

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

LESLIE E. BEMONT

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

northeastern Vestal, operated more or less continuously, which would tend to flatten out the normal weekend peaks. However, there did seem to be a peak of sparrows October 14 to 20 that was apparent in several areas.

The mildness of the season might have led us to expect some late stragglers. In fact, only a late October Cape May Warbler was substantially later than the expected extreme date for its species. Several others, e.g. Tree Swallow, Black-and-white Warbler and Eastern Wood Pewee, were later than usual but within their expected extremes.

The top rarity of the season was a well-described Peregrine Falcon. Other good records include a Double-crested Cormorant, an American Golden Plover and two Connecticut Warblers, all with either written or verbal details. It is difficult to know how seriously we should take a second Peregrine, a Merlin, a White-eyed Vireo and a Yellow-headed Blackbird, all without details of any kind, even when they come from trusted observers.

Observers: Bertram Anderson, Cutler & Jeanette Baldwin, Reynolds Bennett (RB), Bruce Bozdos, Salley Carey, Geoffrey Carleton (GeC), Lynn Clark, Mildred Clark (MC), Gail Corderman (GC), Dorothy Crumb (DC), Anna & Marilyn Davis (A, MD), Warren & Louise Dean (W, LD), Mary Dobinsky, Sadie Dorber, Diane Drabo, Polly & Earl Getkin, John Gustafson, Elva Hawken (EH), Jim & Kathy Hoteling (J, KH), Paul Kelsey (PK), Margaret Layton, Jay Lehman (JL), Arthur Levy (AL), Florence Linaberry, Bob Long (BL), Leona McDowell, Harriet Marsi (HM), Rick Marsi (RM), Bud & Evelyn Mead, C. Norte (CN), Francis O'Leary, Robert & Rita Pantle, Booth Perkins, Beverly Prince, James Riley, Harriet Robinson, Randy Ross, Fritz Scheider (FS), Mary Sheffield (MS), Kenneth Stalter (KS), Ann Whitaker, Connie Wilkins (CW), Beryl & Tom Wilson (B, TW), Kathryn Wilson (KW).

