

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

HARRIET MARSJ

The July-August trend of record breaking heat continued until 12 September. After that for the remainder of the fall period one could describe the area weather as "seasonable." In September, mean daytime temperatures were in the low 80's with cool nights in the 60's. There were a few equinoctial rains and an occasional touch of overnight frost as the month advanced. Precipitation was 1½" below normal. October's daytime temperatures dropped slowly from mid-70's early in the month to mid-50's by month's end. The only killing frost occurred 22 October with a 27° F thermometer reading at 7 a.m. The 2.61" of rain that fell was over an inch below normal for the month. Rivers and lakes were low, the ground like concrete. November, on the other hand, was typically dark and damp, with temperatures often below freezing at night, daytime highs in the 30's and 40's. Rain, wind, freezing rain, sleet, flurries, sloppy snow with occasional sun was the norm. A big plus for the month was the precipitation (3.57"). For the first time since June this was above normal (1.61"). A poor to average berry and cone crop may be associated with the low rainfall and a low acorn crop may have been influenced by the previous gypsy moth presence.

As for the birds, the lack of really strong fronts in September and October seemed to translate into many counts that were definitely on the low side of average. Flycatchers, kinglets, vireos, warblers, for instance, either overflew us, drifted thru, spread out or had a poor breeding season. Thrushes, however, held to their usual numbers. The wider-than-usual mudflat edges associated with low rivers and ponds did not produce correspondingly high counts of shorebirds. In fact, the shorebird count was low even for this area, possibly influenced by the shortened northern breeding season. Remember our cold, wet spring? One Snowy Egret, however, appreciated the enlarged shoreline and was observed in the Oneonta area (MD, KW). A Lesser Golden-Plover, on the other hand, ignored the water edges and found instead the S. Otselic Fish Hatchery where it hung around for three or four days (JL). The area's open ponds and lakes failed to attract large numbers of dabbling ducks but numerous reports of Canada Geese continued late into November. Unusual were two reports of Snow Geese in large flocks (150 and 600 to 800) in Delaware Co. (KS). Diving birds, however, provided the area with a few noteworthy reports. On Chenango Lake a large flock of Black Scoters (55 max), first noted 16 October, still left a few stragglers as late as 19 November (RD, CC, DW). On Chenango Lake also on 12 November an exceptionally large flock of 16 Red-throated Loons was observed (CL, ChBC). One Double-crested Cormorant, uncommon this far inland, was noted on WPR 4 September (RS).

The region also had several rarities for which there seems to be no obvious weather-related (at least not this region's weather) explanation. An Oneonta observer, investigating an avian fracas at the backyard feeder, discovered two Red-tailed Hawks harassing a Peregrine Falcon (KW). A Western Kingbird spent several hours near a barn in So. Otselic (DM, JL), and finally, a Brewer's Blackbird was clearly observed at an Endwell feeder by a birder familiar with the species in the west (FL).

Abbreviations: BCNC—Broome County Naturalists Club; CCBC—Cortland County Bird Club; ChBC—Chenango Bird Club; Chen—Chenango; OPM—Oneonta, Portland, Milford; REEC—Rogers Environmental Education Center; SOFH—South Otselic Fish Hatchery; TBC—Tioga Bird Club; WPR—Whitney Point Reservoir.

