

Redwinged Blackbird: large flocks gone after Nov 1. Baltimore Oriole: common to Sep 10 then no more. Rusty Blackbird: 2, Oct 4, Whitney Point (R&MS); 1, Oct 19, Norwich (R&SW); 1, Nov 16, Binghamton (RS); the only reports. Common Grackle: a flock of over 1000, Oct 11, Unadilla (HW); regular until Nov 8, then scattered reports to the end of the period. Brown-headed Cowbird: only scattered reports after Sep 30, but including some moderate-sized flocks. Scarlet Tanager: regular reports to Sep 29, none thereafter. Cardinal: it appears that numbers have passed a peak and have dropped slightly, although still common. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Sep 29, Chenango Forks (M&AD), the last. Indigo Bunting: to Sep 7, Whitney Point (SG). Evening Grosbeak: 1 heard, Nov 2, Deposit (SW); small number, Nov 11, Freetown in Cortland Co (JG); 1 heard, Nov 28, Oneonta (J. New); no other reports. Purple Finch: regular, although in relatively small numbers, during Sep; thinned out drastically during Oct and were almost all gone after Oct 22. Pine Siskin: 8, Nov 27, Center Valley (RB), the only report. Goldfinch: plentiful through most of Nov, although diminishing noticeably by the end of the month. White-winged Crossbill: 3, Nov 15, Owego (RW, Y. Williams). Rufous-sided Towhee: mostly gone after Oct 15, but a few stragglers to the end of the period in several parts of the Region. Savannah Sparrow: to Oct 9, Whitney Point (HM, FL). Vesper Sparrow: Nov 30, Owego (Dorothy Raftis), eating at feeder. Slate-colored Junco: reported regularly after Oct 3 and to the end of the period. Oregon Junco: Oct 30, Ingraham Hill (CH). Tree Sparrow: Oct 10, Binghamton (RS), the first; regular after Oct 31. Chipping Sparrow: to Oct 18, Sidney (F. Quick). Field Sparrow: Nov 1, Newark Valley (L. Dean). White-crowned Sparrow: Sep 30, Candor (RP) to Oct 29, Binghamton (RS, HM) and Owego (E. Williams); 1 straggler, Nov 13, Unadilla (HW). White-throated Sparrow: migrants appeared in early Sep; common to Oct 30; a few stragglers to the end of the period. Fox Sparrow: a few very scattered reports from Oct 1 to Nov 22. Lincoln's Sparrow: Sep 26, Choconut Center (R&MS); Sep 30, Owego (RW); Oct 3, Owego (MW, CG); Oct 3, Choconut Center (R&MS); that's all the reports. Song Sparrow: thinning out after about Nov 13.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Fritz Scheider

Late August, unlike the preceding summer months, had a modest amount of rain. However, September reverted to the persistent drought pattern with a mere 0.75 inches (second driest September ever!) ; a cold spell (record low of 35°F September 16) may have triggered some flycatcher-vireo-warbler movement, as the next three days proved excellent for observation of migrants. October, also a dry month though less so than September, was chilly in the first two weeks; a record low of 27°F October 7 marked the date of exodus of many shorebirds and most of the insectivorous flycatchers, vireos, and warblers. However, the latter half of October was unseasonably warm, as was most of November. The drought persisted through November, resulting in the depletion of most local marshes. Low water levels at Oneida Lake and along Lake Ontario were impressive, exposing acres of mud flats (too late for many shorebirds but widely used by Snow Buntings) and linear miles of algae-covered rocky shore and shingle beach.

The rich and varied shorebird flight of July and August continued through September with a rapid drop in early October; particularly favored this fall were Sylvan and Verona Beaches at Oneida Lake, the Syracuse Airport, and Onondaga Lake. Sandy Pond regularly had good variety but smaller numbers of shorebirds than usual. Major vireo-warbler waves occurred August 29, September 6, September 11-13, September 18-19, and again September 29. A major movement of kinglets, Winter Wrens, icterids, and other later migrants inundated the Region October 17-18.

Positive features of the fall migration include (1) a superb flycatcher-vireo-warbler movement throughout September with an abrupt cessation of same in early October, (2) an excellent and — in some species — protracted shorebird flight, (3) a fair movement of Rough-legged Hawks in late October, (4) a notable incursion of Snowy Owls and, to a lesser degree, Northern Shrikes, (5) a good Brant migration in October and early November, (6) an excellent diving duck flight, especially Ring-necked Ducks, Goldeneyes, scoters, and mergansers, but, alas, sorely deficient in Redheads, Canvasbacks, and Buffleheads. On the debit side, the paucity of accipiters is now alarming, and the virtually complete absence of winter finches is particularly striking, with no hint of an "echo flight" of any of the abundant fringillids that graced the winter woods in 1963-64. More impressive still is the extreme scarcity of Tree Sparrows, normally an abundant fall and winter bird (q.v.) N. B. There has been no increase in numbers with the December snows either. Where are they?

