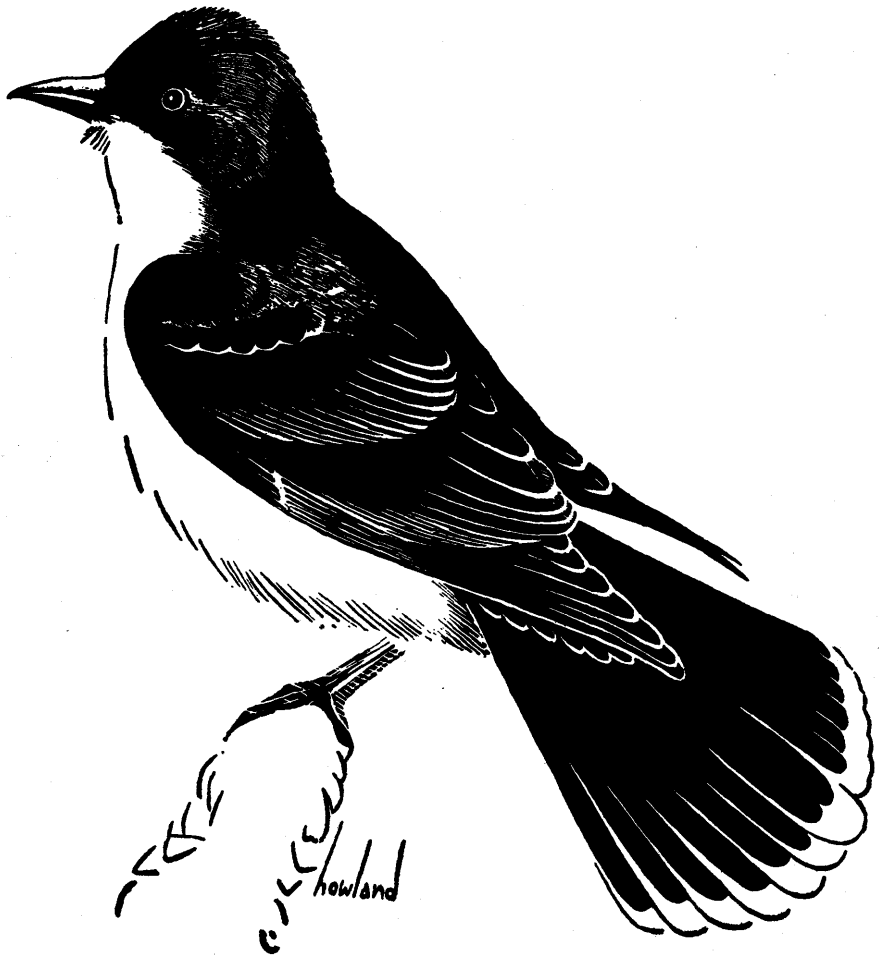


The **KINGBIRD**



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Highlights of the Season

Editor – Robert Spahn

Circulation Manager – Constance N. Wilkins

Cover Design – Douglas L. Howland



Habitat of nesting Palm Warblers, Franklin Co.

6 July 1983

J. M. C. Peterson

FIRST RECORD OF PALM WARBLER NESTING IN NEW YORK STATE

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

On the morning of Thursday, 23 June 1983, during the course of field work on the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas, Timothy Stiles encountered a singing male Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*), accompanied by a female, on a large bog in the Town of Waverly, Franklin County, within the boundaries of the Adirondack Park. I visited the bog on Wednesday, 6 July, with Stiles and Daniel Nickerson and, after a one-hour search, we located the birds and found a nearly completed nest still under construction. Stiles returned two days later, on 8 July, finding the nest finished and completely feather-lined, containing a single egg.

On 24 August, Elsbeth Johnson and I collected the used nest, which is now in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History. This provides a first nesting record for New York State of the "Yellow" Palm Warbler (*D. p. hypochrysea*).



Used nest of (Yellow) Palm Warblers, Franklin Co.

24 August 1983

E. S. Johnson

Two distinct subspecies of the Palm Warbler are recognized and they are often separable in the field. The nominate "Western" Palm Warbler (*D. p. palmarum*) breeds from Mackenzie and Manitoba east to Ontario and Michigan. The much brighter *hypochrysea*, or "Yellow" Palm, nests from Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland south to New Hampshire (Center Ossipee), Maine, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. There is no firm evidence of its breeding in Vermont. An early May report was discarded by the recently completed Vermont Atlas as being a late migrant. Together, they are variously uncommon to abundant spring and fall migrants in New York State, uncommon in winter on the coast. Bull gives a late spring departure date of 27 May and early fall arrival of 26 August. Within the Adirondack Park, Carleton notes extremes for *hypochrysea* in Essex County of 4 May at Ironville and 3 September at Wadhams. The Palm Warbler has evidently never before been recorded in the state during June or July.

The nesting bog is approximately 4½ miles west of Bay Pond, on a large (> 20,000 acre) private estate, and is drained by Black Brook, which soon enters the nearby West Branch, St. Regis River near Augerhole Falls. Approximate elevation of the bog, known locally as the "big swamp," is 1500 feet. To avoid confusion with a similar, but smaller, "Black Brook Bog" some 10 km. to the south, near Kildare, in the Town of Altamont, the Palm Warbler site is generally known as "Bay Pond Bog" by researchers. Even by Adirondack standards, this is a large bog, covering about 360 acres, and part of an 850 acre wetland complex. This appears to be a mineral-fed bog, with the bog mat lower at the center than around the edges, so that it receives ground water from springs, streams, or runoff. The bog mat is largely mounded or hummocky, dominated by a mixture of sphagnum, low shrubs and scattered small conifers and sedges, with portions of flat, open mat. *Sphagnum rubellum*, *S. fuscum*, and *S. magellanicum* are the commonest species. Shrubs include Leatherleaf, Sheep Laurel, Wild Raisin, Spiraea, and blueberry, with cranberry, Bog Rosemary, and Bog Laurel present. Stunted Black Spruce and American Larch are densest near the edges. Sedges include cotton-grass, beak-rush, and various *Carex* species. The bog mat is bordered in places by dense shrub swamps of alder, flooded at the time of our June and July visits. Wooded Black Spruce-Larch swamps with a ground cover of sphagnum also surround the bog. Higher up, the slopes give way to northern hardwoods and mixed forest.

Although over 100 species have been recorded in the surrounding Atlas square, including 80 species in the block where the warblers were found, relatively few birds occupy the actual bog mat. Savannah Sparrows sing from territories in more open areas toward the center, while the stunted conifers nearer the edge provide cover for Lincoln's Spar-

rows, seen once carrying a fecal sac. A Hermit Thrush nest with eggs was found near that of the Palm Warblers, and during 1982 a hen Spruce Grouse with a brood of young was encountered by Timothy Barnett and Greenleaf Chase on the edge of the same bog, but in another Atlas block to the north. In the shrub swamps we located a fledgling Yellow-bellied Flycatcher begging for food and Ruby-crowned Kinglets feeding offspring, while a spruce-sphagnum "island" out in the bog had Gray Jays feeding young and family groups of Boreal Chickadees. Avian diversity was much greater in the surrounding forest above the bog.

The wonder of it is that Tim Stiles was on the bog at all; he deserves great credit not only for his discovery, but also for his perseverance and subsequent handling of the confirmation. This was his second "blockbusting" visit to the Adirondacks during June 1983. Permission to visit this large tract of private land had been obtained through the NYS Breeding Bird Atlas, and the landowners and caretaker had been most helpful in allowing Stiles and other qualified observers the opportunity to record the birds on the property.

Tim had spent the previous night camped above the West Branch, St. Regis near the Franklin-St. Lawrence county line. At daybreak he birded several miles along dirt roads through an extensive old burn and into a forest of mixed second-growth and mature woods until a fallen tree blocked further progress by car. Continuing on foot, he decided to strike off through the woods downhill, on a compass heading of 45°, to reach an area shown as the bog on his maps. He continued to press on, even when his progress was slowed by a seemingly unending stand of alder, growing in knee-deep, tannin-dark water where the wooded sphagnum swamp ended. Those who have bushwhacked in an Adirondack alder tangle on a muggy morning in black fly season can appreciate the effort it took to reach the relative freedom of the bog mat. Stiles worked his way along the edge, slogging slowly and carefully among the pitcher plants and low spruces.

It was midmorning when he heard the sweet trill, an unfamiliar song to him, and decided to investigate. He felt it was not a Yellow-rumped Warbler or Dark-eyed Junco, and certainly not a Chipping Sparrow, given the habitat. He knew it was a bird he had to see. In a few moments that decision led to the discovery of a small bird with streaked yellowish underparts and a chestnut cap: a Palm Warbler, evidently never before seen during summer in New York State. Even more exciting was the realization that there was a pair, flitting from spruce to spruce and tail-wagging. No further nesting evidence could be noted that day before Stiles had to return to his Brooklyn home.

On the cold, misty morning of 6 July, I was on the bog with Stiles

and Dan Nickerson, who had come down from his home in Maine to work on the Atlas. Nickerson and I had shared in Adirondack searches and discoveries of the first NYS nests of White-winged Crossbill in 1975 and Wilson's Warbler in 1978. Walking three abreast along the edge of the bog, we soon heard a trill and located the male, then spotted both birds together, the female diving down to the bog mat from a dead spruce pole and coming up with what might have been a feather. In a matter of moments it was clear that she was collecting and carrying feathers, taking them to a spot on the sphagnum screened by a dense clump of low spruces on one of the mounds. Waiting until both birds had left the area on a gathering trip, we moved in and found the nearly completed nest, made of grasses woven in a small cup around the woody stems of Labrador Tea and lined with a few feathers. After taking several photographs, we withdrew. Given the relatively late date, this was almost certainly a second nesting, and the pair may have already raised their first brood. But when would the female start laying her clutch?

As decided upon, Tim Stiles waited until late in the morning on 8 July to revisit the site, hoping that after two days she might have laid the first egg. He found the nest finished and completely feather-lined, containing a small creamy egg blotched with brownish markings. Thus, the Palm Warbler became the fourth new species confirmed as breeding in the state during the first four years of the Atlas project, joining Forster's Tern, the Boat-tailed Grackle, and the Blue Grosbeak.

Elsbeth Johnson and I were able to visit the bog on 24 August and collected the empty nest, attached to the supporting stems of Labrador Tea, also obtaining photos. While collecting the nest, we saw two Gray Jays and heard Boreal Chickadees, but did not see or hear Palm Warblers, or Lincoln's or Savannah Sparrows. At the caretaker's request, we marked a route to the nest site with survey tape which avoids the alder swamp. The nest has been deposited in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH 17922).

Bay Pond Bog is now part of a Boreal Heritage Reserve, comprising over 72,000 acres, formed by the Adirondack Conservancy through easement and ownership. The reserve is the largest, least-disturbed assemblage of boreal ecosystems in New York State, and quite possibly, within the eastern United States. This bog is at the southern limit of a peatland phenomenon that extends over a thousand miles northward to the southern edge of contiguous permafrost. Open expanses of peatland in the Northeast similar in size to that of Bay Pond Bog are restricted to Maine and possibly one site in central Pennsylvania. Only five peatlands east of the Great Lakes (including one other on the reserve, Spring Pond Bog) display similar natural features and rare communities.

This may be the single largest limiting factor for Palm Warbler in New York State—the lack elsewhere of large, undisturbed closed bog habitat.

In spite of the absence of previous breeding evidence within the Adirondacks, there is no reason to believe that this represents a southward range expansion, and it is entirely possible that an undiscovered relict population has been nesting on this, or even other bogs, for many years. Given the limited number of large heath-sedge-sphagnum bog mats in the state, all located in remote parts of the Adirondacks and most on private property rarely opened to birders, other records may be difficult to obtain, if indeed the birds occur elsewhere. Bogs are fragile and any visits should be limited to avoid undue impact. Those who have the opportunity to visit closed bogs should not be discouraged by the general shortage of avian species, but carefully search the edges and remain alert for rapid sweet trills among the scattered spruces. Other sites may in time be discovered.

In summary, a pair of "Yellow" Palm Warblers was encountered at the edge of a large boreal bog near Black Brook in Waverly, Franklin County, on 23 June 1983. The birds were completing a nest on 6 July, and on 8 July the nest contained the first egg. This represents the only known mid-summer occurrence and first confirmed record of nesting in New York State.

The author wishes to extend the thanks of all observers to Fred and William Rockefeller for the generous hospitality and encouraging cooperation that led to this and other notable discoveries regarding the avifauna near Bay Pond. Martin Roddy's patient guidance and helpful suggestions made each visit a memorable one. Thanks are also due to Robert Arbib and Dr. Gordon Meade for helping to arrange the initial permissions for Atlas observers to obtain coverage of Bay Pond Park. I also wish to acknowledge the help of High Peaks Audubon members Langdon Stevenson and Dr. Wesley Lanyon in seeing to the safe deposit of the nest in the AMNH collection. The generous support of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation toward "blockbusting" efforts in the Adirondack-Champlain region made our search possible. Both the NYS Breeding Bird Atlas and this regional coordinator owe a considerable debt of gratitude to my fellow bog sloggers Tim, Dan, and Elsbeth, who did everything they should during this enterprise, and then a little more.

Discovery Farm, R.D. 1, Elizabethtown, NY 12932

CHANGES IN THE HOUSE FINCH POPULATION IN CENTRAL NEW YORK

HAROLD E. BURTT and BENJAMIN P. BURTT

House Finches first appeared in our region in 1971 and have been increasing in numbers in the last few years. It seems worthwhile to quantify this trend with data from our Feeder Survey. This method of evaluating bird populations has been discussed previously in this journal (Burtt 1980). During a designated week readers of "Bird Notes," a column in the Syracuse Sunday *Herald American* are asked to report for each species the maximum number of birds observed at or near their feeders at any one time. The Survey is conducted each winter for the first week of November, December, January, February, March and April. Usually between 150 and 200 reports are received.

These maxima for a given species in a given week are totalled. This total is converted to what it would have been for 100 reports, so that data taken at different times may be compared. For a given winter the total for each month are added to constitute the "winter total."

The Survey results are only a sample of the population in the circulation area of the newspaper. This area is about the same from year to year and covers a circular region within 50 miles of Syracuse plus the western Adirondacks and up north through Watertown and along the St. Lawrence River (*Kingbird* Region 5 plus parts of 4, 6 and 7). So it is probable that trends in the sample are about the same as trends in the population of the area.

In Figure 1 winter totals for the House Finch are plotted on the vertical axis against the successive winters on the horizontal axis. In the first three years the total is very small, but then it increases markedly. Another way to show the trend is to discard the first two years and then fit a straight line (regression line) to the data by the method of least squares; this is the dotted straight line in the chart. Its slope is 512, *i.e.*, the winter total increases by about 512 birds each year. This slope is statistically significant. (The statistical significance of this slope was determined by using a t-test to check the null hypothesis that the slope was zero. The hypothesis was rejected with $p < .001$ so the slope is significant).

There is no indication that the House Finch population is as yet tapering off. In fact, it appears to be accelerating. If a regression line is fitted to the five years beginning with 73-74 and another line to the remaining five years, the slope of the former is 104 and of the latter 961. If this latter slope should continue for the next five years the Survey winter total would be over 10,000. However, such extrapolation

is questionable because eventually the environment may be unable to support a further increase in population.

It may be of interest to compare the current House Finch Survey total with that of some other year-round species. Table 1 gives some winter totals for 1982-83. There are only two species with totals larger than those for the House Finch and these are the ubiquitous European Starling and House Sparrow.

In addition to the increase in the number of House Finches, the percentage of feeders that attract this bird provide some insight into the general spread of the species. In 1974-75, only 7% of the feeders had this bird, but in 81-82 the figure was 50% and in 82-83, 62% of the feeders were visited by House Finches. Insofar as the Feeder Survey is a reliable indicator of population trends, the House Finch appears to be on its way to becoming one of the most numerous resident species in Central New York.

LITERATURE CITED

Burt, H. E. and B. P. 1980. *The Feeder Survey and Trends in Central New York Cardinal Population*. *Kingbird*, 30: 138-142.

6161 Smokey Hollow Road, Jamesville, NY 13078

TABLE 1 — FEEDER SURVEY WINTER TOTALS FOR 1982-83

SPECIES	NUMBER OF BIRDS PER 100 FEEDERS
European Starling	11,255
House Sparrow	6,998
House Finch	5,374
American Goldfinch	4,140
Black-capped Chickadee	2,854
Mourning Dove	2,303
Blue Jay	2,175
Cedar Waxwing	1,455
Downy Woodpecker	1,151
Northern Cardinal	1,018
White-breasted Nuthatch	832
Hairy Woodpecker	575

TOTAL HOUSE FINCHES FOR 6 WINTER MONTHS

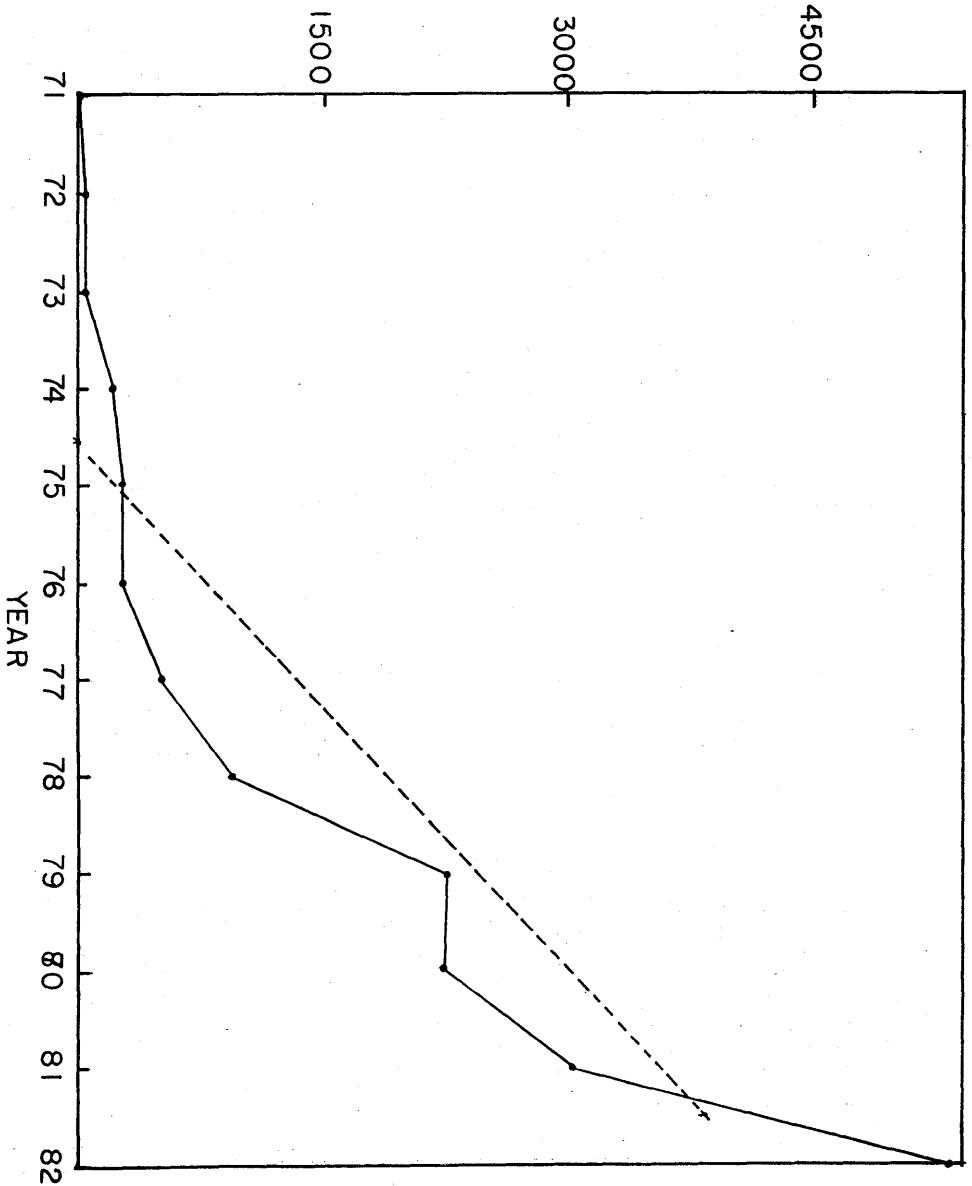


Figure 1. Changes in the House Finch population at feeders in Central New York from 1971 to 1983. Solid line equals observed data. Dotted line equals regression line, representing the average slope from 1973 to 1983.

NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 1983

WALTON B. SABIN

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., Waterfowl Count for 1983 was conducted from 15 January through 23 January, with 16 January as the target date. Ninety per cent of the count parties were in the field within those dates. Nine per cent were in the field a week early, 9 January, unaware that 1983 was the year for adjusting the count so that it does not encroach upon the Christmas Count period. The remaining one per cent (one party) was in the field somewhat after the count period (they know who they are!).

The count period this year again experienced some, to put it mildly, bad or inclement weather, similar to the last two counts. The nine per cent who were in the field a week early were indeed fortunate, since the weather at that time was mild and ideal for counting waterfowl. The rest of us weren't so lucky. The count period experienced some of the worst weather of the winter, at least up until that time. All parties in the field during the count period should be congratulated on a job well done under trying conditions. Such comment as this was typical: "Heavy snow storm most all of the first weekend (if the traction wouldn't get you, the lack of visibility would). By the second weekend the intense cold had the rivers either frozen over or filled with floating ice that swept the ducks away. Only those who could get out during the week had any success at all." And, "I just hope the effort was more worthwhile elsewhere." Nevertheless, the total count for 1983 (Table I) was up a whopping 51.8% over 1982 to 262,696, and an impressive 34% above the 10-year average (1973-1982) of 195,975. This is undoubtedly the result of a very open winter.

Comparing 1983 to 1982 count figures (Table II) for the more common species reveals that all listed species had higher counts in 1983, some quite substantially so. Again this is related to the very open winter leading up to the waterfowl count.

More revealing is a comparison between 1983 figures and the 1973-1982 averages (Table III). Only three species of the fifteen in the table show that they were below the 10-year average. The other twelve were above the average with Common and Red-breasted Mergansers leading the way with increases of 182% and 143.3% respectively.

For the Atlantic Flyway (Maine to Florida inclusive), total federal and state waterfowl population counts showed decreases in the dabbling, diver and sea duck groups. American Black Duck declines continue but this year the mild winter undoubtedly allowed many to remain dispersed in areas that were not surveyed or areas where they were

(continued on page 14)

TABLE I

SPECIES	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	TOTAL	
Loon, Red-throated		2									6	8
Common	1	7	8		6		6				46	74
Grebe, Pied-billed	4	4	4								27	39
Horned	2	13	26		7		23				195	266
Cormorant, Great											179	179
Double-crested	1										67	68
Swan, Tundra	7	9	2		3						7	28
Mute					1				78		703	782
Goose, Gr Wh-front										1		1
Snow											5	5
Brant		3									20,425	20,428
Canada	41	880	13,874		2,078	1,240	317	505	5,796		15,996	40,727
Wood Duck		2			3				4		22	31
Green-winged Teal	1							1			248	250
American Black Duck	340	327	1,100	105	539	65	333	1,524	483		14,719	19,535
Mallard	2,485	2,503	5,602	270	1,604	331	313	1,900	1,490		10,603	27,101
Northern Pintail	28		3			1		2			216	250
Northern Shoveler											209	209
Gadwall	67	19	19			13			22		643	783
Wigeon, Eurasian											4	4
American	82	4	4					3	1		2,279	2,373
Canvasback	2,372	261	804		17		2		470		7,161	11,087
Redhead	103	190	6,158		5						97	6,553

TABLE I

SPECIES	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	TOTAL
Ring-necked Duck		8	21		1				1	55	86
Tufted Duck										1	1
Scaup, Greater	2,647	9,006	216		1,735					31,184	44,788
Lesser	46	14	211		7					768	1,046
Unspecified			789				21			15,807	16,617
Eider, Common										14	14
King					1					1	2
Harlequin Duck										3	3
Oldsquaw	1,838	1,578	27		138	2	3			887	4,473
Scoter, Black		2								396	398
Surf		1								1,685	1,686
White-winged	2	1,699								3,735	5,436
Goldeneye, Common	2,442	4,309	915	7	1,179	718	663	19	11	2,013	12,276
Barrow's					2						2
Bufflehead	109	239	219		139	1	14		5	6,282	7,008
Merganser, Hooded	20	7	39		4		3		11	292	376
Common	21,913	258	245	11	1,728	3,411	879	99	1,194	71	29,809
Red-breasted	166	16	22		35	1				4,763	5,003
Ruddy Duck					1				201	671	873
Unidentified ducks									27	408	435
American Coot	38	110	690		2				75	591	1,506
TOTALS	34,755	21,471	31,022	393	9,236	5,804	2,557	4,053	9,870	1433,535	262,696

difficult to see. A less open winter for the survey should give a truer picture of the situation. Canvasbacks also declined while mergansers, Brant, Snow Geese, Canada Geese and swans increased.

The Department of Environmental Conservation aerial survey is shown in Table IV, without comment.

The 1984 Federation Waterfowl Count dates are from 14 through 22 January, with Sunday, 15 January, as the target date.

I wish to thank the upwards of one hundred observers who participate each year. 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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TABLE II

Comparison of 1983 with 1982, for all species totaling over 1,000 individuals in 1983, and showing the per cent change from 1982 to 1983.

Species	1983	1982	% change
Canada Goose	40,727	36,926	+ 10.3
Brant	20,428	10,717	+ 90.6
Mallard	27,101	19,054	+ 42.2
American Black Duck	19,535	17,315	+ 12.8
American Wigeon	2,373	1,497	+ 58.5
Redhead	6,553	5,962	+ 9.9
Canvasback	11,087	9,628	+ 15.2
Scaup (both)	62,451	39,316	+ 58.8
Goldeneye (both)	12,278	8,551	+ 43.6
Bufflehead	7,008	2,844	+ 146.4
Oldsquaw	4,473	2,747	+ 62.8
Scoter (all three)	7,520	3,763	+ 99.8
Common Merganser	29,809	7,851	+ 279.7
Red-breasted Merganser	5,003	2,383	+ 109.9
American Coot	1,506	916	+ 64.4
TOTALS	257,852	169,470	+ 52.2

TABLE III

Comparison of the 1983 count with the 1973-1982 average, for the same species as in Table II, and showing the per cent change from the average.

