

REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The season was warmer than usual and also dryer than average, but heavy rain events in September and October did put a lot of birds down. The water level at Delta Lake remained quite high through the season and few shorebirds were seen there. Lake Ontario also remained high, with less exposed shore at Sandy Pond. Adirondack lakes were still open at the end of November.

The average temperature in September was 65.0° F, 3.7° above the average, and there were 3.23" of rain, 0.92" below normal. For October, the average temperature was 51.4°, 1.3° warmer than normal, and there were 2.29" of rain, 0.91" below normal. The average temperature in November was 41.1°, 1.2° above normal, with 2.81" of precipitation, 0.96" below normal, and there was a relatively low 2.6" of snow for the month.

The waterfowl flight was fair at best. Brant, dabbling ducks and scoters migrate past Derby Hill on strong cold fronts in October but there were none for the month until the 31st; numbers for those species were low. That was also true for Snow Goose and many divers. Only a few Canvasbacks and Redheads were reported and Common Mergansers were scarcely reported, possibly due to the mild fall or simply observer indifference. Black Scoters were found at several inland sites. The rarities included three Greater White-fronted Geese, Ross's Goose and Eurasian Wigeon. Several Cackling Geese, recently split from Canada Goose, were reported and photographed, with reports submitted to NYSARC. There seems to be some uncertainty as to whether or not all small forms of Canada Goose constitute the new species. Observers are encouraged to submit details, and especially photographs, with all reports.

Red-throated Loon sightings were more frequent on Lake Ontario and Common Loon numbers were good at two inland sites. A Glossy Ibis was seen and Great Egrets continued the recent trend of lingering well into the season. A few more Red-shouldered Hawks were seen than in most recent years. There was one early Rough-legged Hawk. Few American Kestrels were seen while most other hawk numbers were unremarkable.

Shorebird numbers were very good in early September and low through the rest of the season, suggesting a poor breeding season. Over 2" of rain on 8-9 September put down a record number of White-rumped Sandpipers along with Hudsonian Godwit and Ruddy Turnstones. A sod farm and nearby flooded fields attracted Black-bellied Plover and American Golden-Plover, Baird's, White-rumped and Buff-breasted sandpipers. There were two Red Knots later in the season, with smaller than usual numbers of Black-bellied Plover, Dunlin and Sanderling. Purple Sandpiper was not found and no phalaropes were reported.

There were several days with good jaeger flights at Derby Hill, mostly Parasitics, as usual, and there was an additional Pomarine Jaeger flying past Oswego Harbor. Several Little Gulls and Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen, but

only one white-winged gull was seen by season's end. No Forster's or Black terns were seen.

The land bird migration might be called a steady trickle. There were several Snowy Owls in November but none lingered. Chimney Swift reports were few and numbers very low, probably due to no one checking likely roost sites in September. There was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, several Common Nighthawks, two Red-headed Woodpeckers, an Olive-sided Flycatcher and possibly the beginning of a good Northern Shrike year. Carolina Wren is doing well despite two severe winters. Swallow numbers were low, with Purple Martin, Northern Rough-winged, Bank and Cliff swallows not reported at all. Other species missed included Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Bohemian Waxwing and Lapland Longspur.

All of the warblers normally expected in fall were reported, but numbers were generally low. A Yellow-breasted Chat was the only unexpected passerine. An exception to the migration trickle occurred during wet weather on 20-21 October when large numbers of sparrows and Yellow-rumped Warblers were grounded.

If Red-breasted Nuthatches interrupted this season, they seemed to confine their movements to breeding areas since few were reported elsewhere. A few Pine Siskins that were present in the spring stayed into September and there was a limited movement of the species at the end of October. Small numbers of Common Redpolls arrived in November, but none lingered. There was only one sighting of Evening Grosbeaks. Pine Grosbeak and crossbills were not reported.

