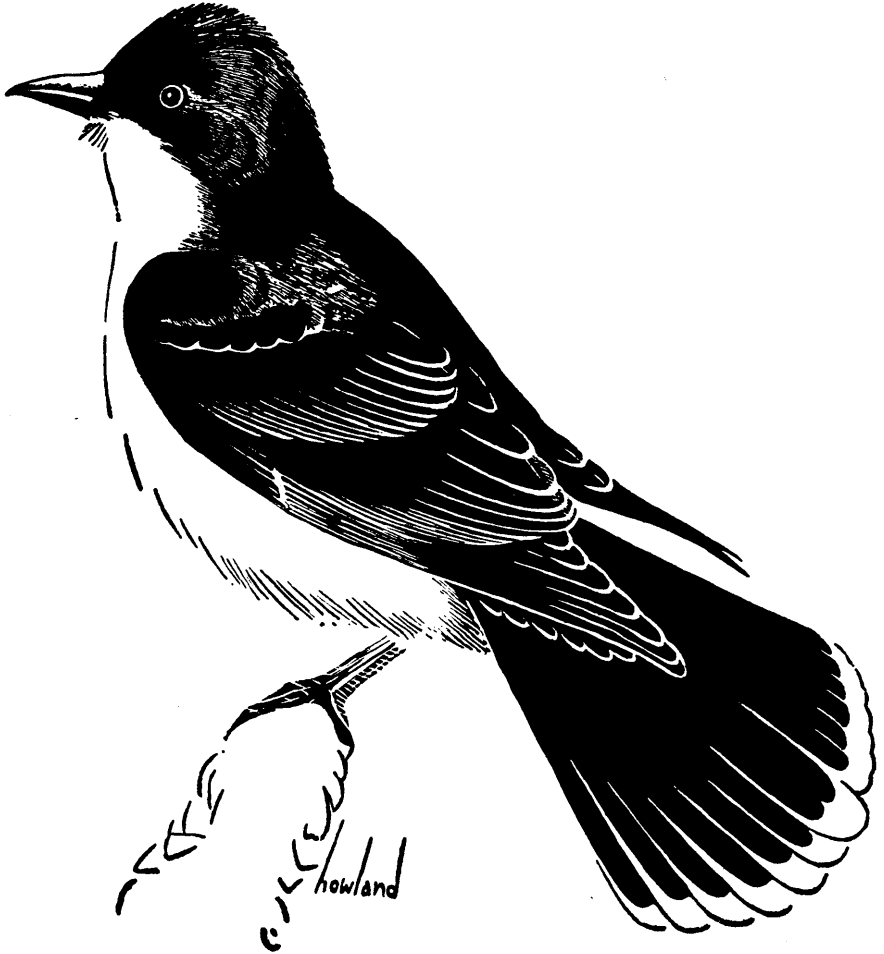


The **KINGBIRD**



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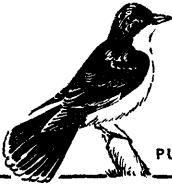
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The KINGBIRD

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Editor – Paul A. DeBenedictis

Highlights of the Season

Editor – Robert Spahn

Circulation Manager – Constance N. Wilkins

STATE BIRD BOOK REPRINTED

Long out of print and essential to students of New York's avifauna, *The Birds of New York State* by John Bull has been reprinted by Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York. The reprint contains the entire text, maps and figures of the original together with the 1976 *Supplement*, originally published by the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. This reprinted edition is available both soft- and hard-bound from book stores everywhere, or from the Laboratory of Ornithology.

AN ACCOUNT OF NEW YORK STATE'S FIRST RUFIOUS-NECKED STINT

ARTHUR MORRIS

On the afternoon of 27 July 1985 I was birding the "Raunt" (the pilings near the south end) at the East Pond, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens, N.Y. with Paul A. Buckley. I noticed three birders slogging through the mud on the western shore. When they reached the East Garden one of the birders, Georges Dremeaux, shouted to us through the breeze, "STINT at the NORTH END!" We quickly made our way to the parking lot. There Georges, his wife Myra and Rick Cech gave us a somewhat confusing description of a bird which they thought was either a Rufous-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*) or a Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*). Paul and I drove to the north end. As we walked toward the island about 1,500 peep were flushed by a jet and we watched in dismay as some four or five hundred birds departed the East Pond. An hour's careful search of the remaining shorebirds left us disappointed.

The next morning I arrived at the pond at 5:45 A.M. I started at the south end and quickly checked the handful of birds at the Raunt. I rapidly worked my way up the eastern shore. Just west of the aforementioned island at the north end of the pond several hundred Semipalmated Sandpipers were roosting on a large floating mat of algae. Among them was a peep with the lower half of its face a rufous/reddish pink, and the dark-brown centered feathers of the upperparts and scapulars having chestnut/rufous edgings.

I began to wade into the pond for a closer view, testing the soft mucky bottom with my tripod. While standing in thigh-deep water I was treated to excellent views of the bird from within sixty yards at 60 power. Viewing conditions were perfect with no heat distortion in the cool of the early morning and a bright morning sun at my back. I was able to note the following features which left no doubt as to the bird's identity – New York State's first Rufous-necked Stint!

A peep about the same size as, but standing slightly shorter (due to its shorter legs) than the surrounding Semipalmated Sandpipers. Lower half of the face, neck, throat and upper breast rufous/reddish pink. **The color about the face, neck, throat and upper breast was clear and unstreaked.** Lower breast with grayish/brown streaks, spots and smudges. Upperparts and scapulars dark-brown centered feathers with bright chestnut/rufous edgings. **These feathers contrasted markedly with the coverts and tertials which were gray with**

faint whitish edgings. Crown brown with tiny streaks of white, dark brown and black. Supercillium whitish. Bill very short and heavy, similar to an extremely short-billed male Semipalmated Sandpiper. Legs black. A squat bird with hunched posture.

The *American Birds'* article "Field identification of smaller sandpipers within the genus *Calidris*" made identification of the bird as a bright but fading adult Rufous-necked Stint a straightforward matter. I had studied this article so often that my copy is now tattered and worn.

Little Stint was ruled out for the following reasons: Little Stint is more delicately built than Semipalmated Sandpiper and exhibits a more erect posture; this bird was squat and stockily built. Little Stint has a slender finely pointed bill; this bird had a short blunt bill with a deep base. Little Stint has longer tarsi than Rufous-necked Stint; in direct comparison with Semipalmated Sandpiper this bird stood well shorter. The rufescent tones of Little Stint have an orangish cast; the rufescent tones of this bird were reddish on the upperparts and salmon about the face, neck, throat and upper breast. Little Stint has the crown and auriculars cinnamon/rufous; this bird had a brown crown and showed color only on the lower half of the face, not on the auriculars. Little Stint has a white throat; this bird had a rufous/reddish pink throat. In Little Stint the rufous about the face and neck is always spotted or streaked with dusky brown; on this bird the color about the face, neck, throat and upper breast was clear and unstreaked. Little Stint has dusky brown inner coverts and dusky brown tertials both broadly edged with rufous and sometimes with buff; on the bird in question these feathers were gray with faint white edgings. In breeding plumage Little Stint always shows a double row of white "vees" on the mantle; this bird had no white vees.

The bill shape of this bird ruled out Spoonbill Sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*).

I returned to refuge headquarters and entered a detailed description of the bird in the log. I drove home and attempted to contact other birders, but most phones were unanswered on this beautiful summer Sunday.

I returned to the pond at about three P.M. and found the bird at the north end asleep in typical shorebird fashion with its bill tucked among the feathers of its upperparts. This would prove to be its favorite activity as it spent most of its time sleeping. I was soon joined by about thirty birders. Two observers familiar with the species, Paul Buckley and Paul Lehman, concurred with my identification. Through Buckley's Questar at 120 power two additional field marks diagnostic of Rufous-necked

Stint were also noted; a dark loreal line and a fuzzy white ring around the base of the bill.

Five days later the Stint was still in its now familiar haunts at the north end of the pond. It was not as bright as it had appeared a week earlier, but still had "good color." I saw the bird several more times, the last on 11 August. By this time feather wear and the bleaching effect of the sun left the bird but a pale reminder of its former self. There was no color on the face and just a blush of orange on the sides of the upper breast. The brilliant feather edgings had faded to a chestnut/beige. My final view of the bird was from less than forty feet and is one I shall long remember. I believe that the bird departed the pond for good on either 12 or 13 August, as a north wind blew on both these nights and Semipalmated Sandpiper numbers dropped by more than 1,500 between 11 and 13 August.

Hundreds of birders from many states flocked to the pond during the Stint's astoundingly lengthy stay of 17+ days. None, however, traveled as far as the Stint. Rufous-necked Stint breeds along the northern coast of Siberia and winters mainly in southeast Asia. Vagrants have been seen in North and South America, in western Europe and in South Africa (Veit and Jonsson, 1984). This species has previously occurred in Maine, Ohio, Massachusetts (at least two records) and Bermuda (Tom Davis - pers comm). In 1981 five top New York State birders were asked to predict the next ten additions to the New York State List (Able, 1981). Rufous-necked Stint was the only bird to appear on all five lists!

LITERATURE CITED:

Able, Kenneth P. 1981 Trends in the state list of New York birds: *Kingbird* 33: 6-11.

Jonsson, Lars and Veit, Richard R. 1984 Field identification of smaller sandpipers within the genus *Calidris*. *American Birds* 38: 853-876.

