

second half Oct to first week Nov; for example. WMG had more than 50 in his yard in Hornell Oct 15-20. Black-throated Green: last Oct 8 (DBP). Chestnut-sided: scarce, 2 Sep 3 (DBP). Connecticut and Mourning: 1 each banded Sep 25 Penn Yan (ML); only reports. Few reports of Palm Warblers this fall. Yellowthroat: last Oct 8 (DBP). Redstart: last Sep 3 (DBP).

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: last Sep 15 Ithaca (DBP). Eastern Meadowlark: a few lingering to end of period; 14 Nov 21 nr Logan (JB). Red-winged Blackbirds: high water at Keuka may have been reason for smaller flock of this species. Orchard Oriole: Sep 2 last date for the pair that has bred at Hannan residence, Ithaca. Rusty Blackbird: noted from Oct 14 to end of period. Scarlet Tanager: none in fall migration at Hornell (WMG); numbers normal at Ithaca; sev. still present Sep 30 Etna. Cardinal: while reported on increase most areas, have decreased at Hornell, though this may be seasonal. Evening Grosbeak: first Oct 5 Ithaca (F. Marcham); by late Oct fairly numerous reports; by end of Nov coming to feeders. Purple Finch: almost no reports. **HOUSE FINCH:** first for area, 1 Sep 8-Oct 26 Walsh feeder Elmira (WH and mob). Pine Grosbeak: two reports only, 12 Nov 4 on Newtown Rd nr Watkins (fide JBr); 4 Nov 11 Waterloo (JW). Common Redpoll: scattered reports Watkins Glen, flocks of 100 or more Nov 23 at Keuka and at Geneva. Pine Siskin: hundreds, first week Oct along Cay L (RW); abundant MNWR (CH) and Tompkins County (PMK); a few at Keuka (FG); "unbelievably early (mid-August) and in large numbers later" around Watkins Glen (JBr), feeding mainly on arbor vitae; numbers smaller by end of Nov. Red Crossbill: a number of reports, earliest being 2 on Sep 2 (JBr). White-winged Crossbill: only definite report 2 Nov 2 Keuka (FG); probably others. Rufous-sided Towhee: more late Nov reports than usual. Savannah Sparrow: last Oct 5 MNWR (WEB). Vesper Sparrow: last Nov 5 Watkins (JBr). Tree Sparrow: first arrivals late Oct. Chipping Sparrow: scattered reports into Nov; 1 imm Nov 21 at feeder Etna. White-crowned Sparrow: present Oct 2-Nov 1, max 30 Oct 14 (DBP), 5 banded Oct 25 (JJT). White-throated Sparrow: normal numbers in migration; a few still present late Nov. Fox Sparrow: only scattered reports, 1 to end of period Hornell (WG). Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 Sep 15 Warren Rd ponds (DBP); 1 Oct 13 Game Farm Road Ithaca (MS). Swamp Sparrow: last Oct 29 MNWR (WEB). Lapland Longspur: 1 Nov 7 Elmira (WH). Snow Buntings: first Oct 23 MNWR (CH) and Oct 31 Elmira (WH), several Nov reports of flocks.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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Temperatures were generally mild until October 22 when the first widespread sub-freezing temperatures were recorded and the first snowfall occurred. There was thunderstorm activity September 5 and 6, October 3 and October 20. November was on the cold side and brought several significant snowfalls.

There was a nice influx of Rough-legged Hawks and a few Northern Shrikes but no reports of northern owls so far. Every "winter finch" species was reported, some in appreciable, if not large, numbers. Pine Siskins and possibly the main body of some of the other species seemed to pass right on through. Some observers suggest that a poor cone and seed crop was simply too scanty to hold them.

Rarities include a Harris' Sparrow, a Peregrine Falcon, a Caspian Tern, a Northern Phalarope, a Dickcissel and four Boreal Chickadees.

Place name abbreviations: Bing—Binghamton; CF—Chenango Forks; EB—East Branch, in Delaware County; NV—Newark Valley; Skan L—Skaneateles Lake; WP—Whitney Point.

