

last reported at 27 Sept seminar. No. Waterthrush: last report seminar of 4 Oct. Connecticut: one banded Penn Yan 12 Sept (ML). Mourning: one banded Penn Yan (ML). Com. Yellowthroat: female Ithaca 21 Nov (B. Young). Hooded: one banded Penn Yan (ML). Warbler species missed during the period: Golden-winged; Pine; Prairie; Louisiana Waterthrush; Kentucky; Yellow-breasted Chat.

TANAGERS—HOUSE SPARROWS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 20 Venice 1 Sept. Indigo Bunting: 33 banded Penn Yan (ML). Am. Tree Sparrow: came very late and still very low numbers by the end of the period. Vesper Sparrow: reported at the 4 Oct seminar; 1 Scipio 28 Nov. Savannah Sparrow: 20 Venice 1 Sept. Grasshopper: reported at the 4 Oct seminar. Lincoln's Sparrow: Ithaca 4 and 18 Oct (JC); Elmira 22 Sept (WH); one Phelps 23, 27 Sept and 12 Oct (BH); seven banded Penn Yan (ML). White-throated Sparrow: good numbers in migration. White-crowned Sparrow: scarce in some areas. Snow Bunting: first Hammondsport 22 Oct; 100-150 Fayette 2 Nov; widespread reports of small flocks. Bobolink: 20 Venice 5 Sept. E. Meadowlark: scarce. No. Oriole: one late bird reported at the 15 Nov seminar. Brown-headed Cowbird: large flocks at Sen Falls during migration (HPK). Purple Finch: four Venice 10 Oct; 12 Varick 25 Oct; Schy Co Oct and Nov. House Finch: this exploding species is beginning to be regarded as a pest species by some who find that other small birds are being kept away from their feeders by the House Finches. Evening Grosbeak: first Ithaca 24 Sept; small numbers over most of the region by late Nov.

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REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

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After one of the wettest Junes on record, Region Four experienced a September and October so dry that a dangerous drought condition threatened. In September, Broome Co. received 1.8 inches of precipitation compared to an average 3.02 inches. In October 0.58 inches of rain fell compared to the normal rate of 2.46 inches for that month. In Oneonta, the reservoirs were so low that residents were asked to take water conservation measures. On 29 October divers there measured 12 feet of water over the reservoir intake valve. Two weeks later the city engineer estimated this down to about eight feet. The level of Chenango Lake, which feeds water to the two Norwich reservoirs, was also low. The regional fisheries manager of the Cortland Office of the DEC reported the Department keeping a watchful eye on the native trout population. In mid-November, the DEC issued a drought alert covering Region Four.

Fortunately conditions were somewhat alleviated on 31 Oct when Halloweeners were tricked by, and the rest of the population treated to, a gentle soaking rain measured as 0.41 of an inch by the National Weather Service at Broome County. This was followed on 5 November by the heaviest rainfall since June (1.73 inches) which soaked the dry countryside and somewhat revived shrunken streams. For the remainder of November precipitation was nearer to normal and weather headlines shifted to a second abnormal condition, i.e., much warmer than average temperatures. On 3 November, the National Weather Service in Broome County reported the "warmest November day ever recorded at Edwin A. Link Field" (77° F). This balmy condition continued all period, broken only occasionally. A large high pressure zone off the East Coast caused a steady flow

of warm air from the south-southwest, strong enough to fend off any northern pressure systems bearing cold Canadian air. One Indian summer day after another followed. A universal euphoria prevailed. One weather man commented, "Even my wife is happy with me!" This illusion of spring still held at period's end.