35 Mimosa Lane, Staten Island, N.Y. 10312

THE SQUIRRELAWAY

ALAN W. BERNHEIMER

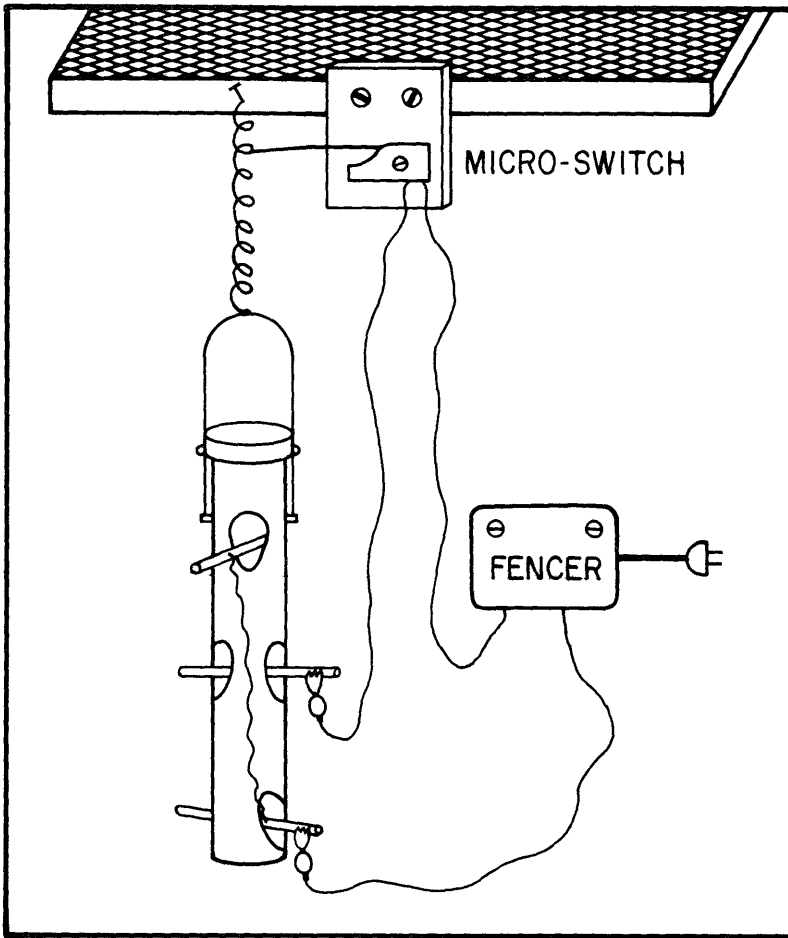
For five summers I have been experimenting with devices designed to keep a commonly used type of bird feeder free of squirrels. The foolproof contrivance that evolved suspends the feeder from a helical spring attached to an eave or other fixed structure of convenient height. The lever of a micro-switch is fastened by wire and epoxy cement to the spring. The feeder is wired to receive current from a common farmer's electric "fencer" when the micro-switch is closed. Earlier versions used other means to encourage the squirrels' departure, but a variety of horns, whistles, sirens, and a supersonic rodent repeller proved to be simply music to their ears.

Birds that visit our feeder weigh between one ounce, the weight of a House Sparrow, and three and a half ounces, the weight of a Blue Jay. The common Eastern Grey Squirrel weighs between fourteen and twenty-five ounces. By virtue of this large difference in bird and squirrel weights, the micro-switch can easily be mounted so that it closes when a squirrel is on the feeder, but remains open when one or more birds choose to congregate there.

A squirrel can get food out of the feeder only when it clings vertically, and in this position it makes contact with two of the three metal crossbars to which the fencer is electrically connected. Ordinarily, a bird makes contact with only one crossbar, but on the off-chance that it does touch two, the open switch insures the bird's safety.

The relatively low, pulsed current delivered by a fencer will repel even the most voracious squirrel with astonishing rapidity. And its memory of the tingle seems so vivid that when a squirrel has been repulsed two or three times it has learned, perhaps for the rest of its life, not to approach the apparatus again. Instead, it is content to consume the feed that falls to the ground. The birds are rather sloppy eaters, spilling about as much as they eat. Once the neighborhood squirrels have been "trained", the fencer can be disconnected for an undetermined period of time.

Four summers of experience have demonstrated that the fencer's charge is innocuous to the Eastern Grey Squirrel. This should quell any objections from the International Society for the Preservation of Squirrels and Other Rodents. As for the protection of humans, the electricity delivered by the fencer is considered harmless. Nevertheless, some vivid memories of my own recommend that you disconnect the 110-volt



supply to the fencer when you are filling or handling the feeder. One should be aware of the possibility that in very cold weather, the birds' feet may be injured by the metal crossbars. Finally, if the feeder is located remote from a source of electricity, a solar-powered fencer can be used.

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BREEDING BEHAVIOR BY A BLACK TERN ON A LONG ISLAND SALT MARSH

ERIC SALZMAN

A Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) on territory in an East Hampton, Long Island, salt marsh between late May and late July, 1985, provided a rare case of a summering, breeding-condition bird of this species in a coastal, estuarine environment. Black Terns are regular fall migrants on eastern Long Island, mostly at South Shore locations. Spring birds in breeding plumage are relatively rare and usually are seen in passage on fresh ponds.

A Black Tern was first observed in the area in late May at the mouth of Three Mile Harbor in East Hampton Town by two baymen (actually a bayman and a baywoman) who recognized it as an unusual species. Three Mile Harbor is a creek-fed salt estuary which opens north onto Gardiner's Bay. Black Terns are rare here at any time. Presumably this same individual was seen subsequently on the east side of the mouth of the harbor where it fished with Common and Roseate Terns. I observed the bird beginning in early June from the west side of the inlet where a sand spit closes off the harbor. This spit encloses a salt marsh (mostly *Spartina alterniflora*) and a number of sandy islands and sand edges with typical dune species. These islands are the site of a loose breeding colony of Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*), Willets (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) and Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*); Least Terns (*Sterna antillarum*), Roseate Terns (*S. dougallii*), American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) and Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) frequent the area but are not proven breeders.

All observers, including myself, initially assumed the bird to be a migrant in passage. However, it remained in the area throughout the month of June and most of July, joining in the general activity of the colony, repeatedly calling and often flying past me in a conspicuous manner as if investigating my activities, generally in company with the very vociferous Willets.

My observation post was a large spoil hill at the end of the sand spit from which I could overlook the inlet as well as the marsh and its islands. To avoid detection by Willets, I began to use an indirect approach, a spotting scope and a Red Cedar for a blind. But even if the Willets did not find me, the Black Tern invariably did, circling the observation post and calling. Nevertheless, after twenty to forty-five minutes, the bird would return to a fairly well-defined island territory, land in a characteristic wing-up posture and then move out of sight into the beach grass. It chased other terns, Common Grackles and Common

Crows from this area, sometimes with considerable effort and belligerence.

The bird usually fished in the narrow entrance to the harbor with Common and Roseate Terns. It had considerable success, generally catching Sand Launces or other small bait fish which it carried out over the Harbor. Then it came back in over the marsh and circled its island territory, calling loudly. On at least three occasions it came to the island with a fish and disappeared in the beach grass. A few minutes later it flew off without the fish. It also appeared to hunt over the tidal creeks and marshes but without observable success. No insect hawking was observed.

Its territory, at the highest point of the sand island, was covered with beach grass (*Ammophila*), tidal wrack and a few emergent shrubs. All nests, eggs, broken egg shells and chicks found on the island belonged to Common Terns or Spotted Sandpipers. When I examined the island, the Black Tern hovered in the area, calling loudly and displaying evidence of anxiety. Its agitation increased markedly in the clearly demarcated area where it normally landed but it made no diving attacks on me. This territorial behavior persisted into the third week of July, when all breeding activity in the colony ended.

There were persistent reports, dating from the spring observations, that two or more Black Terns were present. However, all observers whom I contacted reported only a single bird. During many hours of observations and three careful onsite inspections, I never saw or heard more than one bird at a time.

A brief survey of the literature reveals no records of coastal or salt-marsh nesting of this species in North America and there are few breeding-season reports anywhere on the coast. However Stone (1937) gives several reports of Black Terns in Common Tern colonies between 1921 and 1932. He thought these were misplaced birds who had been stimulated into similar behavior by the breeding and territorial activities of the colony. This is the most likely explanation. In such situations, isolated birds in breeding condition have been known to feed or attempt to feed chicks of other species; this may have been the case here. Intergeneric pairing, although unlikely, must also be considered as at least an outside possibility.

I would like to thank Jim Ash for calling my attention to the Witmer Stone reference.

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Stone, Witmer, 1937. *Bird Studies at Old Cape May; An Ornithology of Coastal New Jersey*. Dover Publications, New York, N.Y. (reprint).

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NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

A Shorebird Haven on Lake Champlain: In the autumn of 1979 I discovered what has proved to be one of the best shorebird viewing areas in the Adirondack-Champlain region (Region 7). This site on King's Bay in Clinton County is described neither in Philip H. Warren's, *Birds of Clinton County* nor in Susan Roney Drennan's *Where To Find Birds In New York State*. Since 1980 I have reported shorebirds observed at this site to the Region 7 editor of *The Kingbird*. I believe this is the only reference to this Lake Champlain hot spot in print. I have referred to this area as the King's Bay Campsite area when reporting to *The Kingbird*.

Lake Champlain is not a major stopping-off point for shorebirds on either their northward or southward migration. There are relatively few areas along Lake Champlain that are suitable for shorebirds. Some of these areas are suitable only in low water years. The only other areas in Clinton County besides King's Bay where numbers of shorebirds stop consistently are Chazy Landing to the north and the Georgia-Pacific mudflats on Plattsburgh Bay.

