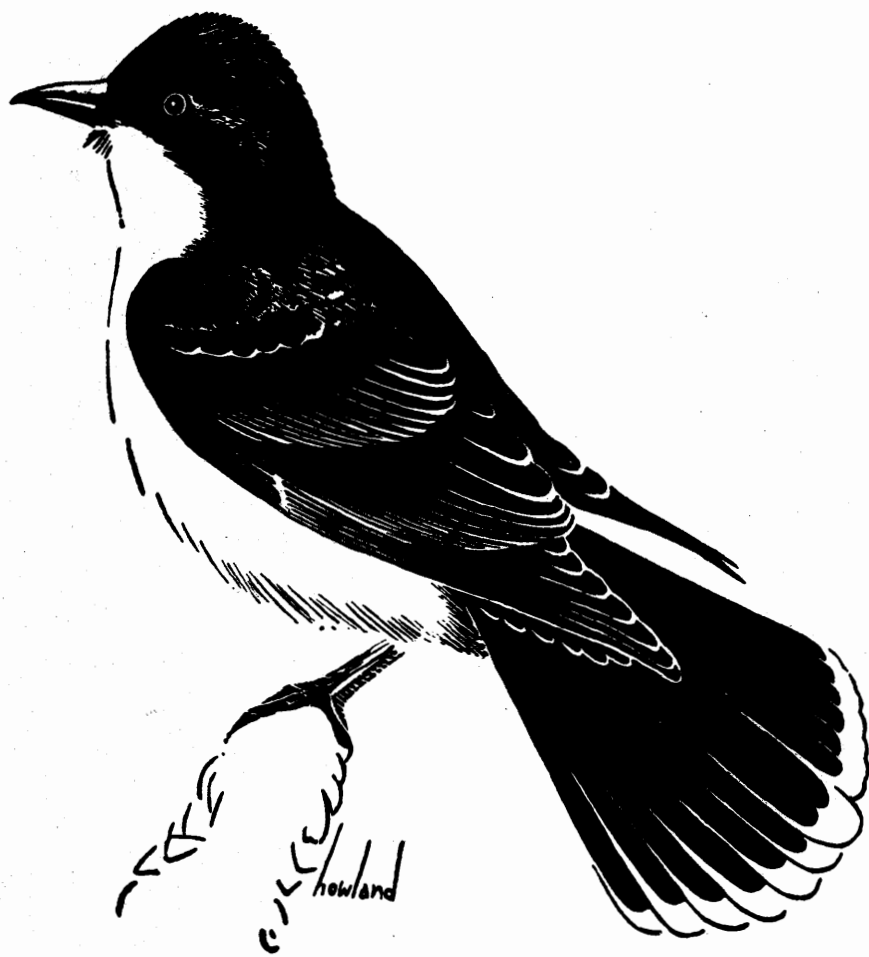


# The KINGBIRD



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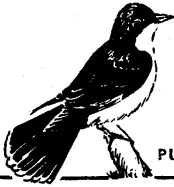
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FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

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1-60

## CONTENTS

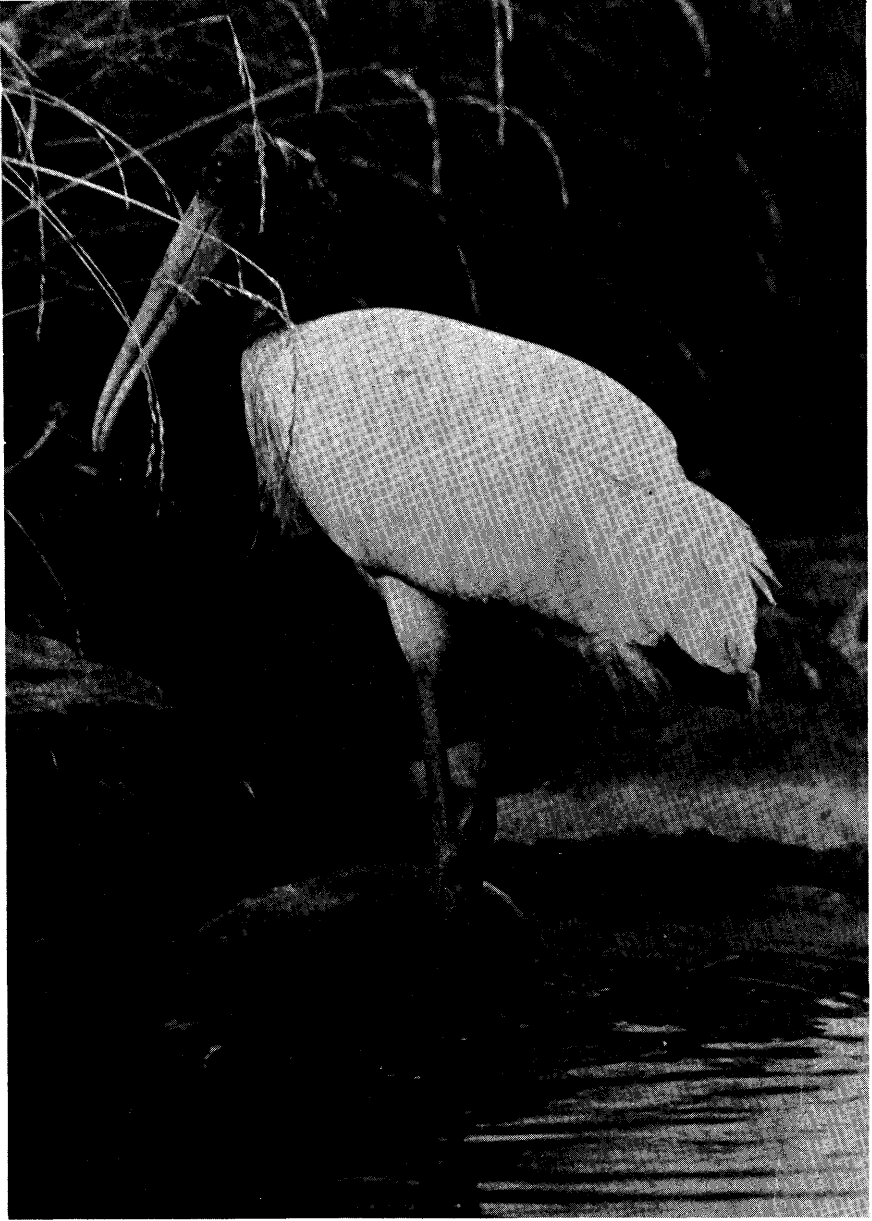
Photographs of New York State Rarities	
30. Wood Stork . . . . .	Mary Forness 2
A Statement of the Position of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs on the Management of Non-Game Species in New York State . . .	Charles R. Smith 5
The Changing Proportion of Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers in Tompkins County and their Habitat Selection . . .	John L. Confer and Kristine Knapp 8
A Spring Walk Through Muttontown Preserve . . .	Al and Lois Lindberg 15
Distribution and Abundance of Some Common Breeding Species in Mixed Habitats . . . . .	Gilbert S. Raynor 20
Notes and Observations	
Great Horned Owl killed by Porcupine quills . . . . .	Gary Will 27
Errata . . . . .	27
Highlights of the Fall Season . . . . .	Ken Able 28
Regional Reports . . . . .	31

*Co-Editors* — Emanuel Levine and John Farrand, Jr.

*Highlights of the Fall Season*  
*Guest Editor* — Ken Able

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*Cover Design* — Douglas L. Howland



*Wood Stork*  
*Portville, Cattaraugus County*  
*August 19, 1978*

*Tom Davis*

## PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES 30. WOOD STORK

MARY FORNESS

The Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) occurs throughout the Neotropical Region and in the southern portions of the Nearctic, breeding regularly in Florida and occasionally in South Carolina, and wandering widely after the breeding season. John Bull (1974. *Birds of New York State*, pp. 91-92) describes the species as "very rare" in the state, with 13 known occurrences; according to Bull, only a single upstate record is verified by a specimen—a bird collected at Sand Lake, Rensselaer Co., on June 24, 1876, and now in the National Museum in Washington. Bull lists three sightings of single birds in upstate New York, and many sightings on Long Island between 1958 and 1962. A Wood Stork was seen in a swamp near Fillmore, Allegany Co., in July, 1939, by R. E. Douglas; this bird was never photographed or otherwise verified, and so the species is listed as hypothetical in southwestern New York by C. S. Beardslee and H. D. Mitchell (1965, *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*, p. 103).

On August 11, 1978, two Wood Storks, one adult and the other an immature, were found on the U. B. Dam Road, two miles north of Portville, Cattaraugus Co., by Mary Forness, John Forness and Michele Bush. David Freeland, Joseph Thill, Harold Mitchell and Stephen Eaton were all notified that day by telephone.

An intensive search was made for additional birds and for information on arrival dates, numbers, feeding areas and roosting areas. Four individuals were observed flying into the area by J. Friar on or about July 14, 1978. In August, three birds were seen by P. Thorton; at the same time two sightings were made on the Lili Bridge Road, making the possibility that as many as five birds may have been present. The habitat most frequented by the Wood Storks was open pasture land with a winding creek; marshy areas and ponds were used only occasionally for feeding. The Wood Storks were observed in this area for at least 38 days. Reports with photographs placed one of the birds at the New York-Pennsylvania border, 7.4 miles from the first sighting, on August 25, 1978.

This paper represents the first observation of more than two individuals inland in New York State, the first verified sighting in the Niagara Frontier Region, the first inland occurrence in 20 years, and the first occurrence in the state in 16 years.



*Wood Stork*  
*Portville, Cattaraugus County*  
*August 19, 1978* *Tom Davis*

I would like to thank Richard S. Johnson for informing me of the presence of the birds.

*3086 Haskell Rd., R.D. 2, Cuba, N.Y. 14727*

# A STATEMENT OF THE POSITION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS ON THE MANAGEMENT OF NON-GAME SPECIES IN NEW YORK STATE

PREPARED FOR THE FEDERATION BY

CHARLES R. SMITH

There is a growing interest in the non-consumptive enjoyment of our wildlife resources in the United States. The National Survey of Hunting, Fishing, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation for 1975 (published in 1977) provides information on two aspects of the non-consumptive enjoyment of wildlife—wildlife observation and wildlife photography. In 1975 over 49 million Americans participated in wildlife observation, a level of participation second only to sport fishing in magnitude. Those 49 million Americans engaged in the activity of wildlife observation for a total of over 1.5 billion days, more than for any other category, including sport fishing and hunting. Nearly 15 million people participated in wildlife photography with a total of nearly 1.6 million days devoted to wildlife photography. In addition, 40% of fishermen and 44% of hunters also engaged in wildlife observation and 13% of fishermen and 14% of hunters also photographed wildlife.

Though few data are available to document the magnitude of our population specifically interested in bird study, the results of a 1974 study do offer some insight into the magnitude of that activity. That study reveals that the total direct expenditures in the United States for the enjoyment of non-game birds in 1974 amounted to an estimated \$500 million. Expenditures for bird seed, binoculars, and camera equipment constituted 95% of the total. In the same report, the expenditures associated with waterfowl hunting in 1974 were estimated to be about \$300 million, or only 60% of expenditures associated with the enjoyment of non-game birds. The study predicts a continued growth in the interest in non-game birds in this country.

There is a concern for non-game species management at both State and Federal levels. For example, the state of Colorado has implemented a non-game management program financed by means of a voluntary checkoff plan whereby taxpayers in that state can designate \$1, \$5, or \$10 from their state income tax refunds to go to a special non-game wildlife fund. This plan produced a revenue of \$345,000 for 1978 for the management of non-game species. When

combined with appropriated funds, Colorado's non-game budget for 1978 amounted to \$688,000. At the Federal level, the "Nongame Wildlife Conservation Bill of 1978" currently is being discussed in Congress. If passed, that bill would provide matching federal funding to states which develop acceptable non-game management programs.

Traditionally, the species population has been the focus of management efforts for game species. Game managers exercise control over the timing of harvest through the establishment of specified hunting seasons and regulate the amount of the game resource harvested through setting bag limits for game species. These methods are supplemented by various types of habitat manipulation and management, including the cutting of timber, mowing, plantings, and sometimes, prescribed burning. Obviously, the regulation of season and harvest are not techniques which can be applied in the management of the non-game resource.

The management of non-game species necessarily must focus on the management and preservation of suitable habitats to support those species. Such an approach requires new techniques and perhaps more importantly, new ways of thinking about the management of wildlife resources for both consumptive and non-consumptive enjoyment. Increasing pressures for land development, as well as current agricultural practices, have created an environmental patchwork of habitats. Suitable patches of habitats of various sizes now are distributed in a manner analogous to that of "islands" surrounded by "seas" of urban, suburban, or agricultural developments. To address this problem cogently and comprehensively requires that non-game species and their habitats must become the primary focus of specialized management efforts and new management concepts, rather than the secondary beneficiaries of management plans and methods developed for game species.

Over 550 species of reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals are reported to occur in New York State. Only 52 of those species are considered game species. Among those 550 species are included 410 species of birds. Clearly, any non-game species management plan for the State of New York will have to focus considerable attention on the avian component of non-game species in the State.

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs includes 42 member clubs, representing 10,000 citizens of New York State, united by their common interest in the birds of the state. Included among the



members of the Federation are many of the foremost professional ornithologists in New York State. The Federation recommends that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) should give more serious and concentrated attention to the development of a non-game species management program. In the absence of federal funding for such a program, the Federation recommends the DEC and the State Legislature explore alternative funding schemes, perhaps modelled after the plan implemented by the State of Colorado as discussed above. Further, the Federation wishes to advise the DEC that it is willing to make its knowledge and familiarity with the birds of New York State available in an advisory capacity to DEC with specific reference to the management of non-game species of birds.

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# THE CHANGING PROPORTION OF BLUE-WINGED AND GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLERS IN TOMPKINS COUNTY AND THEIR HABITAT SELECTION

JOHN L. CONFER and KRISTINE KNAPP

In this report we describe the result of three years of observation of Blue-winged Warblers (*Vermivora pinus*) and Golden-winged Warblers (*V. chrysoptera*) and their hybrids in Tompkins County, New York. Part of our observations concern the abundance of these birds at various nesting locations. We will describe only those sites where we thought we knew all resident males of a colony. Our census shows a statistically significant change in the proportion of these birds compared to earlier studies in Tompkins County (Short 1962, 1963; Ficken & Ficken 1967, 1968).

In 1978 we conducted analyses of the vegetation in the territories of Blue-winged Warblers and Golden-winged Warblers. We have found that Golden-winged Warblers nest in habitat with a very specific vegetation density. Blue-winged, however, nest in habitat with a wide range of vegetation density. We believe that the proportional increase in the Blue-winged Warbler in Tompkins County during the last 20 years is a result of its adaptation to a wider range of habitat.

## METHODS

The proportion of resident Golden-winged, Blue-winged and their hybrids was estimated as follows. A male was considered to be a resident, and not a migrant, if: 1) the bird was seen singing from tree tops for at least 15 minutes during each of at least three visits to the area, and 2) observations of the apparently identical bird spanned at least 10 days and observations were spaced at least two days apart. More than half of the resident males were seen on 10 to 30 trips. Females were much more elusive than males and weaker criteria for residency was used for the females. Females seen in May in close association with a resident male were considered residents. Any female seen in June or July was considered a resident.

Thirty percent (our banding results) to sixty percent (Murray and Gill 1976) of banded birds will return to the same colony in consecutive years. We did not want to count the same birds twice in our census. Thus, residents of the same colony detected in consecutive years were not included in our estimate. There are two colonies for which

we have three consecutive years of observations, thanks to the field notes of Dan Gray. For these two colonies the residents of 1976 and 1978 were included in our estimate. Since a small proportion of birds could return on three consecutive years, this may cause a small error.

We have estimated the territorial boundary of 16 Blue-winged and 8 Golden-winged (see Confer and Knapp 1977 for method). For these 24 territories we have estimated the density of herbs (soft plants grown up to 1.3 m by August), shrubs (woody plants as high as the highest hawthorns and viburnums, about 4 m) and trees (anything over 4 m). These estimates were made at 20 locations chosen randomly in each territory. The rating for each of the three vegetation layers could range from zero, if none were present at any of the 20 sites, up to 60, if the vegetation layer was dense at all 20 locations.

#### ABUNDANCE

Table 1 summarizes the abundance of these warblers in Tompkins County. Most of the 1976 data were given to us by Dan Gray, to whom we owe a large measure of gratitude. The Varna colony is particularly significant. It was suitable for the Golden-winged in the past, but none were resident in the last three years at Varna. There certainly are Golden-winged Warblers still in Tompkins County, so the change in breeding birds at Varna is not due to the local elimination of the species. We believe that the absence of the Golden-winged Warbler is due to successional changes which have now made the Varna colony much too forested (see Habitat Selection).

Table 2 compares Short's census values from two colonies (Varna and a now unoccupied colony) with our census values tabulated to reduce duplicate counting of the same individuals. The chi-square value indicates that there has been a change in the proportion among the three categories—Blue-winged, Golden-winged, and hybrids from 1957-1958 to 1976-1978.

Earlier studies do not provide any estimate of the absolute abundance of these two warblers in Tompkins County. Thus, it is impossible to determine if the proportional changes result from just an increase in Blue-winged Warblers or from an increase in the Blue-winged Warblers coupled with an absolute decrease in the Golden-winged Warblers. It would have been helpful to us if an approximate estimate of absolute abundance were available. From our observation of apparently suitable habitat, much of which was only seen while driving by, and our experience with the density of these warblers in suitable

habitat in Tompkins County, we would hazard the guess that there might be about 20 to 50 male Golden-winged Warblers and about four to six times as many Blue-winged Warblers.

The significant change reflected by the chi-square value summed for all three plumage categories (Blue-winged, Golden-winged and hybrids) does not consider the three categories individually. We cannot say with statistical certainty that, for example, the proportion of hybrids is now lower than before. We can only say that the three categories considered together have changed. However, it is interesting to note that the trend is for fewer hybrids now than 15 to 20 years ago.

### HABITAT SELECTION

Our survey of the density of vegetation layers shows two major differences between Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers. Golden-winged Warblers nest only in areas of comparatively few trees. Blue-winged Warbler territories have a wide range of tree density. The average tree value in territories of Golden-winged Warblers was 7.4 while the average value for the Blue-winged was 19.9. These tree values are statistically different at the 99% confidence level. The range of tree values in the 16 Blue-winged territories, 2 to 54, encompassed the entire range for the 8 Golden-winged territories, 3 to 12.

In Tompkins County the Golden-winged's requirement for few trees restricts it almost entirely (see below) to fields last farmed about 10 to 30 years ago. Like Kirtland's Warbler, the Golden-winged Warbler is specialized for a very transient habitat (see below) of early succession. The Blue-winged Warbler nests in the same fields as the Golden-winged Warbler, but also nests in young second-growth forest. Such areas may have been abandoned about 30 to 70 years ago. Thus, the Blue-winged is a habitat generalist while the Golden-winged is a specialist.

The Golden-winged has been described as nesting in dry shrubby hillsides in North Carolina (Odum 1950). Chapman (1907) cited descriptions by Brewster, Jacob and Gibbes, all of whom thought the Golden-winged preferred marshy areas. Scheider's (1959) description of Golden-winged nesting habitat for north-central New York seems to us very apt for the birds' habitat in Tompkins County.

In Tompkins County soil moisture does not matter to the Golden-winged. Of all the territories we observed, Golden-winged Warblers nested in the two with the most standing water. Yet several nested in

territories that were as well-drained and dry as the driest territories occupied by Blue-winged Warblers. One of the particularly wet territories occupied by a Golden-winged Warbler was located on an otherwise heavily forested hillside. In the center of the territory a large seepage area had prevented tree growth and had created an opening in the forest. It seems to us that the characteristic that made this area suitable as a Golden-winged territory was not the wetness, but the openness which resulted from the wetness. Perhaps the observations of others that the Golden-winged Warbler nests in wet places result more from the openness around some wet areas than from the wetness itself.

### DISCUSSION

The Blue-winged Warbler is now a common resident in much of the abandoned farmland in Tompkins County. Its tolerance for a wide range of habitats has allowed it to become widely distributed. Earlier studies indicate only the abundance at one or two colony sites. However, we suspect that the Blue-winged's current abundance is greater than that implied by reports 15 to 20 years ago.

In Tompkins County we suspect the future looks good for the Golden-winged Warbler. Locally much farmland has been and probably will continue to be abandoned and unoccupied due to the poor soil, short growing season, comparatively low land values, and low human density. While the Varna colony may now be too forested for the Golden-winged, other sites are just now becoming suitable.

We do not know if Golden-winged Warblers are as selective in choosing their nesting habitat in other regions as they are in Tompkins County. But, if so, the future for the species in other locations may be bleak. Like the Kirtland's Warbler, the Golden-winged nests in habitat that exists for only a brief time during succession. The recent disappearance of the Golden-winged Warbler from parts of its range (see Bull 1974) is likely due to changing land practices and the absence of large tracts of recently abandoned and subsequently unoccupied farmland.

TABLE 1  
RESIDENT "WINGED" WARBLERS IN TOMPKINS COUNTY,  
N. Y. AT SPECIFIED COLONIES

	<u>Blue- winged</u>	<u>Golden- winged</u>	<u>Brewster's</u>	<u>Lawrence's</u>	<u>Unseen singing males</u>
Varna (Monkey Run, South Side)					
1942	1	(First record for Tompkins County)			
1949	1	— <sup>1</sup>	—	—	
1958-59 <sup>2</sup>	3	4	2	0	
1961-63,66 <sup>3</sup>	35	13	8	0	
1976 <sup>4</sup>	8	0	2	1	
1977	6	0	0	0	
1978	5	0	0	0	
Ithaca College — Coddington Road					
1976 <sup>5</sup>	3	2	0	0	
1977	9	5	1	1	
1978	8	7	1	1	
Schwann Road					
1976 <sup>4</sup>	3	1	1	0	
1977 <sup>4</sup>	4	1	1	0	
1978	3	1	1	0	
Monkey Run, North Side					
1977	3	1	0	1	
1978 <sup>4</sup>	2	0	0	0	
Michigan Hollow (Private Recreational Land)					
1977	1	1	1	0	
Thomas Road — Route 79					
1978	1	0	0	0	1
Turkey Hill Road (100 Block)					
1978	1	1	0	0	
Pennsylvania Avenue — Railroad Bed					
1978	3	0	0	0	

	<u>Blue-winged</u>	<u>Golden-winged</u>	<u>Brewster's</u>	<u>Lawrence's</u>	<u>Unseen singing males</u>
National Cash Register					
1978	2	0	0	0	
Tompkins County Airport					
1978	0	0	0	0	3
Road Survey					
1977	2	0	0	0	

- 
- 1 “-” means no record of bird absence or presence  
2 Short (1962)  
3 Ficken and Ficken (1967)  
4 Gray (field notes 1976)  
5 known to be incomplete

TABLE 2

RESIDENT CENSUS VALUES USED TO TEST FOR CHANGE IN PROPORTION OF “WINGED” WARBLERS. CUMULATIVE CHI-SQUARE INDICATES A STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE AT THE 95% CONFIDENCE LEVEL.

