

REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The weather in Region 5 was relatively quiet with no storms or unusual events. Temperatures for the three months averaged slightly cooler than normal. September's average temperature was 60.4 °F (1.1° below normal). A high of 80 °F on 2 September and a low of 35 °F on 24 September were recorded for the month. Precipitation for September was 2.57 inches (1.04 inches below normal). October's average temperature was 49.3 °F (1.4 ° below normal) with a high of 81 °F recorded on 9 October. The low for October was 24 °F on 26 October. A total rainfall of 1.5 inches (1.74 inches below normal) occurred during the month. October also had a surprise snowfall of 1.2 inches, 1.2 inches of snowfall above normal. Meteorologist Jim Teske reported that one of the nicest stretches of fall weather in central New York occurred from 4 October through 14 October. November's weather was colder and snowier than normal. The average temperature for the month was 37.4 °F (3.1° below normal). A high of 60 °F on 1 November and a low of 20 °F on 13 November were recorded. Precipitation of 4.28 inches was slightly (0.56 inches) over normal. Snowfall for November was 19.3 inches (10.0 inches above average) making it the eighth snowiest November and the third straight year of November snowfall records making it into the top 10 of snowiest Novembers.

The cone crop was poor over the most of the Region with the exception of some mature white pines. Birch catkins were scarce as were fruits and berries on most shrubs, while thistle production was abundant at many sites.

An adult Great Cormorant, only the second record for the Region, was found by Gerard Phillips in Oswego Harbor on 13 November where it was seen irregularly through the end of the season. The mud flats at Delta Lake have become an attraction for Great Egrets, and the 10 seen in September were the most ever at one location in the Region. *Aythya* ducks were scarce; this has been the case recently with Canvasback and Redhead, but Ring-necked Ducks are normally seen in larger numbers and Greater Scaup never seemed to get here. There were strong Brant and scoter flights seen from Derby Hill as well as at Oswego Harbor and good numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers along Lake Ontario.

Fall hawk flights in the Region will never approach the numbers seen in spring at Derby Hill, but the migration seen over Bishop Road west of Pulaski has been good over the past few years. The mid September time period for Broad-wing Hawk migration was not covered, but October brought a record Turkey Vulture flight plus harriers, Red-shouldered, Red-tails and the first few

Rough-legs. Bald Eagle continues to be found at many area lakes after the breeding season.

The mud flats at Delta Lake provided great habitat for the second Marbled Godwit of the year and Long-billed Dowitcher, a Regional rarity. Early highlights there included Whimbrel, Stilt Sandpiper and Wilson's Phalarope. There was an excellent late October flight with large numbers of Dunlin, Pectoral and White-rumped sandpipers and one Hudsonian Godwit. Purple Sandpiper showed up in November at Fair Haven, as they do so most years. Sanderling counts were very low, probably reflecting sparse coverage of Sandy Pond in September, and no sizable flocks of Am. Golden-Plover were found. Red Knot was missed altogether, and only one Common Snipe was reported.

A total of 16 Parasitic Jaegers was seen at Derby Hill on four occasions in October and early November. This continues the upswing of jaeger sightings after the lean years of 1992-96. Black-legged Kittiwake and Little Gull sightings were few, but larger numbers of Bonaparte's Gull remained later into the season than usual.

Four species of swallows were not reported, somewhat alarming, but there were few reports from Sandy Pond and the eastern shore of Lake Ontario during early September when migrants would be moving through. The last dates for the two reported, Tree and Barn, were very early. Chimney Swift seemed to suffer the same fate with only one report. Although small numbers of Bohemian Waxwings were seen in the State this fall, none was found in Region 5 despite picking through many flocks of Cedar Waxwings and checking the likely Lake Ontario sites.

Red-breasted Nuthatches staged a small irruption but at the same time could still be found in Tug Hill breeding locations unlike the 1995-96 event. For the second straight year, a Blue-headed Vireo was seen at a feeder (not the same one) in late November. Few birders ever made connections with a warbler wave. Cesari called the Rome and Delta Lake migration "poor to nonexistent". Most warbler maxima consisted of only a handful of birds, often from breeding locations, and even Yellow-rumped Warblers were seen in small numbers. The 2 Prairie Warblers and the Worm-eating Warbler were bright spots. A cold front on September 3 seemed to push out many local sparrows and nothing replaced them for about two weeks. At least when the sparrows started to move in earnest in late September they were much easier to find than warblers.