Two local conditions deserve summary mention — (1) a complete absence of both diving and dabbling ducks from the western $\frac{1}{3}$ of Oneida Lake persisted through October and November and remains unexplained (? too much hunting, dredging, pollution?) and (2) minor television tower kills were noted September 29 (56 birds of 21 species) and 30 (21 birds of 15 species), with lower numbers October 3; apparently the dry clear nights (favorable conditions for nocturnal migrants) prior to September 25 minimized the night-migration hazards of the television towers.

Rarities for the season include amongst the shorebirds Willet, Purple Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Ruff, and two species of phalaropes (see article in this issue) — also King Eider, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaeger, Little Gull, Dickcissel, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

Abbreviations: BBFS-Dr. B. P. Burt's feeder survey, held the first week of Nov (counts reduced to number of individuals/100 reports); HIGMA-Howland's Island Game Management Area, Port Byron; Onon L-Onondaga Lake; SB&VBSP-Sylvan Beach & Verona Beach State Park at eastern end of Oneida Lake; SP&SPI-Sandy Pond & Sandy Pond Inlet at eastern end of Lake Ontario; SSSP-Selkirk Shores State Park near Port Ontario; TRGMA-Three Rivers Game Management Area near Baldwinsville; arr-arrival, arrived; imm-immature: L-Lake; max-maximum; mob-many observers.

Regular observers: DA-Dorothy Ackley; HA-Hazel Aspinwall; JRB-Jon R. Bart; VB-Virginia Billings; MEB-Maude E. Bitz; GLC-Gerald L. & Margaret Church; MLE-Meredith L. Estoff; EE-Emma Evans; MF-Mary Felle; GG-George Gage; KGH-Kenneth G. Hanson; PL-Paul Laible; DM-Dorothy McIlroy; HPN-Harmon P. Nodecker; PRP, Mrs. PRP-Mr. & Mrs. Paul R. Paquette; DBP-David B. Peakall; JWP-Jean W. Propst; MSR-Margaret S. Rusk; FGS-Fritz G. Scheider; CGS-Christian G. Spies; EMS-Elizabeth M. Starr; IBS-Ina B. Stone; RBT-Ruth B. Thomas; R, SW-Ruth & Sally White.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: first fall arrivals five, Sep15, SP (Douglas Lancaster): max 39, Oct 27, SSSP and Derby Hill near Texas. Red-throated Loon: one-four, Nov 1-Dec 3, all on L Ontario (JWP, MSR, PRP). Red-necked Grebe: singles, Nov 28 and Dec 3, SSSP and Mexico Point (JWP, MLE, FGS) respectively; the lack of Oct and early Nov records probably correlates with the extremely mild, dry weather. Horned Grebe: fall arr Oct 10, two, L Ontario; max 70, Oct 15, SP and Derby Hill, with other counts seven-55/day indicating a poor to fair flight. Double-crested Cormorant: single birds only, noted Sep 12, Oct 4, Oct 10 along L Ontario; one Oct 16 at Beaver L (JWP) is an unusual "inland" record. Great Blue Heron: small numbers (one-five) present to end of period, especially SP, SSSP, HIGMA, and Woodman's Pond near Hamilton (MSR, GLC). No fall reports of Common Egret. Green Heron: max of 13 (low), Aug 31, Scott Swamp, Phoenix (DBP); last noted Oct 11, Clay Swamp (normal); the majority appear to have left early, perhaps due to the severe drying of most

marshes. Black-crowned Night Heron: max of only **two**, Oct 8, Scott Swamp (FGS); will this species join the ranks of the other rapidly dwindling local piscivores (Bald Eagle, Osprey)?

