

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

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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

relatively warm temperatures until about 20 Nov when a cooling trend began. By month's end daytime temperatures were in the 30's consistently. November's rainfall was 4.47 inches, 1.63 inches above normal.

The mild early September conditions probably contributed to holding the Snowy Egret, an excellent record for this Region, in place until mid-month. Two high pressure frontal systems on 28 Sep and 12 Oct conveniently came on weekends so that the first and maximum movements of Canada Geese could be seen by observers. Although October was mild with few frontal induced movements, the low waterfowl species list is probably due to lack of observers in the field. In Chenango Co Don Windsor suggested assigning an observer to each small lake to document the small numbers of different species that appear on each lake during migration. Despite the lack of strong sustained October cold fronts, there was a good hawk flight with eleven species reported, including two Golden Eagles and a Peregrine Falcon. A new potential hawk watch was found on Ames Road, Cortland Co, where Bill Toner recorded eighty raptors of six species migrating on 20 Oct. A low mouse-vole population, however, suggests that wintering hawk populations may be low. Unfortunately, there were no hurricane driven vagrant species reported.

Two late records were probably due to the mild October. An immature Yellow-billed Cuckoo was stunned when it hit a window in Norwich on a cold frosty 28 Oct morning (JL). This bird was probably following the Chenango River valley where leaf-bearing willows and milder temperatures provide late insects. However, the Swainson's Thrush on 17 Oct (ML) that was also window-stunned near Bainbridge must have had slim insect pickings in the frosty hill country. The high movement of Golden-crowned Kinglets may have been delayed somewhat by the mild weather. Otherwise, the fall migration was poor with very little warbler fallout noted. In the north Dave Messineo reported that "Warblers may have flown over, but the lowest flight along the Otselic River I've seen," and two southern banding stations also reported low counts of many warblers, including Tennessees, Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Am. Redstart, Ovenbird, and Com. Yellowthroat. The one bright spot was an **AUDUBON'S** (Yellow-rumped) **WARBLER** window-stunned at Delhi on 11 Oct (A&FZ *fide* MC), identified in the hand by direct comparison with two field guides. Fortunately the bird recovered. Although warbler numbers are low, the species list is at least representative. Readers should remember to listen for warbler chip notes on fall nights with northwest breezes in order to determine when major movements are occurring. However, note that major fallouts seem to occur with abrupt wind and weather shifts. This fall, at least, the maximum counts for several species occurred near mid-Sep when a northwest to southwest shift occurred.

On the bright side finches, especially Purple Finches and Goldfinches, and sparrows were more abundant. Record numbers of Lincoln's, Swamp, Song, and White-throated Sparrows were banded at Newark Valley. Good November numbers of Pine Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins and a few early Redpolls suggest that this will be another good winter finch year but with a different flavor than last year's of crossbills. An exceptional flight of Evening Grosbeaks in mid-October suggests that "gros-pigs" will be stripping feeders of sunflower seeds again this winter and unlike last.

The species list of 160 is third highest in eight years and well above the eight year average of 149. Snowy Egret, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Short-eared Owl, and Com. Moorhen are rarities.

Observers: Cutler and Jeanette Baldwin, Randall and Jean Barnes, Don and Judy Bell, Les Bemont, Reynolds Bennett, Bruce Bozdos, W. Burgin, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Burrows, Sally Carey, Mildred Clark, Chad Covey, Anna and Marilyn Davis, Louise Dean, Mary Dobinsky, Nancy Emerson, Eleanor Halley, Shirley Hartman, Art Ilse, Gail Kirch, Ken Knapp, Marge Lafayette, Jay Lehman, Florence Linaberry, B. Mahon, Harriet Marsi, Rick Marsi, Evelyn Mead, Dave Messineo, D. O'Neill, Harriet Robison, Ted Robinson, Maurice Russell, Joe Sedlacek, John Sherwood, Ken Stalter, Bill Toner, George Wade, Anne Whitaker, Tom and Beryl Wilson, Don Windsor, Crystal Wright, Irene Wright, Alice and Fred Zimmerman.