For the season, 223 species were reported, on the low side of average. The major rarities were Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross's Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Glossy Ibis and Yellow-breasted Chat. Other good sightings of species that are almost annual included Hudsonian Godwit, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Little Gull and Black-legged Kittiwake. Time will tell, but in the future, Cackling Goose may well fit the latter category.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

Adks – Adirondacks; Bvll – Baldwinsville; BRH – Bishop Rd hawkwatch, Pulaski; CM – Clay Marsh; DH – Derby Hill; DL – Delta L; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; Geo – Georgetown; GSC – Great Swamp Conservancy MADI; HIWMA – Howland Island WMA; H VWMA – Happy Valley WMA, Rome; LOL – L Ontario Littoral; OF – Old Forge area; OneiL – Oneida L; OnonL – Onondaga L; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary,

Kirkland; SL – Sullivan-Lenox mucklands; SPd – Sandy Pd; Syr – Syracuse; TRWMA – Three Rivers WMA; WM – West Monroe; WPd – Woodman Pd, HAMI.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose:

Sangerfield 10 Oct (GH) and Sauquoit 15-18 Oct (JH), thought to be same bird; 2 Bville 17-28 Oct (JB, mob).

Snow Goose: max 1500 Lakeport 24 Oct; many other reports under 200/day.

ROSS'S GOOSE: Sauquoit 23 Oct (JH, GH, NYSARC).

Brant: max 200 DH 4 Oct; night flight 27-28 Oct.

CACKLING GOOSE: Bville 23 Sep-2 Oct (JB, mob); Sauquoit 14-18 Oct (JH); 2 Sauquoit 23 Oct; 3 Verona 14 Nov.

Canada Goose: many Adks 28-29 Sep; 1448 over Syr 11-12 Oct

Mute Swan: max 4 FH 3 Nov thru.

Tundra Swan: max 14 FH 13 Nov.

Wood Duck: max 20 W Winfield 9 Oct; Stillwater Res 14 Nov, late Adks.

Gadwall: max 26 FH 7 Nov.

EURASIAN WIGEON: GSC 3-5 Sep (DW, mob).

Am. Wigeon: max 100 FH 31 Oct.

Am. Black Duck: max 107 DH 3 Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: max 20 DL 13 Sep; last DH 17 Oct.

N. Shoveler: GSC 5 Sep; max 8 FH 16 Oct.

N. Pintail: max 20 FH 14 Oct.

Green-winged Teal: Verona 4 Sep; max 30 FH 14 Oct.

Canvasback: 2 WPd 7 Nov; FH 26 Nov; only reports.

Redhead: FH 7 Nov, only report.

Ring-necked Duck: max 253 S MADI lakes 7 Nov.

Greater Scaup: max 320 Lewis Pt OneiL 4 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: 4 DH 31 Oct.

scaup sp: 2500 N Bay OneiL 26 Nov.

Surf Scoter: 2 DH 31 Oct; 12 DH 7 Nov.

White-winged Scoter: max 156 DH 31 Oct.

Black Scoter: 26 Chitting L 27 Oct; 55 Tuscorara L 28 Oct; 9 W Winfield 28 Oct, high numbers away from LOL; 23 DH 31 Oct.

Long-tailed Duck: max 540 DH 31 Oct.

Bufflehead: 8 SPd 23 Oct; max 90 FH 21 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: SPd 13 Sep, summer holdover; arr 5 DH 31 Oct; max 500 N Bay OneiL 26 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: max 25/day DL Nov.

Com. Merganser: max 95 SVB 26 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 500 FH 11 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: 5 Beaver L 14 Oct; max 13 WPd 16 Oct.

Ruffed Grouse: widespread Stillwater Res 13-15 Nov; 1-2/day elsewhere.

Red-throated Loon: 4-10/day LOL after 14 Oct; max 27 FH 11 Nov; better numbers than usual.

Com. Loon: 40 OneiL 21 Oct; max 139 DH 31 Oct; 100 Onon L 26 Nov; good numbers.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 7 FH 16 Oct.

Horned Grebe: arr 3 FH 14 Oct; max 28 DH 7 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: 3 DH 1 Nov; 2 DH 20 Nov; WPd 27 Nov.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 1300 Oswego 24 Oct; <50/day end of Nov.

