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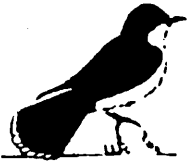
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**POSSIBLE HERMIT WARBLER (*Dendroica occidentalis*)
A FIRST FOR NEW YORK STATE, JONES BEACH SP,
NASSAU CO. , 11/28/02 TO 12/1/02.**

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The day started out like any other birding trip to Jones Beach State Park, always a good spot for birding. I hadn't heard of anything much being there, but figured you never know what's going to be seen. When we got to the park we first stopped at the Coast Guard station and, in addition to what we expected, saw a large flock of American Oystercatchers, some lingering Laughing Gulls, and a decidedly late immature Common Tern . After taking a quick walk around the perimeter of the station parking lot and driveway we decided to go the Gilgo Beach area to search there for any unusual birds. By this time it was about noon and we were in need of some food and drink to warm us up since it was windy and close to freezing that day. At this point we decided to go to the Central Mall south of the water tower since I usually check that area out for birds and because I knew the smaller restaurant would be open.

After eating we headed out to the mall, which has plantings of various shrubs, small trees and perennials, providing good habitat for passerines throughout the year. As we were passing the flagpole I spotted a warbler-sized bird flying right in front of us and immediately thought Black-throated Green Warbler because of the amount of yellow seen on the head , even in flight. We also thought Pine Warbler but that was quickly discounted because the yellow was too bright for that species. The bird flew around the south side of the closed main restaurant and disappeared from sight. We went after it but briefly lost it before it came out on the north side and flew into some low shrubs adjacent to the sidewalk. It was at this point we saw it well and realized it looked wrong for a Black-throated Green. I immediately thought Hermit Warbler, but being unfamiliar with that species in the wild I needed a book to make sure.

We went back to the car and took a look in Sibley (2000) as well as the National Geographic Field Guide (1999).

After deciding that it was most probably a Hermit we went back to double-check. The bird came out into the sun and gave us great looks. We noticed its face was a beautiful clear yellow when in the sun. Its crown, forehead, back and rump were pale green and the crown had small dark spots on it. There was an indistinct dark splotch at the upper breast and lower throat area. A very faint pale yellow wash could be seen just below that dark splotch. We could also see there were very indistinct dark streaks on the back. The bird's belly and breast were whitish with virtually no marks except for two black lines on the sides below the

bend of each wing. There was no yellow on the vent as in a Black-throated Green. Each wing had two distinct white wingbars.

As far as we could tell this bird was a Hermit Warbler but none of the pictures showed exactly what we were seeing. Neither of the books showed all of the plumages for the birds so I figured we would have to look in Dunn and Garrett (1997) and Curson, Quinn and Beadle (1994) when we got home.

After checking in both books, Dunn and Garrett was the only one to show most of the possible plumages of the warblers. We also noticed that some of the hybrids between the Hermit and Townsend's Warblers pictured were similar to our bird but not close enough to it. I had not even thought of it being a hybrid at the time. After reading the descriptions and looking at the pictures we were 95% confident in saying it was a Hermit Warbler in a fall plumage.

I wanted to be totally sure of its identification and wanted a third opinion on the bird. I called John Moyle, a veteran birder friend of mine, to see if he was free to go back the next day and take a look at this warbler. After getting off the phone I sent out an e-mail to NYSBIRDS-L stating I had found a possible Hermit Warbler at Jones Beach.

John and I arrived the next morning at around eight and found the bird right away along the hedge in the middle of the mall near where I had seen it the previous day. I didn't think anyone would've gotten my e-mail so early in the morning but Seth Ausubel was arriving at the same time we did. The three of us followed the bird for a while as it crawled around under the chrysanthemum plantings on either side of the closed restaurant. This was when we were able to see the yellow eye-ring and greenish auriculars and lores clearly. These two characteristics pointed us directly to the Hermit Warbler in first fall male plumage. In our opinion the bird looked virtually identical to the picture in Dunn and Garrett.

At this point Seth put the word out via phone that it was definitely a Hermit Warbler. When I got home I went right for the computer and sent the word out to NYSBirds to let everyone know that it indeed was a Hermit. I went back on four additional occasions to show friends the bird, the last being Monday when it was no longer present. In the four days it stuck around (28 Nov-1 Dec) numerous birders were able to get great looks at it, and several including Seth Ausubel and Angus Wilson were able to get excellent photos of the bird for documentation. Unbeknownst to me at the time of first sighting, Hermit Warbler had not been seen in New York State!

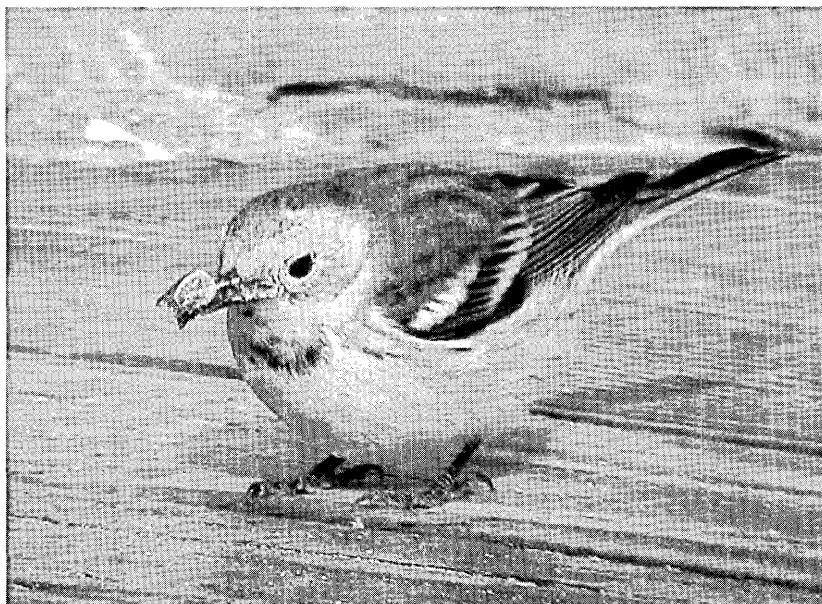
In its normal range it breeds mostly in montane coniferous forests from western Washington to northwestern California and in the mountain ranges along the coast and eastern part of California.. Hermits winter mostly from western Mexico to Central America. Strays have reached the East Coast rarely, with only one sighting each in Connecticut, Quebec, and Newfoundland, two in Massachusetts, and three in Nova Scotia (American Ornithologist's Union,1998.)

As more and more people saw the bird, the possibility of its being a hybrid between a Hermit and a Townsend's Warbler was brought up. I'm no expert on hybrids but to me there didn't seem to be enough distinctive field marks to call it a definitive hybrid. Everything would seem to indicate Hermit Warbler, but for the yellow wash on the upper breast, which suggested that this individual might be a hybrid. I'm going to leave this discussion (argument) to NYSARC.

No matter what NYSARC decides on the subject, I'm just glad I found it and so many people were able to see what may or may not be New York's first Hermit Warbler. If it's decided that it's a hybrid, I'd be happy to count both Hermit and Townsend's on my list!

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Possible Hermit Warbler Jones Beach SP 11/28/02
© Seth Ausubel

HERMIT WARBLER OR HERMIT X TOWNSEND'S HYBRID??

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Andrew Block's and Anne Connor's Thanksgiving Day discovery of a possible Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*) at Jones Beach State Park (Block and Connor 2003) was one of the most exciting bird finds in New York State in 2002. It also became one of the most discussed and controversial birds of recent years. However, unlike many rarities the debate was not over whether a more common bird had been misidentified as a rarity or the bird's origins as a genuine stray, as those points were never in question. Instead, almost immediately the question was raised: Is it a Hermit Warbler or is it a hybrid Hermit x Townsend's Warbler? If it is the latter what is to be done with the record? Hermit Warbler has never been recorded in New York and while Townsend's Warbler (*D. townsendi*) has been recorded a number of times (Sherony 1998), what do you do with a hybrid between the two? How do you list it? The well-known and oft seen hybrids between Blue-wings and Golden-wings, namely "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's", are not on the official NYS checklist, though both are discussed under Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) in the recent New York State books (Bull 1974, Confer 1998).

This brief note is not an effort to firmly answer the question of this bird's identity and how to treat it on the New York list, but rather is a summary of some of the debate.

Hermit and Townsend's Warblers are closely related species of the coniferous montane forests of western North America (Dunn and Garrett 1997) Together with the widespread Black-throated Green Warbler (*D. virens*) of the East and the Golden-cheeked Warbler (*D. chrysoparia*) of Texas, they form a superspecies sometimes referred to as the *virens* group. Of the four species in the group only the Hermit and Townsend's Warblers have normal breeding ranges that come into contact. Rohwer and Wood (1998) described three areas in Washington and Oregon where the two species meet and hybridize extensively. As is typical of hybrids Hermit x Townsend's Warbler crosses (sometimes called HETO Warblers) can show a varied mix of characters from the two parental species (Jackson et al. 1992, Rohwer and Wood 1998, Eckert 2001). Both parental species are long distance migrants that winter mainly in Mexico and Central America with a history of documented vagrants in the East (American Ornithologists' Union 1998).

As word of the Jones Beach bird spread, which it did very quickly thanks to the Internet, many rushed to see it. Though the bird frustrated some, for most it was very cooperative and allowed close approach. Soon excellent photographs

by Seth Ausubel, Kevin and Jay McGowan, and Angus Wilson were available on the Web. Almost immediately it was noted the bird did not fit the illustrations of Hermit Warbler in the standard field guides. The back color, the extent of yellow on the breast, black streaking on the flanks and other subtle plumage characters were pointed to and the debate was on. There was also debate as to the age and sex with opinions mainly divided between adult female versus first fall male. The question of parentage, age and sex is a difficult one to resolve because most of the published photographs of HETO Warblers are based on breeding -plumaged male birds photographed in or near the hybrid zones (Eckert 2001). Similarly, the published detailed plumage analyses and hybrid indices (Rohwer and Wood 1998, Jackson et al. 1992) were also based mainly on adult specimens from the hybrid zones. In an email to NYSBIRDS-L the day after the discovery Shai Mitra pointed out many of the difficulties of computing a "hybrid index" for the Jones Beach bird based on the photographs, as excellent as they were.

In an effort to resolve some of the questions about the Jones Beach bird Manny Levine and I and then Tom Burke and I spent a number of hours looking at the 200-300 Hermit Warbler specimens in the ornithology collection of the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH). Let me first point out there are no specimens in the AMNH collection labeled Hermit x Townsend's hybrid, but this is not really a problem. When trying to decide if an individual bird is a hybrid, the first step has to be to determine what is the range of variation of the parental species? We often forget that there can be considerable variation in individual birds and most birds "do not look like the pictures in the field guides" when studied closely and a vagrant such as this bird is always studied very closely. In comparing the photographs with the specimens we primarily looked at birds collected in breeding areas far from the known hybrid zones. We first decided, based on the specimens, that the Jones Beach bird was probably a first fall male. We also quickly found that many of the plumage characters cited as possibly indicating a hybrid, could be found in at least some Hermit Warbler specimens, with the exception of extensive yellow on the breast, especially extending well below the black bib. In that detail, only one specimen came close to matching the Jones Beach bird. That bird was an immature male collected in California on 21 Aug 1896. Add the locale and the date to the extensive yellow on the breast and its broad, dusky flank streaks and it would seem the bird might have been a migrant from the hybrid zones to the north.

Since few of us here in the East have much experience with Hermit Warblers or their hybrids, I asked Sheila Fitzpatrick, a transplanted New Yorker now living in Oregon, if she could solicit opinions from West Coast birders. I received responses from over half a dozen West Coast birders and they were unanimous in stating that if they encountered this bird in the West they would probably call it a hybrid. All cited the extent of yellow on the breast below the black bib and many pointed to the greenish back color, though they did not all agree as to the age or sex of the bird. Most pointed out the great variability in HETO Warblers.

Thus, the consensus seems to be the Jones Beach bird had a mixed ancestry though no one can say for sure how far back in its lineage a Townsend's Warbler had occurred. In case you think the question has been definitively settled, let me also cite a speculation raised by Sy Schiff in an email to NYSBIRDS-L. Schiff asked the question: What would this bird look like as an adult male next spring? Would a full black bib completely or nearly completely obscure the yellow breast thus making the bird perhaps indistinguishable from an adult male Hermit Warbler? Or, as Manny Levine countered in an email, would there be enough Townsend's genes for a yellow wash to be visible extending below the bib?

None of the above scenarios has addressed the possibility that we don't completely know the full extent of variation in Hermit Warblers. In other words, might a rare individual Hermit Warbler show this amount of yellow for some genetic or developmental reason other than having a Townsend's Warbler in its ancestry? Most hybrids are after all rare. In an email Shai Mitra asked the question as to what the simplest assumption is in this case: Is the bird in question an aberrant Hermit Warbler (the species it most resembles) or is it a hybrid? For that matter, another question is: How pure does an individual have to be in a species that is known to hybridize extensively to be considered a member of one of the parental species? Mitra in his email cited an otherwise normal looking Golden-winged Warbler netted and banded on Fire Island that had a "wedge of yellow" below its black bib, indicating a Blue-winged Warbler (*V. pinus*) in its ancestry. Most of us have encountered Blue-wings or Golden-wings that gave the wrong song or had some other indication of a mixed ancestry that did not rise to the level of labeling the bird a "Brewster's Warbler" or a "Lawrence's Warbler". If it looks like a Blue-wing but sings like a Golden-wing, what do you call it?

Finally, if it is decided the Jones Beach bird is not a "pure" Hermit Warbler, but rather some degree of HETO Warbler (as seems likely), what do you do with it as far as the New York State list is concerned or your personal list? Do you put Hermit Warbler on the New York list since the bird seemed to mostly be a Hermit Warbler? Do you add some sort of asterisk indicating its questionable parentage? Do you leave Hermit Warbler off the list? Do you put this record under Townsend's Warbler since that species is already on the list? Do you flip a coin?

I warned at the outset of this note no definitive answers would be given here. I can think of no other recent bird record in New York that has prompted as much debate and reading of the literature as this lone warbler. Such debate and research is a good thing and we can thank this vagrant warbler for stimulating it. I am happy the job of deciding how to answer the many questions raised by this bird does not fall to me. The members of NYSARC will have to wrestle with these questions and make the final decision. The one thing they can be sure of is that no matter what they decide there will be some very unhappy New York birders. Interestingly, shortly after the Jones Beach bird disappeared a bird identified as a female Hermit Warbler was found in the Chicago area. Perhaps the members of

NYSARC will take some solace in the thought that they will not be the only ones wrestling with “to be or not to be” Hermit Warbler questions.

Acknowledgments

I want to thank all the many birders who took part in the Internet discussions: Ken Allaire, John Askildsen, Seth Ausubel, Tom Burke, John Gluth, Richard Guthrie, Phil Jeffrey, David Klauber, Tony Lauro, Manny Levine, Curtis Marantz, Kevin McGowan, Hugh McGuinness, Shai Mitra, Sy Schiff, Matt Victoria, and Angus Wilson. If I have left anyone out I apologize. I hope I have not misrepresented anyone here. If I have, I assure you it was inadvertent and I sincerely apologize. I also want to thank Sheila Fitzpatrick for posting the bird on the Oregon listserv and the Oregon birders who took the time to respond: Alan Contreras, Steve Dowlan, Dave Irons and a few others whose full names I unfortunately did not receive. And finally, but far from least, thank you to Andrew Block and Anne Connor for finding this spectacular bird and getting the word out so fast so that many of us could get a chance to see it.

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**ROSS'S GULL (*Rhodostethia rosea*) IN MONROE CO.,
9 – 13 JAN 2003**

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Early on the afternoon of 9 Jan 2003, I decided to check Irondequoit Bay (Towns of Irondequoit, Penfield, and Webster, Monroe County) for open water and the presence of waterfowl to be counted on the weekend's FNYSBC Annual Waterfowl Count. A good vantage point is a small boat launch parking lot about half a mile north of the south end of the bay, on the west side at the foot of Orchard Park Blvd. Nearing the end of my sweep around the south end, I located a small gull standing on the ice at the edge of one of the open water areas about 100-150 yards away.

Features immediately visible were: small size, short dark legs, short thin black bill, light gray head and body, black on the coverts and primaries of the folded wings, large-appearing black (or very dark) eye and dark spot at the back of the auricular area. The first thought was a first- winter Little Gull. Of the couple of hundred Little Gulls I have seen here and at Niagara Falls over the past 30 years, only 2 have been immatures, the rest adults. But the very small bill and the lack of dark crown and nape didn't compute, and another probable ID was sinking in and I double-checked with the Peterson guide I had in the car. When I turned to view the gull again in the scope it obligingly lifted off and flew a short loop toward, then away from me and landed in a slightly more distant open water area. The black "M" pattern on the upper wing surface was clearly visible, as was the fact that there was more white in the primaries than I recalled from Little Gulls in this plumage. The wings also seemed very long and pointed for a Little Gull in any plumage. Finally, as it banked to land, it was clear that the black-tipped tail was wedge-shaped and the black was only on the central feathers, not the outermost. This all added up to ROSS'S GULL!

Driving to a restaurant at the base of the bay, I called my wife Sue (not home) and then Dominic Sherony, who would make a couple of calls and head right out. I then crossed the street to a marina and asked permission to view from out back, thinking the bird might be closer or in better light from there. It was easily found, but closer to 250 or so yards to the north. I studied it very carefully for the 20 minutes or so it took for Dominic to arrive and started second guessing all the things which might make the call wrong. I noted that it had a light gray patch on the top of the crown and a bit of light gray on the back of the neck. Could it be an aberrant Little Gull, and those normally very dark and wider spread areas reduced and faded? If I had recalled the details from Grant (P.J. Grant, *Gulls a Guide to Identification*, Buteo Books: Vermilion, SD, 1982), neither of these would have caused any problem as both are expected for Ross's Gull.

The bird had also moved and landed in pools of water close to some Bonaparte's Gulls and was clearly much smaller, whereas the guide put Ross's Gull near Bonaparte's Gull size

By the time Dominic arrived I was really wondering if I'd missed on the ID. After he arrived, between the size, the gray on the crown, and his thinking the tail tip seemed square when it flew once, briefly and at longer range, we talked ourselves into calling it an odd Little Gull.

During the wait, I had also noticed some interesting behavior. The bird swam with a pumping action of the head and neck similar to a coot. When it fed in the water, it jabbed around reminiscent of a phalarope. In climbing out onto the ice it seemed to heave its breast ahead up onto the ice first, then walk up under it. These impressions were noted again later both by myself and other viewers.

Now about 3:00 PM, as I was leaving the marina, I spotted Sue at LaSalle Landing Park a couple of hundred yards east and waited for her. She wasn't really interested in looking at an immature Little Gull, so we headed home. As soon as we entered the house, I picked up the Sibley guide (David Allen Sibley, *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, Alfred A. Knopf: New York, 2000) and after a few seconds look at illustrations of the two species told her it was Ross's Gull. We headed back to the foot of Orchard Park Blvd. The first time the bird flew away from us we had a great look at the bright white secondaries, and the extensive white on the middle of the inner primaries with no sign of the secondary bar present on first- winter Little Gull. Now certain, we got on Sue's cell phone to Dominic and then to everyone else whose numbers I could recall. Dominic, Gary Chapin, and Bob McKinney arrived shortly, and we all celebrated Ross's Gull!!

Features we noted not clearly pointed out in the guides were: the appearance of large black eyes due to black feathering around the eyes and the odd head shape as viewed from directly in front or behind – the sides of the head bulge out, reminiscent of a plover or of ET. From the side, the bird had the peaked head shape suggested as a fieldmark in the guides. Clearly visible even at great distance in side view on the water or ice was a bright white line, due to the white secondary tips, between the dark on the coverts and primaries. Also obvious were the very long wings, where the primary tips actually crossed above and behind the tail. On many of the flights, the wedge-shaped tail was clear, as was the fact that the black tips did not include the outer rectrices, which were completely white. The reddish leg color was NOT easy to see most of the time, probably due to the bird's body shadowing the short legs unless the viewer's angle and the light were just right. I did not see this well until the next afternoon.

That evening we all spread the word, and by 7:50 AM on Friday, 1/10, there were already about a half- dozen people present, but no bird. About 8:00, it appeared on the water in front of a group of large gulls nearly half a mile away across the bay. The small size, light head and white line between black areas on the folded wing made for instant id as *the bird*. Fortunately, it very quickly flew across the bay to the same area where it had been resting and feeding the day



1st Winter Ross's Gull 9 Jan 2003
Irondequoit Bay
© Matt Victoria

before, only a couple of hundred yards away and even closer at times. All present saw the field marks noted above, as well as others, such as the short, thick appearance of the neck. Gerard Phillips made some excellent field sketches and obtained some reasonable digiscope photos. By cell phone word was spread that the bird was still present. Through the rest of the day many observers arrived and viewed the bird for long periods, including Matt Victoria whose digiscope photo accompanies this note.

During the several hours I spent, additional observations included: 1) the bird established a feeding area very early and several times attacked and drove off Bonaparte's Gulls that swam into this area, putting its head down and rushing toward them and even starting up their backs if they were too slow in leaving; 2) compared to Bonaparte's Gull, it was a much slower swimmer and continued with the pumping type motion noted earlier; 3) it basically did not associate with the other gulls and spent as much time alone or close to ducks as near gulls; 4) in the afternoon in good light, it seemed to me to have a light pinkish or peachy blush to the belly and lower breast, which others saw as definitely off-white but not necessarily pinkish; 5) finally did see the reddish legs a couple of times when the light was just right.

Overnight most of the open water froze, so on Saturday morning there were many fewer gulls and ducks present and by 8:00 AM lots of birders, but no gull. About 8:30 the bird arrived flying down the far east side of the bay.

It circled round and round at various heights. Those present had good looks, though mostly distant. It first settled in an open area around docks with bubblers about half a mile to the southeast. It then flew and landed in the open creek channel in the bay about 300+ yards away. It was soon up again and off far to the south, but close to other observers we could see at LaSalle Landing Park on Empire Blvd. About 9:30, all decided that was the place to be. Just as we were pulling in to park, Kevin Griffith watched the gull lift off and head north up the bay at higher than usual altitude. We feared it had gone.

Later in the day, it was found on the next large area of open water north on the bay, fortunately also accessible from a public area, part of the West Irondequoit Bay Park in the Town of Irondequoit. Unfortunately, the bird spent most of the time along the far side of the bay approximately one-half mile away. Most views were in flight at that distance, though occasionally it rested on the water or ice or flew by at closer range. The bird remained at this location and was seen by many off and on all day Sunday and Monday, 12 & 13 Jan.

On Tuesday, 14 Jan, the morning was plagued by heavy snow squalls covering all of Irondequoit Bay. Through 11:00 AM about 8-10" of snow fell and visibility remained shorter than from the edge of the bay to the open water area. When I checked at 2:00 PM, essentially the whole bay had frozen over other than a couple of very small areas. On both the 14th and 15th I checked other areas to the west along Lake Ontario with no luck.

Over the period of 5 days that the Ross's Gull was here, our best estimate is that at least 50 people were able to obtain identifiable views of it. Visitors came from many parts of New York and from as far away as Ohio, Tennessee, and Florida.

This will be the sixth or seventh verified record of Ross's Gull for New York State. There were five noted in *Bulls' Birds of New York State* (*Bulls' Birds of New York State*, ed. E. Levine, Cornell University Press: Ithaca & London, 1998, pp 291-292), two accepted by NYSARC, one in 1986 and one in 1994, and three under review, with two of those from 1995 since accepted. There were two additional 1995 reports submitted to NYSARC, with one accepted. The 1986 and 1994 birds were from Nassau Co., as was one of the 1995 records. The other accepted 1995 records were from Cayuga Lake and the Niagara River. There was also a report of a winter adult seen by several observers in the Niagara River gorge on one day in Nov. 2002.



SNOW BURROWING BY COMMON REDPOLLS (*Carduelis flammea*)

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Abstract

The Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*) is an irruptive winter visitant in New York State. A moderate invasion began in October 2001, reaching the study site at Long Lake, Hamilton County, by mid-January 2002, with flocks remaining there until late April. Observations made at the site within the Adirondack Park over a three-month period include snow bathing, subnivean¹ snow burrowing, what the authors call "snow snake" behavior, and the use of aptly-named "snow nests." Certain of these activities seem social in function, and while some have been previously reported from the Adirondack Park, Alaska, Finland, and Maine, others appear to be described for the first time.

Introduction

The Common Redpoll is a circumpolar cardueline finch, found nesting in both the Nearctic and Palearctic. In North America, the species nests from Alaska to Newfoundland in a habitat of tundra with dwarf trees, shrubby areas, and in taiga forest, although in the Old World those that nest as far south as the British Isles have begun to occupy hedgerows, "and even gardens" (Sharrock 1976). In New York State it is an irruptive winter visitant, absent to rare in some years, common to abundant in others (Bull 1974). Flocks of Common Redpolls arrive as early as October and may linger as late as May, feeding on birch catkins, in weedy fields, and visiting bird feeders, during those winters that they move south into the state (Well and Wells 1998).

A moderate invasion in the winter of 2001-02 began to reach the Adirondack-Champlain region on 28 Oct, when a flock of eight Common Redpolls were noted at Hadley Pond, Essex County. By November, they were widespread, soon becoming the most abundant winter finch, both at feeders and in the wild, across northern New York. On 16 Jan, a large redpoll flock of over 100 individuals arrived at the home of Collins on Tarbell Hill Road, Town of Long Lake, Hamilton County, with up to 150 birds present for much of the winter, the last lingering there until 21 Apr.

The winter of 2001-02 was exceptionally mild and snow-free across much of the state, due to a continuing drought and warming trend. Even in the Adirondack-Champlain region, the northern areas near Québec and eastern

¹ "under the snow," applied generally to zoological subjects, whereas "subnival" (or "sub-nival," cf. Cade 1953) refers to botanical subjects, or plants.

portions near Lake Champlain saw bare ground for much of the winter and seasonal temperatures some 8°F above average. In the western Adirondacks, however, including Long Lake, west of the shelter of the High Peaks, there was considerable lake-effect snow. Mid-winter saw snow depths of up to two feet (61 cm) on the ground. Even more importantly, as events were to show, the depth of the snow on roofs was 18 inches (46 cm).

On 18 Jan, two days after the arrival of the Common Redpolls at Long Lake, Collins began to observe their varied and interesting activities around the property, a former ecclesiastical retreat and school, now a family residence. These observations were to continue on an almost daily basis over the following two months, ending only with the arrival of spring and with the departure of the last redpolls in late April. The site of the observations is located on The Pinnacle at 1,938 ft (591 m), about 1.6 miles northeast of the (new) Long Lake Post Office. The current structures, which proved critical to many redpoll activities, include the two-story, wood-sided main house (30 ft. x 50 ft.), a garage 124 ft. away, another building 250 ft. away, an Adirondack lean-to 102 ft. from the house that was a center of much activity, and another lean-to and two outbuildings several hundred feet away. Except for a five-acre lawn, the house is bordered and surrounded by northern mixed forest. The habitat is a rich admixture of maturing second-growth balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*), red spruce (*Picea rubens*), Eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*), quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), yellow, paper, and gray birches (*Betula alleghaniensis*, *B. papyrifera*, *B. populifolia*), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), hawthorn (*Crataegus sp.*), common chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), striped, red, and sugar maples (*Acer pensylvanicum*, *A. rubrum*, *A. saccharum*), and white ash (*Fraxinus americana*). Redpolls frequented the sides of the house bordered by forest, and they were never observed on the open area of lawn.

Common Redpolls commenced their activities as early as first light (circa 7 a.m. EST during February in the Adirondacks, and as early as 6:15 a.m. by mid-March). Behaviors observed included snow burrowing, snow bathing and the possibly related construction of "snow snakes," and the use of "snow nests." These activities were carefully documented by daily notes, videotape, and still photography.

History

Snow bathing and the excavation of snow burrows by Common Redpolls have been previously observed in New York State (Furness and Peterson 1987). They noted earlier reports of these activities (Cade 1953, Clement 1968, Palmer 1949), but the burrowing in a snow-covered roof at Mineville, Essex Co., to construct small caves for roosting and apparent heat conservation which Furness and Peterson discussed seemed at the time to be a newly-described activity: "This appears to be the first recorded observation of such activity by Common

Redpolls, although the number of birds involved suggests that such protective burrowing may be a well-developed trait in this northern species.” Life histories of Common Redpolls later published on both sides of the Atlantic (Cramp and Perrins 1994, Knox and Lowther 2000) revealed that such roosting in self-constructed snow burrows had previously been described from Finland (Siivonen 1963, Sulkava 1969), and there had even been an experimental study of temperature in snow-refuges (Korhonen 1981). Sulkava (1969) reported redpolls making tunnels 27-40 cm long, some 6-11 cm beneath the surface to a roosting chamber, breaking the roof of the chamber for departure. Except for the first-hand description of activity on a snow-covered roof on Mt. Desert Island, Maine, by Mrs. E.A. Anthony (Palmer 1949, Clement 1968, Furness and Peterson 1987), there seems little suggestion in the literature that this might be a social activity, as well as a search for shelter or food. The activities which the present authors describe as “snow snakes” and “snow nests,” both of which were documented on videotape by the senior author, receive no mention in the major life histories of Common Redpolls, but appear to be regular behaviors, based upon the winter observations at Long Lake.

