

REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The season was slightly warmer and wetter than normal. The average temperature for September was 63.1° F., 1.8° above normal, with 5.26" precipitation, 1.11" above normal. October's averages were 51.3° F, 1.2° above normal, and 4.10" of precipitation, 0.90" above normal. The November average temperature was 40.8°, 1.1° above normal, with 2.93" of precipitation, 0.84" below normal. Smaller Adirondack lakes were freezing by 25 November.

The water level at Delta Lake remained high into September affecting numbers of waterfowl, especially teal, shorebirds, and Great Egret. Snow Geese were uncommon through the season, waiting for December cold fronts to move through, while Brant numbers were good, with about 4100 moving past Derby Hill over the last half of October. Cackling Geese were reported from three sites. Few Blue-winged Teal were noted away from Howland Island, and, overall, counts of dabbling and diving ducks were not high even though there was good opportunity for migration on and following several October cold fronts.

There was only a single Canvasback reported, and the large flock of scaup and Common Goldeneye seen in recent years at the east end of Oneida Lake never materialized. There was a record count of Black Scoters on Onondaga Lake and one good flight of White-winged Scoters at Derby Hill. Red-necked Grebes were seen over most of season. Cattle Egrets invaded southern Oneida County as Jody Hildreth found at least three, and possibly as many as five, in late October. Single Black-crowned Night-Herons were seen at three locations.

The prevailing northwest winds this season did little to concentrate southbound hawks moving through our area. Two of the best days for raptors came on south winds at Derby Hill; on 3 September a juvenile **Mississippi Kite** came by with several other species of dispersing hawks and on 14 November ten Rough-legged Hawks moved past. Three Golden Eagles were reported over the season, while Merlin and Peregrine Falcon were reported in expected numbers.

Common Moorhen and American Coot were the only rails found, and the single Sandhill Crane report was from Howland Island, adjacent to a Region 2 breeding site. Other than our sod farm and the Lake Ontario barrier beach, there was not much shorebird habitat, and counts for most species were low. Buff-breasted Sandpiper at the sod farm and Purple Sandpiper at Fair Haven were at

their usual locations, and two Red Phalaropes were spotted on Lake Ontario. Red Knot was missed this year.

Little Gull was seen several times, and one was in southern Madison County where the small lakes and reservoirs can attract and hold migrants. All three jaeger species were reported this season, with Parasitic Jaeger seen on many days and **three Long-tailed Jaegers** reported on 16 October at Derby Hill. A report was filed with NYSARC for the sighting. Lesser Black-backed and Iceland Gulls were found at the Madison County landfill, and Glaucous Gulls were seen at Derby Hill.

Cave Swallows arrived with the typical weather pattern in late October. A Regional record of **21** came past Derby Hill on 26 October, and lingering birds were seen into November. The poor cone crop prompted Red-breasted Nuthatch to move out of northern breeding areas. Tom Salo found none at the east end of Stillwater Reservoir over three days in November, although he did have 2 Gray Jays there. Ken Burdick reported juvenile Least Flycatcher and a Warbling Vireo begging for food at Fair Haven as late as 19 September.

More people spent time looking for warblers this fall than in recent years, and there were many reports of the common migrants. A Yellow-throated Warbler and a late Wilson's Warbler were found during a NYSOA field trip in October, and a carefully described Prothonotary Warbler was found in Syracuse. Sparrow migration was mostly unremarkable except for Vesper Sparrow numbers along Lake Ontario.

A male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was a nice find on Howland Island during the Montezuma Muckrace. The single White-winged Crossbill was a long way from any substantial cone crop, while Common Redpolls were just getting here by season's end. Pine Siskins, mostly in small flocks, came through starting in mid-October and had peaked by mid-November. Evening Grosbeaks were appearing at higher elevations in November.

