

REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

GENE HUGGINS

Average weather conditions prevailed through most of the period. A week of rain in mid October may have been a factor in putting down large numbers of Snow Geese, and the end of November with its persistent snow brought back memories of what late fall was like here in the not too distant past.

This fall can best be summarized for its several significant flights of birds. Two major flights occurred over a broad geographical area, primarily the Appalachian Plateau. One flight involved record numbers of Snow Geese. An estimated 8,670 birds were recorded from n Oneida, s Madison and Onondaga Counties. The first 1,000 geese were observed 15 Oct on Cazenovia L. Four days later 1200 were sighted on Otisco L by Robert Post. Woodman's Pond near Hamilton, Madison Co., recorded a maximum of 2,000 on 1 Nov. Snow Geese were found in eight localities occupying extensive cornfields near small lakes and ponds. Only eleven of the blue color phase were recorded. The last record from Otisco L on 23 Nov. The second major flight occurred in the spruce-pine plantations, where Red-breasted Nuthatches were ubiquitous. One observer noted up to 250 per day in s Onondaga Co. alone. Interestingly enough, very few were reported from the Adirondacks and Lake Ontario littoral, where peak counts were just six per day. The only notable exception to this was 28 observed near Derby Hill on 23 Sep. In addition to White-winged Crossbill which had appeared earlier, Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin began to appear in small numbers by the season's end.

Another interesting, but more localized flight occurred on the north-

facing slopes of Pompey Township. A group of 15 Brown Thrashers at n Pompey Township on 24 Sep were the most Dorothy Crumb had ever seen in migration there. These birds, along with a Connecticut and Prairie Warbler, made the last six days in Sep eventful. For several years another focal point for migrating passerines has been near Erieville in Madison Co. Elva Hawken commented that it was the best warbler migration she had seen in 10-12 years. Later, she found eight Black and two Surf Scoters on Erieville Reservoir for an unusual inland report. Sometimes being in the right place at the right time can be a factor in witnessing a good flight. Such was the case for Bill Purcell at his home in Hastings on 21 Sep. For almost two hours following a heavy fog, seven species of raptors including a Bald Eagle and over 300 Blue Jays passed overhead. Sandy Pond and Derby Hill once again were sites both for the arrival of some species and records of uncommon species. A Hudsonian Godwit and a Little Gull were two of the highlights from Sandy Pond, and a record late Caspian Tern was at Derby Hill on 12 Nov.

Positive aspects for this season include over 1,000 Wood Ducks at Toad Harbor on the north shore of Oneida L for the fifth consecutive year. Fish Crows continue their presence around New York Mills and the Whitesboro area of Oneida Co. A Black-and-white Warbler was recorded at Shackleton Pt, Oneida L on 5 Nov, surpassing the old record late date of 18 Oct 1956. Lastly a very interesting report came from Oneida where someone reported a Double-crested Cormorant swimming in a backyard pool for three hours.

Negatives for the season include no reports on Snowy Owl, a very poor flight for thrushes and only scattered reports on Evening Grosbeak toward the end of the period.

A total of 216 species and one color morph was reported, well below average. Notable rarities for the period included King Eider, Willet, Purple Sandpiper, Fish Crow, and Bohemian Waxwing. Other outstanding reports included Red-necked Phalarope, Red Phalarope, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Little Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Common Raven, Boreal Chickadee, Prairie Warbler and Connecticut Warbler.

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Abbreviations: DH - Derby Hill, Oswego Co; FH - Fair Sodus Bay and vicinity, Cayuga Co; LOL - Lake Ontario littoral, Oswego Co; NPT - northern Pompey township, Onondaga Co; SPd - Sandy Pond, Oswego Co; SSSP - Selkirk Shores State Park, Oswego Co; SVB - Sylvan and Verona Beach, Oneida Co.; Syr - Syracuse.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr FH 26 Oct, max six FH 4 Nov. Com.

