

SWS: at north end Cay L, reported as coming late and leaving early, none after Oct 25. Lincoln's Sparrow: few reports, but undoubtedly many are missed. 10 were found dead at TV tower in Elmira, in period of Sep 29-Oct 4. Lapland Longspur: one, Nov 3, Keuka. Snow Buntings: two, Oct 30 (early), Marina at s. end Cay L (DM).

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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The latter half of August and all of September averaged on the cool side, with about normal precipitation in August but only half the normal amount in September. We had the driest, sunniest and close to the warmest October on record, resulting in the closed woods and delayed hunting season we shared with the rest of this state and Pennsylvania. November continued on the warm side but within hours of the change in calendar pages cloud conditions and precipitation went to the other extreme, allaying fears that we were in for a winter with no moisture in the soil. The first frost came September 23, but there were only four more frost nights before November. The only snow of any importance fell the last day of the period, and it seemed to flush out a few stragglers.

There were many late last dates, some of them, such as a November Broad-winged Hawk, really quite startling. The weather was no doubt a factor in delaying the disappearance of many migrants but the fact that a number of swallows delayed their departure in spite of it being colder than normal at the time of their normal departure in late August demonstrates that "warm fall, late migrants" is a grossly over simplified statement of the relationship. In fact the cold August and September may have delayed the development of fledglings and thus been the real basis for delayed migrants.

A region wide survey of the seed crop indicates that in general it was only fair. The picture with regard to most individual species is more confused with wide variations from one area, and observer, to the next. Standing out is the paucity of the acorn and beechnut crops and the generally good crop of hemlock cones. At Oxford it was noted that gray squirrels were working on the hemlocks, suggesting they, too, have found acorns and beechnuts scarce.

Northern visitors of almost all probable species have been recorded already, but only Evening Grosbeaks and White-winged Crossbills have been represented in force so far. Red Crossbills were also quite numerous in some parts of Chenango County, but were less prevalent than the White-wings.

As usual, the few places in the region that would give any kind of a picture of the waterfowl migration were left pretty much to the hunters so few data were obtained. In conversation Messrs. Maxon and Bartlett of Greene described it as generally normal with only an undated White-winged Scoter report that would add an unusual species to those listed below.

Abbreviations of observers' names used below: WB — W. Bartlett, LB — L. Bemont, DB — D. Bendle, LC — L. Cole, GC — G. Corderman, CJD — C. & J. Davis, MAD — M. & A. Davis, AE — A. Evelien, CG — C. Gerould, JG — J. Gustafson, PPK — P. & P. Kalka, SL — S. Lincoln, LL — L. Loomis, ML — M. Lynch, HM — H. Marsi, RM — R. Maxon, RRP — R. & R. Pantle, FQ — F. Quick, MS — M. Sheffield, AS — A. Stratton, TBC — Tioga Birdwatchers' Club, ENW — E. & N. Washburn, DW — D. Weber, MW — M. White, RSW — R. & S. White, CW — C. Wilkins, RW — R. Williams, SW — S. Wilson, and HW — H. Wisner.

Loons — Ducks: Red-necked Grebe: 2, Sep 15, Susquehanna River between Vestal and Endwell (HM, GC). Horned Grebe: 4, Oct 28, Norwich (R,SW), first fall report; Nov 1 thru 16, Greene (CJD). Great Blue Heron: 1, Nov 18, Norwich (R,SW). Green Heron: 1, Oct 6, Campville (LB), the

last reported; mostly gone after Sep 27. Common Egret: Sep 9, Vestal (SL), the only one during the period. American Bittern: Oct 2, Owego (CG).