A total of 235 species was seen this season, seven species more than the recent ten year average. Highlights included: Cattle Egret, **Mississippi Kite**, Red Phalarope, Long-tailed Jaeger, Olive-sided Flycatcher, **Cave Swallow**, Bohemian Waxwing, Yellow-throated Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, **Yellow-headed Blackbird**, and Evening Grosbeak.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BRH – Bishop Road Hawk Watch, T Richland; CM – Clay Marsh; DH – Derby Hill; Dvl – Durhamville; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; GLSP – Green Lakes State Park; GSC – Great Swamp Conservancy, n. MADI; HI – Howland Island WMA; MCL – Madison County landfill, T Lincoln; NMP – Nine Mile Point, T's Scriba and New Haven; OneiL – Oneida Lake; OnonL – Onondaga Lake; SHF – Sky High Sod Farms, T Sullivan; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; Skan – Skaneateles; SL – T's Sullivan & Lenox mucklands; SPd – Sandy Pond; SVB – Sylvan and Verona Beach; Syr – Syracuse; TR – Three Rivers WMA; UM – Utica Marsh; VB – Van Buren; WM – West Monroe; WPd – Woodman Pond, Hamilton.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr OnonL 14 Sep; 31 WPd 6 Oct; max 58 Skan 28 Nov.
Brant: max 1985 DH 16 Oct; 30 W Winfield 4 Oct, unusual inland.
Cackling Goose: VB 11 Oct; 2 WPd 25 Oct; FH 31 Oct.
Mute Swan: max 18 FH 19 Oct.
Tundra Swan: max 103 OneiL 18 Nov.
Wood Duck: max 440 WM 5 Sep.
Gadwall: max 21 DH 27 Nov.
Am. Wigeon: max 50 FH 20 Nov.
Am. Black Duck: max 202 DH 16 Oct.
Blue-winged Teal: max 65 HI 11 Sep; last UM 25 Nov.
N. Shoveler: max 25 FH 7 Nov.
N. Pintail: max 82 DH 25 Sep.
Green-winged Teal: max 24 UM 25 Nov.
Canvasback: WPd 9 Nov, only report.
Redhead: arr 3 FH 16 Oct; max 17 Skan 28 Nov.
Ring-necked Duck: max 148 Tully 29 Oct.
Greater Scaup: max 45 DH 27 Nov.
Lesser Scaup: max 80 OnonL 9 Nov.
King Eider: DH 26 Nov (KM).
Surf Scoter: max 15 DH 28 Oct.
White-winged Scoter: max 424 DH 16 Oct.
Black Scoter: max 200 OnonL 6 Nov (PR).
Long-tailed Duck: arr DH 16 Oct; max 423 DH 20 Nov.
Bufflehead: max 58 Skan L 31 Oct.
Com. Goldeneye: arr DH 30 Oct; max 72 OneiL 18 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: max 100 Hatch L 28 Nov.
Com. Merganser: max 214 Tuscorora L 29 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 230 DH 30 Oct.
Ruddy Duck: max 50 WPd 18 Nov.
N. Bobwhite: GSC 8 Sep, 26 Oct, probable release.
Red-throated Loon: max 11 DH 20 Nov.
Com. Loon: max 106 DH 20 Nov.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 7 WPd 1 Oct.

Horned Grebe: arr 2 DH 25 Sep; max 67 Sterling 14 Nov.
Red-necked Grebe: arr 2 DH 14 Sep; max 7 OnonL 9 Nov.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 290 Oswego 30 Oct.
Great Egret: reports from 9 sites; last W Winfield 7 Oct.
Cattle Egret: 2 Sauquoit 26 Oct; Marshall 27 Oct; 3 Waterville 29 Oct (all JH).
Green Heron: max 21 WM 5 Sep; last 2 W Winfield 2 Oct.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: VB 4 Sep; SPd 18 Sep; OnonL 24 Oct.
Turkey Vulture: 71 DH 25 Sep; max 450 BRH 3 Oct.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: max 18 BRH 17 Sep; last OneiL 16 Nov.
MISSISSIPPI KITE: imm DH 3 Sep (TC ph BP, NYSARC), 3d Regional and first fall record.
Bald Eagle: max 26 BRH 17 Sep.
N. Harrier: max 7 BRH 17 Sep.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 28 BRH 17 Sep.
Cooper's Hawk: 2/day Sep; max 6 DH 26 Oct.
N. Goshawk: BRH 6 Nov.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 7 scattered reports.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 255 BRH 17 Sep.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 43 BRH 6 Nov.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr BRH 3 Oct; max 4 Richland 31 Oct and BRH 6 Nov.
Golden Eagle: DH 26 Oct; GSC 26 Oct; SFNS 10 Nov.
Am. Kestrel: max 11 Richland 24 Sep.
Merlin: max 2/day thru; Third L Creek 29 Nov, late for Adks.
Peregrine Falcon: BRH 19 Sep; BRH 3 Oct; VB 6 Nov; FH 11 Nov.
Com. Moorhen: max 50 Volney 4 Sep.
Am. Coot: max 136 FH 7 Nov.
Sandhill Crane: HI 11 Sep, only report.
Black-bellied Plover: max 11 SPd 10 Oct.

