

Nov. Red-necked Phalarope: max five IB 1-16 Sep. Parasitic Jaeger: max five Hamlin 10 Oct. **Laughing Gull**: *intro*. Little Gull: max two Hamlin 31 Oct, scarce. Glaucous Gull: ims Hamlin 31 Oct and 11 Nov, IB 22 Nov. Black-legged Kittiwake: ims Greece 6 Nov, Hamlin 28 Nov. **Sabine's Gull**: *intro*. Com. Tern: last two IB 1 Nov. Forester's Tern: one Rochester 10 Oct, late.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: last Greece 16 Sep. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one BB 28 Oct, very late. Short-eared Owl: arr two Retsoff 24 Oct, max 11 Hamlin 8 Nov. N. Saw-whet Owl: singles MB 11 Oct, BB 17 Oct. Com. Nighthawk: max 50 Roc hester 4 Sep. Chimney Swift: max 40 IB 18 Sep. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Brockport 11 Oct, late. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr one MB 16 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: last MB 28 Sep. Willow Flycatcher: last song MB 2 Sep. Barn Swallow: max 500 Hamlin 6 Sep, last two IB 18 Oct. Am. Crow: max 1450 at traditional Rochester winter roost 28 Nov. Winter Wren: max 40 BP 4 Oct (DT). Sedge Wren: one BP 10 Oct (BK,JS). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 500 Brockport 4 Oct. Gray-cheeked Thrush: last MB 8 Oct. Hermit Thrush: arr MB 23 Sep. Water pipit: max 200 Rush 30 Oct.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Orange-crowned Warbler: one MB 16 Oct. Palm Warbler: last four BP 4 Oct. Prothonotary Warbler: female SB 19 Sep, late. Mourning Warbler: last MB 5 Sep. Com. Yellowthroat: last MP 4 Nov, preparing to overwinter?

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: male Pittsford 1 Nov, late. Indigo Bunting: last on MB 5 Oct. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr BP 23 Oct. Chipping Sparrow: last Penfield 11 Nov. Field Sparrow: last two WL 24 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: last WL 13 Oct. **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**: *intro*. "Oregon" Junco: one MB 15-16 Oct. Rusty Blackbird: one MB 19 Sep. **Brewer's Blackbird**: female BB 11 Oct (BK) and MB 21 Oct (RO'H), most likely the same individual. Red Crossbill: max ten MB 17 Oct. White-winged Crossbill: max two MB 24 Oct. Pine Siskin: max 100 WL 25 Sep. Evening Grosbeak: arr five MB 19 Sep.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

C. K. MELIN

September and October of 1987 were colder and wetter than normal, but were followed by more typical weather in November. It was the wettest September since 1979. Ithaca reported 21 days with measurable rain, the most ever in the month of September. These frequent rains hampered crop harvesting throughout September and farm fieldwork was restricted until the second week of October. Ithaca had a record low of 25 degrees on 14 Oct, and weather in the Region remained consistently cold for the remainder of the month. November started out nice and warm, with above-average temperatures in the mid-60s to upper 70s. On 10 and 11 Nov, a low pressure system brought up to an inch of snow. Temperatures gradually warmed up following this storm and were quite pleasant by 17 Nov, when a second storm brought rain and high winds gusting to 35-45 mph to the Region. The coldest temperatures of the month followed a cold front on 20 Nov, with temperatures in the teens and wind chill equivalents well below zero. Temperatures warmed up somewhat for the remainder of the month, with rainfall again on 29 and 30 Nov.

The outstanding ornithological event associated with September's weather came during the prolonged period of rainy weather. A stationary front from 17 to 21 Sep was followed by a brief clearing and a nearly unprecedented flight of Broad-winged Hawks through the Region. At Frenchmans Bluff, 300 Broad-winged Hawks were counted in two kettles on 21 Sep. At Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary, a total of 365 Broad-winged Hawks were observed on the same date. Shortly before noon on the following day, the Sanctuary received a phone report of 600 Broad-winged Hawks kettling over nearby Warren Road; observers at the Sanctuary could see approximately 150 Broad-winged Hawks from their location. At Trumansburg, NYSEG workers paused to count approximately 300 hawks. The only other comparable fall flight for Region 3 was the 1500 Broad-winged Hawks reported passing overhead just east of Ithaca 18-20 Sep 1960.