Observers: G. Baker, Jr., C. & J. Baldwin, R. & J. Barnes, D. Bell, J. Bell, L. Bemont, R. Bennett, L. Bingley, B. Bozdos, W. Breidinger, D. Burgin, L. Carey, S. Carey, L. Clarke, M. Clarke, C. Covey, R. Daigle, A. & M. Davis, J. Davis, L. Davis, E. Delboney, M. Dobinsky, H. Hymes, R. Ilse, P. Keith, E. Kirch, G. Kirch, J. Knapik, M. Lafayette, C. Lehman, J. Lehman, F. Linaberry, H. Marsi, R. Marsi, L. McDowell, E. Mead, D. Messineo, M. Musci, E. Nelson, F. O'Leary, R. Pantle, R. Parker, S. Paston, J. & H. Shultes, J. Sedlacek, K. Stalter, A. Tamber, W. Toner, G. Wade, A. Whitaker, C. Wilkins, K. Wilson, D. Windsor, C. Yates, A. Zimmerman.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: two reports; one 12 Nov. of 16 individuals in close flock on Chen L (CL, ChBC); one of one bird Nov. 13 on Chen L (CL, JL); unusually large flock. Com. Loon: five reports of eight birds; first 30 Oct. Pepacton Res (MC); last 14 Nov. WPR (RM). Pied-billed Grebe: two reports; one 26 Sept. OPM (MD, KW); one 27 Oct. Chen Co. (KL). Horned Grebe: two reports; one 30 Oct. WPR (A & MD); one 4 Nov. WPR (RM). **DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT**: one 4 Sept. WPR (RS). Great Blue Heron: moderate thru. **SNOWY EGRET**: one 13 Sept. OPM (MD, KW). Green-backed Heron: regular thru. Black-crowned Night-Heron: the flock of approx. 13 imms. reported in Aug. on the Susquehanna R, Johnson City, remained on the river for at least two weeks into Sept. **SNOW GOOSE**: 150 estimated 24 Oct., 600 to 800 estimated 29 Oct.; same place, Meredith (KS). Canada Goose: common thru; earliest "heavy flights" 8 Oct.; last 19 Nov. Chen Co (DW), WPR (RM). Wood Duck: regular thru; last date 30 Oct. REEC (JL). Green-winged Teal: one 11 Oct. OPM (MD, KW). Am. Black Duck: light numbers thru. Mallard: regular thru. Blue-winged Teal: one Sept. Tioga Co. (CY); one Oct. Tioga Co. (RB). Am. Wigeon: one 15 Oct. WPR (A & MD). Canvasback: one 29 Oct. WPR (A & MD). Ring-necked Duck: one 15 Oct. WPR (A & MD); 14 29 Oct. WPR (A & MD); one Beaver Meadow (Chen Co) (DM); one 12 Nov. Guilford L (ChBC); one 13 Nov. Chen L (CL, J). Black Scoter: ten reports of 93 birds, 8 Chen L, 2 Hunt's Pond (Chen Co); first report 55 16 Oct. (RD), last three 19 Nov. (CC, DW), both Chen L; unusual numbers for this area. Bufflehead: six reports; four WPR, one Chen Co, one Tioga Co.; first 5 Nov. WPR (FL, HM); last 19 Nov. WPR (RM). Hooded Merganser: three reports: three 3 Oct. SOFH (DM); three 13 Nov. Chen L (CL, JL); three 19 Nov. Chen L (CC, DW). Com. Merganser: six reports; first Sept. Tioga Co (TBC); last 50 1 Nov. WPR (RM). Red-breasted Merganser: one 13 Nov. Chen L (CL, JL). Ruddy Duck: two reports: one 5 Nov. Oxford (ChBC); four 15 Oct. WPR (A & MD).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: common thru Sept. and Oct. Osprey: 14 reports scattered thru; first one 4 Sept. WPR (RS); last 18 Oct. Norwich (JL). Bald Eagle: one 13 Nov. Otsego Co; found with a broken wing, wounded with a shotgun; reported in *The Daily Star*, Oneonta; bird given medical attention; will live but never fly again. No. Harrier: eight reports scattered thru; first 4 Sept. WPR (MS); last 26 Oct. Homer (WT). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 12 reports scattered thru. Cooper's Hawk: ten reports scattered thru. No. Goshawk: four reports; one 7 Sept. S. Otselic (DM); one 9 Oct. Tioga Co. (CY); three 15 Oct. Franklin Mt. (JL); one 13 Nov. Windsor (JS). Broad-winged Hawk: seven reports scattered thru. Red-tailed Hawk: common thru. Rough-legged Hawk: common in Chen. Co; first 17 Oct.; one report in Cortland Co., two 25 Oct. (WT). Am. Kestrel: common thru. **PEREGRINE FALCON**: one 8 Oct., Oneonta (KW); "Two Red-tails were trying to drive it out of the area, so the size comparison was good, the facial marks very visible and I've seen them