Canada Goose: Sep 20, Chenango Forks (M,AD), the first flock of migrants; heaviest flights Sep 30 to Oct 9 and Oct 19 to 21; a report Nov 30 at Owego was the only one after Nov 14. Snow Goose: 1, Oct 8, Susquehanna River between Vestal and Endicott (G. Smith), a bird that did not seem quite healthy, although it could fly; it was there for several weeks and was seen by several observers. A flock of about 200 ducks, mostly Mallards and Blacks with a few Wood Ducks mixed in spent the month of October along the Tioghnioaga River just south of Cortland (JG). Blue-winged Teal: 3, Sep 2, Willow Point (MS, R,RP), the last noted. American Widgeon: Sep 27, Owego (MW, RW). Wood Duck: Nov 27, Candor (DW), last so far. Bufflehead: Nov 24, Conklin Forks (P,PK). Common Scoter: 8, Oct 21, Norwich (R,SW), seen at close enough range to note bill markings. Ruddy Duck: "a few more than usual", small lakes in Chenango County (RM, WB). Hooded Merganser: 8, Nov 6 to 27, Norwich (R,SW). Common Merganser: 3, Nov 5, Norwich (R,SW), the first report; several other Nov records.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: 1, Aug 23, Masonville (SW), the only one. Goshawk: 1, Sep 1, Ingraham Hill south of Binghamton (CH), chased Crows there for three days. Red-shouldered Hawk: Oct 2, Owego (CG), last. Broad-winged Hawk: 84 in 45 min., Sep 13, Owego (RW); Nov 26, Hinman's Corners (R. & J. Saunders), very late, but identified on the basis of a clear view of two relatively broad, white tail bands. Rough-legged Hawk: 1, Nov 30, Deposit (SW), the only one so far. Eagle, presumably Bald: 1, Sep 15, Greene (CH). Marsh Hawk: Nov 6, Owego (CG); 1, Nov 17, Sherburne (R,SW). Osprey: Aug 28, Greene (C,JD), first; 1, Nov 12, Endwell (E,NW), last and very late; most reports in Sep with a couple in Oct. Ruffed Grouse: local hunters report many birds and estimate this year to be the peak of their cycle. Bobwhite: Nov 30, Candor (AE). Turkey: 2, Sep 1, Candor (AE); 2, Sep 30, Owego (M. Middaugh); 2, Nov 6, Owego (LC); the last two reports about five miles apart. American Coot: 1, Oct 8, Sherburne (R,SW), the only report.

Killdeer: Nov 30, Owego (CG); common until Nov 8. Golden Plover: 25, Sep 2 and 10, Sep 8, Broome County Airport (MS), still showed some black mottling on breast. Black-bellied Plover: Sep 27, Owego (MW, RW); 2, Oct 6 and 1, Oct 13 at the same place (LB). Woodcock: unusually plentiful in Oct and a few present in Nov. Common Snipe: 7, Aug 25, Sherburne (R,SW), there until Oct 28; Oct 18 to Nov 10, Norwich (R,SW). Stilt Sandpiper: 1, Aug 25, Sherburne (R,SW), watched for 15 min., greenish legs and not as nervous as Yellowlegs, observers have previous experience with the species. Spotted Sandpiper: not many after Sep 2; Sep 30, Owego (MW); 1, Oct 20, Norwich (R,SW), injured leg. Solitary Sandpiper: Oct 3, Owego (RW). Greater Yellowlegs: 1, Oct 20, Sherburne (R,SW). Least Sandpiper: 4, Sep 22, Sherburne (R,SW). Semi-palmated Sandpiper: 4, Sep 22, Sherburne (R,SW). Herring Gull: Sep 28, Chenango Forks (M,AD), first of season. Ring-billed Gull: 18, Nov 24, Endwell (LB). Bonaparte's Gull: 1, Sep 20, Whitney Point (JG). Mourning Dove: only scattered reports in Oct and Nov but 10, Nov 30, Conklin Forks (P,PK) and the same day, Owego (TBC). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Oct 2, Cortland (CW). Black-billed Cuckoo: Sep 29, Owego (RW).

Barn Owl: Oct 3, Owego (AE). Screech Owl: numbers apparently still improving. Barred Owl: 3, Aug 21, Ludlow (AS). Long-eared Owl: 1, Nov 16, Candor (R,RP), the only one so far.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Nighthawk: 160, Aug 30, Chenango Forks (M,AD), a partial count of a much bigger loose flock, all flying north just before a thunder storm; Sep 16, Chenango Forks (M,AD), the last. Chimney Swift: few after Aug 30; 1, Oct 19, Candor (R,RP). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Oct 4, Owego (AE), the only report after Sep 23. Yellow-shafted Flicker: few after Oct 12; still at Owego Nov 30 (AE). Pileated Wood-

