

Chenango Forks (M, AD). Myrtle: Sep 9 to Nov 13 in good numbers; only later record, Nov 30, IH (CH). Black-throated Green: to Sep 29. Blackburnian: to Sep 29. Chestnut-sided: to Oct 2. Pine: Sep 24 and 29, Owego (RW). Palm: one, Oct 3, WP (E, NW). Ovenbird: to Oct 2. Connecticut: one, Sep 18 Binghamton (HM); Sep 24 Owego (RW); one, Oct 3 Endwell (LB, MS, HM). Mourning: Aug 22, CC (MS, RPS). Yellowthroat: to Oct 13. Wilson's: from Sep 1 Binghamton (HM) to two, Oct 15 Owego (RW) in surprisingly good numbers. Canada: to Sep 19. American Redstart: a late one, Oct 2 Homer (JAG).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: common to Nov 9. Red-winged Blackbird: common to Oct 27. Orchard Oriole: Oct 9, IH (CH). Baltimore Oriole: Sep 27 Owego (AE); the only report after Sep 15. Rusty Blackbird: Oct 20, IH (HM). Common Grackle: common to Oct 31. Scarlet Tanager: Sep 29 Owego (EW).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: to Sep 23 Sidney (FQ). Evening Grosbeak: Oct 9 Candor (RP); very frequent reports to end of period, in flocks of up to 60. Purple Finch: only scattered reports of small numbers. Pine Grosbeak: Nov 3 Chenango Forks (M, AD); seen fairly frequently in flocks of a dozen or less. Common Redpoll: Nov 14 South Owego (MW, CG); just a few reports. Pine Siskin: Oct 2 Conklin Forks (PK); quite frequent reports to end of period, sometimes in very considerable numbers. American Goldfinch: common to end of period. White-winged Crossbill: Oct 31, Candor (DW); reported all during Nov, becoming more numerous in the last five days. Rufous-sided Towhee: last, one Nov 1 Homer (JAG). Vesper Sparrow: fairly frequent reports to Oct 19; Nov 15 Newark Valley (MW, RW). Slate-colored Junco: common from Oct 1. Tree Sparrow: Oct 29, Andes (MC) and Binghamton (HM). Chipping Sparrow: to Oct 30, CC (MS, RPS). White-crowned Sparrow: Aug 30 Chenango Forks (M, AD); no more until Sep 29, Norwich (R, SW); fairly numerous but gone after Oct 30. Fox Sparrow: Oct 2 Conklin Forks (PK); small numbers to Nov 21. Lincoln's Sparrow: one, Sep 2 singing at Andes (MC); one, Oct 4 Conklin Forks (PK); 5 other reports between. Snow Bunting: 60, Nov 22 IH (CH), only report.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Fritz Scheider

A wonderful fall migration! Cool, dry weather thru late August to mid-September brought desultory migrant movement with better-than-average flights on August 26, September 2, 9 and 12. After the passage of a strong cold front on September 16-17, waves of warblers and vireos, with lesser numbers of thrushes and flycatchers flooded the woods, especially along Lake Ontario and immediately south of Syracuse, into early October. Notable waves occurred September 17-20, 23, 30, October 7, 9 and 10. During October, wet, warm and windy, flocks of sparrows, kinglets, icterids, and winter finches enlivened the now moist farmlands, weedy fields and hedgerows. Each passing cold front brought more and more winter birds, especially finches. Windstorms on October 3, 23 and 31 created havoc, but also produced some of the most exciting waterfowl watching in a decade (See Brant, Jaegers). A severe freeze (17° above) November 1 and 2 triggered the exodus of dabbling ducks, shorebirds, sparrows and icterids, and a 4-6" snowfall November 15-16 terminated many local landbird concentrations (Horned Lark, Robin, Pipit, residual icterids, late sparrows). The remainder of November, still wet, warm and windy, provided delightful days rich with winter finches, numerous mouse-raptors, and a scattering of half-hardies,

northern erratics and southern forms. Abundance of autumn song was noteworthy, most obvious in White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows but also heard from Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Rusty Blackbird; Woodcock, Horned Lark and Vesper Sparrow were noted flight singing.

