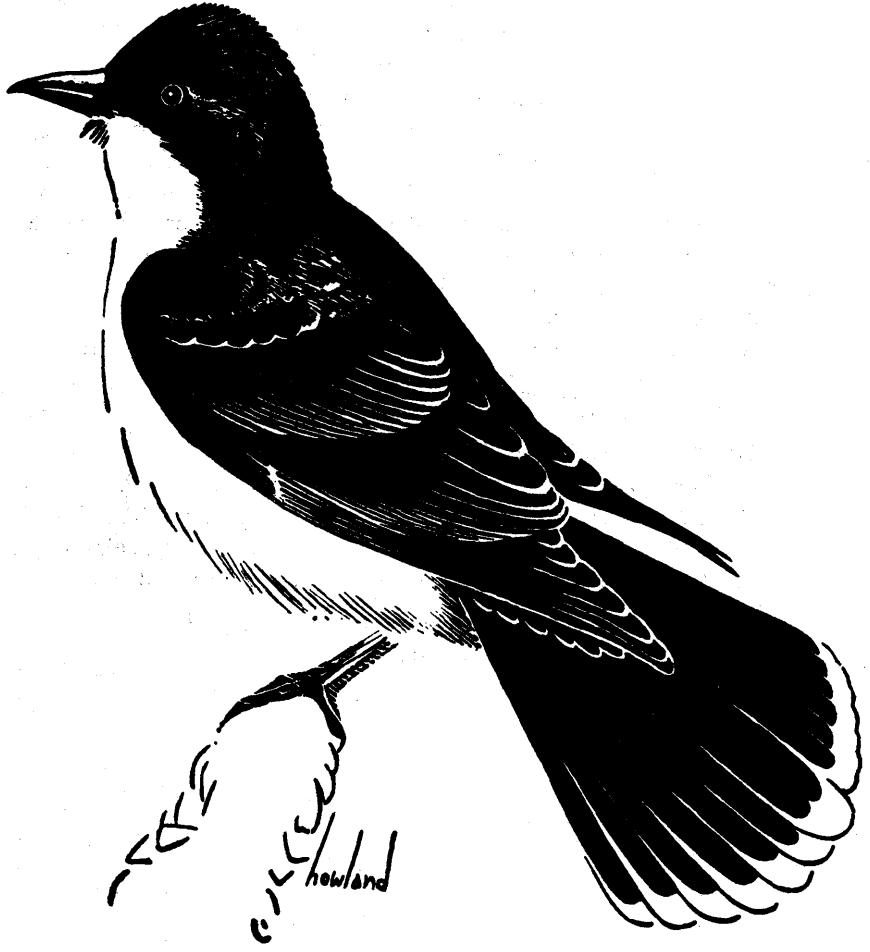


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The KINGBIRD



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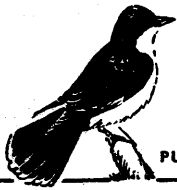
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Co-Editors — Emanuel Levine and John Farrand, Jr.

Highlights of the Fall Season
Guest Editor — Robert Spahn

Circulation Manager — Constance N. Wilkins

Cover Design — Douglas L. Howland



Purple Gallinule – Sea Cliff, Nassau County
13 June 1980 *Barbara Spencer*

PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES 42. PURPLE GALLINULE

BARBARA J. SPENCER

The Purple Gallinule (*Porphyryla martinica*) pictured was found early on the morning of 13 June 1980 on a small pond in Sea Cliff, Nassau County. The discovery seemed a bonus for pursuing New York State Breeding Bird Atlas work. Having heard an Orchard Oriole the previous morning, and wishing visual confirmation, the observer was in the field early the next morning. The gallinule was first seen in silhouette against the rising sun through mist over the pond. The only positive field mark visible was the clear white undertail coverts. Gradually the leg color, bill and frontal shield markings materialized, and it became clear that the gallinule definitely lacked the white line on the flanks that distinguishes the Common Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus*). With increasing light, the medley of bright plumage colors became evident. The gallinule remained at the pond over the week end, where it was appreciated by a number of observers.

A more or less regular spring, summer and fall vagrant in the northeastern states, Purple Gallinules breed from South Carolina and Tennessee south along the coast, and in the Gulf States westward to Texas. Their range continues south through Mexico and the West Indies to Peru and northern Argentina. They winter from central Florida and southern Texas south. Bull (1974) classified the Purple Gallinule as very rare in New York State. He listed (1964, 1974, 1976) twenty-five occurrences in the state through 1975, with dates ranging from 4 April through 18 November (both specimens). Five additional records were gleaned from reports in *The Kingbird*.

Of the thirty records located, only five occurred north of Long Island, and only three involved immature birds. The majority of the dated records occurred in the spring, five in April, five in May, and four in June, and appear to involve individuals overshooting their breeding grounds during migration, since Purple Gallinules appear on their breeding grounds in South Carolina during April. One record occurred in July, one in September, one in November and two in October. The September and October records involved immatures. At least seven of the birds were caught by hand and were noted to be exhausted or emaciated. Four of these died, while three were released in suitable habitat.

While the November record seems late, it is interesting to note that north of our area, on 27 December 1978, four Purple Gallinules, two of which were immatures, inexplicably appeared in Maine, walking down a snow-covered road. A month later, on 22 January 1979, two adult birds appeared, again in Maine, and an adult was found in Massachusetts on 25 January (*American Birds* 1979, vol. 33, no. 1, p. 3).

Records of the Purple Gallinule in New York State through 1980:

1. Specimen, Great South Bay, date unknown. AMNH.
2. Specimen, Great South Bay, date unknown. AMNH.
3. Specimen, Middle Island, Suffolk Co., 1879. (*vide* Helm).
4. Specimen, South Shore
5. Specimen, South Shore
6. Specimen, South Shore
7. Specimen, Central Park
8. Specimen, Peekskill
9. Specimen, Montezuma Marshes, 1 October 1931 (immature). (Parker).
10. Specimen, Shinnecock Bay, 18 June 1948, badly decomposed. (Wilcox).
11. Specimen, Easthampton, 20 April 1951 (Lester).
12. Specimen, Westhampton, 19 April 1956, found alive, died.
13. Sighting, Jamaica Bay, 14-16 May 1958.
14. Sighting, Hewlett, 17 May-4 June 1960 (Sloss, *et al.*).
15. Specimen, Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, 9 April 1962, to zoo, exhausted. (Rifkin).
16. Sighting, Manhasset, 5 May 1962, captured alive, released Jamaica Bay.
17. Sighting, Beaver Meadow Refuge, Wyoming Co., 27 April to 9 June 1963 (Busselle *et al.*).
18. Specimen, Westhampton, 23 September 1965 (immature) (Maxwell).
19. Specimen, Orient, 15 June 1967, found dead. (Latham).
20. Specimen, Montauk, 18 November 1967, found dead. (Hemerick).
21. Not specified by Bull.
22. Not specified by Bull.
23. Sighting, Binghamton, Broome Co., 16 May 1970, captured alive, released 6 June. (Marsi).

} Published by Cruickshank (1942)
 Dates 1928-1939

24. Specimen, Scottsville, Monroe Co., 4 October 1970, caught alive (immature). (Brown).
25. Sighting, Quogue, 18-23 May, 1974. (Conolly *et al.*). *Kingbird* XXIV: 3.
26. Specimen, Wading River, 4 April 1975, caught alive, died 7 April. (*vide* Dove).
27. Sighting, Brookhaven, 14-18 May, (Raynor, Puleston). *Kingbird* XXV: 3.
28. Sighting, Mamaroneck, Westchester Co., 16-21 July 1975. *Kingbird* XXV: 4.
29. Sighting, Kew Gardens, 11 May 1978, photos, caught alive, released Jamaica Bay. (Davis, *et al.*). *Kingbird* XXIX: 3.
30. Sighting, Sea Cliff, 13-18 June 1980, photos. (Spencer). *Kingbird* XXXI: 4.

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EASTERN BLUEBIRD REMOTE NATURAL NEST SITES

ERIK KIVIAT

In historic times, the Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) typically nested on farms, especially in apple orchards, until pruning, pesticides, and competition from Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) caused a widespread population decline (Bent, 1949, pp. 252-253; Bull, 1974, p. 437). The best-known contemporary bluebird nests in New York and other states are in nest boxes; Bull (*loc. cit.*) mentioned (without details) "forest clearings and open glades in the wilder portions" of New York State. Bluebirds nest in snags in hardwood clearcuts in Virginia (Conner and Adkisson 1974) and in selectively logged and burned hardwoods in Michigan (Pinkowski 1976); both habitats were free of Starlings.

In 1980, Speiser and Benzinger (1981) located 65 bluebird territories in the Hudson Highlands west of the Hudson River in New York's Orange and Rockland Counties. These bluebirds used crest-type and wetland habitats, and Speiser and Benzinger suggested that in pre-European times the only habitats available to bluebirds in the Highlands were beaver wetlands, and forest patches damaged by drought, insects or fire. John Farrand, Jr. (letter dated 22 Feb. 1981) noted that "Next to nothing is known about the nesting habitat of the Eastern Bluebird prior to European settlement. The older authors I have checked (Audubon, Wilson, Nuttall, DeKay and Giraud) all wrote after this species had successfully colonized orchards; every one of them mentions 'orchards' or 'apple trees,' and they are either very vague about other habitats, or make no mention of them at all."

I have found three natural nest sites remote from buildings and apparently free of Starlings, under circumstances that permit an extension of the concept of "natural" bluebird habitat. One site was over water at Bontecou Lake (Tamarack Swamp) in the Town of Stanford, Dutchess County, at an elevation of 255 meters and at least 600 meters from the nearest buildings (distances approximate). Bontecou is a large artificial pond, formerly a wetland, with many snags, and the nest cavities were in different dead trees on 30 April 1975 and 8 May 1976. Bluebird nesting in wetland snags was also reported by Art Gingert (*pers. comm.*) in Connecticut, and by Joseph C. Burgiel (*pers. comm.*) in New Jersey, the latter in a beaver wetland in Stokes State Forest, Sussex County, and an artificial wetland in the

Great Swamp, Morris County. Bluebird nests in trees drowned by beaver or human activities could be common.

My other two sites were in the Hudson Highlands, in dry, rocky, open deciduous woods on gentle south-facing slopes with signs of past fires. One was on Iona Island, Stony Point, Rockland County, among chestnut oaks (*Quercus prinus*) at an elevation of 25 meters and 375 meters from the nearest buildings. The nest cavity was probably in a chestnut oak, and I saw a female and a singing male on 29 March 1976. The other site was on the top of Breakneck Ridge, Philipstown, Putnam County, with sparse chestnut oaks, quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), and birch (*Betula sp.*), at an elevation of 360 meters and more than 400 meters from buildings. I saw a copulating pair on 20 April 1977; the site was discovered by Dan Nickerson who found at least one bluebird on 13 April, and a pair plus a third bird heard in the distance on 27 March 1977.

Xeric forest openings such as discussed here and by Speiser and Benzinger are frequent on summits and exposed shoulders of hills, not only in the Hudson Highlands but also in the Taconics and Shawangunks; crest-type openings are also present along rocky shores and on islands in the Hudson River and other large bodies of water. Openings are evidently maintained by thin dry soil, exposure to weather, fire, insect damage, and sometimes human use (camping, trampling), and White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) browsing (Kiviat, 1979, pp. 47, 57). Dan Smiley (*pers. comm.*) found bluebirds in crest communities in the Shawangunks, and these habitats are probably in common use by bluebirds. I also saw bluebirds in a crest community during the nonbreeding season (2 Nov. 1975, summit of Sugarloaf Mtn., Fishkill, Dutchess County, elev. 250 meters). Such exposed, xeric habitats, whether on islands, shores or hills, are of additional esthetic, scientific and conservation interest because they provide habitat for the Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus undulatus*), five-lined Skink (*Eumeces fasciatus*), Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*), Prickly-Pear (*Opuntia compressa*), and other animals and plants near their northern range limits. Crest-type communities, drowned forests, and apple orchards have in common near-ground microhabitats that are quickly warmed on sunny days in early spring, a factor that might be important to the early nesting Eastern Bluebird.

My observations of bluebird use of remote habitats extend the pattern documented by Speiser and Benzinger to low elevations (Iona

Island), the Hudson Highlands east of the Hudson River (Breakneck Ridge), and an area outside the Hudson Highlands (Bontecou Lake, as well as sites reported by other field workers). My observations are also from periods without the defoliation by Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*) reported by Speiser and Benzinger. Natural bluebird nest sites remote from buildings and competing starlings, in hills and wetlands, are probably not rare in the Northeast. These habitats deserve more study and protection.

J. C. Burgiel, J. Farrand, Jr., D. Smiley and R. Speiser commented on an earlier draft. I am grateful for grants in support of research in the Hudson Valley from Scenic Hudson, the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Fund of the American Museum of Natural History, and IBM East Fishkill. This is Bard College Field Station Contribution 24.

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Hudsonia, Box 96, Bard College, Annandale, New York 12504

NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 1981

WALTON B. SABIN

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. Waterfowl Count for 1981 was conducted from January 10 through January 18, with January 11 as the target date. A few observers did not complete their voluntary assignments until January 19, with one not done until February 1. The count period was ushered in with an upstate sub-zero freeze which drove many birds out of the area. This is reflected in a substantially lower count than last year. As an example of the severity of the weather, the observers at Lake Champlain reported the temperature at 2 p.m. on the 11th was 5° below zero, and that that was "the high for the day." The total count for 1981 (Table I) was 28.6% below 1980 to 170,833, and 15.4% below the 1973-1980 average of 201,952.

Comparing 1981 to 1980 count figures (Table II) for the more common species reveals that all except Brant, scaup, Bufflehead and Common Merganser showed decreases, with five species exhibiting decreases greater than 45%. Amazingly, the Brant count *exactly* equalled last year's count. Common Mergansers were up by 92.5% over 1980. Most decreases from the 1980 tally can be attributed to the frozen areas. These areas contributed to the larger totals last year, as they were then free of ice.

Comparing 1981 count figures to the 1973-1980 averages for these same common species (Table III) shows ten species decreasing from the average, while only six species are increasing. Most notable increases were in Brant and Mallard. Notable decreases were in Redhead, Canvasback, scaup, goldeneye and scoter, which are all diving ducks.

For the Atlantic Flyway (Maine to Florida inclusive), total Federal and State waterfowl population counts increased 3.6%, with the biggest increases being in Canada Goose, Mallard, Scoter and Black Duck, offset by decreases in American Coot, scaup and Snow Goose.

The Department of Environmental Conservation aerial survey is shown in Table IV.

The 1982 Federation Waterfowl Count dates are from January 9 through January 17, with Sunday, January 10 as the target date.

TABLE I

REGIONS	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>Total</u>
Loon, Common			1							61	62
Red-throated										1	1
Grebe, Horned			10							346	356
Pied-billed			12		2					62	76
Cormorant, Great										46	46
Double-crested										145	145
Swan, Mute			1		1				36	716	754
Whistling			1								1
Goose, Canada	78	2	12,782		47			9	1,481	7,444	21,843
Brant										14,218	14,218
Goose, Snow			2							56	58
Mallard	3,479	1,235	4,025	298	1,160	905		950	1,686	7,889	21,627
Black Duck	351	49	509	37	253	328	4	400	268	15,754	17,953
Mallard X Black		5	20		13					8	46
Gadwall	18	2	71		6	1				902	1,000
Mallard X Gadwall					1						1
Pintail	15		1		3					323	342
Teal, Green-winged			1							218	219
Blue-winged										10	10
Wigeon, American		2	16							1,869	1,887
European										1	1
Northern Shoveler									1	81	82
Wood Duck	3	2			1				2	22	30

TABLE I

REGIONS	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>Total</u>
Redhead	45	2	1,373		8	1		1		128	1,558
Ring-necked Duck			4		1					174	179
Canvasback	843	5	1,045		19		110		113	7,568	9,723
Scaup—All	1,200		66							7,846	9,112
Greater	760	765	229		2,000	2	2			28,378	32,136
Lesser	1	2	38		7					279	327
Goldeneye, Common	2,584	802	375	84	1,339	998	82	30	7	2,341	8,642
Barrow's	1										1
Bufflehead	981	43	118		242				12	3,389	4,785
Oldsquaw	1,146	124			114					1,944	3,328
Harlequin Duck		1									1
Eider, Common										11	11
King					3						3
Scoter, White-winged					3					2,282	2,285
Surf					1					437	438
Black										90	90
Scoter (sp?)										2,000	2,000
Ruddy Duck										192	192
Merganser, Hooded	6	1	8	1	5				3	182	206
Common	3,824	30	137	107	2,019	4,505	45	63	1,041	1	11,772
Red-breasted	32	4	7		15					1,597	1,655
American Coot			241		5				70	1,315	1,631
TOTALS	15,367	3,076	21,093	527	7,268	6,740	243	1,453	4,740	110,326	170,833

TABLE II

Comparison of 1981 with 1980, for all species totaling over 1,000 individuals in 1981, and showing the percent change from 1980 to 1981.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>% change</u>
Canada Goose	21,843	67,046	-67.4
Brant	14,218	14,218	no change
Mallard	21,627	23,949	- 9.7
Black Duck	17,953	20,655	-13.1
Gadwall	1,000	1,032	- 3.1
American Wigeon	1,887	2,100	-10.1
Redhead	1,558	7,265	-78.6
Canvasback	9,723	11,153	-12.8
Scaup (both)	41,575	41,544	+ .07
Goldeneye (both)	8,643	17,496	-50.6
Bufflehead	4,785	4,403	+ 8.7
Oldsquaw	3,328	3,583	- 7.1
Scoters (all three)	4,813	13,961	-65.5
Common Merganser	11,772	6,116	+92.5
Red-breasted Merganser	1,655	1,740	- 4.9
American Coot	1,631	3,134	-48.0
TOTALS	168,011	239,395	-29.8

TABLE III

Comparison of the 1981 count with the 1973-1980 average, for the same species as in Table II, and showing the percent change from the average.

SPECIES	<u>1981</u>	<u>Average 1973-1980</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Canada Goose	21,843	23,125	- 5.5
Brant	14,218	9,999	+42.2
Mallard	21,627	19,543	+10.7
Black Duck	17,953	18,743	- 4.2
Gadwall	1,000	608	+64.4
American Wigeon	1,887	2,213	-14.7
Redhead	1,558	7,063	-77.9
Canvasback	9,723	12,364	-21.4
Scaup (both)	41,575	66,244	-37.2
Goldeneye (both)	8,643	12,541	-31.1
Bufflehead	4,785	4,153	+15.2
Oldsquaw	3,328	2,774	+20.0
Scoters (all three)	4,813	12,782	-62.3
Common Merganser	11,772	10,760	+ 9.4
Red-breasted Merganser	1,655	2,066	-19.9
American Coot	1,631	2,249	-27.5
TOTALS	168,011	207,277	-18.9

TABLE IV

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
AERIAL SURVEY – JANUARY 8-21, 1981

SPECIES	<u>Upstate</u>	<u>Long Island</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Mute Swan	2	359	361
Whistling Swan	3		3
Canada Goose	24,493	12,047	36,540
Brant		16,653	16,653
Snow Goose	2		2
Mallard	1,952	830	2,782
Black Duck	6,354	11,518	17,872
Gadwall			
Pintail			
American Wigeon		54	54
Redhead	11,508		11,508
Canvasback	8,156	2,631	10,787
Scaup (both)	13,167	43,816	56,983
Common Goldeneye	14,288	3,699	17,987
Bufflehead	210	1,014	1,224
Oldsquaw	1,027	2,907	3,934
Scoters (all three)		4,454	4,454
Ruddy Duck		25	25
Mergansers (all three)	22,556	4,493	27,049
American Coot	299	5	304
TOTALS	104,017	104,505	208,522

I wish to thank the upwards of one hundred observers who participated. A special thanks also, to the regional compilers who coordinated all those volunteers. The regional compilers are:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Region 1 – Alan Reckhow | Region 6 – Lee Chamberlaine |
| Region 2 – Warren Lloyd | Region 7 – John Peterson |
| Region 3 – John Confer | Region 8 – Paul Grattan |
| Region 4 – Leslie Bemont | Region 9 – Edward Treacy |
| Region 5 – Fritz Scheider | Region 10 – Stephen Dempsey |

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VERDI BURTCH

1868 — 1945

GORDON M. MEADE

Who was Verdi Burtch? From nine to five he was a quiet, highly respected proprietor of a 19th century-style general country store in the hamlet of Branchport in Yates County. Otherwise he was a nationally known amateur ornithologist and bird bander whose Life List included the Passenger Pigeon, an almost professional wildlife photographer, a much-in-demand musician, a popular lecturer and prolific nature writer, an ahead-of-his-time ecologist. His love of birds was such that he named his only daughter Vireo Cerula Burtch!

Burtch's life centered in the Finger Lakes district of central New York where he was born on Christmas Day in 1868 in the village of Penn Yan, a town named for the Pennsylvania Dutch and New England Yankees who jointly settled it. When he was seven years old, the family moved a few miles to Branchport, a village of 300 persons at the north end of the west branch of bifurcated Keuka Lake. There his father set up a carriage factory, where Verdi worked until his father's death. He then became a house painter and interior decorator.

Like so many ornithologists and birders, his interest in the natural world was apparently inborn, though strongly abetted at age six when his father gave him a copy of Wood's *Natural History*. This was soon reduced to tatters. A short time later he was given access to a complete set of the *Natural History of New York State* which included a volume on birds by James DeKay. This belonged to his "Uncle Sammy," Dr. S. Hart Wright. He was soon embarked on a diligent study of birds with frequent visits to a nearby tamarack swamp, the marshes at the end of the lake, the cool hemlock-shaded glens, the deciduous woodlands, and the waters of the lake. During his teenage years he met frequently with friends of kindred natural history interests, which included botany, a subject in which he became adept.

About the time of his marriage in 1894, he began to exercise a musical talent, inherited from his mother, by giving solo concerts and playing in the village band on the clarinet, baritone horn and trombone, an activity he continued most of his life.

The urge to collect and classify was strong in Verdi Burtch, and in accord with the avocational and scientific mores of the times, and in a period when field guides were nonexistent, he shot many birds to study the characteristics of the families and genera, and to learn identification. Later, when it became legally necessary, he was granted federal and state collecting permits. He voluntarily surrendered them in 1935; his field tools had become the notebook, the camera and binoculars. Early in his collecting days he mounted many of his specimens, but he soon gave that up and undertook the collecting of nests and eggs instead.

As was the custom with oologists, as the then numerous egg collectors were called, Burtch actively traded eggs with oologists all over the U.S. An intriguing picture of the barter nature of the exchange can be deduced from his carefully kept records. Apparently the system was based on an accepted value scale for the eggs of each species. One of his egg "account" books contains the names of many other oologists with notations of the species whose eggs he had sent them, of what they had sent him, and a note as to whom was indebted to whom and for how much. It appears that an actual exchange of money was infrequent. Each set of eggs was given a number, notes were entered on the nature and location of the nest, actions of the parent birds, on the eggs and young, to whom they were sent, and what was received in return. For example, Item No. 45—"Red-tailed Hawk, April 23, 1898, Burton, N.Y. Sent to Charles S. Thompson, Paso Robles, California. To apply on a Golden Eagle." This referred to an egg transaction.

Among his papers is a small leaflet entitled, "Price List of Birds' Eggs." This was issued by William F. Polsson (Naturalist), Halldorstadir, Laxardal via Husarvik, Iceland—"Sets Always in Stock." Listed are 53 species, mostly pelagic ones, with some shorebirds and a few European passerines. The cheapest eggs are those of Arctic Tern and Oldsquaw with prices ranging up to Gyrfalcon at \$5.00 and Red Knot at \$10.00. Most are listed at 15 to 50 cents. He also advertised sets of two different species which have "shared the same nest" (!) such as 3 eggs of Whimbrel with 4 of Eurasian Golden Plover, 8 eggs of Oldsquaw with 10 of Rock Ptarmigan, 2 of Snow Bunting with 5 of White Wagtail—amazing, if it can be believed. Polsson also offered sets of dwarf eggs at 30% above list price. With sets of duck and goose eggs, some of the nest down was included. Today such traffic

is hard to comprehend. As Burtch's absorption in observing, banding and photographing birds grew, he gave up oology.

Burtch became an ardent bander, although it is not clear just when he began this activity. One of his notebooks says that in 1911 he was invited to join the American Banding Association and that he received bands "to be returned to the American Museum." There are only occasional notations of bandings until 1921 when he received a banding permit from the Bureau of Biological Survey along with forms, bands and instructions on how to build a wire trap.

