

have gained a foothold. At Endwell a pair was still feeding young Oct 10 (E. & N. Washburn). There were several late September Rose-breasted Grosbeaks reported, the last Sep 29 at Owego along with our last Indigo Bunting (R. Williams). There were six Evening Grosbeaks at Oneonta Nov 4 and eight at the same place Nov 20 (R. Burland). On the latter date a single male was at Endwell (F. Linaberry) but that's all that have been reported so far. A few Purple Finches, six Pine Grosbeaks, four at Gilbert Lake Nov 20 and two at Oneonta Nov 21 (R. Burland) and no Redpolls have been reported. The only winter finch to make a strong showing so far has been the Pine Siskin. Twenty five or more at Norwich Oct 21 (R. & S. White) were our first and there have been a number of flocks reported since, the largest approximately 150 at Cranberry Lake, in nearby Pennsylvania, Nov 19. Goldfinches were still being reported at the end of the period. Rufous-sided Towhees were especially common until almost the end of October. One was still at Choconut Center Nov 27 (R. & M. Sheffield).

Vesper Sparrows were reported fairly often in October and one was still at Oxford Nov 12 (A. Stratton). Slate-colored Juncos were seen quite regularly after Sep 29 but not very many at a time, except Oct 2 when an estimated 300 were seen at Oneonta (R. Burland). Tree Sparrows were reported at Choconut Center Oct 28 (M. Sheffield). White-crowned Sparrows were seen at Binghamton from Oct 7 (L. Bemont) to Oct 23 (R. & M. Sheffield). They did not appear to be very common anywhere in the region. Six White-throated Sparrows were at Arnold Lake, between Oneonta and Cooperstown, Sep 5 (R. Burland) but it was two weeks later, Sep 18, when the species was seen again at East Sidney (H. Wisner) and Oneonta. They were seen regularly, and sometimes in considerable numbers, until Oct 18. There were a few stragglers after that, the last one so far at Owego Nov 28 (R. Williams). Fox Sparrows arrived at Choconut Center Oct 30 (L. Bemont, M. Sheffield) and the last one reported, quite a late one, was in Prospect Valley, near Candor, Nov 24 (P. Kelsey). Nov 6 they were quite common at Chenango Valley State Park. Two Lincoln's Sparrows were seen at Choconut Center, one Sep 18 (M. Sheffield) and one Oct 2 (L. Bemont). The latter one was banded. A flock of thirty Snow Buntings was at Broome County Airport Oct 30 (H. Thomas) and a single one was at Unadilla Nov 21 (H. Wisner) but no more.

Addenda (received late): A Goshawk was seen in northern Chenango County Nov 21 six to eight miles from an area where they are known to breed (P. Kelsey). Mr. Bartlett of Greene reports seeing three of them in one day. A Bald Eagle was reported to have spent a lot of time on a farm near Harpursville in the late summer or early fall. Perhaps the casualty reported above? A Caspian Tern was at Meade Pond, north of Norwich, Sep 12 (P. Kelsey). Evening Grosbeaks were also seen in northern Chenango County Nov 4 and Red Crossbills were there Nov 21. Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins were especially common there where the habitat is suitable (P. Kelsey).

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

August was dry, sunny, windless, and cool with only the 29th exceeding 90°. Migration concomitantly was desultory without waves. September, similarly cool and dry except for a 1.5 inch rainfall on the 9th, had few major weather disturbances, the outstanding one being para-hurricane rains and winds on the 11th and 12th. Following this disturbance, a marked drop in shorebirds and a tide, rather than a sharp wave, of warblers ensued. Mrs. Evans commented that on September 15 "the birches dripped with warblers" at Selkirk Shores State Park; on September 17 creekside woods at Manlius "were alive with warblers, mostly Black-throated Blues and Greens and Magnolias." Moderate waves of migrants were reported on September 19, 24, and 28-30. October was distinctly cooler than average (2.4° below normal) with normal rainfall and sunshine. A few chill nights in the early part of the month pushed most shorebirds and the few remnants of warblers south but engendered the expected rise in migrant dabbling ducks and sparrows. A two-inch snowfall on October 24-25 plus freezing