Snow Bathing

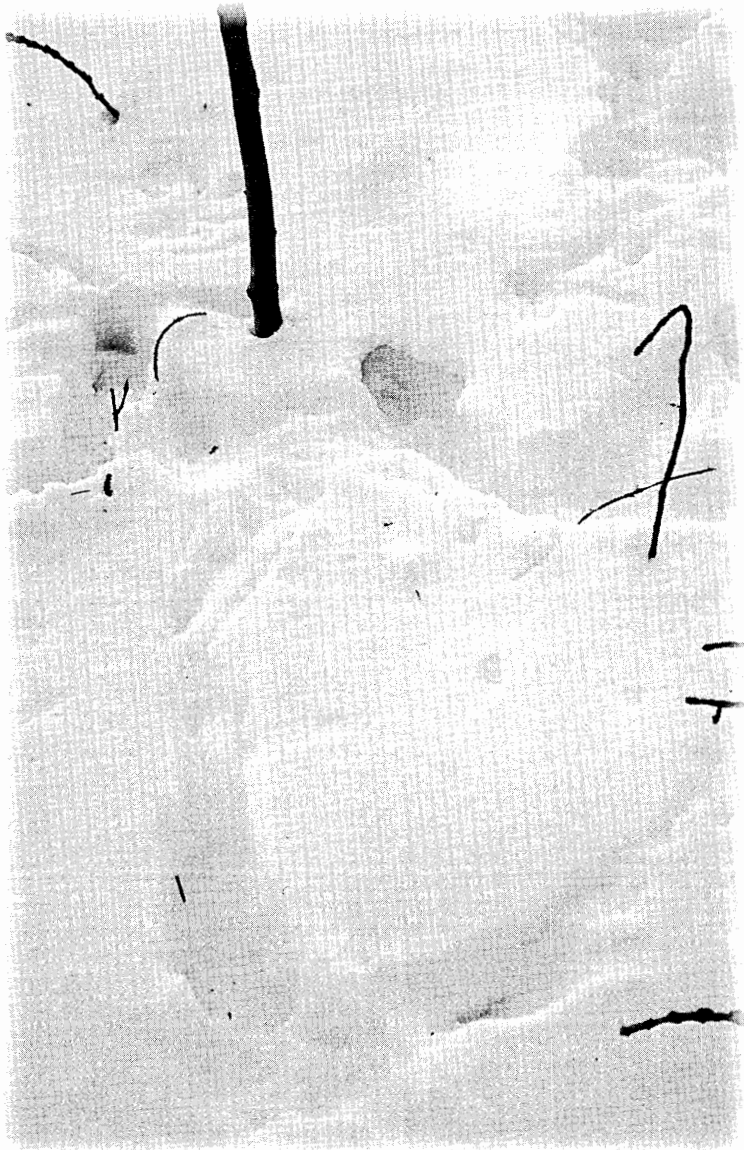
Snow bathing was first observed on 19 Jan, not at Long Lake, but at the Adirondack Park Agency Visitors’ Interpretive Center in Newcomb, Essex County, where Collins observed several Common Redpolls from a larger flock, wing-fluttering and hovering in powder snow that covered a leaning tree, using their heads to dig at the snow, while fluttering their wings. Subsequently, such activity was observed frequently at the Long Lake study site, but included some interesting variations that went beyond simple bathing in surface snow on the ground or roofs. On 18 Feb, redpolls were observed snow bathing by flying up through conifer branches so the snow would shower over them. Wings flapped as if water bathing, and there was much aggression over spots with snow on trees. On 22 Feb, they engaged in snow bathing by flying from one branch to another to create a snow shower. On 27 Feb they showed much interest in snow-covered balsam firs and bathing in trees, birds showering themselves with snow up and down the branches, sometimes flying up through, but sometimes sliding down, a branch. The same day saw active bathing against snow-covered tree trunks and in branches of deciduous trees, as well as balsams, with as many as 150 redpolls involved, some hopping and sliding down drooping branches to lower branches and creating snow showers in the firs. This snow sliding and snow showering was repeatedly observed throughout the winter. By 8 Mar, while eating buds in a maple, they ate, preened, and snow bathed, sticking their heads under the snow on a branch, then showering themselves with snow and fluttering their wings. On 12 Mar redpolls would dig holes in the snow up to their heads, then throw back their heads to shower their bodies with snow, also snow bathing on the lean-to roof.

Following a fresh snowfall on 23 Mar, members of a flock of 200 Common Redpolls would hop along snowy branches, so there were continuous snow showers falling from the trees, while others hopped along the ground, wing-flapping and snow bathing.

Snow Burrowing

This subnivean activity was first noted on 18 Jan, when a flock of over 100 Common Redpolls was engaged in considerable activity on the roof of the nearest lean-to, then covered with over two feet of snow. They were creating holes, disappearing inside, and then redpolls would suddenly emerge from the snow in places all over the roof. This behavior seemed to attract Black-capped Chickadees, who flew over and found places to alight on the eaves. On 5 Feb, the lean-to was covered with 1 & 1/2 ft. of consolidated snow, a layer of ice, and 3 inches of fresh powder. Redpolls would land hard and predominately use their heads to excavate burrows. They also dug burrows on the porch roof of the house and against large white pine stumps, seeming to prefer surfaces with a bit of a slope and not quite vertical. Up to 15 birds were involved at a time, and the ideal snow conditions provided a perfect substrate for the activity to continue almost daily into late March.

The length of these tunnels was first suggested on 6 Feb when one of 10-15 Common Redpolls was observed tunneling from a hole, and its dark image could be seen moving horizontally just under the surface as the bird created a tunnel perhaps a foot long, before emerging suddenly from a new hole at the end. Burrowing was first noted on the main roof of the house 15 Feb, a day of feverish activity. Up to 15 birds on the lean-to would dig holes with their heads, slowly sinking out of sight as they dug deeper. There would be a frenzy of digging, followed by several seconds of quiet roosting behavior with only the heads, or even no parts, of the birds visible. One horizontal tunnel also appeared 1 & 1/2 ft. long, and was worked on by multiple individuals. On occasion, a redpoll would fly in and evict another that was digging, taking over the snow burrow. Several that day were simultaneously creating burrows in ground snow for the first time, using their heads to dig so deep that they slowly sank out of sight. Burrows against the snow on the sides of the pine stumps again showed the birds preference for less than vertical surfaces. When a redpoll would start this activity, it would attract others, and often an aggressive eviction of the digger would occur, seemingly similar to the reaction when a bird discovers another's food source. They also excavated burrows near emergent weeds protruding above the snow. The house and porch roofline edges and top surfaces were pocked with holes, and they frequently drilled into the eave of the lean-to, as well as on the actual surface of the roof.



3/23/02
Common Redpoll ground burrows and tunnels.
© Joan Collins

By 18 Feb, there were at least 25 Common Redpolls digging and tunneling on the lean-to roof alone. Heads would pop up 1 & 1/2 feet from where they dove in. One redpoll would start the digging, and others immediately follow its lead. Aggressive behavior was regularly evident. One digging redpoll, for example, turned on an aggressor with the Threat-gaping display (Cramp and Perrins 1994, p. 649, Fig. E), an open-billed posture, and the aggressor backed down and started digging its own tunnel. All of this activity was highly social, and examination of the videotape, as well as first-hand observations, suggests a sense of play, a controversial subject in zoology. A high level of activity preceded the digging behavior, with a more subdued atmosphere after. The same day there were new burrows on both the house roof and porch roof.

Typical digging was performed by 15 Common Redpolls on 19 Feb. They would lean forward and use their heads to excavate the snow, moving forward with their feet and continuing to use their heads to dig. At times they would use their wings to hover until a good foothold in the snow could be secured, and this tended to happen near more vertical sections of snow. During seven minutes, between 7:48-7:55 AM., they would disappear completely from sight. Again, quite a bit of fighting was observed, both aggressive and defensive behavior, over the snow burrows, and after the digging, a lull in activity followed. Activity increased at 8:30 AM. and digging resumed at 8:42 AM., while redpolls were also going into and under the lean-to, in a typical burst of activity.

On 27 Feb, Common Redpolls were excavating snow burrows and tunnels on tree branches. One redpoll tunneled into the snow on a slight down slope, toward the end of the branch, for 1 & 1/2 feet, remaining in the tunnel for two minutes. The bird's head suddenly emerged; the bird stayed in this position for several more seconds, and then flew up, creating a new hole at the far end. The snow on the front porch roof was riddled with over 30 fresh holes. The following day, a redpoll tunneled through snow on a branch, its dark image visible beneath the surface as it progressed. The bird then remained still for a minute before the head appeared. Total time under the snow was just over two minutes. As one bird excavated snow on a branch, another redpoll suddenly popped up through the snow from a lower spot. Yet another used its feet to dig down until it could switch to using its head for digging. Another common strategy when digging on level snow was to utilize the momentum of a hard landing to gain a head start. A bird in a tunnel begun the previous day went under the snow twice for over 30 seconds, popped up six inches from where it started, only to have another head emerge three inches in the other direction.

Only a few inches of snow were left on the lean-to roof by 12 Mar, so just a few of the flock of ~100 Common Redpolls were digging there. With more snow available on 22 Mar, high winds, and a 9°F daytime temperature, digging was back in full swing, with holes, cavities, and tunnels everywhere. The three inches of snow on roofs was insufficient for tunneling, but birds did dig cavities. The eight inches on the ground, however, provided plenty of snow for tunneling.

In addition to the front, back, and side of the house, they were digging near downed trees, on the slopes of stumps and tree trunks, and near large boulders—anywhere they could find a sloped, snowy area. Near downed trees, the redpolls utilized areas under and all through them. They also dug near weeds, perhaps because snow is generally not as compacted there, and they may find hollow areas. There is no evidence that redpolls feed there (*contra* Cade 1953 and *per* Clement 1968). That so much digging was at or near ground level on 22 Mar, when earlier it had been predominantly higher, suggests that redpolls prefer to dig high— or at least off the ground— when conditions allow. By 23 Mar, some of the digging appeared to be related to bathing, with the redpolls tossing their heads up and showering themselves with snow and some wing fluttering.

For the purpose of measurements, we refer to “caves” and “tunnels,” to differentiate between simple cavities excavated downward into the snow and the longer excavations with a more horizontal axis, often with both entrance and egress points. A sample of measurements:

27 Feb

Caves, lean-to roof:

5-8 cm deep

Tunnels, lean-to roof:

36 cm long, 8 cm deep

40 cm long, 6.5 cm deep

60 cm long, 7 cm deep

Tunnel, front porch roof: 33 cm long, 6-7 cm deep

22 Mar

Caves, ground:

6-8 cm, occasionally 5.5 cm up to 12 cm deep

Tunnels, ground:

15 cm long, 8 cm deep, with 6 cm burrow cavity off the tunnel

26 cm long, 6 cm deep, 8 cm wide, with a 7 cm burrow cavity off the tunnel

30 cm long, 6 cm deep, with a 10 cm burrow cavity off the tunnel

23 March

Caves, ground:

6-8 cm deep

Tunnels, ground:

10 cm long, 6 cm deep

15 cm long, 6 cm deep, with a 7 cm cavity off the tunnel

31 cm long, 6 cm deep

40 cm long, 9 cm deep, with a 7 cm cavity off the tunnel

47 cm long, 6 cm deep

51 cm long, 6 cm deep

55 cm long, 9 cm deep

55 cm long, 7 cm deep* / 80 cm long, 7 cm deep*

*The last two measurements appeared to be one long tunnel, but took a 90° turn, so were measured as separate tunnels, and it is possible that two different redpolls worked on it. This was an amazing tunnel that was still mostly intact, even in the wind. If considered as a single tunnel, the entire length was 135 cm, or ~1.35 meters.

“Snow Snakes”

Although we can find no previous mention of this behavior, which we call “snow snakes,” after an old game played with sticks, that left similar, if larger tracks in the snow, it was relatively common to see after first being observed on 5 Feb. A Common Redpoll would land hard on the powder snow on the ground, so it would start out being up to its chest in snow. The bird would then hop or shoot to another spot, but never leave contact with the surface of the snow. The result was patterns of lines in the snow, all over the yard and woods, with interspaced round depressions from landings. Birds gave the impression that they were flopping around in the snow, shooting off in a straight line, only to curve left, then right, then in another direction. At times this was linked to feeding/foraging, but at other times they hopped in random directions with no apparent purpose. When the redpolls were done with this activity, it appeared that someone had drawn lines and curves all over the surface of the snow with a stick. This seemed to be an activity only engaged in when the large flock was present. Smaller numbers seemed more subdued and less exuberant. Unless somehow related to bathing, the only impression of their scooting around was of a purely social activity, as if for enjoyment.

“Snow Nests”

Again, we can find no mention of the use of clumps of surface snow on branches for various activities by Common Redpolls, yet it was witnessed numerous times at Long Lake, suggesting that this is a regular behavior in the species, given the correct conditions. First witnessed on 13 Feb, the redpolls created “snow nests” at the ends of branches of a balsam fir near the house. The snow was heavy in the trees, and much had collected on the ends of the branches. They would hop into the middle of these snowy areas, digging with their heads, and create what appeared to be nests of snow. The redpolls would nestle down and roost briefly in these, with one remaining for over a minute. They would eat the snow and occasionally flap their wings a bit. In one “snow nest,” five different birds took turns roosting in the nest for more than several minutes. At times, individuals would leave by choice, and at other times they would aggressively be evicted by another seeking the nest. Even when the wind had blown snow out of the trees by 14 Feb, the prior day’s activity had packed down the “snow nests” and preserved them, and the redpolls continued to use them.

Common Redpolls also took sunflower seeds back to these snowy spots on the ends of branches with fresh powder snow. On 18 Feb they would masticate the seed, then put it down, pick it up and chew at it, put it down again, and so forth, at their leisure. On the same day, while using the “snow nests” to eat seeds, they were also fighting over these spots. Redpolls seem to prefer eating seeds on snowy branches, even without “nests.” One hopped along a bare cherry branch until it came to a snowy spot that would hold its seed, as the redpoll picked it up and put it down several times. When there was no snow on branches, redpolls were observed taking seeds to snowy areas on roofs or the ground to eat. However, even with snow on the ground, on 5 Mar, when no snow was present on branches, they additionally used the branch ends with needles on balsams to hold seed, and continued to do so through 17 Mar. No redpolls were observed taking a seed to a bare branch to eat. Redpolls were not observed to use their feet to aid in eating sunflower seeds, as observed in Black-capped Chickadees, but rather used snow or conifer branch needles to hold the seeds, while they worked to open them with their bills.

Discussion

Common Redpolls have evolved to survive in harsh, snowy winter conditions. That they would devise strategies to endure is hardly surprising, and many of their evolutionary adaptations are well-studied, such as their diverticula—or expandable pouch in the esophagus— where they can store seeds for later regurgitation and swallowing (Knox and Lowther 2000). Little, however, has been published on winter activities and behavior. In order to conserve body heat, especially when fluffed out in night roosts, feathers need to be clean, so snow bathing is an obvious practice. The purpose of the subnivean caves and tunnels is less clear. Previous researchers, including the junior author, have suggested heat conservation. That may well have been the case at Mineville (Furness and Peterson 1987), where the birds roosted in snow caves with their heads outward. Yet the brief bursts of activity (and considerable expenditure of energy) in digging long tunnels is unclear, where the energy outlay seems to exceed any benefit. Observations, and later videotape review, suggest a social function, as well. So too with the “snow snakes” and to a certain extent with the use of “snow nests,” at least for simply sitting, as opposed to feeding. In flocking birds, such social interactions may be important for anything from bonding to hierarchy. Only recently have we begun to recognize the dominance order and social structure of Common Ravens in winter, and it may be some time before we understand the same in Common Redpolls. Meanwhile, they provide a delightful, if irregular, addition to the winter avifauna of New York State and northern climes.

Acknowledgements

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ORIGINS AND MOVEMENTS OF SNOW GEESE IN NEW YORK STATE

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On 11 Feb 2002, I noticed three adult Greater Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens atlanticus*) on the East Pond at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Reserve ,NYC with yellow neck-collars bearing the letter/number combinations **EU38**, **HM30** and **JP72**. Subsequent inquiries revealed that all three were females that had been captured by a Canadian research group studying the bioenergetics and foraging behavior of Greater Snow Geese on Bylot Island in the Canadian high Arctic (Gilles Gauthier, pers. comm.). The marking of birds with yellow collars (and radio transmitters and green collars on a few) has been in progress for ten years, with the first letter indicating the initial capture year . Thus for the Jamaica Bay WR birds, **EU38** was first captured in August 1997, **HM30** in August 1998 and **JP72** in August 2001. The month of August is the focus of these studies because this is when the geese undergo a short flightless period after the young have fledged permitting easy capture with minimal disturbance.

Interestingly, **HM30** has been seen at least twice before (28 Oct 1999 and 1 Apr 2000) in southern Canada near the town of Victoriaville, Québec (Sylvain Mathieu, pers. comm.). This area is part of an important staging site for Greater Snow Geese and lies south of the St. Lawrence River, midway between Montréal and Québec City. Following a direct route, the distance between Jamaica Bay, New York and Bylot Island is just less than 2000 miles. As will be described below, it is likely that the geese follow a longer route that passes through the St. Lawrence River Valley and Ungava Peninsula of northern Québec.

Bylot Island – Goose Central

Bylot Island (72.9°N, 79.5°W) lies off the northeast coast of Baffin Island in the new territory of Nunavut. The island's southwest plain hosts the largest colony of nesting Greater Snow Geese in the world (a massive 16% of the total world population visit in the summer) as well as Canada's largest colonies of Thick-billed Murres (320,000) and Black-legged Kittiwakes (53,000). Since 1954, the southwestern part of the island has been recognized as a federal migratory bird sanctuary (Bylot Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary) and hopefully this will soon be afforded greater protection when it is included in the new proposed North Baffin National Park Reserve. The breeding avifauna of Bylot Island represents an interesting mix of Old and New World species. For example, Red Knots, Common Ringed Plovers and Northern Wheatears breed on the island but migrate to Europe and Africa to winter. Among the North America species,

there is a mix of low and high Arctic breeders. Sandhill Cranes and Pectoral Sandpipers, of low Arctic affinity, nest in proximity to Ruddy Turnstones and White-rumped Sandpipers, which are more typical of the high Arctic (Lepage et al. 1997). A Pink-footed Goose that wintered in Pennsylvania accompanied a Snow Goose flock that included birds from Bylot, and perhaps these acted as the carrier species (David Czaplak pers. comm.).

Annual cycle of migration between the high Arctic and Atlantic seaboard

The Greater Snow Geese arrive at their breeding grounds in early June and remain until September when the soil and freshwater ponds begin to freeze (Mowbray et al. 2000). The majority then travel south to staging grounds along the St. Lawrence River in southern Canada, particularly the tidal marshes at Cap Tourmente National Wildlife Area near Québec City. Although the journey between Bylot and the St. Lawrence River can be made in five or six days, most birds do not appear at Cap Tourmente until the first half of October. After leaving the high Arctic, the geese move southeast, following the valleys of northern Baffin Island and the Foxe Basin, to reach their staging sites on the Ungava Peninsula. Pausing only briefly, they continue onwards to the upper St. Lawrence River, flying over long stretches of high tundra and boreal forest. Some 20% are thought to skip the St. Lawrence River altogether and fly direct to their wintering grounds on the Atlantic Coast (Maisonneuve and Bédard 1992).

The Snow Geese that stage on the St. Lawrence River will stay for a few weeks (average 15-19 days) to replenish their energy reserves before continuing their migration to United States wintering grounds in early November. The most spectacular concentrations in southern Québec occur between 5 and 20 Oct. High tide counts on the marshes at Cap Tourmente NWA, for example, can exceed 100,000 birds! In general, Snow Goose numbers are on the rise (averaging 11% per year) and in fall 2001, a remarkable 837,000 Snow Geese were counted in the St. Lawrence River Valley and estuary (data from the Canadian Wildlife Service web site).

After refueling, the flocks move further up the St Lawrence River to Lac St. Pierre near Montréal and then south along the Richelieu River to the head of Lake Champlain. Major flights pass over Lake Champlain into New York State and south along the Hudson River to coastal New York, New Jersey and Delaware. Some may also reach the coast by following the Connecticut River (Barnards 1994). Upwards of 100,000 birds spend the winter on the shores of Delaware Bay (Sibley 1993) but many push further south into Maryland, Virginia and the Carolinas. During the winter, the geese feed on cordgrass and other marshland plants as well as agricultural crops such as rice. Since the late 1960s, Snow Geese have gradually moved inland to exploit farming areas, raising concerns about increased crop damage.

Towards the end of the winter, the large flocks reassemble and by retracing their fall migration route, return to the St Lawrence Valley in late April and early May. After rebuilding fat and protein reserves, the geese take wing, often en masse, in the third week of May and return to their nesting grounds along a fairly well-defined migration corridor, some pausing once more on the Ungava Peninsula.

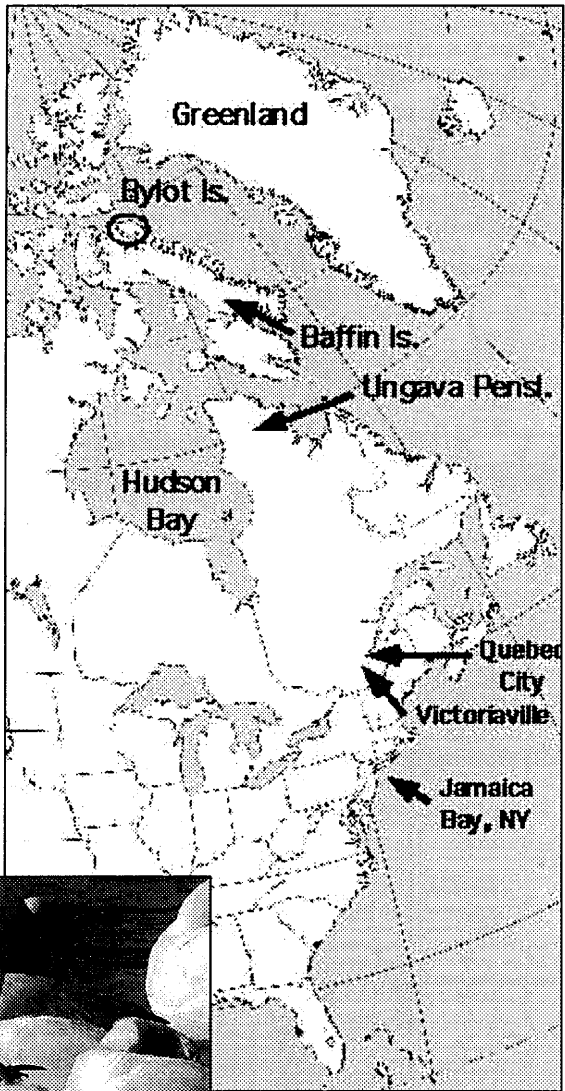
New York acts as an important corridor for migrant Snow Geese

Most of the Snow Geese that winter in the Atlantic states, including New York, nest on the high Arctic islands of Bylot, Ellesmere, northern Baffin and a smaller number in northwestern Greenland (Cooke et al. 1995; Mowbray et al. 2000). These are primarily Greater Snow Geese but some Lesser Snow Geese (including blue morphs) from breeding colonies in Hudson and Foxe Bays also migrate to the Atlantic seaboard via Rupert Bay in Québec and then to extreme southeastern Ontario and western New York (Bull 1985; Cooke et al. 1995).

As mentioned above, eastern New York represents the major migration corridor for Greater Snow Geese in passage between the St. Lawrence River estuary and coastal wintering areas such as the Delaware Bay. Indeed the bulk of marked Snow Geese observed on the New York/Vermont border at the head of Lake Champlain are from Bylot Island (David Hoag, pers. comm.). Large numbers of Snow Geese also pass through central New York staging in the wet areas at the head of Cayuga Lake including Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Migration across central New York is heaviest in the spring, with a peak of 30,000 Snow Geese at Montezuma on 18 Apr 1983 (Griffith 1998). These individuals are very likely headed for the St. Lawrence River. During February 2002, searches of 10-15,000 migrant Snow Geese near Montezuma revealed a dozen marked Greater Snow Geese from Bylot Island as well as four Lesser Snow Geese from Baffin Island (Pete Hosner and Matt Williams, pers. comm.). At least one of the collared Greater Snow Geese has been seen the previous winter at Victoriaville, Québec (Sylvain Mathieu, pers. comm.).

Snow Geese have traditionally been classified into two subspecies: the virtually color monomorphic (all white) Greater Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens atlantica*) and the dimorphic (white and blue morphs) Lesser Snow Goose (*C. c. caerulescens*). The two are mainly differentiated by size and weight. However, there is considerable overlap and field identification is extremely difficult. Size differences between the sexes are compounded by the fact that final body size of adults is known to be influenced by feeding conditions when they were goslings and thus size is not always a good indicator of population (Cooch et al. 1991; Lepage et al. 1998). Given these overlaps and variable frequencies of blue morphs, several leading authorities have argued that the subspecific designation is of little scientific utility but might be retained for management purposes

Route from breeding grounds to Jamaica Bay
Showing major migration stops.



Snow Geese
© Angus Wilson

(Cooke et al.1995; Mowbray et al. 2000). The presence of small but significant numbers of blue morph Snow Geese (infrequent in Greater Snow Geese) at Jamaica Bay and on Lake Champlain suggests that Lesser Snow Geese reach southern and eastern parts of the state. This is not a recent phenomenon as Bull mentions a number of Lesser Snow Goose specimens (identified by wing measurement) from the New York City area (Bull 1964).

Getting involved

There is still much to learn about the migration and wintering of Snow Geese in New York State. Birders can contribute important data by checking local goose flocks for marked birds and reporting this information to the USGS Bird Banding Laboratory at Laurel, Maryland or the Canadian Wildlife Service Bird Banding Office at Hull, Québec. The Bird Banding Lab maintains an excellent web site (<http://www.pwrc.nbs.gov/bbl/>) that explains and illustrates the different types of auxiliary markers used for waterfowl and provides addresses, phone numbers and interactive pages for reporting geese with collars or bands.

Many different marking projects are in progress and any goose flock, not just Snow Geese, can yield marked birds. Key elements to report are your name and address, the collar number, the date and exact location the bird was observed and the species if known. Special attention must be given to the arrangement of the letters, numbers and other symbols, as these are not always in a linear series, and also the color and shape of the collar. Observers may be rewarded with a certificate of appreciation from the banding lab indicating where and who banded the birds.

Ross's Goose (*C. rossii*) has undergone a similarly massive population increase with accompanying eastward expansion in wintering range. As a result, Ross's Geese are now annual in the state in small numbers. Birds from several breeding localities have been marked with collars and could occur in our area.

As I hope this note illustrates, the results can be fascinating and provide a wonderful reminder of the complex migration patterns used by this seemingly familiar species. Studies of marked Canada Geese in New York reveal a similarly rich story and show how much more there is to be learned about the comings and goings of geese (Gretch 1990; Marcotte 1998).

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Gilles Gauthier (Université Laval, Sainte-Foy, Québec), Sylvain Mathieu (Montréal, Québec), David Hoag (Grand Isle, Vermont), Matt Williams (Sunderland, Massachusetts) and Pete Hosner (Ithaca, New York) for communicating sightings or banding data. Robert F. Rockwell (American Museum of Natural History) provided valuable comments on the manuscript.

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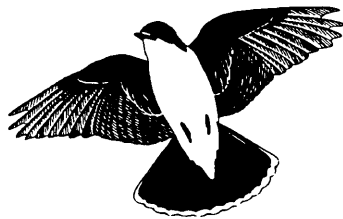
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First Record of Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) for Erie County

Brendan Klick

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On Saturday, 17 Aug 2002, Don Harris and I were birding at Woodlawn Beach State Park, a quarter-mile long sand beach on the eastern end of Lake Erie in Hamburg, Erie County. We observed a tern flush from the waters edge only to land shortly. Our attention was immediately caught by its very small size. It was approximately 40 percent smaller in length than a nearby Common Tern, and after viewing the plumage we immediately identified the bird as an adult Least Tern. The bill was yellow, with a noticeable dusky tip, the forehead white, contrasting the black cap and eyeline, the mantle pale gray; the underparts white. The two outer primaries were black, contrasting the gray inner primaries. The legs were yellow-orange.

During the time of observation the bird was either standing or lying down. When it took flight, it was only momentary, moving little more than a few dozen yards.