Abbreviations: Bing-Binghamton, End-Endwell, New Vall-Newark Valley, Norw-Norwich, OPM-Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford, Vest-Vestal, Wind-Windsor.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one Guilford L & five Trestle Pd 16 Nov (DW,JL). Com. Loon: six in Nov, last OPM 25 Nov (MD,KW). Pied-billed Grebe: 14, arr two OPM 14 Sep; last four OPM 7 Nov (MD,KW). Horned Grebe: one Tioga Oct (C&JB). Red-necked Grebe: singles Hunt Pd SP 22 Sep (CC) and Owego 21 Oct (C&JB). Great Blue Heron: 31 Sep-Oct, two in Nov. Great Egret: one Portlandville 3 & 4 Sep (MD). **SNOWY EGRET:** one Delhi 1-15 Sep (HB *vide* MC), fourth fall record in seven years. Green-backed Heron: 4, last Norw 28 Sep (DW,JL), late. Canada Goose: arr 300+ in several flocks Region-wide 28 Sep (mob), max 12 flocks of 50-75 each Wind 12 Oct (JS) regular to mid-Nov; last 25 Otse L 23 Nov (MD). Wood Duck: 31, max and last 15 OPM 9 Oct (MD,KW). Black Duck: 3, last two OPM 7 Nov (MD,KW). Ring-necked Duck: six, last two Chen L 16 Nov (DW,JL). Lesser Scaup: max seven Chen L 12 Oct (CC); last OPM 14 Oct (MD,KW). Oldsquaw: one Chen L 16 Nov (JL). Black Scoter: arr six Bing 21 Oct (DO'N), last Chen L 16 Nov (DW). White-winged Scoter: only two OPM 25 Nov (MD,KW). Bufflehead: only one Otse L 23 Nov (MD). Com. Goldeneye: only two reports Tioga Oct (C&JB, RB). Com. Merganser: 54, arr 20 Otse L 3 Oct (DM); last four Glenn L 16 Nov (DW,JL). Red-breasted Merganser: arr Whitney Point Res 27 Oct (A&MD); last three Norw 30 Nov (DW). Ruddy Duck: only one ♂ and two subad Port Crane (HM), no date.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: ca. 16, last Cort 20 Oct (BT). Osprey: 13, last New Berlin 23 Nov (CC), late. N. Harrier: eight, max three Cort 20 Oct (BT); last Oxford 16 Nov (DW,JL). Sharp-shinned Hawk: nine, last Wind late Nov (JS). Cooper's Hawk: eight, last Wind late Nov (JS). Red-shouldered Hawk: only one Tioga Oct (LD). Broad-winged Hawk: five to mid-Sep, last Oneonta 7 Oct (MD,KW). Red-tailed Hawk: 130 scattered, max 67 in 2.5 hours Cort 20 Oct (BT). Rough-legged Hawk: arr Tioga Oct (C&JB); last three OPM after 15 Nov (MD,KW). **GOLDEN EAGLE:** one Bing 25 Oct (RM); subad Hamden 18 Nov (CC), first fall records since 1979. Am. Kestrel: 60, max nine OPM 4 Sep (MD). **PEREGRINE FALCON:** one Cort 20 Oct (BT), second fall record since 1979. Ring-necked Pheasant: four to 1 Oct. Ruffed Grouse: 27, scattered. Wild Turkey: 105 scattered, max 40 Wind late Nov (JS), increase continuing. **COMMON MOORHEN:** no details, remnant of this year's breeding pair?, Tioga (LD), first in seven falls. Killdeer: 136, max 35 Wind 5 Oct (JS), high. Greater Yellowlegs: six, last OPM 28 Sep (MD). Solitary Sandpiper: six, max & last three OPM 16 Sep (MD,KW). Least Sandpiper: 11 all OPM, max nine 5 Sep; last two 13 Sep. Com. Snipe: one report Tioga Oct (D&JB). Am. Woodcock: sporadic to 17 Oct Bing (HM). Ring-billed Gull: 800 in six flocks all Ots, max 300 Ots L 3 Oct (MD). Herring Gull: max 30 Ots L 9 & 23 Nov (MD).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: decreasing after mid-Oct. E. Screech Owl: six scattered to 2 Nov. Great Horned Owl: eight scattered. Barred Owl: only one

