

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

average warbler numbers on the Lakeplain but not in the southern highlands; 11) a heavy sparrow migration but, again like the warblers, much more pronounced on the Lakeplain than in the hill country south of Syracuse; and 12) further increase and/or spread in Mockingbird, Tufted Titmouse, and Carolina Wren.

Negatives for the season include 1) very few herons, particularly American Bittern; 2) poor waterfowl counts and this in almost all species; 3) no incursion of Rough-legged Hawks and only a few Snowy Owls; 4) reduced numbers of shore birds, primarily because of the minimal habitat available; 5) reduced numbers of all swallows (also other aerial insectivores) but some surprisingly late dates for same; 6) persistently reduced numbers of Eastern Bluebirds; 7) lower numbers of some few warblers species, e.g., Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green Warblers, Blackburnian, Mourning, and Wilson's Warblers; 8) no winter finch flight; 9) reduced tallies of Tree Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos throughout November; and 10) continued drop in numbers of Horned Larks.

Fall rarities include Louisiana Heron, Harlequin Duck, Common Eider, Whimbrel, Purple Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, all three phalaropes, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, Little and Franklin's Gulls, Black-legged Kittiwake, Forster's Tern, Common Raven, White-eyed Vireo, Connecticut Warbler, and White-winged Crossbill.

Observers—D. W. Ackley, G. & M. Church, K. Coyle, D. W. Crumb, B. & D. DeSimone, G. Huggins, L. & A. Leidwinger, P. & S. Paquette, B. & S. Peebles, M. S. Rusk, F. G. Scheider, G. A. Smith, C. G. Spies, R. & S. White.

Compilers—P. A. DeBenedictis, G. Huggins, L. & A. Leidwinger—my abundant thanks to them for making my job easier.

Abbreviations: DH—Derby Hill near Texas; FH—Fair Haven; HIGMA—Howlands Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; L—Lake; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral; Onon—Onondaga; SP & SPI—Sandy Pond and Sandy Pond Inlet; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park near Port Ontario; Syr—Syracuse; TRGMA—Three Rivers Game Management Area near Baldwinsville; twship—Township.

Please have winter reports (1 December 1976 thru 28 February 1977) in by 7 March 1977. Thanks.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: max 46 DH Oct. 17; present to end of period. Horned Grebe: arr Sept. 16 one Dempster Beach (early); max only 75 (low) Oct. 24 DH to FH. Double-crested Cormorant: max 64, a regional high count, Sept. 6 SP.

Great Blue Heron: max 17 Sept. 24 near Eaton; all other tallies one-ten/day so actually rather scarce. Green Heron: scarce thru fall—max only seven Sept. 5 Oneida L; last noted Oct. 1 one Pompey (a very early dep date). **LOUISIANA HERON**: an imm Sept. 12 Sage Creek at L Ontario (M. S. Rusk) is the first regional record. Great Egret: scarce with singles only for fall—one each at Baldwinsville and Utica Marsh in Sept. American Bittern: incredibly scarce—only five individuals for entire fall—has virtually vanished in the past three years.

Mute Swan: an ad at SSSP Oct. 17-Nov. 7; where are these birds coming from? ?? Lake Michigan, Long Island?? Canada Goose: arr Sept. 16 31 DH; max 4800 Oct. 3 DH and 1551 Oct. 10 Oneida; scarce thru remainder of fall with less than 100-500/day noted; the birds now appear to be leapfrogging this area in the fall migration. Brant: very poor flight—max only 900 DH Oct. 24 and 200 Oct. 18 SP; overland flight evident with 17 Oct. 16 at Oneida Hawk Lookout.

The paucity of virtually all ducks for the entire area from all observers is impressive; listed below are the max for the various species—Mallard 540 SP-SSSP Nov. 7; Black Duck 250 SP-SSSP Nov. 7 (should be in the low thousands); Gadwall 46 FH Nov. 14; Pintail 100 DH Oct. 7; Green-winged Teal 20 TRGMA Nov. 6; Blue-winged Teal 100 Clay Swamp Oct.

