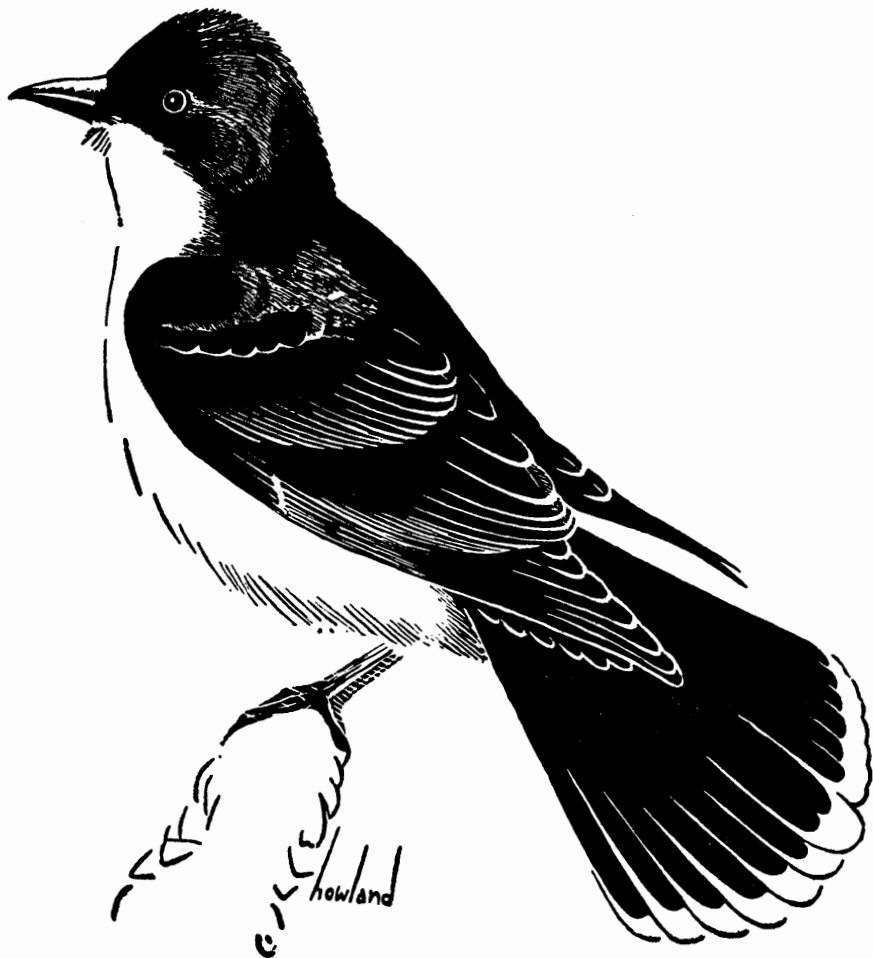


The **KINGBIRD**



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WINTER • 1985

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

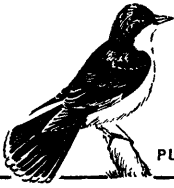
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Highlights of the Season

Editor – Robert Spahn

Circulation Manager – Constance N. Wilkins

Cover Design – Douglas L. Howland

BIRDING BAEDEKER OFFERED TO MEMBERS

Where to Find Birds in New York State: The Top 500 Sites. Susan Roney Drennan. 1981. Syracuse University Press. This bird-finding guide in paperback is being offered to members of the Federation during 1985 for the discount price of \$13.50.

Following are excerpts from a review by John Farrand, Jr., in *The Kingbird*, Volume XXXII, No. 4 (Fall, 1982):

"In preparing this monumental work, the author seems to have thought of everything. *Where to Find Birds in New York State* is a comprehensive and detailed guide to more than 500 birding localities in the state. Descriptions of these top sites are arranged according to the ten regions currently recognized in the Regional Reports in *The Kingbird*. Preceding the guide to localities are a discussion of the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC), complete with instructions on how to report a rarity and a sample form; a section on Rare Bird Alerts in the state; a directory of research collections and ornithological libraries in New York State; and detailed physiographic and ecological descriptions of each of the ten regions. Following the site descriptions are specialized chapters on pelagic birding (covering the whole New York Bight), and on hawk migration sites, a useful bibliography, and an index to the localities covered in the guide.

"It is the descriptions of birding localities that form the bulk of the book—some 400 pages and 106 maps, many of them drafted by the author herself—that merit the most attention here. The amount of information presented is almost overwhelming. Not only is each site discussed in terms of the birds to be found there—their abundance, seasons of occurrence, and status, notes on "special" species and hints on how to find them—but a wealth of supplementary ecological information is provided as well, information that will surely entice the most determined and hurried lister to slow down and take greater notice of the habitat and how the birds fit into it. Such detailed descriptions of the habitats, with lists of dominant trees and shrubs, greatly increase the usefulness of the book. Careful directions for locating each site are provided, and happily, these directions *work*, a feature that not every birding Baedeker can boast."

Orders should be sent to Myrna Hemmerick, Membership Chairman, P.O. Box 2203, Setauket, NY 11733. This discount price of \$13.50 is for members only (remit in U.S. funds; N.Y.S. residents add sales tax.)

BANK SWALLOW AND BELTED KINGFISHER NEST IN DREDGE SPOIL ON THE TIDAL HUDSON RIVER

ERIK KIVIAT, ROBERT E. SCHMIDT, and NANCY ZEISING

Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) breeding colonies have been found in stream, lake, and sea banks, gravel and sand pits, road and railroad cuts, sawdust and coal dust piles, mine tailings, cut peat faces, and an abandoned dry well (Stoner 1936, Bent 1963, Bull 1974, Wilson 1981, Limbert 1983). Bank Swallows require steep banks of relatively loose material, and the natural nesting sites are typically waterway banks where action of waves or currents maintains a steep face. Bent (1963) noted that Bank Swallows are more common in glaciated areas where sand and gravel outwash deposits occur. Occasionally clay banks are used (Bull 1974).

There are many sand and gravel pit nesting sites where mining maintains steep banks (Freer 1979), but nesting colonies may shift from site to site in response to substrate changes. The ability of Bank Swallows to shift among changing nesting habitats readily permits the swallows to accept artificial sites. However, Hoagland and Sherman (1976) inferred that coloniality evolved in the Bank Swallow for protection from predation and not because of a lack of nesting habitat.

The Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*) also shows behavioral plasticity, and typically digs its nest burrows in sand, gravel or clay banks. These are either natural eroding banks of lakes, streams or wetlands, or man-made sites such as banks of canals, surface mines, and road or railroad cuts (Stoner 1932, Trautman 1940, Bent 1964, Hamas 1974). More unusual nesting sites reported include sand dunes, sawdust piles, sanitary land fills, mud slides formed by beaver, a "dead furrow" in a plowed hillside field, and holes in dead trees or stumps over water or on land (Bent 1964, Hamas 1974, Hopkins 1980, Weber and Miller 1981). Davis (1982) believed that optimal nesting banks were in short supply along an Ohio stream, because of substrate texture and distance from favored feeding riffles. Hamas (1974) also thought natural nesting banks scarce in a Minnesota locality because of slumping and vegetation development.

On 3 June 1982, we found an active nesting colony of Bank Swallows in an eroding scarp of an old dredge spoil island in the tidal Hudson River at Stockport Middle Ground, Columbia County (US Geological Survey, Hudson North, NY 1953). The bank was about 100 meters long and four meters high (above high tide), on the southwest corner of the island, and facing southwest. The site is 300-600 meters across open water from other shores. The bank was composed of sand with a few

thin layers of woody material, the upper half nearly vertical, the lower half loose and at angle-of-repose. The top of the bank had a turf composed of herbaceous and woody vegetation including Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*), and grape (*Vitis* sp.). A dozen swallows flushed from more than 100 burrows; more were flying nearby. The holes were in the upper (vertical) two meters of the bank.

On 14 September 1982, EK returned to the site. Many of the holes that had been visible in June seemed obliterated. Another nesting site was found in a second spoil deposit 1.3 kilometers northward on the south end of the Gays Point peninsula. This was a sandy bank facing southwest, 20 meters long and four meters high, nearly vertical throughout, with a turf of Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*), vines and herbs. A few herbs grew on the face and vines hung down from the top. About 10-20 Bank Swallow holes were visible near the top of the bank.

On 30 May 1983, EK and Pete Salmansohn counted 319 Bank Swallow burrows at the Stockport Middle Ground colony. This count included all burrows that did not visibly dead-end; the number of active burrows may have been less. Many Bank Swallows were flying around and entering and leaving burrows.

On 3 June 1982 a kingfisher was seen perched on the Stockport Middle Ground bank. On 14 September 1982 at the Gays Point bank, EK found a blind burrow too large for a Bank Swallow that showed paired grooves at the lip, indicative of a Belted Kingfisher (Bent 1964). On 30 May 1983, EK observed a kingfisher enter a nest burrow in the Stockport Middle Ground bank. This burrow was in the midst of the Bank Swallow colony but was separated from the nearest swallow burrows by two to three meters on both sides.

Episodes of navigation channel dredging occurred between 1926 and 1930 and between 1935 and 1940 in the general upper tidal Hudson (City of Hudson to Albany), and spoil was probably deposited at Stockport Middle Ground and Gays Point peninsula during one or both of those periods (Malcolm Pirnie Engineers 1981). The Gays Point peninsula is shown on the 1953 USGS map as two parts of a peninsula separated by a channel. The channel no longer existed in 1982 and was presumably filled during the most recent dredging episode in the vicinity of Stockport, 1957-59.

Stockport Middle Ground and Gays Point peninsula were constructed as peripheral berms about six meters high with ponded interiors. The westerly exposures of the berms are subject to erosion by wind, waves, and ship wakes that sap localized areas with resulting steep sand banks. The sites of the spoil deposits were originally tidal wetlands or shallows.

Both sites are part of the Hudson River National Estuarine Sanctuary, and of Hudson River Islands State Park.

Our observations indicate that Bank Swallows and Belted Kingfishers nest in eroding banks of sandy dredge spoil. We are unable to find published reports of the use of this nest substrate by these species. Unpublished Significant Habitat Reports of the Significant Habitats Unit, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, mention Bank Swallows nesting in dredge spoil at Stockport Middle Ground, and also at Middle Ground Flats about five kilometers downriver near the city of Hudson. Other similar spoil banks occur between Catskill and Albany; Bank Swallows and Belted Kingfishers could nest at these other sites. This is not justification for further disposal of spoil in wetlands and shallows. Future spoil disposal will probably be done on upland sites near the river (Malcolm Pirnie Engineers 1981), and these future spoil deposits could be designed to provide additional nesting habitat for Bank Swallows and Belted Kingfishers.

This is Bard College Field Station - Hudsonia Contribution 28.

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Hudsonia, Bard College, Annandale, New York 12504

BRADDOCK BAY SPRING HAWK MIGRATIONS

Laura W. Moon and Neil S. Moon

INTRODUCTION

The Braddock Bay Hawk Lookout is part of a nationwide network of lookouts monitoring the spring migration of hawks as they move north to their nesting grounds. It is one of several spring lookouts on the Great Lakes, some of the others being Whitefish Point on Lake Superior; Grimsby, Ontario, at the western end of Lake Ontario; and Derby Hill, New York, at the eastern end of Lake Ontario (Figure 1). Since the formation of the Hawk Migration Association of North America in 1974, numerous spring lookouts have been manned across the continent, from Alaska and Washington, south to the Rio Grande, and east to the New Jersey coast. The purpose of this paper is to give a brief history of Braddock Bay, to show the effect of the topography and weather on the migration, to describe the methods used in counting, and to discuss the species and numbers recorded at the site for the eight year period from 1977-1984, with some references to 1949-1950.

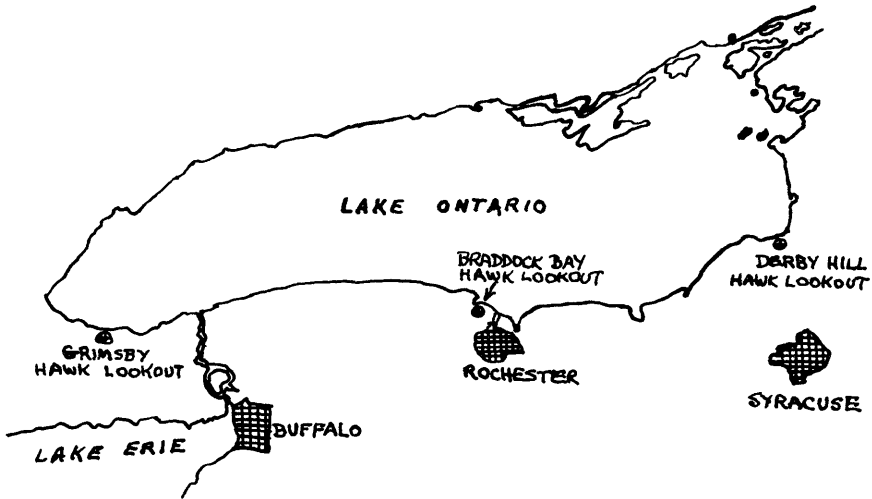


Figure 1. SPRING HAWK LOOKOUTS ON LAKE ONTARIO

HISTORY

Spring hawk migrations of large proportions along the south shore of Lake Ontario have been known for more than 80 years. Early in this century, Dr. Elon Howard Eaton, author of *Birds of New York*, 1910-1914, wrote in *The Auk* (1904), "We wish to present some of the conclusions which have been reached as the result of observations made near Rochester during the spring of 1903. First, regarding the yearly migration of hawks, it has been confirmed that an incredible number of these birds pass each spring along the southern shore of Lake Ontario and move toward the east over the country south of the lake, evidently making their way around its eastern end toward the north. The height of the migration occurs during the latter part of April and the first week in May." Dr. Eaton goes on to describe the various species and then says, "Many [buteos] are often seen together or in the same field of view and, as far as I have noticed on these occasions, they are absolutely silent, and when one party has passed off the scene another appears going in the same direction. Thus there is a constant whirling stream passing over, sometimes during the greater part of the day . . . One morning at least one hundred of these birds [Sharp-shinned Hawks] passed over a single observer within two hours, and on another occasion we saw twenty-five of this species lying in one pile back of the little hotel on Buck Pond, where the proprietor had been trying his marksmanship after breakfast."

Unfortunately, many of the first observations of hawks in our area were made in this same manner, over the barrel of a gun. As far as we know, none of the shooting at Braddock Bay has been reported in the literature, but over the years several of the old time hunters have come to the Braddock Bay Hawk Lookout and have told us that they did shoot a lot of hawks. The attitude toward hawk shooting has changed, but none of these people wants to be identified or wants to tell exactly what took place. The last known shooting incident in the Braddock Bay area was of a Red-shouldered Hawk shot in 1950 on the West Spit, reported by Richard O'Hara (1950).

We have searched the literature during Eaton's time but can find no records of hawk flight data, no lists, and no attempt to assess the total migration as we do today. Eaton, in his *Birds of New York*, does mention flights along the south shore of Lake Ontario, all going east, of Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, Northern Goshawks, Red-tailed Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks, Peregrine Falcons, Merlins, and American Kestrels. Eaton writes about "hundreds" and "large flights," but gives very little in actual numbers. As we will show in this paper, the above nine hawks, plus six other species,

migrate regularly every spring at Braddock Bay, some in huge numbers.

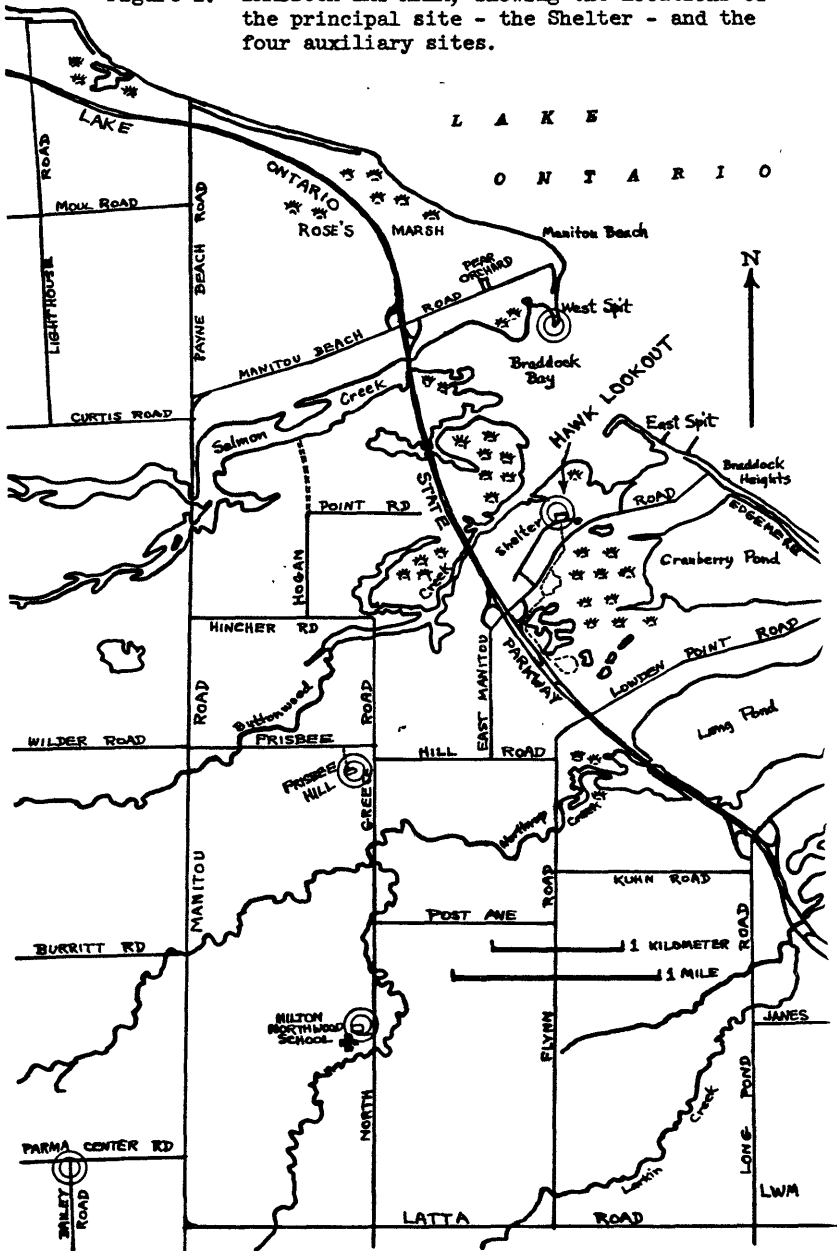
The Genesee Ornithological Society, a section of the Rochester Academy of Science, was established in 1938 and the large flights of hawks along the shore were well known to members of the organization at that time. The Genesee Ornithological Society published its first issue of *The Goshawk* in November 1947; and the following spring it began to publish hawk migration data. The next year, Walter Listman, Donald Wolf, and Donald Bieber set up a serious hawk watch at Braddock Bay. They had discovered "that a point on the East Manitou Road, about three-eighths of a mile south of Lake Ontario, was ideal. It was chosen because it was in the direct line of flight and afforded an excellent view in almost all directions." They covered the lookout on 50 of the most promising days that spring and recorded 21,621 raptors of 14 species, with only the Northern Goshawk missing. The following year they did a similar study, covering 55 days and recording 21,488 individuals of 15 species. Their data, with weather conditions, number of observers, and hours of observation, were published in *The Goshawk*. The 1949 records were published that year, but the 1950 records were not published until 1984.

Since that time, however, there were only reports of peak days or sporadic observations until Laura Moon sensed the need for something better, and in 1977 set up a hawk watch at Braddock Bay. She personally manned the watch that spring and went out every day that looked favorable for a hawk migration. This resulted in 49 days of observation and 22,566 raptors recorded. In 1978 she decided that the study should be conducted on a daily basis and was at the lookout every day from 27 Feb. to 30 June, a total of 120 consecutive days. The daily coverage has been continued since then. The authors have been the principal observers, assisted by others, whose help was indispensable, especially in manning the auxiliary lookouts on days when that was necessary.

DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

Braddock Bay Hawk Lookout is located on the lake plain along the south shore of Lake Ontario, in Monroe County, midway between the east and west ends of the lake. It is in Braddock Bay Park, about 10 miles northwest of the center of Rochester, New York, and is part of the Braddock Bay Fish and Wildlife Management Area consisting of 2325 acres which straddle Lake Ontario State Parkway and extend from Rose's Marsh on the northwest to Island Cottage Road on the southeast. Formerly a state park, the land was leased in 1981 by the State of New York to the Town of Greece for 99 years; the wetlands are under the supervision of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (hereafter DEC) and the uplands are under the supervision

Figure 2. BRADDOCK BAY AREA, showing the locations of the principal site - the Shelter - and the four auxiliary sites.



of the Town of Greece. The land slopes gently up from the lake and there are few hills or ridges to obstruct the view. The countryside is partly farm land under cultivation and partly abandoned fields in various stages of vegetative succession, interspersed with woodlands and large marshes which provide some of the best waterfowl nest sites in the state.

The hawk lookout is in the area of the Braddock Bay Park picnic shelter on the south side of the bay, on an access road off the East Manitou Road (Figure 2). The latter road is an exit on the Lake Ontario State Parkway 6.2 miles west of Lake Avenue in Rochester. In 1984, a hawk observation platform was constructed by the Town of Greece. It was funded jointly by the Town of Greece and the DEC with "Return a Gift to Wildlife" money. Under severe weather conditions, observations are moved to the perimeter of the Shelter, a covered picnic area, with wide overhanging eaves which provide protection from high winds, blowing snow, extreme cold, and rain or drizzle.

The Great Lakes with their extremely cold water during the spring, not conducive to producing thermals, act as a barrier to northward migrating hawks. When hawks reach Lake Erie, most turn northeast along the shoreline, but a few go around the western end of Lake Erie. When the stream of hawks moving northeast reaches Lake Ontario, some go west, but larger numbers turn east along the south shore and thus come to Braddock Bay (Figure 1). Here the shoreline changes from a generally east-west direction to almost due southeast for twelve miles to Irondequoit Bay, before resuming its east-west direction. Hawks coming along the shoreline from the west see open water ahead and turn southeast, converging in a more narrow band at the hawk lookout. It is due to this topographical feature that there is such a large concentration of hawks at Braddock Bay during their migration in spring.

Many migrating accipiters and falcons, plus some other hawks, cannot be seen from the principal lookout at the Shelter, because they fly low along the shore of Lake Ontario or out over the lake for some distance, more or less parallel with the shore. The best place to see these and count them is the West Spit of Braddock Bay (1.1 mile directly north and across the bay from the principal lookout) (Figure 2). This is one of four auxiliary lookouts. If this lookout was not manned on a part-time basis, as well as the others described below, the count would include only part of the migration along the south shore of the lake. For example, on 14 Apr. 1983, 1057 American Kestrels were counted from the West Spit and only 109 at the Shelter. If an observer had not been at the West Spit, only 109 American Kestrels would have been counted, and the biggest one day flight (1166) of American Kestrels ever recorded in the area would have been missed.

Under certain weather conditions, large numbers of buteos are found migrating inland on a path more or less parallel with the Lake Ontario shoreline which, as was described earlier, turns southeast at Braddock Bay. This inland migration is usually caused by the "lake effect." When the land becomes warm during the day, the heated air rises. If the southwest wind is not strong enough, at least 10 mph, a cold breeze may suddenly come off Lake Ontario from the northeast, underneath the warm rising air. The temperature may drop 10° in a few minutes, and the kettles of hawks will no longer be seen at the principal lookout. The hawk flight sometimes stops entirely, but often the hawks turn southeast before they get to the bay and fly at various distances inland and parallel to the lake shore, depending on how far inland the cold breeze extends. By moving inland, one can frequently locate the stream of migrating hawks. This "lake effect" was well known to hawk watchers at Braddock Bay as early as the 1940's and it was known to the hunters before that.

Observations at Frisbee Hill (1.5 miles southwest of the Shelter) show that the path of migration near the shoreline sometimes spreads over a wide band, or shifts to a relatively narrow band inland. The other two observation sites, much less frequently used, are the Hilton-Northwood School (2.7 miles southwest of the Shelter) and Bailey Road (3.8 miles southwest of the Shelter). These four auxiliary observation sites were selected after much trial and error and provide a series of points across the line of migration. We have searched farther inland, and although migrating hawks and even kettles have been seen as much as 15 miles inland, there seems to be no consistent inland line of flight.

To better illustrate the use of auxiliary sites, Table 1 gives the number of raptors seen at each site during 1982, which could be called a typical year. The figures in parentheses are the hours of observation at each particular site and in many cases are overlapping.

We sometimes monitor these stations simultaneously and sometimes they are done sequentially. It all depends on where the raptors are to be found. When we conduct simultaneous observations, walkie-talkies are used whenever possible, and we have strict rules about what is counted in order to prevent duplication. For example, we always compare notes and times at the end of the day, before we go home, and make a decision to eliminate any possible duplication. We are sure we drop some perfectly good records at times. Separate daily forms are kept for each location. (Moon and Moon 1985).

Table 1. SPRING HAWK COUNT 1982, showing the counts at the principal site – the Shelter – and the four auxiliary sites. Figures in parentheses are hours of observation.

WINTER, 1985	Shelter	West Spit	Frisbee Hill	School	Bailey Road	Shelter	West Spit	Frisbee Hill	School	Bailey Road
	Feb.					Apr.				
	26	4 (4.0)				1	28 (4.3)	7 (0.8)		
	27	5 (6.0)				2	27 (6.5)			
	28	0 (5.0)				3	32 (5.5)	84 (2.5)		
	Mar.					4	13 (4.8)			
	1	18 (7.3)				5	3 (4.0)			
	2	0 (4.0)				6	5 (1.0)			
	3	4 (5.0)				7	0 (3.5)			
	4	0 (1.3)				8	5 (4.0)			
	5	14 (6.3)				9	43 (6.0)			
	6	4 (5.5)				10	131 (7.5)	21 (2.5)		
	7	0 (4.0)				11	78 (5.5)	10 (2.0)		
	8	1 (5.0)				12	55 (5.0)			
	9	6 (4.8)				13	86 (5.5)	147 (2.5)		
	10	0 (3.5)				14	95 (5.5)			
	11	4 (8.2)	7 (2.0)			15	55 (5.5)			
	12	4 (6.0)				16	3169 (9.5)	847 (7.5)		
	13	544 (11.0)	112 (6.5)			17	3432 (8.5)	1404 (4.5)	543 (3.0)	
	14	56 (8.0)				18	110 (8.5)			
	15	6 (5.0)				19	66 (5.5)		15 (0.5)	18 (1.0)
	16	6 (4.0)				20	13 (5.5)			
	17	0 (2.5)				21	10 (4.0)			
	18	93 (5.0)				22	12 (4.5)			
	19	14 (4.5)				23	200 (7.0)	159 (3.0)		
	20	22 (6.0)				24	2426 (11.0)			
	21	125 (6.5)	29 (4.0)			25	1740 (9.0)		329 (1.8)	248 (2.0)
	22	146 (6.5)				26	910 (5.5)			149 (1.3)
	23	48 (5.0)		6 (1.0)		27	33 (6.0)			
	24	482 (7.0)				28	3 (2.5)			
	25	8 (4.0)				29	164 (7.0)	127 (3.0)		
	26	0 (2.5)				30	199 (7.5)	142 (3.0)		
	27	0 (5.5)								
	28	38 (7.5)								
	29	56 (7.3)	11 (2.0)							
	30	20 (8.5)	10 (4.0)							
	31	1277 (8.0)	293 (8.0)							

Table 1. SPRING HAWK COUNT 1982, showing the counts at the principal site – the Shelter – and the four auxiliary sites. Figures in parentheses are hours of observation.

