

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

in the species list below. Read on and enjoy! Unfortunately, birders cannot always beat the hunters to the marsh or, in this case, the lake. Sometimes the early hunter gets the duck. A trophy hunter shot a White-winged Scoter, an unusual bird in this Region, on Guilford Lake on 25 Oct, the last day of the first waterfowl season, before birders got there to see it alive. Readers may recall that in the old days of field ornithology before the advent of quality field guides, good optical equipment, and an abundance of good amateur field observers, ornithologists accepted only "gun barrel" identifications, that is, a dead bird in the hand. Next fall we'll try to beat that snake to the lake!

In addition to waterfowl seen at North Norwich there were reports of Virginia Rail, American Coot, Common Moorhen, Marsh Wren and Rusty Blackbird, all of which are uncommon in this Region in the fall. Chimney Swift and Barn, Bank, Cliff, and Tree Swallow were found feeding on insect hatches over this low altitude bottom of the valley marsh at dates later than expected for Chenango County.

The shorebird migration this fall was excellent and in sharp contrast to that of last fall. No expected species were missed this year. Semipalmated Plover appeared for the first fall in nine. Pectoral Sandpipers seen at three different locations were reported for only the second fall since 1979. Mary Dobinsky reported that the bird reported in Oneonta is the first there since 23 Oct 1976, when a snow storm in western New York coincided with that observation. Semipalmated Sandpiper and Short-billed Dowitcher were reported for only the fourth and first falls, respectively, since 1979. American Woodcock reports occurred during the expected migration period; however, I wonder if the early snowstorm in October will decrease the population next spring. A recent article in *Sports Illustrated* discussed the problems that heavy snowfall and extended cold creates for these worm-eating woodland denizens, especially when deep snow cover extends far south of their immediate location.

The five **Glaucous Gulls** seen and described very well by Marilyn Davis at Whitney Point Reservoir on 22 Nov apparently are the first record for this Region and certainly the first for Broome County! Observers should be alert for unusual gulls in the late fall along the Susquehanna River and its tributaries, because large flocks of wintering gulls, including Glaucous and Iceland Gulls, have been observed along the lower Susquehanna River south of Harrisburg, Pa, in recent years.

Compared to last year, raptor reports are excellent. Goshawks are reported this year, and birding hotline news well south of us suggests that a irruption occurred this fall. It is frustrating that we still miss Red-shouldered Hawks in the fall, especially since they breed in this Region. A **Black Vulture**, possibly the second report from the Region, was seen with Turkey Vultures near Oxford on 2 Sep by Rich Wood, an intern at Rogers Environmental Education Center. He tried to photograph the bird but the result was poor and unusable. Where's our good quality equipment when we need it?! In view of the continuing increase in our population of Turkey Vultures and of Black Vultures in Regions 9 and 10, it was only a matter of time until Black Vultures followed their cousins here. Maximum numbers of Broad-winged Hawks appeared in mid September, which coincides with the time when the migration peak is expected at Hawk Mountain well south of us. An apparent **Krider's Red-tailed Hawk** photographed by James Hoteling at Smithville Flats on 25 Sep is unusual in the East. This bird had a

very white head, large whitish patches on the back and wings, and a very light tail. Mary Dobinsky observed a Cooper's Hawk harassing and diving on a Pileated Woodpecker at Crumhorn Mountain near Oneonta. She previously observed this same behavior between these two species in Wilbur Park, Oneonta on 4 Nov 1984. Sharp-shinned Hawks also joined the fray in Vestal, where Les Bemont saw a large female or immature harassing Crows which were unimpressed. In North Norwich a frustrated immature Sharp-shinned Hawk chased to no avail Blue Jays and Flickers, which were *very* impressed. A Northern Harrier was found with a broken wing by a young trapper near Milford and given to a veterinarian for rehabilitation. This bird was found near a location where up to four Harriers were competing for hunting rights during most of October. Perhaps this is evidence of successful breeding in the area.