Positive fall features of note: 1) splendid Brant flight in late October; 2) very heavy flight of all three scoters; 3) incursions of Rough-legged Hawk and Northern Shrike with a few Snowy Owls; 4) excellent shorebird migration, notable for variety (12 species recorded in November); 5) impressive thrush-vireo-warbler flights (number of Orange-crowned Warblers was outstanding!); 6) heavy flight of Water Pipit and both kinglets; 7) irruption of winter finches noteworthy for the number of species; 8) marked late September–early October sparrow flight.

Negatives: 1) poor to very poor flights of Canada Geese, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Redhead, Canvasback (now chronic with the last two); 2) marked paucity of accipiters and a rapidly growing scarcity of Screech Owls; 3) severe drop in normally common Common Snipe, Greater Yellowlegs, Dunlin—see shorebird article this issue; 4) complete absence of Short-eared Owls; 5) mediocre Ontario lakeshore swallow flights; 6) profound fall-off in numbers of Tree Sparrows, both on migration and wintering.

Rarities for the season may be divided into two groups: 1) those regularly reported largely because of intensive field work to find the few individuals—Peregrine Falcon, Purple and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Hudsonian Godwit, Ruff, all three phalaropes, Parasitic Jaeger and Connecticut Warbler; 2) species that range from rare thru very rare to sporadic—Pomarine Jaeger, Black-legged Kittiwake, Boreal Owl, Boreal Chickadee and Bohemian Waxwing.

Two geographic notes—1) the continuing scarcity of any waterfowl (grebes, herons, ducks, gulls) on the western half of Oneida Lake; 2) the critical importance of the southeast corner of Lake Ontario (Texas to Port Ontario) as the junction of two major lakeshore migration routes.

Abbreviations: FHBS—Fair Haven Beach State Park on Lake Ontario; HIGMA—Howland's Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; SP—Sandy Pond; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park near Pulaski; S & VB—Sylvan and Verona Beaches, east end of Oneida Lake; TRCMA—Three Rivers Game Management Area near Baldwinsville; BBFS—B. P. Burt's feeder survey held the first week of Nov.

Observers: CA—C. Acland; DWA—D. W. Ackley; HHA—H. H. Aspinwall; J & BB—J. & B. Barker; JRB—J. R. Bart; VB—V. Billings; MEB—M. E. Bitz; GLC—G. L. Church; MLE—M. L. Estoff; EE—E. Evans; JRH—J. R. Haugh; WCL—W. C. Listman; DM—D. McIlroy; P & SP—P. & S. Paquette; DBP—D. B. Peakall; B & SP—B. & S. Peebles; JWP—J. W. Propst; MSR—M. S. Rusk; FGS—F. G. Scheider; RJS—R. J. Smith; CGS—C. G. Spies; SHS—S. H. Spofford; BS—B. Starr; IS—I. Stone; RT—R. Thomas; EV—E. VanDresar.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: first Sep 7, one Otisco L (BS)—early; max 33 (low) Oct 14, L Ontario. Red-throated Loon: singles Nov 10 SSSP (JWP) and Nov 20 Derby Hill (JWP, MLE)—only fall records. Red-necked Grebe: only report an imm Oct 14 Lakeview, L Ontario (RJS). Horned Grebe: first Oct 3 Derby Hill; max 370, Oct 14, L Ontario smacks of former fall flights. Pied-billed Grebe: max 12, Oct 28 Woodman's Pond near Hamilton (GLC) and ten Oct 21 HIGMA—low, max five at Beaver L, unusually low. Double-crested Cormorant: singles Sep 12 SP and Oct 13 and 17 Derby Hill (JRB, MLE, JWP); one found dead on Ontario shore Oct 17 (CGS, JRB). Great Blue Heron: max eight, Sep 17 Otisco L; very scarce on western half of Oneida L. Common Egret: one Sep 26 SP (GLC, R. Goodwin)—only report. Green Heron: max 20, Aug 24 Clay Swamp, singularly low after the high Jul—early Aug counts. *No Black-crowned Night Heron* reported this fall. Amer. Bittern: max two, Sep 30 SP.

