

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Dryden 18 Oct. Field Sparrow: last Ithaca 20 Oct. Song, Swamp and White-throated Sparrow were reported all season in the Ithaca area. White-crowned Sparrow: several October reports throughout the Region. Lapland Longspur: single report Ithaca 31 Oct. Snow Bunting: arr 26 Oct. Red-winged Blackbird: max 1000 MNWR 8 Sep. Rusty Blackbird: max 14 SWS 5 Nov. Com. Grackle: max 100+ Caton 1 Nov. Brown-headed Cowbird: present all season but few reports. N. Oriole: departure Ithaca sole report. Pine Grosbeak: no reports. Com. Redpoll: two eating weed seeds Mt Pleasant 22 Nov, only report. Pine Siskin: present throughout Region after mid-October. Evening Grosbeak: present throughout Region after 27 Oct.

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REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

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After a cool end to August, temperatures at Binghamton were nearly normal for the first three weeks of September except for two short cool periods. Rainfall was well below normal. Due to an abnormal shift north in the jetstream, the last week of the month was very warm with eight consecutive days of above-average mean temperatures and record highs of 82° and 83° on 26 and 30 Sep, respectively. This week also was very wet, resulting in average rainfall by the end of the month. The warmth continued into the first four days of October, but the rest of that month mostly was cooler and drier than normal. Inconsequential cold fronts moved through about every seven days but created little notable bird movement. November started normally but turned nasty in time for Veteran's Day, giving us winter weather normally expected three weeks later. From 10 to 23 Nov there were eleven days with mean temperatures substantially below the norm, record lows of 16°, 12°, 15°, and 10° on 13, 14, 19, and 20 November, and 13.4 inches of snow. The month ended with a week of normal temperatures and precipitation 2.7 inches above normal – most of it snow!

There were few birds to be observed afield this fall. Waterfowl species were missed or their numbers were down. There were fewer reports of Pied-billed Grebe than in the previous two falls. Horned Grebe and Red-breasted Merganser were missed for the first time since 1982, Double-crested Cormorant for the first time since 1981, and Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, and Black Scoter for only the third time since 1978. The strong November cold fronts which push these species south also brought record cold and significant or total ice coverage to many of our small lakes, particularly in Chenango Co., by mid-month this year. Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal, N. Pintail, and Am. Wigeon, which are reported infrequently here, were not found this fall, perhaps due to the ice. Also

there are few suitable feeding/resting areas protected from hunters to encourage stop-overs. The only bright notes are the highest number of Com. Loon since 1978, and at least there were Mallards!

But for an exceptional showing of three Bald Eagles in Chenango Co., apparently thanks to the DEC's hacking program, raptor reports were rather dismal too. Sharp-shinned and Broad-winged Hawk and N. Harrier were scarce. Am. Kestrel were much less common than last year. Rough-legged Hawk appeared rather late. Red-shouldered Hawk was missed for the fourth time since 1978 and N. Goshawk for the third time since 1978. Perhaps Goshawks stayed in our statelands this fall to prey on the high Ruffed Grouse population. One brave grouse was still drumming at Norwich into mid-November.

Shorebird counts were equally unimpressive. There was no Greater Yellowlegs for the first time in nine years, no Solitary Sandpiper for the first time since 1982, and only single reports of Spotted and Least Sandpiper.

Reports of species dependent on insect populations were downright depressing. Chimney Swifts, usually present in early September, and Tree Swallows were not reported for only the second and first fall in nine, respectively. Flycatcher counts were poor. There were only one Great Crested Flycatcher and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and only a single report of several Eastern Kingbird. Least Flycatcher numbers were low. Veery, Swainson's and Hermit Thrush counts were low. Water Pipit was not seen for the first fall in nine. Vireo and warbler reports were abysmal, with either very low numbers or early departures. Solitary and Yellow-throated Vireo, Bay-breasted, Black-throated Green, and Blackpoll Warbler, and Am. Redstart counts were very low. The lowest number of Yellow-rumped Warblers in four years was banded at Newark Valley; this trend is echoed by Region-wide field reports. Warbling Vireo, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, Palm, and Black-and-white Warbler were not reported for the first fall in nine. N. Waterthrush, Canada and Black-throated Green Warbler departed early. So did Scarlet Tanagers.