	<u>Blue-winged</u>	<u>Golden-winged</u>	<u>Hybrids</u>
1957-58 <sup>1</sup>	15 (52%)	9 (31%)	5 (17%) <sup>2</sup>
1976-78	82 (75%)	16 (15%)	11 (10%)
Chi-square	1.80	3.38	1.01
Cumulative chi-square = 6.19			

- 
- 1 Short 1962  
2 Hybrids include only Brewster's and Lawrence's, not as defined by Short.

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## A SPRING WALK THROUGH MUTTONTOWN PRESERVE

AL and LOIS LINDBERG

Muttontown Park and Preserve, in northeastern Nassau County, is an oasis of rolling fields and woodlands, over five hundred acres of protected land in the middle of ever-spreading suburban developments. Ponds, wet woods, conifer stands, hedgerows, almost all of Long Island's major ecological habitats except a bog and a seashore, can be found here. Back from the entrance on Muttontown Lane is the small Nature Center building. Pick up a trail map and continue on for a spring walk through Muttontown Preserve.

The path behind the Nature Center follows the fence line border of the Wet Woods, a low, swampy area. Red maples are dominant here, with arrowwood viburnum as the main understory shrub. The soggy ground is interrupted by hummocks of sedge and cinnamon fern, the fiddleheads emerging by mid-April. Patches of jewelweed will attain their full height soon, lining the path until the first frost of autumn.

Human intrusion into the adjacent field is usually met by the cluck of a pheasant or the call note of the Bobwhite. Several other birds find a home here. For the past three years, a White-eyed Vireo has built her nest in the hedgerow between the Wet Woods and this field. Last April brought with it a new discovery. Mounds of loose, sandy soil, similar to small ant hills but much larger, covered the field. They were built by solitary, burrowing bees of the family Andrenidae. In the back quarter of this field lies a hill known locally as Round Top. It is a fitting name, as this is a conical mound, or kame, deposited by a glacial stream some 15,000 years ago. The base of the kame provides a good vantage point. To the southwest, the topography rises to meet the Harbor Hill terminal moraine which runs through the preserve.

These fields south of Round Top evoke memories of warm evenings in late April. A walk at dusk is a medley of sounds and movements—the shrill call of the spring peepers, the final notes of a Yellow Warbler, a flock of Canada Geese about to settle down for the night, flying so low that we can almost feel the breeze of their wingbeats. Finally, we hear what we came for, the nasal *peent* of a male woodcock trying to impress a nearby female. The male flies up, silhouetted against the darkening sky, his twittering descent bringing him within a few feet of his observers.

Old farm fields, now reclaimed by wildflowers, form most of the eastern border of the preserve. Woodland flowers must bloom in the spring to take advantage of sunlight filtered through new foliage, but the plants of the fields are in no such hurry. Summer and early fall are a field's peak seasons. Queen Anne's lace, vetch, black-eyed Susan, and chicory first present their colors by June, while the gerardias, heath asters, goldenrods, and New England asters of August linger well into September and early October, much appreciated by the migrating clouds of monarch butterflies.

From the fields, the right-hand fork enters the back of "Seven Ponds Woods," named for the numerous seasonal kettle ponds within this area. The first day of spring, regardless of what the calendar says, is proclaimed throughout these woods by the noisy croak of the wood frog and the piercing voice of *Hyla crucifer*, our smallest frog with the loudest sound. Seven Ponds Woods provides a study in contrasts. The northern portion is a true red-maple swamp. A clay layer close to the ground surface prevents any rainwater from penetrating too far down, keeping the soil constantly moist. The area of transition to higher ground shows the widest diversity, with a mixture of both wet-soil and dry-soil plant associations. The well-drained land in the southern portion of the woods indicates a change to a dry upland community dominated by red and white oaks. Three years ago, in February 1976, a pair of Great Horned Owls raised two young in this deciduous woodlot. The female's choice of a nest site in a large red oak provided an excellent opportunity to observe the owls at a distance without unduly disturbing them. In other years, Broad-winged Hawks have also nested in this woods.

A change of soil types may be indicated not only by a replacement of one genus of plants by another, but also by different species within a single genus. On one gentle northwest slope in this oak woods, three species of clubmoss (*Lycopodium*) occur within one hundred feet of each other, yet each is distinctly separate. *L. complanatum* occupies the lower third of the hillside, at the edge of a path where the soil is sandy. *L. obscurum*, preferring damp, open woods, dominates the middle section where the clay content in the soil holds more moisture. A small patch of *L. clavatum*, one of the least common species of clubmoss on Long Island, is situated almost at the crest of the hill, in an area of loose, acid soil.

The trail from the Seven Ponds Woods again enters the fields along Route 106, the eastern boundary. Horseback riders using the pre-

serve's bridle paths may take advantage of the three exercise rings located here; less frequently, bluebirds and meadowlarks take advantage of the habitat provided by this regularly mowed field. The short grasses have also attracted more unusual species such as Savannah Sparrows and Water Pipits.

From here, the lane to the west is lined with Norway maples and winged euonymus, giving the impression that one is walking on a long-abandoned drive. Indeed, this was probably a service road, one of many that are now only reminders that an estate once occupied this site. The vegetation here consists mainly of landscaped plants and horticultural varieties—*Deutzia*, *Rhododendron*, *Cryptomeria*, Atlas blue cedar, bush honeysuckle, privet. The original mansion was constructed during Long Island's exclusive "Gold Coast Era" of the early 1900's. The house no longer stands; only the ruins of a few roofed porches and crumbling stairways remain.

Rows of hemlocks that once edged a picturesque vista now lead into the preserve's Upland Woods. This section is the typical climax community on Long Island, with hickory and white, red, and chestnut oak as the major tree species. Before the turn of the century, the American chestnut dominated these woods. The chestnut blight that affected all of the eastern hardwood forests did not kill off the trees' roots. Huge old stumps still continue to send up shoots, but they too will soon die.

Pink is the color of the Upland Woods in April and May. Our native azalea of the Northeast, the pinxter flower, forms the predominant shrub layer, covering the hillsides with pale blossoms on six-foot high bushes. Pink lady's-slippers are not particularly uncommon here; they are one of the main wildflowers of the Upland Woods. On Lady's-slipper Hill, one can look in almost any direction and count over a hundred of these beautiful orchids without even turning around.

The Upland Woods also provide a home for a rich variety of birds. Broad-winged Hawks and Red-bellied Woodpeckers have nested here. In late spring, the Veery's flute-like notes and the Great Crested Flycatcher's *wheep* mingle with the *teacher teacher* of the Ovenbird, and the flash of brilliant red means that a Scarlet Tanager has just swept past.

The trail north of Lady's-slipper Hill leads out of the woods and to the top of High Point, a hill overlooking Persimmon Pond and the Seven Ponds Woods to the west. This pond was named for the ring of persimmon trees, the only ones in the preserve, that surround it.

Here, one may see signs of the many animals that are drawn to a source of drinking water. On the first warm days of March, a woodchuck may appear on top of High Point to survey the territory below. On rare occasions, a red fox may cautiously slip down to the water's edge. As the pond water recedes in mid-summer, the tunnels of the muskrats are left exposed. Now the field by High Point is green with newly emerging vegetation, but it is in the early autumn that an azure sky intensifies the brilliant colors. Virginia creeper starts the show as early as the end of August with fiery crimson leaves and dull blue berries. The glossy leaves of the tupelo are next, turning a deep reddish-purple. Finally, the young dogwoods' maroon foliage set against the background of amber beardgrass, *Andropogon*, blend together like an Impressionist watercolor.

A steep slope leads down from High Point and back through another field to the north. Looking at the ten-foot dogwoods and maples, it is hard to imagine that this field was cut flat only five years ago as part of a management project. An opening in a chain-link fence at the end of the field brings us back to the 50-acre parcel that comprised the original Muttontown Nature Center when it first opened ten years ago. Directly ahead lies the Succession Field, a good example of old, overgrown farmland. The lower half will be maintained as a meadow to insure a wider diversity of wildlife habitats in the preserve.

If nature were left alone to have her way in a field, the result would closely resemble the Pioneer Woods. This second-growth woods is gradually replacing the more sun-tolerant trees such as crabapple, juniper, and birch with the shade-tolerant trees and shrubs of a climax community. A planting of white pines in the center of the Pioneer Woods has reseeded in several spots. One of these was once the best area for roosting owls, until curiosity-seekers and increased usage of the area drove them out.

As the fence line trail leaves the Pioneer Woods, it crosses a ravine that marks the route of old Muttontown Lane. This road, overgrown now with a tangle of briers, was used long ago when sheep were raised on nearby lands for their meat. The Succession Field at this end of the woods trail is rapidly growing up. Wild rose, bittersweet, and catbrier are filling the spaces between fifteen year old apple trees. Drawn to this intermediate edge community are four species of warblers. The Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and Blue-winged Warbler are especially numerous during the spring and sum-

mer, often heard if not seen. The Chestnut-sided Warbler, though, always sits high up in a tree, loudly announcing *Pleased pleased pleased to meetcha!*

Warblers—the whole atmosphere of the Wet Woods in spring is summarized in that one word—warblers. From late April onward, anticipation grows with each morning walk. The Black-and-white Warblers come first, triggering the alert. Then the day finally arrives—“They’re here!” and the warblers are everywhere. Even the veteran birder’s head spins, ears straining to recall the twisps not heard since last spring, eyes straining to catch a glimpse of these elusive creatures. Eye-ring? Wing-bars? Streaked? Nothing insures a better case of “warbler neck” than looking for a tiny greenish-yellow bird at the top of a tree with freshly-sprouted greenish-yellow leaves. Often a two-hour walk in May does not even take us past this fifteen-acre woodlot just behind the Nature Center. Then, as suddenly as it began, the warbler invasion ends. Only those species that will nest in the preserve are left behind, as the last of the Blackpolls continue their travels farther north.

This brief walk covered only about 250 acres. Muttontown Park and Preserve includes an additional 270-acre tract that is not yet open to the public. With six major habitats and a location at the edge of the Atlantic flyway, the preserve averages over 170 species of birds each year. The Preserve’s list exceeds 200 species, ranging in scarcity from Red-winged Blackbirds and American Robins to an occasional Summer Tanager or bittern, to the one Turkey Vulture that soars overhead each March. In addition to the work done on natural science research and collections, the preserve also sponsors outdoor education programs and youth group camping with conservation projects.

The Nature Center, located off the corner of Route 25A and Route 106 in East Norwich, Long Island, is open every weekday from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. The preserve gates are open every day except major holidays. Trail maps, seasonal bird lists, and other information are available at the Nature Center, or by sending a business-size self-addressed stamped envelope to: Muttontown Preserve, Muttontown Lane, East Norwich, N.Y. 11732; phone (516) 922-3123. Muttontown Park and Preserve is part of the Nassau County Museum System, which includes a wide variety of both history and natural history facilities throughout the county.

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# DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE OF SOME COMMON BREEDING SPECIES IN MIXED HABITATS

GILBERT S. RAYNOR

Field observations give qualitative impressions of bird distribution and abundance but quantitative measurements and a standard method of analyzing the data are necessary for valid comparisons between species, time periods, habitats or geographical areas. Quantitative data are being obtained by the North American Cooperative Breeding Bird Survey (NACBBS) (Robbins and Van Velzen, 1969) and a useful method of data analysis was described by Rotenberry and Wiens (1976). The purpose of this paper is to examine the distribution and abundance of some common breeding species in mixed habitats on Long Island using NACBBS data and to demonstrate the usefulness of the method for such data.

## METHODS

From 1967 through 1976, two NACBBS routes on central Long Island were covered annually in mid to late June by the writer. Both include small villages, residential areas, farms and woods including the scrub oak-pitch pine woods typical of central Long Island (Raynor, 1976). Since both routes cover a similar range of habitats and are close together, although not overlapping, data from the two were combined for analyses giving a total of 100 stops per year.

Seventeen of the most common breeding species were selected for study: Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*), Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*), Common Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*), Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), Common Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottus*), Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*), Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*), American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*), Northern Oriole (*Icterus galbula*), Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) and Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*).

Rotenberry and Wiens (1976) define two terms, incidence and frequency. Incidence =  $N_i / S_i$  and frequency =  $S_i / S_t$  where  $N_i$  = number of individuals of the  $i$  th species recorded,  $S_i$  = number of census stops at which the  $i$  th species was recorded and  $S_t$  = total number of census stops.

$N_i / S_i$  is used instead of  $N_i / S_t$  to minimize differences in census results caused by weather or other variables since both  $N_i$  and  $S_i$  are assumed affected by such variables while  $S_t$  is a constant.  $N_i / S_i$  cannot be less than one but has no upper limit.  $S_i / S_t$  may vary from zero to one if expressed as a fraction or from zero to one hundred if expressed as a percentage.

A low value of incidence ( $N_i / S_i$ ) implies that the species is scarce even where it occurs and a high value that large numbers are present in the habitat occupied. A low value of frequency ( $S_i / S_t$ ) means that the species is clumped and a high value that it is generally distributed throughout the area sampled. Thus, incidence and frequency give a numerical description of species abundance and distribution and may be readily compared for different sets of data.

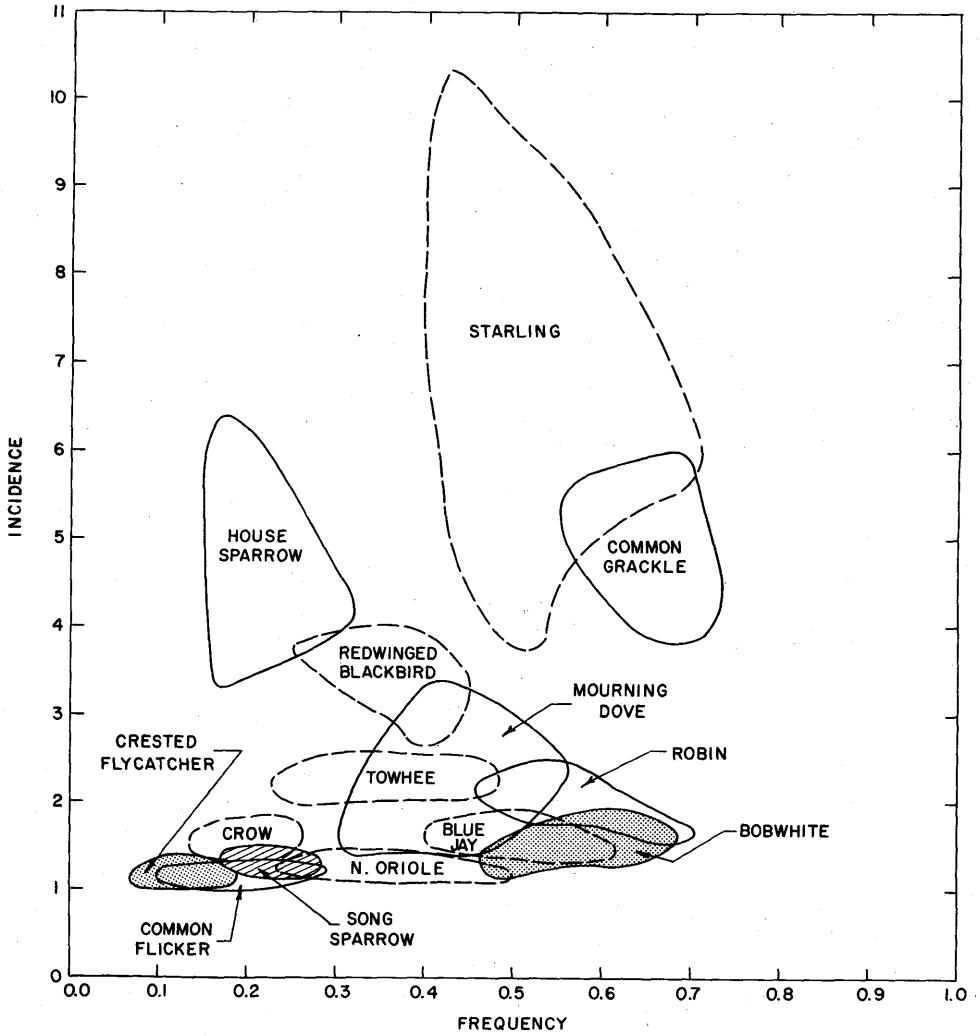
Rotenberry and Wiens (1976) applied the method to a large number of transects apparently covered in one or a few years for the purpose of determining the dispersion and abundance of species in a single habitat type. The method is applied here to a long period of data from the same combined routes for the purpose of describing dispersion and abundance in mixed habitats and relating the results to habitat distribution and species behavior.

The two ratios were computed for the seventeen species for each of the ten years. The intersections of the values for incidence and frequency were plotted on linear graph paper. The ten points for each species were bounded by a line which defined their distribution and constituted an envelope enclosing the area within which the points fell. The mean, standard deviation and range of the points in each coordinate direction could also be described mathematically but the graphical presentation is used here for its ease in visualizing the results.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Envelopes for fourteen species are shown in Figure 1. Large envelopes imply large differences from year to year in either incidence or frequency or both and small envelopes show little year to year change in either. Examples of both types are evident as are examples of both low and high frequency and low and high incidence. The variability within and between species can be explained in terms of habitat distribution along the census routes and behavior of individual species. For instance, high incidence is correlated with flocking and low incidence with territorial spacing. Species with low frequency

Figure 1. Incidence and frequency distributions of fourteen breeding species.





have specialized habitat requirements while species with high frequency are generalists or wide ranging.

The Common Flicker and Great Crested Flycatcher are species of low frequency since both are largely restricted to relatively undisturbed wooded areas with trees large enough for nest holes. Their incidence is also low since both are territorial during the breeding season. Although both have loud calls and are recorded more often by sound than by sight observations, only one or two are usually recorded at a single stop.

The Song Sparrow has only a slightly higher incidence but about double the frequency. It is also detected primarily by song and is highly territorial but occupies a wider range of habitats including brushy areas, edges and some residential areas.

The Northern Oriole has an identical incidence but an appreciably larger and more variable frequency. Orioles are recorded by sight and by sound about equally but seem to be more noisy on some days than others. In some years, young are out of the nest by the time of the count which partially accounts for the wide range of frequency. Orioles are found in all wooded and many of the residential areas.

The Bobwhite is recorded almost entirely by its loud and far-reaching call. Although typically well spaced, individuals occupy a variety of the more open habitats and thus have a relatively high frequency. However, they are probably less abundant numerically than several of the species previously discussed and the high frequency is due largely to the long distances over which the call can be heard. If silent at this season, very few would be recorded.

The Common Crow and the Blue Jay have similar values of incidence but the Blue Jay is much more widely distributed. It is mostly silent near the nest but calls elsewhere and is active, conspicuous and easily seen. It occurs in almost all habitats except large fields. The Common Crow, like the Bobwhite, has a penetrating call and is more often heard than seen, particularly in wooded habitats, but is much more localized to the less settled areas than the Blue Jay.

The Rufous-sided Towhee is found in all the brushy and wooded habitats but is most numerous in the scrub oak-pitch pine woods. It calls frequently and is a persistent singer and is thus readily censused. Although territorial, territories are small for a bird its size and several are often recorded at a single stop. The elongated nature of its envelope is due to a marked decrease in its numbers during the ten year period (Raynor, 1976).

The American Robin is one of the most generally distributed species, being rare or absent only in the larger fields. However, it is a territorial species and individual pairs are well spaced which keeps incidence fairly low.

The Mourning Dove shows considerable range in both incidence and frequency. The species inhabits a variety of habitats and ranges widely from the nest site. Numbers seem to vary considerably from year to year but some of the spread in incidence may be due to weather. The soft note is not heard far in wind and may not be given as often when weather conditions are not favorable.

The House Sparrow shows a rather clumped distribution and rather high incidence. This agrees with field observations which show the species in flocks even during the breeding season, with most birds in village centers and in certain residential areas.