These two unusual weather conditions certainly must have produced a parallel trend in birdlife. If so, it was difficult to find. The lowered water levels produced heretofore covered river sandbars and wider than usual river and pond shores. However, the number of shorebirds seen was at the usual low consistent with an inland region. Great Blue and Green-backed Heron numbers were good but not exceptional. No other herons seemed attracted by the better-than-usual fishing conditions. The drought may also have affected the berry crop on the gray dogwood which seemed sparse, but other fruit, such as sumac heads, evergreen cones, and wild apples were in good supply. Field crops—legumes and grasses that feed dairy cattle—faced drought-related stress. However, this would affect the spring crop. Meanwhile the usual weed seeds seemed in normal supply. Reports of sparrows and other seedeaters were high. One Vestal banding station, with mainly four nets up from six to eight o'clock each morning tallied: 53 Field Sparrows, one Vesper Sparrow, one Savannah Sparrow, one Grasshopper Sparrow, one Fox Sparrow, 210 Song Sparrows, six Lincoln's Sparrows, 41 Swamp Sparrows, 63 White-throated Sparrows and six White-crowned Sparrows. This is a new station so records cannot be compared to previous data (GK).

The extended warm season possibly gave mice and rabbits a chance to produce an extra litter, since both populations seemed excessively high. This in turn may have accounted for the good number of owl and hawk reports. However, the Snowy Owl that showed up at the Rogers Environmental Education Center, Sherburne, was probably attracted by the large resident Mallard and Am. Black Duck population or possibly by the young birds in the pheasant hatchery. Also the Short-eared Owl reported was itself the prey, not the predator. Its fresh remains were found in a wooded ravine within 100 feet of an extensive area of open fields. Other species reacted to the mild weather by drifting through, spread out in both time and space, making it difficult to locate large numbers of any given species. Nevertheless, the number of species reported was average.

Of special interest were: Northern Goshawk, Long-eared Owl, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Kentucky Warbler.

Abbreviations: OPM—Oneonta, Portland, Milford; AHY—After Hatching Year; HY—Hatching Year; F—female; M—male; N.C.—North-central.

Observers: Margaret Applebaugh, Cutler and Jeannette Baldwin, Don and Judy Bell, Les Bemont, Suzie Bemont, Reynolds Bennett, Lois Bingly (LBi), Wm. Breidinger, Nancy Brundage, Sally Carey, Lynne Clark, Mildred Clark, Reeva Clark, Gene Converse, Roger Daigle, Lois Darling, Anna and Marilyn Davis, Jeff Davis, Louise Dean (LDe), Mary Dobinsky, Dorothy Gracey, Shirley Hartman, Helen Hymers, Eugene Kirch, Gail Kirch, Jay Lehman, Florence Linaberry, Joe Longin, Harriet Marsi, Rick Marsi, Leona McDowell, Mr. McNitt, Bud and Evelyn Mead, Dave Messineo, Paul Meyers, Edith Nettleton, S. Paston, Allen Peterson, H. Robinson, Joe Sedlacek, Mary Sheffield, Robt. Sheffield, Stuart Snyder, George Steele, Wm. Toner, Connie Whitcomb (CWh), Anne Whittaker, Connie Wilkins, Kathryn Wilson, Tom and Beryl Wilson, Clifford Yates, Anne Zimmerman.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: none. Pied-billed Grebe: three reports: one bird 9 Nov, Milford; one bird Nov Tioga Co; one bird 21 Nov, Whitney Point Reservoir. Red-necked Grebe: one report 21 Nov, Whitney Point Reservoir (A&MD). Double-crested Cormorant:

one report 20 Nov, Whitney Point Reservoir (A&MD). Great Blue Heron: common thru region during Sept to mid-Oct, petering out during Nov but a few still remaining at end of Nov. Green-backed Heron: common thru up to mid-Sept, last date, 11 Sept, OPM. Tundra Swan: one report: six birds (2 AHY, 4 HY) 8 Nov, Whitney Point Reservoir (SS). Canada Goose: many flocks; first flying south 28 Sept, Otselic (DM); the last 14 Nov, Windsor (JS), except for the many still at Rogers Environmental Education Center, Sherburne, 30 Nov. Wood Duck: five reports: one Broome Co, three OPM, one Tioga Co; largest number, 12 9 Sept OPM (MD, KW). Green-winged Teal: one report 16 Nov, Oneonta Reservoir (MD, KW). Am. Black Duck: three Sept reports, from Broome Co, OPM and Tioga Co; at Rogers Environmental Education Center, Sherburne, "several" were still "mixed in with the Mallards" through 30 Nov. Mallard: common thru. Am. Wigeon: one bird reported, 6 Nov, Hunt's Pond, Chenango Co (RD). Ring-necked Duck: one report, 13 Nov. of five birds on the Plymouth Reservoir (JL). Black Scoter: six (3M, 3F) 30 Oct, Chenango Lake (RD); three (2M, 1F) 6 Nov, Hunt's Pond, Chenango Co (RD). Bufflehead: one 6 Nov, Whitney Point Reservoir (A & MD); one 13 Nov Plymouth Reservoir (JL); four 17 Nov, Whitney Point Reservoir (JD, RM). Hooded Merganser: two reports: four 24 Nov, Whitney Point Reservoir (JD, RM); seven 30 Nov, Hartwick (MD, KW). Com. Merganser: four reports: 16 6 Oct, Delhi (LM); 15, 10 thru 24 Nov, Whitney Point Reservoir (JD, RM); one 13 Nov, Chenango Lake (JL); three 16 Nov Oneonta Reservoir (MD, KW). Red-breasted Merganser: one bird 30 Oct Chenango Lake (RD).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: common thru area in Sept thru mid-Oct; last date 20 Oct, Middlefield (NB). Osprey: 17 reports, Sept thru mid-Oct; last date 14 Oct, Otego (KW). An interesting report of an Osprey nesting in a remote part of State Forest Lands near Pharsalia has been called to the attention of the DEC and will be further investigated with a follow-up report. Bald Eagle: one 17 Oct Delhi (SC). No. Harrier: six reports: one 9 Sept Vestal (EK); one 17 Oct Homer (WB); one 17 Oct Cortland (WB); one 26 Oct McGraw (WB); one 30 Oct Owego (AP); one 13 Nov Hunt's Pond, Chenango Co (JL). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 14 reports scattered thru period; last 20 Nov OPM (MD, KW). Cooper's Hawk: eight reports scattered thru; last 27 Nov Choconut Center (MS). **NORTHERN GOSHAWK:** one 9 Nov Otselic (DM). Red-shouldered Hawk: none. Broad-winged Hawk: eight reports, 10 Sept thru 6 Nov; two Broome Co, five OPM, one Tioga Co. Red-tailed Hawk: common thru. Rough-legged Hawk: only reports from Chenango Co where one bird was first seen 5 Nov; by end of Nov they were "very common, possibly encouraged by the large mouse and rabbit populations" (DM). Am. Kestrel: common thru. Ring-necked Pheasant: reported seen by many in Tioga Co; one report 9 Nov OPM (MD, KW); one report 6 Nov, Vestal (SB). Ruffed Grouse: common thru; one report 7 Nov Otselic of one drumming (DM), same report notes "had a reliable report of grouse in Oct and Nov, drumming at night." Wild Turkey: common thru. No. Bobwhite: one 1 Sept Endwell (FL) one 3 Oct Tioga Co (RB). Am. Coot: one 1 Nov thru 8 Nov, Whitney Point Reservoir (JD, RM); one "as late as third week in Nov" Rogers Environmental Education Center, Sherburne (GS). Killdeer: common thru. Greater Yellowlegs: one 27 Sept Vestal (GK); one 21 thru 23 Oct Vestal (GK). Spotted Sandpiper: one Sept Tioga Co. Semipalmated Sandpiper: one Sept Tioga Co. Dunlin: one 2 Sept Endwell (FL); one 8 Sept Endwell (FL). Am. Woodcock: eight reports scattered thru area Sept and Oct; last date 23 Oct Vestal. Bonaparte's Gull: three 2 Sept. Endwell (FL). Ring-billed Gull: present thru period Broome Co, OPM, Otselic, Tioga Co. Herring Gull: only reports from Tioga Co Sept "several," Oct one.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: common thru. Mourning Dove: common thru. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one report Sept Tioga Co (D & JB, B & EM). E. Screech-Owl: 11 reports scattered thru area thru period. Great Horned Owl: 18 reports, scattered thru. **SNOWY OWL:** one 23 and 24 Nov Rogers Environmental Education Center, Sherburne (GS). Barred Owl: three 20 Sept Otselic (DM). **LONG-EARED OWL:** one 3 Oct "and two times later," Delhi (MC, LM, HR). **SHORT-EARED OWL:** one 7 Nov, Otselic, remains of a kill, feathers taken to Finch Hollow Nature Center, Johnson City and identified from mounted bird (CWh). No. Saw-whet Owl: one 18 Sept n.c. Vestal, banded (GK); one 7 Oct Endicott, "free-flying, trapped in a building, caught and released" (PM). Com. Nighthawk:

four reports: one Sept Tioga Co; three 28 Sept, 29 Sept, 2 Oct. Vestal-Binghamton area. Chimney Swift: two reports: one 9 Sept OPM (MD); one 19 Oct Broome Co (A & MD). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: several Sept Tioga Co; one Oct Tioga Co; one 26 and 27 Oct Middlefield (NB). Belted Kingfisher: 14 reports scattered thru. Red-headed Woodpecker: one 24 Sept Tioga Co (LBI). Red-bellied Woodpecker: one at feeder Sept and Oct, Tioga Co (LDe); one 22 Oct Homer (WB). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: several thru area; last date 23 Oct Delhi (MC). Downy Woodpecker: common thru. Hairy Woodpecker: common thru. No. Flicker: common thru Sept and Oct; one 27 Nov Castle Gardens, Vestal (SP). Pileated Woodpecker: 17 reports, scattered thru.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: one 9 Sept OPM (MD). E. Wood-Pewee: nine reports, all Sept, last date 20 Sept OPM (MD). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: three banded at e. Vestal in Sept, last date 24 Sept (HM). Willow Flycatcher: Vestal (GK). Traill's Flycatcher: no song heard; one 29 Sept OPM (MD); one Sept Tioga Co (RB); "several in alder-willow mix 25 Sept Otselic" (DM). Least Flycatcher: 20 reports thru area; last date 27 Sept Delhi (MC). E. Phoebe: common Sept and early Oct thru; last date 19 Oct, Middlefield (NB). Great Crested Flycatcher: three reports; last date 24 Sept Tioga Co. E. Kingbird: ten reports; last date 9 Sept Milford (MD). Horned Lark: three reports: one 25 Oct Homer (WB); two 9 Nov OPM (MD, KW); four 20 Nov OPM (MD, KW). Tree Swallow: one report: flock of 30 to 40 5 Oct Owego (FL). Barn Swallow: two reports: one or two thru first week of Sept Oneonta (KW); six 9 Sept OPM (MD). Blue Jay: common thru. Am. Crow: common thru. Black-capped Chickadee: common thru. Tufted Titmouse: common thru; appears to be a very good year for them. Red-breasted Nuthatch: six reports: one Tioga Co, two OPM, four Broome Co; earliest 24 Sept Choconut Center (MS). White-breasted Nuthatch: common thru. Brown Creeper: 15 reports scattered thru area. Carolina Wren: one report late Oct thru period at a feeding station in e. Vestal (LD). House Wren: common in Sept; last date 28 Sept Delhi (MC). Winter Wren: 12 reports scattered thru area; earliest 19 Sept Broome Co (MS); last 24 Oct Broome Co (MS). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 20 reports scattered thru area; earliest 4 Oct Broome Co (MS). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 21 reports scattered thru area; first date 4 Sept OPM (MD); last date 7 Nov Otselic (DM). E. Bluebird: 18 reports scattered thru; last date 31 Oct Middlefield (NB). Veery: several reports in early Sept; last date 16 Sept Vestal (GK). Gray-cheeked Thrush: two 26 Sept, one 28 Sept, all banded at n.c. Vestal station (GK); two 28 Sept banded at e. Vestal station (HM); one 7 Nov Brookfield State Forest, Chenango Co (GS). Swainson's Thrush: 39 birds reported, 34 from e. Vestal banding station between 9 Sept and 1 Oct; peak seven per day 25 thru 28 Sept; last date 5 Oct OPM (MD, KW) and Vestal (GK). Hermit Thrush: 30 birds; two 17 Oct Windsor (JS); the rest banded; 14 at an e. Vestal banding station (HM), 14 at a n.c. Vestal banding station (GK); earliest 4 Oct, latest 22 Oct peak 11-15 Oct. Wood Thrush: common thru in Sept and early Oct; last date 15 Oct Vestal. Am. Robin: common thru up to mid-Nov; a few stragglers thru end of period. Gray Catbird: common thru; last date 14 Oct Endwell (FL). No. Mockingbird: 11 reports: all Southern Tier, except one 19-21 Oct Middlefield (MD) and one all Nov Delhi (SC). Brown Thrasher: fairly common Sept thru area; last date 5 Oct OPM (MD, KW). Water Pipit: three reports: eight 8 Oct, 25 17 Oct Meredith (MC); six 25 Oct Homer (WB). Cedar Waxwing: common thru, especially Sept and early Oct, three Nov reports. European Starling: common thru.