To reach this site in northeast Clinton County, travel south out of the Village of Rouses Point about two miles to Point Au Fer Road. This road runs along King's Bay Wildlife Management Area. About one-tenth mile further south on Route 9B a dirt road enters King's Bay Campsite, a privately owned trailer park. Ask for permission to enter and follow the road down to King's Bay. Here there is a narrow strip of shoreline about three-tenths of a mile long where shorebirds stop and feed. The proximity to King's Bay Wildlife Management Area perhaps helps shorebirds find this narrow strip of habitat. Suitable feeding habitat is uncovered along the shoreline only as the lake level approaches 95.5 feet above sea level. During the spring migration the lake level is above 96 feet in most years. Only as summer approaches does the lake level recede sufficiently to expose mudflats ideal for feeding. The best months for shorebird abundance and diversity are September and October.

Between the access road to the trailer park and the edge of the lake there are two distinct vegetational zones. Nearest the road is a zone of tall (1-3 feet) vegetation about 75 feet wide made up of lamb's quarters, smartweed, green amaranth, ragweed, cocklebur, some sedge and a few small clumps of cattails and spike rush. This band of vegetation helps buffer any disturbance from the adjacent trailer park. The zone closest to the shoreline is about 75-90 feet wide in September and October. Vegetation here is less than about 4-5 inches in height and is patchy in distribution. A prostrate form of lamb's quarters is most common, interspersed with patches of short grass, some smartweed, beggar-ticks and moss. Part of this zone is covered with aquatic vegetation that has been washed ashore. As the lake level recedes, many different types of habitat are available for feeding: mudflats, small pools of water, sandy areas, shoreline covered by aquatic vegetation,

shoreline covered by various types of herbaceous vegetation, and tall vegetation for cover. The diversity of feeding habitats probably explains the diversity of shorebirds found here.

Since 1979 I have observed twenty-one species of shorebirds at this site. The most common visitors are: Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Dunlin, Least and Semipalmated Sandpiper, Semipalmated Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Common Snipe and Pectoral Sandpiper. Less common are: Spotted Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Red Knot, Solitary Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper and Ruddy Turnstone. Others observed only rarely are: American Woodcock, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Sanderling and Western Sandpiper. This site rivals or surpasses all other areas in Region 7 for diversity of shorebirds in the fall.

Mark Gretch, P.O. Box 748, Champlain, N.Y. 12919

EDITORIAL

This issue of *The Kingbird* begins what I hope will be a gradual, but continual change in the format of the Regional reports. I have asked each of the Regional editors to try to make about half of their report a narrative overview of the significant events of the season, to include the significant ornithological records that defined those events in that narrative, and not to repeat those records in the half of the report that lists individual records of species. I also have asked the editors to provide a brief explanation as to why each record appears in *The Kingbird* and threatened to remove any records of dubious significance. I have been most gratified by the response which you will see in the Regional reports which follow.

I have imposed these changes to make the Regional reports easier to read and to comprehend. Readers and contributors, especially, should note that a side effect of them will be that fewer credited individual records can appear in Regional reports. The over thirty years of records which have been published in *The Kingbird* give a good overview of New York's avifauna, one from which we can make solid statements about ongoing and future changes in it. The new format should make it easier to record these changes and to highlight new discoveries. This new format does not mean that your Regional editors need fewer reports from those who contribute your observations. Indeed, just the opposite is true. A narrative summary requires synthesis of even more data than are required just to produce a simple listing. To those who submit records, keep up the good work. To those who do not, your Regional editor would be pleased to hear from you.

A few changes in style also appear in this issue. Almost all periods after abbreviations are gone; the result is more consistent, cleaner, and used by other journals. Some long time abbreviations have changed. Each month now is abbreviated to its first three letters and each county in New York to its first four letters. A series of additional standard abbreviations will be used in every Regional report, and conflicting local abbreviations are forbidden. The standard abbreviations used in this issue appear after the Seasonal Highlights. Just as the changes in format should make the introduction to each Regional report more readable, these changes will make the lists of records more mechanical. As most of these records are only refinements to our present base of knowledge, I hope this change also will prove acceptable. We will continue to publish individual records, because an essential core are the harbingers of changes now too insignificant to be recognized.

These revisions are new to all of us. If you find these changes displeasing, then I accept the blame. I ask you to judge their effects carefully and patiently, and I welcome your constructive criticisms and suggestions.

A purely administrative issue that arose with this issue is the "floating boundary" between Regions 9 and 10, which came about through an informal agreement between Regional editors to resolve confusion over the actual boundary. For several years the map has not correctly reflected the division of reports which have appeared in these two Regional reports. As a similar problem also may exist between Regions 1 and 2, the Executive Council of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs has established a committee to review and fix the Regional boundaries. In this issue, some reports which originally were submitted to and included in the Region 9 report have been moved to Region 10 to make the provenance of reports agree with the map. In the course of making this transfer, a few of those records have disappeared; this is entirely my responsibility. Readers should note that many records, notably those from Rye, which have appeared in recent Region 9 reports also should be adjusted similarly.

The Editor

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

Once again we find such terms as lackluster and dull used to describe the fall migration. Peterson's "The most significant migratory movement of the season was lepidopteran, — —" was appropriate in most regions, if only they too would have had the butterflies to watch. After five years of the same lament, one begins to wonder if there ever were times when the fall passage approached expectations. Again, much of the blame can be laid to the fact that there were few weather systems to produce the sharp changes which lead to groundings of migrant birds. For most of the state, September and October were relatively dry and warm, and November was moderate in temperature but wet and gloomy. Typically, the first frost dates were a bit late and there was little snowfall through season's end. The weather event of the season was Hurricane Gloria. It brought great birding to Region 10, and had little impact elsewhere in the state except for bringing heavy rain on 27-28 Sep. The very local nature of this storm's effects on birds shows in that, even in neighboring Region 9, the only notable fallout was a single Northern Fulmar.

Generally speaking, for most regions and across most avian families, the story for this fall was of good variety but poor numbers. These poor numbers are reflected in notes of low TV tower kills where they have been monitored in Regions 1 and 3, and in low banding totals from Regions 1 and 4. The single major exception to this story was the avian aftermath of Hurricane Gloria's passage over eastern Long Island.

The greater part of the Region 10 report is devoted to this Event of the Season, so I will not go to great lengths here, but strongly urge your study of that report. It was interesting that few sea birds were blown in aside from a few storm-petrels, a frigatebird, and a multitude of terns of several species. One of the more fascinating occurrences was the large number of grounded and exhausted land birds on the eastern end of Long Island after the storm, leading to such state high counts as 150 Black-throated Blue Warblers, 2000-3000 American Redstarts, and 3000+ Cape May Warblers. Of added interest is the note that a large proportion of these warblers were adults. This suggested that the storm had intercepted and pushed back part of a large movement of warblers from over the ocean, the route taken by the adults as opposed to the coastal route typically followed by the young of the year.

Numbers reported for the regular flights are dominated by the general feeling of scarcity noted above. However, there are highlights of interest

in each. Among the loons and grebes, we find a new state high count for Common Loon in Region 2 and the synchronous arrival of Red-necked Grebe in Regions 1, 2, and 3. The waterfowl produced good counts of Canada Goose, but most other species, and particularly many puddle ducks, were way down. A good illustration is the contrast this fall in the table of peak waterfowl counts from Montezuma NWR in Region 3 with those published in the previous two fall summaries. Numbers for Mallard, Black Duck, and Pintail are down by factors approaching 10. In contrast high counts for Wood Duck came from Region 5 and for Hooded Merganser from Region 3.

The fall hawk flights were termed good overall. Major counts are summarized in Regions 4, 9, and 10, with a few other notes from Regions 2 and 5. There is widespread feeling that Sharp-shinned Hawk and both Merlin and Peregrine Falcon numbers were good. Bald Eagles seemed to be holding steady over the past several years. Rough-legged Hawks arrived as early as 1 Sep in Region 3 and had appeared in most regions by the season's end, though in low numbers. Region 10 provides an interesting contrast, where one hawk watch reports all-time low numbers, especially for American Kestrel, while the second tallied an all-time high, with American Kestrel up 33% to a new high.

Shorebird highlights include: good variety in most regions, a first Buff-breasted Sandpiper for Clinton Co. in Region 7, and a new high count of 125 American Oystercatchers in Region 10. The gull scene was uninspiring. The high points were Laughing Gulls inland in Regions 1 and 5 and a Regional high count for Little Gull, a Common Black-headed Gull, and a record high count of 1000 Great Black-backed Gulls in Region 6. The annual watch for Snowy Owls was very unrewarding, as the only records were single birds in Regions 5 and 9.

Bright spots in the generally dismal passerine picture include: a late Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Region 5; Bohemian Waxwings in Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, & 7, including a record early arrival in New York from Region 3; a scattering of Northern Shrikes arriving in October and November in six regions; a lone Loggerhead Shrike report from Region 10; good counts of warblers in Region 10 and also in Region 9; a late Yellow Warbler in Region 2; Yellow-throated Warblers in Region 10 and one very late in Region 3; Connecticut Warblers in five regions; a sparrow contrast, with Region 4 reporting excellent banding numbers and Region 9 good counts for several species, while Region 5 noted their scarcity; and, finally!, a winter finch season with all species except Hoary Redpoll reported and all regions except 7 and 10 noting the prospects of a good finch winter.