His journals contain copious notes on his banding activities, which were conducted at a spot quite close to his home and store. The first banding of which I can find a record was on August 8, 1915. It is not clear when he applied his last band because of a contradiction in the records. One note says it was on November 6, 1941, yet another one speaks of "Total number of birds banded, 1921-1943 = 22,267." The number of yearly bandings ranged from 93 in 1921 to 1889 in 1929, providing an annual average of about 1,000 over some 22 years.

Between 1915 and 1944, Burtch had 178 recoveries of 28 species in 17 states and 3 provinces, of which the first was a Marsh Hawk banded on August 8, 1915 (possibly his first banding) which was recovered November 4 the same year at Burtonville, Ohio. Probably his last recovery was a Rusty Blackbird banded October 6, 1941 at Branchport and recovered March 10, 1944 at an unspecified location. The banding of a juvenal King Rail at Branchport on August 23, 1941 and the extraordinary number of 42 Lincoln's Sparrows banded between July 18 and August 30, 1923 were outstanding events of his banding career.

The mystery of migration and the regular return of birds to the same place fascinated Burtch who frequently spoke and wrote of this in his lectures and writings. Throughout his life this modest man retained his youthful enthusiasm and wonderment for such natural phenomena.

Verdi was an inveterate recorder of his observations and thoughts, and who made notes almost daily of the birds he saw, of how they behaved, and of anything which seemed to him noteworthy. A reading of his bibliography shows the wide range of his inquisitiveness. There one finds titles dealing with such subjects as: a vireo singing while on the nest, the wing action of a grebe as it dives, maggots in the ears of nestling hawks, cannibalism in a buteo, the occurrence

and nesting of various species, feeding habits, etc. Today many of the things he considered unusual and worthy of record may seem rather simplistic and would probably not be accepted by our sophisticated modern journals. But with the growth of breeding bird surveys with their emphasis on "What is the bird doing?", we may be returning to a greater appreciation of the type of things Burtch was constantly perceiving.

Despite his perseverance in keeping regular and detailed notes which his daughter says he made every evening when he retired to his collection room, and which have survived in his many notebooks and scrapbooks, the majority of which are preserved in the archives section of the Olin Library at Cornell University, they are not well organized. They are a mishmash of scribbings on sheets of scrap paper, on the back of business letters (in one instance a "Thank You" letter from a customer satisfied with shoes purchased by mail for his wife), in old account books supplied by grocery and hardware suppliers with their ads on the covers. This is regrettable because it makes it difficult to distill his innumerable valuable observations.

Burtch found expression for his desire to share his observations and experiences with others through a regular, very popular series on birds, flowers and other nature topics which he wrote for the Yates County Chronicle beginning in 1915 and continuing for many years.

He often wrote strong letters to the editors of Rochester and Syracuse newspapers regarding what he felt were the threats of urbanization and industrial development. He was considerably in advance of his time. In a very tragic instance, his fears came true when the faunal-and-floral-rich wilderness of his beloved Potter Swamp was drained, the timber harvested and the rich soil converted to farmland.

In 1886, when he was 18, his first paper, on "A Grosbeak Colony," was published in *The Osprey*. Over the next 55 years he wrote almost 70 articles for such journals as: *Osprey* (1), *Nidiologist* (1), *Bird-Lore* (15), *Oölogist* (19), *Auk* (27) and *Forest and Stream* (6).

Over the years Burtch made many notable observations of birds in the course of his almost daily walks about his immediate neighborhood. About 1880 he saw what must have been one of the last flocks of Passenger Pigeons in central New York.

Among his outstanding records for Yates County were the following: (*=published in the *Auk*)

* Western Grebe — April 23, 1942

Eared Grebe — May 15, 1937

- European Wigeon – May 7, 1922
- * King Eider – April 25, 1946
 - * Black Vulture (Steuben County) – July 11, 1909
 - * Little Blue Heron – April 6, 1944
 - * King Rail – August 31-September 14, 1941
 - Red Phalarope – 1921 – on his list for that year
 - * Parasitic Jaeger – May 13, 1945
 - Sabine's Gull (immature) – October 29, 1921
 - Brunnich's (Thick-billed) Murre – December 20, 1896, one collected; December 1, 1902, one collected; December 13, 1927
 - Passenger Pigeon – about 1880, a flock seen near Branchport
 - Connecticut Warbler – September 27, 1896, one collected in Potter Swamp; October 1, 1922 one seen near Hall, N.Y.
 - "Nelson's" Sharp-tailed Sparrow – several records of birds seen in marsh near his home – September 4, 1896; October 9, 1923; September 28, 1928 (banded); October 11, 1928; October 12, 1929; October 15, 1931.

Burtch's inland record of Parasitic Jaeger is extraordinary enough to bear recounting. On the morning of May 13, 1945 he was observing birds over the lake with a neighbor couple, his daughter Vireo, and Dr. Hazel Ellis (Professor of Biology at Keuka College, and an active officer of the Federation of N.Y.S. Bird Clubs in its early years). While they were watching loons, grebes, ducks and gulls, they caught sight of nine large, dark-colored birds with long, narrow, pointed wings flying northwesterly, directly overhead. In the dull light the birds appeared almost black with middle tail feathers which extended conspicuously several inches beyond the rest of the tail. As they were discussing these unusual birds, seven more came over, followed by five more – 21 in all. The conclusion of all was that these were Parasitic Jaegers.

His birding was done on short walks before breakfast and after work. On weekends, or whenever he could steal time away from the obligations of the store, he went to the renowned Potter Swamp about 7-8 miles from Branchport, first on foot or by bicycle, in later years by car. His daughter Vireo says that if he needed storm shelter or a place to sleep for the night he used a nearby barn. He made daily, trip and yearly lists, and scattered through the papers there occur every few years what he entitled as "Desiderata" lists. Today's "listers" make the same sort of thing with many refinements. During his last years the annual species counts were 175, 189, 158, 143 and

for the year of his death, 152. A list entitled "List of North American Birds Seen By Me During My Lifetime to October 20, 1941" with an addendum to 1944 includes 298 species. About 25 of these, among them Anhinga and Brown Pelican, were undoubtedly seen on one of his southern trips, and there are 13 which are no longer considered species by the A.O.U. This leaves a list of 260 species seen in his home territory or elsewhere in New York. Over the years he found 95 species nesting in his beloved Potter Swamp.

Burtch was not a widely traveled man. He made his first recorded venture of any distance in 1921 when he spent 11 midsummer days in New Hampshire's White Mountains. Presumably he drove his own car over the rough and mostly unpaved roads of those days.

In May and June of 1922 he made his first trip to the Adirondacks. This was a rather restricted trip in the Old Forge and Fulton chain of lakes. His business partner, friend and fellow birder, Clarence Stone, accompanied him. They so thoroughly enjoyed themselves that the next summer, 1923, they spent two weeks on a trip which took them from Old Forge through the heart of the mountains across to Lake Champlain, with a swing back through the more southern part of the Adirondack Park. This was not an easy trip as the author of this article can attest as he traveled almost exactly the same route a year later.

Over the years Burtch attended three meetings of the American Ornithologists Union of which he was a member, Ottawa (1926), Charlotte, S.C. (1928) and Philadelphia (1929). At these meetings he met and mingled with many of the foremost ornithologists of the time, with many of whom he had corresponded for years, and by whom he seems to have been well liked and respected. Except for his trips to these meetings, on which he birded ardently, and his two Adirondack trips, his out-of-state traveling was confined to a visit to Louisiana in 1930, a trip to Point Pelee in 1931, and one to Cape Cod in 1934. He visited Oak Orchard Swamp in western New York on two occasions, and between 1934 and 1941 he made almost yearly visits to Sandy Pond at the eastern end of Lake Ontario, a spot now well-known to Syracuse birders. His observations there are now of considerable historical interest because of the nesting colony of Piping Plovers which he found there. This colony is now long gone due to human disturbance.

In addition to numerous notes published in the *Auk* and *Bird-Lore*, he contributed observations on 13 species to Arthur Cleveland Bent's

Life Histories of North American Birds, specifically Florida Gallinule, Virginia Rail, Stilt Sandpiper, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Hairy Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Brown Creeper, Cerulean Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Mourning Warbler, American Redstart, and Sharp-tailed (Acadian) Sparrow. Chapman, in his pioneering work on *The Warblers of North America*, quotes Burtch's observations on the construction and location of the nests of nine species of warblers. These notes were apparently submitted in manuscript especially for this purpose. Elon Howard Eaton drew upon Burtch's records for migration and breeding data for his *Birds of New York State*.

Between 1908 and 1925 nature photography became a major avocation of Burtch. There seems to be no record of the type of equipment used, other than the fact that much of his work was done from a blind. It is apparent from his results as seen in his voluminous albums and in the pictures accompanying his published articles, particularly in *Bird-Lore*, that his equipment was of fine quality, and he was an expert in its use. His pictures display prime quality in clarity and composition. Even without the high speed apparatus of today he achieved some remarkable stop-action results. An extraordinary, almost unbelievable such picture is in a 1914 *Auk* article entitled, "Does A Grebe Spread Its Wings Just Before Diving?" The bird is out of sight under water but a veritable "ghost" of water droplets remaining in the air outlines perfectly the entire bird, almost erect with outspread wings. His photographs were published in New York and Syracuse newspapers, in *The Conservationist* and *American Forestry*. Moderate supplementary income came to him from the sale of pictures and slides to the U.S. Biological Survey, New York State Department of Education, Penn State College and U.S. Department of Agriculture. There is a notation which indicates Burtch made about 1600 negatives.

Burtch's friends and colleagues were warm in tributes to him during life and at his death. Herbert Brandt, author of *Alaska Bird Trails*, wrote in a presentation copy, "To Verdi Burtch, dean in the lovable science of oology, this volume is inscribed with sentiments of esteem and best wishes by his truly, and sincerely attached admirer." At his death, A. C. Bent said, "I always valued his friendship and the notes and photographs he sent me from his own file."

His obituary in the *Auk* read, in part, "Burtch will be missed by the many bird lovers who had the pleasure of knowing him, as a very

definite personality for whom no one will quite substitute. With his quiet but deeply sincere love of birds and nature, his many friends are certain to feel that, among all the companionable bird men, there will never be quite another Verdi Burtch. — B. S. Bowdish.”

Following his death on December 27, 1945, a Verdi Burtch Fund was established for an annual memorial lecture at Keuka College under the auspices of the Keuka Park Conservation which was founded by Verdi Burtch.

I am indebted to the late Mrs. John (Vireo C. Burtch) Whitaker of Penn Yan and the Olin Library of Cornell University for generous permission to examine the notes, notebooks, clippings and photographs of Mr. Burtch. Mr. Durward C. Skiff of Webster, N.Y. provided some personal reminiscences of Mr. Burtch.

27 Mill Valley Road, Pittsford, New York 14534, August 12, 1981

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES EATING GIANT RAGWEED SEEDS

ERIK KIVIAT

On 6 October 1980 I saw several Black-capped Chickadees (*Parus atricapillus*) eating seeds of Giant Ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*) at my home in the Town of Fishkill, Dutchess County. I had seen chickadees in the ragweed plants during the preceding few days, but it was not until the 6th that I verified the identity of their food. I again watched chickadees eating the ragweed seeds on 14 October. On both days the birds persistently flew back and forth between nearby trees and the five ragweed plants, removing seeds from the fruit clusters and also picking up seeds that had fallen on the concrete steps of the house. On 18 October I examined the ragweed plants and found very few seeds remaining; two seeds I collected measured 8-10 mm long including the 1-2 mm spines on the tops of the seeds. I suspect the birds hammered the seeds open rather than swallowing them whole.

Allen (1934) noted in a popular book that Black-capped Chickadees ate Giant Ragweed seeds. Martin *et al.* (1961, pp. 137-140) state that ragweed (species?) is a minor food of the Black-capped and Carolina Chickadees and the Tufted Titmice, but also note (pp. 420-421) that while the Common Ragweed (*A. artemisiifolia*) and Western Ragweed (*A. psilostachya*) are major wildlife food plants, ". . . the giant ragweed . . . of the East is of little value. Its seeds are large and have a tough coat which is the probable reason why birds use it so little." Giant Ragweed was not listed as a food of any parid by Bent (1964), and Odum (1941, 1941a, 1942) and Weed (1898) did not mention it as a food of the Black-capped Chickadee.

Giant Ragweed grows to six (!) meters tall in "alluvium, rich openings and waste places" throughout much of the coterminous United States and southernmost Canada (Fernald, 1950, p. 1469). In the Northeast, Giant Ragweed occurs on river banks, tidal river wetlands, roadsides, and areas of disturbed soil. Judging from the persistence of the birds I observed, Giant Ragweed could be a significant local food of the Black-capped Chickadee in New York and elsewhere.

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CORRIGENDUM

Highlights of the Summer Season, Vol. XXXI, No. 4 Fall 1981 erred in listing Osprey as a breeding bird in Region 9. Also, the status of the Red-shouldered Hawk in Region 9 has been downgraded from "Confirmed" as a breeder to "Probable." These corrections were pointed out by the Region 9 Atlas Coordinator, Berna Weissman.

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

A Mourning Dove nest on a Long Island Sand Dune: On 15 July 1981, while walking on the flattened sand dunes at the Cupsogue County Park east of Moriches Inlet, I flushed a Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*) from the sparse beach grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*). The bird behaved as an incubating bird might, by not flying until I was very close—about 15 feet away. Despite being surprised that a Mourning Dove might nest on the ground, I, nonetheless, looked for and immediately saw a nest with two white eggs. The nest was made of a few dried grasses placed in a very shallow depression.

Mourning Doves nesting on the ground seem to be uncommon but well documented. Gilbert Raynor of Manorville reports that many years ago he saw a few nests of Mourning Doves on the ground in scrub oak woods near his home. Eaton (1910) states that they nest “. . . sometimes even on the ground at the edge of a gravel pit or embankment” and Bent (1932) says “the bird frequently nests on the ground . . .”. Bull (1974) reports that “in this state [New York], ground nests are uncommon but not unusual, at least a dozen having been reported principally in open fields far from bushes or trees.” Benton (*Kingbird* 1961, 11: 201) mentions one in a wheat field at Ira, Cayuga County. Harrison (1975) suggests the frequency of ground nesting when he reports on a Michigan study which recorded only one ground nest in 736 nests.

None of these accounts have recorded a successful ground nesting, so I watched this nest in hopes that young would fledge. There were two eggs in the nest on 19 July. On 26 July an adult was sitting tight and I did not flush the bird despite approaching to within nine feet. But on 30 July, again at about nine feet, I could see a young bird poking its head from under the parent's breast feathers. On 1 August, the nest was deserted, but undisturbed. Feces ringed one edge of the nest, two wings with primary feathers breaking out of the feather sheaths by about an inch, and a gizzard filled with seeds and quartz sand grains were all that remained of a single chick. While this nesting failed to provide a successful ground nesting, it nonetheless left an intriguing question about what caused the failure.

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NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Unusual Plumage Coloration of a Scarlet Tanager: On 16 July 1981, while surveying one of my blocks (6197D) in the Township of Chazy, Clinton County for the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas Project, I observed a male Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) with unusual plumage coloration. My first impression was of a male Western Tanager. However, at this date the bird was seen only for a short period of time at a considerable distance in the tops of some tall trees, and evening was rapidly approaching. Returning to the same area at an earlier hour on 17 July, I was able to observe the bird under improved conditions.

The description of the bird is as follows. The head and throat were reddish-orange, not the brilliant scarlet of a male Scarlet Tanager. The wings and tail were black. The rest of the body exhibited coloration similar to a female Scarlet Tanager, dull yellow-green above and a dull yellow below. The yellow was not the brilliant yellow as in the female Western Tanager. No wing bars were present as in the Western Tanager, and the bird was singing a typical Scarlet Tanager song.

Apparently there are all gradations of xanthochroism in the Scarlet Tanager. Washburn (1970, *Kingbird*, vol. 20, no. 4, p. 180) observed a bird like the one reported here except that the back also was orange. Beardslee and Mitchell (1965, *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*, p. 411) mention four observations between 1935-1950 of birds similar to the one I observed.

It should be noted that lack of attention to detail could result in some of these color variants being reported as Western Tanagers or exotics.

Mark Gretch, 124 Lake Street, Rouses Point, New York 12979

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Lark Sparrow in Essex County: On the afternoon of 8 September 1981, Dr. and Mrs. Daniel O'Keefe and I were camped at South Meadows, 1½ miles northeast of Adirondak Loj in the Town of North Elba, Essex County.

At 5:50 p.m. Mrs. O'Keefe called my attention to a sparrow quietly sitting on a poplar branch about twenty feet high. The tree grew at the edge of the parking area closest to the State Truck Road leading south to Marcy Dam. From a distance of about forty feet, through 8.5 x 44 and 8 x 50 binoculars, we were able to obtain good views of a strikingly marked head, and noted that the breast was unstreaked. Through a 15x telescope we could clearly see the brown and buff-white crown stripes, brown cheek patch, and white and black facial and throat markings of an adult Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*). Dr. O'Keefe joined us and first noted the central breast spot as the bird obligingly changed poses. We also observed the tiny white spot under the eye and another behind the cheek patch. The white tail feathers, seen from below, were obvious.

Within ten minutes a light rain had increased and the bird flew across the parking area. The O'Keefes and I, and two unidentified campers who had joined us, shared a clear view of the white outer tail feathers in flight. The sparrow landed at the grassy edge of the dirt parking area, where it appeared to be feeding, and then flew up into the trees again. The light rain and brisk breeze had increased, and by the time darkness fell at 8:00 p.m. a low-pressure area had moved into the mountains, bringing a thunderstorm with heavy rain that lasted all night. The following morning was clear, but the bird could not be found.

The area around the parking lot includes a grove of Scotch pine and a mixture of poplars, balsam, sweet gale, alders, tamaracks, and a variety of other trees and shrubs bordering the West Branch of the Ausable River. The elevation of South Meadows is 2055 feet. According to Bull (1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 581), the Lark Sparrow is very rare in the interior. This represents a first record for Essex County and the Adirondack Park.

John M. Peterson, Discovery Farm, R. D. 1, Elizabethtown, New York 12932

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

The fall's weather produced an unusual degree of unanimity in the regional reports, albeit primarily in their weather comments. It was cold and wet throughout the state in September and October with periods of very heavy rainfall noted especially in Regions 4, 5, and 8. Regions 2, 4, and 6 commented on an interlude of sunny Indian Summer in mid-October. November generally returned to more nearly average precipitation levels. Snowfall was first noted mainly in mid-November, which also saw the first freezing of lakes and ponds, in spite of the earlier prolonged cold. Frost dates varied from mid-September to late October, where noted. A persistent lack of sunshine was noted by several editors.

While a wet fall produced by series of fronts interspersed with sun might have produced exciting waves and groundings, the continuously dripping, leaden skies of this fall resulted in very few of these and in more negative than positive commentary. Landbird numbers were noted as particularly poor. Many fall migrants passed on at relatively early departure dates with few half-hardies noted remaining by late October. Many winter visitors arrived relatively early, but were not expected to stay and had, in fact, mainly disappeared by the end of the season. The cause of some late departures and low feeder bird counts is variously attributed to the open, snow-free fall and to good wild food crops of some types. Other types of wild foods were greatly reduced by late spring frosts and by the summer's gypsy moth devastation (Region 9). Other indicators of the fall migration were mixed, with banding reports low in Region 10, yet excellent in Region 4. Tower kills were low again this year in Region 3, yet up in one location in Region 5. In the latter case, there had been some thought that the presence of microwave relay towers nearby had reduced the kill level at a TV tower. This fall's kill may indicate that the several years of low kill levels were due merely to fortuitous weather patterns.

Among the regional reports one can find a number of items which I found to be particularly interesting. From Region 10 there is the report of a new fall hawk watch location on the north shore of Long Island. Among the shorebird reports we have two large fallouts recorded amid the rains of early September; one in Region 3 with 400+

birds of seven species in a short time period on 2 Sept, and the other in Region 2, which included unprecedented numbers of Hudsonian Godwits, with 103 counted on 7 Sept. A detailed census of Jamaica Bay NWR by Tom Davis over the fall season revealed very low juvenile/adult ratios for several species. Could this be related to the weather patterns which produced the fallouts above and the large numbers of shorebirds noted late in the season in some areas? Also from Region 2, note the record number of Little Gulls, 75 adults and three nearly adult birds on 29 Nov. What could be the source of such a large group of adults with no accompanying young of the year? The Region 10 report includes tables from several fall hawk watches and a note on the fall pelagic trip. Observe for the pelagic, *NO* alcids, 50 Gannets, and 150 Black-legged Kittiwakes, the last noted with no fanfare, in contrast with the 15 in Region 5, a new regional high. In Region 4's report find an interesting, detailed record of a banding operation with some comparisons with former years. Finally, we have the reports of zero Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows from several regions and none reported for the fall. Having succumbed to an urge to make some comment on these, a zero report, under my regional editor's hat, I decided now to check a bit further. As it turns out, for these two species, only Grasshopper has been reported at all—once—after 1 Sept in the past 12 years in Region 2. Further, using departure date distributions for the region for the span from the early 1900's to 1970 we find that 25% of the time Grasshopper Sparrow has disappeared before 1 Sept and that for Henslow's Sparrow the number is about 70%. Maybe it isn't too surprising that there are no fall reports. Possibly also, not all of the general up, down, good, bad, and goose-egg comments are of equal value?

As the readers of last fall's highlights will recall, I am enamoured of the flights of fall. Once again, these provide many interesting contrasts across the breadth of our state. The loon and grebe flight found Common Loons good where expected, except in Region 10, Red-throated Loons and Red-necked Grebes very low, and Horned Grebes average to low. Waterfowl were generally considered low, where noted, particularly puddle ducks. Region 7's report of good numbers was an exception. Whistling Swans were good only from Region 1. Canada Geese apparently mainly passed overhead quickly and through the eastern 2/3 of the state. The Brant flight was excellent with counts of over 1000 in Regions 2, 3, 5, and 9. Puddle ducks provided no really large counts. Divers massed in very good numbers, especi-

ally: Canvasback in Regions 1 and 9; scaup in Regions 1, 2, and 6; and White-winged Scoter in Region 2. A table of peak counts is provided for Montezuma NWR in Region 3, as in past years. The fall raptor flight is concentrated in Regions 9 and 10, although Region 3 also reports most species up in numbers, several at new high levels. Region 9 reports a record Broad-winged Hawk count on 20 Sept. Gyrfalcons appeared in Regions 2 and 5. In Region 10 the beach flight was generally described as modest with a note that most data had not yet been received. The Red-shouldered Hawk remained low in all regions, 0-1 bird in six of the regions. The Bald Eagle, at about 27 birds, is up marginally. The Peregrine Falcon can not be assessed without the beach counts. Rough-legged Hawks arrived early in all but Region 10 and were present in modest to excellent numbers. Shorebirding suffered from high water and received many negative comments, yet 37 species were recorded including all "regulars" except Ruff. In Region 9 we find several local sites with record highs for species or numbers. Willets and Red Phalaropes were reported only from Region 2, though in the former case one must suspect that it was simply too common to note in Region 10. The inland jaeger flight was reported in good numbers from Regions 2, 5, and 6. The peak counts of 55 from Regions 5 and 6 on the same day must certainly represent the same birds, if not the same report. Gull numbers provided little excitement this fall, although all species expected, except Laughing Gull, were reported and Region 1's thirteen led for variety. White-winged gulls proved scarce again. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported from Regions 1, 8, 9, and 10; Black-headed and Franklin's only from Region 1; and Sabine's from Regions 1 and 5. Tern counts were generally low in number and their departure dates early. There was only a small flight of Snowy Owls with reports from five regions. Note excellent Common Nighthawk flights in Regions 3 and 9, both peaking at 1000+. The chickadee flight was good over most of the state with Boreal Chickadees reported from Regions 3-10. Tufted Titmice and Red-breasted Nuthatches were also present in good numbers in most regions mentioning them. Thrushes were generally reported as poor except in Region 2 and 4. The warbler flight, too, was reported as poor except in Regions 4 and 7 where good variety and numbers were noted. Of the regularly occurring warblers, all but Worm-eating were recorded. Blackbird comments all noted scarcity except for the report of 1,000,000 assorted blackbirds at Perch River WMA in Region 6, departing 24 Oct. Winter finches

appeared in full variety, except for Hoary Redpoll, in all but Region 10 by mid-season, but lacked persistence due to small cone and seed crops and were greatly reduced in numbers by season's end. Other northern invaders were also reported, with Northern Shrikes in seven regions and Bohemian Waxwings in Regions 1, 5, and 7. Most fall-flight sparrows, e.g. White-crowned, White-throated, Fox, and Lincoln's, were termed good in all but Region 10. I must admit that the Swamp Sparrow flight noted as missing in one region is a flight I had not yet thought of monitoring closely. It was ignored by nine of the regional editors, also.

