

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

Weatherwise the change of seasons came October 24. Generally clear and sunshiny before that date, overcast skies were the rule thereafter. Two heavy rains, September 6 and September 10-11 were largely responsible for the precipitation during the period being above normal. The first snow of the season fell October 26.

The early attention by Evening Grosbeaks to feeders where there is particularly persistent competition from a bumper crop of gray squirrels suggests that natural food crops are below normal. At least a few reports of most of the other "winter finch" species give promise of an interesting winter along those lines and Mockingbirds and Tufted Titmice also seem well represented.

Goshawks, Rough-legged Hawks and several of the winter owl species have already been reported. Three different Peregrine Falcon reports is decidedly unusual.

Observers: DB—Donald Bemont; LB—L. Bemont; LC—Mrs. Lynn Clark; NC—Binghamton Naturalists' Club; GC—Gail Corderman; MC—Mitchell Cubberly; A, MD—Anna and Marilyn Davis; W,LD—Warren and Louise Dean; CG—Clinton Gerould; CGo—Claire Gottschall; JAG—John A. Gustafson; MH—Mark Harris; VH—Virginia Hudson; FL—Florence Linaberry; M,DL—Margaret and Dwight Lynch; MM—Michael Moore; M,DR—Margery and Dorothy Rutbell; DS—Dorothy Sawyer; R,MS—Robert and Mary Sheffield; JS—James Shuler; AS—Anne Stratton; E,NW—Elizabeth and Newell Washburn; MW—Mildred White; R,SW—Ruth and Sally White; RW—Ruth Williams; SW—Stuart Wilson.

Abbreviations: Bing—Binghamton; Chen—Chenango; CC—Choconut Center; Pep Res—Pepacton Reservoir; WP—Whitney Point.

LOONS—DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one Nov 10 WP (M,DL). Green Heron: Oct 1 Owego (JS), a very late record. Black-crowned Night Heron: Aug 29 Newark Valley (M,DL). Canada Goose: six Sep 8 Bing (R,MS), the first migrants; first real numbers Sep 29 and continuing through Oct; last date Nov 8 Berkshire (M,DL). Snow Goose: one flock of 100 or more Nov 18 at Afton (Lee Stockton) taking off from river—at close range in light fog. Blue-winged Teal: Aug 18 Chen Bridge (R,MS); 40 Sep 16 Owego (RW,MW); Oct 22 Pep Res (LC), very late. Canvasback: Oct 12 Owego MW,CG). Lesser Scaup: Nov 10 WP (M,DL). Bufflehead: Oct 12 Owego (MW,CG); a dozen at Owego Nov 3 (LB,DB); Nov 10 WP (M,DL). Oldsquaw: one Oct 22 Pep Res (LC); 26 Nov 10 Owego (MW,CG). Common Scoter: 300 or more Oct 22 Pep Res (LC), in two closely bunched circulating flocks of about 150 each and another group of four—black with orange at base of bill of some and whitish cheek on others—larger groups so tightly bunched they looked like logs floating in the water until observed through glasses. Hooded Merganser: Nov 3 Berkshire (M,DL). Common Merganser: 33 Aug 23, max on Pep Res (MC); 26 Sep 26 on Cannonsville Reservoir.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: Sep 29 Owego (CG,MW). Goshawk: Oct 30 Oxford (AS); Nov 24, 27 and 28 CC (R,MS), an imm. Sharp-shinned Hawk: two reports. Cooper's Hawk: three reports. Red-tailed Hawk: at least 17 reports evenly distributed throughout the Region and the period. Red-shouldered Hawk: five reports, the last Oct 23. Broad-winged Hawk: Nov 17 Berkshire (M,DL), very late—carefully checked and watched picking up a mouse; no others after Sep 15. Rough-legged Hawk: Oct 22 Endicott (CG); also at Oxford in late Oct and mid Nov (AS). Bald Eagle: one adult at Andes along the Pep Res Aug 23 and again Nov 9; one at Newark Valley Aug 25 and at Berkshire Sep 2 (M,DL) and Owego Oct 5 (Raymond White). Marsh Hawk: seven reports from Sep 25 to Nov 9; also reported from Owego area during period. Osprey: Aug 26, Berkshire (M,DL) to Oct 26 at CC (R,MS); only six reports during the intervening period. Peregrine Falcon: one bird

Oct 5 and 6 a few miles west of Endicott (MM), cream white underparts with black marking, large falcon silhouette slate gray back and swift flight, but not moustaches seen at 20-25 yards; Oct 13 South Owego (MW,CG); one Nov 4 near Ludlow in Chen County (AS), "near crow size, long narrow pointed wings."