In spite of the prolonged inclement weather, a substantial variety of bird species were reported. Early in September, up to 300 Common Nighthawks and 50 or more Cliff Swallows were reported migrating at locations near Elmira. An impressive total of 27 species of warblers were reported throughout the Region through the first week of Oct. Golden-winged Warbler was conspicuously absent this fall, and none of the southern species near the northern edge of their range in the Region were reported. Resident Icterids were widespread, but were especially conspicuous in large flocks from mid September through the end of October. Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle were common, and Brown-headed Cowbird was particularly abundant with several reports of hundreds during mid October. Eastern Meadowlark and Rusty Blackbird were widely reported, although not in large numbers. Bobolink vanished after the first two weeks of September. By mid October, dozens of Pine Siskins and Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported in flocks. Northern Shrike was reported three times between 25 Oct and 8 Nov. There were four reports of Rough-legged Hawk, and a total of five Snowy Owl reports in November. However, most of these irruptive species had dispersed by late November and there were only scattered reports of a few individual birds thereafter.

At Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, Mays Point Pool was partially drained, creating the only substantial shorebird habitat in the Region, especially since the heavy rainfall and subsequent high water levels eliminated shorebird habitat elsewhere. A total of nineteen species of shorebirds were reported at Mays Point Pool during September, and many shorebird species were present well into October. Most common were Killdeer, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Semipalmated, Least and Pectoral Sandpipers. There were several reports of Wilsons and Red-necked Phalaropes until mid September, and single reports of Western, White-rumped, and Bairds Sandpipers. Other shorebirds observed at Mays Point Pool were Black-bellied Plover, Lesser Golden-Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Sanderling, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Common Snipe. There were several reports of an immature Peregrine Falcon swooping at the shorebird flocks. As many as six Great Egrets frequented the Mays Point Pool until 12 Oct, and Refuge personnel observed a Glossy Ibis between 24 Oct and 1 Nov.

Waterfowl migration was well underway by October, with the following peak numbers reported at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge: American Coot 160, American Black Duck 9,900, Wood Duck 1,400, Ring-necked Duck 2,600, Lesser

Scaup 80 and Common Merganser 830. Tundra Swans arrived late in October, and by 10 Nov a maximum of 20 were reported. November was the peak month for waterfowl numbers, with the following maxima reported: Snow Goose 170, Canada Goose 45,000, Mallard 51,000, Gadwall 290, Northern Pintail 210, Green-winged Teal 980, American Wigeon 440, Northern Shoveler 620 and Hooded Merganser 320.

October was certainly the month for highlights of the season. A **flamingo** appeared at Watkins Glen, following strong north winds, on 3 Oct, where many people observed this very tame, probably escaped bird until it disappeared the following day. Other birders observed a single **Golden Eagle** over Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary on 12 Oct. A male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was briefly observed in a flock of Red-winged Blackbirds near Elmira on 14 Oct. From 31 Oct to 4 Nov, a horde of birders observed and photographed upstate New York's and the Regions first **Gray Kingbird** at the intersection of Rt. 89 and Armitage Road. There were two reports of **Cattle Egret** near Phelps on 1 Nov.