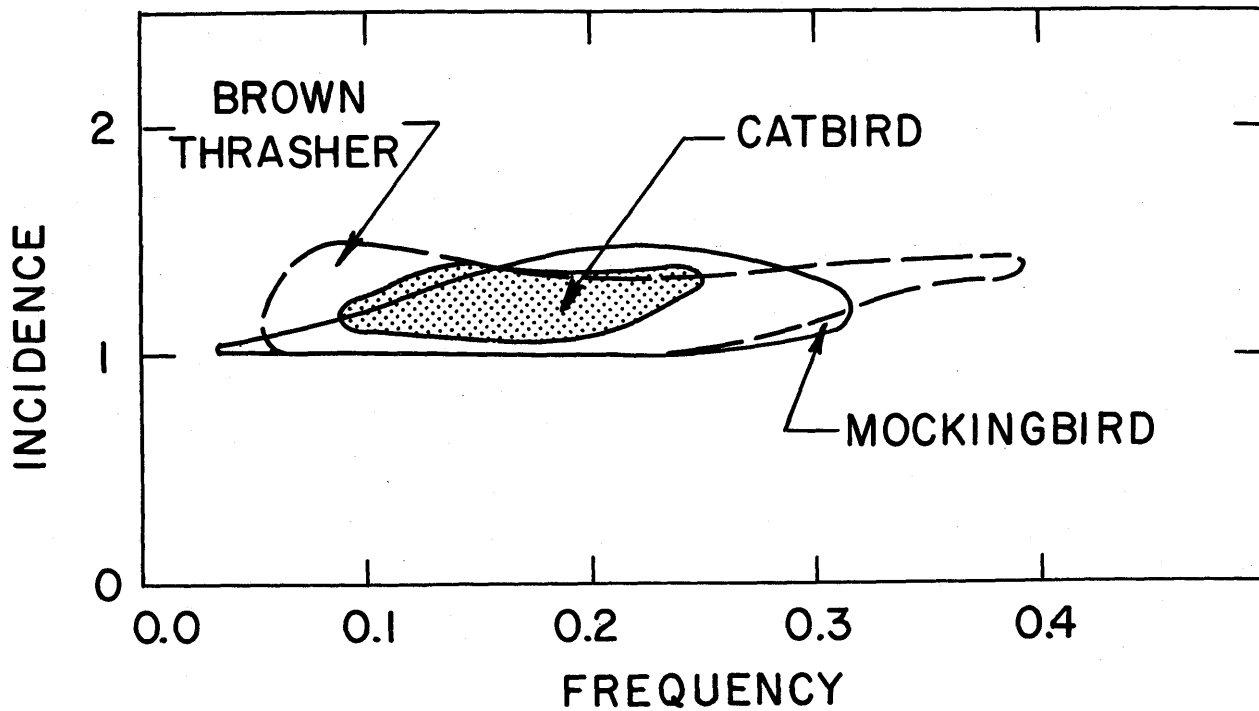
The Red-winged Blackbird is one of the most abundant species and is found at about a third of all stops. Several bodies of water occur along the census routes but the species is found in upland fields as well. Although it tends to breed in colonies, it ranges widely for food. The males are noisy, conspicuous and easily recorded but some females are detected as well.

The Common Grackle is the most widely distributed and one of the most numerous species but its numbers are augmented by recently fledged young in some years. Even though nesting is more or less colonial and nearly restricted to coniferous trees, individuals and groups travel appreciable distances in search of food, thus increasing their frequency compared to a more sedentary species of equal numbers.

Starlings nearly always have young flying by the time of the census and numbers vary widely from year to year depending on how many flocks and family groups happen to be encountered. Starlings are found in all habitats except continuous woods and are typically active and conspicuous. Like the grackle, the Starling travels considerable distances from the nest so frequency is large compared to that of species which restrict themselves to a defined territory.

Data for the three mimic thrushes are shown in Figure 2 and illustrate the effect on frequency of changing population size. Gray Catbirds are somewhat restricted in habitat and are not as easy to detect as more conspicuous species or species with more distinctive songs, but numbers have shown no trend during the ten year period and the envelope is small. Brown Thrashers, however, have decreased

Figure 2. Incidence and frequency distributions of three mimic thrushes.



markedly during that period (Raynor, 1976) which accounts for the elongated shape of the envelope. They are most common in scrub oak-pitch pine woods but breed in other brushy habitats including some residential areas. Since the species is highly territorial, incidence has not changed although frequency has decreased.

The Mockingbird increased greatly during the period so has a similar range of frequency. It occupies an increasing range of habitat types and is conspicuous and easy to record. In the early years of the census, numbers were low and individuals were found primarily in residential areas. Coincident with the increase in numbers, the species occupied an increasing variety of habitats including those favored by the Brown Thrasher. Further spread will increase frequency even more but the strongly territorial nature of the species will probably prevent incidence from increasing significantly.

### CONCLUSIONS

The method proposed by Rotenberry and Wiens (1976) may be applied to long term transect data such as single NACBBS routes to quantify the abundance and distribution of species. Numerical results are consistent with habitat distribution along the routes studied, with differences in behavior between species and with population trends.

### SUMMARY

A numerical method of describing distribution and abundance of species along transects was applied to ten years of data from two NACBBS routes on Long Island. Seventeen common breeding species were analyzed. The quantitative descriptions of their frequency and incidence are consistent with habitat distribution, species behavior and population trends.

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- Rotenberry, J. T. and J. A. Wiens, 1976. A method for estimating species dispersion from transect data. *Amer. Mid. Nat.* 95: 64-78.

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## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Great Horned Owl killed by Porcupine quills:** The Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) is a versatile predator of small mammals and birds, preying on, among others, Striped Skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*) and Porcupines (*Erethizon dorsatum*). Bent (1938, Life histories of North American birds of prey, Pt. 2, *U. S. N. M. Bull.* 170, p. 308) cites an instance in which 56 quills became embedded in a Great Horned Owl after an attack on a Porcupine. The present note documents another case of this rather unusual predator-prey relationship.

On 12 February 1977, a Great Horned Owl was found dead on County Road 27 near the hamlet of Owls Head, Town of Belmont, Franklin County. The bird was taken to the N. Y. S. Department of Environmental Conservation Regional Office at Ray Brook, where examination revealed eight Porcupine quills deeply embedded in the frontal region of the skull, with about ten more quills in the wings, head and neck. It is not known whether the owl had attacked a live Porcupine or had been scavenging at a carcass.

The author wishes to thank Environmental Conservation Officer Frederick A. White for bringing the specimen to his attention.

Gary Will, 247 McKenzie Pond Road, Saranac Lake, N.Y. 12983

## ERRATA

### THE KINGBIRD, Vol. XXVIII, No. 4, Fall, 1978

Breeding Laughing Gulls Return to Long Island

... Francine G. Buckley, Michael Gochfeld and P. A. Buckley

Page 206 The sentence running from lines 19-24 should read: "More recent Laughing Gull decreases in New England (Nisbet 1971, 1976), and some cause for concern in New Jersey (Buckley 1977), have been attributed to egg and chick predation by Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls, as well as the larger gulls' earlier annual arrival and occupation of higher, less flood-susceptible nest sites (Burger 1977; pers. comm.)"

Page 206 The sentence beginning on line 27 should read: "Recent Laughing Gull population trends on the coast from Maine to Virginia are not uniformly downward (Erwin *in press*)."

Page 207 The citation from "Erwin, R. M. 1978." should be corrected to read "Erwin, R. M. *In press*."

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON

KEN ABLE  
GUEST EDITOR

There rarely seems to be consensus among the ten regions of this state as to the dominant theme of a season. This time that was not a problem; mild, dry and *dull* were the adjectives repeated in almost every report. Concentrations of migrants were virtually nonexistent throughout the season. What causes such a migration? It could, of course, be due to a scarcity of birds, but there is little evidence to support such a hypothesis. Rather, such vapid seasons from the point of view of the ground observer are quite predictable when dominant weather patterns are of the kind that prevailed this fall. The weather throughout the state was predominantly mild and under the influence of stable high pressure. These conditions provided night after night of clear skies and light winds, ideal weather for migration. Absent were the stalling cold fronts and low pressure storms that cause large concentrations of grounded migrants and TV tower kills. In a real sense, the conditions that are optimal for migratory flight are the worst for the observer on the ground; migrants are dispersed and unlikely to remain long at any stopover locality.

This phenomenon has long been known to students of nocturnal migration. There is often little or no correlation between the amount of migration passing over an area and the number of birds observed on the ground. That was certainly the case this fall. Near Albany, we monitored nocturnal migration with radar and visual observations. Many very large flights occurred, and judging from their calls, thrushes were very well-represented. Whereas observers in several regions reported scarcities of these species, a nighttime walk would have probably revealed large numbers, as in Regions Five and Eight.

Another peculiarity of this migration, noted both by our direct observations and by field birders, was that strong winds from the northwest were relatively rare. This was, of course, because of the relative paucity of frontal passages, and its influence on the direction of migration was noticeable. Near Albany we often observe very heavy flights toward the southeast on strong post-frontal winds. Night after night this fall, we saw large numbers of birds moving between south and southwest on the light northerly or northeasterly winds that predominated. The effect of this was particularly evident in Region Ten where coastal concentrations of drifted migrants were virtually non-

existent. Birders who confined their activities to Riis Park this fall had a dull season.

Several interesting population trends are evident in the reports. Most noteworthy was the unprecedented influx of Tufted Titmice into the New York City area. Jamaica Bay had its first record and over 75 were recorded in Central Park. The effects of this dispersal were felt as far north as Region Eight where birds appeared at localities where the species is not resident (*e.g.* at 1500 ft. elev. in the Helderberg Plateau, Albany Co.). It is also apparent that the surge was confined to the eastern part of the state. Regions Four, Eight and Ten had titmice in large numbers and/or unusual localities; further west no such trend was noted and Regions One and Five specifically mentioned that numbers were low.

Other signs of increase were evident in the hawks. Most encouraging were the numbers of reports of Cooper's Hawks, with 64 at Hook Mt., 20 at Mt. Peter, and 13 reports in Region Eight. Reversing recent trends, the species outnumbered Goshawk in several areas and in Region One, Cooper's was reported to have outnumbered Sharp-shinned! Bald Eagles were reported in all but Region One and the total of 27 records included at least 17 immatures, an encouraging sign. Peregrine Falcon numbers were also heartening with Region Ten reporting the best numbers in recent times.

On the negative side, Loggerhead Shrike continues to decline everywhere except Region Ten; most reports no longer even mention it. Several species, apparently adversely affected by the recent harsh winters, are still down: Winter Wren and both kinglets, Carolina Wren (with the possible exception of Region Three), and Mockingbird (especially in the western part of the state). Although birders will likely shed no tears, there was widespread agreement that Ring-necked Pheasants have declined dramatically, having become a "disappearing species" in Region Three. This trend was paralleled by the Bobwhite in upstate areas where it still occurs (*e.g.*, Region Eight).

Northern Shrikes, Rough-legged Hawks and Snowy Owls appeared early and in good numbers. Shrikes reached northern areas in mid-October and spread to the coast about a month later. Region One had 11 reports and 14 were seen in Region Five. Rough-legged Hawks entered northern and western areas during the last half of September, but most seemed to pass through and numbers declined in Regions Five and Six by the end of the period. Snowy Owls arrived in Regions One and Seven in October and Region Two reported

an invasion in November. By the end of the period there had been only one coastal report.

Whereas the irruptions of northern rodent predators gave hope of things to come, except for the Evening Grosbeak, finches were largely absent. Region One had some numbers of White-winged Crossbills, the only ones reported, but elsewhere scattered Common Redpolls and Pine Grosbeaks were the rule. Evening Grosbeaks were evident in higher than normal numbers in many areas.

Most regions had a list of rarities, although some appeared a bit strained. Merlin, Glaucous Gull, Saw-whet Owl, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Orange-crowned and Connecticut Warblers and House Finch are hardly extraordinary in most parts of the state. However, there were enough really exciting birds to add spice to almost every region. The famous Western Grebe remained at Tupper Lake until October 7. Also lingering, was the Montezuma White Pelican (until September 24); another appeared briefly in Region Nine. A Wood Stork, perhaps one of the August birds, was near Geneva on September 12. Snowy Egrets were in several areas, with an exceptionally late bird in Region Eight. Gyrfalcons were found early in Regions Two and Ten and then another Gyrfalcon, a white bird, was reported at Hamlin in November. Piping Plover (Region Five) and Marbled Godwits (Regions Five and Six) made news upstate. An adult Sabine's Gull was a treat for the pelagic birders who ventured to Baltimore Canyon. A Dovekie buzzing past Braddock's Bay on October 23 was a surprise. Two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were found in Region Ten. In the absence of any dispersal from known breeding areas, one wonders what a Boreal Chickadee was doing atop Slide Mountain in the Catskills. There were two extralimital records of Common Ravens, including a belated report of the first recorded nesting in Herkimer County. Downstate, a female Boat-tailed Grackle at Riis Park and a LeConte's Sparrow at Montauk were noteworthy.

This season, it is no problem to perpetuate the BOTS awards begun by Bob Smart. Berna Weissman's first state record California Gull that obligingly appeared daily at Rockland Lake through most of the period is the hands-down winner.

As a first-time author of this column I would like to urge all observers to report details of unusual records to the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC), formed last year. Amateurs have traditionally played a large role in ornithology. Increasingly, the production of accurate distributional works such as state books



or the AOU Check-list depends on the sight records provided by the legion field birders. As the number of birders and sight records increases it becomes more important than ever to treat these records as the important scientific data they are. The most important function of NYSARC is not to accept or reject individual records, but to preserve the written or photographic documentation of sight records for future evaluation by ornithologists. Without these documents it will be impossible to evaluate many sight records twenty years hence. Birders have a unique opportunity to make a real scientific contribution through their hobby; it is an obligation we should all heed.

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As this issue of *The Kingbird* goes to press, the Editors have learned with sorrow that Robert W. Smart died suddenly in Ocean City, Maryland, on February 3, 1979. Bob Smart was a long time friend and field companion of many Federation members and was until recently the Editor of the Regional Reports and "Highlights of the Season" in these pages.

## REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

Once more the season was governed by the whimsical jet stream, which this fall remained well north in Canada, pulling the storm centers along beneath it. Although the resulting persistent southerly winds blowing into these lows gave birders lovely gentle weather, the migration, with but few bright exceptions, was a dismal void. Even expected late-lingering species were few and far between despite a superabundance of wild fruits, including the best beechnut crop in some seven years (Eaton). About the only complaints in the food department were an absence of acorns and a shortage of rabbits.

With September nearly average for both temperature and rainfall, October was a bit colder than normal and fairly wet. However, November, which basked in Indian summer the first two weeks, was both unusually warm and very dry. At Buffalo, temperatures averaged 6° F. (3.3° C.) above normal, and precipitation was lower by 2.2 in. (5.6 cm.). Almost no snow fell except for a couple of inches during the last week of the period when smaller lakes began to freeze over. (Data from WIVB TV, Buffalo, and Water and Light Plant, Wellsville).

Encouraging for the season were 1) fair Whistling Swan and duck flights, 2) many Rough-legged Hawks, promising a good winter season, and more than usual Marsh Hawks, 3) about normal Ruffed Grouse and Turkey populations, 4) a modest increase in counts for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and Red-headed Woodpeckers, 5) a slight rise in E. Phoebe numbers, 6) an invasion of Red-breasted Nuthatches and a good flight of Brown Creepers, 7) E. Bluebirds doing well according to faithful reporting on our beautiful state bird, 8) large flocks of Am. Robins and Cedar Waxwings enjoying the wild cherry crop in October (Eaton), 9) higher census tallies for the E. Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird and Brown-headed Cowbird, but lower for the Com. Grackle, 10) a few Evening Grosbeaks, many House Finches, and a promising representation of winter finches, 11) Savannah, Chipping and Field Sparrows possibly in better shape, and 12) excellent numbers of White-crowned, White-throated and Lincoln's Sparrows.

Depressing this season were: 1) a light loon flight, 2) a generally poor raptor migration, 3) continued decline of Ring-necked Pheasant numbers, 4) very few Am. Woodcocks, 5) lower counts for the Chimney Swift, both the Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, E. Wood Pewee and Horned Lark, 6) Titmice numbers remaining low but some found feeding on beechnuts (Ives), 7) pathetic wren tallies and no Mockingbirds, 8) thrush, kinglet and warbler migration "the poorest in the past 13 years of banding" (Clark), 9) lower census figures for the Red-winged Blackbird, and 10) fewer Cardinals and Purple Finches, as well as Vesper, Fox and Swamp Sparrows.

Rarities include Mute Swan, Red Phalarope, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Saw-whet Owl, Common Raven, Prairie Warbler, House Finch, and Dark-eyed ("Oregon") Junco.

Abbreviations: BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; Cem—Cemetery; GMA or WMA—Game or Wildlife Management Area; NP—Nature Preserve; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; RC—Regional Bird Census, Oct. 8, with H+ = record high, H = second highest ever, L = low, and L- = record low fall counts for some species (Compiled by H. and W. Klabunde); Res—Reservoir; SF or SP—State Forest or Park.

Contributors: Elizabeth Brooks, Doris Burton, Lou Burton, Donald Clark, Jane Clark, Ed Curtis (Weather data, Wellsville), Stephen Eaton, Genevieve Fish, David Freeland, Helen Graves, Harland Hale, Matthew Hotchkiss, Clarence Klingensmith, Raymond Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Frances Rew, Ann Scott (AnS), James VanScoy, Regina VanScoy; and other helpful observers: Patricia Andrie, Robert Andrie, Harold Axtell, Dorothy Danner, Norman Ives, Harriette Klabunde, Walter Klabunde, Alice McKale, Willard McKale, Harold Mitchell, Katherine Palmer, and Robert Sundell.

LOONS—DUCKS: The mild season helped to make the Com. Loon flight lighter than usual with but ten counted on the RC and regional max 11 over Hamburg Town Park Nov. 19. A single Red-throated Loon was seen at Niagara Falls Gorge Nov. 12. In addition to

three Double-crested Cormorants appearing for the RC, at least seven were reported from two locations, one of these being at Barcelona Sept. 24. Noteworthy heron reports include: Great Blue, 129 on the RC (H); max Black-crowned Night Heron, 15 at Tiff Farm Sept. 6; and the only Am. Bittern, one near Birdsall Sept. 9. The MUTE SWAN at South Buffalo Nov. 8 (DF) and at Porter Ave., Buffalo, Nov. 12 (RA, Daniels), was probably the same bird that was in a nearby area all summer. Peak of the Whistling Swan flight was 340 (!) at Mayville Nov. 25 (FR+). The fall build-up of Canada Geese reached 10,000 at Iroquois NWR Sept. 24 (DD), a single Brant was spotted at Prendergast Point Nov. 25 (FR+), and the regional max of 75 Snow Geese was at Rushford L Nov. 14 (HH). Regional duck maxima, other than RC, unless otherwise indicated, were: Mallard, 158 in Hume Oct. 25; Black Duck, eight at Fillmore Oct. 21; Gadwall, eight at Olcott Oct. 15; Pintail, 50 at Buckhorn Is. SP Nov. 22; Blue-winged Teal, 25 at Farmersville Sta. Sept. 4; Green-winged Teal, eight at both Cuba L. Nov. 13 and Beaver Is. SP Nov. 22; Am. Wigeon, 15 at Times Beach Sept. 19-20; N. Shoveler, one at Tiff Farm Oct. 24, 27 and Nov. 19; Wood Duck, 58 in Hume Sept. 2; Redhead, early arrivals, one at Buffalo Harbor Sept. 3 (RA) and two at Times Beach Sept. 26 (O'Dell), and regional max 91 at Mayville Nov. 25; Ring-necked Duck, 500 at Cuba L. Nov. 13; Canvasback, 800 on the Niagara R. Nov. 18; Greater Scaup, 1600 at the same place the same day; Lesser Scaup, one at Farmersville Sta. Nov. 15; Com. Goldeneye, four at Farmersville Sta. Nov. 21; Bufflehead, 100 at Cuba L. Nov. 13; White-winged Scoter, 285 at Olcott Oct. 15; Surf Scoter, 22 at Porter Ave., Buffalo, Oct. 9; Black Scoter, 62 at Point Gratiot Oct. 14; Ruddy Duck, 161 near Niagara Falls Nov. 5; Hooded Merganser, 167 at Mayville Nov. 25; Com. Merganser, 20 at Cuba L. Nov. 13; and Red-breasted Merganser, 15 at Cuba L. Nov. 19.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** As noted several times in the past, Cooper's Hawks outnumbered Sharp-shinned Hawks. Sharp-shinned Hawks tallied nine on the RC and a total of six were seen in five areas, but 14 Cooper's Hawks appeared for the RC (H+), and seven areas reported single birds. Other interesting raptor notes include: Red-shouldered Hawk, eight on the RC, with only four other birds reported—all from Allegany Co.; Broad-winged Hawk, one a week late at Shelby Oct. 21 (Brocks, Foster); Rough-legged Hawk, one arr early for the RC in Cattaraugus Co. (SE) and 25 others totaled from here and there; Marsh Hawk, 48 birds on the RC (H+) and other reports of 21, total, from 12 locations. Ospreys tallied three on the RC and among scattered reports of at least nine birds, singles staying late were at Tonawanda Oct. 28-30 (Hulls) and at Belmont thru Nov. 11 (DB+). The Belmont Osprey met a tragic end, being found shot dead at the Belmont Conservation Club Nov. 13 (DB, LB). Only 31 Ring-necked Pheasants were discovered for the RC (L-). A splendid fall concentration of Am. Coots materialized again at Mayville with max 800 on Nov. 25 (FR+). Highlights from the unimpressive shorebird flight are: Am. Golden Plover, max 70 at Shelby Oct. 21; Ruddy Turnstone, two on the RC, one at Clarence Sept. 25, and two at Bird Island, Buffalo, Oct. 9; Com. Snipe, three on the RC, lowest in 37 years, and max 12 at Iroquois NWR Sept. 9; Whimbrel, two at Times Beach Sept. 1 (RA+); Upland Sandpiper, one the last of season, at Clarence Sept. 1; Greater Yellowlegs, max 12 at both Times Beach Sept. 20 and at Iroquois NWR Oct. 14; Lesser Yellowlegs, max 15 at Iroquois NWR Sept. 9; Red Knot, one, still with "reddish breast," at Allegheny Res. Sept. 8 (SE); Pectoral Sandpiper, one on the RC and max four at Hume Sept. 14 (KP); White-rumped Sandpiper, two at Iroquois NWR Sept. 9 (DF); Baird's Sandpiper, one at Prendergast Point Sept. 3 and one at Bemus Point Sept. 10, and 16 (RS); Dunlin, three at Clarence Nov. 5—only report; and **RED PHALAROPE**, one, early, at Point Gratiot Oct. 9 (RA, PA). Noteworthy larid reports include: Glaucous Gull, singles at Niagara Falls Gorge Nov. 18, and Nov. 24, and over Cheektowaga Nov. 28; Great Black-backed Gull, 204 on the RC (H+), breaking the record set last year; **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**, an adult at Niagara Falls Gorge irregularly Nov. 3-18 (FR+ mob); Ring-billed Gull, 100 at the Allegheny Res. Sept. 8—a good number away from the Great Lakes; Franklin's Gull, no less than nine birds, total, from Buffalo and Niagara Falls areas; Bonaparte's Gull, max 14,000 at the Niagara R. Nov. 18; Little Gull, two

on the RC, and at least ten individuals near Lake Erie and along the Niagara R; **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**, an imm. at Niagara Falls Gorge Nov. 12 (DF+); Com. Tern, 1700 at Niagara R. Oct. 21; Caspian Tern, 11 at Barcelona Sept. 4 (RS)—an unusual number for the Southern Tier; and Black Tern, 750 in the Peace Bridge area Sept. 1 (HA).

