

REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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After a very warm September, temperatures were near normal for the last two months of the season and precipitation was also average. Gary Lee reported that Adirondack weather was wet and cool, with temperatures below 40°F as early as 5 September, heavy frost on 9 October and snow beginning 17 October. At Syracuse, the September temperature was 66.9°, 5.6° above normal, with 3.58" of rain, 0.57" below normal. The average temperature in October was 50.4°, 0.3° above normal, and there was 3.98" of precipitation, 0.78" above normal, with only a trace of snow. The November temperature of 40.6° was 0.9° above normal and the 3.55" of precipitation was 0.22" below the average. There was 17.2" of snow for the month.

A **Brown Pelican** was seen several times along Lake Ontario and was identified as a juvenile, different from the one-year-old bird seen in August. The pelican was seen into late November and it was thought it could not survive much longer. There didn't seem to be any large numbers of dabbling ducks and some diving duck numbers were very low, especially Canvasback and Redhead. Those two species are generally more common on Skaneateles Lake and there were no reports received from that area. Late in the season there was a good Common Loon flight, a few Red-throated Loon and Red-necked Grebe reports and large numbers of Snow Geese. The Brant flight began early and was very spread out with no large one-day numbers. Unusual waterfowl were a Greater White-fronted Goose and a Barrow's Goldeneye. There were several Black-crowned Night-Herons at Onondaga Lake again and Great Egrets remained into October with the mild weather. No American Bitterns were reported.

Migrant hawk numbers were lower than some recent years, as hawkwatches in Oneida and Oswego counties received little coverage on days with favorable winds. There were few Rough-legged Hawks in the area by the end of the season, accipiter reports seemed to be much the same as in recent years and Bald Eagle was seen along most major waterways. There were several reports of less-common fall raptors such as Red-shouldered and Broad-winged hawks, Golden Eagle and Northern Goshawk. Merlin and Peregrine Falcon reports were good, a reflection of the increase of these species. However, American Kestrel numbers were low.

Mudflats at Redfield attracted shorebirds into early September but then dried out and became less productive. Delta Lake wasn't lowered until late August and never attracted the large numbers of the 1990s. A sod farm in Chittenango gave the Region the only sightings of American Golden-Plover and Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Purple Sandpipers were found only at Little Sodus Bay but remained for several weeks. Red Knot, Hudsonian Godwit and Red-necked Phalarope were all missed this season.

It was not a good year at Derby Hill for gulls, with only two Parasitic Jaegers, no Pomarine Jaegers and no rarities. Little Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake and Forster's Tern were seen at several sites. Both Iceland and Glaucous gulls arrived in late November. There were no Snowy Owls this season, and one of the two Long-eared Owls was a bird found dead on the roadside.

The mild September weather did not contribute much to passerine sightings as it seems we were often overflown; certainly, no one reported any fallouts. There were no unusual birds and many species were missed. Flycatcher reports were few, but there was a late Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and a record-late Great Crested Flycatcher. Swallow numbers were low and Purple Martin and Northern Rough-winged and Bank swallows were all missed. Matt Young did mention a good nighttime thrush flight in Georgetown and Matt Perry thought the warbler flight to be steady but with low numbers.

Only a few Northern Shrikes had been reported by the end of November and there were no Bohemian Waxwings. American Tree Sparrow numbers were low through November, but there were multiple reports of some of the less-common

sparrows such as Vesper, Savannah, Fox and Lincoln's plus Lapland Longspurs and two Grasshopper Sparrows. Indigo Bunting and Bobolink were not reported. There were almost no winter finch reports. A single Pine Siskin and two sightings of Evening Grosbeaks were the total. The few Purple Finches around had mostly departed by early November and even American Goldfinch was found in low numbers.