pecker: some indication number of reports is improving but this writer is still convinced the birds are way ahead of the reports. Red-bellied woodpecker: 2, Sep 27, Ingraham Hill (CH) and 1 or about a week thereafter, in an area that had been checked periodically during the summer without them being found. Red-headed Woodpecker: Nov 30, Owego (AE). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2, Sep 26, Ingraham Hill (CH); Oct 3, Owego (RW); the first and last migrants, but there were several reports between. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: 1, Nov 26, Binghamton (CH), an adult male with yellow crown and solid black back; no call notes during 45 min. it was under observation, but plenty of noise from scaling bark. Eastern Kingbird: Oct 3, Owego (RW), very late, only one after Sep 9. Great Crested Flycatcher: 1, Sep 14, Ingraham Hill (CH), no others after Aug 31. Eastern Phoebe: Oct 13, Owego (MW, CG). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1, Sep 10, Ingraham Hill (CH). Last Empidonax Sp?: Sep 27, Owego (RW). Eastern Wood Pewee: 1, Oct 3, Ingraham Hill (CH), a week later than the latest of the last five years. Olive-sided Flycatcher: 2, Sep 29 and Oct 6, Oxford (AS). Tree Swallow: Sep 22, Homer (JG) and Greene (CJD). Bank Swallow: Aug 18, Vestal (SL). Barn Swallow: Sep 7, Greene (CJD). Cliff Swallow: Sep 14, Greene (CJD). Purple Martin: Aug 30, Vestal (SL) and Homer (JG) and regularly reported to them.

Gray Jay: 1, Nov 13 and 14, Endicott (LL), coming to feeders for 2 days then disappeared, black cap, gray back and large size all easily noted. Blue Jay: numbers not generally as high as last year but in some areas flocks estimated to consist of up to 85 birds are cleaning out feeders. Black-capped Chickadee: Nov 4, Deposit (SW), "woods full" of them. Boreal Chickadee: 1, Oct 22, Owego (RW), seen at 20 ft. for about 5 min. Tufted Titmouse: at Endwell (E,NW), infrequently but throughout the period; increasing at Owego (RW). Red-breasted Nuthatch: Aug 31, Owego (RW); 1, Oct 20, Ingraham Hill (CH); most migrants between Sep 11 and Oct 1. Brown Creeper: 3, Sep 24, Ingraham Hill (CH); regularly from then on. House Wren: 1, Oct 5, Oxford (AS); Sep 5 a late brood left nest at Oxford (AS). Winter Wren: 6 all at one spot, Sep 23, Ingraham Hill (CH); mostly gone after Oct 12 but 1, Nov 17, Unadilla (HW); Nov 20, Owego (MW). Carolina Wren: 1, Oct 22, Spencer (H. Meyer), the only report in the region since May. Mockingbird: a previously unreported bird was at Cannonsville from Apr thru Nov (SW); Nov 6, Owego (DB). Catbird: common thru Sep, regular thru Oct; Nov 25, Greene (CJD), the last one. Brown Thrasher: scarce after Sep 30; Oct 21, Owego (TBC). Robin: irregular and scarce after Nov 10, but there were six different reports Nov 30, apparently flushed out by the snow. Wood Thrush: regular to Sep 29, then none. Hermit Thrush: Oct 5, Binghamton (HM); numerous reports to Nov 2; 1, Nov 18, Ingraham Hill (CH), the last. Swainson's Thrush: 2, Sep 11, Ingraham Hill (CH); Oct 19, Cortland (A. Morey), not many reported between. Gray-cheeked Thrush: 1, Sep 11, Ingraham Hill (CH); Oct 3, Owego (RW). Veery: Sep 2, Willow Point (MS, R,RP). Eastern Bluebird: regular reports to Oct 27: last one heard flying over Nov 10, Choconut Center (LB). Golden-crowned Kinglet: Oct 3, Owego (MW, CG). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2, Sep 21, Ingraham Hill (CH); 1, Oct 27, Vestal (HM, GC); frequent reports between. Water Pipit: 20 or more, Oct 12, Broome County Airport (MS); 6, Oct 20, Sherburne (R,SW); 40 or more, Oct 27, Broome County Airport (MS); that's all. Cedar Waxwing: very plentiful most of the fall, only thinning out in Nov. Northern Shrike: 1, Nov 30, Deposit (SW).

Vireos — Warblers: Yellow-throated Vireo: Sep 9, Chenango Forks (M,AD). Solitary Vireo: 1, Oct 1, and 2, Oct 6, Ingraham Hill (CH) and only two reports between, much below normal. Red-eyed Vireo: Sep 30, Owego (MW). Warbling Vireo: Sep 2 Willow Point (MS, R,RP), singing; Sep 20, Owego (MW). Black and White Warbler: Oct 1, Sidney (FQ). Golden-winged Warbler: Sep 1, Owego (RW). Tennessee Warbler: 2, Sep 15, Johnson City (LB), banded; 1, Oct 19, Ingraham Hill (CH), "mostly olive-green with dark eye line". Nashville Warbler: Oct 14, Owego (RW).