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** Reaching H+ numbers on the RC were: Rock Dove, 2492; Mourning Dove, 694; Screech Owl, 18 (with few other reports); Great Horned Owl, 18 (tied for this status); Short-eared Owl, two (tied for highest ever); and Com. Nighthawk, 20. A Black-billed Cuckoo was banded at Farmersville Sta. Sept. 6 (DC), the only report. The first Snowy Owl of the season appeared at Times Beach Oct. 31 (Zebehazy), probably the same bird as was seen here several times during Nov. when singles were also noted at Buffalo Harbor and South Buffalo (mob). The only Long-eared Owl reported was one at West Seneca Nov. 3 (O'Dell). A **SAW-WHET OWL** which was picked up in Buffalo, apparently following a store window collision, was nursed for a week by D. Bigelow of Beaver Meadow, and was then banded and released by D. Clark at Farmersville Sta. Nov. 13. Seven Red-headed Woodpeckers were counted on the RC and five areas reported singles.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** Of interest from the RC are: 62 E. Phoebes, nearly twice last year's number; only one E. Wood Pewee (six last year); 86 Horned Larks, down over 50% from 1977; 80 Rough-winged Swallows (H+); 1935 Blue Jays (H+); and 3141 Com. Crows (H). Three week-late Tree Swallows were left behind at Wilson Nov. 5 (DF, HM+). Thought to be migrating were a flock of 20 noisy Blue Jays near Alfred Nov. 28 and 70 Com. Crows traveling south near Olean Oct. 25. Exciting news from the hills of the Southern Tier was the identification of a **COMMON RAVEN** near Alfred Oct. 28 (CK). It also must have been thrilling on a four-mile "hike through mature forest" sw of Olean to count 30 Red-breasted Nuthatches Oct. 30 (SE). Only six Tufted Titmice appeared on the RC and but five areas reported a total of 11 birds. The Carolina Wren is even worse off with singles on the RC and at Barcelona Sept. 24 (RS), the only reports. For other wrens, the RC disclosed both good news and bad news, compared with last year: Winter Wrens, 12 (up from eight); House Wrens, nine (down from 12); and Long-billed Marsh Wren, one (down from 11). A late Swainson's Thrush was still at Tiff Farm Oct. 22 (DF+). The E. Bluebird seems to be coming O.K. with 112 found for the RC and other reports totaling at least 89 birds from 13 areas. Kinglets continue to bear watching, with Golden-crowned, 114 on the RC (85 last year) and 14 others counted from five locations, and Ruby-crowned, 198 on the RC (23 last year) with 11 others from eight areas. Max of a good flight of Water Pipits was 140 at Clarence Nov. 14 and of Cedar Waxwings, which totaled 1415 (H) on the RC, was 150 in Hume Oct. 26. At least 11 N. Shrikes, mostly singles, were found hunting in ten areas.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** 11 Philadelphia Vireos were identified from five scattered sites. Although the warbler flight was poor, a few species lifted it from purely dull: Tennessee Warbler, 17 on the RC (H) plus three other birds from two locations; two Orange-crowned Warblers, both banded, one near Alfred Oct. 4 (EB) and one, late, sw of Olean Nov. 6 (SE); N. Parula, one on the RC; a late Bay-breasted Warbler at Tiff Farm Oct. 22 (DF+); Black-poll Warbler, one on the RC and 15 at S. Buffalo Sept. 7 (O'Dell); Pine Warbler, two on the RC and one at Newstead Sept. 9 (DF); **PRAIRIE WARBLER**, one at Tiff Farm Sept. 10 (RA+)—exceptionally rare in the fall; Northern Waterthrush, three at S. Buffalo Sept. 27 (O'Dell); and Hooded Warbler, one at Barcelona Sept. 24 (RS).

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS:** Regional max for the **HOUSE FINCH**, again at Eggertsville, was 31 during Nov. (AM, WM). Since Am. Goldfinch numbers were down during the summer, the flock of 200 at Holland Oct. 19 (Becker) is encouraging. A few winter finches were located: Com. Redpoll, one in Clarence Oct. 29 (DF); Pine Siskin, 35 on the RC (only five last year) plus four others, total, from two areas; and White-winged Crossbill, two early at E. Amherst Oct. 28 (DF), six at Charlotte Nov. 4 (FR), one at Oakland Rural Cem. Nov. 5 (DF, HM+) and 30 at Amity L. Nov. 20 (VP). A **DARK-EYED ("OREGON") JUNCO** was watched at E. Amherst Oct. 17-27 (DF). Three Fox Sparrows were tallied on the RC, the

lowest number in 22 years, and the only other reports were a bird at Clarence Oct. 30 (Wagner) and max eight regularly in Amity Oct. 21-Nov. 18 (VP, RP). In addition to the four Lincoln's Sparrows on the RC there were four in Hume Sept. 17 (KP), one at Porter Ave., Buffalo, Sept. 19 (DF), one at Farmersville Sta. Oct. 2 (DC) and one near Alfred Oct. 10 (EB). From all reports, only one lone Song Sparrow remained in the region, at Belmont, by Nov. 28 (DB, LB). The first Snow Buntings for the season were 35 at Lyndonville Nov. 5 and max was 125 at Darien Nov. 8.

Amity Lake, Belmont, N.Y. 14813

## REGION 2 – GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

The Fall of 1978 can probably best be summarized by the oft-repeated exchange between birders in the field, "What's around today?" "Nothing!" With few exceptions, this exchange is the story of the season. Early, everyone awaited the cold and fall storms that would push the migrants south. Late, many species were still virtually absent, either as migrants or as late stragglers in this very mild fall. Coverage of the area was good; month by month species met or exceeded almost all records for comparable periods of the past five years. It was numbers and expected specialties that were missing. Is it possible that most of the fall migration moved over or around us during this unusually pleasant season?

The weather picture was generally warmer, drier, and sunnier than normal. It was beautiful for hikes and picnics. Birders were in the field in numbers; only the birds were absent. Early September saw the passage of several fronts, these only ripples on an almost uniformly pleasant background. With the exception of a freak snow on the weekend of Oct. 7 and 8, October was similar. November brought hints of a winter to come, but the first skim ice on the shallower ponds was not until the 23rd and snows of Nov. 20 and 27-29 were light and short-lived. The best waterfowl days were during the wildest winds and rains on Oct. 14 and 23 and Nov. 12 and 19.

Extracting real trends from a picture fogged by unusual weather is a hazardous undertaking. Among the more positive observations were: good loon, brant, and scaup flights over Lake Ontario, though mostly too far out to attract observers to long periods of counting; an excellent congregation of Horned Grebes; an outstanding late November concentration of Hooded Mergansers; good numbers of Am. Golden Plovers; an invasion of Snowy Owls; and a few hints of comeback for Winter Wrens and the kinglets. Negatives include: low numbers of Redhead, Canvasback, and all three accipiters, all of which may simply reflect the balmy season, low counts for all heron species, possibly accounted for by high water in the lakeshore marshes during the breeding season followed by their rapid draining and drying later; low gull counts, almost certainly weather related; continued lowering numbers of reports of Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, and Loggerhead Shrike; few out-of-place or date passerine migrants; and no winter finches, certainly as expected from patterns of records over the past 40

years. Harder to place on a value scale are the continued increases in Starling and House Finch and the plummeting Ring-necked Pheasant population. In the latter case those scrupulously playing the listing game may soon be faced with the dilemma of whether any pheasant observed represents a remnant of the breeding population, or only a survivor from the most recent fall's private stocking operation.

Rarities: Cattle Egret, Golden Eagle, Gyrfalcon, Merlin, King Rail, Whimbrel, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, phalarope (sp.), Parasitic Jaeger, Black-headed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Dovekie, Snowy Owl, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Connecticut Warbler.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock Bay; D—Durand-Eastman Park; H—Hamlin Beach State Park; IC—Island Cottage Woods, Greece; K—Kendall; NC—Northrup Creek, Long Pond, Greece; PB—Point Breeze; and WL—West Lakeshore.

Observers: Burroughs-Audubon Nature Club, Mike Carlson, Carolyn Cass, Julie Claffey, Ann Clarridge, Roger Clark, Bill Colman, Mike Davids, Dan & Fritz Davis, Frank & Robert Dobson, Jim & Kay Doris, Jean Dysard, Joan Esley, June Feder, Federation of N.Y. State Bird Clubs field trips, Dick Garnham, Genesee Ornithological Society, Kevin Griffith, Bill Hartranft, Robert & Sandra Hazen, Norm Henderson, Øivind Jensen, Allen & Bea Kemnitzer, Bob & Jane Kesselring, Ray Ladwig, Edith Lank, Jim Lenhard, Gerhard Leubner, Walter Listman, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Peg Magee, Frank & Mary Mattei, Bob McKinney, Gordon Meade, Hyde Miller, Ann Miranian, Laura & Neil Moon, Fran Munson, Frank, Joyce & Lon Myers, Leon Nawojchik, Richard O'Hara, Bernie Olin, Chip Perrigo, Pat Reister, Rochester Birding Association, Marge Schmale, Ann & Ray Shea, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne & Sharon Skelly, Robert & Susan Spahn, Ann Stear, Harriet Stride, Dan & Allan Strong, Ann & Joe Watson, Eleanor Weld, Paul Weld, Kinsley Whittum, Munro Will and Peter Zachmann.

LOONS—DUCKS: There were several days in November with excellent loon flights, unfortunately often far out over Lake Ontario and not carefully enumerated. Good counts are: Com. Loon: 149 Perinton Nov. 15, counted in about a half-hour, all headed S. about 10 miles inland from Lake Ontario; 227 Nine Mile Point, Webster, Nov. 19, counted in one and one-half hours; and 160 H Nov. 25, counted in one and one-half hours, headed E. and SE; and Red-throated Loon: 150 PB Nov. 19. Interesting grebe records include only one report of Red-necked Grebes: 14 Sodus Bay Oct. 22; and Horned Grebe: 100+ H Oct. 28, again a case where careful counting would have documented several hundred along the lakeshore that day. Double-crested Cormorant appeared twice: 39 Sodus Bay Sept. 24 (FNYSBC), a very large number for this region; and three BB Nov. 8. Heron records were generally poor. Good late birds were: Great Egret: one Long Pond, Greece, Nov. 6, and CATTLE EGRET: one Hopewell Oct. 31 (ST). Usually scarce here in the Fall there were several Whistling Swan reports: 12 Greece Nov. 19; 14 Sodus Bay Nov. 26; and 29 Conesus Lake Nov. 29, all good counts; and three BB Nov. 25 thru. Good Brant flights were noted on several days with the best count 2600 Webster Oct. 23 (AK), counted in only one hour. Early fall Snow Goose records were: one Rochester Sept. 13 (HS); and one of each color phase Avon Sept. 23. Of note among the duck reports, again often lacking in careful enumeration, were: Mallard: max. 750 K Nov. 7; Black Duck: max 167 Sodus Bay Oct. 14; Gadwall: max 75+ BB Nov. 26; Com. Goldeneye: 667 H Oct. 29; White-winged Scoter: max 925 WL Oct. 28; Hooded Merganser: 400 D to BB Nov. 23; 167 BB Nov. 23; and 400 PB Nov. 24, all excellent counts; and Red-breasted Merganser: max 10,000 off D Nov. 3. An excellent scaup flight was noted Nov. 12, but uncounted. Very low numbers of Redhead and Canvasback and a very few Ruddy Ducks were reported.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Among the diurnal raptors, the overall feeling was one of scarcity. Accipiters were very low. Among the buteos, only very early dates for Rough-legged Hawk:

one WL Sept. 19, 22 (NH), were noteworthy. Rare fall occurrences were: **GOLDEN EAGLE**: one ad. Greece Oct. 21 (ST); and **Bald Eagle**: one imm BB Oct. 10. Extremely rare were two observations of **GYRFALCON**: one dark gray phase NC Sept. 9 (RS, FD), a very early date, but not totally unprecedented relative to past records for the N. shore of Lake Erie; and one white phase Hamlin Nov. 24 (RC). Also rare was **MERLIN**: one Parma Sept. 17 (mob). Rail records consisted mainly of Sora as water levels dropped and they appeared on the mudflats. Very rare was **KING RAIL**: one BB Sept. 4 (BM). Shorebirding was generally poor. Lakeshore water levels were high through the best early period. When habitat was excellent late in the season it was beyond the season for all but stragglers, Dunlin and Killdeer, mainly. There were bright spots. Among these were: a very late Semipalmated Plover: one Livonia Nov. 29 (HMa); a good concentration of Am. Golden Plover: 100-150 Parma Sept. 30-Oct. 1; very cooperative **WHIMBREL**: 2-4 K Sept. 2-19 (mob); late Spotted Sandpiper: one BB Oct. 25-26; a lone Purple Sandpiper: H Nov. 5-10; late Pectoral Sandpiper: one Salmon Creek, Greece Nov. 19; Long-billed Dowitcher: one NC Oct. 24; and one BB Nov. 1; late Stilt Sandpiper: one BB Nov. 1; **HUDSONIAN GODWIT**: one NC Nov. 5 (MC); and one Salmon Creek, Greece, Nov. 6-8 (mob), probably the same individual; and phalarope (sp.): **40 PB** Nov. 19 (WLi), a flock feeding on the water in Lake Ontario 3/4-1 mile offshore, number unprecedented inland. Only a single jaeger was reported this fall, **PARASITIC JAEGER**: one H Oct. 14 (JC). Gulls were low through the period, though increasing, particularly in November. The only "white-winged" gulls were: Glaucous Gull: one BB Nov. 6, 23; and Iceland Gull: one H Nov. 12. A **BLACK-HEADED GULL**: BB Nov. 16 (NH, RL), was observed among a large group of Bonaparte's. Little Gulls finally appeared as Bonaparte's numbers increased with first record: one BB Oct. 28; and max eight D Nov. 25 thru (MT, DS, mob). **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**: one imm H Nov. 12 (RO, PW); and one imm H Nov. 18 (RBA), represent average fall occurrences. The late summer incursion of Forster's Tern left stragglers recorded through: four BB Oct. 13; with a max ten BB Sept. 23 (FNYSBC). A very rare event was an upstate alcid, **DOVEKIE**: BB Oct. 23 (WLi), seen headed east at top speed. It is difficult to explain this bird's appearance in the Great Lakes basin as the only storm from the NE was nine days prior followed by a solid period of winds with westerly components.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: The event of this grouping was the November invasion of **SNOWY OWL**: first one Irondequoit Nov. 5 (photo, *vide* GOS); with up to three BB Nov. 22 thru. There a minimum of eight and possibly up to twelve individuals involved in reports received. Also infrequently recorded at this season is Saw-whet Owl: one Brighton Nov. 17 (FDa). Finally, there was a large late flock of migrating Chimney Swifts: 18 Irondequoit Oct. 8.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS**: This grouping produced only a scattering of records of special note: E. Kingbird: seven IC Oct. 10, late for so many; E. Wood Pewee: one IC Oct. 8, relatively late; the usual fall Olive-sided Flycatchers: five records in Sept.; only two Carolina Wren reports from a single location; a straggling Gray Catbird: D Nov. 26; Veery: two Penfield Oct. 9, late; Water Pipit: 275 K Oct. 26, a good count; only two Loggerhead Shrike records for the season; and Starling: 80,000 Gates Oct. 22 to 300,000 Gates Nov. (JS), a buildup documented at the winter roost site.

**WARBLERS-VIREOS**: The only vireo records of note were several reports of very late Yellow-throated Vireo: one IC Oct. 10 (KD, mob); one Webster Oct. 10 (WLi); and one IC Oct. 15 (F & RD). Among the warblers, numbers were generally low and last dates relatively early. Always scarce in this region, though of regular appearance at this season were: **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**: one Brighton Oct. 11 (JC); Pine Warbler: one H Oct. 7 (CP); and **CONNECTICUT WARBLER**: one BB Oct. 8 (MC). Late dates were noted for: Black-and-white Warbler: one fem. Webster Nov. 25, 27 (A & BK); Blackburnian Warbler: one D Oct. 1; and Ovenbird: one BB Oct. 17 (NH).

**WEAVERS-SPARROWS**: With few exceptions this whole group was dismal, particular-

ly when contrasted with last year's invasion of finches. As long term records for the finches show typical two and four year cycles, this situation was to be expected. Highlights included: Red-winged Blackbird: Max 40,000 Greece Oct. 22; good House Finch counts: 42 Brighton Oct. 3 (JC); and 25 Brighton Oct. (F, J & LMy); Com. Redpoll: one BB Oct. 27; and one Penfield Oct. 27, early; Dark-eyed Junco: max 361 H Oct. 15; Tree Sparrow: one Sodus Oct. 14, early; Lapland Longspur: 45 K Oct. 26, a good early count; and Snow Bunting: 200 K and Greece Oct. 13 and 27, good numbers.

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## REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

Fall 1978 was mild and dry with beautiful Indian summer weather in early November. The fall migration was, in general, rather unexciting and uneventful.

Seasonal positives: 1. A very small TV tower kill at Elmira contrasted with last year's slaughter there. 2. The experiment in "hacking" young Bald Eagles at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge was continued with four eaglets successfully fledged. 3. A big Common Loon flight at the southern end of Cayuga and Seneca Lakes November 12-15. 4. Canada Geese numbers hit a new fall high at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. 5. More Ruffed Grouse reports. 6. Carolina Wrens showed up in a few places after being nearly wiped out by two bad winters. 7. Good numbers of Northern Shrikes. 8. House Finches continued their wildfire spread and became much a part of the avian scene in some localities. 9. Good natural food supplies.

Seasonal negatives: 1. Increasing scarcity of white herons with the only representative of this group being a single Great Egret at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge on the first day of the period. 2. While Red-tailed Hawks are not threatened, two observers felt that their numbers were down. 3. The Ring-necked Pheasant appears to be a disappearing species. 4. At best, shorebirding could only be classed as fair. 5. Kinglets, especially Golden-crowned, hard to find. 6. Relatively few winter finches.

Rarities: White Pelican, Wood Stork, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Sandhill Crane, Hudsonian Godwit, Red Phalarope, Glaucous Gull, Olive-sided Flycatcher.

Abbreviations: Cay–Cayuga; L–lake; MNWR–Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; seminar–the weekly seminar at the Laboratory of Ornithology; Sen–Seneca; SP–State Park; \* (starred)–details on file.

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LOONS–DUCKS: Common Loon: 26 Cay L Oct. 8; a heavy flight Nov. 12-15 with 121 at Myers and Long Point and 50 at Sampson SP on Nov. 12, 114 at Taughannock SP on Nov. 13, 400 on the south end of Cay L. Nov. 14 and 410 flying over Watkins Glen on Nov. 15.



Pied-billed Grebe migrants showed up on the Chemung R. Sept. 7. **WHITE PELICAN**: the three birds, which have been seen in the area sporadically since May 7, were last reported at MNWR on Sept. 24 by a group of birders on their way home from the Federation meeting in Rochester. Double-crested Cormorant: two MNWR during Sept.; one Cay L. Nov. 19. Green Heron: two late birds, one at Elmira Oct. 20 and one at Michigan Hollow Nov. 9. Cattle Egret: five at Watkins Glen and one at Ovid both late Oct. Great Egret: reduced to a single individual at MNWR which was last seen Sept. 1. Black-crowned Night Heron: a late individual at MNWR Nov. 1. **WOOD STORK**: a single bird observed, both flying and standing, near Geneva on Sept. 12 by Bernice Hilfiker\*, Paris Trail\* and Holly Conteyou. Each observer saw the bird independently of the others and each identified it independently. Whistling Swan: one Branchport Nov. 15; three Aurora Nov. 16; one to five MNWR Nov. 16-18. Canada Goose: migration started early during the first week of Sept. Peaked at MNWR at 46,000 on Oct. 9. Still 20,000 on Cay L. Nov. 12. Brant: reported from MNWR Oct. 28 and Nov. 11, from Union Springs Oct. 28 and two at Ithaca Nov. 5. Snow Goose: three Phelps Oct. 3-Nov. 26; peak 15 MNWR Nov. 20 (both morphs).