Beyond the flight groups, there lies an abundance of species of special interest to different individuals or groups for any number of reasons. Herons were down a bit from last fall, but all expected species were reported. Both bitterns were very scarce. Ruffed Grouse numbers were up, Ring-necked Pheasants still low, a mixed bag for the upland hunters. Rails remained elusive. A lone Black-billed Cuckoo was the only representative for that family for the fall. The Common Raven was again relatively widely reported, appearing in Regions 1, 2, 3, 7, and 8. Winter Wrens and both kinglets ranged from "no change" to "considerably improved" in numbers. Eastern Bluebirds were reported up in Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, and 9, but low in 5, 6, and 10. The Loggerhead Shrike remained low at three birds total in Regions 2 and 10. The fall warbler target species, Connecticut Warbler, was reported from five regions. Unreported were: Laughing Gull, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Alder Flycatcher, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Worm-eating Warbler, and Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows.

The climax of the fall report is again the rarities. As usual, it is difficult to winnow the crop to a manageable few of the best; the total flagged as rare over all the regional reports is 105. Selecting, perhaps arbitrarily, a few of the best from each region we have: Region 1—Black-headed and Sabine's Gulls; Region 2—Arctic Loon, Common Eider, Brewer's Blackbird, and Boat-tailed Grackle, with Brown Pelican and Fulvous Whistling-Duck noted with reservations; Region 3—LeConte's Sparrow, Barnacle Goose, and Monk Parakeet; Region 4—Snowy Egret, Boreal Chickadee, and Connecticut Warbler; Region 5—White-fronted Goose—a fall first for the region, Sabine's Gull, White-eyed Vireo, and Brewer's Blackbird, a regional first; Region 6—Whimbrel, Black-legged Kittiwake, and Boreal Chickadee; Region 7—Lark Sparrow and Northern Three-toed Woodpecker; Region 8—Snowy Egret, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Connecticut Warbler,

Orchard Oriole, and Dickcissel; Region 9—Black Vulture, Long-billed Dowitcher, California Gull, and Wheatear; and Region 10—Black Vulture and Black-necked Stilt, both new to Staten Island; Brewer's Blackbird, and "Audubon's" Warbler.

The BOTS award was relatively easy to select this season, Say's Phoebe, a regional first in Region 5, found 7 Nov and lingering through the season.

The total species count this fall was 309, virtually the same as the 312 total last year.

716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580

REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

"When God sorts out the weather and sends rain,
Why rain's my choice." —James Whitcomb Riley

With little relief from the drought that began in May 1980 and persisted through this past summer, the generally wet fall was, indeed, our choice. Precipitation for September and October averaged 2.2 inches (5.6 cm.) above normal, with flooding in the Southern Tier 28 October. However, November returned to the old pattern with rainfall below normal by .7 inches (1.8 cm.). The fall was colder than usual by 1.1° F. (.6° C.) with small lakes iced in by mid-November, but Lake Erie still open at the end of the month. (Weather data: Wellsville Water and Light and WIVB-TV, Buffalo).

The disadvantage of many damp days combined with "no noticeable waves of migrants" hampered banding at Farmersville Station. Here, also, the scarcity of waterfowl and absence of the usual large red-wing and warbler flocks, along with the near desertion of feeders, made this Don Clark's "worst fall for birds ever experienced" and caused concern over pesticides and habitat destruction. The low feeder attendance, worrying many observers, may be partially due to an excellent wild food crop and the near absence of snow, which was a foot below normal by the end of the period. Abundant foods were sugar maple, birch, striped maple and hornbeam seed, and fruits of the gray-barked dogwood. Hemlock seed was in fair supply while red oak acorns and beechnuts were spotty (S. Eaton). At last, after some time, there's cause for celebration for birders, even if not for the birds in search of food so far south, as reports dribble in of a Snowy Owl or two, and good flocks of winter finches.

Positives for the fall include 1) a slightly improved loon flight, 2) excellent Great Blue Heron numbers, 3) a good Whistling Swan movement during November, 4) a fine representation of ducks with a record number of Canvasbacks,

5) good "sharpie" and Cooper's Hawk flights and great numbers of Rough-legs with fair reports of the Marsh Hawk, Osprey and American Kestrel, 6) grouse and turkey populations comfortably above average; a few more scattered pheasants and news of a fall breeding experiment for these birds by the Andover Rod and Gun Club, 7) an interesting shorebird flight and an exciting larid season, 8) good numbers of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 9) a multitude of Tufted Titmice and Red-breasted Nuthatches, 10) a better Winter Wren tally, 11) flocks of up to 150 American Robins all thru October, and Eastern Bluebirds and both kinglets still doing well, 12) a fair migration of Northern Shrikes, 13) a very slight improvement in Eastern Meadowlark numbers, 14) many Purple and House Finches, and a record-breaking goldfinch nesting, 15) a good flight of Dark-eyed Juncos, White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows and Fox Sparrows, and 16) an *addendum* to pique the curiosity: think of all the other rich and luscious goodies hidden in the undisclosed past!

Fall negatives include 1) no Red-necked Grebes, 2) the usual bitter bittern news: only one American and no Least, 3) very few Black Ducks, 4) almost no Red-shouldered Hawks and no Goshawks, 5) no rails, 6) only a few reports of single woodcocks and but one Upland Sandpiper, 7) no Black Terns, cuckoos, Barn or Short-eared Owls or Whip-poor-wills, and nighthawks nearly absent, 8) a poor showing for Red-headed and Hairy Woodpeckers, 9) usual scarcity of Horned Larks and no Purple Martins, 10) but one Carolina Wren, 11) only scattered thrushes, except for robins and bluebirds, 12) no Loggerhead Shrikes, 13) a light warbler flight except for "Myrtles," and no Yellow or Golden-winged Warblers or Yellow-breasted Chats, 14) the Dickcissel absent, and 15) no Grasshopper or Henslow's Sparrows and low numbers of Vesper and Tree Sparrows.

Rarities: Barrow's Goldeneye, King Eider, Bald Eagle, Purple Sandpiper, Northern Phalarope, Parasitic Jaeger, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black-headed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's Gull, Saw-whet Owl, Common Raven, Bohemian Waxwing and Prairie Warbler.

Abbreviations: ACC—Allegany County Bird Census, 11 Oct, compiled by D. Burton; BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; GMA or WMA—Game or Wildlife Management Area; NC, NP or NS—Nature Center, Preserve or Sanctuary; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; OTH—Olean *Times Herald*; Res—Reservoir; SF or SP—State Forest or Park; and WS—Wildlife Sanctuary.

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LOONS—DUCKS: The fall flight of Com. Loons was better than last year with one on the ACC, max seven at Derby 1-30 Nov and seven counted from three other locations, but the Red-throated Loon was missing. The only fall Double-crested Cormorants were two at Buffalo 10 Sept (RA+). Up to three Great Egrets were seen at Iroquois NWR 7 and 13 Sept in addition to one at Burgeson WS 1 Sept, and highest report of the Black-crowned Night

Heron was 15 at Times Beach, Buffalo, 16 Sept. The only report for the Am. Bittern was one on the ACC. Max of the good Whistling Swan flight was 208 at Derby 1-30 Nov, but with no report of Canada Geese from the Oak Orchard-Iroquois complex this season, the largest flock noted was 250 near Alfred 22 Oct. A Snow Goose appeared early over Amity L. 1 Oct (VP) and a "Blue" was spotted in Oak Orchard GMA 13 Nov (FR+), but eyepopping was the flock of 50 in Hume Twp 23 Nov (E. Smith *vide* KP) where two were also seen 2 and 4 Nov (KP). Duck tallies from the ACC (the otherwise undesignated number) and max from other reports include: Mallard, 416, and 200± at Cuba L. 11 Oct; Black Duck, three, and four in Hume Twp. 16 Sept; Gadwall, ten at Times Beach 16 Sept; Green-winged Teal, two, and five in Hume Twp. 9 Sept; Blue-winged Teal, 41, and eight at Burgeson WS 1 Sept; Am. Wigeon, six; Wood Duck, 213, and 34 Hume Twp. 30 Sept; Redhead, 300 at Mayville Bay 8 Nov; Ring-necked Duck, 30 at Bond L. 20 Oct; Canvasback, 15,000 at Niagara Falls 31 Oct (AS)—a regional record; Greater Scaup, 4000 in the Town of Porter 20 Oct (HK, WK); Lesser Scaup, 17 at Amity L. 16 Oct; scaup (species?), "rafts" at Mayville Bay 8 Nov; Com. Goldeneye, 24 in the Town of Porter 20 Oct; **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE**, one at Niagara Falls irregularly 8 thru 22 Nov (RK, Curry, Freeland+); Bufflehead, seven in Hume Twp. 7 Nov; Oldsquaw, five in the Town of Porter 20 Oct; **KING EIDER**, one at Buffalo Harbor 9 Nov (GO) and again at Ft. Niagara SP 22 Nov (Curry+); White-winged Scoter, 12 at Buffalo Harbor 4-25 Oct; Surf Scoter, 13 at Buffalo Harbor 4 Oct; Black Scoter, eight at Buffalo Harbor 1-30 Nov (GO); Ruddy Duck, 20 at Iroquois NWR 25 Oct; Hooded Merganser, 44 at Mayville 8 Nov; Com. Merganser, six, and nine at Niagara Falls 31 Oct; and Red-breasted Merganser, 680 at Derby 15 Oct.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: The best of raptor flights, all over Derby unless otherwise noted, were: 11 Turkey Vultures at Belmont 17 Oct; 15 Sharp-shinned Hawks at Tift Farm NP 15 Sept; 15 Sharp-shinned Hawks (over Derby) 1 Oct; 20 Red-tailed Hawks 1 Oct; 86 Broad-winged Hawks 1 Sept; 5 Marsh Hawks 1 Oct; and 31 Am. Kestrels 1 Sept. Other noteworthy raptor reports include: Sharp-shinned Hawk, three on the ACC and singles in eight areas; Cooper's Hawk, five on the ACC, with singles in 11 areas; Red-shouldered Hawk, one on the ACC, and one near Alfred 12 Oct—scarce; Rough-legged Hawk, two, a day early, on the ACC, and a dozen birds watched in ten locations; **BALD EAGLE**, one at Derby 24 Sept and again 3 Oct (DP) and single imm. at Oak Orchard GMA 13 Nov (FR+) and at Ft. Niagara SP the next day (Fessler); Marsh Hawk, 17 on the ACC and ten others, total, with four of these in the Town of Wales and the remainder from Allegany Co.; Osprey, three on the ACC and at least five counted from four locations; and Am. Kestrel, 23 on the ACC, and regularly reported elsewhere. A Com. Gallinule appeared at Iroquois NWR 23 Oct (Christensen), and "rafts" of Am. Coots were at Mayville Bay 8 Nov (FR+). To spice up the disappointing shorebird flight were: Semipalmated Plover, up to two in Hume Twp. 7 to 16 Sept (KP), an unusual area; Am. Golden Plover, max 23 at Clarence 6 to 13 Sept; Com. Snipe, max 24 at Clarence 6 Sept; Upland Sandpiper, one in Hume Twp. 7 Sept (KP); Greater Yellowlegs, max seven at Cuba L. 2 Nov; Lesser Yellowlegs, six in Hume Twp. 28 Oct and one, a week late, at Iroquois NWR 13 Nov (FR+); **PURPLE SANDPIPER:** singles at Bird Island, Buffalo, 31 Oct (Yoerg) and at Niagara Falls 14 Nov (FR+); Baird's Sandpiper, one at Clarence 6 Sept (AM, WM); Dunlin, max five at Niagara Falls 21 Nov (Curry+); and **NORTHERN PHALAROPE**, two at Niagara Falls 20 Sept (RK). A **PARASITIC JAEGER** was identified at Front Pk., Buffalo, 10 Sept (RA, MF). Other good larid reports include: Glaucous Gull, one early at Dunkirk Harbor 24 Oct (FR, Buck) and one at Niagara Falls 14 and 22 Nov (RA, Curry+); Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides glaucooides*), singles at Niagara Falls 21 and 22 Nov (Curry, Freeland+) and at Derby 23 Nov (DP); Iceland Gull (*L. g. kumlieni*), one at Niagara Falls 22 Nov (Freeland+); Great Black-backed Gull, 53 at Dunkirk Harbor 24 Oct (FR, Buck); **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**, one at Niagara Falls 11 Nov (Curry, Olmsted); **BLACK-HEADED GULL**, one at Niagara Falls 22 Nov (RA+); Franklin's Gull, up to two at Niagara Falls 24 Sept and irregularly 11-22 Nov (RK, Curry+); Little Gull, at least a dozen birds near Buffalo and along the Niagara R. 10 Sept to 22 Nov;

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE, singles at Buffalo 28 Sept (RK, Harnish) and at Niagara Falls 21 Nov (Curry+); **SABINE'S GULL**, one at Buffalo 10 Sept (RA+); Forster's Tern, five at LaSalle Pk. 12 Sept (RA, MF); Com. Tern, max 130 at Niagara Falls 31 Oct (AS); and Caspian Tern, two at Derby 1 Sept (DP) and one at Iroquois NWR 7 Sept (RA+).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Reports of the Screech Owl continue scarce with only ones being five on the ACC and singles near Alfred 6 Sept (EB) and at Farmersville Sta. 12 Oct and 13 Nov (DC). A Snowy Owl was seen between Fillmore and Rosburg 2 Nov (G. Duman *vide* FM) and singles appeared at Tiff Farm NP 13 Nov, Times Beach 20 and 25 Nov and at Buffalo Harbor 27 Nov (GO). Two **SAW-WHET OWLS** were found for the ACC (KP). The only fall report of the Com. Nighthawk was two in Hume Twp. 8 Sept (KP). While there were single Red-bellied Woodpeckers noted in four areas, the Red-headed Woodpecker tallied three on the ACC and singles appeared in Amity Twp. 16 Sept and at Derby 8 Nov—only reports. Although 32 Hairy Woodpeckers on the ACC was a better count than last year's 22, others noted were but a dozen birds from six locations.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Three late E. Kingbirds were found for the ACC, a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was banded near Alfred 12 Sept (EB) and as expected for fall there were no Willow Flycatchers. A flight of 666 Blue Jays and 129 Black-capped Chickadees was noted over Derby 1 Oct (DP). Two **COMMON RAVENS** were seen on the ACC, and well described; they appeared again near Friendship 15 Oct (A. J. Voorhies). This was a great fall for the Tufted Titmouse (25 birds, total, from 13 areas) and for the Red-breasted Nuthatch (38 on the ACC and 36 totaled from seven locations). Noteworthy wrens include: Winter Wren, one on the ACC and singles in six areas; Carolina Wren, one at Cheektowaga 15 Oct and 24 Nov (GO); and Long-billed Marsh Wren, one at Iroquois NWR 25 Oct (Christensen+). Single Mockingbirds showed up on the ACC and in six widespread areas. The E. Bluebird tallied 81 on the ACC, regional max was 15 at Amity L. 9 Oct (VP) and other reports totaled 50 birds from 10 sites. Single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were found at Wendt Beach, Evans, 5 Sept (RA, Hausers) and, late, at Tiff Farm NP 25 and 27 Sept (FR). Both kinglets seem to be doing well: Golden-crowned, 62 on the ACC, with 40 scattered regionwide; and Ruby-crowned, 73 on the ACC, three early in Amity Twp. 7 Sept (VP) and a dozen others here and there. **BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS** were identified in Ft. Niagara SP, two on 14 Nov and one the next day (Fessler, RA+). Seven well distributed No. Shrikes made a fall appearance, some culling out slower weaker birds at feeders.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: The only Philadelphia Vireo for the season was one banded near Alfred Sta. 6 Oct (EB). Noteworthy from the warbler flight include: Orange-crowned Warbler, one on the ACC, singles at Tiff Farm NP 25 Sept (FR) and at Derby 28 Sept (DP) and three banded near Alfred 2 Oct (EB); Yellow-rumped Warbler, 465 on the ACC and 58 banded near Alfred Sta. during Oct (EB); Cerulean Warbler, two at Derby 11 Sept (DP); Blackpoll Warbler, one on the ACC and six banded near Alfred Sta. in Sept (EB); **PRAIRIE WARBLER**, one on the ACC and one near Alfred 29 Sept (Deverell *vide* EB); Palm Warbler, one on the ACC, and eight others, total, from three locations; No. Waterthrush, four banded at Farmersville Sta. 8-12 Sept (DC); Connecticut Warbler, one near Friendship 27 Sept (SB); Hooded Warbler, one at Chestnut Ridge Pk. 3 Oct (GO); and Wilson's Warbler, max three at Alfred 8 Sept (CK).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: The E. Meadowlark tallied 98 on the ACC (33 last year) and max of several reports was 24 near Farmersville Sta. 30 Sept (DC). High count for Rusty Blackbirds was 12 at Farmersville Sta. 14 Oct (DC); other reports were six on the ACC and four other birds, total at three sites. Grosbeaks and finches making interesting news include: Rose-breasted Grosbeak, one, female, late, at the Perry feeder in Fillmore 22 thru 28 Oct (KP); Evening Grosbeak, max 87 at Amity L. 26 Oct; Purple Finch, 126 on the ACC, with flocks of 30 at Farmersville Sta. during Oct (DC) and good flocks this month in several other areas; House Finch, 195 on the ACC and regional max 25 at Eggertsville during Nov (AM, WM); Pine Grosbeak, eight near Alfred 19 Nov (EB) and four in the Town of Porter

22 Nov (Freeland+); Com. Redpoll, up to 36 near Alfred 25 and 26 Nov (EB); Pine Siskin, four on the ACC, ten near Alfred 22 Oct (EB) and two in the Town of Wales 21-30 Nov (Rosche); Am. Goldfinch, a pair, extending the nesting season into the fall, feeding nestlings at Amity L., Allegany Co., 30 Sept (VP)—*record late* for N.Y. State nestlings by six days; Red Crossbill, three, early, on the ACC near Alfred (B. Keough); and White-winged Crossbill, up to 37 near Alfred irregularly 22 Oct-24 Nov (EB), 25 in the Town of Charlotte 1 Nov (FR) and two flocks (no numbers) on Ten Mile Rd. 7 Nov (SE). Notable sparrows include: Vesper Sparrow, 16 on the ACC; Tree Sparrow, only a few scattered reports with max 12 at Alfred Sta. and Belmont in late Nov (CK, DB, LB) and 38 banded near Alfred during Nov (EB); Chipping Sparrow, one, late, at a Wellsville feeder 24 to 26 Nov (EL); White-crowned Sparrow, 158 on the ACC (133 last year); White-throated Sparrow, 407 on the ACC (220 last year); Fox Sparrow, four on the ACC plus 18 others, total, from six reports; and Lincoln's Sparrow, one on the ACC. The only Snow Buntings were one at Dunkirk Harbor 24 Oct (FR, Buck), two in the Town of Somerset 26 Nov (Fessler), and two at St. Bonaventure Univ. 30 Nov (SE).

Addendum: To update the finding of a Golden-winged Warbler nest by V. Pitzrick at Amity Lake, Allegany Co., 22 May this year, further inquiry disclosed that while this was the first documentation for the species for this county in the files of the Nest-Record Card Program of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca, N.Y., it was not the first for Allegany County. The well known ornithologist, Richard Rosche, discovered a Golden-winged Warbler's nest west of Houghton in June 1957, predating the Amity Lake nest by several years.

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION 2 — GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

This Fall was a season of dreary, wet days clothed in semi-darkness. The "sunshine" recorded was only 36.5% of possible, and it seemed like much of that must have been just barely the threshold amount of radiation penetrating the overcast and triggering the detectors. September fell 3° F (1.7° C) below normal, October even further, and November just a bit less. Precipitation recorded was: 5.37 in. (13.6 cm), more than double normal in September; 3.29 in. (8.4 cm), a half-inch above normal in October; and 2.18 in. (5.5 cm), about half an inch below normal in November. Snowfall totalled 2.4 in. (6.1 cm) in November, about 1/3 normal. Despite the cool weather, most bodies of water remained ice free until nearly the season's end.

An effect of the dull, wet weather seems to have been that most of the fall migration passed over us without pausing or with only short stops and few stragglers left behind. A good number of species arrived very early in large numbers, but departed quickly, e.g., Pine Siskin, Dark-eyed Junco, Purple Finch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, both kinglets, and White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows. Many warblers were reported only in low numbers and most passerine departure dates were very early, prior to 15 Oct. There were excellent days in late September and early October when particular species were as abundant as anyone could recall for the past several years; however the numbers of days and the species involved were all too few.

Positive observations for the season include: good Common Loon counts, normal numbers of Horned Grebe, an excellent, extended Brant flight, good counts for some diving ducks, a fantastic Labor Day shorebird fallout, Purple Sandpipers again, a Little Gull convention, a good chickadee flight—though no Boreal, good numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatch, large flocks of thrushes—all well reported, both kinglets in excellent numbers, Northern Shrike back again, good numbers of vireos, all the winter finches except Hoary Redpoll, Dark-eyed Junco and Tree Sparrow early and numerous, White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows everywhere, and large numbers of Snow Buntings early.

Among the negatives we find: very few Red-throated Loons, few Pied-billed Grebes, virtually no Canada Goose flight, poor numbers for most puddle ducks, no Red-shouldered Hawks, Ring-necked Pheasants still low, shorebird habitat generally poor due to high water levels, no large, general gull buildup, very few terns, no cuckoos reported, very few Winter Wrens, many warblers very scarce, and no reports for Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows.

Once again we can hope that the positives are true and that most of the low or missing species only reflect the vagaries of the weather's impact on their passage or on observer efforts. Only by studying the broader picture as it is published next spring will we be better able to assess the reality of these local plusses and minuses. The overall species count was still very good at 249.

Rarities: Arctic Loon, Brown Pelican, Little Blue Heron, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Harlequin Duck, Common Eider, King Eider, Gyrfalcon, Hudsonian Godwit, Marbled Godwit, Willet, Red Phalarope, Long-billed Dowitcher, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Common Raven, White-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Boat-tailed Grackle, Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock Bay Park; Ch—Ontario Beach, Charlotte; D—Durand-Eastman Park, including the adjacent waters of Lake Ontario; H—Hamlin Beach State Park and vicinity; K—town of Kendall, Orleans Co.; and WL—west lakeshore, Rochester to Pt. Breeze.

Observers: Nancy Boudrie, Jean Browning, Carolyn Cass, Shirley Cameron, Julie Claffey, Anne Clarridge, Mike Davids, Dan & Fritz Davis, Gertrude Davis, Frank & Robert Dobson, Kay Doris¹, June Feder, John & Arlieen Foster, Kevin Griffith, Genesee Ornithological Society, Sandra & Robert Hazen, Norm Henderson, Qivind Jensen, Herb & Polly Keating, Allen & Bea Kemnitzer, Jane & Robert Kesselring, David Levy, Walter Listman, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Al Maley, Margaret & Robert McKinney, Ann Miranian¹, Keith Murphy, Richard O'Hara, Bernie Olin, Mike & Tom Peter, Pat Reister¹, Rochester Birding Association, Marge Schmale¹, Jean Skelly, Robert & Susan Spahn, Paul & Jeff Spindler, Ann Stear¹, Mary Ann Sunderlin, William Symonds, Steve Taylor, David, Mike, & Tom Tetlow, Tuesday Group=1, Bob Voss, Ann & Joe Watson, Eleanor Weld¹, Paul Weld, Munro Will, Alice Wood and Peter Zachmann.

