

Philadelphia Vireo: 17 banded by Lerch PY; singles Ithaca Oct. 3 and 19. Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 banded PY by Lerch. Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll and Canada were the most frequently reported warblers. N. Waterthrush: 1 Reeder's Creek Sept. 5; 1 Ithaca Sept. 9. Com. Yellowthroat: some observers felt that numbers were down.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: scarce. N. Oriole: 1 Elmira eating grapes Nov. 2. Rusty Blackbird: Lerch banded but 1 at PY; many MNWR Nov. 2. Brown-headed Cowbird: 700 MNWR Sept. 5. Evening Grosbeak: 8 flying over Odessa Nov. 29; a few in Elmira. Purple Finch: a few at Ithaca and Elmira feeders. House Finch: at 3 PY feeders; Ithaca feeder numbers down; at 3 feeders, one with 12-15 birds, in Watkins Glen. Com. Redpoll: 1 at feeder Elmira Nov. 4. Pine Siskin: 2 Ithaca Oct. 16. Am. Goldfinch: flocks up to 100. Red Crossbill: 1 at feeder Odessa Nov. 29.

Sparrows: Savannah: only 6 reports. Vesper: 1 MNWR Oct. 4 only report. Dark-eyed Junco: good migration. Tree Sparrow: first Nov. 4 Clyde; good numbers but mostly singles or small flocks. White-crowned: first Ithaca Oct. 2; immature banded PY Nov. 29. White-throated: Sept. 18 thru; good movement. Fox: 1 Reeder's Creek Seneca Co. Oct. 17; 1 Clifton Springs Oct. 23. Lincoln's: 1 MNWR Sept. 1 a month early; 1 Ithaca Oct. 3. Snow Bunting: first MNWR Oct. 18, sighted at Clifton Springs, Myers Pt. and a max of 100 at Lowman Nov. 21 (Kay Fudge).

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REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

ELIZABETH WASHBURN for LESLIE BEMONT

Fall was progressively colder than normal, from 1.6° C (3° F) lower in September to 4° C (7° F) in November, just opposite from the fall of 1975. Precipitation was higher than normal in September and October, with heavy rain on the 9th contributing most of the excess 8.4 cm. (3.3 in.) that fell in October. November was a bit drier than usual, with 2.5 cm. (1 in.) below normal, and only occasional light snowfalls until late in the month. However, there was no noticeable early influx of northern birds as a result of the wintry weather. Unusual species for the period were: Black Scoter, Short-billed Dowitcher, Barred Owl and Long-eared Owl.

Observers: Leslie Bemont (LB), Mildred Clark (MC), Gail Corderman (GC), Anna and Marilyn Davis (A,MD), Mary Dobinsky (MD), Sadie Dorber (SD), Elva Hawken (EH), Claude Howard (CH), Cindy Kirch (CK), Margaret Layton, Robert Leahy, Arthur Levy (AL), Rick Marsi (RM), Leona McDowell (LM), E. McVinney (EM), Kay Perkins (KP), Mary Sheffield (MS), Elizabeth Washburn (EW), Cora Wellman (CW), Beryl Wilson, Kathryn Wilson (KW), Irene Wright (IW), "Weed Walkers" (WW).