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: reported at Whitney Point Nov. 10 to 18; five max. Nov. 10. Horned Grebe: one Owego Nov. 1, first of season; approx. 30 at Whitney Point Nov. 3, max. Pied-billed Grebe: Oct. 10 Chenango Valley State Park; three Portlandville-Milford area Oct. 27; small numbers at Whitney Point Oct. 27 to Nov. 10. Double-crested Cormorant: one Whitney Point Oct. 26 (AL), the only one; infrequently reported in the Region and usually in the spring. Great Blue Heron: two Milford-Cooperstown Nov. 17 and one Owego Nov. 21, the only ones after Nov. 2; frequent reports of one to four birds all during Sept. and Oct. Green Heron: one Sept. 23 Upper Lisle, above Whitney Point, the last date. Great Egret: Sept. 13 Owego swamp. Whistling Swan: four Upper Lisle Nov. 7 (RM), no others. Canada Goose: 26 on pond at German, in Chenango Co., about Sept. 15, over 100 flying over Cortland Sept. 19 and 75 over Norwich Sept. 19 were the earliest migrants reported; heavy flights were regularly noted from Sept. 22 to Oct. 16 — Oct. 13 "there must have been 1000" on the Whitney Point Reservoir, coming and going; 560 over Choconut Center Oct. 6 and over 500 over Oxford Nov. 3; 50 at Cortland Nov. 4, the last ones. Snow Goose: 35 Oneonta Nov. 5 (KW); also reported Nov. 17 Owego (RB). Black Duck: one, with 20 Mallards, Oct. 13 Endwell; two with 18 Mallards Nov. 10 Portlandville; one Sept. 18 Portlandville; also one report from Owego, but that's all. Canvasback: Nov. 3 Whitney Point, the only report so far this year. Lesser Scaup: Oct. 31 Delhi, scaup (sp?): Nov. 3 Whitney Point. Com. Goldeneye: ten Whitney Point Nov. 10, first fall report. Bufflehead: Oct. 27 Whitney Point, first date, and present in small numbers to at least Nov. 17; also reported from Owego. Oldsquaw: four appeared at Whitney Point Nov. 3; one at Milford-Cooperstown Nov. 17. White-winged Scoter: one Whitney Point Nov. 3; six Delhi Nov. 16. Black Scoter: 20 Delhi Oct. 16 (MC). Ruddy Duck: 17 Whitney Point Nov. 3 (A, MD). Hooded Merganser: 13 at Chenango Valley State Park Nov. 3, four remaining the following day; no others. Com. Merganser: ten Delhi Sept. 16, first date; 54 Whitney Point Nov. 10, max. Red-breasted Merganser: four Whitney Point Nov. 3; also reported from Owego.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: as many as 15 at Delhi through Sept. and to Oct. 11, the last date. Goshawk: one Cortland Nov. 4 (PK), the only one. Sharp-shinned Hawk: at Oneonta nine counted passing through in a little more than an hour Oct. 5, six in two-and-a-quarter hours Sept. 17 (KW); six counted in Oneonta-Portlandville area Sept. 18; eight other reports, the last Nov. 21. Cooper's Hawk: six reports in Sept.; two reports from Owego in Nov. Red-tailed Hawk: at Oneonta Oct. 6 one seen making a pass with outstretched talons at a hang glider (GeC); eleven counted flying over Oneonta within three hours Oct. 5 max, but reported in small numbers all period and from all parts of the Region; a near albino at Norwich Nov. 4. Red-shouldered Hawk: only two reports, Sept. 16 Owego and Sept. 22 Binghamton. Broad-winged Hawk: twelve counted passing over Oneonta in three hours Sept. 17; nine other reports of ones and twos, the latest Oct. 5. Rough-legged Hawk: Oct. 14 Marathon (CW), an early date even for severe fall weather. Marsh Hawk: six scattered reports, the latest Oct. 28 Marathon. Osprey: 26 scattered reports, with, perhaps, some duplication, the latest Oct. 21 Chenango Forks; four in three hours over Oneonta Oct. 5 the best count. Peregrine Falcon: one about ten to twelve miles south of Cortland Sept. 28 (DC, BL, FS) in a large maple tree about 50 feet from the road—observed for ten minutes—detailed field marks indicated the bird to be "an immature from the *tundrius* race"—no band, streamers or markers of any kind; one Franklin Oct. 4 (KS), no details. Merlin: one Oct. 21 Delhi (MC). Bobwhite: one Sept. report from Owego. Turkey: fourteen at Andes Sept. 23; 18 Oct. 20 Milford feeding in cornfield with geese; nine Nov. 22 at Smithville Flats. Am. Coot: one Portlandville-Milford Oct. 27; 11 Whitney Point Nov. 3; no others. Killdeer: at Delhi to Nov. 18. Am. Golden Plover: two Sherburne Sept. 10 (JL), good description. Com. Snipe: one Portlandville-Oneonta Sept. 4; one Sherburne Nov. 10; no others. Spotted Sandpiper: none after Aug. 17. Solitary Sandpiper: five Portlandville-Milford-Oneonta Sept. 4, the last. Greater Yellowlegs: four reports all Fall, the last Nov. 6 Owego. Lesser Yellowlegs: Nov. 3 and 4 Chenango Valley State Park (EH). Least Sandpiper: one Sherburne Sept. 10. Semipalmated Sandpiper: Nov. 10 Owego. Ring-billed Gull: 200 Homer Nov. 1, best count; 25 Milford-Cooperstown Nov. 17; a flock of 50 to 100 present on open fields up and down Owego Creek Valley most of Nov. Com. Tern: one Portlandville Sept. 13, the first all year.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Sept. 15 Meredith, in Delaware Co., the only Fall report. Black-billed Cuckoo: none. Screech Owl: over a dozen scattered reports. Barred Owl: Sept. 1 s. of Binghamton. Com. Nighthawk: Sept. 3 at Emmons, near Oneonta, the last date. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one Delhi Oct. 7, the only one after Sept. 21. Com. Flicker: Nov. 21 Owego, last date. Pileated Woodpecker: 15 reports from all parts of the Region. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one Owego Sept. 28 (W. LD), stayed on through Oct.; Cortland Nov. 6 (CN); a male Nov. 13 Smithville Flats (J. KH), stayed until the end of the month. Red-headed Woodpecker: still at Owego into Oct. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: nine scattered reports of one to three birds, the last Oct. 14 Vestal.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Eastern Kingbird: two Sept. 18 Portlandville-Oneonta, last date. Great Crested Flycatcher: Sept. 19 Cortland. Eastern Phoebe: last date Oct. 25 Delhi. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Portlandville-Oneonta Sept. 4; one banded Sept. 4 and another Sept. 8. Vestal; that's all. Eastern Wood Pewee: one Delhi Oct. 1, late. Tree Swallow: Oct. 8 Owego; one Delhi Oct. 12. Barn Swallow: two Delhi Sept. 7. Tufted Titmouse: increasingly frequent reports at feeders in Oct. and Nov. Red-breasted Nuthatch: Nov. 4 Chenango Valley State Park, the only report after Sept. 22. House Wren: Oct. 4, one at Delhi and one banded at Binghamton, last date. Winter Wren: five reports from Sept. 22 Binghamton to Nov. 3 Choconut Center. Carolina Wren: still at Port Dickinson through Oct. 29. Mockingbird: the usual scattered infrequent reports. Gray Catbird: Oct. 13 Vestal Center. Brown Thrasher: Oct. 24 Endwell. Am. Robin: 15 Vestal Nov. 13 the last flock; scattered individuals still around at the end of the period. Wood Thrush: Oct. 24 Port Dickinson, the only report after Oct. 11. Hermit Thrush: only four scattered reports all Fall, the last Nov. 17 Milford-Cooperstown. Swainson's Thrush: 31 reports of at least 44 individuals from all