temperatures initiated the dabbler-blackbird-sparrow exodus (early this year). November seemed pleasant and mild with daily temperatures averaging 2.9° above normal and sunshine 38% above normal. A 2.6 inch snowfall on November 5-6 was discouraging and pushed southward many lingering Icterids and sparrows, but the snow — and the discouragement — quickly melted. The continuous mild weather from November 14 on plus an abundant berry and seed crop with many insects still about probably explains the late November records of Virginia Rail, House Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, and Towhee.

Natural and controlled drawdown plus controlled reflooding at HIGMA and TRGMA produced a wealth of waterfowl food on corresponding concentrations of ducks (8000-9000 Nov 1-25). The cone crop from local spruces and pines seemed fair to good. Mice were plentiful, which probably accounts for the numerous Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks, Sparrow Hawks, and Short-eared Owls. The positive features other than the good warbler flights include 1) a superb protracted shorebird flight, 2) a good early sparrow-goldfinch flight, capped by a modest November winter finch flight, 3) many early northerners (Rusty Blackbird — Sep 6; Short-eared Owl — Oct 5; Brant, Oldsquaw, Rough-legged Hawk, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting — Oct 9), and 4) the appearance of cyclic or irruptive species (Goshawk, Snowy Owl, Northern Shrike, Red Crossbill — q.v.).

Negatively the continued decline of diving ducks, most marked in the Aythya genus but also obvious in Buffleheads and mergansers, aroused the most comment. Other negatives which dimmed an otherwise stellar season were 1) a poor swallow migration, 2) reduced numbers of gulls, 3) a mediocre Canada Goose flight, and 4) a Junco-Tree Sparrow migration well below par.

A shower of rarities rained on the region this fall and included such diverse desiderata as European Widgeon, King Eider, Common Eider, Willet, Purple Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Ruff, all three phalaropes, Black-backed Woodpecker, Mockingbird, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and Dickcissel.

In this summary the following areas will be initiated: Howland's Island Game Management Area near Port Byron — HIGMA; Three Rivers Game Management Area near Baldwinville — TRGMA; Selkirk Shores State Park near Pulaski — SSSP; Sandy Pond and Sandy Pond Inlet — SP and SPI.

Loon — Ducks: Common Loon: first noted Sep 18, Sylvan Beach; a meagre flight with a maximum of 40 on Oct 30; frankly scarce at Oneida Lake where three-seven/day only were noted. Red-throated Loon: scarce with peak of five on Oct 30 at Sandy Pond (Hoyt et al); none noted away from Lake Ontario.

Horned Grebe: first noted Oct 9 (late) along Lake Ontario; high count is 200 on Oct 30 but Oneida Lake counts in the ten - 30/day range only; is this species suffering from breeding ground losses like the Redheads and Canvasbacks? Pied-billed Grebe: present throughout period. Double-crested Cormorant: one on Aug 30 at Onondaga Lake is early (Estoff, Propst); two reported Oct 9, SP (Hoyt et al); last noted Oct 22, Sylvan Beach (Bagg).

Great Blue Heron: seemed somewhat more abundant at Sandy Pond (25, Sep 10), Onondaga Lake (20, Sep 16), and HIGMA (20, Oct 2); present to the end of the period. Common Egret: maximum of 17 Sep 10 at HIGMA; lesser numbers (12-14) present thru Sep and Oct to last date Oct 23, two, also HIGMA. Departure dates for Green Heron (Oct 12), Black-crowned Night Heron (Oct 15), and American Bittern (Oct 15) are all early.