All the winter finches were seen, mostly in small numbers, and they tended to keep moving through due to the lack a cone crop. Evening Grosbeaks seemed to prefer feeders at higher elevations, while Common Redpolls, more dependent on weed seeds than cones, had more hope of finding food.

Rarities for the season included **Great Cormorant**, **Marbled Godwit**, Worm-eating Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow and Henslow's Sparrow. Other hard to find species were Black-crowned Night-Heron, Hudsonian Godwit, Whimbrel, Parasitic Jaeger, Black-legged Kittiwake, Forster's Tern, Prairie

Warbler, and Connecticut Warbler. Misses include Sora, Red Knot, Short-eared Owl, swallows, Gray-cheeked Thrush and Bohemian Waxwing.

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Abbreviations: Bvll - Baldwinsville, CM - Clay Marsh, DH - Derby Hill, DL - Delta Lake, FH - Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, LOL - Lake Ontario Littoral, OneiL - Oneida Lake, SPd - Sandy Pond, SVB - Sylvan and Verona Beach, Syr - Syracuse, UM - Utica Marsh, WPd - Woodman Pond, T Eaton.

LOONS-DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr DH 22 Oct; max 4 LOL 19 Nov.

Com. Loon: arr SVB 28 Sep; 46 Oswego 19 Nov; max 47 LOL 23 Nov.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 6 FH 13 Oct.

Horned Grebe: arr DH 21 Oct; max 35 DH 7 Nov; 30 OnonL 25 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: DH 22 Oct; WPd 10 Nov.

GREAT CORMORANT: 1 adult Oswego Harbor 13 Nov thru, 2nd Regional record (GP, mob, NYSARC).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 200 OnonL 21 Sep.

Am. Bittern: 1 West Monroe 24 Sep, only report.

Great Blue Heron: max 18 DL 1 Oct.

Great Egret: max 10 DL 19 Sep; last DL 28 Sep.

Green Heron: max 3 West Monroe 3 Oct; last UM 10 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: singles Bvll 16 Sep; West Monroe 24 Sep, 9 Oct.

Turkey Vulture: 320 Pulaski 11 Oct, record fall count; last Kirkland 3 Nov.

Snow Goose: arr Beaver Lake 3 Oct; max 300 First Lake Old Forge 23 Nov, unusual Adks.

Brant: arr FH 10 Oct; max 6650 DH 22 Oct; 30 DH 27 Nov, late for a flock.

Mute Swan: 2 Cazenovia L 15 Nov; 5 ad & 2 imm SPd 9 Nov; 2 FH late Nov.

Tundra Swan: max 7 FH from 17 Nov; 3 DL 2 Nov, a little east of usual route.

Wood Duck: max 1720 West Monroe 28 Sep.

Gadwall: arr SVB 5 Oct; max 28 FH 1 Nov.

Am. Wigeon: arr UM 30 Sep; max 120 FH 13 Oct.

Am. Black Duck: max 150 WPd 26 Nov.

Mallard: max 271 Cicero 28 Oct.

Blue-winged Teal: max 80 DL 3 Sep; one OnonL 25 Nov, late.

N. Shoveler: 2 SVB 7 Sep; max 6 DL 1 Oct; last WPd 18 Nov.

N. Pintail: arr UM 30 Sep; max 71 DH 22 Oct.

Green-winged Teal: max 200 DL 1 Oct.

Canvasback: 7 WPd 10-18 Nov, only report.

Redhead: arr FH 18 Oct; max 10 FH 1 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: max 100 FH 23 Nov, also 50 WPd 18 Nov, but otherwise low numbers.

Greater Scaup: arr LOL 26 Oct; max 44 FH 19 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: arr LOL 28 Oct; max 125 SVB 20 Nov.

Surf Scoter: arr 1 OneiL 28 Sep; max 120 DH 7 Nov.

White-winged Scoter: arr Minoa 9 Oct; max 130 DH 22 Oct.

Black Scoter: max 135 DH 7 Nov.

Oldsquaw: max 220 DH 28 Oct.

Bufflehead: arr FH 18 Oct, max 29 LOL 19 Nov

Com. Goldeneye: arr SPd 19 Oct.

Hooded Merganser: max 100 Beaver L 23 Nov.

