

early Sept, last 7 Sept at Chenango Forks. Com. Grackle reported up to 25 Nov. Only Cowbird report 25 Nov at Delhi—surely we had more than that? Six reports of Scarlet Tanager, Last on 27 Sept at Delhi and at Emmons. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were quite prevalent 24 sighted by MD & KW 5 Sept in Portlandville, Crumhorn, Milford, Oneonta area, 6 Sept at Choconut, 9 Sept Delhi, 12 Sept at Oneonta, and 11, 12 and 25 Sept at Emmons last. Evening Grosbeaks popped up in all areas. First report 27 Sept at Emmons, and also at Emmons on 28 Sept there was an Indigo Bunting. Owego reported one also in Sept but no date supplied. Many reports of Purple Finch. Pine Grosbeak 14 Nov at Crumhorn (MD, KW)—just a single bird. Redpoll, I assume a Com., was reported 16 Oct at Apalachin by S & EG. Pine Siskin 3 Oct at Windsor (JR). Many reports of Rufous-sided Towhee, last 21 Oct at Delhi. Savannah Sparrow 9 Oct Vestal. No Grasshopper or Henslow's reported and only two reports of Vesper Sparrow, both at Milford on 19 and 30 Sept. Dark-eyed Junco first reported in Oneonta area on 5 Sept. First Tree Sparrow report 1 Nov at Emmons. Many sightings of Chipping Sparrows, last 28 Oct at Delhi. Last Field Sparrow 16 Oct at Vestal. Last of numerous reports of White-crowned Sparrows was also at Delhi on 29 Oct. White-throated Sparrows in good numbers from all areas right through Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow in Sept in Owego but no date, 19 Sept Choconut, 4 Oct in Upper Lisle, 6 Oct Oneonta and in Vestal on 4, 5, 11, and 13 Oct. Fox Sparrow, of which we had about half a dozen reports, last 4 Nov at Choconut. Swamp Sparrow 9 Sept Delhi, 21 Sept and 12 Oct at Portlandville. and from 5 Sept to 20 Oct in Oneonta area. 150 Snow Buntings seen west of Cortland 13 Dec.

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[Eds. Note: Les Bemont, after many years of writing the Region Four report, has relinquished the position. The baton has been passed to Bill Breidinger for this issue. We wish to express our thanks and appreciation for the excellent job performed by Les Bemont over these many years.]

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL DeBENEDICTIS

The 1981 drought ended most emphatically this Fall. September was the sixth wettest on record, with rain on 20 days, and October was the fourth wettest, with nearly four inches of rain between the 26th and 28th alone, and also the tenth coldest on record, averaging nearly five degrees below normal. November was more normal, with a period of heavy but non-persistent snow around the 24th. Seed crops were varied. Conifers had poor cone crops, while berries and seeds were mixed; apples did very poorly, whereas box elder (*Acer negundo*) had very good seed crops.

The weather not only dampened observational opportunities but also produced few notable flights. Herons were scarce and night herons and bitterns went unreported. Waterfowl numbers were low average to low, with the major influx of most species occurring on 2 October. Shorebirds were hard to find after about 10 September, primarily because most mudflats were inundated. Most species departed early, and Am. Golden Plovers and Purple Sandpipers were very scarce. Blustery weather in October brought four Jaeger flights past Derby Hill, and similar storms in November produced record counts of Black-legged Kittiwakes. Flickers and sapsuckers produced good counts in September

but departed early. Numbers of flycatchers, swallows, vireos, warblers, black-birds and sparrows were unimpressive, although a few species, such as Orange-crowned Warbler, were well represented. Golden-crowned Kinglets seem to have recovered from their low numbers of the past few years, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets continue to improve in numbers. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Veery were not reported at all this fall, and the other *Catharus* thrushes were scarce.

For the first time in several years significant tower kills were reported this fall. The cessation of kills at the TV tower in northern Pompey Township was coincident with, and thought to be caused by, the opening of microwave relay towers nearby. Although a new microwave tower began operations this year, over 900 birds of 39 species struck the TV tower on the night of 6 September, and a few more birds perished on the one or two nights before and after. The three most numerous species, which made up nearly half of the total kill, were Red-eyed Vireo, Bay-breasted Warbler and Ovenbird. This same night, a kill of about 600 birds took place at a TV tower near Rome. Data from this kill are as yet incompletely analyzed, but species composition is generally similar to the Pompey kill.

