

REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Fall in Region 5 was generally mild, of normal temperature and precipitation, and with few active weather incidents. The timing of cold fronts did not appear to coincide with migration well enough to produce the kind of fallouts that keep observers and *Kingbird* editors happy. September's climatological data produced no records, however, the remnants of Hurricane Fran passing over Lake Erie to the West of Region 5 on 7 September did provide some interesting birding. The average September temperature was 63.1°F with a high of 87° recorded on 6 September and a low of 39° on 26 September. Precipitation for the month was 4.38" only 0.59" above the norm.

October, according to meteorologist Jim Teske, was "absolutely normal." with an average temperature of 50.7°F, a high of 78° on 1 October and a low of

28° on 5 October. Precipitation was 2.14" which was 1.10" below the historical monthly average.

November proved the most meteorologically interesting of the three months in Region 5. The average temperature was 34.7°F, 5.8° below normal and placing the month as the fourth coldest November on record. A high of 70° was recorded on 8 November and a low of 14° was recorded on 13 Nov. It was the fifth wettest November on record with 5.78" of rain recorded for the month, 2.06" above normal. A 24-hr. rain total of 3.56" on 8 November was the most ever for a 24-hr period in November. Snowfall began during the month of November and a total of 25.9" fell at Hancock Airport, 16.6" above normal making it the second snowiest November on record.

Hurricane Fran, moving over Lake Erie on 7 Sep then to the northeast, produced three **American Avocets** at Sandy Pond (8-9 Sep), two **Laughing Gulls** on Lake Ontario (8 Sep), and a **Black-capped Petrel** found in Skaneateles on 12 Sep. The petrel was taken to a veterinarian and eventually relocated to North Carolina where it later died. Heavy rains associated with the storm's passage put down southbound migrants, particularly shorebirds, including three Hudsonian Godwits (8 Sep) and a total of 21 species of shorebirds at Sandy Pond through 11 Sep. A Laughing Gull at Delta Lake on 15 Sep was the last evidence of Hurricane Fran's passage in the Region. Two Parasitic Jaegers were also seen on southerly winds at Sandy Pond on 11 Sep. In general, the shorebird migration through the Region seemed better than in the recent past, both in species diversity and in numbers.

Waterfowl migration was generally healthy, with a good Brant flight, two reports of **Greater White-fronted Goose**, one report of an Eurasian Wigeon, one of Harlequin Duck and a Regional record of 116 Ruddy Ducks at Beaver Lake Nature Center on the plus side. A Wood Duck staging area in West Monroe was relocated after the old area had been drained several years ago. Scoter numbers were low, probably due to lack of northwest winds in October which would direct them towards eastern Lake Ontario.

Hawk migration was stalled in September while warm, wet weather blanketed the Northeast until 18 September, when on clear skies and light north winds seasonal one day records for Ospreys, Bald Eagles, and Broad-winged Hawks were set on a flight of no more than three hours duration.

Derby Hill had the best jaeger flight of the 1990's on 28 October when northwest winds built slowly over the day and several observers were rewarded for their patience with sightings of three Pomarine Jaegers, 20 Parasitic Jaegers, three Black-legged Kittiwakes, and a **Sabine's Gull**. All but one Parasitic Jaeger and one kittiwake were seen after 1 PM.

Another excellent flight of jaegers at Derby Hill occurred on 3 November when six Pomarine Jaegers (Regional record), one Parasitic Jaeger plus five

jaeger sp. were seen. All but one of the jaegers were seen leaving Lake Ontario east of Derby Hill and flying to the southeast. In addition, 7,470 Brant flew past the Derby Hill bluff on the same day.

The lack of active weather patterns during September and October contributed to observers reports of a poor fall passerine migration. Comments such as "Winter Wrens way down" and "never saw a Palm Warbler" were the rule rather than the exception in the fall reports. A **Northern Wheatear** was seen briefly along the lakeshore on 19 Sep at the James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant by a lucky observer working at the facility.

Winter finches were reported from the Adirondacks, but plentiful wild food kept them from coming in to feeders. Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, and both species of crossbills were all reported feeding on wild food in the Limekiln Lake area.