Species	1983	Average 1973-1982	% change
Canada Goose	40,727	24,377	+ 67.1
Brant	20,428	10,493	+ 94.7
Mallard	27,101	19,703	+ 37.5
American Black Duck	19,535	18,521	+ 5.5
American Wigeon	2,373	2,109	+ 12.5
Redhead	6,553	6,403	+ 2.4
Canvasback	11,087	11,826	- 6.3
Scaup (both)	62,451	61,084	+ 2.2
Goldeneye (both)	12,278	11,751	+ 4.5
Bufflehead	7,008	4,085	+ 71.6
Oldsquaw	4,473	2,827	+ 58.2
Scoter (all three)	7,520	11,084	- 32.2
Common Merganser	29,809	10,570	+ 182.0
Red-breasted Merganser	5,003	2,057	+ 143.3
American Coot	1,506	2,054	- 26.7
TOTALS	257,852	198,944	+ 29.2

TABLE IV

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION — AERIAL COUNT
January 3-13, 1983

All species of about 1,000 individuals and more

Species	Upstate	Long Island	Total
Mute Swan	19	958	977
Canada Goose	71,009	12,702	83,711
Brant		12,561	12,561
Mallard	31,099	4,189	35,288
American Black Duck	11,961	8,312	20,273
Redhead	4,075		4,075
Canvasback	4,080	4,025	8,105
Scaup (both)	9,289	20,399	29,688
Common Goldeneye	8,800	2,230	11,030
Bufflehead	40	1,091	1,131
Scoter (all three)		1,364	1,364
Merganser (all three)	21,202	6,745	27,947
TOTALS	161,574	74,576	236,150

Note: No American Wigeons, Oldsquaws, Ruddy Ducks, or American Coots were recorded.

HIGHWAY OBSERVATIONS OF GREAT HORNED OWLS IN NEW YORK STATE

THOMAS BOSAKOWSKI and ROBERT SPEISER

This note describes five different instances of Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*) perching near highways. We consider these observations significant for the following reasons: 1) no detailed discussion of this topic could be found in the literature; 2) there is a need to alert others of this potential source for studying or censusing Great Horned Owl populations.

Aware of the emergence of most owls at dusk, the authors carefully observed the rural roadside habitat while driving along Interstate 81 and the New York State Thruway on two recent trips to Canada (June 1982, August 1983). We purposely watched conspicuous perches during the last hour of daylight while maintaining an average speed of about 90 km/hr. Given the large bulky silhouette of the horned owl, such sightings were not difficult at this speed and could also be made under low light conditions.

A total of three Great Horned Owls was observed along highways at dusk during approximately 90 km of optimum viewing mileage (the last half hour of daylight on two evenings). Two were perched in large dead trees on the edge of shelter belts that overlooked large agricultural fields (Watertown, Buffalo). The other was observed on a dead snag in a small roadside swamp with many dead poles (Thousand Islands Bridge). On an earlier trip to the Lake George region (July 1981), the first author had noted a Great Horned Owl perched in a dead treetop in woodland habitat at dawn (Albany). Thus far we have only established one diurnal record, that of a Great Horned Owl perched in a roadside swamp at 1420 hours (Duluth, Minn.). This bird was observed perch-hunting from a dead tree in a small swamp containing many dead trees of sapling and pole size.

The fact that wintering Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) perch and hunt along highways is well known and documented. Of interest, Bart (1977) has shown that the distribution of voles (*Microtus*) is a major factor determining the distribution of roadside Red-tailed Hawks in central New York. Whether the Great Horned Owls we observed were in some way associated with the presence of the highway remains to be determined. Nevertheless, two of five owl sightings were in dead-wood swamps where the highway edge did not seem to be utilized or beneficial. The other three sightings however, were identical to perches typically used by the edge-favoring Red-tailed Hawk. In fact, two of

these owls were perched remarkably close to the shoulder of the road (10-20 m). These owls appeared to be well habituated to the continuous passage of speeding automobiles. Similarly, Bull (1964: 271) stated that the Great Horned Owl "has in recent years become more adapted to the metropolitan area." In any event, further study will be required to determine if the occurrence of Great Horned Owls along highways is merely an expected result from covering much good habitat or a response to higher prey abundance.

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THE CURRENT BREEDING STATUS OF THE COMMON TERN IN THE INTERNATIONAL SECTOR OF THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER, EASTERN LAKE ONTARIO AND ONEIDA LAKE

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Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) colonies from Long Island to Cape Cod have been studied for many years (Austin 1949, 1951, 1953; Buckley *et al.* 1980; Gochfeld 1974a, 1974b, 1976; Nisbet 1973, 1978). These studies provide information on the breeding biology and population dynamics of this species in North America.

In contrast, Common Tern breeding populations in upstate New York and the adjacent waters of the St. Lawrence River in Ontario have rarely been investigated. Only since the mid-1970s have investigators begun to survey these populations. These efforts have been stimulated by evidence of a severe decline in these populations in the last twenty-five years.

The purposes of this paper are to review the local historical status of the species, present evidence of decline, provide the results of the first region-wide population survey ever conducted, consider factors contributing to reproductive failure elsewhere and their applicability to the local situation, and suggest protection, research and management options that should be undertaken in the immediate future.

HISTORICAL STATUS

Little information is available on breeding Common Terns in this region prior to 1915. Eaton (1910) indicated the species was rare in upstate New York although he suggested breeding had occurred on Lake Erie in the past. It is reasonable to assume a breeding population existed in this area in the latter part of the 19th century. Eaton's assessment of the species' status is based primarily on information from the period 1875-1910. During this period the species was at a low ebb, caused by the slaughter for the millinery trade (Brewster 1879; Nisbet 1973, 78). Given the great reduction in populations and the small number of ornithologists, the remaining breeding colonies could easily have been overlooked.

The first confirmed reports of tern colonies in this region date from between 1915-1930 (Merwin 1918; Stoner 1932). During this period large colonies were reported in the upper St. Lawrence River and the species became established on the islands of Oneida Lake. These records coincide with the rapid recovery of Atlantic coast populations, which resulted in peak numbers for this century during the early 1900s (Drury 1973-74; Nisbet 1978). Information for the next two decades locally is limited to scattered reports primarily from the colonies on Oneida Lake (Burtch 1936, 1941).

From the late 1940s to the early 1960s several observers documented the existence of large colonies in this region. Very large colonies were noted at Little Galloo Island and Sandy Pond in eastern Lake Ontario (Belknap 1968; Bull 1974; F. G. Scheider, pers. comm.). Colonies were also present in the western St. Lawrence River (Quilliam 1973) and undoubtedly substantial numbers bred elsewhere. Scattered visits to the Oneida Lake colonies by several observers indicated they were stable with good populations. Although these data are incomplete, they indicate that a large breeding population existed in this region during the 1950s and early 1960s. Data from recent surveys compared to these data indicate a substantial decline has occurred since then.

EVIDENCE OF DECLINE

Evidence of decline is provided by comparing recent findings with information provided by Bull (1974). He recorded 14 colonies in the Finger Lakes, Onondaga Lake, Lake Ontario, Oneida Lake and the St. Lawrence River. In addition, scattered information is available from regional reports in *The Kingbird* for various years. These data suggest a minimum estimate of 2,000 pairs breeding in these waters. It is reasonable to assume that a minimum of 500 pairs was present in the unsurveyed waters of the St. Lawrence River. Therefore, we suggest that a minimum of 2,500 pairs was present in this region in the recent past. It is likely that these figures are conservative.

Quilliam (1973) also supports the idea of a decline in the Common Tern population nesting in Canadian waters of the western St. Lawrence River. In addition the complete disappearance of all large colonies from this region further supports the idea of decline.

Evidence of decline in this area is consistent with trends observed in breeding populations in other parts of the species' North American range. Investigators on the four western Great Lakes have reported poor reproductive success and population declines (Harris and Matteson 1975; Morris and Hunter 1976a, 1976b; Scharf 1981; Shugart and Scharf 1981). Similar difficulties have been reported on the Atlantic coast, notably in the massive colonies of the Cape Cod region (Nisbet 1978). The only major exception to this pattern of decline in the northeast and north-central regions are the colonies of the Long Island region (Gochfeld 1974a, 1974b, 1976).

The reasons for this widespread decline are complex, varied and often unclear. Reproductive failure is assumed to be the primary cause of decline in many areas. Nisbet (1978) indicates that he does not believe the declines in Cape Cod colonies are due primarily to reproductive problems. The effects of factors at work during migration and on the wintering grounds are unknown, but their impact may be substantial. Although the reasons for decline in many regions remain obscure, it is clear a serious decline is occurring in Common Tern populations in much of this species' North American breeding range.

RECENT POPULATION SURVEYS

Common Tern colonies in this region are grouped in five sectors. Areas between these are generally devoid of colonies and observations indicate that feeding and resting terns are much less frequent than in regions with colonies. The five colony sectors are: 1) the western section of Oneida Lake near Constantia, Oswego County; 2) the North Pond region of northern Oswego County at the east end of Lake Ontario; 3) the western St. Lawrence River region around Grindstone Island from just east of Clayton, New York, to Gananoque, Ontario; 4) the central St. Lawrence River between Chippewa Bay and Morristown, New York, on the south and Mallorytown Landing and Brockville, Ontario, on the north; 5) the eastern St. Lawrence River between Waddington, New York, and Cornwall, Ontario.

Concern over the local population decline of the Common Tern has stimulated survey and research efforts since the mid-1970s. The first systematic survey of Common Terns breeding in this region was conducted in Canadian waters of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River in 1976 by Blokpoel (1977). Beginning in 1977 the authors conducted surveys along the international section of the river during the next three summers. In 1978 survey efforts were most intense and studies of basic breeding biology of Common Terns were conducted at two colonies in Ontario waters (Maxwell and Smith 1983a, 1983b). From the mid-1970s through the present Johannes Van Riet of Massena, New York, has regularly visited several colonies between Waddington, New York, and Cornwall, Ontario, in the eastern section of the St. Lawrence River. From the late 1970s to the present, Bud Andress, Don Ross and Tom Hince of the St. Lawrence Islands National Park, Ontario, have collected data from colonies in Canadian waters of the St. Lawrence River between Gananoque and Brockville, Ontario.

The colonies at Oneida Lake have been studied intensively in recent years by Lucia Severinghaus, Russ Charif, Laurie Miller and John Confer (see Miller and Confer 1982). All of these efforts have greatly increased the data base on Common Tern local colonies. Still a systematic region-wide one-year survey was lacking. The current effort was developed to fill this void and to update available data.

The 1982 survey visited all known Common Tern breeding colonies in this region. In addition, a search for unknown colonies was conducted along the upper St. Lawrence River where it was deemed most likely that undetected colonies might exist. All colonies were visited 3 to 5 times at 10 to 14-day intervals from late May to late July. During most visits counts of adults, numbers of nests, eggs per nest, numbers of chicks and fledged immatures were recorded. Occasionally counts were not made, to minimize disturbance in the colonies. At these times counts of flying adults, immatures, chicks, and general observations were made.

These data in combination with population estimates provided by Russ Charif (pers. comm.) for the Oneida Lake colonies give a fairly complete picture of breeding populations in 1982 in eastern Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River, and Oneida Lake. The maximum total of 591 nests recorded in U.S. waters of eastern Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River plus the approximate 400 nests on Oneida Lake indicate a population of no more than 1,000 pairs. This figure is approximately 40% of the minimal population estimate of a quarter of a century ago. Clearly there has been a substantial decline in breeding populations in this region.

Of the 14 regional colonies listed by Bull (1974), three are present at the same or nearby sites. The fate of two others on Cayuga Lake is unknown, and the remainder have been abandoned. Only the Oneida Lake colonies remain at their sites at population levels similar to those of past years. This is particularly disturbing as these colonies are stressed by a gull invasion and other difficulties. The colonies listed by Bull that have been abandoned are: Lonesome Bay in Black Lake, St. Lawrence County; island in Eel Bay and Featherbed Shoals, both in the St. Lawrence River, Jefferson County; Point Peninsula, Gull Island, and Little Galloo Island, all in Lake Ontario, Jefferson County; and Onondaga Lake, Onondaga County. Two colonies listed by Bull, in addition to the colony on Oneida Lake, are still occupied. The colony at Eaglewing Rocks (herein Eaglewing Islands) in the St. Lawrence River, Jefferson County, still exists. The colony at North Pond-Sandy Pond, Oswego County, is much reduced and now occupies a small island in the pond rather than the sand spit location of earlier years.

Recent surveys have recorded colonies on the St. Lawrence River not recorded by Bull (1974). These are on Gull and Tidd Islands in Jefferson County. The St. Lawrence County colony sites are on the following islands: Bogardus, Northeast Long Sault, Big and Little Murphy, Old Man, Whaleback, and Brockville Rocks. Colonies were also located on navigation marker platforms, platform east of #57, 57, old 58, 73, 75, 79, 91 and 154. Some of these sites have been active during all surveys while others have been used only irregularly for nesting. Robert Long (pers. comm.) indicates that Common Terns bred on small islets in Morristown Bay, New York, at various times between 1950 and 1975. He also quotes Joe McDonald, a resident of Morristown, New York, as stating that he observed Common Terns nesting on Old Man Island near Morristown prior to the establishment of a summer cottage there in 1950. Apparently recent abandonment of this structure has permitted reestablishment of a colony there. John Brown (pers. comm.) of Rochester, New York, recalls that a Common Tern colony was present on Tidd Island, Jefferson County, during the 1960s. This colony may have been overlooked by us during early surveys and was not discovered until 1982. Our survey found the following colonies

present on the following Ontario islands: Bass, Bass Rock, Black Ant, Channel, Ice, Murray, Scorpions, East Sheek, West Sheek, and on shoals south of Stovin Island and east of Sheaffle Island.

The locations of all Common Tern colonies located between 1975 and 1982, and their annual breeding status are presented in Table 1. Data on the 1982 population status of the 20 active colonies are provided in Table 2. These data indicate that the mean number of active nests per colony was 29.55. The mean number of observed adults per colony was 45.95. The mean number of chicks per colony was 14.84 and the mean number of fledged young per colony was 8.5. The total population produced an average of .48 chicks and .29 fledged immature per active nest. These data indicate that Common Terns did not have a good reproductive season in this region in 1982.

All colonies in the region are located on small islands, except for eight colonies located on support platforms for navigation marker lights. This type of site has not previously been recorded in the literature and may be unique to this region. These sites are 7-meter square concrete platforms 3 meters above the surface of the water. They are covered with varying amounts of gravel and/or soil and vegetation. These sites have been increasing in importance to nesting terns in eastern sectors of the river in recent years.

FACTORS AFFECTING REPRODUCTIVE SUCCESS

Factors affecting reproductive success include competition with gulls for nest sites (Courtney and Blokpoel 1980), human disturbance, vegetational succession, and predation (Morris and Hunter 1976a, 1976b; Erwin 1980). In this region and throughout the Great Lakes, breeding populations are being adversely affected by a massive population explosion of Ring-billed Gulls. The most serious impact of gulls on terns is nest-site competition. The gulls have an advantage in this struggle due to their larger size and 4- to 6-week earlier arrival on the breeding grounds. This competition is being intensified due to the destruction of nesting sites by exploding human populations.

During the past 25 years several local tern colonies have been eliminated by gull encroachment. These include the largest colony in this region, formerly located at Little Galloo Island. In the past four years several colonies in the St. Lawrence River have been overrun. Several colonies, including the only remaining colony in U.S. waters of Lake Ontario, are being invaded by gulls and could be eliminated in the near future.

Tern colonies throughout much of North America are being adversely affected by human activities. These include urbanization and recreational development (Gochfeld 1974a, 1974b), intentional disruption (Gochfeld 1976), toxic chemical pollution, and fluctuations in "regulated" water levels.

In this region several human activities are adversely affecting tern colonies. One of the most serious of these is the encroachment of human recreational activities at colony sites. The second largest colony in the region, at Sandy Pond (Bull, 1974), was eliminated by recreational pressures including four-wheel drive vehicles, airplanes landing, and excessive pedestrian traffic (F. G. Scheider, pers. comm.). A long-occupied colony at Black Ant Island, Ontario (Quilliam 1973), was recently abandoned when cottagers moved onto the island. On several occasions we have observed disruption of colonies by fish fries, beer parties and overnight camping expeditions. These activities cause losses of eggs and chicks by exposure and predation.

Sportfishing activities cause problems at colonies. Fishing from or near the colonies contributes to stress in colonies already exposed to other disturbance. Another adverse effect related to sportfishing is direct mortality due to entanglement in lost lures and lines. Nickel (1964) noted the loss of 6 adults and 4 chicks to lost lures and lines at a colony on Lake Erie. We have seen entanglement losses of adult terns in local colonies on several occasions. The recent large increase in sportfishing in the region gives cause for concern over the potential increasing impact of this problem.

Toxic chemicals may be of importance, considering the contaminants present in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. Descriptive information on the presence of some chemicals in terns is available (Gilbertson and Reynolds 1972) but data on effects of these pollutants are lacking.

The quality of tern colony sites has been shown to effect overall reproductive success (Erwin 1980). In many areas terns are being eliminated from preferred nesting areas, such as sand dune and beach, by human and gull pressures. Terns being forced to nest at more marginal and often untenable sites, such as salt marsh islands, often regularly experience reproductive failure (Erwin 1980). Some of these sites are clearly unsuitable from the standpoint of reproductive success but apparently are the best the birds can find. An example of a very marginal site is Whaleback Island, New York. This barren rock island has been occupied for the duration of our surveys. The terns nest in lichen-fringed hollows in solid rock. Because these hollows lack soil and vegetation and are poorly drained, they flood during moderate rainstorms. Losses of eggs and chicks because of exposure and immersion are consistently high. Yet a slowly declining colony still persists here.

There is evidence that large tern colonies experience better reproductive success than small colonies. Several authors (Austin 1951, Gochfeld 1974a, 1974b) suggest that where conditions permit terns tend to consolidate into larger colonies rather than remain in small colonies. It has been suggested that increased colony stability and reproductive success result from consolidation into larger colonies.

The elimination of most of the large Common Tern colonies in this region has resulted in dispersal of the remaining population into small colonies. This dispersal may be contributing to reproductive failure and population decline through reduced social stimulation and increased vulnerability to gull encroachment and predation. The effects of this dispersal on local populations are not clear, and small colonies do experience good reproductive success on occasion. The small colony at Channel Island, Ontario, has experienced good success often during our surveys, while the much larger colony at nearby Ice Island was having poor success.

Conditions of vegetation at colony sites appear to be of great importance to Common Terns. Excessive vegetation at colony sites increases vulnerability to some predators, increases chick mortality and may cause colony abandonment. (Austin 1948, Switzer *et al.* 1971, Blokpoel 1976 and Scharf 1981). Some vegetation at colony sites is important (Blokpoel 1976) and apparently has value in providing shelter from the elements and predators for chicks. As a consequence of being forced to nest at more marginal sites in this region, terns are experiencing problems due to vegetation succession. Under natural fluctuating water levels, periodic cycles of high water would have washed over islands and retarded or reversed vegetation succession. These forces would have provided a variety of sites at the correct successional stage for tern nesting in many parts of the region. Control of water levels by man and the forcing of terns to nest in marginal sites results in terns nesting in areas where vegetation succession is more rapid. Succession can render sites unsuitable, further limiting the already scarce resource of available nest sites. The Murphy Islands near Coles Creek, New York, have lost their tern colonies probably due to vegetational changes. On Carl Island, increasing vegetation density is causing problems for adults and chicks, including mortality of the latter due to entanglement.

The unique nature of colony sites on navigation markers in the St. Lawrence River has also created some unique problems for terns nesting there. The most serious problem is loss of large chicks and nearly fledged immatures caused by premature abandonment due to human disturbance. At critical times in the nesting cycle human visits to these sites cause young terns to jump into the river from the platform. Since the colony site is several feet above the surface of the water these birds cannot return to the platform without human help. Failure of visitors to replace chicks on the platform results in large losses of young.

Predation at tern colonies causes losses of adults, chicks and eggs and causes severe disruption of reproductive behavior. Activities of nocturnal predators, notably the Great Horned Owl, can cause "night desertion" (Marshall 1942, Morris and Hunter 1976a). This phenomenon is characterized by the nocturnal abandonment of a colony by adults in contrast to the normal close nocturnal incubation and brooding

behavior of the species. Night desertion leaves eggs and chicks vulnerable to exposure and increased predation, and may result in reproductive failure. There is evidence that Great Horned Owls are causing serious problems at tern colonies in several areas, notably in the western St. Lawrence River. Edward Waltz (pers. comm.) noted, during his studies on the Eaglewing Islands in the late 1970s, that predation by Great Horned Owls caused mass chick mortality and night desertion. Our observations in 1982 suggest that this important colony is still being raided by owls. At several other colonies in this sector we noted the presence of owl feathers and decapitated adult terns—suggestive evidence of owl predation.

RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT NEEDS

There is little doubt that Common Tern breeding populations in this region are suffering a severe, long-term decline. In our opinion, unless efforts are made to arrest and reverse this decline the species may disappear as a breeder in the region during the 1990s. A cooperative effort between government agencies, private organizations, and individuals is needed. These efforts should include endeavors in surveying, research, management and public education.

The survey efforts of recent years are an initial step in this process. The regional survey begun in 1982 should be continued annually for the foreseeable future. This baseline population monitoring survey can provide a needed assessment of the breeding status of the species in the region and develop information on threats to colonies. Continuation of these surveys must be of primary concern.

During recent years other initial steps have been taken to help preserve the Common Tern in this region. The listing of the species as officially threatened in New York State by the Department of Environmental Conservation will focus increased attention on its problems. In 1982 the senior author, under the auspices of the Onondaga Audubon Society, called a meeting of persons interested in terns in this region. This meeting, held at St. Lawrence Islands National Park, Ontario, on 22 September, was attended by participants from various agencies and organizations in the U.S. and Canada. At the meeting the Upper St. Lawrence Tern Working Group was formed. This group will serve as a cooperative coordination and advisory body on matters related to terns in this region. Primary thrusts of the group's efforts will be continuing documentation of breeding status, coordination and advisement on survey and research efforts to minimize investigator-caused disruptions, identification of problems facing breeding terns and seek solutions, and facilitation of cooperative endeavors between all interested in terns in the area of concern.

These are important first steps but there is a critical need for more and immediate action on a number of problems. While long-term monitoring and research is continued, management activities should

be instituted. In the short term (one to six years) we suggest a coordinated program of surveys, research designed to assess specific problems and develop solutions and experimental management. We believe such an approach would relieve some of the pressure on local breeding populations, increase reproductive success and buy additional time to reverse the decline and institute long-term management planning efforts.

We suggest several priority efforts:

1) Continuation of the baseline population monitoring survey for at least ten years.

2) Development of a list of owners of all current and recently occupied colony sites. These persons should be contacted and appraised of the important wildlife value of their land. Efforts should be made to seek their cooperation and participation in protection and management efforts in order to develop increased interest among owners in the stewardship of these colonies.

3) Legal protection for major colony sites. This could be done through purchase or gift to a conservation organization or agency. If this is not possible attempts should be made to obtain a conservation easement or other legal protection for these sites.

4) A widespread survey of potential manageable colony sites along the St. Lawrence River should be conducted and the results compiled for future action.

5) Efforts to increase the number of suitable nesting sites, clearly a limiting factor to breeding success efforts. Experimental management efforts such as vegetation control should be attempted at currently abandoned sites and other suitable sites near existing colonies. Tern decoys may induce terns to nest at these sites.

6) Studies of the feasibility of Ring-billed Gull control at critical sites. Although gull control is undesirable there may be a need for this in some circumstances.

7) A thorough study of all aspects of Great Horned Owl-Common Tern interactions at breeding colonies, with consideration of live trapping and deportation of raiding owls.

8) Attempts at vegetation management at a limited number of extant sites where information suggests a critical need exists, such as Whaleback Island.

9) Initiation of widespread public education programs in regions with colonies, particularly along the St. Lawrence River, to increase the public's awareness of an appreciation for terns.

We believe this effort can have positive effects on increasing the possibilities of long-term survival of Common Tern breeding populations in this region at limited cost. At present that survival is very much in doubt. All persons interested in these birds must make an effort to help assure their survival in our region.

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TABLE 1
Common Tern Colony Sites in the International Section
of the St. Lawrence River, U.S. Waters of Lake Ontario
and Oneida Lake 1975-1982

Site Name	Latitude (nearest 15')	Longitude (nearest 15')	Location(a)	Active(b)
Bass Island, Ont.	44-17-15	76-09-30	SLR	76,78
Bass Island Rock, Ont.	44-17-15	76-07-30	SLR	76
Black Ant Island, Ont.	44-15-30	76-11-15	SLR	78,79
Bogardus Island, NY	44-35-30	75-39-30	SLR	77,78,79,80
Brockville Rock, NY	44-35-45	75-40-45	SLR	76,77
Carl Island, NY	43-40-00	76-11-00	LO	75,76,77,78,79,80, 81,82
Channel Island, Ont.	44-26-30	75-52-00	SLR	76,77,78,79,80, 81,82
Eaglewing Islands, NY	44-15-00	76-06-00	SLR	76,77,78,79,80, 81,82
Gull Island, NY	44-15-45	76-04-15	SLR	82
Ice Island, Ont.	44-27-30	75-50-00	SLR	76,77,78,79,80, 81,82
Little Corn Island, Ont.	44-27-00	75-49-30	SLR	78
Northeast Long Sault Island, NY	44-49-15	74-54-00	SLR	76,77
Big Murphy Island, NY	44-53-30	75-10-00	SLR	77,78,79,80,81
Little Murphy Island, NY	44-53-30	75-09-45	SLR	77,78,79,80,81
Murray Island, Ont.	44-35-45	75-39-45	SLR	76,77,78,79
Nav. Light E. of Light 57, NY	44-57-15	74-59-30	SLR	82
Nav. Light 57, NY	44-57-15	74-59-45	SLR	77,81,82
Old Nav. Light 58, NY	44-57-00	75-00-30	SLR	76,77,78,79,80, 81,82
Nav. Light 73, NY	44-55-30	75-05-15	SLR	80,81,82
Nav. Light 75, NY	44-15-15	75-07-00	SLR	81,82
Nav. Light 79, NY	44-55-00	75-08-00	SLR	80,81,82
Nav. Light 91, NY	44-52-45	75-11-45	SLR	81,82
Nav. Light 56, NY	44-30-30	75-46-15	SLR	79,80?,81?,82
Old Man Island, NY	44-34-30	75-40-30	SLR	82
Oneida Lake Islands, NY	43-15-00	76-00-00	OL	75,76,77,78,79, 80,81,82
Scorpion Islands, Ont.	44-19-00	76-06-30	SLR	78,79,80,81
Shoal S. of Stovin Island, Ont.	44-33-15	75-42-45	SLR	76,82
Shoal E. of Sheaffle Island, Ont.	44-32-45	75-43-00	SLR	82
Shoal W. of Indian Chief Islands, NY	44-28-00	75-48-15	SLR	79
East Sheek Island, Ont.	45-01-15	74-50-15	SLR	76,77,78,79,80, 81,82
West Sheek Island, Ont.	45-00-30	74-52-15	SLR	77,79,80,81,82
Tidd Island, NY	44-16-30	76-02-30	SLR	82
Whaleback Island, NY	44-30-30	74-45-45	SLR	77,78,79,80?, 81?,82

Key: a: SLR = St. Lawrence River; LO = Lake Ontario; OL = Oneida Lake.
b: 76,78 = colony active in 1976 and 1978, etc.