Irruption species were conspicuous this fall, but few were persistent at the end of the season. Almost no Goshawks, Snowy or Short-eared Owls were found, but moderate numbers of Rough-legged Hawks were seen in October and early November. No local mouse population highs, that might hold these species, were found. There was a strong incursion of Black-capped Chickadees, accompanied by a few Boreal Chickadees, in October and early November. Coming from the opposite direction, Tufted Titmice were usually conspicuous and widespread this fall as well. Moderate numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches were present in September and October, and a good flight of Northern Shrikes was evident in November. Winter finches were well represented, especially in October and early November, but only Pine Grosbeaks and redpolls appear to have persisted in numbers locally. Crossbills, in particular, appear to have been influenced by the general lack of cones and seeds.

In spite of a mediocre flight, 237 species were reported this fall. The most unusual of these were the first regional Say's Phoebe and Brewer's Blackbird. Nearly as rare were White-fronted Goose, Gyrfalcon, Sabine's Gull and White-eyed Vireo, and among the species seen only a very few times each year, Hudsonian Godwit, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Little Gull, Bohemian Waxwing, and Connecticut Warbler were found this fall.

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Abbreviations: arr—arrival; DH—Derby Hill, Oswego Co.; FH—Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, Cayuga Co.; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral, Oswego Co.; max—maximum; mob—multiple observers; NPT—northern Pompey Township; NYSARC—report to New York State Avian Records Committee; Onon—Onondaga; ph—photographed; SP—Sandy Pond, Oswego Co.; SVB—Sylvan & Verona Beach, Oneida Co.; Syr—Syracuse.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: arr SP on 12 Sept max 48 DH on 2 Nov. Red-throated Loon: about eight LOL, FH 25 Oct to 8 Nov. Red-necked Grebe: four reported (two LOL, two SVB) 24 Oct to 24 Nov. Horned Grebe: arr LOL 10 Oct, max 101 there 25 Oct. Pied-

billed Grebe: max seven FH in late Sept. Double-crested Cormorant: 157 LOL on 4 Oct is new regional max. Green Heron: last Holland Patent on 13 Nov (RLE) is record late by four days. Great Egret: one at Tuscarora Lake, Madison Co., last seen 7 Sept. Brant: about 1200 seen migrating over Georgetown, Madison Co., 22 Oct (LC); and along the LOL 24 Oct to 15 Nov, max 1300 there on 24 Oct. **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**: adult *frontalis*-type Cazenovia Lake 8-10 Nov (MSR, mob) is the eighth regional record, first for the fall. Snow Goose: two of each morph Cazenovia Lake 8-10 Nov; 50 Snows at Beaver Lake 16-18 Nov. Gadwall: max 30 FH in late Oct. Pintail: max 130 DH 8 Oct is low. Green-winged Teal: last FH 8 Nov. Blue-winged Teal: last Clay 12 Nov. No. Shoveler: max and last seven in eastern Oswego Co. on 15 Nov. Wood Duck: max 147 Peter Scott Swamp in mid Sept. Redhead: arr SP on 12 Sept, max only 35. Ring-necked Duck: arr SP 12 Sept, max 130 FH on 1 Nov. Canvasback: arr FH on 25 Oct, max 35 there on 21 Nov, very low. Greater Scaup: arr SP on 18 Sept, max 1600 LOL through Nov. Lesser Scaup: arr SP 10 Sept, max 180 LOL in late Nov is very good fall count locally. Com. Goldeneye: arr DH 24 Oct. Bufflehead: arr LOL 21 Oct. Oldsquaw: arr DH 8 Oct. King Eider: male Oswego 15 Nov, imm DH on 22 Nov. White-winged Scoter: arr SP 21 Sept, max 568 DH on 8 Oct. Surf Scoter: arr SP 21 Sept, max 539 DH on 8 Oct. Black Scoter: arr DH on 2 Oct, very few all fall. Ruddy Duck: arr 5 Oct, max 106 Beaver Lake in early Nov, but no concentration on Onon Lake as in last two years. Com. Merganser: arr SVB 19 Sept. Red-breasted Mergansers: arr DH 3 Oct max 2974 LOL on 25 Oct.

