

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

The fall weather remained generally mild until November 21 when the first snow of any importance fell. Night temperatures fell to near freezing several times in early September and were often in the high 30's and low 40's before the first actual frost in late October, but were compensated for by many warm sunny days. Rainfall was about normal but did not come in the form of sharp storms.

A good wave, including 15 warbler species and three vireos, on September 2 in the Oneonta area seemed to be the beginning of an interesting migration but instead, was almost the end. Later dates were recorded for many species but the numbers were never there again and several observers, particularly banders, were disappointed. Thrushes were hardly represented in the wave on September 2 and never did make a big showing. Apparently the mild conditions allowed the migration to remain diffused and therefore unspectacular.

The seed-eaters, primarily juncos and White-throated Sparrows, were, as usual, much more conspicuous. But even with them it was more a matter of being present more or less constantly rather than the waves that sometimes seem to turn every other dead leaf into a Whitethroat. Among the winter finches only the resident Am. Goldfinch, semi-resident Purple Finch and migrant Evening Grosbeak figured at all, unless the House Finch, which continues to increase, is counted as a winter finch, too. On the basis of early returns it may be a dull winter at most feeders.

Rarities for the Region include a Snowy Egret, a European Wigeon and a Golden Eagle.

Observers: Cutler and Jeanette Baldwin (C, JB); Reynolds Bennett (RB); Mildred Clark (MC); Gail Corderman (GC); Anna and Marilyn Davis; Warren and Louise Dean; Mary Dobinsky; Sadie Dorber; Polly and Earl Getkin; Elva Hawken; Jim and Kathy Hoteling; Pauline Hovemeyer; Al and Harriet Johnson; Rachel Latcher (RL); Margaret Layton; Peter and Dorothy Martin; Leona McDowell; Bud and Evelyn Mead (B, EM); Mike and Kathy Medovitch; Robert and Rita Pantle; Jim Riley; Mary Sheffield (MS); Robert Sheffield; Ken Stalter; Elizabeth Washburn; Kathryn Wilson (KW); Tom and Beryl Wilson.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: two Whitney Point Nov. 19, the only ones. Horned Grebe: two Whitney Point Nov. 15, the only ones. Pied-billed Grebe: Oct. 7 and 14 Whitney Point. Great Blue Heron: reasonably regular reports to Nov. 15. Green Heron: Sept. 10 Emmons, near Oneonta, the last date. SNOWY EGRET: Sept. 6 Chenango Bridge (C, JB), no details. Canada Goose: first migrant Sept. 17; peak day Oct. 7 when 21 flocks counted at Apalachin and 2949 in 19 flocks counted at Choconut Center, n. of Johnson City; large flocks (200+) all Oct. and smaller flocks to at least Nov. 25. Black Duck: 12 Franklin, near Oneonta, Sept. 30 the best count for the period. EUROPEAN WIGEON: Oct. 30 Owego (RB), no details. Bufflehead: six Delhi Nov. 1, the first of only three reports. Common Merganser: Nov. 15 Whitney Point, the first fall report.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: three Damascus, e. of Binghamton, Sept. 10; last reported at Delhi Oct. 5; no reports from other areas. Goshawk: one Choconut Center Nov. 23 (MS); an undated Sept. report from Owego. Sharp-shinned Hawk: nine reports, the last Oct. 27. Cooper's Hawk: one Delhi Oct. 1 (MC); one Oct. 28 Oneonta area; no others. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Owego Oct. 29 (B, EM). Broad-winged Hawk: only a few scattered