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: 15 reports: seven Broome Co, seven OPM, one Tioga Co; last date 19 Oct Tioga Co. Yellow-throated Vireo: one report 13 Sept Delhi (MC). Warbling Vireo: six reports: one Broome Co 6 Sept "singing" (MS); one 13 Sept Delhi, last date (MC), one 4 Sept and two 9 Sept OPM (MD). Philadelphia Vireo: six reports: five e. Vestal banded between 1 Sept and 30 Sept (HM); one 4 Sept Tioga Co (C & JB, LDe). Red-eyed Vireo: common thru: 88 banded at an e. Vestal Station; last date 15 Oct. Blue-winged Warbler: six reports: one 14 Sept Tioga Co (C & JB, RB); one 13 Sept and four 18 Sept Vestal (HM). Golden-winged Warbler: none. Tennessee Warbler: 24 reports: three OPM, one Tioga Co, 20 Broome Co. First date 1 Sept; last date 8 Oct. Nashville Warbler: 56 reports: 48 Broome Co; one Tioga Co, one Delhi, six OPM; first date 1 Sept, last date 22 Oct. No. Parula: two 22 Sept Vestal, only report. Yellow Warbler: only two reports: one 8 Sept Tioga Co (C & JB, D & JB); one 29 Sept Middlefield (NB); reports usually low after Aug.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: 28 reports scattered thru; last date 8 Oct Vestal (GK). Magnolia Warbler: unusually high; two Tioga Co; 13 OPM, 182 Broome Co, of these 158 at one e. Vestal banding station between 22 Aug and 1 Oct; peak day 28 on 25 Sept (HM). At a n.c. Vestal banding station, five miles away, 16 birds were banded in Sept (GK). Cape May Warbler: 18 reports scattered thru, 1 Sept thru 3 Oct. Black-throated Blue Warbler: seven reports: first 3 Sept Choconut Center (MS); last 30 Sept Oneonta (MD). On 11 Sept a bird in Oneonta was still singing. Yellow-rumped Warbler: high numbers; over 200 birds reported scattered thru between 1 Sept Delhi (MC) and 11 Nov Middlefield (NB); peak early Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: 85 birds reported: last date 6 Oct Middlefield (NB); peak mid-Sept. Blackburnian Warbler: five reports: two 4 Sept OPM (MD), one 15 Sept Tioga Co (C & JB); two 20 Sept (T & BW) Vestal and one 22 Sept Vestal (HM). Prairie Warbler: four reports: one 1 Sept Tioga Co (C & JB); two 3 Sept Choconut Center (MS); one 8 Sept Vestal (GK). Palm Warbler: six reports: one 1 Sept Tioga Co (C & JB); all other n.c. Vestal banding station, one 23 Sept, three 25 Sept, one 3 Oct (GK). Bay-breasted Warbler: ten reports: four OPM, six Vestal; earliest 3 Sept Vestal; last 25 Sept Vestal. Blackpoll Warbler: ten reports: four Broome Co, six OPM; earliest 9 Sept Vestal (GK), last 8 Oct OPM (MD, KW). Black-and-white Warbler: nine reports: two OPM, one Tioga Co, six Vestal; last 22 Sept Vestal. Am. Redstart: 50 reports: five OPM, two Tioga Co, 43 Broome Co; last date 2 Oct Tioga Co (RB). Ovenbird: 73 reports: one Tioga Co; rest Broome Co; last date 30 Sept Vestal. No. Waterthrush: three reports, all Vestal; one 3 Sept, one 8 Sept and one 12 Sept. **KENTUCKY WARBLER**: one report 12 Sept Walton (SH). Mourning Warbler: six reports: one Tioga Co; five Broome Co; last date 20 Sept Vestal (GK). Com. Yellowthroat: common thru; last date 25 Oct Otselic (DM); 190 banded at n.c. Vestal station (GK). Hooded Warbler: one Sept Tioga Co (CY). Wilson's Warbler: 31 reports: one Tioga Co, rest Broome Co; first date 3 Sept Vestal (GK), last 2 Oct Vestal (GK). Canada Warbler: 17 reports: one 11 Sept OPM; rest Broome Co; last date 16 Sept Vestal.