For the mostly uneventful fall season, a total of 218 species was seen. Highlights were **Brown Pelican**, Greater White-fronted Goose, Barrow's Goldeneye and Buff-breasted Sandpiper.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BRH – Bishop Road Hawkwatch, Pulaski; Bvllc – Baldwinsville; CM – Clay Marsh; DH – Derby Hill; DL – Delta L; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; HIWMA – Howland I WMA; LOL – L Ontario littoral; OneiL – Oneida L; OnonL – Onondaga L; SFWS – Spring Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, Kirkland; SPd – Sandy Pd; StM – Saint Mary's Cemetery, Dewitt; SVB – Sylvan and Verona Beaches; Syr – Syracuse; TRWMA – Three Rivers WMA.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr SPd 3 Nov; max 7 FH 30 Nov.

Com. Loon: max 329 DH 23 Nov; 19 OneiL T Sullivan 21 Nov, max away from LOL.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 6 OnonL 2 Nov; 3 Bvllc 27 Nov thru.

Horned Grebe: arr 2 DH 20 Oct; max 40 FH 3 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: arr 2 Toad Harbor 24 Oct; max 4 OneiL T Sullivan 3 Nov; Bvllc 29 Nov thru.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 420 Oswego 26 Oct.

BROWN PELICAN: Oswego 21-25 Oct; FH 26 Oct; Oswego 24-25 Nov; all thought to be same juv.

Great Blue Heron: to 20 per day DL in Sep; max 1-3 per day thru.

Great Egret: OnonL 12 Sep; DH 28 Sep; 2 Hastings 3 Oct; 2 DL to 7 Oct; last W Monroe 14 Oct.

Green Heron: only one per day to last SPd 12 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: to 3 per day OnonL thru Sep; last OnonL 6 Oct.

Turkey Vulture: max 61 BRH 20 Oct.

Snow Goose: 75 W Winfield 8 Oct and 27 Beaver L 15 Oct, earlier than most locations; max 12,000 DL after 20 Nov; other highs 500 Beaver L 19 Nov, 348 Pompey 24 Nov, 150 Mexico 29 Nov.

"Blue" Goose: max 10 W Winfield 8 Oct.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED

GOOSE: Woodman Pd 9 Nov (MY).

Canada Goose: flights of several thousand 28 Sep and 20 Oct; max 25,000 SVB 17 Nov.

Brant: arr 650 DH 28 Sep; max 1900 DH 19 Oct; 80 OnonL 20 Oct, uncommon away from L Ontario; no large numbers as flight seemed to be spread out.

Mute Swan: 2 FH thru; 2 T Sullivan 21 Nov.

Tundra Swan: arr 8 Woodman Pd 1 Nov; max 17 FH 30 Nov.

Wood Duck: max 25 DL 16 Sep; 1 leucistic DL 14 Sep; 3 SVB 8 Nov.

Gadwall: max 82 FH 3 Nov.

Am. Wigeon: max 240 FH 3 Nov.

Am. Black Duck: max 180 DH 19 Oct.

Mallard: max 454 Cicero 15 Oct.

Blue-winged Teal: max 95 DL 7 Sep; last 2 OnonL 19 Sep.

N. Shoveler: max 21 FH 3 Nov.

N. Pintail: max 71 DH 19 Oct.

Green-winged Teal: max 45 DL 7 Sep.

Canvasback: OnonL 2 Nov; DeRuyter Res 7 Nov.

Redhead: FH 25 Nov, only report.

Ring-necked Duck: max 200 DeRuyter Res 22 Nov.

Greater Scaup: max 1100 Toad Harbor 24 Oct.

Lesser Scaup: max 4 DH 5 Oct.

Surf Scoter: arr DH 5 Oct; max 9 Toad Harbor 24 Oct, but 80 dark-winged scoter sp DH 23 Nov.

White-winged Scoter: 155 DH 5 Oct; max 245 DH 23 Nov.

Black Scoter: max 20 DH 3 Nov; 6 OneiL 26 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: arr 238 DH 19 Oct; max 1490 DH 21 Nov.

Bufflehead: max 51 LOL 13 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: arr 19 DH 20 Oct.

Barrow's Goldeneye: male SVB after 24 Nov (BB).

Hooded Merganser: max 200 DL 10 Nov.