As with any season, a few of the species notes fail to fit the major flight pattern. Among those for this season, we have: more evidence

of the large change in the Double-crested Cormorant population since John Bull's *Birds of New York State* in 1974 with new high inland counts of 325 in Region 5 and 400-500 in Region 7. Both of these contrasting with complaints of relatively low numbers in nearby Region 6; late inland "Glossy" Ibis in Regions 2, 3, and 5; an October boat trip to an historical nesting site along Lake Champlain in Region 7 that found both Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon present; a roost of 10,000+ American Crow in Region 9; Common Raven from five regions; note of both House Finch and House Sparrow increasing at one location in Region 6; and three record late observations of birds feeding fledglings – E. Wood-Pewee in Region 9, House Wren in Region 3, and Ovenbird in Region 7.

Typical of most seasons, the Regional Editors' commentaries contain many fascinating items aside from species' data. A sampling to spur you to search for your own follows. From Region 1 we have a call for more education of the general public about raptors, as too many hawks still are being shot. This was echoed in notes from Region 6 of an Osprey found shot and from Region 7's discussion of another Osprey shot and a Golden Eagle and a Barred Owl caught in leghold traps. In Region 5 a Common Raven's croaks led a ranger to an illegal deer kill, and eventually led to an arrest and conviction. In Region 6 birders could not dissuade neighbors from cutting a pine because of its "worm problem," though the problem was only a sapsucker's workings. Region 7 reminds us to search for collared Canada Geese (Spring soon will be in full swing and you too can join the search when you read this), tells of a Pileated Woodpecker feeding on dogwood berries, and we cheer on a Northern Goshawk taking cats for dinner on Crown Point.

In spite of the lack of cooperative weather and the lament over poor numbers, the list of rarities is long again this season. The best of each region include: Region 1 – Laughing Gull and Brewer's Blackbird; Region 2 – Great Cormorant and Marbled Godwit; Region 3 – Yellow-throated Warbler and Dickcissel; Region 4 – Snowy Egret, "Audubon's" Warbler, and Golden Eagle; Region 5 – Glossy Ibis and Long-tailed Jaeger; Region 6 – Yellow Rail and Com. Black-headed Gull; Region 7 – Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Orange-crowned Warbler; Region 9 – Northern Fulmar, Greater White-fronted Goose, Black Skimmer, Western Kingbird, and Brewer's Blackbird; and Region 10 – Eared Grebe, Leach's Storm-Petrel, frigatebird, Sandhill Crane, Sandwich Tern, Arctic Tern, Bridled Tern, Sooty Tern, Burrowing Owl, Say's Phoebe, Western Tanager, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. A very difficult choice this season, the B.O.T.S. Award goes to Region 9's Swainson's Hawk, a second regional record and the first fall record for the state in this century.

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Standard abbreviations: ad—adult; arr—arrival or first of season; j—juvenile; im—immature; max—maximum; mob—multiple observers; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC—report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P—Park; Pd—Pond; ph—photographed, Pt—point; Res—Reservoir; SP—State Park; spm—specimen; subad—subadult; T—Town of; Twn—township; WMA—Wildlife Management Area.

REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

STEPHEN W. EATON

The summer drought, broken briefly in the last week of August, continued through September and October. Buffalo recorded the least amount (1.2 inches), of rainfall for September in 21 years, and temperatures reached the 80's on nine days. Lake Erie actually warmed again to 71 degrees on the 7th. Hurricane *Gloria* hardly affected us, leaving a few clouds and light showers in her wake. Most of the month was clear and sunny, not conducive to concentrating migrants.

October was warm and remained dry. The first killing frost at Amity Lake occurred on the night of the second and third but not until 28 October at Buffalo International Airport. Lowest readings for the month were on 29 October: 25 at Buffalo, 13 at Jamestown and 16 at Amity Lake. The streams and ponds remained very low and the soil generally very dry.

November, however, got the streams, ponds and reservoirs back to more normal levels but it took record rainfall to do it. This was the wettest November ever recorded at Buffalo (records since 1871) with 9.75 inches. Only three days in the month lacked less than a trace of precipitation. Temperatures averaged less than two degrees above normal at 42. There were two principal reasons for all this precipitation. Hurricane *Juan* dropped most of the rain during the first part of November. The constant rain in the second half was the result of a front stalled from Texas to the maritimes, bringing up moisture from the Gulf to mix with cold air brought down from the north by a depressed jet stream.

The mild September and October gave us very late departure dates, but no one record late, for many neotropical migrants. There were light kills at TV towers south of Buffalo monitored by Arthur Clark. At Farmersville Station Don Clark banded very few vireos and warblers, continuing to document very poor fall flights through the area. The lack of any great number of low pressure disturbances during September and October probably allowed migrants to overfly the area.

We know of no great numbers of hawks migrating through our Region in the fall but they do move through and they do winter. The most notable hawk to report was an unbanded female (by measurements) Peregrine Falcon which apparently struck a high line during a stoop near Swain and injured ligaments in

its elbow joint. It was still being treated for infection in late December by a veterinarian in Jamestown (*vide* Mary Forness). No bones were broken and it carried no shot. A Northern Goshawk was found, recently shot in the woods near Obi; both of its tarsi and wings had been removed. The carcass was given to DEC. An immature Red-tailed Hawk was found dead inside the city limits of Olean in October, apparently shot. We still have plenty of work to educate people, particularly in these wilder portions of the State.

November, with its rainy weather, appeared to stall duck migration. Record numbers of some species, such as Ring-necked Duck and Hooded Mergansers, were seen on lakes of the Southern Tier counties. Joe Thill of Kenmore summarized the status of gulls on the Niagara River during the period. Bonaparte's were down in numbers during September compared to last year. No Glaucous Gulls had appeared by the end of November, and only two Iceland, two Lesser Black-backed and a few Little Gulls were found. No Sabine's Gulls had been seen but a Franklin's Gull frequented South Park the entire season.

The fruit crop was practically nonexistent across most of the Southern Tier counties, almost the exact opposite of last year when there was a great abundance of almost all seed crops. Box Elder and Black-berried Elder produced well but the winter finches, chipmunks and mice cleaned them out early. Evening Grosbeaks appeared in good numbers in early October but by the end of November they appeared to have left many areas, far from feeders with sunflower seeds.

Rarities included Peregrine Falcon (above), Laughing Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Bohemian Waxwing, and Brewer's Blackbird.

Bob Sundell has written that the deadline for information to be included in his *Birds of Chautauqua County* has been set at 31 December 1985. He is including some records from western Cattaraugus County.

Contributors: Robert Andrlr, Tim Baird, Elizabeth Brooks, Don and Jane Clark, David Dister, Dave Gagne, Clarence Klingensmith, Fred Meyers, Terry and Judy Mosher, Vivian and Raymond Pitzrick, Fran Rew, Bob Sundell, Joe Thill, Regina VanScoy.

Abbreviations: ASP—Allegany State Park, BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society, NP—Nature Preserve, WS—Wildlife Sanctuary.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr two Iroquois NWR 13 Nov, late. Com. Loon: arr two Chau L 3 Oct; max 159 Westfield, L Erie 3 Nov. Pied-billed Grebe: max 41 Mayville, 20 Oct. Horned Grebe: arr six Lewiston Res 14 Oct. Red-necked Grebe: arr one Niagara R 9 Nov. Double-crested Cormorant: arr ten Dunkirk H 10 Oct. Am. Bittern: only report Tonawanda WMA 29 Sep. Great Egret: last three Tonawanda WMA 13 Oct. Tundra Swan: first 12 Dunkirk H 20 Oct; max 63 Chau L 17 Nov. Snow Goose: arr two Iroquois NWR 24 Sep, record early by 2 weeks; one same place 13 Oct. Canada Goose: several flocks over Amity L and Alfred 4 Oct, first real movement of migrants over Southern Tier Cos. Am. Black Duck: max 100 Allegheny Res 30 Nov. Ring-necked Duck: arr six Iroquois NWR 10 Sep; max 225 T Chau 9 Nov, 77 Amity L 17 Nov, about 200 Quaker L 30 Nov, unprecedented numbers for fall. Hooded Merganser: max 400 Mayville and 670 Maple Bay, Chau. L 23 Nov, unprecedented numbers for fall. Com. Merganser: max 45 Red House L, ASP 22 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: last Amity L, Alle, 28 Oct, late. Bald Eagle: singles Iroquois NWR 2 (imm), 10 (ad), 28 (imm), 29 (imm) Sep; two ad Iroquois NWR 11, 12, 24, 27