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Abbreviations: CM - Clay Marsh, DeltL - Delta Lake, DH - Derby Hill, FH - Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, LOL - Lake Ontario Littoral, OneiL - Oneida Lake, OnonL - Onondaga Lake, SPd - Sandy Pond SSSP - Selkirk Shores State Park, SVB - Sylvan and Verona Beach, Syr - Syracuse, TRGMA - Three Rivers Game Management Area, UM - Utica Marsh.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Red-throated Loon:** arr LOL 26 Oct; max four FH 17 Nov. **Com. Loon:** max 28 LOL 10 Nov. **Pied-billed Grebe:** max 10 TRGMA 17 Oct. **Horned Grebe:** arr Beaver Lake & UM 16 Oct; max 55 LOL 10 Nov. **Red-necked Grebe:** singles DH 28 Oct and Woodman Pond 31 Oct. **BLACK-CAPPED PETREL:** grounded bird found Skaneateles 12 Sep (Mike Morris, photo Dave Denka), only previous record from OneiL in 1893. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 460 OnonL 22 Sep. **Great Egret:** two OnonL 5 Sep; one-three DeltL thru 27 Sep. **Green Heron:** max 17 West Monroe 2 Sep; last DeltL 4 Nov, late. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** one ad West Monroe 2 Sep. **Tundra Swan:** arr and max 12 Beaver Lake 31 Oct. **Mute Swan:** two FH from mid-Oct. **Snow Goose:** max 200 over Beaver River Sta HERK 9 Nov. **Brant:** max 7470 DH 3 Nov. **Greater White-fronted Goose:** one imm UM 3 Nov (MP) and one Beaver Lake 14 Nov (MT). **Wood Duck:** max 2590 West Monroe 21 Sep; last UM 11 Nov. **Green-winged Teal:** max 75 DeltL 15 Oct. **Am. Black Duck:** max 160 DH 3 Nov. **N. Pintail:** max six DeltL 4 Oct. **Blue-winged Teal:** max 120 DeltL 14 Sep; last UM 16 Oct. **N. Shoveler:** singles DeltL 1 Oct and FH 23 Oct. **Gadwall:** max 33 FH 29 Nov. **Eurasian Wigeon:**

one TRGMA 12-14 Oct (BP). **Am. Wigeon**: max 92 FH 6 Oct. **Canvasback**: max 22 FH 19 Nov. **Redhead**: max 20 FH 16-19 Nov. **Ring-necked Duck**: seven FH 8 Sep, either early arr or local breeders; max 121 FH 19 Nov. **Greater Scaup**: arr SPd 20 Oct; max 400 West Monroe 27 Oct. **Lesser Scaup**: max 70 West Monroe 2 Nov. **Harlequin Duck**: one Fair Haven 30 Nov (BL), fifth Nov record. **Oldsquaw**: max 630 DH 3 Nov. **Black Scoter**: max 22 SSSP 10 Nov. **Surf Scoter**: max six DH 28 Oct. **White-winged Scoter**: max 77 DH 28 Oct. **Com. Goldeneye**: arr DH 28 Oct. **Bufflehead**: arr West Monroe 27 Oct. **Hooded Merganser**: max 50 FH 16 Nov. **Com. Merganser**: max 61 DeltL 20 Sep. **Red-breasted Merganser**: max 110 DH 3 Nov. **Ruddy Duck**: Regional record 116 Beaver Lake 6 Nov (MR); also good counts, 15 DeltL 29 Oct; 16 FH 19 Oct.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Turkey Vulture**: max 16 SSSP 20 Oct; Dewitt thru 30 Nov (RL). **Osprey**: max 22 Pulaski 18 Sep. **Bald Eagle**: max five Pulaski 18 Sep; two DeltL Sep thru Sep; one SSSP 20 Oct; one Clay 14 Nov. **N. Harrier**: max five Pulaski 18 Sep. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: max 15 Pulaski 18 Sep. **N. Goshawk**: one DeltL 21 Sep; two Mexico 10 Nov, only reports. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: last New Hartford 14 Nov; reports only from ONEI. **Broad-winged Hawk**: Regional record 2874 Pulaski and 456 Rome 18 Sep. **Red-tailed Hawk**: max 42 SSSP 20 Oct. **Rough-legged Hawk**: arr and max six SSSP 20 Oct. **Golden Eagle**: one West Monroe 27 Oct. **Am. Kestrel**: daily maxima of four-six to 23 Sep; otherwise poorly reported. **Merlin**: one SPd 11 Sep; three DeltL Sep. **Peregrine Falcon**: two imm DeltL 19 Sep-2 Oct; one imm Syr 27 Nov. **Ruffed Grouse**: max five Noyes Sanctuary 9 Oct. **Wild Turkey**: max 22 Syr Airport 5 Sep; flocks coming to feeders in Adirondacks. **Com. Moorhen**: max 17 West Monroe 2 Sep; last UM 7 Oct. **Am. Coot**: max 110 FH 19 Oct. **Black-bellied Plover**: max 12 Syr Airport 14 Oct. **Am. Golden-Plover**: max 12 Syr Airport 14 Oct. **Semipalmated Plover**: max 20 SPd 10 Sep. **Killdeer**: max 90 T Sullivan 15 Sep. **AMERICAN AVOCET**: three SPd 8-9 Sep (PC), third Regional record. **Greater Yellowlegs**: max 23 DeltL 15 Sep. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: max 50 T Van Buren 12 Sep. **Solitary Sandpiper**: max eight DeltL 9 Sep; last DeltL 19 Sep. **Upland Sandpiper**: last three Syr Airport 10 Sep. **Hudsonian Godwit**: three SPd 8 Sep; two DeltL 23 Oct, only reports. **Ruddy Turnstone**: max eight FH 8 Sep; last SPd 13 Sep. **Red Knot**: three SPd 10 Sep; one Oneil 14 Sep. **Sanderling**: max 55 SPd 11 Sep. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: max 36 SPd 13 Sep; last SPd 29 Sep. **Western Sandpiper**: one SPd 8 Sep. **Least Sandpiper**: max 25 SPd 9 Sep. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: max three SPd 11 Sep. **Baird's Sandpiper**: max five SPd 11 Sep; three SVB 25 Sep; last DeltL 15 Oct. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: max 20 SPd 10 Sep. **Purple Sandpiper**: one FH 9-10 Nov, 29 Nov. **Dunlin**: arr