Loon: arr DH 3 Oct, max 1000 LOL 26 Oct, best count in years. Pied-billed Grebe: max eight Otisco L 21 Oct. Horned Grebe: arr SPd 29 Oct, max 26 FH 8 Nov. Red-necked Grebe: arr Otisco L 23 Nov. Double-crested Cormorant: max 260 SPd 3 Sep. Am. Bittern: last SSSP 11 Oct. Great Egret: last Delta L 11 Sep. Green-backed Heron: last Onon L 22 Oct. Black-crowned Night-Heron: imm T Clay 2-6 Sep. Tundra Swan: three SSSP 25 Nov. Snow Goose: *intro*. Brant: arr DH 17 Oct, max 3550 DH 3 Nov. Canada Goose: max 3000 Woodman's Pd 29 Nov. Wood Duck: max 1392 Toad Harbor 1 Oct, last Scott Swamp 29 Oct. Green-winged Teal: max 25 Hookway Tract, Syr 5 Nov. Am. Black Duck: max 60 DH 12 Nov. Mallard: max 165 SVB 7 Sep. N. Pintail: five DH 23 Sep. Blue-winged Teal: last nine T Clay 6 Sep. N. Shoveler: nine Otisco L 21 Nov. Gadwall: arr SSSP 15 Oct, max 45 FH 22 Oct. Am. Wigeon: max 210 FH 22 Oct. Canvasback: arr Woodman's Pd 25 Oct, max 65 Oneida L 18 Nov. Redhead: four Oneida L 4 Nov, next report LOL 26,27 Nov. Ring-necked Duck: arr Otisco L 9 Oct, max 22 SPd 7 Nov. Greater Scaup: arr Oneida L 8 Oct, max 660 LOL 26 Nov. Lesser Scaup: arr DH 23 Sep, max 165 Oneida L 14 Nov. King Eider: imm male Oswego H 19-29 Nov (BP,MSR). Oldsquaw: arr SPd 29 Oct, max 450 DH 1 Nov. Black Scoter: arr DH 17 Oct, max 30 DH 12 Nov. Surf Scoter: arr Oneida L 21 Oct, max 16 DH 17 Nov. White-winged Scoter: arr DH 23 Sep, max 65 there 19 Nov. Com. Goldeneye: arr DH 17 Oct, max 170 LOL 26 Nov. Bufflehead: arr Otisco L 19 Oct, max 93 LOL 19 Nov. Hooded Merganser: arr Old Fly Marsh 3 Sep, max 140 Otisco L 22 Nov. Com. Merganser: arr SSSP 2 Sep, max 30 LOL 26 Nov. Red-breasted Merganser: arr SPd 18 Sep, max 540 FH 22 Oct. Ruddy Duck: arr Beaver L 9 Oct, max 20 there 28 Oct.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: last DeWitt 15 Nov. Osprey: four Hastings 21 Sep. Bald Eagle: ad SPd 18 Sep, ad Hastings 21 Sep, imm SPd 10 Nov, imm DH 17 Nov. N. Harrier: 21 reported for the season. Sharp-shinned Hawk: arr SVB 16 Sep. Cooper's Hawk: arr SVB 16 Sep. Red-shouldered Hawk: three Toad Harbor 27 Oct. Broad-winged Hawk: max 14 Hastings 21 Sep. Rough-legged Hawk: arr Erieville 13 Sep, record early arrival. Am. Kestrel: four Hastings 21 Sep. Merlin: one Fabius 7 Sep, one Erieville 13 Sep, one SPd 18 Sep. Ring-necked Pheasant: 19 reported for the season. Wild Turkey: two Old Forge 16 Nov. Com. Moorhen: eight SPd 2 Sep, last there 24 Sep. Am. Coot: arr SSSP 15 Oct, max 27 SPd 7 Nov. Black-bellied Plover: max 20 Griffis AFB 23 Sep. Lesser Golden-Plover: max 61 Canastota 16 Sep, last SPd 1 Oct. Semipalmated Plover: max nine SPd 3 Sep, very scarce. Killdeer: max 83 Canastota 2 Sep. Greater Yellowlegs: max six Delta L 11 Sep. Lesser Yellowlegs: max four Delta L 11 Sep. Solitary Sandpiper: last T Clay 18 Sep. Willet: one Onon L 23 Sep (C.G. Spies *fide* MSR). Hudsonian Godwit: two SPd 1 Oct. Ruddy Turnstone: last two SPd 2 Sep. Red Knot: last three SPd 2 Sep. Sanderling: max 80 SPd 24 Sep. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 23 LOL 2 Sep. Least Sandpiper: max six T Clay 6 Sep. White-rumped Sandpiper: last one FH 8 Nov. Baird's Sandpiper: max seven SPd 2 Sep, last there 3 Sep. Pectoral Sandpiper: max seven Griffis AFB 22 Sep. Purple Sandpiper: two FH 4-8 Nov, one SPd 10 Nov, two Oswego 25-27 Nov. Dunlin: arr SPd 24 Sep, max there 41 10 Nov. Short-billed Dowitcher: one T Clay Pds 2-6 Sep. Com. Snipe: last LOL 25 Nov. Am. Woodcock: last two Hastings 10 Oct. Red-necked Phalarope: five DH 2 Sep(DWC). Red Phalarope: one Oswego 19-25 Nov (MSR,DWC). Pomarine Jaeger: one DH 12 Nov, one Oswego 19 Nov. Parasitic Jaeger: 14 reported for the season 23 Sep-1 Nov. Little Gull: ad DH, SPd