at Brigantine and Montezuma. The shape was 'falcon'. Ring-necked Pheasant: moderately common in Tioga Co; one report of five "released birds" 15 Sept. S. Otselic (DM). Ruffed Grouse: common thru. Wild Turkey: present thru, increasingly common in Broome and Tioga Cos. **LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER**: one present from 17 Sept. thru 20 Sept. at SOFH, well observed, very uncommon (JL). Killdeer: common thru; last date 1 Nov. OPM (MD, KW). Greater Yellowlegs: five reports, Broome, Chen, OPM, Tioga Cos; first 4 Sept. Johnson City (FL, HM); last 8 Nov. OPM (MD, KW). Lesser Yellowlegs: one Sept. Tioga Co. (RB). Solitary Sandpiper: three reports; one 4 Sept. SOFH (JL); one 12 Sept. OPM (MD, KW); three 1 Oct. OPM (MD, KW). Spotted Sandpiper: four reports; three 3 Sept. REEC (JL); two 4 Sept. SOFH (JL); one 5 Sept. Johnson City (FL, HM); one Oct. Tioga Co. (RB). Semipalmated Sandpiper: one Sept. Tioga Co. (RB). Least Sandpiper: one 4 Sept. SOFH (JL); five 4 Sept. WPR (MS). Dunlin: one 5 Oct. Goodyear L (J & HS). Com. Snipe: one 18 Oct. OPM (MD, KW); one 19 Nov. Chen L (CC, DW). Am. Woodcock: present regularly Broome and Tioga Cos.; last date 9 Nov. (RM). Ring-billed Gull: present thru. Herring Gull: present thru.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: common thru. Mourning Dove: common thru. Black-billed Cuckoo: one report, Endicott (BCNC). E. Screech-Owl: moderate thru. Great Horned Owl: regular thru. Barred Owl: one report; "vocal late Sept. thru Oct." S. Otselic (DM). No. Saw-whet Owl: one 17 Oct. and two 25 Oct. banded Vestal (GK); of two received REEC, one died and one was released in Chen Co (DM). Com. Nighthawk: four reports: several 1 thru 5 Sept. Johnson City (RM), one 3 Sept. REEC (JL); Sept. Tioga Co. (C & JB). Chimney Swift: Sept. Tioga Co (TBC). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: common thru Sept.; last date 5 Oct. Oneonta (KW). Belted Kingfisher: present thru. Red-headed Woodpecker: one 3 Sept. REEC (JL); one Oct. Tioga Co. (D & JB), one 18 Nov. Delhi (DB). Red-bellied Woodpecker: several locations in Tioga Co; one Norwich (RI); one Sherburne (GB Jr.); one Smyrna (DM); one Cortland Co. (PK); definitely increasing. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: seven reports thru; last date 10 Oct. Windsor (JS). Downy Woodpecker: common thru. Hairy Woodpecker: common thru. No. Flicker: common thru; last date 28 Nov. Broome Co (SP). Pileated Woodpecker: six reports; Broome, Chen, Tioga Cos.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one 14 Sept. S. Otselic (DM); one 26 Sept. OPM (MD, KW); unusual. E. Wood-Pewee: common thru; last date 6 Oct. Cortland Co. (FO'L). Least Flycatcher: common thru Sept.; last date 26 Sept. Vestal (GK). E. Phoebe: common thru Sept.; last date 28 Sept; Vestal (GK). **WESTERN KINGBIRD**: one 16 Oct. S. Otselic; bird remained around a barn for about three hours, observed by DM, corroborated by JL; photos were taken; well-described as "light gray head with charcoal or black eye-line extending from a black bill... dark tail and wings... in certain lights what appeared to be a light edge to the outer tail as the bird turned... olive back with yellow highlights, yellow belly shaded to gray chest and whitish throat." (DM, JL). E. Kingbird: common thru early in Sept. Horned Lark: Oct. Tioga Co. (CY). Tree Swallow: common thru in early Sept.; last date 6 Oct. Newark Valley (LD). No. Rough-winged Swallow: one 3 Sept. OPM (MD). Bank Swallow: Sept. Tioga Co. (RB). Barn Swallow: common thru Sept.; last date 3 Oct. OPM (MD). Blue Jay: common thru. Am. Crow: common thru. Black-capped Chickadee: common thru. Tufted Titmouse: present thru in moderate numbers. Red-breasted Nuthatch: present thru in sparse numbers. White-breasted Nuthatch: common thru. Brown Creeper: present thru in moderate numbers. Carolina Wren: five reports; 2 Chen Co; 2 Cortland Co; 1 Tioga Co. House Wren: common thru Sept. and early Oct.; last date 18 Oct. Vestal (GK). Winter Wren: eight reports; 3 Chen Co; five Broome Co; first 4 Sept. Norwich (JL); last 17 Oct. Broome Co. (MS). Marsh Wren: one 4 Sept. WPR (MS); one 18 Oct. Tioga Co. (D & JB, LB). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 12 reports scattered thru; first 29 Sept. Vestal (HM); last 30 Oct. S. Otselic (DM) and Windsor (JS). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: common Oct. thru; first 1 Oct. OPM (MD, KW); last 22 Oct. Broome Co. (JS). E. Bluebird: present thru; last date 30 Oct. Broome Co. (JS). Veery: common thru early Sept.; last date