Flycatcher, vireo, and warbler, and thrush reports were higher than last fall and more normal. Perhaps insect populations stayed higher. There were no major migration "fall outs" due to the abysmal rainy weather in September. Judy Bell's banding records at Newark Valley indicate that she couldn't band for twelve days in September due to rain. Consequently, warbler numbers were low. In addition, Judy's records indicate that 1987 was her poorest fall for banding since 1983 as measured by the total number of birds captured per 100 net hours. Apparently, our better species list and higher number of reports indicates a more productive season for field reporters. I know that this is especially true in Chenango County. Some of the more unusual records include Pine Warbler, which has been reported only half the time since 1979, and Connecticut and Mourning Warblers, which were missed last year. Field observers should be particularly alert for the latter two species which are hard to find in the underbrush. Generally, they are reported only by banders, as is the case this year. Everyone missed Orange-crowned Warbler this year, but that's normal. The last Tennessee Warbler banded in Binghamton by Harriet Marsi and Gail Kirch on 24 Oct tied the previous late departure record.

Snow Buntings in early November again seem early, but perhaps that is normal. The sparrow migration was good with all species well represented in the reports received. Again, this is probably due to a more productive season in the field. In comparison, at Newark Valley Judy Bell had no "sparrow heaven days" predicted by the number of sparrow chips at dawn or in her banding records which show that sparrow numbers "were down considerably." For example, the numbers of Song Sparrows banded were slightly below average and White-throated Sparrow numbers were the lowest ever. Swamp Sparrow numbers were the lowest since 1983. Despite this, only Fox and American Tree Sparrow seemed scarce overall. Pine Siskin arrived early and frequent, good sized flocks in November indicate a major incursion. Consequently, it is not surprising that Mary Dobinsky saw a flock of twenty feeding on larch cones on 16 Oct near Oneonta. Evening Grosbeaks arrived on time. Look out feeders!

A silly Ruffed Grouse drummed away all fall in Norwich and took advantage of a good wild apple crop into late November by feeding only at dusk in the exposed tree top in my backyard. Perhaps that grouse was not so dumb. Hunters take advantage of this food preference to find "partridge" in the fall.

Species whose range is expanding into the Region appeared in good numbers again this year in the usual Southern Tier sites as well as in the northern part of the Region where they are more sporadic. Red-bellied Woodpecker appeared

at Juanita Angle's feeder in Oxford on 20 Oct and stayed there through the period. In Norwich Carolina Wren and Tufted Titmouse at Crystal Wright's feeder and Northern Mockingbird at Don Windsor's feeder stayed through the period. Red-bellied Woodpeckers reports were higher than normal in the Southern Tier, suggesting a major fall movement, and for those who are interested in such coincidental trivia, one was seen by Victor Bird! The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher reported at Owego Marsh by Harriet Marsi, Bruce Bozdos, and Florence Linaberry on 4 Sep is only the second fall record since 1979. Marie Petuh saw Mockingbirds eating wild rose hips in Johnson City. This is an interesting observation because the northward expansion of Mockingbirds is partially attributed to the cover and food provided by multiflora rose planted for borders and barriers.

Downy and Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Black-capped Chickadee, Blue Jay, and American Crow were common as expected. No one reported a Horned Lark, but I suspect that they are present but not seen. Cutler and Jeanette Baldwin reported a well described **Varied Thrush** in Owego, the first there in ten years. Unfortunately, the bird did not remain long enough for anyone else to see it. Robins took advantage of a good berry crop this fall. Mary Dobinsky saw one hundred feeding on swamp holly berries near Oneonta while a flock of fifty ravaged my Mountain Ash berries in Norwich.

The 170 species reported this fall is the second highest list since 1979. Rareties reported this fall are **Black Vulture**, **Krider's Red-tailed Hawk**, **Glaucous Gull**, and **Varied Thrush**. Much of the species account uses field records of Joe Sedlacek (Valonia Springs, N. Colesville), Mary Dobinsky (OPM), Mildred Clark (Delhi) Jay Lehman (N. Norwich) and banding records from Judy Bell (Newark Valley) and Harriet Marsi and Gail Kirch (Binghamton). No reports were received from Cortland County.