Observers initials: DB—Don Bemont; LB—Les Bemont; MB—Margaret Bowman; LC—Mrs. Lynn Clark; A,MD—Anna and Marilyn Davis; C,JD—Carleton and Jeanne Davis; W,LD—Warren and Louise Dean; CG—Clinton Gerould; JAG—John A. Gustafson; MH—Mark Harris; VH—Virginia Hudson; RK—Richard Kaskan; DL—Dwight Lynch; HM—Harriet Marsi; MS—Mary Sheffield; GS—Gerald Smith; AS—Anne Stratton; DW—Don Weber; CW—Cora Wellman; MW—Mildred White; R,SW—Ruth and Sally White; KW—Kathryn Wilson; SW—Stuart Wilson.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: Nov 20 WP (ML,DL) and 6 earlier reports around Region. Horned Grebe: Oct 3 and Nov 30 Owego (MW), no others. Pied-billed Grebe: 8 Oct 2 Milford, north of Oneonta, (CW), max; 4 other reports. Great Blue Heron: 1 Nov 25 Cortland (A. Morey), the only one after Oct 23. Green Heron: 1 Oct 3 Milford CW). Canada Goose: bulk of migration between Oct 4 and Oct 21; 60 still at Nichols Nov 30 (VH). Brant: "Sep 25 flying over Richford" (ML); Oct 21 Norwich (MH); 2 Nov 9 Owego (ML,MW). Blue-winged Teal: 26 Sep 22 Owego (CG,MW). Ring-necked Duck: 1 Nov 23 WP (MS). Canvasback: Oct 21 and 22 Owego (ML,DL). Bufflehead: 1 Oct 18 Pepacton Reservoir (MB); Nov 20 Owego (ML,DL); 2 other reports. Oldsquaw: Oct 24 Owego (ML,DL); 12 Nov 23 Skan L (GS); 3 other reports. White-winged Scoter: Nov 15 Owego (MW, CG); Nov 21 WP (ML,DL). Ruddy Duck: Sep 22 Owego (MW,VH). Hooded Merganser: several reports from Nov 16 on. Common Merganser: 8 Sep 1 WP (MS); 16 Sep 19 at EB (MB); wintering birds from Nov 16.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 9 Sep 21 EB (MB); Oct 20 South Owego (CG). Goshawk: 1 Nov 17 Milford (CW). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 5 reports, at least 6 birds. Cooper's Hawk: 3 reports, at least 5 birds. Red-tailed Hawk: 26 reports, 41 individuals. Red-shouldered Hawks: 3 Sep 26 Milford (CW), the only reports. Broad-winged Hawk: 900 Sep 13 Owego (Ruth Williams) and 297 Sep 18 Milford (CW) the best counts; last date Sep 30 Nichols (VH). Rough-legged Hawk: 1 Oct 22 Oxford (AS); 11 more reports by the end of the period. Bald Eagle: 1 Aug 19 Deposit (SW). Marsh Hawk: 2 Sep 18 and 2 Oct 13 Milford (CW); 3 Nov reports, to the 13th, from Tioga County. Osprey: Sep 5 NV (W,LD) to Oct 13 Vestal Center (Elizabeth and Newell Washburn) with 7 additional reports between those dates. Peregrine Falcon: 1 Sep 7 Ingraham Hill south of Bing (Claude Howard). Pigeon Hawk: 1 Nov 28 Oneonta (Mrs. Gerald Wright), no details. Sparrow Hawk: quite numerous to end of period. Ruffed Grouse: "very scarce" at Candor (DW). Turkey: Sep 2 Berkshire (Edgar Leonard); during Sep Nichols (James Blyler). Virginia Rail: 1 Sep 15 a few miles west of Endicott (Michael Moore). Killdeer: Nov 13 NV (ML,DL). Woodcock: "lingered until at least Nov 9" Candor (DW). Common Snipe: 2 Sep 7 Sherburne (R,SW); Oct 21 Nichols (ML). Upland Plover: Sep 25 Berkshire (ML,DL). Spotted Sandpiper: 25 Sep 8 EB (MB). Solitary Sandpiper: Sep 30 Greene (C,JD). Greater Yellowlegs: 4 Nov 4 Vestal (RK); frequent reports, particularly during the last week of Oct. Least Sandpiper: 2 Sep 7 Sherburne (R,SW). Northern Phalarope: 2 Aug 26 Owego (MW,CG), no details. Herring Gull: Oct 13 CF (A,MD), the first fall report; regular after Oct 26; best counts 150 Nov 23 WP (MS) and 40 Homer Nov 15 (JAG). Ring-billed Gull: 9 Nov 23 Skan L (GS). Common Tern: 2 Aug 24 Skan L (GS); 1 Sep 7 Endwell (LB,DB). Caspian Tern: 1 Aug 24 Skan L (GS), "large size, bill and cap noted—compared with common tern—flight and sitting." Mourning Dove: 10 still at Sherburne Nov 23 (R,SW). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Sep 1 Berkshire (ML,DL). Screech Owl: reported at Candor, Owego, Milford, Oxford and in the Triple Cities area. Barred Owl: 1 Sep 7 and another Oct 20 Milford (CW); Sep 21 Berkshire (ML, DL); Oct 15 Gilbert State Park (KW). Saw-whet Owl: 1 Sep 15 Candor (DW).

