; very scarce thru fall with usual counts one-15, with a peak of 62, Oct 23, Beaver Lake. Hooded Merganser: a good flight in the western third of the region with a peak of 108 Nov 7 but scarce at Sandy Pond and Oneida Lake. Red-breasted Merganser: flock counts low (25-500) thru Oct; a heavy flight Nov 8 with 5000 near Texas and 3000 west of Oswego the same day (Weeks).

Hawks — Owls: Fall hawk counts definitely better than average, notably amongst migrant Accipiters and wintering Buteos, a source of delight to local devotees. Small hawk flights noted Sep 7, 12, and 26 and Nov 8 at Sandy Pond. Turkey Vulture: last noted Oct 11, HIGMA. No Goshawks reported. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks: noted with fair frequency (one-four/day) in small hawk flights along Sandy Pond; Nov reports about three times the usual figures. Red-tailed Hawk: Nov counts indicative of possibly high wintering population with 26, Nov 1, in Lysander Township (Cade) and 20, Nov 8, in northern Cayuga County (Spofford). Red-shouldered Hawk: last noted Nov 7, Beaver Lake. Rough-legged Hawk: arrival date Oct 25, one, HIGMA; noted in numbers (three-seven/day) thereafter with five migrating down Sandy Pond dunes Nov 8 and up to seven/day in the mouse-rich lowlands from Bridgeport to Baldwinsville. Osprey: scarce (one-two/day); protracted flight with the last one, Oct 28, late. Peregrine: an adult female Oct 4 and a dead immature Oct 18, both SPI, are the only reports. Pigeon Hawk: 12 reported, all but two along Lake Ontario, the latest Oct 11 (Spofford). Sparrow Hawk: late Nov counts up to six/day, distinctly above average.

Ruffed Grouse: numbers definitely down from past two falls. Bobwhite: a hen with a single downy chick seen Sep 3 (late) at HIGMA; several wild broods reared from two-year-old stock birds there.

Fall shorebirding produced good numbers and stellar variety; low lake levels at Lake Ontario created productive conditions at beaches normally frequented by few shorebirds; similar low levels at many local marshes and Onondaga, Oneida, and Delta Lakes attracted their share of shorebirds and after Sep 20 drained pools at HIGMA were particularly favored. The heavy Oct rains flooded many low, shorebird-rich marshes but formed an equal number of field and pasture pools which held transient Snipe, Pectoral Sandpipers and both Yellowlegs but little else. Of note were double peaks of counts in shorebirds — estimates of 100 per species and 600 individuals/day in late Aut to mid-Sep, then a sharp drop thru Sep to early Oct when shorebirds were again noted in the hundreds; this occurred at least percentage-wise in almost all shorebird areas and did not seem to be related to cold fronts or wind shifts, but there was a suggestive species shift.

Semipalmated Plover: maximum of 90, Aug 30, SP; groups of 10-15 thru Oct with one, Nov. 1, SPI, the last. Piping Plover: singles noted along SP Sep 5 and 26 and Oct 4 (late). Golden Plover: one - three noted on six occasions between Aug 20 and Oct 4; actually very scarce in comparison to the heavy flight to the west of the Region and in view of the many observers checking plowed field, golf courses,

and the like for similar local concentrations. Black-bellied Plover: high of 22, Sep 12; maximum Oct count 12 (low), Oct 18; last seen Nov 8, SPI. Ruddy Turnstone: counts of 20-33 thru late Aug and first two weeks of Sep; last noted Oct 4.

Common Snipe: groups of six to 45 noted thru Sep; small flocks (12-15) thru Oct; **no** Nov records. Whimbrel (Hudsonian Curlew): recorded only as singles, Sep 12, SP, and Sep 15, Bridgeport. An Upland Plover Sep 24 near Phoenix and a Solitary Sandpiper Oct 11, HIGMA, are both very late; the Solitary Sandpiper flight was prolonged and with low counts (one-four/day). Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs: peak figures 15-25, Oct. 3-18, and 10-40, Aug 19-Oct 12, respectively; last noted on Nov 21, one, and Oct. 28, one respectively, both HIGMA. Red Knot: one to seven noted to Sep 14 along Lake Ontario; also noted at Sylvan Beach Sep 2-13 and two at Onondaga Lake Aug 19-20; a good (for Knots) early flight.