I took over sixty photographs of the bird through my spotting scope with a Sony Cybershot DSC-P71 digital camera. Others photographed it as well.

It was observed by dozens of birders on 17 Aug and 18 Aug and many commented on the tern's languorous behavior, raising questions about its health. Their fears were confirmed on 19 Aug when a birder discovered that the Least Tern had deceased. Unfortunately, the specimen was not collected and attempts to find it the following day were unsuccessful.

There was speculation about the death of the bird. Some suggesting that it was caused by the botulism outbreak which was occurring on Lake Erie at that time, others thought it was starvation caused by vagrancy. However, the certain cause will remain unknown.

The Least Tern joins a list of upstate rarities that have occurred on the eastern end of Lake Erie at Woodlawn Beach that includes Gyrfalcon, Piping Plover, American Avocet, Pomarine Jaeger, Long-tailed Jaeger, Laughing Gull, and Franklin's Gull.

This Least Tern represents only the third record of the species for Region 1 and the first for Erie County. The other two records also come from Lake Erie (Chautauqua County) but at different times of the year, 18 May 1993 and 10 Dec 1995 (BOS Database, 1997), with the latter being a juvenile bird. It has also been recorded on Lake Erie from the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario, on 26 Jun 1958 and 11 Nov 1995 (Beardslee and Mitchell, 1965; BOS Database, 1997). Other upstate records from Keuka Lake, Yates County and the Catskills have been attributed to Hurricanes Connie and Hugo, respectively (Skelly, 1998). The occurrence of this Least Tern coincided with no major weather system (Turisk, 2002). However, several Least Terns were reported from the western Great Lakes during August, including individuals at Conneaut Harbor and the Cedar Point Chausee in Ohio, and from Indiana (Fazio, 2002). This led to the speculation, though plausible but impossible to prove, that the bird originated not from the East Coast but from the endangered Mississippi River breeding population.

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Least Tern 17 Aug 3002 Erie County
© Brendan Klick

NYSARC NEWS

Robert Andrie, long time member and former chair of NYSARC has rotated off the Committee and has been replaced by Dominic Sherony, whose short biosketch appears below. The Federation wishes to thank Bob Andrie for his many years of outstanding service to the organization, not only through NYSARC, but in many other aspects, especially his role in the co-editing with Janet Carroll of *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*, published in 1988.

Dominic F. Sherony

Dominic Sherony was born and raised in the Chicago area and came to Rochester, NY in 1969 to work for Xerox Corporation after earning his PhD in Chemical Engineering at The Illinois Institute of Technology. His area of specialty is in large particle processing including grinding and coalescence and he has done research in the dynamics of particulate systems.

He was introduced to birding in 1971 through other Xerox people and has been an active and avid birder ever since. He is a contributing member of the Rochester Birding Association and the Genesee Ornithological Society. His birding interests include listing, bird photography, observation and research.

In 1991, he started to apply his background in analysis to avian subjects. He did a literature search and summary for Jon Dunn and Kimball Garret's book, *Warblers*, wrote twenty species accounts for *Bull's Birds of New York State*, and has published three papers on jaeger migration and one on Red-throated Loon migration as well as several papers in *The Kingbird*. He has collaborated with other authors and he and Brett Ewald recently authored the first monograph published by the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. He is currently Region 2 Breeding Bird Atlas co-coordinator with Robert Spahn.

Dominic retired from his position as vice-president of the Toner/Developer Design and Manufacturing Unit of Xerox after 30 a year career in toner products. He resides in Fairport, NY with his wife, Monica. They have four children scattered throughout the east and three grandchildren. They both enjoy cross-country skiing, reading, movies, gardening and their family.

Corrigenda

Please note that Robert Andrie's name was incorrectly spelled (Andrie) in the caption of the photograph of the NYSARC members in Vol 52 No.4 Dec 2002 of *The Kingbird*.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON 2002

Willie D'Anna

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Weather Effects

As one might expect for this season, it started summery and ended wintery. Of course, rarely does the weather do what we expect. September averaged as much as 6.6 degrees above normal, making it the warmest in Buffalo and Rochester in over forty years. There were few significant groundings of songbird migrants with weak flight peaks noted on 15 and 18 Sep in Region 1. On the night of 3 - 4 Oct, a large movement of passerines was heard overhead in Region 1 while Region 3 noted a very strong thrush flight the same night.

While some western Regions were drier than normal, the eastern half of the state had enough rain to break that area's drought. Several Regions reported above average snow in November with a major lake-effect event in the Tug Hill Plateau of Region 6.

The Good and the Bad

Several Regional Editor's commented on the lackluster quality of the season. The loonwatch on Cayuga Lake in Region 3 had the lowest total in its ten-year history. There were few Rough-legged Hawks, jaegers, Northern Shrikes, or Red-breasted Nuthatches on Lake Ontario. Exceptions were the 10 Parasitics observed at Hamlin Beach in Region 2 on 27 Oct and the scattered reports of Pomarines and Parasitics from Regions 9 & 10. Winter finches were very scarce with only a single report of each crossbill, four Pine Siskin reports, and six of Evening Grosbeak. Not a single redpoll was reported. Bohemian Waxwings also drew a blank. Ducks were noted only in low numbers in Regions 2, 5, & 8, while Region 9's hawkwatch totals were disappointing. While the intensity of fall passerine migration seldom matches that of spring, diversity, the frequency of exciting finds is often better. However, this season proved disappointing in that regard as well!

The news is not all bad. Inland areas of Region 1 noted higher numbers of ducks, particularly Northern Shoveler and Ruddy Duck. Region 7 had one of the state's highest counts ever of Ring-necked Duck - 2800 to 3000. The annual Wood Duck count at Region 9's Bashakill Marsh again tallied well over a thousand. 7000-9400 Brant flying past Hamlin Beach SP on 21 Oct provided the main thrust of a decent showing of that species on Lake Ontario. Though some may argue that this is not actually "good" news, large numbers of Snow Geese were observed in Regions 5, 7, & 8. In fact another state record count of this species was made in Region 7 - 57,000! John Peterson shares with us the method used by the observer to come up with this number. As with identifying rarities, counting large numbers of birds should be done carefully and with thought given to the method. This record count of Snow Geese is exemplary in that regard. The

hawkwatch news was better at Franklin Mountain in Region 4 where above-average numbers for almost all species were tallied and a new fall hawkwatching site was discovered on Lake Ontario in Region 6. Lastly, the mild September provided an extended breeding season for some birds, as noted in Regions 1 & 7.

Now for some more bad news. West Nile Virus (WNV) and Type E botulism – the words should strike fear into the heart of every birder. With WNV, the focus of government health officials has been on the disease's potential harm to humans, in spite of the fact that one poses a greater risk to himself every time he gets behind the wheel of his vehicle! With birds, however, the effect of the disease is potentially devastating. Unfortunately, it is very difficult to get a handle on the mortality rate in crows, jays, raptors, chickadees, and a long list of other species. Type E botulism is a different matter. Hundreds of birds washing up on the shore of Lake Erie provide a sudden and quite visible consequence of this deadly toxin. Thousands more water birds perish and never wash ashore. The disease has clearly spread to Lake Ontario where the even higher water bird population there will now be under threat. Please read Mike Morgante's Region 1 report for more details.

Rarities

For those who enjoy the thrill of discovering a rarity, fall provides your best opportunity. As previously outlined the season was relatively disappointing, but there were still several birds to get excited about.

While Northern Gannet appears almost annually at Region 2's Hamlin Beach lakewatch, this season's total of 11 is most impressive. More unusual was the Northern Gannet reported over Lake Champlain, only the second record for Region 7. Numbers of "Richardson's" Canada Goose again were found at Iroquois NWR in Region 1 with a high count of 25, comparable with recent falls. Summer sightings of Brown Pelican were repeated this season in Regions 2 & 5, believed to be different individuals. Unfortunately unconfirmed, the reports of Brown Pelican on Cayuga Lake could have been the first ever recorded in Region 3. The only American White Pelicans in NY were found in Region 3 – a pair. No longer on the NYSARC review list, a Great Cormorant was only the second ever in Region 1. Considered by some to be over-reported and by others to be overlooked, a Pacific Loon was discovered in Region 2. Perhaps the best known of this season's rarities were the three (!) different juvenile Purple Gallinules found in Regions 3, 7, & 9. These birds were seen over several weeks, were widely reported on email list services, and were vigorously chased by birders from every corner of the state. An account of the Region 7 bird appears in *The Kingbird*, Vol. 52, pp. 327-329. A brief visit by a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in Brooklyn could be NY's second or third but unfortunately, this single-observer sighting has not as yet been submitted to NYSARC. As many as four California Gulls were reported from the Niagara River in Region 1, although only two were documented for NY. This is the 11th straight year for the species on the river. "Good" gulls become even better (= rarer) when found away from the coast and Great Lakes. Region 3 tallied a Laughing Gull, a Black-headed Gull, and one of the rarest inland, a Black-legged Kittiwake. Another inland Black-legged Kittiwake was over Lake

Champlain, only the second for Region 7. Region 2's Eurasian Collared-Dove, first found in late spring, continued well into the fall season. Hot on the heels of last year's first state record (pending NYSARC review), another Calliope Hummingbird was reported in Manhattan. Unfortunately, this individual was not as accommodating as last year's bird. *Selasphorus* hummingbirds have become nearly annual in the state with most in Regions 9 & 10 near New York City. The pattern continued this fall with a Rufous in Region 9 and a "probable" Rufous in Region 10. Two Ash-throated Flycatchers in Region 10 continued the trend there in recent years. Cave Swallow has become annual in fall at Cape May, New Jersey with increasing reports elsewhere along the coast and even inland on the Great Lakes. This season saw record numbers (over 100!) reported in Connecticut with a spillover of five reports in Region 10. Region 2 reported this species for the third time in four years and the Niagara River was the site of Region 1's first, a bird that was seen perched and photographed. Identification of Bicknell's Thrush away from breeding territories is exceptionally difficult. Banders in Region 2 undoubtedly used measurements to aid them in identifying one this fall. Yellow-throated Warblers have shown a pattern of late fall occurrences in the state. November birds in Regions 1 & 8 reinforced that pattern this season. The Audubon's form of Yellow-rumped Warbler is a very rare find in NY – one was reported in Region 10 this season. A Western Tanager, seen briefly and photographed in Region 3, would be one of very few records upstate in NY.

Bird of the Season

For a few days this fall, a highly publicized bird at Jones Beach SP on Long Island was thought to be New York's first Hermit Warbler. Extensively studied and photographed, focus shifted to the possibility that this was a Hermit x Townsend's Warbler hybrid. West Coast birders, familiar with such hybrids which are not infrequent, were split on the identification of the warbler. A few felt it was pure enough to be called a Hermit, but others disagreed. Still others thought that the bird may not be a first generation hybrid but that it still had some genes from both Hermit and Townsend's warblers. Please see the lead articles in this issue for further coverage

It is rare when inland Regions get a shorebird that can lure coastal birders into making the long drive westward. However, that was the case this fall. A Region 2 birder had been diligently searching through flocks of Pectoral Sandpipers for years, trying to find a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. This season, he struck paydirt at Irondequoit Bay and a lovely juvenile of that species was enjoyed by many over the course of its four-day stay and photographs of the bird were shared over the Internet. A detailed account of this sighting appeared in *The Kingbird*, Vol. 52, pp. 330-333.

My choice for the bird of the season goes to these two birds - the warbler, whether a Hermit or a hybrid it is still a first, and the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Irondequoit Bay, New York's first inland record.

NOTES

The quarterly "Highlights" analysis of the previous season has been continuously presented in these pages by Willie D'Anna starting in Sep 1997 (Vol. 47 No.3). He had been the Region 1 Editor beginning with the first volume of 1995 and continued as such through Vol 48 No.1, pulling double duty until being replaced as Region 1 Editor in June of 1998. Willie has decided to take a well deserved breather and this will be his last contribution to this column. However, I am certain he will remain active in the field, and of course will continue in his capacity as a member of NYSARC.

The Federation owes Willie a huge vote of "thanks" for his incisive and thorough commentary on the previous season's happenings. His successor will have a hard act to follow.

Jane Denker Graves has relinquished her post as Region 8 Editor. Her first contribution in that job came in Volume 44, No. 1, Jan 1994, her last in Volume 52, No.4, Dec 2002, making for a total of nine years of selfless coverage. Her reports were always keenly analytical and all inclusive.

She is also currently the Region 8 Atlas 2000 Coordinator, in which capacity she will continue

The Federation would like to extend to Jane its appreciation for the many years of service to the organization and *The Kingbird* in particular. Thank you, Jane.

The Editor

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The warm and sunny weather continued in September. The average temperature for the month was 66.9° F, which was 5.4° above normal and the warmest September in more than 40 years at Buffalo. Monthly precipitation at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport was 2.54", 1.3" below normal, with 1.5" of it occurring on the 27th with the remnants of Tropical Depression Isidore. October remained warm through the first two weeks but turned chilly and wet for the remainder of the month. The average temperature was 49.3°, 1.4° below normal, and the monthly precipitation was a normal 3.21". Very strong wind events occurred on 4–7 and 19–20 October, resulting in some good wind-blown bird records on Lake Erie in Athol Springs. The 13th was cool and wet, making viewing conditions less than desirable for the Buffalo Ornithological Society's (BOS) October count. November was blustery and winter-like. The average temperature was 39.4°, 0.8° below normal. The monthly precipitation was 3.57", 0.35" below normal; snowfall of 8.9" was 2.1" below normal. No major weather events occurred in the month.

The warm summer and September resulted in an extended breeding season for some species, including Mourning Dove, Red-eyed Vireo and Northern Cardinal. Fall passerine migrants seemed to trickle through during the warm September weather, although higher numbers were recorded on the 15th and 28th. Several birders commented on the impressive number of nocturnal migrants flying overhead on the night of 3–4 October. This corresponds with Art Clark's report of about 200 bird kills under area TV towers found on the morning of the 4th, which was the second highest total in the last ten years (R. Wagner, BOS, *The Prothonotary*, Vol. 68, No. 10, October 2002). The wet and chilly conditions in late October and November likely resulted in less birder coverage on Lake Ontario, as reports and notable findings from that area were decreased this year. By mid-November, many of the Region's birders turn their attention to gulls on the Niagara River, where large numbers were still building up during the last week of the month.

Alan Wormington identified the Region's second **Great Cormorant** (the second in two years) while leading a group of Michigan birders on the Niagara River. The bird was observed exiting the river to Lake Ontario on 23 November.

There were some impressive counts of waterfowl made from inland locations such as Attica Reservoir and Cuba Lake in addition to the better covered Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant and Chautauqua Lake. High numbers of Northern Shovelers and Ruddy Ducks continued at Batavia, while good counts of Hooded and Common mergansers were made at several locations in November. "Richardson's" Canada Geese (*B. c. hutchinsii*) were observed again this fall at Iroquois NWR, and there were unverified reports of up to five in East Aurora. Two

Barrow's Goldeneyes were documented by Dominic Sherony at Niagara Falls. This species is much less than annual in the Region.

For the third consecutive fall, piscivorous waterbirds along Lake Erie were affected by an outbreak of type E botulism. The impact on migrating waterfowl has been severe and mortality has increased each year on the lake. The outbreak had previously been restricted to Lake Erie, but NYSDEC's fears of geographic expansion of this outbreak were realized when 50 Long-tailed Ducks were collected along Lake Ontario shores this fall. Lake Ontario represents a greater potential risk to waterfowl populations as fall migration is typically heavier there than on Lake Erie.

The NYSDEC again conducted counts of dead birds at 13 500-meter transects to document the number killed by species and to make mortality projections for the entire New York Lake Erie shoreline. A total of 985 birds of 13 species were found dead during the surveys this fall, indicating that as many as 18,000 birds died due to botulism. This number far exceeds those of the previous two fall seasons. This mortality estimate only accounts for birds washed up on shore. Considering that the birds die in the water and perhaps just as many never wash ashore, the situation is all the more dire. Counts and projected mortality for the entire New York Lake Erie shoreline (2002 fall season) included: 728 Long-tailed Duck (projected mortality 13,300), 112 Common Loon (2050), 46 Red-breasted Merganser (840), 26 Herring Gull (475), 21 merganser species (385), 15 Horned Grebe (275), 15 Ring-billed Gull (275), 7 Greater Scaup (128), 5 unidentified gulls (92), 2 Great Black-backed Gull (37), 2 Red-necked Grebe (37), 2 unidentified ducks (37), and 1 each of Wood Duck, scoter species, Common Merganser and Bonaparte's Gull (18 each).

Increased reports of Bald Eagles, Merlins and Peregrine Falcons continued this season and are encouraging. On 12 September, Peter Yoerg found a Merlin at the annual winter roosting site at the University of Buffalo, South Campus. This early return is somewhat surprising; five were present by the end of November. Brett Ewald found a large field in Porter containing an impressive count of 26 Northern Harriers and five Short-eared Owls.

Fall shorebirding was average and no locations provided high or consistent numbers. Most notable were the two **Hudsonian Godwits** that Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter found in Somerset. Purple Sandpipers were recorded at two locations in November, both away from the sites of nearly annual records at Niagara Falls, from which there were no reports this year.

Gull numbers were still increasing on the Niagara River as the season ended. Eleven species were present in November. One adult and one third-winter **California Gull** were found, making 11 consecutive years for this species on the river. An adult **Black-headed Gull** and immature Black-legged Kittiwake there were enjoyed by many observers.

The usual late summer and early fall reports of Common Nighthawks were made, but the numbers were lower than even the poor counts of recent years. Far more nighthawks are typically seen in fall migration than in spring migration. This year reports were low for both seasons.

The highlight of the season was the Region's first **Cave Swallow**. On 16 November, Willie D'Anna found one among a large group of swallows on the Niagara River, as viewed from Goat Island. Several others were able to see the bird, sometimes perched, on subsequent days. Cave Swallows were sighted in several Great Lakes locations outside this Region earlier in the week. Swallows of any species are rare in November and the group of more than 100, primarily Northern Rough-winged, with two Tree swallows, was unprecedented.

A real surprise was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** that frequented Carol Harding's yard in Portland, Chautauqua County, 5-19 November. This is the second very late occurrence in the Region for this very rare species.

Don Roberson found 15 Cape May Warblers in a fallout of warblers at Goat Island on 19 September; 11 were found in one group several days later. These high numbers parallel similar numbers last year at the same location and are unusual given the typical scarcity of this species in recent migrations. Late warblers this year included a **Prairie** in October and **Tennessee** and **Pine** in November.

Linda Holmes saw a **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** on one of her nearly daily trips to Sinking Ponds Sanctuary in East Aurora. This makes the second year in a row for this species that had not been reported in the Region since 1983.

Finches were extremely scarce this fall. There were only two reports of **Pine Siskins** and no reports of grosbeaks, crossbills or redpolls. **Purple Finch** numbers were also very low.

Other significant sightings not previously mentioned included **Eared Grebe**, **Harlequin Duck**, **Sandhill Crane**, **Barn Owl** and **White-eyed Vireo**.

The 67th annual BOS October Count was held on the 13th and compiled by Mike Hamilton. The count recorded 163 species, with an impressive eight record high counts and no record low counts. Highest counts since inception in 1935 were recorded for: **Northern Shoveler** (387), **Green-winged Teal** (401), **Ruddy Duck** (1271), **Bald Eagle** (7), **Merlin** (6), **Peregrine Falcon** (3), **Northern Saw-whet Owl** (6) and **Red-bellied Woodpecker** (61). Low counts for the past decade were made for 13 species, including **American Crow** (3185). Several observers noted declines in crow numbers and theorized it is due to mortality from West Nile Virus. However, too many variables exist with the count and with bird mortality in general to reach any conclusions due to cause.

Special thanks go to Ken Roblee of NYSDEC for providing the data on the botulism outbreak summarized here. Weather information was obtained from National Weather Service monthly summaries.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ALSP – Allegany SP CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP ERIE; BeSP – Beaver I SP ERIE; BOSOC – Buffalo Ornithological Society 13 Oct Count; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant GENE; ChauL – Chautauqua L CHAU; DH – Dunkirk Harbor CHAU; FMCSP – Four Mile Creek SP NIAG; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP NIAG; GHSP – Golden Hill SP NIAG; GI – Goat I NIAG; INWR – Iroquois NWR GENE/ORLE; JAS – Jamestown Audubon Sanctuary CHAU; LBSP – Lakeside Beach SP ORLE; NF – Niagara Falls NIAG; NPP – Niagara Power Project on NR, Lewiston NIAG; NR – Niagara R ERIE/NIAG; OOWMA – Oak Orchard WMA GENE; SPNS – Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary, E Aurora ERIE; Tift NP – Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA GENE/NIAG; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP NIAG.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr 9 Somerset NIAG & Yates ORLE 20 Oct (WD); max 58 Yates ORLE 23 Nov (BK).

Com. Loon: arr GHSP 30 Sep.

Pied-billed Grebe: 3 yg BuSP 13 Sep (WW), on the late side for young birds.

Horned Grebe: arr 3 Somerset NIAG 30 Sep; 3 BOSOC, near record low; Dayton CHAU 9 Nov; very few reports.

Red-necked Grebe: arr BWWTP 2 Nov (MM); 2 FNSP 3 Nov (PY); Somerset NIAG 3 Nov (MM); only reports.

EARED GREBE: 4 BWWTP thru 2 Nov (MM! WW! BK!), 2 remained thru 24 Nov (WW!), continued presence since summer, latest stay to date there.

GREAT CORMORANT: Youngstown NR 23 Nov (AW!), flying out to L Ontario, 2nd for Reg.

Double-crested Cormorant: 500 Buffalo ERIE 15 Sep; max 940 BuSP 7 Oct; 811 BOSOC; 240 DH 5 Nov; Cuba L ALLE 9 Nov; lower max than recent fall seasons.

Am. Bittern: INWR 5 Sep; ChauL 14 Sep; Sheridan CHAU 10 Oct; last INWR 27 Oct (PY); only reports.

Great Egret: max 4 NR 6 & 13 Sep; last

3 BOSOC.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Frewsburg CHAU 9 Nov (PB); 2 Buffalo ERIE 6-16 Nov (PY), traditional wintering location.

Turkey Vulture: last Tonawanda ERIE 30 Oct.

Greater White-fronted Goose x Snow Goose: possible hybrid showing many field marks of both species, Barcelona Harbor CHAU 30 Sep (LD! TS!).

Snow Goose: arr Amity L ALLE 22 Sep (VP!), early; Newstead ERIE 29 Sep (BK!); 3 BWWTP 6 Oct; 2 Westfield CHAU 12 Oct; max 7 INWR 20-27 Oct; Attica Res WYOM 9 Nov; 6 OOWMA 12 Nov; SPNS 20 Nov.

Canada “Richardson’s” Goose (*B. c. hutchinsii*): max 25 INWR 27 Oct (PY!), in same location in similar numbers as recent fall seasons; 5,1 INWR 2,3 Nov (MM! NYSARC); 5 SPNS 19 Nov (LH). **Brant:** arr 5 Olcott NIAG 4 Oct (STO); Athol Springs ERIE 5 Oct (MM); Yates ORLE 6 Oct (BK!); all slightly early; last 4 FMCSP 3 Nov.

Mute Swan: max 4 Wilson NIAG 23 Nov.

Trumpeter Swan: ChauL 4-13 Oct (BS,

PB), unbanded, origin unknown.
Tundra Swan: arr 2 SPNS 21 Oct; 6 BWWTP 2 Nov; 5 Amity L ALLE 7 Nov; 38 Attica Res WYOM 9 Nov; max 81 OOWMA 12 Nov; 70 ChauL 15 Nov; 36 ChauL 30 Nov.
N. Shoveler: 75 ChauL 5 Oct; 387 BOSOC, count high; max 420 BWWTP 19 Oct (WW), high; 202 BWWTP 24 Nov.
Green-winged Teal: max 401 BOSOC, count high, included 250 Akron Res WYOM; 80 Tiff NP 13 Nov.
Canvasback: BuSP 4 Sep (WW!), very early; 2 BWWTP 7 Sep (BK!), summered; 22 ChauL 15 Oct; max 500 NF 5 Nov.
Redhead: 16 BOSOC; 4 BWWTP 2 Nov; 4 NF 5 Nov; only reports.
Ring-necked Duck: arr BuSP 4 Sep (WW!); 11 BWWTP 29 Sep; 280 Brocton Res CHAU 2 Nov; max 310 Attica Res 9 Nov; 110 INWR 12 Nov.
Greater Scaup: BWWTP 14 Sep (WW!), summered; arr 6 Buffalo ERIE 29 Sep; max 1000 NF 5 Nov.
Lesser Scaup: INWR 7 Sep, early; max 70 Somerset NIAG 26 Oct.
HARLEQUIN DUCK: Yates ORLE 9 Nov (BK, DH); nearly annual.
Surf Scoter: arr 5 Athol Springs 5 Oct, 4 Athol Springs 20 Oct; 2 Silver Creek CHAU 5 Nov; AISP 9 Nov (MD), unusual inland; max 50 Buffalo NR 24 Nov (PY), good count.
White-winged Scoter: arr 2 GHSP 7 Sep.
Black Scoter: arr 15 Athol Springs ERIE & 7 Olcott NIAG 20 Oct; DH 27 Oct; NF 30 Oct; 4 Somerset NIAG 3 Nov; BWWTP 12 & 17 Nov, very unusual inland; 2 Buffalo NR 24 Nov.
Long-tailed Duck: arr BOSOC.
Bufflehead: arr 2 GHSP 6 Oct (BK!), early; max 300 Buffalo NR 28 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: arr 2 BOSOC.
BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: 2 NF 24 Nov (DoS!), very rare.
Hooded Merganser: 137 INWR 26 Oct (STO); max 550 Attica Res WYOM 9

Nov (BK), very good count; 90 Cuba L ALLE 9 Nov.

Com. Merganser: 180 Attica Res WYOM 9 Nov; max 950 ChauL 29 Nov (JB); excellent inland counts.

Ruddy Duck: 1271 BOSOC, count high; max 1470 BWWTP 19 Oct (WW); 160 ChauL 26 Oct; 49 Attica Res WYOM 9 Nov; 36 Cuba L ALLE 9 Nov.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: last 3 BOSOC.

Bald Eagle: Watts Flats WMA CHAU 28 Sep; Hamburg ERIE 6 Oct; 7 CATT BOSOC, count high; JAS 27 Oct; Frewsburg CHAU 31 Oct; 2 ad INWR 2 Nov; ad DH 5 Nov; 2 ad Rushford CATT 9 Nov; ad Olean CATT 25 Nov; ad Westfield CHAU 30 Nov; ad ChauL 30 Nov; good showing, especially for adults.

N. Harrier: 26 Porter NIAG 15 Nov (BE), impressive count for one large field.
N. Goshawk: imm Wethersfield WYOM 18 Oct (DJ); Pike WYOM 9 Nov (BK!), typical number for season.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 9 BOSOC; Busti CHAU 3 Nov (JB); few reported in fall.

Broad-winged Hawk: 5 BOSOC; few reported in fall.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr Westfield CHAU 12 Oct; Frewsburg CHAU 15 Oct; 7 other reports.

Merlin: arr winter roost Buffalo ERIE 12 Sep (PY), up to 5 by end of Nov; 6 BOSOC, count high; 10 other reports; excellent showing, reports continue to increase.

Peregrine Falcon: INWR 30 Sep; Athol Springs ERIE 5 Oct; INWR 6 Oct, 3 BOSOC, count high; BWWTP 22 Oct & 12 Nov; 2 Buffalo ERIE 28 Oct; Lewiston NIAG 23 Nov; good showing.

Virginia Rail: TWMA 7 Sep & 6 Oct (BK, DH); last SPNS 17 Oct; few reported in fall.

Sora: TWMA 7 Sep & 6 Oct (BK, DH); few reported in fall.

Com. Moorhen: last BWWTP 22 Oct

(DR).

SANDHILL CRANE: BWWTP 10 Nov (MM!), first for location; fall reports very rare.

Black-bellied Plover: DH 26 Sep; BWWTP 29 Sep, 2 DH 2 Oct; only reports.

Am. Golden-Plover: LBSP 6 Sep; BWWTP 14 Sep; INWR 14 & 29 Sep; BWWTP 6 Oct; last 2 BOSOC.

Semipalmated Plover: last 5 BOSOC.

Killdeer: INWR 3 Nov; BWWTP 17 Nov; only reports beyond Oct.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 22 INWR 3 Nov; last TWMA 24 Nov.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 20 BWWTP 14 Sep; last Tift NP 9 Nov (WW), late.

Solitary Sandpiper: last BOSOC.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT: 2 Somerset NIAG 20 Oct (WD! BP); rare in Reg.

Ruddy Turnstone: 6 Somerset NIAG 22 Sep (MM); only report.

Sanderling: DH 13 Oct; DH 5 Nov (FR); only reports.

Least Sandpiper: BWWTP 20 Nov (DoS!), very late.