	Shelter	WestSpit	Frisbee Hill	School	Bailey Road	Shelter	WestSpit	Frisbee Hill	School	Bailey Road
May						June				
1	270 (5.8)	86 (3.5)				1	737 (7.0)		25 (1.7)	
2	345 (7.0)	90 (2.7)				2	43 (2.3)		28 (2.7)	
3	535 (6.3)					3	1 (1.5)			
4	327 (7.0)					4	1 (3.0)			
5	264 (7.5)					5	0 (0.5)			
6	2623 (7.5)	274 (2.5)				6	0 (1.3)			
7	470 (4.0)	441 (3.5)		73 (1.2)	73 (0.5)	7	8 (4.0)	2 (1.3)		
8	0 (1.0)					8	4 (4.0)			
9	221 (7.5)	130 (5.0)				9	17 (3.5)	0 (0.8)		
10	74 (6.5)					10	390 (7.5)	24 (0.5)		
11	17 (3.0)					11	37 (7.0)			
12	48 (3.7)	141 (2.8)	235 (3.8)			12	24 (3.5)			
13	21 (3.3)		112 (2.5)			13	81 (4.3)			30 (1.3)
14	107 (3.3)			146 (4.5)		14	36 (4.0)			
15	21 (3.2)	6 (1.5)		85 (3.5)		15	0 (1.5)		3 (1.3)	
16	246 (2.7)	25 (1.5)	104 (1.8)			16	14 (2.5)			
17	13 (1.2)			16 (1.0)		17	24 (3.0)			
18	13 (2.5)	13 (0.5)				18	0 (2.5)		9 (1.5)	
19	1690 (10.0)	295 (7.5)	153 (1.0)			19	3 (3.8)			
20	314 (7.0)					20	22 (3.5)			
21	16 (4.0)					21	12 (3.8)			
22	0 (1.5)					22	0 (3.0)			
23	16 (7.0)					23	0 (3.0)			
24	1 (2.8)					24	2 (2.3)			
25	43 (4.5)		104 (2.8)			25	1 (3.0)			
26	96 (1.8)		142 (3.3)	57 (3.5)		26	0 (1.0)			
27	0 (2.3)	17 (2.7)				27	0 (2.0)		0 (1.3)	
28	36 (5.5)	4 (2.8)				28	0 (1.5)		2 (1.0)	
29	56 (2.3)	50 (1.3)	706 (4.0)	118 (1.8)		29	0 (1.5)			
30	431 (2.8)		12 (0.8)	21 (0.8)		30	0 (5.5)			
31	879 (5.0)	869 (5.5)								

WEATHER AND MIGRATION

Optimum conditions for a good hawk flight at Braddock Bay occur when there is a strong southwest wind, 10 miles per hour or more, accompanied by rising temperatures. These conditions occur when a low pressure system approaches from the west and passes north of Rochester. Hawks will be grounded if there is precipitation. Most will not fly in the rain, except for accipiters which often continue to fly in a light drizzle. Precipitation west of Rochester, even as far away as the Ohio Valley, can hold back the hawks and prevent a good flight at Braddock Bay, even though it is dry locally and wind and temperature conditions are right. Also, if the southwest winds occur on the back of a high pressure system located east of Rochester—and not as a result of a low pressure system north of Rochester—hawks will not pass in large numbers. On the other hand, good flights can occur at times when the wind is from directions other than southwest. A warm air mass moving north from the Gulf of Mexico, as shown on television weather maps, is a good indication in spring that hawks are moving north with it.

The traditional starting day for the hawk watch at Braddock Bay is the 27th of February, but if warm southwest winds occur earlier in the month, hawks will arrive sooner. In 1984, the flight started on 19 Feb. with eleven hawks of three species. By 26 Feb. there were 104 hawks of seven species, including an immature Bald Eagle. A blizzard completely wiped out the next three days.

The peak of migration usually takes place in the last ten days of April or the first week of May, when the massive flights of Broad-winged Hawks come through. Each species has its own pattern as is shown in Table 2, compiled from the past eight years of data.

The hawk watch is continued until 30 June, because hawks may still be migrating in good numbers. In that month, almost all birds are immatures. In June 1979, there were 3628 raptors of ten species, including four Bald Eagles. Bald Eagles and Ospreys have been seen in June in all of the eight years, and three Golden Eagles have been seen in June.

At Braddock Bay, there are not only spectacular numbers of hawks in spring, but thousands of other birds are concentrated along the lakeshore. On outstanding migration days, there are flocks of Scarlet Tanagers, Northern Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and thousands of Blue Jays, etc. Most of the birds migrate east, but some species, like Canada Goose, Tundra Swan, and others, go west.

Table 2. EIGHT YEAR HAWK SUMMARY

	Arrives Range	Peak Day Range	Departs Range	Maximum in One Single Day	Total
Turkey Vulture	9-29 Mar.	30 Mar- 7 May	17-30 June	31 Mar 1982	533
Osprey	1-13 Apr	26 Apr-12 May	7-29 June	30 Apr 1984	35
Bald Eagle	23 Feb-27 Apr	31 Mar-25 May	21 May-21 June	4 Apr 1983	5
Northern Harrier	16 Feb-7 Mar	29 Mar-21 Apr	12-30 June	14 Apr 1984	152
Sharp-shinned Hawk	22 Feb-20 Mar	17 Apr-11 May	1-30 June	7 May 1983	4944
Cooper's Hawk	3-22 Mar	29 Mar-17 Apr	6-30 May	17 Apr 1982	48
Northern Goshawk	22 Feb-20 Mar	23 Mar-14 Apr	26 Apr-23 May	4 Apr 1983	42
Red-shouldered Hawk	1-22 Mar	15 Mar-4 Apr	20 Apr-22 May	4 Apr 1983	316
Broad-winged Hawk	12-18 Apr	21 Apr-9 May	18-30 June	27 Apr 1984	19,879
Red-tailed Hawk	15 Feb-11 Mar	15 Mar-16 Apr	1-30 June	14 Apr 1984	861
Rough-legged Hawk	15 Feb-11 Mar	23 Feb-26 Apr	1 May-2 June	28 Mar 1978	91
Golden Eagle	24 Mar-16 Apr	4 Apr-9 May	21 Apr-8 June	21 Apr 1979	5
American Kestrel	23 Feb-11 Mar	29 Mar-20 Apr	3-30 June	14 Apr 1983	1166
Merlin	16 Mar-13 Apr	29 Mar-7 May	28 Apr-23 May	30 Apr 1984	4
Peregrine Falcon	13 Mar-16 Apr	25 Mar-19 May	15 May-10 June	25 Mar 1979	2
				26 Apr 1983	2
				12 May 1984	2
				19 May 1982	2
Swainson's Hawk, one seen 20 May 1979					

METHODS

The instructions and the printed forms supplied by the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) are used for keeping records, with a separate form for each day, and separate forms are also used for each site when auxiliary lookouts are utilized. Numbers of hawks are recorded for each hour, along with weather data, including maximum visibility in kilometers, air temperatures in Celsius, cloud cover and precipitation, wind speed, wind direction, flight direction, number of observers and minutes observed for each hour in the field. We use a weathervane, a Dwyer wind meter, a thermometer, and a weather cube radio for detailed weather reports during the day, the latter being helpful in determining what the weather is west of Braddock Bay. Notes are made of pertinent facts, such as the age of Bald and Golden Eagles and whether or not they are tagged.

The daily forms are forwarded to HMANA and are ultimately stored at Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania. Eventually they will be put on computer. A compilation of the information, along with the data from other hawk lookouts, spring and fall, is published in *The Newsletter of the Hawk Migration Association of North America*. A condensed form of the Braddock Bay data is published each month during the hawk watch in *The Goshawk*, publication of the Genesee Ornithological Society.

The condensed hawk counts for the past eight years of observations, 1977-1984, plus the two years in 1949-1950 are in Table 3. This table shows a rather steady increase in total numbers, but this may be misleading due to the fact that the increased use of auxiliary sites has had a big effect on the total numbers. Details of the individual species are given below.

Because of space limitations, only the daily hawk counts for 1984 have been included (Table 4). This table clearly shows that the migration starts slowly in late February, builds to a peak in late April, and finally tapers off to practically nothing by the end of June.

Table 3. BRADDOCK BAY SPRING HAWK COUNTS

	1949	1950	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Turkey Vulture	56	27	858	1,150	1,638	1,626	1,707	2,512	2,133	2,632
Osprey	47	66	40	96	218	107	96	148	88	125
Bald Eagle	113	68	3	14	26	14	18	39	36	24
Northern Harrier	253	392	182	360	570	437	339	555	647	739
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3,336	3,606	1,923	6,271	4,879	7,714	4,612	8,452	10,573	9,515
Cooper's Hawk	102	199	59	74	133	142	124	167	220	216
Northern Goshawk	0	4	8	39	43	22	11	76	141	90
Red-shouldered Hawk	121	453	265	181	436	283	395	243	623	514
Broad-winged Hawk	15,941	15,011	16,919	8,300	22,142	24,204	15,927	18,608	30,037	44,347
Swainson's Hawk	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Red-tailed Hawk	1,069	1,128	1,156	1,763	2,687	2,823	2,297	3,010	3,008	3,494
Rough-legged Hawk	139	140	174	442	419	231	275	411	330	547
Golden Eagle	7	10	4	14	16	8	6	11	9	11
American Kestrel	98	145	109	683	702	536	488	999	1,772	558
Merlin	5	11	0	4	8	6	7	16	13	16
Peregrine Falcon	4	18	1	6	6	3	2	4	5	6
Unidentified raptor	330	210	865	496	922	644	777	986	354	461
Total	21,621	21,488	22,566	19,893	34,846	38,800	27,081	36,237	49,989	63,295
Days	50	55	49	120	123	127	136	125	126	122
Hours	265	235	214	646	794	638	626	665	625	623

TABLE 4. 1984 DAILY HAWK COUNTS

See key to abbreviations – Table 3

	Hours	Wind	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	GO	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UR	Total
WINTER, 1985	Feb.																		
	19	2.00	SSW			6						2	3						11
	22	4.00	SW-SSW			6	2		1			22							31
	23	6.50	SW-NE			1	6					31	2		1			2	43
	24	6.50	SW-NW				7	2		1		6	2		1				19
	27	4.00	E-NE				1												1
	28	0.00	Snow																
	29	0.00	Snow																
		23.00		0	0	1	26	4	0	2	0	0	61	7	0	2	0	0	2
19	Mar																		
	1	0.00	Snow																
	2	0.50	W																
	3	2.00	W																
	4	5.75	WSW-N																
	5	1.00	SW						1										
	6	6.50	W-WNW																
	7	2.25	NW-W																
	8	2.00	E																
	9	4.00	N-NW							1									
	10	6.00	SW-WSW							1			5	1				1	8
	11	1.75	W			1							1						2
	12	5.00	NE										1		1				2
	13	4.00	SE				1												1
	14	5.00	NW											1					1
	15	7.25	E				1						1						2
	16	4.50	SW-WSW							1									1
	17	3.50	NE																0
	18	3.00	NE																0
	19	2.00	NE				1												1
	20	6.00	NE-SE-NE				3			1			3			2			9
21	4.00	E				4								1				5	
22	7.00	SW	1			21	1	2	6	4		95	18		13			5	
23	4.00	W	2			2						7	1					1	
24	7.00	WSW-NW	5			13	1		6	12		55	1		3			31	
25	6.50	NE	3			6	2		1	4		49	3					12	
26	5.30	N	5			2	1					2						2	
27	6.50	NNE	17			6		2		3		9			1			8	
28	3.50	NE	1			1						1			1			4	
29	0.00	Snow																	
30	4.50	NE-NW	13			4			2	9		22							
31	8.00	NW	13			9	23	5	6	67		180	10		1		1	32	
	128.30		60	0	1	74	28	9	26	99	0	430	36	0	23	0	1	92	879

Table 4. 1984 DAILY HAWK COUNTS

	Hours	Wind	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	GO	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UR	Total	
Apr																				
1	8.00	W-NW	69			10	15	4	5	124		73	4		1		1	8	314	
2	8.00	SW-N	87		1	9	28	7		87		84	1		6			12	322	
3	7.25	NE-E	51			1	6			4		11	1					3	77	
4	7.50	SE-NE	98			2	10	2				13	1	1	9			15	151	
5	2.50	E				1													1	
6	8.75	SW-WSW	42	1	3	17	66	5	5	46		208	13		22			8	436	
7	4.50	WNW-NW	1			1	1					1						1	5	
8	6.75	NNW-N	125			18	19	9	2	8		105	3		5			9	303	
9	5.50	NE	35			2	4	1				10			2				54	
10	8.00	NE-NW	221	1	2	29	31	6	2	15		173	7					4	491	
11	8.25	NNE-NE	172		1	4	19	2	2	15		76	1		4		1	8	305	
12	6.25	NE	114	1		7	27	8	4	4		73	4		1			3	246	
13	9.25	NE-SE				1	3	1							4	1			10	
14	9.50	SE-E	507	5	2	152	1121	36	10	56		861	54	1	80			92	2977	
15	7.75	NE-E	12	1		14	53	7							24	2		7	121	
16	1.00	NE																	0	
17	6.00	NW-NE	9	1		41	66	10	8	7	10	56	13	1	3			5	230	
18	6.50	NE-NNE	58	4		4	78	9	2	27	3	162	34		3			67	451	
19	5.75	NNE				1	6												7	
20	10.00	NWN-WSW	23	3	1	98	250	9	2	5	7	169	65	2	110			5	749	
21	7.00	WNW	35			8	23	3			17	41	11		5			3	146	
22	5.75	NE-E	17	1		1	2					2	1		3				27	
23	5.50	SE-E	1	1		3	7	1					3		3			3	22	
24	2.00	WNW																	0	
25	8.00	NW-WNW	41	1		13	68	5	1	4	267	47	36		2			37	522	
26	10.00	W-NE-E	90	4		25	431	6		1	5808	110	29		19	1		19	6543	
27	9.50	SE-E	66	6	1	16	965	11	3		19,879	118	58	2	64			2	21,191	
28	7.50	S-SE-N	50	18	4	47	2383	6	4	6	7710	62	64	1	30	1		8*	10,394	
29	6.00	NE-N	60	8		12	528	18	4	3	1697	86	58		5	3		11	2493	
30	7.00	SW-WSW	122	35	1	45	2089	8	4		1581	57	22		101	4			4069	
			205.25	2106	91	16	582	8299	174	58	412	36979	2598	484	8	506	12	2	330	52657

See key to abbreviations – Table 3

* includes one unidentified eagle

Table 4. 1984 DAILY HAWK COUNTS

	Hours	Wind	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	GO	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UR	Total	
May 1	7.00	WSW	10	4		3	37	4			2	18	1	2				1	82	
2	6.75	NW	16	1		1	85				8	5				1			117	
3	4.00	ENE-NE	1				3												4	
4	0.00	Rain																		
5	7.00	NW-W	3	1		6	81		1		32	34	2		3	1		2	166	
6	8.00	W-NE	1	1		4	91	6			62	4	7		2			2	180	
7	5.50	E-S	6	4			35	2		1	1	1		1					51	
8	3.00	SSW-W					1												1	
9	7.00	SW-W	14	2	2	3	194	3		2	53	49	2		1			7	332	
10	6.50	W-NW	6			6	28	2	1		14	20	1					2	80	
11	7.50	S-SW		3		9	105				1				2				120	
12	6.50	SW-NW	65	3	1	11	431	9			3393	82	3	1	9		2	5	4015	
13	4.50	W-NW	8	1			2	1			8	3	1						24	
14	3.50	NW	8				2				10	9	1					2	32	
15	3.25	NW	2						1									2	5	
16	6.25	NW	4	1		2	11	1							2				21	
17	3.50	N	1				1					1							3	
18	5.00	S		1		2	9							1		1	1		15	
19	7.00	WNW-SW	25	3		7	27	5	1		435	72		2	1			2	581	
20	2.50	NE		1															1	
21	2.50	NE																	0	
22	8.75	SW-NE	89	2	1	1	26				2796	26		2					2943	
23	2.75	W-NW									4	12						5	21	
24	6.00	SW-NE	16				3				4	14						5	42	
25	6.75	SSW-SW	84	1			8				314	29	1		1				438	
26	3.50	WNW	4	1							2	3						1	11	
27	4.50	N	13									1							14	
28	0.00	Rain																		
29	4.25	NE-W										1							1	
30	3.50	SW-NE										1							1	
31	4.00	NW-N										1							1	
			150.75	376	30	4	55	1180	33	4	3	7139	386	20	3	26	4	3	36	9302

See key to abbreviations – Table 3

Table 4. 1984 DAILY HAWK COUNTS

June	Hours	Wind	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	GO	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UR	Total
1	4.00	NNW	1																1
2	3.00	NNW																	0
3	1.00	NW																	0
4	5.50	NW	8	1			1				12	2						1	25
5	3.75	SW-NE									7	1							8
6	4.50	WSW-NE	3				1				27	1			1				33
7	4.50	SW-W	14								4	2							20
8	6.00	SW	19		2						135	5							161
9	4.75	SW				1	1				31	5							38
10	4.00	WSW-SW	8								9								17
11	4.00	NW																	0
12	5.00	SW-E		1		1													2
13	4.25	NW-N	1																1
14	4.50	W-NW	7																7
15	5.00	NE-N	4										1						5
16	5.00	E-NE																	0
17	3.00	S-SE																	0
18	4.00	SW	2								4	2							8
19	5.00	NW	5																5
20	3.50	NE																	0
21	4.00	NE																	0
22	4.00	NE-E		1															1
23	2.50	ESE-NE																	0
24	0.00	Rain																	0
25	2.50	SW-NW	1																1
26	4.25	NW																	0
27	3.00	SW	1	1															2
28	4.00	WSW-NW	5				1												6
29	2.00	NE																	0
30	5.00	NE	11																11
	115.50		90	4	2	2	4	0	0	0	229	19	0	0	1	0	0	1	352

See key to abbreviations – Table 3

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Turkey Vulture

This raptor has increased rapidly and steadily and its numbers passing the lookout have tripled in the last eight years. This is due to a northward spread of the species. It nests in a few places in west central New York, but there are no nesting records in the vicinity of Braddock Bay. It arrives rather early in the year and departs very late. Migrating squadrons of 30 or more Turkey Vultures are very impressive as they sail by. There was a record count of 533 on 31 March 1982, when they were flying ahead of a severe thunderstorm in very high winds. They feed on migration. A road-killed raccoon placed near the Shelter area was eaten by a group of 20 Turkey Vultures after a two day period. They sometimes roost in typical fashion by the hundreds in a wood lot for the night, with many in one tree.

Two Turkey Vultures with white patagial markers were seen, one on 25 May 1978, and another on 7 May 1981 (right wing). According to available information, these might have been marked in either Florida or Virginia.

Osprey

This species arrives very punctually in the first two weeks of April and continues to migrate to the end of June. They sometimes tarry at the bay to catch and eat fish, and often migrate east with a fish dangling from their talons. For unknown reasons the numbers of migrating Ospreys rise and fall over the years. They do not nest along the shores of Lake Ontario but do nest at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. This could change due to the large increase in fish in Lake Ontario in recent years because of stocking by the DEC. Most of the Ospreys migrate near the lakeshore, but they have been seen at all of the inland sites, including five at Bailey Road, 27 Apr. 1984.

Bald Eagle

Records of the Bald Eagle at Braddock Bay over the ten year period show the drastic decline of the species caused by DDT, followed by an increase as a result of the DEC hacking program. In 1949, there were 113 Bald Eagles. This is when DDT was just beginning to have its devastating effect. By 1977, only three Bald Eagles were seen. In 1977, the DEC began hacking eagles, starting with only a few at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, but increasing to about 22 per year during recent years at various locations in New York State. The number of Bald Eagles at Braddock Bay has increased to an average of 33 for the past three years, and some have been observed with yellow patagial markers put on by the DEC.

On 13 May 1982, an adult Bald Eagle with an orange marker on the left wing was seen at Braddock Bay; and on 10, 11, 13 June 1982, an

immature Bald Eagle with an orange marker on its right wing was seen. Eagles with this type of marker may have come from the Bald Eagle Recovery Team, Poco Sabo Plantation, South Carolina.

The Bald Eagle is more frequently recorded in the Braddock Bay area than the Golden Eagle by a factor of two. They often perch in the small woods, called "Island Woods" by the hawk watchers, in the middle of the Braddock Bay marsh, and make flights over the bay to pick up fish. In 1984, two unmarked Bald Eagles remained in the area for 16 days and were seen almost daily sitting in the small trees off the end of the West Spit, or on a bare snag of a tall tree in the Island Woods.

Northern Harrier

Harrier numbers have increased during the eight years, after a previously reported decline. They migrate over the entire spring. Harriers are difficult to count, because they nest in the marsh at Braddock Bay and course back and forth over the cattails and fields looking for food. We count only the birds that are definitely going through. In 1984, a pair nested in the cattails about a quarter of a mile from the observation platform. When the male was observed bringing food to the nest, the female would rise from the cattails, turn upside down, and take the food from his talons. This behaviour was repeated over and over during the nesting season. Sometimes late season birds have missing feathers which help to identify them individually. Braddock Bay is a superb place for watching the aerial acrobatics performed by this species during courtship.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

This species is an early-to-late-season migrant. They fly by, more or less, as individuals most of the time, but when thousands are migrating, there is a steady stream spread across the horizon from left to right. When it is very windy—a condition they seem to like—they sometimes fly very low, only a foot off the ground. These low-flying Sharp-shins use the flap-flap-flap-sail accipiter pattern, but on days when there are good thermals, they will soar with the kettles of Broad-wings and are often at the top of the kettle, above the Broad-wings and other buteos.

Sharp-shinned Hawks sometimes fly very early in the morning. On 26 Apr. 1979, Ronald Ballard arrived at the West Spit before six in the morning, and the Sharp-shins were already flying in good numbers. Between 0553 and 0630 hours, he counted 210 Sharp-shins for an average of 5.6 per minute. In the next 90 minutes, the rate slowed to 1.7 per minute. They continued to fly all day long for a total count of 1015.

The record count of Sharp-shins was on 7 May 1983, a day with very strong southwest winds and 68°-81° temperatures. On that day 4,944 Sharp-shins passed by in a steady stream at very low altitudes, just skimming the cattails and short grass around the shelter, many of them

resting briefly in low trees and then going on. They flew at an average of 14 per minute over a period of five hours, until the wind shifted to west southwest and then west, and the flight stopped.

A migrating Sharp-shin has been observed catching a warbler in full flight. They will also on occasion dive into a tree full of Red-winged Blackbirds, and the birds literally explode in all directions. When Sharp-shins are flying low, a look at their profile shows that many have full crops. Late season migrants are immatures.

Cooper's Hawk

The Cooper's Hawk arrives rather early and over the eight year period arrived between 3-22 Mar.; the latest date of departure is 30 May. The peak of the Cooper's Hawk migration occurs well before that of the Sharp-shinned Hawk. The Cooper's Hawk is a much less common accipiter and also soars with the buteos on a day when there are strong thermals.

Northern Goshawk

The goshawk is by far the least abundant of the three accipiters and migrates very early in the season. It is not easily seen at times because it barrels through at low levels and very fast. The observer usually has little time to watch a goshawk. The early season migrants are often adults and if there is snow on the ground, as is usual at Braddock Bay in March, those gray birds can be difficult to see. Goshawks, like the other accipiters, will sometimes migrate in a drizzle or while it is snowing. Late in the goshawk season, they are sometimes observed soaring with the buteos on thermals. Goshawk numbers are increasing rather steadily and considerably so over the 1949-1950 figures.

Red-shouldered Hawk

The Red-shoulder is one of the most colorful hawks, and it comes through the Braddock Bay area when it is in its beautiful spring plumage. It migrates very early in the year when there is usually snow on the ground and it is cold. Because there are not many thermals when the adults first arrive, they usually fly at a moderate height, and the rufous shoulders, as well as the robin-red underparts can often be seen. On certain days, the crescent windows in the wings of the Red-shoulders stand out beautifully and serve to separate them from the Red-tailed Hawks, which also have windows, that are squarish rather than crescent-shaped. Not as dependent on thermals as the Broad-winged Hawk, good flights of Red-shoulders can occur on brisk northwest winds.

Toward the end of the Red-shoulder season in April and May, there are strong thermals and under such conditions, the Red-shoulders and Red-tails climb almost out of sight, making it difficult to distinguish between the two. The count of Red-shoulders may suffer because they

cannot be identified for certain at such high altitudes, and therefore, many are recorded as unidentified raptors.

Broad-winged Hawk

Our most abundant migrant, the Broad-winged Hawk, arrives on an extremely tight schedule between 12 Apr. and 18 Apr. In three consecutive years, it arrived on 16 Apr. In the following year, an all day rain delayed its arrival until 17 Apr. Broad-wings like warm southwest winds and when such conditions occur, they soar in tremendous groups, called kettles, across the countryside. A kettle of Broad-wings will find a strong thermal and climb in a spiral sometimes so close together that it looks like they might collide with one another. Often the number of Broad-wings in a kettle will continue to increase as other birds are attracted to the rising column of air. When they finally get high enough or the thermal runs out, they all peel off in a glide to the southeast. That is when we can count them best, but by that time they may also be very high. The kettle size can vary from five to 600 or more.

The Broad-winged Hawk migration is very subject to the "lake effect," the cold north or northeast wind coming in from Lake Ontario. The kettles disappear from view almost at once, but as has been mentioned earlier, the line of flight may sometimes be found inland.

The early Broad-wings are adults with conspicuous black and white banded tails, mid-season birds are mostly immatures, and late in the season the immatures are molting birds with a feather or two missing in the middle of each wing, and frequently missing central tail feathers. Big flights of such immatures continue into June.

The biggest flight of Broad-wings took place on 27 Apr. two years in a row: 11,172 in 1983 and 19,879 in 1984, establishing new records for total species seen in a day of 12,006 in 1983 and 21,191 in 1984. One can readily see that the Broad-wing far outnumbers other species of hawks on big flight days. On the last five days of April 1984, 36,675 Broad-wings went through, out of a total of 44,347 for the entire four months of observation.

Swainson's Hawk

One adult Swainson's Hawk was seen on 20 May 1979. It came directly over the parking lot at the Shelter, flying at moderate altitude. It was spotted by Betty Perrigo, identified by Allen Kemnitzer, and seen by two others.

Red-tailed Hawk

Red-tailed Hawks have been known to migrate as early as 15 February and as late as 30 June. These are the extreme dates of observation at the Braddock Bay Hawk Lookout. Like the other hawks, the early season Red-tails are adults and the late season birds are immatures. Finally in May and June, many are seen with missing feathers, just

like the Broad-winged Hawk. The numbers of Red-tailed Hawks seem to be increasing very slightly over the years, but this could be due to the use of auxiliary sites. On 10 Apr. 1977, a Red-tail with two long narrow red streamers was observed. It was probably marked at the Little Suamico Ornithological Station in Wisconsin.