5; American Wigeon 245 Beaver L-FH Oct. 1; N. Shoveler 20 Brewerton Oct. 28; Wood Duck—definitely increased locally—202 Oct. 2 Lacona and 370 Clay Swamp Oct. 5. Diving Duck numbers were even worse than the dabblers—Redhead 57 Beaver L Oct. 16 and 190 FH Nov. 14; Ring-necked Duck 100 Beaver L Oct. 5 (should be in the 300 to 400 range); Canvasback 180 FH Nov. 14; Greater Scaup 1200 DH Nov. 20; Common Goldeneye 400 DH-SSSP Nov. 4; Oldsquaw 370 DH Oct. 21; White-winged Scoter 258 DH Oct. 10; Surf Scoter 310 Oct. 10 DH; Black Scoter 35 (very low) DH Oct. 10; Ruddy Duck 20 Beaver L Oct. 28; Hooded Merganser 100 Beaver L Nov. 23; Common Merganser 125 Beaver L Nov. 23; and Red-breasted Merganser 1000 DH-SSSP-SP Nov. 7 (should be in the multiple thousands). Rarer ducks for the fall include a female **HARLEQUIN DUCK** Nov. 20 at DH and three **COMMON EIDERS**, two females and an imm male at SP Sept. 12 (FGS), the latter only the fourth regional record.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Extensive observations at the Oneida Hawk Lookout Aug. 10 to Nov. 7, primarily by Belle and Sheila Peebles and Dorothy Crumb amassed a wealth of data *re* migrant raptors—below are the species totals for the season followed by the daily max with date of same—Turkey Vulture six, three Sept. 28; Goshawk four, two Sept. 24; Sharp-shinned Hawk 660, 120 Oct. 10; Cooper's Hawk 21, six Oct. 10; Red-tailed Hawk 287, 86 Oct. 26; Red-shouldered Hawk 58, 25 Oct. 17; Broad-winged Hawk 3053, 2556 Sept. 12; Rough-legged Hawk six, five Nov. 2; Golden Eagle one Oct. 18; Marsh Hawk 61, ten Oct. 10; Osprey 36, six each Sept. 18 & 21; Merlin two singles only; American Kestrel 133, 51 Sept. 28; plus 125 unidentified hawks; as yet no consistent correlation has been established for wind conditions and the appearance of migrating raptors at this lookout—it is definitely not uniformly associated with northwest winds. Rough-legged Hawk: very scarce thru fall—one-two/day with most observers failing to find the species.

Shore bird habitat except for occasional flooded fields was nil in Sept. and Oct.; only the Sandy Pond Inlet and the east end of Oneida L had consistent numbers of shore birds but the human use of both areas has resulted in much disturbance and the numbers of shore birds at such places shifts markedly from day to day. Maxima for shore birds were somewhat low and early departure dates, i.e., early to mid-Oct., were the rule; following are the max and dep dates—Semipalmated Plover 30 Sept. 8 Sylvan Beach, Oct. 28 one SPI; Killdeer 95 each (low) Oct. 10 Oneida Hawk Lookout and Oct. 4 Pulaski-Phoenix; A. Golden Plover 13 (very low) SP Sept. 16, Oct. 28 one SPI; Black-bellied Plover seven each Oct. 5 Onon L and Oct. 18 SP, Nov. 7 two SPI; Ruddy Turnstone 20 Sept. 13 Sylvan Beach, Nov. 14 one FH (late); Common Snipe 30 (low) Oct. 11 Clay Swamp, Nov. 14 one FH; Spotted Sandpiper five Sept. 5 Sylvan Beach, Oct. 1 one FH; Greater Yellowlegs 30 Oct. 7 SPI, Nov. 14 one FH; Lesser Yellowlegs 21 (ridiculously low) Sept. 15 Sylvan Beach, Oct. 7 (very early) three Sylvan Beach; Red Knot three each Sept. 18 Sylvan Beach and Oct. 7 SPI, the latter also the last date; Pectoral Sandpiper 18 Sept. 26 Sylvan Beach and again 18 HIGMA Oct. 3, Nov. 7 three Sage Creek; White-rumped Sandpiper 11, all imm, Oct. 28 SPI, Nov. 11 two SPI; Baird's Sandpiper six Sept. 8 Sylvan Beach, Oct. 4 (very early) two SPI; Least Sandpiper 18 (very low) Sept. 8 Sylvan Beach, Oct. 10 one Sylvan Beach; Dunlin 720 (an excellent tally) Oct. 7 SPI, Nov. 14 singles SPI and Sylvan Beach; Short-billed Dowitcher singles only; Stilt Sandpiper two Sept. 25-28 Sylvan Beach with Sept. 28 last date there; Semipalmated Sandpiper 125 Sept. 5 Sylvan Beach, Oct. 28 four SPI; Sanderling 70 each Sept. 12 at both SPI and Sylvan Beach, last noted Nov. 11, ten, FH.

