

Decided decrease in the numbers of Blackbirds at north end Cay Basin in fall. Observers stated "there were thousands fewer, streams of birds were thinner and passed in a short time". Reasons not clear as yet. Of the thousands that were there, most left in mid-November. Baltimore Oriole: one female, Nov. 29 (late) Odessa (fide J. Bardeen). Cardinals: three reports of young still being fed in mid-October, Ithaca. Evening Grosbeaks: three or four October reports, then none. Common Redpoll: 20, (only report) Nov 28, Cornell campus (N. Smith). Pine Siskins: reports of flocks of 6-25 from all areas in region, except Keuka L. Poor White-throat, White-crowned and Fox Sparrows migration throughout Region. Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

The weather during the period went from record equalling highs in August to record breaking lows in November and the transition was quite orderly. Mild weather lasted until October 24 when we had our first widespread frost, but after the first two weeks of September it was never really hot. The summer drought was finally broken September 28 and in October we had twice our normal amount of precipitation. There was a light snow fall Oct 26 but the first important amount of snow fell November 3. There was a noticeable drop in numbers of several of the more common species within a few days after the latter date.

The waterfowl migration was only poorly reported and the absence of many species from the report below reflects this rather than a known deficiency of birds, although in this region we can't expect an impressive show. The number of Snow Goose reports was interesting and completely out of line with what we have been led to expect. The Red Phalarope at Oneonta was also of special interest. The mild weather of September and October seemed to prolong the small land bird migration more than usual and several species were recorded quite late. The warbler migration was rather heavy with Myrtles particularly conspicuous, even for them. The three Connecticut Warbler records would seem to indicate a heavier than normal movement of this inconspicuous species. The "winter finch" story is brief; very few of anything except Goldfinches with a hint of Snow Buntings to come later. One suspects the heavy natural food crop we have here extends to the north and is keeping the birds there.

Abbreviations: Co. — County; BCA — Broome County Airport; CVSP — Chenango Valley State Park; SOFH — South Otselic Fish Hatchery.

Observers: W. Bartlett — WB; L. Bemont — LB; DB — D. Bendle; BB — B. Burgher; RB — R. Burland; GC — G. Corderman; AD — A. Davis; CD — C. Davis; JD — J. Davis; MD — M. Davis; LD — L. Dean; AE — A. Evelien; CG — C. Gerould; JG — J. Gustafson; CH — C. Howard; MH — M. Hills; BH — B. Hewlitt; FL — F. Linaberry; SL — S. Lincoln; HM — H. Marsi; JN — J. New; R&RP — R. & R. Pantle; FQ — F. Quick; MS — M. Sheffield; RS — R. Sheffield; AS — A. Stratton; TT — T. Taylor; EW — E. Williams; MRW — (Mrs.) R. Williams; MW — M. White; RW — R. White; SW — S. White.

Loons — Ducks: Pied-billed Grebe: Oct 19, Vestal (SL), the only report during the period of a species thought of as a common but reported only infrequently in this region. Great Blue Heron: reported quite frequently to Oct 13 and occasionally to the end of the period. Green Heron: Oct 9, Greene (CD, JD), the last report; common until then. Common Egret: Aug 23 and 29, Owego (CB, MRW); Sep 26, the same area (J. Shuler, AE). American Bittern: Sep 2, Tracy Swamp in Tioga Co. (CG, RW, MW); the only report during the period.

Canada Goose: 6, Sep 30, Ingraham Hill, s. of Binghamton (CH), the first fall migrants; fairly heavy flights continued to Nov 6, Castle Creek (BB); 4, Nov 26, Cortland (JG) were the only later stragglers. Snow Goose: 43, Nov 4, Castle Creek (BB), seen flying over at fairly low level; 3, also Nov 4, Newark Valley (P. Beihl); 4, Nov 25, flying over Little York Lakes in Cortland Co. (B. Hall); another medium sized flock was seen on Ludlow Lake in Chenango Co. one day during Nov (WB). Blue-winged Teal: Nov 2, Owego (CG), a very late one. Bufflehead: 1 male, Oct 27, Norwich (RW, SW), and a female, Oct 28, in nearby Pennsylvania (E. Whitson, C.