Rough-legged Hawk

One of the most spectacular species in flight over Braddock Bay is the Rough-legged Hawk, particularly the dark-phase birds, which are usually outnumbered by the light-phase birds. Rough-legs arrive as early as 15 Feb. and usually depart in late May, although the latest date is 2 June. There have been as many as 91 in a single day. They are often identified at extreme distances as they approach, and spectators can be advised of their approach in plenty of time to see them. Both their pattern, slight dihedral, and their heavy flight set them apart from other buteos seen in the area. Their total numbers each year, over the past eight years, have remained fairly constant, but have shown a definite increase over the 1949-1950 figures. They hunt for food late in the afternoon and can often be seen at that time, flying rather low over the marsh and hedgerows, sometimes in bad weather. On 22 March 1984, 12 Rough-legs were counted in the 3 o'clock hour (out of a count of 18 for the day) when a light snow was falling. Because of the drizzle and snow, they were flying very low that day, sometimes just skimming over the cattails in the marsh, along with No. Harriers. At times, when the snow became heavier, they went down and sat in the marsh and remained there for some time. They must have been sitting on muskrat houses, because they were slightly elevated and could be seen quite easily through the falling snow.

Golden Eagle

Golden Eagles are not as numerous at Braddock Bay as Bald Eagles. They arrive between 24 March and 16 April, and the latest departure was 8 June. Five were seen on 21 April 1979, a record count for one day. One of these eagles was seen at the Shelter in the morning, but the flight there ceased abruptly at 1120 hours when the wind shifted from southwest to northeast. The flight moved inland all the way to Bailey Road. At 1520 hours there were two adults; at 1525 hours, one immature and at 1532 hours there was another immature; a total of four eagles in 12 minutes. Golden Eagles and Bald Eagles have flown past the lookout at the same time, which makes for very interesting comparisons.

American Kestrel

By far the most common falcon during migration at Braddock Bay is the American Kestrel. It migrates in big numbers early in the season shortly before the Broad-wings arrive and is still migrating in very small

numbers late in the spring season. Although it is seen at all of the auxiliary lookouts, it definitely prefers to migrate near the shoreline of Lake Ontario. As was mentioned earlier, the peak day was 14 Apr. 1983 with a count of 1166 American Kestrels for the day, 1057 of which were seen at the West Spit. Kestrels are often seen sitting in considerable numbers along the Lake Ontario State Parkway waiting for favorable winds to continue their migration. It is the only falcon that nests in the area. Kestrel numbers have increased markedly since the discovery in 1978 that in order to get an accurate count of the American Kestrel migration through Braddock Bay, observations must be at the West Spit early in the season when the bulk of the kestrels go through.

Merlin

Not very common at Braddock Bay, Merlins are probably missed because they fly fast and close to the ground most of the time. When Merlins come across the cattails in front of the platform, they drop close to the water at Buttonwood Creek, and they lift over a hedgerow or over the Shelter, but immediately return close to the ground. The dates of migration are listed in the table, but there are so few Merlins, it may not tell the whole story. Occasionally one is seen sitting along the Lake Ontario Parkway or stopping to rest in the Hawk Lookout woods.

Peregrine Falcon

The rarest hawk that migrates regularly past Braddock Bay in spring is the Peregrine Falcon. It has averaged only four per year over the past eight years. (Not included in the average are 18 seen in 1950, an indication of the adverse effect DDT has had on this species.) Data on arrival and departure do not mean much because of the low numbers, but it has been seen as early as 13 March and as late as 10 June. It usually flies with powerful wing beats through the area, but it has been known to soar on outstretched wings with the buteos and ride a thermal right over the Shelter without flapping a wing. Their numbers at Braddock Bay have not increased yet, as a result of the DEC hacking program in the Adirondacks or by releases in various localities by T. J. Cade of the Peregrine Foundation of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

FALL MIGRATION

There is a small migration of hawks in fall at Braddock Bay, but it has not been studied very well and there are only occasional reports of up to 200-300 birds in a day in late August, mostly immature Red-tailed Hawks, going east just as in spring. There are reports of a few Broad-winged Hawks, Northern Harriers, and Red-shouldered Hawks, also in August. In November, a flight of 35 Rough-legged Hawks, going

east, has been reported. A thorough study might show a definite migration, but certainly not as large as in spring.

OWLS

There is also a spring owl migration but little is known about it, except that there is a build-up of several species of owls along the lakeshore during February, March and April. These include the Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, and an occasional Common Barn-Owl. We have heard the latter migrating at night several times and can tell by its successive calls that it is flying eastward. Wintering Snowy Owls usually disappear from our area in March and April. Five individual Boreal Owls, that were probably migrants, have been recorded in the vicinity along the lakeshore, in Monroe County: 22-29 Feb. 1964; 24-26 Feb. 1965; 26 Feb. 1972 (found dead and preserved at the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, Moon 1972); 4-6 Feb. 1978; and 3-6 Mar. 1979.

HAWK BANDING

In 1984, Clayton Taylor of Moodus, Connecticut (1984 and pers. comm.) set up a hawk banding station on the northwest side of Braddock Bay near the area known locally as the Pear Orchard. He used bow traps, mist nets, and live Rock Doves and House Sparrows as lures. He operated the station on 22 days during the peak of the migration between 23 Apr.-18 May. The banding operation was very successful and 218 hawks of seven species were caught. These were: Sharp-shinned Hawk 176, Cooper's Hawk 29, Northern Goshawk 3, Broad-winged Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 2, American Kestrel 4, and Merlin 3.

Four hawks previously banded elsewhere were caught. The data on these foreign recoveries are extremely interesting, because they suggest from whence our spring hawks at Braddock Bay may come. They are as follows: On 28 April, Taylor caught an adult Sharp-shinned Hawk, female, that had been caught and banded at Long Point Bird Observatory, Ontario, Canada, on the north shore of Lake Erie on 1 October 1982. On 7 May, he caught two immature Sharp-shinned Hawks. Both had been caught and banded at the Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding Station, also on the north shore of Lake Erie, near Port Stanley. One was a female and had been banded on 18 September 1983; the other was a male and had been banded on 17 October 1983. It seems very logical that hawks that come north in spring at Braddock Bay would go south in fall along the north shore of Lake Erie. On 3 May, Taylor caught an adult Cooper's Hawk, female, that had been banded by a Mr. Frock in Pennsylvania on 4 October 1981.

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We also express our appreciation to the Genesee Ornithological Society, Ornithology section of the Rochester Academy of Science, for sponsoring the hawkwatching program and for publishing the collected information in its publication, *The Goshawk*. We would also like to thank the town of Greece and the New York State DEC who shared equally the cost of the new hawk observation platform.

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APPARENT INSIGHT LEARNING BY SOME COMMON GRACKLES BREEDING IN CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK

JAY·PITOCHELLI

Thorpe (1956, p. 110) defined insight learning as the "production of a new adaptive response as a result of insight or as the solution of a problem by the sudden adaptive reorganization of experience." According to Welty (1982, p. 211) an individual "sees through" a problem. Most instances of tool-using by birds and other animals (for reviews, see Alcock, 1972; Boswall, 1977; Hall, 1963; Millikan and Bowman, 1967; Van Lawick-Goodall, 1970) are examples of insight learning. Two classic illustrations of tool-using by birds are the Mangrove Finch (*Camarhynchus heliobates*) which uses twigs or cactus spines to probe for insects (Curio and Kramer, 1964) and the Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) of Africa which drops rocks on Ostrich (*Struthio camelus*) eggs before eating the nutrient-rich contents (Van Lawick-Goodall, 1968). The use of "materials" in altering the form or shape of an object for later use has been separated from strict tool-using (Alcock, 1972; Van Lawick-Goodall, 1970). However, material-using is still a form of insight learning because it displays problem-solving ability. Some examples mentioned by Boswall (1977) are the Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) and some of the Old World pittas and bowerbirds (*Pitta versicolor* and *Scenopoeetes dentirostris*) which break hard prey on stone anvils or other hard objects. In this paper I describe apparent insight learning by some Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) breeding in Central Park, Manhattan. Each year grackle parents are faced with the problem of procuring enough food to successfully raise nestlings whose energy demands increase as they approach adult size. Stale bread and crackers are abundant around the American Museum of Natural History during the spring and summer, but the hard, dry nature of this food source makes it difficult to handle and transport in quantity. Some grackles have solved this problem by wetting the bread with water, which eases handling during mastication and transport. This enables them to exploit an abundant resource during the critical period of raising young.

During the week of 12 May-19 May 1982 I made a series of daily two hour observations of Common Grackles wetting stale bread, pizza crust, and crackers in small drainage pools and gutters on the museum roof. I observed two types of wetting behavior: 1) holding bread directly underneath running water from a drainage pipe, and 2) dropping recently collected bread from their bills into pools of water on the roof

or in gutters along the edge of the roof. Grackles not only fought for food but the right to deposit dry bread in drainage pools. I observed territorial displays, such as the "ruff-out," "bill-tilt," and "song," described by Stokes (1979). Thieves of the same species were observed pilfering recent deposits of foraging birds. Intervals between visits to the watering areas were very short. The quantity and regularity of these visits suggested that these birds were parents raising broods. I later confirmed this when I observed nestlings in Central Park being fed wet bread by parents.

Common Grackles using water to soften a food resource derive four benefits from such behavior: 1) exploitation of an abundant resource which was extremely difficult to exploit prior to wetting; 2) increased ease of handling efficiency; 3) partial breakdown of food by water; 4) water absorbed by the bread for growing nestlings.

I decided to follow up these observations over the next two years. Once again I found that Common Grackles returned to the same watering areas on the museum roof in springs of 1983 and 1984. These birds continued a learned tradition over a two-year period (and probably longer). Perhaps this wetting behavior first occurred when a parent dropped a piece of bread into water and noticed the difference in texture after retrieving it. Once this act was repeatedly performed and positively reinforced in the same individual, it could subsequently have spread to other grackles by observational learning. The extremely social nature of this species would certainly enhance the spread of this behavior in a local population. The continuation of wetting from season to season could be culturally transmitted from generation to generation in much the same way that dialects are maintained from year to year in local populations. Nestlings could have learned this method of feeding from their parents and in turn passed it to their offspring.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

After careful scrutiny of this season's reports, the major highlight of the season is the excellent wild fruit, berry, and cone crop reported across the whole state, giving rise to hopes that Winter might bring feathered flocks from the north and maybe even draw or hold some rarities—hopes as yet unfulfilled from what I have heard. Two of the regional editors give very succinct summaries for this Fall with Dick Clements' single word "Pleasant" and John Peterson's recollection of the phrase we most often heard in the field, at home, at work, . . . everywhere, "where are the birds?" While, as Peterson again reminds us "Fall is a largely subjective season, . . .", we still watch for the seasonal passages of waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, etc., even if we can't draw accurate conclusions about trends, and this year most of these were a disappointment to most of us. As is often the case, we can draw solace from the fact that the apparent cause of this fall's weather was Summer or Indian Summer lingering through most of the season, with few frontal passages to bring us the groundings of migrants which we all await. There are also the scattered reports of high numbers, late dates, good banding sessions, etc. to suggest that maybe it wasn't really as bad as it seemed and maybe we either just missed the good days or migration was delayed or . . . ?

When you turn to the regional reports to study your favorite fall flights, you will find some bright spots in each group. The loon and grebe picture is really little changed from that of other recent years, and there is a regional early arrival date for Red-throated Loon in Region Five on 12 Sept. The herons then provide a host of late dates, with an inland record late date for Great Egret - 27 Nov. in Region Three; Snowy Egret at a regional late date in Region Five; Tricolored Heron very late in Region Nine; Cattle Egret very late in Regions One, Three and Five; and a rare fall report of Glossy Ibis from Region Two. The waterfowl passage was generally termed unexceptional, particularly among the divers, but again we have many individual bright spots, highlighted by a state record early date for Snow Goose - 12 Sept. in Region Seven; and several very high counts, including state record high counts at Montezuma NWR (Region Three) for Mallard—an incredible 400,000, Am. Black Duck—20,000, and Ring-necked Duck—8,000; and a very high 10,000 Com. Mergansers in Region Six. The raptor migration was poor to average over much of the state, though at near record highs at the hawk watches of Region Nine, summarized in a table in that report. Among the raptors, Turkey Vultures lingered late and were recorded at high levels of 100... in Regions One and Nine,

Ospreys and Broad-winged Hawks were recorded at very late dates in several regions, and the Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon totals were up a bit, in spite of some missing reports. Shorebirds were again quite variable, depending mainly on habitat, with the best at the drawn-down pool at Montezuma and at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge where Arthur Morris continued Tom Davis' census work with several contrasts in numbers and timing reported for this year in comparison with that past data base. In this group, too, there are late dates—Baird's Sandpiper in Regions Two and Five and Wilson's Phalarope in Region Three, and high counts, such as three Am. Avocets, 4379 Dunlin, and 50-60 Am. Oystercatchers, all in Region Ten. There are interesting gull and tern reports in several regions, but to me the most interesting (from a soap-box climbing standpoint) is the lack of a report from Region One of the tremendous gathering of gulls this fall, both in terms of numbers and variety. The observers were there. There were several days at least with 11-13 species recorded. The commoner species were in the hundreds of thousands, and numbers of individuals of several rarer species, such as Sabine's Gull (two to three), Thayer's Gull (two to three), Com. Black-headed Gull (two), and Lesser Black-backed Gull (two plus). It seems that too many just won't take the time to report or assume others will do it (*mea culpa* in this case as I assumed the local leader of our joint trip would file the trip report for that Region.). This is not a Region One problem alone. It is widespread and, in just this season alone, Regions Four and Six also lamented the lack of reports. Remember that in order to judge trends we (your regional editors) need data, dates and numbers, from which to produce distributions with which we can evaluate the significance of departures from average. Short of that we have only educated guesses or commentary on the obvious.

On to the passerine passage. Again, in spite of few groundings of any magnitude, we do have some excellent high counts and a number of late dates. The best counts included 90 Fish Crows in Region Nine; 500, 180, and 300 Water Pipits in Regions Three, Five, and Nine, respectively, and a state high 500 Northern Orioles in one hour passing, the west end of Jones Beach in Region Ten. Late dates include a regional late Cliff Swallow in Region Five, a late House Wren in Region Ten, state late House Wren nestlings to 1 Sept. in Region One, a very late Tennessee Warbler in Region Ten on 28 Oct., an inland record late Yellow Warbler on 24 Oct. in Region One, a state late Cerulean Warbler on 8 Oct. in Region Three, and very late dates for Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Region Six, Orchard Oriole in Region Ten, and Northern Oriole in Region Seven. A single early passerine arrival was a state record early Am. Tree Sparrow on 23 Sept. in Region Two. Not covered by these family groups, but of special interest for dates and numbers were

a high count of 400 Chimney Swifts on 21 Sept. in Region One, a very late Greater Shearwater on 12 Nov. in Region Ten, a late inland Black-billed Cuckoo on 8 Nov. in Region Nine, an inland record-tying late (and only one of the season) Whip-poor-will on 16 Oct. in Region Four, and a very late Ruby-throated Hummingbird on 20 Nov. in Region Ten. Winter incursions did not show. Rough-legged Hawks were few, Snowy Owls a scattered few, and winter finches virtually confined to Region Seven. Even Evening Grosbeaks were few throughout the state.

As usual, one can find a wealth of interesting notes scattered through the regional reports. Again, to help spur you to get started, a few follow. You will find that tower kills and banding reports are much lower than usual, in keeping with other assessments of the migration. In Region Four, we find a Com. Loon stranded in a small pond, eventually caught and set free on a body of water large enough so it could take off. Region Six reports the virtual extirpation of Ring-necked Pheasants except for the annual released few. From Region Nine we note the report of a lack of correlation in Broad-winged Hawk peak dates for hawk watches only 20 miles apart. In that report we find that most of us search the wrong places for Yellow Rail as window shopping birders in downtown New Rochelle pick one up in an alley. We see two parts of the House Finch dilemma, with Region Six reporting House Finch way up and House Sparrow way off at feeders, while Region Three cheers a White-breasted Nuthatch standing up to these new pests. From the Region Four description we try to envision a cat-and-mouse game between a Cooper's Hawk and a Pileated Woodpecker; what next? Finally, there is our reminder of site fidelity possibilities for rarities, with Lesser Black-backed Gull and Tufted Duck back once again in Region Ten, though the Region One Barrow's Goldeneye failed to return by season's end. Such listings are limited only by your interest and willingness to read carefully.

The rarity picture mirrored this fall's overall scene, a bit reduced from the recent past, but still exciting. The regions' best include: Region One—Cattle Egret and Sabine's Gull; Region Two—White Pelican, Marbled Godwit, and "Black" Brant; Region Three—Cattle Egret and Greater White-fronted Goose; Region Five—Greater White-fronted Goose, Sabine's Gull, and Western Kingbird; Region Seven—Red Phalarope and Northern Wheatear; Region Nine—Black Vulture, Yellow Rail, Three-toed Woodpecker, and Yellow-headed Blackbird; and Region Ten—Gyr Falcon, California Gull, Arctic Tern, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Black-throated Gray Warbler. As usual, several of these would have been candidates for the BOTS Award in another year, but for this season that distinction falls to Region Ten's Ash-throated Flycatcher, well-photographed, to become the state's third confirmed record.

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REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

STEPHEN W. EATON

September, often the nicest month on the Niagara Frontier, was not gloomy but perhaps mournful as stated by the *Buffalo News*. Less than 50% sunshine than possible, a third of an inch of rain above normal (3.73") and an average temperature of 58.5° made the difference. Most of the rain came between 10 and 15 Sept. with thunderstorms on 2nd and 25th adding to the precipitation and high winds. On the 20th winds from the southwest gusted to 47 mph and drove some interesting pelagic species into the shelter of the Niagara River. The season's first frost hit on 6 Sept. but no general freeze occurred until 5 and 6 Oct. The trees stayed green throughout the month.

October, in contrast to September, left pleasant memories of the fall season as high pressure parked over the northeast. It was warmer and drier than usual—real bluebird weather. Rainfall for the month totaled less than an inch (0.86") and half of that came on 1 Oct. Temperatures averaged 2° above normal (53.2°). One thought the fall color, so spectacular in the northeastern hardwoods, was never going to develop but by 10 Oct. the maples, as well as the normally later oaks, had changed to brilliant hues. November was generally pleasant with temperatures averaging 39° (1.3° below normal) and precipitation totaled 2.66" (about 1" below normal.) The season's first measureable snowfall at the Buffalo International Airport occurred 6 Nov., about four days later than normal. Earlier snows occurred to the south on the Allegheny Plateau, though not of their usual intensity. On the 16th, a band of lake-effect squalls dumped 2-5" of snow on southern Erie, northern Chautauqua and northern Cattaraugus Counties. Lake Erie temperatures dropped 13° during the month to 45° on the 30th. Small farm ponds on the Allegheny Plateau in sheltered areas froze over on 20 Nov. and remained closed through the rest of the month though larger ones such as Amity Lake were free again the 29th.

Affecting bird traffic at feeders and migrants in general was the general lack of major storms. Arthur Clark reported a very light kill of birds at TV towers south of Buffalo, which totaled 258 individuals of 19 species. One species was a Blue-winged Warbler 11-12 Sept., when the highest kill of the fall occurred. Don Clark at Farmersville Sta., Catt. Co.; Elizabeth Brooks at Alfred, All. Co.; Elva Hawken at Stafford, Genesee Co.; and Morgan Jones at Fredonia, Chaut. Co. all found banding to be the poorest in several years, but several species of warblers lingered longer than usual.

The weather was certainly partly to blame but the fields, edges and woods had generally the greatest crop of fruits I've seen in 35 growing seasons with few exceptions. There appears to be no white ash seed in Catt. (SE) or All. (VP) Counties and the beech blight appears to have much reduced the beechnut crop which, like the apples, was spotty. Red and White Oak produced a fair crop and Wild Black Cherry good crops, only in the better soils. All species of maples produced good seed crops. In Oct. flocks of over 100 American Robins ravished the seeds of the Cucumber Tree (*Magnolia acuminata*) and these were sometimes accompanied by Hermit Thrushes and Pileated Woodpeckers. All dogwoods

and vibernums produced unusually good crops of seeds and elderberry, laden with great bunches, dropped under the weight to gladden the hearts of the pie and wine makers. Grapes were abundant on valley and upland species. Yellow and Black Birch seed sprinkled the snow as though Paul Bunyan had returned with a giant pepper shaker. All conifers produced excellent seed crops, particularly the E. Hemlock.

The water bird migration, never very interesting over much of the Region except for swans and geese, was normally light, and the shorebirding poor inland where few mud flats were exposed, but normal along the Canadian shore often frequented by our Region's birders. Hawks, as usual, generally slid by the Region to the north.

Rarities: Cattle Egret at two localities, Sabine's Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, and Bohemian Waxwing.

Abbreviations: All-Allegany, BOS-Buffalo Ornithological Soc., C-Census, Catt.-Cattaraugus, Chaut.-Chautauqua, DH-Dunkirk Harbor, NWR-National Wildlife Refuge, S-Sanctuary, SP-State Park, WMA-wildlife management area.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one Ft. Niagara SP 17 Nov. (WD, BP). Com. Loon: the large flight of 1983 was not repeated along Lake Erie but the species was reported in normal numbers of one to three elsewhere. Pied-billed Grebe: reported only from Chaut., All. and Catt. Cos. Horned Grebe: first arrivals at Iroquois NWR 5 and 7 Nov. (DE). Double-crested Cormorant: three at DH 10 Nov. (TM, RM); one imm. Greenhurst, Chaut. L. 18 Nov. (DG, DD). Am. Bittern: one Tiff Farm, Buffalo, 9 Sept. (T & VS) and one Iroquois NWR 27 Oct. (Heyer +), only reports. Great Egret: two to 11 Iroquois NWR 2-30 Sept.-last seen 26 Oct. (DE). **CATTLE EGRET**: usually seen in spring but two fall records: one imm Hartfield, Chaut. Co. 27 Oct. (BG), and one Town of Pomfret, Chaut. Co. 1 Nov. (T & VM), possibly same bird. Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 11 Times Beach 15 Sept. (PH). Tundra Swan: one Iroquois NWR 20 Oct. (BC) was first; a southbound flock of 48 over Jamestown 37 Oct. (DC); 13 Bertis Bay near Jamestown 31 Oct. (W & LO); 322 Mayville 25 Nov. (FR) was max. Snow Goose: one L. Ontario shore 14 Oct. BOSC. Brant: no reports. Canada Goose: big flight down Genesee Valley of 722 in 13 flocks between 8:55 and 11:05 a.m. over Amity L. (VP). Wood Duck: appeared to have good reproduction in So. Tier Cos.; 50 Tunungwant Creek, Catt. Co. 11 Sept. (TB); 60 Alfred area BOSC 14 Oct.; 24 Wellsville 7 Oct. (HW); 10 Salamanca area BOSC 14 Oct. Green-winged Teal: 20 Bird Swamp, Catt. Co. 30 Sept. (TB +); 14 Burgeson S 25 Oct. (DD); one Cassadaga L., Chaut. Co. 24 Nov. (T & VM). Am. Black Duck: five Hume, All. Co. 18 Sept. (KP); five Bird Swamp, Catt. Co. 30 Sept. (TB +); one Wellsville 7 Oct. (HW); one Town of Hume, All. Co. 2 Oct. (VR, KP); five Iroquois NWR 21 Oct. (RC); three Alfred area BOSC 14 Oct. Mallard: continues doing well; 73 Town of Hume, All. Co. 20 Oct. (VR, KP); 50 Bird Swamp, Catt. Co. 30 Sept. (TB +). N. Pintail: only report Iroquois NWR Sept. and Oct. where perhaps nesting? N. Shoveler: two Bertis Bay, Chaut. L. 30 Sept. (DG, DD); five Iroquois NWR 21 Oct. (RC); one Burgeson S 19 Nov. (DD, DG). Gadwall: four Dunkirk 4