Rarer shorebirds: **WHIMBREL:** one Sept. 16 SPI, the usual fall single; **PURPLE SANDPIPER:** first arrival Oct. 7 (a record arrival date) one SPI with a total of seven individuals, mostly SPI, for fall but none from FH, normally the most predictable locale for them. **HUDSONIAN GODWIT:** 19 on Oct. 7 SPI is an all time regional max but unfortunately the only report of the season. **RED PHALAROPE:** seven DH Oct. 22, last noted Nov. 7 two SPI. **NORTHERN PHALAROPE:** four DH Oct. 21 with one-two/day at SPI and Sylvan Beach. **WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** one Sept. 24-26 Sylvan Beach, quite late.

POMARINE JAEGER: one imm with Parasitic Jaeger adult Oct. 14 only report.
PARASITIC JAEGER: a spectacular flight this fall—max 31 Oct. 10 DH with over 50 birds total at that much birded, much favored site; last noted Nov. 20 two imm DH.

Great Black-backed Gull: 102 Nov. 28 SPI, a large number for so early in the winter—and it was winter! **Ring-billed Gull:** 1700 (very low) Nov. 14 FH—Oswego. **Bonaparte's Gull:** max 120 (actually a high count for this area) Nov. 7 SPI. **LITTLE GULL:** a fantastic fall for this species—18 individuals for the season with max three Sept. 20 SPI—most regularly reported from SPI and DH but two adults and an imm showed up at Sylvan Beach this fall where they have been previously recorded only once before. **FRANKLIN'S GULL:** six individuals (usually only one/fall) with two each Sept. 23 and again Oct. 2 at SPI. **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:** the gull this fall—first noted was an imm Oct. 9 DH (Steve Sabo) which is also a record arrival date; subsequently one-three/day at either SPI, SSSP, or DH with max three imm Nov. 7, 11, & 14 and single ad Oct. 17 and again Nov. 18—at least ten individuals and perhaps as many as 14 birds in this flight.

Common Tern: max 176 Sept. 5 DH—scarce otherwise. **FORSTER'S TERN:** singles Sept. 5 DH and again Sept. 9 and 12 SPI, a thin movement for this species, especially in view of all the fancy smaller gulls that showed up.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Neither cuckoo reported after Sept. 1. **Snowy Owl;** first noted two Nov. 26 Syr Airport, definitely not a flight year.

Belted Kingfisher: one-two/day thru Nov., surprising in view of the marked cold of that period. **Common Flicker:** max 82 (low) Sept. 23 SP-SSSP. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 34 Sept. 30 SP-SSSP, a sharp peak but Oct. numbers thereafter very low (two-four/day).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: **Eastern Phoebe:** fall tallies quite low—one-five/day?—hit by the cold weather of spring and summer?—none in Nov. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** all totaled five singles Sept. 12-21.

Horned Lark: quite scarce this fall—max only 55 Nov. 5 Malby near Port Ontario.

Swallow departure dates—Tree Swallow last noted Nov. 11 four Hoag Rd.; **Bank Swallow** Oct. 2 one Port Ontario; **Rough-winged Swallow** Oct. 4 one SP (very late); **Barn Swallow** Sept. 26 three SSSP; **Cliff Swallow** Sept. 11 one L. Ontario; **Purple Martin** Sept. 12 one DH (very early).

Blue Jay: 80-90/day in first week of Oct., lesser numbers thereafter—where are the thousands of the spring flights each fall? **Common Crow:** no heavy movements noted—200-400/day between Oct. 5 and Nov. 2, both at LOL and at Oneida Hawk Lookout. **COMMON RAVEN:** one heard and seen Oct. 21 DH, only the sixth recent record. **Tufted Titmouse:** a new location is SSSP Oct. 17-31.

White-breasted Nuthatch: very scarce in Nov.—one-three/day only, with some days none whatever detected. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 100 Nov. 27 Fabius Twshp; not noted in large numbers as migrants however. **Brown Creeper:** large flight—78 Sept. 30 SP, in many cases individual birds were scaling the wooden walls of cabins and outhouses looking for insect food. **House Wren:** max 30 Sept. 6 SP-SSSP-Phoenix, early for the main movement. **Winter Wren:** heavy but brief flight—50 Sept. 30 SP-SSSP. **Carolina Wren:** six new sites located and these sites as far apart as FH and the cabin areas on the east shore of SP. **Mockingbird:** four new sites—HIGMA, Victory, N. Syr., Baldwinville—but still very scarce in the hill country south of Syr. **Gray Catbird:** fall peak Sept. 11-Oct. 1 with 16-22/day; last noted Oct. 7 (early departure) one Pompey. **American Robin:** 500-700/day in first week of Oct.; very scarce thru remainder of Oct. and even scarcer (one-20/day) thru Nov. **Hermit Thrush:** tremendous fall flight with max 66 Sept. 30 SP-SSSP with counts of 20-40/day in the next ten days. **Swainson's Thrush:** max 26 Sept. 26 Pulaski, the majority feeding in a huge patch of pokeberry; **TV tower kill** 16 Sept. 27-28 at Syr. with **Gray-cheeked Thrush** 18 in that same kill; max live **Gray-cheeked Thrush** 14 Oct. 1 Hannibal-FH; last noted were **Swainson's**