Whistling Swan: six in late Nov at Shackleton Point, Oneida Lake (Liable) and one shot (? by whom) at Otisco Lake in mid-Nov are rare fall migrants here. Mute Swan: one summering off Cleveland on the north shore of Oneida Lake was found dead shortly after the beginning of the duck hunting season. Canada Goose: first fall arrivals Sep 16 at TRGMA; early Oct saw a light flight (flock maximum of 85 on Oct 8 — Nodecker) and the fall peak was 400, Oct 29, Beaver Lake and HIGMA; up to 200 remained at HIGMA as of Nov 30. Brant: 17 on Oct 9 at SPI were prelude to 3000 there Oct 28-29; another 3000 were reported Nov 8 on Oneida Lake (fide Taormina). Snow Goose: only fall report is 60, Nov 28, flying south over HIGMA (fide Bauer).

Mallard and Black Duck: a good fall flight with 1000-1500/day thru Oct; maximum of 3200 and 3000 respectively not reached until Nov 13, HIGMA, pointing up the lateness and mildness of the season. Gadwall: one Sep 10-11, SP; otherwise unreported away from HIGMA but numbers there were quite good (45 on Oct 8; 60 on Oct 23). Pintail and American Widgeon: records indicate

a poor to fair flight only — counts of both only fair at SP, Stevens Pond, Clay Swamp, and Bridgeport; maximum of 400 on Nov 13 (late for the peak date) and 1200 Oct 29 respectively, both from HIGMA. Green-winged Teal: a fine autumn movement with some 300 at SP Sep 16 and an all-time high of 900, Nov 13 at HIGMA. European Widgeon: an adult male Oct 15 at HIGMA (Rusk) is a regional first and a fall rarity anywhere in central New York. Shoveler: three noted Sep 2-10 at Onondaga Lake are unusual there; 15-40 regularly present at HIGMA and small numbers (one-six) were noted near Mexico, at SP, Beaver Lake, and Clay Swamp; present to Nov 30 at HIGMA. Wood Duck: 700 on Sep 21 and 800 Oct 15, Clay Swamp, give some indication of Wood Duck numbers this fall; the mild weather and abundant waterfowl food induced many to linger and this species was hard-hit — and frequently — in the first ten days of the hunting season. The presence of Wood Duck, Shoveler, and Green-winged Teal in numbers (15, 35, and 60 respectively) to Nov 30 gives testimony to the mild weather of November.

Redhead and Canvasback: the dismal picture of the last two falls has not brightened with the passing of this latest season: arrival dates are Oct 2 at Beaver Lake and Oct 9 at TRGMA respectively; maxima this fall are 85, Oct 29, Beaver Lake and HIGMA (this undoubtedly represents some locally reared birds) and 500, Nov 29, Shackleton Point, Oneida Lake, respectively. Greater and Lesser Scaup: arrival dates are Sep 10 and 18 respectively; Scaup provided the bulk of the October diving duck shooting on Oneida Lake and rafts of 30-200 were reported from Oct 10 on; the larger flocks of 1000+ were not seen there until the latter half of November (Liable, Estoff Propst). Common Goldeneye: first noted Sep 25, Derby Hill near Texas; 300-400/day noted thru Nov at SP, SSSP, and Oneida Lake; the hunting toll of this species appeared to be particularly heavy. Bufflehead: amazingly scarce this fall; first noted Sep 11 at SPI (? summering bird); not seen again until Oct 30 and the maximum/day for the entire area is ten, Nov 19. Oldsquaw: first noted Oct 9, three at Tully Lakes and one at Lake Ontario; counts of 35-120/day thru Nov with a peak of 135 on Nov 19 just north of SP.

The scoter flight was poor with low counts and infrequent reports, but all three species were noted. Common Eider: a female of this species, carefully studied with 30X BAL scope for one half hour, was seen at the rock jetty at SSSP by W. Minor; this is a first record for this area and, I believe, the second for Lake Ontario. King Eider: an immature Oct 22 (notably early) at Sylvan Beach (Bagg) was herald to two, a female and an immature male, Nov 13 and 14 (Rusk et al) just north of SP and four including two adult males Nov 22 at SPI (Evans); this is the second successive fall that King Eiders have been reported in the region. Ruddy Duck: first noted Oct 2, Beaver Lake; maximum of 20, Beaver Lake, Oct 29 points to the severe drop this species has taken locally; a single male was present thru end of period at Shackleton Point, Oneida Lake (Paquette, Rusk).