Canada Goose: first noted Sep 18, eight, SB (GLC); poor counts throughout the fall, with max 1700, Beaver L, Oct 18 (MSR); also 232 over Oneida Oct 4 (MF); virtually none on Oneida L (PL). Brant: a flock of 25, Oct 10, Mexico Point (JRB, MSR) were heralds to an excellent fall flight — 1210, Oct 27 and 750, Nov 1 both Derby Hill (JWP), and flocks of 300-350 noted Nov 6-7, Shackleton Point, Oneida L (PL); also noted at Otisco L (one, Oct 26, JWP), Oswego (mob), and SB (one, Oct 20, DA). Snow Goose: two fall reports of this locally uncommon goose, a flock of 15 noted late Oct at SP (F. Riley) and an imm Oct 15-17 at Derby Hill (MLE, DM, MSR). Blue Goose: only fall report is seven imms at TRGMA Oct 3-11. Mallard and Black Duck: high counts of 2200 and 2500 respectively, Oct 17, HIGMA, and 750 each, Nov 6-20, Woodman's Pond (GLC) reflect the concentrating effects of both available water and protection; prior to the hunting season, counts of 70 Mallards and 350 Blacks (Oct 4) were noted on the open sand flats of SB and VBSP (A. Carter, A. Maley, GLC); such open-water use by these dabblers probably reflects the loss of the usual marsh habitat by drought; early departure of these and other dabblers at HIGMA was ascribed to the dry weather (GG). Gadwall: very low numbers (max **three!**) and only at HIGMA except for a late singleton, Nov 29, Fair Haven (W. C. Listman). Pintail: most counts Sep 1-Oct 30 below 100; 125, Oct 10, L Ontario (FRB, MSR) is the **only** count exceeding the 100 mark for the entire fall. Green-winged Teal: first noted Sep 1, Bolivar Swamp; 150, Sep 27-Oct 17 at HIGMA (GG); away from this anatine fleshpot, counts were lower (four-75/day); a scattering of records, mostly singletons, in the last ten days of Nov (Oswego, SP, HIGMA, Fair Haven) are very likely crippled birds attempting to winter. Blue-winged Teal: two, Nov 15, Oswego (JRB, CGS) are somewhat late. Shoveler: two, Sep 15, SB (JWP, FGS) are most unusual as the species is extremely uncommon on Oneida L. — the few past records there are all in spring; max of 18, Oct 17, HIGMA (GG). Wood Duck: max 494, Sep 21, Scott Swamp (JRB, MSR); 127, Sep 20, Clay Swamp and none at Stevens Pond through Sep point to drought concentration of the local birds at nearby Scott Swamp; a female Wood Duck continued to incubate infertile eggs until Sep 28 when the nesting hole was boarded up (Peebles fide DA); last noted, two, Nov 15, SP where they have been scarce all fall.

Redhead: highest count for entire fall is 40, Nov 14, Beaver L (FGS); most observers saw none, but a few were noted with a raft of 5000 Scaup Oct 26-Nov 14, Shackleton Point, Oneida L (PL). Ring-necked Duck: fall arr Sep 17, one, SP (Douglas Lancaster, Helen Fessenden) is early; max 900-950 Oct 24-Nov 14 Beaver L is an all-time high! Common Goldeneye: one Sep 19, SB (MSR) may be a summering bird as the next was not reported until Oct 10; counts along L Ontario have averaged 400-800/trip from Oct 31 through Dec 3 (JWP, JRB, MSR). Bufflehead: counts of four-45 Oct 10-Nov 30; this and Goldeneye (both in very small numbers) were the only species regularly found this fall in the western third of Oneida L-?? Dredging operations, pollution, food die-off? This paucity contrasts strikingly with reports of a mixed raft of 5000 Scaup and Canvasback Oct 25-Nov 14 off Shackleton Point (PL), 1000 Canvasback off Maple Bay Nov 29 (JRB), and 3000 unidentified ducks Nov 1, SB (GLC). King Eider: a resplendent male in breeding plumage Oct 28, Derby Hill (JWP) is most unusual as all records heretofore have been of females or imm males. Scoters: an excellent flight of White-winged Scoters, with 55-350 Sep 26-Nov 30 along L Ontario; 200 reported in the last week of Oct Fisher's Bay, Oneida L (PL), and 50+ Oct 16, SB (DA) are very high "inland" counts. Surf Scoter: two-six, Oct 15-Nov 19, L Ontario — **none** from "inland" waters; all birds females or imms (MSR, JWP, JRB, PRP). Common Scoter: four-eight, Sep 26-Dec 3, all L Ontario — SP, SSSP, Derby Hill, Lakeview, and Oswego (MSR, JRB, MLE, JWP). Ruddy Duck: one, HIGMA (GG) Sep 19 is fall arrival date

but may be a wanderer from Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; max 34, Nov 1, SB (GLC) and 25 on Oct 24, Beaver L (MSR) are a slight improvement over the extremely low 1959-1962 counts.