Com. Merganser: max 484 LOL 12 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 8000 FH 17 Nov; 3000 Oswego 23 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: arr Minoa 9 Oct; max 14 WpD 10 Nov; last two Beaver L 29 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: late sightings include 2 LOL 26 Oct and one DL 4, 11 Nov.

Bald Eagle: 1 North Gage 5 Sep; 2 immes Oneil Oct-Nov; 2 imm & 1 ad LOL thru; 3 migrants Pulaski 25 Oct; 2 Adks in late Nov; 1 Beaver L 29 Nov.

N. Harrier: max 8 Pulaski 8 Nov.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 5 Pulaski 25 Oct.

Cooper's Hawk: max 3 Pulaski 26 Oct.

N. Goshawk: 4 widespread reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: max 3 Pulaski 25 Oct.

Broad-winged Hawk: max 3 Hastings 3 Sep.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 112 Pulaski 25 Oct.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr Pulaski 25 Oct; max seven Pulaski 8 Nov.

Am. Kestrel: max 5 Remsen 5 Sep.

Merlin: 4 different singles DL in Sep; one Schiller Park Syr 28 Sep; one DL 29-31 Oct.

Peregrine Falcon: singles DL 16 Sep & 21 Sep, SPd 19 Oct, Pulaski 26 Oct and New Haven 29 Oct.

Ring-necked Pheasant: 3 reports.

Ruffed Grouse: max 4 Fabius 5 Nov.

Wild Turkey: max 70 DL 3 Nov.

Virginia Rail: 2 WpD 4 Nov, late.

Com. Moorhen: max 3 West Monroe 4 Sep; one Fayetteville thru 30 Nov, record late.

Am. Coot: max 220 FH 1 Nov; also 125 DL 11 Nov.

Black-bellied Plover: max 21 DL 7 Sep; 10 DL 3 Nov.

Am. Golden-Plover: 2 DL 7 Sep; singles SVB 24 Sep and DL 28 Sep, only reports.

Semipalmated Plover: max 35 DL 8 Sep.

Killdeer: max 54 Schroepel 1 Sep, generally low numbers reported.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 5 DL 7 Sep.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 35 DL 8 Sep.

Solitary Sandpiper: last DL 19 Sep.

Spotted Sandpiper: max and last 2 SVB 16 Sep.

Whimbrel: 4 DL 7 Sep, only report.

Hudsonian Godwit: 1 DL 26 Oct to 6 Nov.

MARBLED GODWIT: 1 DL 28 Sep, sixth Regional record and second for the year (MP).

Sanderling: max 4 SPd 1 Sep, very low numbers.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 50 DL 5 Sep.

Least Sandpiper: max 20 DL to 8 Sep; last DL 7 Oct.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 4 DL 26 Oct building to max and last of 23 there 11 Nov.

Baird's Sandpiper: 2 DL 5 Sep and 1 Hinckley L 12 Sep, only reports.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 75 DL 26 Oct to 3 Nov.

Purple Sandpiper: 1-4 FH 16 to 26 Nov.

Dunlin: arr FH 13 Oct; max 250 DL 31 Oct to 3 Nov; last 3 SVB 13 Nov.

Stilt Sandpiper: 1-4 DL to 11 Sep.

Short-billed Dowitcher: last DL 21 Sep.

Long-billed Dowitcher: 1 imm DL 25-28 Sep (DCE, MP).

Com. Snipe: 1 Biddlecum 1 Sep, only report.

Am. Woodcock: max 2 West Monroe 28 Sep and CM 15 Oct; last CM 26 Oct.

Wilson's Phalarope: one DL 3-4 Sep.

Parasitic Jaeger: 1 ad SVB 14 Sep; DH sightings - 6 on 1 Oct; 2 on 22 Oct; 2 on 28 Oct and 6 on 10 Nov.

Little Gull: 1 Selkirk Shores SP 11 Nov (DCr).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 203 Oneil 2 Sep; 100 SVB 28 Sep; 80 SPd 19 Oct; larger numbers later in season than usual.

Iceland Gull: one Oswego 22 Nov.

Glaucous Gull: one Oswego 22 Nov.

Black-legged Kittiwake: singles DH 1 Oct, 11 Nov.

Caspian Tern: max 13 SPd 5 Sep; last SPd 14 Sep.

Com. Tern: max 360 SPd 14 Sep; 150 SVB 15 Sep; 6 SVB 28 Sep.

Forster's Tern: 1 SPd 19 Sep; 2 FH 8-19 Oct; 1 DH 28 Oct, late.