Common Gallinule: two adults and six young Sep 5 Chen Bridge (LB, William Sutliff, Robert M Smith). American Coot: Nov 5 Owego (MW,CG). Killdeer: flocks of migrants Nov 12 at Owego (RW) and six Nov 23 Homer (JAG) the only Nov reports within the Region although seen daily at Friendsville in nearby Penna all month (CGo). Common Snipe: Oct 20 last record from Sherburne (R,SW); at Friendsville Nov 10 (CGo). Solitary Sandpiper: one Sep 26 Cannonsville Dam (LC). Semi-palmated Sandpiper: two Sep, Sherburne (R,SW). Herring Gull: Oct 27 Endicott (MM), the first fall record, Bonaparte's Gull: two Nov 10 Owego (RW).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Sep 15 Newark Valley (W,LD). Black-billed Cuckoo: Sep 15 Owego (CG,MW). Screech Owl: Oct 1 Homer "an imm tried to come in kitchen window-sat on ledge looking in-banded" (JAG); heard fairly frequently in late Aug, less often in Sep and Oct and not at all in Nov. Snowy Owl: Nov 24 Berkshire (Mr. Leonard), the only one. Barred Owl: Nov 30 Owego (M,DR). Long-eared Owl: Sep 26 Endicott (MM); one Nov 6 Oxford (AS), shrill call, louder but suggestive of Great Crested Flycatcher, during daylight of a very dull day. Short-eared Owl: one Sep 21 Delhi (LC), heard; ten Nov 24 Berkshire (M,DL), and staying around.

GOATSUCKERS-STARLING: Common Nighthawk: 45 Sep 20 Bing (MH), last date and max for season. Pileated Woodpecker: nine reports in Bing area; also reported from Tioga Co. Red-headed Woodpecker: one adult Sep 1 Sherburne (R,SW); Sep 29 Berkshire (M,DL); mid-Oct at Polkville, near Norwich (via AS); Nov 6-17 at Friendsville (CGo). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 15 reports between Sep 28 and Oct 11; at Oxford as many as five at a time "just about ruined our young hybrid elm and a birch" between Sep 20 and 26 (AS). Eastern Kingbird: Sep 29 Owego (RW), the only Sep record. Great Crested Flycatcher: Sep 25 Nichols (VH), late. Eastern Phoebe: Oct 13 Vestal Center (E,NW). Olive-sided Flycatcher: Sep 12 Berkshire (D,ML). Tree Swallow: Oct 7 Newark Valley (M,DL). Bank Swallow: Sep 20 Owego (RW). Barn Swallow: Sep 10 Berkshire (M,DL). Cliff Swallow: Sep 2 Berkshire (M,DL). Purple Martin: Sep 1 Owego (RW).

Blue Jay: completely absent from a feeder for at least a month after feeding interrupted for two weeks (R,MS); at least no reports of overwhelming abundance as in the past few years. Black-capped Chickadee: "30 in one tree" Sep 23 Chen Forks (A,MD), possible migrants. Tufted Titmouse: "a number reported at feeders," Cortland (JAG); regular at feeders at Endwell from the last week of Sep (FL), and a few miles west of Endicott in Nov (MM); single reports from CC (R,MS) and Chen Forks (A,MD). Red-breasted Nuthatch: Sep 2 Speedsville (M,DL); also reported in Bing and Cortland areas; still at Vestal at end of period (GC). Brown Creeper: Nov 2 Endicott (MM), the first fall report. Winter Wren: Oct 3 Chen Forks (A,MD). Carolina Wren: Oct 27 Owego (MW). Mockingbird: Oct 20 CC (R,MS), first report in several months at station where they wintered and bred last season-still present at the end of Nov; one Sep 30 Oxford (AS) where also present through May; two Nov 5 and 6, Endwell (FL).

