

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

WM. C. BREIDINGER

September and early October were very rainy followed by a gorgeous Indian Summer. Late in October came the deluge that caused many small streams to spill over their banks, resulting in local flooding, particularly in Cortland and Tioga Counties. The Cornell weather station located just west of the region, reported in excess of five inches of rain in a 24 hour period. An interesting aftermath of the heavy rain was the sighting by John Gustafson of over 1000 Ring-billed Gulls in the valley north of Homer. From reports received, the Canada Goose migration got off the ground 3 October with heavy early flights, then tapering off until 20 October, when they began to move again in large numbers. Unusual sightings consisted of an Orange-crowned Warbler, a Prairie Warbler, and a Northern Phalarope. The Northern Phalarope was spotted on a farm pond about an acre in size at Darling Hill, southwest of Westford in Otsego County by Greg Smith. Greg is a Park Naturalist affiliated with the Beaver Lake Nature Center in Baldwinsville. He was fishing at the time but didn't report his fish catch. The Orange-crowned Warbler was seen in Vestal and the Prairie Warbler in Walton. A Saw-whet Owl was banded by Gail Kirch in Vestal 2 October. Early winter visitors noted were Pine Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, and a Common Redpoll. Warbler reports seemed to be in good number with quite a variety of species. Lincoln's Sparrow reports were good, although others such as Vesper were scarce and none at all on Grasshopper and Henslow's.

An interesting report was received from Harriet Marsi summarizing the activities of her banding station in Binghamton. She operated 45 days with 14 nets with a total of 1610 net hours. 102 birds on 1 September was the largest one day total. The total and the number of species was 65, birds per 100 net hours, 64.1. The most numerous species were: Red-eyed Vireo and Magnolia Warbler each at 98, Gray Catbird 80, Common Yellowthroat 67, and Swainson's Thrush 66. The same patterns and net lanes were used as in previous years and the nets were up from dawn to 10 a.m. The area is abandoned pasture, overgrown with thorn apple, with red maple and other shrubby plants beginning to succeed in the area. A heavy wave of birds was experienced 27 August through 7 September, and a smaller wave 8 September through 10 September. After that activity decreased, and seemed to level out into early October. Mrs. Marsi reports that 1981 was an outstanding year, noting that no species seemed down except Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Only seven were banded, the lowest since 1969, when two were banded. In 1973, 27 were banded. On the other hand, many previous high records were broken as follows: Least Flycatcher 37 vs. 23 in 1977, Am. Robin 39 vs. 28 in 1969, Swainson's Thrush 66 vs. 27 in 1976, Common Yellowthroat 67 vs. 63 in 1980, Canada Warbler 28 vs. 17 in 1980, Am. Redstart 43 vs. 25 in 1980, Magnolia Warbler 98 vs. 54 in 1977. The total of all wood warblers was 378 vs. 308 in 1977. The total number of thrushes was 179 vs. 123 in 1977.

There were no recoveries but several returns. 15 Black-capped Chickadees were banded in 1979 and 1980. One chickadee, banded 27 September 1978,

returned 21 September 1981. Two Common Yellowthroats, a Wood Thrush, and a Gray Catbird banded in 1980 returned in 1981. Most interesting was a Chestnut-sided Warbler banded 21 August 1979 which returned 9 September 1981. Less common birds were four Evening Grosbeaks netted 31 October, a Red-breasted Nuthatch 16 September and especially a Boreal Chickadee banded 1 November 1981. Last banding of a Boreal was 20 October 1969.