DeltL 23 Sep; max 57 SPd 20 Oct. **Stilt Sandpiper**: max four SPd 9 Sep. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: one DeltL 10-15 Sep. **Common Snipe**: three singles reported. **Am. Woodcock**: two singles reported. **Red-necked Phalarope**: one Delta Lake 14 Sep. **Red Phalarope**: one TRGMA 12 Oct. unusual location: three Nov sightings LOL. **Pomarine Jaeger**: three DH 28 Oct (GS,DC); six DH 3 Nov (BP,SA). **Parasitic Jaeger**: two SPd 11 Sep. unusual on south winds; max 20 DH 28 Oct (GS). **Laughing Gull**: one juv & one ad LOL 8 Sep (PC,GS); one 2nd year DeltL 15 Sep (MR). **Little Gull**: one juv SPd 9 Sep. **Bonaparte's Gull**: max 55 SPd 1 Sep. **Black-legged Kittiwake**: three DH 28 Oct (BP,GS). **Sabine's Gull**: one imm DH 28 Oct (GS). **Caspian Tern**: max 59 SPd 10 Sep; last DH 27 Sep. **Common Tern**: max 96 SPd 10 Sep. **Black Tern**: max 14 SPd 9 Sep.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **Black-billed Cuckoo**: one Hastings 5 Sep. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: one New Hartford 16 Sep. **E. Screech-Owl**: one N. Syr. 5 Nov. only report. **Great Horned Owl**: two singles reported. **Snowy Owl**: arr Oswego 9 Nov; many reports involving probably six total; one DeltL 14 Nov. far from usual areas. **Barred Owl**: singles West Monroe and Happy Valley WMA 21 Sep. New Hartford 30 Oct and SVB 23 Nov. **Com. Nighthawk**: last six Syr 5 Sep. **Chimney Swift**: max 40 Syr 7 Sep. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: two West Monroe 1 Sep. only report. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: last DeltL 8 Oct. **Black-backed Woodpecker**: one Limekiln Swamp 30 Nov. **N. Flicker**: max 18 CM 2 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: singles West Monroe 2 Sep and SVB 25 Sep. late. **E. Wood-Pewee**: max seven Pratts Falls 16 Sep. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: three reports to 14 Sep. **Least Flycatcher**: four individuals to 18 Sep. **E. Phoebe**: max six New Hartford 21 Sep. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: max two Dewitt 15 Sep. **E. Kingbird**: two West Monroe 14 Sep. **Horned Lark**: 35 T Sullivan 15 Sep. with many imm; max 80 Richland 10 Nov. **Purple Martin**: last five SPd 15 Sep. **Tree Swallow**: max 450 FH 8 Sep. **Bank Swallow**: six FH 8 Sep. **Cliff Swallow**: max 300 Paris 1 Sep; last eight FH 8 Sep. **Barn Swallow**: max 155 CM 4 Sep. **Gray Jay**: four Ice Cave Mtn. HERK 26 Oct. **Blue Jay**: typical late Sep migration not observed. **Fish Crow**: two-four continue Syr. **Com. Raven**: max six Beaver River Sta. 10 Nov. no reports away from Adirondacks. **Tufted Titmouse**: one Thendara 29 Nov. unusual location. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: max 14 Pratts Falls 16 Sep. otherwise no movement noted. **Brown Creeper**: max 11 SVB 24 Sep. **House Wren**: max three New Hartford 18 Sep. **Winter Wren**: max five Whiskey Hollow 21 Sep; several observers noted scarcity. **Marsh Wren**: last CM & UM 6 Nov. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: max 17 SPd 20 Oct. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: arr 20 Sep; max 27 LOL 9 Oct. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**:

last Paris 9 Sep. **NORTHERN WHEATEAR**: one Nine Mile Point 19 Sep (MAK, NYSARC). **E. Bluebird**: max 27 West Monroe 25 Oct. **Veery**: max four Whiskey Hollow 2 Sep. **Swainson's Thrush**: one New Hartford 26 Sep, only report. **Hermit Thrush**: max four Noyes Sanctuary 9 Oct; last 22 Nov. **Wood Thrush**: max 14 New Hartford 10 Sep. **Gray Catbird**: max 30 CM 4 Sep. **N. Mockingbird**: two T Lee 11 Oct, somewhat north of usual haunts. **Brown Thrasher**: max seven New Hartford 21 Sep. **Am. Pipit**: arr 15 Sep; max 60 SPd 20 Oct. **N. Shrike**: arr Sangerfield 2 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: **Solitary Vireo**: max five Kirkland 8 Oct; one Hastings 18 Nov (BP), record late. **Warbling Vireo**: max seven SPd 1 Sep. **Philadelphia Vireo**: seven singles reported; last 30 Sep. **Red-eyed Vireo**: max 25 Kirkland 12 Sep. **Blue-winged Warbler**: one Kirkland 13-15 Sep, only report. **Golden-winged Warbler**: two singles, last 15 Sep. **Tennessee Warbler**: max three New Hartford 10 Sep. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: one New Hartford 10 Sep, only report. **Nashville Warbler**: max five Kirkland 5 Sep. **N. Parula**: record late T Onondaga 24 Nov (PR). **Yellow Warbler**: last New Hartford 8 Oct, late. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: max six New Hartford 16 Sep. **Cape May Warbler**: two Kirkland 13 Sep, record late at Parish feeder after 25 Nov (P.&C.DiPino,BP photo). **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: max five New Hartford 30 Sep. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: several maxima of 30-35 only. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: max 20 Kirkland 22 Sep. **Blackburnian Warbler**: max four Kirkland 13 Sep. **Pine Warbler**: six SVB 24 Sep. **Palm Warbler**: max three UM 19 Sep; last New Hartford 14 Oct, scarce. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: max eight New Hartford 18 Sep. **Blackpoll Warbler**: max seven New Hartford 30 Sep. **Black-and-white Warbler**: max four Kirkland 13 Sep. **Am. Redstart**: max four Kirkland 7 Sep. **Ovenbird**: max 5 New Hartford 23 Sep. **Connecticut Warbler**: one Kirkland 22 Sep. **Mourning Warbler**: last 19 Sep. **Common Yellowthroat**: max 14 West Monroe 2 Sep. **Hooded Warbler**: last 22 Sep.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Scarlet Tanager**: max 10 New Hartford 18 Sep. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: max five New Hartford 1 Sep. **Indigo Bunting**: max four New Hartford 11 Sep; record late Parish feeder 21-28 Nov. **E. Towhee**: max four Hastings 22 Sep. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: arr ONEI 28 Oct; max 38 CM 13 Nov. **Chipping Sparrow**: max 20 Verona 11 Sep; last West Monroe 25 Oct. **Field Sparrow**: max 10 New Hartford 26; last Paris 24 Nov. **Vesper Sparrow**: one Pompey 19 Sep, only report. **Savannah Sparrow**: max 29 Syr Airport 5 Sep; last there 25 Oct. **Fox Sparrow**: arr New Hartford 17 Oct; max three several locations; last Hastings 12 Nov. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: arr and max three Hastings 22 Sep. **Swamp Sparrow**: max seven UM 21 Oct; last 10 Nov. **White-throated Sparrow**: arr FH 20 Sep; max 35 SPd 20 Oct. **White-**

crowned Sparrow: arr Holland Patent 23 Sep; max six Delt L 7 Oct. very low numbers regionwide. **Dark-eyed Junco:** max 22 Hastings 13 Nov. **Lapland Longspur:** two FH 30 Nov. only report. **Snow Bunting:** arr FH 19 Oct; max 160 LOL 10 Nov. **Bobolink:** five New Hartford 3 Sep. only report. **E. Meadowlark:** last Syr Airport 14 Nov. **Rusty Blackbird:** arr Hastings 22 Sep; max 115 CM 2 Oct. **Com. Grackle:** max 12,000 Hastings 19 Oct. **Baltimore Oriole:** max three New Hartford 1 Sep. **Purple Finch:** max six SVB 11 Nov. **White-winged Crossbill:** small numbers in Adirondacks only. **Pine Siskin:** 500+ past DH 7 Nov. **Evening Grosbeak:** two New Hartford 6 Oct. only report away from Adirondacks.

Corrigenda: Kingbird, Vol. 46, No. 2, p. 161 (June, 1996). Region 5 summary: "Four species appeared on the Syracuse Christmas Bird Count which had never been previously reported in the winter: Snow Goose, Turkey Vulture, Peregrine Falcon and Bohemian Waxwing." The four species were just recorded for the first time on the CBC.

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