

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

of Tufted Titmice; large numbers of American Robins and Cedar Waxwings; good, but not impressive numbers of warblers; fair numbers of migrant sparrows, particularly Field, White-throated and Song Sparrows; better than average numbers of Snow Buntings.

Fall negatives include: extremely poor numbers of Pied-billed Grebes; low numbers of all herons, particularly American Bitterns; low numbers of Black Ducks, both teal and *aythya* species; poor numbers of migrant buteos, Marsh Hawks and Ospreys; Ring-necked Pheasants now a vanishing species; very poor Sept.-Oct. shorebird flight particularly poor in snipe; extremely low counts on all migrant thrushes, the worst in 20 years according to Jean Propst; virtually no winter finch flight; low numbers of all grassland sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos; extremely low numbers of Fox and Tree Sparrows.

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Abbreviations: Derby Hill—DH; Lake Ontario littoral—LOL; Oneida Hawk Lookout—OHL; Onondaga Lake—Onon. L.; Selkirk Shores State Park—SSSP; Sandy Pond—SPd.

Observations for which no observer is listed should be credited to F. G. Scheider. Also thanks to F. G. Scheider for help in compiling these notes.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: max 80 LOL Nov. 8; Red-throated Loon: max 15 LOL Nov. 3; Red-necked Grebe: max two LOL Nov. 4-9 and one at Oneida L. Nov. 18 (MSR & KC); Horned Grebe: max 95 LOL Nov. 3; Pied-billed Grebe: max 15 LOL Oct. 18; Double-crested Cormorant: max 72 SPd & DH Oct. 6; Great Blue Heron: max 11 Sylvan B Oct. 3 (KC); Green Heron: max four Stone Rd. and DH Nov. 3, a total of 20 for the season; CATTLE EGRET: two birds at Lacona Oct. 28 (mob); Am. Bittern: only one for the fall along the LOL Oct. 1; Whistling Swan: max ten Oneida L. near Constantia and Billington Bay near Bridgeport Nov. 19 (KC); Canada Goose: max 3,000 s. Madison Co. Nov. 25; Brant: max 1,245 DH Oct. 8, last day Nov. 29; Snow Goose: max 48 Oct. 30 (DWC); Black Duck: max 225 DH & SPd. Oct. 25; Gadwall: max 100 FH to DH Nov. 1, 4; Pintail: max 1,208 DH Oct. 7; Blue-winged Teal: max 100 LOL Sept. 20 with one injured bird on Nov. 18 at SPd; Am. Wigeon: max 715 Oct. 7 (GS); No. Shoveler: max five Onon. L. Sept. 4 (KC); Wood Duck: max 286 Scott Sw. Sept. 22; Redhead: max 68 Beaver L. Nov. 23 (GH); Ring-necked Duck: max 70 FH & LSB Nov. 1; Canvasback: max 26 LOL Nov. 10; Greater Scaup: max 950 DH Oct. 7 (GS); Com. Goldeneye: max 750 DH Nov. 10; Bufflehead: max 490 LOL Nov. 10; Oldsquaw: max 1,000 LOL Oct. 25 (DWC); King Eider: one at LSB on Nov. 17; White-winged Scoter: max 410 DH & SPd. Oct. 25; Surf Scoter: max 56 DH Oct. 7; Com. Scoter: max 1,551 DH Nov. 12 (MSR); Ruddy Duck: max 176 Onon. L. Nov. 12 (KC), with an early arrival Chitning Pd. s. Oneida Co. Oct. 6 (GH); Hooded Merganser: max 207 Nov. 18; Com. Merganser: max 88 SPd. and east end of Oneida L. Nov. 18 (MSR); Red-breasted Merganser: max 5,200 DH & SPd. Nov. 3.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: max four LOL & Oneida "Hawk-out" Sept. 18 (BP & DWC), last day Oct. 25; Goshawk: a total of three for the Fall; Sharp-shinned Hawk: a low max of 38 occurring on one of the few peak flight days of the Fall at OHL Sept. 8 (mob); Cooper's Hawk: a total of 15 reported for the Region; Red-shouldered Hawk: max three east end of Oneida L. Sept. 30 (MSR), a total of five for the period; Broad-winged Hawk: max 249 OHL Sept. 8 (mob), last day Sept. 16; Rough-legged Hawk: max two DH Nov. 3, arrv. Oct. 20; BALD EAGLE: one imm. unmarked bird DH Nov. 8; Marsh Hawk: max five LOL Nov. 11, a total of 21 for the period; Osprey: max three LOL Oct. 6, last day