Thrush Oct. 16 one Beaver L and Gray-cheeked Thrush Oct. 4 four SP-SSSP-Cheddamdo, both somewhat early departure dates. Eastern Bluebird: another thin fall for this species—one-three/day only.

A terrific fall for kinglets with major flights beginning Sept. 30 with 410 Golden-crowned and 530 Ruby-crowned Kinglets that date SP-SSSP; reported in the hundreds thereafter thru Oct. 15, then a sharp drop in numbers in the next three days—a heavy but early movement. Water Pipit: 600 Oct. 2 SP, 300 Oct. 4 SP dunes, 300 Oct. 10 Oneida Hawk Lookout; a few birds lingered to mid-Nov. but left with the first persisting ground snow.

Northern Shrike: record arrival date Oct. 15 one Syr (FGS); total sightings for fall are Oct. 2 and for Nov. 24 individuals.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: WHITE-EYED VIREO: an imm Sept. 25 near Bridgeport, first fall record (G. Huggins, FGS). Solitary Vireo: max 14 Sept. 26 LOL; lesser counts in first week of Oct.; dep date Nov. 14 (very late) one Shackleton Pt., Oneida L (C. G. Spies), Philadelphia Vireo: twelve (a high count) Sept. 16 SP-SSSP; also five in TV tower kill Sept. 27-28 and five Sept. 6 Split Rock west of Syr.

The following paragraphs *re* warblers give the maxima and the departure dates for most of the species—note the somewhat above average numbers and the peculiar clusters of very early and very late departure dates, a grouping inexplicable in the face of the severe and early cold weather this fall—Tennessee Warbler max 48 Sept. 16 Onondaga Creek, last Oct. 13 three Pompey; Orange-crowned Warbler three Oct. 3 Hannibal-FH, Oct. 13 one Pompey; Nashville Warbler ten Oct. 1 LOL, Nov. 2 (record late date for region) one Syr; Northern Parula: six (poor) Sept. 16 SP, Oct. 6 (early) one Pompey; Magnolia Warbler 52 Sept. 16 SP-SSSP, 15 in TV tower kill Sept. 27-28, last Oct. 6 (early) one Pompey; Cape May Warbler 24 Sept. 4 SP and again Sept. 17 Hannibal-FH, Oct. 4 one Cheddamdo; Black-throated Blue Warbler big TV tower kill 40 Sept. 27-28 but live bird counts this fall really thin—max four Sept. 30 LOL with last Oct. 5 two Pompey; Yellow-rumped Warbler 100-150/day, max 175 Sept. 16 (early for peak) SP-SSSP, present to Nov. 21 one Hannibal; Black-throated Green Warbler max 43 Sept. 21 Pompey, last Oct. 13 (early) one Pompey; Blackburnian Warbler seven (low) Sept. 6 LOL, Oct. 1 (early) one Hannibal Twshp; Chestnut-sided Warbler eight Sept. 4 LOL, Oct. 1 one each Pompey and near Hannibal; Bay-breasted Warbler excellent fall flight—28 in TV tower kill Sept. 27-28, 68 Sept. 4 LOL, last Oct. 4 one Pompey; Blackpoll Warbler 27 Sept. 17 Hannibal-Sterling, Oct. 7 (early) one Sylvan Beach; Pine Warbler nine individuals for fall, above the average number.