Whistling Swan: seven Nov 13 FHBSP (JRH, MSR) and one Nov 14 Derby Hill—unusual in fall. Canada Goose: 700, Oct 4 Derby Hill; 2500 Oct 6, 1000 plus Oct 10, and 800 Oct 21 at HIGMA; max at Beaver L 700 plus Oct 2; no early Nov concentrations except 1000 plus Nov 13, HIGMA, probably residuals from the Oct flight. Brant: first, one Oct 3 Derby Hill (DWA, P & SP); a terrific late Oct flight with 9520 Oct 23 (MSR) and 3000 to 3500 Oct 24–26 (mob) at Derby Hill; 2500 Derby Hill and SSSP Oct 28 (WCL); last, 18 Nov 14 Mexico Pt (JWP, MLE); no reports away from L Ontario. Snow Goose: three Oct 23 Derby Hill (MSR) and 38 Nov 23 (high for so late) at SSSP (EE, MEB).

Mallard and Black Duck: 2200 and 1400 respectively Oct 30 HIGMA; 2000 plus Blacks Oct 10 HIGMA; very low counts in local marshes; max for Beaver L—200 Mallards and 300 Blacks Sep 27 (JWP)—not large; no Oneida L count of Blacks above 100, indicating how poor waterfowl conditions are there; 375 Mallards Nov 6, Otisco L (BS) and some 500 Mallards and 350 Blacks thru last half of Nov at Woodman's Pond (GLC) suggest an improvement of numbers with colder weather. Gadwall: max 340, Oct 30, HIGMA (FGS) is a Regional high; numerous local records of smaller numbers, e.g. 17 at FHBSP Nov 24, two Sep 25 SP. Pintail: very scarce (some observers saw *none* all fall); max 25, Oct 25 HIGMA; no L Ontario flight noted. Green-winged Teal: max 45 Oct 7 HIGMA; mostly ten-15/day (very poor). Blue-winged Teal: max 200 Sep 4–6, Oneida L (DWA); sharp decline in first week of Oct; last Nov 1, three, Woodman's Pond (GLC)—early. Amer. Widgeon: max 1000 plus, Oct 30 HIGMA; 150 at Beaver L Sep 27 and 335 at FHBSP Oct 24 but virtually absent from SP and Oneida L—why? Shoveler: max 70, Oct 30 HIGMA; very few elsewhere, even at FHBSP. Wood Duck: max 700 plus Sep 22 and 504 Oct 14, both Scott Swamp; 250, Oct 7 Clay Swamp; rather scarce at SP, max 34 Sep 18; last Nov 18, an injured female, Oneida L.

Redhead: max 110, Oct 21 HIGMA; unreported, Oneida L; Beaver L numbers very low (max 25, Oct 24). Ring-necked Duck: first Sep 28 Beaver L; max 560, Oct 7 Beaver L. Canvasback: very scarce; first Oct 17 Woodman's Pond (GLC); max 2000, Nov 14 Oneida L near Bridgeport—the flocks of 10–12,000 formerly reported there have been missing for seven years. Scaup: first major movement 750, Oct 3 Derby Hill; max 5200, Oct 23 SSSP and Derby Hill (MSR) and 3000, Oct 31 S & VB (MSR) seem good now but compared to 1954–57 figures are quite low. Common Goldeneye: first Oct 3 Derby Hill (early); max 525, Nov 10 SSSP to Derby Hill (JWP); heavy toll of this species and Brant taken by hunters along L Ontario. Oldsquaw: first and max 275 Oct 23 Derby Hill, part of a huge waterfowl flight dominated by Brant and scoters (MSR).