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Am. Golden-Plover: max 10 SHF 3 Sep; last DH 28 Oct.
Semipalmated Plover: max 8 FH 19 Sep.
Killdeer: max 38 SHF 9 Sep.
Spotted Sandpiper: last Jamesville Res 8 Oct.
Solitary Sandpiper: last Otisco L 12 Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 2/day; last W Winfield 30 Oct.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 4 SPd 18 Sep; last Sauquoit 6 Oct.
Ruddy Turnstone: Cicero 18 Sep, only report.
Sanderling: max 28 FH 19 Sep; last FH 31 Oct.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 5 SPd 18 Sep.
Least Sandpiper: max 9 SHF 2 Sep; last 2 FH 29 Sep.
Baird's Sandpiper: 2 SHF 1-3 Sep.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 2/day.
Purple Sandpiper: arr FH 11 Nov; FH 17-20 Nov.
Dunlin: max 60 DH 29 Oct; last 2 DH 27 Nov.
Stilt Sandpiper: 3 Verona 6 Sep, only report.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr SHF 3 Sep; max & last 2 SHF 9 Sep.
Short-billed Dowitcher: Cicero 2 Sep, only report.
Wilson's Snipe: max 8 Verona 6 Sep.
Am. Woodcock: 2 Sep reports; max 3 Verona 20 Oct; W Winfield 30 Oct.
Red Phalarope: DH 20, 26 Nov.
Black-legged Kittiwake: max 5 DH 20 Nov; DH 26 Nov; 3 DH 27 Nov.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 175 OneIL 21 Oct.
Little Gull: DH 6 Sep; max 2 DH 29 Oct; DH 27 Nov; Bradley Brook Res 28 Nov (MY), unusual site.
Iceland Gull: 2 MCL 18 Nov;
Lesser Black-backed Gull: MCL 18 Nov.
Glaucous Gull: 2 DH 27 Nov.
Caspian Tern: max 35 SPd 18 Sep.
Black Tern: max 12 DH 4 Sep.
Com. Tern: max 65 OneIL 1 Sep; last 2 SVB 20 Oct.
Pomarine Jaeger: DH 27 Nov.
Parasitic Jaeger: 5 DH 5 Sep; 19 DH 25 Sep; 5 DH 7 Oct; DH 20 Nov.
LONG-TAILED JAEGER: 3 DH 16 Oct (BP, KM NYSARC).