LOONS—DUCKS: The Com. Loon flight was excellent with good counts: 300+ WL 25 & 31 Oct; 695 WL 1 Nov; 450 east lakeshore 8 Nov; and 450+ Sodus 14 Nov. Red-throated Loon was poorly recorded with a max of only three. **ARCTIC LOON:** one Russell Station 23 Oct (MD), was well described. Red-necked Grebe was reported in small numbers. Horned Grebe numbers were good with: max 240 H 1 Nov. Pied-billed Grebe remains low. **A BROWN PELICAN:** ad BB 19 Sept (MD, mob); and Pt. Breeze 30 Sept (WLi), may well be the Detroit escape. Double-crested Cormorant continues to appear in small numbers, usually near BB. The most interesting heron records were: **LITTLE BLUE HERON:** one ad Letch-

worth State Park 7 Sept (J & AF); and one ad H 7 Sept (MD, WS); and Black-crowned Night Heron: one imm Turning Pt. Park 7 Nov, late. Both bitterns were very scarce. Among the larger waterfowl, Whistling Swan and Canada Goose were very scarce, hopefully migrating either over or around us. By contrast, the Brant flight was excellent, represented by: nine Russell Station 23 Sept, early; 3000+ Sea Breeze 2 Oct, early and in only 30 min.; 1500 Greece 22 Oct; 1548 BB 29 Oct; and 6000+ Sodus 29 Oct (TT), a 3½ hour count. The only puddle duck count of note was Mallard: 650 Brighton Park 6 Nov. Among the diving ducks we observed: few Redheads; almost no Canvasbacks; some excellent scaup counts—Greater Scaup: 4000+ H 28 Oct (WS), 5 hours; and scaup (sp.); mixed but not separated: 10,000+ off Irondequoit Bay 25 Oct (RS); 5000 WL 25 Oct; and 2500-9000+ off Irondequoit Bay 22-30 Nov; HARLEQUIN DUCK: two Oklahoma Beach 7 Nov (RS); COMMON EIDER: one imm, male H 1 Nov (M & TP, photo); KING EIDER: one H 24 Oct (KG); one female D 14 Nov (MD); and one female Sodus Bay 27 Nov (MD, WLi, AM, RS, BV); and White-winged Scoter: max, 10,000 WL 14 Nov (MD, WLi). A bird with all the field marks of FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK except light underwings was thoroughly studied by many on Salmon Creek near BB 3 Sept. A report has been filed with the NYSARC.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: The fall raptor migration was typical of the past several years. Small numbers of Turkey Vultures were recorded in the hills to the south of Rochester into late Nov. Six Goshawk records included two which are now museum specimens: an adult male and an imm. female which hit windows in homes bordering Durand-Eastman Park only three days apart, the latter only hours after putting on a fine display for a large field trip. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks tallied 22 and 19 respectively, with the ratio changing from 4:1 to 1:2 from Sept to Nov. Red-tailed Hawk numbers were good, Rough-legged, few. Red-shouldered Hawk was not reported. Five Bald Eagles were reported in the region, three of them wing-tagged, only one an adult, one of the Hemlock Lake pair. Four of these records were in Oct, one in Sept. Marsh Hawk numbers were relatively low. A dark-phased GYRFALCON: Lima 5 Oct (JFo), was a thrilling sight. Peregrine Falcon and Merlin records were stable relative to recent years at five and six respectively. Ruffed Grouse and Turkey are reported in excellent numbers, Ring-necked Pheasant shows little change. With high lake levels, there were no mudflats bordering the cattail marshes and few rail reports. Com. Gallinule: one BB 1 Nov, was relatively late. Shorebirding was also plagued by the lack of habitat due to high water. Fortunately, the heavy rains did flood many fields to the west; Ontario Beach at Charlotte was well watched, and the south end of Hemlock Lake lay bare as a huge mudflat. These areas and a fantastic fallout of migrants on 6 and 7 Sept produced 33 species for the region. Among the best were: Killdeer: max 140 H 1 Nov; Am. Golden Plover: 200-500 H-K 6 Sept; 1000 H-K 7 Sept; 200-500 H-K 8-13 Sept; and 50 H 1 Nov, late; Black-bellied Plover: 4-100 H-K 1-6 Sept; 200+ H-K 7 Sept; Ruddy Turnstone: one Ch 4-9 Nov, late; Com. Snipe: relatively scarce; HUDSONIAN GODWIT: 4-5 H 4-5 Sept (MD, mob); 56 K 6 Sept (mob); 35 H 6 Sept (F & RDo); 103 K-Carlton 7 Sept (mob), an unprecedented number for New York State, carefully totalled to avoid possible duplications; 14, 8, 2 H-K 8, 13, 24 Sept; and 2-3 H 11-12 Oct (AK, CC, RDo, RO); MARBLED GODWIT: one K 6 Sept (JSk, JC, PR, WS), leading a flock of 22 Hudsonians in to join 34 already on the ground; Whimbrel: records scattered thru Sept, max. six K 6 Sept (MD, WS, mob); WILLET: one K 6 Sept (MD, WS, mob); Spotted Sandpiper: never increased to normal fall numbers and disappeared early; RED PHALAROPE: one Ch 27-30 Nov (MD, mob); LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: one Turning Pt. Park 18 Oct (MD, mob); Red Knot: scattered singles and pairs at Ch thru, max five Ch 24 Oct; Least Sandpiper: one Ch 29 Oct, late; Purple Sandpiper: three Ch 30 Oct (PR, mob); five BB 31 Oct (MD, mob); three H 1-4 Nov (CC, AK, DT, mob); and one BB 1-4 Nov (mob); Dunlin: numbers low, probably only because the lake levels inundated their normal resting and feeding areas here; and Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 3-6 H-K 1-13 Sept (mob); and one H 1 Nov (MD, WLi), very late, with the Am. Golden Plover noted above. Jaegers were spotted in typical numbers from lakeshore

vantage points, mostly at H and D. Totals were: Pomarine: ten; Parasitic: 11; and jaeger (sp.): 26, with records from 16 Sept to 29 Nov. Several put on spectacular displays for observers. Gulls generally never built to the expected fall numbers. White-winged gulls were very scarce with only Glaucous Gull: one 2nd yr. Russell Station 26 Nov. Bonaparte's Gull briefly reached numbers in the low thousands, not especially abundant. However, Little Gulls staged briefly in their greatest numbers yet with 78-75 adult and 3 imm.—D 29 Nov (RBA), carefully counted resting at one point in time and up to 40+ passing east to west earlier (MD) with no movement of any kind west to east to suggest duplication. Prior to and following that date, numbers did not exceed 25. Black-legged Kittiwake was recorded in what seems to be typical fall numbers: one H 21 Oct (WS); and one each D 15, 21, 29 Nov (MD, mob), all records were of imm. All expected terns were reported, but in low numbers. Departure dates for Forster's and Common, which usually linger to Nov were in the first half of Oct. There was another tantalizing glimpse of an unidentified alcid off H 12 Oct. A fall pelagic into Lake Ontario anyone? As a measure of the generally dismal landbird migration, at this point we have covered 75-80% of the noteworthy records published for fall by the local clubs.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Doves continue to boom. Both cuckoos were absent from the season's records. Owls were poorly reported, as usual, though interesting reports included: Snowy Owl: five birds, one later seen lying dead in a field; Barred Owl: one Barre 12 Sept; and Short-eared Owl: one H 2 Nov, the first of the fall. Both goatsuckers departed by early Oct, Ruby-throated Hummingbird by 27 Oct. Com. Flicker was conspicuously abundant with 50+ Penfield 12 Sept a good locality count. The return of **BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER:** one male H 26 Sept (S & RH, mob); two males H 26 Sept (MD); and one male H 27 Sept (MD, WLi, mob), to virtually the same spot where a female was spotted last year, 11-12 Oct, is very interesting.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Among the flycatchers, the most interesting record was a very late Great Crested Flycatcher: Henrietta 13 Nov (KM), carefully studied to eliminate Western Kingbird and Ash-throated Flycatcher. Otherwise there were the usual low numbers for most species with only Yellow-bellied, Acadian, and Alder entirely missed—not calling. Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen this season only at Pt. Breeze on 1, 2, and 12 Sept. There was the usual massing of Tree Swallows and relatively early departure dates for most swallow species, with only Purple Martin: one BB 4 Oct, a bit late. **COMMON RAVEN** continued its regional presence with one H 26, 30 Oct (MD). The local Black-capped Chickadee flight along the lakeshore was good in Oct, but none of the Boreals reported farther east reached here. Red-breasted Nuthatches and Brown Creepers were numerous in H early, but moved on by the latter half of the season. Winter Wren was very scarce, once again. Where in years past in a single locale a single observer might find five birds, this year a search of many spots for many days was required to turn up one. Carolina Wren holds its own in scattered locations throughout the region. Mockingbird, likewise, particularly a few miles south of the lakeshore east of Rochester where few local observers ever bird. Gray Catbird: one H 1 Nov; and one Livonia 4 Nov, represent two of the few half-hardies lingering into Nov. Thrushes of all species were well reported in very late Sept and the first few days of Oct; however, few tarried. Not even Am. Robin remained in anything like the thousands of the past two winters. E. Bluebird: 40 Avon 6 Oct (J & AF), was an excellent count. Both kinglets appeared early in large numbers, then dropped off rapidly. Cedar Waxwings too, massed, then virtually disappeared. No. Shrikes appeared in early Oct and were subsequently recorded in the best numbers in three years. A single Loggerhead Shrike observed at BB 6-29 Nov was noteworthy due to their current scarcity at any season.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: All the eastern vireos were reported, with Solitary and Philadelphia noted as "perhaps in their best numbers in several years" and a lone **WHITE-EYED VIREO:** an imm. BB 20 Sept (RS). With few exceptions, fall warblering was poor. Most species left early, by 15 Oct. The best reports were: **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** one

Island Cottage Woods 1 Sept (NH); Tennessee: one Webster Park 17 Nov (TG), very late, but the same date as the last record last year; Orange-crowned Warbler: at least nine records; Yellow Warbler: one Livonia 26 Sept, late; both waterthrushes, Connecticut, and Mourning missed; and Am. Redstart: one Greece 1 Nov, late.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: E. Meadowlark departed the region early; no stragglers after late Oct. **WESTERN MEADOWLARK:** one Pt. Breeze 26 Sept (MD, WLi), conveniently burst into song one last time. Other icterids of note included: Red-winged Blackbird: 15,000+ H 19 Nov, not normally a roost site; **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** one imm male H 1 Nov (MD, WLi), in the same farmyard where the region's first flock was found this spring; and **BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE:** one male BB 19 Sept (MD, WLi, mob), at the same time the pelican was sighted, for whatever that association may be worth. The winter finches were all reported (except Hoary Redpoll), at least briefly in good numbers, beginning with Pine Siskin flocks in Sept. Some of the best counts were: Pine Grosbeak: 15 D 27 Oct. Com. Redpoll: several estimates of about 50; Red Crossbill: 25 Hilton 24 Oct; and 30-40 H 7 Nov; and White-winged Crossbill: 25 H 28 Oct; and eight D 25 Oct-2 Nov. House Finch continues to spread and increase. Dark-eyed Juncos appeared early, late Sept, in good numbers. **DARK-EYED "OREGON" JUNCO:** one male Webster 20 Nov thru (MAS, mob, photos), was established at a feeder. The grassland sparrows dropped to virtually zero early with Grasshopper and Henslow's not reported at all. Tree Sparrows arrived by mid-Oct and were present thru in better numbers than in the past couple of years. A good find was **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** one Lakeshore School yard, Greece 20 Oct (KG). A measure of the abundance of both White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows was White-crowned: 600+ WL 27 Sept. Counts of this magnitude for either species were possible for about two weeks about this date, but, as usual, were not done by most observers. Lincoln's Sparrows 8-12 WL 10 Oct, is typical of peak counts of this species in the fall. With no really severe cold, both Swamp and Song Sparrows entered the winter in good numbers. Lapland Longspur reports were few, but Snow Bunting numbers were good at early dates: 300+ Carlton 31 Oct; and max 3000 K 1 Nov (MD, WLi).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

Fall 1981 was rainy, cloudy and cool thru October with killing frosts 10-15 Oct. Ithaca had five inches of rain in September and eight in October. November averaged about normal, but with very little snow.

The Elmira report for this period was most interesting. First, the TV tower kill there was low, totaling only 178 birds of 20 species, mostly warblers, with Magnolias, Ovenbirds and Bay-breasteds accounting for forty per cent of the total. The first week of September brought a big Common Nighthawk flight. Elmira usually has a good nighthawk migration but this one was unbelievable (see the species report below for the details). Hawks moved through 9-11 September and a good warbler flight occurred 18 September. While shorebirding was dull and unexciting in most of the region, Wilfred Howard hit the jackpot at Elmira. On 2 September she spent several hours in a pouring rain watching four hundred shorebirds of seven species coming in and landing on gravel islands in the Chemung River. For details read the shorebird section of the species report below.

One always scans the fall reports for signs of what the winter finch picture will be during the coming winter. All but Red Crossbills have been sighted during the period.

Besides the above there were the following seasonal positives: 1) Double-crested Cormorants lingered well into the fall at MNWR; 2) an excellent Brant flight; 3) most raptors seem to be slowly recovering from the low point of a few years ago; 4) Ruffed Grouse numbers holding at a high level; 5) Turkeys continue to expand in Yates and Schuyler Counties; 6) a LeConte's Sparrow well seen and documented by reliable observers north of Ithaca.

Seasonal negatives: 1) few Horned Grebes; 2) no Whistling Swans; 3) very little good shorebird habitat; 4) few half-hardies attempting to overwinter; 5) a poor Yellow-bellied Sapsucker migration; 6) few Warbling Vireo reports for the second consecutive year; 7) no shrikes; 8) few Tree Sparrows.

Rarities: Barnacle Goose, Peregrine Falcon, Western Sandpiper, Forster's Tern, Monk Parakeet, Common Raven, Fish Crow, Boreal Chickadee, LeConte's Sparrow.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; Co—County; L—Lake; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Pt—Point; Schy—Schuyler; Sen—Seneca; SP—State Park.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: ten at Sheldrake 18 Oct and a flight of 39 flying south over Watkins Glen 7 Nov. Horned Grebe: reported from Cay and Sen L and MNWR but in small numbers only. Double-crested Cormorant: four at Elmira 18 Sept; the summering birds at MNWR lingered with two still present 24 Oct. Great Egret: six present at MNWR during Sept with one staying until 22 Oct. Whistling Swan: no reports. **BARNACLE GOOSE:** one, possibly an escape, with a large flock of Canadas on Aurora Bay, Cay L 31 Oct. Among the four observers was Lars Hedin of Sweden who is familiar with the species. Canada Goose: the first month of the migration was unusual in that relatively few flocks stopped in the region with MNWR having only 5,000 birds well into Oct. Flocks were seen flying very high and apparently heading straight for the mid-Atlantic coast. In the waning days of Oct the pattern changed and large flocks dropped in, staying thru the period; for example, 30,000 birds just north of MNWR on 27 Nov. Max. at MNWR, 40,000 on 29 Oct. Brant: an imm. at Elmira 25 Oct-2 Nov; 200 flying south over Queen Catherine Marsh, Schy Co.; 3,160 in 14 flocks going south over Ithaca 29 Oct. Snow Goose: 50 Cayuta mid-Oct; 1,500 mostly blue morph, MNWR 25 Oct.

Maximum duck numbers at MNWR as reported by the Refuge personnel:

Mallard	75,000	30 Nov	Redhead	2,500	22 Oct
Black Duck	11,000	30 Nov	Ring-necked Duck	1,200	30 Nov
Gadwall	8,000	29 Oct	Canvasback	1,000	18 Nov
Pintail	2,500	30 Nov	Greater Scaup	2,500	22 Oct
Green-winged Teal	3,000	29 Oct	Bufflehead	100	30 Nov
Blue-winged Teal	1,500	11 Oct	Ruddy Duck	30	20 Nov
Am. Wigeon	8,000	29 Oct	Hooded Merganser	50	16 Nov
No. Shoveler	2,200	16 Nov	Com. Merganser	200	16 Nov
Wood Duck	1,200	22 Oct	Red-breasted Merganser	150	16 Nov

Canvasback: 100 on a Sen Co. pond 19 Oct. Lesser Scaup: 100 Camp Dittmer, Phelps 19 Oct. Com. Goldeneye: one Big Flats 30 Oct; present on Cay L during Nov but with no

large flocks. Scoters: no reports. Hooded Merganser: 40 Camp Dittmer, Phelps 24 Nov.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: imm. south of Caroline 5 Sept; at E. Corning the female that nested there was still in the area at the close of the period. Sharp-shinned Hawk: numerous and widespread reports with one observed harassing blackbirds at Cayuga Village. Cooper's Hawk: reported from MNWR, Ithaca, Elmira and the Phelps area. Red-tailed Hawk: good numbers everywhere; a good movement at Elmira 9-11 Sept with counts of 58, 18 and 26 birds respectively. Red-shouldered Hawk: reported at Cornell seminar 5 Oct; one imm. Watkins Glen SP 10 Nov. Rough-legged Hawk: an incursion beginning 10 Oct brought birds to the entire region with a max. of eight at MNWR 23 Nov. To date it has not equalled last year's numbers but appears to be picking up. Bald Eagle: periodic reports of an imm. three subadults and an adult around MNWR; an adult at Mecklenburg late Oct-mid Nov; imm. at Union Springs 8 Nov. Marsh Hawk: being regularly reported in small numbers from the entire region. Osprey: one Schy Co. 9 Sept; one Camp Dittmer, Phelps 1 Oct; the nest at MNWR was destroyed in late Sept when the stub, on which it was placed, was toppled by the wind. However, the birds were seen in the area until 24 Oct. **PEREGRINE FALCON:** an imm. at Ithaca 19 Oct. Ruffed Grouse: reports would indicate the species is still on the high side of its cycle. Ring-necked Pheasant: still very low with two birds being the max. report. Turkey: still increasing with the most encouraging reports coming from Yates and Schy Cos. Sora: the only report was of one flying and calling at Big Flats 15 Oct. Am. Coot: 1,200 MNWR 30 Sept-15 Oct and 500 still there 30 Nov. Killdeer: max. figures 80 Ithaca 5 Sept and 26 Tyre 27 Oct. Black-bellied Plover: 40 Ithaca 5 Sept. Ruddy Turnstone: one Myers Pt. 2 Sept and three Sen L Park 15 Sept. Spotted Sandpiper: two MNWR 29 Sept. and one Sen L Park 2 Oct were both rather late. Greater Yellowlegs: three Elmira 2 Sept; 19 MNWR 25 Oct; one Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca 11 Nov. Lesser Yellowlegs: 300 Elmira 2 Sept. Pectoral Sandpiper: 25 Elmira 2 Sept. Least Sandpiper: five Elmira 2 Sept; latest at Sen L Park 28 Sept. Dunlin: 150 Elmira 2 Sept rather early for so many. Short-billed Dowitcher: two Elmira 2 Sept. Stilt Sandpiper: Myers Pt. 6 Sept. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 12 Elmira 2 Sept; up to 25 at Sen L Park thru 29 Sept. **WESTERN SANDPIPER:** one Myers Pt 2 Sept (Popp). Sanderling: up to ten at Sen L Park thru 23 Sept and a late bird there 5 Nov. Phalaropes: none. Lesser Black-backed Gull: an unconfirmed report of one at MNWR 13 Nov. **FORSTER'S TERN:** one at Stewart Park, Ithaca 5 Sept (JC *et al.*). Caspian Tern: one Stewart Park 2 Sept (JC). Black Tern: lingerers at Elmira 2 Sept and Ithaca 4 and 5 Sept.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: MONK PARAKEET: the previously reported banded bird is still at its "nest" in Elmira Heights. Barn Owl: one Bellona 20 Sept (ML). Short-eared Owl: one at Alpine in Nov and two at Dresden 30 Nov. Com. Nighthawk: Elmira seems to be the nighthawk capital of the region annually during the fall migration. True to form it had 200 birds overhead on 1 Sept and 1000 circling over the Chemung River at 5 P.M. 6 Sept. They were gone by 6 P.M. (WH *vide* MW). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: late hummers were one at Elmira 2 Oct and one at Taughanock Falls SP 10 Oct. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: a poor migration with but few reports.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: a late bird reported at the Cornell Seminar on 26 Oct. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one with white wing tufts showing prominently north of MNWR 11 Sept. Horned Lark: 40 Union Springs 11 Nov, otherwise only very small numbers reported. Swallows: all species left early but a few individuals of each lingered on as follows: Tree: 1,500 at Junius Ponds on 29 Sept dwindled to two by 11 Oct; Rough-winged: at MNWR four birds on 4 Oct and two on 10 Oct; Barn: while most were gone at the start of Sept, one individual was still at MNWR on 23 Oct; Purple Martin: a late bird at MNWR on 5 Oct. **COMMON RAVEN:** one heard in the Arnot Forest 10 Oct. **FISH CROW:** the Ithaca colony hangs on. Black-capped Chickadee: a big fall movement with 250 near Union Springs 11 Nov. **BOREAL CHICKADEE:** a few Boreals were scattered among the above mentioned Black-cappeds near Union Springs on 11 Nov. Red-breasted Nuthatch: good numbers thruout the region with 15 at Camp Dittmer, Phelps on 15 Sept and 12 at Penn

Yan 30 Sept. Brown Creeper: max 12 Junius Ponds 8 Oct. House Wren: reported at Cornell seminars thru 26 Oct, late. Winter Wren: one Sapsucker Woods, Cornell 29 Sept; one banded at Penn Yan 25 Sept and one 17 Oct; one at Junius Ponds 30 Sept-11 Oct; four Stewart Park, Ithaca 9 Oct. Carolina Wren: reported only from Phelps and Ithaca. Mockingbird: singing at Elmira at two different locations, one on 31 Oct and one on 1 Nov. Am. Robin: by the close of the period, unlike last year, this species was hard to find. Wood Thrush: a late individual at Buttermilk Falls SP 8 Nov. Gray-cheeked Thrush: the only report was of one killed at the Elmira TV tower. E. Bluebird: after encouraging reports during the spring and summer, there were few fall reports. Penn Yan had a good year and 20 were seen SW of Dryden 29 Sept. Reported at the Cornell seminars thru 12 Oct. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one MNWR 10 Sept only report. Kinglets: large flight of both species at Stewart Park, Ithaca on 9 Oct. Water Pipit: three west of Auburn 18 Oct; 10 west of King Ferry 8 Nov. Shrikes: none of either species reported. Starling: reports seem to indicate that this species is more abundant than ever. For example, 200 plus birds in a residential dooryard in Seneca Falls, comments like "bigger flocks than ever" in the Ithaca area, a flock of 3,000 at Elmira 6 Oct and flocks of several thousand coming from their roosts in the Montezuma marshes in the morning.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Vireos: White-eyed: one Ithaca 24 Sept (C. Malin *vide* DM). Red-eyed: present thru 8 Oct. Philadelphia: one Elmira TV tower kill; two Elmira 18 Sept; one Ithaca 21 Sept; one Stewart Park, Ithaca 9 Oct. Warbling: few reports with Ithaca reporting "none." Warblers: most species were reported altho in relatively small numbers. Those unreported were Golden-winged, No. Parula, Cerulean, Connecticut, Yellow-breasted Chat and Hooded. Black-and-white: a rather late record on 14 Oct at Ithaca. Orange-crowned: one Ithaca 9 Oct; one Montour Falls 11 Nov. Chestnut-sided: one Junius Ponds 8 Oct, late. Waterthrushes: no live birds reported but two Northern and two Louisianas were among the birds killed at the Elmira TV tower.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: No. Oriole: last reports were one at Elmira 1 Sept and two males still in spring plumage near Clyde 3 Sept. Evening Grosbeak: first migrants were at Brooktondale 10 Oct; widespread in small numbers thereafter. Purple Finch: only a minimal number of reports; up to 16 at a Brooktondale feeder all fall. House Finch: continues to widen its territory and increase in numbers. Pine Grosbeak: several east of Ithaca 22 Nov. Com. Redpoll: a female at an Auburn feeder 11 Nov (SFK). Pine Siskin: reported from Ithaca 26 Sept and Schy Co. 20 Oct. Am. Goldfinch: doing very well. White-winged Crossbill: JC notes several reports Sept-Nov; 10-15 west of Trumansburg 25-26 Nov. Rufous-sided Towhee: max. eight at a Brooktondale feeder in Sept with some remaining until 10 Oct; reported at Cornell seminars thru 26 Oct. LeCONTE'S SPARROW: one north of Ithaca 10 Oct. Excellent report on file (J & KC)*. Dark-eyed Junco: 80 at a Brooktondale feeder 24 Oct. Tree Sparrow: most observers found them scarce thru Nov. but in the Phelps and Auburn areas the numbers increased by late Nov. Chipping Sparrow: a large flock in Elmira 6 Oct. Fox Sparrow: one Camp Dittmer, Phelps 10 Oct; one Ithaca 25 Oct. Lincoln's Sparrow: one Elmira TV tower kill; nine banded Penn Yan 20-26 Sept; one Camp Dittmer, Phelps 21 Sept; one Junius Ponds 25 Sept. Lapland Longspur: no reports. Snow Bunting: first at MNWR were three 24 Oct with 50 there 29 Oct (VD); 20 Ithaca 29 Oct; Union Springs 11 Nov.

Addendum: a pair of Barn Owls were present in an old barn four miles west of Dryden during May and June 1981. No nest was found.

Corrigendum: delete Yellow-throated Warbler from Vol. XXXI, No. 3, page 168.

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REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

WM. C. BREIDINGER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL DeBENEDICTIS

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

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

but departed early. Numbers of flycatchers, swallows, vireos, warblers, black-birds and sparrows were unimpressive, although a few species, such as Orange-crowned Warbler, were well represented. Golden-crowned Kinglets seem to have recovered from their low numbers of the past few years, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets continue to improve in numbers. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Veery were not reported at all this fall, and the other *Catharus* thrushes were scarce.