Observers: Juanita Angle, Rich Anthony, Les Bemont, Bruce Bozdos, Cutler & Jeanette Baldwin, Don & Judy Bell, Reynolds Bennett, Victor Bird, Chris Brothers, D. Burgin, Chenango Bird Club (CBC), Sally Carey, Mildred Clark, Chad Covey, Glenip Curran, Marilyn Davis (MDv), Louise Dean, Mary Dobinsky, Sadie Dorber, Margaret Ferranti, E. & P. Getkin, Shirley Hartman, James Hoteling, Gail Kirch, Margaret Layton, Jay Lehman, Florence Linaberry, Harriet Marsi, Leona McDowell, Bud & Evelyn Mead, Ette Mesmer, Marie Petuh, Halliday Pierce, R. & J. Saunders, Joe Sedlacek, Shane Stalter, Tioga Bird Club (TBC); Don Windsor, Anne Whitaker, Rich Wood, Crystal Wright.

Abbreviations: FHNC-Finch Hollow Nature Center; HPSP-Hunts Pond State Park; JCity-Johnson City; NCol-North Colesville; NV-Newark Valley; NN-North Norwich; OPM-Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; ORes-Oneonta Reservoir; REEC-Rogers Environmental Education Center; VSpr-Valonia Springs; WPRes-Whitney Point Reservoir.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: only two WPRes 28 Nov (MDv). Pied-billed Grebe: arr TiOG 6 Sep (TBC); last HPSP 22 Nov (CC). Horned Grebe: last Hartwick 19 Oct (MD). Red-necked Grebe: only one WPRes 15 Nov (MDv). Great Blue Heron: last 13 Nov. Green-backed Heron: last NN 19 Sep. Canada Goose: first major influx ca. 625 in 8 flocks CHEN 27 Sep (CBC); late max 500 Oxford 27 Nov (MDv). Wood Duck: max 40 Owego Marsh 28 Sep (BB,HM,FL); last OPM 19 Nov. Green-winged Teal: max 13 NN 26 Sep; last five Owego Marsh 28 Sep (BB,HM,FL). Am. Black Duck: max ten NN 10 Oct. Mallard: max 105 OPM 19 & 20 Oct; last 12 Portlandville 13 Nov (MD). Blue-winged Teal: four/weekend NN until 26 Sep. Gadwall: only two NN 19 Sep. Am. Wigeon: only two NN 26 Sep. Ring-necked Duck: only four NN 26 Sep. Greater Scaup: only TiOG Oct (RB). White-winged Scoter: *intro*. Com. Goldeneye: only two m + one f Bowman L 15 Nov (DW). Bufflehead: only one OPM 20 Oct. Hooded Merganser: last U Lisle 22