Ovenbird 41 in TV tower kill Sept. 27-28, live bird max 15 Sept. 17 Hannibal-Sterling; last noted Oct. 2 (very early) one Waterville; Mourning Warbler singles only Sept. 9-Sept. 17 (very early); Common Yellowthroat 47 (very high) in TV tower kill Sept. 27-28, live birds 28 Sept. 4 LOL, last Oct. 24 one DH; Wilson's Warbler nine (low) Sept. 2 SP, Oct. 2 one SP; Canada Warbler max ten Sept. 6 SP-SSSP, last Sept. 20 two SP-SSSP; American Redstart 30 Sept. 2 SP-SSSP, last Sept. 29 (early) one Syr. The only rare warbler for the fall was **CONNECTICUT WARBLER**—singles Sept. 28 Pompey, Oct. 2 FH, and one tower killed bird Sept. 27-28.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: fall max a miserable 28 Oct. 10 Oneida Hawk Lookout—scarce throughout the fall. Red-winged Blackbird: fall max 15,000 Oct. 17 DH; the big roost at Clay Swamp never materialized this year. Northern Oriole: scarce—one-two/day to Sept. 15, a very early dep date. Rusty Blackbird: fall max 350 Oct. 5 Hannibal-Lysander; hundreds to mid-Oct., scarce thereafter with early departure, much as the insectivorous warblers did.

Scarlet Tanager: max 28 Sept. 4 SP-SSSP, early for such a large number; last noted Oct. 13 (slightly late) one Pompey.

Winter finches were sought for and found only in minuscule numbers—a non-flight winter if there ever was one. Evening Grosbeak: first noted Nov. 8 one Pompey, max 60 Nov. 27 near Fabius but most observers had none. Purple Finch: scarce—two-11/day thru Nov. Pine Siskin: three individuals for the fall—a nice trio, but hardly a flight. American Goldfinch: hundreds thru early Oct.; then exodus of this local cardueline with a few, mighty few (two-15/day) in Nov. to remind us of their abundant summer numbers. Pine Grosbeak, Redpoll, and Red Crossbill—none. **WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL**: two Sept. 16 SSSP and again two Nov. 19 near Fabius—?strays, flight prelude, avian tantalizers, crazy, mixed-up kids?

A tremendous influx of sparrows in the last week of Sept. and the first week of Oct. served as compensation for the reduced numbers of shore birds, swallows, and bluebirds. Weedy fields, particularly fields waist-high in ragweed, pigweed, and various *Chenopodium*, exploded with sparrows, goldfinches, and juncos; hedgerows positively twitched with excited sparrows if you did a little spishing or Screech Owl whistling. Fall maxima follow but the actual maxima could have been much higher if one could spish incessantly thru an eight hour birding day. Savannah Sparrow 27 Sept. 26 Dempster Beach; Vesper Sparrow 15 Oct. 17 Oneida Hawk Lookout; Dark-eyed Junco 180 Oct. 1 Hannibal-Sterling; Tree Sparrow 75 (low) Nov. 3 Pompey; Chipping Sparrow 36 Sept. 17 Hannibal-Sterling; Field Sparrow 26 Oct. 2 Hollis Road; White-crowned Sparrow 180 Oct. 2 Hollis Rd.; White-throated Sparrow 650 Sept. 30 SP-SSSP and 650 again Oct. 1 Hannibal-Sterling; Lincoln's Sparrow 13 Oct. 1 Hannibal-Sterling; Swamp Sparrow 36 Oct. 3 Hannibal-HIGMA; Song Sparrow 280 Oct. 4 SP-SSSP-Chedmardo. As inundating as the flight of sparrows was, no rare species were discovered within it. Lapland Longspur: one Sept. 6 SPI (FGS, L. Leid-winger) is a record arr date for the region and the state. Snow Bunting: fall numbers rather thin—max 600 Nov. 20 near Wampsville but most flocks only 20-60/day.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

Fall of 1976 carried thru from summer—cool and wet. Temperatures ranged from 70° F (21° C) to the low 20° F (-6° C). Signs of an early and possible hard winter were evident before the end of the period with snowfall at higher elevations as early as October.

Waterfowl migrated early, raptors showed improvement, shore-birding was excellent, regional records were set, but winter finches were slow or non-existent.

Outstanding observations included in the period were: Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebes, Ruddy Duck, Merlin, Whimbrel, Willet, Long-billed Dowitcher, Laughing & Franklin's Gull, Forster's Tern, Orange-crowned Warbler and Lincoln's Sparrow.

Localities: BRB—Black River Bay; ED—El Dorado; LWMA—Lakeview W.M.A.; PP—Pillar Point; Pt. P—Point Peninsula; RMPD—Robt. Moses Power Dam; RMSP—Robt. Moses State Park; SLR—St. Lawrence River; SNP—Snowshoe Point; SP—Stony Point; WHWMA—Wilson Hill W.M.A.; ULLWMA—Upper & Lower Lakes W.M.A.

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