Oct; two im Allegheny Res 20 Oct; one Fluvanna, 17 Nov. Red-shouldered Hawk: last Burgeson WS 3 Nov late. Merlin: imm chasing crows, Greater Yellowlegs, warblers Bird Swamp, Catt, 29 Sep. Ruffed Grouse: good reproduction Southern Tier cos. Wild Turkey: many large flocks coming out of woods to feed on corn early. Virginia Rail: last Kiantone 27 Oct. Com. Moorhen: last Iroquois NWR 13 Oct, late. Am. Coot: max 750 Mayville 29 Nov. Semipalmated Sandpiper: last Bemus Pt, Chau L 11 Oct. W. Sandpiper: Bemus Pt 3 Oct, first report BOS study area for 1985 (Gagne, Sundell). Least Sandpiper: last two Bemus Pt 11 Oct. Dunlin: arr two Buffalo 1 Oct. Purple Sandpiper: arr one Niagara Falls 9 Nov; one Dunkirk H 17 Nov; max five Goat I 23 Nov. Dowitcher sp: six Allegheny Res 27 Oct, late. **LAUGHING GULL**: one Adam Beck Hydro 23 Nov (Chilton). **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**: arr Adam Beck Hydro 1 Nov, first for year Niagara Frontier (D'Anna *et al.*). Great Black-backed Gull: 169 Dunkirk H 29 Nov. **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**: one found dead on beach, Dunkirk, 23 Nov, spm saved (Sundell, Gagne). Caspian Tern: last Dunkirk H 7 Oct, late. Forster's Tern: one Barcelona H 2 Sep. Black Tern: no reports for period.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: 425 tallied on BOS fall count in Chau, s Catt and Alle 20 Oct. Long-eared Owl: one Sunnyside, Chau, 20 Oct; one Porter Twn, Niag, 11 Nov. Short-eared Owl: arr Youngstown 17 Nov. Com. Nighthawk: five Goat I 5 Oct, late. Chimney Swift: five Jamestown 9 Oct and three 10 Oct, late. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: two at feeder Amity L 17 Sep, late.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood Pewee: last Silver Creek 11 Oct. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Times Beach, Buffalo, 10 Sep. Great Crested Flycatcher: last Amity L 18 Sep. E. Kingbird: last Sardinia 22 Sep. Tree Swallow: last Tonawanda WMA 23 Nov. Bank Swallow: last Iroquois NWR 29 Sep. Com. Raven: two Andover 26 Oct. Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 11 Ft Niagara SP 8 Sep. Carolina Wren: singles near Barcelona 2 Sep, Amherst Twn 29 Sep and 7 Oct, only reports. Marsh Wren: singles Burgeson WS 25 Nov and Black Corners 26 Nov, late. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Silver Creek 12 Sep; last Alfred 11 Nov. Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Buffalo 9 Sep. N. Mockingbird: two Depew 3 Nov; one Pomfret Twn, Chau, 29 Nov. **BOHEMIAN WAXWING**: one Porter Twn 27 Nov (Chilton!). N. Shrike: arr Stockton Twn, Chau, 20 Oct.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: last Youngstown 11 Nov. Yellow-throated Vireo: last Tonawanda WMA 29 Sep. Warbling Vireo: last Amity L 20 Sep. Philadelphia Vireo: arr Niagara SP 8 Sep. Blue-winged Warbler: last Amity L 1 Sep. Tennessee Warbler: last Pomfret Twn 11 Oct. Nashville Warbler: last Times Beach 26 Oct. Yellow Warbler: last three Cheektowaga 20 Sep. Cape May Warbler: last two Williamsville Glen 12 Oct. Prairie Warbler: last two Amity L 8 Sep. Blackpoll Warbler: arr Pomfret Twn 12 Sep. Connecticut Warbler: one Ft. Niagara SP 8 Sep, first for year; three in tower kills during period. Mourning Warbler: last Amity Twn, Alle, 3 Sep.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: last Springville, Erie 3 Oct. Fox Sparrow: arr Pt Gratiot 11 Oct, max 12 Amity L 1-12 Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Tonawanda WMA 29 Sep. White-throated Sparrow: first migrant Angola 16 Sep. White-crowned Sparrow: arr Wheatfield Twn 23 Sep. Lapland Longspur: arr 26 Charlotte Twn, Chau, 3 Nov. **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**: two Westfield, Chau 27 Oct, first fall record Chau (Gagne). Pine Grosbeak: arr 15 Porter Twn, Niag, 2 Nov; three other localities 16-18 Nov. White-winged Crossbill: arr two Tift Farm NP 11 Nov. Com. Redpoll: arr seven Mayville, 27 Oct; one Forest Lawn, Buffalo, 9 Nov. Pine Siskin: arr Burgeson WS 12 Oct; four other localities to 24 Nov. Evening Grosbeak: arr three Amherst 11 Oct; many flocks through end of period.

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REGION 2 – GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

Traditional patterns for the Region were not the fare this year. September was characterized by warm temperatures and somewhat average precipitation. The average temperature was 63.8°, about 1.6° higher than normal. Precipitation was a scant 0.17" below normal at 2.49". The first and last thirds of the month were dominated by near normal temperatures and precipitation in the form of light rain or drizzle. At other times strong southerly breezes brought above average temperatures and below average rainfall. October echoed these contrasts. By month's end, the average temperature and total precipitation were only slightly below normal at 51° and 2.34" respectively. Yet, there were twelve days during the months with above average high temperatures. November can be described in a single word—wet. The temperature was 0.8° above normal at 41.4°, but precipitation was a whopping 4.34" above normal at 6.99". A period of twelve straight days of rain were recorded. A total of 7.6" of snow fell and we experienced only 19% sunshine.

The weather may have been dismal, but the birding fared very well. The frontal systems brought with them some very good birding conditions. As is always the case, there was a great deal of variation in the fall migration. The bulk of the waterfowl migration was later than normal. The expected species arrived on time, but numbers were not at traditional levels until late in the season. The same seemed to be true for most loons and grebes. Southwest winds produced some days when raptors moved along the lakeshore in a reverse migration of sorts. Accipiters were highly noticeable, with a smattering of buteos included. The shorebird migration was rather typical. The mudflats at Shore Acres were especially productive. The passerine migration was mixed. There were very few, if any, mass movements reported. Most expected species were found, yet numbers appeared to be low. Large numbers of finches were noted along the lakeshore during late October and November. Goldfinches, siskins and redpolls moved in large mixed flocks, and fields with abundant seed crops attracted large numbers of these birds. The possibility of a "finch winter" was heralded by the arrival of Pine Grosbeak, both crossbills and good numbers of Common Redpolls. Evening Grosbeaks also were found in good numbers.

A few species warrant special mention. The bird of the season was the third Regional record of Great Cormorant. Other rarities were: Glossy Ibis, King Eider, Willet, Marbled Godwit, Red Phalarope, Franklin's Gull and Bohemian Waxwing. There were numerous sightings of all three accipiters and of falcons, including both Merlin and Peregrine Falcon. The lake watch from Hamlin Beach once again produced many jaegers. Gull concentrations were minimal with few unusual reports. A N. Saw-whet Owl banded in October suggests that there probably are more of these birds around in the fall than we regularly observe. Once again, no Sedge Wrens were reported; this has become a hard-to-find species. An adult male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was reported quite late this season.

