

becoming regular. Fox Sparrow: arr one MB 18 Oct. Oregon Dark-eyed Junco: male Irondequoit 12 Nov (B&BP). Lapland Longspur: arr six HB 19 Oct. Rusty Blackbird: arr one IB 17 Sep. Red Crossbill: one HB 15 Nov, only report. White-winged Crossbill: two HB 26 Nov (RO'H), only report. Pine Siskin: arr Webster 24 Oct, poor year.

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REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

C.K. MELIN

September was cool and dry in the Finger Lakes. The month's cool weather was advantageous to New York's apple crop as it improved coloring of the fruit. It was, however, no help to the vegetable farmers since it slowed the ripening of some of their crops. Soil moisture was "adequate" throughout the month and many farmers took advantage of the dry weather by making rapid progress in the harvesting of fruits, vegetables, and some field crops. It was one of the driest Septembers in twenty years.

Birders reported waves of neotropical migrants during periods of high barometric pressure, in advance of cold fronts. Region 3 bird banders reported surges of migrants on 1 Sep, and fifteen species of warblers, as well as flocks of vireos, tanagers, and wood warblers were reported in the 'hundreds' from Finger Lakes National Forest on 3 and 9 Sep by J. Brubaker. Present in the migration waves on 3 and 9 Sep were Blue-winged, Tennessee, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Black-and-white and Hooded Warbler, Am. Redstart, Ovenbird, and Common Yellowthroat.

The Regional Climate Center at Cornell University reported that smoke from the fires at Yellowstone National Park caused statewide temperatures to be 2 to 6°F. below normal during the early part of September. The first freezing temperatures of the season occurred on schedule around 28 Sep, when as many as 8 warbler species were still present at Finger Lakes National Forest. As the leaves dropped from deciduous trees & shrubs, an exceptionally abundant fruit crop of Common Buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica* came into view, promising plenty of food for wintering birds and wildlife.

Cooler than normal temperatures continued into October, making it the coldest October in ten years and the sixth coldest on record, on a statewide basis. Region 3 received more than the usual precipitation during the month. A low-pressure system over North Carolina developed into a 'northeaster' on 22 Oct, resulting in winter storm warnings, up to nine inches of heavy snow, and tree damage and downed power lines from the heavy wet snowfall. Thousands of people were without electricity following the snowstorm. Ithaca and the surrounding area received a surprising 6.5 inches for the month, all in that one storm, the most ever in the month of October. A flock of 150 Water Pipit, presumably downed by the storm, spent 22 Oct around Clute Pond at Watkins Glen.

Bird banders reported migrant surges in October following the passage of cold fronts into the Region on 8 and 19 Oct. October was also the peak month for migrant waterfowl at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, with maxima of 500

Gadwall, 2700 Green-winged Teal, 2000 Wood Duck, and 50 Redhead reported. By 1 Nov, other migrant waterfowl peaked there, including 4800 Ring-necked Duck, 5300 Canvasback, and 20 Ruddy Duck. Other waterfowl arrived in the Region during this period, including Tundra Swan, Snow Goose, Brant, and Oldsquaw. The list of waterfowl at Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology weekly seminar swelled to 28 species.

Temperatures and precipitation for November were close to average. There were three distinct periods of cold and stormy weather and associated high winds, 2 Nov, 5-9 Nov, and 10 Nov. The last week of November was unusually mild, with temperatures in the 40's and 50's. Maximum waterfowl numbers reported by T. Gingrich at Montezuma NWR during November were 43500 Canada Goose, 58000 Mallard, 8900 Black Duck, 170 Pintail, 2600 Shoveler, 600 Hooded Merganser, and 1300 Common Merganser.

Water levels were drawn down at May's Point Pool in Montezuma NWR this season. Numerous waders used the mud flats there for feeding and resting during the fall migration season. September was the peak month for waders, and some species including Greater Yellowlegs, Sanderling, and Pectoral Sandpiper were present well into November. Fifteen shorebird species were observed at May's Point Pool during the fall season. Peak numbers during September were 53 Semipalmated Plover, 69 Killdeer, 8 Greater Yellowlegs, 261 Lesser Yellowlegs, 57 Spotted Sandpiper, 22 Sanderling, 237 Semipalmated Sandpiper, and 86 Least Sandpiper. Also present during September were 3 Caspian Tern, 371 Double-crested Cormorant, 204 Great Blue Heron, 6 Great Egret, 16 Green-backed Heron, and 50 Black-crowned Night Heron. Local bird clubs also reported singles of Stilt Sandpiper on 10 Sep and of both Wilson's and Red-necked Phalarope on 25 Sep. Pectoral Sandpiper and Short-billed Dowitcher peaked during October with maxima of 558 and 46, respectively. Other additions to the shorebird list were Virginia Rail on 12 Sep, Lesser Golden-Plover on 16 Sep, and Hudsonian Godwit on 11 Sep and 2 Oct. Ring-billed, Herring, and Great Black-backed Gull were reported from Montezuma NWR. Also present during the fall season at Montezuma NWR were Pied-billed Grebe, one Osprey, three Bald Eagles, and Northern Harrier and Red-tailed Hawk. Local bird clubs reported one Peregrine Falcon on 6 Sep, and one Merlin on 29 Oct.