Great Egret: max 4 WM 9 Sep; last Ira 2 Nov.

Green Heron: max 4 WM 23 Sep.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: SPd 26 Sep, only report.

GLOSSY IBIS: SL 2-3 Sep (JM, KM, JC).

Turkey Vulture: 65 LOL 9 Oct, many feeding on salmon washed on shore; max 174 BRH 11 Oct.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: max 6 BRH 18 Sep; last Beaver L & W Winfield 31 Oct.
Bald Eagle: max 5 Stillwater Res 14 Nov; 2-3/day LOL thru.
N. Harrier: max 4 BRH 18 Sep.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 4 BRH 18 Sep, 11 Oct.
Cooper's Hawk: max 3 BRH 18 Sep.
N. Goshawk: Syr 2 Sep; CM 20 Oct; SFNS 9 Nov; Geo 12 Nov.
Red-shouldered Hawk: max 2 Hastings 22 Oct; 4 other singles to 20 Nov.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 119 BRH 18 Sep; last W Winfield 18 Oct.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 68 Hastings 22 Oct.
Rough-legged Hawk: BRH 26 Sep, 3rd Sep record; max 5 SPd 23 Oct; 1/day many sites 24 Oct thru.
Golden Eagle: Stillwater Res 13 Nov.
Merlin: 7 reports to 15 Sep; 2 each Oct & Nov.
Peregrine Falcon: SL 4-6 Sep; 2 DH 10 Oct; Utica 27 Oct; pr Syr thru.
Sora: CM 20 Oct.
Com. Moorhen: max 2 WM 23 Sep; last WM 11 Oct.
Am. Coot: max 50 FH 14 Oct.
Black-bellied Plover: 12 SL 10 Sep; max 19 SL 24 Oct; last 4 FH 3 Nov.
Am. Golden-Plover: max 60 SL 13 Sep; last 15 SL 17 Oct.
Semipalmated Plover: max 30 SL 13 Sep.
Killdeer: max 80 Verona 6 Sep.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 12 Verona 9 Sep; 5 SPd 23 Oct.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 30 SL 4, 13 Sep; last 2 Cicero 28 Sep.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 5 SL 10 Sep; last SFNS 28 Sep.
Spotted Sandpiper: 1-2 SL to 4 Sep; last SPd 26 Sep.
Hudsonian Godwit: Verona 9 Sep (BB); 2 SPd 23 Oct (BP).
Ruddy Turnstone: SPd 3 Sep; max 4 Verona 9 Sep.
Red Knot: SL 10 Sep; 2 FH 24-31 Oct.

Sanderling: max 30 SPd 4 Sep; 2 SL 1 Sep and 3 Verona 9 Sep, unusual in fields.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 52 Sullivan 10 Sep; last 2 DL 4 Oct.
Least Sandpiper: max 45 SL 10 Sep; last SL 25 Oct, late.
White-rumped Sandpiper: 15-40/day SL thru 8 Sep; 68 Verona 9 Sep (BB); max 70 SL 10 Sep (TS); unprecedented numbers.
Baird's Sandpiper: SL 11 Sep; max & last 5 SL 18 Sep.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 24 SL 13 Sep; last 4 Lamson 28 Oct.
Dunlin: max 94 DH 5 Nov.
Stilt Sandpiper: singles SL 5 & 22 Sep.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 1-2 SL 5-19 Sep.
Short-billed Dowitcher: 2 SL 13 Sep, only report.
Wilson's Snipe: max 12 SL 4 Sep; SFNS 20 Oct.
Am. Woodcock: TRWMA 2 Oct; SFNS 1 Nov.
Pomarine Jaeger: DH 19 Sep, 31 Oct, 5 Nov, 8 Nov; Oswego 21 Nov.
Parasitic Jaeger: arr & max 8 DH 19 Sep; 23 for season with last 6 DH 5 Nov.
Little Gull: ad SPd 13 Sep; imm DH 5 Nov; ad DH 8 Nov; ad FH 11 Nov.
Bonaparte's Gull: 10 SPd 13 Sep; 91 SVB 30 Oct; max 113 DH 5 Nov.
Iceland Gull: arr DH 5 Nov.
Black-legged Kittiwake: 3 DH 31 Oct; 4 DH 5 Nov.
Caspian Tern: max 22 SPd 3 Sep; last 2 SPd 25 Sep.
Com. Tern: max 206 Oneil 8 Sep; 100 SPd 13 Sep.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: Pompey 5 Sep.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Bville 8 Sep.
Snowy Owl: FH 9-11 Nov; Syr 12 Nov; Verona 15 Nov.
Short-eared Owl: Verona 14 Nov.
N. Saw-whet Owl: DH 19 Sep.