Hooded Merganser: three, Aug 16, HIGMA (MSR) are probably breeding birds; first migrants noted Aug 29, SP; max 190, mostly males, Nov 27, Beaver L (FGS). Red-breasted Merganser: flocks totaling 5000-5500 noted Nov 1-15 along L Ontario; high counts of this magnitude are usually not sustained for more than a few days, but this year Red-breasted Mergansers were "everywhere" along L Ontario; however, very scarce on Oneida L, none reported from Beaver L, and a max of 20, Nov 20, HIGMA (GG).

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: last noted Sep 17, Parish. Goshawk: single birds reported Oct 31, Deer Creek marshes near Port Ontario (FGS) and Nov 1, SPI (PRP, FGS). Sharp-shinned Hawk: total for all observers for all fall is seven — singularly scarce. Coopers's Hawk: five noted for all observers for all fall; three of the five were imms, so this species is breeding successfully someplace but certainly not locally. A total of two each of Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks testifies to the paucity of noted hawk movements this fall. Rough-legged Hawk: first noted Oct 11, Syracuse Airport; a flight of 26 on Oct 22, SP (DA, FGS) about equally divided between light and dark phase; also 30 migrating over Jamesville in mid-Oct (Mrs. T. S. Harmon); individuals numerous through Nov, but most will probably leave by late Dec because of the very low local mouse population (T. Cade). Bald Eagle: only records are an adult, Oct 5, Tully (JWP), and an imm, Nov 1, SP (PRP, FGS) — incredibly scarce even as a migrant. Marsh Hawk: max seven, Sep 26, SP (OAS field trip); counts of four-five/day in mid-Sep from SP dunes, mostly imms, are **not** local birds; no **Nov** reports of this species — ? low numbers or no mice? Peregrine Falcon: **none**. Merlin: singletons Sep 26, SP (OAS trip) and Sep 20, Pleasant Point, L Ontario (IBS, RBT).

Ruffed Grouse: one noted drumming repeatedly at night in complete darkness, SSSP, Oct 31 (FGS). Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Gallinule: reported frequently in small numbers (one-six) from Woodman's Pond (GLC) and Clay Swamp (CGS, FGS) during Sep; doubt an increase in numbers — more likely increased exposure because of very dry condition of ponds and marshes. American Coot: counts of 90-600 from HIGMA (MSR), Beaver L (JWP), and SP (FGS), Oct 8-Nov 14; smaller flocks on Oneida L, and a few attempting to winter at SP (they won't make it) and Oswego.

Shorebirds: see article in this issue.

Pomarine Jaeger: two imms Oct 15, SPI (DM, FGS) are very rare fall transients; one was seen to cross Sandy Pond, loft higher and higher in wide circles, then head southeast inland, a lake-escaping tactic suspected for a number of years but never demonstrated heretofore. Parasitic Jaeger: six (three adults, three imms) seen Oct 4 migrating past SP (MSR, GLC, FGS, et al); five other unidentified jaegers seen that day also; this number of jaegers in a day is unprecedented and actually equals the total for several previous fall seasons; also one imm Parasitic (?) Jaeger, Oct 10, Derby Hill. Glaucous Gull: only reports are single first-year birds Nov 29, SPI, (MSR) and Nov 30, South Bay, Oneida L (FGS), rather late arrival dates. No Iceland Gulls reported in the period. Great Black-backed Gull: fall max 50, Nov 19, SPI (MSR); singletons, Nov 20, SB (DA) and Nov 27-30, Beaver L, and six, Nov 2, SB (VB) are unusual "inland", particularly in view of the low counts at Oswego (five-20) to the end of the period. Herring and Ring-billed Gulls: max of 1800 and 4000 respectively, Nov 15, Oswego, is low for that period; a count of 5000 and 2000 respectively, Dec. 3, Oswego, seems closer to expected figures. Dead gulls, particularly Ring-billed, were noted along SP (eight-ten/two miles) through most of Sep and Oct — cause of death???? Gulls were also noted hawking for migrating Monarch Butterflies along SP during the peak butterfly flight there in early Sep. Bonaparte's Gull: max 150 (an excellent count) Nov 28 at Oneida

L (R, SW); 50-75 there Sep 15-Nov 8 (GLC, MSR, FGS); last one elsewhere, an oiled bird, Oswego, Nov 20. Little Gull: one adult SB, Sep 15 and 17 (Mrs. PRP, FGS, AR. MLE, JWP) is the second Regional record. Common Tern: max 600, SB-VBSP, Oct 4 (FGS et al); very scarce at SP through Aug and Sep — peak there **only** 50, Aug 23 and 29; last one, Nov 2, Oneida L (VB). Caspian Tern: record max of 70 on Aug 23, SP; last three. L Ontario, Oct 10 (JRB, MSR). Black Tern: last one, Sep 18, late, SP (FGS).