For the first time in several years significant tower kills were reported this fall. The cessation of kills at the TV tower in northern Pompey Township was coincident with, and thought to be caused by, the opening of microwave relay towers nearby. Although a new microwave tower began operations this year, over 900 birds of 39 species struck the TV tower on the night of 6 September, and a few more birds perished on the one or two nights before and after. The three most numerous species, which made up nearly half of the total kill, were Red-eyed Vireo, Bay-breasted Warbler and Ovenbird. This same night, a kill of about 600 birds took place at a TV tower near Rome. Data from this kill are as yet incompletely analyzed, but species composition is generally similar to the Pompey kill.

Irruption species were conspicuous this fall, but few were persistent at the end of the season. Almost no Goshawks, Snowy or Short-eared Owls were found, but moderate numbers of Rough-legged Hawks were seen in October and early November. No local mouse population highs, that might hold these species, were found. There was a strong incursion of Black-capped Chickadees, accompanied by a few Boreal Chickadees, in October and early November. Coming from the opposite direction, Tufted Titmice were usually conspicuous and widespread this fall as well. Moderate numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches were present in September and October, and a good flight of Northern Shrikes was evident in November. Winter finches were well represented, especially in October and early November, but only Pine Grosbeaks and redpolls appear to have persisted in numbers locally. Crossbills, in particular, appear to have been influenced by the general lack of cones and seeds.

In spite of a mediocre flight, 237 species were reported this fall. The most unusual of these were the first regional Say's Phoebe and Brewer's Blackbird. Nearly as rare were White-fronted Goose, Gyrfalcon, Sabine's Gull and White-eyed Vireo, and among the species seen only a very few times each year, Hudsonian Godwit, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Little Gull, Bohemian Waxwing, and Connecticut Warbler were found this fall.

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Abbreviations: arr—arrival; DH—Derby Hill, Oswego Co.; FH—Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, Cayuga Co.; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral, Oswego Co.; max—maximum; mob—multiple observers; NPT—northern Pompey Township; NYSARC—report to New York State Avian Records Committee; Onon—Onondaga; ph—photographed; SP—Sandy Pond, Oswego Co.; SVB—Sylvan & Verona Beach, Oneida Co.; Syr—Syracuse.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: arr SP on 12 Sept max 48 DH on 2 Nov. Red-throated Loon: about eight LOL, FH 25 Oct to 8 Nov. Red-necked Grebe: four reported (two LOL, two SVB) 24 Oct to 24 Nov. Horned Grebe: arr LOL 10 Oct, max 101 there 25 Oct. Pied-

billed Grebe: max seven FH in late Sept. Double-crested Cormorant: 157 LOL on 4 Oct is new regional max. Green Heron: last Holland Patent on 13 Nov (RLE) is record late by four days. Great Egret: one at Tuscarora Lake, Madison Co., last seen 7 Sept. Brant: about 1200 seen migrating over Georgetown, Madison Co., 22 Oct (LC); and along the LOL 24 Oct to 15 Nov, max 1300 there on 24 Oct. **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**: adult *frontalis*-type Cazenovia Lake 8-10 Nov (MSR, mob) is the eighth regional record, first for the fall. Snow Goose: two of each morph Cazenovia Lake 8-10 Nov; 50 Snows at Beaver Lake 16-18 Nov. Gadwall: max 30 FH in late Oct. Pintail: max 130 DH 8 Oct is low. Green-winged Teal: last FH 8 Nov. Blue-winged Teal: last Clay 12 Nov. No. Shoveler: max and last seven in eastern Oswego Co. on 15 Nov. Wood Duck: max 147 Peter Scott Swamp in mid Sept. Redhead: arr SP on 12 Sept, max only 35. Ring-necked Duck: arr SP 12 Sept, max 130 FH on 1 Nov. Canvasback: arr FH on 25 Oct, max 35 there on 21 Nov, very low. Greater Scaup: arr SP on 18 Sept, max 1600 LOL through Nov. Lesser Scaup: arr SP 10 Sept, max 180 LOL in late Nov is very good fall count locally. Com. Goldeneye: arr DH 24 Oct. Bufflehead: arr LOL 21 Oct. Oldsquaw: arr DH 8 Oct. King Eider: male Oswego 15 Nov, imm DH on 22 Nov. White-winged Scoter: arr SP 21 Sept, max 568 DH on 8 Oct. Surf Scoter: arr SP 21 Sept, max 539 DH on 8 Oct. Black Scoter: arr DH on 2 Oct, very few all fall. Ruddy Duck: arr 5 Oct, max 106 Beaver Lake in early Nov, but no concentration on Onon Lake as in last two years. Com. Merganser: arr SVB 19 Sept. Red-breasted Mergansers: arr DH 3 Oct max 2974 LOL on 25 Oct.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: last LOL on 24 Oct. Goshawk: only one migrant reported. Red-shouldered Hawk: only report LOL on 8 Nov. Rough-legged Hawk: arr DH 2 Oct, no local gatherings. Bald Eagle: imm reported late Nov south and west of Syr. Marsh Hawk: max nine LOL on 31 Oct. Osprey: max seven DH on 2 Oct, last SP on 7 Nov. **GYRFALCON**: a pale tan-colored bird at Nine-mile Point on 12 Nov and DH on 20 Nov (DWC, JH, NYSARC) is the fifth regional record. Merlin: one FH on 26 Sept is only report. Peregrine Falcon: total of four DH 3 to 7 Oct. Bobwhite: birds at Holland Patent feeder in Oct (RLE, EVanD) surely a local release. Virginia Rail: last SP 18 Sept. Com. Gallinule: last SP on 8 Oct. Am. Coot: arr FH 26 Sept, max 20 there in late Oct. Semipalmated Plover: last FH 27 Sept. Am. Golden Plover: 24 reported 13 to 24 Sept. Black-bellied Plover: 1-3/day to 8 Nov (two sites). Ruddy Turnstone: last SVB 29 Sept, very early departure. Whimbrel: one at SP last seen 20 Sept. Hudsonian Godwit: 16 Onon L 6 to 8 Sept. Spotted Sandpiper: one SVB 29 Oct (DKA) is record late. Solitary Sandpiper: last NPT 17 Sept. Greater Yellowlegs: max 19 Onon Lake on 1 Sept, last SVB on 19 Nov. Lesser Yellowlegs: last Holland Patent on 4 Nov. Red Knot: about six imm SVB to 2 Oct. Pectoral Sandpiper: max 75 Tuscarora Lake on 7 Sept, last W. Monroe, Oswego Co., on 31 Oct. White-rumped Sandpiper: 13 at four sites 6 to 11 Sept, then two SP 1 Nov (MSR) is best flight since 1976. Baird's Sandpiper: last Onon Lake 18 Sept, early departure. Least Sandpiper: last SVB 27 Sept, Purple Sandpiper: singles SP 1 Nov (MSR) and 22 Nov (FGS). Dunlin: arr Onon Lake 7 Sept, max 325 DH on 19 Oct, last SP on 22 Nov. Short-billed Dowitcher: last Tuscarora Lake on 7 Sept. Stilt Sandpiper: max 26 Onon Lake on 1 Sept, last there on 18 Sept. Semipalmated Sandpiper: last SVB 1 Oct. Western Sandpiper: two at Onon Lake 1 Sept (FGS), one SVB on 7 Sept (DKA). Sanderling: max only 31 SP 10 Sept, last there on 7 Nov. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: five at Tuscarora Lake on 7 Sept (MSR) is new regional max. No. Phalarope: singles Onon Lake 1-8 Sept and 1 Oct, and five DH 7 Oct were the only phalaropes found. Pomarine Jaeger: imm DH 7 Oct. Parasitic Jaeger: arr and max 55 DH on 29 Sept, 38 more seen on three dates through 28 Nov. Glaucous Gull: only one, DH, on 7 Nov. Iceland Gull: only two, DH, on 7 Nov. Little Gull: adult SP 22 Nov. **SABINE'S GULL**: imm SP 8 Nov (FGS, JH, REL, NYSARC), fifth regional record. Black-legged Kittiwake: two DH on 7 Oct, and 15, including two adults, DH and SP on 22 Nov, new regional max. Com. Tern: scarce, last LOL 24 Sept. Caspian Tern: max 40 Onon Lake 7 Sept, last FH 27 Sept. Black Tern: last SP on 6 Sept.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: No cuckoos reported. Snowy Owl: imm male Grandby 22

Nov (MSR), and one Solvay 22-29 Nov, when hit by car (*vide* DWC). Short-eared Owl: one SP 6 Nov (DWC). Saw-whet Owl: one dead-on-road Liverpool 14 Nov. Com. Nighthawk: last Onon Hill 2 Sept. Chimney Swift: last FH 15 Sept. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last on Ben Burt feeder survey during first week of Oct. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 19 SP on 24 Sept is best fall count since 1977.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: last FH 15 Sept. Great Crested Flycatcher: last FH 18 Sept. **SAY'S PHOEBE:** one Baltimore Woods near Marcellus after 7 Nov (mob, ph, NYSARC) was new to the region. E. Phoebe: last SP 1 Nov. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last (and only) two SP on 18 Sept. Willow Flycatcher: last Amboy 1 Sept. Least Flycatcher: last Tuscarora Lake on 7 Sept. E. Wood Pewee: last Syr 14 Oct (MSR) late. Olive-sided Flycatcher: last (and only) NPT on 11 Sept. Horned Lark: max 250 LOL on 31 Oct. Tree Swallow: max 4000 SP on 18 Sept, last there on 12 Oct. Bank Swallow: last SP 18 Sept. Rough-winged Swallow: last SP 20 Sept. Barn Swallow: last SP 10 Sept, early departure. Cliff Swallow: last SP 10 Sept. Purple Martin: last SP 12 Sept. Black-capped Chickadee: max 300 DH on 25 Oct. Boreal Chickadee: singles with above at NPT on 17 Oct, SP on 5 Nov, FH on 25 Oct, and Nine-mile Point on 12 Nov. Tufted Titmouse: 9 in Oct and 16 in Nov Ben Burt feeder survey; elsewhere more widespread than usual though not numerous. Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 26 FH on 26 Sept, scarce after early Nov. House Wren: last LOL 5 Oct. Winter Wren: arr FH 18 Sept, max only 11, last on 15 Oct (early departure). Carolina Wren: only one or two Ben Burt feeder surveys, one Clark Reservation on 11 Nov (MSR), very low. Long-billed Marsh Wren: last SP on 8 Oct. Gray Catbird: last LOL 15 Oct. Brown Thrasher: last LOL on 5 Oct. Wood Thrush: last Syr 6 Oct. Hermit Thrush: arr NPT 9 Sept, max eight in mid Oct. Swainson's Thrush: last Syr 9 Oct. Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 13 Sept (two sites), last SP 27 Sept, very few found. Veery: none seen live this fall! E. Bluebird: two reports only. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr 18 Sept SP, max 110 FH 28 Sept, best since 1976. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 17 Sept NPT, max 70 FH 26 Sept. Water Pipit: arr DH 4 Oct, max 40 near Volney on 17 Oct. Bohemian Waxwing: one found dead Minetto, Oswego Co., 8 Nov. (GAS), two FH on 15 Nov (FGS). No. Shrike: six or seven reports after 2 Nov.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: **WHITE-EYED VIREO:** adult DH 27 Sept, third regional fall record. Yellow-throated Vireo: last FH 26 Sept. Solitary Vireo: last Syr 9 Oct. Red-eyed Vireo: last near Pennellville, Oswego Co., 17 Oct. Philadelphia Vireo: only 1-3/day, last Clay 29 Sept. Warbling Vireo: last FH 26 Sept. Black-and-white Warbler: last LOL 8 Oct. Tennessee Warbler: last FH 6 Oct. Orange-crowned Warbler: about 25 reported between 15 Sept and 8 Oct, best flight since 1975. Nashville Warbler: last LOL 8 Oct. No. Parula: last DH 2 Oct. Yellow Warbler: last FH 13 Sept. Magnolia Warbler: max 52 NPT, last FH 6 Oct. Cape May Warbler: last Clay 1 Oct. Black-throated Blue Warbler: last DH 2 Oct. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max only 85 SP 24 Sept, last FH 15 Nov. Black-throated Green Warbler: last Lysander 5 Oct. Chestnut-sided Warbler: last SP 18 Sept. Bay-breasted Warbler: last FH 27 Sept. Blackpoll Warbler: last FH 27 Sept. Palm Warbler: arr NPT 14 Sept, last DH 8 Oct. Ovenbird: last DH 26 Sept, then one very late at Woodman's Pond, Madison Co., 29 Nov (GC). No. Waterthrush: last NPT 15 Sept. Mourning Warbler: only two reported, last NPT 15 Sept. Connecticut Warbler: singles NPT on 6 Sept (in tower kill) and on 14 Sept (DWC) and at SP on 4 Oct (DWC). Yellow-breasted Chat: NPT on 15 Sept (DWC) is only second report this year. Hooded Warbler: last FH 26 Sept. Wilson's Warbler: last SP 27 Sept. Canada Warbler: last SP 18 Sept. Am. Redstart: last Syr 9 Oct.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: last Clay 1 Oct. E. Meadowlark: last SP 31 Oct. Red-winged Blackbird: max 7000 DH 29 Oct. Baltimore Oriole: last Tuscarora Lake 7 Sept. **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** female Liverpool 22-24 Sept (FGS, ph DWC, mob, NYSARC), new to region, left two hours before your editor was free to chase it. Scarlet Tanager: last Lysander 5 Oct. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last SP 27 Sept. Indigo Bunting: last Lysander 5 Oct. Evening Grosbeak: arr 16 Sept NPT, not very common after early Nov. Purple Finch: last SP 1 Nov. Pine Grosbeak: arr FH 16 Oct to 16/day by late Nov. Com. Redpoll: arr SP

2 Nov, to 150/day by late Nov. Pine Siskin: arr DH 2 Oct, very few after early Nov. Red Crossbill: six near SP 26 Nov only report. White-winged Crossbill: several small flocks 31 Oct to 8 Nov. Rufous-sided Towhee: last Clay 2 Nov. Savannah Sparrow: last SP 15 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: last SP 31 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: arr SP 18 Sept, max only 139 Lysander 11 Oct. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr SP 31 Oct, to 35/day in Nov. Chipping Sparrow: max 45 Lysander 5 Oct, last there 12 Oct. Field Sparrow: last Clay 2 Nov. White-crowned Sparrow: arr SP 24 Sept, max 40's in Oct, last Clay 2 Nov. White-throated Sparrow: arr SP 12 Sept, max 400/day in early Oct. Fox Sparrow: small numbers 12 Oct to 10 Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: small number 16 Sept. to 12 Oct. Swamp Sparrow: last southern Madison Co. 14 Nov. Lapland Longspur: one Clay 3 Nov only report. Snow Bunting: arr FH 11 Oct.

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REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL

My assuming the Region 6 editorship from veteran Lee Chamberlaine shifts the center of gravity to the east. Both human and avian populations seem to center in the Watertown-Eastern Lake Ontario area, albeit strongly cantilevered by J. VanRiet's report from Massena. Waterfowl, raptors, and shorebirds are especially well reported by Gerry Smith at El Dorado Beach and Lee Chamberlaine in Henderson. Sightings from Canton and vicinity come primarily from the St. Lawrence University community with notable contributions from Mildred and Everett Howard. During the fall period there were no reports from Lewis or southern St. Lawrence Counties. I hope to encourage more participation from birders throughout the region.

A year ago, Lee Chamberlaine wrote that the fall of 1980 was even wetter than that of 1979. That seems like a hard act to follow, but September and October of 1981 were so dismal that one wonders when and how the birds winged South. Moreover, due to frosts in May, it is a poor year in some localities for berries, apples and mast.

The first frost occurred on 21 September at Barnes Corners. October was raw with temperatures often in the 40's; through 12 October it was glorious Indian summer. November was drier and sometimes warmer. The first snow was 6-7 November; one inch in Watertown, two to three inches in Canton. During the second week in November ponds skimmed over with ice.

During the period there were three rains exceeding one inch: 1.43 in (3.63 cm) 10 September; 1.23 (3.12 cm) 23 September; and 1.69 in (4.29 cm) 29 October. Maximum and minimum temperatures for each month in Canton were September: max 79° F (25° C) on 1 September, min 36° F (2° C) 25 September. (It was 22° F [-6° C] in Watertown 30 September.) October: max 68° F (20° C) 14 October, min 22° F (-6° C) 13 October. November: max 64° F (18° C) 5 November, min 14° F (-10° C) 9 November.

To summarize the fall migration, flights of Canada Geese peaked the third week of October when there were four reports of Brant. Puddle ducks peaked in early September and were largely gone by mid-October. Surf Scoters were seen

off El Dorado Beach in early October, and Hooded Mergansers at Perch Lake in mid-November. Red-tailed Hawks were abundant; while there were scattered sightings of all other species of diurnal raptors, except Peregrine Falcon and Golden Eagle. Shorebirds declined during the second half of September and were largely gone by mid-October. There were few reports on passerine migration, which seems to have extended through October. Shrikes and winter finches were first sighted in early October, followed by open country wintering raptors, including several Short-eared Owls.

On the negative side, there were no reported loons and few grebes; no departure dates for flycatchers, wrens or summer sparrows; and very little on swallows or thrushes.

Rarities: two Whimbrels, two Western Sandpipers and a Merlin were spotted at El Dorado Beach, and a Black-legged Kittiwake at Massena.

Abbreviations: ad—adult; arr—arrival; EIDB—El Dorado Beach Preserve, Lake Ontario; Jeff Co.—Jefferson County; PRWMA—Perch River Wildlife Mgt. Area; RMPD—Robert Moses Power Dam, Massena; St. Law Co.—St. Lawrence County; ULLWMA—Upper and Lower Lakes Wildlife Mgt. Area.

Contributors: Richard Brouse (RB), Stuart Brown, S. Cameron, William Chaisson, Lee Chamberlaine (LC), K. L. Crowell (KC), D. Faulkingham, J. I. Green, Michael Heany (MH), Mildred & Everett Howard (MEH), Nick Leone (NL), Diana McKentley, David Newton, Allen & Phoebe Rogerson, David Sibley, Peter Slingluff, Gerald Smith (GS), S. Stevens, J. VanRiet (JVR), Jane & Robert Walker (JRW).

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon—none reported. Horned Grebe: ten Black River Bay 29 Nov (JRW). Double-crested Cormorant: last one at Henderson Harbor 17 Oct (LC); at EIDB influx early Sept, max 60 on 11 Sept; scarce in Oct, last 3 Nov (GS); one at Pillar Pt 15 Nov (JRW). Great Blue Heron: nine reports for Canton area, last seen were three at ULLWMA 24 Oct; one at Adams 2 Nov; last one at Henderson 10 Nov. Green Heron: one at our farm pond Pierrepoint for a week early Sept; one ULLWMA 24 Oct (MH). Mute Swan: one PRWMA 27 Oct. Canada Goose: first report, Potsdam 24 Sept (D. McKentley); moving in Canton area 21-23 Oct, 3000-4000 PRWMA 25 Oct; 3000 Perch Lake, 1000 Henderson Pond 24 Nov (LC). Brant: 250 Pt. Peninsula and 300 over Watertown 21 Oct (LC); 180 ULLWMA 21 Oct (JIGreen); 36 in cornfield Pierrepoint 26 Oct (KC). Snow Goose: four PRWMA 27 Oct (LC). Puddle ducks, reported from EIDB by G. Smith unless otherwise noted—Mallard: max 345 on 1 Sept. Black Duck: max 35 on 1 Sept. Green-winged Teal: max 30 on 4 Sept; last six 10 Oct. Blue-winged Teal: peak late Aug; last one 7 Oct, ULLWMA 15 Oct (P. Slingluff). Am. Wigeon: arr 5 Sept. No. Shoveler: eight PRWMA 7 Oct (LC). Ring-necked Duck: 40 PRWMA 7 Oct; ten ULLWMA 4 Nov. Greater Scaup and Lesser Scaup: first PRWMA 7 Oct; 400 on 29 Nov (JRW). R. Brouse reports 10,000 scaup and Com. Goldeneye at Black River Bay 15 Nov. Com. Goldeneye: 200-400 per day EIDB thru Nov. Bufflehead: 50 Black River Bay 29 Nov. Oldsquaw: on Black River Bay 29 Nov (JRW). Surf Scoter: 100-200 per day EIDB first half Oct (GS). Hooded Merganser: eight Perch Lake 19 Nov (LC). Com. Merganser: 100 Perch Lake 19 Nov.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: one four mi. n. of Watertown 15 Nov (RB); one So. Colton 30 Nov (D. Sibley). Turkey Vulture: two Mannsville 8 Oct (RB). Sharp-shinned Hawk: max EIDB five on 12 Sept (GS); one near Henderson (LC); one Pierrepoint 18 Oct (KC). Cooper's Hawk: male Mannsville 10 Sept (RB); scattered singles at EIDB, three early Oct (GS); one over Watertown (LC). Red-tailed Hawk: common thru period; many imm So. Jeff Co. (LC) and St. Law Co. (KC); four migrating at Canton 4 Oct (W. Chaisson). Red-shouldered Hawk: arr EIDB 10 Sept—very early (GS). Rough-legged Hawk: first near Henderson 11 Oct (LC); influx to Lake Ontario region (Sackets Harbor, Rodman, Henderson,

Sulfur Springs) last week of Oct (RB, GS, JRW); 10-15 per day (dark phase two to one) So. Jeff Co. 21 Oct thru (LC). Bald Eagle: PRWMA—one ad 15 Oct (S. Cameron) pr ad 25 Oct (LC), one imm 26 Oct (S. Brown); pr harassing waterfowl at Perch Lake 19 Nov (LC). Marsh Hawk: fairly common thru period—"many" in Jeff Co. (LC), two pr and four singles (RB, JRW); one pr, three singles in St. Law Co.; last Rodman 29 Nov (RB). Osprey: four singles EIDB 5-22 Sept (GS, RJW); one Stony Creek near EIDB 11 Oct (LC). MERLIN: one EIDB 6 Oct (GS); one possible in Canton 2 Oct (KC). Am. Kestrel: EIDB three 4 Oct (GS), one to three per day thru (RB, LC); one Canton 23 Nov. Ruffed Grouse: numbers still up in Jeff Co. (LC); down from last two years in St. Law Co. (KC)—take your choice! The following shorebirds are from EIDB by G. Smith unless otherwise noted. Semipalmated Plover: six on 7 Sept (RB); three per day in Sept; dep. 10 Oct. Killdeer: 2 dep. 31 Oct. Am. Golden Plover: one only 13 Sept. Black-bellied Plover: one to three per day Sept-Oct; max nine on 20-25 Oct; dep. 31 Oct. Ruddy Turnstone: nine on 27 Sept (RB); imm 7-25 Sept; max 22 on 12 Sept. Am. Woodcock: last 4 Nov, early (LC). WHIMBREL: singles 9 Sept and 8 Oct late (GS). Spotted Sandpiper: dep. 13 Sept. Greater Yellowlegs: only one to two per day at irregular intervals thru Sept; dep. 16 Sept. Red Knot: one to two imm per day thru 9 Sept. Purple Sandpiper: one 31 Oct; 3 and 29 Nov; two on 12 Nov. White-rumped Sandpiper: scarce, one 13 Oct. Baird's Sandpiper: one to three per day thru 29 Sept. Least Sandpiper: decline after mid-Sept; dep. 3 Oct. Dunlin: arr 16 Sept; six to ten per day to mid Oct, 160-200 per day to 5 Nov; max 310 on 31 Oct; dep. 14 Nov. Short-billed Dowitcher: dep. 1 Sept. Stilt Sandpiper: two dep. 29 Sept. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 420 on 7 Sept; rapid decline 10-15 Sept; dep. 7 Oct. WESTERN SANDPIPER: 8 Sept, 3 Oct. Sanderling: 45 on 11 Sept; 20-25 per day thru early Oct; dep. 10 Oct. Parasitic Jaeger: 55 on 29 Sept; dep. 28 Nov—late record. Glaucous Gull: one imm at RMPD 26 Nov (JVR). BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: one imm RMPD 26 Nov (JVR). Herring Gull: none reported?! Ring-billed Gull: still common at end of period—daily flights from Lake Ontario and back (LC). Bonaparte's Gull: max 32 on 7 Sept. Common Tern: 100 EIDB 7 Sept (JRW); dep. three on 15 Sept. Caspian Tern: three EIDB 9 Sept (RB); dep. 15 Sept. Black Tern: max three on 1 Sept; dep. 7 Sept.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Great Horned Owl: heard three in Henderson (LC); frequent sightings at ULLWMA (P. VanDongen); one Canton 4 Nov (D. Newton). Snowy Owl: one at Cape Vincent 6 Nov (D. Faulkingham); one male at Pillar Pt. 15 Nov (RB); two on Point Peninsula 29 Nov (JRW). Barred Owl: calling at ULLWMA early Oct (MH). Short-eared Owl: one Ashland WMA injured (LC); two near Chaumont 29 Nov (JRW). Saw-whet Owl: road-kill near Canton 10 Nov (J. Green). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: EIDB 9 Sept (RB); one in Canton thru 2 Oct (MEH). Belted Kingfisher: one EIDB 9 Sept (RB). Pileated Woodpecker: 11 singles in region thru period (EB, KC, LC, NL). Red-bellied Woodpecker: male thru and female 12 Oct in Henderson (LC). Red-headed Woodpecker: five (two pr ad, one imm) Sandy Creek Rd, Ellisburg (S. Stevens *vide* LC). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: two singles Canton. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers: singles and pairs thru in Canton area—Hairy more common.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Horned Lark: ten Canton 2 Oct (KC); 60 Henderson Pond 3 Oct (LC); flock Pierrepont 9 & 17 Nov. Tree Swallow: 20 Henderson 21 Sept, eight Paddy Hill 20 Oct—sitting in road for warmth (LC); one four mi. n. of Watertown 15 Nov—late! (RB). Com. Crow: 70 Ray's Bay, L. Ontario 12 Oct; 3000 near Watertown moving ENE 12 Oct; 100 Henderson 12 Nov. Black-capped Chickadee: several flocks of four to eight in Canton area. BOREAL CHICKADEE: Canton at feeder 20 Oct (KC); S. Colton 30 Nov (D. Sibley). TUFTED TITMOUSE: one Henderson at feeder 19 Oct thru (LC), previously reported only (?) from Colwell Pond in So. Jeff Co. Canton 19 Oct (M&E Howard); first (?) record in St. Law Co.; photographed (several Dec. sightings in Canton). White-breasted Nuthatch: singles in Canton-Pierrepont area 15 Oct thru. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one Henderson 10 Oct; one Canton 7 Nov. Brown Creeper: three Henderson 11 Oct moving with kinglets (LC); one Canton thru (MEH). Mockingbird: EIDB 9 Sept (RB). Brown