White-rumped Sandpiper: last NF 3 Nov (WD).

Baird's Sandpiper: ChauL 4 Sep; 2 BWWTP 7 Sep; last INWR 29 Sep.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 35 INWR 27 Oct; last Attica Res WYOM 9 Nov.

Purple Sandpiper: WTSP 3 Nov (PY); 3 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 24 Nov (PY); different locations from where typically found.

Dunlin: arr 9 BOSOC; BWWTP 19 Oct; max 105 INWR 3 Nov; 62 NF 3 Nov; last 6 DH 18 Nov.

Stilt Sandpiper: 3 INWR 6 Oct; only report.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 3 INWR 7 Sep; only report.

Wilson's Snipe: max 15 INWR 29 Sep; last BWWTP 17 Nov.

Am. Woodcock: last Pomfret CHAU 1 Nov (TM).

Red-necked Phalarope: 4 GHSP 7 Sep

(BK, DH); migrants on L Ontario; BWWTP 10 Oct (MZ), on the late side.

Parasitic Jaeger: Athol Springs ERIE 5 Oct (RA!); only report.

jaeger sp.: Athol Springs ERIE 20 Oct (RA), reported as possible Long-tailed; no jaeger reports from L Ontario this season.

Little Gull: Buffalo NR 13 Oct; Somerset NIAG, GHSP 20 Oct; Athol Springs ERIE 1 Nov; Somerset NIAG 3 Nov; NF 19-23 Nov; Buffalo NR 24 Nov; modest number of reports.

BLACK-HEADED GULL: NF 22 Nov (GB!); Porter NR 23 Nov (WD!); likely same bird.

Bonaparte's Gull: 3 BWWTP 2 & 10 Nov; 3 Cuba L ALLE; max 3420 NR 28 Nov (GB) counted at Niagara-on-the-Lake flypast; 57 ChauL 30 Nov.

CALIFORNIA GULL: 2 NPP 23 Nov (WD!), ad & third-winter; both seen and documented in same area by others 23-30 Nov (MM! JB! KF); 11th consecutive year on NR.

Thayer's Gull: a few reported NPP & NF late Nov, undocumented.

Iceland Gull: arr NF 10 Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 4 NF 6 Oct; DH 9 Nov (FR); Buffalo NR 24 Nov; max 5 NF/NPP 23 Nov.

Black-legged Kittiwake: imm Athol Springs ERIE 18 Nov (MT, JL, RA); imm NF 20-30 Nov (WD; mob).

Caspian Tern: max 11 BeSP 13 Sep; last 2 Buffalo ERIE 28 Sep (MM!), slightly late.

Com. Tern: last DH & Buffalo NR 9 Nov.

Forster's Tern: DH 5 Nov (FR); only report.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Tift NP 15 Sep (MM); BuSP 17 Oct (EL); fall reports unusual.

BARN OWL: Oakfield GENE 6 Oct (BK, DH), heard but not seen, caution should be exercised to eliminate yg Great Horned;

rarely reported.

Snowy Owl: Pomfret CHAU 26 Nov (AB); only report.

Short-eared Owl: 5 Porter NIAG 15 Nov (BE); 3 Shelby ORLE 24 Nov (STO); traditional locations.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 34 banded Wethersfield WYOM 5-27 Oct (DJ); GHSP 6 Oct (BK! DH).

Com. Nighthawk: max 21 Falconer CHAU 2-4 Sep (LD), lower max than usual; last TWMA 6 Oct; only 6 other reports.

Chimney Swift: last 23 BOSOC.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Tiff NP 15 Sep

Red-headed Woodpecker: reports from 6 traditional locations.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 61 BOSOC, count high.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Tiff NP 12 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last INWR 7 Sep (BK).

E. Wood-Pewee: last 2 BOSOC.

Least Flycatcher: last Tiff NP 15 Sep.

E. Phoebe: last Lancaster ERIE 2 Nov.

Gr. Crested Flycatcher: last Buffalo ERIE 5 Oct (PY!), late.

E. Kingbird: last Tiff NP 8 Sep.

N. Shrike: arr INWR 3 Nov; 6 other Nov reports.

White-eyed Vireo: Tiff NP 5 Oct (DeS); very rare in fall.

Yellow-throated Vireo: last 3 INWR 8 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: last SPNS 17 Oct.

Warbling Vireo: last GI 19 Sep.

Philadelphia Vireo: 3 Sep reports; last Tiff NP 6 Oct.

Red-eyed Vireo: 2 ad + 3 fl Yates ORLE 14 Sep (STO), late for fl; last 4 BOSOC.

Com. Raven: 14 BOSOC; 2 Wethersfield WYOM 22 Oct (DJ); reports from 4 ALLE, CATT locations.

Tree Swallow: max 900 BWWTP 14 Sep;

2 GI 16 Nov (WD!); 1 GI until 23 Nov, very late; 4 & 2 Silver Creek CHAU 29 & 30 Nov (DN), unfortunately not documented or could be latest record for Reg.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: 114 GI 17 Nov (WD! WW!), late and in high numbers, flock dwindled thru Nov; last 4 NF 28 Nov (WD!).

CAVE SWALLOW: GI 16-18 Nov (WD! NYSARC), 1st for Reg, with large group of swallows on NR.

Barn Swallow: last BWWTP 19 Oct (WW).

Carolina Wren: well reported again this season.

House Wren: last 2 BOSOC.

Winter Wren: arr FNSP & FMCSF 14 Sep.

Marsh Wren: last 2 INWR BOSOC.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr NF 29 Sep.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 2 NF 21 Sep.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last 3 INWR 29 Sep (BK).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: 7 reports; last 3 BOSOC.

Swainson's Thrush: max 10, nocturnal migrants tallied in 1 hr, Lancaster ERIE 3 Oct (MM), last 4 BOSOC.

Wood Thrush: last 2 BOSOC.

Gray Catbird: Wheatfield NIAG 7 Nov; on the late side.

Brown Thrasher: last Tiff NP 28 Sep.

Am. Pipit: arr 5 BWWTP 14 Sep; max 120 Stockton CHAU 2 Nov (TM).

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: GI 15 Sep (WD, BP); only report.

Tennessee Warbler: Tiff NP 13 Nov (RA! BB), very late.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr GI 15 Sep; GI 22 Sep; Attica Res WYOM 28 Sep; 2 AISP 5 Oct (MD); Pomfret CHAU 10 Oct; 2 BOSOC.

Nashville Warbler: last Tiff NP 17 Oct.

N. Parula: max 3 GI 15 Sep; 4 other Sep reports.

Cape May Warbler: max 15 GI 19 Sep (DR); 11 GI 22 Sep (BK), very high counts, similar occurrence at same location last fall; last BOSOC.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last Wheatfield NIAG 18 Oct.
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: at feeder Portland CHAU 5-19 Nov (CH, TM! JB!); very rare; 2nd very late occurrence in Reg.
Pine Warbler: 2 GI 21 Oct (DR!); last FNSP 9 Nov (WD), late.
Prairie Warbler: Ashford CATT 26 Oct (MD!), late; 1st Oct record.
Palm Warbler: arr GI 23 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: Wheatfield NIAG 22 Oct (BP, WD!), slightly late.
Connecticut Warbler: Tift NP 28 Sep (RA, BB); only report.
Hooded Warbler: last Attica Res WYOM 28 Sep.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: last Tift NP 28 Sep.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 47 BOSOC.
Chipping Sparrow: last Fredonia CHAU 22-30 Nov (DM).
Vesper Sparrow: 7 BOSOC; last

Cambria NIAG 20 Oct.
NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: SPNS 17 Oct (LH), unverified; 2nd report in Reg in 2 years after long absence.
Fox Sparrow: arr, max 5 Tonawanda ERIE 24 Oct (WW); 5 Frewsburg CHAU 5 Nov (JB).
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr SPNS 19 Sep; last 11 BOSOC.
White-throated Sparrow: arr AmSP 15 Sep.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr FMCS 28 Sep.
Lapland Longspur: arr Lewiston Res NIAG 5 Oct (TC); Cambria NIAG 20 Oct; 12 Yates ORLE 26 Oct; Stockton CHAU 1 Nov; 2 Pomfret CHAU 2 Nov.
Snow Bunting: arr INWR 27 Oct; max 35 BWWTP 2 Nov.
E. Meadowlark: Attica WYOM 9 Nov; Gerry CHAU 26 Nov; rare in Nov.
Rusty Blackbird: arr SPNS 19 Sep.
Baltimore Oriole: last BWWTP 7 Sep.
Purple Finch: 34 ALLE BOSOC; few reports.
Pine Siskin: arr 7 BOSOC; Frewsburg CHAU 5 Nov (JB); only reports.

REGION 2 – GENESEE

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The general pattern for this fall was warm to cool to cold, as is generally expected at this time of the year. It started out, though, with above average warmth in September; in fact, it was the warmest since 1961. The average was a full 6.6°F above normal at 67.7°. The temperature reached 94° on the 9th. The first 13 days of October experienced above average temperatures while the remainder of the month was below normal. The average of 49.9° was only 0.5° below normal. November turned things pretty chilly at 0.6° below the normal average of 40.5°. Precipitation started out with a meager 1.87" in September; that was 0.9" below the norm. October followed at 0.51" below the normal total of 2.09". November's total of 3.11" was 0.27" above normal, but the real story for November was the

16.9" of snow that was nearly double the usual amount and accounted for the sixth snowiest November in the past 100 years. Birding conditions were generally good throughout, with only a few days of less than conducive conditions. Species variety was about average due in part to the decent, though not full-time, coverage at the Hamlin Beach lakewatch and to the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory banding operations at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Station. Generally, adjectives used to describe the season included lackluster and benign, even though the species count was about normal.

No exceptional movements of loons occurred, with Red-throated being fair to good and Common showing no really good flights. A carefully studied **Pacific Loon** was discovered off Bear Creek in Wayne County by Robert Spahn. What may have been the same bird was observed by him there on 5 November and five miles eastward on 13 November. Horned Grebes showed some good totals along the shore. Several Eared Grebe sightings were a highlight. An impressive 11 Northern Gannets were reported from the lakewatch, and what was probably the summer's immature **Brown Pelican** put in other appearances at Hamlin Beach in September. The 28 Great Egrets tallied in Savannah by Robert and Susan Spahn in September was a continuation of the good late summer totals experienced in the Region. The waterfowl picture was highlighted by a **Ross's Goose** discovered at the south end of Irondequoit Bay in September by David Tetlow. The movement of Brant at Hamlin Beach was unusual this year. On the two best days the early flight was westerly, while later in the day and the following days the birds returned east, which is the typical flight direction at that location. Overall the flight was quite good. Greater White-fronted Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, King Eider, Common Eider, Harlequin Duck and Barrow's Goldeneye were good sightings for the season. One of the lowlights was the 200 Mute Swans reported on Irondequoit Bay. Puddle duck numbers were low while the divers experienced average to below average numbers, with Greater Scaup totals noticeably down during most of the season.

A late Osprey was interesting, while accipiter numbers were generally good. Rough-legged Hawks were scarce, with only a few reports. The Peregrine Falcon movement was very good, with numerous sightings during the season. Shorebird habitat continued to improve as the season progressed, resulting in a good species total. The highlight was the Region's first **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**, discovered by Dominic Sherony at the south end of Irondequoit Bay in October. Many observers were able to see the bird during its four-day stay. American Golden-Plovers were scarce except for the report from the Geneseo airport, which was also the location for a Buff-breasted Sandpiper sighting. Pectoral Sandpipers were on the plus side this season. Whimbrel and Hudsonian Godwit reports were low. Red Knot in the Region is always a good find. Purple Sandpipers were good late in the season, and the phalaropes put in a fairly decent showing. Parasitic Jaeger numbers were good, but there was only a single Pomarine report. There wasn't much to say about gulls, with the now-expected Lesser Black-backed Gull being the only unusual report. Bonaparte's Gull totals were down, Little Gulls were scarce, only a single Black-legged Kittiwake was reported and the tern flight was slow this year.

The **Eurasian Collared-Dove** in rural Hamlin continued to be reported. The sad decline of Common Nighthawk was once again chronicled, with no September reports and only a single bird seen 1 October.

The passerine migration was generally weak this year. The species variety was about average but there were few indications of any concentrations or locations with significant numbers at any one time. A major highlight was the sighting of **Cave Swallow** at Hamlin Beach. This is the third year in the last four that this species has been reported. The Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station was responsible for most good totals and unusual species. Magnolia Warbler numbers were good in September, while Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush and White-throated Sparrow were the only species reaching three digit totals at the station in October. White-eyed Vireo and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow were banding highlights. The latter species was also reported at Hogan Point and in Geneseo. Sparrow totals were average to below, with some decent White-throated Sparrow counts reported, but generally low numbers of White-crowned. The only winter finch report was a single White-winged Crossbill.

September's species total was 203, just about at the 10-year average. October's total was higher than the 10-year average, at 193, and November's total of 135 was again about average. By the end of the season, the Region's species total was at 299 for the year.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Braddock Bay MONR; BC – Bear Creek WAYN; C – Cuylerville LIVI; CH – Ontario Beach, Charlotte MONR; CL – Conesus L LIVI; G – T Greece MONR; GE – Geneseo area LIVI; H – T Hamlin MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP MONR; HP – Hogan Pt, T Greece MONR; IB – Irondequoit Bay MONR; M – Manitou Beach area MONR; N – T Naples ONTA; NC – Northrup Creek, T Greece MONR; PA – Parma MONR; PO – Portageville LIVI; RP – Round Pd, T Greece MONR; SC – Salmon Creek, T Greece MONR; S – T Savannah WAYN.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr HB 17 Sep; max 1300 HB 25 Nov.

PACIFIC LOON: ad basic East Lakeshore WAYN 30 Oct, 5 Nov, 13 Nov, single or multiple birds indeterminate (RS, NYSARC).

Horned Grebe: max 120 HB 24 Nov.

Eared Grebe: HB 17 Oct (DT); HB 27 Oct (WS, JL, EC); HB 3 Nov (WS); HB 7 Nov (DT); HB 8-10 Nov (BE, KF, WS).

BROWN PELICAN: imm HB 4, 11 Sep (DT, JB).

N. Gannet: HB 9 Nov (mob); 4 HB 12 Nov (WS); CH 18 Nov (PD); 2 HB 19 Nov (WS, JBo); HB 23 Nov (JBa); HB 30 Nov (GC, BE); all immatures.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 782 HB 21 Oct.

Great Egret: max 28 S 5 Sep.

Green Heron: last SC 12 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: last GE 17 Nov (JK), fairly late.

Greater White-fronted Goose: H 20 Oct (BE).

Snow Goose: arr 3 HB 29 Sep

ROSS'S GOOSE: IB 18 Sep (DT, KF!, mob).

Brant: arr 6 HB 27 Sep; 990 west, 80 east HB 3 Oct; 7000 west, 2400 east HB 21 Oct.

Tundra Swan: max 100 CL 15 Nov.

Trumpeter Swan: 3 IB 20 Nov, origin uncertain.

Eurasian Wigeon: eclipse m RP 8-10 Oct (KG, DS); NC 11 Oct (DT), probably the same bird.

Blue-winged Teal: last RP 11 Oct.

N. Pintail: max 412 HB 28 Sep.

Green-winged Teal: max 254 HB 28 Sep.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 3 BB 24 Sep.

Lesser Scaup: max 210 HB 28 Sep.

King Eider: 2 f HB 20 Oct (RS); HB 2 Nov (DS); 4 f L Ontario off Webster P MONR 5 Nov (RS); imm m HB 12 Nov (WS); 3 f L Ontario WAYN (RS); 2 f HB 19 Nov (WS, Jbo); 2 f HB 26 Nov (WS, Jbo); imm/f HB 28 Nov (DT).

Com. Eider: HB 8 Oct (WS, RS!, DT); f HB 21 Oct (WS, JB); f L Ontario off Webster P MONR 5 Nov (RS, NYSARC).

Harlequin Duck: f & imm m HB 17 Oct (DS, PD, DT); imm m HB 18 Oct (mob); ad m HB 3-9 Nov (mob).

Surf Scoter: arr 2 HB 15 Sep; max 107 HB 20 Oct.

White-winged Scoter: max 2500 HB 25 Nov.

Black Scoter: arr HB 4 Sep; max 170 HB 29 Oct.

Long-tailed Duck: arr 4 L Ontario off Rochester 10 Oct.

Bufflehead: arr 7 HB 15 Oct.

Com. Goldeneye: arr HB 8 Oct.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: ad m HB 14 Nov (mob).

Red-breasted Merganser: max 4000 HB 12 Nov.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: last IB 16 Nov (J&PS), quite late.

N. Goshawk: Rochester last half Oct.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 286 BB 3 Sep.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr H 19 Oct.

Peregrine Falcon: many reports throughout Oct.

Com. Moorhen: last 2 RP 18 Oct.

Sandhill Crane: S 7 Sep (mob).

Am. Golden-Plover: last GE 26 Oct.

Greater Yellowlegs: last 6 BB 19 Nov.

Lesser Yellowlegs: last CL 17 Nov.

Solitary Sandpiper: last Sodus Bay WAYN 20 Oct.

Spotted Sandpiper: last Irondequoit Creek MONR 1 Oct.

Whimbrel: last HP 2 Sep.

Hudsonian Godwit: SC 8, 11 Oct (PD, DS, RS); NC 8 Oct (PD, DS, RS).

Ruddy Turnstone: last BB 9 Nov.

Red Knot: arr 2 CH 23 Sep (KG).

Sanderling: last RP 20 Nov.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last SC 18 Oct.

Least Sandpiper: last BB 30 Oct.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 3 S 3 Sep;

last IB 11 Nov.

Pectoral Sandpiper: last 2 BB 11 Nov.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER: juv IB 10-13 Oct (DS, mob). 1st for Reg; well documented by digiscope photos and observer reports.

Purple Sandpiper: arr 2 HB 16 Nov; Summerville MONR 16 Nov; 2 IB 18-21 Nov; BB 26 Nov.

Dunlin: arr 5 HB 23 Sep.

Stilt Sandpiper: last IB 14 Oct.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr GE 8 Sep (JK).

Long-billed Dowitcher: max 5 IB 13 Oct.

Red-necked Phalarope: arr HB 23 Sep (WS); 1-6 sev locales all Oct; 2 BC 2 Nov (RS); CH 7 Nov (JL); 4 HB 14 Nov (mob).

Red Phalarope: HB 6 Oct (mob); IB 17 Oct (KG, JBa); HB 14 Nov (mob).

Pomarine Jaeger: arr HB 27 Oct (WS, JS, ST).

Parasitic Jaeger: HB 4 Sep; max 10 HB 27 Oct; 2 ad Chimney Bluff WAYN 7 Nov (DT, DSh); HB 26 Nov.

jaeger sp: HB 4 Sep.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: IB 17 Oct (JBa, KG); IB 9-11 Nov (mob).

Black-legged Kittiwake: arr HB 16 Nov.

Com. Tern: last 9 CH 20 Oct.

Forster's Tern: last CH 20 Oct.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: H 8, 14, 15 Sep (WS, RC, BE, DT); H 11 Oct (BE).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last M 23 Sep.

Short-eared Owl: arr 2 P 26 Oct.

Com. Nighthawk: none Sep; Honeoye Falls MONR 1 Oct; only report.

Chimney Swift: max 1170 C 26 Sep (JK).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Bushnell's Basin 19 Sep.

FLYCATHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: last M 5 Oct.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last M 17 Sep.

"Traill's" Flycatcher: last M 16 Sep.

Least Flycatcher: last M 16 Sep.

E. Phoebe: Webster P MONR 27 Oct; DE 9 Nov.

Great Crested Flycatcher: last M 8 Sep.

E. Kingbird: last P 6 Oct.

N. Shrike: arr G 27 Oct.

White-eyed Vireo: banded M 25 Sep.

Warbling Vireo: last M 29 Sep.

Philadelphia Vireo: last M 4 Oct.

Red-eyed Vireo: last M 11 Oct.

Com. Raven: Penfield 30 Oct.

Tree Swallow: last 28 L Ontario off Camp Beechwood WAYN 13 Nov.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: last HB 10 Nov (DT), record late.

CAVE SWALLOW: HB 11 Nov (DT, MD).

House Wren: last 9 Nov, imm.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr M16 Sep.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last M 4 Oct.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr M 7 Sep; last M 9 Oct.

Bicknell's Thrush: arr, banded M 17 Sep.

Swainson's Thrush: arr M 7 Sep; last M 17 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: arr HB 17 Sep; max 60+ HB 10 Oct.

Wood Thrush: last M 18 Sep.

Am. Pipit: arr 3 HB 12 Sep.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: 2 PO 3 Oct; last M 31 Oct, late.

Golden-winged Warbler: last M 14 Sep.

Tennessee Warbler: last M 5 Oct.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr M 29 Sep; last N 20 Nov.

N. Parula: arr Crusoe L WAYN 7 Sep; last M 11 Oct.

Yellow Warbler: last M 29 Sep.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: last 2 PO 3 Oct.

Magnolia Warbler: last Ontario 6 Oct.

Cape May Warbler: arr HB 23 Sep.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: last M 7 Oct.

Black-throated Green Warbler: last HB

20 Oct.

Blackburnian Warbler: last PO 3 Oct.

Palm Warbler: arr M 18 Sep; last M 17 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last M 7 Oct.

Blackpoll Warbler: last M 9 Oct.

Am. Redstart: last M 1 Oct.

Ovenbird: last M 7 Oct.

Connecticut Warbler: M 4, 18, 21 Sep, 2 Oct; all banded.

Mourning Warbler: last M 25 Sep.

Hooded Warbler: last M 20 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: last M 4 Oct.

Canada Warbler: last M 22 Sep.

Yellow-breasted Chat: last banded M 4 Oct.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: last 2 HB 4 Oct.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr M 21 Oct.

Chipping Sparrow: last Irondequoit 6 Nov.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 2 HP 6 Oct (DT, MD); GE 6 Oct (JK); banded and ph M 10 Oct (BBBO).

Fox Sparrow: arr HB 4 Oct; last Castille LIVI 16 Nov.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr M 5 Sep; last M 9 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: arr 1-4 sev locales 12 Sep.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr HP 28 Sep.

Lapland Longspur: arr HB 5 Oct.

Snow Bunting: arr HB 18 Oct.

Indigo Bunting: last M 18 Sep.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 2 HP 19 Sep.

Baltimore Oriole: last G 7 Sep.

White-winged Crossbill: arr Rochester 26 Nov.

REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

Bill Ostrander

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September was 4.6°F warmer than normal in Ithaca. October and November were both less than one degree cooler than normal. The warm September did not seem to have much effect on migrant departure dates. Precipitation was 37% above normal in September, 11% below normal in October and just 2% above normal in November.

The count of migrating loons over the Cayuga Lake Loon Watch at Taughannock Falls State Park was by far the lowest in the ten years of its history. Through the end of November, only 2977 Common Loons had passed by. Of those, 1664 passed on the morning of 23 November. Volunteers tallied the other significant numbers on the cold mornings of 16–18 November. In contrast, the relatively high number of 73 Red-throated Loons counted by Ken Rosenberg on the opposite side of Cayuga Lake on 17 November helped that species to its second consecutive increase. Horned Grebes also had their second consecutive increase in region-wide numbers.

Two **American White Pelicans** touched down at Myers Point on Cayuga Lake on 3 October. Presumably the same birds appeared at May's Point Pool in Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge the following afternoon; they stayed through

7 October. While Brown Pelican sightings continued outside the Region on Lake Ontario in October, there were also two second-hand reports without details of the species on Cayuga Lake from non-birders. Neither of these sightings could be confirmed. While summer numbers indicated that Double-crested Cormorant numbers may be decreasing, the population in the Region continued to rise into the fall and was the highest in five years.

No unusual species of herons appeared. The highlights were 75 Great Egrets at Montezuma and three nocturnal migrant American Bitterns counted by Ken Rosenberg.

Both Greater White-fronted Goose and **Ross's Goose** made a couple of appearances at Montezuma during the season. The winning team of the Montezuma Muckrace found the best duck of the season, a male **Eurasian Wigeon** still largely in eclipse plumage. Many were able to see this bird at May's Point Pool over the next month. Nearly another month later, three of the discoverers of the Muckrace bird watched another male Eurasian Wigeon take off from the refuge's Main Pool. Dabbling duck numbers were down for most species, while diving duck numbers were up. An exception was Green-winged Teal, which was reported in higher numbers for the second consecutive year. American Black Duck and Gadwall were both down for the second consecutive year and Mallard was down for the third year in a row. Common and Red-breasted mergansers were both up for the second consecutive year.

The most significant movement of raptors noted was the passing of "several" each of Cooper's and Sharp-shinned hawks past The Rock, temporary offices of the Laboratory of Ornithology on 5 November. Reported numbers for most species were stable.

The season's main celebrity was the immature **Purple Gallinule** that appeared along the auto route beside Montezuma's Main Pool. A second-hand report also came in of another immature Purple Gallinule on private property along Keuka Lake.

Intriguing shorebird reports included Fred Bertram's **Upland Sandpiper**, which is not usually reported during the fall season, and Tim Lenz's two **Purple Sandpipers**, which stayed at Myers Point for two days, affording many birders good views. Shorebird numbers were generally up, especially for the more common species. Pectoral Sandpiper and Dunlin both had their second straight year of increased numbers.

Three rare gull reports got the adrenaline flowing in Ithaca birders. Unfortunately, only one of the gulls stayed around long enough for many to see. Kevin McGowan found a **Laughing Gull** at Stewart Park, Ithaca, where it continued to be seen for five days. The McGowan family and Pete Hosner discovered a **Black-legged Kittiwake** at Dryden Lake. This may be only the second Regional record. Ken Rosenberg found what was probably the same bird the following day at Myers Point. The very next day, Jesse Ellis and Matt Medler spotted a **Black-headed Gull** flying over Cayuga Lake off East Shore Park in

Ithaca. Ring-billed Gulls declined in reported numbers for the second straight year while Herring Gulls increased again.

Mourning Dove numbers were down for the second year in a row. Chimney Swifts were incredibly sparse this fall. The highest count reported at one spot was two and there were only a few other reports. This was the second consecutive decrease for the species. Its fall numbers cannot go much lower.

It is difficult to see the effects of West Nile Virus on the Region's corvid populations in the reports of Finger Lakes birders. While Blue Jay numbers were down 50% from last year, American Crow numbers were up by two-thirds. The Region's small Fish Crow population was reported in lower numbers and the Common Raven population was unchanged.

Numbers for woodland residents, Downy Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, nuthatches, Brown Creeper and Golden-crowned Kinglet, were all down significantly this year. This may be due to birders spending less time in the woods while chasing the several water bird rarities.

Birders did not need to go to the woods to record high numbers of woodland thrushes. Increasing interest in the nocturnal calls of these neotropical migrants had birders throughout the Region out late at night with ears and recorders tuned to the sky. All marveled at the incredibly heavy thrush migration on 3 October. Several observers reported numbers of calls. To convert number of calls to number of birds, I used my own observation of calling, high flying diurnal birds to give me a factor of 5. That is, I can usually hear one of these birds call about five times before they get beyond ear shot. The numbers for the thrushes in the data section of this report were derived by dividing the number of calls reported by 5. However, Dave Russell noted that most of the calls he was hearing were coming from directly overhead, so the actual numbers of birds heard is probably much higher than my converted number.

There was a handful of interesting reports of insectivorous and fruit-eating passerines. Matt Victoria found a **White-eyed Vireo** in a large foraging flock of warblers near Aurora. The increasingly rare report of a **Golden-winged Warbler** came from Montezuma on Muckrace day. Jesse Ellis found a **Louisiana Waterthrush**, a rarity in fall. Jay and Kevin McGowan found and photographed a **Western Tanager** in Dryden, the first in the Region since 1981. Reported numbers of vireos and most species of warblers remained unchanged. Black-throated Green Warblers increased for the second straight year.

Steve Kelling's **Clay-colored Sparrow** and Mark Dettling's **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** were great finds. Chris Tessaglia-Hymes discovered the call of a **Dickeissel** among the calls of night migrants that he recorded in late September. Several sparrow species increased in numbers from a year ago. Counts of White-throated Sparrows were up for the second consecutive year. Brown-headed Cowbird and House Sparrow numbers dropped for the second year in a row.

The number of species showing increased numbers, when compared to last year's, was 63. Another 57 species decreased and 142 species showed no significant change. The following species listing includes comparisons of observed

bird populations in the Region between fall 2001 and fall 2002. A “+” at the end of the species account indicates an increase; a “-” indicates a decrease. Accounts with neither symbol indicate that the species did not demonstrate a significant change in reported numbers in 2002. Unless otherwise noted, the cited comparisons showed statistically significant changes ($X^2 > 3.84$; $P = 0.05$). A discussion of my methodology and its limitations can be found in the Region 3 report in the December 1999 issue of *The Kingbird*.