My summer report contains some interesting and perhaps relevant data: near record rainfall in July; early reports of Palm Warbler and Rusty Blackbird in August; early flocking of Chimney Swifts and very late dependent young of Com. Nighthawks; and speculation about the effect of wet weather on insect procurement. Banding records from Vestal during the last week of August, received late, also include fewer warblers than usual. Perhaps many species departed early, as is indicated in the summer report for Region 6 north of us. That's enough bad news!

There were a few bright spots. Gray Catbird numbers banded at Newark Valley increased 100% over the previous three years and included a high percentage of young. High counts of Tennessee Warblers were banded at two sites. There were plenty of Carolina Wrens and late records of Blue-winged and Wilson's Warbler. The early cold in November apparently affected behavior of a number of species. Joe Sedlacek saw 250 Am. Crows feeding on beech, stocking up fat reserves, at Valonia Springs on 25 Oct. They may have known cold was coming. Counts of Mourning Dove, Downy and Hairy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Am. Goldfinch, and Red-breasted Nuthatch were higher than in last year's

mild November, suggesting movement or greater feeder activity. Snow Buntings arrived early. There were record numbers of Horned Larks in November. A high count of 80 House Finch appeared at Margaret Layton's feeder in Endwell on the first stormy November day.

No great rarities were reported, but Snow Goose, Philadelphia Vireo, Pine Warbler, and Orange-crowned Warbler are unusual. There were 140 species reported, which is the shortest list in five years. Much of the species account uses field records of Mary Dobinsky and Kathryn Wilson (OPM), Joe Sedlacek (Windsor), and Judy Bell's (NV) and Harriet Marsi's (Vestal) banding results.

