

800+ Brighton Nov. Two observers briefly counted a flight of Black-capped Chickadee: 300 BB Oct. 22; and 400+ Manitou Oct. 22, in a half-hour period. A record late date inland was House Wren: one Greece Oct. 27 (R & SS). There were only three Carolina Wrens reported for the season. Among the thrushes were: Wood Thrush one D Oct. 20, late; and one Rochester Oct. 21, later; and Eastern Bluebird: 24 Groveland Sept. 29, a high count for recent years. The lone No. Shrike for the season was: one imm. Pultneyville Nov. 25. Again a single was **BOHEMIAN WAXWING**: Brockport Nov. 14 (CP).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: A Red-eyed Vireo: IC Oct. 20, was very late. A typical Fall passage of Orange-crowned Warbler was: one IC Sept. 23 (RM); one Greece Sept. 23 (WLI); one IC Sept. 24 (ST); and one Manitou Oct. 7 (RO, PW). Late or unusual records of other Fall warblers included: Tennessee Warbler: one Penfield Nov. 3 (POS); Yellow Warbler: one Livonia Sept. 23; Chestnut-sided Warbler: one IC Oct. 26 (NH), an inland record late date; Pine Warbler: one Webster Sept. 6; and one Livonia Oct. 3; Ovenbird: one Penfield Nov. 1 (POS), late, found dead; and one IC Nov. 10 (NH), very late; **KENTUCKY WARBLER**: one imm. IC Sept. 19 (NH), late; and Am. Redstart: one Manitou Oct. 27, late.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: A good-sized flock of Eastern Meadowlark was: 20 Greece Oct. 6. A late Indigo Bunting was: BB Oct. 3. Among a large flock of sparrows roaming west Webster was **DICKCISSEL**: one imm. Webster Nov. 1 thru (A & BK, R & SS, mob). An early Evening Grosbeak was: one BB Sept. 28. House Finch continues to spread with: two Greece Nov. 15 thru, a new location. Hope of an expected winter finch invasion was misplaced in Pine Grosbeak: seven Webster Oct. 20 (RS), early; one H Oct. 21 (GOS), early; five H Nov. 5; and two D Nov. 18; and Pine Siskin: ten WL Sept. 23 (R & MM), early migrants. Sparrows provided a few records of interest: Savannah Sparrow: one H thru Oct. 27, very late; Chipping Sparrow: one Brighton Nov. (J & JD), a feeder straggler; White-crowned Sparrow: one Webster Sept. 16 (MAS), very early; and Fox Sparrow: one Webster Sept. 22 (RS); and one Webster Sept. 23 (WLI), both very early. Snow Bunting appeared along the lakeshore at typical October dates, but 500 Carlton Oct. 27 (R & SS), was a very high count for so early. 716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580

REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

The Fall season started out with a very warm week and closed with the temperature well above normal, rising to 65 degrees F. Mid-month September and October and early November were below normal but the average for the season was above. Precipitation was a bit over normal but included only one-half inch of snow.

The Elmira TV tower kill during September totaled over 200 birds of twenty-three species including three species of thrushes and thirteen of warblers. Of the eighty warblers killed, thirty were Blackpolls.

Seasonal pluses: 1. an unbelievable 500 Double-crested Cormorants seen migrating over Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; 2. increased reports of Brant; 3. an estimated 100,000 ducks resting at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge at the peak of migration; 4. an abundance of gulls; 5. a good movement of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers; 6. an upswing in Winter Wrens after low numbers; 7. some increase in kinglets; 8. continued build-up of House Finches; 9. an enormous

flock of an estimated 2,000 sparrows migrating at Ithaca, composed mainly of Chipping, White-crowned and White-throated, with some Field and Song Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos and one Clay-colored Sparrow; 10. at least a suggestion of a turn around in the drastic decline of the Vesper Sparrow.