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ABBREVIATIONS

CaL – Cayuga L; CU – Cornell U TOMP; DLP – Dryden L P TOMP; DLT – Dryden L Trail; ESP – East Shore P TOMP; GHT – Groton Hiking Trail TOMP; HH – Hog Hole TOMP; KH – Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory, Hector SCHU; MNWR – Montezuma NWR; MWC – Montezuma Wetlands Complex SENE; MyPt – Myers Pt CAYU; NBR – Newtown Battlefield Reservation CHEM; NeCr – Newtown Creek CHEM; SaMu – Savannah Mucklands SENE; SF – State Forest; SHNP – Steege Hill Nature Preserve, Big Flats CHEM; StP – Stewart P, Ithaca TOMP; TaF – Tanglewood Forest CHEM; TFSP – Taughanock Falls SP; TTP – Troy Town P TOMP; T&RC – T&R Center TOMP.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr 3 Long Pt SP 26 Oct; max 73 MyPt 17 Nov (KR), high; +.
Com. Loon: arr StP 29 Sep; max 1664 TFSP 23 Nov; -.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 10 MNWR 8 Nov, low.
Horned Grebe: arr MyPt 20 Oct; max 11 Wells Coll Boathouse CAYU 9 Nov; +.
Red-necked Grebe: arr ESP 26 Oct; max 2 StP 30 Nov.
AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: arr 2 MyPt 3 Oct (fide John Greenly); last 2 MNWR 7 Oct (TC).
Double-crested Cormorant: max 500 HH 14 Oct; +.
Am. Bittern: max 3 Dryden 3 Oct (KR), high; last MNWR 15 Oct.
Least Bittern: last Ithaca 12 Sep.
Great Blue Heron: max 35 StP 9 Oct; -.
Great Egret: max 75 MNWR 28 Sep, high; last DLP 22 Nov (KM), late; +.
Green Heron: max 6 The Center at Horseheads CHEM 1 Sep; last 2 Dryden 3 Oct.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 6 StP 4 Oct; last Lansing 7 Oct; +.
Greater White-fronted Goose: arr MNWR 20 Oct, late.
Snow Goose: arr StP 28 Sep; max 2275 MNWR 13 Oct (LD, BG, CJ, LL), high; +.
ROSS'S GOOSE: arr MNWR 12 Oct (fide MiS), early; last MNWR 3 Nov (MH!).
Canada Goose: max 12,000 MNWR 15 Oct; -.
Brant: arr 75 StP 3 Oct; max 501 HH 3 Oct; last MyPt 24 Nov; +.
Tundra Swan: arr 5 MNWR 20 Oct; max 836 MNWR 9 Nov, high; +.
Wood Duck: max 31 GHT 19 Sep; +.
Gadwall: max 50 MNWR 23 Oct; -.
EURASIAN WIGEON: MNWR 7 Sep-5 Oct (MA, RB, JEL, PH); last MNWR 2 Nov (MA, JBa, JEL, PH).
Am. Wigeon: max 60 MNWR 7 Sep, low; -.
Am. Black Duck: max 200 Wells Coll

Boathouse CAYU 9 Nov; -.
Mallard: max 306 MNWR 10 Nov; -.
Blue-winged Teal: max 10 MNWR 7 Sep; last MNWR 26 Oct; -.
N. Shoveler: max 30 MNWR 7 Sep; -.
N. Pintail: arr MNWR 7 Sep; max 77 MWC 10 Nov; +.
Green-winged Teal: max 250 MNWR 6 Oct; +.
Canvasback: arr CaL Basin 22 Oct; max 202 MNWR 10 Nov; +.
Redhead: max 100 MNWR 9 Nov; +.
Ring-necked Duck: max 1200 MNWR 10 Nov (LD, BG, CJ, LL), high; +.
Greater Scaup: max 76 TFSP 23 Nov; +.
Lesser Scaup: arr StP 15 Oct; max 50 MyPt 17 Nov; +.
Surf Scoter: arr MyPt 29 Sep (LSt), early; max 8 StP 30 Oct; +.
White-winged Scoter: arr 5 DLP 4 Oct; max 14 StP 12 Nov; +.
Black Scoter: arr StP 15 Oct; max 40 ESP 17 Nov; last 2 MyPt 24 Nov; +.
Long-tailed Duck: arr 2 Park Station CHEM 19 Oct; max 34 ESP 13 Nov.
Bufflehead: max 120 ESP 1 Nov (JEL, PH), high; +.
Com. Goldeneye: arr StP 29 Oct; max 118 CaL 17 Nov (VL, LSa), high; +.
Hooded Merganser: max 60 DLP 16 Nov; +.
Com. Merganser: max 109 Miniers Pd CHEM 2 Nov; +.
Red-breasted Merganser: arr & max 45 MNWR 10 Nov, late & high; +.
Ruddy Duck: max 24 StP 12 Oct; +.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: max 4 StP 5 Oct; last Spencer Crest Nature Center STEU 21 Oct.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 6 The Rock TOMP 5 Nov; -.
Cooper's Hawk: max 6 The Rock TOMP 5 Nov (KR), high.
Broad-winged Hawk: max & last 2 GHT 19 Sep; Sapsucker Woods TOMP 19 Sep.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 26 Ithaca Game Farm TOMP 24 Nov; -.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr West Elmira Riverine Forest CHEM 27 Oct; max 3 KH 30 Nov.

Golden Eagle: arr Mt Pleasant TOMP 14 Oct; max 2 Ithaca 19 Oct; last MNWR 20 Oct, early.

Ring-necked Pheasant: max 2 Hector 3 Nov; -.

Ruffed Grouse: max 2 SHNP 14 Sep; -.

Virginia Rail: DLT 2 Sep; last MNWR 28 Sep.

Sora: max 10 MNWR 21 Sep (MV), high; last 2 MNWR 20 Oct (StF), late; +.

PURPLE GALLINULE: MNWR 16 Sep (fide J&SGr) thru 19 Oct (StF).

Com. Moorhen: max 20 MNWR 21 Sep; last 2 MNWR 20 Oct; -.

Am. Coot: max 501 MNWR 23 Oct (JM, BP), high; +.

Black-bellied Plover: max 10 MWC 7 Sep; last 2 MNWR 26 Oct.

Am. Golden-Plover: max 23 SaMu 9 Sep (GP), high; last 2 MNWR 15 Oct; +.

Semipalmated Plover: max 21 MNWR 14 Sep; last CaL Basin 22 Oct (CCBG, EK), late; -.

Killdeer: max 76 T&RC 5 Oct; last MyPt 24 Nov (St&SuF), late.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 100 MNWR 23 Oct (JM, BP), high; last MyPt 18 Nov.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 42 MNWR 8 Sep; last MNWR 10 Nov; -.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 2 DLT 1 Sep; last Sullivanville Dam CHEM 5 Oct (DR), late; +.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 3 Dennison P STEU 4 Sep, high; last StP 7 Oct, early.

UPLAND SANDPIPER: last Ledyard 2 Sep (FB), late.

Hudsonian Godwit: arr 16 MNWR 15 Sep; last MNWR 12 Oct; +.

Sanderling: max 4 MNWR 16 Sep; last MNWR 1 Oct.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 50 SaMu 9 Sep; last MNWR 26 Oct; -.

Least Sandpiper: max 200 SaMu 9 Sep (GP), high; last HH 8 Nov; +.

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 18

MNWR 19 Sep; last MyPt 18 Nov; +.

Baird's Sandpiper: max & last 4 MNWR 16 Sep.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 223 MNWR 15 Sep (MA, PH, MMe), high; last MyPt 18 Nov (WH!), late; +.

PURPLE SANDPIPER: 2 MyPt 17 Nov (TL).

Dunlin: arr MNWR 14 Sep; max 171 MNWR 23 Oct (JM, BP), high; +.

Stilt Sandpiper: max 30 MNWR 2 Sep; last 2 MNWR 20 Oct.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr MNWR 5 Sep; last MNWR 12 Sep.

Short-billed Dowitcher: max 10 MNWR 8 Oct; last MNWR 14 Oct.

Long-billed Dowitcher: max 64 MNWR 6 Oct (Sa&StK, KR, JWe), high; last 20 MNWR 20 Oct; +.

Wilson's Snipe: max 33 MNWR 7 Sep; last MNWR 2 Nov.

Am. Woodcock: Dryden 23 Oct; last Caroline 13 Nov.

Wilson's Phalarope: MNWR 7 Sep; last SaMu 9 Sep.

Red-necked Phalarope: MNWR 21 Sep; last MNWR 25 Sep (TC), late.

LAUGHING GULL: StP 18-22 Sep (KM!).

BLACK-HEADED GULL: ESP 18 Nov (JEL, MMe!).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 30 Chemung R STEU 2 Nov; +.

Ring-billed Gull: max 1200 KH 21 Oct; -

Herring Gull: max 400 MNWR 2 Nov; +.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: arr MNWR 19 Sep; max 4 MNWR 14 Oct (JY), high.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: DLP 16 Nov (PH, J&K&PM!); MyPt 17 Nov (KR!).

Caspian Tern: max 3 StP 18 Sep; last MNWR 6 Oct.

Com. Tern: last StP 15 Oct (TL), late; -.

Forster's Tern: max & last 5 StP 18 Sep (MA, PH, TL, MMe), high & early; +.

Black Tern: max & last 3 StP 14 Sep (TL), high.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Rock Dove: max 120 Elmira 20 Nov; +.
Mourning Dove: max 49 Veteran 21 Oct, low; -.
Black-billed Cuckoo: KH 16 Sep; last KH 23 Sep.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last Schweizer Aircraft Corp CHEM 24 Oct (AG), late.
Great Horned Owl: max 2 Covert 11 Nov; -.
Snowy Owl: arr Geneva 9 Nov.
Com. Nighthawk: MNWR 7 Sep; last MNWR 15 Sep; -.
Chimney Swift: max 2 Montour 6 Sep, low; last Canandaigua 20 Oct, late; -.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 12 DLT 1 Sep (St&SuF), high; last Elmira 8 Oct.
Red-headed Woodpecker: max 2 Ellis Hollow Swamp TOMP 21 Sep (StF), high; last Bath 15 Oct.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 3 GHT 19 Sep (AA), high.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 6 Shindagin Hollow SF TOMP 29 Sep (StF), high.
Downy Woodpecker: max 12 GHT 19 Sep (AA), high; -.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: max 3 SHNP 14 Sep, low; last 2 HH 5 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: DLT 2 Sep; last KH 8 Oct, late.
Willow Flycatcher: last Sheldon Rd Swale TOMP 22 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: max 2 KH 4 Sep; last KH 24 Sep.
Great Crested Flycatcher: max & last 2 MNWR 8 Sep, high.
E. Kingbird: MNWR 8 Sep; last KH 14 Sep.
Horned Lark: max 300 T&RC 16 Nov; +.
Purple Martin: max 4 MNWR 7 Sep; last MNWR 20 Sep; -.
Tree Swallow: max 6000 MNWR 6 Oct; last MyPt 18 Nov (JEL, MMe), late; -.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 20 MNWR 6 Oct; last MNWR 20 Oct; -.
Bank Swallow: max & last 2 MNWR 20 Sep.
Cliff Swallow: last MNWR 20 Sep.
Barn Swallow: max 4 The Center at Horseheads CHEM 1 Sep; last MNWR 13 Nov; -.
WHITE-EYED VIREO: Ledyard 11 Oct (MV).
Yellow-throated Vireo: last SHNP 14 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: max 15 Shindagin Hollow SF TOMP 29 Sep (StF), high; last KH 10 Nov, late.
Warbling Vireo: max & last 2 CU 15 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: Big Flats 14 Sep; last CU 28 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 10 CU 4 Sep; last 3 CU 6 Oct.
Blue Jay: max 24 GHT 19 Sep, low.
Am. Crow: max 2500 CU 14 Nov (MH), high; +.
Fish Crow: TaF 16 Sep; -.
Black-capped Chickadee: max 50 Dryden 17 Oct; -.
Tufted Titmouse: max 10 Dryden 17 Oct, high; -.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 3 Harris Hill P CHEM 28 Sep; -.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 5 SHNP 14 Sep, low; -.
Brown Creeper: max 3 TaF 12 Sep, low; -.
House Wren: last KH 26 Sep, early.
Marsh Wren: max 10 MNWR 6 Oct, high; last Lansing 20 Oct.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 19 KH 20 Oct; -.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 50 Dryden 17 Oct (JM), high; +.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last Etna 1 Sep, early.
E. Bluebird: max 13 CU 6 Oct.
Veery: *intro*; max & last 100 nocturnal, heard NeCr 3 Oct (DR), high; +.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr MNWR 7

Sep; *intro*: max "hundreds" nocturnal, heard Etna (CTH) & NeCr (DR) 3 Oct, high; last KH 14 Oct; +.
Swainson's Thrush: *intro*: max 183 nocturnal, heard Dryden 3 Oct (KR), high; last KH 15 Oct; +.
Wood Thrush: *intro*: max & last 70 nocturnal, heard Dryden 3 Oct (KR), high; +.
Am. Robin: max 101 Hector 25 Sep; -.
Gray Catbird: max 14 GHT 19 Sep; last DLT 16 Nov.
N. Mockingbird: max 2 StP 5 Oct, low; -.
Brown Thrasher: max & last 2 Durland/Hirshfeld Bird Preserve TOMP 21 Sep; KH 21 Sep.
European Starling: max 506 MNWR 7 Sep, low; -.
Am. Pipit: arr small flock SaMu 21 Sep; max 100 Veteran 2 Nov; last 3 MyPt 24 Nov; +.
Cedar Waxwing: max 50 Caroline 6 Nov, low; -.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: max 3 SHNP 14 Sep (BO), high; last CU 29 Sep (MC, MH), late.
GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: MNWR 7 Sep (fide JGe), only report.
Tennessee Warbler: max 2 TTP 5 Oct; last CU 6 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr KH 8 Sep; last Spring Hill Wildlife Sanctuary STEU 15 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: max 4 TTP 5 Oct; last KH 7 Oct; -.
N. Parula: arr East Ithaca Recreation Way TOMP 18 Sep, late; last TTP 5 Oct.
Yellow Warbler: last MyPt 29 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 7 CU 28 Sep; last CU 29 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: max 15 Dryden 5 Sep (JM), high; last 9 TTP 5 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: max 3 KH 25 Sep, high; last KH 26 Sep.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 6 Dryden 3 Oct; last Flat Rock TOMP 6

Oct; +.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 200 Ledyard 11 Oct (MV), high; last HH 9 Nov; +.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 25 Dryden 5 Sep (JM), high; last Dennison P STEU 5 Oct; +.
Blackburnian Warbler: max & last 6 Beam Hill TOMP 28 Sep (JM), high; +.
Pine Warbler: max 10 NBR 3 Sep (D&JCI), high; last TTP 5 Oct.
Prairie Warbler: last TaF 5 Sep.
Palm Warbler: arr KH 18 Sep; max 6 Ledyard 11 Oct; last SaMu 26 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr KH 1 Sep; max & last 2 CU 28 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr TaF 11 Sep, late; max 3 KH 14 Sep; last Sullivanville Dam CHEM 26 Oct.
Black-and-white Warbler: max 3 Dryden 5 Sep (JM), high; last CU 29 Sep.
Am. Redstart: max 11 StP 28 Sep (TL), high; last 3 TTP 5 Oct (TL), late; +.
Ovenbird: max 3 NBR 3 Sep; last KH 28 Sep.
N. Waterthrush: MNWR 7 Sep; last StP 17 Sep.
LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH: last DLT 2 Sep (JEl), late.
Connecticut Warbler: KH 9 Sep; last KH 30 Sep.
Mourning Warbler: last KH 28 Sep, late.
Com. Yellowthroat: max 12 KH 7 Sep; last HH 9 Nov.
Hooded Warbler: NBR 3 Sep; last StP 28 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: max 2 KH 12 Sep; last KH 28 Sep.
Canada Warbler: last Tyre 7 Sep, early.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 2 NBR 3 Sep; last Malloryville Preserve TOMP 5 Oct.
WESTERN TANAGER: Sheldon Rd Swale TOMP 22 Sep (J&KM ph!).
E. Towhee: max 7 Ledyard 11 Oct (MV); last Dryden 17 Oct; -.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 2 SaMu 26 Oct;

max 30 HH 8 Nov; +.

Chipping Sparrow: max 25 Dryden 17 Oct; last KH 24 Nov; -.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:

Caroline 7 Oct (StK!).

Field Sparrow: max 20 Beam Hill TOMP 28 Sep, high; last KH 28 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: last Dryden 5 Oct, early; -.

Savannah Sparrow: max 20 Dryden 21 Sep; last 3 Dryden 14 Oct.

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED

SPARROW: MNWR 5 Oct (MD!).

Fox Sparrow: arr 7 Park Station CHEM 19 Oct; max 8 Caroline 6 Nov; last KH 20 Nov.

Song Sparrow: max 58 Lowe Pd CHEM 28 Sep; +.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Cornell Garden Plots 15 Sep; max 4 KH 18 Oct; last KH 23 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: max 100 MWC 9 Nov (CT), high; +.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Sapsucker Woods TOMP 1 Oct; max 20 Hector 21 Oct; +.

Lapland Longspur: arr MNWR 14 Oct (ph); max 8 SaMu 20 Oct; +.

Snow Bunting: arr Mt Pleasant TOMP 24 Oct; max 30 KH 20 Nov.

N. Cardinal: max 10 NeCr 29 Sep, low; -.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 10 Etna 24 Sep; last CU 3 Oct (MA, JEL, MMe),

late.

Indigo Bunting: max 9 KH 1 Sep (J&SGrg), high; last Lowe Pd CHEM 28 Sep.

DICKCISSEL: recorded Etna 29 Sep (CT).

Bobolink: max 2 MNWR 8 Sep; last Etna 24 Sep.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 100,000 MNWR 11 Nov; +.

E. Meadowlark: max 17 Dryden 20 Oct; +.

Rusty Blackbird: arr HH 28 Sep; max 320 Dryden 7 Oct (LSt), high; last 7 Mark Twain SP 23 Nov; +.

Com. Grackle: max 2000 Rt 90 3 Nov; -.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 100 Big Flats 24 Sep; -.

Baltimore Oriole: last KH 2 Sep, early.

Purple Finch: max 2 Dryden 17 Oct; -.

House Finch: max 100 Genoa 3 Nov (MH), high; -.

Evening Grosbeak: 2 TFSP 12 Nov (JEL), only report; -.

House Sparrow: max 20 Elmira 18 Sep, low; -.

CORRIGENDUM

MARbled GODWIT: MyPt 12 May (MMe). Change observer to (JE).

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REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

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What a difference a year makes! The drought watches and emergencies of late 2001 were merely a memory as ground and surface water levels returned to normal as a result of spring and summer rains. In November, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation lifted all drought watches in the Region and reported nearly all streams at normal levels.

At the Binghamton weather station, precipitation continued above normal in September, but returned to deficits in October and November. The only significant rain event came on 24-25 September, when over 2" fell. The timing could have precipitated a migrant fallout, but none was reported. Temperatures were slightly below normal in September, and rebounded to slightly above in October and to 6°F above normal in a warm November.

In terms of avian activity, it was a quiet fall in the Region; average seemed to be the word for most species. Attendees at the Federation's 2002 Annual Meeting in Owego, 20-22 September, did turn up a good variety of birds with 79 species reported on field trips, including American Golden-Plover, Philadelphia Vireo and Vesper Sparrow. The Federation field trips also brought the only report of significant warbler movement with 15 species tallied. More evidence of the adage that the birds are where the birders are!

The Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch near Oneonta had another excellent season, with record coverage beginning in mid August. Data below cover 19 August to 30 November. All 15 regularly seen species were above the 14-year site average. Eagles, accipiters and falcons all showed significant increases. Notable flights included 39 American Kestrels on 5 October and 16 Golden Eagles on 1 November and again on the 23rd.

A number of species continued recent low trends, including cuckoos, thrushes and open country birds. Bright spots were an excellent count for Carolina Wren and good numbers for Barred Owl and raptors.

Gail Kirch of the Vestal banding station banded a Rusty Blackbird on 24 October and a second on the 28th, firsts for this species in the site's 40-year history. Also, a Philadelphia Vireo was banded 28 September.

The fall did not bode well for a winter invasion. Only one Northern Shrike was reported and winter finches were nearly absent, with a handful of Purple Finches and single reports of Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak. A late November report of Lapland Longspur was unusual.

CONTRIBUTORS

Elliott Adams, Mary Ashwood, Cutler & Jeanette Baldwin, Dianne Benko, Lois Bingley, John Birkett, Bruce Bozdos, Germaine Connolly, Kay Crane, Larry Dake, John Davis, Bob Donnelly, Jean Dorman (JeD), Dolores Elliott, Margaret Ferranti, Ron Frasier, Suzanne Gaynor, Esther Graves, Steve Hall, Spencer Hunt, Fred Johnson, Doug & Teresa Kibbe, Hugh & Urling Kingery, Gail Kirch, Joanne Lowe, Andy Mason, David McCart, Evelyn & George Mead, Naturalist's Club of Broome County, Rita & Robert Pantle, Marie Petuh, Tom Salo, Eric Sullivan, Tioga Bird Club, George Wade, Dan Watkins (Dwa), Donald & Joanne Weber (D&JW), Jon Weeks, Sue & Tom Whitney, Don Windsor, Colleen Wolpert.

ABBREVIATIONS

BPd – Boland Pd BROO; DOAS – Delaware-Otsego Audubon Sanctuary DELA; DorP – Dorchester P BROO; FMHW – Franklin Mt Hawkwatch DELA; GoodL – Goodyear L OTSE; OtsL – Otsego L OTSE; WPR – Whitney Pt Res BROO; UL – Upper Lisle BROO; VBS – Vestal banding station BROO.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: Vestal BROO 14 Nov; 4 Chenango L. CHEN 16 Nov; unusual in Reg.

Com. Loon: 30 OtsL 13 Oct.

Pied-billed Grebe: BPd 1 Oct, only report.

Am. Bittern: Barton TIOG Sept.

Great Egret: 2-3 Owego TIOG Sep; 2 Bainbridge CHEN 15 Sep; BPd 26 Sep, 5 Oct.

Black Vulture: TIOG Sep.

Turkey Vulture: total 199 FMHW, 93% above avg.

Snow Goose: 9 WPR 5 Oct; 150 Summit L OTSE 7 Nov; 250+ FMHW 19 Nov.

Brant: 13 DorP 22 Oct, low.

Mute Swan: BPd 9 Sep; 2 BPd 24 Oct, 21 Nov.

Wood Duck: max 12 BPd, drop from last year.

Am. Wigeon: 3 Cannonsville Res DELA 30 Nov, uncommon.

White-winged Scoter: Endwell BROO 27 Nov, uncommon.

Hooded Merganser: max 19 OtsL 9 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: OtsL 7 Nov;

WPR 27 Nov, uncommon.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: total 145 FMHW, 78% above avg; several other reports from major waterbodies.

Bald Eagle: total 124 FMHW, excellent count; numerous reports from across Reg.

N. Harrier: total 68 FMHW, modest increase; Bainbridge CHEN 15 Sep; Plymouth CHEN 17 Sep; JC 29 Nov.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 614 FMHW, 62% increase over avg, continuing recent upward trend; 2 Middlefield OTSE 3 Sep; 2 UL 26 Sep; Finch Hollow BROO 2 Oct.

Cooper's Hawk: total 113 FMHW, more than double avg; 2 JC 1 Sep; Middlefield OTSE 2 Sep; JC thru Oct-Nov.

N. Goshawk: total 27 FMHW, 41% above avg; Vestal BROO 21 Nov (DW).

Red-shouldered Hawk: total 54 FMHW, avg; Plymouth CHEN 17 Sep (DWA).

Broad-winged Hawk: total 893 FMHW, 38% above avg; 175 Mt Utsayantha Stamford DELA 17 Sep.

Red-tailed Hawk: total 2025 FMHW, 26% above avg; average numbers across

Reg.

Rough-legged Hawk: total 7 FMHW, slightly down; 3 other reports.

Golden Eagle: total 136 FMHW, excellent count, well above avg.

Am. Kestrel: total 158 FMHW, double avg; Smyrna CHEN 10 Oct; 2 Lisle BROO 15 Oct; JC 10 Oct, 26 Oct, 19 Nov; Greene CHEN 30 Nov.

Merlin: total 29 FMHW, 162% above avg.

Peregrine Falcon: total 17 FMHW, double avg; 1-2 Binghamton BROO thru, resident pr.

Wild Turkey: 3 GrP 8 Oct; 6 Glen Aubrey BROO; 30-40 Nuthatch Hollow BROO 30 Oct; max 50 Harpersfield DELA 21 Nov; low.

Am. Golden-Plover: DorP 21 Sep, rare in Reg.

Greater Yellowlegs: Bainbridge CHEN 15 Sep.

Lesser Yellowlegs: Bainbridge CHEN 15 Sep; Sherburne CHEN 29 Sep; DorP 22 Oct.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2 UL 8 Sep (JW), rare in Reg.

Least Sandpiper: WPR 18 Sep.

Wilson's Snipe: Bainbridge CHEN 15 Sep (JB), uncommon in fall.

Great Black-backed Gull: OtsL 7 Nov.

Caspian Tern: UL 21 Sep, rare in Reg.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: Hamden DELA 30 Sep.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Maryland OTSE 19 Oct.

E. Screech-Owl: VBS 2 Sep, low.

Great Horned Owl: Meredith DELA Nov, only report.

Barred Owl: 7 reports, good count.

Com. Nighthawk: Binghamton 2 Sep (MF), only report; continued low.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: total 3 VBS 3-14 Sep, typically only reporting site for

Reg.

Least Flycatcher: 3 VBS Sep.

N. Shrike: Middletown DELA Nov 5 (JeD).

Blue-headed Vireo: UL 30 Sep; total 5 VBS 1-5 Oct.

Philadelphia Vireo: UL 21 Sep; VBS 28 Sep, 5 Oct.

Red-eyed Vireo: 4 Magnolia P BROO; total 31 VBS; several other reports; good count.

Am. Crow: 50 Cherry Valley OTSE 14 Oct, only sizeable flock reported.

Fish Crow: TIOG Sep, down from recent years.

Com. Raven: 5 reports; 4 Cherry Valley OTSE.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Vestal BROO 13 Nov, down from previous fall.

Brown Creeper: Walton DELA 5 Sep, only report.

Carolina Wren: 15 reports widespread across Reg, excellent count.

Marsh Wren: BPd 1 Oct.

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher: DorP 8 Sep.

Veery: Magnolia P BROO 2 Sep; VBS 4 Sep; low.

Swainson's Thrush: total 2 VBS 20-26 Sep.

Hermit Thrush: UL 26 Sep; 2 Maryland OTSE 29 Nov; total 5 VBS 22 Oct-1 Nov.

Wood Thrush: Bailey Hollow TIOG 4 Sep; JC 2, 12, 18 Sep; low.

Brown Thrasher: UL 21 Sep; Cherry Valley OTSE 29 Sep; low.

Am. Pipit: 24 Lisle BROO 5 Nov, only report.

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler: VBS 26 Sep.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Maryland OTSE Oct 20 (D&TK).

Nashville Warbler: 4 VBS 26 Sep; tot 8al VBS 9-30 Sep.

Magnolia Warbler: JC 1 Sep; total 23 VBS.

Blackburnian Warbler: VBS 8 Sep.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: total 8

VBS 18 Sep-12 Oct.

Black-throated Green Warbler: total 3 VBS; 2 JC 24 Sep; Hamden DELA 3, 5 Oct.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 6 WPR 18 Sep.

Pine Warbler: 2 Round Top P BROO (MP).

Palm Warbler: Glen Aubrey BROO 13 Sep; VBS 9 Oct.

Blackpoll Warbler: 6 VBS 18 Sep-13 Oct.

Ovenbird: 11 VBS 1-23 Sep.

Connecticut Warbler: VBS 14 Sep, rare in Reg.

Wilson's Warbler: 7 VBS 8-26 Sep; UL 9 Sep; Hamden DELA 5 Oct.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: several reports 7 Nov.

Field Sparrow: 2 JC 1 Sep; 3 VBS 26 Sep-1 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: Lisle BROO 26 Sep

(MP).

Fox Sparrow: 6 reports spread across Reg.

Lincoln's Sparrow: DOAS 2 Oct.

Swamp Sparrow: max 7 BPd 1 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: total 65 VBS.

White-crowned Sparrow: 6 Lisle BROO 15 Oct; VBS 13, 23 Oct.

Dark-eyed Junco: total 133 VBS; max 22 JC 29 Nov.

Lapland Longspur: Greene CHEN 28 Nov (BB).

Indigo Bunting: 3 VBS 6 Sep-5 Oct.

Bobolink: UL 21 Sep, late.

Rusty Blackbird: 4 UL 23 Oct; VBS 23, 27 Oct.

Purple Finch: 5 reports, low; max 3 JC 20 Oct.