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Abbreviations: avg-average; Bing-Binghamton; CRes-Cannonsville Reservoir; decr-decreasing; End-Endwell; FHNC-Finch Hollow Nature Center; inc-increasing; NV-Newark Valley; OPM-Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; WPres-Whitney Point Reservoir.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: arr CRes 14 Sep (SD), earliest since 1978; last WPres 9 Nov (A & MD). Pied-billed Grebe: arr Hunts Pd 27 Sep (CC); last OPM 28 Oct. Great Blue Heron: decr reports Sep-Oct; uncommon Nov. Green-backed Heron: last Franklin 17 Sep (S & KS). Snow Goose: arr Cort 25 Sep (SW), earliest since 1978; last six Oxford 11 Oct (J & CJ). Canada Goose: arr ten W End 16 Sep (JS); peak flight all areas 21 Sep-16 Oct, max 500 Oxford 25 Oct-16 Nov (A & MD). Wood Duck: last OPM 28 Oct. Am. Black Duck: arr four Hunts Pd 27 Sep (CC). Greater Scaup: only one CRes 5 Oct. Oldsquaw: arr WPres 2 Nov (A & MD), last two Chen L 15 Nov (CC, DW, JL). Bufflehead: arr three OPM 3 Nov; last WPres 15 Nov (A & MD). Hooded Merganser: arr four Norwich 18 Oct (DW); last two Hunts Pd (CC, DW, JL). Com. Merganser: max 37 Walton 17 Oct (MC, SH); last two Chen L 23 Nov (JL). Ruddy Duck: last two WPres 30 Nov (SD, AC).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: max six McGraw 10 Oct (BT); last Windsor 12 Oct (JS). Osprey: usual decr reports to Nov, unusual then since 1978. Bald Eagle: one Franklin 27 Sep (KS); im N Norwich 25 Sep-10 Oct (EG); 2nd yr Chen L to 18 Sep (MC *fide* CC), trailing tether; ad Oxford 14 Sep (J & CJ); most reports since 1978. N. Harrier: last New Berlin 8 Nov (CC), scarce. Sharp-shinned Hawk: max four McGraw 10 Oct (BT), scarce. Cooper's Hawk: last im Hunts Pd 15 Nov (CC, DW, JL), avg reports. Broad-winged Hawk: fewest since 1978. Red-tailed Hawk: migration peak avg five/day OPM 3 to 7 Nov. Rough-legged Hawk: arr Cort 12 Nov (DP). Am. Kestrel: 40% decrease from 1985; last OPM 24 Oct (MD). Ring-necked Pheasant: max & last two Norwich 18 Oct (DW), unusual there, still scarce all areas. Ruffed Grouse: 47% incr/report over 1985. Wild Turkey: incr to 20/report Nov; about same totals as 1985. Killdeer: migration max 75 Franklin 29 Sep (KS); last Oxford 9 Nov (A & MD). Lesser Yellowlegs: only reports Oxford 2 & 9 Nov (A & MD). Am. Woodcock: arr one bnd Vestal 23 Sep (HM); last Delhi 10 Oct (DC). Ring-billed Gull: max 100 Otse L 18 & 25 Sep & 8 Nov (MD). Herring Gull: max 20 Otse L 15 Nov (MD); last report Norwich 29 Nov (DW).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: late max 60 OPM 25 Nov. Black-billed Cuckoo: only one bnd NV 4 Sep. E. Screech-Owl: only three reports, low; last Vestal Center 18 Nov (SD). Great Horned Owl: eight Oct-Nov, avg report. Snowy Owl: only two Lisle 20 to 30 Nov (Mr. S). Com. Nighthawk: max 12 Vestal 2 Sep & late max 11 there 10 Sep (SD); last Tiog Oct. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: sev/wk to mid-Sep; few thereafter. Belted Kingfisher: avg reports decr to Nov. Red-headed Woodpecker: only report Tiog Sep (LD). Red-bellied Woodpecker: only report NV Sep-Oct (LD, JB). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max five OPM 25 Sep; last bnd NV 30 Sep. N. Flicker: max eight OPM 24 Sep (MD, KW); last there 28 Oct, earliest departure since 1978.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood Pewee: max nine OPM 3 Sep. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: only one bnd NV 21 Sep. Traill's Flycatcher: arr one bnd Vestal 2 Sep; last bnd NV 21 Sep. Least Flycatcher: only three bnd Vestal 2, 10, 21 Sep. E. Phoebe: decr to mid-Oct as usual. Great Crested Flycatcher: only report McGraw first wk Oct (BT). E. Kingbird: only four OPM 3 Sep. Horned Lark: highest Nov reports since 1978; max 30 Norwich 23 Nov (JL), late. Barn Swallow: max six Walton 10 Sep (SH). Tufted Titmouse: widespread reports incr Southern Tier only, max six Valonia Springs 25 Oct & 17 Nov (JS). Red-breasted Nuthatch: incr numbers/reports over 1985, max four Valonia Springs 10 Oct & 1 to 23 Nov (JS). Brown Creeper: max four OPM 28 Oct; last Norwich 22 Nov (JL). Carolina Wren: singles Bing 9 Nov (DO'N), Vestal all yr to 16 Nov (MW), Truxton 6 Nov (DP), usual sites; two Norwich all fall (CW) & one Smyrna 16 Nov, unusual there; most reports since 1978. House Wren: two to five per wk Sep. Winter Wren: singles bnd Vestal 2 Oct & NV 17 Oct, low and only reports. Marsh Wren: only one bnd NV (JB), fifth report since 1978. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr one bnd Vestal 2 Oct; max and last 20 Windsor 29 Nov. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr one bnd NV 18 Sep; last 10 Windsor 29 Nov, max. E. Bluebird: migration max 15 Windsor 18 Oct; last Tiog Nov. Veery: only two bnd Vestal 2 Sep. Swainson's Thrush: arr one bnd Vestal 7 Sep, very low. Hermit Thrush: only three 11 Oct & one 16 Oct bnd Vestal, very low. Wood Thrush: one/two wk Sep, normal; two Windsor 12 & 18 Oct, late max. Am. Robin: max 100 Norwich 18 Oct (DW); last 25 Nov OPM. Gray Catbird: very high Oct reports. N. Mockingbird: seven reports three sites normal Southern Tier. Brown Thrasher: max three OPM 15 Sep; five Oct, high. Cedar Waxwing: max 250 OPM 24 Sep; last 10 Valonia Springs 25 Oct (JS). N. Shrike: only one Truxton 20 Nov (DP).

