

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Short-eared Owl: arr Manitou 1 Nov, max seven Retsoff 29 Nov. N. Saw-whet Owl: one banded and released Manitou Beach 12 Oct. Com. Nighthawk: last HB 6 Oct. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last one DE 6 Oct, late.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: last one Manitou 13 Oct, late. E. Phoebe: last Clarkson 18 Oct. E. Kingbird: last SA 2 Oct (WS), very late. Tree Swallow: max 600 WL 12 Oct. Bank Swallow: last WL 7 Oct. Barn Swallow: last WL 13 Oct. Com. Raven: one Kendall 14 Sep (FD), continuing recent increase in sightings. Winter Wren: arr Manitou 28 Sep. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr 30 Manitou 28 Sep. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr WL 14 Sep. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last Manitou Beach 25 Oct. Veery: last Manitou Beach 5 Oct. Gray-cheeked Thrush: last DE 6 Oct. Swainson's Thrush: last Webster Pk 26 Oct. Wood Thrush: last DE 12 Oct. Gray Catbird: one DE 30 Nov, late, may persist for the winter. Bohemian Waxwing: max 35 Sodus Bay 17 Nov (TT), very good year for this species. N. Shrike: arr HB 13 Oct.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Philadelphia Vireo: last Greece 12 Oct. Red-eyed Vireo: last DE 6 Oct. Tennessee Warbler: last three DE 6 Oct. Orange-crowned Warbler: one DE 23, 30 Nov, late for a traditionally late species. Nashville Warbler: last DE 12 Oct. N. Parula: last DE 12 Oct. Yellow Warbler: last Palmyra 13 Oct, quite late. Chestnut-sided Warbler: last four DE 6 Oct. Magnolia Warbler: last Webster 26 Oct. Black-throated Blue Warbler: last DE 12 Oct. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 200 WL 12 Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: last HB 12 Oct. Blackburnian Warbler: last Palmyra 3 Oct. Pine Warbler: Webster 7 Sep, out of normal locale. Bay-breasted Warbler: last two DE 12 Oct. Black-and-white Warbler: last two DE 6 Oct. Am. Redstart: last DE 12 Oct. Ovenbird: last HB 20 Oct. Yellow-breasted Chat: last killed by a cat Hamlin 3 Oct.

TANAGERS-OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Scarlet Tanager: last one Canandaigua 1 Oct. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: ad ♂ Brighton 23 Nov (*fide* FD), very late. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr eight HB 20 Oct. Fox Sparrow: arr HB 13 Oct. Lincoln's Sparrow: last Nine Mile Point 26 Oct. White-crowned Sparrow: arr two DE 29 Sep. Lapland Longspur: max 45 Webster 14 Nov. Snow Bunting: arr ten HB 21 Oct. Pine Grosbeak: arr Manitou Beach 31 Oct. Red Crossbill: arr DE 21 Sep, early. White-winged Crossbill: two Hamlin 5 Oct, early. Com. Redpoll: arr 20 Manitou Beach 25 Oct, increasing numbers thereafter. Pine Siskin: arr four Manitou 2 Sep. Evening Grosbeak: arr Naples 12 Sep.

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REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

DICK CLEMENTS

After a rather tame summer, the first days of September were more tropical than temperate – just in time for returning to school, work, *etc.* Even though temperatures approached the nineties and the humidity was high, very little rain fell in the southern part of our Region. Ithaca had close to two inches of rain on 9 Sep but Elmira and Watkins Glen only had small amounts. The mean temperature for the remainder of September and October was close to normal

with occasional lows and highs. Precipitation varied but for the most part we had dry conditions. Some hunters reported that their favorite American Woodcock haunts were too dry to attract the birds. Lack of rainy weather did make things more secure for migrants. Only 17 birds were killed by collisions with the Hawley Hill television tower in Elmira.

November was another story. Occasionally an unfamiliar object would appear in our sky and it wasn't Halley's Comet. It was the sun, which managed to shine only during eleven percent of the daylight hours. Precipitation, mostly rain, was close to six inches in Elmira, which was twice the normal amount. Thanksgiving was the first day when snow, sleet and freezing rain made driving an adventure.

Conflicting comments were received on the quality of the migration but the negatives outnumbered the positives. There were 211 species observed during the period, which is a good count. However, the number of individuals was down. Most of the common raptors and shorebirds were seen. Elmira was blessed with Lesser Golden-Plovers, rare for them but only a one-eyebrow-raiser for Ithaca. Thrushes, except for E. Bluebirds and Am. Robins, have been low all year and continued their scarcity this fall. Yellow-bellied, Alder, Willow and Least Flycatchers were all missed. Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were found in excellent numbers.