Nov (MDv). Com. Merganser: arr 14 Sherburne 5 Sep (JL), early; last U Lisle 27 Nov (MDv). Ruddy Duck: only singles REEC (RW) & TIOG (RB) Oct.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Black Vulture:** *intro*. Turkey Vulture: several/week until last TIOG 11 Oct (TBC). Osprey: last without date 2nd week Oct. Bald Eagle: only one HPSP 2 Nov (DS fide CC). N. Harrier: last HPSP 18 Nov (CC). Sharp-shinned Hawk: max nine OPM 25 Sep; last FHNC 31 Oct. Cooper's Hawk: one to two/wk OPM to mid Sep; last VSpr 26 Nov. N. Goshawk: only singles NN 3 Oct & Vestal Center 28 Nov (SD). Broad-winged Hawk: max six ORES 16 Sep (MD). Red-tailed Hawk: *intro*. Rough-legged Hawk: singles Lincklaen 27 Oct (CC) & CHEN 7 Nov (DW). Am. Kestrel: max 11 OPM 4 & 25 Sep; last 11 Oct. Merlin: singles 4, 5 & 20 Sep Franklin (SS). Ring-necked Pheasant: singles TIOG Sep Nov (TBC) & OPM 19 Oct; max two Apalachin 23 Nov (P&EG), high. Ruffed Grouse: max five; *intro*. Wild Turkey: max 65 Delhi 21 Nov (SC). Virginia Rail: only one NN 5 Sep. Com. Moorhen: one TIOG 5 Sep (C&JB); max seven NN 19 Sep, last two there 26 Sep, high. Am. Coot: singles NN 26 Sep & TIOG Oct (RB); max & last four NN 10 Oct, high. Killdeer: max 20 ORES 11 Sep (MD); last six HPSP 25 Oct (CC). Greater Yellowlegs: one TIOG 15 Sep (C&JB). Lesser Yellowlegs: max seven NN 12 Sep. Solitary Sandpiper: only singles ORES 10, 14 & 29 Sep (MD). Pectoral Sandpiper: singles ORES 11 Sep (MD) & TIOG 13 Sep (C&JB). Short-billed Dowitcher: only one Owego 16 Sep (C&JB). Am. Woodcock: one to two at three sites to 18 Nov. Bonaparte's Gull: only TIOG Sep (C&JB). Ring-billed Gull: max 100 Otsego L 5 Sep & 5 Nov (MD); last New Berlin 29 Nov (CC). **Glaucous Gull:** *intro*.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: max 36 Delhi. Black-billed Cuckoo: only one banded Binghamton 2 Oct. E. Screech-Owl: singles four sites Sep-Nov. Great Horned Owl: singles four sites Sep-Nov. Barred Owl: only TIOG Oct (D&JB). Com. Nighthawk: widely reported, max 20-30 JCity 10 Sep (SD), very high; last Binghamton 27 Sep (BB), late. Chimney Swift: max six Norwich 6 Sep (JL), more reports than usual. Belted Kingfisher: last FHNC 20 Nov. Red-bellied Woodpecker: at five sites TIOG by Nov, high. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last Norwich 16 Nov (JL). N. Flicker: last OPM 31 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: only one banded Binghamton 12 Sep. E. Phoebe: to six/day. Great Crested Flycatcher: three reports. E. Kingbird: max four OPM 1 Sep. Tree Swallow: max ten NN 5 Sep. N. Rough-winged Swallow: only four OPM 4 Sep, unusual. Bank Swallow: only singles TIOG Sep (RB) & NN 19 Sep, late. Cliff Swallow: two NN 5 & 19 Sep, late. Barn Swallow: max 90 OPM 3 Sep. Tufted Titmouse: increased from four sites Sep to nine sites Oct-Nov. Red-breasted Nuthatch: singles three sites Sep increased to seven reports of one to two at five sites. Brown Creeper: arr one banded NV 12 Oct; to four/day Nov. Carolina Wren: at four sites Oct. Winter Wren: only singles NCol 9 & 18 Oct. Marsh Wren: max six NN 19 Sep & last two there 3 Oct, high. Golden-crowned Kinglet: max four, at eight sites Oct. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Delhi 12 Sep; max five, last VSpr 29 Nov. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: *intro*. E. Bluebird: max 25 OPM 13 Oct; last TIOG Nov. Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr one banded Binghamton 27 Sep; last Endwell 22 Oct (HM, BB, FL); more reports than usual. Swainson's Thrush: arr Norwich 2 Sep (JL); max three mid Sep and at four sites, high. Hermit Thrush: to two/day five sites 6-27 Oct. Am. Robin: max 150 OPM 20 Oct; last Norwich 28 Nov (JL). **Varied Thrush:** *intro*. N. Mockingbird: at four sites Nov. Brown Thrasher: four reports. Water Pipit: only one NN 27 Sep. Cedar Waxwing: max 200 Oneonta 7 Sep (MD); last 18 JCity 11 Nov (MP).

