

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.

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

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

and carduline finches were present in average numbers. Only a few local rodent populations seemed to be high, and migrating raptors (especially Rough-legged Hawks and Snowy Owls) and Northern Shrikes, although seen in good numbers during normal passage dates, did not persist into the early winter.

Observers were unanimous that the Fall of 1978 was one of the duller years as far as numbers of birds goes. Grebes were uniformly scarce, and neither white herons nor night herons were found this season. Waterfowl were very scarce, only three species producing counts above 1000/day. While some very unusual shorebird records were obtained, there were no really exceptional counts of any species and late-migrating species were uniformly scarce. Sparrows, especially the half-hardies that enliven one's feeder during the early winter, were also conspicuous by their absence.

On a positive note, both loons, cormorants and Ruddy Ducks were present in exceptionally good numbers. Although the Verona hawk lookout again missed a Broad-wing flight, fair numbers of other species were seen there and along Lake Ontario; Merlin numbers were very encouraging. The best rarities of the season were Piping Plover and Marbled Godwit from Oneida Lake, and a belated report adds Common Raven to the list of species proven to nest within the Region. Lesser rarities included Mute Swan, Hudsonian Godwit, Whimbrel, Purple Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Parasitic Jaeger, Little Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake and Connecticut Warbler, all of which helped to push the number of species reported this season to a respectable total of about 227.

Contributors: D. Ackley, P. S. Bishop, Jr., G. Church. K. & S. Coyle, D. W. Crumb, B. & D. DeSimone, B. & S. Peebles, M. S. Rusk, F. G. Scheider, G. A. Smith, M. Stooks.

Abbreviations: DH—Derby Hill; LSB—Little Sodus Bay & vicinity, near Fair Haven; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral in Oswego Co.; max—maximum; NPT—northern Pompey township; NYSARC—report submitted to New York State Avian Records Committee; Onon—Onondaga; SB—Sylvan Beach; SP—Sandy Pond; Syr—Syracuse. Dates are all month/date.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon arrived 9/15 SP, max 232 LOL 11/30. Red-throated Loon: best showing years, 10/2 to 11/19, max 16 LOL 10/29 (FGS); single Hatch Lake 11/9 (Church) was only report away from Lake Ontario. Double-crested Cormorant: noted regularly throughout the season LOL, max 52 SP 9/4 (FGS); 12 Oneida Lake 9/6 (DeSimones) is a good count away from Lake Ontario. Whistling Swan: six Bridgeport 11/21 through end of season. Mute Swan: single 11/18 Oneida Lake (C. G. Spies, *fide* MSR). Canada Goose: max 7800 SP 9/30. Brant: total of about 600 only noted between 10/19 and 11/11, all LOL. No scaup counts above 250, very low! Oldsquaw: max 1040 DH 11/18 (GWS), only count above 300. Scoters: max counts only about 100/day, 102 White-winged at Woodman Pond (Church) 10/16 the only exceptional report. Ruddy Duck: 92 Beaver Lake plus 32 Onon. Lake 11/16 (FGS) was a welcome exception to the general scarcity of waterfowl. Red-breasted Merganser: max 1800 LSB 11/11 was the only merganser count above 1000/day.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Totals for Verona Lookout (55 hrs. on 22 days, Peebles): Goshawk: one; Sharp-shinned: 187; Cooper's Hawk: eight; Red-tailed Hawk: 75; Red-shouldered Hawk: two; Broad-winged Hawk: 346; Rough-legged Hawk: one; Marsh Hawk: 17; Osprey: 17; Peregrine Falcon: one; Am. Kestrel: 146; unidentified: 46. Elsewhere only one each of Goshawk and Red-shouldered Hawk reported. Rough-legged Hawk in moderate numbers (to 22/day) LOL following 9/30 but few persisted to end of season. Five imm Bald Eagles (one wing-tagged, SP 19/30 (FGS)), a total of seven Merlins, and single Peregrine Falcons LOL 10/8 and 11/5 were encouraging. PIPING PLOVER: adult, SB 10/3-15 (Ackley, mob,