Pine Siskin: Middlefield OTSE 11 Nov, only report.

Evening Grosbeak: Owego TIOG 23 Nov, only report.

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

Faith Baker, Brenda Best, Sue Boettger, Joseph Brin, Bernie Carr, Natalia Garcia, Bill Gruenbaum, Barbara Herrgesell, Gene Huggins, Gary Lee, Kevin McGann, John Moore, David Nash, Matt Perry, Bill Purcell, Marge Rusk, Mickey Scilingo, Tony Shrimpton, Maureen Staloff, Andrew Van Norstranc, Matt Young, Ken Zoller.

ABBREVIATIONS

BRH – Bishop Road Hawkwatch, Pulaski; Bville – 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 Bville 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; Bville 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 Bvllc 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 MADL.

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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REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

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September was very hot, with temperatures averaging 3° to 5° F above normal. The first frost occurred on 29 September at Highmarket on Tug Hill, with a reading of 29°. Rainfall for the month was slightly below average on the Ontario Lake plain, which had a deficit of 1.0". Above average temperatures continued through the first week in October, with a heat wave during the first three days. Several locations recorded temperatures in the high 70s. The remainder of October saw below average temperatures and freezing temperatures during the last week. The first snowfall occurred in the Tug Hill on 25 October with a few inches. Migration of many species in September was dispersed due to the lack of cold fronts. In October, major movements of geese, ducks and hawks began with the first cold spells on north and northwest winds. November was cold throughout, with temperatures 2° to 4° below average. A major lake-effect snowfall developed late in the month, mainly involving the Tug Hill and parts of Jefferson County. Despite average rainfall for the season, Lake Ontario was 7" below level by mid November. This was due to low levels of precipitation in the watershed of Lake Erie, creating a much lower inflow to Lake Ontario. The St. Lawrence River Board of Control allowed more water out of the dams to create an adequate level for the Port of Montreal. The last five days of November were more like the beginning of winter, with daily temperatures at or below freezing and snowfall occurring throughout much of the area.

Highlights included the observation of good hawk flights from a ridge at Wescott Beach State Park overlooking Lake Ontario and good numbers of Tundra Swans. On the down side, observers reported a general scarcity of loons and grebes, migrants appeared to have left earlier than usual and fewer Northern Cardinals and House Finches were reported at feeders.

CONTRIBUTORS

Marilyn Badger, Jeff Bolsinger, Marion & Richard Brouse, Carol Cady, Sheila Cerwonka, Lee Harper, Jerry and Judi LeTendre, Bob Long, Tom Lord, Peter O'Shea, Dave Prosser, Gerry Smith, Tony Zappia.

ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Blackstone Bay JEFF; BR – Black Ri JEFF; BRB – Black Ri Bay JEFF; CV – Cape Vincent (T or Village) JEFF; ED – El Dorado Shores Preserve, T Ellsburg JEFF; FD – Fort Drum JEFF; GR – Grasse Ri STLA; KC – Kelsey Creek, Watertown; KPSP – Kring Pt SP, T Alexandria JEFF; Lou – T Louisville

STLA; Mas – T Massena STLA; PiPt – Pillar Pt, T Brownville JEFF; PRWMA – Perch Ri WMA JEFF; PtPen – Pt Peninsula, T Lyme JEFF; PtSa – Point Salubrious JEFF; RMSP – Robert Moses SP, T Massena STLA; SLR – St. Lawrence Ri JEFF/STLA; THP – Tug Hill Plateau; ULLWMA – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA STLA; WBSP – Wescott Beach SP, T Henderson JEFF; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA STLA.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: Mas 2 Oct; 37 PiPt 26 Nov.
Horned Grebe: 2-4/d L Ontario late Nov.
Pied-billed Grebe: Mas 2 Oct; 4 PRWMA 21 Oct.
Double-crested Cormorant: 3 SLR Mas 2 Oct; 28 SLR Waddington 20 Oct; RMSP 24 Nov; 2-5/d L Ontario Sep-mid Oct, numbers way down from mid-1990s.
Am. Bittern: Wanakena 1 Sep.
Great Blue Heron: new rookery Streeter L Sep; Brasher Sep; GR Lou 7 Oct; 2 GR Lou 30 Oct; few Fine 5 Nov; Potsdam 23 Nov; Barnes Corners THP 23 Nov, late date.
Great Egret: Winthrop 2 Oct.
Green Heron: 2 KC 5 Sep.
Turkey Vulture: 14 ED 14 Sep; 2 Lou 14 Sep; 6 PRWMA 17 Sep; 8 Brownville 13 Oct; 298 WBSP 4 Oct, high count; 612 WBSP 12 Oct, Reg record high count.
Snow Goose: flock Potsdam 17 Nov; PtPen 26 Nov.
Canada Goose: 200+ GR Mas 26 Sep; 4250 WBSP 4 Oct; 520 SLR Lou 19 Nov; 285 Lou 29 Nov; 500 Lou 24 Nov.
Mute Swan: 2 WHWMA 4 Oct.
Tundra Swan: 230 PtPen 4 Nov; 24 PtPen 26 Nov; now regular in substantial numbers around PtPen well into mid-winter most years.
Brant: 2 SLR Mas 2 Oct.
Wood Duck: GR 30 Oct; SLR Mas 24 Nov.
Gadwall: 4 WHWMA 24 Nov; 2 RMSP 24 Nov; 7 PtPen 26 Nov, 8-30/d PtPen Nov.
Am. Wigeon: 3 PtSa 13 Oct; 4 PRWMA 18 Oct.
Am. Black Duck: 153 PiPt 12 Oct; 10

PtPen 18 Oct; 128 PiPt 21 Oct; 30 SLR Mas 24 Nov; 23 PtPen 26 Nov.
Mallard: 2 GR 2 Sep; 17 ED 14 Sep; 6 GR Mas 17 Oct; 250 WHWMA early Oct; 426 PiPt 12 Oct; 23 PiPt 22 Oct; 16 KC 24 Oct; 4 GR 4 Nov; 66 PiPt 24 Nov; 44 PtPen 18 Oct; 71 PtSa 18 Oct; 180 Mas 24 Nov; 203 Chaumont/PtPen 26 Nov; 150-250/day PtSa Oct-Nov.
Blue-winged Teal: 2-5/day L Ontario Sep; scarce.
N. Pintail: 3 ED 14 Sep.
Green-winged Teal: 16 THP 24 Sep.
Redhead: 2 PiPt 12 Oct.
Ring-necked Duck: 30 WHWMA 14 Oct; 11 PRWMA 18 Oct; 6 GR 30 Oct; 10 GR 24 Nov.
Greater Scaup: 128 PiPt 21 Oct; 1500 PiPt 24 Oct; 2000 BRB Nov.
White-winged Scoter: PiPt 21 Oct.
Bufflehead: 7 GR Lou 30 Oct; 10 Mas 24 Nov; 32 PiPt 24 Nov; 230 PtPen 26 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: 100 SLR Mas 24 Nov; 32 PtPen 26 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: 16 THP 24 Sep; 4 Tupper L 2 Oct; 4 GR Lou 22 Oct; 8 KC 24 Oct; 4 GR 30 Oct; 17 RMSP 24 Nov.
Com. Merganser: 45 ED 14 Sep; 10 SLR Mas 4 Oct; 2 PtSa 13 Oct; 7 PiPt 22 Oct; 41 RMSP 29 Nov; 25 SLR Mas 27 Nov; 8 GR Mas 27 Nov.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: Cranberry L 5 Sep; 3 WBSP 4 Oct.
Bald Eagle: 2 WBSP 16 Sep; imm PRWMA 17 Sep; imm WBSP 12 Oct; RMSP 20 Nov.
N. Harrier: 10 Grenadier I CV 2 Sep; PiPt 17 Sep; 10 WBSP 4 Oct; Rutland 13

Oct; Brownville 13 Oct; 2 PiPt 22 Oct; Chaumont 26 Oct; 1-4/day PtPen Nov.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 9 WBSP 16 Sep; 2 KC 19 Sep; Lou 3 Oct; 36 WBSP 4 Oct; 8 WBSP 12 Oct; daily KC Nov; Mas 24 Nov.
Cooper's Hawk: 9 WBSP 4 Oct; 8 WBSP 12 Oct; Lou 20 Oct; KC Nov.
N. Goshawk: arr ad & imm WBSP 12 Oct; Lou 24 Nov; Limerick 26 Nov; KC Nov.
Broad-winged Hawk: 24 WBSP 16 Sep; 3 WBSP 4 Oct, late; 4 WBSP 12 Oct (GS), very late.
Red-shouldered Hawk: imm WBSP 4 Oct.
Red-tailed Hawk: 14 Grenadier I CV 2 Sep; 12 WBSP 16 Sep; 51 WBSP 4 Oct; 39 WBSP 12 Oct; Lou daily Oct; Fine 18 Nov; 2 Lou 24 Nov; 3-6/day PtPen 20 Oct thru.
Rough-legged Hawk: ULLWMA 20 Oct; 2 PtPen 26 Oct.
Golden Eagle: imm WBSP 12 Oct.
Am. Kestrel: 9 WBSP 16 Sep; 12 WBSP 4 Oct; 2 Fine 14 Oct; 9 CV 21 Nov.
Merlin: 2 ED 14 Sep; PtPen 18 Oct; 1-3/day L Ontario Sep-Oct.
Peregrine Falcon: KC 17 Sep; imm WBSP 4 Oct.
Gray Partridge: Mas Sep.
Ring-necked Pheasant: PRWMA 14 Oct.
Ruffed Grouse: 4 Rutland 29 Sep; PRWMA 21 Oct; 3 Fine Nov; 4 Lou 10 Nov; 2 Mas 24 Nov.
Wild Turkey: 4 Adams 6 Sep; 8 Rutland 29 Sep; 16 Brownville 12 Oct; 8 PtSa 13 Oct; 22 PiPt 22 Oct; 6 Fine 25 Oct; 25 Pitcairn thru; flock Potsdam 24 Nov; 13 Lou 24 Nov; 7 Mas 24 Nov; 15 Mas 27 Nov; 8 Lou 27 Nov.
Killdeer: 2 Mas 26 Sep; 3 Lou 28 Sep; last 17 Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: 3 PiPt 17 Sep; 2 THP 24 Sep.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 PtPen 2 Sep; 4 ED 14 Sep; 10 THP 24 Sep; 8 PiPt 12 Oct; 2 PtSa 13 Oct; PRWMA 18 Oct; Champion

20 Oct; 5 PiPt 22 Oct.
Solitary Sandpiper: KC 15 Sep.
Spotted Sandpiper: 2 GR Lou 20 Nov.
Sanderling: 15 ED 14 Sep; 17 PiPt 21 Oct.
Least Sandpiper: 6 PtSa 16 Sep.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2 PtSa 16 Sep.
Pectoral Sandpiper: 2 PtSa 13 Oct; Burrville 20 Oct.
Dunlin: 50 PtPen 24 Oct.
Wilson's Snipe: 2 Burrville 20 Oct; 3 PiPt 22 Oct.
Am. Woodcock: Lou 1 Sep; BB 7 Sep; Lou 17 Sep; Mas 28 Sep.
Red Phalarope: 4 PiPt 22 Oct.
Bonaparte's Gull: 17 PtPen 18 Oct; 3 PiPt 24 Oct; 23 PtPen 26 Nov.
Ring-billed Gull: 200 Mas 10 Sep; 20 GR 10 Oct; 150 SLR Mas 24 Nov; 50 RMSP 24 Nov.
Herring Gull: 3 RMSP 24 Nov.
Great Black-backed Gull: 3 ED 4 Sep; GR 27 Sep; 3 PtSa 13 Oct; 300 RMSP 24 Nov; 10 SLR Mas 24 Nov; 3 PtPen 26 Nov.
Com. Tern: 3 Grenadier I CV 2 Sep.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: 30 Lou Oct; 95 Lou/Mas 27 Nov; 6 Lou 27 Nov; 40 KC daily Nov.
Great Horned Owl: Lou 20 Oct thru; RMSP 25 Oct; Potsdam 23 Nov.
Barred Owl: Lou 5 Oct; Mas 24 Nov; 1-2/day THP thru.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Lou 2 Oct.
Com. Nighthawk: 9 KC 8 Sep; 12 KC 9 Sep; 2 KC 10 Sep; 3 KC 13 Sep; 5 KC 14 Sep; KC 18 Sep; 5 KC 19 Sep.
Chimney Swift: 14 Mas 2 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 4 Lou 3 Sep; 2 WHWMA 16 Sep.
Belted Kingfisher: GR Lou 24 Sep; several Fine thru Oct; PiPt 12 Oct.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 1/day scattered JEFF lowlands (GS).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2 Lou 27 Sep.
Downy Woodpecker: 2 KC daily Nov; 24

Lou/Mas 27 Nov.

Hairy Woodpecker: 3 KC daily Nov; 22 Lou/Mas 27 Nov.

N. Flicker: abundant Fine Sept; Lou 18 Sep; Mas 26 Sep; 4 KC 29 Oct.

Pileated Woodpecker: Lou 2 Sep; 2 Lou 23 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: Lou 10 Oct; PtSa 13 Oct; KC 17 Oct; PRWMA 18 Oct; KC 31 Oct.

Great Crested Flycatcher: Lou 1 Sep.

N. Shrike: Lou 18 Nov.

Philadelphia Vireo: Lou 26 Sep.

Red-eyed Vireo: Lou 1 Sep.

Gray Jay: 5 Lou 1 Sep; family of 3 Massawepie 14 Sep.

Blue Jay: 3 KC daily Nov; 132 Lou/Mas 24 Nov; 8 Lou 27 Nov.

Am. Crow: 25 Lou 10 Sep; 22 Lou 24 Nov; 8 RMSP 24 Nov; 5 Lou 27 Nov.

Com. Raven: 2-5/day THP thru; 2 WBSP 12 Oct, may be migrants.

Tree Swallow: 2 Lou 1 Sep; 24 PiPt 24 Oct; 100-500/day PtPen thru; dozens persisting into Dec despite cold and snow.

Black-capped Chickadee: 40 Lou 10 Sep; 184 Lou/Mas 27 Nov.

Boreal Chickadee: 2 Massawepie 14 Sep.
Tufted Titmouse: 2 Lou 10 Oct; 2 Lou 24 Nov.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 2 KC daily Nov; 2 Lou thru; 2 Brasher thru; very low year.

White-breasted Nuthatch: 68 Lou/Mas 24 Nov; 4 Lou 27 Nov.

Brown Creeper: 2 Lou 1 Sep; Lou thru.

House Wren: Lou 1 Sep; Lou 22 Sep.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Lou 1 Sep, local breeder; Lou 26 Sep; 10 Lou 14 Oct; 12 Lou 18 Oct.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 8 Lou 10 Oct; 4 Lou 14 Oct; 2 Lou 18 Oct.

E. Bluebird: 2 Mas 20 Sep; Chaumont 13 Oct; several BR 18 Oct; Lou 11 Nov; flock Potsdam 24 Nov; 2-5/day PtPen Nov.

Veery: Lou 1 Sep.

Hermit Thrush: Lou 27 Sep; 4 Lou 14

Oct; PRWMA 18 Oct; KC 25 Nov.

Wood Thrush: 5 Lou 1, 8 Sep.

Am. Robin: 10 Lou 1 Sep; 18 Mas 27 Sep; 12 Mas 23 Oct; 2 Lou 20 Nov; 36 Lou/Mas 24 Nov; 2 Potsdam 24 Nov.

Gray Catbird: 4 Lou 1 Sep; 6 Lou 20 Sep; 6 Lou 26 Sep.

Am. Pipit: 100s CV 26 Oct.

Cedar Waxwing: 10 Lou 1 Sep; 8 Lou 12 Oct; 35 Mas 24 Oct; 30 RMSP 24 Nov.

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler: 2 Lou 27 Sep.

Nashville Warbler: 3 Lou 27 Sep.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Lou 26 Sep.

Magnolia Warbler: Lou 27 Sep; Lou 9 Oct.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Lou 10 Oct.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Lou 23 Sep.

Black-throated Green Warbler: Lou 2 Oct.

Blackburnian Warbler: 2 Lou 10 Oct.

Pine Warbler: Lou 10 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Lou 4 Oct.

Black-and-white Warbler: Lou 25 Sep.

Ovenbird: 2 Lou 23 Sep.

Com. Yellowthroat: Lou 2 Oct.

Canada Warbler: 4 Lou 28 Sep; 3 Lou 9 Oct.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: 2 Lou 1 Sep.

Am. Tree Sparrow: 18 RMSP 24 Nov; 7 KC daily Nov.

Chipping Sparrow: 32 Mas 6 Sep.

Vesper Sparrow: Mas 14 Oct.

Fox Sparrow: arr WBSP 12 Oct; 2 Lou 25 Oct; Watertown 29 Oct.

Song Sparrow: 4 Lou 1 Sep; 2 Mas 8 Sep; 3 Lou 14 Oct; Lou 18 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: 2 Lou 18 Sep; 2 Mas 14 Oct; 16 Mas 18 Oct; Potsdam Nov 18; 6 KC daily Nov.

White-crowned Sparrow: 7 Lou 23 Oct.

Dark-eyed Junco: 8 Lou 14 Oct; 6 Mas 23 Nov; 2 RMSP 24 Nov; 14 Lou 27 Nov; 10 KC daily Nov.

Snow Bunting: 3 CV 25 Oct; Antwerp 26 Oct; Clifton 30 Oct; Brownville 26 Nov.
N. Cardinal: 4 Mas 10 Oct; 54 Lou/Mas 27 Nov; 2 KC daily Nov.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Lou 23 Sep; Mas 19 Oct.
Red-winged Blackbird: 35 Lou 1 Sep; 10 Mas 20 Oct; Mas 4 Nov.
E. Meadowlark: Champion 20 Oct.
Rusty Blackbird: 38 KC 28 Oct.

Com. Grackle: 4 Mas 15 Oct.
Brown-headed Cowbird: 10 Lou 28 Sep.
Baltimore Oriole: 2 Lou 1 Sep.
Purple Finch: 2 Lou 27 Sep.
House Finch: 4 Mas 26 Sep; Mas 24 Nov; 2 Lou 24 Nov; 10 KC daily Nov.
Am. Goldfinch: 5 Lou all Sep; 30 Lou 30 Oct; 124 Lou/Mas 24 Nov; 12 KC daily Nov.

REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Early September was warm, 84°F on the 3rd and 4th, becoming hot the following week, reaching 98° on the 9th. A cold front pushed in 11 September, dropping the temperature to a high of 73° with light rain. More rain arrived with the remnants of Hurricane Isidore on 27-29 September, helping to break the drought. Monthly rainfall was 2.45" above normal. Early October was similarly warm, reaching 80° on the 3rd. The following evening the edge of Hurricane Lily brought more rain, and the accompanying high winds felled trees that closed roads around Lake Placid and left 300 without power in Keene Valley. The first heavy frost at Inlet was 9 October, and first snowfall was on the 17th. Month's end saw 3" of snow at Witherbee on the 26th. The first major snowfall of up to 8" began 5 November. During the past four years, Lake Placid has had only 4" and Elizabethtown none on the ground by 6 November; this year Lake Placid had 8"+ and E-town 5". Another warming trend began on the 8th, reaching a high of 71° by Veterans Day. On 17 November a much-needed foot of snow fell on the Mt. Van Hoevenberg ski area, with another 9" at Inlet between 29-30 November. Studies suggest that the Adirondacks are heating up twice as fast as the rest of the state. Between 1995 and 1999, the state warmed by 1°, while the Adirondacks were 1.8° warmer.

Some of the most interesting sightings came from the continued autumn lakewatches being conducted on the Vermont side of Lake Champlain by David Hoag, Theodore Murin and others. About half of 80 Red-throated Loons seen flying south through the narrows off Thompson's Point, VT, by Murin and others on 16 November were in NYS waters, passing Split Rock. A juvenile **Northern Gannet** was also on the Split Rock side, within Essex County, on 19 November. From Grand Isle, VT, Hoag witnessed vast flocks of Snow Geese flying in clouds in Clinton County: 40-50 thousand on 22 October, 25-30 thousand on 10 November

and 40-60 thousand on the 12th. He also noted an adult male **King Eider** in basic plumage in a flock of White-winged Scoters off Gravelly Point at the north end of Cumberland Head at 11 a.m. on 6 October, also from his vantage point on Grand Isle. A juvenile **Black-legged Kittiwake** was observed over Split Rock by Murin's team on 16 November.

The enormous numbers of Snow Geese gathering in Clinton County now exceed numbers at the Goose Viewing Area of Dead Creek WMA near Addison, VT, where Murin & Pfeiffer (*Birdwatching in Vermont*, 2002) reported, "[Snow] Geese numbers peak roughly around the middle of October, with as many as 15,000 to 20,000 birds." The numbers also obliterate the NYS maxima in *Bull's Birds of New York State* (1998), including the fall maxima 12,000 at Point au Roche State Park, Clinton County, 16 December 1990. In addition to Point au Roche, the Chazy Rivers area to the north is also a favored rafting and staging ground, with vast fields for feeding extending north into Québec. Visiting Clinton County on 13 November, Dave Hoag found ~57,000 Snow Geese, most of them at Point au Roche.

Lest these counts be questioned, a word on methodology is offered. During his 13 November visit, Hoag estimated 55-60 thousand on the water at Point au Roche, but photographed them for future recount. At the time, he visually estimated twice in various blocks of 100, 500, 1000 and 5000. Nine cliff-top fields-of-view in the spotting scope yielded:

$1.5K+2.5K+2.5K+13K+12K+10K+7.5K+5K+2.5K = \sim 56,500$.

Later, after inking grids onto the photos, he counted each individual near goose. In middle-distance areas, orange beaks x 1.3 were counted, to account for those facing away, not to mention many more asleep. Geese were packed tighter into the far-distance grids, adding to the problems of compressed perspective and film grain, so the estimated dimensions of far flocks were multiplied. This decreased the original estimate, yielding a new total of ~50 thousand on the water, perhaps more. Adding 4250-4750 that landed at Point au Roche after photography, 500 on the water at Chazy Landing and 2000 in a Cooperville field yields the 13 November total of Snow Geese in Clinton County of ~57,000. This also exceeds the previous single-day record counts of 40-45 thousand Snow Geese set over the past three years in the same vicinity. We commend Dave Hoag for his persistence and care in documenting this increase.

The NYS Department of Health informed the Essex County Public Health Department on 20 September that a Blue Jay from the Town of Ticonderoga (submitted 8 September) and an American Crow from the Town of Westport (9 September) tested positive for West Nile Virus, the first positive tests for birds in the county this year. The finds are not unexpected, since the county Public Health Department has been vigilant in collecting and submitting specimens for testing, but demonstrate that WNV continues in the Adirondack-Champlain Region.

Among unexpected sightings were the 2800-3000 Ring-necked Ducks on Highlands Forge Lake on 11 November, the large, dense raft covering the entire length of this pond at 564', just above and west of Willsboro Bay. Another surprise was the **Purple Gallinule** seen by many at Ausable Point GMA between 23

September and 3 October, and amazingly just one of three locations where this southerner was found in the state this fall. A magnificent color photo by photo editor Dave Paczak of the bird in ungainly flight appeared in the *Press-Republican* on 6 October, accompanying an article by staff writer Jeff Myers. Yet another **Fish Crow** was reported, this latest in Rugar Woods, Plattsburgh, 1 October. **Prairie Warbler** is difficult enough to find here during Atlas season, so two fall records from Clinton County are noteworthy: Miner Institute 12 October and Point au Fer 27 October, the latter with chickadees and kinglets.

In spite of the various rarities, just 152 species were reported, down from 156 last fall and well below the high of 171 species reported in 1999, just prior to Atlas 2000. Only a half-dozen contributors submitted fall departure date reporting forms. Due to a general lack of interest, the Fall Departure Date Table has been dropped. There is still statewide interest in a Spring Arrival Date Table, so observers are asked to be somewhat more diligent about spring arrival forms, available from the Regional Editor. Finally, sincere thanks to the many observers who contributed to an outstanding Atlas 2000 season in this Region, and especially to those who met the stated deadline of 15 September. To you few, this Regional Coordinator is most grateful.

CONTRIBUTORS

Elliott Adams, Helen & Robert Booth, Bernard Carr, Laurel Carroll, Joan A. Clark, Robert Collier, Joan E. Collins, John Davis, Charcie Delehanty, Michael DiNunzio, Glen Drapeau, James Elliott, Mark Gretch, Judy & Roger Heintz, Candace Hess, Thomas Hickey, Larry Hills, David Hoag, Suzy Johnson, Bill Krueger, Michael & Wanda Maccio, Mark Manske, Brian McAllister, Charles Mitchell, Theodore Murin, Jeff Nadler, Daniel Nickerson, Sean O'Brien, Nancy Olsen, James Osborn, John & Susan Peterson, Dana Rohleder, Sally Smith, John & Patricia Thaxton, Susan Turner, Hollis White, Peter White, Uta Wister, Gary Worthington.

ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Pt WMA; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CH – Cumberland Head; CR – Chazy Rivers; FB – Ferd's Bog; IL – Indian L; KB – King's Bay WMA; LL – Long L; PtR – Point au Roche SP; SB – Sabattis Bog; TL – Tupper L; WM – Wickham Marsh.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr 2 Comfort Bay, CH 13 Sep; 3 there 15 Sep (MD); 5 Coll Bay 18 Oct (JP, J&PT); ~40 Split Rock southbound 16 Nov (LH, TM, JO), a good showing.

Pied-billed Grebe: AP 21 Sep-26 Nov; TL 16 Oct (JEC); Hadley Pd 11 Nov (DR), good.

Red-necked Grebe: arr AP 18 Sep (J&RH).

N. GANNET: juv Split Rock 19 Nov

(TM), 2nd ESSE & Reg record.
Snow Goose: arr 3 KB 3 Sep (BK, CM), early; max ~57,000 CLIN 13 Nov (DH), of which ~50,000 were at PtR, new record max CLIN, Reg 7 and NYS; flock over Indian L HAMI 6 Oct (J&SP, DS, J&PT); ~50 Bald Mt HAMI 16 Nov (JEC), few previous county records; hundreds over CH in snowstorm 17 Nov (NO).
Brant: arr 2 juv CH 11 Oct (BK).
Blue-winged Teal: Barnum Pd 17 Sep; only sighting.
Green-winged Teal: CR 6 Oct; AP 17 Nov, only sightings.
Canvasback: arr 2 KB 21 Oct (DR); 4 L Adirondack 15 Nov (JE, M&WM), 2nd HAMI record.
Redhead: arr AP 20 Oct (DR).
Ring-necked Duck: 16 TL 16 Oct; 25 AP 26 Oct; max ~2800-3000 Highlands Forge L Willsboro 11 Nov (DR), eclipsing previous ESSE record of 312 at Moody Pd; 18 L Adirondack 15 Nov (JE, M&WM), new max HAMI; outstanding numbers.
Greater Scaup: 12 AP 4 Nov (DR).
Lesser Scaup: 250 AP 4 Nov (DR); 30 Shallow L 5 Nov (GL), 2nd HAMI record & new max.
scaup sp.: max 600 KB 21 Oct (DR).
KING EIDER: basic ad drake north of Gravelly Pt CH 6 Oct (DH), 1st CLIN & 3rd Reg record.
Surf Scoter: arr CH 12 Oct (NO); max 9 PtR 18 Oct (BK), rare here.
White-winged Scoter: arr 4 Willsboro 25 Sep (PW); max 10 midlake CLIN 6 Oct (DH); 2 CH 21-26 Oct (NO), uncommon here.
Long-tailed Duck: arr drake + 2 hens Plattsburgh Bay 22 Nov (NO).
Bufflehead: arr AP 20 Oct; 30 Shallow L 5 Nov (GL), new max HAMI; 3 L Adirondack 15 Nov (JE, M&WM), 2nd fall record HAMI.
Com. Merganser: hen & 11 yg Elk L 19 Sep (JD), later than Atlas 2000 *Handbook for Workers*.