Pectoral Sandpiper: counts of 20-45 Aug 20 to Sep 15, then very scarce (four to 12) thru to the 2nd week of Oct when groups of 25-90 were found; last date Nov 7, one; a similar pattern was detected in the Lesser Yellowlegs and Stilt Sandpiper (q.v.) flight. White-rumped Sandpiper: quite scarce this season in contrast to the other "peep"; a few scattered Aug records, **no** Sep records and the peak count is five at SPI Nov 8, late for that number. Baird's Sandpiper: 20 noted between Aug 19 and Sep 16; a complete gap exists between this early flight and two remarkably late birds — Oct 24, one, HIGMA, and Nov 8, one, SPI, the latter a record late date. Dunlin (Red-backed Sandpiper): first seen Sep 7, one; scarce thru the remainder of Sep and early Oct; maximum of 160, Oct 18, when flocks of this species were noted flying south over Routes 3 and 11; last recorded Nov 15, three, SPI, rather early. Long-billed Dowitcher: singles only, north of Sandy Pond Aug 30 and Sep 7. Stilt Sandpiper: the good Aug flight (three-four/day) continued into the first week of Sep; from Sep 13 to Oct 13 not a single Stilt Sandpiper was observed; then five to 11 noted until departure date Oct 17, HIGMA; why this double peak? — immatures vs. adults? Least and Semipalmated Sandpiper, Sanderling: top figures of 125 Sep 5, 250 Sep 7, and 360 Sep 5 respectively, with best counts along Lake Ontario, Onondaga Lake, and HIGMA; departure dates as follows — Oct 17, HIGMA, Oct 25, Sylvan Beach, and Nov 11, SPI, all late but no record dates. Western Sandpiper: six noted between Aug 19 and Sep 7, none thereafter; it was most unusual not to see any in the latter half of Sep and their complete absence from the Oct wave of shorebirds is inexplicable.

As usual, autumn turned up intriguing rare shorebirds, thus — Purple Sandpiper: two, Nov 8, SPI (16 happy observers), the third record in six years. Buff-breasted sandpiper: one, Sep 14-18, SPI (Scheider, Hoyt et al, Paquette, Evans), the second record in three years. Hudsonian Godwit: five, Oct 4, SPI (Evans), the second record in seven years. Avocet: one, Aug 29, Verona Beach (Carpenter), the first noted in the Region. Also of note was a small Northern Phalarope flight with nine observed between Sep 14 and 18 along Lake Ontario, Sandy Pond, and on a farm pond near Texas (Evans, Paquette, Hoyt et al); a single, Aug 22, Onondaga Lake (Rusk) is unusual; no Oct phalarope records; a group of five (sp?) flew by SPI Nov 16 (Spofford).

Parasitic Jaeger: an adult Parasitic noted Oct 18 at SPI (Scheider); a dark-phase bird (sp?) noted Sep 6 off SSSP (Evans). Glaucous Gull: a first year bird, Nov 1, SPI, is very early. Great Black-backed, Herring, and Ring-billed Gulls: all tallies remarkably low this fall, noted along eastern Lake Ontario, at Oswego, and on Onondaga and Oneida Lakes; maxima are 25 Nov 14, 700 Nov 1, and 2000 Aug 26 respectively with average counts this fall 10, 200, and 500 respectively; since typical counts would be 40, 2500, and 4000 per species, the drop in numbers is obvious; many dead Ring-billed Gulls, both adult and immature, were noted at Sandy Pond and in several plowed fields south of Oneida Lake (23 dead birds in one field) — reason???? Bonaparte's Gull: very scarce this season; maximum is 20 at Sylvan Beach (Whites); peak number at Sandy Pond is **two** and there were no Nov records of them from Lake Ontario. Kittiwake: an immature observed for 20 minutes with Ring-billed Gulls at SPI Nov 1 (Scheider) is a most unusual inland record, even more so in view of the lack of explanatory northeast storms.

Forster's Tern: rather scarce this fall with singles only at SPI, the last there Oct 11. Maxima for terns are: Common 300-330 in first week of Sep, Caspian 11, Black 35, all low. Departure dates are: Common Oct 3 (early); Caspian Oct 4, SPI, late; Black, Sep 15.

Dovekie: a winter-plumaged adult shot Nov 11 on Oneida Lake is, like the Kittiwake, a very rare find (a Regional first) but is somewhat more reasonable in view of northeast winds a day earlier.