10 Sept. Vestal (GK). Gray-cheeked Thrush: nine reports of 13 individuals; one Norwich; eight Vestal; last date 29 Sept. Vestal (GK). Swainson's Thrush: 43 reports; four Chen Co; remainder Broome Co; first date 7 Sept. Vestal (HM); last date 11 Oct. Vestal (HM); very high count. Hermit Thrush: 23 reports scattered thru; first date 12 Sept. Vestal (GK); last date 20 Nov. Vestal (LBe). Wood Thrush: common thru; last date 10 Oct. Windsor (JS). Am. Robin: common thru; last date 20 Nov. Vestal (LBe). Gray Catbird: common thru; last date 24 Oct. Tioga Co and Vestal. No. Mockingbird: seven reports scattered thru. Brown Thrasher: present in moderate numbers thru; last date 1 Nov. OPM (MD, KW). Water Pipit: two reports: Sept. Tioga Co. (CY); 200 Oct. Tioga Co. (CY). Cedar Waxwing: common thru. No. Shrike: four reports; one 27 Oct., one 3 Nov. and one 17 Nov., all S. Otselic (DM); one 14 Nov. Oneonta (MD, KW). European Starling: common thru.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Solitary Vireo: 11 reports scattered thru; last date 9 Oct. Vestal (HM). Yellow-throated Vireo: five reports; two Delaware Co (MC); two OPM (MD, KW); one Tioga Co (D & JB, CY); all between 3 Sept. and 18 Sept. Warbling Vireo: two 13 Sept. OPM (MD, KW); one 12 Oct. Tioga Co. (D & JB, CY). Philadelphia Vireo: four reports; Sept. Tioga Co. (D & JB, C & JB); one 14 Sept. Vestal (HM); one 15 Sept. Vestal (HM); Oct. Tioga Co. (CY). Red-eyed Vireo: common thru Sept.; last date 3 Oct. Vestal (HM). Blue-winged Warbler: two reports Sept. Tioga Co. (D & JB, LB); one 13 Sept. Vestal. "Brewster's" Warbler (HM). Tennessee Warbler: 15 reports scattered thru; all Sept. except one; no day given, only "Oct." Tioga Co (LB). Nashville Warbler: 22 reports scattered thru; last date 14 Oct. Vestal (HM). No. Parula: Sept. Tioga Co. (LB). Yellow Warbler: one 16 Sept. Delhi (MC); one Sept., Tioga Co. (TBC). Chestnut-sided Warbler: six reports; five 1 thru 15 Sept. OPM (MD, KW); one 1 Oct. Delhi (MC). Magnolia Warbler: 38 reports scattered thru; all Sept. except last report; 5 Oct. Vestal (HM). Cape May Warbler: 20 reports scattered thru; all Sept. except one; no date "Oct." Tioga Co. (TBC). Black-throated Blue Warbler: seven reports; Broome Co, OPM, Tioga Co; last date 1 Oct. Vestal (HM). Yellow-rumped Warbler: common thru Sept. and Oct.; last date 22 Oct. (several). Black-throated Green Warbler: common thru, mostly Sept., a few Oct.; last date 27 Oct. Cortland Co. (CW). Blackburnian Warbler: 19 reports; last 5 Oct. Tioga Co (CY). Pine Warbler: two reports; one 17 Sept. Delhi (MC); one Sept. Tioga Co (D & JB, LB). Palm Warbler: three reports: one 22 Sept. Vestal (GK); one Oct. Newark Valley (LD); one Oct. Tioga Co. (TBC). Bay-breasted Warbler: 16 reports scattered thru, all Sept.; last date 17 Sept. Norwich (JL). Blackpoll Warbler: 15 reports, all Vestal (LBe, GK, HM); last date 3 Oct. (HM). Black-and-white Warbler: seven reports; two OPM (MD); five Vestal (GK, HM); last date 21 Sept. (GK). Am. Redstart: 17 reports, Broome, Chen, Tioga Cos; last date 25 Sept. Norwich (JL). Ovenbird: 24 reports scattered thru; all Sept. except one, 10 Oct. Delhi (MC). No. Waterthrush: one 13 Sept. Vestal (GK). Mourning Warbler: one 2 Sept. OPM (MD); one 10 Sept. Vestal (GK); one Sept. Tioga Co. (D & JB). Com. Yellowthroat: common thru; last date 28 Oct. Tioga Co. (D & JB, LB). Wilson's Warbler: five reports; four Broome Co, one Tioga Co; last date 26 Sept. Vestal (GK). Canada Warbler: 12 reports, Broome Co, OPM, Tioga Co, last date 15 Sept. Vestal (HM).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: common thru Sept.; last date 26 Sept. OPM (MD, KW). No. Cardinal: common thru. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: common thru Sept.; last date 24 Sept. Norwich (JL). Indigo Bunting: 14 reports: Broome Co., OPM, Tioga Co.; last date 16 Sept. Vestal (GK). Red-Crested Cardinal (*Paroaria coronata*): one reported Oct. & Nov. in Nichols; presumed to be same bird that wintered in Tioga Co. 1982-83. Rufous-sided Towhee: common thru Sept., early Oct. Am. Tree Sparrow: common thru Nov.; first date 22 Oct. Tioga Co. (D & JB, LB). Chipping Sparrow: common Sept. into Oct.; last date 18 Oct. OPM (MD, KW). Field Sparrow: common Sept., Oct.; last date 27 Oct. Cortland Co. (CW). Vesper Sparrow: one 25 Oct. OPM (MD, KW). Savannah Sparrow: moderate numbers thru Sept., Oct.; last date 17 Oct. Norwich (JL). Fox Sparrow: moderate numbers late Oct. into Nov.; first date 8 Oct. S. Otselic (DM); last date 16 Nov. Vestal (RM). Song