TABLE 2

Summary of Status of Common Tern Colonies in U.S. Waters of Lake Ontario, the International Sector of the St. Lawrence River and Oneida Lake in 1982

Colony	Nests/Date ^a	Ads/Date ^a	Chicks/Date ^a	Imm./Date
Carl Island	100/3 June	120/3 June	23/17 June	16/15 July
Channel Island	19/9 June	30/Several dates	23/28 June	24/13 July
Eaglewing Island	54/14 June	75/14 June	2/Several dates	0
Gull Island	21/28 June	26/13 July	1/28 June-13 July	0
Ice Island	83/9 June	150/14 June	14/14 June	3/28 June
Nav. Lt. E. of Lt. 57	1/30 May	1/30 May	0	0
Nav. Lt. 57	6/30 May	14/30 May	11/15 June	2 ^b
Old Nav. Lt. 58	88/30 May	100/25 May-15 June	119/15 June	24 ^b /13 July
Nav. Lt. 73	27/31 May	50/31 May	18/15 June	10 ^b /13 July
Nav. Lt. 75	20/25 May	40/25 May	25/15 June	11 ^b /13 July
Nav. Lt. 79	4/13 July	16/13 July	4/13 July	0
Nav. Lt. 91	1/31 May	2/31 May	0	0
Nav. Lt. 156	37/25 May	72/25 May	21/15 June	20/28 June
Old Man Island	25/15 June	30/Several dates	8/15 June	0
Oneida Lake	400/season ^c	---	---	---
Shoal S. of Stovin Island	7/15 June	14/15 June	0	0
Shoal E. of Sheaffle Island	2/29 June	4/29 June	0	0
East Sheek Island	10/25 May-15 June	20/Several dates	12/15 June	0 ^b
West Sheek Island	56/30 May	100/Several dates	d	60/23 July
Tidd Island	23/28 June	30/28 June	1/13 July	0
Whaleback Island	7/15 June	25/25 May	0	0
Total Maximum	591	909	282	170 ^b

Key

a = all seasonal maximum

b = these figures may be low due to lack of a late June visit to the eastern sector of the river

c = approximate figure

d = chick counts not obtained due to the extremely hazardous nature of landing on this island.

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

American Crow attacks European Starling in mid-air: On Monday, 28 November, on Dunton Ave., East Patchogue, at approximately 1:30 P.M., Dave Cespedes and I, while walking home, saw an American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) knock a European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) out of the air by pecking it on the head. This starling had fallen to the ground where the crow attacked it. A second crow joined the first to try and kill the starling. A flock of about ten starlings tried to help the starling by chasing the crows away, but they were not successful. We chased the crows away and, seeing that the starling was still alive but unable to fly, we picked it up and took it home. Later it recovered and was released.

Bent (Bent, A.C., 1946, *Life Histories of North American Jays, Crows, and Titmice*, Dover Publications, Part II) reports a wide variety of food taken by crows, but does not mention any bird attacked in mid-air.

Joseph Cuccia, 545 Dunton Ave., East Patchogue, New York 11772

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

To borrow from Paul DeBenedictis of Region 5, "All in all, it was a typically interesting, but hardly outstanding fall season." As usual, the reports are strongly weather-influenced. In most regions a hot summer extended through at least the first half of September, followed by a cold snap, then a warm fall. In most areas there were few major fronts in September and early October, and precipitation was low until November when rain and/or snowfall was average to well above average. Regions 9 and 10 were exceptions in averaging much warmer than the rest of the state and in reporting record rainfall, nearly twice normal for the year. It is not surprising in view of this that Region 9 was the only region noting good wild food crops when most regions to the north and west mentioned low cone, fruit, and berry crops. The general effects on the regional reports are thus not surprising. In several regions waterfowl reports provided the most excitement with the passerine migration termed poor. Strong nocturnal flights were noted on only a few dates with a few good groundings observed on the following days. TV tower kills were very low; the lowest in 20 years in Region 3. For a warm fall, one surprise might be the dearth of really late departure dates reported.

Most of the standard fall flights were average to weak, though there were at least some high points in each. Loon and grebe numbers were average for recent years, up and down in particular regions, capped by a new state high count for Common Loon in Region 1. Waterfowl provided the most widespread excitement, with some noteworthy numbers or dates in nearly every region. Once again, Region 3 provides a good summary, comparable with past years, in a table of peak counts at Montezuma NWR. We really need long term averages and standard deviations for the assessment of current seasons' data in various regions. Other interesting waterfowl data include: a state high count of Tundra Swans in Region 1; good counts for Snow Goose in Regions 4, 7, and 9; large Brant movements on 3-6 November in Regions 2 and 5, contrasting with none in Region 1; 5,000 Oldsquaws in Region 5; good Black Scoter counts away from the ocean or Great Lakes in Regions 3 and 4; and the simultaneous arrival dates for Harlequin Ducks in Regions 2 and 10. The major raptor flights of the fall were, as usual, along the ridges and peaks and the beaches in Regions 9 and 10. The results documented in those regional reports were better than last year, but reporting was spotty, and in some cases slow. A new hawk watch was located at Butler Sanctuary near Mt. Kisco in Region 9. Among the more closely monitored species, Ospreys persisted late in several

regions; the Bald Eagle total ran a bit below last year at about 26 with half of these in Region 9; Red-shouldered Hawks continued low; and Peregrine Falcons remained about the same at about 75 individuals across eight regions. The later shorebird migration reportedly suffered from habitat problems, too much or too little water in most regions, yet there were still interesting records including: a state fall high count for Black-bellied Plover in Region 10; a good, late count of 500 Red Knots in Region 10; late White-rumped Sandpipers in Regions 2, 5, 7, and 9; and numerous other regional, relatively late dates. The family *Laridae* provided more negatives and missing notes than positives. Jaeger counts were down along Lake Ontario, probably due to the preponderance of SW winds, and not mentioned along the coast. Iceland Gull was not reported. However, inland Black-legged Kittiwake numbers were good again in Regions 2 and 5; good gull numbers were reported generally from Region 6; Common Terns lingered in Regions 2 and 5, an immature on the same late date—the same bird?, in Region 10; Forster's Tern was well reported in five regions; and good numbers of Royal Terns were again reported in Region 10. The passerine flight was generally described as poor. There were few really good days anywhere, two major exceptions being 9 October in Region 5 providing several record high counts and a 4 October backyard bonanza in Region 10. From Region 9 come several excellent counts of passing non-raptors from hawk watches and the suggestion that more hawk watches try to count all birds passing; great when hawks are few and/or people many, but otherwise difficult. When carried out on "good days," amazingly high counts often result. Incursives were noted as widespread, but generally in low numbers and not tarrying long. Among those usually awaited expectantly in the fall are: Rough-legged Hawk, low numbers, but very close arrival dates across the state; Snowy Owls, again few and arriving in a narrow spread of dates; Black-backed Woodpecker, unrecorded; Boreal Chickadee, straying only to Regions 5 and 9 outside the Adirondacks; Bohemian Waxwing in Regions 2, 5, and 9; and all of the winter finches except White-winged Crossbill and Hoary Redpoll here and there, briefly and in small numbers.

After scanning the checklist once for the major flights, we can wander through again looking a little more closely for interesting notes; highs, low, early, late, and similarities and contrasts between neighboring regions. Examples of each may be gleaned from the regional reports. Among the highs not previously mentioned are: 1,000 Northern Gannets in Region 10; Double-crested Cormorants reported in nine regions, with upstate reports certainly being a function of increased nesting on Little Galloo Island, and peaking at 4,000 in Region 10; also in Region 10 an enormous Northern Flicker flight along the beaches and state high counts of 500-600 Fish Crows and 1,100 Cedar Waxwings; a high

tally of 52 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds passing the Butler Sanctuary hawk watch; and the fallout of 9 October in Region 5 resulting in a state high of 750 Golden-crowned Kinglets and excellent counts of 150 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 48 Winter Wrens, and 65 Rufous-sided Towhees. Additional lows included: no reports of Common Barn-Owl and Louisiana Waterthrush; only single regions reporting Wilson's Phalarope—Region 3, Sedge Wren—Region 2, and Golden-winged Warbler—Region 5; and Common Raven only in Region 1 outside of the Adirondacks. Early arrivals are usually few at this season, since the fall migration really starts in the summer season, but a Dovekie in Region 2 on 22 September must be considered early. Late records are more numerous, with the most outstanding: Osprey: 17-18 November in Region 7; Red-headed Woodpecker carrying food on 15 September in Region 10; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 30 November in Region 9; Yellow-throated Vireo on 13 October in Region 10; and Yellow Warbler on 9 October in Region 5, a new inland late date. Several regional similarities to whet your appetite for further study were: House Wren with relatively late and close departure dates in six regions; the appearance of Western Kingbird in Regions 3, 4, 8, and 10, five birds in the latter; Swainson's Thrush generally providing the best thrush counts across many regions, though noted as scarce in others; Connecticut Warblers appearing in seven regions, with about 15 reports; Am. Tree Sparrows arriving over a close date range in Regions 1-7; and Sharp-tailed Sparrow, normally scarce away from the coast, observed in Regions 1 and 7.

Typically, in addition to the species records themselves, there are numerous interesting observations buried in the regional reports. Again to whet your appetites, here are a few. In Regions 4 and 10 we have examples of long term site fidelity in the returns of the Lesser Black-backed Gull and Tufted Duck, respectively. In Region 3 we find a Northern Mockingbird defending a bush load of berries from starlings. A Mute Swan with brood in Region 6 is reported as a questionable blessing. In Region 7 the 7 October earthquake is accompanied by a shrieking Barred Owl and waves of moving Canada Geese, the latter put into better perspective by noting a large movement across the state on that and adjacent dates. More serious is the gunning down of an American Kestrel at a hawk watch in Region 7. Region 8 reports a singing Northern Shrike on 26 November. Are we all aware that to date Cornell Lab has no recording of this species and would appreciate help in pinning down a cooperative individual? Finally from Region 10, close your eyes and try to imagine no less than four American Kestrels attacking a Red Bat.

The rarity litany is again long, at least 52 species boldfaced or underlined. My choices for the most outstanding from each region follow; you can pick your own. Region 1—MacGillivray's Warbler, a new state

species if accepted by NYSARC (see page 40 of this issue for full details); Region 2—a November occurrence of Yellow-throated Warbler; Region 3—two Western Grebes on Keuka Lake; Region 4—Brewer's Blackbird; Region 5—Piping Plover, the first in that region since 1978; Region 6—Tricolored Heron; Region 7—Sharp-tailed Sparrow; Region 8—Western Kingbird; Region 9—Black Vulture; and Region 10—Arctic Tern. As usual, Region 10 noted a host of species which are very rare elsewhere, but regularly recorded near the coast. In view of this large number of contenders for the BOTS Award, it is indeed fortunate that the bird of the year was turned up by the A.O.U.'s centennial gathering in Region 10. Thought to be extinct for nearly 140 years, a Great Auk was observed and photographed. For some reason (possibly the fact that it was pushing a cake), no details are to be filed with NYSARC, but a photo is on file at the AMNH and surely complete details will be available in a future issue of *The Auk*.

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REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

JOSEPH F. THILL

The weather in the Niagara Frontier Region this fall was more normal than one year ago, all three months having only fractionally higher than normal average temperatures at Buffalo where the meteorological data is obtained. The very warm weather of the summer of '83 continued through the first ten days of September with the first significant cold front of the season occurring on the 12th. Climatic conditions remained warm and damp until 21 Sept. when unseasonably cold weather invaded the area. Robert Sundell reported one inch of snow in Brocton in Chautauqua Co. on the 23rd which quickly melted, and heavy early morning frosts were recorded in the valleys and higher elevations of the Southern Tier counties on the 24th and 25th. However, all this dramatic weather change failed to induce any major migratory movement, and September was generally a disappointing month for the passage of passerines, especially thrushes, vireos and warblers. October and November in contrast were considerably more exciting, with the first mass flight of waterfowl into the region coinciding with the passage of a cold front on 9 Oct. Flocks of Canada Geese were reported in all sections on the 9th and 10th but warm weather quickly returned with a record high temperature of 82° F recorded at Buffalo on 13 Oct. Gale force southwesterly winds on the 14th with gusts up to 60 mph ushered in another cold front which brought snow flurries at higher elevations in the Southern Tier counties and below normal temperatures for the remainder of the

month. This front generated considerable migratory activity. November brought the first significant snowfall with up to twelve inches reported in Niagara and Orleans counties on the 4th, while southern Erie and Chautauqua counties recorded between three and six inches on that date in the traditional snowbelt to the lee of Lake Erie. The first major snow storm of the season on 29 Nov. dumped up to three to four inches of new snow in Niagara County and up to two feet in squall areas in southern and eastern Erie County, forcing local travel restrictions and school closings. This storm was preceded by the most spectacular movement of Tundra Swans ever witnessed in autumn in our region.

Highlights of the season in Region 1 this fall are almost exclusively concerned with the waterfowl migration, some species in record numbers, in October and November. These flights were reported for the most part by observers along the south shore of Lake Erie and in the vicinity of Chautauqua Lake in Chautauqua County and include a new high count of Common Loons in migration for New York State, as well as local records for the autumn flight of the Tundra Swans as noted previously. There were also locally high counts of Gadwalls reported from the Burgeson Sanctuary near Jamestown. On the negative side, very few grebes were in evidence this fall and no Brant flight was observed along the Lake Ontario shore. Of the latter phenomenon, it may well be attributed to a lack of observers along this interesting migration route in October and November. One has simply to compare records from Region 1 with those of Hamilton (Ont.) birdwatchers to the west and with those of observers at Rochester and vicinity to our east to illustrate this point. It does not appear that this is a major flight year for the Snowy Owl, and there were no reports of migrating Northern Saw-whet Owls in western New York this fall. Our bird-banding correspondents in the Southern Tier, Morgan Jones in Chautauqua Co., Don Clark in Cattaraugus Co., and Elizabeth Brooks in Allegany Co., were unanimous in their observations that numbers of migrating thrushes, vireos and warblers were exceptionally low in September and similar comments were made by Arthur Clark of the Buffalo Museum of Science, who has conducted a daily census of avian mortality at television towers in southern Erie Co, during Sept. and Oct., for the past sixteen years. In Sept. 1983, Clark reported the total kill at these towers as less than fifty birds, a welcome contrast to the record kills of only one year ago but tempered by his observation that the prime reason was probably the fact that passerine migrants were simply fewer in number this season. Sparrows and other finches were reported in good numbers, with the possible exception of Am. Tree Sparrows. The increase in numbers of both Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks at feeders after their virtual absence during the open winter of 1982-83 was commented on by several observers; a portent of a return to "normal" winter weather this season.

Contributors: Robert Andrie, Harold Axtell, Tim Baird, Maxine Barber, Wavel Barber, Esther Becker (EsB), Nancy Bowser, Robert Brock, Elizabeth Brooks, Lois Buck, William Burch, Bruce Chilton, Arthur Clark, Mary Clark, Willie D'Anna (WDA), Dave Disher, Stephen Eaton, Jeanine Flory, John Forness (JFo), Mary Forness (MFo), Marcy Foster, Dave Gagne, Joanne Goetz, Tom Harper, Paul Hess, Morgan Jones, John Jordan (JJo), Mary Jordan (MJo), Clarence Klingensmith, Alice McKale, Bill McKale, Richard Miga, Terry Mosher, Grace O'Dell (GOD), Katherine Palmer, Vivian Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Dolly Reuenski, Frances Rew, Carol Roby, John Roby, Robert Sundell, Jim Yaich.

LOONS-DUCKS: The flight of Com. Loons along the south shore of Lake Erie in Oct.

was exciting. On 23 Oct 717 loons were seen at Barcelona in Chautauqua Co., a record high count for the state (RS, DD, DG) with an additional ten birds in Dunkirk Harbor. On 6 Nov. 25 loons were counted on Chautauqua L. at Mayville (WDA *et al.*) and 15 at that location on 24 Nov. (RS, DD). On 29 Oct. a Red-throated Loon was seen at Point Gratiot on Lake Erie (MJ, TM). A poor grebe flight this fall with few records of Horned Grebes from any locality; 15 Pied-billed Grebes, the season's first at Buffalo, were seen at the Tiff Farm Nature Preserve on 2 Oct. (RA, MF) and an additional ten birds were at that location on 10 Oct. (RA); only one Nov. record: one bird in the Town of Hume in Allegany Co. on the 2nd (KP). Dunkirk Harbor continues to be the best place to observe Double-crested Cormorants in our region; up to eight birds all month in Oct. and a record number, 57 birds, flying past the harbor on 16 Oct. (MJ *et al.*). Only one report of Tundra Swan in Oct., a flock of five birds over Jamestown on the 23rd (RS, DD, DG), hardly indicative of the massive flight of these swans which occurred in late Nov. On 24 Nov. 600 swans were counted on Chautauqua L. at Mayville; by the 26th, the number had increased to a record 2,350 birds and 1,097 were still present on the following day (FR, LB). 750 swans were counted flying over Jamestown on 25 Nov. (DG) and "three flocks" were seen over Great Valley in Cattaraugus Co. on 25 Nov. (SE). A cold front on 9 Oct. precipitated a movement of Canada Geese through the region with 200 birds seen over Darien Center in Genesee Co (TH) and others in all sections including "three large flocks" over Wellsville (VP) and 800 in the wetlands of the Oak Orchard area east of Buffalo (FR). Earlier, on 6 Oct., 500 Canada Geese were seen over Alfred in Allegany Co. and an additional 110 on 16 Oct. (CK). Smaller flocks were reported in Nov. In recent years the status of the Gadwall has been upgraded to that of locally common permanent resident in Region 1. In the Burgeson Sanct. at Riverside Marsh near Jamestown, a record 100 Gadwalls were counted on 27 Oct. with that total increased to 130 on 12 Nov. (DG). A rare vagrant, a male **EURASIAN WIGEON** was seen in the Gorge at Niagara Falls on 20 Nov. (RA *et al.*). Scoters continue their decline as passage migrants on the Niagara Frontier, only one record of three Black Scoters on the Niagara R. above the Peace Bridge on 23 Nov. (EsB) and only a few reports of the more common White-winged Scoter: eight at Canadaway Creek Nature Sanct. on 6 Nov. (FS *et al.*) and one at Dunkirk Harbor on 12 Nov. (TM, RM); there were seven White-winged Scoters at Buffalo on 9 Oct. (AM, BM). There was an excellent flight of Hooded Mergansers on Chautauqua L. in Nov: 44 at the Town of Chautauqua on 12 Nov. (TM, RM) and 800 at Lakewood and 140 at Celoron on 28 Nov. (DG, DD). Ruddy Ducks seen in good numbers on Chautauqua L. including 13 at Celoron on 9 Oct. (VP *et al.*), 115 at Bertis Bay on 21 Nov. (DD) and 29 at Mayville on 26 Nov. (TM, BC).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: There were five records of Ospreys in Region 1 in Sept. including two at Amity L. in the Town of Alfred in Allegany Co. on 30 Sept. (VP). Bald Eagle: only reports of three birds, seasonally lower than in recent years; two reports from Chautauqua Co. both imm birds, one seen at Burgeson Sanct. on 15 Sept. (JY, DD) and one at the Canadaway Creek Nature Sanct. near Dunkirk between 21 and 23 Sept. (RS *et al.*). A third eagle, an adult, was seen in the Town of Amity in Allegany Co. on 9 Oct. (DB, LB, JJo, MJo). There were many reports of both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks in the region during the fall. An imm **NORTHERN GOSHAWK** was seen on 5 Sept. in the Town of Angelica in Allegany Co. (VP). As has been the pattern in recent years, fewer Rough-legged Hawks are reported in our region in Oct. and Nov. An adult **PEREGRINE FALCON** was seen at the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area in Genesee Co. on 9 Oct. (FR). A flock of ten Wild Turkeys was seen in the Town of Evans in Erie Co. on 21 Sept., yet another range extension for this species in Region 1 (GOD). Either poor or unreported migration of Am. Coots this fall; only one significant flight of 600 birds at Celoron on Chautauqua L. on 9 Oct. (VP *et al.*). The Lesser Golden-Plover migration also very poor; very few records but one very late bird in the Town of Stafford in Genesee Co. on 13 Nov. (DK). A willet, a rare vagrant in autumn, seen at Canadaway Nature Sanct. on 9 Oct. (JF *et al.*).

Virtually no records of phalaropes this fall. One record of a Red-necked Phalarope on Chautauqua L. on 22 Sept. (CRo, JRo) and on 28 Oct. a flock of 15 unidentified phalaropes was seen on that lake (CRo). Two Purple Sandpipers were seen in upper rapids of Niagara R. at Niagara Falls on 13 Nov. and 20 Nov. (RA *et al.*). Once again this fall, there were comparatively few reports of Franklin's Gulls on the Niagara R.; one record of a single bird at Niagara Falls on 17 Sept. (WB, WDA). The **COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL**, a rare vagrant on the Niagara R. and Lake Erie, was reported twice this fall, one bird on 3 Sept. (RB) and one on 18 Nov. (WDA, HA), both at Niagara Falls. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS** of the race *Larus fuscus graellsii* are now regular winter visitors in small numbers on the Niagara Frontier. The first undisputed record of this species in Chautauqua Co. occurred on 7 Oct. when one was observed at Lake Erie State Park (VP *et al.*); a second adult, possibly the same bird, was seen in Dunkirk Harbor on 18 Oct. (MJ). Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen at the Robert Moses Power Intake at Lewiston on 26 Nov. (WB, MB) and one at Niagara Falls on 13 Nov. (RA *et al.*). **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**: one record of two birds, both imm, at Niagara Falls on 26 Nov. (WB, MB). A very poor Little Gull flight on the Niagara R. this fall; only two birds seen at Buffalo on 9 Oct. and 10 Oct. (RA *et al.*) and no Nov. records. Forster's Tern: one at Buffalo Harbor on 24 Sept. (PH) and one on Lake Erie at Lackawanna on 1 Oct. (AC).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: The first Snowy Owl of the season was seen at Buffalo Harbor on 13 Nov. (RA *et al.*) with additional records of one bird in Buffalo on 18 Nov. (PH) and one seen in the Town of Wheatfield in Niagara Co. from 23 to 30 Nov. (WDA, BP). A Snowy Owl was reported at Celoron in Chautauqua Co. on 27 Nov. (RS, DD). It does not appear to be a major flight year for this species. There were many reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers in Oct. Red-bellied Woodpecker numbers remain stable; this bird is now well established as a locally common permanent resident in suitable broad-leaf woodland habitat in Region 1.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: A late E. Kingbird seen at Tiff Farm Nature Preserve in Buffalo on 24 Sept. (RA *et al.*). There were 60 Tree Swallows in a flock reported from LaSalle Park in Buffalo on 10 Oct. (RA, RB). A very late Barn Swallow was seen at Niagara Falls on 26 Oct. (WDA, BP). Two records of **COMMON RAVEN** in Region 1, two birds seen at Shongo in Allegany Co. on 31 Oct. (DR) and one on 22 Nov. in the Town of Great Valley in Cattaraugus Co. (SE). Banding records indicate an increase in numbers of Black-capped Chickadees in western New York this fall. Tufted Titmouse—many reports from previously recorded sites indicate this species is a locally common permanent resident in Region 1. There is a late record of House Wrens at Times Beach in Buffalo, two birds being seen there on 23 Oct. (RA *et al.*). For the second consecutive year, the Ruby-crowned Kinglet migration was poor with very few records. As noted, thrush migration was one of the poorest in years with the exception of the Am. Robin, this species being reported in numbers considerably higher than last year; high counts were 83 and 80 birds at Amity L. in the Town of Alfred on 5 and 6 Nov. (VP). Two early records of No. Shrikes, one at Allegany State Park on 30 Oct. (TB) and a second on that date in the Town of North Harmony in Chautauqua Co. (DG, DD). Several large flocks of Water Pipits were seen in Oct. including 100 in the Town of Clarence in Erie Co. on 7 Oct. (WDA *et al.*), 200 in the Town of Pomfret in Chautauqua Co. on 17 Oct. (TM), 150 in the Town of Pomfret on 19 Oct. (JF, JG) and 160 in the Town of Clarence on 27 Oct. (AM, BM). A flock of 500 Cedar Waxwings was seen in Jamestown on 31 Oct. (DG).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Many observers commented on the scarcity of warblers and vireos in the fall migration. A late Philadelphia Vireo was reported from Lake Erie State Park on 2 Oct. (NB). Two noteworthy exceptions to the scarcity of warbler records are records from a banding station in the village of Fredonia in Chautauqua Co.; on 17 Sept. a Connecticut Warbler, a rare passage migrant in Region 1, was trapped and on 20 Oct. an imm **MacGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER** was banded at the same station, apparently the first record

for this western parulid in New York State. (MJ, RS, TM). In support of the record, Morgan Jones gives the following account: "At about 3:30 pm on Saturday, October 29, 1983, I captured an *Oporornis* warbler in a mist net in my garden in the village of Fredonia, Chautauqua County. The bird was olive gray-green above with the wings darker brown and very narrow greenish edges to the remiges. There was a brownish gray cast atop the head, shading to pale gray on the throat and upper breast, with a fairly distinct line separating the upper breast from the dirty buff of the lower breast, belly, and crissum. Buffy spots on the upper and lower eyelids gave it a split eye-ring. In short, it appeared to be a hatch-year female Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*), which is not visually separable in fall from MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*). Because of the late date, I suspected it might be a MacGillivray's Warbler, even before checking the measurements. The bird weighed 13.4 grams and the furculum was $\frac{2}{3}$ full of fat. It was lively and appeared in good health. The wing was 55 mm, the tail 49 mm. According to the Western Bird-Banding Association worksheet, wing minus tail equalling 8 mm or less is MacGillivray's, 9 through 11 mm is the range of overlap, and more than 11 mm is Mourning Warbler. The difference of 6 mm in this bird clearly identified it as a MacGillivray's Warbler." A report has been forwarded to NYSARC.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: A late imm Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen at the Burgeson Sanc. near Jamestown on 15 Oct. (DG). There was only one record of Lincoln's Sparrow in the fall migration, a single bird at Alfred on 22 Sept. (EB). There was a very heavy influx of White-throated Sparrow migrants in the last two weeks of Sept. and numerous records of this sparrow at feeders in Nov. is indicative of a large wintering population. 220 White-throats were counted at the Burgeson Sanct. on 15 Oct. 75 Song Sparrows and 39 Swamp Sparrows were also recorded on that date (DG). The White-throated Sparrow now exceeds the Song Sparrow in numbers as a visitor to feeders in Region 1. The remains of another rare passage migrant, a **SHARP-TAILED SPARROW**, were recovered at the base of a television tower in the Town of Colden in Erie Co. on 25 Oct.; the bird, apparently of the race *Ammodramus caudacutus nelsoni*, now reposes in the collection of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences (AC). Another casualty recovered on that date was a late Grasshopper Sparrow (AC). Fox Sparrows were reported in greater numbers than usual in their autumn passage. House Finch populations continue their dramatic expansion throughout Region 1. Both Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks invaded the region in large numbers in Oct., a portent of a return to more seasonable winter weather. A record high count of 756 Evening Grosbeaks was reported at a feeder in the Town of Holland in Erie Co. on 23 Nov. (EsB).