Morehouse) were the only reports received. Old Squaw: Oct 31, Owego (MW, CG). Common Scoter: 1 male, Oct 7, Cranberry Lake, in nearby Pennsylvania (E. & N. Washburn) observed from as close as about 50 yards with binoculars and record accompanied by careful description; 4, Nov 14, Norwich (RW, SW). Common Merganser: Oct 31, Owego (MW, CG), a surprisingly early record.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: Sep 5, Owego (MRW, DB); Sep 30, Masonville in Delaware Co. (RS, MS). Goshawk: seen several times during the last 3 weeks of the period around Greene (WB). Sharp-shinned Hawk: seen as regularly as can be expected of the species at 2 localities near Owego (AE, MRW) and at Ingraham Hill (CH). Cooper's Hawk: Nov 3, Marathon (Mrs. Holmes); fewer reports than of Sharp-shins for a change. Broad-winged Hawk: Aug 28, Binghamton (CH); no later reports, a very suspicious circumstance. Rough-legged Hawk: 1, Sep 16, Ingraham Hill (CH), tentatively identified as this species on the basis of wide tail band although underside was completely whitish and there were no "wrist marks"; 1, Sep 30, Oxford (AS), dark phase; 2, Nov 2 and 1, Nov 5, Oxford (AS). Bald Eagle: 1 Aug 19, Endwell (HM, FL); 1, Sep 15, Ingraham Hill (CH), an adult; Oct 30, Owego (via MRW), unverified; two separate observers saw one over the river at Oneonta in Sep (via R. Burland); one hung around a small pond in South Cortland for 4 days in Sep (W. Stupke); this makes 12 records in 1962 where 2 or 3 would be usual. Marsh Hawk: 1, Aug 19, Chenango Forks (MD, AD), being hounded to distraction by several Nighthawks; reports suggest a little improvement in numbers over the low of the past few years. Osprey: Sep 3, CVSP (RS, MS), first; Oct 19, Chenango Forks (MD, AD), last; nine reports from region between. Sparrow Hawk: reasonably good numbers to end of period.

Ruffed Grouse: good numbers but more scattered than usual so that less experienced hunters had some difficulty finding them. King Rail: 1, Sep 3, Campville (DB), few details provided. Am. Coot: 1, Oct 13, Goodale Lake in Cortland Co. (via JG), shot by a hunter; the only report. Semi-palmated Plover: Aug 26, SOFH (RW, SW), the only report. Killdeer: common until Nov 12, Nov 25, Owego (MRW), the only one later. Golden Plover: 1, Aug 26, BCA (RS, MS, R & RP). Am. Woodcock: reasonably common thru Oct. Common Snipe: at Sherburne until Oct 21 (RW, SW); Oct 7, Choconut Center (RS, MS), the only other report. Upland Plover: 3, Aug 26, BCA (RS, MS, R&RP). Spotted Sandpiper: Oct 28, Chenango Forks (MD, AD), a late one. Solitary Sandpiper: regular thru Sep 24, one more report Nov 2, Owego (CG, MW). Greater Yellowlegs: 3, Nov 2, Owego (CG, MW), last date. Lesser Yellowlegs: 3, Nov 15, Marathon, (Mrs. Holmes), last. Pectoral Sandpiper: 6, Aug 16, Owego (CG, MW); 1, Aug 26, SOFH (RW, SW); at Owego as late as Oct 12. Least Sandpiper: Sep 5, Newark Valley (LB) last report. Dunlin: Oct 12, Owego (CG, MW); Oct 27, Owego (SL). Semi-palmated Sandpiper: Aug 19, Whitney Point (RS, MS), no later reports. Red Phalarope: Nov 7, Oneonta (JN), found exhausted on the Oneonta State Teachers College campus and died while being taken to the Science Department where it is now in their collection. Herring Gull: first report Sep 29, a regular sight at Binghamton from Oct 21 on. Ring-billed Gull: Aug 28 and 29, Otsego Lake (LB), in appreciable numbers; Nov 4, Binghamton, last ones noted so far.