Ducks: the maximum counts at MNWR as reported by personnel there is as follows:

Mallard	18,000	Nov. 30	Wood Duck	2,000	Nov. 1
Black Duck	8,000	Nov. 30	Redhead	100	Oct. 31
Gadwall	1,000	Oct. 15	Ring-necked Duck	100	Oct. 31
Pintail	400	Nov. 1	Canvasback	100	Nov. 30
Green-winged Teal	2,500	Oct. 31	Bufflehead	100	Oct. 31
Blue-winged Teal	3,000	Oct. 1	Com. Merganser	200	Nov. 30
Am. Wigeon	9,000	Oct. 10	Hooded Merganser	300	Nov. 30
N. Shoveler	600	Nov. 20			

Surf Scoter: reported at seminar Oct. 30. Black Scoter: male Elmira Nov. 7-11 (WH *et al.*, *vide* MW); 18 Stewart Park Nov. 14 (DM *et al.*). Ruddy Duck: a few MNWR Nov; one Myers Nov. 8.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS**: Turkey Vulture: a late record MNWR Oct. 31. Goshawk: one Throop Oct. 7; reported seminar Oct. 30 and Nov. 27; one Montour Falls Nov. 16. Sharp-shinned Hawk: reported at every seminar; one Elmira Sept. 8; one Watkins Glen Nov. 12. Cooper's Hawk: reported at every seminar; at Elmira one on Sept. 2 and two on Sept. 29; one Throop Sept. 8. Red-shouldered: only report was a single bird seen at Elmira. Rough-legged Hawk: one at Penn Yan in Sept. is the earliest report. Scattered reports in Oct. and Nov. Bald Eagle: adult Brooktondale Sept. 9 (Confer); adult Bath Sept. 16 (Macaully *vide* Pitzrick). Marsh Hawk: one to three MNWR thru the period. Osprey: one MNWR during Sept.; one Phelps Sept. 20; one Elmira Oct. 30; one Ithaca Nov. 3-4. **PEREGRINE FALCON**: one MNWR Sept. 26 (Cade). **MERLIN**: one Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary Nov. 11 (H. Lapham). Ruffed Grouse: drumming birds reported from Phelps, Wayland and Elmira during Nov. Ring-necked Pheasant: almost no reports and they indicate the birds are very scarce. Turkey: reported at four seminars; also from near Big Flats and Horseheads; one in a cemetery at Penn Yan the week before Thanksgiving. Did this bird have a premonition? **SANDHILL CRANE**: The persistent, but unconfirmed, reports of a bird of this species at MNWR continued into Oct. On Oct. 31 D. McIlroy\*, M. Shepherd, *et al.* saw and confirmed the presence of the bird. This is the third record of the species at MNWR. Shorebirds: unless otherwise indicated the following records are from MNWR. Semipalmated Plover: max 19 Sept. 19; a late bird on Nov. 3. Am. Golden Plover: up to three during Oct. to Nov. 15. Black-bellied Plover: last one Nov. 6. Greater Yellowlegs: max seven Sept. 30 and last one Nov. 15. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 50 Waterloo dump Sept. 1. Pectoral Sandpiper: one Chemung R. Sept. 10; max 15 Oct. 9; three late birds, one at Myers Nov. 12 and two MNWR Nov. 19. White-rumped Sandpiper: singles Sept. 19, Oct. 18, Nov. 16-17. Baird's: singles Sept. 8-9 and 24. Short-billed Dowitcher: max 18 Sept. 1; last five Nov. 6. Long-billed Dowitcher: max 18 Oct. 3; last one Nov. 17. **HUDSONIAN GODWIT**: one Tompkins Co. airport Oct.

12 (W. Howe\*). **RED PHALAROPE**: one Stewart Park Oct. 17-20 (K. Rosenberg\*). Wilson's Phalarope: one Waterloo dump Sept. 1. **GLAUCOUS GULL**: one King Ferry Nov. 25 (Confer). Caspian Tern: one Stewart Park Sept. 24; two MNWR Sept. 8. Black Tern: reported at seminar Oct. 2 late.

**PIGEONS--WOODPECKERS**: Saw-whet Owl: one Cornell Campus Oct. 25 (D. Gray). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: present at the Shepherds in Ithaca until Oct. 1. Late. Red-headed Woodpecker: reported at seminar Oct. 30; one along Clyde R. Nov. 1-4. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: fewer than normal reports at seminar; three Elmira Sept. 20; one Penn Yan thru Nov.

**FLYCATCHERS--STARLINGS**: E. Wood Pewee: Ithaca Oct. 10-11 late. **OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER**: one Sept. 19 (Confer). Tree Swallow: at Cayuga Marsh W. Howe and W. Bridgeland saw an estimated 20,000 flying south; 1,000 observed on the beach at Sen L. SP Oct. 15 (BH); 150 on the wires at Tyre, Sen. Co. Oct. 22. Bank Swallow: many swallows, predominantly Banks, at Elmira Sept. 10. Red-breasted Nuthatch: reported from Newark, Texas Hollow Sanctuary, Guyanoga Valley and in numbers from Elmira. Carolina Wren: several seen at Ithaca feeders; one heard calling near Watkins Glen; no other reports. Gray Catbird: a late bird at Ithaca Oct. 28. Am. Robin: several hundred were at the Confer's residence at Brooktondale on Oct. 8 and 100 at the same place Oct. 11; at Elmira large flocks were at Harris Hill Sept. 16 and Mt. Zoar Sept. 18. Wood Thrush: one Ithaca Nov. 2, late. Hermit Thrush: one Ithaca Oct. 24; two Phelps Nov. 29 late. Swainson's Thrush: more than usual reports at the seminars; one Clyde R. Nov. 8 late. E. Bluebird: 10-15 Elmira Sept. 15; scattered reports from Camp Barton, Clyde, Penn Yan, Burdette and Seneca Co. Kinglets: both species were very scarce. Schuyler Co. had its first Golden-crowned report in nearly a year. Water Pipit: 80 King Ferry Nov. 12; few other reports. Northern Shrike: earliest report was one at Throop Oct. 17; later reported from Sen. Co. Oct. 28, Ithaca, Sampson SP Nov. 12, Aurora Nov. 16, MNWR Nov. 16 and Watkins Glen Nov. 12.

**VIREOS--WARBLERS**: Vireos: Red-eyed: one Ithaca Oct. 22 late. Philadelphia: one Throop Sept. 11 and one Elmira Oct. 2. Warblers: M. Lerch's comment that the only warbler which was numerous was the "Myrtle" and that there were no rarities about sums up the warbler migration in the Region. The following 21 species were reported within the Region: Black-and-white, Tennessee, Nashville, N. Parula, Yellow, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped ("Myrtle"), Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Pine (several singing at Elmira Sept. 1), Prairie, Palm, Ovenbird, Com. Yellowthroat, Wilson's, Canada, Am. Redstart.

**WEAVERS--SPARROWS**: Scarlet Tanager: a family was still feeding young at Elmira on Sept. 2. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: a flock of 40 was observed at Elmira feeding on tree seeds; a late bird at Throop Oct. 9. Indigo Bunting: one Throop Oct. 7 late. Evening Grosbeak: rather widespread reports of small numbers moving in from Oct. 25 to Nov. 15 but then they seemed to disappear. Purple Finch: reported as plentiful in Elmira but few reports from elsewhere. House Finch: this species is becoming abundant in those areas where it first became established such as Ithaca, Watkins Glen and Elmira where flocks of 20-25 birds are coming to feeders. It is now found in small numbers in much of the Region. Pine Siskin: a few reports from Oct. 8 on. Am. Goldfinch: 67 visited the Hagland feeders in Ithaca on Nov. 21. Red Crossbill: 20 Ithaca Oct. 31 only report. Sparrows: Grasshopper: at Throop until Oct. 2. Vesper: reported at five seminars this fall compared to no reports in fall 1977 and two each in 1976 and 1975; found in small numbers widely distributed in cornfields at Throop during Oct. Tree Sparrow: first reported Oct. 8 but still in small numbers only at the end of the period. Lincoln's Sparrow: seen at Throop Oct. 2 and 7. Snow Bunting: 20 MNWR Nov. 1; 20 Elmira Nov. 8 and 35-40 Nov. 14.

R.D. 2, Clyde, N.Y. 14433

## REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

The fall weather remained generally mild until November 21 when the first snow of any importance fell. Night temperatures fell to near freezing several times in early September and were often in the high 30's and low 40's before the first actual frost in late October, but were compensated for by many warm sunny days. Rainfall was about normal but did not come in the form of sharp storms.

A good wave, including 15 warbler species and three vireos, on September 2 in the Oneonta area seemed to be the beginning of an interesting migration but instead, was almost the end. Later dates were recorded for many species but the numbers were never there again and several observers, particularly banders, were disappointed. Thrushes were hardly represented in the wave on September 2 and never did make a big showing. Apparently the mild conditions allowed the migration to remain diffused and therefore unspectacular.

The seed-eaters, primarily juncos and White-throated Sparrows, were, as usual, much more conspicuous. But even with them it was more a matter of being present more or less constantly rather than the waves that sometimes seem to turn every other dead leaf into a Whitethroat. Among the winter finches only the resident Am. Goldfinch, semi-resident Purple Finch and migrant Evening Grosbeak figured at all, unless the House Finch, which continues to increase, is counted as a winter finch, too. On the basis of early returns it may be a dull winter at most feeders.

Rarities for the Region include a Snowy Egret, a European Wigeon and a Golden Eagle.

Observers: Cutler and Jeanette Baldwin (C, JB); Reynolds Bennett (RB); Mildred Clark (MC); Gail Corderman (GC); Anna and Marilyn Davis; Warren and Louise Dean; Mary Dobinsky; Sadie Dorber; Polly and Earl Getkin; Elva Hawken; Jim and Kathy Hoteling; Pauline Hovemeyer; Al and Harriet Johnson; Rachel Latcher (RL); Margaret Layton; Peter and Dorothy Martin; Leona McDowell; Bud and Evelyn Mead (B, EM); Mike and Kathy Medovitch; Robert and Rita Pantle; Jim Riley; Mary Sheffield (MS); Robert Sheffield; Ken Stalter; Elizabeth Washburn; Kathryn Wilson (KW); Tom and Beryl Wilson.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: two Whitney Point Nov. 19, the only ones. Horned Grebe: two Whitney Point Nov. 15, the only ones. Pied-billed Grebe: Oct. 7 and 14 Whitney Point. Great Blue Heron: reasonably regular reports to Nov. 15. Green Heron: Sept. 10 Emmons, near Oneonta, the last date. SNOWY EGRET: Sept. 6 Chenango Bridge (C, JB), no details. Canada Goose: first migrant Sept. 17; peak day Oct. 7 when 21 flocks counted at Apalachin and 2949 in 19 flocks counted at Choconut Center, n. of Johnson City; large flocks (200+) all Oct. and smaller flocks to at least Nov. 25. Black Duck: 12 Franklin, near Oneonta, Sept. 30 the best count for the period. EUROPEAN WIGEON: Oct. 30 Owego (RB), no details. Bufflehead: six Delhi Nov. 1, the first of only three reports. Common Merganser: Nov. 15 Whitney Point, the first fall report.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: three Damascus, e. of Binghamton, Sept. 10; last reported at Delhi Oct. 5; no reports from other areas. Goshawk: one Choconut Center Nov. 23 (MS); an undated Sept. report from Owego. Sharp-shinned Hawk: nine reports, the last Oct. 27. Cooper's Hawk: one Delhi Oct. 1 (MC); one Oct. 28 Oneonta area; no others. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Owego Oct. 29 (B, EM). Broad-winged Hawk: only a few scattered

reports in Sept.; one Oneonta Oct. 6, the last date. Rough-legged Hawk: one Oneonta area Nov. 11, the only report in the period. GOLDEN EAGLE: one Oneonta Oct. 12 (KW), "excellent view from below—sub-adult plumage." Bald Eagle: one near Fergusonville, in Oneonta area, Oct. 7 (RL). Marsh Hawk: four reports, late Sept. to Oct. 15, all from Owego-Binghamton area. Osprey: 19 reports of up to three at a time; last date Oct. 15 Damascus. Ruffed Grouse: numerous reports indicate cycle upswing after low of last few years. Ring-necked Pheasant: only four scattered reports. Turkey: two flocks of 16 and 18 birds in Owego area in Oct. American Coot: Oct. 21 Oxford, the only report. American Woodcock: one seen daily in backyards Oct. 23 to Nov. 8 Delhi. Spotted Sandpiper: four town of Milford Sept. 16, late. Solitary Sandpiper: Sept. 5 and 10 Emmons. Greater Yellowlegs: Oct. 16 Owego. Dunlin: Oct. 16 Owego. Herring Gull: Oct. 10 first fall date; 30 Owego Oct. 30 and 100 Whitney Point Nov. 15 the best counts.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** Black-billed Cuckoo: one Delhi Sept. 16, the only fall report of either cuckoo. Screech Owl: one at Owego Sept. and Oct. plus one Choconut Center Oct. 28, the only reports since Feb. Great Horned Owl: six reports, all from Oct. 30 on. Barred Owl: one Oneonta Oct. 24. Saw-whet Owl: two banded at Vestal Oct. 28 and Nov. 1 (GC). Chimney Swift: Sept. 21 Owego, the only date after Sept. 3. Pileated Woodpecker: 11 reports. Red-headed Woodpecker: Sept. Owego. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: four Oneonta area and one Owego report, all in Sept.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** Eastern Kingbird: three Richford Sept. 9, last date. Great Crested Flycatcher: Sept. 16 Owego. Eastern Phoebe: Oct. 25 Owego, last date. Least Flycatcher: Emmons Sept. 10. Eastern Wood Pewee: two Delhi Sept. 16, late. Olive-sided Flycatcher: two Choconut Center Sept. 2 and 3; Sept. 14 Owego. Tree Swallow: Oct. 11 Owego (RB). Barn Swallow: Sept. 15 Owego. Purple Martin: Sept. 8 Owego. Tufted Titmouse: two to four seen intermittently to regularly at five different Binghamton area locations; also reported from Owego in Oct. Red-breasted Nuthatch: only two reports, from Owego and Oneonta, both in Oct. House Wren: one banded Oct. 8 Vestal, last date. Winter Wren: Sept. 30 Owego; two Binghamton area and three Oneonta area reports in Oct. Carolina Wren: Oct. 13 Owego; two Vestal Oct. 18. Mockingbird: regular at three Owego sites; three Chenango Bridge Nov. 27. Gray Catbird: Oct. 15 Owego, last date. Am. Robin: flocks of 50 or more up to Nov. 11, but much thinned out by Nov. 18. Wood Thrush: regular to Sept. 16, last date Sept. 23 Owego. Hermit Thrush: one Oneonta area Sept. 2; cumulative count of ten from Oct. 8 to 15 in Vestal and Choconut Center, eight of them banded. Swainson's Thrush: five reports in Sept., the last Sept. 24. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one banded Oct. 8 Vestal, the only report. Veery: one Crumhorn, e. of Oneonta, Sept. 14, the only one. Eastern Bluebird: apparent family groups of seven to eight birds reported from Oneonta, Oxford and Owego; about a dozen other reports in Sept. and Oct.; none in Nov. Golden-crowned Kinglet: first fall date Oct. 7 Choconut Center. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: small numbers all through Sept. and Oct.; last date Nov. 11 Choconut Center. Water Pipit: 33 Oneonta area Nov. 11, no others. Cedar Waxwing: small to moderate-sized flocks (50) all period; hundreds reported Oct. 23 to 28 in both Oneonta and Binghamton areas. Northern Shrike: one Milford Nov. 18, one Oneonta Nov. 25.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Yellow-throated Vireo: last date Sept. 6 Chenango Forks. Solitary Vireo: two banded Oct. 16 Vestal, the last of the fall reports. Red-eyed Vireo: one banded Oct. 8 Vestal, the only Oct. report. Warbling Vireo: one Oneonta area Sept. 2. Black-and-white Warbler: one banded Oct. 28 Vestal, the only one after Sept. 2. Tennessee Warbler: eight Oneonta Sept. 2, few others; one banded Vestal Oct. 8, the last. Nashville Warbler: Oct. 8 Vestal, the later of only two reports after Sept. 2. Yellow Warbler: Oct. 2 Owego, the last date, after three Sept. reports; usually not reported after Aug. Magnolia Warbler: one banded Vestal Oct. 13. Cape May Warbler: eight Oneonta Sept. 2; four later reports of single birds, the last banded Oct. 6 Vestal. Black-throated Blue Warbler: four Oneonta Sept. 2; two Crumhorn Sept. 14; two banded Vestal Oct. 8. Yellow-rumped Warbler: one Oneonta Nov. 1, last date; small wave Sept. 1 to 5, larger wave Oct. 1 to 7 and

fairly numerous for the rest of Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: 25 Oneonta Sept. 2; one banded Oct. 16 Vestal, the only report after Sept. 23. Blackburnian Warbler: three Oneonta Sept. 2. Chestnut-sided Warbler: six Oneonta Sept. 2; last date Sept. 5. Bay-breasted Warbler: ten Oneonta Sept. 2; two Crumhorn Sept. 14. Blackpoll Warbler: Sept. 23 Owego, no others. Palm Warbler: Sept. 10 Owego. Ovenbird: one Vestal Oct. 3, last date after only five Sept. reports. Northern Waterthrush: one Vestal Sept. 21 and one Vestal Oct. 2, both banded but no others reported. Mourning Warbler: one Delhi Sept. 2. Com. Yellowthroat: common through Sept. 24, but Oct. 8 Chenango Forks the last of only four later reports. Wilson's Warbler: two Oneonta Sept. 2; one Delhi Sept. 27; three Oneonta and one Owego reports between. Canada Warbler: three Oneonta Sept. 2; one Delhi Oct. 15; the only ones. Am. Redstart: two Oneonta Sept. 2, the last date.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: one singing at Choconut Center Oct. 7; last date so far Nov. 18. Northern Oriole: two Oneonta Sept. 2, last date. Rusty Blackbird: Oct. 8 Choconut Center, no others. Scarlet Tanager: last date Sept. 28 Owego. Indigo Bunting Sept. 23 Owego. Evening Grosbeak: 15 Binghamton Oct. 25, the first date, although there were earlier rumors; frequent reports all Nov. even though, as expected, seldom at feeders. Purple Finch: present all period, but noticeably more common in Nov. Am. Goldfinch: common all period. Rufous-sided Towhee: none after Oct. 23 Owego. Savannah Sparrow: four Portlandville Sept. 16, the only fall report. Vesper Sparrow: two Portlandville Sept. 16, that's all. Dark-eyed Junco: large numbers of migrants from Oct. 14. Tree Sparrow: Oct. 20 Delhi; Oct. 29 Owego; regular reports all Nov. but never too common. Chipping Sparrow: Nov. 4 Delhi, last date. White-crowned Sparrow: Oct. 1 to Oct. 29 Delhi, a max. of eight at one time; one Nov. 9 Chenango Bridge the only later report. White-throated Sparrow: regular reports from Sept. 23 to the end of the period, becoming steadily more common until mid-Nov. Fox Sparrow: Oct. 9 Owego; two Oneonta Oct. 28; three Vestal Center Oct. 29; that's all. Lincoln's Sparrow: Sept. 23 Candor; one Vestal Oct. 8.

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## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL DeBENEDICTIS

Notwithstanding some cold November temperatures, the Fall of 1978 was relatively mild, especially compared to the two previous winters. The most outstanding weather feature was the virtual absence of strong frontal systems that bring northwest gales accompanied by grounded migrants inland and waterbird flights along Lake Ontario. Given the consistently gentle passage of fronts, most migrants seemed to pass over the Region, as evidenced by several nights punctuated by frequent thrush, grosbeak, and warbler calls during the last half of September, when land bird counts were quite low. D. W. Crumb had only one good warbler day (Oct. 3) in Pompey, and no one had a really outstanding day for land birds anywhere along Lake Ontario. Similarly, the only spectacular water bird passage was on the weekend of Oct. 7-8, marked more by the rarities seen than by the totals of birds counted.

Berry and cone (especially spruce) crops were plentiful, perhaps allowing some species to remain away from feeders, but virtually nothing appeared to be taking advantage of this bounty. Jays, chickadees, nuthatches, robins, waxwings

and carduline finches were present in average numbers. Only a few local rodent populations seemed to be high, and migrating raptors (especially Rough-legged Hawks and Snowy Owls) and Northern Shrikes, although seen in good numbers during normal passage dates, did not persist into the early winter.

Observers were unanimous that the Fall of 1978 was one of the duller in years as far as numbers of birds goes. Grebes were uniformly scarce, and neither white herons nor night herons were found this season. Waterfowl were very scarce, only three species producing counts above 1000/day. While some very unusual shorebird records were obtained, there were no really exceptional counts of any species and late-migrating species were uniformly scarce. Sparrows, especially the half-hardies that enliven one's feeder during the early winter, were also conspicuous by their absence.

On a positive note, both loons, cormorants and Ruddy Ducks were present in exceptionally good numbers. Although the Verona hawk lookout again missed a Broad-wing flight, fair numbers of other species were seen there and along Lake Ontario; Merlin numbers were very encouraging. The best rarities of the season were Piping Plover and Marbled Godwit from Oneida Lake, and a belated report adds Common Raven to the list of species proven to nest within the Region. Lesser rarities included Mute Swan, Hudsonian Godwit, Whimbrel, Purple Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Parasitic Jaeger, Little Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake and Connecticut Warbler, all of which helped to push the number of species reported this season to a respectable total of about 227.

Contributors: D. Ackley, P. S. Bishop, Jr., G. Church. K. & S. Coyle, D. W. Crumb, B. & D. DeSimone, B. & S. Peebles, M. S. Rusk, F. G. Scheider, G. A. Smith, M. Stooks.