GOATSUCKERS—SHRIKES: Chimney Swift: last reported Sep 16 (LB,DB). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 1 Sep 30 Oxford (AS). Pileated Woodpecker: 11 reports. Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 Sep 17 Richford (ML,DL). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 3 Sep 5 to 25 Oxford (AS), "they really bother our hybrid elm." Eastern Kingbird: Sep 13 NV (ML,DL), the last. Great Crested Flycatcher: Sep 14 Delhi (LC). Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 Sep 8 Milford (CW), the last of 3 reports. Tree Swallow: Sep 12 CF (A, MD). Barn Swallow: Sep 23 Berkshire (ML,DL). Cliff Swallow: Aug 26 Greene (C,JD). Blue Jay: numbers apparently back to normal after being so low last winter. Common Crow: 78 Nov 23 Skan L (GS); 90 Nov 24 Homer (JAG). Boreal Chickadee: 3 Nov 28 State Forest at Cortland (MH); one banded at Bing earlier in Nov (HM). Tufted Titmouse: regular at least 3 feeders in the Triple Cities area; 1 Sep 19, 20 and 21 EB (MB). Red-breasted Nuthatch: 2 Sep 15 EB (MB); present in moderate numbers thru Oct and in lesser numbers in Nov. Winter Wren: Sep 29 CF (A,MD); fairly frequent reports thru Oct 25, none after Nov 11. Carolina Wren: "all period" Owego (MW). Mockingbird: regularly seen in 2 Triple Cities locations; Nov 25 Blodgett Mills (Mrs. Langdon), during Nov in Cortland (L. Buttino) and McGraw (Horak), all in Cortland County. Catbird: 1 Oct 13 EB (MB), the last of normal migrants; Nov 1 Owego (MW). Brown Thrasher: Nov 16 WP (ML,DL). Robin: for the most part gone after Nov 10. Wood Thrush: Oct 4 CF (A,MD). Hermit Thrush: Nov 15 Vestal (RK), the only report after Oct 24. Swainson's Thrush: heard migrating at night Oct 3 (MS). Veery: Sep 17 Berkshire (ML,DL). Eastern Bluebird: Nov 24 McGraw (M.Card), the second of only 2 reports after Oct 26. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Sep 30 NV (W,LD), the only fall record. Golden-crowned Kinglet: Sep 30 NV (W,LD), the first. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Sep 20 Choconut Center, a couple of miles north of Johnson City, (MS); numerous all during Oct. Water Pipit: Oct 23 Berkshire (ML,DL). Northern Shrike: Nov 4 Candor (DW), the first of three records.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: Sep 21 CF (A,MD) and Owego (MW). Solitary Vireo: 1 Oct 19 EB (MB). Red-eyed Vireo: 1 Oct 9 EB (MB); about 50 banded at Bing in Sep, all immatures (HM). Philadelphia Vireo: 1 banded Sep 12 Bing (HM); 2 Sep 30 EB (MB). Warbling Vireo: 1 singing Sep 26 Milford (CW), the last. Blue-winged Warbler: 1 Sep 17 EB (MB). Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 Sep 29 banded at Bing (HM). Yellow Warbler: Sep 30 NV (W,LD). Magnolia Warbler: Oct 20 Oneonta (KW). Cape May Warbler: 1 Sep 26 Milford (CW). Black-throated Blue Warbler: 1 Oct 3 Oxford (AS). Myrtle Warbler: Sep 19 NV (W,LD) to Nov 26 Friendsville in nearby Pennsylvania (Claire Gottschall); seemed to be everywhere in mid Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: 3 Oct 13 EB (MB). Blackburnian Warbler: 1 singing Oct 2 EB (MB). Chestnut-sided Warbler: 1 Sep 28 EB (MB) MB). Bay-breasted Warbler: Sep 16 CF (A,MD). Blackpoll Warbler: 1 Oct 9 EB (MB). Pine Warbler: 1 Sep 16 EB (MB), the only one. Palm Warbler: Sep 14 Owego (MW), the first: 1 Oct 20 EB (MB), the last; 6 other reports. Ovenbird: 4 Oct 23 CF (A,MD). Northern Waterthrush: 1 Sep 24 Milford (CW). Yellowthroat: 1 Oct 13 EB (MB). Wilson's Warbler: Sep 30 CF (A,MD), the last of 7 reports. Canada Warbler: 1 banded Sep 5 Bing (HM). American Redstart: 1 Oct 12 EB (MB), late.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: Sep 23 Berkshire (ML,DL), late. Eastern Meadowlark: 3 still at Cortland Nov 30 (Connie Wilkins). Baltimore Oriole: Sep 28 Berkshire (ML,DL). Rusty Blackbird: 30-40 Oct 10 Berkshire (ML, DL) to Oct 30. Scarlet Tanager: Oct 31 Owego (MW). Cardinal: male feeding 2 young Oct 2 and 3 Oxford (AS). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 1 Oct 3 EB (MB); numerous migrants. Indigo Bunting: Oct 13 NV (W,LD). Dickcissel: 1 Nov 28 Cortland (A. Morey), at feeder. Evening Grosbeak: Oct 20 Homer (Mrs. Forrest Wills); fairly frequent reports throughout the Region after Nov 6, but not really abundant. Purple Finch: Sep 19 banded at Bing (HM); "daily transients with max of 7 on Oct 6" EB (MB), written Oct 29; none at Deposit to Nov 30 (SW). Pine Grosbeak: Oct 20 Cortland