Black Tern: last 2 SPd 19 Sep.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: max 68 T Sullivan 24 Oct.

Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 Kirkland 18 Sep, only report.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 West Monroe 4 Sep, only report.

E. Screech-Owl: 1 Dewitt 16 Sep; 1 Bville 18 Nov.
Great Horned Owl: 1 DH thru.
Barred Owl: singles New Hartford and Holland Patent.
Com. Nighthawk: 2 N Syr 12 Sep, only report.
Chimney Swift: 8 DL 1 Sep, only report.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Paris 1 Oct, injured bird.
Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 FH 24 Oct thru Nov.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 8 Old Forge 12 Sep; max 3 migrants Bville 4 Oct; 1 Pompey thru 30 Nov.
Black-backed Woodpecker: 3 females Third L Creek Old Forge 1 Sep; 1 Rondaxe (Bald) Mtn 3 Nov; pair Beaver R Sta 9 Nov.
N. Flicker: max 14 CM 24 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 2 Clark Reservation 3 Sep; 1 DL 3 Sep; last New Hartford 24 Sep, late.
E. Wood-Pewee: max 8 Kirkland 4 Sep.
Willow Flycatcher: last 2 CM 3 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: max 2 New Hartford 2 Sep.
E. Phoebe: max 7 West Monroe 2 Oct.
Great Crested Flycatcher: max 3 Dewitt 13 Sep.
E. Kingbird: max 3 Bville 1 Sep.
N. Shrike: singles Bville 22 Nov and Mexico 23 Nov, only reports.
Blue-headed Vireo: max 6 New Hartford 11 Oct; 1 Oswego feeder 22 Nov, late.
Yellow-throated Vireo: 6 scattered singles.
Warbling Vireo: max 4 DL 8 Oct; 2 singing SVB 17 Oct.
Philadelphia Vireo: 4 singles 8-23 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 16 Kirkland 18 Sep.
Gray Jay: one Beaver R Sta 9 Nov, only report.
Blue Jay: max 112 CM 24 Sep.
Am. Crow: max 2200 Pulaski 25 Oct.
Fish Crow: 2 OnonL after 14 Oct.
Com. Raven: 3 McKeever 12 Sep; 2 Pulaski 11 Oct; 1 Pulaski 25 Oct; 1 DL 31 Oct; 1 Hastings 30 Nov.
Horned Lark: max 20 Kirkland 21 Nov.
Tree Swallow: max 6 N CAYU 10 Sep, few reports.
Barn Swallow: only 4 early Sep reports.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 66 Pratt's Falls 15 Sep.
Tufted Titmouse: max 5 New Hartford 15 Sep; migrant Hastings 8 Oct.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 40 SVB 27 Sep.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 11 CM 29 Sep.
Brown Creeper: max 6 Kirkland 3 Nov.
Carolina Wren: 2 individuals Bville in Oct; 1 T Onondaga 4 Nov.
House Wren: max 3 West Monroe 4 Sep.
Winter Wren: 6 Old Forge 1 Sep; migrant max 3 New Hartford 6 Oct.
Sedge Wren: 1 UM 3 Oct, only report.
Marsh Wren: max 12 CM 2 Oct.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 24 Highland Forest 18 Oct.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr SVB 9 Sep; max 20 SVB 5 Oct.
E. Bluebird: max 29 Spafford 5 Nov.
Veery: 2 Hastings 1 Sep, only report.
Swainson's Thrush: singles Kirkland 18-26 Sep, only report.
Hermit Thrush: 1 Clark Reservation 3 Sep, early; max 7 Kirkland 18 Sep.
Wood Thrush: max and last 4 Pratt's Falls 15 Sep.
Am. Robin: max 112 Spafford 5 Nov.
Gray Catbird: max 19 CM 3 Sep; last Kirkland 21 Nov, late.
N. Mockingbird: 2 Green Lakes SP 7 Sep, only report.
Brown Thrasher: Sep max of 2 several locations.
Am. Pipit: arr late Aug, 75 DL 19 Oct; max 200 Pulaski 8 Nov.
Cedar Waxwing: max 150 Pompey 29 Nov.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: 2 reports.
Tennessee Warbler: about 6 singles in Sep.
Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 DL 8 Sep, early and only report.
Nashville Warbler: max 3 New Hartford 15-21 Sep.
Northern Parula: arr Remsen 5 Sep; four singles only.
Yellow Warbler: 1 Clay 20 Sep, only report.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 4 New Hartford 10 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: max 8 Kirkland 7 Sep.