HAWKS--ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: last LOL on 24 Oct. Goshawk: only one migrant reported. Red-shouldered Hawk: only report LOL on 8 Nov. Rough-legged Hawk: arr DH 2 Oct, no local gatherings. Bald Eagle: imm reported late Nov south and west of Syr. Marsh Hawk: max nine LOL on 31 Oct. Osprey: max seven DH on 2 Oct, last SP on 7 Nov. **GYRFALCON**: a pale tan-colored bird at Nine-mile Point on 12 Nov and DH on 20 Nov (DWC, JH, NYSARC) is the fifth regional record. Merlin: one FH on 26 Sept is only report. Peregrine Falcon: total of four DH 3 to 7 Oct. Bobwhite: birds at Holland Patent feeder in Oct (RLE, EVanD) surely a local release. Virginia Rail: last SP 18 Sept. Com. Gallinule: last SP on 8 Oct. Am. Coot: arr FH 26 Sept, max 20 there in late Oct. Semipalmated Plover: last FH 27 Sept. Am. Golden Plover: 24 reported 13 to 24 Sept. Black-bellied Plover: 1-3/day to 8 Nov (two sites). Ruddy Turnstone: last SVB 29 Sept, very early departure. Whimbrel: one at SP last seen 20 Sept. Hudsonian Godwit: 16 Onon L 6 to 8 Sept. Spotted Sandpiper: one SVB 29 Oct (DKA) is record late. Solitary Sandpiper: last NPT 17 Sept. Greater Yellowlegs: max 19 Onon Lake on 1 Sept, last SVB on 19 Nov. Lesser Yellowlegs: last Holland Patent on 4 Nov. Red Knot: about six imm SVB to 2 Oct. Pectoral Sandpiper: max 75 Tuscarora Lake on 7 Sept, last W. Monroe, Oswego Co., on 31 Oct. White-rumped Sandpiper: 13 at four sites 6 to 11 Sept, then two SP 1 Nov (MSR) is best flight since 1976. Baird's Sandpiper: last Onon Lake 18 Sept, early departure. Least Sandpiper: last SVB 27 Sept. Purple Sandpiper: singles SP 1 Nov (MSR) and 22 Nov (FGS). Dunlin: arr Onon Lake 7 Sept, max 325 DH on 19 Oct, last SP on 22 Nov. Short-billed Dowitcher: last Tuscarora Lake on 7 Sept. Stilt Sandpiper: max 26 Onon Lake on 1 Sept, last there on 18 Sept. Semipalmated Sandpiper: last SVB 1 Oct. Western Sandpiper: two at Onon Lake 1 Sept (FGS), one SVB on 7 Sept (DKA). Sanderling: max only 31 SP 10 Sept, last there on 7 Nov. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: five at Tuscarora Lake on 7 Sept (MSR) is new regional max. No. Phalarope: singles Onon Lake 1-8 Sept and 1 Oct, and five DH 7 Oct were the only phalaropes found. Pomarine Jaeger: imm DH 7 Oct. Parasitic Jaeger: arr and max 55 DH on 29 Sept, 38 more seen on three dates through 28 Nov. Glaucous Gull: only one, DH, on 7 Nov. Iceland Gull: only two, DH, on 7 Nov. Little Gull: adult SP 22 Nov. **SABINE'S GULL**: imm SP 8 Nov (FGS, JH, REL, NYSARC), fifth regional record. Black-legged Kittiwake: two DH on 7 Oct, and 15, including two adults, DH and SP on 22 Nov, new regional max. Com. Tern: scarce, last LOL 24 Sept. Caspian Tern: max 40 Onon Lake 7 Sept, last FH 27 Sept. Black Tern: last SP on 6 Sept.