Ruddy Duck: arr 3 AP 2 Nov (J&RH), rarely reported.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: widespread reports of a dozen or more of various ages.
Golden Eagle: imm north of Northway Exit 30 7 Sep (DR), grabbed one of 7 Am. Crows; imm The Brothers Keene 20 Oct (J&PT); imm Coot Hill Moriah same day (MM); a good showing here.
Merlin: Bigelow Rd FRAN 16 Sep (DR); AP 28 Sep (SJ, BK); only reports.
Peregrine Falcon: CR 3 Sep (BK, CM) & 21 Oct (DR); only reports.
Sora: AP 24 Sep (J&RH), only post-nesting report.
PURPLE GALLINULE: imm AP 23 Sep (GD, ph)-3 Oct (!BK, CM), 1st CLIN & Reg record of this NYS rarity, viewed by many.
Am. Coot: AP & Westport Nov, where found in recent winters.
Black-bellied Plover: arr 2 AP 18 Sep (J&RH).
Am. Golden-Plover: WRS 4 Nov (DR), late ESSE.
Semipalmated Plover: max 12 KB 3 Sep (BK, CM).
Lesser Yellowlegs: AP 20 Oct-3 Nov (DR), only report.
Greater Yellowlegs: AP 9 Sep & 2 Nov; PtR 28 Sep (J&RH).
Ruddy Turnstone: arr AP 18 Sep (J&RH).
Sanderling: AP 18 Sep (J&RH), only report.
Least Sandpiper: max 4 KB 7 Sep (BK, CM).
Baird's Sandpiper: KB 7 Sep (BK, CM), always a good find.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 6 Westport 18 Oct (JP, J&PT), only report.
Dunlin: arr KB 13 Sep; 2 Monty's Bay 9 Oct (BK, CM).
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr AP 18 Sep (J&RH), a good find.
Wilson's Snipe: AP 3 Nov (DR), late.

Bonaparte's Gull: 10 Westport 19 Oct (JP, J&PT); Westport 23 Nov (EA, SO); low numbers.

Iceland Gull: arr Plattsburgh 24 Sep (J&RH), record early CLIN & Reg.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: juv over Split Rock 16 Nov (LH, TM, JO), 2nd ESSE & Reg record.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Long-eared Owl: Dickinson FRAN 24 Oct (MM), an excellent find, but surely more widespread than Atlas 2000 records suggest.

N. Saw-whet Owl: calling CR 20 Sep-2 Oct (H&RB), seemingly uncommon CLIN.

Com. Nighthawk: 7 Ausable R 12 Sep (DR), always welcome.

Belted Kingfisher: Inlet 23 Oct (GL), late HAMI.

Black-backed Woodpecker: Paul Smiths & FB; only reports.

N. Flicker: max 60 Bigelow Rd 16 Sep (DR), record high FRAN & Reg.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: arr Westport 28 Nov (DN).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Keene 7 Sep (J&PT), only report.

Gray Jay: Beaver Bk, Bigelow Rd, FB, Hitchens Pd, L Clear feeder, Madawaska, Oregon Plains, Paul Smiths, SB; mostly known areas.

Blue Jay: max 50 Shallow L trail 5 Nov (GL), high HAMI.

FISH CROW: Rugar Woods Plattsburgh 1 Oct (BK), 2nd CLIN & 5th Reg record.

Boreal Chickadee: BB, Brown's Tract, FB, LL, McNaughton, Mt Marcy, Paul Smiths, Second Brother, Tioga Pt; a good showing, but expected locations.

Tufted Titmouse: AP, Wadhams, Westport, but undoubtedly many more present.

Carolina Wren: Elizabethtown 27 Oct (MG), at 1100', relatively high location; Hogansburg 15 Nov (HW), where present

at feeder winter 2001-02.

Winter Wren: family Yard Mt 4 Sep (J&PT), NYS record late for fl.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: family Slide Mt 4 Sep (J&PT), record late for fl.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: family 4440' Mt Marcy 5 Sep (J&PT), record late ad defending imm.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: CLIN 7 Sep (BK), only report, but a good find here.

Am. Pipit: arr 6 CR 22 Sep (NO); max 30 CR 21 Oct (DR); last WM 26 Nov (GW).

Cedar Waxwing: max 100+ Westport 18 Oct, feeding on red cedar; numerous other reports; one Plattsburgh Oct flew to ground, then back to tree with cat-killed shrew (JH)!

WARBLERS

Prairie Warbler: Miner Inst CLIN 12 Oct (NO); Pt au Fer KB 27 Oct (J&RH), record late CLIN & Reg.

Palm Warbler: 4500' Mt Marcy 5 Sep (J&PT), unexpected; *D.p. palmarum* LL 21-22 Sep (JEC); max 4 FB 29 Sep (GL); *D.p. palmarum* Hitchens Bog 30 Sep (JEC); a fine showing.

N. Waterthrush: Plattsburgh 7 Oct (JAC), late.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Fox Sparrow: Elizabethtown 21 Nov (JP); Chilson c. 25 Nov (LC), record late ESSE.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Westport 18 Oct (J&PT), late.

Swamp Sparrow: Essex 3 Nov (J&PT), late.

White-throated Sparrow: Inlet 17 Nov (GL), late HAMI.

White-crowned Sparrow: 2 Indian L 6 Oct (J&SP, DS, J&PY), rare HAMI.

Red-winged Blackbird: 200-300 Inlet 28 Oct (GL), overhead at dark; 75 WRS 3 Nov (J&PT).

Rusty Blackbird: Plattsburgh 11 Oct (BK, CM), only report.

Purple Finch: 2 Second Brother 20 Oct; 3

Paul Smiths early Nov; 3 TL 15 Nov; Keene 23-25 Nov; only reports received, but reportedly more widespread at other higher elevation sites.

House Finch: CH 27 Oct, only report received!

Am. Goldfinch: 1600' Dannemora 19 Oct (J&RH), feeding yg, late NYS record according to *Handbook for Workers*; widespread at feeders as season progressed.

Evening Grosbeak: Paul Smiths early Nov (BM); 6-8 Wilson's Pd trail 25 Nov (GL); only reports following the breeding season.

ADDENDA

Glossy Ibis: juv CR 10 Aug (BK).
Western Sandpiper: AP 26 Aug (J&RH).
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Patent Rd CLIN 11 Aug (BK).

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Fall began warm and ended cool and stormy. As reported from the Albany International Airport, September's mean temperature was 65°F, 4.4° above normal. October cooled significantly, averaging 47.9°, 1.4° below normal. November was also cool, averaging 38.6°, 0.6° below normal. There was 3.37" of rain in September, 0.06" above normal, 4.02" of rain in October, 0.79" above normal, and 4.86" of rain in November, 1.55" above normal. In addition, 12" of snow fell during November. The first trace of snow fell on 23 October, with many small storms of snow and freezing rain thereafter. Leaf drop was generally late.

Regional observers reported low numbers of waterfowl this season with unusually low numbers of Mallard and American Black Duck. Most bodies of water remained open through November.

Totals for the hawk species observed at the Camp Pinnacle Hawkwatch from 26 August to 6 December are included in the species listing below. The overall total for the season was 2505 birds, nearly half of those Broad-winged Hawks.

Robert Yunick reported record numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at his banding station at Jenny Lake near Corinth, Saratoga County. He banded 99 hummingbirds and had 40 recaptures. The oldest was a female, aged seven years, two months.

Few flycatchers lingered past August, with one notable exception, a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Ramshorn-Livingston Sanctuary in Greene County. Unusual warblers included two reports of Orange-crowned Warbler and one **Yellow-throated Warbler**. No irruptive finches of any species were observed during the period.

Other unusual species included Red-necked Grebe, Sanderling, Iceland Gull and Gray-cheeked Thrush.

A total of 178 species was reported during the period, 11 fewer than last fall.

Finally, thanks to my predecessor, Jane Graves, who carefully compiled this report since 1994.

CONTRIBUTORS

Ken Able, Sue Adair, Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC), Paul Connor, Bill Cook, Kate Dunham, Jane Graves, Rich Guthrie, Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN), Bob Kirker, William Lee, Arthur Long, Andy Mason, Rich Nord, Tom Palmer, Barbara Putnam, Alison Van Keuren, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

AM – Amsterdam MONT; AU – Austerlitz COLU; CPHW – Camp Pinnacle Hawkwatch ALBA; FR – Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar ALBA; FtE – Ft Edward area WASH; FtM – Ft Miller WASH; HM – Harvey Mt State Forest COLU; HR – Hudson Ri; JL – Jenny L SARA; L7 – Vischer Ferry Power Station/Lock 7 SCHE; MR – Mohawk Ri; NB – New Baltimore GREE; NL – Nassau L RENS; NRRS – Niskayuna Railroad Station SCHE; PISP – Peebles I SP SARA; SF – Stillwater Flats SARA (includes Saratoga Sod Farm); SNHP – Saratoga National Historical Park; SP – Stanton Pd ALBA; TR – Tomhannock Res RENS; VF – Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve SARA; WR – Watervliet Res ALBA.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: TR 11 Oct; NL 21 Nov; only reports.

Com. Loon: max 8 Sacandaga Res 26 Sep.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 5 HR at Albany 22 Sep; 6 reports of singles.

Horned Grebe: NB 3 Nov, only report.

Red-necked Grebe: TR 11 Oct (RG), only report.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 150 HR at Albany 19 Oct.

Am. Bittern: 2 L7 19 Sep, late.

Great Blue Heron: max 7 MR 5 Sep.

Great Egret: 6 reports of singles.

Green Heron: max 5 RENS 25 Sep.

Turkey Vulture: total 297 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec; last Glenco Mills COLU 14

Nov.

Snow Goose: max 5000 Florida MONT 20 Nov.

Canada Goose: max 5500 HR 8 Oct.

Brant: max 100 FR 8 Oct.

Mute Swan: 2 NL 18 Oct; only report away from HR.

Wood Duck: max 7 NRRS 25 Oct; 11 other reports.

Gadwall: max 5 SP 22 Sep; 4 reports of singles.

Am. Wigeon: max 15 SP 22 Sep; 7 other reports.

Am. Black Duck: max 14 NL 22 Oct; very low numbers reported.

Mallard: max 150 NL 22 Oct; low numbers reported.

Blue-winged Teal: NRRS 22 Sep;

Niskayuna 26 Sep; only reports.
N. Shoveler: 3 reports of singles.
N. Pintail: max 4 SP 11 Nov; scarce.
Green-winged Teal: max 18 NRRS 5 Sep; scarce after Oct.
Canvasback: none.
Ring-necked Duck: max 25 NB 3 Nov; scarce north of Albany.
Greater Scaup: 2 NL 27 Oct; low numbers reported.
Lesser Scaup: 5 NL 21 Nov; low numbers reported.
White-winged Scoter: max 7 TR 11 Oct; 3 reports of singles.
Black Scoter: max 45 NL 22 Oct; only 2 other reports.
Long-tailed Duck: NB 3 Nov; scarce.
Bufflehead: max 14 Castleton RENS 29 Oct; low numbers reported.
Com. Goldeneye: 4 reports of singles.
Hooded Merganser: max 25 NL 11 Nov.
Com. Merganser: max 300 NL 8 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: NL 24 Oct; 2 NL 15 Nov; only reports.
Ruddy Duck: max 70 NL 15 Nov; widespread in flocks under 30.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: total 97 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec; last Stockport 14 Nov.
Bald Eagle: 5 reports ad; 11 reports imm; total 18 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec.
N. Harrier: total 23 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec; max 3 Cocksackie 26 Sep; 29 reports of singles.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 217 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec; 25 reports of singles.
Cooper's Hawk: total 23 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec; 15 reports of singles.
N. Goshawk: total 21 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec; 6 reports of singles.
Red-shouldered Hawk: total 6 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec; New Salem 11 Sep; AU 3 Sep; only reports.
Broad-winged Hawk: total 1216 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec.
Red-tailed Hawk: total 434 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr Taghkanic 5 Oct; total 3 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec; 8 reports of singles.
Golden Eagle: 1 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec, only report.
Am. Kestrel: total 63 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec; max 10 FtE 7 Oct.
Merlin: total 9 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec.
Peregrine Falcon: total 4 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec; 5 reports of singles.
Semipalmated Plover: 6 SF 1 Sep.
Killdeer: max 55 Cocksackie 26 Sep.
Greater Yellowlegs: last NRRS 3 Nov.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 5 SP 22 Sep; 5 NRRS 19 Sep; 5 reports of singles.
Spotted Sandpiper: only 2 reports of singles.
Sanderling: 2 SF 1 Sep (JG, AV).
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 6 TR 26 Sep; last NRRS 3 Nov.
Short-billed Dowitcher: 4 NRRS 3 Nov, late.
Wilson's Snipe: 2 Greenville 14 Oct, only report.
Am. Woodcock: last Schoharie 29 Oct.
Bonaparte's Gull: TR 21 Nov, only report.
Iceland Gull: 3 ad 1 imm Cocksackie 1-18 Nov (RG).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 PISP 19 Oct; 3 other reports of singles.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: AM 24 Sep, only report.
E. Screech-Owl: 7 reports of singles.
Great Horned Owl: 5 reports of singles.
Barred Owl: 4 reports of singles.
Short-eared Owl: 3 FtE 19 Nov, only report.
Com. Nighthawk: last & max 89 SARA 3 Sep.
Whip-poor-will: max 3 WARR 4 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: see *intro*; last AU 22 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 10 reports of singles.
Pileated Woodpecker: 21 reports of

singles.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: last Hyuck Preserve 14 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Catskill 6 Oct (RG).
Least Flycatcher: none.
Great Crested Flycatcher: none.
E. Kingbird: none.
N. Shrike: Schoharie 29 Oct; FtE 5 Nov; only reports.
Blue-headed Vireo: last Claverack 30 Sep.
Warbling Vireo: last Greenport 10 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: last Albany 29 Sep.
Fish Crow: 5 reports of singles.
Com. Raven: 14 reports of singles.
Horned Lark: max 50 MONT 20 Nov.
Tree Swallow: max 50 NB 20 Sep.
Cliff Swallow: last Gansevoort 4 Sep.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: reported in very low numbers throughout.
Carolina Wren: 11 reports of singles.
Winter Wren: only 2 reports of singles.
Marsh Wren: last HR 7 Oct.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 8 FR 13 Oct.
E. Bluebird: max 20 NB 22 Nov; high numbers reported throughout.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: Berne 3 Oct (KA).
Bicknell's Thrush: Black Head Mt GREE 1 Sep, only report.
Swainson's Thrush: 3 MONT 24 Sep, only report.
Hermit Thrush: 5 reports of singles.
Wood Thrush: last MONT 24 Sep.
Gray Catbird: last Rogers I COLU 3 Nov.
N. Mockingbird: max 6 Rotterdam 11 Oct.
Am. Pipit: max 50 MONT 8 Oct.
Cedar Waxwing: max 80 Schodack 26 Sep.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: last SNHP 1 Sep.

Tennessee Warbler: 5 reports of singles.
Orange-crowned Warbler: Berne 3 Oct; FR 13 Oct.

Nashville Warbler: 4 reports of singles.
N. Parula: Gansevoort 14 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 3 HM 2 Sep; 3 reports of singles.
Magnolia Warbler: last Claverack 29 Sep.
Cape May Warbler: none.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: only 3 reports of singles.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 20 NL 25 Sep.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last AU 27 Sep.
Blackburnian Warbler: Round Top GREE 1 Sep; SCHE 22 Sep.
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: Old Chatham 27 Nov (KD).
Pine Warbler: 4 reports of singles.
Prairie Warbler: last SNHP 1 Sep.
Palm Warbler: last AM 24 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: none.
Blackpoll Warbler: 6 reports of singles.
Black-and-white Warbler: 3 reports of singles.
Am. Redstart: last Ghent 15 Oct.
Ovenbird: 4 reports of singles.
Com. Yellowthroat: 7 reports of singles.
Wilson's Warbler: AM 24 Sep, only report.
Canada Warbler: Black Head Mt GREE 1 Sep, only report.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: last HM 2 Sep.
E. Towhee: last FR 13 Oct.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Albany 5 Oct.
Chipping Sparrow: last Fox Run Dr SCHE 16 Nov.
Field Sparrow: last FR 13 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: AM 24 Oct, only report.
Savannah Sparrow: max 13 AM 1 Oct.
Fox Sparrow: max 3 NB 20 Nov.
Song Sparrow: max 50 AM 24 Sep.
Lincoln's Sparrow: max 7 AM 1 Oct.

Swamp Sparrow: max 5 VF 5 Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: max 150 FR
13 Oct; reported in flocks of 10-20
throughout.
White-crowned Sparrow: max 10 FR 13
Oct.
Dark-eyed Junco: widespread at lower
elevations by 20 Oct.
Snow Bunting: arr Schodack 24 Oct.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last AU 1 Sep.
Indigo Bunting: last AM 1 Oct.

Bobolink: last FtE 15 Oct.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 20,000
Greenport 18 Nov.
E. Meadowlark: max 5 Coxsackie 17
Nov; 4 reports of singles.
Rusty Blackbird: max 100 NB 3 Nov.
Com. Grackle: max 2000 Castleton 29
Oct.
Baltimore Oriole: last HM 2 Sep.
Purple Finch: 7 reports of singles;
declining in most areas.

REGION 9 – HUDSON-DELAWARE

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September was warm, about 2.4°F above the norm. The southern part of the Region was very wet, with over 7" recorded in White Plains for the month. Less than 3" of rain fell in the northern counties. October saw the start of an extended cold period, with temperatures 1.4° to 1.9° cooler than normal. Rainfall continued below normal for Dutchess and Sullivan counties. Sullivan County experienced its first blanket of snow on 2-3 November. Dutchess County had its first accumulating snow on 18 November, with 3". Precipitation and temperatures were slightly below normal for the month.

Each fall, volunteers count the incredible numbers of Wood Ducks that enter the Bashakill Marsh on early fall evenings. This year, 1423 were counted on 29 September.

Hawk watches reported disappointing numbers. Mount Peter only managed 3946 Broad-winged Hawks for the season and Hook Mountain had 6665.

Sullivan County Audubon Society had a county bird contest for 2002. The purpose was to stimulate birders to do more birding locally, so that they can get more information about the birds of Sullivan County and improve the checklist. Rare birds required at least a second observer. This extensive birding paid off, as John Haas discovered an immature **Purple Gallinule** at the Bashakill Marsh on 17 October. It was fortunate that the water level was high and the bird chose to feed only 30-100' off Haven Road, which crosses the wetland. Dozens were able to view this cooperative bird over the weekend. It was last reported on 23 October. It was the first record for Sullivan County.

Another great find was a **Hudsonian Godwit**, a first for Dutchess County, found by Herb Thompson and Carena Pooth on 10 November in Rhinebeck. It was found feeding on a lawn next to a pond in a condominium complex about 1.5 miles away from the Hudson River. Many local birders saw and photographed it the next day. It remained until the 14th.

Andy Guthrie found a **Parasitic Jaeger** off Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary in Rye on 13 October. Long Island Sound continues to produce Northern Gannets in increasing numbers. Sixty-two were seen on 31 October and 97 on 16 November.

A *Selasphorus* hummingbird appeared at Lenoir Nature Preserve butterfly garden, Yonkers, the same location as last year's immature male Rufous Hummingbird, on 28 October. After careful study over the next few weeks, the bird was identified as an immature female **Rufous Hummingbird**. It stayed until 29 November when a cold spell below freezing killed the sage that it was feeding on.

I saw a second hummingbird in the presence of the Rufous on 9 November. It may have been a second *Selasphorus*, but this could never be confirmed. A second hummingbird was also reported on 18 and 20 November. It is possible there were two very similar looking birds. However, without seeing both clearly at the same time we were left with doubts. All the photographs I've seen seem to show the same individual. Rufous Hummingbirds are very territorial and will nearly always drive away other intruding hummingbirds.

Ellen and Joe O'Connell found a probable Connecticut Warbler at the Lenoir Nature Preserve butterfly garden on 15 September. Its skulking behavior prevented them from counting it as a life bird, but their description and its behavior certainly pointed to a Connecticut.

Other notable species included: American Golden-Plover, Whimbrel, Red-headed Woodpecker, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow and Dickcissel.

CONTRIBUTORS

Michael Bochnik, Arlene Borko, Thomas Burke, Judith Cinquina, Mary Collier, Jeff Daley, Mark DeDea, Georges Dremeaux, Regina & Ron Ellard, Tom Fiore, Carol & Ken Fredericks, Valerie Freer, Dick Gershon, Andy Guthrie, John Haas, Gene Herskovics, Kevin Holcomb, Brian Houser, Carl Jaslowitz, Rob & Robin Jett, Kelli Jewell, Steven Kahl, Ellen & Joe O'Connell, Claudia Perretti, Vincent Plogar, Pat Pollock, Carena Pooth, Barry & Edith Rosen, Al Sargeant, Ruth Shursky, Seldon Spencer, Herb Thompson, Larry Trachtenberg, Chet Vincent, Bill Wallace, Joe Weise, Carol Weiss.

ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Pt P; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; LNP – Lenoir Nature Preserve; RNC – Rye Nature Center; RTWBC – Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR; WRNWR – Wallkill R NWR.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr 2 EGR 27 Oct; max 60 EGR 16 Nov.
Com. Loon: max inland 12 Rondout Res 8 Nov.
Horned Grebe: inland, Neversink Res 27 Oct.
N. Gannet: 62 EGR 31 Oct (TB); 97 EGR 16 Nov (TB).
Great Cormorant: arr MC 28 Sep.
Am. Bittern: Bashakill 15-26 Oct (JH, VF).
Great Egret: max 8 MC 3 Oct.
Snowy Egret: MC 3 Oct.
Little Blue Heron: EGR 20 Sep (TB).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 8 Dennings Pt 1 Sep.
Black Vulture: 13 SGNWR 10 Oct (SK).
Snow Goose: 200 Tomahawk L ORAN 5-6 Oct; 200 Tamarack 22 Oct; 250 Round Pd DUTC 20 Nov; 300 Vassar Farm 27 Nov; 260 EGR 28 Oct.
Brant: 1256 LNP 18 Oct.
Wood Duck: 20 Buttercup West 11 Sep; 1423 Bashakill 29 Sep; 1188 Bashakill 3 Oct.
Blue-winged Teal: 7 Bashakill 22 Oct.
N. Shoveler: arr 7 Sep.
N. Pintail: arr 17 Sep.
Green-winged Teal: 30 East Branch Res thru Sep; 50 Rockland L 13 Oct.
Ring-necked Duck: arr Kiamesha L 26 Oct; 30 Neversink Res. 26 Oct.
Greater Scaup: 260 EGR 13 Oct; max 2000 EGR 25 Nov.
Lesser Scaup: max 600 EGR 25 Sep; 4 EGR 22 Oct; 10 Neversink Res 30 Oct.
White-winged Scoter: 13 EGR 25 Sep (TB); 2 Neversink Res 6 Oct (JH); Neversink Res 29-30 Oct.
Black Scoter: 10 Neversink Res 29 Oct (VF); EGR 30 Oct..
Long-tailed Duck: 2-4 EGR 16, 19 Nov.
Bufflehead: arr 30 Neversink Res 22 Oct..
Com. Goldeneye: arr EGR 20 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: arr EGR 13 Oct.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: 34 Mt Peter 16 Sep; 43 LNP 18 Sep.
Bald Eagle: 7 Hook Mt 28 Sep; 10 at deer carcass Claryville 31 Oct.
N. Harrier: 6 WRNWR 23 Nov.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 165 Hook Mt 18 Sep; 124 Hook Mt 19 Sep; 171 Hook Mt 29 Sep; 71 Mt Peter 14 Oct..
N. Goshawk: Claryville 17, 19 Sep; LNP 3 Nov; Stanfordville 24 Nov.
Broad-winged Hawk: 3619 HookMt 17 Sep; 974 Mt Peter 17 Sep; 986 LNP 18 Sep; 1200 Mohonk Preserve 19 Sep; 1615 Hook Mt 24 Sep.
Red-tailed Hawk: 1 mostly white with red tail Neversink Res 26 Oct (JH).
Rough-legged Hawk: 1-2 WRNWR 15 Nov thru (SK, KH).
Golden Eagle: 1 ad & 1 imm LNP 18 Oct (JO); 1 ad & 1 imm Hook Mt 22 Oct (TF); ad Mt Peter 2 Nov; imm Mt Peter 9 Nov; arr Stissing Mt 10 Nov (DG); 4 Mohonk Preserve 20 Nov (SS); 4 Stissing Mt 28 Nov (CV).
Am. Kestrel: 50 Hook Mt 29 Sep; 35 Mt Peter 5 Oct.
Peregrine Falcon: good numbers at hawk watches; Wappingers 14 Sep; Poughkeepsie RR Bridge 11 Nov; CPP 20 Nov.
Clapper Rail: MC 9 Sep.
Sora: CCP 2 Sep (LT); 2 MC 9 Sep; Sharparoon 25 Sep.
PURPLE GALLINULE: imm Bashakill Marsh 17-23 Oct (JH, mob), 1st for SULL, *intro*.
Am. Coot: max 70 Sylvan L 1, 5 Nov.
Black-bellied Plover: max 8 MC 9 Sep.
Am. Golden-Plover: 23 Pine I ORAN 8 Sep (GD); East Branch Res 17 Sep (BW); 12 WRNWR 26 Oct (SK, KH).
Semipalmated Plover: max 9 MC 9 Sep.
Killdeer: 100 Gardiner 6 Oct.
Am. Oystercatcher: 6 MC 9 Sep.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 19 MC 9 Sep.
Lesser Yellowlegs: Pine I ORAN 8 Sep; 4 MC 12 Oct..

Solitary Sandpiper: 3 Vanderbilt 4 Sep.
Upland Sandpiper: 5 Pine I ORAN 8 Sep (GD).
Whimbrel: MC 12 Sep (TB).
HUDSONIAN GODWIT: Rhinebeck 11-15 Nov (HT, CP, ph).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 28 MC 4 Sep.
Western Sandpiper: 5 Bronx Ri Tuckahoe 20 Oct (MB, KJ, CJ).
White-rumped Sandpiper: MC 12 Oct.
Pectoral Sandpiper: Pine I ORAN 8 Sep; MC 12 Oct; 3 Kennedy-Dells P ROCK 4 Nov.
Purple Sandpiper: arr EGR 14 Sep (AG), early; 25 EGR 15 Nov.
Dunlin: max 30 MC 25 Nov.
Short-billed Dowitcher: MC 4 Sep; 2 CPP 1 Nov (PP).
PARASITIC JAEGER: EGR 13 Oct (AG).
Laughing Gull: max 400 EGR 23 Sep; Hudson Ri DUTC 5 Nov.
Bonaparte's Gull: Bashakill Marsh 18 Oct (JH, MB, RD); max 20 EGR 16 Nov.
Iceland Gull: Monticello Landfill 9 Nov (JH).
Com. Tern: max 24 EGR 20 Sep.
Forster's Tern: max 45 EGR 13 Oct.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Short-eared Owl: SGNWR 31 Oct; 2 WRNWR 31 Oct.
Com. Nighthawk: 50 Mt Vernon 3 Sep; 20 Chestnut Ridge DUTC 9 Sep.
Whip-poor-will: 1-2 MC 7-9 Sep.
Chimney Swift: max 38 Rye 24 Sep.
RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: imm f LNP 28 Oct-29 Nov (MB); *intro*.
Red-headed Woodpecker: LNP 24 Sep, 14 Oct (MB); Harriman SP 25 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: first migrant MC 24 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: MC 19 Sep (TB).
N. Shrike: Domin Farm & Rombout Rd DUTC 25, 26 Nov (CV).

Blue-headed Vireo: WRNWR 29 Oct.
Philadelphia Vireo: Vanderbilt 4 Sep (RTWBC); RNC 13 Sep (TB); MC 19, 28 Sep (TB).
Com. Raven: reports from all counties.
Horned Lark: EGR 28, 31 Oct; 70 Red Hook 16 Nov; 77 WRNWR 17 Nov; 22 Vassar Farm 27 Nov; 13 EGR 28 Nov.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: very few, no major movement reported.
Marsh Wren: 4 MC 9, 18 Sep; Thompson Pd 6 Oct; CPP 1 Nov.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: major movement 14 Oct.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: major movement 14 Oct.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: RNC 2 Oct.
American Pipit: 20 Gardiner 6 Oct; 200-300 Wallkill Valley Rail Trail, New Paltz 20 Oct; 40 Millbrook 20 Oct; 21 EGR 28 Oct; 30 CPP 1 Nov; 34 Rockland L 8 Nov; 30 CPP 20 Nov.
Cedar Waxwing: max 135 MC 20 Nov.

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler: Kingston 10 Oct (MD).
Yellow Warbler: MC 3 Oct, late.
Cape May Warbler: Stormville 17 Oct (B&ER).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: WRNWR 29 Oct (SK), late.
Pine Warbler: last 2 CPP 20 Nov.
Palm Warbler: 9 LNP 14 Oct.
N. Waterthrush: MC 26 Nov, late.
Connecticut Warbler: probable, LNP 15 Sep (E&JO).
Mourning Warbler: Rye 13 Sep (TB).
Yellow-breasted Chat: MC 19, 22 Sep (TB); EGR 24 Sep (TB).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 3 MC 19 Nov.
Vesper Sparrow: 2 SGNWR 10 Oct (SK); Bashakill 25 Oct; Claryville 26 Oct (VF, MC).
Savannah Sparrow: 8 SGNWR 10 Oct; max 80 WRNWR 20 Oct.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 1-2 MC 3, 5, 15, 22 Oct (TB).

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 4 MC 9 Sep.

Seaside Sparrow: MC 9 Sep (TB).

Fox Sparrow: arr 30 Oct; 40 SULL 8 Nov (JH).