A very heavy flight of dark-winged scoters in late Oct, max 3350 (a phenomenal tally) Common Scoter—with some Surf Scoter—Oct 23 Derby Hill (MSR); 82 Surf Scoter, all imm or females, Oct 13, L Ontario (JWP) is a record high tally. Numerous counts of lesser numbers of both species along L Ontario, but unreported from Beaver L and just eight Common Scoters Oct 31 for the entire season on Oneida L. White-winged Scoter: first Oct 1 (late) SP; max 4700, Oct 23 Derby Hill (MSR), seven times previous high fall counts; smaller numbers on Onondaga L and Oneida L (GLC). Hooded Merganser: first, Sep 4 HIGMA; max 320 Nov 13 from FHBSP, HIGMA, Beaver L (JRH, MSR)—very good. Red-breasted Merganser: 2000 plus Oct 24, L Ontario shore—early for such numbers (FGS, RJS); max 4500 Oct 31 FHBSP to Oswego.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: last Oct 10 (late) Snake Swamp, Oswego Co. Goshawk: a spate of records, all from L Ontario shore; first Oct 13, two Derby Hill (JRH, JWP); a total of six observed, probably involving four birds. Cooper's Hawk: total for Region seven—Sep 30, Oct 4, 7, 28, Nov 8, 26, 28, 30 (EV, J & BB, FGS, VB); extremely scarce now, even in migration. No late Oct flights of Red-tailed Hawk noted despite increased watching along eastern end of L Ontario (JRH);

max eight, Nov 13 HIGMA and FHBSP, probably wintering birds. Rough-legged Hawk: first Oct 24 (late) one, Texas; 14–20 birds present in Texas-Port Ontario sector with lesser numbers of Red-tailed Hawks, Harriers, and Kestrels; elsewhere, only one-two/day in Nov. *No eagles* for entire period—a tragic decline. Marsh Hawk; a modest flight—ten, most imm, Oct 14 Beaver L area (FGS, RJS) and seven Oct 20 Derby Hill (JWP); 16 reported in Nov, in contrast to their absence last Nov. Osprey: first migrant Sep 9 SP; max 11 Sep 30 SP (MLE, JWP, DM, SHS)—excellent fall flight; last Oct 15 (early) two, Otisco L (R. Post). Peregrine Falcon: only report, one imm Sep 30 near SP (MLE, JWP); might this paucity of migrants portend a decline of Arctic birds similar to the disastrous decline of the Appalachian population? Merlin: only two reported, Sep 8 and 30; is this species going the way of the Peregrine? Sparrow Hawk: no fall flight detected along the SP dunes.

Ruffed Grouse: numbers in local woodlots up somewhat, max 12 Nov 15, SSSP to Mexico Pt (JWP). Sora: an imm Oct 27 Bolivar Swamp (MSR)—very late.

Shorebirds: see article in this issue.

Parasitic Jaeger: a remarkable count of 19, Oct 3 along with three POMARINE JAEGERs on a fierce 45 mph NW wind at Derby Hill (P & SP, DWA, FGS); one of each reported there Oct 13 and Oct 26 respectively (JWP); an unidentified jaeger seen there Oct 28 (WCL); unreported from SP. Great Black-backed Gull: first Aug 19 SP; no build-up in numbers (20+) until late Oct; max 70 Nov 21 SP (MSR). Along L Ontario 24 dead Herring and 135 dead Ring-billed Gulls collected Aug 21–22 (CGS, JRB) may be a result of rat-poisoning programs at lakeshore dumps. Ring-billed Gull: max 4000, Oct 3, jammed into Mexico Bay by NW gale. Bonaparte's Gull: max 100 Sep 12 S & VB (DWA) and 166 Nov 18 Oneida L—excellent counts for Oneida L; max L Ontario, 60, Oct 3, a result of the NW gale. BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: imm Derby Hill (FGS et al) and one imm SSSP (JWP, MLE) both Nov 14—the second observations this year but only the third in 11 years. Common Tern: very abundant; max on Oneida L 300 Sep 4 and 500 Sep 6, S & VB (DWA); max along L Ontario 700 plus Oct 3, Oswego to Derby Hill (P & SP, DWA); last Oct 14 (early) L Ontario. Caspian Tern: marked flight with 45 Sep 9 and 18, also 40 Sep 12—all SP inlet; two-five/day reported from Onondaga L (JWP) Aug 19–26.