Short-eared Owl: not one reported thru the period, especially surprising in comparison with the many Rough-legged Hawks seen.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Ruby-throated Hummingbird: maximum count was 12, Sep 12, SP; one there Oct 4 (Rusk) is late. Flicker: Sep counts low 20-30/day; Nov reports very scarce. Red-bellied Woodpecker: regularly noted at HIGMA; singles reported thru Nov at Pulaski (Wood), Oneida (Nodecker), and Syracuse (Grimes); this is most likely fall dispersal from the Seneca River area rather than southern birds moving north, in contrast to the Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Wren advances. Red-headed Woodpecker: very scarce in fall migration; an immature regularly at a Syracuse feeder thru Nov (fide Burt) is notable. Hairy and Downy Woodpecker: no detectable Oct movement for either; however, abundant reports of these species at feeders thru Nov with roughly one: two ratio, quite comparable to last winter.

Kingbird: last group noted was a flock of 100 feeding with Cedar Waxwings about a stagnant pond at TRGMA, Sep 18, rather late for so large a number. Many flycatchers set late dates this fall — Crested Oct 4; Wood Pewee Oct 5; Alder Flycatcher Sep 29; Empidonax (sp?) Oct 11; Olive-sided Flycatcher Sep 20; maximum three, Sep 6 (Whites). Wood Pewee: counts of 30/day in first two weeks of Sep at SSSP. Horned Lark: counts of 25-120 from mid-Sep to early Nov but seemed notably scarce when compared to the abundant Pipits, Red-polls, and Snow Buntings.

The swallow thousands of early Aug rapidly dwindled to hundreds by Aug 30; a good Tree Swallow flight in mid-Sep (3000 on Sep 14, 1500 Sep 15 and 16); last dates are Tree Swallow Oct 24; Bank Swallow Oct 4 (late); Rough-winged Swallow Oct 17 (very late); Barn Swallow Oct 4; Cliff Swallow Sep 16 (on that date Ernst reported 35 at Raquette Lake with the temperature 39° — brr!!); Purple Martin Sep 16. Crow: up to 4000/hour noted over HIGMA Nov 22 headed for the Montezuma roost; southward flights along SP up to 1400/day on Oct 18 and Nov 8. Blue Jay: a moderate Sep flight (30-60/day) gave promise of an Oct invasion which never materialized; marked feeder patronage thru Nov (315 in feeder survey) but rather scarce in the local woodlots, particularly along the north shore of Oneida Lake.

Black-capped Chickadee: a steady lakeside rush of these birds from early Sep to early Nov with peak of 166 Oct 10. White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatch: only a fair fall movement with first migrants Sep 5 and Aug 29 respectively; peak White-breasted counts in the first two weeks of Oct; no evidence of a peak for Red-breasted, but they were widely reported and Nov reports are about four times the expected figures, from both feeders and natural situations. Wrens were notable only for their scarcity, most marked in the House (five-six/day maximum), least in the Winter.

Hermit Thrush: widely noted but counts low; maximum of 11, Oct. 14 at Syracuse; a decreased number of Nov reports is in keeping with the low migrational counts. Swainson's (Olive-backed) and Gray-cheeked Thrushes: though ground counts indicate a larger number of Swainson's than Gray-cheekeds (20: one this fall), the ratio amongst 22 dead or injured birds in the Syracuse TV tower kill Oct 2-3 was one:one. A Veery, stunned but able to fly, Oct 2 at the Syracuse TV towers is late. Bluebird: flock reports quite encouraging with groups of four to 20 reported from Sep 19 to Nov 1; peak of 27, Oct 25 (Nodecker).

Golden-crowned Kinglet and Ruby-crowned Kinglet: fall migrants first noted Sep 16 (early) and Sep 12 (late) respectively; Ruby-crowned Kinglet strangely scarce thru Sep, strong Oct flight of both (20-60/day for each); many Golden-crowned thru Nov; last date for Ruby-crowned Nov 18.

Pipit: desultory flight with peak of 200, Oct 28, Tully; last noted Nov 7, an early departure date.

Vireos — Warblers: No tower kills noted in Sep, probably because of the clear, warm weather that prevailed. On Oct 2-3, after a passing cold front, moderate cloudiness and traces of rain, approximately 110 birds were collected from below both towers, the majority warblers and vireos but a few thrushes and surprising number (nine) of Catbirds (Michener, Little).

Solitary (Blue-headed) Vireo: scarce in the otherwise good warbler-vireo flight; last noted Oct 11 (early). Red-eyed Vireo: ten - 35 noted in migration waves along

Sandy Pond; late Sep counts low but up to 11 in Oct 2-3 tower kills at Syracuse; last noted Oct 25, two, Oneida (Nodecker), quite late. Philadelphia Vireo: five individuals noted between Sep 12 and 26.