Thrasher: Rodman 22 Nov (N. Leone). Am. Robin: Henderson in red cedar 10 Oct; flock Canton 11-12 Oct. E. Bluebird: two Pierrepoint 20 Sept—normally see 8-12 (KC). Grey Catbird: Canton early Oct. BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: Canton 1 Sept (J. Green), third sighting in eastern St. Law Co. I saw one in Piercefield 30 May 1978, and one was observed by L. Morrison and D. Turin (*vide* KC) at Indian Creek Nature Center ULLWMA 24 Apr 1981; see also *Kingbird* 31 (4): 252 (1981). Golden-crowned Kinglet: flock Henderson 11 Oct; one 7 Nov (LC). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: four in mixed flock with Brown Creeper Henderson 12 Oct. Both kinglets in Canton 4 Oct (MEH). Water Pipit: 35 Canton 26 Oct; none from Jeff Co! Cedar Waxwing: 30 EIDB 20 Sept (RB); decreasing thru (LC). No. Shrike: first Canton 13 Nov, took bird from feeder (MEH); one Henderson 30 Oct (LC); one imm 15 Nov (RB) and one 29 Nov (LC) at Pillar Pt; one Dry Hill at feeder 15 & 30 Nov (JRW).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Warbling Vireo: Canton 4 Oct with kinglets and Nashville Warbler (MEH). Yellow-rumped: first Pierrepoint 19 Sept (KC); Henderson six on 10 and 12 Oct (LC). Nashville: one Canton 4 Oct (MEH). Bay-breasted: one EIDB 5 Sept (JRW).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: E. Meadowlark: many Canton-Pierrepoint area 1-4 Oct; five Fargo 5 Nov (LC); one Pillar Pt 15 Nov (RB). Red-winged Blackbird: 400 Canton 25 Oct; one thru 5 Nov at feeder (MEH). Rusty Blackbird: one male Canton 29 Oct (MEH). Blackbirds: over one million—mostly Red-winged; also Com. Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Starling—left PRWMA 24 Oct (LC). Scarlet Tanager: female Pierrepoint 20 Sept (KC). Cardinal: pair in Henderson at feeder thru (LC); one pair Morely 20 Nov and two to four pairs in Canton thru; family group in early Sept suggests first successful breeding in Canton; female S. Colton (J. Green) implies range extension toward Adirondack region. Evening Grosbeak: first in Jeff Co. Dry Hill 4 Oct (JRW); first in Canton two males 9 Oct; flocks of 20-30 20 Oct thru. HOUSE FINCH: pair at feeder in Canton 5 Oct, first sighting in Canton area (MEH & D. Sibley), photographed. Pine Grosbeak: four (one female, three male) Ty-lerville 4 Nov; two imm feeding on high bush Cranberry in PRWMA 19 Nov (LC). Com. Redpoll: first in St. Law Co., Clare 10 Nov. Pine Siskin: Canton 8 Oct at feeder (MEH). Am. Goldfinch: flocks of 20-40 Pierrepoint 1-4 Oct. Purple Finch, Com. Redpoll, Pine Siskin and Am. Goldfinch Henderson increasing thru (LC). Rufous-sided Towhee: one in Canton thru early Oct (MEH). Dark-eyed Junco: scarce (LC); many moving thru Canton area 22-26 Oct (KC). Tree Sparrow: first Henderson 6 Oct, scarce (LC). White-crowned Sparrow: first imm 30 Sept, ad 5 Oct, max 12 Oct, dep. 15 Oct (LC). White-throated Sparrow: arr 20 Sept; max 12 Oct, last 19 Oct; small groups Canton-Pierrepoint 26-28 Oct. Snow Bunting: first three in Henderson Harbor 30 Oct (LC).

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REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

High lake levels from heavy fall rains covered much of the shorebird mudflats. Mark Gretch reports that Clinton County had both fewer species and numbers representing this group than usual because of high water in Lake Champlain. The same wet season was favorable for waterfowl however, and many species were present. The first migrant Canada Geese were 20 over Tupper Lake 8 October with migrant numbers of that area peaking 24 October.

Charlcie Delehanty had good warbler flights 1 and 18 September at Tupper Lake. Mark Gretch found a flight at Averill Peak in western Clinton County on 4 October that included Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Blackburnian Warblers.

Mid-October was the start of an increasing influx of several winter finch species such as Evening Grosbeak, American Goldfinch, Red Crossbill, and White-winged Crossbill but numbers began to dwindle in late November for all of these except the crossbills. Purple Finch and Pine Siskin numbers began increasing in September. Mrs. Delehanty had a high of 32 Purple Finches 24 September and only five 23 October. Her records for Pine Siskins went from one on 24 September to 135 on 15 October and then down to six 25 October. This trend from several areas seems indicative of a good winter finch flight that tarried in the region for two or three weeks before moving on, perhaps south.

There are still remnants of the flight plus Bohemian Waxwings, a lot of Pine Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls, and a sprinkling of Snow Buntings, but a lot of birds that were here have moved elsewhere.

Observers: Dirck Benson, Mary Benson, Helen Booth, Robert Booth, John Bruce, Geoffrey Carleton, Dean Cook, Charlcie Delehanty, John David Delehanty, Mark Gretch, Robert Hagar, Elsbeth Johnson, Harold Klein, Charles Mitchell, Dan Nickerson, Louise O'Connell, Terry O'Connell, Daniel O'Keefe, Kathryn O'Keefe, Ray Payson, John Peterson, Grace Reese, Merle Reese, William Rutherford, Mary Sheffield, Robert Sheffield, and Armand Vaillancourt.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: Mary & Robert Sheffield report a pair at Elk Lake that raised one young. The last reports were 10 Nov for Bay Pond and Upper St. Regis Lake near Paul Smiths as well as Tupper Lake. Two Horned Grebes were at Heart Bay on Lake George 11 Oct (DC). Moody Pond in Saranac Lake had a Pied-billed Grebe 6 Oct (MB, DB) and CD had one at Tupper 13 Oct and 3 Nov. GC saw a few Double-crested Cormorants at the end of Crown Point in mid-Sept. A Green Heron and an imm Black-crowned Night Heron were at Ausable Point 26 Sept (CM, RP). Three Great Egrets were seen at Saranac Lake in early Sept by David Dudones and two others. Snow Goose: 30 flew past Baker Mt. at Saranac Lake 3 Oct (MB, DB); one 28 Oct feeding with the local Canada Goose flock at Tupper showed its black wing tips (CD); a large flock at Ausable Point 29 Oct (RP); and about 300 at Rouses Point 1 Nov (MG). MG's Clinton Co. reports include: 300 Mallards; three Gadwalls; two Pintails; a late Green-winged Teal shot 14 Nov; 12 Am. Wigeons at Lake Alice; two No. Shovelers; two early Redheads 19 Sept, later building in numbers to 90 1 Nov; 40 Ring-necked Ducks, the first Canvasbacks were 24 Oct; 45 Greater Scaups; after mid-Nov rafts of hundreds of Com. Goldeneye were along the lake; and three White-winged Scoters. CD had one Pintail and nine Canvasbacks at Tupper. Surf Scoter is unusual in this region but there were three reports: four Heart Bay of Lake George 3 Oct (DC); one at Crown Point 6 Oct (JB); and CD had three on Tupper Lake 14-17 Oct. Hooded Merganser: 40 Lake Alice 31 Oct and 22 Little Tupper Lake 24 Nov.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Mrs. Delehanty again has a Sharp-shinned Hawk enjoying her feeder birds. The first Rough-legged Hawk arrived 18 Oct at Clinton Co. Numbers there did not increase to the high levels of last year (MG). Three migrants passed over Tupper 5 Nov and a single bird was there 26-28 Nov (CD). A Marsh Hawk spent most of Oct at Tupper and the last reported was on 7 Nov from Clinton Co. The last Osprey was seen 24 Sept at Tupper. Com. Gallinules were at the mouth of the Great Chazy River 6 Oct. Early Am. Coots were there 18 Sept. MG noted Semipalmated Plovers 9 Sept. at Kings Bay where one late bird was seen 22 Oct. RP had Black-bellied Plovers at Plattsburgh 20 Sept. JDD found a late Am. Woodcock at the edge of his Tupper Lake yard 26 Oct. Flocks of up to 25 Com. Snipes were

at Kings Bay thru Oct. A late Greater Yellowlegs was at Rouses Point 24 Oct and a late Lesser Yellowlegs was seen 14 Oct at Kings Bay. A few yellowlegs of undetermined species were passing over Paul Smiths in Sept. Five Pectoral Sandpipers were at Kings Bay 24 Sept and MG also found 15 Dunlins there 31 Oct. EJ and JP had the best shorebird with the single Sanderling at Crown Point 5 Sept. 50 Herring and 75 Ring-billed Gulls were at Tupper 19 Sept (CD). 32 Com. Terns sat on an Ausable Point duck blind 26 Sept (CM, RP).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Robert & Mary Sheffield found a Great Horned Owl at Elk Lake but no Barred Owl, which is a switch from the expected. A late Ruby-throated Hummingbird was at Westport 8 Oct (GR, MR). A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was at McColloms in late Nov (RH). A No. Three-toed Woodpecker was out of range at Crown Point 23 Sept (JB).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: A late Olive-sided Flycatcher was at Port Henry 18 Sept (JB). About 100 Horned Larks, all of the prairie subspecies, were seen 25 Oct in Clinton Co. The next day 40 were at Tupper Lake. A late Barn Swallow was at Kings Bay 24 Sept. Six late Cliff Swallows were at Tupper 6 Oct (CD). Com. Ravens were at Lyon Mt. and Taylor Pond in Clinton Co. There were a lot of reports from the other three counties. Boreal Chickadee was at Elk Lake, McColloms, etc. as expected but there were a lot of wandering birds reported, such as the flock in mixed woods 19 Oct at Elizabethtown reported by JP. This may be a flight year. One Tufted Titmouse was at Cadyville 29 Nov (LO, TO). Two Brown Thrashers were at Tupper until 22 Sept. They are scarce there. There was a good Am. Robin flight, 100 fed on mountain ash fruit at Tupper 16 Sept. MG had a very late Swainson's Thrush at Lake Alice 31 Oct. A 3 Oct Gray-cheeked Thrush at Crown Point was both very late and unusual as a fall migrant there (JB, *vide* GC). Six Water Pipits were in a Clinton Co. field 7 Nov (MG). 35 Bohemian Waxwings were at Plattsburgh 27 Nov (HB, RB). It is getting so that this species is to be expected near Lake Champlain in winter. The first No. Shrike was seen at Tupper 24 Oct when CD heard it singing. There were later reports of two in Clinton Co. and two at Bloomingdale.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: JP banded a late Solitary Vireo 21 Oct at Elizabethtown. A Black-and-white Warbler was still singing at Tupper 15 Sept (CD). JP banded a Tennessee Warbler 3 Sept at Elizabethtown. The same area had an Orange-crowned Warbler 15 Sept (EJ, JP). A late Yellow Warbler was at Tupper 5 Sept and a late Magnolia Warbler was there 8 Oct (both CD). The last reported Black-throated Green Warbler was one at Tupper 20 Oct. A Palm Warbler was there 6 Oct. Wilson's Warbler: two Port Henry 12-15 Sept (GC, JB); one Ausable Point 26 Sept (CM, RP).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: three migrant Rusty Blackbirds fed on an Elizabethtown lawn 2 Oct and one was on a Tupper lawn 29 Oct. A big push of Com. Grackles went thru the first week of Sept. A Rufous-sided Towhee was still at Tupper 11 Oct. **LARK SPARROW:** the best find of the fall season was at South Meadow 8 Sept where binoculars and a 15X scope clearly showed the head pattern, clear breast with central spot, and white outer tail feathers (DO, KO, JP). Heavy rain apparently encouraged the bird to move on for it wasn't there the next day. There were good numbers of Dark-eyed Juncos. Tree Sparrows were scarce. The first was seen 17 Oct. There were good numbers of White-crowned Sparrows inland in mid-Oct but few near Lake Champlain. A White-throated Sparrow was still at Tupper 25 Nov. Three Fox Sparrows were at Lake Placid 11 Oct (HK, RP) and two were at Tupper 10 Oct-4 Nov (CD).

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REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

BILL COOK

Heavy rains characterized this fall with about three times the normal amount for October, according to the American Meteorological Society. The heaviest rainfall for the region was in Fulton County where 6.34 inches fell in Gloversville during October. Yet, following last year's drought, streams and ponds are still down. This plethora of precipitation persisted, bringing October hail storms to the Hudson Valley and considerable snow accumulation in the late fall.

A generally colder autumn (five to seven degrees below normal in October) and the very early appearance of winter species offer evidence for perhaps another hearty winter. Evening Grosbeaks appeared in Corinth on 13 September. Red Crossbills were at Camp Pinnacle in Albany County on 11 October and by the end of the month White-winged Crossbills were there too. Flocks of Pine Siskins became numerous by mid-October. A Snow Bunting was found at Basic Creek Reservoir on 24 October and a flock of Common Redpolls passed through New Baltimore on 3 November.

The highlight species of the northern invasion is, however, Boreal Chickadee. No fewer than 11 have been reported in the Albany-Columbia County area from 25 October thru November, with the majority of the observations having been made by Ken Able. The appearance of this Adirondack species outside its range was unexpected so soon after the fall 1975 irruption when it received Bob Smart's "BOTS" award.

On the other end of the scale, a late Rose-breasted Grosbeak (immature) was reported to Dial-A-Bird by Margret Krolick of Colonie. The 10 November sighting is eight days later than the latest record for an inland location.

A Great Horned Owl found "in tremors" by Jane Barry at Embough Bay in Catskill on 10 October was autopsied by the state pathologist, Ward Stone. The owl's brain contained 357 ppm PCB and 45 ppm DDE. Ward Stone considers this important documentation of bird mortality due to Hudson River pollution and urges other finds to be referred to him.

This season has been good for gulls and woodpeckers but poor for owls. The seven species of gulls reported include Glaucous Gull, Iceland Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull, all at the Colonie landfill. Ken Able's report of *Larus fuscus graellsii*, the British subspecies of the Lesser Black-backed Gull, is the third local record. An equal number of woodpecker species include two Red-bellied Woodpeckers and nine or more Red-headed Woodpeckers.

Local birders seemed to concentrate their hawk migration watch at Camp Pinnacle in the Helderbergs of Albany County. They tallied 12 species of the *Falconiformes* including a Merlin on 24 October. B. and R. Dietert had the most exciting news though, with a sighting of an early Rough-legged Hawk and a Bald Eagle elsewhere in the county on 20 September.

The 191 species reported this season is 19 more than last year's total. Some of the newcomers include Dickcissel, which hasn't been reported in the region

since December 1979 (two years), Common Raven, Northern Shrike, Sora and many of the northern species already mentioned. Absent from this list however are at least ten species from last year's list. One can't expect White-winged Scoter, White-rumped Sandpiper and Snowy Owl every fall, but the absence of Barn Owl, Lesser Scaup and Canvasback is probably due to inadequate coverage or the lack of a major bird census during this period.

Connecticut Warbler once again makes the celebrity column with a cameo appearance in Albany on 15 September. Otherwise, warblers were few in number, according to Bob Yunick.

Good Birding and may you be greeted by the "cheery" of a cheery Mourning Warbler in the morning.

Contributors: Ken, Mary & Joshua Able, V. & B. Able, Dean Amadon, Roberta Bernstein, Rachael Brody, Arlene & Tom Brown, Jeff Cherry, Bill Cook, Juanita Cook, Donald Cooper, B. & R. Dietert, Dave Dister, Rena Dodd, Kate Dunham, Peter Feinberg, Barbara & Hugo Gardina, Elisabeth Grace, Bernard Grossman, Andrew & Richard P. Guthrie, Philip Ingalls, Mike Kuhrt, Betty Laros, Ron & Carolyn LaForce, E. Mansell, Robert Marx, M. Mickle, Tom Palmer, Jon Powell, Alice Ross, Walt Sabin, Scott & Linda Terrill, M. & B. Ulmer and Robert P. Yunick.

Abbreviations: HHW—Helderberg Hawk Watch at Camp Pinnacle in Albany Co.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: Lake Taghkanic 3 Nov; six Saratoga 21 Nov. Pied-billed Grebe: Castleton 7 Sept-28 Oct; Coeymans 20 Sept; Bell's Pond in Oct; Collins L. Scotia 1 Nov. Double-crested Cormorant: 16 Embough Bay 2 Sept (eight imm); Hudson 21 Oct; Clermont 18 Nov (A & TB). Great Blue Heron: the latest of more than 20 reports is 4 Nov at Hudson's South Bay. Green Heron: three reports in early Sept from Castleton, Ghent and Catskill. SNOWY EGRET: Embough Bay 19 Sept (JP). Black-crowned Night Heron: two imm at Cohoes 21 Sept (ST & JCh). Mute Swan: four remained in Embough Bay Catskill thru Oct and Nov despite heavy duck hunting; one imm at Stony Creek Res in Saratoga Co. was observed as it developed thru the period. Canada Goose: 750 at Coeymans on 11 Nov was the largest flock reported. Brant: 50 New Baltimore 26 Oct. Snow Goose: 250 at Camp Pinnacle on 31 Oct; at least five others reported thru 18 Nov. The ratio of Mallards over Black Ducks was 5:1 at Franklin Fly in Schoharie Co. Gadwall: one Embough Bay 2 Sept; one Coeymans 8 Nov. Pintail: 15 Coeymans 11 Nov; Ghent 16 Nov. Green-winged Teal: Bell's Pond 11 Sept; Alcove Res 20 Sept; Taghkanic 3-11 Nov. Blue-winged Teal: Alcove Res 20 Sept; Castleton 30 Sept-28 Oct; two Cohoes 7 Oct. Am. Wigeon: 20 Coeymans 11 Nov; six other reports from earlier in the period. No. Shoveler: Clermont 4 Nov; two Coeymans 11 Nov. Wood Duck: at least 25 reports. Redhead: one Basic Creek Res 20 Sept (RG). Ring-necked Duck: Bell's Pond 21 Oct-18 Nov; two Jenny L 30 Oct; three Saratoga 21 Nov. Greater Scaup: 40 Basic Creek 8 Nov. Com. Goldeneye: Oom's Pond 1 Nov; "many" Saratoga 27 Nov. Bufflehead: 20 Saratoga 21 Nov. Oldsquaw: male Basic Creek 24 Oct; female shot in Embough Bay early Nov; six Basic Creek 8 Nov. Black Scoter: two Hudson R. at Albany 19 Nov. Ruddy Duck: three Basic Creek 8 Nov. Hooded Merganser: Clermont 28 Oct; 60 Coeymans 11 Nov; six Saratoga 21 Nov. Com. Merganser: Embough Bay 2 Sept; two Jenny L Nov; six Saratoga 21 Nov; eight Mohawk R. at Amsterdam 22 Nov.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: at least 13 reports; two HHW 20 Sept; one in Greenville and one in Ghent on 3 Oct. Goshawk: Chatham 7 and 27 Sept; two HHW 24 Oct. Sharp-shinned Hawk: at least 56 reports; 40 HHW 20 Sept; four HHW 24 Oct. Cooper's Hawk: at least 12 reports; one HHW 20 Sept; one HHW 24 Oct. Red-tailed Hawk: seven HHW 20 Sept; 39 HHW 24 Oct. Red-shouldered Hawk: Castleton 30 Sept; four HHW 24 Oct. Broad-winged Hawk: 47 HHW 20 Sept; 1,144 counted by Harry Goldman in Moreau 16 Sept riding the crest of a passing cold front (Mike Peterson). Rough-legged Hawk: Westerlo