Mourning Dove: widely reported, flocks seven-30/day Aug thru Oct; max 89, combined tally HIGMA, Beaver L, and TRGMA Oct 21; many records in Nov, probably due to scant snow cover and abundant weed seed crop. Screech Owl: markedly down; max seven for entire period; another victim of pesticides?—unreported from many known local sites (BS, JRH, JWP, FGS). Snowy Owl: first, one Nov 7 Onondaga L (Mary Woolley); singles reported thereafter from Onondaga L, Syracuse Airport and SP, involving just three birds. Barred Owl: reported repeatedly at a new station near Eaton Sep 22–Oct 11 (GLC). BOREAL OWL: one, Nov 21, Nine Mile Point, Oswego Co, (MSR)—second Regional record in four years. (Field note in May issue)

SWIFTS—STARLING: Nighthawk: max 85, Sep 5 Syracuse Airport—none reported thereafter. Chimney Swift: last Oct 6 (late) one, HIGMA (MSR). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 19, Sep 18, SP and SSSP; last Sep 24 (early) Catfish Creek (IS, RT). Belted Kingfisher: one-six/day Sep and Oct; many scattered reports into late Nov (mild weather). Yellow-shafted Flicker: flight in progress on Sep 9; max 140, Sep 18, SP and SSSP; rather scarce in Oct, max 20, Oct 10; many singles in Nov. Red-bellied Woodpecker: many scattered reports; appears to be increasing locally—new sites at Jack's Reef, Lysander, Beaver L; more at Fish Gulf near Amber (max three Oct 6, JWP); max five Oct 30 HIGMA, a regular station, no apparent increase on L Ontario shore. Eastern Kingbird: no high tallies in late Aug; last Sep 14, two, HIGMA. Eastern Phoebe: max 12 Sep 30 SP (DM, SHS); widely reported next ten days; last Nov 22 (late) one, Nine Mile Pt. (JWP). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: eight Sep 3–23, most from L Ontario woodlots. Eastern Wood Pewee: max

34, Sep 18, SP and SSSP; last Oct 2 (early) one, SSSP. Olive-sided Flycatcher: singles only, both Sep 9, Syracuse (MSR) and Fish Gulf (JWP). Horned Lark: flight period Oct 10–Nov 12, 35–150/day, majority on short-grass prairie at Syracuse Airport. The enormous swallow flights along the SP dunes were not observed this year; instead a reverse (i.e. northbound) migration Sep 16 of some 4500 Tree Swallows (DWA, CA, FGS) was the most notable feature. Barn Swallow: max roost 20,000 at Clay Swamp Aug 24 (DWP). Bank Swallow: max 1350 with 750 Barn Sep 5, SP dunes (MSR). Last dates: Tree–Oct 13, Derby Hill; Barn and Cliff–Sep 18 (very early) SP; Bank–Sep 30, SP; Purple Martin–Sep 18, SSSP.

Black-capped Chickadee: 60–75/day in Ontario lakeshore woods Sep 3–Oct 10; no late Oct flight detected; wintering numbers appear normal. Boreal Chickadee: one, Derby Hill in late Oct (Al Maley fide WCL); first reported (two+) in a mixed deciduous-coniferous woods near Westmoreland Nov 7 (B & SP), max 15–18 there Nov 11 with lesser numbers, three-eight/day, thru Nov 30; no others. Tufted Titmouse: singles, SP dunes Sep 25 (OAS field trip) and Phoenix Nov 20 (EE); reported from feeder and woodlots at Brewerton (R. Theisen, FGS) and Fulton (E. Little, E. Cook). Red-breasted Nuthatch: first migrants Sep 2, eight, SP dunes; this flight (four-12/day) virtually over by fourth week of Sep; reported in smaller numbers (two-ten/day) widely in coniferous plantations and woodlots (Westmoreland, Highland Forest, SSSP, Otisco area). Brown Creeper: first migrant Sep 11; peak of 20 Sep 26 to seven Oct 10.