Cape May Warbler: 2 Whiskey Hollow 14 Sep; 1 Hastings 23 Sep, only reports.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 4 Kirkland 23 Sep.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 37 SVB 5 Oct.

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 15 DL 19 Sep.

Blackburnian Warbler: max 8 Remsen 5 Sep.

Pine Warbler: 6 Bear Springs Fulton 27 Sep at breeding site.

Prairie Warbler: singles Kirkland 7 Sep and Whiskey Hollow 16 Sep (MP, JB).

Palm Warbler: arr Kirkland 7 Sep; last Kirkland 22 Oct.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr Kirkland 4 Sep; max 4 SVB 9 Sep.

Cerulean Warbler: singles Whiskey Hollow and Pompey 17 Sep.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 4 ONEI 7 & 10 Sep.

Am. Redstart: max 5 New Hartford 10 Sep.

WORM-EATING WARBLER: 1 Pompey 15 Sep; second fall record (DN).

Ovenbird: 1 Pompey 14 Sep, only report.

Connecticut Warbler: 1 Paris 30 Sep (MP).

Mourning Warbler: last New Hartford 2 Sep.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 6 New Hartford 2 Sep.

Hooded Warbler: male with 2 fl Kirkland 7 Sep; adult there thru 23 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: max 3 New Hartford 6 Sep.

Canada Warbler: 3 reports of 4 individuals to 7 Sep.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 4 Kirkland 7 Sep.

E. Towhee: max 8 SVB 5 Oct; last SVB 24 Oct.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr CM 12 Oct; max 60 Redfield 9 Nov.

Chipping Sparrow: max 15 DL 22 Sep; 1 ad Stillwater Inn HERK 29 Nov, a bit far north.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: 1 West Monroe 24 Sep (BP), third fall record.

Field Sparrow: max 5 West Monroe 2 Oct; last Paris 23 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: max 3 Pompey 19 Sep; last Paris 20 Oct.

Savannah Sparrow: max 9 Pompey 20 Sep; last Fabius 18 Nov.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: 1 Hastings 4 Oct, first fall report since 1972 (BP).

Fox Sparrow: arr West Monroe 9 Oct; max 6 Verona 19 Oct; last Paris 19 Nov.

Song Sparrow: max 55 West Monroe 2 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Hastings 22 Sep; only 4 reports.

Swamp Sparrow: max 30 West Monroe 2 Oct, last WPd 4 Nov.

White-throated Sparrow: widespread 24 Sep - 11 Oct; max 150 Rome 9 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr DL 29 Sep; max 14 West Monroe 12 Oct.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 200 Pompey 1 Nov.

Lapland Longspur: 1 DL 31 Oct, only report.

Snow Bunting: arr 8 FH 26 Oct; max 96 FH 8 Nov.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 4 New Hartford 10 Sep.

Indigo Bunting: max 3 West Monroe 24 Sep; last there 2 Oct.

E. Meadowlark: max 10 Fulton 27 Sep; 1 Mexico 23 Nov.

Rusty Blackbird: arr CM and West Monroe 24 Sep, max 133 CM 15 Oct.

Com. Grackle: max 600 Hastings 1 Oct; 1 Boylston feeder 29 Nov, unusual.

Brown-headed Cowbird: imm Stillwater Inn HERK 29 Nov.

Baltimore Oriole: singles Camillus 3 Sep and N Syr 10 Sep.

Pine Grosbeak: arr Beaver River Station 9 Nov; max 12 Remsen 19 Nov.

Purple Finch: max 17 West Monroe 9 Oct.

Red Crossbill: max 7 Verona 13 Nov.

White-winged Crossbill: arr DH 21 Oct; max 40 Camillus 1 Nov; all other reports were of 7 or less.

Com. Redpoll: arr 5 FH 26 Oct; max 60 DH 11 Nov; many flocks of 30-60 reported, usually on the move.

Pine Siskin: arr Kirkland 9 Oct; max 30 SVB 24 Oct.

Evening Grosbeak: arr LOL 13 Oct; max 70 Boylston 9 Nov; widespread but nomadic.

EXOTICS

Ruddy Shelduck: 4 near Long I on Oneil
24 Sep.

Addendum: Kentucky Warbler - 1
Labrador Hollow Unique Area 23 May
1997.

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