NYSARC), first modern record from Oneida Lake. American Golden Plover: a handful 9/7 to 9/20 (very early departure), max seven/day. Whimbrel: only report one SP 9/4 (FGS) Hudsonian Godwit: singles 10/8 SB (Ackley) and SP 10/29-11/4 (FGS). MARBLED GODWIT: one SB 9/19-10/17 (mob, NYSARC), third Regional report. Red Knot: more than 30 individuals of a species sometimes missed entirely in fall were reported this season, max 11 SB in late October. Pectoral Sandpiper: max only 35 SB 9/15. White-rumped Sandpiper: about a dozen reported, last 11/9 SB, more than in the last three years but not exceptional. Baird's Sandpiper: good numbers early Sept. max seven Onon. Lake 9/3, last four SP 10/30. Purple Sandpiper: only report one LSB 11/16 (FGS). Dunlin: arrived 9/19 SB, max only 33 LOL 10/29, last 11/19 SP. Western Sandpiper: only report one Onon. Lake 9/4 (FGS). Sandpiperling: max only 41 SP, last 11/19 SP. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: only report one SP 9/7 (FGS). Red Phalarope: three LOL late November were the only phalaropes reported this season. Parasitic Jaeger: total of 17 reported between 10/6 and 11/19, max 15 (morning only!) DH 10/7 (FGS). White-winged gulls scarce, only one Glaucous and two Iceland noted by end of period. An adult Little Gull SP 9/17 (R. Long) and Black-legged Kittiwake: two imm 10/7 (FGS) and one imm 11/18 (GAS), both DH, were the only rare gulls reported. Common Tern: last 9/21 SP, early departure. Forster's Tern: only report: one SP 9/23 (FGS).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Sole cuckoo reported was a Black-billed, SP 9/14. About 10-12 Snowy Owls reported after 10/29, none persisting more than a day. Common Night-hawk: last 9/1, Syr., early departure. Chimney Swift: last 9/19 SB. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last 9/16 SP. Total of four Red-headed Woodpeckers reported, last 11/5 NPT. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: only about 30 migrants reported all Fall.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: last 9/7 SP, early departure. Great Crested Flycatcher: last 9/10 SP, early departure. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: only two reported, last 9/7 SP, early departure. No Rough-winged Swallows reported. Barn Swallow: last 9/25 LSB, early departure. Common Crow: max 350 LOL 10/22. COMMON RAVEN: nesting proven northern Herkimer Co. during April 1978 (P. S. Bishop, Jr.). Only three Tufted Titmice reported. Winter Wren: arr 9/16 SP, max 13 LOL 10/8, still scarce. Sole Carolina Wren at Oneida Lake 11/5-19. Wood Thrush: last 10/22 Syr. (MSR), late. Hermit Thrush: arr 9/7 SP, max 17 LOL 10/6, last 11/5 NPT. Swainson's Thrush: last 10/11 LOL. Gray-cheeked Thrush: only three reported. Veery: last 9/15 SB. E. Bluebird: total of 11 individuals reported, all south and east of Oneida Lake during October. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr 9/21 SP, max only 35 SP 10/8, Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 9/14 SP, max only 80 SP 10/8, last 11/12 SP. Water Pipit: arr 9/14, max 200 on 9/18, last 11/11, all SP. No Loggerhead Shrikes reported. N. Shrike: about 14 individuals reported after 10/22.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Maxima in general very low (less than 15/day) but departure dates were seldom exceptional. Yellow-throated Vireo: last 10/1 LOL. Red-eyed Vireo: last Syr. 10/25 (MSR), late. Golden-winged Warbler: only report 9/3 NPT. Tennessee Warbler: no counts above 15/day, last 10/16 NPT. Orange-crowned Warbler: only five reported, all in second week of October. Nashville Warbler: last 10/25 Clay Marsh, late. Magnolia Warbler: max 23 SP 9/21, last 10/15 NPT. Cape May Warbler: no counts above 4/day, last 10/5 NPT. "Myrtle" Warbler: max 464 NPT 10/3, last 11/16 NPT. Black-throated Green Warbler: max 57 NPT 10/3, last 10/16, both NPT. Bay-breasted Warbler: max 37 LOL 9/1, last 10/12 Syr. (MSR). Blackpoll Warbler: no counts above 10/day, last 10/29 NPT (DWC). Pine Warbler: max six (high) LOL 9/14 (FGS), last 10/6 SP. Ovenbird: last 9/18 SP, early departure. Mourning Warbler: only three reported, last 9/16 SP. Connecticut Warbler: one found dead SUNY Oswego 8/30 (GAS), another NPT 10/3-4 (DWC). Hooded Warbler: five reported, last 9/24 LSB. Canada Warbler: last 9/10 SP, early departure. American Redstart: last 9/21 SP, early departure.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: last 9/19 Onon. Lake, early departure. No large icterid flights detected, highest single day total about 10,000 Red-wings. Northern Oriole: only three reported, last 9/4 SP. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last 10/5 NPT, then a male at Chit-