Winter Wren: first fall, Sep 9, SSSP; max 17, Oct 10, SP dunes; many Nov records. Carolina Wren: one Sep 30 to late Nov at Oneida (P. Wayland Smith); singles Sep 14 Fish Gulf (JWP) and Oct 25 New Hartford (VB). Long-billed Marsh Wren: counts of 12–19/day, SP marshes in mid-Sep; last, Oct 10 (very early) at SP. Mockingbird: two (? three), Fayetteville (Mrs. W. Robertson) first week of Nov; one, Solvay, early Oct (McChesney); unreported elsewhere, probably because mild Nov weather and abundant berry crop kept birds away from feeders. No major movement of Catbird or Brown Thrasher detected; apparently the severe freeze of Nov 1–2 pushed the few tardy migrant mimids out; only one Brown Thrasher in Nov, at feeder (BBFS).

Amer. Robin: heavy protracted flight from mid-Sep (110–250/day) to Oct 20 (500 at Tully); early wave Aug 14–Sep 15 at Rome and Taberg (HHA); numerous small groups (two-12/flock) reported thru Nov. Hermit Thrush: first migrant Sep 10, Otisco L (BS); many early Oct reports with max 12, Oct 10, SP dunes and Derby Hill woods; one singing at Syracuse Nov 8. Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, Veery: an enormous flight the night of Sep 16–17 with thousands of Swainson's and Veeries and hundreds of Gray-cheeked/15-min at N Syracuse (CA, FGS) and Syracuse (JWP); on Sep 24, another huge flight 450/15-min, largely Gray-cheeked but including some Swainson's, at Syr (MSR); no ground counts or tower kills approached these numbers, but both Swainson's and Gray-cheeked were reported more frequently than usual; last Swainson's Oct 17 Kenwood, last Gray-cheeked Sep 27 (very early) N Syr. Bluebird: still *very scarce*, usually one-four/day, most records Sep 23–Oct 25; max 16 Aug 23 at Taberg (D. Lynes) probably represents flocking of locally reared birds.

Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets: very heavy lakeshore flight, 100 and 200 respectively Oct 8, 120 and 180 respectively Oct 26, all from SSSP and Derby Hill; Golden-crowned Kinglets quite scarce in Nov, averaging three-12/day. Water Pipit: heavy fall movement; first Sep 11, SP; 25–200/day at Syr Airport Oct 7–Nov 2; max 800, Oct 28 near Tully, "a confused mass of birds grounded by a hill-country snowstorm" (JWP); last Nov 5 (a bit early). BOHEMIAN WAXWING: one with flock of Cedar Waxwings and Pine Grosbeaks at Derby Hill Nov 10 (JWP)—only report this year. Cedar Waxwing: marked influx Sep 11–Oct 14 (20–200/day); smaller flocks (three-80) thru Nov with larger counts along L Ontario shore. Northern Shrike: first Oct 21, an imm, TRGMA somewhat early; some 25 plus

individuals recorded thereafter, the majority imm.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: Oct 8 (late) one, Derby Hill (JWP). Solitary Vireo: max four Sep 18, SP and SSSP; reported widely but in small numbers mid-Sep to early Oct. Philadelphia Vireo: 13 Sep 9–24, the majority in the great waves of Sep 17–20; one dead, Pompey TV tower Oct 8 (JRB)—very late. Warbling Vireo: one dead Oct 11, Pompey TV tower, a record late date (JRB).