Wind late Nov (JS). **SHORT-EARED OWL:** one Waverly 21 Oct (C&JB), second fall report since 1979. Com. Nighthawk: 14, 12 SUNY Bing 3 Sep (HM), most in seven falls; last Bing 12 Sep (A&MD), late. Chimney Swift: two, last 4 Sep. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: five, last one Endw 20 Sep (FL). Belted Kingfisher: 28 through 7 Nov. Red-headed Woodpecker: only two Tioga Nov (LD,EM). Red-bellied Woodpecker: two each Tioga & Broome all fall; one Sherburne after 15 Oct (AI); one Smyrna after mid-Nov (MR), increasing. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 6 to 16 Sep. Downy Woodpecker: 55, decreasing in Nov. Hairy Woodpecker: 32 scattered. N. Flicker: 95, last Oneonta 13 Nov (MD). Pileated Woodpecker: four scattered.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood Pewee: seven, last OPM 16 Sep (MD,KW). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one 1 Sep & two 11 Sep Bing (HM). Traill's Flycatcher: one Bing 11 Sep (HM). Least Flycatcher: small numbers banded Bing (HM); last four Delhi 22 Sep (MC). E. Phoebe: 40, last Delhi 16 Oct (MC). Great Crested Flycatcher: two, last Delhi 9 Sep (MC). E. Kingbird: three, last Norw 22 Sep (DW). Horned Lark: six OPM 7 Oct (MD,KW) only report. Tree Swallow: 20 Vest 18 Oct (SD), late. Barn Swallow: 151, max 75 OPM 4 Sep (MD); last 30 Norw 18 Sep (JL). Tufted Titmouse: 14, commonest in Southern Tier; two Norw through Nov (CW), increasing. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 18, good count, last OPM 25 Nov (MD,KW). Brown Creeper: 16, last Delhi 21 Nov (NE). Carolina Wren: singles Tioga Oct (RB) and McGraw 13 Oct. House Wren: seven, last Bing 16 Sep (HM). Winter Wren: one Tioga in Oct (D&JB). Golden-crowned Kinglet: very high total 80+; 16 Tioga 18 Nov (BB,FL,HM); max and last 20 Wind 20 Nov (JS). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 16, ten Wind through late Nov (JS). E. Bluebird: 95+ to 31 Oct, max 35 Delhi 15 Sep (MC). Veery: three, last Bing 18 Sep (HM). Gray-checked Thrush: singles Bing 18 Sep (HM) and Tioga Oct (D&JB). Swainson's Thrush: seven in Sep. Hermit Thrush: ten, last 12 Oct. Wood Thrush: three, last Bing 7 Oct (HM). Gray Catbird: 70, last Vest 18 Oct (SD). N. Mockingbird: eight through Nov, all Southern Tier. Brown Thrasher: six, last Bing 29 Sep (HM). Water Pipit: 32, arr six Norw 28 Sep (JL); max and last 20 OPM 6 Oct (MD). Cedar Waxwing: max 65+, half imm, Norw 28 Sep (DW,JL); last OPM 7 Nov (MD,KW).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: 11, max five OPM 16 Sep, last 7 Oct (MD,KW). Yellow-throated Vireo: three, last Bing 17 Sep (HM). Warbling Vireo: ten, last OPM 19 Sep (MD,KW). Red-eyed Vireo: 26, only ten banded Bing through 30 Sep (HM). Blue-winged Warbler: three, last Norw 3 Sep (JL). Tennessee Warbler: 20, "four down from 36 [banded] last year" (JB); last New Vall 14 Oct (JB). Orange-crowned Warbler: one banded New Vall 12 Oct (JB). Nashville Warbler: six, last Bing 26 Sep (HM), very few banded. N. Parula: only one OPM 16 Sep (MD,KW). Yellow Warbler: two, last Bing 18 Sep (HM), fairly late. Chestnut-sided Warbler: ten, last Bing 17 Sep (HM), very few banded. Magnolia Warbler: 33, last Bing 30 Sep (HM). Cape May Warbler: nine, last New Vall 19 Sep (JB). Black-throated Blue Warbler: only one Norw 23 Sep (JL). Yellow-rumped Warbler: 80, last Vest 24 Oct (LB). Black-throated Green Warbler: 32, max 12 OPM 16 Sep (MD,KW); last two Norw 23 Sep (JL). Blackburnian Warbler: two, last OPM 16 Sep (MD,KW). Palm Warbler: five, last New Vall 24 Oct (JB). Bay-breasted Warbler: ten, max four OPM 