Yellow Warbler: scarce after Aug 27; Sep 24, Owego (AE). Magnolia Warbler: Oct 20, Cortland (CW). Cape May Warbler: Aug 30, Endwell (F. Linaberry); Sep 29, Owego (RW); several between. Black-throated Blue Warbler: Sep 7, Berkshire (ML); Sep 29, Owego (RW). Myrtle Warbler: Aug 21, Chenango Forks (M,AD); common from Oct 4 to Nov 3; last report Nov 10, Sidney (FQ). Black-throated Green Warbler: Oct 7, Owego (TBC). Blackburnian Warbler: Sep 29, Owego (TBC). Chestnut-sided Warbler: Sep 1, Owego (TBC). Bay-breasted Warbler: Aug 31 and Sep 29, Owego (RW). Blackpoll Warbler: Sep 1, Owego (RW); 1, Oct 6, Candor, (R,RP). Pine Warbler: Sep 1 and 3, Owego (RW). Palm Warbler: Oct 12, Conklin Forks (P,PK); Oct 14, Cortland (CW). Ovenbird: 1, Oct 19, Ingraham Hill (CH); only one after Oct 1. Northern Water-thrush: Sep 29, Newark Valley (L. Dean). Connecticut Warbler: 1, Sep 21, Ingraham Hill (CH); 1, Sep 30, Owego (T. Taylor), caught by cat and later died; Oct 2, Owego (E. Williams). Mourning Warbler: Oct 3, Owego (RW). Yellowthroat: Oct 14, Owego (TBC). Wilson's Warbler: Sep 5, Owego (RW); 1, Sept 15, Ingraham Hill (CH) and several between; a very late one Oct 1, Owego (RW). Canada Warbler: Sep 6, Homer (JG); Sep 7, Owego (MW). American Redstart: 1, Oct 2, Ingraham Hill (CH) following several late Sep records.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolink: Sep 12, Owego (AE). Eastern Meadowlark: common until Oct 26; 1, Nov 23, Candor (R,RP). Redwinged Blackbird: large flocks until Nov 10 and scattered reports to the end of the month. Baltimore Oriole: Nov 27 to end of month, Owego (AE); the only one after Sep 22. Rusty Blackbird: Sep 23, Berkshire (ML); regular at Chenango Forks through Oct (M,AD) and a few scattered Oct reports; no more until Nov 30, Owego (AE), Owego (MW) and Endicott (LL). Common Grackle: common to the end of Nov. Brown-headed Cowbird: Nov 30, 1 male, Unadilla (HW) and 3, Candor (R,RP); the only ones after Nov 10. Scarlet Tanager: Sep 26, Owego (TBC).

Cardinal: for the first time in several years no notable increase and at Oneonta "fewer than last Year" (R. Burland). Dickcissel: 1, Oct 29, Chocanut Center (R. & M. Sheffield), bright yellow on breast, chestnut wing patch, yellowish facial markings and slimmer body build as compared to the House Sparrows with which it was associating all noted, photographed and confirmed by several other observers; stayed until Nov 6; Nov 14, Owego (MW). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 1, Sep 30, Ingraham Hill (CH); quite a few Sep reports. Indigo Bunting: 2, Sep 15, Johnson City (LB), banded; Oct 3, Owego (MW, RW); the only reports after Aug 23. Evening Grosbeak: "late Sep", Greene (RM, WB); 3, Oct 4, Norwich (R,SW); many reports after Oct 19, mostly of flocks flying over; at Candor flock after flock went over, all travelling from east to west (R,RP); established at feeders at Oneonta (R. Burland) and Deposit (SW) in the last few days of Nov, but nowhere else. Purple Finch: quite a few scattered reports in Sep and Oct, thinning out in Nov, apparently remnants of the departing summer population with no indication of the large numbers of last spring. Pine Grosbeak: "reported at a feeder in Sidney from mid to late Oct" (HW); one report from the Greene area (Gilbert); 2, Nov 30, Owego (AE). Redpoll: at Oneonta, "hunting, I noted large numbers" (J. New). Pine Siskin: 15, Oct 11, Ingraham Hill (CH); a few scattered reports thereafter. Goldfinch: still common at the end of Nov. Red Crossbill: Oct 26, Greene (RM, WB), lots there but nowhere else. White-winged Crossbill: Oct 26, Greene (RM, WB), more plentiful than "Reds"; Nov 13, Candor (DW); 30, Nov 26, Ingraham Hill (CH); 6, Marathon (F. O'Leary); 100 or more, Gilbert Lake State Park (R. Burland). Rufous-sided Towhee: 1, Nov 11 to 13, Vestal (SL); the only one after Oct 27.