Seasonal minuses: 1. continued mention of reduced sightings of Red-tailed Hawks and Am. Kestrels; 2. very, very few reports of Ring-necked Pheasants; 3. few reports of rails; 4. a poor shorebirding season due to lack of suitable habitat anywhere in the Region; 5. very meager Com. Nighthawk migration; 6. almost complete absence of Red-breasted Nuthatch reports; 7. no No. Shrikes; 8. while twenty-three species of warblers were reported, the common complaint was that there were so few of them, with only the Yellow-rumped showing any abundance; 9. a scarcity of Rusty Blackbirds; 10. a very minimal number of Tree Sparrows, possibly due to unseasonably warm weather in November; 11. a virtual absence of winter finches except for some Evening Grosbeaks; 12. a generally poor sparrow migration except for the jackpot flock at Ithaca, noted above.

Rarities: Red-throated Loon, Sandhill Crane, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Forster's Tern, Fish Crow, White-eyed Vireo, Lark Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; Co—county; L—lake; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Pk—park; seminar—weekly Laboratory of Ornithology seminar; Sen—Seneca; * (starred)—details on file.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: 93 Aurora Oct. 30. **RED-THROATED LOON:** a very early migrant Ithaca Oct. 3 (D. Sibley)*. Double-crested Cormorant: one to three at MNWR during Sept.; one Ithaca Oct. 3; a remarkable flight of 500 observed going south over MNWR on Nov. 13 by Tony Leger of the Refuge personnel. Cattle Egret: one at Union Springs Oct. 3 (T. Rawinski) for the only report of the year. Great Egret: one to three at MNWR until Oct. 26. Whistling Swan: one on a pond east of Bath; one at MNWR Nov. 15-18; Canada Goose: large flocks over Elmira Sept. 20-23; 13,000 migrating at Ithaca Oct. 7; max. 40,000 MNWR Oct. 31. Brant: more than the usual number of reports of this uncommon species. 50 seen flying over Ellis Hollow near Ithaca Oct. 18 (D. Brann); one to five imm. at MNWR Oct. 21-Nov. 24; one imm. Ithaca Oct. 25-26; six Watkins Glen Oct. 30; four Myers Point Oct. 31. Snow Goose: 100 MNWR late Oct; large flock on L Salubria east of Bath.

Ducks: maximum counts at MNWR as made by the Refuge personnel:

Mallard	40,000	Oct. 31	Wood Duck	2,100	Sep. 30
Black Duck	5,000	Oct. 31	Redhead	200	Nov. 30
Gadwall	2,000	Oct. 31	Ring-necked Duck	120	Oct. 31
Pintail	500	Oct. 31	Canvasback	50	Oct. 31
Green-winged Teal	3,000	Oct. 31	Bufflehead	75	Nov. 30
Blue-winged Teal	3,000	Sep. 30	Ruddy Duck	75	Nov. 30
American Wigeon	10,000	Sep. 30	Common Merganser	250	Nov. 30
Northern Shoveler	1,200	Sep. 30	Hooded Merganser	150	Nov. 30

Gadwall: six at Elmira Oct. 11 where they are uncommon. Wood Duck: 12 Watkins marsh Sept. 30. Redhead: arrived early on Keuka L; a few on Cay L Nov. 18. Ring-necked Duck; one Ithaca Oct. 26. Canvasback: arrived early on Keuka L; 800 Cay L Pk and 50 Ithaca Nov.