36 Allegany Avenue, Kenmore, New York 14217

REGION 2 — GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

The type of weather that existed during the summer months managed to hang on into the fall season. September was dominated by fair weather high pressure systems and an absence of prominent frontal systems. This generally provided for a rather nondescript migration. October provided more of a seasonal variety with a mixed bag of warm, humid weather early in the month and a more winter-like coldness by the end of the month. Interspersed were some warm

days and some cold days. More importantly, the passage of some good frontal systems during the period provided some excellent days for lake observation. November temperatures fluctuated throughout the month with an end result slightly below normal, highlighted by unseasonably warm days. Precipitation levels, though, were above normal and snowfall was well ahead of last year's meager total, as well as the average for that period.

While the migration itself was less than spectacular, there were a few significant trends. Loon populations during the season were quite good. Diligent observers recorded respectable numbers. Grebes too made a positive showing with Horned demonstrating an increase over recent years and Red-necked sightings were up. The waterfowl migration was good to very good at times. Some late-staying Turkey Vultures added spice to the seasonal records. Gull sightings in September were excellent in terms of diversity and rarity. Kittiwakes made an early and strong showing. Terns staged a return to recent levels. A strong easterly wind escorted a surprisingly early alcid into the region. The passerine migration in itself was lackluster, but certain aspects contained a positive note. The mild fall weather produced a few lingering passerines as well as a most interesting wanderer. The fall sparrow flight and accompanying populations were definitely on the plus side. Some winter finches trickled into the region in contrast to last year's finch drought. Siskins were right on schedule as were the Evening Grosbeaks.

The shorebird flight lacked last year's intensity. The lakehore was adequately covered, yet the reports indicated a decrease. Low water in a few select places did provide decent habitat but produced few good records. Field birding for shorebirds was usually a waste of time. The dry summer produced few good spots for concentrations. After last year's jaeger flight, one might begin to expect similar results yearly, but as is so often the case in birding, that was a fallacy. The number of jaegers sighted dropped markedly. The fact that the passerine migration was "routine" leaves little to comment on. The usual species were recorded and in generally usual numbers. While this type of general statement may signify mediocrity, it can be positively noted that there were no real negative trends. When all is said and done, one can reflect optimistically on this season's birding.

Rarities: Northern Gannet, Gyrfalcon, Common Black-headed Gull, Sabine's Gull, Dovekie, and Yellow-throated Warbler.

Localities: B—Braddock Bay; C—Charlotte/Ontario Beach, D—Durand-Eastman Park and adjacent lakeshore; E—East Lakeshore; G—Greece; H—Hamlin Beach State Park; I—Irondequoit Bay; K—Kendall; P—Pt. Breeze; S—Sodus Bay area; SA—Shore Acres; W—Webster; WL—West Lakeshore.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Loons put on a good show this season with good numbers sighted along the lakeshore during the period. Red-throated Loons reached a max of 150 H 27 Nov, with the first of the season reported from H 15 Oct. Com. Loons were in good supply through the season, the max was well over 100. Pied-billed Grebes were evident from many locations including well out on the lake. This was a deviation from their normal habit of frequenting ponds and inland waterways. Horned Grebes showed a substantial increase over recent years with a max of 100 H 29 Oct. Red-necked Grebes were reported regularly from Hamlin with a max of four H 18 Oct. An Eared Grebe was carefully studied at fairly close range H 6 Oct. (BS). **NO. GANNET:** an imm was observed at H 27-28 Oct. (CC, BS). The bird was cooperative enough to give a number of observers the opportunity to see it. Double-crested Cormorants continued their increase with a max of 102 S 9 Oct. One group contained over 50 individuals. Great Blue Herons lingered on through the period and an extremely late Green-backed Heron was reported WL 1 Nov. There were a smattering of Tundra Swan reports with the latest report of two Conesus Lake 24 Nov. A Mute Swan continued to be seen in the Braddock Bay area throughout the season. Snow Goose: one (blue morph) H 6 Nov., represents the only report of this uncommon fall species in the region. Brant: the major flight began near the end of Oct. and reached a max of 8,000 H 4 Nov. (BS), this was considerably higher than in recent years. Small flocks and individuals continued to be reported through the end of the period. The Canada Goose flocks were smaller than usual. Wood Duck populations continued to look good with a max of 15 G 9 Sept. Green-winged Teal numbers were good. All of the expected puddle ducks were reported with the highlight including a single No. Shoveler at Northrup Creek 20 Nov., late. The diving ducks arrived on schedule and in good numbers. The highlights included: Canvasback: max 625 Conesus L 30 Nov. Greater Scaup: excellent flocks along the WL. Harlequin Duck: four B 19-30 Nov. (MD, KG), two males and two females. Oldquaw: max 5,000 W 5 Nov. Black Scoter: many reports from H. Surf Scoter: good numbers H. White-winged Scoter: common along WL through the period. Com. Goldeneye: common on lake by end of period. Bufflehead: fairly common by end of period. Hooded Merganser: a few reports from the lake. Com. Merganser: a smattering of individuals and small groups. Red-breasted Merganser: abundant on the lake through the season.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Of interest was one Turkey Vulture H 27 Nov. This is quite late for this species. Bald Eagle reports were down, quite possibly due to the fact that there were no hacking projects near the region this year. Accipiter numbers were normal with a few scattered reports from this group. Goshawk reports were up slightly. Red-shouldered Hawk: an uncommon shorebird during this season, one SA 24 Oct. Red-tailed Hawk: good numbers as usual. Rough-legged Hawk: first report of the season, one Avon 22 Oct., a few reports after that. Falcon reports were good. Merlin: four reports. Peregrine Falcon: two reports from Oct. **GYRFALCON:** a single gray-phase bird was seen consistently during a single day W 9 Nov. (JC). The Ring-necked Pheasant population made no major positive strides this season. Ruffed Grouse: numbers seem to be increasing along the lakeshore, two H 26 Nov. Com. Moorhen: last report of the season, one G 29 Oct. The shorebird flight, as stated earlier, was of less intensity this season. Regardless of that statement, there were some shorebird highlights and lowlights. Black-bellied Plover: numbers were low. Lesser Golden-Plover: poor showing. Semipalmated Plover: one I 1 Nov., late. Killdeer: max 90 I 9 Nov. Greater Yellowlegs: late group, 12 G 27 Nov. Lesser Yellowlegs: one I 7 Nov., late. Spotted Sandpiper: stayed around longer this year. Whimbrel: one H 3 Sept. Hudsonian Godwit: two H 6 Oct. White-rumped Sandpiper: two B 19-20 Nov. Purple Sandpiper: four separate reports with a max of four H 7 Nov., improvement over last year's near shutout. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one report (date unknown), poor total due to unsatisfactory field condition. Long-billed Dowitcher: one-two SA 1-2 Oct, two K 5 Oct. Red-necked Phalarope: three reports from Sept., four reports from Oct., with a max of six H 7 Oct. (BS). Red Phalarope: one D 6 Nov. (RS), two D 13 Nov. (MD, DD). Pomarine Jaeger: multiple reports but down from last year. Parasitic Jaeger: down also.

The Sept. gull flight was respectable, but later concentrations were poor. Franklin's Gull: one C 10-17 Sept. (mob), one imm I 12 Nov. (RS). Little Gull: a few sightings but still fewer than previous years. **COM. BLACK-HEADED GULL:** one adult H 10 Sept. (MD, RS), one imm H 14 Sept. (BS). **SABINE'S GULL:** one imm H 11 Sept. (MD, WL, BS). Black-legged Kittiwake: super flight year, too many reports to list, max 11 H 29 Oct. (mob). Caspian Tern: six G 8 Oct., late. Com. Tern: good numbers, two H 7 Nov., late, one I 12 Nov. Forster's Tern: up from last year, one I 16 Oct, late. **DOVEKIE:** one C 22 Sept. (KG), riding a strong east wind close to shore.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Snowy Owl: one K 21 Nov., first of season, followed by additional reports. Long-eared Owl: one D 24 Nov. Com. Nighthawk: max 9 G 1 Oct., one G 2-7 Oct. Whip-poor-will: one W 24, late. Chimney Swift: two G 13 Oct., late. Hairy Woodpecker: local populations stable, not easily found elsewhere. No. Flicker: good numbers remaining through the season.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Flycatcher populations were good with seven species being recorded in Sept. Highlights included: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Cobbs Hill 9 Sept. E. Phoebe: one D 19 Nov., late. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one G 22 Sept. Swallows gathered in their traditional large numbers along the lakeshore. Tree Swallow: max 3,000 WL 20 Sept., one D 25 Nov. late individual. No. Rough-winged Swallow: one Waterport 15 Oct., last of season. Red-breasted Nuthatch: good numbers this season. Carolina Wren: there were a promising number of reports of this often fluctuating species. House Wren: one late departing individual B 1 Oct. Sedge Wren: reports of this species were nonexistent until the fall migration, one B 10 Sept. (KG). Kinglet numbers were good during the migration period. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was still in the region on 27 Nov. All seven species of thrushes expected in the region were reported. Gray-cheeked Thrush: very good numbers. Swainson's Thrush: three W 2 Oct., last report of the season. Hermit Thrush: not as plentiful as some years. Some mimids carried on through the season. Gray Catbird: two G 14, 18 Nov., one D 25 Nov. Brown Thrasher: one H 5 Nov. Water Pipit: down from previous year, one P 25 Nov., last report of the season for the species. Bohemian Waxwing: one H 22 Nov. (WL). Cedar Waxwing: common in many areas. Loggerhead Shrike: one S 6 Nov., one of few reports of this dwindling species.

VIREOS-WARBBLERS: The expected five species of vireos were tallied. Noteworthy reports include: Red-eyed Vireo; one W 2 Oct., a late tarrying individual. The warbler migration was normal. Twetny-three species were sighted in Sept. Of interest during the season were: Orange-crowned Warbler: one W 5 Sept., one Rochester 21 Sept., one S 9 Oct. Chestnut-sided Warbler: one Rochester 6 Oct. Magnolia Warbler: one Rochester 6 Oct. Black-throated Blue Warbler: two Rochester 10 Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: one W 1 Oct. **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** The location of this wanderer was quite possibly the find of the season. This brightly-plumaged individual was cooperative enough to allow observation by many individuals and also photographs, one W 13-15 Nov. (CC, MD, DD). Com. Yellowthroat: one I 27 Nov. Wilson's Warbler: one D 22 Nov., very late in the season.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: two W 2 Oct., late in the season. Am. Tree Sparrow: right on schedule and in good numbers. Vesper Sparrow: one P 29 Oct., last report for the season. Fox Sparrow: decent numbers this fall. White-throated Sparrow: very common during the migration and common throughout the period. White-crowned Sparrow: good totals during migration, 12 P 26 Nov., late staying group. Dark-eyed Junco: quite common throughout the region. Lapland Longspur: two H 22 Oct. Snow Bunting: down slightly, food group late in season, 200 Mt. Morris 25 Nov. Icterid highlights were few. No. Oriole: one Rochester 25 Nov. (MD, DD, WL). Winter finches, while not reaching spectacular heights, were much improved over last year. Pine Grosbeak: many reports of small groups. Red Crossbill: 25 D 19-20 Nov. Pine Siskin: first report, one H 7 Oct. Evening Grosbeak: on schedule, decent totals.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

DICK CLEMENTS

Our hot dry summer continued into September with above normal temperatures making us wonder if the cool days of autumn would ever arrive. For the second consecutive year precipitation for September and October was below normal. Because of the dry summer, many streams were waterless for months. The dry weather was blamed for the less vivid fall leaf colors and a decrease in the wild berry crop. November was warm and wet as above normal precipitation finally started streams running again. Snowfall was minimal. Chemung County had the first significant snowfall—four inches of wet snow—on 5 November.

Without the heavy rains or storms, migrating birds had near perfect flying conditions. Wilfred Howard reported only five birds killed at Elmira Hawley Hill tower during September. This was the smallest tower kill since 1963. Common Nighthawks ordinarily migrate in huge flocks, sometimes 1,000 or more, through Chemung County in late August and early September. This year our warm weather no doubt delayed their migration to late September and early October and they were spread out with a maximum of only 50 observed at one time.

Lower water levels resulted in some excellent habitat for shorebirds, especially at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Twenty-nine species of shorebirds were identified with twenty-two species observed in one day. Move over, Jamaica Bay! Some impressive numbers of individual species were noted.

In addition to the shorebird report other seasonal positives were: 1) a good Common Loon migration, 2) encouraging accipiter reports, 3) Tundra Swans more evident than in previous years, 4) good numbers of thrushes, 5) only one negative report on Red-tailed Hawk and American Kestrel numbers.

Seasonal negatives: 1) American Bittern getting scarcer, 2) sparrow numbers except for Fox were down, 3) no crossbills or Pine Grosbeaks, 4) small numbers of Pine Siskins, 5) Rough-legged Hawks were evident in several locations but way down in numbers compared to last year, 6) farmers in Phelps destroying valuable habitat.

Rarities: Western Grebe, Hudsonian Godwit, Ruff, Western Kingbird.

Abbreviations: Co—County; L—Lake; max—maximum; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Schy—Schuyler; Sem—Laboratory of Ornithology Monday night seminars at Ithaca; Sen—Seneca.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one Keuka L 9 Nov. (ML). Com. Loon: regularly reported at Sem; additional report from Watkins Glen, Elmira, Geneva, and Seneca Falls; max 30 south of Aurora early Nov. Red-necked Grebe: two Hammondsport, no date. WESTERN GREBE: two north of Long Point State Park 9 Nov. (Bradley Mitchell), only the second record for our region. Double-crested Cormorant: regular MNWR 9 Sept. thru 11 Nov. Am. Bittern: only one report, Tompkins Co. 9 Sept. Great Blue Heron: good

numbers thru MNWR and Queen Catherine Marsh. Great Egret: one last reported MNWR 10 Oct. Black-crowned Night-Heron: three imm MNWR 6 Nov. Tundra Swan: four Sen L 27 Oct; one Hammondsport 25 Nov.; max 14 MNWR 21 Nov. Brant: one Myers Point 5 Nov. Snow Goose: max 57 MNWR 8 Nov. Canada Goose: 56,000 max MNWR 14 Oct.; big flight days Watkins Glen 21 Oct.; Elmira 29 Oct.

Maximum duck numbers at MNWR as reported by Refuge personnel:

Wood Duck	1,000	13 Oct.	Canvasback	300	25 Nov.
Green-winged Teal	5,000	13 Oct.	Redhead	1,000	28 Oct.
Am. Black Duck	13,000	13 Oct.	Ring-necked Duck	1,000	25 Oct.
Mallard	142,000	21 Oct.	Bufflehead	75	13 Oct.
Northern Pintail	10,000	21 Oct.	Hooded Merganser	150	14 Nov.
Blue-winged Teal	2,000	26 Sept.	Com. Merganser	200	30 Nov.
Gadwall	5,100	13 Oct.	Ruddy Duck	32	2 Nov.

Redhead: large numbers Keuka L 14 Nov. Oldsquaw: one Elmira 27 Nov; two MNWR 28 Nov. Black Scoter: 75 MNWR 19 Oct; six Elmira 5 Nov. White-winged Scoter: one Stewart Park 14 Nov. Com. Merganser: 10 Clute Park 5 Oct.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: reported at Sept. and Oct. Sem. as well as single reports from Montour Falls and Elmira in Oct. Bald Eagle: one Tompkins Co. 1 Oct. (K. Confer). No. Harrier: reported at all Sem. and regular in Schy Co. Sharp-shinned Hawk: five Sem. and scattered reports from Watkins Glen and Seneca Falls. Cooper's Hawk: listed at all Sem; one Southport thru Oct. decreasing the House Finch population by one-a-day; another in Elmira pursuing an Am. Kestrel. No. Goshawk: one Watkins Glen State Park 13 Nov. Red-shouldered Hawk: reported at only two Sem. Red-tailed Hawk: common throughout region with only Seneca Falls area reporting a decrease in numbers. Rough-legged Hawk: first sighted MNWR 18 Oct. with additional sightings in Ithaca, Schy, Yates, and Chemung Cos. but few individuals. Am. Kestrel: 15 MNWR area 31 Oct. Merlin: female Stewart Park 16 and 17 Sept. (D. Nutter); one MNWR 14 Sept. Peregrine Falcon: one MNWR Tschache Pool 2 Nov. (VAD). Ring-necked Pheasant: hard to find anywhere. Ruffed Grouse: healthy populations in all reporting areas. Wild Turkey: doing well and increasing in most areas. Com. Moorhen: few individuals; only report MNWR 17 Oct. Am. Coot: 45 Sen. L. 30 Nov. Shorebirds: all listed species were seen at MNWR with additional sightings from other areas included. Black-bellied Plover: max 250. Lesser Golden-Plover: ten Bennettsburg 3 Sept. (Gates). Semipalmated Plover: numerous thru. Greater Yellowlegs: one Elmira 8 Nov. Lesser Yellowlegs: last reported 7 Nov. Solitary Sandpiper: four Sem. last report 6 Oct. Spotted Sandpiper: last report 3 Oct. Whimbrel: one report 20 Sept. (B. McCaffery). **HUDSONIAN GODWIT:** 28 Sept. (Benning). Ruddy Turnstone: three Sem. Red Knot: three 15 Sept. Sanderling: Myers Point 16 Oct. Semipalmated Sandpiper: numerous thru 24 Oct. Western Sandpiper: one report 16 Oct. (Sabo, Breslav). Least Sandpiper: ten Jennings Pond 6 Oct. White-rumped Sandpiper: Myers Point 19 Oct. thru 23 Oct. Baird's Sandpiper: Stewart Park 3 Sept. Pectoral Sandpiper: reported on seven Sem, last report 7 Nov. Dunlin: four Sem. Stilt Sandpiper: listed on five Sem, last report 10 Oct. Buff-breasted Sandpiper; one Myers Point 15-18 Sept. (Popp *et al.*); two other Sept. reports. **RUFF:** one MNWR 15 Sept. (Dewey). Short-billed Dowitcher: max 200. Long-billed Dowitcher: reported on four Sem. Com. Snipe: max 250. Am. Woodcock: six Jennings Pond 6 Oct.; hunters report good numbers in Schy Co. Wilson's Phalarope: two Sept. reports. Red-necked Phalarope: last reported 21 Sept. Bonaparte's Gull: observed only at Myers Point. Caspian Tern: MNWR thru Sept. No other tern reports.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Com. Barn-Owl: no reports. E. Screech-Owl: listed on three Sem; one returning imitated call in Pine City thru. Great Horned Owl: many reports Tompkins Co. as well as Geneva. Snowy Owl; one Horseheads 17 and 18 Nov.; this bird might have escaped detection by bird club members if they had not been alerted by a photograph in local newspaper; first Elmira area report since 1975. Barred Owl: reported

on two Sem in Oct. No. Saw-whet Owl: one found dead Cornell Campus 2 Oct. Com. Nighthawk: good numbers Elmira 18 Sept. with small groups thru 1 Oct. Chimney Swift: flock migrating along eastern shore Sen L. 25 Sept.; 100 Elmira seen entering chimney of abandoned school with varying numbers thru 26 Sept. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last report Yates Co. 5 Oct. Belted Kingfisher: doing well in all areas. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Sem report 12 Sept; two Elmira reports including one adult in corn field early Oct. Red-bellied Woodpecker: listed on Sem thru; four Queen Catherine Marsh 25 Oct. and increasing elsewhere in Schy Co. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: reported only in the Ithaca area. No. Flicker: reported at Sem thru 21 Nov.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Sapsucker Woods 26 Sept. E. Phoebe: singing Elmira 9 Oct. **WESTERN KINGBIRD:** one MNWR 25 Sept. (R. Eckhardt). Purple Martin: reported only at Sem 12 Sept. Tree Swallow: large flock Sen L State Park 26 Sept; one Tompkins Co. 12 Nov., late. Barn Swallow: decreased numbers in Yates Co. Fish Crow: present Ithaca thru 21 Nov. Red-breasted Nuthatch: reported at a number of feeders throughout the region. Brown Creeper: difficult to find in Schy Co; regularly observed in Ithaca area. Carolina Wren: only report outside of Ithaca comes from Schy Co where it was sighted in three areas. House Wren: Schy Co. 15 Oct., late. Winter Wren: reported on three Sem; one report Yates Co. Nov. Marsh Wren: MNWR 18 Sept. Golden-crowned Kinglet: regularly found in several locations in Schy and Chemung Cos. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one tower kill Elmira 25 Oct. E. Bluebird: encouraging reports from all areas except Chemung Co. where the numbers are down from previous year; one report from Arnot Forest. Veery: last report 26 Sept. Gray-cheeked Thrush: six banded Penn Yan Sept. (ML). Swainson's Thrush: excellent migration; 22 banded Penn Yan Sept.; one found dead downtown Ithaca (DM); one Monkey Run Tompkins Co. 6 Nov., late. Hermit Thrush: reported from five areas in region. Wood Thrush: last reported on Sem 3 Oct. Am. Robin: no mammoth flocks; largest noted 200 MNWR 31 Oct. No. Mockingbird: one Elmira successfully driving away a horde of starlings in the vicinity of "his" barberry bush. Water Pipit: flock of 150 Elmira area 13 Oct. with lesser number late Oct. (WH). No. Shrike: one vicinity of Sapsucker Woods attacking birds at feeder 9 Nov.; one Phelps 19 Nov. Loggerhead Shrike: no reports.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Warbling Vireo: one singing Elmira 18 Sept. Philadelphia Vireo: eight banded Penn Yan Sept. Warblers: most observers report a normal fall migration. Most of the regular species were accounted for. The more uncommon species of warblers are commented on: Orange-crowned: one Stewart Park 18 Sept. (D. Nutter). Connecticut: four sightings Ithaca area; one banded Penn Yan; this was more than the usual number of reports. Mourning: Sem 26 Oct. Yellow-breasted Chat: one Tompkins Co. 1 Oct. Warblers not reported: Golden-winged; Prairie; Cerulean; Worm-eating; No. Waterthrush; Louisiana Waterthrush; Hooded.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: abundant Queen Catherine Marsh Sept. Am. Tree Sparrow: earliest MNWR 25 Oct.; small numbers throughout region. Vesper Sparrow: one Penn Yan 17 Nov. Savannah Sparrow: Sem 26 Sept. Fox Sparrow: five Pine City 30 Oct.; reported on four Sem; last report Watkins Glen 30 Nov. White-throated Sparrow: reported on Sem thru but in small numbers. White-crowned Sparrow: Sem 3 Oct. thru; others at Phelps. Dark-eyed Junco: 24 at a feeder in Ithaca. Snow Bunting: first reported Long Point State Park 23 Oct.; medium flock at Phelps 7 Nov. E. Meadowlark: last reported Sem. 21 Nov. Rusty Blackbird: reported at Ithaca, MNWR, Watkins Glen and Phelps. Purple Finch: commn Queen Catherine Marsh Oct. and Nov. Pine Siskin: small numbers observed in four areas with a max of four at Watkins Glen. Am. Goldfinch: 46 at Ithaca feeder. Evening Grosbeak: first reported Ithaca 24 Oct.

Corrigendum Vol. XXXIII No. 4: Canada Goose: the Richardsons race bird was near Dresden, not Dundee.

989 Mountain View Drive, Pine City, New York 14871

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

HARRIET MARSI

The July-August trend of record breaking heat continued until 12 September. After that for the remainder of the fall period one could describe the area weather as "seasonable." In September, mean daytime temperatures were in the low 80's with cool nights in the 60's. There were a few equinoctial rains and an occasional touch of overnight frost as the month advanced. Precipitation was 1½" below normal. October's daytime temperatures dropped slowly from mid-70's early in the month to mid-50's by month's end. The only killing frost occurred 22 October with a 27° F thermometer reading at 7 a.m. The 2.61" of rain that fell was over an inch below normal for the month. Rivers and lakes were low, the ground like concrete. November, on the other hand, was typically dark and damp, with temperatures often below freezing at night, daytime highs in the 30's and 40's. Rain, wind, freezing rain, sleet, flurries, sloppy snow with occasional sun was the norm. A big plus for the month was the precipitation (3.57"). For the first time since June this was above normal (1.61"). A poor to average berry and cone crop may be associated with the low rainfall and a low acorn crop may have been influenced by the previous gypsy moth presence.

As for the birds, the lack of really strong fronts in September and October seemed to translate into many counts that were definitely on the low side of average. Flycatchers, kinglets, vireos, warblers, for instance, either overflowed us, drifted thru, spread out or had a poor breeding season. Thrushes, however, held to their usual numbers. The wider-than-usual mudflat edges associated with low rivers and ponds did not produce correspondingly high counts of shorebirds. In fact, the shorebird count was low even for this area, possibly influenced by the shortened northern breeding season. Remember our cold, wet spring? One Snowy Egret, however, appreciated the enlarged shoreline and was observed in the Oneonta area (MD, KW). A Lesser Golden-Plover, on the other hand, ignored the water edges and found instead the S. Otselic Fish Hatchery where it hung around for three or four days (JL). The area's open ponds and lakes failed to attract large numbers of dabbling ducks but numerous reports of Canada Geese continued late into November. Unusual were two reports of Snow Geese in large flocks (150 and 600 to 800) in Delaware Co. (KS). Diving birds, however, provided the area with a few noteworthy reports. On Chenango Lake a large flock of Black Scoters (55 max), first noted 16 October, still left a few stragglers as late as 19 November (RD, CC, DW). On Chenango Lake also on 12 November an exceptionally large flock of 16 Red-throated Loons was observed (CL, ChBC). One Double-crested Cormorant, uncommon this far inland, was noted on WPR 4 September (RS).

The region also had several rarities for which there seems to be no obvious weather-related (at least not this region's weather) explanation. An Oneonta observer, investigating an avian fracas at the backyard feeder, discovered two Red-tailed Hawks harassing a Peregrine Falcon (KW). A Western Kingbird spent several hours near a barn in So. Otselic (DM, JL), and finally, a Brewer's Blackbird was clearly observed at an Endwell feeder by a birder familiar with the species in the west (FL).

Abbreviations: BCNC—Broome County Naturalists Club; CCBC—Cortland County Bird Club; ChBC—Chenango Bird Club; Chen—Chenango; OPM—Oneonta, Portland, Milford; REEC—Rogers Environmental Education Center; SOFH—South Otselic Fish Hatchery; TBC—Tioga Bird Club; WPR—Whitney Point Reservoir.