Two other locations in the Region, Corning Pond and Queen Catherine Marsh, were comparable in species diversity to Montezuma NWR when waterfowl and shorebirds were compared, although there were fewer individuals at these two locations as expected. Corning Pond also produced one Sora and two Common Moorhen, which are difficult to find in the Region. Queen Catherine Marsh produced two large woodland species, Great Horned Owl and Pileated Woodpecker. Other species generally associated with woodlands, Ruffed Grouse and Wild Turkey, were widely reported in the southern part of the Region. There was even a report of one Common Raven near Cayuta on 4 Oct.

John and Sue Gregoire of Burdett, NY, operated their bird banding station for 54 days during the Fall Season. A total of 54 species were banded. The most common species banded, with their total numbers, were: 236 Song Sparrow, 144 American Goldfinch, 70 House Finch, 55 Black-capped Chickadee, 39 American Robin, 38 White-crowned Sparrow, 32 Gray Catbird, 29 Yellow-rumped Warbler, 27 White-throated Sparrow, 16 Common Yellowthroat, and 16 Field Sparrow. As expected, 86% of the total were hatch-year birds. There was no Fox Sparrow at

the banding station this fall. John and Sue believe that the dry season and the prolonged summer drought resulted in many nesting failures, as their season total of 897 individuals was a decrease from a year ago when the total was 1411. The Gregoire's also documented the arrival dates of some winter residents. Rough-legged Hawk and American Tree Sparrow arrived on 4 Nov, and Northern Goshawk on 23 Nov. These species have been observed regularly throughout the Region since their arrival dates. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were present from 7-23 Oct, and Hermit Thrushes were present from 4-16 Oct. There were no winter finches in the Region during the Season and no indication of an "invasion" year of irruptive species.

Jeff and Allison Wells observed a juvenile **Laughing Gull** on the breakwater off Ithaca's Stewart Park 18 September. The bird was roosting with Ring-billed Gulls and was observed resting on the breakwater and flying about several times. Jeff later observed one **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** at nearby Allan Treman Marine Park 2 October. Jeff was able to flush the sparrow several time from a cut-over grassy field and was able to get a close-range view of it. Jeff took excellent field notes of his observations and the reports have been forwarded to NYSARC.

Highlights for the Season were Greater White-fronted Goose, Common Raven, Clay-colored Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Laughing Gull.