Mourning Dove: present in small numbers to end of period. Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoo: Sep 5, Newark Valley (LD), last report of both. Barn Owl: Oct 1, Owego (AE). Screech Owl: numbers improving a little over those of last few years. Horned Owl: reported fairly frequently. Snowy Owl: 1, Nov 14, Tully (F. Lawrence by description via JG), the only one. Barred Owl: 1 Aug 28, Hyde "ay on Otsego Lake (LB), heard calling.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Nighthawk: Sep 7, over Johnson City and Binghamton (LB, RS, MS). Chimney Swift: 1, Sep 25, Owego (MRW); 1, Sep 29, Endwell (LB); the only reports after Sep 6. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Oct 1, Owego (AE); last previous date Sep 18. Yellow-shafted Flicker: one at Owego to the end of the period but otherwise gone after Oct 19. Pileated Woodpecker: reports becoming more frequent; "much in evidence" in several residential areas and the business section of Oneonta (RB). Red-headed Woodpecker: 1, in mid-Sep, Cortland (S. Hoyt). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Oct. 10, South Owego (EW), Ingraham Hill (CH) and Sidney (FQ), the last date. Kingbird: Sep 17, Owego (AE); the only other Sep record the 5th, Ingraham Hill (CH). Great Crested Flycatcher: Sep 24, Owego (MRW); 1, Sep

26, Ingraham Hill (CH). Phoebe: Oct 14, Choconut Center (RS, MS). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 Sep 14, Ingraham Hill (CH); 1 Sep 16, Endwell (LB, R&RP); 1, Sep 25, South Owego (EW). Empidonax sp?; 1, Oct 17, Johnson City (R&RP); the last of rather numerous reports. Wood Pewee: Sep 24, Owego (TT); the last previous report Sep 16. Horned Lark: seemed numerous during Oct and first half of Nov. Tree Swallow: 25 or more, Sep 29, Endwell (LB), the last. Bank Swallow: Sep 5, Newark Valley (LD). Barn Swallow: Sep 7, Greene, (CD, JD); Aug 20, Norwich (RW, SW), still feeding young on telephone wires. Cliff Swallow: Aug 30, Greene (CD, JD). Purple Martin: Sep 1, Owego (MH).

Blue Jays: particularly common this fall. Tufted Titmouse: 3, Aug 17, CVSP (MD, AD); Nov 7 to end of period, west of Endicott (Mrs. W. Hester); both new stations. Red-breasted Nuthatch: Aug 27, Ingraham Hill (SH); a few during Sep and Oct, then fairly regular from Nov 12 to the end of the period. Brown Creeper: Aug 28, Chenango Forks (MD, AD) and reported fairly frequently from then on. House Wren: Nov 2, Owego (BH), the only one after Oct 3. Winter Wren: Sep 16, Choconut Center (RS); many more reports than usual until Nov 8, Owego (BH). Catbird: 2, Oct 12, Ingraham Hill (CH), our last. Brown Thrasher: Oct 9 the last date except for 1 banded Nov 18 at Johnson City (RP, LB). Robin: very few reported after Nov 4; an albino reported in Cortland in Sep (JG). Wood Thrush: 1, Oct 1, Ingraham Hill (CH), the last one. Hermit Thrush: 2, Sep 28, banded at Deposit (S. Wilson), our first transients; Oct 29, Owego (MRW) and Ingraham Hill (CH) our last, with many reports between. Swainson's Thrush: 3, Sep 14, Ingraham Hill (CH) thru Nov 1, Nov 5, Sidney (FQ), the latter possibly an injured bird. Gray-Cheeked Thrush: Sep 16 and 26, Oct 1 and 5, Ingraham Hill (CH, HM, GC), not reported elsewhere. Veery: Sep 19, Chenango Forks (MD, AD) and Owego (MRW), the last date. Bluebird: regular and frequent reports to Oct 28; Nov 20, Newark Valley (LD) the last date; Oneonta (JN), "migrating thru in fairly good numbers from mid-Sep to Oct"; Cortland (JG), "our best Bluebird year since '58". Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Sep 5, Owego (TT). Golden-crowned Kinglet: Sep 22, Owego (MRW), the first; numerous thru Nov 11 with a few present at the end of the period. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2, Sep 3, Ingraham Hill (CH); common from Sep 24 to Oct 28 with a few to the end of the period. Water Pipit: 2, Nov 1, Ingraham Hill (CH); Nov 4, several flocks of a dozen or so birds in each along roads in upper Chenango Co. (RW, SW). Cedar Waxwings: numbers tapered off rather sharply in mid-Sep but moderate sized flocks were seen again in the Triple Cities area from Oct 24 to Nov 4 after which numbers dropped off again. Northern Shrike: 1, Oct 28, Coventry, Broome Co. (H. Nodecker); Nov 8, Berkshire (Lynches); Nov 18, Choconut Center (RS, MS). Loggerhead Shrike: 1, Aug 28, Ingraham Hill (CH).