VIREOS-WARBLED: Solitary Vireo: only one bnd NV 18 Sep, record early departure since 1961. Yellow-throated Vireo: only one OPM 15 Sep. Philadelphia Vireo: singles bnd Vestal 27 Sep & 2 Oct, last rather late. Red-eyed Vireo: max 14 OPM 3 Sep, normal reports. Blue-winged Warbler: singles bnd NV 1, 4, & 30 Sep, latest departure since 1961. Tennessee Warbler: max 15 bnd NV; 45 bnd Vestal & NV, very high. Orange-crowned Warbler: only one bnd NV, third since 1978, late. Nashville Warbler: max three bnd NV 18 Sep & Vestal 7 Oct. Yellow Warbler: singles bnd NV 27 & 30 Sep. Chestnut-sided Warbler: max two bnd Vestal 2 Sep & NV 4 Sep. Magnolia Warbler: max four bnd Vestal 14 & 21 Sep. Cape May Warbler: max two bnd NV 13 Sep. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max seven OPM 24 Sep; last bnd NV 17 Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: singles OPM 3 Sep & bnd Vestal 21 Sep, lowest numbers since 1978 & earliest departure since 1961. Pine Warbler: only one Homer 6 Sep (BB), fourth fall report since 1978. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr one bnd Vestal 3 Sep, very low. Blackpoll Warbler: only one bnd Vestal 27 Sep, very low. Am. Redstart: max three bnd Vestal 14 Sep, scarce. Ovenbird: max four bnd Vestal 3 Sep. N. Waterthrush: only one bnd NV 1 Sep, earliest departure since 1978. Mourning Warbler: max & last two bnd NV 30 Sep. Com. Yellowthroat: max nine bnd NV 4 Sep. Wilson's Warbler: max two bnd NV 21 Sep; last there 17 Oct, record late since 1961. Canada Warbler: max two bnd Vestal 2 Sep; last there 4 Sep, earliest departure since 1961.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: max two OPM 3 Sep & Delhi 10 Sep (MC); last bnd NV, ties early departure since 1961. N. Cardinal: pair FY Delhi 18 Sep (MC), late. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max five OPM 3 Sep. Indigo Bunting: last bnd NV 30 Sep. Rufous-sided Towhee: max three OPM 3 Sep. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Delhi 1 Nov (MC), late; max four Hunts Pd 15 Nov (CC, DW, JL). Chipping Sparrow: max 20 OPM 15 Sep; last Oneonta 24 Oct (MD). Field Sparrow: max five N Colesville 11 Oct & Windsor 12 Oct; last three bnd NV 20 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: only one Truxton 28 Sep (DP), earliest departure since 1978. Savannah Sparrow: max six Norwich 4 Oct (JL), last. Fox Sparrow: arr NV 19 Oct; max & last two Delhi 1 Nov (MC). Song Sparrow: max 35 Windsor 18 Oct; last five there 22 Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: max two bnd NV 18 Sep & 7 Oct. Swamp Sparrow: max 11 bnd NV 7 Oct; last four OPM 20 Oct. White-throated Sparrow: max 20 Windsor 18 Oct. White-crowned Sparrow: early arr Delhi 28 Sep (MC); max five NV 12 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: max 200 Hunts Pd 15 Nov (CC, DW, JL). Snow Bunting: early arr three Oneonta 24 Oct (MD). Red-winged Blackbird: max 200 OPM 20 Oct; last Vestal Center 23 Nov (SD). E. Meadowlark: max four OPM 15 Oct; last Triangle 18 Oct (A & MD). Com. Grackle: max 100 Windsor 12 Oct; last Homer 28 Nov (BB). Brown-headed Cowbird: max 200 Franklin 18 Sep (KS); last three Delhi 21 Nov (MC). N. Oriole: max & last two OPM 3 Sep. Pine Grosbeak: arr Norwich 29 Nov (ER), only report. Purple Finch: max six Bovina 28 Oct (DR); last FHNC 22 Nov. House Finch: flocks incr into Nov. Pine Siskin: arr Truxton 16 Oct (DP); max 40 Oneonta 7 Nov (MD). Am. Goldfinch: max 57 bnd NV 18 Sep. Evening Grosbeak: arr NV 20 Oct (JB); max 100 Oneonta 27 Nov (MD).

Corrigendum: Upland Sandpiper E. Springfield (not Springville) & Salt Springville Jul 1985 not 1986.

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REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

GENE HUGGINS

The fall 1986 migration became one of the worst fall migrations ever witnessed by many of our avid birders. Despite the gloom, there were a few positives for the season which included increased numbers of Common Loon and Horned Grebe and a near record high count of Wood Duck. An incursion of Snowy Owl and Northern Shrike brightened everyone's hopes for a more exciting winter. American Robin and Cedar Waxwing continued their steady increase. Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak were evident by the season's end.

Negatives for the season included: Pied-billed Grebe numbers were down. There were very few American Bittern and white herons were almost nonexistent. Populations of geese, except Brant, and most species of ducks showed low numbers. Ring-necked Pheasants continued their decline throughout the Region and, surprisingly, very few American Coots were found. The variety and numbers of shorebirds were at their lowest in recent memory. The jaeger flight off Derby Hill was not impressive as far as numbers were concerned, and numbers and variety of gulls were poor. Few white-winged gulls arrived by the end of the