The numbers of warblers were considered very low in the Ithaca area, no doubt partly because we didn't have the storms to slow the birds down. In Elmira many passerines and herons were heard flying overhead on the night of 21 Sep. The next morning twelve species of warblers were observed, mostly Black-throated Green and Yellow-rumped. Included in one wave were three tail-wagging Palm Warblers in one low bush. Cape May Warblers were everywhere for the remainder of September and early October, and Yellow-rumped Warblers were seen through November.

Indications of a great irruption year occurred early. A few Evening Grosbeaks were observed first in early September and larger numbers were seen in October. An amazingly early Rough-legged Hawk was spotted at the Tompkins Co. Airport on 1 Sep. This is the earliest fall record for Region 3. All common winter finches were seen, but in low numbers. Tufted Titmice and Red-breasted Nuthatches came to feeders earlier than usual. In contrast, small flocks of Am. Robins were still lingering, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared at a feeder in late November, and a Wilson's Warbler was spotted in mid-November.

As suspected, some of our dabbling ducks were observed in greatly decreased numbers. A peak number of 26,000 Mallards at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge compared to 400,000 in the fall of 1984 is a shocking decrease. This number is the lowest since 1978. Other decreases were noted in Am. Black and N. Pintail numbers. If the quality of water in the Elmira area is to be measured by its use by Green-backed Herons, we could be in trouble. Even with the Chemung River flowing close by and various ponds scattered nearby, two of these birds chose a ground level bird bath to do their cleaning. Our insects must be tainted as well, for an adult House Wren was seen feeding suet to three fledglings in early September.

After being shut out of rarities in the summer season, our Region had its fair share. Species noted were Glossy Ibis, Bohemian Waxwing, Yellow-throated Warbler, Connecticut Warbler and Dickcissel. This is the second consecutive year that a Yellow-throated Warbler has been seen in the Ithaca area during late November-early December. In addition to these rarities, some uncommon species seen were Red-throated Loon, Bald Eagle, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, White-rumped Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper and White-eyed Vireo.

Finally, a special thanks to Nancy Dorwart and Robert McKinney for answering my plea for more reports from Steuben County.

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Abbreviations: band-banded at Penn Yan by M. Lerch; CayL—Cayuga Lake; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Pk—Park; QC—Queen Catherine Marsh.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one Union Springs 10 Nov. Com. Loon: max 30 CayL 31 Oct. Pied-billed Grebe: max 12 MNWR 2 Nov; regular there after date; three Elmira during Oct. Horned Grebe: arr CayL 28 Sep; max nine 23 Nov. Red-necked Grebe: two Stewart Pk, Ithaca, 9 Nov; last Dryden L 24 Nov. Double-crested Cormorant: last MNWR 3 Nov. Am. Bittern: three Ithaca in Sep. Least Bittern: none reported. Great Blue Heron: max 25 MNWR 14 Sep. Great Egret: last MNWR 19 Oct. Green-backed Heron: last Ithaca 14 Oct. Black-crowned Night-Heron: last MNWR 9 Nov. **GLOSSY IBIS**: one MNWR 3 Nov (J. Lally). Tundra Swan: max 60 MNWR 24 Nov. Snow Goose: 20 Atlay, Schu, late Nov. Brant: eight Watkins Glen 12 Nov; 15 Stewart Pk 17 Nov; Canandaigua during Nov. Canada Goose: max outside MNWR 10,000 CayL 23 Nov.

Maximum waterfowl numbers at MNWR as reported by refuge personnel.

Canada Goose	58,940	19 Nov	Gadwall	900	23 Oct
Wood Duck	800	4 Sep	Am. Wigeon	850	1 Oct
Green-winged Teal	2,250	11 Sep	Canvasback	1,067	8 Nov
Am. Black Duck	5,400	30 Oct	Ring-necked Duck	1,154	15 Nov
Mallard	26,400	30 Oct	Hooded Merganser	1,248	15 Nov
N. Pintail	700	23 Oct	Com. Merganser	456	19 Nov
Blue-winged Teal	480	4 Sep	Am. Coot	1,200	23 Oct
N. Shoveler	325	17 Sep			