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Bouton, Elizabeth Brooks, Jean Browning, Carolyn Cass, Roberta Childers, Julie Claffey, Anne Clarridge, Jerry Czech, Gertrude Davis, Frank Dobson, Bob Dobson, Jim Doherty, John and Arlieen Foster, Richard Garnham, Kevin Griffith, Harriet Hamilton, Reg Hartwell, Nurak Irasena, Øivind Jensen, Herb and Polly Keating, Bob and Jane Kesselring, David Levy, James Lenhard, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Bob and Margaret McKinney, Neil Moon, Betty Moore, Richard O'Hara, Tom Painting, Martha Reinhardt, Patty Reister, Marty Robinson, Marge Schmale, Audrey Sfund, Jeanne and Sharon Skelly, Tom and Pat Smith, Robert and Susan Spahn, Ann Stear, Harriet Stride, Brian, Dan and David Strong, Mary Ann Sunderlin, William Symonds, Steve Taylor, Tom and Dave Tetlow, Mike and Joanne Tetlow, Don and Donna Traver, Eleanor Weld, Paul Weld, Doris Wilton, and Peter Zachmann.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock Bay, DE—Durand-Eastman Park and adjacent Lake Ontario waters, HB—Hamlin Beach, IB—Irondequoit Bay, SA—Shore Acres, Hamlin, WL—West Lakeshore.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr HB 18 Oct. Com. Loon: max 2000 Sodus Bay 9 Nov. Horned Grebe: arr HB 13 Sep. Red-necked Grebe: arr HB 9 Nov. **GREAT CORMORANT**: subad BB 24 Nov (JB, CC) observed twice. Double-crested Cormorant: max 62 HB 22 Sep. Least Bittern: last one Greece 17 Sep. Green-backed Heron: last SA 9 Oct, late. Black-crowned Night-Heron: last subad DE 9 Nov. **GLOSSY IBIS**: one BB 8 Nov (NM), very late and uncommon at any time of the year. Tundra Swan: max 45 Conesus Lake 20 Nov. Mute Swan: one Greece 16 Sep; one IB 18-20 Oct, possibly the same bird, observations becoming very consistent. Brant: max 502 HB 28 Oct, scarce. N. Pintail: max 146 HB 27 Sep. Canvasback: arr two Charlotte and four Greece 12 Oct. Redhead: arr two HB 6 Oct. Greater Scaup: arr HB 21 Sep. Lesser Scaup: arr HB 13 Sep. King Eider: ♀ IB 6 Nov; subad ♂s Sodus Bay 17 Nov (TT) and BB 19-20 Nov (MR); ♀ IB 23 Nov (CC), probably same bird as 6 Nov. Oldsquaw: arr ten HB 11 Oct. Black Scoter: max 300 HB 11 Nov. Surf Scoter: arr HB 11 Oct. Com. Goldeneye: arr HB 6 Oct. Bufflehead: max 300 DE 31 Oct. Hooded Merganser: max 377 Kendall 25 Nov, good total. Com. Merganser: arr HB 13 Sep. Red-breasted Merganser: arr HB 22 Sep. Ruddy Duck: max six Kendall 13 Oct, good total.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: last three Palmyra 21 Nov (HS), late. Osprey: last Mendon Ponds 13 Oct. Bald Eagle: three reports during the period. Cooper's Hawk: max three Webster 1-30 Nov (JC). N. Goshawk: max three Manitou Beach 2 Nov (JB, KG). Red-shouldered Hawk: one Nations Road 21 Oct (J&AF), late. Merlin: eight reports, a good total. Peregrine Falcon: six reports; fall appears to be a good time for observation of this uncommon species. Lesser Golden-Plover: max 190 WL 8 Sep. Greater Yellowlegs: last Hamlin 23 Nov. Lesser Yellowlegs: last WL 23 Nov. Solitary Sandpiper: last WL 24 Sep. Willet: one Charlotte 6 Oct (RO,mob). Spotted Sandpiper: one HB 8 Nov, unable to fly due to injured wing. Upland Sandpiper: last Hamlin 8 Sep. Whimbrel: max 25 HB 2 Sep. Hudsonian Godwit: one HB 4 Oct; subad SA 4-6 Oct, possibly the same bird. **MARBLED GODWIT**: one SA 21 Sep. Red Knot: last Charlotte 17 Oct. Least Sandpiper: last IB 26 Oct. White-rumped Sandpiper: arr WL 24 Sep. Purple Sandpiper: arr one BB 23 Nov. Stilt Sandpiper: last SA 16 Oct. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one H 5-8 Sep, scarce this fall. Long-billed Dowitcher: max three SA 16 Oct (WS), calling. Am. Woodcock: last one WL 28 Oct. Wilson's Phalarope: last SA 9 Oct. Red-necked Phalarope: max five HB 25 Sep (WS), good total. Red Phalarope: one HB 8 Nov (CC, WS), one BB 30 Nov (D, B&DS, JL). Pomarine Jaeger: max two Kendall 14 Sep. Parasitic Jaeger: max five HB 27 Sep. Franklin's Gull: subad HB 20 Oct. Little Gull: max three BB 11 Oct (DTet), first of season. Glaucous Gull: arr second year bird HB 9 Nov. Black-legged Kittiwake: arr HB 11 Nov (CC). Caspian Tern: last two Charlotte 6 Oct. Com. Tern: last DE 20 Nov, late. Forster's Tern: arr five HB 26 Sep. Black Tern: last HB 29 Sep.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Short-eared Owl: arr Manitou 1 Nov, max seven Retsoff 29 Nov. N. Saw-whet Owl: one banded and released Manitou Beach 12 Oct. Com. Nighthawk: last HB 6 Oct. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last one DE 6 Oct, late.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: last one Manitou 13 Oct, late. E. Phoebe: last Clarkson 18 Oct. E. Kingbird: last SA 2 Oct (WS), very late. Tree Swallow: max 600 WL 12 Oct. Bank Swallow: last WL 7 Oct. Barn Swallow: last WL 13 Oct. Com. Raven: one Kendall 14 Sep (FD), continuing recent increase in sightings. Winter Wren: arr Manitou 28 Sep. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr 30 Manitou 28 Sep. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr WL 14 Sep. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last Manitou Beach 25 Oct. Veery: last Manitou Beach 5 Oct. Gray-cheeked Thrush: last DE 6 Oct. Swainson's Thrush: last Webster Pk 26 Oct. Wood Thrush: last DE 12 Oct. Gray Catbird: one DE 30 Nov, late, may persist for the winter. Bohemian Waxwing: max 35 Sodus Bay 17 Nov (TT), very good year for this species. N. Shrike: arr HB 13 Oct.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Philadelphia Vireo: last Greece 12 Oct. Red-eyed Vireo: last DE 6 Oct. Tennessee Warbler: last three DE 6 Oct. Orange-crowned Warbler: one DE 23, 30 Nov, late for a traditionally late species. Nashville Warbler: last DE 12 Oct. N. Parula: last DE 12 Oct. Yellow Warbler: last Palmyra 13 Oct, quite late. Chestnut-sided Warbler: last four DE 6 Oct. Magnolia Warbler: last Webster 26 Oct. Black-throated Blue Warbler: last DE 12 Oct. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 200 WL 12 Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: last HB 12 Oct. Blackburnian Warbler: last Palmyra 3 Oct. Pine Warbler: Webster 7 Sep, out of normal locale. Bay-breasted Warbler: last two DE 12 Oct. Black-and-white Warbler: last two DE 6 Oct. Am. Redstart: last DE 12 Oct. Ovenbird: last HB 20 Oct. Yellow-breasted Chat: last killed by a cat Hamlin 3 Oct.

TANAGERS-OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Scarlet Tanager: last one Canandaigua 1 Oct. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: ad ♂ Brighton 23 Nov (*vide* FD), very late. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr eight HB 20 Oct. Fox Sparrow: arr HB 13 Oct. Lincoln's Sparrow: last Nine Mile Point 26 Oct. White-crowned Sparrow: arr two DE 29 Sep. Lapland Longspur: max 45 Webster 14 Nov. Snow Bunting: arr ten HB 21 Oct. Pine Grosbeak: arr Manitou Beach 31 Oct. Red Crossbill: arr DE 21 Sep, early. White-winged Crossbill: two Hamlin 5 Oct, early. Com. Redpoll: arr 20 Manitou Beach 25 Oct, increasing numbers thereafter. Pine Siskin: arr four Manitou 2 Sep. Evening Grosbeak: arr Naples 12 Sep.

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REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

DICK CLEMENTS

After a rather tame summer, the first days of September were more tropical than temperate – just in time for returning to school, work, *etc.* Even though temperatures approached the nineties and the humidity was high, very little rain fell in the southern part of our Region. Ithaca had close to two inches of rain on 9 Sep but Elmira and Watkins Glen only had small amounts. The mean temperature for the remainder of September and October was close to normal

with occasional lows and highs. Precipitation varied but for the most part we had dry conditions. Some hunters reported that their favorite American Woodcock haunts were too dry to attract the birds. Lack of rainy weather did make things more secure for migrants. Only 17 birds were killed by collisions with the Hawley Hill television tower in Elmira.

November was another story. Occasionally an unfamiliar object would appear in our sky and it wasn't Halley's Comet. It was the sun, which managed to shine only during eleven percent of the daylight hours. Precipitation, mostly rain, was close to six inches in Elmira, which was twice the normal amount. Thanksgiving was the first day when snow, sleet and freezing rain made driving an adventure.

Conflicting comments were received on the quality of the migration but the negatives outnumbered the positives. There were 211 species observed during the period, which is a good count. However, the number of individuals was down. Most of the common raptors and shorebirds were seen. Elmira was blessed with Lesser Golden-Plovers, rare for them but only a one-eyebrow-raiser for Ithaca. Thrushes, except for E. Bluebirds and Am. Robins, have been low all year and continued their scarcity this fall. Yellow-bellied, Alder, Willow and Least Flycatchers were all missed. Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were found in excellent numbers.

The numbers of warblers were considered very low in the Ithaca area, no doubt partly because we didn't have the storms to slow the birds down. In Elmira many passerines and herons were heard flying overhead on the night of 21 Sep. The next morning twelve species of warblers were observed, mostly Black-throated Green and Yellow-rumped. Included in one wave were three tail-wagging Palm Warblers in one low bush. Cape May Warblers were everywhere for the remainder of September and early October, and Yellow-rumped Warblers were seen through November.

Indications of a great irruption year occurred early. A few Evening Grosbeaks were observed first in early September and larger numbers were seen in October. An amazingly early Rough-legged Hawk was spotted at the Tompkins Co. Airport on 1 Sep. This is the earliest fall record for Region 3. All common winter finches were seen, but in low numbers. Tufted Titmice and Red-breasted Nuthatches came to feeders earlier than usual. In contrast, small flocks of Am. Robins were still lingering, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared at a feeder in late November, and a Wilson's Warbler was spotted in mid-November.

As suspected, some of our dabbling ducks were observed in greatly decreased numbers. A peak number of 26,000 Mallards at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge compared to 400,000 in the fall of 1984 is a shocking decrease. This number is the lowest since 1978. Other decreases were noted in Am. Black and N. Pintail numbers. If the quality of water in the Elmira area is to be measured by its use by Green-backed Herons, we could be in trouble. Even with the Chemung River flowing close by and various ponds scattered nearby, two of these birds chose a ground level bird bath to do their cleaning. Our insects must be tainted as well, for an adult House Wren was seen feeding suet to three fledglings in early September.

After being shut out of rarities in the summer season, our Region had its fair share. Species noted were Glossy Ibis, Bohemian Waxwing, Yellow-throated Warbler, Connecticut Warbler and Dickcissel. This is the second consecutive year that a Yellow-throated Warbler has been seen in the Ithaca area during late November-early December. In addition to these rarities, some uncommon species seen were Red-throated Loon, Bald Eagle, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, White-rumped Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper and White-eyed Vireo.

Finally, a special thanks to Nancy Dorwart and Robert McKinney for answering my plea for more reports from Steuben County.

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Abbreviations: band-banded at Penn Yan by M. Lerch; CayL-Cayuga Lake; MNWR-Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Pk-Park; QC-Queen Catherine Marsh.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one Union Springs 10 Nov. Com. Loon: max 30 CayL 31 Oct. Pied-billed Grebe: max 12 MNWR 2 Nov; regular there after date; three Elmira during Oct. Horned Grebe: arr CayL 28 Sep; max nine 23 Nov. Red-necked Grebe: two Stewart Pk, Ithaca, 9 Nov; last Dryden L 24 Nov. Double-crested Cormorant: last MNWR 3 Nov. Am. Bittern: three Ithaca in Sep. Least Bittern: none reported. Great Blue Heron: max 25 MNWR 14 Sep. Great Egret: last MNWR 19 Oct. Green-backed Heron: last Ithaca 14 Oct. Black-crowned Night-Heron: last MNWR 9 Nov. **GLOSSY IBIS**: one MNWR 3 Nov (J. Lally). Tundra Swan: max 60 MNWR 24 Nov. Snow Goose: 20 Atlay, Schu, late Nov. Brant: eight Watkins Glen 12 Nov; 15 Stewart Pk 17 Nov; Canandaigua during Nov. Canada Goose: max outside MNWR 10,000 CayL 23 Nov.