Observers: G. Baker, Jr., C. & J. Baldwin, R. & J. Barnes, D. Bell, J. Bell, L. Bemont, R. Bennett, L. Bingley, B. Bozdos, W. Breidinger, D. Burgin, L. Carey, S. Carey, L. Clarke, M. Clarke, C. Covey, R. Daigle, A. & M. Davis, J. Davis, L. Davis, E. Delboney, M. Dobinsky, H. Hymes, R. Ilse, P. Keith, E. Kirch, G. Kirch, J. Knapik, M. Lafayette, C. Lehman, J. Lehman, F. Linaberry, H. Marsi, R. Marsi, L. McDowell, E. Mead, D. Messineo, M. Musci, E. Nelson, F. O'Leary, R. Pantle, R. Parker, S. Paston, J. & H. Shultes, J. Sedlacek, K. Stalter, A. Tamber, W. Toner, G. Wade, A. Whitaker, C. Wilkins, K. Wilson, D. Windsor, C. Yates, A. Zimmerman.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: two reports; one 12 Nov. of 16 individuals in close flock on Chen L (CL, ChBC); one of one bird Nov. 13 on Chen L (CL, JL); unusually large flock. Com. Loon: five reports of eight birds; first 30 Oct. Pepacton Res (MC); last 14 Nov. WPR (RM). Pied-billed Grebe: two reports; one 26 Sept. OPM (MD, KW); one 27 Oct. Chen Co. (KL). Horned Grebe: two reports; one 30 Oct. WPR (A & MD); one 4 Nov. WPR (RM). **DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT**: one 4 Sept. WPR (RS). Great Blue Heron: moderate thru. **SNOWY EGRET**: one 13 Sept. OPM (MD, KW). Green-backed Heron: regular thru. Black-crowned Night-Heron: the flock of approx. 13 imms. reported in Aug. on the Susquehanna R, Johnson City, remained on the river for at least two weeks into Sept. **SNOW GOOSE**: 150 estimated 24 Oct., 600 to 800 estimated 29 Oct.; same place, Meredith (KS). Canada Goose: common thru; earliest "heavy flights" 8 Oct.; last 19 Nov. Chen Co (DW), WPR (RM). Wood Duck: regular thru; last date 30 Oct. REEC (JL). Green-winged Teal: one 11 Oct. OPM (MD, KW). Am. Black Duck: light numbers thru. Mallard: regular thru. Blue-winged Teal: one Sept. Tioga Co. (CY); one Oct. Tioga Co. (RB). Am. Wigeon: one 15 Oct. WPR (A & MD). Canvasback: one 29 Oct. WPR (A & MD). Ring-necked Duck: one 15 Oct. WPR (A & MD); 14 29 Oct. WPR (A & MD); three 30 Oct. S. Otselic (DM). Greater Scaup: two reports, both Chen L; one 22 Oct (JL), one 13 Nov. (JL). Lesser Scaup: four reports, all Chen L; one 17 Oct., one 20 Oct., four 22 Oct., seven 30 Oct. (JL). Scaup sp: one 4 Nov. WPR (RM), 12 19 Nov. WPR (RM); one 19 Nov. Chen L (JL). Oldsquaw: five reports: four 22 Oct. Chen L (ChBC); 14 29 Oct. WPR (A & MD); one Beaver Meadow (Chen Co) (DM); one 12 Nov. Guilford L (ChBC); one 13 Nov. Chen L (CL, J). Black Scoter: ten reports of 93 birds, 8 Chen L, 2 Hunt's Pond (Chen Co); first report 55 16 Oct. (RD), last three 19 Nov. (CC, DW), both Chen L; unusual numbers for this area. Bufflehead: six reports; four WPR, one Chen Co, one Tioga Co.; first 5 Nov. WPR (FL, HM); last 19 Nov. WPR (RM). Hooded Merganser: three reports: three 3 Oct. SOFH (DM); three 13 Nov. Chen L (CL, JL); three 19 Nov. Chen L (CC, DW). Com. Merganser: six reports; first Sept. Tioga Co (TBC); last 50 1 Nov. WPR (RM). Red-breasted Merganser: one 13 Nov. Chen L (CL, JL). Ruddy Duck: two reports: one 5 Nov. Oxford (ChBC); four 15 Oct. WPR (A & MD).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: common thru Sept. and Oct. Osprey: 14 reports scattered thru; first one 4 Sept. WPR (RS); last 18 Oct. Norwich (JL). Bald Eagle: one 13 Nov. Otsego Co; found with a broken wing, wounded with a shotgun; reported in *The Daily Star*, Oneonta; bird given medical attention; will live but never fly again. No. Harrier: eight reports scattered thru; first 4 Sept. WPR (MS); last 26 Oct. Homer (WT). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 12 reports scattered thru. Cooper's Hawk: ten reports scattered thru. No. Goshawk: four reports; one 7 Sept. S. Otselic (DM); one 9 Oct. Tioga Co. (CY); three 15 Oct. Franklin Mt. (JL); one 13 Nov. Windsor (JS). Broad-winged Hawk: seven reports scattered thru. Red-tailed Hawk: common thru. Rough-legged Hawk: common in Chen. Co; first 17 Oct.; one report in Cortland Co., two 25 Oct. (WT). Am. Kestrel: common thru. **PEREGRINE FALCON**: one 8 Oct., Oneonta (KW); "Two Red-tails were trying to drive it out of the area, so the size comparison was good, the facial marks very visible and I've seen them

at Brigantine and Montezuma. The shape was 'falcon'." Ring-necked Pheasant: moderately common in Tioga Co; one report of five "released birds" 15 Sept. S. Otselic (DM). Ruffed Grouse: common thru. Wild Turkey: present thru, increasingly common in Broome and Tioga Cos. **LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER**: one present from 17 Sept. thru 20 Sept. at SOFH, well observed, very uncommon (JL). Killdeer: common thru; last date 1 Nov. OPM (MD, KW). Greater Yellowlegs: five reports, Broome, Chen, OPM, Tioga Cos; first 4 Sept. Johnson City (FL, HM); last 8 Nov. OPM (MD, KW). Lesser Yellowlegs: one Sept. Tioga Co. (RB). Solitary Sandpiper: three reports; one 4 Sept. SOFH (JL); one 12 Sept. OPM (MD, KW); three 1 Oct. OPM (MD, KW). Spotted Sandpiper: four reports; three 3 Sept. REEC (JL); two 4 Sept. SOFH (JL); one 5 Sept. Johnson City (FL, HM); one Oct. Tioga Co. (RB). Semipalmated Sandpiper: one Sept. Tioga Co. (RB). Least Sandpiper: one 4 Sept. SOFH (JL); five 4 Sept. WPR (MS). Dunlin: one 5 Oct. Goodyear L (J & HS). Com. Snipe: one 18 Oct. OPM (MD, KW); one 19 Nov. Chen L (CC, DW). Am. Woodcock: present regularly Broome and Tioga Cos.; last date 9 Nov. (RM). Ring-billed Gull: present thru. Herring Gull: present thru.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: common thru. Mourning Dove: common thru. Black-billed Cuckoo: one report, Endicott (BCNC). E. Screech-Owl: moderate thru. Great Horned Owl: regular thru. Barred Owl: one report; "vocal late Sept. thru Oct." S. Otselic (DM). No. Saw-whet Owl: one 17 Oct. and two 25 Oct. banded Vestal (GK); of two received REEC, one died and one was released in Chen Co (DM). Com. Nighthawk: four reports: several 1 thru 5 Sept. Johnson City (RM), one 3 Sept. REEC (JL); Sept. Tioga Co. (C & JB). Chimney Swift: Sept. Tioga Co (TBC). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: common thru Sept.; last date 5 Oct. Oneonta (KW). Belted Kingfisher: present thru. Red-headed Woodpecker: one 3 Sept. REEC (JL); one Oct. Tioga Co. (D & JB), one 18 Nov. Delhi (DB). Red-bellied Woodpecker: several locations in Tioga Co; one Norwich (RI); one Sherburne (GB Jr.); one Smyrna (DM); one Cortland Co. (PK); definitely increasing. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: seven reports thru; last date 10 Oct. Windsor (JS). Downy Woodpecker: common thru. Hairy Woodpecker: common thru. No. Flicker: common thru; last date 28 Nov. Broome Co (SP). Pileated Woodpecker: six reports; Broome, Chen, Tioga Cos.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one 14 Sept. S. Otselic (DM); one 26 Sept. OPM (MD, KW); unusual. E. Wood-Pewee: common thru; last date 6 Oct. Cortland Co. (FO'L). Least Flycatcher: common thru Sept.; last date 26 Sept. Vestal (GK). E. Phoebe: common thru Sept.; last date 28 Sept; Vestal (GK). **WESTERN KINGBIRD**: one 16 Oct. S. Otselic; bird remained around a barn for about three hours, observed by DM, corroborated by JL; photos were taken; well-described as "light gray head with charcoal or black eye-line extending from a black bill. . . dark tail and wings. . . in certain lights what appeared to be a light edge to the outer tail as the bird turned. . . olive back with yellow highlights, yellow belly shaded to gray chest and whitish throat." (DM, JL). E. Kingbird: common thru early in Sept. Horned Lark: Oct. Tioga Co. (CY). Tree Swallow: common thru in early Sept.; last date 6 Oct. Newark Valley (LD). No. Rough-winged Swallow: one 3 Sept. OPM (MD). Bank Swallow: Sept. Tioga Co. (RB). Barn Swallow: common thru Sept.; last date 3 Oct. OPM (MD). Blue Jay: common thru. Am. Crow: common thru. Black-capped Chickadee: common thru. Tufted Titmouse: present thru in moderate numbers. Red-breasted Nuthatch: present thru in sparse numbers. White-breasted Nuthatch: common thru. Brown Creeper: present thru in moderate numbers. Carolina Wren: five reports; 2 Chen Co; 2 Cortland Co; 1 Tioga Co. House Wren: common thru Sept. and early Oct.; last date 18 Oct. Vestal (GK). Winter Wren: eight reports; 3 Chen Co; five Broome Co; first 4 Sept. Norwich (JL); last 17 Oct. Broome Co. (MS). Marsh Wren: one 4 Sept. WPR (MS); one 18 Oct. Tioga Co. (D & JB, LB). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 12 reports scattered thru; first 29 Sept. Vestal (HM); last 30 Oct. S. Otselic (DM) and Windsor (JS). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: common Oct. thru; first 1 Oct. OPM (MD, KW); last 22 Oct. Broome Co. (JS). E. Bluebird: present thru; last date 30 Oct. Broome Co. (JS). Veery: common thru early Sept.; last date

10 Sept. Vestal (GK). Gray-cheeked Thrush: nine reports of 13 individuals; one Norwich; eight Vestal; last date 29 Sept. Vestal (GK). Swainson's Thrush: 43 reports; four Chen Co; remainder Broome Co; first date 7 Sept. Vestal (HM); last date 11 Oct. Vestal (HM); very high count. Hermit Thrush: 23 reports scattered thru; first date 12 Sept. Vestal (GK); last date 20 Nov. Vestal (LBe). Wood Thrush: common thru; last date 10 Oct. Windsor (JS). Am. Robin: common thru; last date 20 Nov. Vestal (LBe). Gray Catbird: common thru; last date 24 Oct. Tioga Co and Vestal. No. Mockingbird: seven reports scattered thru. Brown Thrasher: present in moderate numbers thru; last date 1 Nov. OPM (MD, KW). Water Pipit: two reports: Sept. Tioga Co. (CY); 200 Oct. Tioga Co. (CY). Cedar Waxwing: common thru. No. Shrike: four reports; one 27 Oct., one 3 Nov. and one 17 Nov., all S. Otselic (DM); one 14 Nov. Oneonta (MD, KW). European Starling: common thru.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: 11 reports scattered thru; last date 9 Oct. Vestal (HM). Yellow-throated Vireo: five reports; two Delaware Co (MC); two OPM (MD, KW); one Tioga Co (D & JB, CY); all between 3 Sept. and 18 Sept. Warbling Vireo: two 13 Sept. OPM (MD, KW); one 12 Oct. Tioga Co. (D & JB, CY). Philadelphia Vireo: four reports; Sept. Tioga Co. (D & JB, C & JB); one 14 Sept. Vestal (HM); one 15 Sept. Vestal (HM); Oct. Tioga Co. (CY). Red-eyed Vireo: common thru Sept.; last date 3 Oct. Vestal (HM). Blue-winged Warbler: two reports Sept. Tioga Co. (D & JB, LB); one 13 Sept. Vestal. "Brewster's" Warbler (HM). Tennessee Warbler: 15 reports scattered thru; all Sept. except one; no day given, only "Oct." Tioga Co (LB). Nashville Warbler: 22 reports scattered thru; last date 14 Oct. Vestal (HM). No. Parula: Sept. Tioga Co. (LB). Yellow Warbler: one 16 Sept. Delhi (MC); one Sept., Tioga Co. (TBC). Chestnut-sided Warbler: six reports; five 1 thru 15 Sept. OPM (MD, KW); one 1 Oct. Delhi (MC). Magnolia Warbler: 38 reports scattered thru; all Sept. except last report; 5 Oct. Vestal (HM). Cape May Warbler; 20 reports scattered thru; all Sept. except one; no date "Oct." Tioga Co. (TBC). Black-throated Blue Warbler: seven reports; Broome Co, OPM, Tioga Co; last date 1 Oct. Vestal (HM). Yellow-rumped Warbler: common thru Sept. and Oct.; last date 22 Oct. (several). Black-throated Green Warbler; common thru, mostly Sept., a few Oct.; last date 27 Oct. Cortland Co. (CW). Blackburnian Warbler: 19 reports; last 5 Oct. Tioga Co (CY). Pine Warbler: two reports; one 17 Sept. Delhi (MC); one Sept. Tioga Co (D & JB, LB). Palm Warbler: three reports: one 22 Sept. Vestal (GK); one Oct. Newark Valley (LD); one Oct. Tioga Co. (TBC). Bay-breasted Warbler: 16 reports scattered thru, all Sept.; last date 17 Sept. Norwich (JL). Blackpoll Warbler: 15 reports, all Vestal (LBe, GK, HM); last date 3 Oct. (HM). Black-and-white Warbler: seven reports; two OPM (MD); five Vestal (GK, HM); last date 21 Sept. (GK). Am. Redstart: 17 reports, Broome, Chen, Tioga Cos; last date 25 Sept. Norwich (JL). Ovenbird: 24 reports scattered thru; all Sept. except one, 10 Oct. Delhi (MC). No. Waterthrush: one 13 Sept. Vestal (GK). Mourning Warbler: one 2 Sept. OPM (MD); one 10 Sept. Vestal (GK); one Sept. Tioga Co. (D & JB). Com. Yellowthroat: common thru; last date 28 Oct. Tioga Co. (D & JB, LB). Wilson's Warbler: five reports; four Broome Co, one Tioga Co; last date 26 Sept. Vestal (GK). Canada Warbler: 12 reports, Broome Co, OPM, Tioga Co, last date 15 Sept. Vestal (HM).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: common thru Sept.; last date 26 Sept. OPM (MD, KW). No. Cardinal: common thru. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: common thru Sept.; last date 24 Sept. Norwich (JL). Indigo Bunting: 14 reports: Broome Co., OPM, Tioga Co.; last date 16 Sept. Vestal (GK). Red-Crested Cardinal (*Paroaria coronata*): one reported Oct. & Nov. in Nichols; presumed to be same bird that wintered in Tioga Co. 1982-83. Rufous-sided Towhee: common thru Sept., early Oct. Am. Tree Sparrow: common thru Nov.; first date 22 Oct. Tioga Co. (D & JB, LB). Chipping Sparrow: common Sept. into Oct.; last date 18 Oct. OPM (MD, KW). Field Sparrow: common Sept., Oct.; last date 27 Oct. Cortland Co. (CW). Vesper Sparrow: one 25 Oct. OPM (MD, KW). Savannah Sparrow: moderate numbers thru Sept., Oct.; last date 17 Oct. Norwich (JL). Fox Sparrow: moderate numbers late Oct. into Nov.; first date 8 Oct. S. Otselic (DM); last date 16 Nov. Vestal (RM). Song

Sparrow: common thru Sept., Oct. a few in Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: five banded 7-21 Oct. Vestal (GK). Swamp Sparrow: common Sept.-Oct. in Broome Co. and OPM; one report Tioga Co.; last date 29 Oct. OPM (MD). White-throated Sparrow: common thru; first date 14 Sep. Vestal (HM); last date for probable migrant 25 Oct. Cortland Co. (CW). White-crowned Sparrow: 32 reports scattered thru; first 28 Sept. Delhi (MC); last 24 Oct. Vestal (GK). Dark-eyed Junco: common thru Sept. and Oct.; first date 1 Sept. OPM (MD). Snow Bunting: one 1 Nov. OPM (MD, KW). Bobolink: one report: Sept. Tioga Co. (C & JB). Red-winged Blackbird: common thru; last date 30 Oct. E. Meadowlark: common thru; last date 10 Sept. Rusty Blackbird: three reports; one Tioga C. (RB); two 12 Nov. REEC (ChBC); two 13 Nov. Plymouth (JL). **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**: one 19 Oct. Endwell at feeder; "black bird with light gray eye and decided purple sheen on head; no rust in plumage"; observer has previous experience with species in west (FL). Com. Grackle: common Sept., Oct. Brown-headed Cowbird: common Sept.; last date 25 Sept. Delhi (MC). No. Oriole: several early Sept. reports; one Oct. Tioga Co. (RB, CY). Purple Finch: moderate numbers Sept., early Oct. House Finch: common thru. Pine Siskin: 12 reports scattered thru; first date 17 Oct. Am. Goldfinch: common thru. Evening Grosbeak: 12 reports scattered thru; first date two 16 Oct. Norwich (JL). House Sparrow: common thru.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL A. DEBENEDICTIS

Fall 1983 came in like a lamb and went out like a lion. The hot, dry weather of the summer persisted through September. October remained warmer than average, but had more normal precipitation. The first killing frost occurred at Syracuse at the end of October. November averaged slightly cooler than normal, and nearly 10 inches of snow at Syracuse was a stark contrast to the 1.5 inches of last fall.

There were few good days for grounded migrants in September. October saw only a few frontal passages accompanied by strong northwest winds that bring heavy migrations to the Lake Ontario shore. 9 October was a rather exceptional date, in which a moderate flight along the Lake Ontario littoral was complimented by a large grounded flight in southern Pompey township. D. W. Crumb awoke and saw a heavy fog bank just south of her house. Before the fog lifted, taking with it the migrants, she set several seasonal high counts, including Region Five record highs for Golden-crowned Kinglet and Rufous-sided Towhee. F. G. Scheider and party encountered a thinner flight along the shore of Lake Ontario on this same day, which included many departure dates, among them a new record late date for Yellow Warbler.

Waterbird flights associated with frontal passages occurred on 6, 15 and 27 Oct., and on 6 and 17 Nov. Jaegers were poorly represented in these flights, but Brant, sea ducks, and Black-legged Kittiwakes were numerous, and the

Region's fourth Northern Gannet was seen. Divers were mixed, with Red-throated Loon and Pied-billed Grebe doing well and the other species poorly. Dabbling ducks, especially American Black Duck and Gadwall, were numerous, while bay ducks generally were scarce. Shorebird numbers were unimpressive, but several rarities and late dates were obtained: Red Knot and Wilson's Phalarope were mysteriously absent as were vagrant hooded gulls. Larger gulls were late in arriving. Forster's Tern made a splendid showing. Swallows generally departed early. Few large concentrations of migrant passerines were reported, but no expected species were missed. Given the mild season, most departure dates were unexceptional.

Irruptive raptors were present, but only Rough-legged Hawks were seen in numbers. Snowy Owls and Northern Shrikes were scarce, but Northern Harriers and Red-tailed Hawks both persisted in above average numbers for November. There was a brief but impressive incursion of Bohemian Waxwing along Lake Ontario in November, only one group at all persistent. Boreal Chickadees had penetrated the lowlands by mid-November. Red-breasted Nuthatches were widespread but not very common. Winter finches were quite mixed: Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak all appeared but few remained at the season's end. Purple Finches were scarce and no crossbills were reported.

A total of 248 species were reported this fall, excluding a Ruddy Shelduck of dubious origin. Notable rarities included Northern Gannet, Golden Eagle, Piping Plover, Ruff and Kentucky Warbler. More regular rarities included King Eider, Bald Eagle, Merlin and Peregrine Falcon, Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, Western, Purple and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Black-legged Kittiwake, Bohemian Waxwing, and Connecticut Warbler. All in all, it was a typically interesting, but hardly outstanding fall season.

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Abbreviations: arr—arrival; DH—Derby Hill, Oswego Co.; FH—Fairhaven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, Cayuga Co.; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral, Oswego Co.; NPT—northern Pompey township; NYSARC—report submitted to New York State Avian Records Committee; Onon—Onondaga; ph—photographed; SP—Sandy Pond, Oswego Co.; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park, Oswego Co.; SVB—Sylvan and Verona Beach, Oneida Co.; Syr—Syracuse.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr DH 15 Oct., record max 17 LOL 6 Nov. Com. Loon: arr SVB 10 Sept. Pied-billed Grebe: max 20 FH 23 Oct. best since 1972. Horned Grebe: less than six per day after 8 Oct. Red-necked Grebe: singles SP 6 Nov., LOL 13 Nov., and Oneida Lake 27 Nov. **NO. GANNET**: imm DH 17 Nov. (DWC, JH, NYSARC) is fourth regional record. Double-crested Cormorant: max 182 LOL 6 Oct.; singles Clay 16 Oct. and SVB 8 Oct. only reports away from LOL. Am. Bittern: last FH 2 Oct. Great Egret: one at Minoa to 7 Sept.; four Howland's Island 5 Sept. Green-backed Heron: last SVB 22 Oct. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one SP 5-18 Sept. Mute Swan: adult FH after 24 Sept. Snow Goose: single white morph Beaver Lake in Oct., two blue morph there 8 Nov. Brant: arr FH 16 Oct., max 1980 DH 6 Nov. Canada Goose: arr Onon Lake 22 Sept. Ruddy Shelduck: female SVB 3-5 Oct. surely an escape. Wood Duck: last FH 13 Nov. Am.

Black Duck: max 160 LOL 6 Nov. No. Pintail: max only 12 FH 16 Oct. Blue-winged Teal: last FH 16 Oct. Gadwall: arr FH 1 Oct., max 87 there 10 Nov. Am. Wigeon: max 178 FH 10 Nov. Canvasback: arr FH 23 Oct. Redhead: arr FH 13 Oct. Ring-necked Duck: arr SSSP 19 Sept. Greater Scaup: arr FH 2 Oct. Lesser Scaup: arr SVB 10 Oct. King Eider: five DH 12 Nov., one the next day. Oldsquaw: arr DH 20 Oct., record max 1590 there 6 Nov. Black Scoter: arr SP 6 Oct., max 875 DH 6 Nov.; 5 Lebanon Res 12 Nov. (JL) only report away from LOL. Surf Scoter: arr SP 6 Oct., max 138 DH 6 Nov. White-winged Scoter: arr SP 16 Sept., max 720 DH 6 Nov. Com. Goldeneye: arr SP 20 Oct. Bufflehead: arr SP 20 Oct. Hooded Merganser: arr LOL 9 Oct. Red-breasted Merganser: arr SP 6 Oct., max 3,100 LOL 6 Nov. Ruddy Duck: arr Onon Lake 24 Sept., max 76 Beaver Lake 9 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: last Liverpool 16 Oct. Osprey: arr SP 1 Sept., last DH 6 Nov. Bald Eagle: imm with yellow wing tag SP 6 Oct. No. Goshawk: singles SP 13 Oct. and 13 Nov. only reports. Broad-winged Hawk: last Williamstown, 11 Sept. Rough-legged Hawk: strong flight after 2 Oct. **GOLDEN EAGLE**: adult Pompey 11 Oct. (FLF). Merlin: one SP 6 Oct. only report. Peregrine Falcon: eight reported LOL including five adults, one imm SP 6 Oct. Virginia Rail: last Clay Marsh 6 Oct. Com. Moorhen: last FH 20 Oct. Am. Coot: max 121 FH 23 Oct. Black-bellied Plover: max 30 Delta Lake 28 Sept., last FH 17 Nov. Lesser Golden-Plover: last SVB 17 Oct. Semipalmated Plover: last SP 6 Nov. **PIPING PLOVER**: imm SVB 3-4 Sept. (Karen Slotnick, ph DWC, NYSARC) first report since 1978. Greater Yellowlegs: last SVB 6 Nov. Lesser Yellowlegs: last SVB 10 Nov., late. Solitary Sandpiper: last SSSP 9 Oct. Spotted Sandpiper: one persisted Onon Lake to 9 Nov., record late. Upland Sandpiper; last Oneida Co. Airport 3 Sept. Whimbrel: imm SVB 4-9 Oct. Hudsonian Godwit: one SSSP 6 Oct., another SVB 9-26 Oct. Ruddy Turnstone: max 8 SVB 24 Sept., last there 17 Oct. Sanderling: last FH 20 Nov. Semipalmated Sandpiper: last SP 30 Oct. Western Sandpiper: singles Onon Lake 2-3 Sept. and 7 Sept. Least Sandpiper: last Onon Lake 8 Oct. White-rumped Sandpiper: scattered ones and twos to 19 Oct., then juvenile FH 19 Nov. (GH, JL, mob) record late. Baird's Sandpiper: last SP 8 Oct. Pectoral Sandpiper: last SVB 19 Oct. Purple Sandpiper: arr FH 5 Nov., max 9 SP 6 Nov., about 15 reported. Dunlin: arr Onon Lake 17 Sept., max only 37 SP 6 Nov. Stilt Sandpiper: last SVB 15 Oct. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one SVB 14-16 Sept. (DC, mob). **RUFF**: male Onon Lake through 7 Sept. Short-billed Dowitcher: last SVB 28 Sept. Am. Woodcock: last Syr 23 Oct. Red-necked Phalarope: singles Delta Lake 10-12 Sept., SVB 23-24 Sept. and DH 6 Oct. Red Phalarope: one DH 6 Oct., one SVB 15 Oct., three SP 15 Oct., two the next day. Parasitic Jaeger: two each DH 6 and 15 Oct., 12 on 27 Oct. Glaucous Gull: arr DH 12 Nov. Black-legged Kittiwake: 39 from DH after 27 Oct., max 16 on 6 Nov. Caspian Tern: max 25 P 18 Sept., last SP 9 Oct. Com. Tern: last SP 9 Oct., then imm DH 12 Nov. (FGS) very late. Forster's Tern: record max 21 SP 11 Sept. (MSR), in smaller numbers through 9 Oct.; one FH 13 Nov. (MSR, C. G. Spies) record late. Black Tern: last SP 6 Oct.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: last SP 1 Sept. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one hit by car Lysander 2 Nov. (RS), record late. Snowy Owl: one SP 6 Nov. only report. Short-eared Owl: three near Phoenix after 13 Nov. No. Saw-Whet Owl: singles E. Syr 20 Sept. (JL), dead on road FH 10 Nov. Com. Nighthawk: max and last 87 S. Onon on 2 Sept. Whip-poor-will: migrants LOL 1 Sept. and 9 Oct. Chimney Swift: last Lysander 8 Oct. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last SP 18 Sept. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: only a scattering of migrants 28 Sept. to 9 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: last SP 26 Sept. E. Phoebe: last DH 22 Oct. Great Crested Flycatcher: last FH 2 Oct. E. Kingbird: last Utica 3 Sept. Tree Swallow: last FH 23 Oct. No. Rough-winged Swallow: last DH 15 Oct. (JL) rather late. Barn Swallow: last SP 29 Sept., early departure. Boreal Chickadee: two Syr 21 Nov. (MSR). Red-breasted Nuthatch: max about six per day in Oct. House Wren: last Clay Marsh 10 Oct. Winter Wren: arr SP 25 Sept., max 48 NPT 9 Oct., only one Nov. report. Marsh Wren: last SP 9

Oct. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr SP 18 Sept., record max 750 NPT 9 Oct. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 14 Sept. NPT, max 150 NPT 9 Oct., last 10 Nov. SVB. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last 6 Sept. E. Syr. Veery: last SP 25 Sept. Gray-cheeked Thrush: migrants 8 Sept. to 2 Oct. Swainson's Thrush: last Syr. 15 Oct. (GH) late. Hermit Thrush: arr SP 20 Sept., high max 34 LOL 9 Oct. Wood Thrush: last SP 1 Oct. Gray Catbird: last 9 Oct. three localities. Brown Thrasher: last PS 16 Sept. Water Pipit: last and max 150-200 Phoenix 6 Nov. Bohemian Waxwing: about 60 reported LOL 3-20 Nov., max 20 Nine-mile Point 20 Nov.; single NPT 16 Nov. Loggerhead Shrike: one Pennellville 30 Oct. (RS) very late. No. Shrike: four singles after 12 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: last Kirkville 11 Oct. Yellow-throated Vireo: last SP 11 Sept. Warbling Vireo: last Beaver Lake 22 Sept. Philadelphia Vireo: migrants 8 Sept. to 1 Oct. Red-eyed Vireo: last NPT 9 Oct. Blue-winged Warbler: last Camillus 4 Sept. Golden-winged Warbler: last NP 10 Sept. Tennessee Warbler: last SP, NPT 9 Oct. Orange-crowned Warbler: singles SP 25 and 29 Sept., two NPT 9 Oct. Nashville Warbler: last FH 13 Oct. No. Parula: last Jamesville 25 Sept. Yellow Warbler: last SP 9 Oct. (FGS), record late. Chestnut-sided Warbler: last Jamesville 25 Sept. Magnolia Warbler: last SP, NPT 9 Oct. Cape May Warbler: last SP 1 Oct. Black-throated Blue Warbler: last Noyes Sanctuary 15 Oct. Yellow-rumped Warbler: low max 150 SP 1 Oct., last FH 3 Nov. Black-throated Green Warbler: last Clay Marsh, NPT 9 Oct. Blackburnian Warbler: last SP 25 Sept. Pine Warbler: singles Fellen 13 Sept. and Pompey 23 Nov. (FLF) late. Palm Warbler: migrants 25 Sept. to 9 Oct. Bay-breasted Warbler: last E. Syr 28 Sept. Blackpoll Warbler: migrants 8 Sept. to 1 Oct. Black-and-white Warbler: last Jamesville 25 Sept. Am. Redstart: last Noyes Sanctuary 15 Oct. (JL) rather late. Ovenbird: last Jamesville 22 Sept. No. Waterthrush: last SP 22 Sept. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** male SP 8 Sept. (JH) first regional fall record. Connecticut Warbler: one SP 8 Sept. Com. Yellowthroat: last Woodman's Pond 30 Oct. Wilson's Warbler: last SP 9 Oct. Canada Warbler: last SP 18 Sept.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: last Jamesville 25 Sept. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Syr 25 Sept. Rufous-sided Towhee: record max 65 NPT 9 Oct., last there and Clay Marsh same date. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Nine-mile Point 16 Oct. Chipping Sparrow: last NPT 19 Nov. rather late. Vesper Sparrow: one Lysander 8 Oct. only report. Savannah Sparrow: last SP 20 Oct. Fox Sparrow: migrants 12-31 Oct., max 34 NPT 30 Oct. best since 1973. Lincoln's Sparrow: migrants 24 Sept. to 13 Oct. White-throated Sparrow: arr E. Syr 16 Sept., max 575 NPT 9 Oct. White-crowned Sparrow: unimpressive numbers 1 Oct. to 3 Nov. Dark-eyed Junco: max 250 LOL 9 Oct. Lapland Longspur: total of 11 after 3 Oct. Snow Bunting: arr FH 15 Oct. Pine Grosbeak: two SP 13 Nov., one NPT same date. Purple Finch: max 10 Lysander 8 Oct., few after early Nov. Com. Redpoll: three reported LOL after 3 Nov. Pine Siskin: first non-Adirondacks bird FH 2 Oct., no large numbers. Evening Grosbeak: large flight Oct., fewer in Nov.