VIREOS-WARBLED: Solitary Vireo: max six OPM 15 Sep. Philadelphia Vireo: arr one banded Binghamton 15 Sep; last TIOG Oct (RB). Tennessee Warbler: *intro*. Chesnut-sided Warbler: one to four/dy twice/wk to 25 Sep. Cape May Warbler: max two each NN & McDonough 5 Sep (JL). Black-throated Blue Warbler: only three reports. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 30 OPM 25 Sep; last TIOG Nov (LD). Black-throated Green Warbler: to four/day. Pine Warbler: only FHNC 15 Sep, unusual. Prairie Warbler: one banded Bin-

ghamton 13 Sep. Palm Warbler: five singles three sites to 23 Oct, good count. Bay-breasted Warbler: four singles two sites. Blackpoll Warbler: to three/day at three sites. Black-and-white Warbler: two reports. Am. Redstart: three reports. Ovenbird: at three sites. N. Waterthrush: two singles. Connecticut Warbler: singles banded Binghamton 19 & 23 Sep. Mourning Warbler: singles banded Binghamton 12 & 20 Sep.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: max five. N. Cardinal: widely reported; ad + FL Norwich 19 Sep (JL), late & doing well. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 15 OPM 1 Sep. Indigo Bunting: last singles banded NV 2 & 19 Oct. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Vestal Center 22 Oct (SD); max nine in Nov, scarce. Chipping Sparrow: max 60 OPM 13 Oct; last singles Delhi 1 & 2 Nov. Field Sparrow: max 11 to 13 Oct; last four banded NV 16 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: max 12 Walton 3 Oct (SH); last OPM 19 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: last OPM 19 Oct. Fox Sparrow: only three singles to 26 Oct, scarce. Song Sparrow: last 14 Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: four singles Sep, only one report Oct. Swamp Sparrow: max seven, last 24 Oct. White-throated Sparrow: max, last JCity 22 Nov (JS). White-crowned Sparrow: arr banded NV 27 Sep, one to four almost daily seven sites to 31 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: max 100's Vestal 22 Oct (LBe); up to 25 daily many sites Nov. Snow Bunting: arr two Norwich 2 Nov (JL). Bobolink: nine NN 5 Sep, only report. Red-winged Blackbird: max 100 OPM 2 Oct; last Delhi 22 Nov. E. Meadowlark: last eight OPM. Rusty Blackbird: arr six NN 27 Sep CBC; last four there 3 Oct (JL). Com. Grackle: max 75 Vestal 17 Oct (LBe) & NCol 24 Oct; last Delhi 12 Nov. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 40 OPM 30 Oct; last Delhi 30 Nov. Purple Finch: only four singles at three sites Nov. House Finch: max 50 JCity 11 to 19 Nov, very common everywhere! Pine Siskin: arr REEC 27 Sep CBC; mas 25, reports from three sites. Am. Goldfinch: to 25/day thru Nov. Evening Grosbeak: arr two sites 18 Oct; max 90 Norwich 3 Nov (JL).

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

GENE HUGGINS

The weather this fall was generally mild. Both precipitation and snowfall were below normal. Excellent flight days occurred at Derby Hill from 21 Oct to 8 Nov and for small passerines in southern Madison Co. on 10 and from 20 to 24 Sep.

This season observers saw encouraging numbers of migrating loons and grebes. A Pied-billed Grebe near Erieville on 30 Nov was notably late so far south. Six Great Egrets appeared at Delta Lake and a Cattle Egret was at Holland Patent on the late date of 30 Oct. There were good numbers of Brant, Northern Pintail, Oldsquaw, Common Goldeneye and Red-breasted Merganser along Lake Ontario. Despite the good news for some waterfowl, most dabbling ducks and all species of the genus *Aythya* were at record low levels. The immature male Oldsquaw from the late summer was seen again off Pleasant Point, L. Ontario, on 4 Sep. Oldsquaw peaked at 428 off Derby Hill on 25 October.

A **Sandhill Crane** was found by a Mr. Breckenridge near Doxtater Rd., Stacy's Basin, Town of Verona, Oneida Co., feeding in a pasture with horses, from 10 to 16 Oct. This is the first fall Regional report. Shorebird diversity was average, but numbers were quite low, especially those of Dunlin and Common Snipe.