2 Sep-1 Nov. Bonaparte's Gull: max 320 Oneida L 5 Nov. Iceland Gull: arr imm Oswego 19 Nov. Great Black-backed Gull: max 75 SPd 24 Sep. Black-legged Kittiwake: imm DH 12, 23 Nov. Caspian Tern: max 62 SPd 18 Sep, *intro*. Com. Tern: max 80 SPd 2 Sep, last one there 29 Oct. Black Tern: imm SPd 2 Sep, last two immatures Onon L 24 Sep, late.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: one T Brutus 15 Sep, only report. Great Horned Owl: six reports for the period. Barred Owl: one Holland Patent Oct. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: nine scattered reports. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max five Delta L 11 Sep, last 27 Oct. N. Flicker: max 20 SPd 3 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: max 20 LOL 2 Sep. E. Phoebe: max eight LOL 2 Sep. E. Kingbird: max eight LOL 2 Sep. Horned Lark: max 38 SPd 14 Nov. Tree Swallow: max 80 LOL 24 Sep. Barn Swallow max 55 SPd 3 Sep. Gray Jay: two Old Forge 1 Nov. Blue Jay: max 358 Hastings 21 Sep. Am. Crow: max 253 SPd 28 Oct. **Fish Crow**: two New York Mills 1 Nov (G. Webb). Com. Raven: nine Limekiln L Adks. Black-capped Chickadee: max 60 se MADI 28 Oct. Boreal Chickadee: six Limekiln L 24 Sep. Tufted Titmouse: six Delta L 8 Oct. Red-breasted Nuthatch: *intro*. Carolina Wren: six reports Syr, one report Oneida. Winter Wren: arr SPd 24 Sep, max six SSSP 11 Oct, last Syr 2 Nov. Marsh Wren: last SPd 24 Sep. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr SPd 24 Sep, max 52 FH 22 Oct. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr SVB 16 Sep, max 30 SSSP 11 Oct. E. Bluebird: max 41 Toad Harbor 27 Oct, last three Holland Patent 5 Nov. Gray-cheeked Thrush: three reports 18-27 Sep. Swainson's Thrush: arr Erieville 5 Sep, max six SPd 18 Sep. Hermit Thrush: arr NPT 27 Sep, max six SSSP 15 Oct, last Noyes S 25 Nov. Am. Robin: max 62, very low. Gray Catbird: max 15 SPd 18 Sep. Brown Thrasher: *intro*. Am. Pipit: arr SPd 2 Sep, max 253 there 10 Nov, last ten Mexico 19 Nov. **Bohemian Waxwing**: four DH 23 Nov. Cedar Waxwing: max 170 SPd 28 Oct. N. Shrike: arr Holland Patent 4 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Solitary Vireo: arr SPd 18 Sep, max six Delta L 8 Oct. Philadelphia Vireo: arr SPd 2 Sep, max eight, last NPT 5 Oct. Red-eyed Vireo: max 12 SPd 3 Sep. Tennessee Warbler: arr SPd 2 Sep, max 21 Erieville 15 Sep. Orange-crowned Warbler: arr SVB 3 Sep, last SSSP 11 Oct. Nashville Warbler: arr SPd, SVB 2 Sep, max nine Erieville 13 Sep. N. Parula: arr SPd 3 Sep, max three. Magnolia Warbler: max 16 SPd 3 Sep. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 69 Delta L 8 Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: max 45 Erieville 13 Sep. Blackburnian Warbler: arr SPd 3 Sep, max 30 Erieville 13 Sep. Pine Warbler: last three Erieville 23 Sep. Prairie Warbler: one NPT 24 Sep. Palm Warbler: arr Erieville 5 Sep, max five, last two Hastings 21 Sep. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr SVB 2 Sep, max 21 Erieville 11 Sep. Blackpoll Warbler: max nine Erieville 11 Sep. Cerulean Warbler: one SPd 2 Sep. Black-and-white Warbler: *intro*. Am. Redstart: max 26 Erieville 11 Sep. Connecticut Warbler: one NPT 24 Sep, first report since 1986 (DWC). Hooded Warbler: one SPd 2 Sep. Wilson's Warbler: arr SPd 2 Sep, max 18 there 3 Sep.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Otisco L 6 Oct, max 95 Mexico 19 Nov. Chipping Sparrow: max 65 Delta L 8 Oct, two still present NPT 30 Nov. Field Sparrow: max 15 Hastings 14 Sep, last one 10 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: one Mexico 25 Nov (DWC), record late. Fox Sparrow: up to seven 26 Sep-22 Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: three reports 17 Sep-1 Oct. White-throated Sparrow: arr SPd 3 Sep, max 200 s ONON 15 Oct. White-crowned Sparrow: arr LOL 1 Oct, max 22 Delta L 8 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: arr SPd 24 Sep, max 64