Snowy Owl: a splendid incursion this season: first reported, lone birds, Oct 31, SPI (FGS) and Onon L (MEB); max of eight (four SP, two Oswego, one Onon L, one Shackleton Point) Nov 15; also five (four SP, one SSSP) Dec 3; scattered single birds reported from HIGMA and Syracuse; one unfortunately flew into a transmission line near Onon L Dec 3, plunging itself into oblivion and Mattydale into darkness. Barred Owl: two calling, HIGMA, Oct 17; this pair had been thought to have deserted that area. Short-eared Owl: first and only record for the entire fall, one, Onon L, Oct 19 (JRB). Saw-whet Owl: one calling, SSSP, evening of Oct 31 (FGS); one at Earlville, early Nov (V.S. Walker fide SFH).

Swifts — Shrikes: Whip-poor-will: last noted Sep 26, two, Boonville (KGH). Nighthawk: max 20, Sep 12, Onon L (C. Treafitis); last noted Oct 1 at a Syracuse dump (MSR). Chimney Swift: no large fall gatherings noted; last date Sep 6 (very early). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: peak of 26, perhaps attracted by the abundant jewelweed at the wood-marsh margin, SP, Aug 29 (OAS trip) is nearly double previous peak fall count; last one noted Sep 26, SP (OAS trip). Belted Kingfisher: one-five, Sep 1-Nov 2; max seven, Sep 6, HIGMA, SSSP, SP, Otisco, and Tully L; a few single birds attempting to winter at SP, Oswego, and Beaver L. Flicker: counts of 15-65, SP and SSSP, in middle weeks of Sep; max 105, Sep 19, SSSP; still present at Oneida (MF) and Syracuse (MEB) at end of period. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one regularly visiting a feeder at Plainville (MEB) probably represents local breeding stock from adjacent swampy (now dry) woods. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: poor flight with max eight, Sep 24, SSSP, but extended date range from Aug 23 (? local birds) to Nov 30 (? wintering). Red-headed, Hairy, and Downy Woodpeckers: no suggestion of lakeshore flight at SP or SSSP, quite in contrast to the excellent flight of Chickadees and kinglets. Eastern Kingbird: last noted Sep 17, SP. A total of seven Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Aug 25-Sep 22, is somewhat better than average (JWP, MSR, FGS). Olive-sided Flycatcher: none in Aug, but four noted between Sep 9 and 24. Wood Pewee: peak fall numbers Sep 16-18, with max 27, Fish Gulf near Otisco L, Sep 18 (JWP); last noted Oct 10, two, Derby Hill and SP (MSR, JRB) in a snowstorm! No Oct *Empidonax* emphasizes the early departure trend, more clearly seen in the vireo-warbler group.

Horned Lark: 170 migrating south over SP dunes Nov 12; no other major movements reported, and most local counts under 20/day (mob). Departure dates of swallows, with Tree Oct 10, Bank Sep 6, Rough-winged Aug 29, Barn Oct 10, and Purple Martin Sep 7, are markedly early with the exception of the Barn Swallow.

Crow: flight of 3600 plus or minus noted Oct 22 moving south along SP; also 1000 Oct 31 and 100 Nov 1 in same area; local winter numbers/day seem lower than usual. Black-capped Chickadee: a mid-Sep flight at SSSP with 100-155 as peak counts; Oct counts, however, never exceeded 60, and Nov counts generally were lower still. Tufted Titmouse: five noted regularly at Muskrat Bay, Oneida L (Theisen), and two, Nov 18, Camillus (Renaldo fide EE). Red-breasted Nuthatch: virtually no flight this season; max of nine, SSSP, Nov 2 (JWP, MLE) may represent locally breeding birds. Winter Wren: fall arr Aug 26 Eaton (? locally reared birds); peak period Oct 17-22 with counts 14-18/day (MSR, FGS); **none** reported after Nov 7. No Carolina or Short-billed Marsh Wren reported. Mockingbird: only report is one, Oct 31, Tryon Road, Town of Sandy Creek (MSR); none on BBFS. Catbird: counts of 30, Sep 23, Fish Gulf (JWP) and 35, Sep 29, N. Syracuse (FGS) undoubtedly indicate flight days, although the latter concentration may have been secondary to an extensive wild grape crop in a local thicket.