PIGEONS--WOODPECKERS: No cuckoos reported. Snowy Owl: imm male Grandby 22

Nov (MSR), and one Solvay 22-29 Nov, when hit by car (*fide* DWC). Short-eared Owl: one SP 6 Nov (DWC). Saw-whet Owl: one dead-on-road Liverpool 14 Nov. Com. Nighthawk: last Onon Hill 2 Sept. Chimney Swift: last FH 15 Sept. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last on Ben Burtt feeder survey during first week of Oct. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 19 SP on 24 Sept is best fall count since 1977.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: last FH 15 Sept. Great Crested Flycatcher: last FH 18 Sept. **SAY'S PHOEBE:** one Baltimore Woods near Marcellus after 7 Nov (mob, ph, NYSARC) was new to the region. E. Phoebe: last SP 1 Nov. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last (and only) two SP on 18 Sept. Willow Flycatcher: last Amboy 1 Sept. Least Flycatcher: last Tuscarora Lake on 7 Sept. E. Wood Pewee: last Syr 14 Oct (MSR) late. Oliv-sided Flycatcher: last (and only) NPT on 11 Sept. Horned Lark: max 250 LOL on 31 Oct. Tree Swallow: max 4000 SP on 18 Sept, last there on 12 Oct. Bank Swallow: last SP 18 Sept. Rough-winged Swallow: last SP 20 Sept. Barn Swallow: last SP 10 Sept, early departure. Cliff Swallow: last SP 10 Sept. Purple Martin: last SP 12 Sept. Black-capped Chickadee: max 300 DH on 25 Oct. Boreal Chickadee: singles with above at NPT on 17 Oct, SP on 5 Nov, FH on 25 Oct, and Nine-mile Point on 12 Nov. Tufted Titmouse: 9 in Oct and 16 in Nov Ben Burtt feeder survey; elsewhere more widespread than usual though not numerous. Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 26 FH on 26 Sept, scarce after early Nov. House Wren: last LOL 5 Oct. Winter Wren: arr FH 18 Sept, max only 11, last on 15 Oct (early departure). Carolina Wren: only one or two Ben Burtt feeder surveys, one Clark Reservation on 11 Nov (MSR), very low. Long-billed Marsh Wren: last SP on 8 Oct. Gray Catbird: last LOL 15 Oct. Brown Thrasher: last LOL on 5 Oct. Wood Thrush: last Syr 6 Oct. Hermit Thrush: arr NPT 9 Sept, max eight in mid Oct. Swainson's Thrush: last Syr 9 Oct. Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 13 Sept (two sites), last SP 27 Sept, very few found. Veery: none seen live this fall! E. Bluebird: two reports only. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr 18 Sept SP, max 110 FH 28 Sept, best since 1976. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 17 Sept NPT, max 70 FH 26 Sept. Water Pipit: arr DH 4 Oct, max 40 near Volney on 17 Oct. Bohemian Waxwing: one found dead Minetto, Oswego Co., 8 Nov. (GAS), two FH on 15 Nov (FGS). No. Shrike: six or seven reports after 2 Nov.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: **WHITE-EYED VIREO:** adult DH 27 Sept, third regional fall record. Yellow-throated Vireo: last FH 26 Sept. Solitary Vireo: last Syr 9 Oct. Red-eyed Vireo: last near Pennellville, Oswego Co., 17 Oct. Philadelphia Vireo: only 1-3/day, last Clay 29 Sept. Warbling Vireo: last FH 26 Sept. Black-and-white Warbler: last LOL 8 Oct. Tennessee Warbler: last FH 6 Oct. Orange-crowned Warbler: about 25 reported between 15 Sept and 8 Oct, best flight since 1975. Nashville Warbler: last LOL 8 Oct. No. Parula: last DH 2 Oct. Yellow Warbler: last FH 13 Sept. Magnolia Warbler: max 52 NPT, last FH 6 Oct. Cape May Warbler: last Clay 1 Oct. Black-throated Blue Warbler: last DH 2 Oct. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max only 85 SP 24 Sept, last FH 15 Nov. Black-throated Green Warbler: last Lysander 5 Oct. Chestnut-sided Warbler: last SP 18 Sept. Bay-breasted Warbler: last FH 27 Sept. Blackpoll Warbler: last FH 27 Sept. Palm Warbler: arr NPT 14 Sept, last DH 8 Oct. Ovenbird: last DH 26 Sept, then one very late at Woodman's Pond, Madison Co., 29 Nov (GC). No. Waterthrush: last NPT 15 Sept. Mourning Warbler: only two reported, last NPT 15 Sept. Connecticut Warbler: singles NPT on 6 Sept (in tower kill) and on 14 Sept (DWC) and at SP on 4 Oct (DWC). Yellow-breasted Chat: NPT on 15 Sept (DWC) is only second report this year. Hooded Warbler: last FH 26 Sept. Wilson's Warbler: last SP 27 Sept. Canada Warbler: last SP 18 Sept. Am. Redstart: last Syr 9 Oct.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: last Clay 1 Oct. E. Meadowlark: last SP 31 Oct. Red-winged Blackbird: max 7000 DH 29 Oct. Baltimore Oriole: last Tuscarora Lake 7 Sept. **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** female Liverpool 22-24 Sept (FGS, ph DWC, mob, NYSARC), new to region, left two hours before your editor was free to chase it. Scarlet Tanager: last Lysander 5 Oct. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last SP 27 Sept. Indigo Bunting: last Lysander 5 Oct. Evening Grosbeak: arr 16 Sept NPT, not very common after early Nov. Purple Finch: last SP 1 Nov. Pine Grosbeak: arr FH 16 Oct to 16/day by late Nov. Com. Redpoll: arr SP