Contributors: B. Anderson, Cutler & Jeanette Baldwin (C & JB), Don & Judy Bell, Leslie Bemont, Reynolds Bennett (RB), Nancy Brundage, Jane Chittenden, Lynn & Mildred Clark, G. Curran, Anna & Marilyn Davis (A & MD), Louise Dean, Mary Dobinsky (MD), S. Dorber, Sally & Earl Getkin (S & EG), M/M Carl Gray, Shirley Hartman (SH), Gail Kirch (GK), M. Layton, B. Mahon, Robert Miller (RM), L. McDowell, Bud & Evelyn Mead, Nick Muirhead (NM), Robert Pantle, Peter Petokas, J. Riley (JR), Harriett Robison, M & B Sheffield, K. Stalter, Bill Toner (BT), E. F. Washburn, Don Weber, Kathryn Wilson (KW), L & B Wilson, and Alyce Zimmerman.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon, one at Whitney Pt. 14 Nov. Pied-billed Grebe, three at Meredith 13 Oct. Great Blue Heron, scattered reports, last 31 Oct. Green Heron, last report 29 Sept at Emmons. SNOW EGRET: 2 Nov, Otsego Pk., Binghamton. Pictures taken by Mr. Coon and checked by Leslie Bemont. Canada Geese started with a heavy movement 3 and 4 Oct then slower through mid-month, increasing again from 20 Oct through 29 Oct. Last large numbers report was 29 Nov. Snow Goose reported at Dorchester 25 Oct, and at Owego in Oct. Mallard, many reports as can be expected, with largest count of 100 at Franklin 10 Oct. Black Duck, two at Portlandville 5 Sept, two Meredith 14 Oct, and 29 Oct and 7 Nov at Whitney Pt. Am. Wigeon reported in Owego in Oct, also two at Goodale Lake 17 Oct, four at Oxford 1 Nov, and three at Whitney Pt. 8 Nov. Wood Duck, last report 12 Oct. Ring-necked Duck, 15 at Dorchester 25 Oct. Canvasback reported from Owego but no date in Oct. A Com. Goldeneye was at Whitney Pt. 22 Nov. Three Buffleheads were in Homer 25 Oct, and six at Whitney Pt. 7 Nov. 60 Oldsquaw seen at Whitney Pt. 7 Nov and 10 were seen next day (CA, MD). SURF SCOTER, four 8 Oct at Delhi and a raft of 50 was near Homer 22 Oct (PP, BT). A Black Scoter was seen on Owl Pond 14 Nov (MD, KW). Hooded Merganser was reported from Oxford 1 and 8 Nov with 20 at Whitney Pt. 14 Nov and the last was on 20 Nov. Com. Merganser seen at Whitney Pt. 7 Nov through 29 Nov, with 80 on 14 Nov, the highest number reported.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture, several reports, last 9 Oct. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawk were well reported. Scattered reports of Red-tailed Hawks and no reports of Red-shouldered Hawks. Three Broad-winged Hawks at Emmons 10 Sept, 13 on 11 Sept at Oneonta (KW) and at Owego 5 Oct. First report of Rough-legged Hawk near Scott on 25 Oct. BALD EAGLE, 10 Oct near Homer (BT). Scattered reports of the Osprey, last one 21 Oct. Reports of Marsh Hawk from many areas 19 Sept through 25 Oct. 11 reports of the Am. Kestrel. Ruffed Grouse, nine reports, last 10 Nov. Ring-necked Pheasants were reported from Broome Co. Turkey was seen through the period with largest flocks being 25 and 30. An Am. Coot was seen 2 Oct on Goodale Lake. Last of many reports of Killdeer was 25 Oct and an Am. Woodcock was reported in Owego in Sept and at Delhi 6 Oct (BA). Spotted Sandpiper 10 Oct at Emmons. Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs were reported 19 Sept on a Cortland Co. Bird Club field trip. Two Least Sandpipers on 30 Sept at the Oneonta Res. (MD). A NORTHERN PHALAROPE was observed at Darling Hill, Otsego Co. 4 Sept. Large numbers of Herring Gulls at Whitney Pt. in late Nov and Ring-billed Gulls in profusion. 1000 were sighted at Homer on 2 Nov (John Gustafson).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: The only cuckoo report was a Black-billed at Delhi on 9 Sept (MC). There were five scattered reports of Screech Owls and eight reports of Great Horned Owl. A Long-eared Owl was reported at Homer by NM but no date was given. Five Com. Nighthawks were at Oneonta on 6 Sept. Last report of Chimney Swifts was 6 Sept. Four reports of Ruby-throated Hummingbird, with the last one 16 Sept at Apalachin. Nu-