Ring-necked Duck: seven Horseheads 7 Nov. Oldsquaw: arr CayL 22 Oct; last Horseheads shopping mall 30 Nov. Black Scoter: two ♀ arr Sheldrake 24 Nov. Surf Scoter: max three Hammondsport 12 Nov. White-winged Scoter: arr Myers Pt 15 Oct; max six Elmira 26 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: max 23 Canisteo 7 Oct, many feeding on dead opossum. Osprey: regular at Elmira, Ithaca until mid-Oct. Bald Eagle: imm Elmira 7 Sep; two MNWR 24 Oct. Sharp-shinned Hawk: scarce Schu; daily at Pine City feeder. Cooper's Hawk: scarce in our region except Ithaca. N. Goshawk: total of six reports. Red-shouldered Hawk: last Aurora 6 Nov. Red-tailed Hawk: numbers up Schu; max 35 CayL area 14 Sep. Rough-legged Hawk: present all season through most of our Region but in low numbers. Am. Kestrel: one being chased by Sharp-shinned Hawk Elmira 8 Sep; max 11 CayL area 23 Nov. Merlin: one MNWR 15 Sep; one Aurora 17 Oct. Peregrine Falcon: imm Myers Pt 15 Oct. Wild Turkey: many throughout region, max 50 Penn Yan. Com. Moorhen: last MNWR end Oct. Am. Coot: 50 Watkins Glen 25 Oct. Black-bellied Plover: max 12 MNWR 28 Sep. Lesser Golden-Plover: max 25 MNWR 28 Sep; last five Horseheads 30 Sep. Greater Yellowlegs: max 40 MNWR 14 Sep; last Elmira 6 Nov. Lesser

Yellowlegs: last MNWR 4 Nov. Ruddy Turnstone: arr MNWR 15 Sep. Sanderling: arr MNWR 21 Sep. W. Sandpiper: arr MNWR 15 Sep; last there 29 Sep. White-rumped Sandpiper: one MNWR 28 Sep. Pectoral Sandpiper: eight MNWR Sep; four Elmira 1 Nov. Dunlin: three MNWR 28 Sep; one Elmira 2 Oct; last MNWR 4 Nov. Stilt Sandpiper: one Canoga 14 Sep. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 21 Sep; last Ithaca 14 Oct. Long-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 21 Sep; max three Ithaca 2 Nov. Wilson's Phalarope: one MNWR 8 Sep. Red-necked Phalarope: one MNWR in Sep. Bonaparte's Gull: Ithaca 17 Oct, only report. Glaucous Gull: first year bird Myers Pt 19 Nov. Caspian Tern: CayL 9 and 16 Sep. Com. Tern: CayL 9 Sep.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Great Horned Owl: missing from two traditional sites in Pine City; doing fine elsewhere. Com. Nighthawk: last three Aurora 18 Sep. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Elmira 1 Oct. Red-headed Woodpecker: Ithaca 30 Sep; one Penn Yan Sep. Red-bellied Woodpecker: doing well Watkins Glen. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last Elmira 19 Nov. N. Flicker: small numbers end of season Ithaca, Elmira. Pileated Woodpecker: increasing Watkins Glen; coming to feeder Ithaca late Nov.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Guyanoga Valley 21 Sep. E. Phoebe: three Watkins Glen area until mid-Oct; Ithaca through Oct. Horned Lark: max 50 CayL area 23 Nov. Purple Martin: one MNWR 28 Sep. Tree Swallow: max 200 MNWR 6 Sep; last 14 Oct. N. Rough-winged Swallow: last few Aurora 13 Oct. Cliff Swallow: scarce all over. Barn Swallow: 40 MNWR 28 Sep; last Aurora 14 Oct. Black-capped Chickadee: numerous Elmira, Penn Yan. Red-breasted Nuthatch: regular in pine and spruce forests Watkins Glen area and at feeders Ithaca, Elmira. Brown Creeper: three Elmira 15 Nov. Carolina Wren: max three QC 10 Oct; also reported from Ithaca, Elmira. Winter Wren: arr Prattsburg 29 Sep; reports from Penn Yan, Aurora and Elmira in Oct; singing bird all season in traditional site Elmira. Marsh Wren: max two MNWR 28 Sep, last 9 Oct. Golden-crowned Kinglet: good numbers from Watkins Glen, Ithaca, and Elmira. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 12 MNWR 28 Sep, last Elmira 17 Nov. E. Bluebird: numerous reports throughout region, all encouraging. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one Ithaca 11 Sep; one tower kill victim Elmira Sep. Swainson's Thrush: max four MNWR 28 Sep; last Elmira 29 Sep. Hermit Thrush: one dead Aurora 15 Nov. Gray Catbird: last Penn Yan 10 Oct. Brown Thrasher: last Fall Creek 26 Sep. Water Pipit: max 100 Elmira 25 Oct. **BOHEMIAN WAXWING**: two Long Pt Pk 29 Oct (NYSARC); one Aurora 2 Nov (K. David).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: one Elmira 13 Sep. Solitary Vireo: last band 23 Oct. Warbling Vireo: none Ithaca; band 14 Sep. Philadelphia Vireo: band 14 and 19 Sep; last one Elmira 29 Sep singing. Blue-winged Warbler: last Aurora 14 Sep. Tennessee Warbler: arr Ithaca 16 Sep and remained to 7 Oct. Orange-crowned Warbler: one Beebe L 13 Sep; last Aurora 3 Oct. Nashville Warbler: last Watkins Glen 6 Oct. N. Parula: last window kill Ithaca 7 Oct. Yellow Warbler: last Ithaca 16 Sep. Magnolia Warbler: max eight MNWR 28 Sep. Cape May Warbler: many Elmira 14 Sep; last Ithaca 14 Oct. Black-throated Blue Warbler: no Oct reports. Yellow-rumped Warbler: hundreds QC 4 Oct, and good numbers throughout Region. Black-throated Green Warbler: last Ithaca 14 Oct. **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER**: one w of Dryden 26 Nov through end of period (mob, NYSARC). Pine Warbler: one tower kill 21 Sep; last Schu 28 Sep. Palm Warbler: total four Elmira, Ithaca 29 Sep. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Elmira 15 Sep. Blackpoll Warbler: arr Ithaca 16 Sep. Ovenbird: last Elmira 22 Sep tower kill. N. Waterthrush: last Sem 7 Oct. **CONNECTICUT WARBLER**: one Aurora 1 Sep (K. David!), one Ithaca area 14 Sep (R. Evans!). Mourning Warbler: one Cornell Campus 30 Sep. Com. Yellowthroat: last Ithaca 28 Oct. Wilson's Warbler: several reports Elmira Sep; last Phelps 15 Nov, very late.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: one nw of Ithaca 29 and 30 Nov. **DICKCISSEL**; ♀ Cornell Equine Research Pk 14 Oct (E. Luce). Rufous-sided Towhee: last Penn Yan 14 Nov. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Elmira 13 Oct. Chipping Sparrow: last Ithaca 18 Nov. Vesper Sparrow: last 14 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: last 4 Nov. Grasshopper Sparrow: last Aurora 18 Oct. Fox Sparrow: arr Lansing 21 Oct; three Elmira 11 Nov; last 18 Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: several band Sep and Oct; one Prattsburg 29 Sep and Aurora 2 Oct. White-throated Sparrow: a large flight Ithaca 28 and 29 Sep; low numbers everywhere afterwards. White-crowned Sparrow: Ithaca 4 Nov, only report. Snow Bunting: max 15 MNWR 23 Oct; low numbers Watkins Glen, Elmira, Phelps. Red-winged Blackbird: 1000 CayL area 2 Nov. E. Meadowlark: last Elmira 18 Nov. Rusty Blackbird: 40 MNWR 28 Sep; two band 15 Nov. Com. Grackle: 5000 CayL area 2 Nov; hundreds Elmira late Oct. Pine Grosbeak: arr Michigan Hollow 3 Nov; three other reports Ithaca area in Nov. Purple Finch: regular Watkins Glen at higher elevations. Red Crossbill: arr Ithaca 9 Nov; also reported 25 Nov. White-winged Crossbill: arr Ithaca 11 Nov; two feeder reports Ithaca area in Nov. Com. Redpoll: one Aurora 6 Nov; max five Ithaca 9 Nov. Pine Siskin: max 25 Pine City 2 Nov; present all fall Ithaca and Elmira. Evening Grosbeak: arr Elmira 5 Sep; max 50 CayL area 2 Nov.