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: Skan 12 Sep; Clay Marsh 13 Sep.
N. Saw-whet Owl: W Winfield 22 Nov.
Com. Nighthawk: max 7 WM 5 Sep; last HI 11 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last DH 25 Sep.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Lysander 2 Sep, only report.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 4/day Oct.
Black-backed Woodpecker: Limekiln Swamp 12 Nov; 2 Third L Creek 28 Nov.
N. Flicker: max 18 Nelson 28 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Deer Creek WMA 5 Sep.
E. Wood-Pewee: max 7 NMP 6 Sep; last Dewitt 6 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 3 Wilmurt 8 Sep; last Deer Creek WMA 19 Sep.
Alder Flycatcher: last Syr 10 Sep.
Willow Flycatcher: last Syr 3 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: 3 Deer Creek WMA 25 Sep; juv FH 19 Sep.
E. Phoebe: last 30 Oct.
Great Crested Flycatcher: max 3 HI 11 Sep; last GLSP 18 Oct, late.
E. Kingbird: last HI 11 Sep.
N. Shrike: arr SFNS 22 Oct; reports from 5 other sites.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last NMP 15 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: max 3/day to 4 Oct; last 18 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: max 7 HI 7 Sep; last Elbridge 29 Sep; juv FH 19 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: 14 reports 5-25 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: to 8/day Sep; last Dewitt 6 Oct.
Gray Jay: 2 Beaver River Station 11 Nov (TSa).
Blue Jay: max 536 Hastings 24 Sep.
Am. Crow: max 1117 BRH 6 Nov.
Fish Crow: max 8 OnonL 15 Nov; 3 Syr 22 Oct.
Com. Raven: max 10 Salisbury 19 Oct.
Horned Lark: max 50 Williamstown 28 Nov.
Purple Martin: max & last 4 DH 7 Sep.
Tree Swallow: last 2 DH 26 Oct.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: max & last 12 HI 11 Sep.
Bank Swallow: max 7 SHF 7 Sep; last HI 12 Sep.
Cliff Swallow: last SHF 7 Sep.
CAVE SWALLOW: max 21 DH 26 Oct (TC, BP, GS), Reg record high; DH 14 Nov (TC, BP); 3 FH 22 Nov (JT); last FH 23 Nov.
Barn Swallow: max 40 SHF 7 Sep.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: migrants to 6/day Sep.
House Wren: max 2/day to 28 Sep; last Manlius 9 Oct.
Winter Wren: max 7 Scriba 8 Oct.
Marsh Wren: max 6 HI 11 Sep.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 15/day in Oct.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 15 Sep; max 12/day.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 4 reports to 11 Sep.
Veery: max 4 NMP 6 Sep; last Deer Creek WMA 19 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: NMP 18 Sep; 2 CM 12 Oct.
Swainson's Thrush: max 5 Rondaxe L 10 Sep; last CM 12 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: max 6 SFNS 17 Oct; last GLSP 27 Nov.
Wood Thrush: 9 reports to 20 Sep.
Gray Catbird: max 24 Elbridge 26 Sep; last 29 Nov.
N. Mockingbird: max 4 Oswego 30 Oct.
Brown Thrasher: max 4 SFNS 8 Sep; last CM 12 Oct.
Am. Pipit: max 200 VB 2 Oct.
Bohemian Waxwing: arr SFNS 14 Nov; max 8 Point Rock 19 Nov; Dewitt 21 Nov; DH 20-27 Nov.
Cedar Waxwing: max 70 DH 21 Nov.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: 2 BRH 6 Nov; Oswego 29 Nov.
Snow Bunting: max 170 Oswego 30 Oct.
Blue-winged Warbler: last Hastings 10 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: max 5 HI 11 Sep; last 27 Sep.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Hastings 23 Sep; last SPd 26 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: max 4 Hastings 10 Sep; last 2 DH 11 Oct.
N. Parula: max 3 OnonL 12 Sep; last SFNS 2 Oct.
Yellow Warbler: 6 reports to last Hastings 24 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 4 NMP 6 Sep; last Nelson 20 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: max 11 Scriba 6 Sep; last Dvl 4 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: 4 reports 6-26 Sep.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 11 NMP 6 Sep; last CM 12 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 30 SL 26 Sep.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 11 HI 11 Sep; last CM 12 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 3 HI 11 Sep; last 26 Sep.
Yellow-throated Warbler: FH 23 Oct (MAK, GK, mob).
Palm Warbler: arr TR 2 Sep; max 5 OnonL 28 Sep.
Bay-breasted Warbler: max 3 NMP 6 Sep; 11 other reports to 24 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 3/day Sep; last 2 SFNS 4 Oct.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 18 NMP 6 Sep; last 29 Sep.
Am. Redstart: max 14 NMP 6 Sep; last Elbridge 1 Oct.
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: Oakwood Cem Syr 10 Sep (AW!).
Ovenbird: max 7 NMP 6 Sep; last TR 2 Oct.
N. Waterthrush: last NMP 6 Sep.
Mourning Warbler: last Nelson & SFNS 26 Sep.
Com. Yellowthroat: last GLSP 30 Oct.
Hooded Warbler: 6 reports to 11 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: max 3 SPd 18 Sep, widespread; last FH 23 Oct, late.
Canada Warbler: last Oakwood Cem Syr 10 Sep.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: last Constantia 9 Nov.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Pulaski 16 Oct.
Chipping Sparrow: last SFNS 2 Nov.
Field Sparrow: last Nelson 28 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: max 18 Richland 29 Oct.
Savannah Sparrow: last Syr 25 Oct.
Fox Sparrow: max 10 Hasting 29 Oct.
Lincoln's Sparrow: max 3 TR 25 Sep; last TR 20 Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: max 56 CM 12 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr Hastings 20 Sep; max 18 Salisbury 5 Oct.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 150 Dvl 12 Oct.
Scarlet Tanager: max 3/day; last SFNS 25 Sep.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 18 HI 11 Sep; last 5 SL 26 Sep.
Indigo Bunting: max 3 Skan 6 Sep; last TR 2 Oct.
Bobolink: max 85 WM 5 Sep; last 2 Tully 17 Sep.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: male HI 11 Sep (KM, BP, NYSARC).
E. Meadowlark: max 6 Richland 29 Oct.
Rusty Blackbird: max 45 DH 26 Oct.
Com. Grackle: max 9000 Schroepel 24 Oct.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 1200 Conquest 19 Sep.
Baltimore Oriole: 2 Lysander 2 Sep; last HI 11 Sep.
Purple Finch: to 8/day Sep; 15 Nelson 25 Oct; max 50 SFNS 25 Sep.
White-winged Crossbill: Skan 15 Nov, at feeder (DG).
Com. Redpoll: arr 2 DeRuyter 28 Nov.
Pine Siskin: arr SFNS 22 Oct; max 50 Williamstown 29 Oct & 48 Skan 30 Oct.
Am. Goldfinch: max 570 DH 26 Oct.
Evening Grosbeak: arr Salisbury 10 Oct; max 65 Boylston 21 Nov; widespread s. MADI.