18. Bufflehead: up to ten Elmira Nov. 3-9. Oldsquaw: one Ithaca Oct. 25; ten Sen L Oct. 27 thru the period; several Aurora Nov. 18. Surf Scoter: 12 Ithaca Oct. 25 and one Nov. 29; female at Sheldrake Nov. 18. Com. Scoter: eight at Elmira Oct. 30. Ruddy Duck: two at Ithaca Nov. 7-26; ten Sen L end of Nov. Hooded Merganser: 20 Waneta L Nov. 28. Com. Merganser: 13 at Bath Sept. 21.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: 11 migrants east of Varna Oct. 19; two Clyde Oct. 21. Goshawk: reported at seminars thru Nov. 15; 2 MNWR Nov. 15. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** seminars thru Nov. 5; one at Elmira Nov. 13 chasing pigeons. Cooper's Hawk: one around feeder at Clyde Oct. 29; thru Nov. 11 seminar. Red-shouldered Hawk; one report at Oct. 15 seminar. Broad-winged Hawk: single late birds at MNWR Nov. 3 and 21. Rough-legged Hawk: one MNWR Oct. 15; one Clyde Nov. 5. Bald Eagle: young birds hacked at MNWR this summer hung around thru Oct.; one imm. Moravia Oct. 23; imm. bird sighted at Stanley Oct. 27 stayed for a month. Marsh Hawk: scattered reports of one or two birds thru Oct. from MNWR, Phelps, Ithaca and Watkins Glen. Osprey: sightings from MNWR, Ithaca and Elmira thru mid-Oct. Turkey: several seen frequently at a farm near Horseheads. **SANDHILL CRANE:** one at a farm near Glenora, Yates Co. for about six weeks. Last seen Oct. 25. Photograph by JB on file. Com. Gallinule: a late bird at MNWR Oct. 23. Am. Coot: 1500 max. at MNWR; large numbers Cay L State Pk; wintering at Watkins Glen in increasing numbers with 41 there Oct. 30. Semipalmated Plover: singles on Savannah mucklands Sept. 1 and at Ithaca Sept. 20. Killdeer: 90 Harris Hill, Elmira Sept. 14-15. Am. Golden Plover: Ithaca Sept. 20 and Nov. 26 seminar, both were reports of birds heard flying over. Greater Yellowlegs: two at Horseheads Oct. 5 eating earthworms on highway during heavy rain. Lesser Yellowlegs: 12 Savannah mucklands Sept. 1. Least Sandpiper: 18 MNWR Oct. 16. Dunlin: 60 MNWR Oct. 23. Short-billed Dowitcher: 15 Waterloo dump Sept. 11. Long-billed Dowitcher: five MNWR Sept. 29. Stilt Sandpiper: a late bird at MNWR Oct. 22. **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:** one Horseheads Oct. 5 (WH). **MARBLED GODWIT:** one MNWR Oct. 19 (H. Axtell)*. Ring-billed Gull: 125 Bath Sept. 25; usual hundreds at Waterloo dump. Bonaparte's Gull: a few reported from MNWR, Ithaca and Elmira. **FORSTER'S TERN:** two in winter plumage Ithaca Oct. 25 (D. Sibley). Caspian Tern: eight at Watkins Glen Sept. 3; three Ithaca Sept. 8.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: one Reeder's Creek, Sen. Co. Sept. 1 (BH). Barred Owl: one Elmira Sept. 5 (MW) first in the area in several years. Saw-whet Owl: one along Six Mile Creek, Ithaca Oct. 11 (SS). Com. Nighthawk: singles Elmira Sept. 6 and Sept. 30. The latter was a late bird and was observed flying low in front of cars as they crossed the Walnut St. bridge. Chimney Swift: 100 Elmira Sept. 21. Red-headed Woodpecker: singles at Second Milo thru the period, Clyde thru Nov. 6 and Phelps Nov. 7-30. All were imm. birds at feeders. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: good migration.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Eastern Kingbird: one Ithaca Sept. 30 rather late. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Ithaca in late Sept. (SS). Eastern Pewee: one Ithaca Oct. 9 late (M. Shepherd). Olive-sided Flycatcher: singles Ithaca Sept. 9 and 15. Rough-winged Swallow: a very late individual at Ithaca Nov. 9 (J. Hines). **FISH CROW:** four birds seen thru Nov. 17 at Ithaca (D. Sibley, M. Shepherd, DM). Red-breasted Nuthatch: only reports were one at Watkins Glen Sept. 22 and at Sept. 24 seminar. Winter Wren: one Sept. 30 and several thereafter at Reeder's Creek; reported regularly thru the Oct. 15 seminar. Carolina Wren: one Watkins Glen Nov. 10; two to three thru the period at Ithaca. Mockingbird: one Clyde Nov. 8; one Phelps Nov. 14 and 24; population stable at Elmira. Gray Catbird: late individuals at Elmira Nov. 4 and Ithaca Nov. 11. Brown Thrasher: a late bird at Southport Nov. 3. Hermit Thrush: several reports thru Nov. 1. Swainson's Thrush: one Ithaca Nov. 6 late. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one Clyde Sept. 27, seminars thru Oct. 8. Eastern Bluebird: reported at seminars Sept. 24-Oct. 15; small flock Elmira Sept. 27; up to four near Clyde until Nov. 18. Golden-crowned Kinglet: Phelps Oct. 10; many Reeder's Creek Oct. 13; in a mixed flock of 40 on Connecticut Hill Oct. 21; at MNWR Oct. 30; low numbers at Ithaca. Ruby-