Com. Merganser: max 315 SVB 17 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 200 DH 23 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: 3 Bvile 28 Sep, early; max 22 Minoa 27 Oct.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: max 4 Oneida Lookout 28 Sep; 3 BRH 28 Sep; last Oneida R 13 Nov.

Bald Eagle: max 6 E LOL 28 Sep.

N. Harrier: max 6 E LOL 28 Sep.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 4 BRH 20 Oct.

Cooper's Hawk: max 5 E LOL 28 Sep.

N. Goshawk: Georgetown 22 Oct; DH 8 Nov.

Red-shouldered Hawk: max 2 Hastings 19 Sep; last CM 6 Oct.

Broad-winged Hawk: max 4 Hastings 23 Sep; last CM 6 Oct.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 58 BRH 23 Oct; dark morph Lysander 14 Nov (BH).

Rough-legged Hawk: arr Durhamville 12 Oct; scattered singles thru Nov.

Golden Eagle: SFWS 7 Nov; McKeever 15 Nov.

Am. Kestrel: max 4 Oneida Lookout 28 Sep.

Merlin: reports of 9 individuals.

Peregrine Falcon: Hastings 23 Sep; SPd 28 Sep; SFWS 4 Oct; 2 DH 5 Oct; SPd 3 Nov.

Am. Coot: max 6 SPd 3 Nov; 1 FH 3 Nov where 50-100 in past years.

Black-bellied Plover: max 5 SPd 22 Oct; last SPd 5 Nov.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr 2 Chittenango 8 Sep; max 6 Chittenango 13 Sep; not reported elsewhere.

Semipalmated Plover: max 20 DL 4 Sep; last 3 SPd 6 Oct.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 16 Redfield 1 Sep; last Sterling 12 Nov.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 30 DL 7 Sep; last DeRuyter Res 10 Nov.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 3 Redfield 14 Sep; last OnonL 25 Sep.

Spotted Sandpiper: 2-3 OnonL to 25 Sep; last Cicero 25 Oct.

Ruddy Turnstone: OnonL 12-25 Sep, only report.

Sanderling: max 68 SPd 2 Nov.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 20 SPd 24 Sep; last 2 FH 29 Sep.
Least Sandpiper: max 40 DL 4 Sep; last FH 29 Sep.
White-rumped Sandpiper: max 5 DL 7 Sep; last 2 SPd 2 Nov.
Baird's Sandpiper: 2 OnonL 1 Sep; Chittenango 8 Sep; DL 14 Sep.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 15 T Sullivan 3 Nov; last DeRuyter Res 10 Nov.
Purple Sandpiper: arr FH 27 Oct; 3 FH 12 Nov thru; max 5 FH 20 Nov.
Dunlin: arr 2 SPd 28 Sep; max 82 SPd 2 Nov; 53 FH 3 Nov.
Stilt Sandpiper: max 3 Redfield 1 Sep; 2 DL 13 Sep; 2 SPd 5 Oct.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Chittenango 8 Sep (TS, mob); 2 Chittenango 13 Sep (TS).
Short-billed Dowitcher: OnonL 1 Sep; 3 Lysander 2 Sep; last DL 25 Sep.
Wilson's Snipe: max 7 DL 7 Sep; last 6 DeRuyter Res 10 Nov.
Am. Woodcock: max 4 Georgetown 6 Sep; display Clinton 22 Oct; W Winfield 24 Oct; last SFWS 18 Nov.
Red Phalarope: SPd 2-5 Nov (BP, mob).
Parasitic Jaeger: DH 13 Oct (KM); DH 27 Oct (BP); poor flight.
Little Gull: 2 DH 23 Nov, only report.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 250 SVB 26 Sep; other highs: 54 Toad Harbor 24 Oct; 50 DL 10 Nov, a lot for that site; 61 DH 23 Nov.
Iceland Gull: arr Oswego 24 Nov.
Glaucous Gull: arr DH 23 Nov.
Black-legged Kittiwake: 3 DH 13 Oct; 5 DH 23 Nov, including 1 ad.
Caspian Tern: 6 SPd 28 Sep; last SPd 6 Oct.
Com. Tern: max 135 SVB 22 Sep; last SPd 6 Oct.
Forster's Tern: SPd 25 Sep-5 Oct; DH 6 Oct; FH 9 Nov; SPd 9 Nov.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: Canastota 1 Sep,

only report.