TANAGERS—HOUSE SPARROWS: Scarlet Tanager: nine reports: one Delhi; one Tioga Co, seven Broome Co, last date 3 Oct Vestal (GK). No. Cardinal: common thru. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: common thru during Sept; last date 29 Sept Tioga Co. Indigo Bunting: nine reports: one 11 Sept of 15 birds "in cornfield" OPM (MD); six Vestal, two Tioga Co; last date 17 Oct Tioga Co (RB). Rufous-sided Towhee: common thru area Sept and Oct; last date 24 Oct Choconut Center (MS). Am. Tree Sparrow: common thru area; first date 29 Oct Vestal (GK). Chipping Sparrow: common thru area, last date 29 Oct Middlefield (NB). Field Sparrow: common thru area; last date 31 Oct Vestal (GK). Vesper Sparrow: one report 22 Oct; bird banded at n.c. Vestal station (GK). Savannah Sparrow: two reports: one 20 Sept OPM (MD); one 9 Oct Vestal (GK). Grasshopper Sparrow: one report: one 25 Oct banded at n.c. Vestal station (GK). Fox Sparrow: 18 reports scattered thru; first date 19 Oct, OPM (MD, KW); last date 9 Nov OPM (MD, KW). Song Sparrow: common thru; last date 28 Nov Cortland (CW). Lincoln's Sparrow: 13 birds, all Broome Co; 11 banded at n.c. banding station (GK); earliest date 6 Sept Choconut Center (MS); last date 23 Oct Vestal (GK). Swamp Sparrow: 48 reports; five OPM; one Tioga Co, 42 at n.c. Vestal banding station (GK); last date 23 Oct Vestal (GK). White-throated Sparrow: common thru; first 22 Sept Vestal; last 30 Nov Vestal. White-crowned Sparrow: 36 reports scattered thru area; first 4 Oct Middlefield (NB); last 7 Nov Middlefield (NB). Dark-eyed Junco: common thru, first date for obvious migrant flock 15 Oct Vestal. Snow Bunting: a single bird 17 Oct Otselic "following a cold front." (DM). Red-winged Blackbird: common thru; last date 26 Nov Castle Gardens, Broome Co (SP). E. Meadowlark: nine reports: scattered thru; last date 29 Oct N. Pharsalia (DM). Com. Grackle: common thru; last date 26 Nov Windsor (JS). Brown-headed Cowbird: common thru; last date 6 Nov Windsor (JS). No. Oriole: three reports: one Choconut Center 16 Sept (MS), one 4 Sept OPM (MD); one Sept Tioga Co (RB). Purple Finch: in moderate numbers thru area and period. House Finch: common Broome, Cortland and Tioga Cos. in large numbers; numbers increasing from one to two to five to ten Oneonta, Delhi, Middlefield. Pine Siskin: one 24, 26, 27 Sept Delhi (MC); one 31 Oct Tioga Co (RB). Am. Goldfinch: common thru. Evening Grosbeak: 11 reports: Broome Co, Chenango Co, Otsego Co., between 14 Nov and 27 Nov. House Sparrow: common thru.

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