Com. Nighthawk: max 3 Syr 3 Sep; last Syr 11 Sep.

Chimney Swift: 5 Syr 3 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Geo 24 Sep.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Geo 2 Oct; Pennellville 2 Oct; OF 23 Oct (GL), rare Adks.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 4 Pompey 3 Oct; last Syr 27 Nov.

Black-backed Woodpecker: Stillwater Res 14 Nov.

N. Flicker: max 8 Syr 16 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: SVB 5 Sep.

E. Wood-Pewee: last Fulton 8 Oct.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: SFNS 3 Sep.

Least Flycatcher: last 1 Hastings & 2 SFNS 15 Sep.

E. Phoebe: max 3 Geo 24 Sep; last Durhanville 25 Oct.

Great Crested Flycatcher: last SFNS 15 Sep; 2 other reports.

N. Shrike: arr TRWMA 18 Oct; reports from 7 other sites.

Yellow-throated Vireo: last WM 23 Sep; 2 other reports.

Blue-headed Vireo: 3-4/day 23-30 Sep; last TRWMA & SFNS 20 Oct.

Warbling Vireo: last 2 Clay 12 Sep; 2 other reports.

Philadelphia Vireo: Syr 11 Sep; Bville 12 Sep; Camillus 30 Sep; SFNS 20 Oct.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 3 Scriba 19 Sep; last SFNS 6 Oct.

Blue Jay: max 348 Hastings 21 Sep in 90 minutes.

Fish Crow: 2 ad & 1 yg Liverpool 2 Sep.

Com. Raven: SVB 25 Sep; Rome 7 Oct; Cicero 25 Nov; low numbers Stillwater Res.

Horned Lark: max 100 Bridgewater 10 Nov.

Tree Swallow: last 4 Durhamville 9 Oct.

Barn Swallow: last FH 7-11 Nov (GD,

KM, MAK), record late.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 11 HVWMA 1 Sep, likely local breeders; 1/day otherwise.

Carolina Wren: reports from 5-6 sites Syr, Dewitt, Bville, Fulton, Hannibal.

House Wren: max 5 SPd 26 Sep; last TRWMA 20 Oct.

Winter Wren: max 5 Syr 16 Oct.

Marsh Wren: WM 23 Sep; SVB 25 Sep; CM 3 Oct; 2 WPd 16 Oct.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 14 SPd 26 Sep.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Western 5 Sep, early; max 40 SPd 26 Sep.

E. Bluebird: migrants after 14 Oct; 12 Thendara 15 Oct; max 18 Sterling 24 Oct.

Veery: 2 HIWMA 5 Sep, only report.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: 3 night migrants Geo 29 Sep; last CM 20 Oct.

Swainson's Thrush: night flight 13 Sep; last 2 CM 20 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: max 6 SFNS 20 Oct; last SFNS 8 Nov.

Wood Thrush: max 4 HVWMA 1 Sep; last SVB 2 Oct.

Gray Catbird: max 12 WM 23 Sep & 12 CM 26 Sep; last Cicero 22 Oct.

Brown Thrasher: max 4 SFNS 15 Sep; last CM 26 Sep.

Am. Pipit: max 50 SL 18 Sep & 50 Van Buren 16 Oct.

Cedar Waxwing: max 90 Sterling 21 Nov.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: SFNS 1 Sep.

