

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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It would be fair, perhaps even generous, to call the Fall 1980 season uneventful. The weather held mild until mid-November, when our first major snow fall forced the departure of most open country birds. Waterbirds had already been forced south by two freezes, although snow fall was insignificant until then. There were few flight days, especially along the shore of Lake Ontario. F. G. Scheider reported the best numbers of warblers on 7, 13 and 18 September along the lakeshore, with sites in Sterling township, Oswego Co., generally more productive than was the east shore of Lake Ontario. However, on 6 October Scheider beat an oncoming cold front accompanied by rains to Sandy Pond Inlet. He was rewarded with a major grounding of migrants, including 42 Brown Creepers, 105 Winter Wrens, 410 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 366 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and lesser numbers of other early October migrants.

Waterbirds of all kinds remained scarce, though most of the species we expect were reported. Departure dates for shorebirds tended to be early, and waterfowl arrivals tended to be late. All diving and sea ducks were scarce, most notably expected was the newly discovered assembly of Ruddy Ducks on Onondaga Lake during November. Double-crested Cormorants continue to show healthy increases in numbers locally, but only "average" numbers of jaegers were seen this Fall.

Raptors received, at best, spotty attention. The Hatala Road hawkwatch site near Vernon, Oneida Co., had only eight days of coverage and numbers there were unimpressive. G. A. Smith observed a pronounced flight of about 75 birds along the east shore of Lake Ontario during northeast winds on 15 September. This is the first serious attempt to monitor such flights in several years. Rough-legged Hawks were late in arriving but appeared in very good numbers throughout the region, when they did come. Only a few Snowy Owls were reported, but our first local concentration of Short-eared Owls in many years attracted many observers in late November.

Cone and berry crops were mixed but generally not very large. The paucity of birds perhaps made the crops seem more abundant than was actually available. Winter finches, after two year's absence, made an expected but not exceptional showing. All species except White-winged Crossbill had appeared by the end of November, but only Pine Siskins were found in large numbers. G. A. Smith noted a strong flight of Black-capped Chickadees past Derby Hill during September and October. At peak times, 100-150 birds/hour passed by, and Smith estimated that about 15,000 birds were involved in the entire flight. Red-breasted Nuthatches were conspicuous in September, but were hard to find by mid-November.

In summary, the numbers of birds were unimpressive, but a good variety of species were found. A total of 226 species were reported. The only great rarities found were: Long-billed Dowitcher, Laughing and Sabine's Gull, Bohemian Waxwing, and Yellow-breasted Chat. These rarities were supplemented by such goodies, all now expected annually, as: King Eider, Whimbrel, Purple and Buff-

breasted Sandpipers, all three phalaropes, Franklin's and Little Gulls, Forster's Tern, and Connecticut Warbler.