parts of the Region, 29 of which were banded at Binghamton and Vestal—first date Sept. 3 Vestal—last date Oct. 27 Port Dickinson. Veery: one banded Binghamton Oct. 7, the only report after Sept. 22. Eastern Bluebird: a dozen scattered reports—ten or more at Kirkwood Oct. 14, max—two Portlandville-Milford Oct. 27, the last. Golden-crowned Kinglet: two Portlandville-Milford Sept. 4, early; 14 reports to Nov. 15, a good showing for the less common kinglet. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: quite common, as usual, from Sept. 21 through Oct.; 28 banded at Binghamton and Vestal. Water Pipit: Oct. 7 Broome Co. Airport; 25 Milford Oct. 20; one Delhi Oct. 21. Cedar Waxwing: 100 Sept. 16 Emmons, the largest flock but numerous reports of smaller flocks through Oct. plus a few in Nov. No. Shrike: one Oct. report from Owego without specific date; Nov. 9 Chenango, in Cortland Co.; one Milford-Cooperstown Nov. 17.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: Oct. 18 Owego (RB), no details. Solitary Vireo: one banded Oct. 5 Binghamton, last date. Red-eyed Vireo: one Oct. 4 the last of 22 banded at Binghamton, and last date for species. Philadelphia Vireo: five banded at Binghamton, the last Oct. 14 (HM), the only reports. Warbling Vireo: singing Sept. 23 Upper Lisle, n. of Whitney Point, the last date. Black-and-white Warbler: one Delhi Oct. 6, the only one after Sept. 22. Tennessee Warbler: one Binghamton Oct. 8 banded, last date; five Portlandville-Milford Sept. 4, max. Nashville Warbler: two banded Binghamton Oct. 7, the last of 13 Sept.-Oct. reports. No. Parula: three banded Vestal Oct. 2 (GC), the only Fall report. Yellow Warbler: Sept. 17 Delhi, last date. Magnolia Warbler: 25 banded Binghamton in Sept. and to Oct. 4; last date Oct. 9 Owego. Cape May Warbler: 19 reports, only four after Sept. 16 and a very late one Oct. 27 Delhi (MC) the only one after Oct. 1; seven Norwich Sept. 5, max. Black-throated Blue Warbler: three Portlandville-Milford Sept. 4 and one banded each of Sept. 18 and 19 Binghamton the only reports. Yellow-rumped Warbler: reported almost constantly through Sept. and Oct.; one Binghamton Nov. 12, the last date; 75 Emmons Sept. 30, the best count. Black-throated Green Warbler: one banded Oct. 5 Binghamton, last date; common through Sept., best counts seven Delhi Sept. 7 and six Portlandville-Oneonta Sept. 18. Blackburnian Warbler: one Portlandville-Milford Sept. 4 and one Delhi Oct. 6, the only ones. Chestnut-sided Warbler: one Portlandville-Oneonta Sept. 18, last date. Bay-breasted Warbler: five banded at Binghamton and five banded at Vestal in Sept.; last date Sept. 30 Upper Lisle; best single day count five Portlandville-Milford Sept. 4. Blackpoll Warbler: one banded Binghamton Sept. 13, first Fall date, and one banded Binghamton Oct. 8, last Fall date; a total of 16 banded at two stations in Binghamton and Vestal and only five other reports. Prairie Warbler: one Delhi Oct. 1 (MC), rarely reported here in Fall. Palm Warbler: one Delhi Sept. 7 to Oct. 6 Choconut Center; also at Owego Sept. 21 and five at Emmons Sept. 30. Ovenbird: 17 banded at Binghamton and Vestal through Oct. 8, the last date; only two other reports. No. Waterthrush: one banded Binghamton Sept. 5; no others. Connecticut Warbler: one banded Sept. 5 Binghamton (HM) and one banded Sept. 21 Vestal (GC); no others. Mourning Warbler: one Portlandville-Milford Sept. 4, the only report. Com. Yellowthroat: last date Oct. 14 Whitney Point; common as usual. Yellow-breasted Chat: Sept. 22 Binghamton. Wilson's Warbler: eight reports of single birds, five of them banded at Binghamton as was the last one Oct. 4. Canada Warbler: six banded at Binghamton, the last Sept. 21; no others. Am. Redstart: one banded Binghamton Oct. 8, last date.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: Sept. 3 Upper Lisle (MS). Eastern Meadowlark: only about a dozen reports, max five Truxton, in Cortland Co., Oct. 7; have clearly declined during the decade. Yellow-headed Blackbird: Oct. 23 in the Owego area (RB), no details. Red-winged Blackbird: large flocks Nov. 4 Truxton and Chenango Valley State Park and scarce after that. No. Oriole: two Portlandville-Milford Sept. 4 and one Norwich Sept. 16, no others. Rusty Blackbird: five Truxton Oct. 27; three Vestal Center Oct. 31; that's all. Com. Grackle: a huge flock, mixed with Red-winged Blackbirds, Nov. 4 Chenango Valley State Park; regular reports, but only small numbers to Nov. 20. Scarlet Tanager: two Emmons Oct. 19, the only ones after Oct. 1. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: numerous reports to Sept. 23; best count ten Norwich Sept. 8; one Norwich Oct. 1, the last. Indigo Bunting:

three Portlandville-Oneonta Sept. 18, the only report. Evening Grosbeak: 25 Norwich Oct. 27, the first written record; scattered reports to Nov. 12 and regular reports from then on in some locations but very few in others, numbers way down compared to recent years. Purple Finch: increased numbers from about mid-Oct. to mid-Nov. with only smaller numbers present before and after suggest a movement through the Region. House Finch: constant reports from Owego and Triple Cities area, although seasonal movements over short distances are evident; at Cortland 15 to 20 at feeder every day, some feeding young, to Sept. 19 at least and "they outnumber house sparrows." Pine Siskin: an undated Oct. report from Owego, but that's all. Am. Goldfinch: still common, but seem to have decreased steadily for the last few years. Rufous-sided Towhee: one Norwich Nov. 14 and Nov. 19 Vestal the only reports after mid-Oct. Savannah Sparrow: 15 Norwich Sept. 14, max; five Delhi Oct. 7, the last report, but surely not the last date. Dark-eyed Junco: present all period, but numbers increasing about Oct. 14 and then decreasing about Nov. 25; 48 Portlandville-Milford Oct. 27 the best count, but considerably more common than even that would suggest. Tree Sparrow: Oct. 17 Port Dickinson; next date Nov. 27; 14 Portlandville-Milford Nov. 10, max; numbers noticeably down. Chipping Sparrow: 60 Norwich Oct. 16, best count; Nov. 19 Vestal (B, TW), the only report after Nov. 3. Field Sparrow: 20 Norwich Oct. 16. White-crowned Sparrow: Sept. 27 Delhi and one Endicott Nov. 5, first and last Fall records; 40 Norwich Oct. 16 and 40 Milford Oct. 20, best counts. White-throated Sparrow: daily records from Sept. 22 to Nov. 7, and from all parts of the Region with peak numbers Oct. 14 to 18; appreciable numbers still present at the end of the period. Fox Sparrow: Oct. 6 Choconut Center and Nov. 17 Vestal, the first and last of only four Fall records. Lincoln's Sparrow: one Binghamton Sept. 10 and one Vestal Sept. 30, both banded; two Norwich Oct. 16. Song Sparrow: 50 Norwich Oct. 16, max. Snow Bunting: a single bird at Delhi Nov. 15, 16 and 17, the only report.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

GENE HUGGINS

The beginning of the fall season was dominated by the effects of Hurricanes David and Frederic upon certain birds along the Lake Ontario littoral. An unprecedented number of Common Terns was observed over the east end of Lake Ontario on Sept. 15, the day after Hurricane Frederic's passage. To the amazement of veteran observers, an approximate total of 10,800 terns filled the skies. The following day only 550 Common Terns could be accounted for; where they came from and where they went in two days left a question mark in the minds of most who saw the spectacle. On that same day, an immature Sabine's Gull flew by Derby Hill for the Region's second record. Later on another immature bird made its appearance for the Region's third record.

Another bird that drew attention was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher that spent 46 days in Oswego County for the Region's first confirmed record.

Positives for the fall include: good numbers of Red-throated Loons; fair Brant flight; above average numbers of Gadwalls, Pintails, and American Wigeons; good tallies of Oldsquaws, Black Scoters, Ruddy Ducks, Hooded and Red-breasted Mergansers; superb jaeger numbers; irruption of Blue Jays; an invasion