Maximum waterfowl numbers at MNWR as reported by refuge personnel.

Canada Goose	58,940	19 Nov	Gadwall	900	23 Oct
Wood Duck	800	4 Sep	Am. Wigeon	850	1 Oct
Green-winged Teal	2,250	11 Sep	Canvasback	1,067	8 Nov
Am. Black Duck	5,400	30 Oct	Ring-necked Duck	1,154	15 Nov
Mallard	26,400	30 Oct	Hooded Merganser	1,248	15 Nov
N. Pintail	700	23 Oct	Com. Merganser	456	19 Nov
Blue-winged Teal	480	4 Sep	Am. Coot	1,200	23 Oct
N. Shoveler	325	17 Sep			

Ring-necked Duck: seven Horseheads 7 Nov. Oldsquaw: arr CayL 22 Oct; last Horseheads shopping mall 30 Nov. Black Scoter: two ♀ arr Sheldrake 24 Nov. Surf Scoter: max three Hammondsport 12 Nov. White-winged Scoter: arr Myers Pt 15 Oct; max six Elmira 26 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: max 23 Canisteo 7 Oct, many feeding on dead opossum. Osprey: regular at Elmira, Ithaca until mid-Oct. Bald Eagle: imm Elmira 7 Sep; two MNWR 24 Oct. Sharp-shinned Hawk: scarce Schu; daily at Pine City feeder. Cooper's Hawk: scarce in our region except Ithaca. N. Goshawk: total of six reports. Red-shouldered Hawk: last Aurora 6 Nov. Red-tailed Hawk: numbers up Schu; max 35 CayL area 14 Sep. Rough-legged Hawk: present all season through most of our Region but in low numbers. Am. Kestrel: one being chased by Sharp-shinned Hawk Elmira 8 Sep; max 11 CayL area 23 Nov. Merlin: one MNWR 15 Sep; one Aurora 17 Oct. Peregrine Falcon: imm Myers Pt 15 Oct. Wild Turkey: many throughout region, max 50 Penn Yan. Com. Moorhen: last MNWR end Oct. Am. Coot: 50 Watkins Glen 25 Oct. Black-bellied Plover: max 12 MNWR 28 Sep. Lesser Golden-Plover: max 25 MNWR 28 Sep; last five Horseheads 30 Sep. Greater Yellowlegs: max 40 MNWR 14 Sep; last Elmira 6 Nov. Lesser

Yellowlegs: last MNWR 4 Nov. Ruddy Turnstone: arr MNWR 15 Sep. Sanderling: arr MNWR 21 Sep. W. Sandpiper: arr MNWR 15 Sep; last there 29 Sep. White-rumped Sandpiper: one MNWR 28 Sep. Pectoral Sandpiper: eight MNWR Sep; four Elmira 1 Nov. Dunlin: three MNWR 28 Sep; one Elmira 2 Oct; last MNWR 4 Nov. Stilt Sandpiper: one Canoga 14 Sep. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 21 Sep; last Ithaca 14 Oct. Long-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 21 Sep; max three Ithaca 2 Nov. Wilson's Phalarope: one MNWR 8 Sep. Red-necked Phalarope: one MNWR in Sep. Bonaparte's Gull: Ithaca 17 Oct, only report. Glaucous Gull: first year bird Myers Pt 19 Nov. Caspian Tern: CayL 9 and 16 Sep. Com. Tern: CayL 9 Sep.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Great Horned Owl: missing from two traditional sites in Pine City; doing fine elsewhere. Com. Nighthawk: last three Aurora 18 Sep. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Elmira 1 Oct. Red-headed Woodpecker: Ithaca 30 Sep; one Penn Yan Sep. Red-bellied Woodpecker: doing well Watkins Glen. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last Elmira 19 Nov. N. Flicker: small numbers end of season Ithaca, Elmira. Pileated Woodpecker: increasing Watkins Glen; coming to feeder Ithaca late Nov.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Guyanoga Valley 21 Sep. E. Phoebe: three Watkins Glen area until mid-Oct; Ithaca through Oct. Horned Lark: max 50 CayL area 23 Nov. Purple Martin: one MNWR 28 Sep. Tree Swallow: max 200 MNWR 6 Sep; last 14 Oct. N. Rough-winged Swallow: last few Aurora 13 Oct. Cliff Swallow: scarce all over. Barn Swallow: 40 MNWR 28 Sep; last Aurora 14 Oct. Black-capped Chickadee: numerous Elmira, Penn Yan. Red-breasted Nuthatch: regular in pine and spruce forests Watkins Glen area and at feeders Ithaca, Elmira. Brown Creeper: three Elmira 15 Nov. Carolina Wren: max three QC 10 Oct; also reported from Ithaca, Elmira. Winter Wren: arr Prattsburg 29 Sep; reports from Penn Yan, Aurora and Elmira in Oct; singing bird all season in traditional site Elmira. Marsh Wren: max two MNWR 28 Sep, last 9 Oct. Golden-crowned Kinglet: good numbers from Watkins Glen, Ithaca, and Elmira. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 12 MNWR 28 Sep, last Elmira 17 Nov. E. Bluebird: numerous reports throughout region, all encouraging. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one Ithaca 11 Sep; one tower kill victim Elmira Sep. Swainson's Thrush: max four MNWR 28 Sep; last Elmira 29 Sep. Hermit Thrush: one dead Aurora 15 Nov. Gray Catbird: last Penn Yan 10 Oct. Brown Thrasher: last Fall Creek 26 Sep. Water Pipit: max 100 Elmira 25 Oct. **BOHEMIAN WAXWING**: two Long Pt Pk 29 Oct (NYSARC); one Aurora 2 Nov (K. David).

VIREOS-WARBLEERS: White-eyed Vireo: one Elmira 13 Sep. Solitary Vireo: last band 23 Oct. Warbling Vireo: none Ithaca; band 14 Sep. Philadelphia Vireo: band 14 and 19 Sep; last one Elmira 29 Sep singing. Blue-winged Warbler: last Aurora 14 Sep. Tennessee Warbler: arr Ithaca 16 Sep and remained to 7 Oct. Orange-crowned Warbler: one Beebe L 13 Sep; last Aurora 3 Oct. Nashville Warbler: last Watkins Glen 6 Oct. N. Parula: last window kill Ithaca 7 Oct. Yellow Warbler: last Ithaca 16 Sep. Magnolia Warbler: max eight MNWR 28 Sep. Cape May Warbler: many Elmira 14 Sep; last Ithaca 14 Oct. Black-throated Blue Warbler: no Oct reports. Yellow-rumped Warbler: hundreds QC 4 Oct, and good numbers throughout Region. Black-throated Green Warbler: last Ithaca 14 Oct. **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER**: one w of Dryden 26 Nov through end of period (mob, NYSARC). Pine Warbler: one tower kill 21 Sep; last Schu 28 Sep. Palm Warbler: total four Elmira, Ithaca 29 Sep. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Elmira 15 Sep. Blackpoll Warbler: arr Ithaca 16 Sep. Ovenbird: last Elmira 22 Sep tower kill. N. Waterthrush: last Sem 7 Oct. **CONNECTICUT WARBLER**: one Aurora 1 Sep (K. David!), one Ithaca area 14 Sep (R. Evans!). Mourning Warbler: one Cornell Campus 30 Sep. Com. Yellowthroat: last Ithaca 28 Oct. Wilson's Warbler: several reports Elmira Sep; last Phelps 15 Nov, very late.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: one nw of Ithaca 29 and 30 Nov. **DICKCISSEL**; ♀ Cornell Equine Research Pk 14 Oct (E. Luce). Rufous-sided Towhee: last Penn Yan 14 Nov. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Elmira 13 Oct. Chipping Sparrow: last Ithaca 18 Nov. Vesper Sparrow: last 14 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: last 4 Nov. Grasshopper Sparrow: last Aurora 18 Oct. Fox Sparrow: arr Lansing 21 Oct; three Elmira 11 Nov; last 18 Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: several band Sep and Oct; one Prattsburg 29 Sep and Aurora 2 Oct. White-throated Sparrow: a large flight Ithaca 28 and 29 Sep; low numbers everywhere afterwards. White-crowned Sparrow: Ithaca 4 Nov, only report. Snow Bunting: max 15 MNWR 23 Oct; low numbers Watkins Glen, Elmira, Phelps. Red-winged Blackbird: 1000 CayL area 2 Nov. E. Meadowlark: last Elmira 18 Nov. Rusty Blackbird: 40 MNWR 28 Sep; two band 15 Nov. Com. Grackle: 5000 CayL area 2 Nov; hundreds Elmira late Oct. Pine Grosbeak: arr Michigan Hollow 3 Nov; three other reports Ithaca area in Nov. Purple Finch: regular Watkins Glen at higher elevations. Red Crossbill: arr Ithaca 9 Nov; also reported 25 Nov. White-winged Crossbill: arr Ithaca 11 Nov; two feeder reports Ithaca area in Nov. Com. Redpoll: one Aurora 6 Nov; max five Ithaca 9 Nov. Pine Siskin: max 25 Pine City 2 Nov; present all fall Ithaca and Elmira. Evening Grosbeak: arr Elmira 5 Sep; max 50 CayL area 2 Nov.