The enormous amount of fall warbler data is summarized in the following table:

	<i>Arrival Date</i>	<i>Peak Date</i>	<i>Departure Date</i>
Black-and-white Tennessee	Aug 29, 1, SSSP	5, Sep 19, SP-SSSP	Oct 5, 1*, TV tower
Orange-crowned	Aug 19, 1 SP	14, Sep 18, SP-SSSP	Oct 2, 1, SSSP
	Sep 24, 1, Fish Gulf	4, Oct 7, Beaver L & TRGMA	Oct 10, 1, Derby Hill
Nashville	Aug 20, 1, SSSP	20, Sep 2, SP-SSSP; 20, Sep 17, Syr	Oct 11, 2*, TV tower
Parula	Aug 29, 1, SSSP	6, Sep 23, SSSP	Oct 10, 1, SP dunes
Yellow		45, Aug 26, SP dunes	Oct 2, 1, SP dunes
Magnolia	Aug 26, 2, SP	54, Sep 18, SP-SSSP	Oct 11, 1*, TV tower
Cape May	Sep 12, 1, Syr	2, Sep 17, Otisco L	Sep 18, 2, SP-SSSP
Black-thr. Blue	Aug 31, 1, Catfish Creek	2, Sep 12, 17, 18, SP & Delta L	Oct 17, 3*, TV tower
Myrtle	Sep 6, 1, Syr	48, Oct 14, Derby Hill HIGMA	Nov 17, 1, Hamilton
Black-thr. Green	Aug 29, 1, Syr	83, Sep 18, SP-SSP; 75, Sep 19, SSSP	Oct 10, 1, SP dunes
Blackburnian	Aug 26, 1, SP	7, Sep 18, SP-SSSP	Oct 6, 1, N Syr
Chestnut-sided	Aug 26, 3, SP	15, Sep 19, SSSP & Mexico Pt	Sep 24, 2, Fish Gulf
Bay-breasted	Aug 26, 3, SP	25, Sep 19, SSSP & Mexico Pt	Sep 30, 3*, TV tower
Blackpoll	Aug 26, 2, SP	47, Sep 18, SP-SSSP	Oct 3, 3*, TV tower
Palm	Sep 5, 2, SP	2, Sep 9, Fish Gulf; 2, Oct 21, Stevens Pond Ontario	Oct 24, 1**, Port
Ovenbird		6, Sep 12, Delta L	Sep 30, 1*, TV tower
N. Waterthrush	Aug 19, 1, SP	2, Aug 26, SP dunes	Oct 1, 1, Tully
Yellowthroat		30, Sep 18, SP-SSSP	Oct 21, 1, Beaver L
Wilson's	Aug 26, 1, SP	53, Sep 18, SP-SSSP	Oct 11, 2*, TV tower
Canada	Aug 27, 1, Syr	5, Sep 2, SP-SSSP	Sep 19, 1, SSSP
Redstart		8, Sep 20, Fish Gulf	mid-Nov, 1, Westvale

* freshly dead bird

** hypochrysea form

Most outstanding were the lack of clear-cut arrival waves, the concentration of the peak dates of most species on Sep 17–20, and the clustering of last dates around Oct 10–11, correlating with cold weather. The Redstart and Yellow Warbler departure dates are quite late. The scarcity of Cape May and Black-throated Blue Warblers and Redstarts stands out in contrast to the many high tallies of other species.

Golden-winged Warbler: one, Aug 26, SP dunes again—where do they come from? Connecticut Warbler: four individuals Sep 7–19, SP, SSSP, Fish Gulf; an adult male captured at TV tower Sep 7 (JRB). Hooded Warbler: reported first week of Sep, Derby Hill (JRH); Fish Gulf, Sep 17, one; Sep 18 and 19, two and one respectively, SSSP.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: one dead at Pompey TV tower Sep 30—somewhat late (JRB). Meadowlark: eight-15/day Oct 2–12 mainly from TRGMA and Beaver L area. The enormous Clay Swamp icterid roost held some 40,000 Red-winged Blackbirds 20,000 Grackles and 30,000 Starlings Oct 9; the huge flocks persisted until the Nov 1–2 freeze; many smaller flocks of black icterids remained until the heavy snowfall of Nov 15–16. Baltimore Oriole: one male, Nov 1, Mattydale is probably attempting to winter. Rusty Blackbird: first Sep 12, two, SP; counts of

60-75/day Oct 10-21; max 200, Oct 28, grounded by snow near Tully (cf. Water Pipit). Cardinal: increasingly common, now filling in gaps in range north of Syracuse and along L Ontario; max 20, Oct 28, Tully Farms Rd, probably local birds forced to road edges by snow.