tenango 11/22 to end of season. Evening Grosbeak: passage between mid-October and mid-November, max about 65/day, virtually none persisted at end of period. Pine Grosbeak: single NPT 11/29 (DWC). Common Redpoll: single DH 11/4 (FGS) and 6 Oneida 11/28 (Peebles) were the only reports. Pine Siskin: first 10/1 LOL, never more than 10/day. Cross-bill sp.: only one report. Dark-eyed Junco: max 350 NPT 10/23. Tree Sparrow: first 10/23 (late) NPT, no counts above 25/day! White-crowned Sparrow: arr 9/23 SP, max 112 Lysander township 10/10, last 11/15 LSB. White-throated Sparrow: max 450 LOL. Fox Sparrow: first 10/6 SP, last 11/5 NPT, no counts above 10/day. Lincoln's Sparrow: first 9/15 LSB, last 10/10 Onon. Lake, no counts above 5/day. Lapland Longspur: first 9/21, max seven on 10/22, last 11/19, all SP. Snow Bunting: first 10/12, max 200 on 11/19, SP.

306 Kensington Pl., Syracuse, N.Y. 13210

REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

LEE CHAMBERLAINE

Fall was a continuation of the summer. The drought carried on through the period. Lake Ontario levels continued to drop to very, very low levels which made for excellent shorebirding. The extreme dryness of summer was brought home by the numbers of red cedar and hardwoods which were killed on shallow soil areas such as Stony Point and El Dorado. Wild food crops were the heaviest seen in many years. Mountain ash, apple, fox grapes, thorn apple and wild raisin were heavily laden with fruit. Cedar Waxwings spent weeks in large mountain ash trees gorging themselves while Tartarian honeysuckle flowers bloomed way into October. October's weather was a mixed bag of snow flurries on the 8th and temperatures as low as 19° F. on the 16th. On the 22nd of October a heat wave with 74° F. was recorded, followed by a cold front the following day. November was similar to October and the most snow was about three inches on November 27 with slightly more at the higher elevations on Tug Hill and the Adirondack portions of the Region. Most small marshes and all large water bodies remained open through the period with formation of only rim ice.

Highlights for the period, and there were many, would be Whistling Swans, Canada Geese in unprecedented numbers and some good observations on Brant. Pied-billed Grebes still remain in trouble. Waterfowl had their ups and downs. Scaup were up and came early with other divers appearing to be down. Probably the open water and low water levels placed birds at different feeding areas and scattered. An adult Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon as well as more than adequate shorebirds along the Lake Ontario shore made it difficult to do any Tug Hill birding. A second regional record and first El Dorado record was set on September 30 when a Marbled Godwit was seen by members of the Central New York Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Snowy Owls showed up early in November and Northern Shrikes in late October. Yellow-rumped Warblers and Dark-eyed Juncos were superabundant. Winter Finches were encouraging at first and then never developed. The Watertown House Finches visited many feeders in the Watertown area. White-crowned Sparrows were up, but moved through more rapidly than usual. Some species still remain in reduced numbers in Hen-