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Abbreviations: MNWR-Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, CL-Cayuga Lake, FB-Frenchmans Bluff Nature Conservancy Preserve, FLNF-Finger Lakes National Forest, QCM-Queen Catherine Marsh, SWS-Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon. arr Seneca L & CL Oct, max 200 CL 16 Nov. Horned Grebe: arr CL, MNWR Oct. Red-necked Grebe: one 24 Oct. Aurora. Double-crested Cormorant: max 480 MNWR 9 Sep. Great Egret: *intro*. **Cattle Egret**: *intro*. Green-backed Heron: last mid Oct. Black-crowned Night-Heron: present until mid Oct, CL, MNWR. **Glossy Ibis**: *intro*. **Flamingo**: *intro*. Brant: one near Elmira 24 Oct-11 Nov one Cargill Salt Co. CL 19 Nov-30 Nov. Canvasback: arr CL Nov. Redhead: present all Season CL, MNWR. White-winged Scoter: reported Myers Pt. CL 26-31 Oct. Com. Goldeneye: arr CL 15 Oct. Bufflehead: arr CL 26 Oct. Red-breasted Merganser: arr CL 26 Oct. Ruddy Duck: two reports, CL 27 Oct, MNWR 9 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: widespread, max 28 FB 21 Sep. Osprey. widespread until 30 Oct. Bald Eagle: three to five MNWR most of the season, departure date unknown. N. Goshawk: only report Ithaca 16 Nov. Red-shouldered Hawk: three reports, Ithaca 14 & 23 Sep and FLNF 21 Sep. Broad-winged Hawk: *intro*. Rough-legged Hawk: *intro*. **Golden Eagle**: *intro*. Merlin. only report ad male near Elmira. Peregrine Falcon: *intro*. **Forsters Tern**: reported MNWR 10 Sep (GS). Com. Moorhen: four Ithaca reports.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: one Sullivans Monument 4 Oct. Snowy Owl: *intro*. N. Saw-whet Owl: single report Ithaca 24 Nov. Com. Nighthawk: *intro*. Chimney Swift: 30 QCM 20 Sep, 175 Ithaca 27 Sep using a public school chimney.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: three singles, QCM 5 Sep, FLNF 6 Sep, and Elmira 12 Sep. **Gray Kingbird**: *intro*. Horned Lark: max 200 Dutch Hill 30 Oct. Cliff Swallow: *intro* Am. Crow: observed all season near traditional roost site Mt. Pleasant, Ithaca; 300 Dutch Hill, Elmira 25 Oct, 370 Ithaca 22 Nov. Fish Crow: four reports Ithaca. Carolina Wren: four reports outside the Ithaca area. Winter Wren: several reports after mid Sep. Golden-crowned Kinglet: widespread all season. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: present from late Sep-early Nov, max 8 FLNF 23 Oct. E. Bluebird: present and increasing throughout Region. N. Mockingbird: present and increasing throughout Region. N. Shrike: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Philadelphia Vireo: one Ithaca 14 Sep, two FLNF 30 Sep. **Yellow-throated Warbler**: one Pine City 5 Sep (DC). Connecticut Warbler: one Aurora 3 Sep (KD). Mourning Warbler: one banded SWS 4 Oct.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: widespread after mid Oct. Vesper Sparrow: two Ithaca reports 28 Sep & 5 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: widespread all season. Grasshopper Sparrow: no reports. Henslows Sparrow: no reports. Fox Sparrow: widespread all season. Song Sparrow: a total of 377 the most common species, banded this Fall by J. Gregoire, Burdett. Snow Bunting: several November reports. **Yellow-headed Blackbird**: *intro*. Pine Grosbeak: no reports. Red Crossbill: one Dryden 23 Nov.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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To the local weatherman September in Binghamton was "like watching graduation at West Point: a long gray line." Most of the month was quite cloudy and rainy even though the month started out cool and sunny with a record low temperature of 40°F on 4 Sep, 13° below the previous record low for that date. The dismal weather was described by our weather guesser as "Plop, plop, fizz, fizz, oh what crummy weather it is." The month's total rainfall, 4.54 inches, was 1.2 inches above normal. October was cool and dry with temperatures about 5° below normal. A very early snowstorm on 4 Oct dumped heavy wet snow on the eastern parts of the Region. Cooperstown received about two inches, the earliest measurable snowfall for that area, and Roxbury got up to four inches. This storm started a pattern of cold weather which produced record low temperatures at Binghamton of 27 and 29°F on 12 and 14 Oct, respectively. Precipitation for the month was 2.66 inches, 0.34 inches below normal. November started with a two day Indian Summer on 3 and 4 Nov when mean temperatures were 12 to 20° above normal. As predicted "the icebox cometh." Cold blasts soon ended that fleeting memory of summer and produced the first snow of the season in the Southern Tier. Indian Summer returned briefly on 14 Nov, after which an icy blast of record breaking cold returned. Record low temperatures of 8°F and 12°F were recorded on 21 and 22 Nov. The roller coaster ride continued as the month ended warmer but wet. This November was drier than normal, the 1.79 inches of precipitation being 1.2 inches below normal, and seemed just as nasty as last November, which had record breaking cold and 13 inches of snow. At this season's end 6 inches of snow had fallen, and residents felt rather "jerked around" by the changeable weather in October and November.

Last fall I bemoaned the sorry state of waterfowl records in the Region. The contrast this fall season is striking. Many of the species not reported last year were found this fall, sometimes in good numbers. These include Common Loon, Horned and Red necked Grebe, American Wigeon and Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal, which were missed last year, as well as very good numbers of Pied-billed Grebe. Unlike last fall, this year the Chenango Bird Club and I monitored our best waterfowl marsh in Chenango County at North Norwich during September before the hunting season began on 9 Oct. The results are summarized