reports in Sept.; one Oneonta Oct. 6, the last date. Rough-legged Hawk: one Oneonta area Nov. 11, the only report in the period. **GOLDEN EAGLE**: one Oneonta Oct. 12 (KW), "excellent view from below—sub-adult plumage." Bald Eagle: one near Fergusonville, in Oneonta area, Oct. 7 (RL). Marsh Hawk: four reports, late Sept. to Oct. 15, all from Owego-Binghamton area. Osprey: 19 reports of up to three at a time; last date Oct. 15 Damascus. Ruffed Grouse: numerous reports indicate cycle upswing after low of last few years. Ring-necked Pheasant: only four scattered reports. Turkey: two flocks of 16 and 18 birds in Owego area in Oct. American Coot: Oct. 21 Oxford, the only report. American Woodcock: one seen daily in backyards Oct. 23 to Nov. 8 Delhi. Spotted Sandpiper: four town of Milford Sept. 16, late. Solitary Sandpiper: Sept. 5 and 10 Emmons. Greater Yellowlegs: Oct. 16 Owego. Dunlin: Oct. 16 Owego. Herring Gull: Oct. 10 first fall date; 30 Owego Oct. 30 and 100 Whitney Point Nov. 15 the best counts.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: one Delhi Sept. 16, the only fall report of either cuckoo. Screech Owl: one at Owego Sept. and Oct. plus one Choconut Center Oct. 28, the only reports since Feb. Great Horned Owl: six reports, all from Oct. 30 on. Barred Owl: one Oneonta Oct. 24. Saw-whet Owl: two banded at Vestal Oct. 28 and Nov. 1 (GC). Chimney Swift: Sept. 21 Owego, the only date after Sept. 3. Pileated Woodpecker: 11 reports. Red-headed Woodpecker: Sept. Owego. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: four Oneonta area and one Owego report, all in Sept.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Eastern Kingbird: three Richford Sept. 9, last date. Great Crested Flycatcher: Sept. 16 Owego. Eastern Phoebe: Oct. 25 Owego, last date. Least Flycatcher: Emmons Sept. 10. Eastern Wood Pewee: two Delhi Sept. 16, late. Olive-sided Flycatcher: two Choconut Center Sept. 2 and 3; Sept. 14 Owego. Tree Swallow: Oct. 11 Owego (RB). Barn Swallow: Sept. 15 Owego. Purple Martin: Sept. 8 Owego. Tufted Titmouse: two to four seen intermittently to regularly at five different Binghamton area locations; also reported from Owego in Oct. Red-breasted Nuthatch: only two reports, from Owego and Oneonta, both in Oct. House Wren: one banded Oct. 8 Vestal, last date. Winter Wren: Sept. 30 Owego; two Binghamton area and three Oneonta area reports in Oct. Carolina Wren: Oct. 13 Owego; two Vestal Oct. 18. Mockingbird: regular at three Owego sites; three Chenango Bridge Nov. 27. Gray Catbird: Oct. 15 Owego, last date. Am. Robin: flocks of 50 or more up to Nov. 11, but much thinned out by Nov. 18. Wood Thrush: regular to Sept. 16, last date Sept. 23 Owego. Hermit Thrush: one Oneonta area Sept. 2; cumulative count of ten from Oct. 8 to 15 in Vestal and Choconut Center, eight of them banded. Swainson's Thrush: five reports in Sept., the last Sept. 24. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one banded Oct. 8 Vestal, the only report. Veery: one Crumhorn, e. of Oneonta, Sept. 14, the only one. Eastern Bluebird: apparent family groups of seven to eight birds reported from Oneonta, Oxford and Owego; about a dozen other reports in Sept. and Oct.; none in Nov. Golden-crowned Kinglet: first fall date Oct. 7 Choconut Center. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: small numbers all through Sept. and Oct.; last date Nov. 11 Choconut Center. Water Pipit: 33 Oneonta area Nov. 11, no others. Cedar Waxwing: small to moderate-sized flocks (50) all period; hundreds reported Oct. 23 to 28 in both Oneonta and Binghamton areas. Northern Shrike: one Milford Nov. 18, one Oneonta Nov. 25.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: last date Sept. 6 Chenango Forks. Solitary Vireo: two banded Oct. 16 Vestal, the last of the fall reports. Red-eyed Vireo: one banded Oct. 8 Vestal, the only Oct. report. Warbling Vireo: one Oneonta area Sept. 2. Black-and-white Warbler: one banded Oct. 28 Vestal, the only one after Sept. 2. Tennessee Warbler: eight Oneonta Sept. 2, few others; one banded Vestal Oct. 8, the last. Nashville Warbler: Oct. 8 Vestal, the later of only two reports after Sept. 2. Yellow Warbler: Oct. 2 Owego, the last date, after three Sept. reports; usually not reported after Aug. Magnolia Warbler: one banded Vestal Oct. 13. Cape May Warbler: eight Oneonta Sept. 2; four later reports of single birds, the last banded Oct. 6 Vestal. Black-throated Blue Warbler: four Oneonta Sept. 2; two Crumhorn Sept. 14; two banded Vestal Oct. 8. Yellow-rumped Warbler: one Oneonta Nov. 1, last date; small wave Sept. 1 to 5, larger wave Oct. 1 to 7 and

