

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

certainly attributable to that storm. Only two or three dates in September were rated as even mediocre flight days. Dorothy Crumb had only two dates with more than 100 warblers near Pompey, while F. G. Scheider had none along Lake Ontario. The last date when a variety of insectivorous birds were found was 4 Oct. Thrushes, vireos, warblers and sparrows were especially scarce. High counts for most species were single digit numbers. The maximum for Yellow-rumped Warbler was only 130 in Pompey on 11 Oct. The White-throated Sparrow maximum of 242 in Lysander 3 Oct was about half normal, and no Dark-eyed Junco counts exceeded 100.

Water bird counts were equally unimpressive. Red-throated Loon and Pied-billed Grebe were found in moderate numbers, but the other divers were scarce. The high count of Brant exceeded that of Canada Goose, but the latter were more ubiquitously and continually present. Except for a new record high of 1397 Wood Ducks at Toad Harbor near Brewerton on 4 Oct (the only count above 100), dabbling ducks were scarce everywhere. Numbers of diving and sea ducks, except for Oldsquaw and Red-breasted Merganser, were very low and arrivals were late. However, Gary Lee submitted several remarkable records from the Old Forge area, including a Red-necked Grebe, an Oldsquaw, 30 Black Scoter and four Surf Scoter on Otter Lake 26 Oct and 10-12 loons there to 11 Nov.

Neither herons nor shorebirds added much to the season. Robert L. Post watched a concentration of Great Blue Heron build to 21 birds on Otisco Lake during a rainy 12 and 13 Nov; all were gone by the 16th. This was rather late for such numbers. Of the rarer herons, only Great Egret and Black-crowned Night-Heron were found. Shorebird numbers declined steadily from the start of the season but, of the rarer species found most falls, only Whimbrel and Buff-breasted Sandpiper were missed. November shorebird departure dates included a Killdeer present near Old Forge to the 11th, and a White-rumped and rather late Baird's Sandpiper at Little Sodus Bay on 2 Nov and Sandy Pond on 7 Nov. Even gulls were scarce, but included three Laughing, a Franklin's and multiple Little Gull this season.

Raptors were scarce. Only a few accipiters and Rough-legged Hawk were reported. Two hawk flights were described. Following a rainy period, Dorothy Crumb saw 30 Osprey, six N. Harrier, six accipiters of three species, 57 Broad-winged Hawk, a Red-tailed Hawk, three Am. Kestrel and three Merlin pass the Pompey TV towers during the last hour before sunset on 10 Sep. She saw four Turkey Vulture, four more accipiters, and 170 Broad-winged Hawk go by early the next morning. On 20 Oct F. G. Scheider and Ruth Knight watched raptor flight along the east end of Lake Ontario that included 34 Turkey Vulture (the last for the season and a new fall record maximum), an Osprey (last of the season), 20 N. Harrier (high count), two Sharp-shinned Hawk, six Cooper's Hawk (maximum), a N. Goshawk, two Red-shouldered Hawk, 419 Red-tailed Hawk (a new fall record maximum) and two Rough-legged Hawk. Reports of Merlin and Peregrine Falcon remained encouragingly numerous. Singles of Snowy, Long-eared and N. Saw-whet Owl were the only unusual owls reported. The first N. Shrike was at Otisco Lake on 20 Nov, with two subsequent reports from along Lake Ontario.

It appeared to be a good, but mixed season for winter irruptive passerines. High counts of Blue Jay, 85 at Sandy Pond on 18 Sep, and of Black-capped Chickadee, 290 along Lake Ontario on 31 Oct, were not suggestive of incursions. Gary Lee found Gray Jay at Third Lake Swamp and Boreal Chickadee in Limekiln Swamp for the first time ever this fall, but no others were reported out of range. Red-breasted Nuthatch counts peaked at 11/day in September, but only scattered residents were reported afterwards. Am. Robins and waxwings were uncommon, but several Bohemian Waxwings were found in Nov. Finches foretold an interesting winter. Pine Grosbeak arrived at Old Forge on 3 Nov and at Holland Patent on 4 Nov, and were present throughout the Region with counts to 41/day by late November. Purple Finch counts peaked at just seven/day. The only crossbill reported was a male White-winged at Sandy Pond on 21 Nov. Com. Redpoll was found first at Derby Hill on 2 Oct, and counts increased to 45/day by late November. Pine Siskins were found first at Sandy Pond on 29 Sep, and the high count of 20 at Derby Hill came 31 Oct. Evening Grosbeak arrived at Clay Marsh on 30 Sep and were widespread by early Oct, with a maximum of 200 at Derby Hill on 7 Nov. This pattern of abundances is almost the reverse of last winter.