Sept. (TM); one Bertis Bay 30 Sept. (DG, DD); five Iroquois NWR 21 Oct. (RC). Am. Wigeon: six Iroquois NWR 3 Sept. (WD, BP) first fall report; 70 Burgeson S 3 Nov. (RS, DG) max; 49 Town of Chaut. (TM, RM). Canvasback: 400 Mayville, Chaut. L. 3 Nov. (RS, DG) first fall reports though rumors of several thousand on Niagara R. late Oct. Redhead: 103 Mayville, Chaut. L. 3 Nov. (RS, DG). Ring-necked Duck: four Iroquois NWR 29 Sept. (WD, BP) first fall report; 25 Mayville, Chaut. L. 3 Nov. (RS, DG) max for season; seen also Amity L., Langford (S. Erie Co.), Farmersville Sta. King Eider: one Buffalo Harbor 15 & 19 Nov. (GO); one same area 25 Nov. (RA). Black Scoter: 2 Mayville, Chaut. L. 23 Nov. (FR). Surf Scoter: seven Lake Ontario shore 14 Oct. BOSC. Bufflehead: 522 Mayville, Chaut. L. 3 Nov. (RS, DG) max, also reported Amity L, Farmersville Sta. and Red House L. Hooded Merganser: 600 from three bays Chaut. L. 30 Nov. (DD) max. Com. Merganser: 17 Allegheny R. near Salamanca 14 Oct. and 50 + same area 18 Oct. (TB); increase in this species at these early dates hints at local nesting. Ruddy Duck: 140 Bertis Bay, Chaut. L. 12 Nov. (RS, DG) max.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture continues to increase in Region; 130 over Iroquois NWR 21 Oct. (RC), 100 in one kettle; also four towns in All. Co. and one Catt. Co. Osprey: one Amity L. 3, 18, 19, 30 Sept. and one 2, 8, 11 Oct. (VP); one Iroquois NWR 6 Oct. (DE); two Salamanca 21 Oct. (TB) latest. Bald Eagle: two Iroquois NWR 16 Sept. and 21 Oct. (DE) both imm and one had yellow streamer on left wing; one adult and one imm Allegheny Res. most of Nov. (RS). N. Harrier: one Town of Friendship, All. Co. 8 & 22 Sept.; one Birdsall 23 Sept. (L & DB); one Town of Hume, All. Co. 14 Sept. (KP); two Bird Swamp, Catt. Co. 30 Sept. (TB +); one Town of Friendship 24 Oct. (L & DB) latest. Sharp-shinned Hawk: reported as singles from Erie, Catt. and All. Cos. Cooper's Hawk: singles reported Erie, Orleans, Catt., All. Cos. N. Goshawk: one Alma, All. Co. (King, Smith, *vide* VP); one 10 Mile Valley, Catt. Co. 30 Nov. (SE). Red-shouldered Hawk: last of breeding population southern Catt. Co. 20 Oct. calling and diving over nest site; late migrant (?) Grand Island 25 Nov. (DF). Broad-winged Hawk: most bypassed Region to north; two Alfred, All. Co. 1 Sept. (EB); one Bird Swamp, Catt. Co. 30 Sept. (TB +); one imm. Town of Gerry, Chaut. Co. **14 & 18 Nov.** (DC) very late. Red-tailed Hawk: continues as commonest buteo over Region and an albino paired to a normally plumaged bird was on territory all summer near Chaut. Co. Airport. Rough-legged Hawk: one Town of Charlotte, Chaut. Co. 2 Nov. (FR) earliest; one Salamanca 14 & 18 Nov. (TB). Merlin and Peregrine Falcon: no reports. Virginia Rail: one Buffalo 14 Oct. BOSC; one Chaut. Co. 14 Oct. BOSC. Sora: two Chaut. Co. 14 Oct. BOSC. Com. Moorhen: one Martin Rd. Ext. near Jamestown 12 Sept. (FE) where successfully nested this year. Am. Coot: a fantastic max 1100 Chaut. L. (RS, DG). Black-bellied Plover: five Iroquois NWR 7 Oct. (DE); five Tonawanda WMA 21 Oct. (RC); two Tonawanda WMA 27 Oct. (JH +). Lesser Golden-Plover: max seven Clarence, Erie Co. 16 Sept. (AM); latest 16 Oct. Town of Pomfret, Chaut. Co. (TM), only six species of sandpipers (both yellowlegs, Pectoral, Dunlin, Common Snipe and Am. Woodcock) reported from Region which reflects high water tables and the attraction of the north shore of Lake Erie to sandpipers and birders. Parasitic Jaeger: one near Peace Bridge 20 Sept. (RA, DB), driven in from lake by winds gusting to 47 mph along with imm. and adult Little Gull and imm. **SABINE'S GULL.** Iceland Gull: one Adam Beck Hydro Plant near Lewiston 24 Nov. (WD, BP) first season report. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** one Adam Beck Hydro 23 Nov. (RA +), another first of the season. Great Black-backed Gull: continued to increase, 103 DH 30 Sept. (MT, MZ). **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:** two Adam Beck Hydro 11 Nov. (RA +) another seasonal first. Caspian Tern: 10 DH 15 Sept. (TM, MS) late. Black Tern: one Niagara Falls 28 Oct. (G & DS).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: apparently seldom reaching notebooks except where general dearth of birds; 26 Salamanca 11 Sept. (TB). Snowy Owl: one Point Chaut. 21-27 Nov. (JS) was photographed; one Buffalo 23 Nov. (WD). Long-eared Owl: two Town of Amity, All. Co. 13 & 14 Oct. (KB) a once or twice in a lifetime bird in this

area. N. Saw-whet Owl: one Ft. Niagara SP 13 Oct. (WD, BP) first migrant of season. Chimney Swift: 400 Burgeson S 21 Sept. (DG), certainly a sky-full and late; 40 Goat Island 7 Oct. (WD, BP) latest.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Times Beach, Buffalo, 4 Sept. (PH) first fall report and one Buffalo 2 Oct. (GO) latest. Com. Raven: continues to be regularly observed in All. and Catt. Cos. and appears to be part of a population increase from west-central PA; two Town of Amity 8 Sept. (KB, JV) also Towns of Willing and Shongo all All. Co.; one town of Great Valley 19 Nov. (SE). Red-breasted Nuthatch: single birds noted in Erie, Chaut., Catt. and All. Cos. but no great exodus from the north. House Wren: three young still in nest box 1 Sept. (EB) seven days later than latest nestling date in Bull. Marsh Wren: three at two ponds near Dunkirk 14 Oct. (MJ). Golden-crowned Kinglet: appears to be wintering in So. Tier cos. in good numbers associated with chickadee flocks and attracted by what appears to be great crop of hemlock seeds. E. Bluebird: took advantage of October's bluebird weather and remained late; latest 31 Oct. Amity L. & Town (VP); large flock migrating south over 10 Mile Rd. Catt. Co. 19 Oct. was typical of late departure. Hermit Thrush: remained late also feeding on abundant fruits. Am. Robin: large flocks remained in wooded So. Tier cos. feeding on abundant *Magnolia acuminata* seeds and other fruits into Nov. Water Pipit: 100 Town of Pomfret, Chaut. Co. 28 Sept. (TM) max. Cedar Waxwing: another species staying late in So. Tier feeding on abundant fruits, often grapes; 140 Salamanca 29 Nov. (TB) a max; large flocks in Chaut., Catt. and All. Cos. **BOHEMIAN WAXWING:** one with flock of 50 Cedar Waxwings Kiantone Rd. and New Warren Rd., Chaut. Co. 12 Nov. (FE). She reported it close to the road in a multiflora rose hedge. Its large size, all grey underparts and overall color, conspicuous white in wings, were clearly seen. The rust undertail coverts, always difficult to detect backlighted, were not observed (report accepted by RS).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: noteworthy vireo reports include one late Yellow-throated Vireo, Iroquois NWR 9 Sept. (DE) and one late Warbling Vireo, Ft. Niagara SP 22 Sept. (WD, BP). Philadelphia Vireo: several 15-26 Sept. and one Batavia area 14 Oct. (EH) late. Solitary Vireo: latest was in full song 10 Mile Rd., Catt. Co. 20 Oct. (SE) marking the "swan song" of neotropical migrants for 1984. Fourteen species of warblers were seen on the BOSC 14 Oct. with a total count of 1169 Yellow-rumped Warblers (523 seen same census 1983); best of the rest of warbler migration includes: Blue-winged Warbler: first record of one striking TV tower So. Erie Co. in 19 years of checking 11-12 Sept. (AC); one Tennessee Warbler Town of Pomfret 18 Oct. (TM) late; N. Parula: one imm. Celeron, Chaut. Co. 29 Sept. (DG); Yellow Warbler: one imm. Frewsburg, Chaut. Co. 24 Oct. (RS), one month late; Louisiana Waterthrush: one Sawmill Run, Catt. Co. 14 Sept. (DG), two weeks late in departure from nesting area.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: N. Cardinal: seems to be down in numbers in So. Tier cos.; one female feeding fully feathered young Salamanca 6 Oct. (TB). Am. Tree Sparrow: one Jamestown 7 Oct. (MS), earliest Chaut. Co. date. Vesper Sparrow: still in very low numbers; one Town of Willing, All. Co. 23 Sept. (HW, EL); three near Fredonia (NB) and two Alfred area 14 Oct. BOSC. Lincoln's Sparrow: one Town of Pomfret 18 Sept. (TM) and one Ft. Niagara SP 22 Sept. (WD, BP) only other. Snow Bunting: 30 DH 31 Oct. (BC) first; 12-15 Town of Portland, Chaut. Co. 10 Nov. (TM, RM); 150+ Youngstown (WD +) and 22 Cassadaga 25 Nov. (FR). Rusty Blackbird: ten Bird Swamp, Catt. Co. 30 Sept. (TB +) was first; 22 BOSC All. Co. Bird Club 14 Oct.; 10 BOSC Jamestown area. Com. Grackle: large flocks up to 200 Salamanca 18-27 Oct. (TB), probably feeding on acorns. Cardueline finches, that notoriously erratic bunch, have foiled us again. Only a few Purple Finches, House Finches still coming on, three Red Crossbills at Youngstown 18 Nov. (TH), very few Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks but Am. Goldfinches abundant and feeding on birch and hemlock seeds 708 BOSC All. Co. and 181 BOSC Jamestown area 14 Oct.

10 Mile Road, Allegany, New York 14706

REGION 2 – GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

The fall season, for the most part, dealt us an extension of summer. South winds brought many warm days and other days were besieged by fog. This often made viewing next to impossible, especially the lake-watch. The real absence of favorable frontal systems kept optimum observation at a minimum. While this may sound a bit negative, there were some very good sightings and generally good numbers of expected species.

September turned out to be the wettest of the three months with a total of 3.34" of precipitation. This represented a reading of .68" above average. October's precipitation was a meager .76" which was nearly two inches below normal. This in itself aided the production of shorebird habitat as it coincided with the dropping of the lake level. The unfortunate circumstance was that it was generally too late to attract the bulk of the migration. November continued the below average trend with 1.47". This was 1.18" below the norm. September was actually below normal in temperature. The average was 60.6° F. That figure was 1.6° on the down side. October and November didn't follow suit. Both reached averages above normal. October was a whopping 3.2° higher than the average at 54.9° F. November reached an average temperature of 40.7° F. which was only .1° higher than the average. On the whole though it provided us with pleasant and comfortable conditions for fall birding.

What was good and what was bad? What looked to be a positive trend and what appeared to be a negative trend? Either way you look at it, there were no outstanding trends in one direction or the other. On the plus side there were numerous reports of Bald Eagles. They were mostly immatures, but a single report of an adult also came in. Merlin sightings were up, as well as a most encouraging number of Peregrines. Of note was the early appearance of Black-legged Kittiwakes. A few songbird species were in plentiful supply. This included both Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. They were accompanied by good numbers of creepers. Large numbers of White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows inhabited the west lakeshore. A few finch sightings and a good cone crop hinted of things to come, but this has yet to materialize. On the down side we had a poor showing of loons and grebes. Whether or not the fog had anything to do with this remains to be seen. Brant numbers were rather paltry. The lakewatch produced only meager numbers of jaegers. The most noticeable songbird on the negative side may have been the Swainson's Thrush. Grounded totals were far from traditional numbers, but window kills and reports of large numbers of night flying thrushes presented a very different picture. The answer to this discrepancy may lie in the possible lack of conditions conducive to ground- ing. The point about lack of shorebird habitat has been echoed for years, and I hate to belabor the point even though this was once again the case. There were the expected species, but totals were less than staggering. The overall lack of finches was also a traditional occurrence. I suspect that the cone crop is just as good elsewhere.

Rarities: White Pelican, King Eider, Marbled Godwit, Common Black-headed Gull, and Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Localities: B-Braddock Bay, C-Charlotte, D-Durand-Eastman Park, EL-East Lakeshore, G-Greece, H-Hamlin Beach State Park, I-Island Cottage Woods, IB-Irondequoit Bay, K-Kendall, M-Manitou, R-Rochester, S-Sodus Bay, W-Webster, WL-West Lakeshore.

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LOONS-DUCKS: The loon numbers on the lake were unimpressive. Red-throated Loon: max 72 H 14 Nov. Com. Loon: max 138 H 9 Nov. The traditional three grebe species were recorded in only fair numbers. Horned Grebe: max 100 WL 25 Nov. Red-necked Grebe: arr. one H 27 Sept. Quite likely the bird of the season was a **WHITE PELICAN**: one Hamlin 26 Sept. that stopped briefly on a farm pond along the west lakeshore (R & H Duerr, *vide* FD). A number of observers remarked on the good numbers of Double-crested Cormorants: max 60 G 30 Sept. A few herons lingered on late into the season. Least Bittern: one G 1 Sept. Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 imm. Russell Station 27 Nov. Glossy Ibis: one B 8 Oct. (TP), continuation of a few fall sightings over the last few years. Fair numbers of waterfowl inhabited the lake, waterways and wetlands of the Region. This included some noteworthy observations. Tundra Swan: max 45 S 26 Nov. Of great interest was the presence of two "Black Brant," Western subspecies of Brant. Both birds were studied at close range: one H 7 Nov., imm.; one H 14 Nov. adult. Brant: max 200 W 27 Oct. Blue-winged Teal: max 85 29 Sept. one H 18 Nov, late. Redhead: 220+ W 11 Nov. **KING EIDER**: one H 16 Nov. (CC, WS), imm. male. Harlequin Duck: good number of reports for fall season; two H 3 Nov. (KG, JB), females; one H 4 Nov. (RS, WL), female; one G 7 Nov. (KG), female. White-winged Scoter: max 2000 H 25 Nov. Ruddy Duck: max 10 Long Pond 22 Oct.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: The presence of Bald Eagles in the Region was highly noticeable with at least two imm. and a single adult sighted. All the accipiters were represented. N. Goshawk: two to three throughout the period. Some buteo reports of note were: Broad-winged Hawk: one W 28 Oct. Red-tailed Hawk: 55 M 4 Sept. in one hour. Rough-legged Hawk: one W 21 Oct. Falcon reports were quite good. Merlin: six sightings. Peregrine Falcon: five sightings with one pair harassing an imm. Bald Eagle. Of interest was a late Com. Moorhen: one Northrup Creek 27 Oct. The scarcity of desirable habitat kept shorebird numbers at their traditional level of mediocrity, yet some good reports and sightings occurred during the season. Black-bellied Plover: one B 17 Nov., late. Lesser Golden-Plover: max 85 H 22 Sept., not a good total. Killdeer: max 225 H 22 Sept. Greater Yellowlegs: one IB 11 Nov., late. Lesser Yellowlegs: one B 7 Nov., last report. Whimbrel: one H 15 Sept. (ST), scarce this year. Hudsonian Godwit: one C 3 Sept. (MD, KG, JB), very poor showing. **MARBLED GODWIT**: one H 12 Sept. (CC, WS), possibly same bird reported in Aug. Sanderling: three C 29 Sept., last report. White-rumped Sandpiper: one Northrup Creek 27 Oct. (RS); one H 15 Nov. (WS). Baird's Sandpiper: one B 10 Nov. (RC), late individual, injured. Purple Sandpiper: one Summerville Pier 26 Oct. (RO); one B 22-23 Nov. (CC), traditional levels of abundance. Stilt Sandpiper: H 30 Oct., late. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one H 1-8 Sept. (mob); one G 8 Sept. (FD). Long-billed Dowitcher: one B 19 Nov. (CC). Red-necked Phalarope: four H 6 Sept., one H 21 Sept., two H 4 Oct., two H 31 Oct. Jaegers were recorded at fair levels but not at levels experienced in years past. Pomarine Jaeger: max two H 25 Oct. Parasitic Jaeger: max six H 26 Sept. Gull numbers were at levels in keeping with recent trends. A few observations of special interest took

place. Franklin's Gull: one C 10 Nov. (SS). Little Gull: max seven WL 1-30 Nov. **COM. BLACK-HEADED GULL**: one H 27 Sept. (CC, NB, WS); one H 4 Oct. (CC, JB, WS), lakewatch once again proves fruitful. Iceland Gull: one H 30 Nov. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**: one H 2 Nov. (CC, WS), adult, continuation of recent trends. Glaucous Gull: four reports from Nov. Black-legged Kittiwake: one H 15 Sept. (ST), very early, imm.; two H 4 Oct. (CC, WS), imm.; one H 4 Nov. (CC); two H 16 Nov. (CC, WL); one H 19 Nov. (WS). Black Tern: one WL 1 Sept., last report.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: one M 10 Oct. (RO), late individual in an off year for cuckoos. Snowy Owl: minimum of four individuals in Region. Long-eared Owl: one W 23 Sept. (R & SS). Short-eared Owl: one H 6 Oct. (R & CS). N. Saw-whet Owl: one Penfield 1 Oct. (RM). It was a pretty good fall for owls. Chimney Swift: one G 17 Oct., last report. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Brighton, may have some wintering birds.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: two H 8 Sept., last report. Willow Flycatcher; one I 6 Sept., last report. Least Flycatcher: one I 16 Sept. Great-crested Flycatcher: one I 16 Sept. E. Kingbird. one Avon 29 Sept., late individual. Tree Swallow: two H 22 Oct., last report. Blue Jay: very common again this fall. Com. Raven: one Mendon Ponds 2 Oct. (EB), calling, continuation of recent trend in Region. Carolina Wren: max three W 27 Oct. House Wren: one M 27 Oct., late individual. Marsh Wren: one Long Pond 20 Oct., late individual. Golden-crowned Kinglet: good numbers. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: numbers down slightly. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one H 10 Oct., last report of season. Swanson's Thrush: could be heard migrating at night, but grounded totals were down, window kills well-reported. Hermit Thrush: a few lingered through the season. Wood Thrush: one W 10 Oct. (D & DT), rather late individual. N. Mockingbird: holding its own. N. Shrike: one B 25 Nov., first fall report. Loggerhead Shrike: one Honeoye Falls 16 Sept. (JT), one K 9 Nov. (FD); good sign from a dwindling species in the Region.

VIREOS-WARBBLERS: The absence of massive movements of warblers left us with unpectacular migration records. The tendency again seemed to indicate good night flights but a minimum of grounding. The birding was not bad; it provided some good observation days and some noteworthy reports. Included in those were some very interesting last dates of sighting in the Region. Red-eyed Vireo: one H 10 Oct. Blue-winged Warbler: one Lakeside Beach 29 Sept. Orange-crowned Warbler: one M 27 Sept., one Cobb's Hill 17 Sept., one H 10 Oct., rather typical fall pattern. Nashville Warbler: one Mendon Ponds 12 Oct. N. Parula: one W 17-18 Nov. (A & BK), very late in the season. Magnolia Warbler: one H 10 Oct. Cape May Warbler: one G 3 Oct. Black-throated Blue Warbler: one H 10 Oct. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 500 H 10 Oct. Pine Warbler: one H 8 Sept. Palm Warbler: one IB 10 Oct. Bay-breasted Warbler: one H 10 Oct. Blackpoll Warbler: one H 10 Oct. Am. Redstart: Ellison Park 8 Oct. Ovenbird: six Ellison Park 8 Oct. N. Waterthrush: one W 2-10 Sept. Com. Yellowthroat: one G 7-8 Nov. Canada Warbler: one I 16 Sept.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: There was evidence of good breeding years for some species in this section. The mild fall also kept a variety of species in the Region. There was also the hint of a finch winter with the arrival of a few winter finches. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: one Mendon Ponds 7 Oct. Rufous-sided Towhee: one Mendon Ponds 11 Nov. Am. Tree Sparrow: one WL 23 Sept. (WL), first fall sighting. White-throated Sparrow: ten I 16 Sept., first fall sighting; excellent numbers at H. White-crowned Sparrow: two H 27 Sept., first fall sighting; large numbers of imm. at H. Dark-eyed Junco: goods numbers throughout the Region. Lapland Longspur: three J 25 Oct. Snow Bunting: max 300 H 25 Nov. Bobolink: one H 22 Sept. (WD), lingering individual. Rusty Blackbird: max 200 H 4 Nov. (RD), an awfully large number for so late in the season. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 2000 Perinton 14 Oct. House Finch: max 500 Orleans Co. 12 Nov., thriving. Red Crossbill: three D 25 Nov., 45 H 25 Nov., 17 H 26 Nov. White-winged Crossbill: one D 22 Nov., four H 25 Nov., two H 26 Nov., six H 30 Nov. Pine Siskin: 1-24 WL 9-30 Nov.

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, New York 14612

REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

DICK CLEMENTS

“Pleasant” would be a one word description of fall in our Region. As usual, temperature extremes were experienced in every month. In the Elmira area, a record low of 21° was set on 6 Oct. However, that same day the mercury pushed to a mild 59°. Highs for some October dates were 64°, 69°, 75°, 78°, and a record 80° on 28 Oct. Precipitation varied throughout our Region but on the whole was below average. Chemung County received only 1.5 inches of rain in October compared to the average 3.00 inches. November was very dry until the last two days when close to two inches of rain fell. This was to be expected after our wet spring and summer.

The dry, warm weather was certainly not conducive for massive migration sightings. Most observers agreed that the fall migration was a poor one. The first week of September and October yielded a nice mixture of warblers and vireos. On the positive side, the weather conditions allowed the flight of our night migrants to be much less hazardous. Only 28 birds were victims of the WETMT.V. tower in Elmira. There was no “big day” for Canada Goose migration.

Many observers bemoaned the dearth of most species of birds at their feeders. This can be attributed to several factors. Mild weather is number one. However, this year was an especially good one for the wild berry and spruce cone crops. This leads to speculation that half-hardies and winter finches may be present in numbers. Thus far this has not proven true as only a few Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins have been reported. Lingerers included a N. Parula and a Wilson’s Phalarope.

Water at Mays Point Pool in Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge was drawn down for several weeks in September and October creating excellent shorebird habitat. Identification was somewhat difficult due to the inaccessibility of the feeding areas to bird observers. Spotting scopes were put to good use. Twenty-two species of shorebirds were observed in our Region, all but one at Montezuma. Rarities included a Willet and a Hudsonian Godwit with good numbers of Pectoral Sandpipers and Dunlins seen.

Other noteworthy observations include:

1. All three species of scoters observed.
2. Six Peregrine Falcon sightings.
3. American Kestrels doing well.
4. An astronomical **400,000** Mallards at Montezuma.
5. More Cooper’s Hawks than Sharp-shinned being seen at feeders.
6. Dick Guthrie reports seeing two young Fish Crows being fed by adults on 8 Oct. at Stewart Park in Ithaca. “The young were begging with food calls, wing-flapping and crouching behavior. The calls of adults and young quite distinctive.” Fish Crows have become regular there but the date for feeding young is extraordinary.
7. An aggressive White-breasted Nuthatch in Pine City chasing House Finches off his favorite landing spot on a sunflower feeder. Three cheers!! Is it possible to clone nuthatches? If the answer turns out to be “yes,” place your orders early.

8. Additional rarities were Cattle Egret, Greater White-fronted Goose and Common Raven.

Abbreviations: Cay-Cayuga; Keu-Keuka; L-Lake; M-Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Pk-Park; Pt-Point; Q.C.-Queen Catherine Marsh; Sem-weekly seminars held at Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University; Sen-Seneca.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: present thru on Cay, Keu, and Sen Ls, with no large flocks reported anywhere. Pied-billed Grebe: seven Myers Pt. 14 Oct.; scarce at M; one Elmira late Oct.; two Ithaca 25 Oct.; one Watkins Glen late Nov. Horned Grebe: a few seen on Sen and Cay Ls. Red-necked Grebe: none reported. Double-crested Cormorant: max 20 M 30 Sept. and smaller numbers present there thru; two Stewart Pk 8 Oct. Am. Bittern: one reported at M in Sept. Great Blue Heron: present in normal numbers throughout the Region. Great Egret: nine M 8 Sept.; one West Darby 27 Nov. **CATTLE EGRET**: one Route 34 north of Ithaca 18 Nov. (David). Green-backed Heron: last report Reeder's Creek, Varick 20 Oct. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one Elmira 3 Sept.; ten M 6 Sept.; last report M 22 Oct. Tundra Swan: 45 M 25 Nov.. Mute Swan: three adults, one imm. south end of Cay L Oct. and Nov. **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**: one M 6 Nov. feeding with Canada Geese (V. Dewey). Snow Goose: max 25 M 14 Oct. Brant: one M 15 Nov. Canada Goose: first notable migration occurred around 21 Sept. with a peak population of 26,000 at M 20 Nov.

Maximum waterfowl numbers at Montezuma Wildlife Refuge as reported by refuge personnel.

Wood Duck	1,000	31 Oct.	Am. Wigeon	2000	31 Oct.
Green-winged Teal	3,000	31 Oct.	Canvasback	500	30 Oct.
Am. Black Duck	20,000	15 Nov.	Redhead	1000	31 Oct.
Mallard	400,000	15 Nov.	Ring-necked Duck	8000	30 Oct.
N. Pintail	2,000	31 Oct.	Bufflehead	300	7 Nov.
Blue-winged Teal	300	5 Oct.	Hooded Merganser	47	31 Oct.
N. Shoveler	2,000	5 Oct.	Com. Merganser	300	9 Nov.
Gadwall	1,200	7 Nov.	Ruddy Duck	50	31 Oct.

Wood Duck: 16 Elmira 22 Sept.; 21 Watkins Glen Race Track area 18 Oct. Oldsquaw: three Myers Pt. 28 Oct.; three Elmira 29 Oct. Black Scoter: 24 Elmira 29 Oct.; three Keu L. Nov. Surf Scoter: three reports from Ithaca area, max seven Myers Pt. 14 Oct. White-winged Scoter: two female Myers Pt. 17 Nov.; small flock at Branchport Nov. Red-breasted Merganser: last reported Cay L area 19 Nov. Ruddy Duck: one Watkins Glen 24 Oct.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: lingering thru Oct. in Elmira. Bald Eagle: one imm. M 14 Oct. N. Harrier: present thru Ithaca; increasing Penn Yan. Cooper's Hawk: reported at feeders in Ithaca, Watkins Glen and Elmira, N. Goshawk: reported only at Sem 10 Oct. Red-shouldered Hawk: Ithaca area Sept. Rough-legged Hawk: Ithaca 29 Oct.; Penn Yan 30 Nov. Am. Kestrel: doing well in reporting areas. Peregrine Falcon: one male M 29 Sept.; imm female M 30 Sept.; one Stewart Pk harassing gulls 2 Oct.; imm southeast of Ithaca 7 Oct.; imm female M 14 and 16 Oct. Ring-necked Pheasant: continued scarce. Wild Turkey: increasing everywhere in Yates Co. Rails: none reported. Com. Moorhen: one Sem 30 Sept. Am. Coot: max 300 M 31 Oct.; 60 Watkins Glen 27 Oct. Black-bellied Plover: 35 M 30 Sept.; one Elmira 4 Oct. Lesser Golden-Plover: one Bennettsburg 25 Sept.; 16 M 6 Oct. Semipalmated Plover: two Elmira 4 Sept.; ten M 18 Sept. Killdeer: reported from all areas with a max of 40 Watkins Glen 11 Oct. Greater Yellowlegs: last reported M 29 Oct. Lesser Yellowlegs: seven Elmira 3 Sept.; 30 M. 6 Oct. Solitary Sandpiper: one report, Elmira 3 Sept. **WILLET**: one M 30 Sept. (T. Vainter). Spotted Sandpiper: last reported Elmira 27