Savannah Sparrow: Oct 15, Chocanut Center (MS). Grasshopper Sparrow: Sep 26, Berkshire (ML). Henslow's Sparrow: 1, Oct 5, Candor (R,RP), banded. Vesper Sparrow: Nov 5, Owego (MW, CG). Slate-colored Junco: reported regularly from Sep 14. Tree Sparrow: Oct 19, Chenango Forks (M,AD); regular from Oct 27. Chipping Sparrow: regular until Oct 23, 10,

Nov 9 and the last Nov 18, Ingraham Hill (CH). White-crowned Sparrow: Sep 29, Choconut Center (MS); never particularly numerous; 1, Nov 27, Cortland, (A. Morey). White-throated Sparrow: first noted Sep 14, peak numbers in late Sep, quite common thru Oct and stragglers still present at the end of Nov. Fox Sparrow: 1, Oct 11, Ingraham Hill (CH); 89, Nov 3, Chenango Forks (M,AD), coming into brush lot to roost as they had for several days previously; in numbers until Nov 18. Lincoln's Sparrow: 1, Sep 27, Ingraham Hill (CH); Sep 29, Choconut Center (MS). Swamp Sparrow: Oct 27, Vestal (HM). Song Sparrow: common to end of Nov. Snow Bunting: 3, Oct 27, Broome County Airport (MS); Nov 3, Homer (JG); only reports.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Weather during the period was record-breaking and had a considerable effect on the bird life of the Region. September was cold (second-coldest on record), sunny, and dry. The first frost, on September 24th, was the earliest ever recorded. October was the driest ever, the total rainfall being only two-tenths of an inch compared to the normal of just over three inches. A new record high temperature and percentage of sunshine were also established. The hot dry conditions necessitated a statewide closing of the woods and a delay of three weeks in the opening of the hunting season. November was also exceptionally warm but, in contrast with October, the rainfall was considerably above average.

The long warm spell was responsible for a slow, unspectacular migration with few noticeable peaks or waves, and for a number of record-late departure dates. Such an abundance of late thrushes, vireos, and warblers has not been seen locally since 1954 when Hurricane Hazel on October 15 apparently **turned back** the migrants in their southward paths to bring Central New York a wealth of October and November late dates. In 1963 the heat seems to have **held** the various tropics-bound species here. (See below for particulars).

During the unseasonably hot October a good variety of winter finches began arriving; the flight of White-winged Crossbills is already the largest since Regional **Kingbird** reports have been written.

Abbreviations: BBFS — Dr. Ben Burt's feeder survey, held the first week of Nov and of Dec; counts reduced to per 100 reports; HIGMA — Howland's Island Game Management Area; Oakwood — Cemetery, Syracuse; Onon — Onondaga; SP — Sandy Pond; SSSP — Selkirk Shores State Park; Skan — Skaneateles; Syr — Syracuse; TRGMA — Three Rivers Game Management Area; VBSP — Verona Beach State Park; arr — arrived; imm — immature; L — Lake; max — maximum; n — north; s — south.

Regular observers: DA — Dorothy Ackley; HA — Hazel Aspinwall; MB — Maude Bitz; EE — Emma Evans; HN — Harmon Nodecker; PP — Paul Paquette; DP — David Peakall; JP — Jean Propst; MR — Margaret Rusk; CS — Christian Spies; WS — Walter Spofford; BS — Betty Starr; IS — Ina Stone; RT — Ruth Thomas; R,SW — Ruth and Sally White.

Loons — Ducks: Red-throated Loon: no fall reports at all; in previous years a few have always been seen. Horned Grebe: arr Oct 6; fall max 50-75 on L Ontario, late Oct — early Nov. Green Heron: one Tully, Oct 23 (JP) is record late. Black-crowned Night Heron: an adult Onon L Aug 14 and an imm SP Sep 21 are the only records. Bittern: last, Scott Swamp, Oct 22.

Brant: one Nov 3, L Ontario is the only report; although an erratic species in this area, it is often seen in hundreds along L Ontario. and