16 Sep (MD,KW); last New Vall 23 Sep (JB). Blackpoll Warbler: 11, max four OPM 16 Sep (MD,KW); last two Bing 30 Sep (HM). Black-and-white Warbler: three, last Walton 1 Oct (SH), late. Am. Redstart: six, low, last Bing 23 Sep (HM). Ovenbird: four, low, last three Bing 23 Sep (HM). N. Waterthrush: only one Bing 23 Sep (HM). Connecticut Warbler: one banded Bing 1 Sep (HM), two banded New Vall 28 Sep (JB), one bulging with fat, only reports. Mourning Warbler: five banded, last four New Vall 23 Sep (JB). Com. Yellowthroat: 19, "down forty-four percent over 1984" (JB); last OPM 9 Oct (MD,KW). Wilson's Warbler: eight, good count, last New Vall 3 Oct (JB). Canada Warbler: one New Vall 1 Sep (JB).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: seven, last Bing 18 Sep (HM). N. Cardinal: 46 through Oct, very few Nov; dependent fledging Norw 25 Sep (JL), late. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 50, max 15 Bovina Center 15 Sep (EH); heavy night flight ca. one call per minute Norw 21 Sep (JL); last three Norw 28 Sep (DW,JL). Indigo Bunting: six, last New Vall 26 Sep (JB). Rufous-sided Towhee: 13, last Bing 11 Oct (A&MD). Am. Tree Sparrow: 26, arr New Vall 20 Oct (JB). Chipping Sparrow: 80+, 14 OPM 5 Sep (MD,KW); last Delhi 25 Nov (SC). Field Sparrow: 59, last New Vall 20 Oct (JB). Vesper Sparrow: singles Tioga Oct (RB) and OPM 14 Oct (MD,KW). Savannah Sparrow: 24, max 15 Norw 28 Sep (DW,JL); last two Norw 27 Oct (DW). Fox Sparrow: six, arr Vest 30 Oct (SD); last Oneonta 15 Nov (MD). Lincoln's Sparrow: 21, last New Vall 14 Oct (JB). Swamp Sparrow: 52, last New Vall 25 Oct (JB). White-throated Sparrow: 150, max 40 Wind 12 Oct (JS); few in Nov. White-crowned Sparrow: 32, last New Vall 27 Nov (JB). Dark-eyed Junco: 190+, decreasing after early Nov. Snow Bunting: 31, arr two New Vall 31 Oct (JB); last Norw 2 Nov (JL). Bobolink: six, last Apalachin 12 Sep (GW). Red-winged Blackbird: last ten OPM 29 Oct (MD). E. Meadowlark: 14, last New Vall 25 Oct (JB). Com. Grackle: late max 150 Norw 2 Nov (DW); last Hartwick 23 Nov (MD). Brown-headed Cowbird: 15+, last Bing 18 Oct (HM). N. Oriole: three, last New Vall 23 Sep (JB). Pine Grosbeak: arr Edmeston 9 Nov (TR *fide* MD), ten through end Nov. Purple Finch: 95, last Johnson City through Nov (JS). House Finch: max 75 Wind 22 Sep (JS). Com. Redpoll: three, arr Tioga 21 Oct (C&JB); last Chen L 16 Nov (JL). Pine Siskin: 120+, max 25 Oneonta occasionally through Nov (KW). Am. Goldfinch: ca. 530, max 50 OPMf 12 Sep (MD,KW). Evening Grosbeak: large flight, ca. 2400, max ca. 2000 in 25 flocks of 50 to 100 New Vall 18 Oct (JB).

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REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The fall 1985 migration offered few birds to observers afield in the Oneida Lake Basin Region. The weather was fine, perhaps too fine to see migratory birds. All three months averaged just above normal in temperature. The killing frost came about a week late on 22 Oct. Subsequent cold periods were few and of short duration. Precipitation was above average in all three months, but most of September's total came on just three days. The first trace of snow at Syracuse fell on 15 Nov, the latest ever, with the first significant snowfall quite late on the 28th. September days generally were clear, but only half of October was sunny and less than a fifth of November saw even a glimpse of sun – what a dreary month!

There were few strong weather systems during the height of the migration. Parties afield after the passage of Hurricane Gloria on 28 Sep found nothing