Addenda: Kingbird Summer 1983 **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER:** singing male Whiskey Hollow after 22 May (PDeB, mob) is sixth regional record. Water Pipit: arr SSSP 22 Mar. (MSR) early.

Corrigendum: Kingbird 33, No. 3, p. 206, Rusty Blackbird: record late date is 2 June (1972).

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL and GERALD A. SMITH

Gerry Smith has kindly offered to compromise his allegiance to Region 5 and lend his expertise to editing Loons-Alcids.

The fall season begins in late summer and proceeds through the vicissitudes of migration to end with the onset of the northern winter. So it was this year. The mercury reached the high 80's in early September, but the ground was white well before Thanksgiving.

This was the warmest September in over ten years, with rainfall below normal. The first frost occurred in many areas on 14-15 September. There were heavy equinoctial rains on 22 September. October yielded normal temperatures and precipitation. Heavy rains (2.47 in. at Barnes Corners) fell 4 to 6 October. The first killing frost hit most areas on 10 October, with temperatures in the single digits. 11 to 14 November brought Indian Summer with readings in the 80's. The remainder of the month was cool, with a severe wind storm the 28th and 29th. A series of storms made for a cold and wet November with precipitation more than an inch above normal. While the month saw temperatures reaching the 60's at times, several inches of snow fell the 5th, 12th, and 30th of November.

In spite of the region's climactic vagaries and ecological diversity, the autumnal avian almanac is somewhat unremarkable. A total of 96 species was reported. On the up side, Joe VanRiet turned up both Little Gull and Black-legged Kittiwake at Moses-Saunders Dam. His observation of over 20,000 gulls here clearly indicates the importance of this site. If VanRiet had more help, no doubt rare gulls would be steadyfare. Ruddy Duck was another of his nice finds. Double-crested Cormorants were up. There were two Peregrine Falcon sightings, one inexcusably shot by someone was sent to Delmar for rehabilitation. Black-bellied Plovers were up, and Gerry Smith reports a Hudsonian Godwit and a Whimbrel. Woodpeckers and bark gleaners were strong; and Eastern Bluebird seemed up in migration. There was an early influx of Northern Shrikes.

On the down side, grebes were scarce for the second year running. The poor shorebird flight is discussed below. There were no Short-billed Dowitchers or Solitary Sandpipers at Eldorado, where Blue-winged Teal were also down markedly, with the exception of a fair siskin flight, winter finches were sparse. Shouldn't we be able to do better at documenting the passerine migration? And where are the House Finches and titmice? We should accurately document the status of these expanding species.

For rarities, we boast a Tricolored Heron the first day of the period, as well as a Little Gull. Two late reports from summer are: Sheila Cerwonka of Potsdam observed an adult House Finch feeding an apparently fledged young on sunflower seed in late August—the first evidence of breeding in St. Lawrence Co., where three pairs of House Finches had been resident through the winter. There were also three possible sightings of Blue Grosbeaks. S. Cerwonka observed a singing bird with brown wingbars in Louisville in June, but was unable to rule out Indigo Bunting. There was also an unconfirmed sighting of Blue Grosbeak in Potsdam in early summer. Dorine Lord reported the species from Ogdensburg in June.

Abbreviations: EDB—EIDorado Beach Preserve; PRWMA—Perch River Wildlife Mgt. Area; Pt Pen—Point Peninsula; MSPD—Moses-Saunders Power Dam, Massena; ULL—Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, Canton; WHWMA—Wilson Hill WMA; dep—departure.

Contributors: Marilyn Badger, Stuart Barrows, Richard Bourse, Sheila Cerwonka, Ken Crowell, Lee B. Chamberlaine, Stephanie DeGhett, Michael DiGiorgio, John I. Green, Kevin Griffith, M. LaFave, D. Lord, L. Olivette, Gerald Smith, J. VanRiet, G & B Watson, James Winterbottom.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: arr three EDB 5 Oct.; max ten Oak Pt. Hammond 2 Nov., seemed scarce perhaps reflecting large die-offs in the wintering grounds last year? Grebes: no Pied-billed or Red-necked reported; Horned Grebe: max 21 off Pt Pen 6 Nov. Double-crested Cormorant: fair numbers at EDB with 5-20 per day in Sept., declining to two to five per day in Oct.; Extraordinary!, max 170 EDB 19 Sept., a record high for that site and perhaps for the region; one Southwick Beach State Park 30 Oct. (LBC); and two Old Man Island, Morristown 2 Nov. Increasing numbers and frequency reflect continued growth of the only regional colony at Little Galloo Island and perhaps expansion in Ontario waters and elsewhere on Great Lakes; Little Galloo Island may be vulnerable to disruption, therefore populations should be closely monitored. Am. Bittern: two ULLWMA on 3 Sept. and one there 20 Sept. are the only reports. Great Blue Heron: previously unknown breeding sites discovered during the fall season are located at Crary Mills, town of Potsdam, and 21 nests near Parishville; one to four per day at several locations thru Sept.; last noted as one at EDB and three Potsdam 5 Oct. **TRICOLORED HERON**: imm at EDB 1-10 Sept. (GAS, R & J Walker, S. Stevens, R. Betal). Green-backed Heron: scattered singles in Sept.; dep, one Potsdam 5 Oct. Mute Swan: brood of three and adults at PRWMA 18 Sept., one still present there on 27 Nov. The expansion of this species to our area is no cause for celebration. Snow Goose: eight EDB 5 Oct.; one Potsdam 23 Nov. Brant: 200 plus over Fort Drum 4 Nov. (LO). Canada Goose: arr 3-5 Oct. regionwide, with flocks of 25-250 widespread through early Dec. Wood Duck: very scarce at EDB as usual: few other reports with max 40 in a cornfield near Canton on 27 Oct. (KC). Green-winged Teal: recorded only from EDB, one-five per day thru 15 Sept., none thereafter. Am. Black Duck: one-six per day EDB Sept.-early Oct.; 30 Flynn Bay Marsh, Grindstone Island, Jefferson Co., St. Lawrence River. Mallard: 20-50 per day EDB through early Oct., with max there 80 on 24 Sept., as with other dabbling ducks numbers at EDB lower than last two falls; 50 EDB 25 Nov. (RB). No. Pintail: arr one EDB 1 Sept.; one-two per day scattered there to early Oct.; max 15 WHWMA 13 Nov. (JG). Blue-winged Teal: scarce at EDB where hundreds were noted in 1981 during late Aug.-Sept., numbers in 1983 were two-four per day. Whether this decline is strictly a site specific condition is unknown as the species was not mentioned by other observers (GAS). No. Shoveler: max 200 in pools north of Wiley Dondero Canal north of Massena. This is a traditional concentration area for this species; they are quite uncommon along eastern Lake Ontario where two on 24 Sept. were the first fall records in three years of daily coverage. Gadwall: max occurred during late Nov. with 50 at Pt Pen Village 23 Nov. (GAS) and 75 EDB 26 Nov. (RB). Am. Wigeon: arr of two migrants 5 Oct. EDB is late; max 70 Flynn Bay Marsh, Grindstone Island 1 Nov. Canvasback and Redhead: max 1,500 and 4,500, respectively on 1 Nov. in a traditional concentration area for these species, Eel Bay, Wellesley Island; also a count of 1,000 Redheads in pools north of the Wiley-Dondero Canal 15 Nov. (JVR) is excellent. Scaup and Com. Goldeneye: the occurrence of massive rafts of these species is a regular fall event in the large bays in northeastern Lake Ontario, with flocks of tens of thousands, such as noted in Black River Bay 27 Nov. (RB), not infrequent at that season. While accurate separation of the scaup species is difficult, evidence from a variety of sources indicates that Greater Scaup vastly outnumber Lesser Scaup in the eastern Lake Ontario basin. Oldsquaw: max 54 EDB 19 Nov. (RB). Black Scoter: max 5 EDB 19 Nov. Surf Scoter: arr 19 EDB 24 Sept.; max there 27 on 17 Oct., low in comparison with 1981 flight. White-winged Scoter: none reported, very scarce or overlooked? Many scoters not identified to species were present in a mixed flock of 4,000 diving ducks at Southwick Beach State Park on 30 Oct. (LBC). Com. Goldeneye: max 50-100 at scattered Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River locations in Nov.

Bufflehead: max 55 Pt Pen 23 Nov. Hooded Merganser: dep WHWMA 13 Nov. Com. Merganser: VanRiet's counts of 10,000 plus at Robert Moses Power Dam north of Massena in Nov. are impressive. He indicates that largest concentrations occur at dusk when they assemble to roost at the dam. His observations of mortality of this species caused by collision with large power lines in that area suggest regular losses. Red-breasted Merganser: arr 17 EDB 17 Sept.; max 80 there 13 Oct., very low. Ruddy Duck: only report 14 WHWMA 13 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: one-three per day regularly EDB Sept. to dep 25 Sept.; six Clare 1 Nov. (JW). Osprey: three singles EDB and one Canton (GW) last half of Sept.; two adults, one in Canton 2 Nov. (JW) and one Canton 18 Nov. (KC), very late. Bald Eagle: subadult (2nd-3rd year) EDB 2-6 Oct. (GAS). No. Harrier: total of six singles EDB Sept.-Oct.; two WLLWMA 13-15 Sept.; two singles Canton; and three Potsdam (SCD) Sept.-Oct. Relatively small number of reports is indicative of few observers in this region rather than few harriers. Evidence suggests that this species is more frequent in Region 6 as a breeder, and perhaps at other seasons, than elsewhere in upstate NY. Sharp-shinned Hawk: a few in a hawk flight over Canton 13 Sept. (KC). Cooper's Hawk: adult Pierrepont 14 Nov. No. Goshawk: two imm and one adult Pt Pen 23 Nov. Broad-winged Hawk: flight at Canton 13 Sept. (KC). Red-tailed Hawk: as usual, widely distributed at one-four per day throughout lakeplain-river shore areas; max nine 6 Nov. Pt Pen; and 12 singles and pair at Canton through 20 Nov. Rough-legged Hawk: scattered singles mid-Oct. thru; max five per day Pt Pen Nov. Am. Kestrel: numbers scattered, one per day to max two-three per day. Peregrine Falcon: adult 5 Oct. EDB (GAS); and female shot Chaumont (LBC). Ruffed Grouse: numbers down, scattered per day. Wild Turkey: 15 Pierrepont 15 Nov. Rails: no reports. The shorebird flight was extremely poor at EDB (GAS) and WHWMA (JVR). At EDB it was the worst flight observed in three years of daily coverage. Reasons are not clear, but a food shortage caused by an early end to the *Cladophora* algae bloom was probably a contributing factor to the poor numbers noted in late Aug. and early Sept. All following shorebird data are from EDB by GAS, unless otherwise noted. Black-bellied Plover: arr five-ten per day Sept.; 10-17 per day Oct.; max 28 on 13 Oct.; dep 22 Oct., numbers up substantially in contrast to most other species; and a few noted WHWMA (JVR). Lesser Golden-Plover: singles 11, 12, 26 Sept., where one per season is normal for last two years. Semipalmated Plover: max 12 19 Sept.; and dep two 3 Oct. Killdeer: two-six per day Sept.-Oct.; dep five Potsdam 18 Oct. (SCD). Greater Yellowlegs: arr one Sept.-Oct. EDB; max and dep Pt Pen 6 Nov. Lesser Yellowlegs: as with other common shorebird numbers low thru dep 9 Sept. Solitary Sandpiper: none for entire migration! Spotted Sandpiper: numbers up slightly at EDB one-two per day Sept.; dep one 11 Oct. Upland Sandpiper: two EDB 8 Sept., rare. Whimbrel: single 1 Sept. HUDSONIAN GODWIT: one 5-6 Oct., first record in three years of daily coverage. Ruddy Turnstone: one to four per day thru dep 12 Sept. Red Knot: none. Sanderling: in contrast to most other shorebirds, numbers up; excellent flight late Aug.-Oct.; most counts 15-30 per day; 52 on 4 Sept.; max 64 16 Sept.; 50 on 25 Sept.; 10-15 per day to late Oct.; and dep 19 Nov. (RB). Semipalmated Sandpiper: one-four per day Sept.; dep one 13 Oct. Western Sandpiper: singles 3-5 Sept. and 25-26 Sept. Least Sandpiper: three to eight per day to mid-Sept.; dep one 23 Sept. Baird's Sandpiper: one 16 Sept.; two 18 Sept. Pectoral Sandpiper: one-two per day Oct.; max 40 on 13 Oct. Short-billed Dowitcher: none for entire period, extraordinary! Com. Snipe: dep one Pierrepont 1 Nov. Am. Woodcock: singles at Pierrepont 7 Sept. and 11 Oct. three Theresa 13 Sept. Phalaropes: none. LITTLE GULL: one-two per day Power Dam 25 Sept. thru (JVR). Bonaparte's Gull: only one-three per day at EDB substantial numbers at Power Dam (JVR). Ring-billed Gull: everywhere along Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence lowlands; undoubtedly the major constituent of gull flocks at the Power Dam. Glaucous Gull: one-two per day at Power Dam early Nov. thru. Great Black-backed Gull: becoming as regular and frequent as Herring Gull at EDB. Black-legged Kittiwake: four 7 Nov. (JVR) and one thru at Power Dam (JVR, KG). Caspian Tern: max one EDB 11 Sept.; dep two EDB 24 Sept. Com. Tern: very scarce EDB; two-four per day EDB until dep 8 Sept., extremely early. Black Tern: none.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: abundant in farmlands of region, flocks of 10-40 at most farms. Mourning Dove: less common at feeders (LC). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Canton 13 Oct. (KC). Great Horned Owl: pair calling in Pierrepoint 10 Oct. Snowy Owl: "showing up mid-Nov." (LC); no other reports. Com. Nighthawk: four 19 Sept; two Watertown 29 Sept. Belted Kingfisher: two ULL 13 Sept.; singles Canton area 19 Sept; last EDB 25 Sept. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Town of Champion 11 Sept. (RB). Red-bellied Woodpecker: absent from Henderson (LC). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: six Clifton. Downy Woodpecker: six out of seven reports. Hairy Woodpecker: four out of seven reports. Three-toed Woodpecker: one Potsdam 24 Sept. (SDeG), see previous reports for this site. No. Flicker: moving in mid-Sept.; many ULL Canton 13-15 Sept.; six Pierrepoint 23 Sept.; 3 EDB 7 Oct.; last two Potsdam 18 Oct. Pileated Woodpecker: two Pope's Mills; one Hammond (JW); one Canton 20 Oct. and pair Parishville 13 Nov. (SB).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Phoebe: last Pierrepoint 12 Oct. No other flycatchers!! Horned Lark: several flocks 1-18 Nov. in Canton-Pierrepoint area; max 40 on 14 Nov. Blue Jay: abundant, up to 15 per day. Am. Crow: large flights third week of Oct. and mid-Nov.; 20 Potsdam 19 and 26 Oct.; 50 Potsdam 22 Oct.; 200 Pierrepoint 27 Oct.; 130 Pierrepoint 10 Nov. Black-capped Chickadee: abundant throughout region, 10 EDB 26 Nov.; 12 Potsdam thru; max 23 at Pierrepoint feeder 24-26 Nov. Tufted Titmouse: no new locations; max four, two previously banded, two regular at Henderson (LC). Boreal Chickadee: none. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one taking oil seeds at feeder Henderson 8 Sept., only report. White-breasted Nuthatch: two reported in three out of seven reports. Brown Creeper: three Henderson 29 Oct. Golden-crowned Kinglet: three Sevey's Corners, Colton 27 Nov. (MDiG & JVR). E. Bluebird: good fall flight; two Potsdam 18-27 Sept.; several reports in Pierrepoint mid-Sept.; max 20 on 22 Sept.; last seven Stony Pt., Henderson 30 Oct. Wood Thrush: one DOR Canton 24 Sept., the only spot-breasted thrush. Am. Robin: flocks in Canton third week of Sept.; max 30 Potsdam 24 Sept.; 15 Potsdam 27 Oct.; and late singles Massena 30 Nov. and Fargo 19-20 Nov. Cedar Waxwing: a few EDB 18 Sept.; 13 Henderson 25 Nov.; no other reports. Water Pipit: two EDB 18 and 29 Sept. No. Shrike: singles Canton 24 Nov. (KC); imm Pierrepoint 25 Nov. (KC); Massena and Potsdam mid-Nov. (MDiG); EDB 19 Nov.; LaFargeville and Dexter 27 Nov.; and two PRWMA 27 Nov. (all RB). European Starling: flocks 10-40 daily near Canton mid-Sept.; max 150 Canton 24 Nov. (KC).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Nashville Warbler: one Champion 11 Sept. Black-throated Blue Warbler: one Champion 11 Sept. Black-throated Green Warbler: one Massena 28 Sept. Yellow-rumped Warbler: six Morley 22 Sept. and several flocks six to eight near Canton 6 Oct.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: No. Cardinal: continued expansion in St. Lawrence Co.—two pair Massena thru (MB); two Potsdam thru (SDeG); Canton (JW & KG); also report from Parishville (SB), Pierrepoint and No. Russell. Rufous-sided Towhee: one male at feeder in Henderson 28-29 Oct. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Potsdam 1 Oct., 18 Oct.; arr Henderson 30 Oct.; two EDB 19 Nov.; five Pillar Pt. 27 Nov.; 25 Canton 24 Nov. Song Sparrow: last Pierrepoint 11 Oct. White-throated Sparrow: many migrating in Henderson 24-25 Sept.; one Henderson 24 Nov. White-crowned Sparrow: one Potdam 29 Sept.; one Morley 18 Oct.; five Pierrepoint 19 Oct.; and one Canton 14 Nov (JG). Dark-eyed Junco: arr Henderson 24 Sept.; 12 Potsdam 3 Nov.; many Henderson Nov. Snow Bunting: 150 Barnhardt I., Massena 2 Nov. Red-winged Blackbird: flocks of 100 or more near Canton 22, 29, 30 Sept., 14 Oct., and 11 Nov.; max 1,000 Canton 31 Oct. E. Meadowlark: one or two Canton 3, 9, 14, and 24 Oct.; last Pierrepoint 15 Nov. Com. Grackle: one Henderson 24 Nov. No. Oriole: one in storm Canton 16 Nov. Pine Grosbeak: three Colton 27 Nov. Purple Finch: six Potsdam thru 30 Oct.; 10 Canton (JW); none Henderson (LC). House Finch: max 15 Henderson only report (LC). Pine Siskin: arr two Massena 14 Oct.; max 10 Henderson 7 Nov.; last one Pierrepoint 28 Nov. Am. Goldfinch: max 200 Canton 14 Oct.; 24 Potsdam 14 Nov. thru. Evening Grosbeak: first large flock Henderson 16 Oct.; max 30 Henderson 24 Nov.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

Fall birding this year consisted largely of random observations, some startlingly good. The Coot Hill hawk watch was visited only on 25 September for five hours with southeast winds, ending with the wanton shooting of a migrating falcon. Bird-banding near Elizabethtown was limited to just nine days between 29 September-30 November, with only 66 individuals of 13 species banded. A trip to the Four Brothers Islands on 19 September discovered a record-late shorebird, while the last trip to the islands on 23 October was turned back at mid-lake by wind and waves, but the crew was rewarded later the same afternoon with a rare sparrow at the Westport beach. Birding was judged "pretty interesting" near Tupper Lake and that seemed a fair regional assessment as well. September was generally warm and sunny, with temperatures averaging 4° F above normal and sunshine 9% above average. Rainfall was 3.77 inches and average wind speed 8.2 m.p.h. This provided several late departures, a few good shorebirds, and some scattered groundings of passerines on foggy mornings, but migration was sluggish.

An earthquake registering a magnitude of 4.5 to 5.0, its epicenter near Newcomb, struck on the morning of 7 October, with the first and major shock felt at about 6:20 a.m. At Paradox, flock after flock of Canada Geese flew over all night before, and all day after the shaking and rumbling, and—with more tremors just before dark—kept coming, to the shrieking of a Barred Owl. Meanwhile, earthquake day at Tupper Lake marked the passage of 1,212 geese in 18 flocks. When skies cleared on 9 October, the great goose migration started up again with 40 flocks, some of over 100 honkers, going over Paradox, where the pulsing rumble of another aftershock was felt early the next morning. Speculator was the coldest spot in the nation on 20 October, with a low of 7°, and Saddleback Mt. and other peaks were snow-covered by the 27th.

November was warm and wet, with temperatures 1.5° F above average and the average monthly temperature 44° F. This was the second wettest November on record, boasting precipitation of 6.85 inches. Otherwise, weather conditions were about normal (4.7" snowfall, 27% possible sunshine, and 9.1 m.p.h. winds). Snowfalls early in the month were confined to higher elevations, but most of the region was dampened by a heavy, wet storm 15-16 November that missed only the lowest valleys. By the end of the season, however, the ground was largely bare under about 1,000' elevation.

Some 130 species, plus a hybrid, were reported, with many more birds undoubtedly present. Rarities included a Little Blue Heron, a Long-billed Dowitcher, a Connecticut Warbler, and a Sharp-tailed Sparrow, plus a number of birds no less noteworthy. If a relative handful of observers (fewer than twenty submitting written records) can locate so many good birds, while building up woodpiles and attending autumn bird conferences, one wonders how many birds were missed. This is always true to a certain extent, but more so following an active Atlas season. To those who return to quarters outside the region come fall, we miss you.