fairly numerous for the rest of Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: 25 Oneonta Sept. 2; one banded Oct. 16 Vestal, the only report after Sept. 23. Blackburnian Warbler: three Oneonta Sept. 2. Chestnut-sided Warbler: six Oneonta Sept. 2; last date Sept. 5. Bay-breasted Warbler: ten Oneonta Sept. 2; two Crumhorn Sept. 14. Blackpoll Warbler: Sept. 23 Owego, no others. Palm Warbler: Sept. 10 Owego. Ovenbird: one Vestal Oct. 3, last date after only five Sept. reports. Northern Waterthrush: one Vestal Sept. 21 and one Vestal Oct. 2, both banded but no others reported. Mourning Warbler: one Delhi Sept. 2. Com. Yellowthroat: common through Sept. 24, but Oct. 8 Chenango Forks the last of only four later reports. Wilson's Warbler: two Oneonta Sept. 2; one Delhi Sept. 27; three Oneonta and one Owego reports between. Canada Warbler: three Oneonta Sept. 2; one Delhi Oct. 15; the only ones. Am. Redstart: two Oneonta Sept. 2, the last date.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: one singing at Choconut Center Oct. 7; last date so far Nov. 18. Northern Oriole: two Oneonta Sept. 2, last date. Rusty Blackbird: Oct. 8 Choconut Center, no others. Scarlet Tanager: last date Sept. 28 Owego. Indigo Bunting Sept. 23 Owego. Evening Grosbeak: 15 Binghamton Oct. 25, the first date, although there were earlier rumors; frequent reports all Nov. even though, as expected, seldom at feeders. Purple Finch: present all period, but noticeably more common in Nov. Am. Goldfinch: common all period. Rufous-sided Towhee: none after Oct. 23 Owego. Savannah Sparrow: four Portlandville Sept. 16, the only fall report. Vesper Sparrow: two Portlandville Sept. 16, that's all. Dark-eyed Junco: large numbers of migrants from Oct. 14. Tree Sparrow: Oct. 20 Delhi; Oct. 29 Owego; regular reports all Nov. but never too common. Chipping Sparrow: Nov. 4 Delhi, last date. White-crowned Sparrow: Oct. 1 to Oct. 29 Delhi, a max. of eight at one time; one Nov. 9 Chenango Bridge the only later report. White-throated Sparrow: regular reports from Sept. 23 to the end of the period, becoming steadily more common until mid-Nov. Fox Sparrow: Oct. 9 Owego; two Oneonta Oct. 28; three Vestal Center Oct. 29; that's all. Lincoln's Sparrow: Sept. 23 Candor; one Vestal Oct. 8.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL DeBENEDICTIS

Notwithstanding some cold November temperatures, the Fall of 1978 was relatively mild, especially compared to the two previous winters. The most outstanding weather feature was the virtual absence of strong frontal systems that bring northwest gales accompanied by grounded migrants inland and waterbird flights along Lake Ontario. Given the consistently gentle passage of fronts, most migrants seemed to pass over the Region, as evidenced by several nights punctuated by frequent thrush, grosbeak, and warbler calls during the last half of September, when land bird counts were quite low. D. W. Crumb had only one good warbler day (Oct. 3) in Pompey, and no one had a really outstanding day for land birds anywhere along Lake Ontario. Similarly, the only spectacular water bird passage was on the weekend of Oct. 7-8, marked more by the rarities seen than by the totals of birds counted.

Berry and cone (especially spruce) crops were plentiful, perhaps allowing some species to remain away from feeders, but virtually nothing appeared to be taking advantage of this bounty. Jays, chickadees, nuthatches, robins, waxwings