Abbreviations: DH—Derby Hill; LSB—Little Sodus Bay & vicinity, near Fair Haven; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral in Oswego Co.; max—maximum; NPT—northern Pompey township; NYSARC—report submitted to New York State Avian Records Committee; Onon—Onondaga; SB—Sylvan Beach; SP—Sandy Pond; Syr—Syracuse. Dates are all month/date.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon arrived 9/15 SP, max 232 LOL 11/30. Red-throated Loon: best showing years, 10/2 to 11/19, max 16 LOL 10/29 (FGS); single Hatch Lake 11/9 (Church) was only report away from Lake Ontario. Double-crested Cormorant: noted regularly throughout the season LOL, max 52 SP 9/4 (FGS); 12 Oneida Lake 9/6 (DeSimones) is a good count away from Lake Ontario. Whistling Swan: six Bridgeport 11/21 through end of season. Mute Swan: single 11/18 Oneida Lake (C. G. Spies, *fide* MSR). Canada Goose: max 7800 SP 9/30. Brant: total of about 600 only noted between 10/19 and 11/11, all LOL, No scaup counts above 250, very low! Oldsquaw: max 1040 DH 11/18 (GWS), only count above 300. Scoters: max counts only about 100/day, 102 White-winged at Woodman Pond (Church) 10/16 the only exceptional report. Ruddy Duck: 92 Beaver Lake plus 32 Onon. Lake 11/16 (FGS) was a welcome exception to the general scarcity of waterfowl. Red-breasted Merganser: max 1800 LSB 11/11 was the only merganser count above 1000/day.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Totals for Verona Lookout (55 hrs. on 22 days, Peebles): Goshawk: one; Sharp-shinned: 187; Cooper's Hawk: eight; Red-tailed Hawk: 75; Red-shouldered Hawk: two; Broad-winged Hawk: 346; Rough-legged Hawk: one; Marsh Hawk: 17; Osprey: 17; Peregrine Falcon: one; Am. Kestrel: 146; unidentified: 46. Elsewhere only one each of Goshawk and Red-shouldered Hawk reported. Rough-legged Hawk in moderate numbers (to 22/day) LOL following 9/30 but few persisted to end of season. Five imm Bald Eagles (one wing-tagged, SP 19/30 (FGS)), a total of seven Merlins, and single Peregrine Falcons LOL 10/8 and 11/5 were encouraging. PIPING PLOVER: adult, SB 10/3-15 (Ackley, mob,

NYSARC), first modern record from Oneida Lake. American Golden Plover: a handful 9/7 to 9/20 (very early departure), max seven/day. Whimbrel: only report one SP 9/4 (FGS) Hudsonian Godwit: singles 10/8 SB (Ackley) and SP 10/29-11/4 (FGS). MARBLED GODWIT: one SB 9/19-10/17 (mob, NYSARC), third Regional report. Red Knot: more than 30 individuals of a species sometimes missed entirely in fall were reported this season, max 11 SB in late October. Pectoral Sandpiper: max only 35 SB 9/15. White-rumped Sandpiper: about a dozen reported, last 11/9 SB, more than in the last three years but not exceptional. Baird's Sandpiper: good numbers early Sept. max seven Onon. Lake 9/3, last four SP 10/30. Purple Sandpiper: only report one LSB 11/16 (FGS). Dunlin: arrived 9/19 SB, max only 33 LOL 10/29, last 11/19 SP. Western Sandpiper: only report one Onon. Lake 9/4 (FGS). Sanderling: max only 41 SP, last 11/19 SP. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: only report one SP 9/7 (FGS). Red Phalarope: three LOL late November were the only phalaropes reported this season. Parasitic Jaeger: total of 17 reported between 10/6 and 11/19, max 15 (morning only!) DH 10/7 (FGS). White-winged gulls scarce, only one Glaucous and two Iceland noted by end of period. An adult Little Gull SP 9/17 (R. Long) and Black-legged Kittiwake: two imm 10/7 (FGS) and one imm 11/18 (GAS), both DH, were the only rare gulls reported. Common Tern: last 9/21 SP, early departure. Forster's Tern: only report: one SP 9/23 (FGS).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Sole cuckoo reported was a Black-billed, SP 9/14. About 10-12 Snowy Owls reported after 10/29, none persisting more than a day. Common Nighthawk: last 9/1, Syr., early departure. Chimney Swift: last 9/19 SB. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last 9/16 SP. Total of four Red-headed Woodpeckers reported, last 11/5 NPT. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: only about 30 migrants reported all Fall.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: last 9/7 SP, early departure. Great Crested Flycatcher: last 9/10 SP, early departure. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: only two reported, last 9/7 SP, early departure. No Rough-winged Swallows reported. Barn Swallow: last 9/25 LSB, early departure. Common Crow: max 350 LOL 10/22. COMMON RAVEN: nesting proven northern Herkimer Co. during April 1978 (P. S. Bishop, Jr.). Only three Tufted Titmice reported. Winter Wren: arr 9/16 SP, max 13 LOL 10/8, still scarce. Sole Carolina Wren at Oneida Lake 11/5-19. Wood Thrush: last 10/22 Syr. (MSR), late. Hermit Thrush: arr 9/7 SP, max 17 LOL 10/6, last 11/5 NPT. Swainson's Thrush: last 10/11 LOL. Gray-cheeked Thrush: only three reported. Veery: last 9/15 SB. E. Bluebird: total of 11 individuals reported, all south and east of Oneida Lake during October. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr 9/21 SP, max only 35 SP 10/8, Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 9/14 SP, max only 80 SP 10/8, last 11/12 SP. Water Pipit: arr 9/14, max 200 on 9/18, last 11/11, all SP. No Loggerhead Shrikes reported. N. Shrike: about 14 individuals reported after 10/22.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Maxima in general very low (less than 15/day) but departure dates were seldom exceptional. Yellow-throated Vireo: last 10/1 LOL. Red-eyed Vireo: last Syr. 10/25 (MSR), late. Golden-winged Warbler: only report 9/3 NPT. Tennessee Warbler: no counts above 15/day, last 10/16 NPT. Orange-crowned Warbler: only five reported, all in second week of October. Nashville Warbler: last 10/25 Clay Marsh, late. Magnolia Warbler: max 23 SP 9/21, last 10/15 NPT. Cape May Warbler: no counts above 4/day, last 10/5 NPT. "Myrtle" Warbler: max 464 NPT 10/3, last 11/16 NPT. Black-throated Green Warbler: max 57 NPT 10/3, last 10/16, both NPT. Bay-breasted Warbler: max 37 LOL 9/1, last 10/12 Syr. (MSR). Blackpoll Warbler: no counts above 10/day, last 10/29 NPT (DWC). Pine Warbler: max six (high) LOL 9/14 (FGS), last 10/6 SP. Ovenbird: last 9/18 SP, early departure. Mourning Warbler: only three reported, last 9/16 SP. Connecticut Warbler: one found dead SUNY Oswego 8/30 (GAS), another NPT 10/3-4 (DWC). Hooded Warbler: five reported, last 9/24 LSB. Canada Warbler: last 9/10 SP, early departure. American Redstart: last 9/21 SP, early departure.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: last 9/19 Onon. Lake, early departure. No large icterid flights detected, highest single day total about 10,000 Red-wings. Northern Oriole: only three reported, last 9/4 SP. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last 10/5 NPT, then a male at Chit-

tenango 11/22 to end of season. Evening Grosbeak: passage between mid-October and mid-November, max about 65/day, virtually none persisted at end of period. Pine Grosbeak: single NPT 11/29 (DWC). Common Redpoll: single DH 11/4 (FGS) and 6 Oneida 11/28 (Peebles) were the only reports. Pine Siskin: first 10/1 LOL, never more than 10/day. Crossbill sp.: only one report. Dark-eyed Junco: max 350 NPT 10/23. Tree Sparrow: first 10/23 (late) NPT, no counts above 25/day! White-crowned Sparrow: arr 9/23 SP, max 112 Lysander township 10/10, last 11/15 LSB. White-throated Sparrow: max 450 LOL. Fox Sparrow: first 10/6 SP, last 11/5 NPT, no counts above 10/day. Lincoln's Sparrow: first 9/15 LSB, last 10/10 Onon. Lake, no counts above 5/day. Lapland Longspur: first 9/21, max seven on 10/22, last 11/19, all SP. Snow Bunting: first 10/12, max 200 on 11/19, SP.

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## REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

LEE CHAMBERLAINE

Fall was a continuation of the summer. The drought carried on through the period. Lake Ontario levels continued to drop to very, very low levels which made for excellent shorebirding. The extreme dryness of summer was brought home by the numbers of red cedar and hardwoods which were killed on shallow soil areas such as Stony Point and El Dorado. Wild food crops were the heaviest seen in many years. Mountain ash, apple, fox grapes, thorn apple and wild raisin were heavily laden with fruit. Cedar Waxwings spent weeks in large mountain ash trees gorging themselves while Tartarian honeysuckle flowers bloomed way into October. October's weather was a mixed bag of snow flurries on the 8th and temperatures as low as 19° F. on the 16th. On the 22nd of October a heat wave with 74° F. was recorded, followed by a cold front the following day. November was similar to October and the most snow was about three inches on November 27 with slightly more at the higher elevations on Tug Hill and the Adirondack portions of the Region. Most small marshes and all large water bodies remained open through the period with formation of only rim ice.

Highlights for the period, and there were many, would be Whistling Swans, Canada Geese in unprecedented numbers and some good observations on Brant. Pied-billed Grebes still remain in trouble. Waterfowl had their ups and downs. Scaup were up and came early with other divers appearing to be down. Probably the open water and low water levels placed birds at different feeding areas and scattered. An adult Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon as well as more than adequate shorebirds along the Lake Ontario shore made it difficult to do any Tug Hill birding. A second regional record and first El Dorado record was set on September 30 when a Marbled Godwit was seen by members of the Central New York Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Snowy Owls showed up early in November and Northern Shrikes in late October. Yellow-rumped Warblers and Dark-eyed Juncos were superabundant. Winter Finches were encouraging at first and then never developed. The Watertown House Finches visited many feeders in the Watertown area. White-crowned Sparrows were up, but moved through more rapidly than usual. Some species still remain in reduced numbers in Hen-



derson and vicinity, but in normal numbers east and into the Tug Hill Plateau. Perhaps the drought conditions along Lake Ontario which were more severe than the higher plateau account for this difference.

Contributors: Dick Brouse; Stewart Brown; Stuart Cameron; Central N.Y. Chapter of the Nature Conservancy; Lee Chamberlaine; Frank Clinch; Kenneth Crowell; Charles Devan; Diane Emord; Genesee Ornithological Society; Florence Linaberry; Laura and Neil Moon; Michael Murphy; Marge Rusk; Jerry Safer; Robert and Susah Spahn; Chris Spies; Bob and June Walker and Elizabeth Williams.

**LOONS-DUCKS:** Com. Loon: Oct. 28 Raquette R.; one Three Mile Pt. Oct. 29; one Henderson Harbor Nov. 6; five Henderson Harbor Nov. 7; more than usual on Lake Ontario. Horned Grebe: five Henderson Harbor Nov. 6; four same Nov. 7. Pied-billed Grebe; few reported—one Lakeview Sept. 9; 20+ same Oct. 25; only reports. Double-crested Cormorant: two El Dorado Sept. 9; 50+ mostly young of year Bass I. Henderson Harbor Sept. 23. Great Blue Heron: an excellent year-through period. Whistling Swan: one Perch R. Oct. 10 (Charles Devan); 18 Guffin Bay Nov. 19 (Bob & June Walker)—more than normal numbers. Canada Goose: unprecedented numbers—migration started in early Sept.—still thousands in Jefferson Co. at end of period—very heavy migration Oct. 28. Brant: 250+ in three flocks over Perch R. Oct. 10; 200+ in two flocks Perch R. Oct. 25 (C. Devan)—both groups following Perch R. drainage to Lake Ontario—we probably have more of this than we realize since they move thru our area rapidly. Snow Goose: white morphs, only one El Dorado Sept. 30 (The Nature Conservancy hereafter TNC); seven Perch R. Oct. 2; three Henderson Oct. 4. Mallard: numbers down from previous years—dry summer? Black Duck: migrants in fair numbers. Gadwall: fairly common at Perch R. this fall; ten El Dorado Nov. 10. Pintail: probably more common at Perch R. than in past few years—we normally see more in spring. Green-winged Teal: good numbers. Blue-winged Teal: excellent numbers, a few into late Nov.; 200+ Sept. 23 Henderson Harbor. Am. Wigeon: very common at Perch R. N. Shoveler: a few at Perch R.—shows up sporadically there. Wood Duck: numbers way up—more than ever—evidently an excellent production year. Redhead: some improvement although slight. Ring-necked Duck: majority moved through early—not in normal numbers? Canvasback: some improvement as with the Redhead. Greater Scaup: ten to fifteen thousand in Black River Bay and vicinity Oct. 29 (Dick Brouse); large rafts thru Nov. in open waters. Lesser Scaup: a few at Wilson Hill and Perch R. Com. Goldeneye: not in usual numbers—maybe not bunched due to open water conditions? Bufflehead: not in normal numbers. Oldsquaw: not in normal numbers; 70 El Dorado Nov. 10. White-winged Scoter: six Henderson Harbor Oct. 15. Surf Scoter: one El Dorado (Walkers). Black Scoter: 18 El Dorado (Walkers). Ruddy Duck: none reported. Hooded Merganser: a few at Perch R.—a species we need more information on. Com. Merganser: not in normal numbers. Red-breasted Merganser: about normal numbers—three Henderson Harbor Nov. 6.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: thru to mid-Oct.—becoming more common. Goshawk: one Stony Point Oct. 25. Sharp-shinned: one El Dorado Sept. 9 (Genesee Ornithological Society, hereafter GOS); one El Dorado Sept. 30 (TNC). Cooper's Hawk: none reported. Red-tailed Hawk: 20+ small kettle Perch R. Oct. 29 (Stew Brown). Red-shouldered Hawk: none reported. Broad-winged Hawk: about normal numbers. Rough-legged Hawk: first one dark phase Lorraine Oct. 30; one Chaumont Oct. 29; one Henderson Nov. 10; one New Boston-Tug Hill Plateau Nov. 11; lesser numbers toward end of Nov. **BALD EAGLE:** one adult El Dorado Sept. 3 (Robert & Susan Spahn); one imm Wilson Hill Sept. 30 (Michael Murphy)—Montezuma hacked bird? Marsh Hawk: two Lakeview Sept. 9 (GOS); two Jefferson Co. line to Ogdensburg Sept. 30; two Lakeview Nov. 13; one male Nov. 20 Henderson; one male Chaumont Nov. 26; improving. Osprey: one El Dorado Sept. 24 (D. Brouse). **PEREGRINE FALCON:** one El Dorado Sept. 9 (GOS, Neil & Laura Moon) seen swooping at shorebird and over head, made pass about ten minutes later about two feet above water at full speed—good views—no indications of a released bird either U.S. or Canadian. Merlin:

none reported and yet I cannot help but feel we get them through more than we realize. Am. Kestrel: good numbers although late Nov. numbers below normal. Ruffed Grouse: numbers still high for third year in a row—up to ten birds per day afield in Tug Hill transition—Barnes Corners. Ring-necked Pheasant: DEC releases in Sept.—locally produced birds all but gone. Gray Partridge: holding its own and perhaps a little improvement—more small grain plantings than previous four years. Turkey: a few reports from Fort Drum releases of young—not confirmed—next report should provide a better idea of production. Semipalmated Plover: good numbers particularly at El Dorado—seven there Sept. 9 (GOS); a few Sept. 24. Ruddy Turnstone: one El Dorado Sept. 9; two same Sept. 10; two same Sept. 30. Am. Woodcock: about normal numbers. Lesser Yellowlegs: one El Dorado Sept. 9 and 10. Pectoral Sandpiper: four El Dorado Nov. 10. Least Sandpiper: one El Dorado Sept. 10 (Marge Rusk). Dunlin: ten El Dorado Sept. 30; 22 El Dorado Nov. 10. Short-billed Dowitcher: seven El Dorado Sept. 9 (GOS), one with only one eye—other eye covered by warty growth or ruptured—evidently little handicap. Semipalmated Sandpiper: ten El Dorado Sept. 9; 10 Sept. 30. **MARLED GODWIT**: one El Dorado Sept. 30 (TNC, Jerry Safer & Florence Linaberry)—first record for El Dorado and second for Region—previous record was a spring sighting along St. Lawrence R. Sanderling: seven El Dorado Sept. 9; 15 same Sept. 30. Great Black-backed Gull: first El Dorado Sept. 9; increasing on Lake and St. Lawrence R. Herring Gull: seems to be down? Ring-billed Gull: more birds around later—open water conditions. Bonaparte's Gull: 11 El Dorado Sept. 9 (GOS); one same Sept. 30 (TNC). Common Tern: one El Dorado Sept. 9. Caspian Tern: two El Dorado Sept. 9; three same Sept. 10.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS**: Mourning Dove: numbers down—two bad winters—about seven in Henderson area end of period; few at other locations—individuals or small groups—no large fall flocks. Screech Owl: none reported—not heard in Henderson area. Great Horned Owl: thru—more common? Snowy Owl: more reports than last year at same time—invasion year? First Nov. 6 at Robt. Moses Power Dam—injured—eventually died; one Perch R. Nov. 19; two Nov. 26, one at Long Point and one Sherwin's Bay Marsh. Short-eared Owl: looked for but not found within period. Belted Kingfisher: thru period. Com. Flicker: thru. Pileated Woodpecker: thru but sporadic—may be increasing? Red-headed Woodpecker: none reported. Hairy Woodpecker: a slight improvement but still down in Henderson area. Downy Woodpecker: improved—more in Henderson area than Hairy.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS**: E. Phoebe: one El Dorado Sept. 9 (GOS). Horned Lark: a few but nowhere near previous numbers; over head Perch R. Oct. 28. Tree Swallow: flocks feeding along Black R. on Oct. 8—snow flurries occurred on this date in the a.m. Barn Swallow: last seen Oct. 8. Blue Jay: numbers up on Lake Ontario plain. Common Crow: heavy movements along Lake Ontario shore noted on Oct. 3 200+, Oct. 8 and Oct. 13 hundreds; St. Lawrence Co. 500 on Oct. 27. Black-capped Chickadee: not in normal numbers in Henderson area—dry spell carry over? White-breasted Nuthatch: not in normal numbers Henderson—normal numbers on Tug Hill and east of Henderson. Red-breasted Nuthatch: not seen in numbers along Lake Ontario; six Barnes Corners Oct. 31, three same Nov. 11. Brown Creeper: three in with above nuthatches. **MOCKINGBIRD**: coming to feeder of Dorothy Nagle from mid-Nov. thru. Am. Robin: first heavy migration noted on Sept. 9 Henderson; four Oct. 30; 35 Nov. 6. Wood Thrush: two near Theresa Oct. 8. E. Bluebird: eight Canton-Pierrepont Sept. 12; four same Sept. 16 and 28; two same Oct. 1 and 11 (Kenneth Crowell); one Perch R. Oct. 29; four Perch R. first week in Nov.; most reported in a long time—encouraging. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: two Oct. 15; did not see along Lake Ontario plain in usual fall numbers. Cedar Waxwing: in flocks on mountain ash trees thru. No. Shrike: first in St. Lawrence Co. Oct. 28; first in Jefferson-Perch R. Oct. 29; one imm New Boston Nov. 11.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS**: Tennessee Warbler: Oct. 1 Canton-Pierrepont (Kenneth Crowell) normally not reported. Yellow-rumped Warbler: superabundant in Oct.—everywhere.

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS**: E. Meadowlark: last Oct. 15. Red-winged Blackbird: last big

push in numbers Oct. 28. Com. Grackle: in with preceding species same date. Brown-headed Cowbird: almost nonexistent in Henderson; 30 Nov. 1 Canton vicinity. Cardinal: none in Henderson as usual in fall. Evening Grosbeak: five Henderson Oct. 25; Perch R. over head Oct. 29 & 30; 25 New Boston-Tug Hill Nov. 11; more common at higher elevations. Purple Finch: in small groups six to ten thru. HOUSE FINCH: scattered at feeders in Watertown—south central portion of city. Pine Siskin: only one report—one individual on Oct. 30 Tug Hill Plateau portion Jefferson Co. Am. Goldfinch: small scattered flocks thru. Rufous-sided Towhee: last one Oct. 6 Henderson. Dark-eyed Junco: another superabundant species in Oct.; 400+ Oct. 15. Tree Sparrow: first on Nov. 3; very few and far between even at end of period. White-crowned Sparrow: more rapid movement thru area and in greater numbers than normal—peak about Oct. 15; last Oct. 22. White-throated Sparrow: heaviest movement thru area in early Oct., a few around into Nov. Snow Bunting: a few around but not in normal numbers.

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## REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

October brought some snow, especially to the mountains, but much of it soon melted. As a whole this was an exceptionally mild fall season with at least the streams remaining open thru the period. Lakes in the Paul Smiths area were freezing over about November 22. This meant more Black Ducks, Mallards, and Canada Geese lingered into November than during recent more severe winters. The open streams held a few Black and Wood Ducks even after the still waters were frozen.

Low lake levels at Lake Champlain exposed the shorebird flats and many observers took advantage of the situation. Charlcie Delehanty's Western Grebe stayed until October 7. High Peaks Audubon Newsletter notes that member Bill Lee heard a report of a Western Grebe in early November in the harbor in New Haven, Conn. This may have been the same bird.

Abbreviations: E'town—Elizabethtown; Hamilton—southern Hamilton Co.; Tupper—Tupper lake area.

Observers: Deborah Anson, Geoffrey Carleton, Charlcie Delehanty, Bruno & Dee DeSimone, Harold & Laura Haglund, Courtney Jones, Dorothy McIlroy, Robert McKinney, Esther Ann Macready, Norman Mason, Marilyn Massaro, John Parke, John "Mike" Peterson, William Peterson, Terina Russell, William Rutherford, Pat Tabor, Don Timmons, Jan Timmons.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: DMC reports one three-fourths grown being fed three times in a half-hour by the adults on Sept. 6 at Sand Lake near Piseco. She also saw one young and one adult at Buckhorn Lake Sept. 7 on the Northville-Placid Trail. CD had two at Tupper until Nov. 22. Red-throated Loon: four at Tupper on Sept. 29 (CD). Red-necked Grebe: one NW Bay Nov. 5 (DA, JP). Horned Grebe began to build in numbers at Champlain from Nov. 4. A Great Blue Heron was still at Ray Brook Nov. 9 (MM). First Canada Geese were at Essex Sept. 18 (JPa). 125 Snow Geese flew by Coot Hill Hawk Lookout Oct. 3 (EM, JP) and a few reported later from Lake Champlain. Four Blue-winged Teal at Westport Oct.

22 (JP, DT, JT) were late. Six Wood Ducks were on Fiddler's Lake near Piseco on Sept. 9 (DMc). There were 15 Bufflehead and two Oldsquaw Oct. 29 and 24 respectively at Tupper (CD). A male White-winged Scoter was on Lake Pleasant Sept. 17 (H&LH). A lot of Hooded Mergansers were seen with a max of nine at Tupper Nov. 22 (CD).