Com. Ravens were seen regularly in northern Herkimer County, where one lead ranger Gary Lee to an illegal deer kill and the eventual conviction of the culprit responsible.

Most species of special concern in the Region did poorly this season. Neither cuckoo was found. Only scattered Tufted Titmouse and N. Mockingbird, and but two Carolina Wrens, both near Syracuse, were reported. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was a surprising miss this fall. Neither kinglet was common, with maxima of 130 Golden-crowned in Pompey on 21 Oct and of 43 Ruby-crowned near Fairhaven on 17 Oct. All of the grassland sparrows were scarce as in recent falls.

A total of 238 species were reported, about average. The only great rarities reported were Glossy Ibis and Long-tailed Jaeger. In addition to those mentioned above, hard-to-find species reported this fall included King Eider, Bald Eagle, Hudsonian Godwit, Western and Purple Sandpiper, all three phalaropes, Parasitic Jaeger, Black-legged Kittiwake, Forster's Tern, Sedge Wren, and Orange-crowned Warbler.

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Abbreviations: DH-Derby Hill, Oswe; LSB-Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, Fairhaven, Cayu; LOL-Lake Ontario littoral, Oswe; NPT-northern Pompey township; SPd-Sandy Pond, Oswe; TS-town of Sterling, Cayu; SVB-Sylvan and Verona Beach, Onei; Syr-Syracuse.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr SVB 8 Oct, max 11 LOL 11 Nov. Com. Loon: arr SPd 12 Sep. Pied-billed Grebe: max 11 LOL 19 Oct. Horned Grebe: arr LSB 4 Oct. Red-necked Grebe: arr DH 6 Oct. Double-crested Cormorant: record max 325 SPd 18 Sep, 318 on 17 Sep. Am. Bittern: last SPd 26 Sep. Great Egret: single Delta L to 8 Sep, two Lewis Pt, Oneida L, 3 Oct. Green-backed Heron: last SPd 10 Oct. Black-crowned Night-Heron: four reports, last Poolsbrook 14 Oct. **GLOSSY IBIS:** imm Chedmardo 3