First winter finch flight, Pine Siskins (Oct 6) and Evening Grosbeaks (Oct 7). Pine Siskin: 12-75/day with max 300, Oct 24 SSSP; Nov numbers much smaller. Evening Grosbeak: widely reported; 40-120 thru Oct and Nov (Utica, Oneida, Eaton, Derby Hill, Holland Patent, Syracuse). The Oct flight also included large numbers of Goldfinches with 75-150/day Sep 30-Oct 21, but Nov numbers were very low (one-30/day). Redpoll and White-winged Crossbill arrived on Oct 30. A large flight (750 plus) of Redpolls Nov 6 along L Ontario (MSR) was followed by many smaller groups throughout Region (Utica 300 on Nov 20, J & BB; Oneida 150 and 170, Nov 12 and 24 respectively, DWA, B & SP; Derby Hill 150 Nov 11). White-winged Crossbill: 30-250/day at Syracuse, Oneida (DWA, B & SP), Westmoreland (B & SP, J & BB), Eaton (GLC), Oneida L (DWA), and Cicero Swamp. The last to arrive were Pine Grosbeaks, Nov 6 at Westmoreland and Nov 8 at Derby Hill; max 45 Nov 11 (JRH) and 42 Nov 20 (JWP, MLE), both SSSP and Derby Hill; numerous reports of lesser numbers panregionally. Red Crossbill: singles only, Nov 8-9, Cicero Swamp.

The early-Oct sparrow flights peak counts clustered sharply Oct 7-14. Particularly productive were weed fields at TRGMA, Lysander, Beaver L, and marshy lands and brushy hedgerows along L Ontario at Derby Hill and Texas. Notable tallies: Oct 7-55 Vesper, 50 Field, 65 White-crowned, 250 White-throated, 25 Swamp and 180 Song, TRGMA to Beaver L; Oct 8-280 Junco, 140 White-crowned, 210 White-throated, 300 Song, TRGMA to Derby Hill; Oct 10-30 Savannah, 35 Vesper, 120 Junco, 225 Chipping, 65 Field, 65 White-crowned, 350 White-throated, 160 Swamp, 350 Song, Derby Hill, SSSP, and Drybridge Rd; Oct 14-30 Savannah, ten Vesper, 100 Junco, 80 White-crowned, 115 White-throated, Derby Hill, Beaver L, HIGMA; numbers dropped sharply in the next ten days but individuals and, in some cases, small flocks of Field, White-throated, Swamp, and Song Sparrows persisted until the severe freeze Nov 1-2. Tree Sparrow: late in arriving, Oct 21, four, Stevens Pond; astonishingly scarce, three-ten/day; max 50, Nov 13 HIGMA (MSR, JRH). Fox Sparrow: first Oct 2, Big Moose L (CA, DBP); counts quite low, one-five/day; unreported after mid-Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: first migrant Sep 14, one, Fish Gulf (JWP); some 26 individuals, one-four/day, most Sep 14-Oct 10. Lapland Longspur: first Oct 4, one, max 20 (excellent fall count) Nov 2, both Syracuse Airport. Snow Bunting: present in unusually large numbers; first Oct 14, two, Derby Hill; general arrival Oct 24, with flocks 35-600/day reported from Eaton, Derby Hill, SSSP, Syr Airport, SP, Oneida L, FHBSP, the majority in first half of Nov.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

DAVID C. GORDON

Rain fell on more than half the days during the reporting period to contrast greatly with a year ago when we were in the midst of a long drought. Rivers and creeks are running high, lake and pond margins have reverted to normal pre-drought levels. At Watertown, August rainfall was 3.41 in. above normal, September rainfall was slightly above normal, and in October it was .93 in. above normal. In early November there was more rain on several days. The first snowstorm on November 17th left four to six inches on the ground and by the 29th another four inches had fallen.