Sparrow: common thru Sept., Oct. a few in Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: five banded 7-21 Oct. Vestal (GK). Swamp Sparrow: common Sept.-Oct. in Broome Co. and OPM; one report Tioga Co.; last date 29 Oct. OPM (MD). White-throated Sparrow: common thru; first date 14 Sep. Vestal (HM); last date for probable migrant 25 Oct. Cortland Co. (CW). White-crowned Sparrow: 32 reports scattered thru; first 28 Sept. Delhi (MC); last 24 Oct. Vestal (GK). Dark-eyed Junco: common thru Sept. and Oct.; first date 1 Sept. OPM (MD). Snow Bunting: one 1 Nov. OPM (MD, KW). Bobolink: one report: Sept. Tioga Co. (C & JB). Red-winged Blackbird: common thru; last date 30 Oct. E. Meadowlark: common thru; last date 10 Sept. Rusty Blackbird: three reports; one Tioga Co. (RB); two 12 Nov. REEC (ChBC); two 13 Nov. Plymouth (JL). **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**: one 19 Oct. Endwell at feeder; "black bird with light gray eye and decided purple sheen on head; no rust in plumage"; observer has previous experience with species in west (FL). Com. Grackle: common Sept., Oct. Brown-headed Cowbird: common Sept.; last date 25 Sept. Delhi (MC). No. Oriole: several early Sept. reports; one Oct. Tioga Co. (RB, CY). Purple Finch: moderate numbers Sept., early Oct. House Finch: common thru. Pine Siskin: 12 reports scattered thru; first date 17 Oct. Am. Goldfinch: common thru. Evening Grosbeak: 12 reports scattered thru; first date two 16 Oct. Norwich (JL). House Sparrow: common thru.

Box 1, Friendsville Stage, Binghamton, New York 13903

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL A. DeBenedictis

Fall 1983 came in like a lamb and went out like a lion. The hot, dry weather of the summer persisted through September. October remained warmer than average, but had more normal precipitation. The first killing frost occurred at Syracuse at the end of October. November averaged slightly cooler than normal, and nearly 10 inches of snow at Syracuse was a stark contrast to the 1.5 inches of last fall.

There were few good days for grounded migrants in September. October saw only a few frontal passages accompanied by strong northwest winds that bring heavy migrations to the Lake Ontario shore. 9 October was a rather exceptional date, in which a moderate flight along the Lake Ontario littoral was complimented by a large grounded flight in southern Pompey township. D. W. Crumb awoke and saw a heavy fog bank just south of her house. Before the fog lifted, taking with it the migrants, she set several seasonal high counts, including Region Five record highs for Golden-crowned Kinglet and Rufous-sided Towhee. F. G. Scheider and party encountered a thinner flight along the shore of Lake Ontario on this same day, which included many departure dates, among them a new record late date for Yellow Warbler.

Waterbird flights associated with frontal passages occurred on 6, 15 and 27 Oct., and on 6 and 17 Nov. Jaegers were poorly represented in these flights, but Brant, sea ducks, and Black-legged Kittiwakes were numerous, and the