Warbler flights were fairly scant in the last two weeks of Aug and it was not until Sep 12 and a change of wind that a major flight was noted at Sandy Pond. As with the vireos there seemed to be a very sharp late Sep drop-off but good variety and numbers in the first week of Oct, noted both in the field and at the Syracuse TV towers. Warblers were strangely absent from the Verona Beach — Sylvan Beach area but seemed abundant at Bridgeport and SSSP.

Increased numbers were noted in Myrtle (peak 200, Oct 4), Parula (six, Sep 12), Magnolia (20, Sep 12), Black-throated Blue (total of 20), and especially in Black-throated Green (35 on Sep 12, 15-30 Sep 13-Oct 4) and Wilson's (peak of 16 on Sep 12). Markedly scarce were Chestnut-sided (only two in all Sep), Bay-breasted, and Blackpoll, all normally large components of Sep movements. Early departure was the rule, as the following dates show: Tennessee Oct 9, Nashville Oct 11, Magnolia Oct 4 (early), Black-throated Blue Oct 9, Myrtle Nov 29, Black-throated Green Oct 10 (very early), Cerulean Aug 28, Blackburnian Oct 4, Bay-breasted Oct 9, and Northern Waterthrush, Ovenbird, Redstart all Oct 3. A Wilson's Warbler on Oct 11 (Spofford) is quite late but one, Nov 9, at Oneida (Ackley, Nodecker) is a record-breaker.

Rare and unusual fall warblers include an Orange-crowned Sep 24, Oneida (Felle), a Mourning Sep 13, HIGMA, and a Prairie Sep 9, SSSP (Evans).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Black Icterids made news only by their abundance and despoilage of corn and grain plantings, including those cultivated for wildlife. Maxima are 80,000 Redwings, 30,000 Grackles. 25,000 Cowbirds Oct 9, other indications of abundance are 20,000 Redwings in a 17-acre willow marsh Aug 31 and 80,000 Icterids and Starlings Oct 18 at Clay Swamp. Rusty Blackbird: first noted Sep 29; counts rather low (six-45) but noted widely; a high of 100, Oct 23. All black Icterids showed heavy late Nov feeding station attendance with even a few Rustys noted at feeds.

Fall sparrowing approximated spring warbling with marked waves of birds inundating the hedgerows and brush lots of the Region. Comments include "a flood of sparrows" at Syracuse Oct 14 (Propst), "hill pastures full of sparrows" near Rome Oct 16 (Aspinwall), and "hordes of sparrows" from Oct 17-22 in southern Madison County (Conservation Dep't personnel). A fine Nov winter finch flight compensated for a rapid decline in the earlier migrant species (Chipping, Savannah). Noteworthy too was the abundant feeding station traffic in sparrows (Song, Tree, White-throated Sparrows, Junco) and finches, including Evening Grosbeaks at feeders by the second week of Nov, this despite abundant weed and tree seed crops still available. Indigo Bunting: peak count 15, Sep 13, HIGMA; last noted Oct 3. Evening Grosbeak: first observed on Oct 25, five, Oneida (Nodecker); scattered groups (six-25) noted thereafter across the Region (Morrisville, Rome, Fayetteville, Bridgeport) but scarce (five reports only) in the western third (northern Cayuga County) until late Nov. Common Redpoll: 60, Nov 8 at Sandy Pond were the first recorded; thereafter reported in flocks (ten-60) from Rome, Phoenix, and Oneida but the larger numbers were consistently along Lake Ontario. Hoary Redpoll: a brilliant male, seen with a flock of 60 Common Redpolls, Nov 27 near Phoenix (Scheider). Purple Finch: a moderate flight thru Rome, Oneida, and southern Madison County starting Sep 14; however, singularly scarce throughout the fall along the Sandy Pond dunes and at SSSP, a migration route almost trammled by the Redpolls and Snow Buntings. Pine Siskin: a single Oct 3, TRGMA, is early; small groups reported with the Nov Redpoll flight but none with the goldfinch-junco-sparrow waves in mid-Oct. Goldfinch: flocks of 10-150 thru most of the fall; almost any small land bird wave seemed to bring more Goldfinches; however, a rapid drop-off noted after Nov 20.