crowned Kinglet: Phelps Oct. 10; MNWR Oct. 10 and 30; fair numbers at Ithaca. Water Pipit: only reports were of 100 plus in Varick Township, Seneca Co. and some large flocks at Phelps. No. Shrike: none reported.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: WHITE-EYED VIREO: the pair that spent the summer in Ithaca were seen into Sept. Philadelphia Vireo: one Clyde Sept. 12 and 18; seminar Sept. 24. Warblers: Tennessee: Nov. 5 seminar late. Nashville: Nov. 5 seminar late. Yellow: Oct. 15 seminar late. Yellow-rumped: the only warbler reported in any numbers. Pine: two singing Harris Hill, Elmira, Sept. 27 (WH). Wilson's: several reports from Clyde, Varick, Ithaca, Watkins Glen.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: at Horseheads large flocks with many singing were seen Sept. 28 and 50 on Nov. 2; large flock Waterloo Oct. 6. Rusty Blackbird: reported from MNWR and Ithaca but small numbers only. Com. Grackle: albino at Phelps Oct. 5. Evening Grosbeak: first seen at Elmira Oct. 24 and at Ithaca, Seneca Falls and Clyde thereafter, mostly in small numbers but with a flock of 200 at Ithaca. Purple Finch: three Clyde Oct. 10; two to three Elmira Oct. 24-Nov. 4; no other reports. House Finch: where this species is established comments ranged from "more abundant" to "everywhere"; in Seneca Falls (a new area) 24 at the Keating's feeder Nov. 28 (PHK). Pine Siskin: a single report of a single bird at Ithaca Nov. 4. Rufous-sided Towhee: one at Clyde feeder to Oct. 25 and one at Elmira feeder Nov. 27. Sparrows: Savannah: groups at Horseheads Sept. 28; 50 Ithaca Oct. 15. **LARK SPARROW:** singing male Ithaca Sept. 5 (SS)*. Tree: very scarce; earliest one Ithaca Sept. 30 (T. Rawinski). **CLAY-COLORED:** Ithaca Oct. 16 in a flock of about 2,000 sparrows (SS)*. Field: only a few reports. White-crowned: while a good migration was reported from Ithaca, other areas found this species scarce, such as only one bird reported at Elmira. White-throated: good at Ithaca but poor elsewhere. Fox: two Phelps Oct. 1 early; more than usual reports at seminars; one at Watkins end of Nov. Lincoln: one Ithaca Sept. 9 (J. Hines) early; one in Elmira TV tower kill Oct. 11. Lapland Longspur: one heard at Ithaca Nov. 18 only report. Snow Bunting: 3 Union Springs Oct. 6 (R. Howard); two Sen L State Pk Oct. 27; one MNWR Oct. 31; one Reeder's Creek Nov. 3; a few in Nov. at Ithaca.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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The Fall of 1979 started out on the cool side, but average temperatures hadn't changed much by the end of November, so the season as a whole was decidedly mild. November 23, the day after Thanksgiving, was exceptional and would have been warm for September. Skies were overcast a good deal of the time and rain was frequent although for the most part light. The fact that it so often rained on Fridays and Saturdays is probably responsible for the impression that it was a wet Fall. Two short two to three day periods about a week apart in early October, when the sun shone continuously, was our Indian Summer.

In keeping with the lack of wide variations in the weather, the thrush-vireo-warbler part of the migration proceeded without much in the way of sharp peaks, and those peaks that did occur were of one species or in one area at a time. Much of the data was from two banding stations in southwestern Binghamton and