Robin: peak counts of 1500 and 1200, Sep 17 and 19, SP dunes, attracted to abundantly fruiting black cherry trees, literally driving observers from the stand of trees by a rain of purple feces. Hermit Thrush: max is 12, Oct 18, SP dunes (FGS); most observers saw **none** through Sep and Oct; it is impossible to decide whether this represents an actual scarcity or the effect of the nearly waveless Oct migration (see sparrows). Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrush: heavy flights noted the nights of Sep 11-12 and Sep 25-26; ground counts quite low (all less than ten); tower kills at Syracuse include nine Swainson's and one Gray-cheeked Sep 17 (JRB), and 13 Swainson's and five Gray-cheeked Sep 29; no flights reported after Oct 3, with last dates Oct 17, Swainson's (JRB), and Oct 9, Gray-cheeked (IBS, RBT). Bluebird: two flocks of 18 and 23 reported in early Oct (VB, R. Greenhalgh) and ten, Oct 20 (IBS, RBT); most observers saw **none** this fall; locally the extreme scarcity of this species continues. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: single birds reported Aug 20, Oneida, (MF), and Aug 29, Scott Swamp (FGS), the latter a late date but in a known breeding site. Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets: arr Sep 17 respectively, with peak counts 205 Golden-crowned and 82 Ruby-crowned both Oct 17; however, counts away from L Ontario shoreline were very low (GLC, DA). Water Pipit: first reported Sep 7 (about average), two, SP, (FGS); counts were low through Sep but flocks of ten-75 Oct 4-Nov 1; none reported after Nov 1. Cedar Waxwing: 500 at Ilion, Oct 25-28 (KGH); flocks of 40-250 noted from Sep 12-Oct 29 along L Ontario; numerous flocks (12-100) around Eaton, Manlius, Oneida, Otisco L, N. Syracuse, and Syracuse thru Nov. Northern Shrike: Oct 17, an adult, near HIGMA (JRB, CGS, FGS) is a record arrival date; an imm, Oct 21, near Fair Haven (MSR) and another imm Nov 1 at Oneida (MF); unreported thereafter until Nov 22 with a total of seven in the next ten days, in a 1:1 adult: immature ratio.

Vireos — Sparrows: The latter half of Aug produced a desultory movement of Canada Warblers, Redstarts, and Bay-breasted Warblers. However, from Aug 29 to Oct 4, the Region witnessed one of the heaviest — and steady — fall vireo-warbler flights recorded to date. Numbers of almost all species were very good, and some (e.g. Philadelphia Vireo) were phenomenal. Early departure for the main body of migrants, however, seemed to be general, probably due to the very cold weather (25-26°F) on Oct 7-8, although 14 species of warblers (some, single birds only) were noted in Oct.

Yellow-throated Vireo: max eight, Sep 20, Boonville (KGH); last noted Sep 21, SSSP (EE). Red-eyed Vireo: counts of 15-30/day in the middle ten days of Sep; rapid decline in next five days; last noted Oct 3, Syracuse TV tower kill. Philadelphia Vireo: total of 21 reported between Aug 23 and Sep 29 (mob); this is four times the high fall total; max of four, Sep 15, VBSP (Mrs. PRP, AR, FGS). Warbling Vireo: one, Sep 29, and two Oct 1, Otisco L (EMS) are record late birds.

Fall warblering proved an embarrassment of riches this year; woods, especially Ontario and Oneida lakeshore woods, were aflutter with little "green and yellow jobs", and a good spishing session could leave an observer with dry mouth, tired eyes, and 12-15 species of warblers. One observer averaged 15 species/day in the middle ten days of Sep. Black-and-white: first fall migrant Aug 17, Oneida (MF); max five, Sep 6, VBSP, and four, Sep 6, SSSP; last noted Oct 1, early, VBSP. Golden-winged: last noted Sep 12, SSSP (MSR), late. Tennessee: max 13, Sep 13, SP-SSSP, and 12, Sep 15, VBSP; last noted Oct 11, HIGMA (JRB). Orange-crowned: singletons noted Sep 29, N. Syracuse; Oct 3, HIGMA; Oct 29, Mexico Point, rather late. Nashville: peak 25, Sep 25, Fish Gulf (JWP) is a record fall count. Yellow: rather scarce through August with max 50, Aug 23; last reported Sep 21 (JWP), rather late. Departure dates of Sep 16, Oakwood, Syracuse, for Cape May (MSR), and Oct 3, Syracuse, for Black-throated Blue (FGS) are both somewhat early. Magnolia: a most impressive flight, with 12-35/day in the middle ten days of Sep; present not only in woods but also in all sorts of brushy and even weedy areas; some migrant flocks of warblers seemed to have 50% or more Magnolias as the core of the group;