Vireos — Warblers: Yellow-throated Vireo: Sep 29, Owego (MRW, MW) and Chenango Forks (MD, AD). Solitary Vireo: 1, Oct 10, Ingraham Hill (CH). Red-eyed Vireo: Oct 7, Johnson City (R&RP). Philadelphia Vireo: Sep 10, Owego (MRW), first; five more reports, the last Sep 29, Ingraham Hill (CH). Warbling Vireo: 1, Sep 12, Newark Valley (LD), singing its full song; Sep 21, Ingraham Hill (CH), the last. Black and White Warbler: Oct 28, Sidney (FQ). Golden-winger Warbler: Aug 25, Chenango Forks (MD, AD). Blue-winged Warbler: Aug 20, Chenango Forks (MD, AD); Sep 3, Owego (MW). Tennessee Warbler: Sep 23, Norwich (RW, SW). Orange-crowned Warbler: Sep 22, Binghamton (HM, GC); Sep 24, Owego (MRW); 1, Sep 29, Ingraham Hill (CH). Nashville Warbler: 1, Oct 10, Ingraham Hill (CH). Parula Warbler: 1, Sep 29, Ingraham Hill (CH). Yellow Warbler: 1, Sep 23, Ingraham Hill (CH), not many after Aug 15. Magnolia Warbler: 1, Oct 3, Ingraham Hill (CH). Cape May Warbler: Sep 25, BCA (HM, FL). Black-throated Blue Warbler: 1, Oct 12, Ingraham Hill (CH). Myrtle Warbler: Aug 19, Binghamton (MS et al); several during the latter half of Sep but from Oct 6 to Nov 4 there was the heaviest fall movement of the species noted in several years. Black-throated Green Warbler: 2, Oct 10, Ingraham Hill (CH). Blackburnian Warbler: Sep 19 Owego (MRW). Chestnut-sided Warbler: Sep 22, Owego (MRW). Bay-breasted Warbler: Sep 25, BCA (HM, FL). Blackpoll Warbler: 2, Sep 14, Ingraham Hill (CH), the first; Oct 7, Vestal (SL), the last. Pine Warbler: Sep 24, Owego (MRW). Palm Warbler: Sep 20, Owego (MRW); 1, Oct 10, Ingraham Hill (CH). Ovenbird: Oct 7, Chenango Forks (MD, AD). Louisiana Waterthrush: 1, Aug 18, Endwell (B).