2 Nov, to 150/day by late Nov. Pine Siskin: arr DH 2 Oct, very few after early Nov. Red Crossbill: six near SP 26 Nov only report. White-winged Crossbill: several small flocks 31 Oct to 8 Nov. Rufous-sided Towhee: last Clay 2 Nov. Savannah Sparrow: last SP 15 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: last SP 31 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: arr SP 18 Sept, max only 139 Lysander 11 Oct. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr SP 31 Oct, to 35/day in Nov. Chipping Sparrow: max 45 Lysander 5 Oct, last there 12 Oct. Field Sparrow: last Clay 2 Nov. White-crowned Sparrow: arr SP 24 Sept, max 40's in Oct, last Clay 2 Nov. White-throated Sparrow: arr SP 12 Sept, max 400/day in early Oct. Fox Sparrow: small numbers 12 Oct to 10 Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: small number 16 Sept. to 12 Oct. Swamp Sparrow: last southern Madison Co. 14 Nov. Lapland Longspur: one Clay 3 Nov only report. Snow Bunting: arr FH 11 Oct.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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My assuming the Region 6 editorship from veteran Lee Chamberlaine shifts the center of gravity to the east. Both human and avian populations seem to center in the Watertown-Eastern Lake Ontario area, albeit strongly cantilevered by J. VanRiet's report from Massena. Waterfowl, raptors, and shorebirds are especially well reported by Gerry Smith at El Dorado Beach and Lee Chamberlaine in Henderson. Sightings from Canton and vicinity come primarily from the St. Lawrence University community with notable contributions from Mildred and Everett Howard. During the fall period there were no reports from Lewis or southern St. Lawrence Counties. I hope to encourage more participation from birders throughout the region.

A year ago, Lee Chamberlaine wrote that the fall of 1980 was even wetter than that of 1979. That seems like a hard act to follow, but September and October of 1981 were so dismal that one wonders when and how the birds winged South. Moreover, due to frosts in May, it is a poor year in some localities for berries, apples and mast.

The first frost occurred on 21 September at Barnes Corners. October was raw with temperatures often in the 40's; through 12 October it was glorious Indian summer. November was drier and sometimes warmer. The first snow was 6-7 November; one inch in Watertown, two to three inches in Canton. During the second week in November ponds skimmed over with ice.

During the period there were three rains exceeding one inch: 1.43 in (3.63 cm) 10 September; 1.23 (3.12 cm) 23 September; and 1.69 in (4.29 cm) 29 October. Maximum and minimum temperatures for each month in Canton were September: max 79° F (25° C) on 1 September, min 36° F (2° C) 25 September. (It was 22° F [-6° C] in Watertown 30 September.) October: max 68° F (20° C) 14 October, min 22° F (-6° C) 13 October. November: max 64° F (18° C) 5 November, min 14° F (-10° C) 9 November.

To summarize the fall migration, flights of Canada Geese peaked the third week of October when there were four reports of Brant. Puddle ducks peaked in early September and were largely gone by mid-October. Surf Scoters were seen