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Abbreviations: CL - Cayuga Lake; CP - Corning Pond; FLNF - Finger Lakes National Forest; MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; QCM - Queen Catherine Marsh; SL - Seneca Lake; StP - Stewart Park, Ithaca; SWS - Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary, Ithaca; YBSF - Yellow Barn State Forest; WGSP - Watkins Glen State Park; WG - Watkins Glen.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: *intro*; seven Myer's Point CL 7 Nov, 27 CL 12 Nov, 2 SL 12 Oct. Horned Grebe: present CL area Nov; few reports elsewhere. Red-necked Grebe: only report one StP 20 Nov. Double-crested Cormorant: *intro*. Am. Bittern: single report one Waneta L 4 Oct. Great Blue Heron: present all season MNWR, Chemung R, QCM. Great Egret: four MNWR Sep, only reports. Black-crowned Night Heron: present Sep Chemung R, MNWR. Tundra Swan: present CL area after 31 Oct. Snow Goose: one Big Flats 21 Sep, CL after 31 Oct; 100 SL late Nov. **Greater White-fronted Goose:** one Ithaca 15 Nov with 130+ Canada Geese (McIlroy *et. al.*); one Ithaca 17 Nov resting with Canada Geese on a local golf course (DE). Brant: 20 WG 29 Oct; StP 3 Nov. Canada Goose: many throughout after 28 Sep. Wood Duck: *intro*; 36 CP 4 Sep, ten CP 18 Oct. Green-winged Teal: *intro*; present all Season throughout and common in CL area but scarce elsewhere. Am. Black Duck: *intro*; 30 Tabehanna L 29 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: present throughout until 17 Oct. Bald Eagle: *intro*; three MNWR, none elsewhere. N. Harrier: widespread but scarce. N. Goshawk: *intro*. Red-shouldered Hawk: none. Broad-winged Hawk: reported in the Ithaca area Sep but not elsewhere. Rough-legged Hawk: *intro*. Golden Eagle: none. Merlin: *intro*; one Elmira 4 Sep, one Pine City 19 Sep, one 25 Oct near Great Gully (G. Smith). Peregrine Falcon: *intro*. Ruffed Grouse: *intro*; present all season near YBSF heard & seen 'drumming' on sunny days. Wild Turkey: *intro*; eight WGSP South Entrance through Sep-Oct. Virginia Rail: *intro*. Lesser Golden-Plover: *intro*. Hudsonian Godwit: *intro*. Stilt Sandpiper: *intro*. Wilson's Phalarope: *intro*. Red-necked Phalarope: *intro*. **Laughing Gull:** *intro*. Bonaparte's Gull: 2 WG 18 Oct. Caspian Tern: *intro*. Common Tern: 2 MNWR 6 Sep. Black Tern: present MNWR 7 Sep-3 Oct, only locality.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Snowy Owl: none. Barred Owl: reported regularly in the Ithaca area but none elsewhere; present all season and territorial YBSF (Melin). Com. Nighthawk: max 50 Elmira 2 Sep. Chimney Swift: max 50 Elmira 4 Sep. Red-headed Woodpecker: none.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Horned Lark: present all season in agricultural areas. Fish Crow: regularly reported SP Oct-Nov. Com. Raven: *intro*. Red-breasted Nuthatch: no irruption evident. Carolina Wren: present all season QCM & Elmira but none elsewhere. Winter Wren: one FLNF 28 Sep; regular all season Ithaca area. Sedge Wren: one Ithaca (Blue Grass Lane) 22 Sep (*fide* McIlroy). Marsh Wren: one Dryden Lake 26 Sep; five singing Waneta Lake 4 Oct. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last 2 Sep. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: *intro*. Golden-crowned Kinglet: *intro*. E. Bluebird: widespread all season. Hermit Thrush: *intro*. N. Mockingbird: present all season Ithaca area, including one albino at Brooktondale; none elsewhere. Water Pipit: *intro*. Cedar Waxwing: widespread all season. N. Shrike: one SWS 25 Oct. Loggerhead Shrike: none.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Orange-crowned Warbler: one SWS 28 Sep. Pine Warbler: 5 Harris Hill 24 Sep. Palm Warbler: one QCM 17 & 20 Sep. **Prothonotary Warbler**: one Six Mile Creek 19 Sep. *Oporornis* warblers: none. Hooded Warbler: male SWS 12 Sep, present since August (DS).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Clay-colored Sparrow**: one Cornell Ag. Quad. 21 Sep (R. Titus, *fide* McIlroy). Am. Tree sparrow: *intro*. Vesper Sparrow: one near Cayuta Lake 4 Oct. Grasshopper Sparrow: none. Henslow's Sparrow: one Bluegrass Lane 22 Sep. **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**: *intro*. Lincoln's Sparrow: one Bluegrass Lane 22 Sep. White-crowned Sparrow: widespread during Oct. Snow Bunting: arrived in the Ithaca area around 7 Nov; not reported elsewhere. Rusty Blackbird: 14 CP 4 Oct, nine WG area 31 Oct. N. Oriole: none reported.

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REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

JAY G. LEHMAN

In contrast to the hot summer, September at Binghamton was cool. There were twenty one days with below average mean temperatures. A record low temperature of 39°F was recorded on 6 Sep, and 34°F on 29 Sep tied the previous low for that date. The only major respite from cool fall weather was created by the remnants of Hurricane Gilbert from 18 to 20 Sep, when temperatures averaged 7-9° above normal. The summer drought continued. September ended with only 2.05 inches of rain, well below the average of 3.32. October started with a short-lived three-day warming trend from 30 Sep to 2 Oct, which was followed by twelve cold days with mean temperatures ranging from 1-16° below normal. A welcome but short Indian Summer from 15 to 18 Oct was followed by continuous, unbroken days of below average temperatures to the end of the month - and snow! On 22 Oct 4.5 inches of snow was recorded at Link Field weather station breaking the previous October record of 2.6 inches. It was worse in Chenango County were up to 8 inches were reported in the Norwich-Sherburne area. At month's end Halloween tricked us with a record low of 19°F, beating the previous low of 22°F in 1965. In October there were 4.9 inches of snow and 2.58 inches of precipitation which is slightly below the norm of 3.00 inches. While October