Oct. **HUDSONIAN GODWIT**: two M 6 Oct. (Gooding, J. & K. Confer); one M 16 Oct. (Milburn). Sanderling: three Myers Pt. 15 Sept. Semipalmated Sandpiper: last reported at Sem 29 Oct. Least Sandpiper: reported at three Sem. White-rumped Sandpiper: several M 14 Oct.; Myers Pt. 28 Oct. Pectoral Sandpiper: 14 Elmira 3 Sept.; 130 M 6 Oct. Still Sandpiper: four reports all from M. Dunlin: 100 M 10 Oct.; one Watkins Glen 24 Oct. Short-billed Dowitcher: max 10 M 28 Sept. Long-billed Dowitcher: four reports from M. Com. Snipe: two Penn Yan Marsh 28 Nov. Am. Woodcock: few Watkins Glen and Phelps; two Ithaca reports, last 19 Nov. Wilson's Phalarope: one Corning Pond 3 Nov., very late. Bonaparte's Gull: one Long Pt. Pk. 17 Nov. Herring Gull: thousands on plowed fields Penn Yan. Great Black-backed Gull: present thru Ithaca; occasional on Sen L. Caspian Tern: two M 2 Sept.; three Watkins Glen Sept. No other terns reported.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: flock of 300-400 successfully eluding Cooper's Hawk in Elmira. E. Screech-Owl: reported from many areas around Ithaca and doing well in Elmira area. Great Horned Owl: injured bird recovered Phelps late Oct.; reported at eight of ten Sem. Snowy Owl: one Dresden 27 Nov. No other owls reported. Com. Nighthawk: max 150 Elmira 10 Sept. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last reported at Sem 24 Sept. Belted Kingfisher: reported thru in all areas. Red-headed Woodpecker: these birds are scarce at any time of the year. Red-bellied Woodpecker: reported at eight of ten Sem; regular near Montour Falls. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: present thru Elmira; Reeder's Creek Oct. Hairy Woodpecker: scarce Elmira. N. Flicker: present thru Ithaca and Elmira; poor migration Sen Falls area. Pileated Woodpecker: encouraging reports from many areas.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Ithaca 8 Sept. E. Wood-Pewee: last reported at Sem 1 Oct. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one M 15 Sept.; Sapsucker Woods 19 and 24 Sept. E. Phoebe: singing into Oct. Elmira area; last reported at Sem 22 Oct. Horned Lark: very scarce. Tree Swallow: large flock feeding Sen L St. Pk 8 Oct. N. Rough-winged, Bank and Barn Swallows: all last reported at Sem 8 Oct. Blue Jay: increased numbers at feeders this year. Fish Crow: very regular at Stewart Pk thru. **COM. RAVEN**: one Watkins Glen 11 Nov. (JB). Tufted Titmouse: increasing Penn Yan area. Red-breasted Nuthatch: no notable migration. Brown Creeper: present thru Elmira and Ithaca. Carolina Wren: regular Q.C. and Ithaca; singing Oct. and Nov. Pine City. House Wren: stayed until 22 Oct. in Ithaca. Winter Wren: one Reeder's Creek Oct.; one southeast of Ithaca; one Elmira area thru in its long established haunt in Rorick's Glen. Marsh Wren: M in Sept. Golden-crowned Kinglet: very common Elmira, Ithaca and Watkins Glen. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one singing Elmira 21 Oct.; last reported Ithaca 12 Nov. E. Bluebird: no alarming reports; small flocks in Elmira and Schuyler Co. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one Airport Rd. area Ithaca 14 Oct. Swainson's Thrush: last reported at Sem 29 Oct. Hermit Thrush: only observed in Ithaca. Am. Robin: large flocks Watkins Glen and Phelps in Oct.; present in good numbers thru in Penn Yan and Ithaca. Gray Catbird: recorded at Sem thru 29 Oct. Water Pipit: 500 M 24 Sept.; 25 Bennettsburg 25 Sept.; 100 Fayette 20 Oct.; 15 Elmira 15 Nov. Cedar Waxwing: abundant sporadically Watkins Glen and Elmira. No shrikes were observed.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: last reported at Sem 22 Oct. Yellow-throated Vireo: singing Elmira into Oct. Warbling Vireo: Penn Yan 20 Oct. Philadelphia Vireo: one M 15 Sept.; one Ithaca report Oct. Red-eyed Vireo: common thru 8 Oct. in Elmira and Ithaca. Warblers: Blue-winged: Watkins Glen 3 Sept. Nashville: Elmira 2 Oct. N. Parula: Elmira 2 Oct.; one Slaterville Rd. near Ithaca 23 Nov. exceeds Cay Basin record by 12 days. Yellow: scarce Elmira. Magnolia: observed in good numbers in Ithaca, Elmira and Watkins Glen. Black-throated Blue: male Reeder's Creek 8 Oct. Yellow-rumped: many Watkins Glen 11 Oct.; present thru Ithaca. Black-throated Green: normal migration numbers. Prairie: Elmira and Watkins Glen 3 Sept. Palm: Elmira and Ithaca 2 Oct. Bay-breasted: Sem 22 Oct. Cerulean: Sem 8 Oct. Ovenbird: common Sept. migrant in Elmira. N. Waterthrush: one Sapsucker Woods 13 Sept. Connecticut: one Sapsucker Woods 18 Sept. (S. Sibley). Com. Yellowthroat: Sem 22 Oct. Wilson's: Ithaca, Elmira and Watkins Glen in Sept.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: Elmira 2 Oct. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Ithaca thru 22 Oct. Indigo Bunting: seen in its usual fall habitat in Elmira—corn fields. Rufous-sided Towhee: last reported Ithaca 22 Oct. Am. Tree Sparrow: first observed Phelps 25 Oct. Chipping Sparrow: migratory flocks Elmira 14 Sept. Vesper Sparrow: Sem 8 and 22 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: Elmira 29 Oct. Fox Sparrow: several Q.C. 12 Oct.; two Penn Yan 24 Oct. Lincoln's Sparrow: one Sen Co. Oct. Swamp Sparrow: several Sem thru; Phelps Oct. White-throated Sparrow: very common to abundant in all areas. White-crowned Sparrow: last report at Sem 29 Oct. Snow Bunting: first report M 10 Oct.; two Ithaca 30 Oct.; 35 Havana Glen 30 Nov. Bobolink: Sem 1 Oct. E. Meadowlark: tower kill Elmira 20 Oct. Rusty Blackbird: max 50 M 12 Oct.; small flock Watkins Glen 10 Nov. N. Oriole: Sem 17 Sept. Purple Finch: reported at most Sem but in small numbers. House Finch: flock of 300 Elmira. No crossbills or redpolls. Pine Siskin: one Ithaca 4 Nov.; one Watkins Glen 11 Nov. Evening Grosbeak: Ithaca 8 Oct.; 30 Big Flats 11 Nov. but not seen since.

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REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

HARRIET MARSI

Region Four just didn't have any fall to speak of in 1984! Accepting the definition of Indian Summer as a period of warm weather taking place after the first killing frost of autumn, what we had was a long Indian Summer preceded by an extended summer's end and succeeded by a brief pre-winter. In Region Four August warmth, gradually diminishing, flowed right through September into the first week of October. Then on the night of 7 Oct. it finally happened – the black frost (28°) that spelled taps for tender flower petals and any tomatoes still left on the vine. A repeat performance (28°) the night of 8 Oct. left no doubt. We had certainly had our killing frost.

But what then? 9 Oct. saw an immediate return to mild daytime highs in the fifties and sixties and nighttime lows in the upper thirties and lower forties—Indian Summer, of course—a delightful trend which lasted the remainder of October and still prevailed on Election Day, 6 Nov. On the night of 7 Nov., however, the region experienced its next killing frost (28°). Indian Summer was finally over. But it died hard. The succeeding weeks held many warm days and few below-freezing nights. A blast of cold Canadian air produced a brisk, clear Turkey Day, 22 Nov., and those who plan ahead got out the mittens and scarves. But no! One last struggle to reverse the inevitable. The final week of Nov. saw daytime highs back in the upper fifties and on 27 Nov. a mercury reading of 63° toppled the previous high record of 61°. This *was* the end, however. *Now* the mittens and scarves – and the boots as well. On 29 Nov. a low pressure system over the Great Lakes dumped three inches of slushy, sloppy snow on us, and it was on this soggy note that the so-called fall season ended.

During this period there was little precipitation. Area ponds were low and streams dry until the final sleet and snowstorm replenished them. Berry crops, however, reflecting abundant spring rains, were outstanding. Temptingly lush wild grapes, especially, lured at least one usually sound-minded area housewife into that insanelly messy business of gathering, cooking, straining (cheesecloth bags, purple drippings and all) and processing wild grape jelly, a product that moves anything made from the tame fruit to the back of the shelf. The nut and cone yield was equally plentiful. "Come and get it, Winter Finches!"

No heavy rain or strong winds stirred the atmosphere. Gravity alone, in a very gentle but persistent, colorful shower, brought the leaves drifting slowly to the ground. All very delightful for human beings, but what about the birds? Actually, no one really knows how it impacted the birds, but what it did for bird records seems to have been disastrous! Observer after observer noted "sorry to have so few to report!", "A really slow season!", "Banding the worst in many years!" etc. Counts in almost all categories – waterfowl, shorebirds, thrushes, vireos, warblers, even finches were worryingly low. Let us hope the explanation for this is that the birds, pushed by no strong fronts, migrated through singly, each one at his own pace and leisure. In any event the wild berry crop still remains on the bush. Our hillsides, usually red from the pedicels of the gray dogwood, are pink, the red being half-hidden by the remaining white berries. Mountain Ash branches still bend from the weight of yet unplucked fruit. Nannyberries, still loaded with abundant dark "wild raisins," stand out starkly in the fields.

Meanwhile, maybe the unusually pleasant weather brought out a bit of the wanderlust in a few individual birds, inviting them to travel farther afield than normal. That may explain the reports of Double-crested Cormorants on the Susquehanna River in Binghamton (A/DH) and Owego (RE), the two records of Surf Scoters, one in Chenango Co. (CC) and one in Delaware Co. (BA), or the two records of White-winged Scoters, one from Chenango Co. (CC, DW), one from Delaware Co. (H/PP). Perhaps this is also why a Whip-poor-will was heard calling in Chenango Co. (HMe). In any event, these venturesome strays brightened an otherwise dull season.

Observers: B. Anderson, C. & J. Baldwin, D. Bell, J. Bell, L. Bemont, R. Bennett, L. Bingley, B. Bozdos, W. Breidinger, S. Carey, B. Carmien, M. Clark, L. Clark, C. Covey, A. & M. Davis, J. Chase, R. Daigle, L. Dean, M. Dobinsky, R. Eckhardt, D. Gracey, S. Hartman, A. & D. Honeychuck, G. Kirch, K. & C. Knapp, M. Layton, J. Lehman, F. Linaberry, H. Marsi, R. Marsi, L. McCandlish, L. McDowell, D. Messineo, H. Messineo, T. Mostert, F. O'Leary, R. Pantle, R. Parker, H. & P. Pierce, H. Robison, J. Sedlacek, K. Stalter, A. Thompson, G. Wade, A. Whitaker, C. Wilkins, K. Wilson, D. Windsor.

Abbreviations: Br.-Broome; CR-Cannonsville Reservoir; Chen.-Chenango; Del.-Delaware; OPM-Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; PGMS-Pharsalia Game Management Area; SOFH-South Otselic Fish Hatchery; WPR-Whitney Point Reservoir.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one 27 Oct. Otsego L (MD); one 29 Oct. CR (H/PP); one 7 Nov. WPR (FL, HM); one three weeks in Nov. Tioga Co. "landed on a tiny pond, well-stocked with small fish but too small to allow bird the running start necessary for take-off; finally walked away and was caught to be freed in Susquehanna River" (LB, LD). Pied-billed Grebe: ten reports; first Sept. Tioga Co. (RB); last two 10 Oct. OPM (MD, KW).

Horned Grebe: one 13 Oct., Vestal (GK); one 7 Nov. WPR (FL, HM); one 17 Nov. Otsego L. (MD). **DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT**: one Sept. Tioga Co. (RE); one 15 Oct. Br. Co. (A/DH). Great Blue Heron: regular thru; last 4 Oct. Del. Co. (KS). Great Egret: one occasionally 10 thru 27 Sept. Portlandville, Otsego Co. (MD, KW). Green-backed Heron: low count, only reported from Tioga Co. Sept. and Oct. (LD). Canada Goose: earliest 1 Sept. Delhi (MC), last 11 Nov. Chen. Co. (CC); otherwise regular especially 2 thru 6 Oct. Wood Duck: 13 reports, scattered thru. Am. Black Duck: Oct. Tioga Co.; six 29 Oct. CR (H/PP); one 15 Nov. So. Otselic (DM). Mallard: regular thru. N. Pintail: one 7 Nov. WPR (FL, HM). Canvasback: one 17 Nov. Chen. L. (CC, JL, DW); one 24 Nov. Chen. L. (CC, DW). Redhead: one 2 Oct. Camp Pharsalia, Chen. Co. (CC). Greater Scaup: three 13 Oct. Chen. Co. (CC, RD, DW); one 17 Nov. Chen. L. (CC, JL, DW); one 24 Nov. Chen. L. (CC, DW). Lesser Scaup: three 2 Oct. PGMA (CC); six 3 thru 6 Nov. Chen. L. (CC, RD, DW); five 11 Nov. Chen. L. (CC). Oldsquaw: one Oct. Tioga Co. (BC); 12 3 Nov. Chen. L. (CC, RD, DW). **SURF SCOTER**: eight 7 Oct. Chen. L. "Chen. L. is about 60 to 80 acres in size, about 20 to 25 feet deep in most areas but shallower on north and south ends. I saw the birds at about 7:30 am. There was a light fog and the early morning sun was at my back so visibility was poor. They were approx. 100 yards out. I was using a Bausch & Lomb zoom at about 30 to 40 x. All eight birds were the same – dull brown, two white patches on the face, one behind the bill, the other behind the eye. They were swimming and diving. I watched for about ten minutes and never saw any white wing patches on any of them. Finally they flew." (CC); one 8 Oct. Delhi: "stayed a week on five-acre pond from three to 14 feet deep with the entire upper end shallow – pond stocked with trout but few remain – probably no small fish; when it wasn't diving in the shallow parts it seemed to be doing nothing; many, many small salamanders; put to flight by a dog making it easy to note with certainty absence of white on wings" (BA). Com. Goldeneye: one 11 Nov. Chen. Co. (CC); two 15 Nov. Chen. Co. (RD, DW). Bufflehead: six 3 Nov. Chen. Co. (CC, RD, DW); three 24 Nov. Chen. Co. (CC, DW); one 2 Nov. Br. Co. (GK). Hooded Merganser: four 3 Nov. Chen. Co. (CC, RD, DW). Com. Merganser: 20 4 Nov. Del. Co. (KS). Red-breasted Merganser: 22 Sept. Tioga Co. (C/JB). Ruddy Duck: one 3 Nov. Chen. Co. (CC, RD, DW); one 24 Oct. Tioga Co. (C/JB).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture; regular thru Sept.; last date 4 Oct. Delhi (MC). Osprey: 14 reports scattered thru; last date 31 Oct. Tioga Co. (C/JB, DB, JB, RE). N. Harrier: ten reports scattered thru; last 4 Nov. Del. Co. (KS). Sharp-shinned Hawk: ten reports scattered thru; last 18 Nov. Br. Co. "trying to catch a couple of House Sparrows caught in my maze trap" (JS). Cooper's Hawk: seven reports; last 18 Nov. Wilbur Pk, Oneonta, harassing a Pileated Woodpecker "about 30 feet up in a dead tree, pecking away in search of food. The hawk, an immature, flew at him and the woodpecker merely moved around to the other side of the tree. The hawk returned to his perch. This was repeated two or three times. The woodpecker flew to another tree a few feet away and continued his search for food. The hawk continued to harass it. I lost them when the woodpecker, with hawk in pursuit, flew into a more distant dense lot of White Pine trees. I checked Bent's *Life Histories of Woodpeckers* which said none of the stomachs of Cooper's Hawks had ever indicated a Pileated had been taken by one" (MD). N. Goshawk: one 21 Sept. Tioga Co. (C/JB); one Oct. Tioga Co. (AW); one 25 Oct. Chen. Co. (CC). Broad-winged Hawk: 11 reports; last 2 Oct. Delhi (MC). Red-tailed Hawk: reported "regular but light" from several areas; So. Otselic comment "probably due to the absence of meadow mice" (DM). Am. Kestrel: regular thru. Merlin: one Sept. Tioga Co. (RB), one 11 Oct. Tioga Co. (C/JB, BC). Ring-necked Pheasant: Sept., Oct. Tioga Co. (LD, AW); one 5 Oct. OPM (MD); one Br. Co. 23 Oct. (JS); six So. Otselic "four females and two males, released on my farm, doing well in river bottom thickets" (DM). Ruffed Grouse: fair thru. Wild Turkey: regular Br., Del., and Tioga Cos.; nine 3 Oct. OPM (MD, KW). Killdeer: common Sept., Oct.; last 24 Nov. Chen. Co. (CC, DW). Greater Yellowlegs: two 19 Sept., two 15 Oct. three 29 Oct.

OPM (MD, KW); one 6 Oct. Chen. Co. (CC); two 7 Oct. SOFH (DM); 9 thru 11 Oct. Tioga Co. (RE). Lesser Yellowlegs: 5 Oct. Tioga Co. (RB). Solitary Sandpiper: one 3 Sept., one 14 Sept. So. Otselic (DM); one 16 Sept. Tioga Co. (C/JB). Pectoral Sandpiper: 16 Oct. Tioga Co. (RE). Com. Snipe: 6 Oct. Tioga Co. (DB, JB, LBi). Am. Woodcock: regular Sept., Oct. Br., Del., Tioga Cos.; two 27 Oct. So. Otselic (DM). Ring-billed Gull: regular thru; last date 17 Nov. OPM (MD). Herring Gull: regular thru; last date 26 Nov. OPM (MD).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: common thru. Mourning Dove: common thru. Black-billed Cuckoo: Sept. Tioga Co. (C/JB). E. Screech-Owl: regular thru. Great Horned Owl: common thru. Com. Nighthawk: one 1 Sept. OPM (MD); one 25 Sept. Tioga Co. (DB, JB, RE). **WHIP-POOR-WILL**: one 16 Oct. Norwich, heard calling (HMe). Chimney Swift: last date 12 Sept. Tioga Co. (LD, RE). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last date 20 Sept. Delhi (SC, MC). Belted Kingfisher: good numbers thru. Red-headed Woodpecker: two Oct. Tioga Co. (DB, JB, LD); one 29 Oct., imm. CR (HP/P). Red-bellied Woodpecker: Sept., Oct. Tioga Co. (DB, JB, LD). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last date 24 Sept. Tioga Co. (C/JB, DB, JB, LD). Downy Woodpecker: common thru. Hairy Woodpecker: moderate thru. N. Flicker: regular thru; last date 25 Nov. Br., Co. (HM). Pileated Woodpecker: a few thru; see Cooper's Hawk.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: Sept. Tioga Co. (RE). E. Wood-pewee: last date 29 Sept. Tioga Co. (DB, JB). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one 13 Sept., one 19 Sept. Br. Co. (HM). Traill's Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher: 14 records all Br. and Tioga Cos. where the birds were caught in mist nets; no singing; last date 18 Sept. (JB, HM). Least Flycatcher: last date 16 Sept. Br. Co. (HM). E. Phoebe: last date 3 Oct. Delhi (MC) OPM (MD, KW). Great Crested Flycatcher: one report Oct. Tioga Co. (RB). E. Kingbird: one 11 Sept. OPM (MD); one 11 Oct. Tioga Co. (RE). Purple Martin: Sept. Tioga Co. (RE). Tree Swallow: Sept. Tioga Co. (RE); four 5 Oct. Del. Co. (MC). Barn Swallow: last date 11 Oct. Tioga Co. (RE). Blue Jay: common thru. Com. Crow: common thru. Black-capped Chickadee: common thru. Tufted Titmouse: moderate thru. Red-breasted Nuthatch: four 19 Sept., one 27 Sept. OPM (MD, KW). White-breasted Nuthatch: regular thru. Brown Creeper: moderate thru. Carolina Wren: "family raised here stayed thru Sept. Br. Co." (AT). House Wren: last date 7 Oct. Tioga Co. (JB, LBi). Winter Wren: one 24 Sept., one 1 Nov. So. Otselic (DM); one 28 Sept., one 7 Oct. Br. Co. (HM); one 9 Oct. Br. Co. (A/MD). Marsh Wren: one 27 Sept. Tioga Co., banded (JB). Golden-crowned Kinglet: moderate thru; first 27 Sept. Del. Co. (MC, SH). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: regular thru; last date 25 Oct. OPM (MD, KW). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one Sept. Tioga Co. (JB). E. Bluebird: good numbers; last date three 29 Oct. OPM (MD, KW). Veery: Last date 6 Sept. (HM). Swainson's Thrush: two 19 Sept. OPM (MD, KW); ten banded thru 24 Oct. Br. Co. (HM); very light count. Hermit Thrush: 13 reports Br., Tioga, OPM; last date 29 Oct. OPM (MD, KW); a light count. Wood Thrush: regular thru; last date 11 Oct. Br. Co. (A/MD). Am. Robin: common thru; last date 24 Nov. Br. Co. (JS). Gray Catbird: regular thru; last date 21 Oct. Tioga Co. (JB). N. Mockingbird: Sept. Br. Co. (AT); Sept., Oct. Tioga Co. (sev.). Brown Thrasher: one 14 Sept. So. Otselic; "along the road, stunned" (DM). Water Pipit: ten 23 Sept. Del. Co. (SH); five 5 Oct. Del. Co. "walking and running along the cornfield between the rows where the corn had been cut. They stop to feed—apparently insects—quickly and run on" (KS). Cedar Waxwing: regular thru. N. Shrike: one 23 thru 28 Oct., 5, 6 Nov. So. Otselic "singing, calling" (DM). European Starling: common thru.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: small numbers scattered thru; last date 7 Oct. Tioga Co. (JB, LBi). Yellow-throated Vireo: one 2 Sept. So. Otselic (DM); one 27 Sept. Tioga Co. (DB, JB, RB). Warbling Vireo: one 12 Sept. So. Otselic (DM); one 13 Sept. OPM (MD); one 16 Sept. Tioga Co. (C/JB, RE). Red-eyed Vireo: 11 thru 19 Sept. OPM (MD, KW); one 23 Sept., banded, Tioga Co. (JB); 17 thru 2 Oct., banded, Br. Co. (HM); low count. Golden-winged Warbler: four thru 11 Sept., banded, Br. Co. (HM). Tennessee Warbler: fair numbers

thru; last date 24 Oct. Br. Co. (HM). Nashville Warbler: fair numbers thru; last date 23 Oct., banded, Tioga Co. (JB). N. Parula: one 28 Sept., banded, Br. Co. (HM). Yellow Warbler: one 18 Sept. Br. Co. (HM); one 20 Sept. Tioga Co. (JB); Sept. Tioga Co. (RE, RB); low count. Chestnut-sided Warbler: one 18 Sept. Tioga Co. (JB, LBi). Magnolia Warbler: moderate thru; last 7 Oct. Br. Co. (JS). Cape May Warbler: moderate thru; last 28 Sept. Br. Co. (HM). Black-throated Blue Warbler: one 12 Sept., one 7 Oct. Br. Co. (HM). Yellow-rumped Warbler: moderate thru; last 14 Nov. Del. Co. (HR). Black-throated Green Warbler: moderate thru; last 3 Oct. OPM (MD, KW), Tioga Co. (JB). Blackburnian Warbler: 22 Sept. Tioga Co. (C/JB, RB, LD). Pine Warbler: three 16 Sept. So. Otselic; one 30 Sept. Tioga Co. (RB). Prairie Warbler: one 14 Sept. Tioga Co. (C/JB); Oct. Tioga Co. (RB). Palm Warbler: one 23 Sept. Tioga Co. (GW); 25 Sept. Tioga Co. (LD); Oct. Tioga Co. (RE). Bay-breasted Warbler: Sept. Tioga Co. (RB); one 12 Sept., two 19 Sept. Br. Co. (HM). Blackpoll Warbler: eight 16 thru 25 Sept. Br. Co., banded, (HM); one 17 Sept. Tioga Co. (D/JB, LD); one 27 Sept. Tioga Co., banded (JB); low count. Black-and-white Warbler: one 15 Sept. Tioga Co. (C/JB, DB, JB, LBi); one 18 Sept., one 20 Sept., Br. Co. (HM); low count. Am. Redstart: eight thru 16 Sept. Br. Co., banded (HM); two 29 Sept. Tioga Co. (JB); Oct. Tioga Co. (C/JB); light numbers. Ovenbird: seven thru 20 Sept. Br. Co. (HM); Sept. Tioga Co. (C/JB, DB, JB, BC); very low number. N. Waterthrush: two 23 Sept. Tioga Co. (JB). Connecticut Warbler: one 28 Sept. Br. Co., banded (HM). Mourning Warbler: one 10 Sept. OPM (MD, KW); one 25 Sept. Tioga Co. (JB). Com. Yellowthroat: good numbers; last 21 Oct. Tioga Co. (JB, LBi). Canada Warbler: one 10 Sept. OPM (MD, KW); four thru 19 Sept., banded, Br. Co. (HM). Yellow-breasted Chat: one 7 Oct. Tioga Co. (JB, LBi).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: two 10 Sept., two 12 Sept., 12 19 Sept. OPM (MD, KW); one 27 Sept. Tioga Co. (C/JB, RB). N. Cardinal: common thru. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: three thru 6 Sept., banded, Tioga Co. (JB); five thru 29 Sept., banded, Br. Co. (HM); one 1 Nov. So. Otselic (DM). Indigo Bunting: two 8 Oct. Tioga Co. (JB). Rufous-sided Towhee: one 12 Sept., one 19 Sept. OPM (MD, KW); two 5 Oct. OPM (MD); one 24 Oct. Br. Co. (JS); one 25 Oct. Br. Co. (HM); four thru 25 Oct., banded, Tioga Co. (JB). Am. Tree Sparrow: regular thru; first 28 Oct. Del. Co. (MC). Chipping Sparrow: regular thru; last 25 Oct. OPM (MD, KW). Field Sparrow: common thru; last 30 Nov. Br. Co. (BB). Vesper Sparrow: one 6 Sept. Tioga Co. (JB); one 11 Oct. Tioga Co. (C/JB); two 27 Sept., one 25 Oct., one 29 Oct. OPM (MD, KW). Savannah Sparrow: one 22 Sept., two 27 Sept., one 25 Oct. OPM (MD, KW); one 7 Oct. Tioga Co. (RE); one 13 Oct. Tioga Co. (C/JB). Fox Sparrow: one 16 Oct., one 24 Oct. Br. Co. (HM); two 29 Oct. OPM (MD, KW); low count. Song Sparrow: common thru; a few still present at period's end. Lincoln's Sparrow: one 7 Oct. Tioga Co. (DB, JB, LBi, RE); seven thru 19 Oct., banded, Tioga Co. (JB). Swamp Sparrow: regular thru; last 23 Oct. Tioga Co. (JB). White-throated Sparrow: regular thru; earliest probable migrant 19 Sept. OPM (MD, KW). White-crowned Sparrow: moderate thru; earliest 3 Oct. Del. Co. (MC); last 29 Oct. OPM (MD, KW). Dark-eyed Junco: common thru; earliest probable migrant 2 Sept. Chen. Co. (A/MD). Snow Bunting: 14 11 Nov. Chen. Co. (CC); 20 16 Nov. Chen. Co. (DM). Red-winged Blackbird: common thru; last 20 Nov. Del. Co. (MC). E. Meadowlark: moderate thru; last 2 Nov. Br. Co. (FL, HM). Rusty Blackbird: three 4 Oct. Tioga Co. (LBi). Com. Grackle: common thru; last date 2 Nov. Br. Co. (FL, HM). Brown-headed Cowbird: common thru; last date 21 Nov. Del. Co. (MC). N. Oriole: one 1 Sept. Tioga Co. (JB); one 12 Sept. Tioga Co. (sev.). Pine Grosbeak: one Oct. Tioga Co. (RB). Purple Finch: five 11 thru 29 Sept., banded, Br. Co. (HM); Oct. Tioga Co. (LD, RE); two 19 Nov. Br. Co. (JS); "a few" Nov. So. Otselic (DM). House Finch: common thru. Pine Siskin: one 29 Oct. Tioga Co. (JB); six 17 Nov. So. Otselic (DM). Am. Goldfinch: common thru. Evening Grosbeak: one 27 Sept. Del. Co. (MC, SH); 50 19 Nov. Br. Co. (JS). House Sparrow: common thru.

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REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL A. DeBENEDICTIS

Observers in the Oneida Lake Basin Region were underwhelmed by the intensity and diversity of the fall 1984 migration. Field trips repeatedly returned with short lists and few individual birds spotted. Much of this paucity of avian life may be attributed to the rather uniform, mild weather that prevailed through the entire season. Mean temperatures and monthly precipitation totals were similar for all three months, and rain, heat and cold were rather evenly distributed as well. As a result September was a little cooler than normal while November was somewhat warmer. The first killing frost came late, and the few cold periods were of brief duration and followed by longer spells of abnormally warm weather, especially in the latter half of the period. There was little snow, almost all in mid-November, and the seasonal total was about a third normal through November.

Few strong frontal systems grounded migratory birds or drove waterbirds on Lake Ontario close to shore. Flights of diving ducks, phalaropes, jaegers and kittiwakes were much smaller than last year. Pied-billed Grebe and Red-throated Loon made good showings, and dabbling ducks were seen in good though unexceptional numbers. Geese were not very numerous, and maxima for diving ducks were quite low. The few odd gulls noted were mostly stragglers from the late summer. Red-throated Loon and Canvasback set record early arrivals, while Snowy and Cattle Egret set record late dates.