Nov. 8; Merlin: one bird at SPd. Sept. 15 (B. Long) and one bird near Holland Patent Oct. 9 (E. Van Dresar); **PEREGRINE FALCON**: two imm. Oct. 1, two adults and two imm. Oct. 6, one adult and one imm. Oct. 7, in the Region; Ruffed Grouse: max nine reported from diff. localities; Ring-necked Pheasant: max seven Shackleton Pt. Oneida L. Nov. 18 (MacS), a total 28 reported for the period; Com. Gallinule: max ten SPd. Oct. 1, last day Oct. 17; Am. Coot: max 365 FH Nov. 4 (MSR); Semipalmated Plover: max 25 Sept. 1, last day Oct. 6; Killdeer: max 259 Sylvan B. & Verona B. Oct. 5; Am. Golden Plover: max 50 Durhamville Oct. 1 (DWC), last day Oct. 7; Black-bellied Plover: max three SPd. Sept. 30-Oct. 25, (mob), last day Nov. 11; Ruddy Turnstone: max seven SPd. Sept. 3, last day Nov. 15; Com. Snipe: max eight SPd. & SSSP. Nov. 8, last day Nov. 11; Spotted Sandpiper: one on a very late date of Oct. 21 at SPd. **WILLET**: one at DH Sept. 15 (FGS & MSR); Solitary Sandpiper: max two Onon. L. Sept. 3; Greater Yellowlegs: max six e. end of Oneida L. Oct. 31 (DWA); Lesser Yellowlegs: max 34 e. end Oneida L. Oct. 3, (KC), last day Oct. 5; Red Knot: max three Onon. L. Sept. 1 (KC), last day Sept. 16; Pectoral Sandpiper: max 32 Onon. L. Sept. 30 (KC), last day Oct. 25; White-rumped Sandpiper: max three SPd. Nov. 3 (MSR); Baird's Sandpiper: max six Onon. L. & Amboy Pool Sept. 2, last day Sept. 30; Least Sandpiper: max 25 Sept. 1 with a record late date of one at Fair Haven Nov. 24 (MSR); Dunlin: max 315 SPd. Oct. 7, last day Nov. 24; **HUDSONIAN GODWIT**: two at SPd. on Oct. 6; Short-billed Dowitcher: max 11 Onon. L. Sept. 2, last day Sept. 26; Stilt Sandpiper: max five Sept. 4 (KC); Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 111 Sept. 1, last day Nov. 3; Western Sandpiper: one at Sylvan B. Sept. 22 (J. Lehman), and one at SPd. Oct. 1; Sanderling: max 62 SPd. Sept. 16, last day Nov. 17; **PURPLE SANDPIPER**: one at Fair Haven Nov. 14 and one between Oswego and DH Nov. 17 (mob); Wilson's Phalarope: one imm. Onon. L. & Amboy Pool Sept. 3, 4; No. Phalarope: one Onon. L. Sept. 1, 2, last day Sept. 22; Pomarine Jaeger: one at DH Oct. 7 and one imm. dark phase bird DH Nov. 28 (GS); Parasitic Jaeger: max 202 DH Oct. 7, last day Oct. 26; Glaucous Gull and Iceland Gull: max one/day LOL arrv. Oct. 25; Great Black-backed Gull: max 85 LOL Nov. 17; Bonaparte's Gull: max 2,080 SPd. & SSSP Sept. 15; **BLACK-HEADED GULL**: one adult LOL Oct. 25 (DWC); **LITTLE GULL**: one adult at SPd. Sept. 3-Oct. 25, one imm. at e. end Oneida L. Sept. 30 (MSR & K. Blackshaw); **SABINE'S GULL**: two imm. birds, both observed from DH on Sept. 15, Oct. 7 for the second and third record in the Region (mob); **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**: one imm. DH Oct. 7, and one adult and three imm. SPd. & DH Oct. 25; **FORSTER'S TERN**: one at SPd. Sept. 18, one along LOL Oct. 25 (DWC) and four at e. end L. Ont. Oct. 7 (GS); Com. Tern: a record 10,800 e. end L. Ont. Sept. 15 to 550 the following day; Caspian Tern: max 37 LOL & Onon. L. Sept. 3; Black Tern: max 17 Sept. 15.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: max 250 N. Pompey Twp. Oct. 3 (DWC); Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one SPd. Sept. 15 (B. Long); Black-billed Cuckoo: one Chittenango Gorge Sept. 16 (MacS); Snowy Owl: one near Bridgeport on Oneida L. Nov. 19 (KC); Chimney Swift: max ten LOL Sept. 17; Red-bellied Woodpecker: one to two/day extending as far east as Holland Patent; Red-headed Woodpecker: declining with a total 11 reported for the period; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max five/day, last day Oct. 13.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Eastern Kingbird: one to three/day with Sept. 20 the last date; **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER**: one molting adult, Town of Sandy Creek north of Pt. Ontario Sept. 18-Nov. 3, first confirmed Regional record (mob); Eastern Phoebe: max nine SPd. Oct. 14 (MSR); Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max four SSSP Sept. 3, last day Sept. 15; Eastern Wood Pewee: max 24 SPd & SSSP Sept. 3; Horned Lark: scarce max 150 N. Pompey Twp. Oct. 9 (DWC); Bank Swallow: max 2,000 SPd. Sept. 1, departing on Sept. 16; Barn Swallow: max 1,100 SPd. Sept. 1, departing on Oct. 1; Blue Jay: ten to 75/day occurring to the third week of Oct. and dropping off sharply; Black-capped Chickadee: max 43 Tassel Hill St. forest s. Oneida Co. Sept. 8 (GH); Tufted Titmouse: major irruption occurings along the L. Ont. plain and as far northeast as Holland Patent one to three/day; Red-breasted Nuthatch: scarce one to two/day; Winter Wren: max six SPd. Oct. 1, scarce; Carolina Wren: one in DeWitt Nov. 16 (Charles Riley), one in N. Pompey Twp. Oct.