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** A late Turkey Vulture was headed south at Wadhams Nov. 8 (EM, JP). Sharp-shinned Hawk: two Hamilton Sept. 4 (B&DDeS): one Belfrey Mtn. Sept. 13 (JP); five same place Sept. 16 (JP); one banded by JP Oct. 4 when it chased a White-crowned Sparrow into a mist net at E'town. Two Goshawks were at Paul Smiths; one Belfrey Mtn. Sept. 16 (JP) and one seen at Westport being bombed by a Bonaparte's Gull on Nov. 5 (DA, JP). An Oct. 17 Rough-legged Hawk seen by Pat Tabor at Westport was more than a week earlier than the standing early date. Bald Eagle: Beekmantown High School Outing Club saw an adult Sept. 16 over Street Mtn. One (adult?) at NW Bay early Oct. (CJ). Marsh Hawk: one at Tupper Sept. 9 and Oct. 9 (CD); one Essex Oct. 5 (JPa) and one the same day at E'town (GC). An Osprey was at Lake Pleasant Sept. 15 (H&LH). CD had one at Tupper Sept. 28 and Oct. 8; NM saw one at Jay Oct. 8. Ana Dumois saw two similar birds at North Hudson Sept. 17. One was seen with 9 x 35 binoculars, perched, at a distance of 80 feet. Moustache was plainly seen and "belly with faintly brown stripes seems to me to indicate a very young bird": a Peregrine Falcon. On Oct. 8 Gary Randorf picked up a road-killed Peregrine Falcon at North Hudson which was then sent to Cornell University by Mike Peterson and Gary. The Endangered Species Unit of DEC has the bird which was confirmed by those involved to be the arctic subspecies, *tundrius*. This is the third specimen for New York State according to High Peaks Audubon Newsletter. Ring-necked Pheasants were released and turned up in some unlikely places. A Semipalmated Plover was at Westport Sept. 1 (EM, JP). A number of late Black-bellied Plovers were reported. One was at Paul Smiths with two Semipalmated Sandpipers on Oct. 23. The latest was one Nov. 5 at NW Bay (DA, JP). A late Am. Woodcock was at Tupper Nov. 8 (CD). Seven Upland Sandpipers were at Essex Aug. 26-27 (DN). 15 Pectoral Sandpipers were with 15 White-rumped Sandpipers Oct. 21 at Bulwagga Bay (JP, DT, JT). Nine of the latter stayed to Nov. 1 on which date there were four Dunlin there.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** An early Snowy Owl was at Whallon's Bay Oct. 19 (JPa) and the same observer saw a Long-eared Owl Sept. 20 at Essex. CS had a Common Nighthawk at Whallonsburg Sept. 1. RMc noted a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker Sept. 30 at Big Slide Mtn. and another Nov. 5 at Indian Lake.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** RMc saw one lone Horned Lark at the sawdust pile from a long defunct sawmill in a heavily forested area at Indian Lake in Nov. Apparently this was the only semi-suitable resting spot for weary larkdom in miles of forest. Such unexpected finds are fun. Four Eastern Bluebirds were at Paul Smiths Oct. 1 (WR). Two Water Pipits were at Westport Sept. 30 (JP, WP). This has been a good Northern Shrike year. JP has banded three. One chased an exhausted migrant Eastern Meadowlark into a yard at Paul Smiths on Oct. 22. Another was at Tupper Nov. 12 on the same perch one occupied the previous year (CD). Carole Slatkin had an Am. Goldfinch banded at Whallonsburg June 19, 1978 killed there Nov. 19 by a Northern Shrike.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Geoffrey Carleton saw a Yellow-throated Vireo and a Philadelphia Vireo Sept. 28 at Westport among a flock of feeding migrants. Both are regional rarities. Red-eyed Vireos were reported as calling everywhere at Tupper the first week of Sept. Dorothy McIlroy found a group of migrants in a mountain saddle near Piseco on Sept. 8. These included a Brown Creeper, three sapsuckers, an Am. Redstart, four Black-throated Blue Warblers, and one each Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Bay-breasted Warblers; a varied group for sure. JP found the best warbler at E'town Oct. 12 when he found an Orange-crowned. He notes that there are now one spring and four fall records for Essex Co. Phil Warren had one last year at Plattsburgh in Clinton Co. on Nov. 15 so they should be looked for along the lake in fall. GC saw a Wilson's Warbler at E'town Sept. 30.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Everyone saw Rusty Blackbirds as fall migrants even if summer residents seemed elusive at times. Common Grackle numbers built up to a maximum of 300 at Tupper Oct. 28 (CD) who also reports a female Cardinal at her feeder and a pair that raised one young at another feeder location in Tupper. Evening Grosbeak: 200+ Indian Lake Nov. 12 (RMc); 65 at Tupper Nov. 16 (CD). This indicates that sunflower seed sellers may have a big season. Purple Finch: six Tupper Oct. 15 (CD). Pine Grosbeak: ten Indian Lake Nov. 12 (RMc); a few Paul Smiths mid-Nov. Pine Siskin: 16 Tupper Oct. 14 (CD); ten Hamilton Nov. 4 (B & D DeS), 40 Paul Smiths Nov. 10. Red Crossbill: small flocks at Paul Smiths mid-Sept. but none since. Rufous-sided Towhee: two Hamilton Sept. 4 (B & D DeS); two pair Tupper Oct. 9 (CD). They are extremely local in much of the inland area because of the heavy forest cover. They are more readily found in the farm areas out of the mountains. Vesper Sparrow: seven Paul Smiths Oct. 1 (WR); one Westport Oct. 10 (GC). Fox Sparrow: one E'town Oct. 1 (EM, JP, WP, TR); one Tupper Oct. 15; one Hamilton Oct. 21 (B & D DeS); one E'town (EM, JP); Snow Bunting: three early arrivals Oct. 19 at Newcomb (WC) and at Westport beach they could be seen from Oct. 22. 45 were on a mudflat at Lower St. Regis Lake at Paul Smiths on Oct. 24.

Paul Smiths, N.Y. 12970

## REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

RICHARD P. GUTHRIE

Oh, what an awfully orderly autumn we suffered this year! Temperatures were well above normal throughout the period. No major storms swept through the area and precipitation was well below normal. Blue skies, bright colors and balmy temperatures meant three months of Indian summer! The migrants enjoyed the season also. They all passed through "on schedule" with a nice even flow. There were no significant peak days, nor delays. These close-to-ideal conditions make the risky semi-annual task of migration far less hazardous for the birds involved. For the birders, it was a case of "Now you see them—now you don't."

Favorable signs from the reports received include an early return of the "white-winged" gulls, apparent population surge and range expansion of Tufted Titmouse, and very high numbers of Swainson's Thrush and Tennessee Warbler. Negative trends are, for the most part, less recognizable, *i.e.*, Warbling Vireo. A few, however are rather dramatic and conspicuous. For example, there has been a sharp decrease in the House Finch numbers. Has the species exceeded its carrying capacity with natural forces now controlling the population size? Other minuses include the continued decline of the Ring-necked Pheasant and the almost complete disappearance of the Bobwhite. We may also be experiencing the beginning of the decline phase of the Ruffed Grouse population cycle, if there is such a thing in New York. There were only a few shorebird reports, but those were interesting. There has also been a shortage of waterfowl reports. Despite all the fine weather, apparently few birders ventured out to Saratoga Lake, Lake George, Sacandaga Reservoir or other fine waterfowl areas or were too dazzled by the fall foliage to count the ducks.

Highlights of the season were a very late Snowy Egret, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Phalarope, and Boreal Chickadee.

Observers include: Ken Able; Dean Amadon; Vern Bingman; Arlene & Tom Brown; Paul Connor; Juanita Cook; Rena Dodd; Kate Dunham; Peter Feinberg; Barbara & Hugh Gardina; Will Gergits; Elisabeth Grace; Richard Guthrie; Paul Kerlinger; H. Knight; Carolyn & Ron LaForce; Arthur Long; E. Mansell; Bob Marx; M. Mickle; Stephen Popper; R. Ramonowski; Marge Rusk; Bob Snell; C. Tepper; M. & W. Ulmer and Robert Yunick.

Abbreviations used here are: TomRes—Tomhannock Reservoir; SL—Saratoga Lake; HR—Hudson River; NB—New Baltimore; ColCo—Columbia County.

**LOONS—DUCKS:** Common Loon: Sept. 9 thru Oct. 15; incl. ten on Galway L. Oct. 12. Red-necked Grebe: one SL Nov. 11; Oct. 27 Old Pond ColCo (MM). Horned Grebe: three SL Nov. 11 only report. Pied-billed Grebe: one Beavertown Pond, Austerlitz (MM). Great Blue Heron: numerous reports thru to mid-Nov. Green Heron: often heard flying over at night thru Sept. (PC); present on HR till Oct. 24. Great Egret: one on the unusual date of Oct. 1 at HR (JC). **SNOWY EGRET:** one on the unprecedented late date of Oct. 1 along the HR (RR & JC). American Bittern: only report TomRes Oct. 15. Snow Goose: mid-Oct. thru mid-Nov. HR & Ohm's Pond. Mallard: max 285 HR vic. Castleton (PC). Black Duck: max 140 same area as last species (PC). Pintail: only report, Old Pond Oct. 27 (MM). Green-winged Teal: max 30 Staats Isl. (PC). Blue-winged Teal: thru Oct. 15 Tom Res. American Wigeon: only report Oct. 27 Beebe Pond (MM). Redhead: Oct. 27 thru Nov. 16 (JC). Ring-necked Duck: Old Pond Oct. 27 (MM). Com. Goldeneye: 50 SL Nov. 11. Bufflehead: Oct. 27 thru Nov. 11; 20 SL. Oldsquaw: one SL Nov. 11, only report. White-winged Scoter: Nov. 11 SL. Surf Scoter: Nov. 4 to Nov. 11 SL. Black Scoter: 40 TomRes Oct. 15. Ruddy Duck: Nov. 11 SL. Hooded Merganser: a few ColCo reports mid-Oct. to mid-Nov. Com. Merganser: Oct. 15 thru. Red-breasted Merganser: Ohm's Pond Nov. 12 (MM).

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: regular in migration over Pinnacle hawk watch thru Oct. 15. Goshawk: 22 over Pinnacle; early Sept.-Nov. 1; two Cambridge Nov. 27; three other reports. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 164 reports, mostly from Pinnacle; max 32 Sept. 17. Cooper's Hawk: 13 reports, again mostly from Pinnacle. Red-tailed Hawk: 257 reports; max 60 Oct. 29 Pinnacle. Red-shouldered Hawk: 22 reports; max 6 Oct. 15 Pinnacle. Broad-winged Hawk: most numerous reported raptor; max 142 Sept. 17 Pinnacle; no Oct. reports. Rough-legged Hawk: a few arrived early; three reports before mid-Oct.; otherwise scarce thru period. **BALD EAGLE:** what may be the same individual was one adult seen Sept. 6 at Albany, Pine Bush and again Sept. 7 at Pinnacle (CT, AL, PK & VB). Another adult was seen at Pinnacle Oct. 15. Marsh Hawk: 14 reports, Sept. 6 thru period. Osprey: well reported; 12 Pinnacle Sept. 5 thru Oct. 15; 15 other reports thru Nov. 16 (late). **PEREGRINE FALCON:** one each Sept. 17 and Oct. 7 at Berne (KA & SP). Merlin: one Pinnacle Oct. 15 (PK). American Kestrel: rather light, only 50 reported and only from the Helderbergs. Perhaps folks are just taking them for granted and not bothering to keep records on them. Ruffed Grouse: not many reports; numbers down? Ring-necked Pheasant: No reports! Common Gallinule: one Sept. 1 Castleton (JC). American Coot: 25 Castleton Nov. 16 (JC). American Woodcock: interesting report of one in apparent courtship type performance over Pine Bush in Albany Sept. 13 (PC). Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs: both at Tom Res. Oct. 15. Pectoral Sandpiper: two Staats Isl. Oct. 15 (PC). Dunlin: 12 Tom Res. Oct. 15. **NORTHERN PHALAROPE:** one Gokays Pond, Col. Co. Sept. 22 (H. Knight). **GLAUCOUS GULL:** two Colonie Town Dump Nov. 29 (KA). **ICELAND GULL:** one Colonie Dump Nov. 29 (KA).

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** **BARN OWL:** one regular thru period Coxsackie Flats (RPG). Screech Owl: regular at numerous places thru period; three (gray phase) found dead on area roads, various dates. Great Horned Owl: more reports than usual; seems that they were also more vociferous than usual. **SNOWY OWL:** reports from mid to late Nov., Vischer Ferry (two), Colonie (two), and Latham (one), may involve some duplication. **RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER:** one Kinderhook Nov. 30 (KD & EG). **RED-HEADED WOODPECKER:** one adult Berne Sept. 17 (KA).

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: two early-Sept. reports. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one NB Sept. 20. Blue Jay: reported as abundant in migration mid-Sept. into Nov. Black-capped Chickadee: apparently not an invasion year; however, some increase in numbers at RY's feeder at Jenny Lake, Sar. Co. in Nov. **BOREAL CHICKADEE:** one at a feeder Galway, Schenectady Co. Oct. 24 (*vide* RLF). Tufted Titmouse: reported from some unusual places, such as Berne and Buskirk; very numerous in the more familiar places. Red-breasted Nuthatch: a few scattered reports mid-Sept. thru; no incursion this year. Brown Creeper: seems slightly more numerous this year. Winter Wren: only two mid-Oct. reports. Swainson's Thrush: banner year! 54 banded Sept. at NB; many heard flying over at night especially Sept. 12, 13 & 21 (PC). Gray-cheeked Thrush: quite the contrary—very few reports. Eastern Bluebird: scattered reports from NB, Chatham, Albany, Pine Bush and Schodack mid-Oct. thru mid-Nov. Water Pipit: Pine Bush, TomRes, and ColCo. mid-Oct. to early Nov. Northern Shrike: Oct. 20 thru.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Solitary Vireo: Sept. 17 thru Oct. 14. **PHILADELPHIA VIREO:** one Schodack Ctr. Sept. 16 (PC); three banded NB Sept. 16-21. Warbling Vireo: no reports. Do they all vacate before Sept., or do they, in their unobtrusive demeanor, escape our attention? Warblers: Black-and-white: not as numerous as in the past, very few reports received. Tennessee: the population boom continues; reported as most numerous Sept. warbler by several observers; 89 banded in Sept. at NB; three in Oct. N. Parula: somewhat increased this season. Bay-breasted: unusually high number of reports. Prairie: three scattered mid-Sept. reports.

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS:** Bobolink: last reported Sept. 24 Schodack. Rusty Blackbird: widely reported and in good numbers mid to late Oct. Evening Grosbeak: in modest numbers Oct. 15 thru. Purple Finch: groups of 20 or so mid-Sept. thru mid-Oct.; then they just went away. House Finch: much reduced, RY reports only 26 banded this season vs 162 last year at this time; does the pendulum swing? Pine Grosbeak: a few reports mid-Nov. Pine Siskin: only two reports Oct. 25 Pinnacle; Nov. 2 Pine Bush. Vesper Sparrow: still reported regularly in some ColCo locales. Dark-eyed Junco: very abundant at both Jenny Lake and Schenectady, 191 banded (RY); not so in NB, only 12 banded there. White-throated Sparrow: numbers normal, 96 banded Schen. (RY); 179 NB mid-Sept. thru early Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: five banded NB thru Sept. 22; also Ghent thru mid Oct. Snow Bunting: Nov. 6 thru; max 100+ Nov. 12 Castleton (JC).

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## REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

The fall season was marked primarily by its dryness. Lakes and reservoirs were very low, and intermittent streams dried up completely. Temperatures were rather even throughout the period, and somewhat on the warm side. Frosts came late and the only snow fell the last week of November with a maximum of three inches. It was probably the uneventful weather pattern that led to the uneventful migration. No marked waves were experienced, yet the birds did move thru. The warblers that started in August continued thru October with only a few dates when numbers were increased. Dutchess County reported 27 species of warblers for the season, but the numbers and variety of marsh and shorebirds were down. Hawks moved thru in even numbers, with only two big

days for Broad-winged Hawks. Several reporters noted the larger than usual crop of fruits and seeds in spite of the dryness of the season.

The few exotics that turned up more than made up for the dull season. The bird of the period if not the year (for the whole state) was the California Gull at Rockland Lake. It was a first for the state, and a second for the East coast; the other being an adult in Florida last April. While looking for the California Gull, Tony Lauro found and photographed a Lesser Black-backed Gull, a first for the Region. Another birder thought he saw a Mew Gull there in early November, but it was later identified as a runt Ring-billed. All the gull activity rather took the sheen off the White Pelican which stayed on Askokan Reservoir for a day in October, but it was an excellent find nevertheless.

We would be seriously remiss if we did not mention the mid-October passing of one of the most beloved birders in the area, Mrs. George Little of Carmel. Mabel was our only reporter from the Putnam-Upper Westchester area, and she contributed records to this column since its beginning many years ago. She was an inveterate birder of paramount skill, and will be sorely missed. To exemplify her dedication, she made last year's waterfowl count while on her way to and from N.Y.C. for therapy. Birding in the Region will be the poorer without her.

Contributors and observers cited: Al Brayton, Tom Burke, Robert F. Deed, Florence Germond, Dick Guthrie, William Howe, Mary & Jim Key, Helen Manson, Adam Martin, Ken McDermott, Frank Murphy, Jack Orth, Eleanor Pink, Benton Seguin, William & Trixie Strauss, Stiles Thomas, John Tramontano, Edward D. Treacy, Berna Weissman.

Abbreviations: The first four or five letters of each county; Ashokan—Ashokan Reservoir; CB—Cornwall Bay; MC—Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; PL—Playland, Rye; PP—Piermont Pier; SA—Stewart Airport, Newburgh.

**LOONS—DUCKS:** Common Loon: Three over Hook Mt. Sept. 23. 28 Ashokan Sept. 27, inc to more than 40 by Nov. 4. 17 on CB Nov. 8 was an unusually large number for that location. Red-throated Loon: one MC Oct. 8; five CB Nov. 8, last one there Nov. 14 (BS). Only one reported from Ashokan Nov. 4 where more could be expected. **RED-NECKED GREBE:** always rare, one Nov. 4 Ashokan (AB). Horned Grebe: three Kensico Nov. 22; 20 Ashokan Nov. 24. **WHITE PELICAN:** one on Ashokan at dusk Nov. 21. Observed again next day (R. Terwiliger, AB, FM, EDT). Was not obs again after that date. Great Cormorant: from Oct. 9 on LI Sound. Equalled the decreasing Double-crested by month's end. Double-crested Cormorant: five on CB Sept. 6, decreased to four by Oct. 27. First at PP Aug. 28. Peaked at 107 there Sept. 28. Last there Oct. 12. Great Egret: usual scattered fall appearances. Mostly singles except for four at CB Sept. 2. Snowy Egret: max seven Croton Pt. Sept. 16 (KM). Black-crowned Night Heron: one imm PP Aug. 28. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: last at MC Oct. 7. Mute Swan: continues its increase. 22 in Croton Bay Nov. 24. 14 at CB Nov. 28 was unusual that far up river. Canada Goose: large numbers of spring persisted thru period. Exc. migration in Oct. Max 2,000-3,000 Oct. 15 at Tamarack and Parshalls, Dutch. Brant: only report 40 CB Nov. 4. Snow Goose: six at MC Oct. 14; one Amenia Nov. 4. Gadwall: Rock had its highest count ever with 19 on L Tappan Nov. 1. Three at PL Oct. 15 were unusual there. Green-winged Teal: two at L Tappan, Rock, on early date of Sept. 19. Am. Wigeon: max 29 Iona I, Nov. 4. No. Shoveler: four females at Rock L Oct. 5 was the second earliest date for that county. Redhead: first two Hudson R near Newburgh Nov. 4. Five CB Nov. 5. Ring-necked Duck: arr most areas after mid-Nov. In less than normal numbers. Canvasback: ab 60 at PL by end of Oct. Max 846 on Hudson at Newburgh Nov. 16. Greater Scaup: ab 500 at PL by end of Oct. Lesser Scaup: arr after mid-Nov. in less than normal numbers. Bufflehead: max 90 CB Nov. 8. Oldsquaw: always



rare, five Nov. 10 at CB, one Ashokan Nov. 26, one Hunn's L, Dutch Nov. 8. White-winged Scoter: first at PL Nov. 29. Arr at Hyde Park on Nov. 5, four birds decreased to one by Nov. 10. Surf Scoter: one at PL Oct. 13. Black Scoter: first eight Ashokan Oct. 27. 22 at CB Nov. 4. 30 at Quaker L, Dutch Oct. 24 and 73 on Hudson at Newburgh Nov. 16. More than usual. Ruddy Duck: 100-150 on Rockland L by Oct. 30. 40 on Orange L Nov. 4. Hooded Merganser: peaked at PL with 20, Oct. 29. 60 at Kenozia L, Hurley Nov. 24. Common Merganser: two Kensico Nov. 22. 13 Croton Pt. Nov. 24. Red-breasted Merganser: sev at PL by Oct. 29.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: The following were the only two Hawk Watch reports received:

	Hook Mountain, Nyack	Mt. Peter, Warwick
Goshawk	6	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4,217	1,074
Cooper's Hawk	64	20
Red-tailed Hawk	292	103
Red-shouldered Hawk	109	23
Broad-winged Hawk	12,074	5,524
Golden Eagle	6	0
Bald Eagle	7	0
Marsh Hawk	158	46
Osprey	205	102
Peregrine Falcon	0	0
Merlin	27	3
Am. Kestrel	632	216
Unidentified	144	104
Total	17,942	7,221

Turkey Vulture: one Nov. 2 Billings, Dutch. Another at Dunderberg Nov. 2 was late. Goshawk: one Sept. 15 at Canoe Hill, Dutch, remained one week (FG). Broad-winged Hawk: Hook Mt. reported 4,378 Sept. 13 and 4,339 Sept. 20. 1200 over Mohonk Sept. 14. Rough-legged Hawk: more than usual migrants. Two winter residents arr Galeville Airport, Wallkill Nov. 18 (KM). Golden Eagle: all five Oct. birds at Hook Mt. were imm. One Nov. 2 at Stockbriar, south of Thompson Pd, Dutch. One Nov. 5 Mohonk. Bald Eagle: one East Park, Sept. 6 and another Dutchess Hill Sept. 14. All seven birds at Hook Mt. were imm. Merlin: single birds on three separate days at MC first week of Oct. Clapper Rail: up to four continued at MC thru Oct. Am. Coot: max 150 Croton Bay Nov. 24. Am. Golden Plover: well reported at SA from Sept. 16 to Oct. 29. Max there 120 Oct. 15. Black-bellied Plover: max 4 SA Sept. 1 Single birds thru Sept. to Oct. with last two Oct. 29. Ruddy Turnstone: one Sept. 4-6 CB. Am. Woodcock: one in display flight at Kingston Radio Tower Oct. 19 (AB). Upland Sandpiper: first migrant Sept. 1-16 at SA. Max 17 there Sept. 4. Pectoral Sandpiper: first seven SA Sept. 20. Max there 16 Oct. 8. Last two Nov. 8 at Brown's Pond, N'brg. White-rumped Sandpiper: one PP Sept. 12. **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER**: another good fall season at SA. First Sept. 23-Oct. when four were seen (BS). Dunlin: 50 Ashokan Oct. 14. **STILT SANDPIPER**: third record for Rock, one at PP Sept. 27. (RFD, V. Schwartz). Semipalmated Sandpiper: after a high at PP in early Aug, the number dropped to 12 by Sept. 12 with the last there Sept. 29. **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER**: first two, adults, at SA Sept. 17. Three imm there Sept. 27 inc to five Sept. 30 and ten Oct. 1. **MARBLED GODWIT**: first record for Oran, one Sept. 16 SA. Obs for 15 min. by BS. **HUDSONIAN GODWIT**: 18 at SA Oct. 5 (BS). **ICELAND GULL**: one second year bird at CB Sept. 26 was extremely early. Two at CP Nov. 24 were more normal. One was a first year bird and the other a second year. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**: one observed and photographed at Rockland L by A. Lauro was the first record for the Region. Herring Gull: max 8000 Croton Pt. Nov. 24 (WH). **CALIFORNIA GULL**: one ad in winter plumage at Rockland L from Oct. 4 thru period. First observed by Berna Weissman, and since by hundreds of birders. Bonaparte's Gull: only

report, one mid-Sept. on Hudson at Newburgh (KM). Caspian Tern: two PP Sept. 27. Latest for Rock.