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 Goodyear Lake Oct. 22 (IW); 2 Otsego Lake Nov. 14 (MD,KW). Red-necked Grebe: 1 Milford Sept. 18 (MD,CW). Pied-billed Grebe: several. Green Heron: last report Oct. 2. Whistling Swan: 1 Portlandville Nov. 27 (MD,KW). Canada Goose: 25 Greenwood Park (RM); 49 Whitney Point (MS), last report. Green-winged Teal: 1 Milford Pond Nov. 27 (MD,KW), last report. Canvasback: Whitney Point Nov. 20 (A,MD). Bufflehead: Whitney Point Nov. 13 (A,MD). Oldsquaw: 4 Whitney Point Oct. 27 (WW). BLACK SCOTER: 14 Goodyear Lake Oct. 11 (IW). Common Merganser: Whitney Point Nov. 13 (A,MD). Red-breasted Merganser: many Whitney Point Oct. 27 (WW).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: 19 Delhi Oct. 10-18 (MC); 19 Meredith Oct. 10 (IW) prob same ones. 3 Otsego Co. Nov. 29 (MD,KW). Cooper's Hawk: 3 Otsego Co. (MD, CW). Red-tailed Hawk: scattered reports thruout period. Broad-winged Hawk: 2 Otsego Co. Sept. 11 only report (MD,CW,KW). Rough-legged Hawk: 1 Otsego Co. Nov. 20 only report (MD,KW). Osprey: 7 reports from late Aug. to Oct. 9, all but 1 in Otsego Co. Am. Coot: 1 Otsego Lake Nov. 14 only report (MD,KW). Killdeer: Otsego Lake Nov. 14 last report (MD,KW). Am. Woodcock: 1 banded Vestal Sept. 30 (EH); Otsego Co. Oct. 25 (MC). Common Snipe: several; 1 Milford Pond Nov. 27 last report (MD,KW). Greater Yellowlegs: 2 Greenwood Park Oct. 14-Nov. 6 (RM). **SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER:** 5 Greenwood Park Oct. 17 and 25 (RM). Pectoral Sandpiper: 6 Milford Oct. 23 (MD,KW); 1 Greenwood Park Nov. 2 (RM). Dunlin: 5 Milford Oct. 23 (MD,KW); 6 Greenwood Park Nov. 2 (RM). Ring-billed Gull: 29 Whitney Point Oct. 17 (MS); 50 Otsego Lake Nov. 14 (MD,KW).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 Vestal Center Aug. 26 (EW); 1 Vestal Center Sept. 13 (SD). Screech Owl: 5 reports. Great Horned Owl: 5 reports. **BARRED OWL:** 1 heard Delhi Oct. 10-Nov. 20 (MC). **LONG-EARED OWL:** 1 Inghram Hill Nov. 21-28 (CH). Com. Nighthawk: Sept. 12 last date. Chimney Swift: Chenango Forks regularly to Sept. 8 (A,MD). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Sept. 23 last report. Common Flicker: Nov. 15 last report. Pileated Woodpecker: 3 reports.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Eastern Kingbird: 7 reports. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: several reports, last Sept. 19. *Empidonax* (sp?): 1 Delhi Sept. 28 (MC). Least Flycatcher: Sept. 15 last report. E. Wood Pewee: Sept. 27 last report. Horned Lark: 20 Delhi Nov. 11 (LM); 18 Milford Nov. 13 (MD,KW). Rough-winged Swallow: 18 Otsego Co. Sept. 4 (MD, CW,KW). Barn Swallow: Sept. 11 last report. Tufted Titmouse: 12 reports, mostly in Endicott-Vestal area. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 13 reports. Brown Creeper: 11 reports. House Wren: Oct. 10 last report. Winter Wren: 1 Delhi Oct. 17 (MC); 1 Vestal Oct. 30 (GC). Carolina Wren: 1 Portlandville Oct. 30 (MD,KW); 2 Vestal Oct. 30 (GC); 1 Endwell Nov. 6 (LB); 1 Oneonta Nov. 18 (IW); 1 Delhi Nov. 9-27 (EM); 2 Port Dickinson Nov. 29 (KP). Mockingbird: thruout region thruout period. Gray Catbird: Oct. 10 last report. Hermit Thrush: 6 reports. Swainson's Thrush: many reports Sept. 5-Oct. 5; Oneonta Nov. 6 last report (IW). Gray-cheeked Thrush: 3 Vestal Sept. 20 and Sept. 30, Oct. 5, all banded (EH). Veery: 4 reports. E. Bluebird: 7 reports, last Oct. 16. Golden-crowned Kinglet: many reports to Nov. 12. Water Pipit: 30 Delhi Oct. 10 (MC); 8 Greenwood Park Oct. 14, 6 Oct. 17 (RM); 40 Milford Oct. 23 (MD,KW); 20 Milford Oct. 30 (MD,KW). Cedar Waxwing: several small flocks during period. Northern Shrike: 1 Milford Nov. 6 (MD,KW). Starling: 300+ Milford Oct. 23 (MD,KW).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: Chenango Forks to Sept. 21 (A,MD). Solitary Vireo: 8 reports. Red-eyed Vireo: Oct. 10 last report. Philadelphia Vireo: 5 reports. Warbling Vireo: 2 reports. Tennessee Warbler: many reports to Oct. 5. Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 banded Vestal Oct. 10 (EH). Nashville Warbler: many reports to Oct. 10. N. Parula: 1 Milford Sept. 4 (MD,KW); 1 Crumhorn Lake Sept. 25 (MD,CW). Magnolia Warbler: many reports to Oct. 5. Cape May Warbler: 12 reports, all Sept. Black-throated Blue Warbler: Oct. 11 last report (GC). Yellow-rumped Warbler: Binghamton Nov. 26 last report (AL). Black-throated Green Warbler: 1 banded Vestal Oct. 5 last report (EH). Blackburnian Warbler: 7 reports. Bay-breasted Warbler: 7 Sept. 15 Vestal Center (SD); 19 other reports. Blackpoll Warbler: 17 reports, 5 Vestal Oct. 17 last (GC). Palm Warbler: Milford Sept. 11 (MD,CW,KW); 2 banded Vestal Oct. 5 (EH). Ovenbird: 1 banded Vestal Oct. 5 last report (EH). Northern Waterthrush: Aug. 19 only report. Connecticut Warbler: 2 Sept. 5, 1 Sept. 7, 2 Sept. 14, all banded Vestal (EH). Mourning Warbler: 1 Vestal Sept. 17 (GC). Wilson's Warbler: 10 reports. Canada Warbler: 9 reports. American Redstart: 15 Otsego Co. Sept. 11 (MD,CW,KW); 6 other reports.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: 20 Milford Nov. 13 (MD,KW). Red-winged Blackbird: 2000 Portlandville Sept. 18 (MD,CW). Northern Oriole: 1 Milford Ctr. Nov. 14 (MD,CW, Dr. Massati); 1 Port Dickinson Nov. 29 (KP). Brown-headed Cowbird: Binghamton Nov. 30 last report (AL). House Finch: thruout period. Rufous-sided Towhee: 1 pair Oneonta from Nov. 21 (Vermilyea's). Savannah Sparrow: 1 Milford Sept. 4, 2 Sept. 11 (MD,CW,KW) only reports. Vesper Sparrow: 1 Milford Sept. 25 (MD,CW); 1 Delhi Sept. 30 (MC). Dark-eyed Junco: 4-10 Oneonta Sept. 4 (IW); 20 Milford Sept. 11 (MD,CW, KW); 1-15 Delhi Sept. 12-Nov. 15 (MC). Tree Sparrow: 2 Milford Oct. 30 (MD,KW). Chipping Sparrow: 22 banded Vestal Oct. 10, last report (EH). Field Sparrow: 1 Colliersville Nov. 13 last report (MD,KW). White-crowned Sparrow: 3 Milford Sept. 25 (MD,CW); 1-10 Delhi Sept. 30-Oct. 29 (MC). White-throated Sparrow: 1 Milford Sept. 11 (dead) (MD, CW,KW); 1-5 Delhi Sept. 12 and regularly thereafter thruout period (MC). Fox Sparrow: 1 banded Endwell Oct. 24 only report (LB). Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 Vestal Sept. 2 (GC); 1 Vestal Center Sept. 26 (SD); 1 Binghamton Sept. 30 (dead) (LB); 1 Choconut Oct. 2 and Oct. 16 (MS). Swamp Sparrow: Whitney Point Sept. 12 (MS); 1 Binghamton Oct. 17.