Gentle); 1, Sep 5, Ingraham Hill (CH). Connecticut Warbler: Sep 10, Owego (MRW); 1, Sep 23, Norwich (SW); 1, Oct 3, Ingraham Hill (CH); a species recorded a total of once in the previous few years. Mourning Warbler: Sep 5 and 19, Owego (MRW). Yellowthroat: common thru Sep, last one Oct 29 on Ingraham Hill (CH). Wilson's Warbler: Sep 2, Owego (MW, CG, MRW) the first; 2, Oct 1, Ingraham Hill (CH) were the last; six records of 9 or more individuals makes this the best fall numbers of the species in years. Canada Warbler: Sep 17, Chenango Forks (MD, AD). Am. Redstart: small numbers seen until Sep 24 but 1 on Ingraham Hill Oct 9 (CH) and at Owego Oct 12 (RW) seem particularly late.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolink flocks in the corn fields on Ingraham Hill during the latter half of Aug but the last report from Owego, Aug 30 (MW, CG). Eastern Meadowlark: common thru Nov 22. Red-winged Blackbird: large flocks all gone after Nov 4, but occasional small flocks could be found in the stubble of grain fields to the end of Nov. Baltimore Oriole: the "normal" last date was Sep 15 but one was at Owego Nov 4 (MH) and stayed around a feeder in Johnson City from Nov 25 until after the end of the period. Rusty Blackbird: 4, Oct 12, Ingraham Hill (CH); Nov 19, Owego (MW), at a feeder. Common Grackle: common until Oct 26; Nov 15, Sidney (FQ); some still in Preble Swamp, in Cortland Co., at the end of the period (JG). Cowbird: large flocks, numbering in the hundreds, to the middle of Sep, after that most reports were of 1 to 4 birds and they continued to the end of the period. Scarlet Tanager: Oct 7, Johnson City (R&RP); quite a few Sep reports.

Cardinal: at Oneonta they seem to have disappeared as cold weather approached but in the Triple Cities at least, the cold weather brings them to feeders where they are more conspicuous and therefore reported more often. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Sep 30, Johnson City (LB, R&RP); quite large numbers present in the middle of Sep. Indigo Bunting: Oct 1, Owego (MRW); present on Ingraham Hill all during Sep (CH). Evening Grosbeak: 2, male and female, Sep 15, Homer (A. Christopher), the early date is at least a suggestion they nested in the area; the only other report was 25 at Endwell Nov 6 (FL). Purple Finch: a few scattered reports, not many. Pine Grosbeak: Nov 5, west of Cortland (R. Davis by description via JG). Redpoll: about Nov 15, Cortland (Morey), the only report. Pine Siskin: 1, Nov 23, Norwich, (RW, SW), with a flock of Goldfinches; Nov 24, Owego (CG, MW). Goldfinch: common to the end of the period. Rufous-sided Towhee: common to Oct 21; 1, Oct 29, 30 and 31, Oneonta (RB); Nov 15, Binghamton (Carpenter).

Savannah Sparrow: 3, Oct 17, Ingraham Hill (CH). Grasshopper Sparrow: Sep 1, Owego (MRW). Vesper Sparrow: Oct 29, Johnson City (R&RP). Slate-colored Junco: scattered infrequent reports through Aug and Sep; numbers started building up about Oct 3 and had tapered off again by about Nov 11 with the largest flocks reported Oct 27 to 29. Tree Sparrow: 1, Oct 26, Ingraham Hill (CH), the first. Chipping Sparrow: small flocks until Oct 29; last report Nov 16, Castle Creek (BB). White-crowned Sparrow: Sep 29, Owego (DB, CG, MW); reported frequently to Oct 29 but never in large numbers. White-throated Sparrow: Sep 9, Binghamton (GC); present in good numbers from about Sep 15 to Nov 8 with small numbers lingering beyond the end of the period. Fox Sparrow: Sep 19, Chenango Forks (MD, AD), very early; next reported Oct 12; reported regularly from Oct 23 to Nov 18 but never in large numbers. Lincoln's Sparrow: 1, Sep 2 and 5, Sep 23, Johnson City (LB, R&RP, BB), all mist netted and banded in the same small brushy field; 1, Sep 9 to 11, Ingraham Hill (CH); Oct 7, Johnson City (R&RP), the last. Song Sparrow: remained common until about Nov 4 with the usual few remaining past the end of the period. Snow Bunting: Oct 31, Owego (CG, MW) a small flock; 2 Nov 6, Choconut Center (RS, MS); Nov 10, Cortland (via JG); 1, Nov 12, Ingraham Hill (CH) with Horned Larks.

710 University Ave., Endwell

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

DAVID B. PEAKALL AND MARGARET S. RUSK

Late August was sunny and warm, September rather cool and dry. The first cold spell was October 24-27 when nearly three inches of snow fell. Most of November was colder than normal, but the last few days were exceptionally sunny and warm. During this warm spell a Blue Jay was observed repairing its nest.