Counts on all mergansers were markedly decreased with maxima of 75 Hooded on Nov 13 at HIGMA, 25 Common on Oct 29 and Nov 13 at HIGMA, and 1000+ Red-beasted on Oct 29 at SSSP; the mild weather may account for the late date on the peak figures. The Red-breasted Merganser suffered severely from promiscuous shooting at SP; it was not unusual to see a dozen shot and left to rot along a mile of beach there in late October. Will the day of the "target-artist" ever go?

Hawks — Owls: Hawk flights were scarce in September and October. Most outstanding — and abnormal — was a flight of four Shar-shinned Hawks, one Red shouldered, six Broad-winged, two Marsh, one Osprey, four Pigeon Hawks, and 47 Sparrow Hawks on Sep 24 along the Sandy Pond dunes on a 20-mph south-east wind; all previous flights have been associated with west or northwest winds. Accipiters seemed quite scarce throughout the fall, with about six Cooper's and even fewer Sharp-shins reported for November. Goshawk: single adults seen Oct 18 at SSSP (Evans) and Nov 13 near Bridgeport (Scheider) might presage a Dec-Jan influx. Red-tailed Hawk: fairly common (five - 17/day) thru late Oct and Nov but not up to last year's numbers. Rough-legged Hawk: first noted Oct 9, a magnificent dark-phase bird, SPI (Hoyt et al); seen in small numbers through October; a sharp rise occurred after Nov 15 with a max. of 17 in one day around Bridgeport and Cicero in the last week of the month (Cade). Bald Eagle: extremely scarce along Lake Ontario; the tree bearing the single active nest known for the entire region has been felled to expand an adjacent pasture. Peregrine Falcon:

just two reported, an adult male on Oct 2 an SPI (Seaman) and an immature on Oct 31 at SSSP (Evans). Pigeon Hawk: ten noted between Sep 10 and Oct 9 along the Sandy Pond dunes and flats with maximum of four on Sep 24.

Ruffed Grouse: distinctly on the upswing; some eight reports of grouse crashing into odd places in Syracuse in September and early October; after an absence of two years they have returned to the dune woods at Sandy Pond.

For a review of the shorebird migration, see article in the main body of this issue.

Jaeger: one (Sp ?) seen Sep 10 at SPI (Kemnitzer, Scheider); no others reported. No white-winged gulls were observed during the period. Gull counts on the three large larids remain low with maxima of 50 Great Black-backed on Nov 19, 2500 Herring on Nov 19, and 2000 Ring-billed on Sep 3. Continued low counts thru October of the first two species are particularly outstanding. Bonaparte's Gull: a poor Sep and Oct flight, but a brisk rise in early Nov; 104 were seen Nov 24 at Oneida Lake. Forster's Tern: none reported for the first time in seven years. Common Tern: max of 470, Aug 28, SP and 358, Sep 4, Sylvan and Verona Beaches: a rapid decline in the middle two weeks of Sep; last date Nov 20, one, north of SPI is a record departure date.

Both species of cuckoos seemed very scarce thru late August and September.