Golden-winged Warbler: Wheeler Pd OF 2 Sep.

Tennessee Warbler: 1/day to last SFNS 26 Sep.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Camillus 17 Sep; Hastings 28 Sep; TRWMA 18 Oct.

Nashville Warbler: max 5 SFNS 15 Sep; last TRWMA 18 Oct.

N. Parula: 3 singles 12-17 Sep; last 2 SPd 26 Sep.

Yellow Warbler: last 2 Scriba 19 Sep.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: 3 singles to 11 Sep.

Magnolia Warbler: max 5 SFNS 18 Sep; last 4 SPd 26 Sep.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 8 SPd 26 Sep; last SFNS 21 Oct.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 80

Hannibal 20 Oct; last Sterling 21 Nov.

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 6 SFNS 27 Sep; last 2 Scriba 6 Oct.

Blackburnian Warbler: Hastings 15 Sep; Scriba 19 Sep.

Pine Warbler: HVWMA 1 Sep; TRWMA 25 Sep.

Palm Warbler: 7 singles reported; last WM 11 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: SFNS 18 Sep.

Blackpoll Warbler: SFNS 12 Sep; Scriba 19 Sep; Hastings 28 Sep.

Cerulean Warbler: HIWMA 5 Sep.

Black-and-white Warbler: 4 reports; last SFNS 13 Sep.

Am. Redstart: 1-2/day many sites; last SVB 25 Sep.

Ovenbird: last New Haven 6 Oct.

N. Waterthrush: Wheeler Pd OF 2 Sep; last Camillus 17 Sep.

Mourning Warbler: SFNS 1 Sep.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 6 SFNS 22, 27 Sep; last TRWMA 20 Oct.

Hooded Warbler: last 2 Nine Mile Pt 6 Oct, late.

Wilson's Warbler: 1-2/day to 26 Sep; last TRWMA 2 Oct.

Canada Warbler: Western 4 Sep.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: CM 3 Oct (DN).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: last SFNS 26 Sep.

E. Towhee: max 5 TRWMA 18 Oct; last Durhamville 24 Oct.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr TRWMA, Hannibal 20 Oct; max 8 Western 11 Nov.

Chipping Sparrow: max 76 Clay 12 Sep; 24 Sterling 24 Oct.

Field Sparrow: max 10 TRWMA 18 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: max 3 TRWMA 20 Oct & 3 Pompey 24 Oct.

Savannah Sparrow: max 50 Hannibal 20 Oct.

Fox Sparrow: arr SFNS 11 Oct; max 9 TRWMA 20 Oct; last SFNS 24 Nov.

Song Sparrow: max 300 Hannibal 20 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Hastings 15 Sep; last 2 TRWMA 18 Oct; 4 other reports.

Swamp Sparrow: max 50 Hannibal 20 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: max 200 Hannibal; 177 CM 20 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Scriba 19 Sep; max 20 TRWMA 18 Oct & 20 Geo 21 Oct; low numbers most sites.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 200 Hannibal 20 Oct; 50 Western 20 Oct; 37 N Syr 20 Oct; 80 Geo 21 Oct; 40 Hastings 21 Oct.

Snow Bunting: arr 15 SVB 30 Oct; max 50 FH 21 Nov.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 3 SFNS 16 Sep; last Durhamville 26 Sep.

Indigo Bunting: last SFNS 3 Oct.

Bobolink: last SFNS 19 Sep.

E. Meadowlark: max 20 Mexico 17-22 Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: arr WM 23 Sep; max 92 CM 20 Oct.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 450 Sullivan 4 Sep.

Baltimore Oriole: last Liverpool 29 Sep.

Purple Finch: to 5/day, widespread..

House Finch: Stillwater Res 13 Nov, rare Adks.

Com. Redpoll: 3 CM 14 Nov; 20 DH 13 Nov.

Pine Siskin: still present Geo thru Sep; 1-5 many sites after 9 Oct; max 15 Western 4 Nov.

Am. Goldfinch: max 85 Durhamville 9 Oct.

Evening Grosbeak: 2 Geo 1 Nov.