Nov (FGS, RK), fourth Regional fall record, record late. Tundra Swan: imm Otisco L 17 Nov only report. Mute Swan: seven Lyons Pond, Madi, 7 Sep. Snow Goose: ad white morph Beaver L 3 Nov only report. Brant: arr DH 17 Oct, max 1800 DH 23 Oct. Canada Goose: max only 1739 DH 19 Oct. Green-winged Teal: last LSB 19 Nov. Am. Black Duck: max 152 LSB 19 Oct. Mallard: max 341 LSB 2 Nov. N. Pintail: max 55 DH 14 Oct. Blue-winged Teal: last LSB 8 Oct. N. Shoveler: arr Onon L 2 Sep, last LSB 2 Nov. Gadwall: max 68 LSB 27 Oct. Am. Wigeon: max 186 LSB 2 Nov. Canvasback: arr DH, Otisco L 26 Oct. Redhead: arr LSB 4 Oct. Ring-necked Duck: arr TS 16 Sep. Greater Scaup: arr DH 26 Sep, max 506 DH 5 Oct. Lesser Scaup: arr SPd 28 Sep, max 200 DH 7 Nov. King Eider: one DH 19 Nov (FGS). Oldsquaw: arr DH 20 Oct, max 350 DH 27 Oct. Black Scoter: arr DH 5 Oct. Surf Scoter: arr SPd 28 Sep. White-winged Scoter: arr SPd 28 Sep. Com. Goldeneye: arr SPd 26 Oct. Bufflehead: arr SPd 20 Oct. Hooded Merganser: arr SVB 21 Sep, max 91 Beaver L 3 Nov. Com. Merganser: arr SVB 21 Sep. Red-breasted Merganser: arr DH 5 Oct, max 4900 LOL 23 Nov. Ruddy Duck: arr LSB 4 Oct.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: imm Deer Creek Marsh 2 Nov, SPd 3-7 Nov. Red-shouldered Hawk: one SVB 10-26 Oct. Broad-winged Hawk: last T Webb 15 Sep. Rough-legged Hawk: arr DH 20 Oct. Merlin: nine reports, most LOL 5 Sep to 14 Oct. Peregrine Falcon: eight on three dates LOL 26 Sep to 6 Oct. Virginia Rail: last Clay Marsh 1 Nov. Sora: last SP 29 Sep. Com. Moorhen: last SPd 10 Oct. Am. Coot: arr SPd 28 Sep. Black-bellied Plover: last SPd 7 Nov. Lesser Golden-Plover: last SVB 3 Oct. Semipalmated Plover: max 66 Delta L 1 Sep, last LSB 2 Nov. Greater Yellowlegs: last SPd 10 Nov. Lesser Yellowlegs: last Otisco L 3 Nov. Solitary Sandpiper: last Clay Marsh 3 Oct. Spotted Sandpiper: last Onon L 5 Oct. Hudsonian Godwit: ad near Brewerton 2-8 Sep, imm SPd 26 Oct-3 Nov. Ruddy Turnstone: last SPd 26 Sep. Red Knot: to two/day, last SVB 26 Sep. Sanderling: max 33 SPd 3 Oct, last SPd 21 Nov. Semipalmated Sandpiper: last LSB 2 Nov. W. Sandpiper: five reported last LSB 12 Oct. Least Sandpiper: max 148 Delta L 1 Sep, last SPd 10 Oct. White-rumped Sandpiper: scattered singles 8 Sep to 14 Nov, last at LSB. Pectoral Sandpiper: max 33 Delta L 1 Sep, last SPd 10 Oct. Purple Sandpiper: at least three LSB 14-17 Nov. Dunlin: arr SPd 12 Sep, max 50 LSB 8 Oct, last DH 30 Nov. Stilt Sandpiper: last SVB 22 Sep. Short-billed Dowitcher: Last Brewerton 15 Sep. Am. Woodcock: last 27 Oct, "displaying." Wilson's Phalarope: only report imm Onon L 8 Sep. Red-necked Phalarope: only reports one SPd 28 Sep, two DH 6 Oct. Red Phalarope: only report one SVB 6 Oct. Parasitic Jaeger: arr DH 19 Sep, max 14 DH 6 Oct, last DH 24 Nov. **LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** imm found dead SVB 3 Sep (SH!, NYSARC, spm Rice Creek Biol. Station), third Regional record. Laughing Gull: ad SVB 25 Sep (TL!), SPd 28 Sep (FGS, mob), DH 26 Oct (FGS). Franklin's Gull: imm near DH 20 Oct (FGS, RK). Little Gull: up to two ad and four imm SPd to 29 Sep, record max; ad SVB 8 Sep and 6-8 Oct. Bonaparte's Gull: max 77 SPd 7 Sep. Glaucous Gull: arr Oswego 17 Nov. Iceland Gull: arr Utica 10 Nov. Caspian Tern: max 56 SPd 4 Sep, last DH 6 Oct. Com. Tern: max 302 SPd 4 Sep, last DH 6 Oct. Forster's Tern: one/two per day SPd 2-28 Sep. Black Tern: last DH 6 Oct.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Snowy Owl: only report Oswego 28 Nov. Long-eared Owl: only report NPT 6 Sep. N. Saw-whet Owl: only report Old Forge 28 Oct. Com. Nighthawk: last E Syr 10 Sep. Chimney Swift: last SPd 17 Sep. Belted Kingfisher: one at Old Forge to 10 Nov. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last SPd 19 Sep. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: to five/day 14 Sep to 17 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: family group SPd 18 Sep, last there next day. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: five reported, last LSB 4 Oct. Least Flycatcher: last TS 16 Sep. E. Phoebe: last SPd 10 Oct. Great Crested Flycatcher: last SVB 18 Sep. E. Kingbird: last SVB 12 Sep. Horned Lark: max 400 DH 16 Nov. Purple Martin: last SPd