**PIGEONS--WOODPECKERS:** Mourning Dove: continues abundant. Common Nighthawk: good movement late Aug. and early Sept. Last two Oct. 11 at MC, a very late date. Chimney Swift: last Oct. 15 at MC. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Oct. 9 at Dutch. Red-bellied Woodpecker: continues to hold its own but not increasing. One at MC Oct. 8 was unusual there near the shore. Red-headed Woodpecker: one in the parking lot of the Rye Hilton, Port Chester, Oct. 29 was a surprise. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: fewer than usual. First migrant Rye Nature Center, Sept. 25. Hairy Woodpecker: numbers reported down, esp in Rock.

**FLYCATCHERS--STARLINGS:** Empidonax flycatchers: numbers better than usual. Olive-sided Flycatcher: reported at Wawarsing Sept. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 16. Barn Swallow: one Walkill late date of Nov. 11 (KM). Cliff Swallow: five PP Sept. 12 was a good count for there. Common Crow: more than 3000 at P'kpsie roost by end of Oct. Fish Crow: an unusual flock of 40 at SA Sept. 17 (BS). **BOREAL CHICKADEE:** Frank Murphy had one on Slide Mt. Nov. 23. Red-breasted Nuthatch: exc movement around Washington L, N'brg. Oct. 19. Not many elsewhere. Carolina Wren: three at Red Oaks Mill dur. Oct. and Nov. were using an old robin's nest in which to roost overnight (JMK). Long-billed Marsh Wren: at least three were still at MC thru Oct. Mimids: all residents were normal early in the period. A sizeable movement noted in the L Tappan area Oct. 13 (RFD). Am. Robin: more than 100 at L Welch Sept. 13. One obs at PL Sept. 21 counted 820 going to roost for the night, after he became aware of them. Wood Thrush: one late bird eating berries at Rye Nature Center Oct. 21, another at Kingston Radio Tower Oct. 18, Swainson's Thrush: in good numbers. Last Nov. 4 Salt Point. Gray-cheeked Thrush: only a few. Last Rye Nature Center Sept. 7. Veery: one Rye Nature Center Oct. 1. Eastern Bluebird: at end of period, Florence Germond still had 13 along her nesting trail near Clinton Corners, Dutch. Water Pipit: max 125 at SA, Oct. 15 (BS). Cedar Waxwing: max 90 Croton Pt. Nov. 24. In good numbers there thru period. Northern Shrike: perhaps an echo of last year's exceptional movement. Single birds near Bethel Nov. 14 and Woodstock Nov. 10. One at Pleasant Valley Nov. 26.

**VIREOS--WARBLERS:** White-eyed Vireo: only report, one at Purchase Sept. 17. Solitary Vireo: two at MC Oct. 15. One Amenia very late date of Nov. 6 (WTS). Red-eyed Vireo: two MC Oct. 15. **PHILADELPHIA VIREO:** more than usual. One at MC Sept. 5; one Pond Gut Sept. 1; one Stockbriar Sept. 7; and one Tamarack Swamp Sept. 21. Tennessee Warbler: one near L Tappan Oct. 13 was rather late. **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** one at Thornwood, West Nov. 6 (BW). Cape May Warbler: One Kingston Nov. 1. Yellow-rumped Warbler: in unprecedented numbers in Ulst dur Oct. Last there Nov. 5. Low in Dutch, with the last there Nov. 26. One "Audubon's" form at the J. R. Clark Farm, Rt. 9W, Milton Oct. 1 (R. Adamo). Pine Warbler: one apparently sick, on the ground at Palisades, Rock Sept. 28 (RFD). Com. Yellowthroat: last very late date of Nov. 29 at Wawarsing (JO). Yellow-breasted Chat: only report, one Oct. 1 Wawarsing.

**WEAVERS--SPARROWS:** Bobolink: very few reports. Max 75 at L Tappan Sept. 19. Northern Oriole: one at N'bg Nov. 11 was very late (KM). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: one very late date of Nov. 16 at Wawarsing. Evening Grosbeak: first arr mid-Oct. severely reduced in Nov. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: two remained thru mid-Oct. at MC. Seaside Sparrow: one at MC Oct. 17. Tree Sparrow: arr early in Dutch with a peak of 15 Oct. 16 near Freedom Plains. Most other areas didn't have them until Nov., with numbers very low. White-throated Sparrow: RFD reports 20 at Congers Sept. 29, later than usual. Arr in Dutch Sept. 11 with good numbers thereafter. Lincoln's Sparrow: more than usual. One at MC Oct. 8-22. At Wawarsing on nine occasions from Sept. 9 thru Oct. 15. Two at Beaver Dam, Dutch Oct. 3. Swamp Sparrow: an exc concentration of 20 at MC on Oct. 15. Snow Bunting: three at Piermont Pier, and six at Rockland L Nov. 1 (BW). Arr Ashokan Oct. 22. Many reports of small flocks of 40 to 50 thru Nov.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, N.Y. 10928

## REGION 10 – MARINE

BARBARA J. SPENCER

The persistence of northeasterly winds following cold fronts, instead of the usual northwest winds, produced poor land bird flights and few hawk movements along the coast this fall. Only shorebirds appeared in good numbers. The Region's best shorebirding was at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge through mid-September, where the water level at East Pond was lowered to produce extensive flats attractive to migrants. A total of 37 species of shorebirds noted for the season, with the greatest variety being present on the Labor Day weekend (2-4 September).

The Federation's Block Canyon pelagic trip on October 8 recorded one Northern Fulmar, 95 Greater Shearwaters, two Cory's Shearwaters, four Gannets, two Red Phalaropes, six Pomarine Jaegers, a second-year Glaucous Gull, and an adult Sabine's Gull.

The problems connected with restocking Turkeys throughout their original range might be lessened by introducing individuals from the flock of eighteen birds now established in Wantagh, Nassau Co.; this flock originated from a pair that escaped from a cage at an animal shelter about four years ago. These remarkable birds have raised young and prospered along the Wantagh Parkway and in a small wooded area near a pet cemetery, never out of sight of houses, gas stations, children and pets. It is curious how this degree of adaptation is possible when birds in seemingly more favorable habitat do not succeed. Lack of hunting pressure and availability of food are probably factors.

Recent surveys, at Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn by Jim Ash and at JFK Airport in Queens by Sam Chevalier, have shown that these airports remain havens for Grasshopper Sparrows and Upland Sandpipers. Other airports on Long Island probably have breeding grassland species also. Surveys of other airports during the 1979 breeding season might provide valuable information. Anyone with such information or interested in working on a survey can contact the editor of this report.

Rarities include: White-fronted Goose, Gyrfalcon, Wilson's Plover, Sabine's Gull, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Black-billed Magpie, Wheatear, Boat-tailed Grackle, Western Tanager and LeConte's Sparrow.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Three Cory's Shearwaters and one Manx Shearwater were seen from Montauk Point Oct. 15 (PWP, E. Conder). Another Manx was seen there Nov. 19 (JA). A maximum of 500+ Gannets was seen from the Point Nov. 24 by many, while large numbers were noted west to Jones Beach on days with Northeast or East winds. A Cattle Egret was at Jamaica Bay Sept. 2 (DL, GSR); two were seen there Oct. 26 (GSR), and a late bird was at Upton Nov. 13-16 (GSR), while another rested on a jetty at Shinnecock Inlet Nov. 25 (JA, H. McGuinness). The origin and status of an AMERICAN FLAMINGO in good plumage,

found in Bellport Nov. 11 and seen frequently in the Bellport-Brookhaven area for two weeks, is unknown. Three late fall occurrences in Canada (1969, 1973, 1977) have been thought to have been storm-related vagrants by some. Two Whistling Swans seen Oct. 31 flying over Alley Pond Park (A. Wagner, S. Yeaton) and eight Nov. 17 at Jamaica Bay (WW) are rare for western Long Island. Ten Whistlers at Hook Pond included one with a black collar indicating that it was banded at an eastern wintering area in Maryland or North Carolina. An adult WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE was reported at Jamaica Bay by H. Recher, W. Kurau *et al.* Verbal description indicated that it was probably the Greenland race. Flights of Snow Geese included 35 Oct. 8 over Manorville (GSR), 75 Nov. 9 over Ridge (J. Ruscica), 40-50 Nov. 11 headed west over the ocean near Moriches Inlet, and eight at Garvies Point (AB, RC). Seven Snow Geese were in Central Park Reservoir Nov. 6 (E. Mills). Two immature "Blue Geese" were seen at Jamaica Bay Oct. 7 (GSR). A European Wigeon arrived Nov. 5 at Sagaponack (JA). A drake Harlequin Duck was seen Nov. 11 at Shinnecock Inlet (GSR), probably one of the pair seen there Nov. 4 (AJL). A King Eider at Montauk Oct. 14-15 was the earliest reported this year (PWP, E. Conder). A drake Hooded Merganser arrived at Hempstead Lake Oct. 18; a maximum of 66 was seen there Nov. 19 (SBD).

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** A Turkey Vulture, a rare bird on Long Island, flew over Freeport Oct. 15 (NW). One at Jones Beach Oct. 27 (L. Shore) and one seen over the Meadowbrook Causeway Oct. 29 (PWP, E. Conder) may have been the same bird. Sharp-shinned Hawks were moving Oct. 7 with 30-35 reported from Jamaica Bay (GSR), five or six at Riis Park (GSR), 24 on Fire Island (RC). Oct. 8 saw 24 sharp-shins moving along Fire Island (AL); 46 were counted there by DP. Small numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen during watches maintained on the north shore at Garvies Point from Sept. 26 through Oct. 16 (AB). Cooper's Hawks were reported Sept. 24 at Garvies Point (AB), and Sept. 26 at Muttontown (AL). A Red-shouldered Hawk was seen at Muttontown Sept. 17 (AL). Immature Bald Eagle reports by various observers from Oct. 21 at Smith's Point and Brookhaven through Nov. 26 were probably all of the same bird (GSR). Another immature was seen eating a gull on the beach at Shinnecock on Nov. 25 (*vide* GSR). Reports of subadult Bald Eagles on Nov. 24 at Tobay Sanctuary (*vide* BJS), Nov. 25 Hither Hills to Montauk, seen by many, Nov. 29 at Jones Beach, and Nov. 30 at Jamaica Bay (W. Reilly, G. Dadone), appear to represent two birds, making a probable total of three present during the period. The report of an intermediate gray-phase adult GRYFALCON observed soaring at moderate height over the Muttontown Preserve on the early date of Sept. 27 is convincing on the whole if the initial unqualified statement is accepted, that this very large, uniformly colored bird was a falcon. The observers (AL, WP, and LL) have considerable experience with wintering hawks, including Goshawks, at the Preserve, and their judgment is believed correct. Interestingly, the four old Gyrfalcon specimen records, all shot over owl decoys on Fisher's Island, occurred in October (12 to 30). Adding support for an early date this year was a report of a Gyrfalcon at Lake Erie on Sept. 7. Peregrine Falcons were seen in the best numbers in recent times. Ward observed a total of 26 Peregrines for the season, with nine on Fire Island Oct. 7 (with E. Treacy, H. Hirschbein). Four Peregrine Falcons were also seen on Fire Island Oct. 7 (RC), one at Muttontown Sept. 19 (AL), and one at Bethpage State Park on the early date of Aug. 30 (EL). Merlins moved in good numbers along the beaches. A maximum of 24 was observed passing barely above eye level on Fire Island Oct. 7 (RC *et al.*) and 31 were seen Oct. 8 (DP). Oct. 8 also saw the highest number of Am. Kestrels with 218 reported by DP; on Oct. 15, 41 were seen in 70 minutes during the early afternoon at Shinnecock (GSR). A downy young Clapper Rail Sept. 24 at Jamaica Bay must represent a record late breeding date (M. Kleinbaum). Soras were found at Baiting Hollow Oct. 1 (RA) and at Hook Pond Nov. 25 (GSR), a late date. A Common Gallinule at Georgica Pond Oct. 28, and Nov. 1, may be trying to winter in the area. A high count of 109 Am. Oystercatchers was tallied at the Line Islands Sept. 3 (P. Gillen). These birds continue to increase in numbers in our area. Five Am. Oystercatchers were still present at Shinnecock Nov. 11 (GSR). An Am. Avocet present at Jamaica Bay was last seen Sept. 5. A WILSON'S PLOVER seen Sept. 2 at Jamaica

Bay (M. Hemmerick) was convincingly described. The numbers of Am. Golden Plovers peaked Sept. 16 with 100+ at Sagaponack and 150 nearby at Southampton (JA); 115 were at Sagaponack Oct. 9 (P. Gillen). A late bird was seen on Fire Island Nov. 11 (AJL). A Marbled Godwit was at Zach's Bay on Jones Beach Oct. 3 (AW, BJS) and one lingered at Jamaica Bay until Dec. 2. Three Hudsonian Godwits were last seen at Jamaica Bay Nov. 7. Whimbrels were present in good numbers this fall, as they were last spring; fifteen were present at Sagaponack Sept. 23 (*vide* THD). A Willet in Lattingtown Nov. 29 (A. Townsend, D. Thompson) was late, and unusual on the north shore. Two Willets were at Shinnecock Nov. 11 (GSR). Two Wilson's Phalaropes and a Northern Phalarope were still present at Jamaica Bay Sept. 2, having been seen by many observers. A Red Phalarope was seen there intermittently Sept. 9-Oct. 1. A late White-rumped Sandpiper was at Sagaponack Pond Nov. 23 (H. McGuinness). At least six Baird's Sandpipers were seen on Long Island between Aug. 3 and Oct. 1 with two to four individuals present near the West End Two parking lot at Jones Beach for most of Sept. (HD, EL). An early Purple Sandpiper seemed out of place on a mudflat in Sagaponack Sept. 15 (JA). A winter-plumaged Curlew Sandpiper was present Oct. 1-3 at Jamaica Bay where it was photographed by THD and seen by many others. Three Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at West End with the Baird's during Sept. A maximum of eight Buff-breasted Sandpipers was present Sept. 15-16 at Sagaponack (JA). One or more Reeves were present at Jamaica Bay Aug. 13-Sept. 10, and a Ruff was seen there Sept. 3 (EL *et al.*). A Ruff was in Freeport Sept. 14 (AW), at Sagaponack Pond Sept. 15 (JA), and in Lawrence Oct. 7 (H. Hirschbein, A. Oliveri). A Parasitic Jaeger was seen at Montauk Point Oct. 14 and 15 (PWP). Two were seen there Nov. 24, a late date (THD). A Parasitic Jaeger flying east over Long Island Sound at East Marion Nov. 13 was in an unusual location (GSR). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported Oct. 3 at Smith Point (A. Cooley, D. Puleston), Nov. 11-Dec. 2 in a parking lot on Fire Island (AJL). Nov. 25 at Montauk Point (P. Bernath), and Nov. 30 at Jones Beach (W. Wilkens). All of the birds were adults. The only Black-headed Gull reported was seen Oct. 28 at Montauk (GSR, RA). An albino Laughing Gull at Jamaica Bay Sept. 18-22 at first glance aroused hopes for an Ivory Gull record (WW, TS). A subadult Little Gull was at Great Kills Park on Staten Island Sept. 4 (H. Fisher). Another arrived at Shinnecock Inlet Nov. 12 (D. Puleston), and three immatures there Nov. 24 (*vide* THD). 40-50 Black-legged Kittiwakes were present at Montauk Nov. 25. An adult SABINE'S GULL highlighted the Federation pelagic trip Oct. 8. A Gull-billed Tern was at Zach's Bay on Jones Beach Sept. 14 (AW). Royal Terns were regular from Moriches Inlet to Sagaponack, but in somewhat fewer numbers than in recent years. There were still 20 at Shinnecock Inlet and five at Mecox Nov. 11. Two lingered at Shinnecock to Nov. 24 (GSR). Five were seen at Great Kills Park Sept. 4 (H. Fisher). Two Caspian Terns were seen at Jamaica Bay Sept. 19 (JA), eight were at Mecox Sept. 23 (GSR), ten Sept. 30-Oct. 1 at Sagaponack Pond, and two at Georgica Pond the same time (JA). Two Caspian Terns at Cedar Beach Nov. 13 were late (HD). Black Terns seemed fewer in numbers this year. 72 Black Skimmers were at Jones Beach Nov. 4, late for such numbers (GSR), and nine remained at Short Beach Nov. 18 (SBD). A Razorbill Nov. 25 at Montauk was the only identified alcid reported (JA).

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** A Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Hempstead Oct. 27 was late (EL). A late brood of three Barn Owls was found in Brookhaven: the smallest died; the other two were banded Nov. 11. One left Nov. 12, the other about Nov. 15 (GSR). Barn Owls nest in the tower at Jones Beach according to PAB; this confirms an old rumor that had seemed apocryphal. The only Snowy Owl reported was seen at Moriches Inlet Nov. 10 (J. Clinton). Fifteen Short-eared Owls were estimated present in late Nov. at the Spring Creek dump (W. Wilkens). Seven more were at the dump at Fresh Kills, Staten Island (H. Fisher). Thirteen Saw-whet Owls were noted Nov. 25-29 along the south shore of western Long Island; nine of these were road kills, mostly at Cedar Beach. Red-headed Woodpeckers were at Riis Park Sept. 9, Staten Island Sept. 20 (TS), and at a suet feeder in Old Brookville Oct. 18-20 (J. Heimer). One was present in Central Park for a month or more through the period (PWP), as were two Red-bellied Woodpeckers.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** Fourteen Western Kingbirds were reported on Long Island from Sept. 10 and Oct. 8 through the period. Three individuals were at the Deep Hollow Ranch in Montauk Oct. 15 (PWP). One Western Kingbird was at Fresh Kills, Staten Island Nov. 26 (H. Fisher). A **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** was discovered Oct. 22 (R. Kelly, J. Costa) at Spring Creek just north of the bridge to Jamaica Bay. It remained until Oct. 27, enjoyed by a number of people. What must have been a second Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen Oct. 26 at Moriches Inlet (GSR). Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen Sept. 1 in a Brooklyn street and Sept. 9 at Jamaica Bay (TS). One at Montauk Oct. 9 was very late (THD). A **BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE** was flying west over Fresh Kills, Staten Island, Nov. 26 (H. Fisher). Tufted Titmice appeared in an unprecedented widespread movement in the New York City area with a maximum of 75+ in Central Park (PWP). Two appeared at Jamaica Bay for a first refuge record Oct. 21 (W. Reilly, G. Dadone). A Short-billed Marsh Wren was seen on Fire Island Oct. 25 (PAB). The **WHEATEAR** on Fire Island Oct. 19-20 was seen and photographed by F. File. Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were at Montauk Oct. 28 (GSR) and a late bird was at Jones Beach Nov. 9 (AW). An immature Northern Shrike was seen Nov. 11 through Nov. 23 at Shinnecock Inlet (GSR *et al.*). An immature was also at Jamaica Bay Nov. 22-Dec. 2 (*vide* THD). Seven Loggerhead Shrikes were reported on Long Island Aug. 19 through Nov. 25.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** A Yellow-throated Vireo was noted Sept. 10 at Garvies Point (RC). One was netted Sept. 10 in Manorville (GSR), and another was banded Sept. 24 on Great Gull Island (JD). An Orange-crowned Warbler was present Oct. 22 at Sands Point (G. Quinn). An unusual banding record was the immature female Cerulean Warbler caught at Lake Success Sept. 10 (J. Pion). Two Connecticut Warblers were found at Garvies Point Sept. 16 (RC, BJS). A Mourning Warbler was banded on Great Gull Island Sept. 15 as was a Yellow-breasted Chat on Sept. 6 (JD). Another chat appeared in Nov. and is wintering happily in Blue Point at a feeder next to a delicatessen, enjoying cream cheese as well as suet (*vide* A. Cooley).

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS:** A female **BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE** was in Riis Park Oct. 20 (O. Dunning, S. Yeaton). A special "yardbird" was a female **WESTERN TANAGER** seen twice in a bird bath in Freeport Nov. 11 (NW). At least three Blue Grosbeaks were at the Montauk dump Sept. 23-Oct. 9 where they are regular. Another was on Fire Island Oct. 22 (H. Roth). A convincing description of a **LeCONTE'S SPARROW** seen Oct. 21 at Montauk Point was supplied by JA. Very few Vesper Sparrows were seen this fall; among them were two at the Short Beach Coast Guard station (NW), and two Oct. 26 at Spring Creek (GSR). Four Lark Sparrows were reported on Long Island Sept. 4-Oct. 17. An "Oregon" Junco was seen at Gilgo Beach Nov. 5 (AW, S. Schiff). There were 52 Snow Buntings on Center Island Nov. 23 (J. Doran), a good number for the north shore.

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# FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

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