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REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

Into every life, even a birder's, a little rain must fall—but this is ridiculous! By November 20, Syracuse had achieved an all-time high of precipitation (56 inches) and we still had the snowy month of "Bah! Humbug!" to go. Repeated cool spells in September sent vireos, warblers, swallows, and flycatchers rushing thru with the best flights September 4-6, 16-17, and 27-28. September 30 thru October 6 produced a massive flight of creepers, wrens, thrushes, kinglets, juncos, and sparrows and for one glorious week, the landscape, particularly the Ontario Lakeplain, seemed alive with fall migrants. Then ferocious weather with howling northwest winds and bitter cold, even snow, by mid-October literally blasted everything southward. The cold northwest winds undoubtedly helped those observers hunting jaegers along Lake Ontario but trying to study the few small land birds that persisted through such gales was harder than putting pajamas on a greased elephant. November proved even colder and snowier (22 inches of that stuff); correspondingly the month seemed quite thin for land birds and were it not for a residue of grebes, ducks, gulls, and hawks, November would have been a birding disaster. By late November, the local half-hardies were not just hard to find, they weren't there at all.

An interesting feature of birding this fall concerned feeding assemblages of the various species—warblers and vireos in insect-rich alder-willow tickets or in birch clumps infested with leaf miner; kinglets and phoebes in unharvested pear orchards; thrushes, tanagers, and grosbeaks gorging on the fruiting clusters of pokeberry and various dogwoods (*Cornus* sp.) in the brushy fields and woodlots; and most strikingly, the droves of sparrows, a foison of fringillids, in the weedy or abandoned croplands of the Lakeplain. If you found such feeding assemblages, the birding was great but large tracts between seemed devoid of birds.

Positives for the fall include 1) an early but brief Canada Goose flight; 2) an increase in Wood Duck numbers; 3) good numbers of Dunlins; 4) a strong jaeger flight; 5) an array of rarer gulls; 6) an excellent flight of northwoods species—Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, and Winter Wren; 7) a very heavy thrush flight, especially of Hermit Thrush; 8) a very heavy migration of both kinglets; 9) an incursion of Northern Shrikes; 10) above