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LOONS-DUCKS: a Com. Loon was on Tupper L. thru the period and one at Port Douglas 8 Oct.; multiples included three on Lower Ausable L. and five on Upper Ausable L. 6 Sept. (KD), and three on Tupper L. 15 Oct. (MV). A Pied-billed Grebe was at Westport 3 Oct. (GC, EJ, JP); one at Tupper L. from 6 Oct., with two present 7 Nov. (CD). A Horned Grebe was on Heart Bay, L. George, 3 Sept. (DC), with later reports from North West Bay in Oct. and northern L. George in Nov. Red-necked Grebes included two at Westport 24 Oct. (RH), four at Bulwagga Bay 15 Nov. (TB, GC), and one at Essex harbor 21 Nov. (EJ, JP). A Great Blue Heron was flying toward Penfield Pd. 1 Nov. The Great Egret in a wetland along the Northway near milepost 103 on 11 Sept. was unexpected, yet provides at least the tenth regional record (EJ). An imm. **LITTLE BLUE HERON** was at Plattsburgh 4-9 Sept. (CM, TO), together with two Snowy Egrets present from 3-10 Sept. (BB, JG, MG, TO, SM, CM). Snow Goose: 40 Clinton Co. 28 Sept. (HB, RB), 115 Moriah 17 Oct. (GC), two Tupper L. 29 Nov. (CD). A Green-winged Teal was on Dug Mountain Ponds 8 Oct. with blacks and mergansers (HJ). Am. Black Duck: max 75 Westport 18 Oct. Mallard: max 25 L. George 5 Nov.; hybrid Westport 24 Oct. A few female No. Pintails were at Ausable Point 12 Sept. (SM). Ring-necked Duck: arr Tupper L. 10 Oct., max 30 there 7 Nov.; two Westport 18 Oct. Two White-winged Scoters were on L. George 28 Oct. (DC). Com. Goldeneye: arr Tupper L. 25 Oct.; max 110 L. George 13 Nov. Bufflehead: three arr North West Bay 27 Oct. Hooded Merganser: max 41 Tupper L. 19 Nov. (CD). Com. Merganser: max 10 L. George 13 Nov. The five Ruddy Ducks at Tupper L. 7 Nov. provide only the sixth regional record (CD).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: four passed over Coot Hill hawk watch 25 Sept. (EJ, JP). Osprey: one Coot Hill 25 Sept.; one Tupper L. 7 Oct., where a hardy bird continued fishing in falling snow 17-18 Nov. (CD). Bald Eagle: imm Paradox L. 22 Oct. (TM); two imm frequented the Crown Point historic site 1-14 Nov. (GF); one at Tupper L. 29-30 Nov. made repeated passes at a duck that dove as the eagle came near (CD). No. Harrier: irregular reports from the Champlain district and Tupper area to early Nov. Sharp-shinned Hawk: three Coot Hill 25 Sept.; one chasing feeder birds at Tupper L. 6 Oct. and thru Nov. seen taking a male Evening Grosbeak on 25 Nov. A No. Goshawk was heard calling at dawn on 14 Nov. near Paradox. Broad-winged Hawk: 10 Coot Hill 25 Sept. Red-tailed Hawk: three Coot Hill 25 Sept.; many reports from lower elevations, and one at Tupper 13 Nov. Rough-legged Hawk: arr Crown Point and Essex in Oct. Am. Kestrel: 12 Coot Hill 25 Sept., including one shot from the sky as it migrated past; when confronted, the perpetrator denied hitting the bird, but soon left the summit, accompanied by others in a convoy of four-wheel drive trucks. Curiously, all Ring-necked Pheasants were reported this fall from highland areas away from the main Atlas breeding range: a male was at Paradox 30 Sept., while four cocks and six hens visited a Tupper L. feeder 10 Nov., and several frequented the village of Saranac L. The numerous Ruffed Grouse included one partridge in a cherry tree at Tupper L. As L. Champlain water levels slowly dropped, exposing mudflats, the shorebird picture belatedly brightened. Westport beach had a Black-bellied Plover 18 Oct. (GC, EJ, JP) to 24 Oct. (EJ, JP), as well as Lesser Golden-Plover 3 Oct. (GC, EJ, JP). Bulwagga Bay campsite had a Semipalmated Plover 20 Sept. (GC). Westport had a Lesser Yellowlegs 3 Sept. (GC) and a Solitary Sandpiper 25 Sept. (EJ, JP). Much remains to be learned about migrant stopovers on the Champlain island, but a

record-late Sanderling on the shingle beach of Island D, Four Brothers Islands, 19 Sept. was noteworthy (TB, RD, GF, RM JP). Other Westport visitors included a White-rumped Sandpiper 18 Oct. (GC, EJ, JP) to 29 Oct. (EJ, JP); up to three Dunlin on 18 Oct. (GC, EJ, JP); and a **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** 25 Sept. thru 18 Oct., for only the second regional record (EJ, JP). Bonaparte's Gulls were reported from Westport in Sept.-Oct., max 400 there on 2 Oct. (GC); Willsboro Bay in Oct.; and Bulwagga Bay in Nov. Up to four Great Black-backed Gulls frequented North West Bay.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Snowy Owls are rare and irregular in this region, so one at Little Simonds Pd. 12-13 Nov. (JM) and two at Gabriels 14 Nov. (TM) represented an invasion of sorts. Barred Owls were engaged in active courtship calling, including the wooing display, at Paradox from 1 Sept.-1 Oct., where a Whip-poor-will was also heard calling on 3-4 Sept., last of the season (MB). A flight of Com. Nighthawks hunted insects along the Saranac R. near Cadyville in mid-Sept. (TO). Last Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were at Tupper L. 19 Sept. (CD) and near Elizabethtown 1 Oct. (JP).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Late flycatchers at Tupper L included Least Flycatcher: 3 Sept., E. Phoebe: 2 Oct., and Great Crested Flycatcher: 11 Sept.; Tupper also had four Horned Larks in the municipal park 13 Nov., two there 22 Nov., and two late Barn Swallows 3 Sept. (CD). The only sightings of Gray Jays were of three at Sabattis Rd. Bog 17 Oct. (CD) and three encounters with at least five jays at Spring Pond Bog on 15 Nov. (TB, GTC, JP). Com. Ravens were widely reported. A hiker on Lower Wolfjaw saw eight Boreal Chickadees. Tufted Titmice were at several locations in Saranac L. A Winter Wren was at Paradox to 29 Sept., where Ruby-crowned Kinglets were last located in an alder swamp with Golden-crowned on 9 Oct. (MB). Last Hermit Thrush was at Tupper L. 15 Oct. A Water Pipit was strolling on the tarmac in the Tupper L. municipal park 13 Nov., feeding on worms. Cedar Waxwings cleared out of the region after a summer of teaching Atlas observers the meaning of ubiquitous, with the last three at Tupper 17 Sept. (CD). No. Shrike: arr The Glen, Jay, 26 Oct. (RH); later reported from Saranac L and Tupper L.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Late vireos included Solitary at Tupper L. 21 Sept., Philadelphia near Elizabethtown 10 Sept., and Red-eyed at Tupper L. 11 Sept. Observers wild over spring arrival dates generally fail to show the same enthusiasm for fall departure, with the result that many species simply fade with the passing of summer. This is especially obvious with warblers, but the following records provide at least a general picture: Nashville Warbler at Tupper L. to 8 Oct. (CD), No. Parula along the Raquette R. 18 Oct. (JDD), and Magnolia Warbler at Tupper L. to 11 Sept., where up to three Cape Mays were present 3-25 Sept., vigorously defending territory around a suet feeder from chickadees, nuthatches, vireos, and other warblers (CD). Black-throated Green Warbler: five at Moriah 17 Sept. (GC), last at Tupper L. 18 Sept. Palm Warbler: Tupper L. on 1 and 8 Oct. (CD) Bay-breasted Warbler: four Elizabethtown 10 Sept. (GC). Black-and-white Warbler was still singing at Tupper L. 10 Sept. Am. Redstart: Tupper L. 9 Sept. (CD). Ovenbird was still singing at Paradox 6 Sept. (MB). **CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** Elizabethtown 10 Sept. in grounded wave of migrants, including Nashville for comparison (EJ, KO, JP). Com. Yellowthroat: last three at Tupper L. 20 Sept. Wilson's Warbler: Tupper L. 6 Oct. (CD).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: Tupper L to 22 Sept. (CD). A female No. Cardinal appeared at a Mountain View feeder (EH). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Paradox to 28 Sept. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Tupper L. 20 Oct. (CD), with widespread reports thereafter. Chipping Sparrow: last at Tupper L. 28 Oct. (CD). Among the several sparrows in stream-side willows and cattails at the Westport beach on 23 Oct., a day of southerly but blustery winds, was a **SHARP-TAILED SPARROW** (TB, GC, NM, JP, DR), remaining until the following morning, 24 Oct. (RH); this apparently provides a third regional record. Fox Sparrows arr Tupper L. 26 Oct. (CD), Bloomingdale 27 Oct. (WR); last noted 15 Nov. at Tupper. Swamp Sparrow: last at Westport beach on 2 Nov. (TB, GC, NM). White-throated Sparrow: max 16 Tupper L. 24 Sept. White-crowned Sparrow: Tupper L. 25 Sept.-24 Oct.

max eight on 9 Oct. Dark-eyed Juncos were widely abundant, with 15 at Tupper L. 12 Oct. and 16 banded near Elizabethtown 17 Oct., numbers then declining with the arrival of colder weather. A good early flurry of Snow Buntings was noted; three Collums 8 Oct., one Paradox 22 Oct. (TM), five Westport beach 29 Oct. (EJ, JP), 25 Tupper L. 18 Nov. (CD), and 25 near Elizabethtown 25 Nov. (EJ, JP). Tupper L. had 300 Red-winged Blackbirds 25 Oct., 300 Com. Grackles 6 Oct. A No. Oriole was still at Tupper L. 1 Oct. (CD), and an adult male appeared near a Keeseville feeder 28 Nov., apparently feeding on frozen apples (JG). First Pine Grosbeak was at Saranac L. 14 Nov. (GTC). Purple Finches accompanied by begging young were at Tupper L. 3 Sept., but numbers dwindled thereafter, with the last at Paradox 7 Nov. House Finch: max 15 Port Henry 12 Sept. (GC); one appeared at a Lake Placid feeder 23 Oct. (PT), although a pair that arr in Saranac L in the spring and spent the summer left with the Purple Finches. Com. Redpolls arr Tupper L. 13 Nov. (J & RK). Small numbers of Pine Siskins were reported from Elizabethtown, Moriah, Westport, and Tupper L. An Am. Goldfinch was feeding two begging young at Tupper L. 17 Sept., and small numbers remained present thru the period near Elizabethtown, Indian Lake, Keene, Newcomb, Paradox and Saranac L. Evening Grosbeaks began to visit feeders in late Oct. with flocks of up to 75 noted thereafter

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REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

ED REILLY

What is a typical Fall Season? Apparently there is none quite typical except that we begin it 1 September and end it 30 November. Some birds operate on an internal clock which rings an alarm about a certain date on which the species head south; others use the weather combined with, probably, an internal alarm governed by sexual hormones in the spring and perhaps hunger and other stirrings in the fall. Despite the pronounced vagaries of the weather this fall in the Capital District area, those species with working internal alarms kept to their schedules. The vireos and wood warblers moved out of Region Eight pretty much on time. After mid-October only the Yellow-rumped was seen. Major hawk migrations were timely, aquatic species such as ducks, geese, etc. are usually pushed by the weather, moving to keep south of freezing ponds, creeks and rivers—many of these moved southward, then apparently returned to enjoy a long Indian Summer. The list tells the story of a warm September and October and an up-and-down November. Nuts, fruits, and berries were less plentiful this year than last and lingering flocks, like the man who came to dinner, may have left the cupboard at low stock for the wintering species to follow. Only reports of the following seasons will tell.

At Scotia on 2 September, Maude and P. L. Worthington report sighting a Western Kingbird.

Abbreviations: L—lake; R—river; T/O—throughout area or season.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: Saratoga L. ten 19 Nov. Horned Grebe: 2 Saratoga L. 19 Nov. Double-crested Cormorant: Hudson R. Oct. Great Blue Heron: last reported early Nov. at Ghent and Castleton. Great Egret: reported at South Bay, Hudson 18 Sept.-14 Oct. Cattle Egret: Oct. at Castleton. Green-backed Heron: last at Castleton in Oct. Black-crowned Night-Heron: at Castleton in early Oct. Mute Swan: (probably an escape) Oom's Pond 13 Nov. Snow Goose: hundreds by many observers in Oct.; last reported in early Nov. Canada Goose: T/O area; about 950 at Oom's Pond 13 Nov. Wood Duck: last reported 15 Nov. Green-winged Teal: last in Oct. Am. Black Duck: T/O region and season. Mallard: T/O region and season. No. Pintail: 11 at Embough Bay on Hudson 26 Nov. Blue-winged Teal: Castleton in Oct. No. Shoveler: ten at Embough Bay in Hudson 26 Nov. Gadwall: 12 Embough Bay 26 Nov. Am. Wigeon: 12 Embough Bay in Hudson 26 Nov. Canvasback: 20 Embough Bay in Hudson 26 Nov. Ring-necked Duck: on Hudson in mid-Oct. Lesser Scaup: on Hudson near Germantown 41 20 Nov. Black Scoter: one at Saratoga L. 19 Nov. Com. Goldeneye: 50 at Saratoga L. 19 Nov. Bufflehead: seven at Embough Bay 26 Nov. Hooded Merganser: ten at Embough Bay 26 Nov. Com. Merganser: one Embough Bay 26 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: T/O Sept.-Oct., last seen 1 & 2 Nov. at Castleton. Osprey: Sept. at Central Bridge, through much of Col. Co. in Sept.-Oct. No. Harrier: Sept. Central Bridge, Nov. Coxsackie, Old Chatham. Sharp-shinned Hawk: last noted Nov. at Castleton. Cooper's Hawk: by several obs. Sept.-Nov. No. Goshawk: 8 Oct. at Efner L. *vide* R. Yunick. Broad-winged Hawk: one at Chrysler L. near Copake 23 Sept. Red-tailed hawk: T/O area and season. Rough-legged Hawk: earliest report Coxsackie 29 Nov. Am. Kestrel: T/O area and season. Ring-necked Pheasant: several reported Col. Co. Ruffed Grouse: fewer than usual reported T/O area and period. Wild Turkey: reported from Central Bridge, Nassau, Spencertown. Am. Coot: last report 40+ at Saratoga L. 19 Nov. Killdeer: last report 26 Nov. at Embough Bay. Solitary Sandpiper: one Sept. 24 Claverack, also Central Bridge and Ghent in Sept. Spotted Sandpiper: Churchtown 23 Sept. Com. Snipe: Oct. Ghent and Castleton. Am. Woodcock: Greenport 25 Oct. Ring-billed Gull: last reported 200 at Catskill 26 Nov. Herring Gull: T/O area and season. Great Black-backed Gull: Hudson R at Embough Bay and Castleton 26 Nov.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: T/O region and season. Mourning Dove: T/O region and season. Black-billed Cuckoo: Sept. 5 Col. Co. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 5 Sept. at Old Chatham. E. Screech-Owl: Sept.-Oct. Ghent, Castleton, Old Chatham. Great Horned Owl: Col. Co. through season. Barred Owl: Central Bridge Oct. Short-eared Owl: Ghent Sept.-Oct. Com. Nighthawk: in migration at Glenville 17 Sept., Sept. at Ghent & Chatham. Chimney Swift: Claverack 23 Sept.-1 Oct. at Ghent. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last at Spencertown 1 Oct. Belted Kingfisher: by many T/O region and season into Nov.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Old Chatham 30 Sept., Ghent, Spencertown; last reported Canaan Nov. Red-headed Woodpecker: Castleton Sept. Downy Woodpecker: T/O area and season. Hairy Woodpecker: T/O area and season. No. Flicker: last seen 26 Nov. at Catskill. Pileated Woodpecker: at Central Bridge in Nov., also Castleton. E. Wood-Pewee: at Claverack 25 Sept. and T/O Col. Co. most of Sept. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Claverack 15 Oct. Traill's Flycatcher: Olana 14 Sept. Least Flycatcher: at Castleton 3, 4 Sept. E. Phoebe: T/O much of Col. Co. through Oct. Great Crested Flycatcher: T/O most of Col. Co. much of Sept. E. Kingbird: Ghent, Castleton, Canaan 1-26 Sept., Central Bridge Sept. **WESTERN KINGBIRD**: one at Scotia 2 Sept. by M. & P. L. Worthington. Horned Lark: two at Oom's Pond 13 Nov. Tree Swallow: 300+ Churchtown 23 Sept., T/O Col. Co. in Sept. by many observers, also Central Bridge. No. Rough-winged

Swallow: at Canaan 2, 10 Sept. Bank Swallow: Old Chatham, Canaan 2, 5, 10, 11 Sept. Cliff Swallow: Canaan 2, 10, 11 Sept. Barn Swallow: by several observers T/O Col. Co. Blue Jay: T/O area and season. Am. Crow: T/O region and season. Fish Crow: nest found at Castleton by Paul Connor in Sept. Black-capped Chickadee: T/O region and season. Tufted Titmouse: T/O region and season. Red-breasted Nuthatch: Central Bridge Oct., at Jenny L. banded 4 in Sept.-3 Oct.; none banded after 9 Oct.; last 26 Nov. White-breasted Nuthatch: T/O area and season. Brown Creeper: scattered sparsely T/O area and season. House Wren: last at Canaan Oct. Winter Wren: Ghent, Old Chatham Nov. Marsh Wren: Old Chatham Nov. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Claverack 24 Sept., Embough Bay 26 Nov., 43 Scotia 28 Sept., one 8 Nov. Golden-crowned Kinglet: Austerlitz, Old Chatham Oct., Castleton Sept., 8 Scotia 22 Oct., one 8 Nov. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Castleton 5, 13, 15 Sept. E. Bluebird: T/O season at Central Bridge, T/O season in Col. Co. Veery: Col. Co. sparsely scattered through Sept. Swainson's Thrush: Last noted Old Chatham 17 Oct. Hermit Thrush: found dead on road at Claverack 29 Oct.; seen in Central Bridge in Nov. Wood Thrush: Castleton, Old Chatham Sept. Am. Robin: T/O region and season. Gray Catbird: T/O by most in Col. Co. Sept.-Oct. No. Mockingbird: Claverack 19 Sept.-16 Nov., T/O Col. Co. Brown Thrasher: numbers seem down. Castleton, Old Chatham 1, 6, 8, 19 Sept. Water Pipit: at Castleton (one) in Oct. Cedar Waxwing: scattered reports T/O region and season. No. Shrike: one heard by Elisabeth Grace at Old Chatham, 26 Nov. European Starling: T/O region and season.

VIREOS-WARBBLERS: Solitary Vireo: last seen Spencertown in early Oct. Warbling Vireo: Ghent, Castleton, Old Chatham up to 18 Sept. and in Scotia 18, 20 Nov. Philadelphia Vireo: last reported at Spencertown and Chatham 22 Sept. Red-eyed Vireo: Claverack 17 Sept., last date 7 Oct. Blue-winged Warbler: Old Chatham 5 Sept. Tennessee Warbler: last reported 2 Oct. at Scotia. Orange-crowned Warbler: seen 3 Sept. at Scotia. Nashville Warbler: Claverack 24 Sept., last seen 3 Oct. at Scotia. No. Parula: last reported 3 Oct. Glenville. Yellow Warbler: Ghent, Castleton T/O Sept., last report 1 Oct. at Scotia. Chestnut-sided Warbler: 24 Sept. at Claverack. Cape May Warbler: at Scotia 4 Sept., latest at Castleton 17 Sept. Black-throated Blue Warbler: at Scotia 2 Sept., last seen 26 Sept. at Canaan. Yellow-rumped Warbler: reported by nearly all observers but latest 26 Nov. at Embough Bay. Black-throated Green Warbler: latest 14 Oct. at Scotia. Blackburnian Warbler: latest 1 Oct. at Scotia. Pine Warbler: 9 Sept.-3 Oct. at Scotia. Prairie Warbler: 1 Aug.-5 Sept. at Scotia and Glenville. Palm Warbler: 2 Sept. at Scotia, at Old Chatham 9 Oct., at Ghent 31 Oct. (Gardinas). Bay-breasted Warbler: at Scotia Aug.-13 Sept. and 5 Oct. Blackpoll Warbler: at Castleton 5, 6, 11 Oct.; at Scotia 13 Sept., 7 Oct. Cerulean Warbler: one male at Scotia 9 Sept. Black-and-white Warbler: by most observers T/O Col. Co. T/O Sept., latest report from Austerlitz 8 Oct. Am. Redstart: almost T/O Col. Co. in Sept., Scotia 2 Sept. Ovenbird: Castleton 17 Sept.; Jenny L. (20 banded) 18 Sept. No. Waterthrush: at Ghent 7, 14, 19 Sept. Connecticut Warbler: at Scotia three in Sept. (no further date). Com. Yellowthroat: Ghent 1, 6 Sept.; Old Chatham 13 Oct. Wilson's Warbler: seen Castleton, Old Chatham, Chatham on 5, 13, 22, 25 Sept. and at Scotia 2 Sept. and 1 Oct. Canada Warbler: at Scotia 1 Aug.-1 Sept. and at Ghent, Old Chatham 5, 13 Sept.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: Castleton, Old Chatham, Spencertown Sept. nearly T/O. No. Cardinal: Central Bridge, Col. Co., Schenectady T/O areas and season; not reported in more northerly areas. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: at Claverack 24, 25 Sept. (female with fledgling on 25th). Indigo Bunting: Claverack 24 Sept. Rufous-sided Towhee: Copake 23 Sept., Olana 10 Oct., Castleton, Spencertown, Old Chatham, Canaan 1-18 Sept. Am. Tree Sparrow: first report Olana 13 Nov., Embough Bay 26 Nov. Chipping Sparrow: Castleton, Spencertown, Old Chatham 1-31 Oct., Castleton 1 & 2 Nov. Field Sparrow: Churchtown 23 Sept., Claverack 9 Oct.; Ghent 7, 17, 21 Nov. Vesper Sparrow: Ghent 6, 17 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: reported Central Bridge Sept. Fox Sparrow: Glenville one 15 Oct., Ghent, Castleton, Old Chatham 17-30 Nov., Scotia 15 Oct. Song Sparrow: Claverack Nov., 15 Oct. Ghent, Castleton 16 Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: Ghent 1, 6, 31 Oct., one at

Claverack 25 Sept. Swamp Sparrow: Stockport 23 Sept., Claverack 24-25 Sept., 9-15 Oct. White-throated Sparrow: T/O Col. Co. area and season, also Central Bridge T/O Oct.-Nov.; arrived Schenectady 13 Sept. White-crowned Sparrow: T/O Col. Co. to 30 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: Yunick banded 25 21-22 Oct. at feeder in Schenectady, first arrived in Schenectady on 11 Oct., banded seven in Sept. and 18 in Oct. at Jenny L. at Central Bridge through Oct.-Nov.; Embough Bay 26 Nov. Snow Bunting; five at Embough Bay 26 Nov. Bobolink: seen Col. Co. 2, 5 Sept. Red-winged Blackbird: at Castleton T/O season, last noted in higher areas 29 Oct. at Claverack. E. Meadowlark: seen Ghent 17 Nov.; Castleton 8, 10, 15, 21 Nov.; Old Chatham 6 Nov. Rusty Blackbird: four at Claverack 9, 15, 29 Oct. Com. Grackle: Claverack 30 on 24 Sept; Embough Bay 23, 24 Nov. Brown-headed Cowbird: 200± at Claverack 21 Sept.; Ghent & Castleton in Nov. No. Oriole: at Central Bridge Sept.-Nov. Purple Finch: Claverack 24 Sept., 15, 29 Oct.; Jenny L. banded 72 in Sept. and seven in Oct. (May-Oct. total of 531, an above average season); Canaan, Spencertown in Nov. House Finch: now common T/O at least southern two-thirds of region and season. Pine Siskins: two seen over Claverack 18 Sept. Am. Goldfinch: T/O area and season. Evening Grosbeak: T/O most of region to north; first appeared Col. Co. 29 & 31 Oct. House Sparrow: T/O region and season.

This is my last Regional Report. When I retired from museum work in 1983 I had hoped to have a little more time for myself, but am now busier than ever working on books, and eye trouble has slowed me considerably. Peter Feinberg, 306 Hudson Ave., Albany, New York 12210, has agreed to take over Region 8. Thank you all for the support you have given me and long and happy birding to all.

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

To the consternation of hawkwatchers forced to sit out in the sun, September was hot, hot, hot; with twelve days above 90° F. Several observers felt the temperature had much to do with the poor results obtained at locations that were manned daily. The birds seemed reluctant to fly. Temperatures in October and November were more to be expected. Although rains were not frequent, they more than made up for it in quantity. What with the heavy spring rains we are fast approaching 70 inches, more than double the annual average.

As predicted after the very wet spring and early summer, seed and fruit crops were good. The food is here if the winter residents arrive to use it. With the exception of Snow and Canada Geese, waterfowl movements were disappointing. With the exception of a few species, most diurnal raptor counts were average. A new count was started at Butler Sanctuary near Mt. Kisco, and was manned daily thru September and October. At press time only the September figures have been received from Hook Mt., but the Mt. Peter records are complete. An interesting variation introduced at Butler was the counting of *all* birds passing the lookout. It turned up some interesting information as you will see in the report. Would that we could interest other hawkwatches in the practice. Shorebird movements were poor, due largely to the brimming lakes and streams. Only a few reservoirs were drawn down far enough to expose mudflats which

lured visitors. Several observers reported strong nocturnal migrations of passerines especially on the nights of 13-14, 22-23, and 26-27 September. Birding was good the days following each of these nights.

Rarities in the report include: Cattle Egret, Eurasian Wigeon, Black Vulture, Baird's Sandpiper, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Forster's Tern, Boreal Chickadee and Bohemian Waxwing. Not mentioned in the report but worthy of some recognition is the escaped Red Bishop, a colorful African weaver finch that appeared on Piermont Pier about the same time one was reported on Long Island by the local Rare Bird Alert. At least there weren't any new parrots.

We welcome a new quarterly publication to the region, *The Upper Westchester-Putnam Field Notes*, which will report the findings in that region. This rich area has gone almost unreported in recent years.

Corrigendum: A correction is in order for Vol. XXXIII No. 3, page 223 line 10 which should read, "Fish Crow: usual few reported. The 3 at Wawarsing 23 Apr..." not "...30 at Wawarsing 23 Apr....".