Catbird: one Nov 3 Apalachin (LB,DB). Robin: mostly gone after Oct 27 but the usual small numbers present in Nov. Wood Thrush: Oct 5 Unadilla (DS). Hermit Thrush: Sep 29 Endwell (NC); Nov 2 Deposit (SW); three reports in intervening period. Swainson's Thrush: Sep 15 Chen Forks (A,MD); two Oct 5 west of Endicott (MM); one other report. Gray-cheeked Thrush: Sep 29, Endwell (NC), the only date-banded. Veery: Oct 12 Berkshire (M,DL), late. Golden-crowned Kinglet: Sep 29 arrived in good numbers at both Endwell and Owego and reported more frequently than usual since. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Sep 20 Unadilla (DS). Water Pipit: Oct 9-30 at Berkshire (M,DL); Oct 14 Delhi (LC). Northern Shrike: Oct 27

Richford (M,DL); three later reports. Loggerhead Shrike: Nov 10 and 11, Friendsville (CGo).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: one Sep 15 Norwich (R,SW), singing. Solitary Vireo: Oct 12 Chen Forks (A,MD). Red-eyed Vireo: Oct 8 Nichols (VH). Philadelphia Vireo: Sep 22 Bing (MH); one banded at Friendsville Sep 25 (CGo). Warbling Vireo: Sep 24 Owego (MW).

Warblers: Black-and-white: Oct 1 Owego (RW). Worm-eating: Sep 8 Owego (M,DR). Orange-crowned: Sep 23 Bing (MH). Nashville: Oct 5, CC (MS). Parula: Sep 10 Berkshire (M,DL); Sep 22 Bing (MH). Magnolia: 17 banded at Friendsville, the latest Oct 1 (CGo). Black-throated Blue: four banded at Friendsville (CGo) and seven sight records, the last Oct 13 Oxford (AS). Myrtle: numerous reports from Sep 20 to Oct 28. Pine: Sep 30 Owego (MW). Prairie: Sep 8 Owego (M,DR); Nov 6-13 at Woodbourne Forest in nearby Penna. (Gardner Griffin), tail wagging, side stripes and dark neck mark particularly noted from within six feet through a window; no previous fall records from Region. Palm: Sep 11 and 20, Bing (MH). Northern Waterthrush: Aug 29 WP (M,DL). Mourning Warbler: one banded at Friendsville Sep 20 (CGo). Yellowthroat: frequent reports through Oct 20. Wilson's Warbler: three reports from Sep 3 to Sep 21, Bing (MH); Sep 18 and 19, Delhi (LC). American Redstart: Sep 24, Bing (MH).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Red-winged Blackbird: very few after Oct 13. Baltimore Oriole: Sep 3 Berkshire (M,DL). Rusty Blackbird: Oct 5 Berkshire (M,DL); Nov 22 to end of period, Andes (MC). Scarlet Tanager: Sep 24 Chen Forks (A,MD). Cardinal: continues to increase in numbers in the Bing area; three Oct 14 outside Delhi where they are still unusual (LC); at Conklin Forks, near Bing, a nest containing eggs in early Sep successfully produced fledged young (Paul Kalka). Indigo Bunting: Oct 8 Berkshire (M,DL), late. Evening Grosbeak: Oct 25 Berkshire (M,DL), the first of a sudden influx that produced numerous reports of flocks, sometimes numbering in the hundreds, and visiting feeders almost immediately rather than using up natural food supplies first as they usually do—still reported frequently but numbers decidedly lower by the end of the month. Purple Finch: small numbers from mid-Sep. Pine Grosbeak: one killed at window in Cortlandville Nov 30 (Mrs. Cruver), the only report. Common Redpoll: Nov 12 Newark Valley (W,LD). Pine Siskin: 12 Oct 13, Bing (Arthur Levy); five later reports. American Goldfinch: common all period. Slate-colored Junco: Sep 29 Endwell (NC) and Owego (RW), the first migrants. Tree Sparrow: Oct 23 Berkshire (M,DL), the first. Chipping Sparrow: Nov 14 Berkshire (M,DL), the last report. White-crowned Sparrow: Sep 26 to Oct 29; Nov 24 Newark Valley (W,LD), the only later report. White-throated Sparrow: Sep 18 Endwell (M,DR), the first. Fox Sparrow: Oct 15 Nichols (VH). Lincoln's Sparrow: three Sep 21 Bing (MH); one Oct 5 CC (R,MS). Snow Bunting: Oct 26 Berkshire (M,DL), the first; 50 max Nov 10, CC (R,MS).

710 University Ave., Endwell, N.Y., 13760

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

M.S. RUSK AND F.G. SCHEIDER

August was hot and wet with few small landbird migrants in evidence. September had mostly warm days and south winds and, though one could find groups of vireos, warblers, and flycatchers, strong flight days were few—notably Sep 14, Sep 18-19, Sep 26, Sep 29. This last date had a major small landbird migration grounded on the Sandy Pond dunes and certain species, particularly wrens and thrushes (q.v.), were everywhere. Because of high water throughout and consequent lack of habitat, shorebirding thru this month was somewhat dull; additional scolopacine habitat did not develop until late October, far too late for most migrant shorebirds.