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Abbreviations: arr—arrival; DH—Derby Hill, Oswego Co.; DOR—dead on road; HIGMA—Howland's Island Game Management Area, Cayuga Co.; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral, Oswego Co.; LSB—Little Sodus Bay and Fairhaven State Park, Cayuga Co.; max—maximum(a); NPT—north Pompey township, Onon. Co.; Onon—Onondaga; SP—Sandy Pond, Oswego Co.; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park, Oswego Co.; Syr—Syracuse; SVB—Sylvan & Verona Beaches, Oneida Co.; TRIGMA—Three Rivers Game Management Area, Onon. Co.; twsp—township.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: arr DH on 23 Sept., max 30 LOL on 13 Oct. Red-throated Loon: seven reported LOL 26 Oct. to 15 Nov. Red-necked Grebe: singles DH on 13 Oct. and Onon. Lake on 9 Nov. Horned Grebe: arr DH on 2 Oct., max in 20's, low. Pied-billed Grebe: 1-12/day after mid-Sept., most LSB. Double-crested Cormorant: max 108 at DH on 6 Oct. breaks the regional high set this summer. Great Egret: one, Onon. Lake on 3 Sept. Green Heron: last 5 Oct. at two sites. Black-crowned Night Heron: imm at Onon Lake on 1 Sept., Clay Marsh, Onon Co., on 28 Sept. Am. Bittern: last LOL on 4 Oct. Canada Goose: max 8,090 DH on 4 Oct. Brant: arr 12 Oct., max 3,825 on 20 Oct., last 2 Nov., almost all DH. Snow Goose: white morph, SP on 4-5 Oct. Mallard: max in low 100's. Black Duck: max 130 DH on 19 Oct. Gadwall: max 45 at LSB in Oct.-Nov. Pintail: max 1,020 DH on 19 Oct. Green-winged Teal: to 30/day, last LSB on 8 Nov. Blue-winged Teal: to 70/day, last 19 Oct. at DH. Am. Wigeon: max 320 DH on 23 Oct. Shoveler: max 6-7/day, last LSB on 8 Nov. Wood Duck: max 420 Peter Scott Swamp, Oswego Co., 28 Sept., last Sterling twsp on 30 Oct. Redhead: arr 3 Oct. DH, max in teens, very low. Ring-necked Duck: arr DH on 3 Oct., max in 40's during Nov. Canvasback: arr 23 Oct., max in 200's during Nov. Greater Scaup: arr SP on 19 Sept., max 7,510 DH on 24 Oct. Lesser Scaup: arr 23 Sept. at Onon. Lake, max in 30's Oct. and Nov. Com. Goldeneye: arr DH on 18 Oct., to 300/day by late Nov. Bufflehead: arr 23 Oct. DH, to 75/day in early Nov. Oldsquaw: arr DH 12 Oct., to 100/day in Nov. King Eider: "female," Nine Mile Pt. Power Station, Oswego Co., 2 Nov. on (FGS), joined by second on 22 Nov. (MSR). White-winged Scoter: arr SP on 19 Sept., max 380 DH on 12 Oct. Surf Scoter: arr 10 Sept., max 90 on 13 Oct., both DH. Com. Scoter: arr 30 Sept., max 18 on 13 Oct. (very low), both DH. Ruddy Duck: arr Onon. Lake on 23 Sept., max 195 there on 8 Nov. Hooded Merganser: arr SP on 9 Sept., max 58 LOL in late Nov. Com. Merganser: arr DH on 26 Oct., max in teens, very low. Red-breasted Merganser: max 3,500 DH on 13 Nov.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: last DH on 24 Oct. Goshawk: imm 9 Oct. at SP only report. Sharp-shinned Hawk: arr 6 Sept., max 31 on 15 Sept., both SSSP. Cooper's Hawk: 1-2/day Sept. on. Red-shouldered Hawk: 3 reported LOL 19 Sept. to 24 Oct. Rough-legged Hawk: arr 17 Oct. DH, counts in teens by end of Nov. Bald Eagle: imm DH on 27 Sept., Pleasant Point, Oswego Co., on 28 Nov. (J. Kidney *vide* GAS). Marsh Hawk: max in 20's mid-Nov. Osprey: max 14 SSSP on 15 Sept., last SP on 3 Nov. Merlin: one SP on 6 Sept., one NPT on 25 Sept. Peregrine: seven reports LOL 27 Sept. to 12 Oct. Rails: none. Com. Gallinule: last SVB on 27 Oct. Am. Coot: arr 28 Sept., max in 40's LSB in Nov. Semipalmated Plover: last SVB on 27 Oct. Am. Golden Plover: arr Canastota on 4 Sept., max eight Onon. Lake on 18 Oct., last there on 23 Oct. Black-bellied Plover: max 51 SVB on 31 Oct., last LSB on 6 Nov. Ruddy Turnstone: to 7/day, last Onon. Lake on 1 Nov. Com. Snipe: to 10/day in late Oct. Whimbrel: one SP on 7 Sept. (JV). Upland Sandpiper: last Onon. Lake on 1 Sept. Spotted Sandpiper: last DH on 17 Oct. Solitary Sandpiper: last HIGMA on 5 Oct. Greater Yellowlegs: max only seven, last 13 Nov. Lesser Yellowlegs: last