Mexico 19 Nov. Lapland Longspur: six SPd 12 Nov, three DH 17 Nov, one Mexico 26 Nov. Snow Bunting: arr Old Forge 21 Oct, max 450 DH 17 Nov. E. Meadowlark: last one Mexico 26 Nov. Rusty Blackbird: arr SVB 29 Sep, max 100 s ONON, last Van Buren 29 Oct. Com. Grackle: last Erieville 17 Nov. Pine Grosbeak: arr Old Forge 28 Nov. Red Crossbill: two Erieville 8 Sep, one Limekiln L 12 Sep. White-winged Crossbill: max 40 Erieville 3 Sep. Com. Redpoll: seven NPT 27 Oct, only report. Pine Siskin: arr SPd 1 Oct, max 35 s ONON 15 Oct. Am. Goldfinch: max 25 SPd 29 Oct. Evening Grosbeak: arr Erieville 16 Oct, max 45 Hastings 27 Nov.

ADDENDUM: Glossy Ibis: one Scott Swamp 3 May (Alan Townsend, Dennis Maxam *vide* DWC, ph!).

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL

The three month period was cool and wet, especially November. Maximum temperatures for September reached the high 80's on 9-10 Sep, while many areas had frost on 27 Sep when temperatures dropped into the 20's. Whereas temperatures were about average and rainfall was below normal in lowland area, in southern St. Lawrence Co. and Lewis Co. mercury readings were a degree or two below normal and rainfall was heavier than normal. October was slightly warmer and drier than expected, with the exception of a dreary week mid month. There was little snow even in the northern plateau. Temperatures for November ran two to three degrees below normal, while precipitation ran from two inches above normal in the lowlands to 3.8 inches, or 50% above normal, on Tug Hill. Snowfall ranged from a few inches in northern St. Lawrence Co. to almost five feet at Barnes Corners.

It is difficult to correlate our anecdotal observations of migratory movements with weather systems. Near Canton, large numbers of blackbirds and starling were associated with cold weather 4 to 9 Oct as were flocks of Killdeer, while a congregation of crows occurred with warm air on 17 Oct. There were reports of "unprecedented numbers" of Snow Goose from all three counties between 19 Oct and 24 Nov, with a maximum of 600 at Castorland Flats, Lewis Co., on 3 Nov. The largest flights of Canada Geese I have ever observed in Pierrepont (several flocks totaling some 12-1500) filled the sky on 13 Nov, just prior to the onset of cold weather. Early arrival of Rough-legged Hawk, Bohemian Waxwing, good numbers of Horned Lark, and early Snow Bunting all suggested more winter visitors than in past winters. However, there were no reports of Snowy Owl or Northern Shrike. Both nuthatches are unusually abundant. Both kinglets arrived in Henderson and Louisville 1-5 Oct, with a wave of Ruby-crowned Kinglet on 22 Oct. There were good numbers of E. Bluebird, but the only spot-breasted thrushes were