Shorebirds were diverse in species but poor in numbers. No especially outstanding sites were found during most of the period, and most regular shorebird sites were inundated to varying degrees for much of the season. Departure dates for Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot and Short-billed Dowitcher were rather early, but a frontal passage on 12 Nov. produced late Lesser Golden-Plovers, White-rumped and Western Sandpipers and a record late Baird's Sandpiper. Numbers of our regular gull and tern species were similarly mediocre.

Migrant landbirds appeared to pass overhead without stopping. Calls of nocturnal migrants were conspicuous in late September and occasional birds could be heard through early November. Few good dates for grounded migrants were reported, and several observers thought this migration was one of the worst they had ever experienced. As for waterbirds, landbird maxima were unimpressive. Both kinglets showed signs of continued increase in numbers. Otherwise, negatives abounded. Both Tufted Titmouse and Northern Mockingbird were much less conspicuous than in the past four or five seasons. Swallows, thrushes, vireos, warblers, icterids and sparrows generally were found in low numbers only. Only Black-throated Blue and Bay-breasted Warblers produced good counts; Yellow-rumped Warbler was notably scarce. Despite these low maxima, arrival and departure dates were just about average; the most noteworthy of the few stragglers noted was a record late Cliff Swallow.

Raptors and irruptive species were scarce. Almost no Rough-legged Hawks, owls, and Northern Shrikes were reported, and even our regular species were generally low in numbers. Irruptive landbirds were numerous in the Adirondacks

of northern Herkimer county throughout the season, but only Pine Siskin made a modest showing elsewhere. Only four (count them!) Evening Grosbeaks were reported away from the Adirondacks all season, and crossbills were confined there.

The season was not without its collection of rarities. The best of these included Greater White-fronted Goose, Long-billed Dowitcher, Common Black-headed and Sabine's Gull, and Western Kingbird. Other species noted only a few times each year that were reported this season include Red-necked Grebe, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Tundra Swan, King Eider, Bald Eagle, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hudsonian Godwit, Western, Purple and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Red Phalarope, Pomarine Jaeger, Little Gull, Forster's Tern, Northern Saw-whet Owl, and Connecticut Warbler. Surprising misses for the fall were Red-shouldered Hawk, Sora, Red-necked Phalarope, cuckoos, Great Crested Flycatcher, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Blue-winged, Golden-winged and Pine Warblers, and Indigo Bunting. Even with these absences, a total of 236 species were reported, which is about average.

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Abbreviations: arr-arrival; DH-Derby Hill, Oswego Co.; FH-Fairhaven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, Cayuga Co.; last-last of season; LOL-Lake Ontario littoral, Oswego Co.; NYSARC-report submitted to New York State Avian Records Committee; Onon-Onondaga; SP-Sandy Pond, Oswego Co.; SVB-Sylvan and Verona Beach, Oneida Co.; Syr-Syracuse; TRIGMA-Three Rivers Game Management Area, Onon. Co.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr SVB 13 Sept. (JH) record early, record max 16 DH 6 Nov. Com. Loon: arr SP 6 Sept., max 20 DH 6 Nov. Pied-billed Grebe: max 14 late Oct.-early Nov. best since 1979. Horned Grebe: arr FH 27 Sept., max 27 there 27 Oct. Red-necked Grebe: one Onon Lake 30 Sept., two DH 20 Oct. Am. Bittern: last Peter Scott Swamp 11 Sept., then one SP 16 Nov. Great Blue Heron: most gone after 18 Nov. Snowy Egret: imm photographed SVB 5-20 Sept. record late. Cattle Egret: imm. FH 1 Nov. (FGS) record late. Green-backed Heron: last Woodman's Pond 21 Oct. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one or two SVB 22-27 Sept. only reports. Tundra Swan: two SP 12 Nov., imm FH 15-26 Nov. **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**: imm FH 8-24 Nov. (FGS, RK) ninth (second fall) Regional record. Snow Goose: arr and max 17 DH 28 Oct., last (three) LOL 22 Nov. included only blue morph. Brant: arr DH 20 Oct., max 751 there 3 Nov., last FH 8 Nov.; 100 Sangerfield 28 Oct. (GH) is good count away from LOL. Canada Goose: counts above 100 after 16 Sept., but none above 700. Wood Duck: max 157 Peter Scott Swamp 30 Sept., last LOL 15 Nov. Green-winged Teal: arr. FH 9 Sept., max 46 there 1 Nov., last LOL 15 Nov. Am. Black Duck: max 124 FH 4 Nov. N. Pintail: max 47 DH 4 Oct. Blue-winged Teal: max 34 FH 15 Sept., last LOL 28 Oct., then one FH 22 Nov. N. Shoveler: arr FH 22 Sept., max 28 FH 27 Oct. Gadwall: max 68 FH 1 Nov. Am. Wigeon: max 233 FH 1 Nov. Canvasback: arr DH 4 Oct., record early, max 36 DH 17 Nov., low. Redhead: arr SP 30 Sept., max 23 FH 5-8 Oct., low. Ring-necked Duck: arr FH 9 Sept., max 102 LOL 22 Nov. Greater Scaup: max 270 DH 17 Nov. Lesser Scaup: arr FH 4 Oct., max 220 LOL 15 Nov. King Eider: imm male FH 26 Nov. Oldsquaw: arr FH 20 Oct. Black Scoter: arr 5 Oct. Beaver Lake, max 27 DH 20 Oct. Surf Scoter: arr SP 27 Sept., max 30 DH 20 Oct. White-winged Scoter: max 114 DH 20 Oct. Com. Goldeneye: arr FH 8 Oct., max 685 LOL 22 Nov. Bufflehead: arr 27 Oct., max 44 FH 15 Nov. Hooded Merganser: arr SP 18 Oct., max 31 DH 1 Nov. Com. Merganser: arr SP 15 Sept. Red-breasted Merganser: arr FH 27 Sept., max 6,100 LOL 22 Nov. Ruddy Duck: arr Beaver Lake 5 Oct., max 32 FH 25 Oct.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: last DH 28 Oct., then one Selkirk 26 Nov. (Jim Farquar *vide SH*) record late. Osprey: last TRIGMA 28 Oct. Bald Eagle: single imms SP 13-15 Sept. and SVB 16-22 Sept. N. Goshawk: about four reports. Broad-winged Hawk: last Crayfoot Hill 16 Sept. Rough-legged Hawk: arr DH 11 Nov., only about five reported. Merlin: singles SP 16 and 30 Sept. Peregrine Falcon: imms SP 8 and 16 Sept. Ruffed Grouse: max four, scarce. Wild Turkey: Chittengo 22 Sept. (JL) rather far north. Virginia Rail: last Clay Marsh 9 Oct. Com. Moorhen: last FH 13 Oct. Am. Coot: arr SP 14 Sept., max 90 LOL 1-4 Nov. Black-bellied Plover: max eight SP 16 Sept., last there 18 Nov. Lesser Golden-Plover: last SP 18 Oct., then ten SP 10 Nov., (MSR, JH). Semipalmated Plover: max 20 Onon Lake 9 Sept., last SVB 21 Oct. Greater Yellowlegs: max 13 DH 20 Oct., last Selkirk 12 Nov. Lesser Yellowlegs: last LOL 8 Nov. Solitary Sandpiper: last s. Onon Co. 11 Oct. Spotted Sandpiper: last LOL 9 Oct., then one SP 28 Oct. Ruddy Turnstone: last FH 6 Oct., early. Red Knot: last SP 16 Sept., early. Sanderling: max 53 SP, low, last there 17 Nov. Semipalmated Sandpiper: last Onon Lake 11 Oct. Western Sandpiper: five reports, last SP 12 Nov. Least Sandpiper: last Onon Lake 30 Sept. White-rumped Sandpiper: last SP 12 Nov. Baird's Sandpiper: last Onon Lake 20 Sept., then one SP 12 Nov. (MSR, RK, DWC, JH) record late. Pectoral Sandpiper: last SP 3 Nov. Purple Sandpiper: eight SP 12 Nov., singles there 27 Oct. and 18 Nov. Dunlin: regular after 16 Sept., max 59 SP 12 Nov. Stilt Sandpiper: last Delta Lake 6 Sept., then one DH 20 Oct. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: this year's bird SP 2 Sept. (MSR). Short-billed Dowitcher: last SVB 5 Sept. **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** singles calling SP 27 Sept. (FGS, JH, DWC) and 18 Oct. (FGS, JH), only two other reports in last decade. Com. Snipe: max 31 SP 18 Oct., last DH 8 Nov. Am. Woodcock: last DH 15 Nov. Wilson's Phalarope: imm SVB 12-14 Sept. Red Phalarope: one Oswego 18 Nov. Pomarine Jaeger: adult DH 18 Oct. Parasitic Jaeger: five SP 16 Sept., two DH 18 Oct. Little Gull: last SP 3 Sept. **COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL:** adult SP 29 Sept. (JH), tenth Regional record. Ring-billed Gull: max only 3,000 Onon Lake 28 Oct. Iceland Gull: arr SP 22 Nov. Black-legged Kittiwake: six 2 Nov., three 5 Nov. and five 12 Nov., all DH. **SABINE'S GULL:** one DH 2 Nov. (Gerald A. Smith, DWC), sixth Regional record. Glaucous Gull: arr DH 17 Nov. Caspian Tern: last SVB 15 Sept., max 26 SP 3 Sept., last there 27 Sept. Com. Tern: last SP 4 Oct. Forster's Tern: last SP 15 Sept. Black Tern: last SP 3 Sept.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Snowy Owl: three reported after 10 Nov. Short-eared Owl: one moribund Minoa 18 Nov. N. Saw-whet Owl: calling bird banded Peterboro 12-15 Oct. Com. Nighthawk: last E. Syr 27 Sept. Chimney Swift: last SVB 16 Sept. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last SP 20 Sept. Red-headed Woodpecker: only two reported. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: migrants 15 Sept. to 6 Oct., max 5 low.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: last Syr 12 Sept. E. Wood-Pewee: last SVB 30 Sept. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last FH 15 Sept., early. Willow Flycatcher: last SP 14 Sept. Least Flycatcher: last SP 30 Sept. E. Phoebe: last FH 20 Oct. **WESTERN KINGBIRD:** one FH 23 Sept. (MSR, NYSARC) third Regional record. E. Kingbird: last two sites 14 Sept. Horned Lark: arr SP 30 Sept., max 46 DH 8 Nov. Purple Martin: max and last 25 SP 27 Sept. Tree Swallow: last DH 20 Oct. Bank Swallow: last SP 16 Sept. Cliff Swallow: last SP 18 Oct. (FGS, JH), record late. Barn Swallow: last TRIGMA 14 Oct., late. Blue Jay: max 45 FH 13 Oct., low. Am. Crow: max 600 DH 11 Nov. Tufted Titmouse: last FH 13 Oct., scarce. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one/two per day all season. Brown Creeper: arr SP 6 Sept., max 7 FH 13 Oct. Carolina Wren: only report Syr 16 Oct. (MSR). House Wren: last SP 9 Oct. Winter Wren: arr FH 15 Sept., max 12 SP 30 Sept., last Beaver Lake 3 Nov. Marsh Wren: last Clay Marsh 11 Oct. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr Syr 15 Sept., max 87 FH 8 Oct. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr SP 16 Sept., max 104 FH 8 Oct., last Pompey 4 Nov. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last Noyes Sanctuary 8 Sept. E. Bluebird: last TRIGMA 27 Oct. Veery: last E. Syr 4 Oct. (JL) late. Gray-cheeked Thrush: about seven reported 26-30 Sept. Swainson's Thrush: last SP 30 Sept. Hermit Thrush: arr FH 22 Sept., max 13 FH 13 Oct. Last E. Syr 5 Nov. Wood Thrush: last E. Syr. 5 Oct. Am. Robin: max 200 FH 1 Nov.

Gray Catbird: last E. Syr 17 Oct., then one Syr 6 Nov. Brown Thrasher: last SP 9 Oct. Water Pipit: arr SP 8 Sept., max 180 Lysander 11 Oct., last DH 8 Nov. N. Shrike: three reported after 15 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: arr SH 27 Sept., last SP 18 Oct. Yellow-throated Vireo: last FH 22 Sept. Warbling Vireo: last FH 22 Sept. Philadelphia Vireo: max seven FH 9 Sept., last SP 1 Oct. Red-eyed Vireo: last SP 9 Oct. Tennessee Warbler: last SP 18 Oct. Orange-crowned Warbler: about ten reported 12 Sept. to 13 Oct. Nashville Warbler: last SP 9 Oct. N. Parula: last FH 8 Oct. Yellow Warbler: last SP 30 Sept. Chestnut-sided Warbler: last FH 8 Oct. Magnolia Warbler: max 33 FH 15 Sept., last FH 18 Oct. Cape May Warbler: last FH 8 Oct. Black-throated Blue Warbler: last SP 9 Oct. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 85 FH 8 Oct., last Syr 22 Nov. Black-throated Green Warbler: last FH 8 Oct. Blackburnian Warbler: last Chittenango 8 Oct. Palm Warbler: arr two sites 14 Sept., last three SP 8 Oct. included a "Yellow" Palm Warbler. Bay-breasted Warbler: max 44 FH 9 Sept., last SP 30 Sept. Blackpoll Warbler: to ten per day 6 Sept. to 13 Oct. Black-and-white Warbler: last FH 27 Sept. Am. Redstart: last Syr 29 Sept. Ovenbird: last FH 8 Oct. N. Waterthrush: last SP 4 Oct. Mourning Warbler: last FH 9 Sept. Com. Yellowthroat: last SP 9 Oct. Hooded Warbler: max 10 FH 15 Sept., last SP 30 Sept. Wilson's Warbler: last SP 30 Sept. Canada Warbler: last FH 15 Sept.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: last SP 23 Sept. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last SP 9 Oct. Rufous-sided Towhee: only migrants reported 30 Sept. to 20 Oct. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Onon Lake 25 Oct. Chipping Sparrow: last Clay Marsh 19 Oct. Field Sparrow: last Sangerfield 28 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: max and last 14 Lysander 11 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: last DH 28 Oct. Fox Sparrow: three reports 1 to 18 Oct. Song Sparrow: max 245 Lysander 11 Oct., last DH 17 Nov., early departure. Lincoln's Sparrow: to 14/day 23 Sept. to 19 Oct. Swamp Sparrow: last FH 11 Nov. White-throated Sparrow: arr SP 14 Sept. Max 350 LOL early Oct., scarce after 8 Nov. White-crowned Sparrow: arr E. Syr 23 Sept., max only 16, last Sangerfield 28 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: arr SP 30 Sept., max 113 FH 13 Oct., low. Lapland Longspur: five singles after 30 Sept. Snow Bunting: arr DH 20 Oct. Bobolink: last FH 22 Sept., only report. Red-winged Blackbird: max 30,000 DH 20 Oct., last counts > 100 10 Nov. E. Meadowlark: very few reported, but last FH 28 Nov. Rusty Blackbird: to 200/day 23 Sept. to 28 Oct. Com. Grackle: max 25,000 DH 20 Oct., last counts > 100 1 Nov. Brown-headed Cowbird: last counts > 100 1 Nov. N. Oriole: last SP 2 Sept. Purple Finch: only scattered ones and twos noted. Red Crossbill: only reports n. Herkimer Co., where regular thru season. White-winged Crossbill: ditto, about five seen for every Red Crossbill. Pine Siskin: max 125 Town of Webb 23 Nov.; scattered small flocks elsewhere 14 Oct. to 15 Nov. Evening Grosbeak: one Chittenango 13 Nov. (JL) and three Whitesboro in Nov. (MS) only reports outside Adirondacks, extraordinarily scarce!

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REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL and GERALD A. SMITH

Mild is the adjective for this period. Summer residents lingered and winter visitors were slow to arrive. With few cold fronts to move things along, it was

a "bluebird fall." Low lake levels provided lots of shorebird habitat and a good, though late, shorebird migration. Lee Chamberlaine reports a bumper crop of fruits, berries, and mast – best in 20 years.

September weather was cool and dry; temperatures ran about 3 degrees below normal, and rainfall was about one inch below normal in lowland areas. There were only 13 days with any precipitation, and sunshine was abundant. Maximum temperatures in the high 70's occurred on the 9th-10th and 24th-26th. Only on the last few days of the month did temperatures fall below freezing to the high 20's, with the first frost 27 September. The first week of October was cool and wet, with the first killing frost in most areas occurring then. The mercury fell to the mid-teens on the 6th, the lowest temperatures of the month. The middle two weeks of the month were glorious Indian Summer. Temperatures reached a peak in the mid-70's on the 28th. There were 15 days with rain, and only two with temperatures below 32° in Canton. November weather was seasonable, but dry, especially the second half of the month. There were no cold waves or major snow storms. Monthly high temperatures in the low 60's came late in the month on the 28th, while extreme lows in the single digits fell on the 19th. The first and largest snowfall in Canton was 5 inches on 13 November. Most areas received 5-10 inches snowfall during the period, with a maximum of 22.6 inches at Boonville.

Despite a dearth of observers, 150 species were reported – far more than the past two falls. Included were resident species such as common woodpeckers, both nuthatches, and Brown Creeper and many others which will not be cited below. Absence of reports for Red-throated Loon and Red-necked Grebe may be attributable to few observers; but neither were there reports for Red-shouldered Hawk, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, phalaropes, jaegers, Black Tern, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, or Northern Mockingbird. Numbers were down for Horned Grebe, Mallard, American Wigeon, Canvasback and scoters, some of these reflecting the 1984 NYS Waterfowl Count. Also sparse were records of Broad-winged Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, and Common Tern. Noticeably rare were northern visitors – few Rough-legged Hawks and winter finches and no shrikes as yet.

On the other hand, it was a good year for Snow Goose, Wood Duck and several shorebirds, including Black-bellied Plover and Whimbrel. The Region's most frequently reported raptors were Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, and American Kestrel. LC reports large numbers of resident and migrating House Finches in Jefferson County, and asks whether this may account for the virtual absence of House Sparrows at his feeder. We had a few "good birds" including a single Bohemian Waxwing, but can claim no rarities.

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Abbreviations: EDB-EIDorado Beach Preserve; Jeff. Co.-Jefferson Co.; L. Ont.-Lake Ontario; MSPD-Moses-Saunders Power Dam; PRWMA-Perch River Wildlife Mgt. Area; St. Law. Co.-St. Lawrence Co.; SLR-St. Lawrence River; THP-Tug Hill Plateau, Lewis Co.; ULL-Upper & Lower Lakes WMA; WHWMA-Wilson Hill WMA.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: none reported. Com. Loon: arr not noted away from SLR and Adirondacks breeding areas until early Oct.; max two to six per day; scarce at EDB through period (GAS); present to early Nov. in the Adirondacks and late Nov. along L. Ont. Pied-billed Grebe: seven Indian Creek, Canton, St. Law. Co. 16 Sept. (MEH) and three ULL 22 Sept. (KC) are only reports. Horned Grebe: scattered singles in Nov. along L. Ont. are only reports; scarce. Red-necked Grebe: none reported. Double-crested Cormorant: two reports totalling seven on the SLR are the only non-L. Ont. sightings; 2-12 per day EDB Sept.; one-three per day to mid-Oct. dep. Am. Bittern: two ULL 28-29 Sept. (KC) and one LWMA 24 Oct. (LBC) are the only reports. Great Blue Heron: two to six per day in many areas during Sept.; one to three per day scattered in Oct.; singles primarily in lowland areas through Nov. Green-backed Heron: one EDB 25 Sept. only report. Black-crowned Night-Heron: none reported. Mute Swan: family group of seven at PRWMA on 11 Oct. (LBC) reduced to six but still present 30 Nov. (SH). Snow Goose: 60 EDB 7 Oct.; 12 Champin, Jeff. Co. 12 Oct.; one PRWMA 24 Oct. (JL); 400+ EDB 27 Oct. (GAS); 75 PRWMA 28 Oct. (CD) suggest a rapid passage of larger flocks through the Region; a few scattered reports of 10-40 per day noted along L. Ont. during the first week of Nov.; a cripple at EDB 14 Nov. Canada Goose: arr several flocks of 20-60 in mid-Sept.; max 500 per day late Sept.-early Oct. at several locations; substantial numbers persisting thru period with several large flocks noted migrating in So. Jeff. Co. in early Dec. Wood Duck: good numbers present at WMAs from late Sept. through mid-Oct.; 40 ULL 28 Sept. (KC) and 120 at Perch Lake in PRWMA 11 Oct. (LBC). Green-winged Teal: six PRWMA 11 Oct.; all other reports EDB two to six per day 1-19 Sept., max 16 on 20 Sept.; three to ten per day to 4 Oct. Am. Black Duck: max is 100 each ULL 28 Sept. and PRWMA 11 Oct. and 200 Pillar Pt., Jeff. Co. 18 Nov. (SH); scarce at EDB one to three per day 1 Sept.-19 Nov., 15-32 per day 21-25 Nov. Mallard: most counts 15-40 per day EDB thru, max 71 on 2 Oct., counts lower than the last couple of years. N. Pintail: scarce at EDB with one to six per day Sept. to early Oct. only; 60 PRWMA 24 Oct. (LBC) is the only report of a substantial flock. Blue-winged Teal: most counts at EDB 15-30 per day Sept.; max 53 12 Sept.; dep 20 Oct.; regional max 100+ ULL 28 Sept. N. Shoveler: one PRWMA 28 Oct.; two reports including max of 15 on 15 Nov. from regional epicenter of this species at the pools off the Wiley-Dondero Canal, Massena. Gadwall: max 20+ PRWMA 11 Oct. (LBC). Am. Wigeon: arr one EDB 12 Sept., scarce EDB with only scattered reports of 4-8 Sept.-early Oct.; max 65 WHWMA 4 Nov. (SG). Canvasback: no reports from traditional concentration areas in the western SLR; one pools off the Wiley-Dondero Canal 24 Nov. (JVR) only report. Redhead: no reports from traditional concentration areas in the western SLR; 700 in the pools off the Wiley-Dondero Canal 4 Nov. (SG) is a good count for the eastern SLR. Ring-necked Duck: two Southwick Beach SP, Ellisburg 27 Sept. (LBC); 15 ULL 29 Sept. (KC) are only reports. Greater Scaup: usual flocks of hundreds to several thousand present in northeastern L. Ont. in Nov. Oldsquaw: a breeding plumage adult male present at EDB 30 Sept.-9 Oct. (GAS) is probably an early migrant; small flocks of 10-25 per day present L. Ont. last Oct. through. Black Scoter: scarce at EDB with a few scattered singles and small groups in Nov.; not reported elsewhere. Surf Scoter: arr eight EDB 27 Sept.; five to ten per day there Oct.-Nov. are the only reports. White-winged Scoter: scattered reports of one to five per day at EDB 7 Oct. through Nov.; unreported elsewhere. Com. Goldeneye: arr very late during the last week of Nov. EDB, 100-200 per day average there through period; max 27 EDB 7 Nov. Bufflehead: one to five per day EDB late Oct.-Nov. Hooded Merganser: six along the Oswegatchie R. at High Rocks, St. Law. Co. 2 Oct. (P.O.'s) and two sightings at EDB are the only reports. Com. Merganser: max 10,000 at traditional late fall evening roost on the SLR below the RMPD 24 Oct. (JVR). Red-breasted Merganser: max 200 Pillar Pt. Jeff. Co., 1 Nov. (SH). Ruddy Duck: one PRWMA 21 Oct. (LBC) and 9 WHWMA 4 Nov. (SG) only reports.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: one to three per day scattered throughout lowland sectors through third week of Oct. Osprey: eight reports of singles and one report of two

Sept. to dep. 19 Oct. Bald Eagle: adult and imm PRWMA 27 Sept. (SH); adult Jeff. Co. 11 Oct. (LBC); two adults Jeff. Co. 24 Oct. (LBC). N. Harrier: one to three per day many areas thru. Sharp-shinned Hawk: six reports of singles from lowland areas in Sept; two imm actively migrating at EDB 19 Nov. which seems late for active migration of imms. Cooper's Hawk: one Southwick Beach 27 Sept. (LBC) and one EDB 12 Oct. are only reports. N. Goshawk: one Moose R, Lewis Co. 19 Sept. may be a breeder; imm at EDB 1 Oct. (GAS) is a probable migrant as the species is not known to breed there. Red-shouldered Hawk: no reports. Broad-winged Hawk: two EDB 3 Sept. is the only report. Red-tailed Hawk: one to three per day throughout in Sept.; two to four per day scattered Oct. and Nov.; numbers down from the last two years in southern and western Jeff. Co. (GAS). Rough-legged Hawk: arr EDB area 12 Oct.; none thereafter to early Nov.; scattered singles in Nov. in the L. Ont. lowlands; unreported elsewhere, scarce. Am. Kestrel: one to two per day scattered in most areas; scarce, numbers increasing slightly in southwestern Jeff. Co. at the end of the period (LBC, GAS). Merlin: no reports. Peregrine Falcon: no reports. Ring-necked Pheasant: one report (SH) virtually extirpated from our area; most reports now are probably of recently stocked birds. Ruffed Grouse: scarce in most areas with a few scattered reports of one-two; exception is a count of six at ULL Canton 18 Oct. (MEH). Sora: one WH 28 Sept. (KC), only rail reported. All of the following data on shorebirds and gulls are from EDB by GAS unless otherwise stated. Black-bellied Plover: one to four per day 1-15 Sept.; five to ten per day 16 Sept.-10 Oct.; ten to 25 per day 16-30 Oct., including max of 50 per day on two dates; 20 per day first week of Nov.; one to three per day to dep 23 Nov.; an excellent flight. Lesser Golden-Plover: singles 10 Oct.; 7 Oct., 5-7 Nov.; the latter sighting is very late; an average year at EDB is one per year. Semipalmated Plover: five to 15 per day in Sept.; max 25 16 Sept.; two to eight per day to mid-Oct. dep. Killdeer: two to five per day 1 to 20 Sept.; rapid increase to max 57 on 23 Sept.; a pulsating flight in Oct. with 5-20 per day at irregular intervals, dep 18 Nov.; 35 PRWMA 11 Oct. (LBC) 40 Watertown 28 Nov. (LBC) is very late for a large flock. Greater Yellowlegs: one to two per day at scattered intervals 21 Sept. to 31 Oct. more than usual. Lesser Yellowlegs: two to six per day through Sept., an excellent Sept. flight. Solitary Sandpiper; none. Spotted Sandpiper: one to two per day to dep. 30 Oct. Whimbrel: singles 7-9 Sept., 16-17 Sept., four 14 Sept., very good flight. Ruddy Turnstone: three to eight per day 1 to 22 Sept.; dep a single imm 9 Oct. Red Knot: good Sept. flight of imms; one to four per day to dep 22 Sept. Sanderling: 25-50 per day Sept.; max 66 on 8 Oct.; lesser numbers thereafter to dep 18 Nov. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 25-50 per day Sept.; one to five per day through first third of Oct. Western Sandpiper: three singles in Sept.; scattered singles thereafter to early Oct. dep. White-rumped Sandpiper: a very good flight; one to four per day scattered through Sept. and Oct. Baird's Sandpiper: a very poor flight, in contrast to white-rumped, scattered singles only during the first half of Sept. Pectoral Sandpiper: one to three per day during the last half of Sept.; max of 31 on 7 Oct. is very high; two to four per day to mid-Oct. Purple Sandpiper: one 14-15 Nov. is only report. Dunlin: arr one 19 Sept. one to two per day through the first week of Oct.; 50-180 per day through the rest of Oct.; 20-40 per day to dep. 16 Nov. Com. Snipe: eight PRWMA 28 Oct. (LBC) is only report., Am. Woodcock: dep one Jeff. Co. 9 Nov. (SH). Phalaropes: none. Little Gull: one at MSPD 20 Oct. thru (MG, JVR). Bonaparte's Gull: 6-20 per day Sept.-mid-Oct., a fair but brief flight; 200 MSPD thru Nov. Ring-billed Gull: 100-200 per day Sept., max 37 24 Sept., 15-30 per day through the period. Herring Gull: two-ten per day through period. Glaucous Gull: five MSPD mid-Nov. thru (JVR). Great Black-backed Gull: two-seven per day thru. Black-legged Kittiwake: two imm MSPD 20 Oct. (MG); then one thru (JVR). Caspian Tern: one to four per day Sept. Com. Tern: scarce; a few sightings in Sept., EDB and SLR; max and dep 15 EDB 14 Sept. Black Tern: none reported.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: E. Screech-Owl: one Henderson 16 Oct., first in two years (LC). Snowy Owl: one Ellisburg 19 Nov. thru (GS), only report. Banded Owl: two reports of calling in late afternoon near Olmstead Pond and Dead Creek Flow south of Cranberry