Savannah and Field Sparrows: though seen in fair numbers (maxima of 30 and 32 respectively), these two species seemed scarce by comparison in the heavy Oct sparrow movement; departure dates Oct 24 and Nov 7 respectively, both rather early. Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows: last observed at TRGMA Oct 17 and Oct 3 respectively, the latter slightly early in view of departure dates of recent years. Vesper sparrow: 20-30/day in early Oct with a peak of 200, Oct 15, Tully; seen to Nov 5 (Felle). Slate-colored Junco: first migrants Sept 12, Sandy Pond; thru Oct, hundreds reported with up to 1000/day noted; backyards were "filled with

Juncoes" and Nodecker reported up to 100 in a small patch of crabgrass Oct 23; lesser numbers (30-60) remained to late Nov.

Tree Sparrow: two, Oct 17 are somewhat early; on the weekend of Nov 7-8 the fields and brushy marshes at Rome, Oneida, HIGMA (500,) and SSSP (400) were alive with these sparrows.

Chipping Sparrow: Maximum count 35, Sep 29 - Oct 3 near Baldwinsville; last noted Nov 19 at Oneida, rather late. White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows: arrival dates are Sep 5, SSSP (Sep 11, Oneida) and Sep 25 respectively; peak counts of 600 and 75 respectively Oct 17-22; many White-throats both at feeders and in the field thru Nov. 31. White-crowns were spotted at feeders Nov 1-7 and at least six were present to late Nov at Oneida (Felle, Thurber) and Syracuse. Fox Sparrow: date range Sep 30-Nov 30 with peak of ten, Nov 7; Paquette and Thurber at Oneida reported Fox Sparrows at feeding stations regularly in the latter half of Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: high tally of five, Sep 29, TRGMA. Swamp and Song Sparrows: maxima of 65, Oct 17, and 450, Oct 11 (early) respectively; the steady heavy Song Sparrow movement thru late Oct and early Nov plus the many at feeders and in local marshes contrasts sharply with the rapid decline in Swamp Sparrows in late Oct and their near absence thru Nov. Snow Bunting: one, Oct 10, Sandy Pond, is early; counts of 100 occurred regularly after Nov 1.

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REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

The rainfall continued to be plentiful and fall weather was a little late in coming. Leaves stayed on the trees very late. The birds seemed to arrive about on time, and a few individuals were present longer than might be expected.

There were two or three reports of birds that looked like Cattle Egrets. Rolla Parker and Kathryn Pilmore saw one near Cape Vincent and in this case the identification seems positive.

Loons — Ducks: Horned Grebes were reported as being definitely below normal in numbers this fall, but several were seen near Adam's Cove on Oct 31. There were seen near Adam's Cove on Oct. 31. There was a good flight of Canada Geese, and about 30 were seen south of Watertown on Nov 23. Sportsmen reported larger concentrations of Brant than have been seen in years in eastern sections of Lake Ontario. Mallards, Black Ducks, Green-winged Teal, and Scaup were present in good numbers. An aerial survey by the Conservation Department showed Black Ducks, but no Redheads or Canvasbacks, between Ogdensburg and Cape Vincent. It also showed large concentrations of Scaup in Lake Ontario near Cape Vincent and an estimated 60,000 near Henderson.

Hawks — Owls: An immature Turkey Vulture was shot in the southern part of the region about Oct 1. Belknap says there was the largest flight of Rough-legged Hawks in years, and other observers also noted an increase in these birds. They were reported from Oct 30 on. The last date for Marsh Hawks was Nov 25.

Semipalmated Plovers were seen at El Dorado Aug 22. Black-bellied Plovers were present from the middle of August to Nov 9 when four were observed at Sherwin's Bay. A few Ruddy Turnstones were seen at El Dorado on Aug 22 and Aug 29. Two dates for Solitary Sandpipers were Aug 22 and Aug 31. Greater Yellowlegs were reported through Nov 15. The only observation of Knots was that of four on Aug 22. Pectoral Sandpipers were noted through Oct 31, and Short-billed Dowitchers were seen Aug 22 and Aug 29 at El Dorado. Semipalmated Sandpipers were noted Aug 22 and Oct. 31. The last date for Sanderlings was Nov 9 when there were seven at Sherwin's Bay. Three Great Black-backed Gulls were seen at Guffin's Bay Nov 9, and there was a Bonaparte's Gull at Pt. Peninsula on Oct 31. Belknap saw two Snowy Owls just north of Watertown on Nov 25, but no others were reported.

Goatsuckers — Sparrows: The last Tree Swallow report was Oct 14 near Clayton. Most of the Robins had departed by Oct 29. Gordon reported some 100 Water Pipits near Rodman on Oct 3. Northern Shrikes seemed to be scarce, but one was