Barn Owl: four were removed from a dismantled coal tower at Brewerton Oct 5 (Burtt); a head-swaying, bill-popping eight-week-old one was found on the Medical School lawn Oct 22 (Spofford), and a dead one was found at the base of Crouse College tower, Syracuse University, about the same time. Snowy Owl: first reported at Sandy Pond Nov 6; since that date 24 reports have been received, and at least 19 birds appear to be present; reported from SP X 3 (Rusk), at Oswego (Charlton), Meridian (Gilliard), Brewerton (Baldwin, Estoff, Propst), Sylvan Beach (Ackley), Shackleton Point, Oneida Lake — two birds (Laible), and Grass Island in Oneida Lake — two birds (fide Taormina); four seen at one time Nov 19 on the west shore of Onondaga Lake (Dr. Thurber); two found their way to Dr. Burtt's home via the Syracuse SPCA. Short-eared Owl: since arrival date of Oct 5, two - four/day have been seen at SP (Hoyt et al), Bridgeport (Scheider), and Onondaga Lake (Estoff, Propst).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last migrant Oct 9 at Sandy Pond was quite late and certainly not in keeping with that day's temperatures. Yellow-shafted Flicker: a heavy SP flight (65-75/day) in the third week of Sep; there were a few late Nov birds at HIGMA and Fayetteville. A Flicker with pinkish-red tail linings was noted Oct 2 at Oneida (Felle). Red-bellied Woodpecker: noted regularly at HIGMA but unreported away from that sector, quite unlike last fall's scatter of reports. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: a female Nov 3 in Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse, was forerunner to a small gaggle of these birds in the last week of Nov; at least three males and two females have been seen on the diseased elms in that cemetery and on similar elms just to the east of there (reported by Rusk, Estoff, Propst; enjoyed by many); unreported elsewhere in the region.

No flight of Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Black-capped Chickadees, or White-breasted Nuthatches was detected in either the Oct or early Nov records from Sandy Pond or the general fund of regional data available this fall.

Aside from a wealth of silent Empidonaces and a weak early Oct Phoebe wave, the flycatcher migration was dull. Last dates include Eastern Kingbird Sep 25, Great Crested Flycatcher Sep 20 (early), Phoebe Oct 8 (very early), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher Oct 2, and Wood Pewee Oct 8.

Swallow migrations in late August were low in numbers and unobtrusive in character. Maxima are Barn Swallow 350+ Aug 27, Bank Swallow 200+ Sep 10, and Tree Swallow 4500 Sep 24 and 1000+ Sep 25 at the Sandy Pond marshes and inlet. Departure dates are Barn and Cliff Swallows Sep 18, Bank Swallow and Purple Martin Sep 19, Rough-winged Swallow Oct 9, and Tree Swallow Oct 23.

Tufted Titmouse: two-four reported at feeders in Baldwinsville from mid-Oct thru Nov (Kammerer, Tillotson fide Burtt); also several Nov 6-22 at Fulton (Parker). Red-breasted Nuthatch: no flight this fall; none observed in the Sandy Pond dune woods and not one bird reported in Dr. Burtt's Oct 30-Nov 6 feeder survey. Brown Creeper: quite the reverse of the Red-breasted Nuthatch; five on Sep 15, eight on Sep 24, 12 on Oct 9 in the SP and SSSP woods; every report

mentions the presence of Creepers. House Wren: one at Syracuse from Nov 25 thru end of period (Rusk, Estoff, Propst) is very late and will certainly disappear with the first severe cold weather. Winter Wren: like the Creeper, a protracted (Aug 15 — Nov 20) flight with a number of notable counts (seven, Sep 15; 11, Oct 2; 14, Oct 9; all SP and SSSP); singletons in the last week of November are most likely wintering birds.

Mockingbird: one, Nov 21, Syracuse (Mrs. Dawley) is the only report this season. Robin: a widespread, heavy flight (250-300/day) this season, particularly in the first three weeks of Oct; small scattered flocks remained thru Nov, apparently held by the mild weather and the abundant berry crop. Hermit Thrush: a moderate fall movement with up to seven on Oct 9; a few lingered into mid-November. Bluebird: fall migration first indicated by five, Sep 21, TRGMA; four on Oct 18 at Oneida; last noted Nov 19 (late), a male, Oneida (Felle). Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arrival dates are Sep 11 and 15 respectively, a reversal of the usual sequence as the Ruby-crowned is regularly reported before the Golden-crowned in the fall; max. of 100 Oct 22, Syracuse and Fayetteville, and 45 Oct 2, HIGMA and TRGMA respectively. Cedar Waxwing trips failed to find these birds this season; noted often and in numbers (12-60/day with peak 125, Oct 2, TRGMA and HIGMA) but no pattern of movement is outstanding.