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REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

JAY G. LEHMAN

Regional weather until 10 Sep was dominated by a strong Carolina high causing southwest breezes and summer-like conditions with daytime temperatures in the 70's to 80's and nighttime temperatures in the 60's at Binghamton. On 10 Sep a strong high pressure system from the northwest created autumn-like conditions, reversing wind direction, dropping daytime temperatures into the 50's to 60's and causing a record low of 37°F at Binghamton for 11 Sep. By 17 Sep the high had moved through and summer-like conditions returned. This continued until the remnants of hurricane *Gloria* moved through from 24 to 27 Sep followed by a high on 27 to 30 Sep. The 0.9 inches of rainfall at Binghamton in Sep before *Gloria* was below average, but 4.8 inches fell after *Gloria*. The skies literally opened on 27 Sep as nearly a monthly allotment of 3.5 inches fell!

October weather patterns were indistinctive. Perhaps *Gloria* left the weather gods confused. Highs and lows were relatively weak and moved rapidly through with no lasting patterns. The month was relatively mild with an average temperature of 50°F, almost a full degree above normal.

November weather was distinctive – in a word, gloomy. Although November is known for its lack of sunshine in these parts, the clouds and rain this November seemed excessive. With at most a handful of days with significant sunshine, Regional residents despaired of seeing the sun until 1986. With the clouds came