14 (DWC), and one at Fair Haven Nov. 6 (MSR); Mockingbird: expanding with two in Rome Nov. 12 (E. Van Dresar); Gray Catbird: max 18 Chittenango Gorge Sept. 16 (MacS). Am. Robin: abundant with 500+ N. Pompey Twp. (DWC); Swainson's Thrush: max four N. Pompey Twp. Oct. 2 (DWC); Gray-cheeked Thrush: max two N. Pompey Twp. Oct. 2 (DWC); Hermit Thrush: max nine Spd. Oct. 14 (MSR); Eastern Bluebird: max 12 Holland Patent area Oct. 9 (E. Van Dresar); Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 55 No. Pompey Twp. Oct. 14; and Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 48 N. Pompey Twp. Oct. 14 (DWC), scarce in Nov. with one to two/day; Water Pipit: max 300 Durhamville Oct. 1 (DWC) with three until Nov. 11; Cedar Waxwing: ten to 50/day; No. Shrike: very, very scarce—only two for the Fall, one at Shackleton Pt. and one at Lacona.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: one to three/day; Solitary Vireo: four/day near Sylvan B. with a late departure date of Oct. 24; Red-eyed Vireo: max 45 Spd. & SSSP Sept. 1; Philadelphia Vireo: max six N. Pompey Twp. Oct. 2 (DWC). Warbler migration: Species with low numbers/day: Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, No. Parula, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Palm Warbler, Mourning Warbler, No. Waterthrush. Species with good numbers/day: Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Com. Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler. Species with late dates: No. Parula, Oct. 30; Magnolia Warbler, Oct. 20; Black-throated Green Warbler, Nov. 4; Pine Warbler, Nov. 3; Ovenbird, Oct. 20; Com. Yellowthroat, Oct. 31. Blue-winged Warbler: one at LOL Oct. 16, a late date; Orange-crowned Warbler: max five N. Pompey Twp. Oct. 2 (DWC).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: generally scarce with a max 25/day; No. Oriole: one at Spd. Sept. 22; Rusty Blackbird: max 30 mid-Sept. scarce afterwards; Rose-breasted Grosbeak: one in Clay Marsh area Oct. 18, a late date; Indigo Bunting: one in N. Pompey Twp. Oct. 14, a late date (DWC); Evening Grosbeak: two arrived Oct. 13 N. Pompey Twp. (DWC); No Pine Grosbeaks, Com. Redpolls or crossbills; the only Pine Siskins in the Region from the Ben Burtt Feeder Survey were four in Utica and two in Syracuse. Am. Goldfinch: concentrated around thistle feeders with a max 285 DH Nov. 11; **DICK-CISSEL:** one in with a flock of House Sparrows, Elbridge, first week of Oct (Arlene Cronk). Savannah Sparrow: max 45 N. Pompey Twp. Oct. 3 (DWC); Vesper Sparrow: max ten Holland Patent Oct. 14 (E. Van Dresar); Dark-eyed Junco: very low with a max 90/day; Tree Sparrow: incredibly scarce with a max eight/day; Field Sparrow: max 34 Dempster Beach & DH Oct. 13; White-throated Sparrow: max 525 No. Pompey Twp. Oct. 10 (DWC); Fox Sparrow: very scarce, one to two/day; Snow Bunting: two arrv. on Oct. 20 with flocks of 15 to 95/day later on.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE CHAMBERLAINE

The Fall of 1979 was a wet one with very little snow and high winds from tropical storms David and Frederic. Maximum temperature for the period was a high of 84° F. (29° C.) on October 22nd, and a low of 12° F. (-11° C.) on November 16.

On September 14th, 2.5 inches of rain fell in Watertown and caused flooding of many small streams. Heavy rains occurred through much of October and No-