merous reports of the Belted Kingfisher and seven reports of the Pileated Woodpecker scattered through the area. Red-bellied Woodpeckers seem to be noted more and more in all areas. Red-headed Woodpeckers were in Owego and in Delhi 9 Sept. Only two reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Owego in Sept, and Milford 19 Sept. Hairy Woodpecker was reported in good numbers from all points.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLING: Last report of Great Crested Flycatcher was 3 Sept, and last report of E. Phoebe was 12 Oct at Middlefield. Several reports of Least Flycatcher, the last being on 9 Oct at Delhi. Three E. Kingbirds reported 5 Sept in Oneonta area were the last. E. Wood Pewee 3 Sept at Chenango Forks, 5 Sept Oneonta, 7 Sept Endwell, 7 Oct at Owego the last report. Horned Larks, 25 Oct near Homer. Last report on Tree Swallow 5 Sept Oneonta. Bank Swallow reported in Owego in Sept but no date supplied. Barn Swallow, last report 9 Sept at Delhi. Cliff Swallow reported at Owego in Sept but no date provided; however, a report at Whitney Pt on 7 Sept. Noted prevalence of reports of Tufted Titmouse in Broome Co, and only other report was at Delhi on 28 Oct. First report of Red-breasted Nuthatch was in Homer on 8 Sept. Scattered reports of Brown Creeper. Last report of House Wren was 25 Sept. Encouraging reports of Winter Wren in Sept and last one on 17 Oct. Carolina Wren reports popping up in different areas, suggesting re-establishment in the region. Last report, one persisting in Homer into mid-Dec. Reports of Mockingbirds ranged from Delhi in the east, across the southern tier to Owego. No reports in northern portion of region. Gray Catbird, last report 10 Nov, at Oneonta. Four reports of Brown Thrasher with last one 4 Oct at Delhi. Last report of Am. Robin was 14 Nov. Many sightings of Wood Thrush with last at Chenango Forks on 22 Sept. Three Hermit Thrushes 12 Oct at Vestal and another sighting 8 Nov at Vestal. Swainson's Thrush at Owego in Sept and at Vestal 11 Sept to 15 Oct. A Gray-cheeked Thrush was in Vestal on 18 Sept. Several reports of Veery, last being 20 Oct. We had eight reports of E. Bluebird, the last of which was 20 Oct at Oneonta. Four instances of Golden-crowned Kinglets, last 14 Nov at Oneonta. Last seen Ruby-crowned Kinglet 16 Oct at Vestal. Water Pipit, 30 Sept at Delhi and 6 Oct at Meredith. There were numerous reports and goodly numbers of Cedar Waxwings, with 50 plus reported last at Endwell 15 Nov.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo Sept in Owego, 7 Sept Chenango Forks, 12 Sept at Milford. Solitary Vireo 20 Sept at Nuthatch Hollow, and 26 Sept at Owego. Last Red-eyed Vireo was at Oneonta on 6 Oct. Philadelphia Vireo 20 Sept at Nuthatch Hollow. Warbling Vireo 9 Sept at Delhi and 12 Sept at Emmons. Five reports of Black-and-white Warbler, last of which was at Chenango Forks on 7 Sept. Blue-winged Warbler 3 Sept Chenango Forks and 6 Sept at Delhi. Six reports of the Tennessee Warbler, last of which was 2 Oct at Vestal. **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**, 4 Sept at Vestal (GK). Last report 9 Oct on Nashville Warbler at Vestal, one of five reports. No. Parula 9 Sept Vestal the only report. Seven sightings of Magnolia Warbler, last 27 Sept at Emmons and seven sightings also of Cape May Warbler. Two Black-throated Blues 25 Sept at Crumhorn. Flocks of Yellow-rumped Warblers reaching 30 to 40 and reports from all areas, last one Homer on 28 Oct. Seven reports of Black-throated Green Warbler, last of which was 6 Oct at Oneonta. Black-burnian Warbler reports totalled five, last at Crumhorn 21 Sept. Chestnut-sided Warbler Sept in Owego, but no date, 3 and 7 Sept Chenango Forks, and 9 Sept at Delhi. Bay-breasted Warbler 21 Sept, Emmons and 25 Sept at Crumhorn, Owego also in Sept. Five reports of Blackpoll, last at Vestal 2 Oct. **PRAIRIE WARBLER**, 28 Oct at Walton (SH). Palm Warbler 14 Oct at Meredith. Several reports of Ovenbird, last at Nuthatch Hollow on 20 Sept. **CONNECTICUT WARBLER** at Owego on 30 Sept (RB, CJ&B). **MOURNING WARBLER** 4 Sept at Vestal (GK). Com. Yellowthroat provided many reports, last 24 Oct at Wolfe Park, Binghamton. Wilson's Warbler 6 Sept at Choconut, 18 Sept at Delhi, and 26 Sept at Owego. Five reports of Canada Warbler in Sept, last one 26 Sept. Six reports of Am. Redstart, one from Oneonta and five from Broome Co., last one 20 Sept at Nuthatch Hollow.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: A very late report of Bobolinks, 7 Sept at Whitney Pt. Nine sightings of E. Meadowlarks, last 25 Oct at Wolfe Park. Only two reports of No. Oriole in