Northern Shrike: arrival date of Nov 12, an immature along Onondaga Lake, is late; total of six birds reported as of Nov 30.

Vireos — Warblers: Solitary Vireo: a fine fall flight with first arrivals Sep 11; max. of six, Sep 24, SSSP; last seen Oct 22, two, Syracuse. Red-eyed Vireo: 20-30/day thru Sep; last noted in the first week of Nov at a feeder (fide Burt). Warbling Vireo: one, Sep 29, Oneida (Nodecker) is late.

Warbler migration was a sequence of tides rather than waves. Numbers appeared better than average, variety was excellent, but early departure was the rule this fall as it was last year. No TV tower kills were recorded thru September or October, which is as expected in view of the lack of those specific weather patterns inducing tower kills.

Especially abundant this fall were Black-and-White (12, Aug 22), Black-throated Blue (25, Sep 17), Parula (seven, Sep 28), Myrtle (150, Sep 24; 70 Oct 1; 40, Oct 9), Magnolia (25, Aug 27; 28, Sep 3; 30, Sep 15), Black-throated Green (60, Sep 15), Wilson's (20, Sep 3, Sandy Pond dunes), and Redstart (22, Aug 27). Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, and Blackpoll Warblers were reported frequently but counts in any one day never exceeded 20.

Notably scarce this fall were Tennessee (peak count of 12 — very low — Sep 24, SP dunes), Nashville (seven, Sep 16, SSSP), Ovenbird (never more than two in a day), and Canada (max. of six, Aug 27, SSSP).

Departure dates include Golden-winged — Aug 27, Tennessee — Oct 2, Nashville — Oct 8, Parula — Oct 1, Yellow — Sep 16, Magnolia — Oct 2, Black-throated Blue — Sep 30 (very early), Myrtle — Nov 18, Black-throated Green — Oct 8, Blackburnian — Sep 28, Chestnut-sided — Sep 24, Bay-breasted Sep 30, Blackpoll — Oct 15, Palm — Oct 8, Ovenbird — Sep 29, Yellowthroat — Oct 26, Wilson's — Sep 27, Canada — Sep 24, and Redstart — Sep 29. The early departure date trend stands out prominently in the above tabulation.

Rare fall migrant warblers include single Orange-crowned Warblers Sep 12, SSSP (Evans) and Oct 15, Mapleview (Paquette, Scheider) and Pine Warblers Sep 19 near Pulaski (Rusk) and Sep 6 and 10 near Oneida (Felle).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolink: three noted Sep 23 near Mexico are late. The Icterid roost at Clay Swamp mounted steadily thru Aug and Sep to a black, swirling torrent of 300,000 Red-winged Blackbirds, 100,000 Grackles, 70,000 Cowbirds, and 300,000 Starlings on Oct 12; a sharp decline noted with the snow-falls of Oct 24-25 and Nov 5-6 but hundreds of Cowbirds and Redwings and dozen of Rusties lingered thru November.

Cardinal: reported on the Sandy Pond dunes in Oct and Nov; 72 (low) noted on the Nov feeder survey. Dickcissel: a male Nov 17 at a Fayetteville feeder (Mrs. Maxwell) is the fourth reported in eight years. Winter finches were unreported until Oct 9 when Evening Grosbeak (one), Pine Siskin (25), Lapland Longspur (three), and Snow Bunting (two) were all reported along the Sandy Pond dunes. Evening Grosbeaks were scarce thereafter (four - 20/day) and none were recorded in the Oneida-Rome area, usually a stronghold for them. Pine Siskin: the Oct and Nov counterpart of last winter's many Redpolls; flocks of 25 - 150

were reported often with a peak of 250 Nov 14 at SSSP; lesser numbers (15-60) present to Nov 30.