Song Sparrow: max 60 WRNWR 20 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Horseshoe L SULL 8-22 Sep; MC 18, 25 Sep; EGR 24 Sep; SGNWR 12 Oct; 2 WRNWR 20 Oct.

Swamp Sparrow: max 50 WRNWR 20 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: first migrant 21 Sep.

White-crowned Sparrow: EGR 28 Sep; Wurtsboro 16 Oct; 3 CPP 20 Oct; 20 WRNWR 20 Oct; 2 EGR 22 Oct; MC 23 Oct; WRNWR 29 Oct; Bashakill 10 Nov.

Dark-eyed Junco: first migrants 29 Sep.

Snow Bunting: few WRNWR 24 Oct (SK, KH); 3 Neversink Res 26 Oct (JH); 2 Rondout Res 26 Oct (VF, MC); 3 Neversink Res 27 Oct (JH); 8 EGR 28 Oct (TB); Willowemoc 6 Nov (JW); 3 EGR 2

Nov; EGR 25 Nov.

Indigo Bunting: Westbrookeville 19 Oct (JH), late.

Dickcissel: MC 5 Oct (TB).

E. Meadowlark: 20 SGNWR 10 Oct (SK); 5 CPP 20 Oct (GD).

Rusty Blackbird: 300 Bashakill 30 Oct (JH); 1-2 MC 21-28 Oct.

Red Crossbill: at feeder 19, 26 DUTC (EBR).

Evening Grosbeak: 3 at feeder Stormville 7 Sep (E&BR); Claryville 6 Nov (JW).

CORRIGENDA: *The Kingbird* 52 (4):

King Rail: pg 378 "1 MC 6, 13, 16 Jun (TBu, GSBC); 4 MC 8, 12 Jul (TBu)" should read: MC 6, 13, 16 Jun, 8, 12 Jul (TBu).

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: pg 379 "24 MC 6 Jun; 9 MC, Rye 15 Jun; 6 MC 19 Aug" should read: 2 MC 6 Jun; 9 MC, Rye 15 Jun; 6 MC 19 Aug.

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REGION 10 – MARINE

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After a dry period, September exceeded the norm, but only by a mere 0.93". October was a month of significant wet weather, with 7.20" rainfall, or 3.35" in excess of the monthly norm. November was also wet, with 0.70" above normal. By season's end, we had picked up half the shortfall of the year to date. Warm weather continued, with September 2.7°F above normal. October, warm for the first half, finally turned cooler and overall averaged 1.4 ° below normal. November reversed the change and averaged 1.1° above normal.

On 28 November, Andrew Block and Anne Connor discovered an exciting warbler at the Jones Beach State Park Boardwalk Restaurant; pictures by Seth

Ausubel appeared on the Internet the next day. Over the next three days it was seen by scores. Painstakingly described and extensively photographed, it was either a **Hermit Warbler** or a **Hermit x Townsend's Warbler hybrid**. Whether "pure" or hybrid, when determined by NYSARC, this far-western bird will still be a first state record. See a full account with photos elsewhere in this issue.

When we review the following observations in aggregate with those of the preceding spring and summer reports, we should get a fairly detailed view of what birders can expect from Region 10's waters during a year on Long Island.

On 1 September, a fishing boat nine miles south of Montauk Point encountered a Greater Shearwater and a Pomarine Jaeger. On the same day, within two miles of the point, there were Greater and Manx shearwaters, as well as a Pomarine Jaeger. A seawatch on 3 September from Mecox and Ocean Road in Bridgehampton produced 50 unidentified shearwaters, most of which were over a mile from shore. Only one bird was close enough to be identified as a Cory's Shearwater. Eight Wilson's Storm-Petrels were also seen.

On 14 September, Jack Passie reported an unidentified skua within a half-mile of Montauk Point. On an overnight fishing trip to the Dip (65 miles south of Shinnecock) on 19-20 September, Orhan Birol saw 100 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, four Greater Shearwaters and a Pomarine Jaeger in adult breeding plumage.

On 29 September, a seawatch from Robert Moses State Park, Field #2, produced a few Northern Gannets and two or more Parasitic Jaegers harassing Laughing Gulls. On 3 October, Jack Passie reported eight Northern Fulmars 30 miles southeast of Montauk Point. On 5 October, Andy Guthrie saw two unidentified jaegers and a few Northern Gannets off Robert Moses State Park.

On 6 October, Andy Guthrie and Angus Wilson saw a Parasitic Jaeger make a pass over the West Pond at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, a very unusual sight away from the ocean or Long Island Sound.

On 10 October, Bob May and Dave Klauber observed an adult light morph Parasitic Jaeger flying by the Montauk Point restaurant. Then, on 12 October, Ken Feustel reported a late Sooty Shearwater and two Parasitic Jaegers at the point. There were three additional Parasitic Jaegers there the next day. On 13 October, John Suggs reported an unidentifiable shearwater at Cherry Grove on Fire Island.

On 19 October, a Parasitic Jaeger was seen off Democrat Point, at the western end of Fire Island. On 26 October, at Montauk Point, Andy Guthrie reported two shearwaters, 400 Northern Gannets, four Parasitic Jaegers (three adults), an immature Little Gull and three Black-legged Kittiwakes (two immatures, one adult). The next day, 27 October, Hugh McGuinness and Andy Baldelli saw two Pomarine and two Parasitic jaegers and, on 30 October, John Fritz had a Parasitic Jaeger and two Black-legged Kittiwakes there. On 2 November, two Parasitic Jaegers were harassing a large flock of Laughing Gulls at Shagwam Point in Montauk.

This concludes the detailed listing of pelagic birds observed in 2002.

An adult **Ross's Goose** frequented the median at Jones Beach and the adjacent Zachs Bay open lawns. Found 4 November, it was still in the vicinity 19 November.

On 14 October, Lauren and Chris Nuzzi and David Eib found an immature Tufted Duck at Mt. Loretto Park on Staten Island; a positive identification was confirmed by videotape. It was last reported 17 November.

Some reports from hawkwatchers in our Region are noted here. On 28 September, Central Park reported 20 Ospreys, 2 Bald Eagles, 50 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 600 Broad-winged Hawks, 10 American Kestrels, Merlin and several sightings of Peregrine Falcon. By mid October, the intermittent hawkwatch in Prospect Park reported 13 Bald Eagles. The Fire Island Hawkwatch had a record daily total on 28 September with 526 birds, of which over half were Merlins. Their second best day was 23 September with 514. There were three reports of Golden Eagles this season: Central Park on 23 October and 23 November and over Sy Schiff's home in Baldwin on 31 October.

On 15 October, Eric Salzman reported seeing a small rail on the marsh at Quogue. He identified the bird as a **Yellow Rail**, called after being flushed. On 2 September, Issac Grant reported a juvenal **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** at the Marine Park Driving Range in Kings County. The bird was in a large (100+) flock of Pectoral Sandpipers plus other shorebirds and was described in detail. Both of these species are subject to NYSARC review, as are all of those highlighted below [Regional Reports Proofreader].

On 10 September, Andy Baldelli reported a **Sandwich Tern** sitting on the flats north of the parking area at Cupsogue County Park in Westhampton Dunes. Royal Terns are common post-season wanderers along the South Shore of Long Island and the past several years they have roosted in considerable numbers at the north end of Robins Island, Suffolk County.

There were significant numbers of late fall hummingbirds. A late Ruby-throated Hummingbird was at Joe Manzione's feeder in Farmingville, Suffolk County, on 16-17 November. Tom Fiore reported a *Selasphorus* hummingbird discovered by Nick Wagerik on 10 November in Central Park. Observed and photographed by numerous birders through 23 November, it was identified as a probable **Rufous Hummingbird**. On 19 November, another late hummingbird appeared in Robert F. Wagner Jr. Park, which is at the southernmost part of the green area of Battery Park in Manhattan. Ben Cacace, who found the bird, was fairly confident it was a **Calliope Hummingbird**. This bird was last seen 24 November. Birders who went to see the Wagner Park bird observed a second late hummingbird on 23 November, thought to be an immature *Selasphorus*.

On 21 November, while driving on the Jones Beach back road west of the fishing piers, John Fritz, Gerta Fritz and Joan Quinlan spotted an **Ash-throated Flycatcher**. On 25 November, Bob May and Dave Klauber saw another Ash-throated Flycatcher at Breezy Point while unsuccessfully looking for a **Cave Swallow** seen there the day before.

In late November, a major invasion of **Cave Swallows** occurred in the Northeast. Our reports from west to east included: 17 November - Peter Dorosh, leading a Brooklyn Bird Club trip, found one at Lemon Creek, on the south shore

of Staten Island; 24 November - Tom Fiore reported one flying with four Northern Rough-winged Swallows at Saw Mill Creek marsh on Staten Island; 24 November - Angus Wilson discovered one at Breezy Point, over the dunes at the end of the access road; 23 November - Hugh McGuinness, leading a field trip to Montauk Point, reported, "watched three Cave Swallows fly off the ocean"; 25 November - another was seen at Hallockville on the North Fork, along Sound Avenue a few miles east of Riverhead, by Mary Laura Lamont, Richard Wines and Nancy Gilbert. The extraordinarily late appearance of the Northern Rough-winged Swallows is also notable.

P.A. Buckley, John and Gerta Fritz discovered a **Yellow-rumped "Audubon's" Warbler** on the snow fence at Mecox on 20 November. This rare western race has a yellow rather than white throat.

A **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was found in Central Park 29 September, seen by a number of birders and photographed by Phil Jeffrey.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

APP – Alley Pd P; BP – Breezy Pt, western end Rockaway Peninsula QUEE; CB – Cedar Beach; CFF – Cutchogue farm fields; CLP – Clove L P SI; CP – Central P; DP – Democrat Pt FI; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field; FI – Fire I; FP – Forest P; FTT – Fort Tilden QUEE; HP – Hook Pd Southampton; JBCH – Jones Beach; JBWE – Jones Beach West End; JBWR – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; LI – Long Island; MEB – Mecox Bay; MNSA – Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside; MOR – Moriches; MP – Montauk Pt; MTL – Mount Loretto SI; NYRBA – New York Rare Bird Alert; PB – Pikes Beach Westhampton; PBP – Pelham Bay P; PL – Pt Lookout side Jones Inlet; PP – Prospect P; RMSP – Robert Moses SP; RP

– Riis Park; RSF – Riverhead sod fields; SHIN – Shinnecock Inlet; SI – Staten Island; SPCP – Smith Pt Co P, Mastic; SPM – Shagwong Pt Montauk; ZB – Zachs Bay.

LOONS – DUCKS

Eared Grebe: JBWR 7-8, 18 Sep, 3 Nov.
N. Fulmar: 8 at 30 mi SE of MP 3 October (JP).
Cory's Shearwater: off MEB 3 Sep.
Greater Shearwater: 1 at 9 mi S of MP 1 Sep; 2 at mi off MP 1 Sep; 4 at 65 mi S of SHIN 19-20 Sep.
Sooty Shearwater: MP 12 Oct.
Manx Shearwater: 2 at mi off MP 1 Sep.
shearwater, sp.: 50 off MEB 3 Sep; Cherry Grove FI 13 Oct.
Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 8 off MEB 3 Sep; 100 at 6 mi S of SHIN 19-20 Sep; 2 MP 26 Oct.
Great Cormorant: res in CP, a new location; becoming more widely dispersed.
Am. Bittern: 13 along Dune Rd 4 Nov, a large number for one location.
Cattle Egret: JBWR 9, 29 Sep; 11 horse farms along Manor Lane Jamesport 12 Nov; 1 the following day (BP).
Glossy Ibis: JBWR thru 13 Oct.
Turkey Vulture: south fork LI mid Sep-early Nov; 3 PP 8 Nov; 2 CP 23 Nov; others.
Greater White-fronted Goose: ad (pink-billed) Marratooka L Mattituck 31 Oct; imm HP 5 Nov thru; these birds seen on various ponds on the east end.
ROSS'S GOOSE: single in a group of Canada Geese and/or Brant along Ocean Parkway and ZB JBCH 4-19 Nov (AW *et al*).
Brant: ad that closely resembled “Gray-bellied Brant” RMSF 26 Oct (SM, PL).
Tundra Swan: 2 HP 3-17 Nov.
Eurasian Wigeon: JBWR 6-15 Oct; Patchogue L 6 Oct-20 Nov; Gateway Driving Range Flatbush Ave KING 12 Oct & late Oct; Marratooka L Mattituck 9 Nov thru; Shorts Pd Bridgehampton 20 Nov; Massapequa L 23 Nov thru.

Green-winged “Eurasian” Teal: FBF 23-24 Nov (IG).
Tufted Duck: imm MTL 14 Oct-17 Nov (CN, *et al*), confirmed from video tape.
King Eider: early reports of singles PL and MP 29-30 Nov.
Com. Eider: 5 Jones Inlet 14-15 Sep; 4 Jones Inlet 20 Sep; 3 MP 30 Sep; all early; 200 MP 30 Nov.
Harlequin Duck: SPM 2 Nov; Georgica 3 Nov; PL 30 Nov; early reports.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: thru 9 Nov.
Bald Eagle: 2 PP 5 Sep; CP 10 Sep; JBCH 17 Sep; MP 21 Sep; 2 CP 28 Sep; imm over Southampton Village 23 Sep; total 13 PP by early Oct; Blue Heron P & Goethals Bridge Pd SI 5 Oct; imm JBWE 14 Oct; imm Riverhead 24 Oct; Eltingville SI 18 Oct; imm SPCP 9 Oct; CP 7 Nov; JBWE 23 Nov.
Broad-winged Hawk: 600 CP Hawkwatch 28 Sep.
Rough-legged Hawk: Gilgo 29 Oct; PBP 24 Nov.
Golden Eagle: imm CP 23 Oct; imm or sub ad at modest height over Baldwin 31 Oct (SS).
Peregrine Falcon: 49 FI Hawkwatch 3 Oct, large number.
Wild Turkey: vicinity City I BRON 18 Oct; 12 Culloden Woods Montauk 12 Oct; Bridgehampton late Oct-early Nov; 4 Grumman property 9 Nov.
N. Bobwhite: Quogue mid Sep-early Oct; 30 Holtsville Ecology Center 21 Oct.
YELLOW RAIL: Weesuck Creek Quogue 15 Oct (ES, NYSARC).
Am. Golden-Plover: 39 RSF 5 Sep; 45 RSF 7 Sep; 35 RSF Sep 23; 67 RSF Sep 24 (AJL); others to Oct 31.
Semipalmated Plover: MEB 16 Nov.
Piping Plover: MEB thru 13 Oct.

Am. Oystercatcher: 240+ Jones Inlet late Oct-mid Nov; > 50 remained thru; 44 SHIN 29 Oct.

Am. Avocet: 2 JBWR 1 Sep, then 1 thru 13 Oct.

Spotted Sandpiper: CP 3 Nov.

Upland Sandpiper: 1-2 Gabreski Airport 1, 6, 8 Sep; Great Kills P SI 11 Sep.

Whimbrel: RSF, MEB, SPCP, BP early-mid Sep; Ocean Pkwy east of Gilgo early to 9 Oct.

Hudsonian Godwit: JBWR thru 16 Sep; Massapequa Preserve 22 Sep; 2 there 9 Oct; SHIN vicinity 5, 10 Oct; MEB 29 Oct thru.

Marbled Godwit: SHIN 5 Sep; 2 SHIN 7, 8, 15 Sep; Little Egg Marsh Jamaica Bay 5 Oct.

Least Sandpiper: last Long Pd Sag Harbor mid Oct.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 2 RSF 3 Nov.

Baird's Sandpiper: 3 CFF 1-5 Sep; RSF 1, 8 Sep; 2 Marine Park Driving Range 2 Sep; MEB 5, 9 Sep; SPCP 7 Sep; Gilgo 27 Oct; RSF 19 Oct, 2 RSF 27 Oct with 1 to 31 Oct; last few sightings are very late.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER: Marine Park Golf Driving Range Flatbush Ave KING 2 Sep (IG), in a large (100+) flock of Pectoral Sandpipers.

Purple Sandpiper: arr 3 L Montauk jetty 30 Oct.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 1-3 MEB 1-11 Sep; RSF Sep 4-5; 7 RSF 7-10 Sep; DP 7 Sep; 11 CFF 8 Sep; 3 CFF 12 Sep; 2 CFF 13 Sep; BP 19-22 Sep; 4 RSF 24 Sep, 2 RSF 6 Oct.

Wilson's Phalarope: MEB 1 Sep. skua sp.: mi off MP 14 Sep (JP).

Pomarine Jaeger: 1 at 2 mi off MP 1 Sep; 1 at 9 mi s of MP 1 Sep; 1 at 65 mi s of SHIN 19-20 Sep; 2 MP 27 Oct.

Parasitic Jaeger: RMSP 29 Sep; JBWR 6 Oct (AG, AnW); MP 10 Oct; 2 MP 12 Oct; DP 19 Oct; 4 MP 26 Oct; 2 MP 27 Oct; MP 30 Oct; 2 SPM 2 Nov.

jaeger sp.: 2 RMSP 5 Oct.

Laughing Gull: some thru.

Little Gull: FTT 29 Oct; MP 26 Oct; 2 ad MP 23 Nov.

Black-headed Gull: in a pasture west of MP 26 Oct (AG).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: singles scattered all along the south shore thru.

Glaucous Gull: 2nd year Eastport Country Club pond 16 Nov; Coney I 30 Nov.

Black-legged Kittiwake: MP 26, 30 Oct, 23 Nov; 20 MP 16 Nov; 40 seawatch at Main Beach East Hampton 30 Nov.

Caspian Tern: Cupsogue 9 Sep; 2 Mecox 25 Sep; 2 RMSP 22 Sep; Miller Field Gateway SI 26-27 Sep; SHIN 4 Oct; ZB13 Oct.

Royal Tern: large concentration north end of Robins I: 40 on 12 Sep to 62 on 25 Sep, 40 on 13 Oct; others elsewhere to 10 Nov.

SANDWICH TERN: Cupsogue Co P Westhampton Dunes 10 Sep (AB).

Com. Tern: SHIN 30 Nov.

Forster's Tern: 100 Jones Inlet 20 Oct; 70 Ponquogue Bridge Shinneck 5 Nov; 40 SHIN 9 Nov.

Least Tern: to early Sep.

Black Tern: to end Sep.

Black Skimmer: flock FTT 2 Nov, late.

Razorbill: MP 16 Nov; 10 Main Beach East Hampton 30 Nov.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: JBWE 24 Sep; PP 13 Oct; 2 Baldwin P 17-24 Nov.

Barn Owl: Gilgo 27 Oct, in small pine.

Long-eared Owl: JBWE 29 Oct; others.

Short-eared Owl: landfill by Lemon Creek SI 19 Nov; SHIN area 16 Nov; Napeague 20 Nov.

N. Saw-whet Owl: JBWE 31 Oct; CP 7, 25, 28 Nov; PBP 3, 29 Nov, 2 PBP 24 Nov; JBWE 31 Oct, 23 Nov.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: feeder Farmingville SUFF 16-17 Nov (JM), very late.

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD: imm m Wagner P, foot of Manhattan 19-28 Nov

(BC, *et al.*, NYSARC).

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: CP 10-23 Nov (TF, NW, *et al.*, NYSARC) extensively ph.

SELASPHORUS SP.: CP 10-23 Nov; Wagner P 23-28 Nov (TF, *et al.*).

Red-headed Woodpecker: 3 CP residents; SPCP 2-5 Oct; 2 JBWE 6 Oct; Mashomack Shelter I 8 Nov; CB 21 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: CP to 17 Nov.

empidonax sp.: JBWR 24 Nov; SI 23 Nov.

E. Phoebe: CP thru.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: back side JBCH 21-23 Nov (JF *et al.*); BP 25 Nov (DK, BM).

W. Kingbird: FTT 17, 29 Sep; RP 5-6, 19 Oct; JBWR 15 Oct; MTL 17-30 Nov.

Blue-headed Vireo: last CP 8 Nov.

Warbling Vireo: PP 17 Nov (SN), latest NY date by 10 days; photo on Internet appears to substantiate identification.

Red-eyed Vireo: last PP 31 Oct.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: 4 Saw Mill Creek SI with Cave Swallow 24 Nov (TF); latest NY date reported; see Reg 1 report for similar occurrence 23 Nov.

Cliff Swallow: RMSP 28 Sep.

CAVE SWALLOW: Lemon Creek SI 17 Nov (PD); Saw Mill Creek SI 24 Nov (TF); 3 MP 23 Nov (HMG); BP 24 Nov (AnW, *et al.*); Hallockville 25 Nov (MLL, RW, NG); a major invasion occurred in the Middle Atlantic and Northeast this fall.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: early movement, then very scarce.

Wood Thrush: CP 28 Nov thru, late.

Am. Pipit: 150 Southampton 27 Oct; possibly the same flock another site 31 Oct (AL).

WARBLERS

“Brewster’s” Warbler: CP 14 Sep.

Tennessee Warbler: last PP 9 Nov.

Orange-crowned Warbler: thru; many

seen this year.

Nashville Warbler: last CP thru; MTL 24 Nov.

N. Parula: last PP 29 Oct.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: last CP 28 Sep.

Magnolia Warbler: last PP 28 Oct.

Cape May Warbler: last RP 2 Nov.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Sag Harbor 19 Nov; last SI 21 Nov; both late.

Yellow-rumped “Audubon’s” Warbler: MEB 20 Nov (PB, G&JF).

Black-throated Green Warbler: last CP 7 Nov.

HERMIT x TOWNSEND’S

WARBLER: JBCH 28 Nov thru (AB1, *et al.*, NYSARC, ph); first state record, only one of a dozen ever found in the east; *intro.*

Prairie Warbler: last Watermill 29 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last Shelter I 21 Oct.

Blackpoll Warbler: last SI 24 Nov.

Black-and-white Warbler: last PBP 20 Nov.

Am. Redstart: last Dune Rd 27 Oct.

Prothonotary Warbler: CP 10 Sep (Ssa); RMSP 28 Sep (AG); uncommon in fall.

Worm-eating Warbler: CP 27-28 Sep.

Ovenbird: PP 17 Nov; CP thru.

N. Waterthrush: last CP thru, very late.

Connecticut Warbler: CP 5, 10, 12, 15, 16, 18 Sep; 2 CP 29 Sep; APP 12 Sep; FBF 15 Sep; MNSA 19 Nov (MF), very late.

Hooded Warbler: CP 4 Sep; Brooklyn Botanical Garden 6 Sep; PL 14 Sep; APP 18 Sep; JBWE 20 OCT (NYRBA), very late.

Wilson’s Warbler: last PP 17 Nov, late.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Bryant P mid-Manhattan 28 Oct thru; many others.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Chipping Sparrow: 250 Grumman property Calverton 6 Oct (AL), matches previous fall max.

Clay-colored Sparrow: JBWE 27 Sep, 14, 28-29 Oct; Gilgo 29 Sep; RP 6, 19

Oct; 2 Cedar Beach Marina 5 Oct; ZB 8 Oct; FTT 20 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: FBF 23 Nov; JBWE 23 Nov.

Lark Sparrow: CP 5 Oct; Captree boat basin 5 Oct; JBWR 13 Oct; MTL 14-15 Oct.

Grasshopper Sparrow: last Grumman facility Calverton 11 Oct.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: CP 29 Sep, unusual location; Quogue & RP 9 Oct; 12 marshes SHIN at very high tide 4 Nov.

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 1-2 marshes East Quogue to SI.

Lincoln's Sparrow: PP 18 Sep; JBWR 3 Nov; FTT 9 Nov; others.

White-crowned "Gambel's" Sparrow: hatching-year JBWE 25-26 Oct; FTT 25 Oct-2 Nov.

Lapland Longspur: Camp Hero SP 27 Oct; Eastport 27 Oct; RSF 29 Oct; FBF 2 Nov.

Snow Bunting: arr early Nov.

Blue Grosbeak: ad f & juv T Southampton 1 Sep; JBWE 22 Sep; SPCP 4 Oct; FTT 9 Oct; JBWR 27 Oct; RP 25-27 Oct; CP 7 Nov.

Dickcissel: FI 8 Sep; JBWE 17, 19 Sep; Captree 5 Oct; RP 6 Oct; 2 RMSP 14 Oct; FTT 22 Oct.

Bobolink: to early Oct.

Red-winged Blackbird: 3000 Riverhead 9 Nov.

Com. Grackle: 12,000 Riverhead 9 Nov.

Baltimore Oriole: to late Nov.

House Finch: some increase, but nowhere near its former abundance prior to conjunctivitis epidemic.



STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in BOLD; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! - details seen by Regional Editor; ad - adult; Alt - Alternate plumage; Am. - American; arr - arrival or first of season; BBS - Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS - bird of the season; CBC - Christmas Bird Count; CO - confirmed nesting; Com. - Common; E. - Eastern; FL - fledgling; FY -adult feeding young; I - Island; imm - immature; intro - see introduction to report; juv - juvenile; L - Lake; max - maximum; mob - multiple observers; N. - Northern; NYSDEC - New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC - report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P -park; Pd- Pond; ph - photographed; Pt -Point; Res - Reservoir;Ri - River; SP - State Park; spm - specimen; subad -subadult; T - Town of; thru - throughout period; Twn - township; W. - Western; WMA - Wildlife Management Area; y - young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:
the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:
the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:
the boundary is NY Route 31.

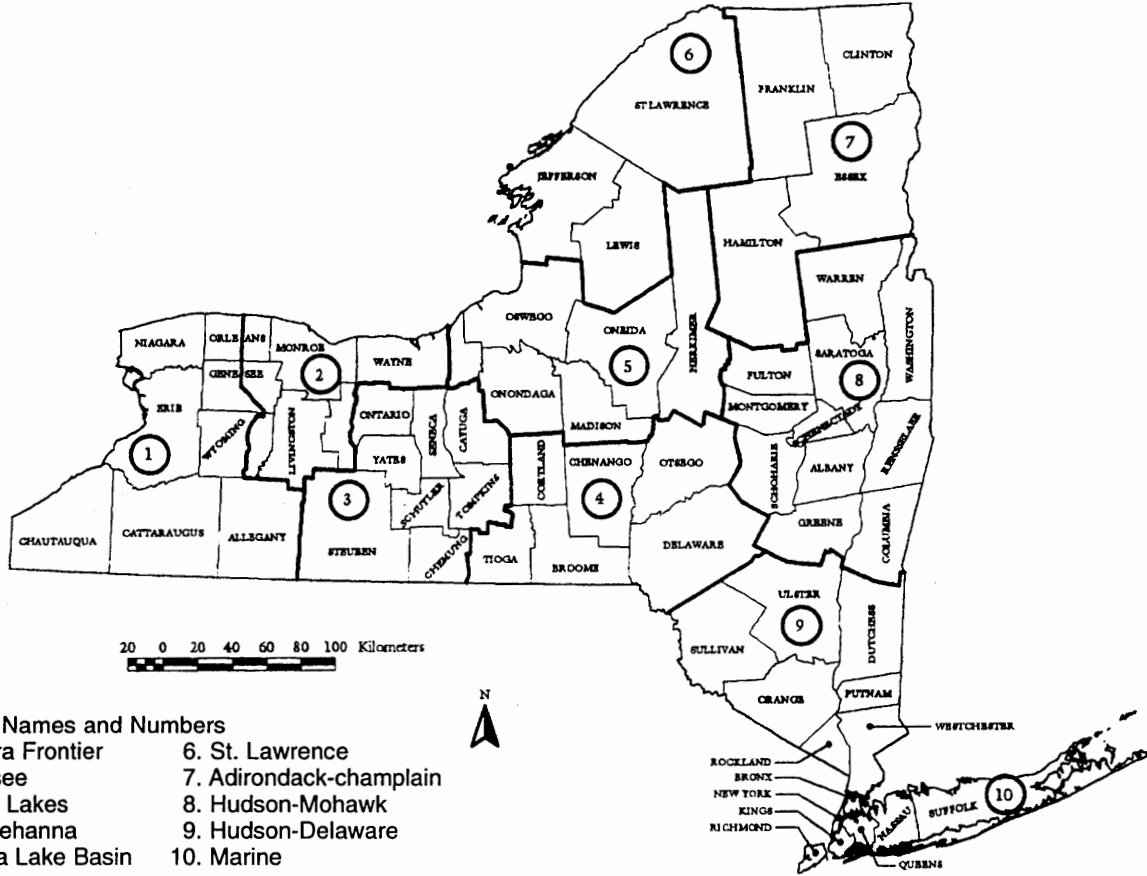
REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February
Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May
Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August
Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November
Deadline is 7 December



Region Names and Numbers

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Niagara Frontier | 6. St. Lawrence |
| 2. Genesee | 7. Adirondack-champlain |
| 3. Finger Lakes | 8. Hudson-Mohawk |
| 4. Susquehanna | 9. Hudson-Delaware |
| 5. Oneida Lake Basin | 10. Marine |

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