5 Sep. Tree Swallow: last SPd 10 Oct. N. Rough-winged Swallow: last SPd 17 Sep. Bank Swallow: last SPd 17 Sep. Cliff Swallow: record max 700 near SVB 5 Sep, last 200 there 8 Sep. Barn Swallow: last near SVB 8 Sep, very early departure. Am. Crow: max 900 SPd 20 Oct. House Wren: last DH 5 Oct. Winter Wren: arr SPd 13 Sep, last there 20 Oct. Sedge Wren: Vernon 12 Sep (TL), second fall report. Marsh Wren: last SPd 10 Oct. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr SPd 14 Sep. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr LSB 13 Sep, last Onon L 16 Nov. E. Bluebird: last 31 Oct. Veery: last LSB 8 Sep. Gray-cheeked Thrush: four reported 16 Sep to 4 Oct. Swainson's Thrush: last LSB 12 Oct. Hermit Thrush: arr DH 28 Sep, last Selkirk Shores SP 9 Nov. Wood Thrush: last LSB 4 Oct. Am. Robin: max only 130 LOL 19 Oct; present Old Forge area to 10 Nov. Gray Catbird: last LSB 14 Oct. Brown Thrasher: last Clay 1 Oct. Water Pipit: arr SPd 5 Sep, max 90 LOL 20 Oct, last SPd 16 Nov. Bohemian Waxwing: one DH 9 Nov, three Texas and five Oswego 20 Oct, 28 DH 23 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: last LSB 19 Oct. Yellow-throated Vireo: last TS 17 Sep. Warbling Vireo: last LSB 13 Sep. Philadelphia Vireo: to six/day, 8 Sep to 4 Oct. Red-eyed Vireo: last SPd 10 Oct. Golden-winged Warbler: record late LSB 13 Sep. Tennessee Warbler: last LSB 12 Oct. Orange-crowned Warbler: about five reported 28 Sep to 6 Oct. Nashville Warbler: last SPd 17 Oct. N. Parula: to two/day 13 Sep to 4 Oct. Yellow Warbler: last SPd 19 Sep, early departure. Chestnut-sided Warbler: last LSB 13 Sep. Magnolia Warbler: last LSB 4 Oct. Cape May Warbler: last SVB 6 Oct. Black-throated Blue Warbler: last NPT 16 Oct. Yellow-rumped Warbler: last SVB 14 Nov. Black-throated Green Warbler: last LSB 12 Oct. Blackburnian Warbler: last NPT 22 Sep. Pine Warbler: last SPd 12 Sep. Palm Warbler: to seven/day 21 Sep to 10 Oct. Bay-breasted Warbler: last LSB 4 Oct. Blackpoll Warbler: last LSB 4 Oct. Black-and-white Warbler: last Syr 11 Oct. Am. Redstart: last LSB 4 Oct. Ovenbird: last LSB 4 Oct. N. Waterthrush: last E Syr 19 Sep. Mourning Warbler: last SPd 5 Oct. Com. Yellowthroat: last SPd 5 Oct. Hooded Warbler: last TS 16 Sep. Wilson's Warbler: last Poolsbrook 22 Sep. Canada Warbler: last TS 16 Sep.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: last Old Forge 21 Sep. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last NPT 22 Sep. Indigo Bunting: last Clay 1 Oct. Rufous-sided Towhee: last LSB 14 Oct. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr DH 20 Oct. Chipping Sparrow: last DH 3 Nov. Field Sparrow: last Limekiln Swamp 13 Nov. and DH 16 Nov. Vesper Sparrow: last Lysander 7 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: last LSB 17 Oct. Fox Sparrow: arr NPT 9 Oct, max 11 there 89 Nov, last DH 9 Nov. Song Sparrow: max 317 Lysander 3 Oct. Lincoln's Sparrow: to 11/day 7 Sep to 14 Oct. Swamp Sparrow: last DH 17 Nov. White-crowned Sparrow: arr SPd 28 Sep, late; max 76 LSB 14 Oct, last DH 9 Nov. Dark-eyed Junco: arr Solvay 16 Sep. Lapland Longspur: LSB 4 Oct, only report. Snow Bunting: arr DH 26 Oct, no high counts. Bobolink: last Lysander 7 Oct, late. Red-winged Blackbird: max 10,500 DH 20 Oct, last count >100 on 10 Nov. E. Meadowlark: last DH 17 Nov. Rusty Blackbird: arr SPd 28 Sep, max 74 Six Mile Creek 23 Nov. Com. Grackle: max 8000 DH 20 Oct, last LSB 17 Nov. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 400 SPd 10 Oct. N. Oriole: last SPd 17 Sep.

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