20 Sept (B & RD); one HHW 24 Oct; four other reports from Greene and Montgomery Cos. Bald Eagle: Rensselaerville 20 Sept (B & RD), Marsh Hawk: two HHW 20 Sept; one HHW 24 Oct; about 20 other reports. Osprey: seven HHW 20 Sept; the latest of three other reports is 13 Oct Old Chatham. Merlin: one HHW 24 Oct. Am. Kestrel: four HHW 20 Sept; at least ten other reports. Ruffed Grouse: at least ten reports. Bobwhite: Castleton 6-11 Sept. Turkey: Spencertown 26-27 Sept; 14 Voorheesville 21 Nov. Sora: one Franklin Fly 6 Sept (DC). Com. Gallinule: one adult and two hatch year birds at Franklin Fly 15 Sept. Am. Coot: about 100 birds from five reports 11 Oct-21 Nov. Killdeer: last reported 20 Oct from Amsterdam. Am. Golden Plover: seven Cocksackie 25 Oct (KA). Black-bellied Plover: one Alcove Res 25 Oct (KA). Am. Woodcock: last of seven reports Amsterdam 14 Oct. Spotted Sandpiper: ten Embough Bay 2 Sept. Solitary Sandpiper: Castleton Sept-14 Oct. Greater Yellowlegs: latest of four reports 11 Nov Alcove Res. Lesser Yellowlegs: latest of five reports 25 Oct Hudson. Pectoral Sandpiper: one Cohoes Falls 21 Sept; one Cocksackie 25 Oct. Least Sandpiper: eight Embough Bay 2 Sept. Semipalmated Sandpiper: two Embough Bay 2 Sept. Glaucous Gull: two Colonie landfill 7 Nov (JCh, S & LT). Iceland Gull: one adult Colonie landfill 9 Nov and an imm there 25-26 Nov (KA *et al.*). Great Black-backed Gull: at least 12 reports. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: a third-year bird at Colonie landfill 24-30 Nov (KA). Herring Gull: 300 Colonie landfill 26 Nov. Ring-billed Gull: 300 Colonie landfill 26 Nov; 30 Hudson landfill thru Nov. Bonaparte's Gull: two Alcove Res 20 Sept (RG). Black Tern: one Basic Creek Res 20 Sept (RG).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: ten reports. Mourning Dove: congregating in cornfields. Black-billed Cuckoo: Castleton and Hagel Hill 1-27 Sept. Screech Owl: Castleton, Spencertown and Ghent 5 Sept-21 Nov. Great Horned Owl: four or five permanent residents in Amsterdam; Muitzeskill and Spencertown thru period. Barred Owl: one heard at dusk HHW 20 Sept. Com. Nighthawk: one Amsterdam 2 Sept; Castleton 1-3 Sept; Old Chatham 14 Sept. Chimney Swift: one Menands 7 Sept; two Amsterdam 24 Sept; three Amsterdam 5 Oct. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one banded Jenny L 12 Sept; last of six other reports 9 Oct in Old Chatham. Belted Kingfisher: about 20 reports thru. Com. Flicker: one banded Schenectady 22 Nov. Pileated Woodpecker: resident at Jenny L, heard 26 Sept; pair at Amsterdam thru; 12 other reports. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one Ghent 6 Oct (BC); one male at West Berne 5 Nov since June 1980 (KA). Red-headed Woodpecker: five Amsterdam 3-7 Sept (TP); two Lyon L 7-30 Sept (JC); Germantown 28 Oct-28 Nov (A & TB); Ghent 2 Nov (B & HG). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Old Chatham 26 Sept-10 Oct (KD & EG). Hairy Woodpecker: about 12 reports. Downy Woodpecker: about 30 reports; four banded Jenny L in Nov.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: wave of three to five per day at Niskayuna following cold front of 18 Aug; four at Amsterdam and one at Menands on 7 Sept. Great Crested Flycatcher: six max at Amsterdam 1-7 Sept; Chatham 1-7 Sept. E. Phoebe: nine reports; two Amsterdam thru 11 Oct. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Hagel Hill 21 Sept (V & BA). Two Empidonax flycatchers reported as: Willow Flycatcher: one Amsterdam 3 Sept. Least Flycatcher: Chatham 7 Sept. E. Wood Pewee: one Amsterdam 6 Sept; one Menands 7 Sept; three other reports in Sept. Horned Lark: one at Amsterdam 10 Oct; nine on 27 Nov; Cocksackie Flats 8 Nov; three other reports in Nov. Tree Swallow: migrating in numbers Hudson R. at Embough Bay 2 Sept; latest of ten other reports 9 Oct Hudson. Bank Swallow: migrating along Embough Bay 2 Sept; Castleton 12-18 Sept; Rough-winged Swallow: Castleton and Ghent Sept. Barn Swallow: migrating along Embough Bay 2 Sept; two Amsterdam 7-9 Sept; three other reports in Sept. Blue Jay: numbers dropping to only six to eight at Jenny L. feeder in Nov. Com. Raven: one Alcove Res 20 Sept (RG). Com. Crow: 20 reports. Black-capped Chickadee: 50 in banding net at Jenny L. this period; "modest flight compared to last year's record" (RY). BOREAL CHICKADEE: one Albany 25 Oct; one SUNYA 29 Oct; one Albany 3 Nov; one Berne 25 Nov; three Chatham 26 Nov; one E. Berne 30 Nov (all KA *et al.*); one Tomhanock Res 1 Nov (MK); one banded New Baltimore 11 Nov (RG); Chatham Res 26 Nov (V & BA). Tufted Titmouse: "scarcer than usual in Schenectady" (RY). White-

breasted Nuthatch: the five banded at Jenny L. Aug-Nov is normal. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one banded at Jenny L in Nov following total absence since Aug; 20 other reports. Brown Creeper: migrants at Jenny L 26-27 Sept; two or three remaining thru 30 Nov; eight other reports. House Wren: one Amsterdam 19 Sept; three other reports in Sept. Winter Wren: one Amsterdam 10 Oct (TP). Carolina Wren: Ghent 26 Sept (B & HG); Ballston L 27 Oct. (BG). Mockingbird: 14 reports thru. Gray Catbird: last of seven reports 26 Oct Amsterdam. Brown Thrasher: Castleton 1-5 Sept; Amsterdam 19 Sept; Am. Robin: often seen congregating in dense conifers as winter approaches. Wood Thrush: four reports in Sept. Hermit Thrush: one Amsterdam 19 Sept. Swainson's Thrush: one banded New Baltimore 19 Sept; Chatham 19-21 Oct; Hagel Hill 1 Nov. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one banded New Baltimore 17 Sept. Veery: last banded at Jenny L 7 Sept. E. Bluebird: 20 reports from Amsterdam, Ghent, New Baltimore, Old Chatham, Spencertown and Taghkanic thru. Golden-crowned Kinglet: migrants at Jenny L 26-27 Sept; Castleton-Chatham 26 Sept-30 Nov; Amsterdam 19 Oct-30 Nov. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Ghent 12 Sept; one Amsterdam 10 Oct; Castleton-Old Chatham 5-30 Oct. Water Pipit: 20 or more at Amsterdam 10 Oct with last one seen 7 Nov (TP); Castleton 12 Oct-8 Nov (JC). Cedar Waxwing: late fledging of young at Jenny L. 10 Sept; over 100 in flocks migrating past Franklin Fly 15 Sept with many more in the trees below. No. Shrike: an imm Slingerlands 29 Oct; Knox 27 Nov (KA); Clarksville 28 Nov (AR). Starling: 20 reports.

VIREOS-WARBLES: Solitary Vireo: two Amsterdam 19 Sept. Red-eyed Vireo: latest of 12 reports 19 Sept in Amsterdam. Philadelphia Vireo: Ghent 12 Sept (B & HG); one banded New Baltimore 19 Sept (RG). Warbling Vireo: Castleton 9 Sept; one singing at Franklin Fly 15 Sept. Black-and-white Warbler: one Menands 7 Sept; Chatham 7 Sept; West Ghent 16 Sept. Tennessee Warbler: two Menands 7 Sept; Jenny L. 6-7 Sept; three other reports in Sept. Nashville Warbler: two Menands 7 Sept; Ghent 12 Sept. No. Parula: several Menands 7 Sept; 18 SUNYA 18 Sept. Magnolia Warbler: several Menands 7 Sept; latest of five other reports 5 Oct Hagel Hill. Cape May Warbler: Ghent 12 Sept. Yellow-rumped Warbler: latest of 11 reports 6 Nov Old Chatham. Black-throated Green Warbler: latest of nine reports 16 Sept Amsterdam. Blackburnian Warbler: two Menands 7 Sept; Muitzeskill 19 Sept. Chestnut-sided Warbler: one Menands 7 Sept; three other reports in Sept. Bay-breasted Warbler: three Menands 7 Sept; Jenny L 6-7 Sept; Chatham 7-9 Sept. Blackpoll Warbler: Ghent 12 Sept; Old Chatham 5 Oct. Pine Warbler: Ghent 26 Sept; Castleton 1-3 Oct; Prairie Warbler: Old Chatham 12 Oct. Palm Warbler: one Amsterdam 19 Sept; Old Chatham 16 Sept-4 Oct. Ovenbird: 26 banded Jenny L. 31 Jul-13 Sept; two Menands 7 Sept. No. Waterthrush: one Menands 7 Sept; Ghent 8 Sept. **CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** one SUNY Albany 15 Sept (ST & Jch). Mourning Warbler: one banded New Baltimore 6 Oct-late (RG). Com. Yellowthroat: several Menands 7 Sept; five other reports in Sept. Wilson's Warbler: two Menands 7 Sept; Ghent 17 Sept. Canada Warbler: several Menands 7 Sept. Am. Redstart: several Menands 7 Sept; three other reports in Sept.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: House Sparrow: only five banded in Schenectady Sept-Nov. Bobolink: Amsterdam 3-9 Sept. E. Meadowlark: Castleton 3 Sept-Oct; Amsterdam thru 31 Oct; Schodack 5 Nov. Red-winged Blackbird: Amsterdam thru 1 Nov. **ORCHARD ORIOLE:** Ghent 12 Sept (JC, B & HG); No. Oriole: six Amsterdam 6 Sept; three other reports. Rusty Blackbird: Oom's Pond 5 Oct (PI); Ghent 2 Nov (B & HG); Valatie 28 Nov (DA). Com. Grackle: latest of 13 reports 8 Nov New Baltimore. Brown-headed Cowbird: 25 Amsterdam thru 28 Oct; down to one at Schenectady feeder 22 Nov. Scarlet Tanager: one Amsterdam 7 Sept; three other reports in Sept. Cardinal: much reduced after last year's abundance in Schenectady; four banded 30 Sept-8 Oct Schenectady. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: an imm male at Colonie 10 Nov (RY). **DICKCISSEL:** one imm at Berne feeder 25 Nov (KA). Evening Grosbeak: first report Corinth 13 Sept (RY); 14 reports 27 Sept thru Nov; 60 max at Saratoga L 21 Nov. Purple Finch: abundant at Jenny L with 645 banded plus 109 returns May thru Oct. This represents the second highest number in 12 years. Bob Yunick also notes that the proportion of adults is larger and that the birds stayed later (7 Nov at Jenny

L.). House Finch: 141 banded Schenectady 29 Sept thru Nov, max 70 on 3 Oct, becoming scarce in Nov. Pine Grosbeak: "a flight year" (RY); earliest date 31 Oct Camp Pinnacle (JCh, S & LT); one Jenny L 14 Nov; Old Chatham 14 Nov; two Camp Pinnacle 15 Nov; six Jenny L 21 Nov; one Schenectady 24 Nov; six Berne 19-30 Nov. Com. Redpoll: 12 New Baltimore 3 Nov; one Berne 13 Nov; seven Amsterdam 14-30 Nov; Schenectady 16 Nov; one Altamont 18 Nov. Pine Siskin: six Amsterdam 10 Oct; Ghent 2 Nov; one banded Schenectady 8 Nov; one banded New Baltimore 10 Nov; 100 Saratoga 21 Nov. Am. Goldfinch: 15 reports thru. Red Crossbill: one male Camp Pinnacle 11 Oct, three there on 1 Nov (KA *et al.*); New Baltimore 20 Nov (AG). White-winged Crossbill: 20 Camp Pinnacle 31 Oct; nine there on 1 Nov; one Rensselaerville 5 Nov; four East Berne 30 Nov (all KA *et al.*). Savannah Sparrow: Castleton 7 Sept; one Amsterdam 10 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: Ghent 1 Oct (B & HG); Chatham 23 Oct (V & BA). Dark-eyed Junco: 85 banded Jenny L May-7 Nov, a winter resident banded 23 Nov 1975 was recaptured; 50 Ghent 27 Nov; eight other reports Oct-Nov. Tree Sparrow: Amsterdam 14 Oct thru; Basic Creek 24 Oct; Hagel Hill 31 Oct; 12 Saratoga 21 Nov. Chipping Sparrow: only two banded Jenny L; two Amsterdam 10 Oct; one banded New Baltimore 14 Oct; Castleton-Hudson 9-29 Oct. Field Sparrow: Amsterdam 12 Sept-10 Oct; Ghent-Old Chatham 17-31 Oct. White-crowned Sparrow: two Amsterdam 10-14 Oct; three other reports in Oct; Ghent 2-8 Nov. White-throated Sparrow: first migrant at Jenny L 7 Sept; 101 banded at Schenectady 29 Sept-1 Nov. Fox Sparrow: the five banded at Jenny L and Schenectady 18 Oct-8 Nov is the highest number Bob Yunick has ever banded locally; two Amsterdam 31 Oct-14 Nov; 15 banded New Baltimore 10 Oct-12 Nov; seven other reports. Lincoln's Sparrow: Ghent 17-26 Sept (B & HG); Hagel Hill 18 Oct (V & BA). Swamp Sparrow: two Franklin Fly 15 Sept; Ghent 17 Sept-2 Nov; two banded New Baltimore 30 Sept and 13 Oct; one Amsterdam 14 Oct. Song Sparrow: eight reports thru. Snow Bunting: one Basic Creek Res 24 Oct (DD), 25 Oct (KA); one Amsterdam 2 Nov; Schodack 7 Nov; Lake Taghkanic 11 Nov.

Remember Dial-A-Bird for Hudson-Mohawk area bird news at 518-377-9600.

Columbia-Greene Community College, Box 1000, Hudson, New York 12534

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Temperatures for the period were a bit below normal, but precipitation was slightly above. The drought of the past several years seems to be breaking and the reservoirs at the end of the period were almost 75% full, to the relief of many of the municipalities. Frosts appeared in the northern portion by mid-September. The damage done by the Gypsy Moth was still being felt this fall by the severely reduced seed and acorn crop. Dogwoods were unharmed, and if anything, put out a good crop of berries. The third week of September was rainy, and held the birds back for several days. A clearing high went through on 20 September, and with it one of the largest migrations of Broad-winged Hawks the region has ever seen. Unfortunately, the Hook Mt. report had not been received at the time of this writing, but I heard that more than 13,000 birds were counted on that date, and a good echo flight was observed the following day. None of the other hawk watches fared as well. The Mt. Peter records were received, and they had several daily records broken, as well as a few seasonal highs. They were: Osprey 39 on 17 September, American Kestrel 135 on 20 September, Sharp-shinned Hawk 200

on 26 September, and Red-tailed Hawk 123 on 2 November and 163 on 3 November. Year records were made by Cooper's Hawk, 59; Red-tailed Hawk, 708; Osprey, 209; Peregrine Falcon, 7; and American Kestrel, 592.

Shorebirds were reported as "poor" in most areas, with the reservoirs starting to rise after several years of lowering. However, Brown's Pond at Newburgh and Cross River Reservoir in Westchester set new records both for numbers and species. Northern finches and Boreal Chickadees made a good showing early in the season, and forecast an interesting winter season ahead. Rarities included in the report are: Red-necked Grebe, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Whistling Swan, Common Eider, Black Vulture, Northern Phalarope, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, California Gull, Western Kingbird, Wheatear, Orange-crowned Warbler, Connecticut Warbler and Blue Grosbeak.

With this report, your reporter will have completed twenty years at this job, and would like to thank all those who have assisted over the years. Without their help and patience this would have been an impossible task. We look forward to their continued help, and hope that others will join them in sharing their discoveries.

Corrigendum: In the previous edition, the note on two Mourning Warblers at MC 1 July should have been 1 June.

Contributors and observers cited: Al Brayton, Tom Burke, Robert F. Deed, Valerie Freer, Jim & Mary Key, Helen Manson, Adam Martin, Ken McDermott, Vaughn Morrison, Frank Murphy, Ken Niven, John C. Orth, Eleanor Pink, Brian Schiefer (BSc), Benton Segin (BSe), John Tramontano, Marion VanWagner.

Abbreviations: AR—Ashokan Reservoir; BP—Brown's Pond, Newburgh; CB—Cornwall Bay; MC—Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; MPH—Mount Peter Hawk Watch; PP—Piermont Pier; PL—Playland, Rye; PR—Pound Ridge Reservation; WSF—Warren Sod Farm, Pine Island.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: first reports Askokan 13 Sept. Inc to 40 by 6 Oct. Many reports of single to a few birds flying past hawk watches thru Oct. Red-throated Loon: one 31 Oct, Norrie Pt. Dutch. Another 3 Nov at CB. RED-NECKED GREBE: unusual any time. One at PL 31 Oct and again 14 Nov. Horned Grebe: first 12 Oct on the Hudson at Esopus. Four on Ashokan 13 Oct. None elsewhere. Double-crested Cormorant: excellent numbers of summer continued into fall. Last three at New Hamburg 15 Nov. Great Blue Heron: peak at PL 14 by end of Sept. LITTLE BLUE HERON: one at BP 1-16 Sept. CATTLE EGRET: rare anytime, and especially in fall. Two at BP 10 Sept-1 Oct. Snowy Egret: only report one at BP 8-12 Sept. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: only report four dur Sept at MC where they bred. Glossy Ibis: one at MC from 26 Sept-17 Oct. Another at PL 14 Oct. Mute Swan: summer numbers at CB inc to 77 by 31 Oct. WHISTLING SWAN: one on Kingston Reservoir 12 Nov remained there until 22 Nov when hunters drove it to Ashokan where it was last seen 6 Dec. Canada Goose: more resident birds than ever—more than a thousand moving back and forth between Rockland L. and the nearby golf course. Many flocks obs in migration thru Oct, especially 24 Oct and 29 Oct. Brant: one at PP 25 Nov was 21 day later than previous record in Rock, set in 1978. One flock of 300 passed within 1,000 ft of the Mohonk Hawk Watch on 29 Oct, and more than 1,700 passed over Wawarsing that same date. Snow Goose: too many reports to mention. Best movement between 10 Oct and 10 Nov. A few settled in thru the end of the period. Gadwall: three at L. Tappan 18 Sept were early if migrants. A pair bred last summer at PP, and seven were on Rockland L 27 Nov. Pintail: Rock had a female in the Sparkill Cr. at Piermont on 27 Sept, a day prior to the previous early fall date for that co. No. Shoveler: two imm at L Tappan 10 Sept. Previous early date was 15 Sept. Three on Hudson near Esopus 12 Oct. 54 on Rockland L 27 Nov—24 at Traver's Dutch 1 Oct, and 20 Oct at Great Swamp near Pawling 7 Oct. Redhead: the two of

last summer at CB inc to eight by 19 Nov. Ring-necked Duck: a few at most inland ponds dur Nov. Max 100-150 at Verbank that month. Canvasback: more reported than in recent years. Several independent observers estimated between eight and ten thousand on the east side of the Hudson south of Beacon. Excellent numbers reported from almost every weedy bay along the river. Oldsquaw: max 30 at CB 3 Nov. Last nine there 8 Nov. Four other reports in mid-Nov. COMMON EIDER: a female at CB 26 Sept was observed as close as 60 ft for two hours by 18 members of the Mearns Bird Club, several of whom are familiar with the species (KM *et al.*). White-winged Scoter: RFD had three males on the Hudson at Piermont 30 Oct, his first record in 11 years. Four were at CB 3 Nov. Surf Scoter: one or two from 31 Oct-16 Nov at MC and PL. A single bird at CB 31 Oct and another with 11 Black Scoters at AR were unusual. Black Scoter: one at MC 1 Nov and two at PL 8-10 Nov. Ten CB 3 Nov and 11 at AR 31 Oct. Ruddy Duck: max 90 at Stony Pt. 19 Nov, and more than 300 in the Tappan Zee near the Grand View-Piermont border 25 Nov. Thirty on Rockland L 27 Nov. Hooded Merganser: first Kingston Res 24 Oct inc to 40 there 11 Nov. Com. Merganser: four over Mt. Peter 30 Sept were quite early. The 20 on AR farther north 22 Sept could be expected. Excellent numbers of winter residents by end of period.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: an unusual report of one semi-tame apparently hand reared imm obs on the roofs and ground of the Fallsburgh area thru 1 Nov (KN). **BLACK VULTURE:** one with a flock of TV's over Minnewaska 1 Nov (JMK). Goshawk: MPHW tied their previous high of seven for a season. One was at PR 18 Oct and another at MC 1 Nov. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one returned to MVW's feeder at Pleasant Valley for the season. Broad-winged Hawk: the Sept total for Butler Sanct. Mt. Kisco was 11,034; including 4,842 20 Sept and another 3,000 21 Sept. The season at Mt. Peter was poor for this species, especially on these dates—but I understand that Hook Mt. beat all their past records (data not available at this printing), with something like 13,000 birds on 20 Sept. Rough-legged Hawk: one light phase near Saugerties 5 Nov, and another near Verbank on the early date of 30 Sept. Golden Eagle: one ad over Butler Sanct 8 Oct and an imm over Hook Mt. 12 Oct, one over Mt. Peter 9 Sept were the only reports. Bald Eagle: an imm 12 Aug and an adult 15 Aug in Sull were quite early. Mt. Peter had three and there were several other scattered reports thru the period and region. Two imm were at Rondout Res, their usual wintering grounds, by 28 Nov. Ring-necked Pheasant: continues very low. Eight near 10-Mile River area of Dutch 14 Sept was unusually high. Turkey: four at Bashakill 3 Oct, and 15 north of there at Wawarsing 9 Nov. Virginia Rail: one found dead at Sull Comm. College 10 Sept apparently flew into a wall. Am. Coot: ab 100 along River Rd, Town of Ulster Park 22 Nov. Semipalmated Plover: three immes remained much of Sept on the lowered Cross River Res. A few were at BP from 16-29 Sept with a max of four there 23 Sept. Killdeer: max 120 at WSF 6 Sept. Am. Golden Plover: reported from 6-30 Sept. Max 80 WSF 15 Sept. Black-bellied Plover: ten at BP 14 Oct. Last there 24 Oct. Three at WSF 16 Oct. Solitary Sandpiper: single birds at Baird Park, Dutch 4 Nov, and again 7 Nov. Greater Yellowlegs: obs at BP from 12 Sept-29 Oct. Max there ten 10 Oct. Lesser Yellowlegs: at BP from 2 Sept-20 Oct. Max there 40 2 Sept. Pectoral Sandpiper: at BP from 2 Sept-24 Oct. Max there 41 2 Sept. Four were at Cross River in late Sept, and three were at Baird Park 4 Nov, a very late date. White-rumped Sandpiper: at BP from 10-28 Sept with a max of six there 10 Sept. One reappeared there 24 Oct. Dunlin: one at PP 11 Sept was four days earlier than prev early Rock date. One at Baird Park 4 Nov. Short-billed Dowitcher: five at MC 21 Sept, two at BP 1 Sept inc to three 3 Sept. Last there 7 Sept. Long-billed Dowitcher: three birds that met the description but were not heard were at MC 21 Sept along with eight Short-bills. Stilt Sandpiper: one imm at Cross River 13 Sept. At BP from 3-26 Sept with a max of 12 10 Sept. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 20 at L Tappan 18 Sept. One dyed with yellow underparts. Max 50 on tidal flat near Sleightsberg 6 Sept. Western Sandpiper: one at MC 5 Sept. Two at BP 8 Sept and one was still there 12 Sept. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: four at WSF 6 Sept were the only ones reported. Sanderling: two near Sleightsberg 6 Sept. **NORTHERN PHALAROPE:** one BP 5 Sept (VM), and another Washington L, Newburgh 11 Sept was probably the same bird (Fred & Wava Abbott). **ICELAND GULL:** a second year

bird at MC 25 Oct was very early. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**: one at Harbour I Park Mamaroneck from 26 Oct on may well be the same one that was there last winter. Another of this species has returned for the fourth straight winter at nearby Greenwich Pt., Conn. **CALIFORNIA GULL**: Berna Weissman found this regular visitor at Rockland L for the fourth Oct in a row. Bonaparte's Gull: one CB 4 Nov, another Ashokan 18 Oct, and three at Norrie Pt 14 Oct. Caspian Tern: an ad and an imm at PL 11-13 Oct.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: continues in exc numbers thru region. Max 75 at WSF 14 Nov. Barn Owl: regularly found at several locations, one was at PL 2 Nov. Barred Owl: one MC 11-14 Nov. Short-eared Owl: obs at Purchase 30 Oct and PL 8 Nov. Two were in residence at Galeville by 29 Nov. Saw-whet Owl: only report one at PL 15-29 Nov. Com. Nighthawk: widespread report of migrants in late Aug and early Sept. One exc count of 1,246 was made in the Rye area on 3 Sept. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: the Butler Sanct Hawk Watch in West recorded only five for the season where only a few years ago as many as 15 could be expected. One with an injured wing, 17 Sept, was kept alive on honey and water thru early Nov in Sull. Pileated Woodpecker: an unusual report of one frequenting the main downtown intersection of Nyack where it worked the shade trees along the curb only 10 to 15 feet above the heads of pedestrians (RFD). Red-bellied Woodpecker: continues its slight increase. Working a number of feeders thru the region.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: **WESTERN KINGBIRD**: one at PL from 1-3 Nov. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: two at MC and one at Rye Nature Center 5 Sept. Six at Bashakill 11 Sept. Two responded to a tape of their song by singing themselves. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one at Bashakill also sang to a tape. Another was singing at MC 5 Sept. Four others were at Bashakill 5 Sept, and three were still there 6 Sept. Horned Lark: not many reported. About 15 were at WSF 14 Nov. Tree Swallow: the exc migration of late summer continued into Sept and Oct, with hordes reported in Dutch. At least 5,000 were at Tamarack 10 Sept and more than 4,000 were on power lines along the Shunpike 7 Oct. Com. Crow: the roost at Middletown inc to 8,500 by the end of the period. Fish Crow: five at Mt Peter 14 Nov were unusual so far from the Hudson. **BOREAL CHICKADEE**: one at MC 25 Oct and 22-28 Nov. Another at Greenwood Union Cem in Rye 7 Nov. They may all have been the same bird. VF reports banding one at Ellenville 25 Oct, and another 29 Oct. One in Dutch 14 Oct and another near Tamarack, Dutch 30 Oct. Red-breasted Nuthatch: more than 30 Sept records from Dutch and 11 during Oct. Winter Wren: three at PR 26 Sept, one at Hook Mt. 30 Sept, one USMA 29 Sept, and another found dead in the road near Monticello 25 Sept. Gray Catbird: exc numbers of summer continued thru mid-Sept. Wood Thrush: one near Shokan 27 Sept and another at Cruger's I 28 Sept were late. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one at MC 5 Sept and another Doodletown 20 Sept. E. Bluebird: spreading in exc numbers from the Bluebird Trail area of Dutch. More than 30 at PR 26 Sept, and 15 passed the Mt. Aspetong Hawk Watch near Bedford 12 Sept. **WHEATEAR**: one 27-29 Sept on Cruger's I along the tracks was discovered by Al Brayton and several members of the John Burroughs Assoc.; it was later seen by several members of the Waterman Club and was a new species to the Dutch list. Kinglets: both species arr in good numbers the third week of Sept but disappeared the first week of Nov. Water Pipit: first 21 Sept at Cross River, and 26 Sept at Stewart Airport and WSF. The latter remained until 2 Nov with a max of 45 on 1 Oct.