E. Screech-Owl: only 3 reported.

Great Horned Owl: pr calling Clinton 29 Sep; other reports from other sites.

Barred Owl: 2 Parish 28 Oct.

Long-eared Owl: HIWMA 7 Sep; Oriskany 28 Oct, dead.

Short-eared Owl: arr and max 2 Verona 2 Nov.

Com. Nighthawk: 3 Syr 1 Sep, only report.

Chimney Swift: last SFWS 21 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Georgetown, Durhamville 17 Sep.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 4 DL 22 Sep; about 7 other reports to last StM 12 Oct.

N. Flicker: max only 5 per day.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Westdale 1 Sep, only report.

E. Wood-Pewee: last Cicero and SFWS 22 Sep.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Pompey 28 Sep; last DH 5 Oct, late.

Least Flycatcher: last DL 14 Sep.

E. Phoebe: max 9 DH 20 Oct; last Leland Pd 10 Nov.

Great Crested Flycatcher: last Canastota 12 Oct, record late.

E. Kingbird: last 2 W Winfield 2 Sep.

N. Shrike: arr T Lenox 27 Oct; reports from 4 other sites.

Yellow-throated Vireo: 3 singles; last 2 SFWS 13 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 4 Brookfield 12 Oct; last W Winfield 23 Oct.

Warbling Vireo: max 3 DL 7 Sep; 3 Westdale 8 Sep; last DL 14 Sep.

Philadelphia Vireo: 5 singles; last SFWS 26 Sep.

Red-eyed Vireo: only 2 per day noted; last Brookfield 12 Oct.

Blue Jay: max 80 Hastings 24 Sep, only migrants reported.

Com. Raven: 1-2 per day S MADI.

Horned Lark: max 500 Van Buren 29

Nov.

Tree Swallow: last 4 Oneil 4 Nov.

Cliff Swallow: Pompey 12 Sep.

Barn Swallow: max 10 Cicero 1 Sep; last LOL 4 Oct.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 13 Pratt's Falls 14 Sep; 8 TRWMA 20 Sep.

Brown Creeper: max 3 DH 20 Oct.

Carolina Wren: Georgetown 6 Sep, at high elevation.

House Wren: last DH and CM 5 Oct.

Winter Wren: max 4 per day 8-20 Oct.

Marsh Wren: Bville 28 Sep; 2 CM 6 Oct.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 16 Cicero 24 Oct.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 30 DH 20 Oct.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 3 singles; last SFWS 16 Sep.

E. Bluebird: max 24 Pompey 24 Nov.

Veery: max and last 4 Whiskey Hollow 8 Sep.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: 3 Georgetown 17 Sep; last Van Buren 5 Oct.

Swainson's Thrush: arr Georgetown 6 Sep; max 10 Georgetown 17 Sep; last Van Buren 5 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: max 5 DH 20 Oct; 5 SFWS 21 Oct.

Wood Thrush: max 4 Whiskey Hollow 8 Sep; last Georgetown 17 Sep.

Gray Catbird: max 13 StM 14 Sep; 3 Hastings 30 Sep; 2 DH 5 Oct.

Brown Thrasher: max 2 Van Buren 28 Sep; 2 DH 5 Oct; last DH 19 Oct.

Am. Pipit: arr 3 SPd 28 Sep; 100-200 per day E shore L Ontario 12-31 Oct; 200 Van Buren 20 Oct.

Cedar Waxwing: max 116 Marshall/Brookfield 12 Oct.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: last HIWMA 7 Sep.

Golden-winged Warbler: last HIWMA 7 Sep.

Tennessee Warbler: only 5 reports with last CM 29 Sep.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Cicero 22 Sep (DN), only report.

Nashville Warbler: max 4 Sunset Bay 5 Oct; last Hastings 10 Oct.