early Sept, last 7 Sept at Chenango Forks. Com. Grackle reported up to 25 Nov. Only Cowbird report 25 Nov at Delhi—surely we had more than that? Six reports of Scarlet Tanager, Last on 27 Sept at Delhi and at Emmons. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were quite prevalent 24 sighted by MD & KW 5 Sept in Portlandville, Crumhorn, Milford, Oneonta area, 6 Sept at Choconut, 9 Sept Delhi, 12 Sept at Oneonta, and 11, 12 and 25 Sept at Emmons last. Evening Grosbeaks popped up in all areas. First report 27 Sept at Emmons, and also at Emmons on 28 Sept there was an Indigo Bunting. Owego reported one also in Sept but no date supplied. Many reports of Purple Finch. Pine Grosbeak 14 Nov at Crumhorn (MD, KW)—just a single bird. Redpoll, I assume a Com., was reported 16 Oct at Apalachin by S & EG. Pine Siskin 3 Oct at Windsor (JR). Many reports of Rufous-sided Towhee, last 21 Oct at Delhi. Savannah Sparrow 9 Oct Vestal. No Grasshopper or Henslow's reported and only two reports of Vesper Sparrow, both at Milford on 19 and 30 Sept. Dark-eyed Junco first reported in Oneonta area on 5 Sept. First Tree Sparrow report 1 Nov at Emmons. Many sightings of Chipping Sparrows, last 28 Oct at Delhi. Last Field Sparrow 16 Oct at Vestal. Last of numerous reports of White-crowned Sparrows was also at Delhi on 29 Oct. White-throated Sparrows in good numbers from all areas right through Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow in Sept in Owego but no date, 19 Sept Choconut, 4 Oct in Upper Lisle, 6 Oct Oneonta and in Vestal on 4, 5, 11, and 13 Oct. Fox Sparrow, of which we had about half a dozen reports, last 4 Nov at Choconut. Swamp Sparrow 9 Sept Delhi, 21 Sept and 12 Oct at Portlandville, and from 5 Sept to 20 Oct in Oneonta area. 150 Snow Buntings seen west of Cortland 13 Dec.

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[Eds. Note: Les Bemont, after many years of writing the Region Four report, has relinquished the position. The baton has been passed to Bill Breidinger for this issue. We wish to express our thanks and appreciation for the excellent job performed by Les Bemont over these many years.]

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL DeBENEDICTIS

The 1981 drought ended most emphatically this Fall. September was the sixth wettest on record, with rain on 20 days, and October was the fourth wettest, with nearly four inches of rain between the 26th and 28th alone, and also the tenth coldest on record, averaging nearly five degrees below normal. November was more normal, with a period of heavy but non-persistent snow around the 24th. Seed crops were varied. Conifers had poor cone crops, while berries and seeds were mixed; apples did very poorly, whereas box elder (*Acer negundo*) had very good seed crops.

The weather not only dampened observational opportunities but also produced few notable flights. Herons were scarce and night herons and bitterns went unreported. Waterfowl numbers were low average to low, with the major influx of most species occurring on 2 October. Shorebirds were hard to find after about 10 September, primarily because most mudflats were inundated. Most species departed early, and Am. Golden Plovers and Purple Sandpipers were very scarce. Blustery weather in October brought four Jaeger flights past Derby Hill, and similar storms in November produced record counts of Black-legged Kittiwakes. Flickers and sapsuckers produced good counts in September