30 Oct. Sterling twsp. Red Knot: to 3/day, last SVB on 13 Oct. Pectoral Sandpiper: max only 18 on 18 Sept. at SVB, last there on 25 Oct. White-rumped Sandpiper: last 3 Oct. Onon. Lake. Purple Sandpiper: two on 18 Nov., one 20 Nov., both LSB (FGS). Least Sandpiper: last 5 Oct. SVB. Dunlin: max 88 LOL on 18 Oct., last 22 Nov. at SVB. Short-billed Dowitcher: last 18 Sept., SVB. **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER**: imm SVB 14-21 Sept. (photographed PDeB, DWC), first regional report since 1970. Stilt Sandpiper: last 14 Sept. Onon. Lake. Semipalmated Sandpiper: last SVB on 23 Oct. Western Sandpiper: female SVB 1-2 Sept. (DKA, photographed PDeB), Onon. Lake 8-13 Sept. (FGS). Sanderling: max 156 at SP on 11 Sept., last there on 2 Nov. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one SP on 6 Sept. (photographed PDeB), two there the next day (JV). Wilson's Phalarope: three sightings Onon. Lake 11-18 Sept., imm NPT on 28 Sept. (DWC), very late. No. Phalarope: three at SP on 1 Nov., one there the next day (FGS, DWC, MSR), very late. Red Phalarope: 17 SP 1-2 Nov. (FGS, DWC, MSR), one SVB on 13 Nov. (DKA). Pomarine Jaeger: imm DH on 1 Nov. (FGS), SP on 15-16 Nov. (MSR, perhaps two different birds). Parasitic Jaeger: arr 11 Sept., max 38 on 19 Oct., 40 on 26 Oct., last 1 Nov., all DH. Glaucous Gull: one 13 Nov. at DH was the only "white-winged" gull reported. Herring Gull: max in 100's. Ring-billed Gull: max 12,000 LOL on 23 Sept. Franklin's Gull: imm SP 1 and 13 Sept. (FGS). **LAUGHING GULL**: juvenal SP on 11 Sept. (FGS), 11th Regional report. Bonaparte's Gull: max in 40's SVB, mid-teens SP. Little Gull: ad. SP on 2 Nov. (FGS). **SABINE'S GULL**: imm Onon. Lake on 14 Sept. (FGS, report to New York State Avian Records Committee), fourth regional record. Black-legged Kittiwake: five imm reported LOL 12 Oct. to 2 Nov. Com. Tern: max 245 SP on 6 Sept., last 16 Oct. at Onon. Lake. Forster's Tern: imm SP on 6 Sept. (FGS, PDeB). Caspian Tern: in 30's through Sept., last DH on 13 Oct. Black Tern: last SP on 23 Sept.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last Solvay, Onon. Co., on 8 Oct. Black-billed Cuckoo: one Sept. report only. Snowy Owl: two reported, LSB on 15 Nov., SP on 23 Nov. Short-eared Owl: up to 14 town of Hastings, Oswego Co., mid-Nov. on (GAS), best numbers locally since 1968. Saw-whet Owl: one DOR town of Hastings on 16 Nov. (MSR). Com. Nighthawk: max 40 Syr. on 1 Sept., last there on 12 Sept. Chimney Swift: last Syr. on 1 Oct. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last 19 Sept. at SP. Com. Flicker: max in 40's mid-Sept. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr LOL on 23 Sept., max only 3/day.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: E. Kingbird: last LOL on 9 Oct. Great Crested Flycatcher: last SP on 23 Sept. E. Phoebe: last 9 Oct. at SP. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last SP on 28 Sept. Least Flycatcher: last SP on 19 Sept. E. Wood Pewee: last SP on 2 Oct. Olive-sided Flycatcher: last Syr. on 15 Oct. (MSR), first Oct. record for the Region. Horned Lark: to 20/day, low. Tree Swallow: max 600 SP early Sept., last Clay Marsh on 4 Nov. Bank Swallow: last SP on 19 Sept. Barn Swallow: last Sterling twsp on 8 Oct. Cliff Swallow: last SP on 19 Sept. Purple Martin: last DH on 21 Sept. C. Crow: to 300/day LOL. Tufted Titmouse: about 14 reported, most at feeders. Red-breasted Nuthatch: to 13/day in Oct., almost none in Nov. House Wren: last 18 Oct. Winter Wren: arr LSB on 7 Sept., max in 10's except as noted above. Carolina Wren: three reported, all from urban Syr. Long-billed Marsh Wren: last LSB on 19 Oct. Gray Catbird: last DH on 19 Oct., then one Oswego on 23 Nov. (FGS). Brown Thrasher: last SP on 6 Oct., very early. Am. Robin: max 3,200 late Nov. at a roost in Onon. Hill. Wood Thrush: last SP on 18 Oct., then one found moribund 7 Nov. at Chittenango (MS). Hermit Thrush: arr DH on 28 Sept., max in teens early Oct. Swainson's Thrush: last Sterling twsp on 6 Oct. Gray-cheeked Thrush: six reported, last SP on 20 Sept. Veery: last SP on 18 Sept. E. Bluebird: all reports from "bluebird trails" whence they departed mid-Oct. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: two reports, both SP, last 23 Sept. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr LOL on 18 Sept. to 20's/day except as noted above. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr SP on 7 Sept., to 40's/day except as noted, last 3 Nov. then one LOL on 23 Nov. (CGSpies *vide* MSR). **BOHEMIAN WAXWING**: three in Syr. on 22 Nov. (MSR), first report since 1978. No. Shrike: only report DH on 24 Oct. (GAS).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: last Sterling twsp on 18 Sept. Solitary Vireo: last Sterling twsp on 8 Oct. Red-eyed Vireo: max in 70's during Sept., last Sterling twsp on 8 Oct. Philadelphia Vireo: max 11 LOL, last SP on 6 Oct. Warbling Vireo: last SP on 19 Sept. Black-and-white Warbler: last NPT on 3 Oct. Golden-winged Warbler: last NPT on 12 Sept. Blue-winged Warbler: last Chittenango on 12 Sept. (MS). Tennessee Warbler: max 28 NPT on 3 Oct., last there on 21 Oct. Orange-crowned Warbler: seven reported 28 Sept. to 5 Oct. Nashville Warbler: max 11 NPT on 13 Sept., last SP on 1 Nov. Parula Warbler: max seven SSSP on 18 Sept., last Onon Hill on 4 Oct. Yellow Warbler: last Sterling twsp on 8 Oct. Magnolia Warbler: max 48 NPT on 18 Sept., last there on 9 Oct. Cape May Warbler: less than 10/day, last HIGMA on 5 Oct. Black-throated Blue Warbler: last Sterling twsp on 8 Oct. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 180 LOL on 7 Oct., last Chittenango on 11 Nov. Black-throated Green Warbler: max 124 NPT on 18 Sept., last there on 21 Oct. Blackburnian Warbler: max 18 NPT on 12 Sept., last Sterling twsp on 8 Oct., then one Dunbar Woods on 30 Oct. (DGM), record late. Chestnut-sided Warbler: last Sterling twsp on 8 Oct. Bay-breasted Warbler: max 104 LOL on 13 Sept. (record high), last Sterling twsp on 8 Oct. Blackpoll Warbler: max 19 Sterling twsp on 15 Sept., last there on 8 Oct. Pine Warbler: only report one SSSP on 1 Sept. Palm Warbler: arr LOL on 13 Sept., last there on 18 Oct. ("*hypochrysea*," FGS). Ovenbird: max 11 LOL on 12 Sept., last Sterling twsp on 8 Oct. No. Waterthrush: last Sterling twsp on 18 Sept. Mourning Warbler: only three reported, last Clay Marsh on 5 Oct. Connecticut Warbler: one SP on 13 Sept. (DWC), two Sterling twsp on 18 Sept. (FGS). C. Yellowthroat: last 18 Oct. at Chittenango, then singles there on 21 Nov. (MS) and at Nine Mile Point on 22 Nov. (*fide* MSR). **YELLOW-BREADED CHAT:** one DOR Cato on 15 Nov. (*fide* MSR) is our first record after 26 Sept. Wilson's Warbler: max 22 LOL on 13 Sept., last DH on 2 Oct. Hooded Warbler: last Sterling twsp on 18 Sept. Canada Warbler: last SSSP on 18 Sept. Am. Redstart: max 33 NPT on 18 Sept., last there on 9 Oct.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: last Sterling twsp on 18 Sept., very early departure. E. Meadowlark: last TRIGMA on 18 Oct., very early departure for a species that often overwinters. Red-winged Blackbird: max 30,000 Clay Marsh on 5 Oct. Baltimore Oriole: last Sterling twsp on 7 Sept. C. Grackle: max 11,000 NPT on 14 Sept., last LSB on 2 Nov. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 1,500 TRIGMA on 7 Oct., last LSB on 9 Nov. Scarlet Tanager: last NPT on 5 Oct. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Syr. on 8 Oct. Indigo Bunting: last SP on 6 Oct. Evening Grosbeak: arr LOL on 19 Oct., to 160/day by late Nov. Purple Finch: max in 50's, mostly gone from lake plains by early Nov. Pine Grosbeak: arr NPT on 1 Nov., to low teens by end of month. Com. Redpoll: arr Holland Patent on 16 Oct. (Robert L. Evans *fide* JV), max 57 SP on 2 Nov. Pine Siskin: arr LOL 19 Sept., to 200/day passing DH in Oct. Am. Goldfinch: max 136 LOL on 3 Oct. Red Crossbill: male NPT on 1 Nov. (DWC) only report. Rufous-sided Towhee: last NPT on 19 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: last SP on 18 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: last SP on 16 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: arr SP on 6 Sept., max only 56 LOL on 23 Oct. Tree Sparrow: arr Chittenango on 18 Oct., max in 30's. Chipping Sparrow: last SSSP on 1 Nov. Field Sparrow: last Clay Marsh on 3 Nov. White-crowned Sparrow: arr Beaver Lake, Onon. Co., on 15 Sept., max in mid-teens, last Clay Marsh on 4 Nov. White-throated Sparrow: max 550 LOL on 1 Oct. Fox Sparrow: 1-7/day 19 Oct. to 4 Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: 1-3/day 12 Sept. to 8 Oct. Song Sparrow: max 292 TRIGMA on 5 Oct. Lapland Longspur: eight reported LOL after 27 Sept. Snow Bunting: arr DH on 19 Oct., large numbers from Holland Patent area only.

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