(JAG); 3 Nov reports. Common Redpoll: 40-50 Nov 15 Oxford (AS); frequent reports to the end of the period. Pine Siskin: 5 Oct 8 EB (MB); 75 Oct 15 Milford (CW), max; no more after Oct 21 but reported from most parts of the Region by then. Red Crossbill: 1 banded Nov 6 near Bing (Paul Kalka); 2 other reports before Nov 30. White-winged Crossbill: Nov 6 Deposit (SW), heard flocks; 2 other Nov reports. Rufous-sided Towhee: 1 still at Oneonta (KW) and another at Cortland (C. R. Shultes) Nov 25. Slate-colored Junco: Sep 15 Greene (CJD); 30 Sep 28 EB (MB); by the hundreds during the latter half of Oct and during Nov. Tree Sparrow: Oct 20 Endwell (Florence Linaberry); regular from Oct 30. Chipping Sparrow: Nov 12 Oneonta (Mrs. Gerald Wright), the only report after Oct 30 Harris' Sparrow: 1 Oct 4 Candor (DW), "light colored bill conspicuous against the blackish face. The bib was black as was the top of the head. Just nicely separate from the bib and back a little along the sides were patches of blackish streaks on the light breast and flanks. — The black face so obscured the eyes they appeared absent." White-crowned Sparrow: 4 Oct 5 Vestal (RK) to Oct 29 Oxford (AS) delimit the main body of migrants; 2 Sep and 3 Nov reports. White-throated Sparrow: an immature and sickly looking sparrow that had been present at the feeders near CF since Jun was finally recognized when it developed a white throat and the yellow spots ahead of each eye in Sep (A,MD); migrants Sep 17 at EB (MB). Fox Sparrow: 1 Oct 19 EB (MB); quite numerous but mostly gone by Nov 20. Lincoln's Sparrow: Sep 20 Berkshire (ML,DL), first and Oct 12 Endicott (Michael Moore) the last; 8 reports altogether, an unusually high number, and twice they were heard singing. Snow Bunting: Oct 28, NV (ML,DL); 3 Nov reports from Cortland and the Triple Cities area.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Dry in August, dry in September, dry in October — the driest August on record, and one of the driest autumns in years. Grass browned to pale, withered blades, marshes dried to the rusty tone of late October, mudflats became progressively bigger each day, and autumn leaves were generally poor in color and fast in falling. Insect life was scarcely detectable and never bothersome, as it often can be, to late August thru mid-September birding. Warm dry days with south and southwest winds made for a leisurely, waveless migration, and concentrations of landbirds were conspicuously absent; even in late September and early October waves of sparrows and kinglets were unimpressive, and small but steady daily movements of icterids, finches, and sparrows seemed to be the rule. A burst of fierce northwest winds, cold weather, and snow on October 21-23 triggered a tremendous push of Brant and other waterfowl with lesser numbers of late shorebirds and gulls. After this bout, November seemed mild, open, dry, and affable. Heavy ground snow, the best November trigger to force out the icterids, did not occur until November 20-22. Weather thereafter was more typically wet, cold, and nasty.

Moderate cone crops locally may hold some of the many winter finches reported, and the heavy berry crop, particularly Mountain Ash, Highbush Cranberry, and Black Haw, may induce half-hardies to linger in greater numbers.

Positives for the season include: 1) increased sightings of Double-crested Cormorant; 2) excellent Green Heron counts; 3) a spectacular Brant flight (q.v.); 4) an increase in numbers of both Oldsquaw and Ruddy Duck; 5) a minor irruption of Goshawk; 6) an excellent variety of shorebirds with above average numbers for most species; 7) an outstanding flight of Red Phalarope; 8) numerous sightings of jaegers and a variety of rare gulls (q.v.); 9) irruptions of Boreal Chickadee and