L., Clifton (PO's). Com. Nighthawk: one Louisville 2 Sept. (MB). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one Pierrepont 10 Sept.; two Canton 18 Sept. Belted Kingfisher: last Canton 30 Oct. Black-backed Woodpecker: seen almost daily in mixed forest in Clifton-Fine area, one in aggressive bout with Hairy Woodpecker on dead hardwood (PO's). N. Flicker: many migrating Henderson 17-18 Sept., last 24 Nov. (LC). Pileated Woodpecker: over ten sightings throughout region.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: singles Louisville 4 Sept. and 9 Oct. (MB). E. Phoebe: dep. Pierrepont 13 Oct. Horned Lark: migrating first two weeks of Oct. Tree Swallow: 12 PRWMA 24 Oct. Cliff Swallow: 25 Canton 10 Sept. Gray Jay: two near Five Ponds, Clifton 5 Oct. (PO's). Am. Crow: flocks of 60 Canton area 27-30 Oct. Com. Raven: almost daily thru with max four Tooley Pond Rd. near Cranberry L. Dump, Clifton (PO's); two Mt. Arab, Piercefield 13 Oct. (SG). Black-capped Chickadee: seem way down after two banner years. Boreal Chickadee: flock with Red-breasted Nuthatches and Golden-crowned Kinglets near Tupper L. 24 Oct. (PO's). Tufted Titmouse: two to three Henderson thru; one unconfirmed Canton 8 Oct. (KC), only reports. Marsh Wren: two WHWMA 28 Sept. Golden-crowned Kinglet: four 13 Oct., two 26 Nov. both Henderson; several Clifton 22 Oct. E. Bluebird: one to five Pierrepont 27 Sept. thru 15 Oct., no other reports. Hermit Thrush: one Massena 19 Oct. (MB). Am. Robin: heavy migration mid-Sept.; flocks in Fine into early Nov. eating winterberry; ten Henderson 27 Nov. (LC). Gray Catbird: one Pt. Peninsula 8 Nov. (SH). Water Pipit: small flocks Canton 1-13 Oct., max 30. Bohemian Waxwing: one Canton 1 Oct. at bird bath with 27 Cedar Waxwings. Cedar Waxwing: first three 27 Sept., max 60 Pierrepont 6 Nov. Shrikes: none.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Warbling Vireo: two Louisville 4 Sept., only Vireo. Tennessee Warbler: five Massena 3 Sept. (MB); one Henderson 6 Oct. Chestnut-sided Warbler: two Louisville 6 Oct. Yellow-rumped Warbler: first flocks Henderson 3 Sept. Pierrepont 27 Sept.; many Henderson 5, 6, 13 Oct.; last Pierrepont 23 Oct., one PR 28 Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: eight Henderson 15 Sept. Black-and-white Warbler: singles ULL and Canton 16 Oct. Canada Warbler: singles ULL and Canton 16 Oct. (MEH).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: female Canton 28 Nov. (MEH). Rufous-sided Towhee: dep Henderson 6 Oct. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Louisville 10 Oct. and THP 4 Nov., then common thru. Chipping Sparrow: last Canton 30 Oct. Field Sparrow: last one Henderson 13 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: one Henderson 6 Oct. Song Sparrow: one singing Pierrepont 29 Sept.; last Massena 2 Nov. White-throated Sparrow: movement first two weeks of Oct. (MB, LC, KC), last 6 Nov. White-crowned Sparrow: several reports 5 thru 16 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: many mid-Oct. (MB, MEH, KC, LC). Bobolink: arr Canton 17 Sept., last 13 Oct., max 60 on 28 Sept. Red-winged Blackbird: flocks of 2000 in Canton area on 17 Sept. (JW) and 10,000 on 21 Oct., "biggest flock I've ever seen" (JG). E. Meadowlark: four Canton 13 Oct. Pine Grosbeak: two N. Lawrence 14 Nov. (JW), only report. Purple Finch: four Louisville 4 Sept.; only two Henderson thru 26 Nov.; three Canton thru period (MEH). House Finch: 14 Canton thru period; "everywhere in Jeff. Co." (LC); 20 per day Henderson at feeder; 70 Henderson in migration 24 Nov. Pine Siskin: one Canton 14 Sept.; max 20 THP 9 Nov., feeding on yellow birch catkins; last one Pierrepont 4 Nov., max 20 Henderson feeding on hemlock cones 26 Nov. (LC). Evening Grosbeak: few and far between; four THP 9 Nov. only ones for period (LC); first Pierrepont 3 Nov.; max 19 Canton 19 Nov. House Sparrow: almost none at feeder in Henderson where House Finch abundant (LC); good numbers in Canton-Pierrepont area.

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REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

"Where are the birds?" Letters, long-distance telephone calls, and even queries in the local press repeated the question. Deer hunters and more sedentary window-watchers agreed that from forest to feeders birds seemed to be scarce through most of the fall. Blue Jays and Black-capped Chickadees appeared reduced in numbers, warblers seemed to slip through early, and the sparrow migration went by almost unnoticed. Evening Grosbeaks were around, but late in flocking and certainly down in numbers at feeding stations. Yet if this "Silent Fall" raised alarms, certain species seemed more numerous than usual: American Robins, Cedar Waxwings, Dark-eyed Juncos, White-winged Crossbills, Pine Siskins, and American Goldfinches, to mention a few. Paradoxically, the autumn of missing birds may have presaged one of the memorable winters of the century, both in variety and in numbers. Fall remains a largely subjective season, except perhaps for hawk watches and banding totals, while winter provides better quantitative data from the Christmas bird counts and NYS waterfowl count.

At least part of the absence of an influx of migrants could be attributed to the weather. The season began cold, turned balmy, fluctuated back and forth between both extremes, and then closed as it had begun. Newcomb touched 32° F. on 6 September, some ten days before the average date of first frost even in that garden spot of the North Country. Whiteface Mt. had snow on 16 September, and by 28 September the mercury had dropped considerably in the milder lowlands of the Champlain Valley, with Plattsburgh down to 36° F.

By 6 October, Newcomb was the coldest spot in the nation at a nippy 12° F., although the lake effect kept Plattsburgh from dropping below 26° F. on the same date. Most of the month, however, provided perfect Indian Summer weather, with clear nights for migrants around the 9 October full moon. By 31 October, seasonal temperatures remained about 9½% on the mild side, and L. Champlain had dropped to 94.64', exposing more mudflats for migrants, with a water temperature of 54° F.

Newcomb dropped back to 21° F. on 1 November, and on 13 November the first major snowfall left from one to seven inches across the four-county region. Just when the month was becoming miserable for birds and birders, a second Indian Summer developed on 26 November. Lake Champlain's water temperature had dropped to 47° F. by 27 November, but consider that on the same date the air temperature in Newcomb was down to 17° F. The seesaw continued, with Plattsburgh at a record high of 65° on 28 November, and the season closing with colder, more usual, conditions. Many warblers and sparrows may have moved through during the breaks in the weather, without stopping off in numbers to feed or being forced down by frontal conditions.

Certainly the presence of those species that did appear in good numbers was encouraged by the superb bumper crop of wild foods. At lower elevations the bounty included Red Cedar and buckthorn berries, wild grapes, seeds of lilac and White Birch, and hemlock cones. Higher up, White Spruces were weighted with the best crop of cones since the winter of 1974-75, while Yellow Birch and

Mountain Ash produced well, too. The mast crop was good on red oaks, but only fair on beech trees. Not surprisingly, berry and seed eaters predominated at lower elevations, while those specialized for cones gathered higher up.

A census of the Great Blue heronry at Kings' Bay WMA by Mark Gretch on 16 and 23 September turned up a total of 37 nests in 19 trees (large Red Oak, ash, and Red Maple). All of the trees were marked with numbered aluminum tags for future studies. The Coot Hill hawk watch was visited only on 22 September for 3½ hours with light south to southeast winds. Birdbanding near Elizabethtown was limited to just six days between 20 September-5 October, with only 31 individuals of seven species banded.

Some 130 species were reported, with many more birds undoubtedly present. In spite of widespread concerns for missing birds, this was the same total as a year ago when Regional birding was judged more interesting. Rarities included Red Phalarope and Northern Wheatear. The perfect finale to the five-year Atlas effort was provided by the first NYS Confirmed records of White-winged Crossbill on the Essex-Franklin Co. line in September, in Essex Co. in October, and from Hamilton Co. in November.

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LOONS-DUCKS: The last inland Com. Loon was reported from Tupper L. 9 Nov. (CD); last Pied-billed Grebe was on L. Alice 12 Nov., where max 15 gathered in Oct. (MG). Two Horned Grebes arr. Tombley Bay 27 Oct. (JG, MG), building to a max 30 on North West Bay by 21 Nov. (EJ, JP). Great Egret: max 3, Treadwell Bay 9 Sept. (LB), singles along Great Chazy R. between Mooers and Mooers Forks 7 Sept. and King's Bay campsite 16 Sept. (JG, MG); King's Bay also had a Snowy Egret 12 Sept. Two Tundra Swans spent ten days on Mud L. in the Canada Lakes Wilderness in Nov. (*vide* GL). A record-early Snow Goose arr. Chazy Landing 12 Sept., a skein of 80 were over Fleming Pd. 16 Oct., max 1,000 Chazy Landing 27 Oct., and 60-70 still at Essex in late Nov. A Brant was at Port Henry 8 Nov. (GC). This was the best year ever for the local population of Canada Geese at Tupper L., with 68 at the municipal park 27 Oct. Three migrant geese at L. Alice 16 Oct. wore yellow collars: two were banded in PA in Dec. 1983; the third was the same bird (J47P) banded Jan. 1984 in NJ and spotted 18 April at Chazy Landing on L. Champlain. This individual has apparently divided its time almost equally, spending six months to the south, the other half year to the north (MG). N. Pintail: six, Trombley Bay 27 Oct. Ring-necked Duck: up to 300 L. Alice in Oct., a few to 12 Nov.; by 7 Oct. a large mixed raft of thousands of Ring-necked Ducks and Greater Scaups were gathering at Plattsburgh. Com. Goldeneye: five arr. Tupper L. 4 Nov. (CD). Bufflehead: one arr. Trombley Bay 27 Oct. (MG); 34 were at the outlet of Mountain View L. by 31 Oct. (JT). Hooded Merganser: max 28 Tupper L. 24 Nov. Com. Merganser: no large concentrations noted.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Six Turkey Vultures passed over Coot Hill hawk watch 22 Sept. (EJ, JP). Osprey: Mountain View L. to 31 Oct. (JT). Tupper L. had an imm Bald Eagle 16 Nov. (CD), an adult there 24 Nov. (GS). Feeder birds at Tupper Lake were pursued by a Sharp-shinned Hawk that set up residence 1 Oct. Broad-winged Hawk: four Coot Hill 22 Sept. Red-tailed Hawk: six Coot Hill 22 Sept. Rough-legged Hawk: several reports in late Nov. from the Champlain Valley. Am. Kestrel: 11 Coot Hill 22 Sept. A male Spruce Grouse

was seen at the height of land (BM el. 1965') along the Blue Ridge Rd., Essex Co., in early Oct. (NM, DS). Lower lake levels along Champlain helped provide records of 15 shorebird species, all but three clearly migrants. Black-bellied Plover arr. Bulwagga Bay 13 Sept. (GC), present at King's Bay to 9 Nov., max. seven there 6 Nov. (MG). Semipalmated Plover: King's Bay 12 Sept. and 6 Oct. Killdeer: max 26 King's Bay 29 Sept., last seen 6 Nov. Greater Yellowlegs: King's Bay 12 Sept. to 24 Oct. Lesser Yellowlegs: King's Bay 23 Sept. (MG). Sanderling: three Bulwagga Bay and Port Henry 7 Sept., last at Bulwagga Bay 13 Sept. Semipalmated Sandpiper: four Port Henry 4 Sept. (GC); King's Bay 12 Sept. to 10 Oct. Least Sandpiper: 12 Sept.-10 Oct. White-rumped Sandpiper: three King's Bay 9 Nov. (MG). Baird's Sandpiper: Bulwagga Bay 7 Sept. Pectoral Sandpiper: four arr. Bulwagga Bay 13 Sept. (GC), King's Bay 16 Sept. until 9 Nov., max eight (MG). Dunlin: arr. King's Bay 10 Oct., last seen 9 Nov., max. 25 there on 10 Oct. and 16 Oct. (MG). Com. Snipe: two Bulwagga Bay to 22 Sept. (EJ, JP). **RED PHALAROPE:** swimming and spinning on North West Bay 21 Nov. (GC, NM), for the second Regional and Adirondack Park record, and the first viewed from the mainland. An imm. Little Gull was at Westport 17 Sept., last seen 27 Sept. (GC), where Bonaparte's Gulls gathered through most of the fall and some 500 Ring-billed Gulls were gathered by 24 Oct. From one to several Great Black-backed Gulls are present at Westport on a regular basis.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: An emaciated Snowy Owl was picked up along the Northway median near North Hudson 27 Nov., but died in spite of efforts by the NYS DEC and a veterinarian. A pair of Barred Owls engaged in the courtship routine near Paradox most of the night of 6 Sept., where a Long-eared Owl was heard 16 Nov. (MB). N. Saw-whet Owls were calling near Elizabethtown and – where else but Owl's Head – during Oct. Two Chimney Swifts at Port Henry 3 Sept. were rather late (GC), and a late Ruby-throated Hummingbird was peeping through a window at Plattsburgh, eyeing the geranium within, 1 Oct. (HB, RB). A Black-backed Woodpecker was feeding in a dead spruce at Newcomb 25 Nov. (WC).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: migrant Peru 3 Sept. (VM). A late E. Kingbird was spotted at Cedar R. Flow 30 Sept. (RM). The Barn Swallow at Plattsburgh 5 Oct. was also notably late (HB, RB). A Gray Jay visited an Owl's Head feeder 22 Oct. (JT); two Gray Jays were feeding on innards of white-tailed deer left by hunters near North Point, Raquette L., 18 Oct. (WC), and Com. Ravens were reported "waxing fat on deer kill remains" near Paradox 6 Nov. (MB), as they undoubtedly were all over the Adirondacks at about the same time. Two Boreal Chickadees have returned to a Newcomb feeder for the third straight winter (AC, WC). A Winter Wren was heard at Paradox 24 Sept. (MB), and the last Ruby-crowned Kinglet was at Tupper L. 23 Oct. (CD). On 28 Sept., a **NORTHERN WHEATEAR** was found in a field bordering the Bobsled Run Rd. near Rt. 73, outside Lake Placid (CL, RL). The bird appeared to be a fall male, very showy and quite approachable, and represented the second Regional and Adirondack Park record; the wheatear was last present 29 Sept. (GTC, TD, AF, RH, PT). E. Bluebird parents were feeding two young at Owl's Head on the late date of 12 Sept. (JT), while two early transients were at Cobble Hill, Elizabethtown, 17 Sept. (GC). A juv. Veery practiced singing at Paradox to 11 Sept.; a young Swainson's Thrush practiced to 2 Sept. (MB), last Swainson's was at Tupper L. 16 Sept. Hermit Thrush: heard at Paradox 24 Sept., last at Tupper Lake 26 Oct. Wood Thrush seen at Paradox 25 Sept. Large numbers of Am. Robins were migrating at L. Alice 24 Oct., but across the Region many remained into winter, some still singing, with 24 feeding in a Mountain Ash at Tupper L. 6 Nov. A flock of 25 Water Pipits was along North Farm Rd. 6 Oct. (MG). A sharpie showed little respect for rarity as it scattered a flock of Bohemian Waxwings along the Whallon's Bay Rd. during the fall. Meanwhile, Cedar Waxwings remained into winter, with flocks widely reported from Cedar R., Newcomb, Tupper L., and Westport.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo was in song near Paradox 30 Sept. Red-eyed Vireo heard there 11 Sept. (MB). Last seasonal sightings at Tupper L. included Red-eyed Vireo

30 Sept., Nashville Warbler 1 Sept., Magnolia Warbler 30 Sept., Cape May Warbler 16 Sept., Black-throated Green Warbler 5 Sept., Yellow-rumped Warbler 30 Sept., Black-throated Blue Warbler 16 Sept., and Am. Redstart 29 Sept. (CD). An Ovenbird was singing at Paradox 11 Sept., where an adult Com. Yellowthroat was in full song 2 Sept. (MB). A migrant Wilson's Warbler was at Tupper L. 13 Sept. (CD).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Also in song at Paradox were a Scarlet Tanager 24 Sept. and Rose-breasted Grosbeak 13 Sept. (MB), with an imm. of the latter at Tupper L. to 18 Sept. (CD). Am. Tree Sparrows arr. Cedar R. and Tupper L. in early Nov., widely reported thereafter. Last Chipping Sparrow was at Tupper L. 27 Oct., where a Lincoln's Sparrow was seen 12 Sept. (CD). An off-key White-throated Sparrow was in song near Paradox 29 Sept. (MB). Tupper L. had five White-crowned Sparrows 30 Sept., with one remaining until 17 Oct. (CD). Almost no mention was made of Dark-eyed Juncos as Sept. residents or Oct. migrants; suddenly in Nov. flocks became abundant, with reports from Cedar R., Elizabethtown, Paradox, and Tupper L., and remaining into winter. Snow Buntings were also widely reported, although flock sizes were generally small: 12 on the shore of Low's L. 30 Oct. (WC), 60 bathing at the Westport beach 3 Nov. (GC), one along Rt. 8 near Hoffmeister 6 Nov.; two along the Boquet R. outside Elizabethtown 13 Nov. (EJ, JP); and one near Newcomb (WC). An adult Red-winged Blackbird showed up at Owl's Head feeders 20 Nov. (JT) and 22 Nov. (AH). Tupper L. had 100 Com. Grackles 23 Oct. (CD). A female-type N. Oriole at a Tupper L. feeder 26 Nov. had been present daily for about two weeks previously (CD). Four Pine Grosbeaks were seen near the Cedar R. in early Nov. (RM) and 50 were in Mountain View 29 Nov. (AH). Purple Finch: scattered reports from Cedar R., Elizabethtown, Owl's Head, Paradox, and Tupper L. House Finch: 14 at a Tupper L. feeder 26 Nov. (CD) reflect the continued inland and upland expansion of a species first reported in the Region just a decade ago. Red Crossbill: small flock in spruces near Paul Smiths College early Sept., large flock of about 100 in hemlocks near Cold Brook, south of Saranac L., 8 Sept. (GTC). The first Confirmed records of White-winged Crossbills in five years of Atlas field work came at Bloomingdale Bog 11 Sept. (CB, JP), Owl Pate 10 Oct. (MB), and Sabattis Rd. Bog 25 Nov. (CD); white-wings were also sighted or heard near Chubb R. Swamp, Cold Brook-Sperry Pond, Madawaska, and Teboville Rd. between Sept. and Nov. The only Com. Redpolls were found near Paradox 13 Nov., among a mixed feeding flock of siskins and goldfinches. Pine Siskins and Am. Goldfinches had been feeding on white birch near Paradox since 1 Nov., and were widely reported thereafter. The first reports of flocking Evening Grosbeaks came from Cedar R., Paradox, and Tupper L. in early Nov., but as the season progressed observers were in agreement that numbers at feeders and in the forests seemed lower than in recent years at the same period. Finally, a House Sparrow was spotted entering the back of an oblong street lamp in Malone on 22 Oct. (JT).

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There is no REGION 8 report, as *The Kingbird* has no Region 8 editor at the present time.

REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

As fall seasons go this one was relatively mild. The first and third weeks of September were cooler than average, but were more than balanced by the second

and fourth weeks which were quite warm. Precipitation was well below average, with only a thunder shower on the 3rd and less than an inch on the 15th. Temperatures in October were below normal for the first week only, with the rest of the month being quite warm. 1 October brought about an inch of rain with another inch on 29 October. Another one-quarter inch on the 22nd and 23rd brought the precipitation for the month to slightly above average. November highs and lows were evenly scattered thru the month to bring the mean temperature within a tenth of a degree of normal. Rainfall was slightly below normal, and no snow was reported in the Region thru the period.

As predicted in our last report, the fruit and seed crop was excellent both here and farther north. At the end of the period, northern finches had not arrived and, with the abundance of food in their breeding range, might well never come. White egrets were few, but Double-crested Cormorants, which were so common during the summer, remained thru the period in good numbers. Geese flights were excellent, but ducks were generally poor. Most hawk watches had close to their best season ever. Shorebirds were good on the reservoirs and sod farms. Owls were normal – hard to find. No one reported any large flocks of migrant nighthawks anywhere in the Region. Flycatchers were normal, but swallows were down from their usual large numbers. Most reporters felt warblers were low, but there were a few good days. Your reporter ran into a wave of Tennessees and Cape Mays in Bear Mt. Park on 7 Sept., and Bob Deed had excellent numbers and variety on 4 Sept. in S. Nyack. Frank Murphy found peak numbers in the Kingston area on 12-13 Sept. Blackbirds failed to put on their grand flights, but are hardly endangered. Rarities in the report include: Black Vulture, Yellow Rail, Hudsonian Godwit, Three-toed Woodpecker, and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

As this report is readied for mailing, we received notice of the passing of Benton "Beezer" Seguin on 28 Dec. 1984. It would be inconceivable not to mention his loss in these pages to which he contributed so much over the years. In your reporter's thirty-five years of birding he has never met a more dedicated birder. Beezer's consummate skill was achieved through sixty years of patient field work. A trip anywhere in the northwestern part of the Region would invariably find him parked along a remote roadside, listening to and listing his latest discoveries. In recent years his advanced illness prevented his straying far from his auto, but his keen eye and ear made it unnecessary to do so. In the last ten years most of the rarities turned up in Orange Co. were largely his. All New York State birders are diminished by his passing, and we here in Orange Co., who learned so much from him, will especially miss him. . . . Peace . . .

Contributors and observers cited: John Askildsen, Al Brayton, Tom Burke, Judy Cinquina, Harry Darrow, Robert F. Deed, Liz and Lew Dumont, Valerie Freer, Helen Manson, Adam Martin, Frank Murphy, Eleanor Pink, Brian Schiefer, John Stellwagen, Robert Terwilliger, John Tramontano, Ed Treacy, and Berna Weissman.