last noted Oct 18, SPI — somewhat late. Myrtle: no great waves, but widely and frequently reported — ten-60/day in Sep; max Oct count, however, 50, Oct 4, Boonville (KHG); no Nov reports. Black-throated Green: excellent fall numbers, with max 40, Sep 25, Fish Gulf (JWP); last noted Oct 15, one, SSSP (JWP). Blackburnian: two-eight/day, Aug 23-Sep 20; departure date Sep 30, one, Syracuse TV tower, is rather early. Chestnut-sided: one, Oct 17, dead at Syracuse TV tower, is quite late (JRB). Bay-breasted and Blackpoll: widespread flight with small numbers (five-18/day) through the first three weeks of Sep (mob); peak Bay-breasted count 45, Sep 6, SP-SSSP, peak Blackpoll 18, Sep 15, SB (Mrs. PRP, AR, FGS); Bay-breasted on Oct 4, one, SB (DA) is rather late, but more amazing is the complete absence of Blackpolls in Oct! Pine: one attempting to winter at Hartwig's feeder in Oneida (fide DA) regularly eating suet and peanut butter. Palm: ten different reports of this uncommon fall migrant, totaling 16 birds, with four, Oct 25, Oneida (MF) both the max and last date. Ovenbird: max of ten, a good fall count, Sep 13, SP-SSSP; no Oct records. Northern Water-thrush: seemed scarce throughout Aug and Sep with never more than three/day; last noted Oct 17 (late), a dead bird at Syracuse TV tower (JRB). Connecticut: only two fall reports — both adult males — Sep 18, Fish Gulf (JWP), and Sep 30, dead at Syracuse TV tower (MSR); most fall birds to date have been imms. Mourning: four reports of this skulking migrant — Aug 29, one, SP (OAS trip); Sep 13, one, Eaton (GLC); Sep 17, one, SP (FGS); and one, third week of Sep, Fish Gulf (EMS) points up the quality of the fall flight. Yellow-throat: three-20/day August 23-Sep 29 in SP-SSSP area; very late are two, Nov 15, SP (CGS, JRB). Hooded: five, Sep 19 (the departure date) at SSSP (FGS) are probably locally reared birds; three of the five were apparently fully adult males. Wilson's: widespread this fall with eight-nine/day reported; max 11, Sep 12, SP-SSSP; departure date Sep 29 (early). Redstart: peak count 25, Aug 23 SP but generally quite uncommon in Aug which is usually the time of peak numbers; many backyard birders recorded none thru the period: this paucity of individuals is particularly disturbing in view of the excellent numbers of other warblers this fall.

Red-winged Blackbird, Cowbird, Common Grackle: "millions" noted Oct 24 — 28 in a huge roost at the north end of SP (F. Riley); flight of 400,000+ mixed icterids noted Oct 29 flying east along L Ontario "like unto spring". A record number (330) of Cowbirds noted on the Nov BBFS, eight times the previous high. Rusty Blackbird: fall arr date Sep 13, ten, Woodman's Pond (M, GLC); peak count 120, Oct 8, Scott Swamp.

If the fall of 1963 was a feast of winter finches, the fall of 1964 was a devastating northern fringillid famine. The total number of winter finch reports include: Evening Grosbeak: one, Oct 15, SP (DM, FGS); Redpoll, two, Nov 1, SP; White-winged Crossbill, seven, Nov 8, Derby Hill (CGS, JRB); Pine Siskin, three reports totaling 21 birds for the entire fall. Even Purple Finches were extraordinarily scarce — usually single birds, and many observers saw **none** all fall; **none** on the Nov BBFS. One active observer saw more Snowy Owls than Purple Finches this fall! The only bright spots in this dismal fringillid picture are reports of numbers of Evening Grosbeaks in extreme northern Herkimer County (fide DA) and numerous flocks of Goldfinches (max 750, Oct 29, Mexico Point) through Oct and Nov.