Red Crossbill: small (four - six/day) scattered groups seen at Syracuse, HIGMA and Beaver Lake after Nov 12; 20, two-thirds of which were adult males, Nov 27 south of Brookfield (the Whites) is the peak figure.

A superb early (Sep 20 - Oct 20) sparrow flight flooded the local fields and brushlots; however, the later species, particularly Junco and Tree Sparrow, came thru in reduced numbers, and Nodecker at Oneida and Burt on his feeder survey noted decreases in these species. Savannah Sparrow: peak count is 35, Oct 5, Stevens Pond near Phoenix; last reported Oct 23 (early), two, Onondaga Lake. Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows: departure dates are Oct 15, one near Mapleview, and Oct 9, one at SSSP, respectively; mid-Oct dates are most likely normal departure times for these species although the greater proportion of local birds leave by mid-September. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: a single bird, Aug 29, in the wet grass edge of a wildlife marsh near Texas (Evans) is early; the species is very seldom observed in this region.

Slate-colored Junco: arrival date of Sep 19 (late), two at SSSP; 40 — 75/day thru the last week of Oct (very low, especially in comparison with last year's counts). Tree Sparrow: first noted Oct 22 at Oneida; late Oct counts 100 - 150/day and the max. Nov count is 120 (low) Nov 20 at TRGMA. Chipping and Field Sparrows: prominent species in the early sparrow flight; high counts respectively are 75 Oct 15, Dry Bridge Road near Mapleview and 120, Oct 8, TRGMA and Beaver Lake; Chippings were last noted on Nov 16 (late), two at Oneida, and Fields on Oct 30 (early), one near Mapleview. White-crowned Sparrow: two on Sep 30 at Oneida are the first fall arrivals; a massive flight in the first ten days of Oct with 450 Oct 8 at TRGMA and Beaver Lake (Ackley, Paquette); a rapid fall in the last week of Oct with no Nov records. White-throated Sparrow: first noted at Syracuse Sep 14 (late); a very heavy Oct flight (400 on Oct 8) in the western third of the region but sorely deficient at Oneida, Rome, and Sylvan and Verona Beaches (Nodecker, Ackley, Paquette). Fox Sparrow: one on Sep 28 at SSSP was early; noted in small numbers (three-four/day) to departure date of Nov 6 (very early). Lincoln's Sparrow: between Sep 16 (arrival date) and the departure date of Oct 8 at least a dozen were seen amongst the many sparrow flocks in the brush patches at TRGMA, Beaver Lake, and Oneida. Swamp and Song Sparrow: peak counts of 105 and 400 respectively Oct 8 at TRGMA, Beaver Lake, and HIGMA give some indication of both the magnitude of the sparrow flight and the earliness with which the majority of these species populations moved thru the area; correspondingly, Nov counts for both species were notably lower than last year's despite the milder weather. Snow Bunting: first noted Oct 9 (early) near SP (Dr. Thurber); peak count 175, Oct 30 (early for this number) with Nov counts in 25-60/day range; one — six Lapland Longspurs intermittently noted with the Nov flocks of Snow Buntings.

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REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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Temperatures for the latter half of August and September were below normal. October and November were cool, but there was no really cold weather until the last day of November when real winter weather arrived and covered much of this region with snow.

Rainfall was light in September and October. However, this was after the growing season for most vegetation. The leaves on many trees were brilliantly colored, and they remained on the trees until very late. In fact, the first snow came with many leaves still on the trees, but this snow melted in a short time and many branches were broken by the weight of the wet snow.

As the trees became bare, the heavy crop of seeds on the box elders was very noticeable. There seemed to be plenty of food for most birds, and with no snow on the ground they did not seem to be interested in coming to feeders.

The bare ground made it easier to see Snowy Owls on posts or near the ground. The most unusual record, however, was that of the three Barrows Goldeneyes which were shot at Stony Point on November 27 (Ed — readers are referred to Frank Clinch's field note in this issue concerning the Barrow's Goldeneyes at