Abbreviations: Ashokan–Ashokan Reservoir; BSHW–Butler Sanctuary Hawk Watch; HMHW–Hook Mt. Hawk Watch; MC–Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; MPHWS–Mt. Peter Hawk Watch; PL–Playland, Rye; WSF–Warren Sod Farm, Pine Island. Note: Hook Mountain Hawk Watch data is incomplete and unofficial.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: earliest arr PL 6 Oct. Two Ashokan thru Nov. Com. Loon: numbers on Ashokan reached more than 25 by end of period. Horned Grebe: first Ashokan 9 Oct., very few for period. Red-necked Grebe: two at Ashokan, 25-27 Nov. Great Cormorant: arr PL 31 Oct. Double-crested Cormorant: remained in excellent numbers thru period. Unusual away from Hudson. Several on lakes some miles east and west of the river. Great Egret: the poor numbers of summer continued thru the fall with only a few reports. One at Croton Point thru 9 Oct., another at Elmsford 26 Oct. was walking about in a partially flooded, abandoned drive-in theatre. Another was north of Saugerties 7 Oct. Tricolored Heron: always unusual. One PL 2 Oct. Green-backed Heron: one at Stissing 1 Nov. was late for Dutch. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: single birds continue to appear at MC where breeding colony was destroyed by Great Horned Owls several years ago. Snow Goose: usual flights in fall. About 200 landed on Buttermilk Pd., Dutch 9 Nov. More than 220 were over Rye 30 Sept., 250 over Nyack on 5 Oct. Brant: no huge flocks but a few modest ones went over the last week of Oct. and first week of Nov. max 103 passed BSHW 25 Sept. Several reports of single birds in early Nov. Wood Duck: hundreds continued at Bashakill thru Sept., but were gone shortly after the start of hunting season in Oct. Green-winged Teal: about in modest numbers in early Oct. Max 28 Croton Point 2-9 Oct. Am. Black Duck: has made a phenomenal increase. Nearly 1,000 at Ashokan 25 Nov. N. Pintail: at least ten at 6½ Sanct. near Goshen 13 Oct., five at MC 3 Sept. Am. Wigeon: 21 at Tarrytown Res. 1 Oct., decreased to 16 by 23 Nov. 28 at Iona I. on 27 Oct. Canvasback: arr Cornwall Bay 3 Nov. with 45 birds. More than 300 at Iona I. by 23 Nov. Numbers good but not extraordinary by end of period. Redhead: nine on Neversink Res. 28 Oct. was an excellent number. One on Kiamesha L. from 30 Oct.-4 Nov. Oldsquaw: a male at Cornwall Bay 20 Oct., and a female was at Iona 27 Oct. One on Lake Oniad, Dutch 30 Oct. Black Scoter: a female was with seven Surf Scoters on Croton Pt. 2 Oct., remained there with them thru 9 Oct. White-winged Scoter: a female and two imm. were on Orange L 11 Nov. Hooded Merganser: never abundant in the Region, but more than 40 were on Kenozia L near Kingston 13 Nov. Red-breasted Merganser: only report 2 Kiamesha L 30 Oct. Ruddy Duck: well-reported but in small numbers late Oct. and early Nov., max 63 Orange L 11 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS:

Hawk Watch Data	Mount Peter		Butler Sanctuary		Hook Mountain Hours and totals not available
Hours	458.2 hrs.		441.5 hrs.		
	Total	Max./date	Total	Max./date	Max./date
N. Goshawk	2	1-10/5,11/7	12	3-10/17	NA
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1438	151-9/26	2246	302-9/22	413-9/22
Cooper's Hawk	36	7-10/5	73	9-10/5	10-9/27,10/6
Red-tailed Hawk	509	76-11/2	124	26-11/3	16-10/15
Red-shouldered Hawk	76	13-10/31	59	13-11/4	4-10/16
Broad-winged Hawk	9104	4270-9/16	11490	4759-9/16	3585-9/17
Rough-legged Hawk	4	* 2-10/21	0	none	none
Golden Eagle	1	1-9/25	1	1-10/16	1-9/20, 10/23
Bald Eagle	3	** 3-9/18	13	4-9/16	2-9/2
N. Harrier	74	7-9/16	85	9-9/8,27	17-9/25
Osprey	184	28-9/16	201	27-9/16	25-9/25
Peregrine Falcon	8	** 2-10/25	NA	3-10/5	2-10/4
Merlin	2	1-9/15,23	NA	2-10/5,17	3-9/15
Am. Kestrel	137	28-9/16	380	71-9/13	43-9/25
	* ties old record	** new record	NA - not available		

BLACK VULTURE: first obs 6 Sept. when two were flying with a large flock of Turkey Vultures at the Al Turi Landfill near Goshen, remained in the area until 20 Oct. (LLD). Turkey Vulture: peaked to about 100 at Al Turi Landfill in late Sept. Bald Eagle: many reports of single birds thru period. An adult spent the summer near Lebanon L, Sull. An imm. with a yellow wing tag was at Mongaup 18 Nov. MPHW broke its previous one day record with three on 18 Sept. Butler Sanct. had 4 on 16 Sept., with a whopping 13 for the season. Wintering birds had not arrived before the end of the period N. Harrier: one in Dutch on 20 Sept. was observed pursuing a goldfinch (MVW). Broad-winged Hawk: with a good day at one of the local hawk watches one would expect a good day at all of them since they are separated from each other by about 20 miles. This was not the case this season. MPHW had its big day on 16 Sept., while HMHW was on 17 Sept. BSHW had big flights on both days. Harry Darrow, watcher on Bear Mt., had his big day on 18 Sept. with 4,500. Red-tailed Hawk: the passage of a strong cold front early on 2 Nov. pulled more than 200 down the Schawangunk Ridge over Port Jervis between 8 a.m. and noon, and another 100 by 4 p.m. (Neil Currie). Rough-legged Hawk: MPHW had a record high of four for the season and a daily record high of two on 21 Oct. Golden Eagle: most hawk watches had single birds in late Sept. and early Oct. Two were at Rio Res., Sull on 19 Nov. Am. Kestrel: resident birds continue low but migrant numbers were good. Merlin: usual few on hawk watches. Two imm were at WSF 19 Sept. (JS). Peregrine Falcon: numbers continue to increase on migration. Scattered reports of single birds near Ashokan & Beacon. The eight that passed Mt. Peter during the season was an excellent number. Wild Turkey: continues its phenomenal increase. Exc. numbers reported by deer hunters. **YELLOW RAIL:** one found in a downtown alley by two window shoppers in New Rochelle on 14 Oct. was released later that day at MC in Rye (Carrie Croton). Lesser Golden-Plover: two arr Ashokan 24 Sept., with three there on 21 Oct., max 250 at WSF 24 Aug., last five there 28 Oct. Greater Yellowlegs: last two late date of 23 Nov. Baird Park, Dutch. Solitary Sandpiper: rarely reported in fall. Three reports from Dutch near Pleasant Valley 1-26 Sept. Upland Sandpiper: max 50 WSF last week of Aug., last there, two on 16 Sept. Whimbrel: one WSF 24-31 Aug. **HUDSONIAN GODWIT:** what appears to be a new record for Ulst. first seen Ashokan 10 Oct. and on five later dates, last seen 29 Oct. Baird's Sandpiper: now a yearly occurrence at WSF, three there 31 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: last at Ashokan 11 Nov., seven at Amawalk 4 Nov. Purple Sandpiper: seven returned to PL 31 Oct. Dunlin: not commonly reported away from L.I. Sound, eight Croton Pt. 2 Oct. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: first reported at WSF 5 Aug., eight there on 19 Sept., and six there 23 Sept. Short-billed Dowitcher: 11 at Hunn's L, Dutch 28 Oct. Laughing Gull: one very late bird at Roseton 3-11 Nov. (Bob Slechta, Joe Cullen). Bonaparte's Gull: RT had three at Ashokan in Nov. Iceland Gull: only report, one adult flying south over the Hudson at Ft. Montgomery 25 Nov. (BS). Lesser Black-backed Gull: returned to Harbor Is Pk, Mamaroneck 13 Oct.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Budgerigar: In recent years, Piermont and its environs has played host to an impressive list of exotics. Now added to that list are six of this species coming regularly to a feeder along Rt. 9W (RFD). Black-billed Cuckoo: one extremely late bird at Croton Point 8 Nov. (EDT). Com. Nighthawk: no large migrant flocks observed anywhere. Chimney Swift: last flocks observed Middletown 10 Oct. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: no count reported from the bays around Cruger Is this year, but more than 40 were observed passing the BSHW during the season. Red-headed Woodpecker: rare in the Hudson Highlands any time. One remained at the Garrison Union Free School thru the period; observed expanding in the area around Ashokan. Two nesting pairs observed there and an adult and imm. remained thru Nov. Red-bellied Woodpecker: fewer than usual, numbers appear down. Only one report from Dutch during Sept. where there are usually a dozen or so, and only two there in Oct. **THREE-TOED WOODPECKER:** one well-described female at Irvington, West. 4 Nov. (Lang Stevenson). Report forwarded to NYSARC. N. Flicker: more than 30 at Rye Nature Center 18 Sept.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: very few reports, three at Ashokan 9-12 Sept. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: two Dutch reports 16, 18 Sept., both in excellent color. E. Kingbird: six in Dutch on the late date of 23 Sept. Blue Jay: BW reports migrants down at Dobbs Ferry. Late Sept. and early Oct. counts taken over the last few years average about 3,000 per hour. This fall a count on 29 Sept. yielded 319 for a high. Other counts during the above period had less than 100. Fish Crow: RFD had an unprecedented stream of 90 flying toward the Hudson from west of Nyack, 9:15 a.m. on 29 Oct. Red-breasted Nuthatch: numbers must be down with so few reported. Brown Creeper: arr at MC 30 Sept. Golden-crowned Kinglet: numbers of this species and the Ruby-crowned are higher than usual. E. Bluebird: nestbox programs in the region continue to pay off. Florence Germond and her band of monitors in central Dutch report 135 nestings, 535 eggs, 455 hatched, 149 lost and 359 fledged. This trail has been in operation 24 years, and its effect, and that of other trails, are being shown by higher resident populations each year. Hermit Thrush: one Croton Point 8 Nov. Water Pipit: about in excellent numbers in suitable habitat, max about 300 6 Oct. at WSF. Cedar Waxwing: largest flight in the area was at Dobbs Ferry 21 Oct., more than 130 in one hour. Shrikes: None!!

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Warbling Vireo: a male singing at S. Nyack on the late date of 8 Sept. could well be the same bird that nested in the vicinity last summer. Tennessee Warbler: 10 Doodletown 7 Sept., reduced to four next day. Orange-crowned Warbler: one Bashakill 7 Oct., another Rye Nature Center 27 Oct., another MC 3 Nov. (all TWB). Single birds Dobbs Ferry 9 Oct. and 16 Oct. (BW). Yellow Warbler: BW reports good numbers at Dobbs Ferry thru Sept., max eight 20 Sept. Cape May Warbler: 20 Doodletown 7 Sept. Black-throated Blue Warbler: a male in full song, with a female, on Overlook Mt. in the Catskills 19 Sept., was still singing three hours later (FM). Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 23 in one feeding flock at Tarrytown 1 Oct. Blackburnian Warbler: max six at Rye Nature Center 1 Sept. Kentucky Warbler: one MC 1 Sept., very unusual in fall. Mourning Warbler: one Rye Nature Center 24, 25 Aug. was followed by four in the vicinity of Rye 1 Sept. Another at Bundy Hill, Dutch, 6 Sept. Connecticut Warbler: one P'kpsie 4 Sept., one Bashakill 27 Aug., another at Sleightsburgh in early Sept.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Dickcissel: an imm female Dobbs Ferry 14 Sept., and an adult female there 8, 9 Oct. One Katonah 2 Nov., another Stonykill Environmental Center 10, 11 Oct. Am. Tree Sparrow: late and scarce, arrived Sull after 7 Nov., first Saugerties 16 Nov. Chipping Sparrow: last at Bedford 2 Nov. Savannah Sparrow: max 20 Dobbs Ferry last two weeks of Oct. Grasshopper Sparrow: migrants always rare, one PL 27 Oct. Fox Sparrow: very low, two at a feeder in Pleasant Valley 4-8 Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: several reports in early Oct. Three at MC 6 Oct. seemed to be the peak. Two Dobbs Ferry 4 Oct. and singles there on 14 Sept. and 9 Oct., also one at Stonykill 10, 11 Oct. Swamp Sparrow: max 20 Dobbs Ferry 16 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: arr about two weeks late, but numbers good. Lapland Longspur: one PL 31 Oct., one imm. at Ashokan 28 Oct., and another at WSF the same date. Snow Bunting: 25 WSF 31 Oct., 20 Ashokan 10 Nov., and more than 100 there 18 Nov., reduced to 40 by 22 Nov. **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** an adult male flying in a small flock of Redwings at MC, 17 Nov. (TWB). Rusty Blackbird: arrived at Great Vly, north of Saugerties 7 Oct., and in Dutch mid-Sept., one at MC 30 Sept. N. Oriole: one at a Mt. Kisco feeder 18 Nov. Purple Finch: even more scarce than usual, very few reports. House Finch: the most common bird at feeders, max 32 at a Wurtsboro feeder in early Nov. **RED CROSSBILL:** one reported at Pound Ridge in late Dec. (Frank Nicoletti). Pine Siskin: only report one at a feeder in Stissing 4 Nov. Evening Grosbeak: very few, heard flying over Pleasant Valley 24 Nov. three females at Stissing 25 Nov. and four females and a male there 30 Nov. were the only reports from Dutch. A few at a Liberty feeder 11 Nov. was the only report from Sull. One was at Saugerties 16 Nov.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 – MARINE

JOSEPH A. DiCOSTANZO

The season started with slightly below normal temperatures and a wave of migrants on 1 September. Good numbers and a good variety of landbirds, especially warblers and flycatchers, were reported from throughout the Region. Another cool front on 6 September produced another wave of migrants. No other really big waves of passerines were reported, though cool fronts with NW winds on the 17th, 21st, 26th and 27th brought the season's best hawk flights to outer beach hawk watchers at Breezy Point and Fire Island. Overall, the month was cool and relatively dry with an average temperature of 65.9°F, 2.4° below normal, and a total rainfall of 2.51 inches, 1.15 inches below normal. October started out cool. The low for the month, 41°, was on the 6th, helping to give a daily mean of 51°, 10° below normal. Things then warmed up considerably for the rest of the month with temperatures at or above normal from the 8th on. Most of the first part of October was dry with the exception of the 1st and the 2nd when three-quarters of an inch of rain fell. Between then and the 21st there was less than a tenth of an inch of additional rain spread over three days. The weather was a bit damper after that, with some rain every day from the 22nd to the 29th. The month ended with an average temperature of 61.8°, 4.1° above normal, and a total rainfall of 3.63 inches, only .22 inches above normal. After the extremes of the two previous months November fluctuated around, but fairly close to, the norms for the month, at least until the end of the month when things started to warm up again. The month's average temperature of 47.3° was .1° below normal and the total rainfall of 4.07 inches was .31 inches above normal. (All weather data from New York City.)

Arthur Morris continued the Jamaica Bay shorebird census that was conducted by Tom Davis over the last few falls. He found that this year, in contrast to previous years, Black-bellied Plover and Greater Yellowlegs peaked in numbers in October rather than in September. Several species, Semipalmated Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Stilt Sandpiper and Short-billed Dowitcher, had an above average season. However, several other species, Semipalmated Sandpiper and Long-billed Dowitcher, had a below average season and Sanderling and Western Sandpiper were far below average.

Reports from two coastal hawk watches were received. Arthur and Hannah Richard reported on seventh year of the Breezy Point Raptor Banding Station at Fort Tilden. The station was operated for 31 days from 16 September to 18 October, four days longer than last year. They banded a total of 245 hawks, just about exactly their average over the previous six years, but 30% higher than last year's relatively low total of 188. As usual, American Kestrel had the highest total with 186 banded. Other hawks banded included 42 Sharp-shinned, two Northern Harriers, one Peregrine, two Cooper's and 12 Merlins. Their Peregrine was the first banded there since 1979. Their total of 1139 hawks seen was below average for them but above last year's all time low of 871. The total included 15 Peregrines, the most seen in the last four years. Drew Panko reported on the

third year of his Fire Island hawk watch. This year the watch was kept on 29 days from 15 September to 16 October, six days less than last year. Even with the shortened coverage the total of 1811 hawks seen was somewhat larger than last year's 1664. The biggest increases were: Northern Harrier - 151 birds, up from 78; Osprey - 108, up from 52; and Peregrine Falcon - 53, up from 39.

Finally, I must end on a sad note. While writing this report I learned of the sudden death on 8 January of Walter Sedwitz. Walter was an active birder in Region 10 for over fifty years and a regular contributor to these seasonal reports. I will miss his regular, detailed reports on the season in northern Manhattan and the Bronx. We will all miss his cheerful presence in the field.

Rarities: Gyrfalcon, California Gull, Arctic Tern, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Black-throated Gray Warbler.

Abbreviations: LI—Long Island; SI—Staten Island; SP—State Park; WEJB—West End, Jones Beach; HLSP—Hempstead Lake State Park; RMSP—Robert Moses State Park; JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; mob—many observers; NYRBA—New York Rare Bird Alert.

Contributors and initialed observers: Robert Adamo, Paul A. Buckley, Ralph Cioffi, Stephen B. Dempsey, Joe DiCostanzo, Fran File, David Freund, Paul Gillen, David Krauss, Lyman Langdon Audubon Society (R. Cioffi - field notes ed.), Emanuel Levine, Allan Lindberg, Arthur Morris, New York Rare Bird Alert (T. W. Burke & T. H. Davis - eds.), Drew Panko, Queens County Bird Club (L. Schore - field notes ed.), Arthur Richard, Hannah Richard, Jonathan Rosenthal, John J. Ruscica, Sy Schiff, Lore Schore, Walter Sedwitz, Anne Townsend, Tony Townsend, Robert Villani, Alvin Wollin.

LOONS-DUCKS: The falling temperatures of 3 Nov. may have contributed to the "excellent" flight of Red-throated Loons along Jones Beach 4 Nov. (AW); the same day, two were at JBWR where they are rare (JD); six were at WEJB 6 Nov. (FF). Individual Red-necked Grebes were at Great Kills, SI 18 Nov. (NYRBA) and Montauk 20 Nov. (AT, TT). A recently dead N. Fulmar was found at Mexoc Bay 19 Nov. (PG). A Greater Shearwater at Montauk Pt. 12 Nov. was very late, but not a record (JJR). Also late were three Sooty Shearwaters off Tobay 4 Oct. (NYRBA). A good flight of N. Gannets was reported off the south shore in early Nov. with 100's seen off Jones Beach 7 Nov. (LS). The peak of Tundra Swans was 14 at Hook Pd. 12 Nov. (JJR). The earliest Snow Geese reported were 57 at Muttontown Preserve 26 Sept. (AL); several flocks, some of over 100 birds each, passed over RMSP 3 Oct. (FF). An albino Brant was at Bay Park 4 Oct. (SBD). At least seven Eurasian Wigeons were found during the season: one-two at JBWR on 23 Sept. thru the end of the period (mob); and individuals at Lawrence 15 Oct. (M. & A. Penzer), Kaler's Pd., East Moriches 10 Nov. (JJR), Hook Pd. 10-25 Nov. (NYRBA), Massapequa Preserve from 24 Nov. on (mob) and Hewlett 25 Nov. (NYRBA); this wide an occurrence explains why the species hasn't been highlighted in this region's reports in some years. A male Tufted Duck returned again to the Central Pk. reservoir 23 Nov. (DK). Eiders were fairly scarce at Montauk this season: two Com. Eiders were there 21 Oct. (NYRBA) and a pair of Kings were there 27 Nov. (LS). Harlequin Ducks appeared in the Region in late Nov. with four at Pt. Lookout 22 Nov. and six at Montauk 24 Nov. (NYRBA). The first Hooded Mergansers arrived at HLSP 25 Oct. (SBD).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Cool fronts with NW winds may have been responsible for single Turkey Vultures over Seatuck 22 Sept. (C. Smith, T. Litwin) and Gardiner Co. Pk., West Bay Shore (L. & L. Feldman). An adult Bald Eagle was at Connetquot 18-27 Nov. (G. Bergen). After a gray phase **GYRFALCON** was discovered at Zach's Bay, Jones Beach, 25 Nov. the bird picked the floodlit watertower at the foot of the Wantagh Causeway as its roost and was subsequently added to many people's life and state lists on nocturnal visits

(mob). The peak count of Black-bellied Plovers at JBWR was 1079 on 27 Oct. (AM). Lesser Golden-Plovers were fairly widely reported till early-Oct. in generally small numbers with the exception of 100 at a sod farm in Calverton 26 Sept. (RA). As reported in the Summer report, Am. Oystercatchers showed increased numbers this year with 50-60 continuing at JBWR thru Sept. (mob). Three Am. Avocets at JBWR 4-14 Oct. is an apparent record maximum for the state (mob). An Upland Sandpiper at JBWR 1 Sept was a rare find for the location (NYRBA). Small numbers of Hudsonian Godwits were at JBWR till 12 Nov., peaking at eight on 16 Sept. (AM, mob); another bird at Zach's Bay 15 Sept.-15 Nov. (AW). Lone Marbled Godwits were reported at JBWR 15-30 Sept. (mob). Red Knots peaked at JBWR in late Oct. with 301 there 27 Oct. (AM). In contrast White-rumped Sandpipers peaked in early Oct. with 37 at JBWR 8 Oct. (AM). Individual Baird's Sandpipers were seen at Jones Beach and JBWR in early Sept. (mob) and two were found at JBWR 27 Sept. (J. G. Williams, *vide* AM). The earliest Purple Sandpipers reported were ten at Montauk Inlet 12 Nov. (JJR). A count of 4379 Dunlins at JBWR 27 Oct. was the most ever seen there (AM). As with golden-plovers, Buff-breasted Sandpipers were fairly widely reported in small numbers till early Oct., though their peak numbers were much lower: ten at a sod farm in Wading River 22 Sept. (J. Lamoureux). Wilson's Phalaropes were at JBWR in ones and twos till 13 Oct. (mob), but the only Red-necked Phalarope reported was one there 16 Sept. (mob). Both Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were found at Montauk into Nov. with one Pomarine 10 Nov. (NYRBA), eight Parasitics 10 Nov. (NYRBA) and one Parasitic 27 Nov. (LS). A Com. Black-headed Gull was at the Montauk Harbor jetty 24 Nov. (NYRBA). Approximately 1100 Ring-billed Gulls were noted flying SW over the Jerome Res., Bronx 6 Nov. (WS). An adult CALIFORNIA GULL, a second regional and third state record, was reported at Oyster Pd., Montauk 10 Nov. (PAB). The "Kumlien's" Gull returned in late Nov. to the vicinity of the Boardwalk Restaurant, Jones Beach, for the eighth consecutive year (mob). One to two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported at Montauk 14 Oct.-10 Nov. (mob); other individuals were at Riis Pk. 7-21 Oct. (mob), Fire I 9 Nov. (PAB) and Pt. Lookout 28 Nov. (WS). A Glaucous Gull was at Montauk Pt. 12 Nov. (JJR). A Caspian Tern was at the Sore Thumb, Jones Beach, 2 Sept. (R. Laskowski) and one to two were at Zach's Bay 23-26 Sept. (mob). A late report from the summer season was of 104 Royal Terns, 18 Aug. a very high count (NYRBA); 42 were at Mecox 14 Oct. (NYRBA) and two lingerers were at East Moriches 10 Nov. (JJR). Two ARCTIC TERNS were reported at Sagaponack Pd. 21 Sept. (PAB). Small numbers of Forster's Terns were at WEJB in early Nov., peaking at 25 on 6 Nov. (mob). The only Black Terns reported were two at JBWR 2 Sept. (JJR), surely there were others?

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: In another late note from the summer season, seven pairs of Com. Barn-Owls raised 27 young at JBWR; another pair nested at Yankee Stadium (NYRBA)—there was no word about how good this latter pair was at catching foul balls. Two Snowy Owls were at JFK Airport 25 Nov. but the species was scarce elsewhere (NYRBA). Migrant groups of Com. Nighthawks were reported in mid-Sept. with 24 seen at Roslyn Hts. 12 Sept. (H. Roth). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Montauk 20 Nov. was a near record late date (AT, TT). Red-headed Woodpeckers were fairly widely reported during the season with the high being three at Muttontown Preserve 12 Sept. (LLAS). The cold front of 6 Oct. brought at least 12 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers to Jones Beach, "the most I have ever seen in one day," according to one active observer (SBD). The cool weather of a few days earlier brought a flight of 525 N. Flickers to the hawkwatchers at Fire I. (FF).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: One of the finds of the season was an **ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER** photographed at WEJB 21 Nov. (RV); the series of excellent photos was examined by Dr. W. E. Lanyon of the Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. who confirmed the identification; this is the third confirmed record for the state. Over ten W. Kingbirds were reported this fall including one at Short Beach 1 Sept. (EL), three at WEJB for much of Nov. (mob)

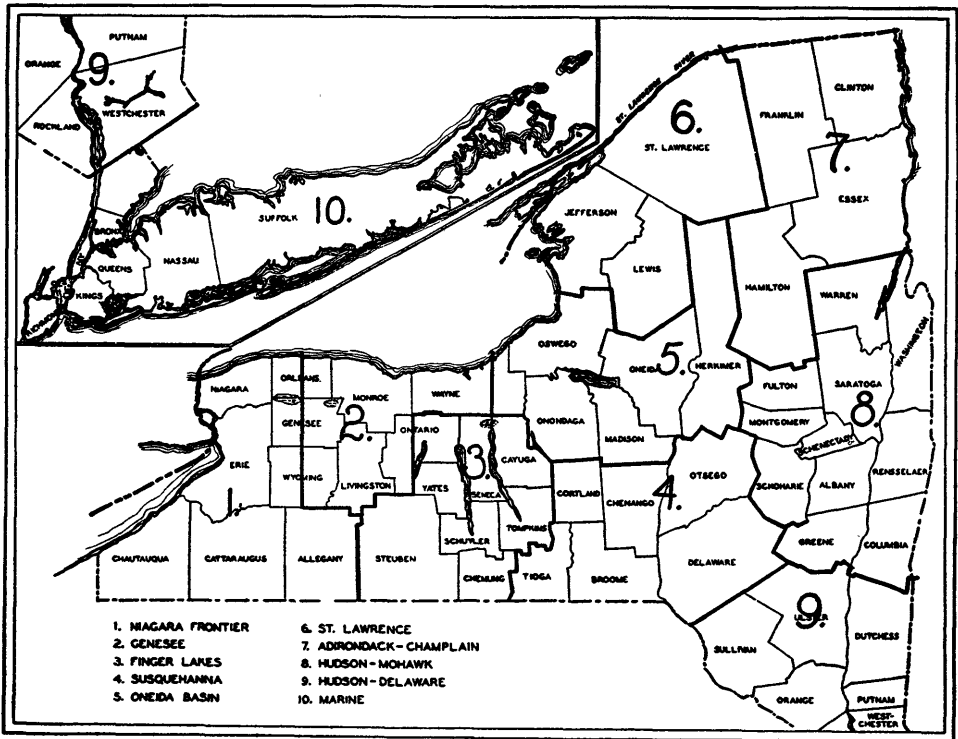
and three at Ditch Plains, Montauk 11 Nov. (NYRBA). A **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** was found at West Meadow Beach, East Setauket 18 Sept. (J. & T. Fasullo). About a dozen Cliff Swallows at WEJB 1 Sept. was a good find for the location (EL). At either end of the migration, a House Wren at Connetquot River SP 27 Nov. was late (*vide* FF) and a Winter Wren at Jones Beach 13 Sept. was early (AW). Six E. Bluebirds were at Manorville, where they nest, 5 Oct. (RA); three were at JBWR 4 Nov. (JD). A flock of 35 Water Pipits at Cunningham Pk. was a good local count (A. Wagner, S. Yeaton), as was 140 Cedar Waxwings at Seton Pk., Bronx 18 Nov. (WS).

VIREOS-WARBLERS: A Solitary Vireo at RMSP 8 Nov. was a little late but far from a record (FF). The only Philadelphia Vireo reported was one at JBWR 16 Sept. (AM); surely others were seen! Golden-winged Warblers are always rare on LI but especially in the fall, so two individuals, Gardiner Co. Pk. 1 Sept. and Belmont 2 Sept. were good finds, especially for one pair of observers (L. & L. Feldman). A Tennessee Warbler on Jones Beach 28 Oct. was a bit on the late side (AW, SS). A banded at the Harbor Hill Sanct. banding station reported the most Tennessee and Black-throated Blue Warblers in any Sept. in memory (J. Pion). Individual Orange-crowned Warblers were found at Fire I 6 Oct. (LLAS), JBWR 11 Oct. (AM) and Pelham Bay Pk. 17 Nov. (NYRBA). Adding to the less than ten state records of **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLERS** was one found at Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn 27-29 Sept. (R. Rosenbloom, *et al.*); the strange sound you hear is the gnashing of your regional editor's teeth who managed to miss this bird only half-a-mile from his home! Single Connecticut Warblers were reported at Prospect Pk. (JR) and Garview Pt. Preserve (D. Thompson) on 20 Sept. and Muttontown Preserve 26 Sept. (AL). Yellow-breasted Chats were at RMSP 6-7 Oct. (mob) and Seatuck 10 Oct. (FF); a dead chat was found at Glenwood Landing 12 Oct. (J. Doran).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: A late-lingering Rose-breasted Grosbeak was found at Jones Beach 8 Nov. (AW, SS). Four Blue Grosbeaks were reported during Oct.: Southard's Pd., Babylon 4 Oct. (D. Kaufman), Zach's Bay 6 Oct. (NYRBA), Jones Beach 20 Oct. (NYRBA), and HLSP 30 Oct. (SBD). The Lark Sparrow quota seemed to be one a month this season: WEJB 28 Sept. (AW), Prospect Pk. 4 Oct. (JR) and the Bronx Zoo 3 Nov. (DK). Ten "Ipswich" Sparrows at WEJB 24 Nov. was a very good number for this uncommon race of the Savannah Sparrow (LS). White-crowned Sparrows were reported in small numbers in early to mid-Oct. with the highest count 13 found at RMSP 12 Oct. (FF). Oddly, the warm weather at the end of Oct. coincided with a wave of Dark-eyed Juncos thru the area with large flocks found all along the Jones Beach strip 29 Oct. (FF) and many at HLSP 30 Oct. (SBD). Mid-Nov. saw the arrival of small numbers of Lapland Longspurs in the region: two at Jones Beach 11 Nov. (AW, SS), two at Smith Pt. Beach Pk. 17 Nov. (JJR), and three at Great Kills, SI (AM) and six at Bay Pk., East Rockaway (NYRBA), the latter two records both on 25 Nov. The largest group of Snow Buntings reported was 150 at Smith Pt. Beach Pk. 10 Nov. (JJR). A late-lingering Orchard Oriole was at RMSP 7 Oct. (A. J. Lauro). The wave on 1 Sept. included large numbers of N. Orioles with approximately 500 noted in one hour at WEJB (EL).

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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