Dickcissel: one at SPI, Sep 17 (FGS) is a rare fall migrant but is in keeping with the local "coastal" effect of the Sandy Pond barrier dunes. Savannah Sparrow: max 40, Sep 20, Pleasant L near Phoenix, is an early peak; very scarce in Oct with last date Oct 17 (early). Last Grasshopper Sparrow reported Sep 19, Mapleview (FGS), very early departure. No fall Henslow's Sparrow reported. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: two, Oct 3, HIGMA (FGS, MSR) is the only report of this probably regular — but usually missed — skulking migrant. Vesper Sparrow: excellent fall numbers with 60, Sep 19, Pleasant L (FGS), and 41, Oct 12, Eaton (GLC); last noted Oct 18, (early departure), three, SP. Tree Sparrow: noted slightly early, Oct

15, one, Taberg (Lynes fide HA); very scarce thru the remainder of Oct and Nov with max 50, HIGMA, Nov 26; singularly scarce locally in Dec. White-crowned Sparrow: first noted Sep 14, two, SSSP (EE) — very early; a weak fall movement with max 16, Oct 17, SP; no Nov field reports, but single birds reported at local feeders in early Dec. White-throated Sparrow: a protracted fall flight with a steady Oct drift of birds; a large wave Sep Sep 29 (140 in 30 minutes of observation), and counts up to 100-200 through Oct 18, especially at TRGMA, SSSP, N. Syracuse, and Otisco L; very few reports in Nov despite the very mild weather. Fox Sparrow: a desultory fall migration with arrival Oct 12, Oneida (MF); max of six, Oct 18, Beaver L, and six thru to Nov 27, Oneida (MF). Lincoln's Sparrow: a better than average flight, Sep 13-Oct 10; max of three, Sep 29, N. Syracuse (FGS). Swamp and Song Sparrows: good late Sep flight of both, 35+ and 90+ /day respectively, but a very rapid decline of Swamp Sparrows in the last ½ of Oct, with singletons only, in Nov; there appear to be many Song Sparrows attempting to winter. Lapland Longspur: first reported Oct 3, SP; though reported more frequently this fall, no count greater than four (Oct 22, SP) was achieved. Snow Bunting: first reported Oct 15, five, SP; many flocks of 18-100 thru Nov at Rome (HA), Oswego (JRB), Sylvan Beach (DA, R, SW), on the mudflats of SP (MSR) and at the Syracuse Airport; for practical purposes, this species is the **only** winter finch this fall, even though no really large flocks have been reported to date.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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The level of the water in Lake Ontario was below normal and it continued to drop during the summer and fall. The same condition was noticed in most streams and lakes. As a result ducks and shore birds were less numerous in some of their usual places, but shore birds appeared in others where mudflats developed. There was little snow in November, except for one storm in parts of Lewis County which left twenty inches of snow in Lowville and thirty-six inches at Sears Pond in the Tug Hill section.

Many ducks were affected by oil pollution in northeastern Lake Ontario from Stony Point to Cape Vincent which began Nov 20. Few ducks were killed by the oil, but the oiled ducks shot by hunters were in poor condition. About 65% of the ducks in this part of the lake showed some oiling and all of the Scaup Ducks near Cape Vincent were affected. The condition continued into December. The ducks affected most were the diving ducks, the kinds mentioned included Scaup, Goldeneye, Bufflehead and American Widgeon.

Canada Geese and Wood Ducks were much more numerous this fall. Snowy Owls arrived very early and received much publicity especially in newspapers.

PRGMA is used for Perch River Game Management Area and WHGMA for Wilson Hill Game Management Area.

Loons — Ducks: Least Bittern: at PRGMA Aug 18 and 30. Canada Goose: twice the usual number along the St. Lawrence River and they stayed late. Brant: one at El Dorado Oct 12. Mallard: more Mallards than Blacks were banded at PRGMA. In all about 3800 ducks were banded in the Region, 2500 at PRGMA and the rest at WHGMA. Wood Duck: much more numerous than last year especially at PRGMA where about 500 were banded. Scaup: about 7,000 seen at one time in Lake Ontario. American Widgeon: at PRGMA in early Sep. Oldsquaw: at El Dorado and Stony Pt in Nov. White-winged Scoter: El Dorado Oct 12 and later. Common Scoter: El Dorado Oct 12. Ruddy Duck; 3 at Stony Pt. Nov 15.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: last seen near Gouverneur Oct 30. Rough-legged Hawk: good flight, end of Oct and early Nov; max 9 Pt Peninsula, Nov 1, a few in late Nov. Marsh Hawk: 2 Pt Peninsula Nov 1.