VIREOS-WARBLES: White-eyed Vireo: only report one at MC 21 Sept. Philadelphia Vireo: good finds were single birds at MC 5 Sept and 21 Sept; at Rye Nature Center 12 Sept and Butler Sanct. in mid-Sept. **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**: one at MC 1 Nov might be expected, but two at Bashakill on the early date of 30 Aug were most unusual (JT). Black-throated Green Warbler: reported low in the southern part of the region by several reporters, but Dutch reported them abundant where 21 were observed from 1-25 Oct at Red Oaks Mill. Pine Warbler: one on Mine Rd USMA 19 Sept and another near Ashokan 13 Sept. **CONNECTICUT WARBLER**: one near Bashakill 30 Aug. Mourning Warbler: one 19 Sept Mine Rd USMA. Com. Yellowthroat: VF banded only 21; since 1970 she had averaged 38 per season. Yellow-breasted Chat: one near PL 5-8 Nov, one Mine Rd USMA 5 Sept.

Hooded Warbler: a lone report of four at Butler Sanct in mid-Sept. Am. Redstart: abundant in West where 25 were at MC on 5 Sept. Low in the Ellenville with only six banded where they had averaged 19 per season from 1972-1978.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: on 5 Sept more than 2,000 were counted over MC. This did not include at least ten flocks that were heard but not seen. **BLUE GROSBEAK:** a first year male obs for five minutes on 20 Sept near Middletown was the second Orange report this year (JT). Evening Grosbeak: arr most areas in mid-Oct, but very few at feeders at end of period. Nov numbers were less than Oct. Pine Grosbeak: only one reported, and that near the summit of Twin Mt. in the Catskills of Green Co. 13 Nov. Pine Siskin: movements noted in West 11 Oct. Am. Goldfinch: numbers good thru period. One feeding young 30 Oct near Verbank. White-winged Crossbill: a flock of more than 15 first obs at Carey Arboretum 8 Nov; obs again on the 13th and 14th. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: the bird of summer remained at MC thru 15 Nov. Vesper Sparrow: three at Piermont 12 Nov. Dark-eyed Junco: first at Bashakill 17 Sept. Field Sparrow: extraordinary numbers of 25 to 30 along Mine Rd 24 Oct. Eight to ten still there 28 Nov. More than 40 were at Monticello 10 Sept. White-crowned Sparrow: in good numbers thru Dutch from 5 Oct on. Max 15 at Stonykill 15 Oct. White-throated Sparrow: more than 60 along Mine Rd, USMA 17 Oct. Fox Sparrow: moving thru Rock in good numbers 13-14 Nov. Three at CB 19 Oct were early. Lincoln's Sparrow: more than usual but never common. First near Wawarsing 12 Sept. Five others there; the last 6 Oct. Snow Bunting: small flocks reported from usual locations in Ulst. during first week of Nov.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 - MARINE

BARBARA J. SPENCER

September and October were both colder and wetter than average, while November was normal in temperature and substantially dryer than average. On the whole the weather was uneventful, as was the fall season. Observers reported generally poor landbird migration, particularly on eastern Long Island, where banding totals were very low. An exception to the general pattern was a report from Glenn Quinn who experienced a huge flight of warblers at Sands Point on 3 October. Yellow-rumped was the most numerous. Also present in good numbers were Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Blackpoll Warblers. Otherwise thrushes were scarce, and warblers and sparrows were low in numbers. The Song Sparrow and Swamp Sparrow flight was almost absent, White-throated Sparrows low in numbers, Tree Sparrows late in arrival and scarce. With the exception of good numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches, "winter" birds were seen in small numbers. There were no large flocks of winter finches, no crossbills, a fair flight of siskins, average number of goldfinches, and few Evening Grosbeaks. No large hawk flights were reported but raptors moved along the beaches in modest numbers.

NEW HAWK WATCH LOCATION

North Shore birders have historically traveled south to the barrier beaches for their hawk watching. While some hawks have been noted at Garvies Point Preserve on Hempstead Harbor, Al Bell discovered that a vantage point farther north on the harbor, at the foot of Morgan's Park breakwater, gave him a lot more sky.

NORTH SHORE HAWK WATCHES

Date 1981	Wind	Hours	Turkey Vulture	Sharp- shinned	Cooper's	Red tailed	Broad- winged	Marsh Hawk	Osprey	Peregrine Falcon	Merlin	Am. Kestrel	Unidentified	Bald Eagle	
9/22	SW 12	¼	GP	1					1						
9/22		¾	MPK	96				1	1		4	2			
9/23	NW 17	¼	MPK	1									2		
9/27	SW 8	1	MPK	3					1		1	1			
9/27			SC						1			1			
9/29	NW 10	¼	MPK									1			
9/30		1	MPK	1									2		
10/2			MP	2					2		1	2			
10/3			W	10	1				2		3	3			
10/3	NW 10+		SP	2					1		1	1			
10/4	W 12+	1¼	MPK	15				2		1					
10/4		2	W	51					2		2				
10/4		1	GP	3	1				2	1					
10/5		2	W	35				1	2		1	6			
10/7	NW 20		MPK												
10/7		2½	MP	29	1	4			1			3			
10/8		¾	MPK	16					1			2	2		
10/8		3	MP	37	1	3	14		8		1	13		1	
10/9	NW 15	1½	MPK	8					1			1	2		
10/9		2	MP	17	1	3			1			2			
10/10	NE 5	1¼	W	8											
10/11	NE 5	½	MPK	1											
10/11		2	W	2											
TOTALS				3	350	5	10	14	4	28	2	14	35	8	1

LOCATIONS: GP—Garvies Point Preserve, Glen Cove; MPK—Morgan Park, Glen Cove; MP—Muttontown Preserve; SC—Sea Cliff; SP—Sands Point; W—Welwyn Preserve, Glen Cove.

OBSERVERS: Al Bell, Allan Lindberg, Lois Lindberg, Ralph Cioffi, Bill Patterson, Glenn Quinn, Tom Rice, Don Thompson.

Looking northward he made the surprising discovery that a great number of Sharp-shinned Hawks were crossing Hempstead Harbor north of Morgan's Park, instead of following the eastern edge of the harbor southward as migrating Blue Jays and other birds do. It would appear that we have been missing the greater part of the North Shore hawk migration, assuming this is a regular pattern. The accompanying table documents this interesting discovery, and includes hawk counts from the Welwyn and Muttontown preserves, mainly by Allan Lindberg. Next year an organized approach to watching at this new station may start to provide some answers to the questions raised, and shed more light on the paths hawks take along the North Shore of Long Island.

MOSES MOUNTAIN HAWK WATCH

Hawk watchers on Staten Island were treated to a first for the area on 8 Nov when a Black Vulture was spotted by Albert Peterson, who also found another Staten Island first this year, a pair of Black-necked Stilts. A Golden Eagle was seen the same day as the vulture. A Goshawk on 2 October was a first in the three years of the hawk watch's existence. The table shows totals for fall 1981:

Turkey Vulture	18	Bald Eagle (imm)	1
Black Vulture	1	Marsh Hawk	102
Unidentified accipiters	26	Osprey	206
Goshawk	1	Unidentified falcons	21
Sharp-shinned Hawk	56	Peregrine Falcon	5
Unidentified buteos	14	Merlin	25
Red-tailed Hawk	2	American Kestrel	333
Broad-winged Hawk	221	Unidentified hawks	4
Golden Eagle (imm)	1	Total Hawks	3,966

FEDERATION FALL PELAGIC TRIP

The high point of the 28 November trip 10 miles south of Montauk Point was the presence of at least six Humpbacked Whales which were very close to the boat for an extended period. Birds included 50 Gannets and 150 Black-legged Kittiwakes. No alcids were found.

Positive notes for the season included: Bald Eagle number up slightly, good Red-breasted Nuthatch flight.

Negative aspects included: Horned Grebes very low, rates of juvenal to adult shorebirds low, thrushes scarce, warbler and sparrow flights small, few winter finches.

The only rarities were: Black Vulture, "Audubon's" Warbler, and Brewer's Blackbird.

Contributors and initialed observers: Robert Adamo, George Bouquio, Paul A. Buckley, Ralph Cioffi, Dorothy W. Crumb, Thomas H. Davis, Stephen B. Dempsey, Aline Dove, Georges Dremeaux, Myra Dremeaux, Frances File, Emanuel Levine, Allan Lindberg, Lois Lindberg, Millard Lindauer, Robert O. Paxton, Glenn Quinn, Katherine A. Ray, Gilbert S. Raynor, Lore J. Schore, Walter Sedwitz, Barbara J. Spencer, Alvin Wollin.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loons, Red-throated Loons and particularly Horned Grebes were in low numbers through the season. Although RA reported 24 Red-throated Loons heading west past Cupsogue 7 Nov, no Red-necked Grebes were reported. Gannets numbered in the hundreds in the Montauk area and farther west from mid-Nov through the period. An early arriving Great Cormorant was seen at Southampton 5 Sept (A. Keith). A

Snowy Egret and a Louisiana Heron lingered at Tobay 29 Nov (FF *et al.*). Five Whistling Swans, rare on western Long Island, were at Jamaica Bay 11 Nov (W. Kurau). Skein after skein of Snow Geese were moving along Fire Island 31 Oct (LJS *et al.*). European Wigeons were reported: 18 Nov Willow Pond in Hewlett Harbor (SBD), 27 Nov Hook Pond (GSR, RA); an individual in Eastport 7 Nov with "head and back of European, sides and breast of American" may have been a hybrid (RA). 48 Wood Ducks 3 Oct at VanCortlandt Park was an increase in numbers (WS). Seven female and one male Com. Eider were at Montauk 31 Oct (RA, GSR), a King Eider was found there 27 Nov (GSR, RA). Scoters were in very small numbers toward the end of the period. 24 Hooded Mergansers were at Hempstead Lake 24 Oct (SBD); two female Com. Mergansers appeared there 17 Nov (SBD), ten Com. Mergansers were at Jones Beach 30 Oct (LJS).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Three Turkey Vultures 4 Oct in Riverdale were unusual (WS). Two 3 Oct were at Jamaica Bay, and one was there 9 Oct (KAR). 18 Turkey Vultures at the Moses Mountain Hawk watch on Staten Island was their best total (GB). A BLACK VULTURE there 18 Nov was a count first (A. Peterson *et al.*). An imm Goshawk was at the Fishing Station at Jones Beach 8 Nov (SBD). One was at Muttontown 8 Nov (AL). Cooper's Hawks were seen 3 Sept Muttontown (AL), 3 Oct at Montauk (GSR), Riis Park 9 Oct (GD, MD), 10 Oct Tobay (GSR), 10 Oct Riverdale (WS), 23 Oct at Hempstead Lake (SBD), and at Mill Neck 22 Nov (AB, RC). One Red-shouldered Hawk was recorded: an adult at Jamaica Bay 9 Oct (KAR). The first Rough-legged Hawk was at Cupsgogue 11 Nov (RA). The Moses Mountain Golden Eagle 8 Nov was the only report (R. Clermont). Bald Eagles were more widely reported than usual: an imm was at Pelham Bay Park 15 Sept and 7 Oct (C. Staloff). A third-year, banded bird was seen at Orient 2 Nov (AD), a similar bird seen at Setauket 26 Nov was probably the same individual. An imm was in Riverdale 8 Nov (WS). A total of 45 Marsh Hawks 9 Sept at Jones Beach was a good count (LJS *et al.*). Five Ospreys in the Bronx during Oct represented an increase (WS). While some Peregrine Falcons were reported, beach watch reports were lacking and therefore comparisons or comments are not possible. Immatures were at Jamaica Bay 9 Oct (KAR) and at Hempstead Lake 12 Sept and 24 Oct (SBD). Two were at Great Kills Staten Island (GB), one at Riverdale 24 Sept (WS). 12 Merlins were counted 9 Sept at Jones Beach while 10 Am. Kestrels were tallied (LJS *et al.*). The only Sora reported was seen at Jamaica Bay 12 Sept (RA, GSR). Seven Am. Oystercatchers lingered at Moriches Inlet, and one at Shinnecock Inlet 1 Nov (GSR). A late Semipalmated Plover was seen 31 Oct at Mecox (RA, GSR). Another was at Shinnecock Inlet 14 Nov (FF). A Piping Plover at Shinnecock Inlet 21 Nov was very late (BJS). 30 Am. Golden Plovers were present at Southampton 5 Sept (GSR); up to a high of 162 Am. Golden Plovers on 15 Sept were present on a sod farm in Riverhead from 9 Sept (34) through 14 Oct (4) (RA); 19 individuals on eight dates were seen at Jamaica Bay (THD). Mecox had 19 Am. Golden Plovers 12 Sept (GD, MD) and 14 on 19 Sept (GSR). Over 1000 Black-bellied Plovers were found at Jones Beach 16 Nov, late for so many (W. Astle); 560 were at Mecox 11 Nov (WS). Four Upland Sandpipers were at Mitchell Field 7 Sept where they persist as breeders (H. Roth). A good number, 300 Greater Yellowlegs, was counted at Hempstead Lake 3 Oct (SBD). After several weeks absence, five or six Red Knots appeared at Jamaica Bay in mid-Oct, wintering birds? (THD); 70 were at Zach's Bay 19 Nov (ML). An unprecedented number of adult White-rumped Sandpipers, 58, was seen 7 Sept at Jamaica Bay (previous maximum 20-30 birds) (THD); 52 adults were seen at Mecox Bay 25 Aug (PAB). Two Baird's Sandpipers were seen by many at Jones Beach 21-27 Sept. One was at Jamaica Bay 9 Oct (KAR). One was at Mecox 3 Oct (GSR). Dunlin were at their highest number, 920, at Jamaica Bay on 25 Oct, the last day of the survey (THD). A weekend maximum of 59 Stilt Sandpipers on 6 Sept (THD), was eclipsed by a week day count of 110-130 birds 3 Sept (T. Stiles). Small numbers of Buff-breasted Sandpipers were variously reported: five in Riverhead 14 Sept (RA), two 5 Sept at Southampton (GSR), one 5 Sept at Jamaica Bay (D. Riepe), one was at Hempstead Lake 29 Aug (SBD). The best count was 14 Buff-breasted at Sagaponack 4 Sept (AW). A late Hudsonian Godwit was found at Hempstead Lake 22 Nov (EL); 26 Nov is the record late date. One Marbled Godwit lingered at Jamaica Bay from

5 Sept-25 Oct, and a second bird was there 12-25 Oct (THD). Two Whimbrels were seen at Sagaponack 4 Sept (AW). A lone Avocet was present at Jamaica Bay 4-12 Oct (THD). A total of four to seven juvenal Wilson's Phalaropes at Jamaica Bay from 25 July to 19 Sept was low. A *maximum* of four was seen at Oak Beach Marsh 14 Aug (R. Paxton); one was at Goethal's Bridge, Staten Island 7 Sept (W & N Siebenheller). Two were at Mecox and Sagaponack 12 Sept (GD, MD). One juvenal No. Phalarope was at Jamaica Bay 30 Aug (THD). An adult light phase Parasitic Jaeger was present at Montauk 21 Nov (BJS) through 29 Nov (DWC *et al.*), where the species has been recorded in the fall for the third consecutive year. An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was at the Central Park Reservoir 11-12 Nov (P. Post *et al.*). An Iceland Gull (Kumlien's) was at Great Kills Park 12 Sept (GB, W. Siebenheller). First year Iceland Gulls were seen at Shinnecock Inlet and Montauk Point 21 Nov (BJS). The escaped adult Andean Gull continued in the area; it was seen 5 Sept at the VanCortlandt Park Golf Course with Ring-billed Gulls (WS). A juvenal Little Gull was seen at Mecox Bay 24 Aug (PAB). Black-legged Kittiwakes were present in the hundreds toward the end of Nov. A Gull-billed Tern was seen at Sagaponack 4 Sept (AW, S. Schiff). Six Forster's Terns were late at the Jones Beach Coast Guard Station on 31 Oct (GD, MD), as was a Com. Tern at Montauk the same day (RA). Royal Tern numbers peaked at 35 at Mecox 31 Oct. Single Caspian Terns were seen 5 Sept at Mecox (GSR), 19-20 Sept at Jamaica Bay, and two were at Fire Island 24 Sept (R. Jeffers). The only alcid reported was a Dovekie 5 Dec at Montauk Point (W. Lamoureaux, M. Cooper).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: A Barn Owl was found at Cedar Beach Overlook 3 Nov, as was a Long-eared Owl and a Saw-whet Owl (K. Feustel). Saw-whet Owls were seen there on 8 Nov (W. Lamoureaux) and 15 Nov and 29 Nov at Tobay (A. Lauro). One was at the Davis Refuge, Staten Island 29 Nov. Snowy Owls were found 12 Nov at JFK Airport and a different bird was there 17 Nov (S. Chevalier). A Snowy was at Moriches Inlet 8 Nov (E. Salzman). The first Short-eared Owl of the season on Staten Island was seen 18 Oct at Crookes Pt (GB, R. Clermont). A few reports of Com. Nighthawks were received—a far cry from the 1200 reported 3 Sept a few miles across Long Island Sound in Rye (T. Burke). An imm Red-headed Woodpecker was seen 12 Sept at Jones Beach (EL), and at Mecox the same day (GD, MD). One was at the Fishing Station at Jones Beach 19 Sept, and another was found at Jones Beach 3 Oct (GD, MD).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Western Kingbirds were rather widely reported as follows: 17 Sept Fort Tilden (H. Richard), 20 Sept Tobay (R. Laskowski), two 29 Sept Riis Park, 29-30 Sept Jones Beach (EL), 29 Sept Gilgo Beach (EL), Breezy Point 12 Nov (J & P Latil), two to three birds 15-23 Nov Montauk (ML, H. McGuinness), and one at Amagansett 27 Nov (RA, GSR). An Acadian Flycatcher was netted near Manhasset on 17 Oct (J. Pion). 25-30 empidonax Flycatchers including three Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were seen 5 Sept at Lawrence Marsh. 12 Great Crested Flycatchers and two Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen there the same day (GD & MD *et al.*). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was netted 5 Sept in Manorville (GSR). A Boreal Chickadee was a good find 19 Nov at Jones Beach (D & L Heilbrun). A good flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches was seen; a maximum of 50 was at Riis Park 19 Sept (GD, MD *et al.*). Am. Robins moved in large numbers along the North Shore 4-5 Oct (AMB) where 150 were seen in one flock over Garvies Point. A Wood Thrush was seen at the late date of 3 Dec at Jones Beach (AW). E. Bluebirds were noted in small numbers: two at Manorville 17 Oct (RA), one at Quogue 3 Oct, four there 13 Oct, two on 23 Oct, and four in Manorville 24 Oct (GSR). One No. Shrike was seen: an adult 29 Oct at Jones Beach (LJS). Loggerhead Shrikes were reported at Gilgo Beach 10 Sept (AW) and 29 Sept at Smith's Point (GSR).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: A late Solitary Vireo was present at Wading River 1 Nov (RA). A Tennessee Warbler 28 Nov at Flushing Meadow was very late (G. Tudor). Orange-crowned Warblers were reported: 3 Oct at Montauk (GSR), 24 Oct at Arbutus Beach, S.I. (W. & N. Siebenheller), 20 Oct, Fire Island (FF *et al.*), 26 Nov at Jones Beach (AW, EL, C. Ward) and 13 Dec at West End, Jones Beach (W. Lamoureaux). An "AUDUBON'S" WARBLER was

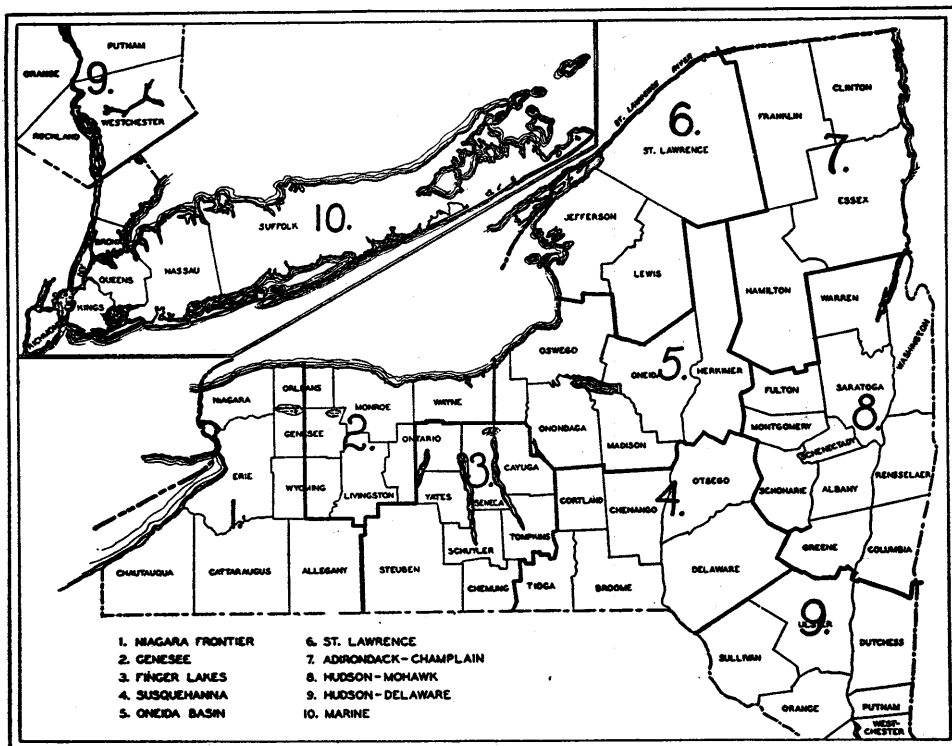
mistnetted and banded 14 Nov at Tobay (A. Lauro, R. Paxton). A female Cerulean Warbler in a flock of No. Parulas in Central Park 13 Oct was an unusual fall bird (WS). Palm Warblers of the "yellow" race were unusual in the fall: one was seen 31 Oct at Montauk (RA, GSR), four were there 27 Nov (RA, GSR *et al.*). A Kentucky Warbler was noted 12 Sept at Tobay (EL). A female Mourning Warbler was found dead in Locust Valley 29 Oct, specimen to AMNH (B. Grose). A Yellow-breasted Chat was found at Lawrence 5 Sept (GD, MD). Two Hooded Warblers 10 Sept at Muttontown were unusual fall migrants (AL), as was one 29 Sept at Jones Beach (EL, AW). A total of 175 Am. Redstarts were seen at Muttontown 8 Sept (AL), a female 28 Nov in Forest Hills was very late (G. Tudor).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolinks moved through the area in large numbers on 5 Sept: 500 were estimated in Lawrence (GD, MD). More than 100 were on the Hofstra Campus on 6 Sept (H. Roth). A female Yellow-headed Blackbird was present at Captree 28-31 Aug (W. Wilkens *et al.*); a pair was found 12 Sept at Mecox (GD, MD *et al.*). A well-described male **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** was seen in comparison with Rusty Blackbirds and Com. Grackles in VanCortlandt Park 29 Oct (WS). A male Boat-tailed Grackle was at a feeder in Freeport 21-22 Oct (C. Ward). A female was seen 26 Nov at Springfield Gardens, Queens (H. McGuinness). A subadult male Summer Tanager 10 Oct was a rare fall sighting (J. Ash). An imm Rose-breasted Grosbeak, with limited rose on its breast, was at feeders in Islip the last week in Nov through the first week in Dec (*fide* FF). A male Blue Grosbeak was seen 19 Sept at Riis Park (R. Kelly). One was at Flushing Meadow Park 4 Oct (G. Tudor). "Winter finches" were represented by slightly better than average numbers of Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches, Pine Siskins and Am. Goldfinches, but no redpolls or crossbills. Several Lark Sparrows were located: one 19 Sept in Riis Park (GD, MD), one 24 Sept on Fire Island (R. Jeffers), two 24 Sept Jones Beach (LJS *et al.*), one 26 Sept at Jamaica Bay (*fide* LJS) and one 3 Oct at Montauk (GSR). Clay-colored Sparrows were recorded 29 Sept at the fishing station at Jones Beach (W. Lamoureaux) and 11 Oct at Montauk Point (W. Boyle). A Dickcissel was found at Jones Beach 5 Oct, the only one recorded this fall (C. Ward). The first Lapland Longspur of the season arrived 11 Oct at Jamaica Bay (THD). A maximum count of 400 Snow Buntings was made 5 Nov at Jones Beach (P. Gillen). More than 300 were present at Great Kills, Staten Island on 11 Nov (GB).

The pressures of professional commitments necessitate my retirement as Region 10 Editor. I wish to thank all who have contributed reports.

154 Dayton Street, Sea Cliff, New York 11579

REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. IV Nos. 1 and 2

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is March 7

Spring Season: March, April, May

Deadline is June 7

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is September 7

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is December 7

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