N. Parula: max 3 SFWS 24 Sep; last TRWMA 30 Sep.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 3 Hastings 14 Sep; last Hastings 22 Sep.

Magnolia Warbler: max 8 SFWS 24 Sep; last 2 DH 5 Oct.

Cape May Warbler: HIWMA 7 Sep; Pompey 15 Sep; Sunset Bay 5 Oct.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max only 1-2 per day to last Sunset Bay and Labrador Hollow 5 Oct.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 20 Sunset Bay 5 Oct; last SFWS 30 Oct.

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 10 SFWS 25 Sep; last TRWMA 8 Oct.

Blackburnian Warbler: last Pratt's Falls 14 Sep.

Pine Warbler: Verona 13 Sep, only report.

Palm Warbler: only 5 reports; last SFWS 28 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last 2 SFWS 16 Sep.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 10 SFWS 16 Sep; last Hastings 10 Oct.

Cerulean Warbler: Van Buren 1 Sep; HIWMA 7 Sep.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 2 Pratt's Falls 14 Sep; 2 Sunset Bay 5 Oct.

Am. Redstart: max 4 Pratt's Falls 14 Sep; last FH 29 Sep.

Ovenbird: SFWS 8 Sep; Hastings 9 Sep; Pratt's Falls 14 Sep.

N. Waterthrush: Camillus 22 Sep, only report.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 10 SFWS 24 Sep; last SPd 6 Oct.

Hooded Warbler: 6 reports; last Whiskey Hollow 28 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: 5 singles, last SFWS 25 Sep.

Canada Warbler: HIWMA 7 Sep, only report.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 3 SFWS 18 Sep; last SFWS 22 Sep.

E. Towhee: max 3 TRWMA 8 Oct; last 2 Cicero 24 Oct.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr DH 20 Oct; max 25 W Monroe 5 Nov; generally low numbers.

Chipping Sparrow: max 40 Williamstown 8 Sep; 16 DH 5 Oct; last SFWS Clinton 29 Nov.

Field Sparrow: max and last 5 Pompey 24 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: Sullivan mucklands 20 Oct; 2 Van Buren 24 Oct; Richland 27 Oct.

Savannah Sparrow: max 13 Pompey 15 Sep; 5 other singles; last 2 Richland 25 Oct.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 2 Pompey 11 Sep (DN), uncommon in fall.

Fox Sparrow: arr SWFS 7 Oct, early; max 4 Hastings 22 Oct; widespread reports 6-7 Nov; last 3 Williamstown 24 Nov.

Song Sparrow: max 45 Sullivan mucklands 20 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Hastings 25 Sep; about 9 other singles; last FH 29 Oct.

Swamp Sparrow: max 4 CM 28 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: max 75 SFWS 8 Oct; 45 DH 20 Oct; 48 CM 30 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Van Buren 28 Sep; max 10 DH and 10 Sullivan mucklands 20 Oct; last DH 23 Nov.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 45 DH 20 Oct.

Lapland Longspur: Van Buren 27 Oct; 2 Fabius 30 Oct; Van Buren 3 Nov; max 15 DH 23 Nov.

Snow Bunting: arr LOL 29 Oct; max 450 FH 12 Nov.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 3 SFWS 23 Sep; last Van Buren 28 Sep.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 2650 CM 20 Oct.

E. Meadowlark: max 16 Durhamville 12 Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 6 W Monroe 22 Sep; max 30-40 per day thru early Nov.

Com. Grackle: max 2475 Pompey 11 Sep.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 36 N Syr 19 Oct.

Baltimore Oriole: Pompey 5 Sep, only report.

Purple Finch: common at SFWS in Sep; 1-2 per day Georgetown in Oct.

House Finch: max 22 Cicero 24 Oct; generally not reported.

Pine Siskin: Georgetown 15 Nov, only report.

Am. Goldfinch: max 56 Pompey 12 Sep; usually no more than 10 per day Oct & Nov.

Evening Grosbeak: 7 Tully 20 & 26 Nov (NG), only reports.

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