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Abbreviations: Ashokan—Ashokan Reservoir; BS—Butler Sanctuary Hawk Watch, Mt. Kisco; EP—Esopus Point; HM—Hook Mt. Hawk Watch, Nyack; MC—Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; MP—Mt. Peter Hawk Watch; PL—Playland, Rye.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: two flew over BS on 22 Oct., last at Ashokan 27 Oct. Com. Loon: one over BS 16 Sept., one at Amawalk Res. 5 Sept., max five Croton Pt. 30 Oct. Pied-billed Grebe: max 10 at EP 30 Oct. Numbers generally down thru region. Horned Grebe: max 20 Ashokan 22 Oct. Great Cormorant: a few arr at Rye toward the end of Sept., while the bulk of Double-crested left by the middle of that month. Am. Bittern: one lingered at MC having first arr 29 Sept. Little Blue Heron: one Piermont Pier 27 Sept. **CATTLE EGRET:** always rare, esp. in fall. What appeared to be a young bird was feeding on a lawn in Purchase 17 Sept. Green-backed Heron: several obs listed this species as down thru the summer and early fall. Snow Goose: first over BS 7 Oct. High counts there were 291 on 20 Oct. and 195 on 21 Oct. 59 spent 11 Nov. on Titicus Res., one flock of 18 were over MP 16 Oct., between 60-70 were at Tamarack, Dutch 6-13 Nov. Brant: eight over BS 22 Oct., six there 29 Oct., and 65 there 1 Nov. 50 were at Norrie Pt. Dutch 19 Oct. Canada Goose: thousands of feral birds resident thru region, many others noted in migration. Excellent movements the nights of 1 Oct. and 9 Oct. More than a thousand birds in 17 flocks passed over HM 7 Oct., that same date 3,558 passed BS, 710 passed Anthony's Nose, and two flocks of more than 500 each were over the Town of Thompson Park in Sull that same date. Wood Duck: max 40 at Thompson Pd. and 40 at Travers in Dutch. No. Shoveler: the five in L Tappan 8 Sept. were two days ahead of Rockland's previous early date. Their numbers inc. to 40 by 16 Oct. Gadwall: a few are now found regularly at Cornwall Bay and Iona I; single birds at Amawalk Res 6 Sept. and 13 Nov. **EURASIAN WIGEON:** one male at L Tappan 11-16 Nov., second record for Rock, previous 11 Mar 1938. Canvasback: building on the Hudson by mid-Nov. with 56 at Iona I. An early bird was on Haverstraw Bay 4 Sept.; 250 were at EP 30 Oct. Ring-necked Duck: more than 100 on Kenozia L., Ulst. 20 Oct. Oldsquaw: one at Tamarack, Dutch 13 Nov., 20 Ashokan 27 Oct. Hooded Merganser: an early male was at Amawalk Res. 25 Sept., a max of 49 spent 15 Nov. at Titicus Res. Com. Merganser: more than 30 imm and females were on Ashokan 18 Sept., continued there in smaller numbers thru period. Ruddy Duck: 26 on Kiamesha L 19 Oct. was an excellent number for Sull.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: BLACK VULTURE: two reports from Dutch, four on 1 Sept. at Pleasaant Valley (Bob Bohler) and three 16 Sept. at Allen Hill (CT). Osprey: BS total 336, one day max was 32 on 2 Sept. MP 141, max 23 on 22 Sept. HM Sept. total only was 134; max was 16 on 14 Sept. Bald Eagle: a few reported away from hawk watches. BS had four adults and two imm; max 2 on 30 Aug. MP had a new high of five over the old high of four last year, all Sept. dates except one on 8 Oct. HM had two Sept. birds. No. Harrier: BS total 190, max 22 on 14 Sept., MP total 74, max seven on 2 Oct. HM total 123, max 25 on 14 Sept. Sharp-shinned Hawk: several reports from feeding stations at end of period. BS total 2,893. Max 297 on 6 Oct. MP total 1,611, max 138 on 22 Sept. and again 14 Oct. HM Sept. total 1,767, max 323 on 25 Sept. Cooper's Hawk: BS total 28, max five on 28 Sept. MP total 38, max 12 on 16 Oct. HM total 26, max eight on 25 Sept. No. Goshawk: the usual few residents reported thru region. Hawk watch migrants were: at BS total 25, max three on 19 Oct. MP tied its 1982 record total of 12 with a max of two on 16 Oct. and again on 30 Oct. HM had no birds the month of Sept. Red-shouldered Hawk: BS had 87, with a max of 11 on 30 Oct. MP broke its 1979 record of 68 birds with 93, and broke its daily high total with a record of 23 on 16 Oct. HM had only six birds in Sept. with three on 28 Sept. Broad-winged Hawk: a mediocre season with BS having 3,161 with a max of 654 on 14 Sept. MP had 4,481 with max of 2,647 on 14 Sept. HM had 2,146 with 1,050 on 14 Sept. Red-tailed Hawk: BS total 552, max 80 on 13 Nov. MP had 448 with a max of 94 on 29 Oct. HM had only 24 in Sept. with max on 18 Sept. of 11. Neil Currie of Conn. in eight hours of watching on the Schawangunk Ridge near Port Jervis on 12 Nov. had 421 of this species; more than most observers get in an entire season. Winds were a strong 20 mph out of the west, and the birds were traveling south along the ridge. Rough-legged Hawk: BS had one bird for the period on 8 Nov. MP also had one 29 Oct., and HM had none. Golden Eagle: BS had a total of four, two adults and two imm, max two on 19 Oct. MP had three with max of one on 23, 27 Sept. and 12 Nov. HM had none during Sept., but your reporter had a striking imm there 21 Oct. The bird came to within 150 ft. of the observers. Am. Kestrel: BS total 558, max 50 on 25 Sept. MP had 201 with a max of 29 on 6 Oct. MP had 224 in Sept. with max of 32 on 15 Sept. Merlin: BS had 14 with a max of three 14 Sept. MP had only two with single bird on 3, 4 Oct. HM had two birds in Sept., one 20 Sept. and another 27 Sept. Peregrine Falcon: BS had five single birds in early to mid-Oct. MP broke its 1981 record of seven with a total of 11; max was two on 7 Sept. HM had one 25 Sept. Ruffed Grouse: numbers reported up in Dutch and appear to be good elsewhere. Wild Turkey; at least 13 birds were seen regularly in Putnam. Am. Coot: max 250 at EP 30 Oct.-30 Nov. Black-bellied Plover: 15 at Ashokan 5 Oct. Lesser Golden-Plover: max 75 at Warren Sod Farm, near Pine I. Oran 18 Sept. Killdeer: max 53 at Minisink Valley Central High School 5 Nov. Greater Yellowlegs: two at Baird Pk, Dutch 9 Nov. were very late. Upland Sandpiper: max 15 Warren Sod Farm 4 Sept. White-rumped Sandpiper: six in the company of ten Pectorals at Ashokan 6 Nov. Late for both species. **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** one closely observed by FM and RT at Ashokan 1 Sept. was the only report. Pectoral Sandpiper: in addition to the late birds at Ashokan, nine were at Baird Park, Dutch 4 Nov. with one still there 13 Nov. Purple Sandpiper: returned to PL 5 Nov. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: max five Warren Sod Farm 18 Sept., first there 7 Sept., two at Amawalk Res. 5 Sept. and again 23 Sept. Com. Snipe: max six at Chester 31 Oct, three Baird Park 9 Nov. Bonaparte's Gull: only report one bird 25 Sept at MC. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** returned to Mamaroneck's Harbor I Pk 16 Oct. for the fourth consecutive winter. The nearby Greenwich Pt., Conn. bird returned for its sixth winter but disappeared shortly after arrival. Com. Tern: rare anywhere, and especially away from the Hudson, one at a Salt Point pond 22 Sept. **FORSTER'S TERN:** two off PL 29 Oct., three others at Croton Pt. 2 Oct., rare on the Hudson when not storm-related.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-hooded Parakeet: two obs feeding in a cornfield along Rt. 6 in Greenville, Oran 17 Nov. Barred Owl: one heard in South Salem thru end of Sept., three heard at the same time at Monticello 31 Oct. Short-eared Owl: one at Somers 6 Nov., six at Galeville by 26 Nov. Com. Nighthawk: peak movement in West was 27 Aug. when

220 passed BS and 29 Aug. when 105 passed the Rye Nature Center. The same number was at BS 2 Sept. Chimney Swift: more than 1,058 passed the BS lookout with a high of 220 on 2 Sept. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 52 passed BS which is extraordinarily high considering the poor numbers reported all summer. Red-headed Woodpecker: six passed BS during period, four of them in early Sept. Red-bellied Woodpecker: continues its slow increase thru the region. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: ten reports from Dutch.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one at Wawarsing 25 Sept. was rather late. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: the usual few, four from West the first being 14 Aug. and the last 23 Sept. *Empidonax* flycatchers: max movement seemed near 7 Sept. with more than 15 in the Bashakill. Great Crested Flycatcher last visited MC 10 Sept. **BOREAL CHICKADEE:** one briefly at Pleasant Valley 4 Nov. Since reports are coming in of birds in Mass. and N.J. it may well be a good winter for them. Red-breasted Nuthatch: reported in good numbers from N West and Putnam during Sept. and Oct. Carolina Wren: apparently a good breeding season this spring and summer. Five along the three mile stretch of the Mine Rd. USMA on 3 Sept. Winter Wren: more than usual, at least seven in Dutch alone. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr in good numbers in early Oct. for the best fall in several years. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr by Sept. 23, peaking in early Oct. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one at Vassar late date of 30 Nov. E. Bluebird: 200 boxes on eight monitored trails in mid-Dutch produced 423 fledglings which Florence Germond feels is low; should have been better than 600. Gray-cheeked Thrush: only report one at BS in mid-Oct. Swainson's Thrush: exc movement from 10 Sept. on; about 30 at Rye Nature Center 23 Sept., following a heavy migration the night before. Wood Thrush: an extremely late bird at Putnam Valley 15 Nov. Am. Robin: scarce in Dutch where it is usually exc well into Nov. Gray Catbird: one late bird at Wurtsboro in early Nov., two in Dutch 20 Nov. Water Pipit: an unprecedented flock of 75-100 on the dry bed of L Tappan 16 Oct. Unreported that county since 1979, and then only a few dozen. **BOHEMIAN WAXWING:** five obs with a flock of 20 Cedars at Buttercup Sanct. near Pine Plains (MVW, HM, MV), remained only a few hours. Cedar Waxwing: more than 1,960 passed the BS lookout during Sept. No. Shrike: one frequenting a Bedford Hill feeder 17-25 Nov. Loggerhead Shrike: one in Purchase was seen only on 10 Nov. Another was at Galeville Airport 26 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: a dark-eyed young bird singing a typical song was at Wawarsing 11 Sept. Philadelphia Vireo: seven reports from West 8-24 Sept., three Dutch reports from 5-20 Sept. Tennessee Warbler: 20 along Mine Rd USMA 3 Sept. A large wave in West 23 Sept. had 27 at Rye and 20 at BS. No. Parula: also at max 23 Sept. with eight at Rye Nature Center. Black-throated Green Warbler: usually seen in small numbers, an incredible 40 passed the BS lookout on 23 Sept. Pine Warbler: two at Rye 13 Nov., another was at a Mahopac feeder 21-23 Nov. Prothonotary Warbler: one Mt. Kisco 30 Sept. Connecticut Warbler: one at BS 13 Oct., and one at Pond Gut 5 Sept. one at Kingston 17-18 Sept. Mourning Warbler: one at Bedford 23 Sept., one at Pond Gut 14 Sept. and one at Quaker Hill, Dutch 13 Oct. Hooded Warbler: one bright-plumaged male was on Mine Rd., USMA 3 Sept.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Fox Sparrow: good at feeder in Dutch in mid-Nov., gone by 24 Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: the usual few, two at MC 24 Sept., one at Bashakill 19 Sept. and three reports from Wawarsing on 9, 28 Sept. and 3 Oct. three near IBM Plant in Kingston 18 Sept. White-crowned Sparrow: 14 were at Somers 1 Oct. Lapland Longspur: one at PL 23 Oct. and two there 20 Nov. Snow Bunting: eight at Moore's Mills 12 Nov., arr Kingston Pt. 30 Oct., and Ashokan 8 Nov. Red-winged Blackbird: most reporters found few thru summer and early fall. Large flocks finally appeared in late Oct. in Dutch; a massive flight was obs over Kingston on 25 Oct., flock was at least 5 miles long. **PINE GROSBEEK:** a single bird on Twin Mt. in the Catskills 10 Nov. Pine Siskin: exc numbers from mid-Sept. along the ridges. Evening Grosbeak: max more than 200 on Twin Mt. in the Catskills 10 Nov., feeding on beechnuts. Started passing hawk watches in mid-Oct. with 139 at BS 31 Oct. and 115 there 17 Nov.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

JOSEPH A. DiCOSTANZO

The fall was generally mild and uneventful, overall. September continued the weather pattern of the summer months—warm with moderate rainfall, but with most of the rain coming on only a couple of days. The first half of the month had generally above average temperature with the high for the year coming on the 11th when the day's high hit 99° F. In all, the temperature topped 90° F on seven days in September. A front with NW winds and falling temperatures brought a wave of migrants to the outer coast on the 23rd. The month ended on a wet note with nearly 60% of the month's total rainfall of 4.62 in. (0.96 above normal) falling on the 30th. The month's mean of 71.8° was 3.5° above normal. In October temperatures finally dropped back close to normal with the mean for the month 57.9°, only 0.2° above average. October added to what was to be the wettest year on record with a total of 8.63 in. of rain, 5.22 in. above normal. The 3.4 in. that fell on the 12th was equal to the normal for the month. Falling temperatures and NW winds on the 7th and the 15th produced the best hawk flights of the fall along the barrier beaches, but even these were fairly modest in keeping with the generally quiet season. November continued the October pattern of moderate temperatures (mean = 48.9°, 0.9 above normal) and somewhat wet weather (total rainfall = 6.68 in., 2.54 above normal), but without any marked flight days. By the end of the season, temperatures in the city had still not dropped below freezing even once. (All weather data from New York City.)

Reports from two coastal hawk watches were received. Hanna Richard reported on the sixth year of the Breezy Point Raptor Banding Station at Fort Tilden. The station was in operation on 27 days from 15 September to 19 October, somewhat less than last year. Even with reduced coverage, their total of 188 birds banded was 55% higher than last year, which, however, was one of their lowest ever. As usual, American Kestrel was the common species banded, 148, but the total also included 25 Sharp-shinned Hawks, one Cooper's Hawk, eight Northern Harriers and six Merlins. By contrast their total of 871 hawks seen was their lowest ever, including only four Peregrine Falcons, their lowest since they started keeping records in 1979 of birds observed. Drew Panko reported on the second year of his Fire Island hawk watch at the eastern end of Robert Moses State Park. This year the watch was kept on 35 days from 15 September to 20 October compared to 23 days last year over a somewhat shorter period. Even though the Fire I. watch was longer than the Breezy Pt watch, it is interesting to note the differences between the two. Fire I. saw 39 Peregrine Falcons compared to Breezy Pt's four; Fire I. had 497 Merlins to Breezy's 29 and Fire I.'s total of 989 American Kestrels was larger than Breezy's total hawk count. It must be remembered, however, that the Fire I. watch had about one third more coverage than the Breezy Pt station and that at Breezy Pt the emphasis is on capturing and banding hawks.

Fran File reported an interesting gathering in her back yard in Deer Park on 4 October. She experienced a small wave of warblers one afternoon that included Northern Parulas, Yellow-rumpeds, American Redstarts, Cape Mays, Black-throated Blues, Tennessees, Bay-breasteds, Pines and Blackpolls. All of them

seemed to be eating ants. This is similar to an occurrence we experienced on Great Gull Island in the fall of 1980, when our busiest netting and banding occurred late one afternoon. Project director Helen Hays felt that the birds had been attracted by a large hatch of flying ants that occurred that day.

Rarities: Arctic Tern, Western Tanager and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Abbreviations: NYSARC—New York State Avian Records Committee; LI—Long Island; SI—Staten Island; SP—State Park; BLSP—Belmont Lake State Park; HHSP—Hither Hills State Park; RMSP—Robert Moses State Park; JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; mob—many observers; pr—pair.

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LOONS-DUCKS: No. Gannets were noted migrating by the LI south shore in numbers on several days this fall; the peak numbers reported were 200 at RMSP 17 Oct. (LS) and 1,000 between Tobay and Gilgo on 24 Nov. (P & B Herlich). The height of Double-crested Cormorant migration on eastern LI was in the period from 25 Sept. to mid-Oct. (NB); 1,330 Double-crested were reported passing RMSP on 8 Oct. and another 4,000 there on 17 Oct. (DP). Fire I. hawk watchers were startled to discover a Least Bittern standing on the side of the road on 2 Oct. (L. Tucker, DP). A Cattle Egret was found at Mecox on the somewhat late date of 19 Nov. (JR). Late Nov. saw a good movement of Tundra Swans thru the Region with 14 flying W past Tobay on 26 Nov. (RK) and four the same day at JBWR where they are rare (mob). Snow Geese arrived in the Region in early Oct. with ten at Wainscott Pd. on 8 Oct. (BJS, JR); on the same day 75 were seen by the hawk watchers at RMSP (DP) and perhaps the same birds were seen by the Breezy Pt. hawk watchers who reported a similar number of Snows that day (HR). Three Eurasian Wigeons, all males, were reported: 25 Sept.-26 Nov. at JBWR (mob), 15 Oct. at Willow Pd, Hewlett Harbor for the third fall in a row (SBD) and 29 Oct. at Southaven Pk (JR). A male Tufted Duck was at the Central Pk reservoir 30 Oct.-12 Nov. (mob) where one has appeared each fall and winter for the last few years. Three male Harlequin Ducks were at Montauk Pt 19 Nov. (PG, *et al.*). The first Hooded Mergansers were noted at Hempstead Lk SP on 28 Oct. when seven pr were found (SBD); over 50 Hoodeds were at JBWR on 27 Nov., a fairly high number for that locality (JD). On 11 Nov. 1,200 Red-breasted Mergansers were counted at Shinnecock, a large concentration for so early in the fall (GSR). A total of 155 Ruddy Ducks at Jerome Pk reservoir on 12 Nov. was also high for that date (WS).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: The latest Osprey reported was at Eastport 11 Nov. (GSR). The only Bald Eagle report received was of one seen over Manhattan at East 88th St. and 1st Ave. (J. Machado). A No. Goshawk on 26 Nov. was only the second record of the species for Central Pk (P. W. Post). On 7 Oct. the Breezy Pt hawk watchers were surprised by the sight of four Am. Kestrels attacking a Red Bat (HR). Two Soras were reported: 13 Sept. JBWR (LS) and 22 Oct. Lawrence (SBD). The fall's peak count of Black-bellied Plovers at JBWR was 1,127 on 3 Sept., 50% higher than in any of Tom Davis's recent fall surveys there (THD). The high count of Lesser Golden-Plovers reported was 109 at Riverhead on 8 Sept. (PB). For the first time since 1976 there were no Am. Avocets at JBWR this fall and none were reported anywhere else. A count of 500 Red Knots at Zach's Bay on 6 Nov. was quite high for so late (AW). Two Least Sandpipers at VanCortlandt Pk on 17 Oct. were late for an inland area (WS). Two to three Baird's Sandpipers were reported: 3 Sept. at Jones Beach (SBD) and 9 & 12 Sept. at JBWR (JR, RA, GSR). A count of 42 Pectoral Sandpipers at JBWR 24 Sept. was the highest in the Region in recent years (THD). The max reported for Buff-breasted Sandpipers was 19 at Riverhead on 6 Sept. (PB); up to 15

Buff-breasteds were at Mecox from late Aug. to 3 Sept. (mob). A Short-billed Dowitcher at JBWR 29 Oct. was a bit late (THD). Red-necked Phalaropes were reported at JBWR on 9 Sept. (JR) and 12 Sept. (RA, GSR). A Red Phalarope at the Central Pk reservoir 22-26 Sept. was a first record for the park (M. Clayton, S. Taylor, photo DK), that it is the first record is not surprising since the species is rare even on the coast. Two Little Gulls, an adult and an imm, were at Montauk 25 Nov. (GT). Also at Montauk was an Iceland Gull on 2 Oct. (L & L Feldman). Lesser Black-backed Gull sightings continue to increase in the Region with at least five reported this fall: 22 Sept. at Smith Pt pk (GSR), 2 Oct. at Jones Inlet (S. Terrill, *et al.*), 21-25 Oct. at Central Pk reservoir (DK, *et al.*), 13 Nov. at Jones Inlet (M. Heindel) and 15 Nov. at Montauk Pt (PAB). A wide variety of terns were found in the Region this fall. Individual and groups of two and three Caspian Terns were seen at several locations along the south shore of LI in Sept. and Oct. The high count of Royal Terns was 43 at Mecox 1 Oct. (GSR). A Sandwich Tern was found at Shinnecock 9 Sept. (J. Greenlaw). Late, but not a record, was a Com. Tern at Montauk 25 Nov. (GT). An adult **ARCTIC TERN** was reported at Sagaponack Pd on 18 Sept. (GSR). Forster's Terns were widely reported in good numbers in mid Oct. with the peak being 80 at Mecox Bay on 12 Oct. (GSR); 12 Forster's at E. Moriches on 11 Nov. was a good number for so late (GSR, JR). As usual Black Terns were seen in scattered locations during the fall. A Dovekie was found on 11 Nov. in an exhausted condition at the Bronx Zoo following a storm; the bird died the next day (DK). A world's record flock of ornithologists was found at the American Ornithologists' Union's Centennial Meeting at the American Museum of Natural History this fall; over 1,200 gathered there 24-30 Sept. Reported at the gathering was a Great Auk pushing a six foot cake (photo on file at AMNH; no details to NYSARC).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: A few Snowy Owls were reported in early Nov. (*vide* GSR). An injured No. Saw-whet Owl was brought to the Quogue Refuge on 11 Nov. (JR); the species was also reported in its usual coastal pine grove locations. Red-headed Woodpeckers nested in Connetquot River SP this summer, apparently successfully; an adult was seen carrying food there on 15 Sept. (G. Bergen, *vide* FF). The species was also found widely in very good numbers along the south shore of LI throughout the season with as many as two or three seen at some locations (mob). Red-bellied Woodpeckers are not too common along the barrier beaches, so one sighted at Breezy Pt on 8 Oct. by the hawk watchers there was a good find (HR). On 23 Sept. an "enormous flight" of No. Flickers was reported along Jones Beach (LS); nearby on Fire I. one hawk watcher counted 167 flickers in one ten minute period (DP).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Five reports of Western Kingbird were received: 9 Sept. at Rockville Ctr (AW), 22 Sept. at Breezy Pt (HR), 8 Oct. at RMSP (DP, J. McConville), 10 Oct. at Riis Pk (MS) and 15-19 Nov. at Montauk (PAB, PG). There was a large concentration of Fish Crows at BLSF in late Nov.; an estimated 125 birds were there on 26 Nov. (GSR), and an estimated 500-600 were there on 29 Nov. (FF, H. Warner, E. Fisher), the latter number is two to three times the previous maximum ever reported in the state. A strong flight of Black-capped Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches was reported (THD) perhaps presaging a winter finch flight. A good movement of Golden-crowned Kinglets was reported on 30 Oct. with hundreds at Fire I. that day (J. Lamoureux). A large flight of thrushes, mostly Swainson's Thrushes and Veerys, occurred on Jones Beach on 8 Sept. (EL). Am. Robins were noted moving thru in good numbers in late Sept. with 70 seen on one lawn in VanCortlandt Pk on 28 Sept. (WS). A huge flight of Cedar Waxwings was reported on 23 Sept. when the hawk watchers at Breezy Pt estimated 1,100 birds (HR). The only shrike reported for the region was an imm No. Shrike at Smith Pt Pk on 27 Nov. (R. Miller).

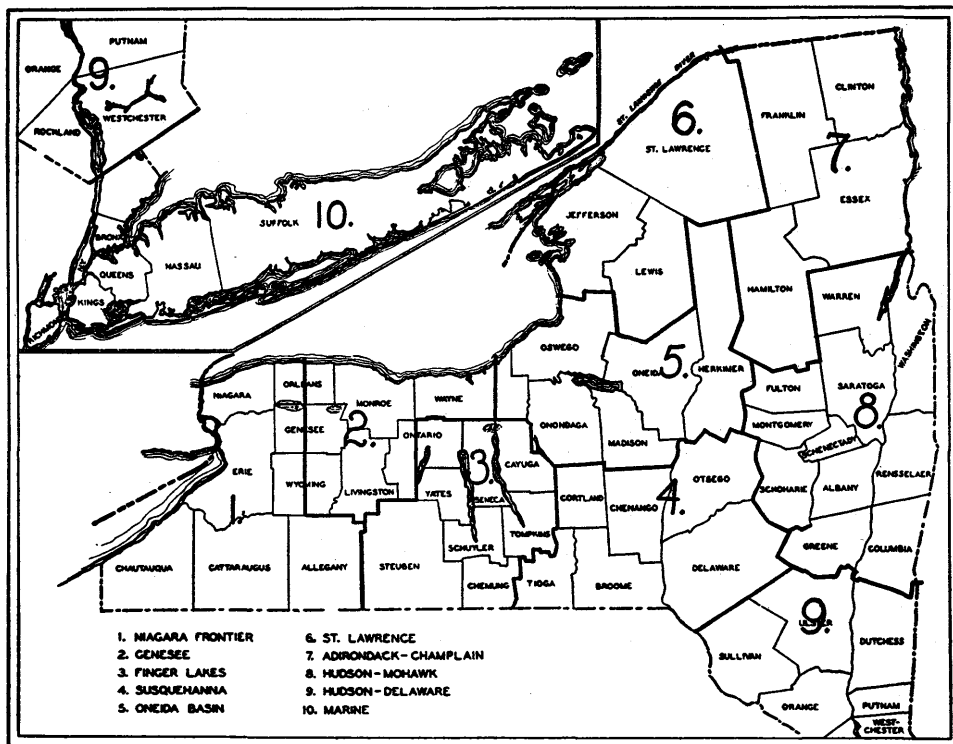
VIREOS-WARBBLERS: Besides being a rare find on the coast at any time, a Yellow-throated Vireo at Jones Beach on 13 Oct. was a near record late date (AW). Late, but also not a record, was a Warbling Vireo in Flushing Meadow Pk on 22 Oct. (GT). Among the late-lingering warblers were a No. Parula at JBWR 6 Nov. (JD) and a male Black-throated Blue

Warbler at RMSP 1 Nov. (FF, A. Clerke). Large numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers were noted by the hawk watchers at Fire I. on 23 Sept. and 7 & 9 Oct. (DP). A lingering Am. Redstart was found at BLSP on 8 Nov. (FF). Two Prothonotary Warblers, a rare fall migrant in the Region, were found: a female 10 Sept. at JBWR (S. Birnbach) and a male 18 Sept. at Jones Beach (EL, AW). The banding operation at Seatuck banded two Connecticut Warblers and two Yellow-breasted Chats this fall (RH).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: A rare fall Summer Tanager was at Tobay 3 Sept. (EL); an even rarer WESTERN TANAGER was discovered there 16 Oct. (M. Kleinbaum). The previously noted flight day of 23 Sept. included good numbers of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks with a "large flight" at Jones Beach (LS) and 40 at Fire I. (RK). Blue Grosbeaks were seen at Zach's Bay 17 Sept. (FF) and Breezy Pt 10 Oct. (HR, R. Kelly). A total of five Dickcissels were reported from 8 Sept.-13 Nov., all on the Jones Beach strip (mob). Reports of some of the rarer western sparrows seemed to be in twos this fall. Two Clay-colored Sparrows: one 24 Sept. on Jones Beach (EL) was perhaps a result of the big flight of migrants the day before and another was at Riis Pk on 15 Oct. (SBD). One to two Lark Sparrows: 8-10 Sept. at Jones Beach (EL, *et al.*) and possibly a different bird there on 15 Sept. (AW). Single Henslow's Sparrows were at JBWR on 29 Sept. (H. Fischer) and Ft. Tilden on 15 Oct. (MS, B. Baker). Snow Buntings were found in a number of locations in early Nov. but the peak count was 140 at Smith Point Beach on 11 Nov. (JR). A "big flight" of Bobolinks was noted on Jones Beach 8 Sept. (EL). An imm female YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD was discovered at Jones Beach SP on 18 Sept. (AW, S. Schiff). A female Boat-tailed Grackle was found 18 Sept. in Howard Beach, Queens (G. Dadone), this is just north of Jamaica Bay where they have bred in recent years. A large flock of 2,300 Com. Grackles was at Jerome Pk on 31 Oct. (WS); perhaps they were from nearby VanCortlandt Pk where a roost produced record numbers of the species last winter. Pine Siskins were reported moving thru the Region from late Sept. on with peak numbers on 30 Oct. when 300 were estimated at Tobay (A. Lauro) and "hundreds" elsewhere along the Jones Beach strip (AW, SBD). On 2 Oct. there was a large movement of Am. Goldfinches with 2,500 estimated at Breezy Pt (HR). The season ended with numerous reports of Evening Grosbeaks in late Nov.: 24 at Manorville 22 Nov. (GSR), five at RMSP 26 Nov. (RA, GSR), 15-20 at East Hampton (NB), etc.

*Great Gull Island Project, A.M.N.H.,
Central Park West at 79th St., New York, New York 10024*

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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