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REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

JAY G. LEHMAN

Regional weather until 10 Sep was dominated by a strong Carolina high causing southwest breezes and summer-like conditions with daytime temperatures in the 70's to 80's and nighttime temperatures in the 60's at Binghamton. On 10 Sep a strong high pressure system from the northwest created autumn-like conditions, reversing wind direction, dropping daytime temperatures into the 50's to 60's and causing a record low of 37°F at Binghamton for 11 Sep. By 17 Sep the high had moved through and summer-like conditions returned. This continued until the remnants of hurricane *Gloria* moved through from 24 to 27 Sep followed by a high on 27 to 30 Sep. The 0.9 inches of rainfall at Binghamton in Sep before *Gloria* was below average, but 4.8 inches fell after *Gloria*. The skies literally opened on 27 Sep as nearly a monthly allotment of 3.5 inches fell!

October weather patterns were indistinctive. Perhaps *Gloria* left the weather gods confused. Highs and lows were relatively weak and moved rapidly through with no lasting patterns. The month was relatively mild with an average temperature of 50°F, almost a full degree above normal.

November weather was distinctive – in a word, gloomy. Although November is known for its lack of sunshine in these parts, the clouds and rain this November seemed excessive. With at most a handful of days with significant sunshine, Regional residents despaired of seeing the sun until 1986. With the clouds came

relatively warm temperatures until about 20 Nov when a cooling trend began. By month's end daytime temperatures were in the 30's consistently. November's rainfall was 4.47 inches, 1.63 inches above normal.

The mild early September conditions probably contributed to holding the Snowy Egret, an excellent record for this Region, in place until mid-month. Two high pressure frontal systems on 28 Sep and 12 Oct conveniently came on weekends so that the first and maximum movements of Canada Geese could be seen by observers. Although October was mild with few frontal induced movements, the low waterfowl species list is probably due to lack of observers in the field. In Chenango Co Don Windsor suggested assigning an observer to each small lake to document the small numbers of different species that appear on each lake during migration. Despite the lack of strong sustained October cold fronts, there was a good hawk flight with eleven species reported, including two Golden Eagles and a Peregrine Falcon. A new potential hawk watch was found on Ames Road, Cortland Co, where Bill Toner recorded eighty raptors of six species migrating on 20 Oct. A low mouse-vole population, however, suggests that wintering hawk populations may be low. Unfortunately, there were no hurricane driven vagrant species reported.

Two late records were probably due to the mild October. An immature Yellow-billed Cuckoo was stunned when it hit a window in Norwich on a cold frosty 28 Oct morning (JL). This bird was probably following the Chenango River valley where leaf-bearing willows and milder temperatures provide late insects. However, the Swainson's Thrush on 17 Oct (ML) that was also window-stunned near Bainbridge must have had slim insect pickings in the frosty hill country. The high movement of Golden-crowned Kinglets may have been delayed somewhat by the mild weather. Otherwise, the fall migration was poor with very little warbler fallout noted. In the north Dave Messineo reported that "Warblers may have flown over, but the lowest flight along the Otselic River I've seen," and two southern banding stations also reported low counts of many warblers, including Tennessee, Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Am. Redstart, Ovenbird, and Com. Yellowthroat. The one bright spot was an **AUDUBON'S** (Yellow-rumped) **WARBLER** window-stunned at Delhi on 11 Oct (A&FZ *vide* MC), identified in the hand by direct comparison with two field guides. Fortunately the bird recovered. Although warbler numbers are low, the species list is at least representative. Readers should remember to listen for warbler chip notes on fall nights with northwest breezes in order to determine when major movements are occurring. However, note that major fallouts seem to occur with abrupt wind and weather shifts. This fall, at least, the maximum counts for several species occurred near mid-Sep when a northwest to southwest shift occurred.

On the bright side finches, especially Purple Finches and Goldfinches, and sparrows were more abundant. Record numbers of Lincoln's, Swamp, Song, and White-throated Sparrows were banded at Newark Valley. Good November numbers of Pine Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins and a few early Redpolls suggest that this will be another good winter finch year but with a different flavor than last year's of crossbills. An exceptional flight of Evening Grosbeaks in mid-October suggests that "gros-pigs" will be stripping feeders of sunflower seeds again this winter and unlike last.

The species list of 160 is third highest in eight years and well above the eight year average of 149. Snowy Egret, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Short-eared Owl, and Com. Moorhen are rarities.

Observers: Cutler and Jeanette Baldwin, Randall and Jean Barnes, Don and Judy Bell, Les Bemont, Reynolds Bennett, Bruce Bozdos, W. Burgin, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Burrows, Sally Carey, Mildred Clark, Chad Covey, Anna and Marilyn Davis, Louise Dean, Mary Dobinsky, Nancy Emerson, Eleanor Halley, Shirley Hartman, Art Ilse, Gail Kirch, Ken Knapp, Marge Lafayette, Jay Lehman, Florence Linaberry, B. Mahon, Harriet Marsi, Rick Marsi, Evelyn Mead, Dave Messineo, D. O'Neill, Harriet Robison, Ted Robinson, Maurice Russell, Joe Sedlacek, John Sherwood, Ken Stalter, Bill Toner, George Wade, Anne Whitaker, Tom and Beryl Wilson, Don Windsor, Crystal Wright, Irene Wright, Alice and Fred Zimmerman.

Abbreviations: Bing-Binghamton, End-Endwell, New Vall-Newark Valley, Norw-Norwich, OPM-Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford, Vest-Vestal, Wind-Windsor.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one Guilford L & five Trestle Pd 16 Nov (DW,JL). Com. Loon: six in Nov, last OPM 25 Nov (MD,KW). Pied-billed Grebe: 14, arr two OPM 14 Sep; last four OPM 7 Nov (MD,KW). Horned Grebe: one Tioga Oct (C&JB). Red-necked Grebe: singles Hunt Pd SP 22 Sep (CC) and Owego 21 Oct (C&JB). Great Blue Heron: 31 Sep-Oct, two in Nov. Great Egret: one Portlandville 3 & 4 Sep (MD). **SNOWY EGRET**: one Delhi 1-15 Sep (HB *vide* MC), fourth fall record in seven years. Green-backed Heron: 4, last Norw 28 Sep (DW,JL), late. Canada Goose: arr 300+ in several flocks Region-wide 28 Sep (mob), max 12 flocks of 50-75 each Wind 12 Oct (JS) regular to mid-Nov; last 25 Otse L 23 Nov (MD). Wood Duck: 31, max and last 15 OPM 9 Oct (MD,KW). Black Duck: 3, last two OPM 7 Nov (MD,KW). Ring-necked Duck: six, last two Chen L 16 Nov (DW,JL). Lesser Scaup: max seven Chen L 12 Oct (CC); last OPM 14 Oct (MD,KW). Oldsquaw: one Chen L 16 Nov (JL). Black Scoter: arr six Bing 21 Oct (DO'N), last Chen L 16 Nov (DW). White-winged Scoter: only two OPM 25 Nov (MD,KW). Bufflehead: only one Otse L 23 Nov (MD). Com. Goldeneye: only two reports Tioga Oct (C&JB, RB). Com. Merganser: 54, arr 20 Otse L R 3 Oct (DM); last four Glenn L 16 Nov (DW,JL). Red-breasted Merganser: arr Whitney Point Res 27 Oct (A&MD); last three Norw 30 Nov (DW). Ruddy Duck: only one ♂ and two subad Port Crane (HM), no date.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: ca. 16, last Cort 20 Oct (BT). Osprey: 13, last New Berlin 23 Nov (CC), late. N. Harrier: eight, max three Cort 20 Oct (BT); last Oxford 16 Nov (DW,JL). Sharp-shinned Hawk: nine, last Wind late Nov (JS). Cooper's Hawk: eight, last Wind late Nov (JS). Red-shouldered Hawk: only one Tioga Oct (LD). Broad-winged Hawk: five to mid-Sep, last Oneonta 7 Oct (MD,KW). Red-tailed Hawk: 130 scattered, max 67 in 2.5 hours Cort 20 Oct (BT). Rough-legged Hawk: arr Tioga Oct (C&JB); last three OPM after 15 Nov (MD,KW). **GOLDEN EAGLE**: one Bing 25 Oct (RM); subad Hamden 18 Nov (CC), first fall records since 1979. Am. Kestrel: 60, max nine OPM 4 Sep (MD). **PEREGRINE FALCON**: one Cort 20 Oct (BT), second fall record since 1979. Ring-necked Pheasant: four to 1 Oct. Ruffed Grouse: 27, scattered. Wild Turkey: 105 scattered, max 40 Wind late Nov (JS), increase continuing. **COMMON MOORHEN**: no details, remnant of this year's breeding pair?, Tioga (LD), first in seven falls. Killdeer: 136, max 35 Wind 5 Oct (JS), high. Greater Yellowlegs: six, last OPM 28 Sep (MD). Solitary Sandpiper: six, max & last three OPM 16 Sep (MD,KW). Least Sandpiper: 11 all OPM, max nine 5 Sep; last two 13 Sep. Com. Snipe: one report Tioga Oct (D&JB). Am. Woodcock: sporadic to 17 Oct Bing (HM). Ring-billed Gull: 800 in six flocks all Ots, max 300 Ots L 3 Oct (MD). Herring Gull: max 30 Ots L 9 & 23 Nov (MD).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: decreasing after mid-Oct. E. Screech Owl: six scattered to 2 Nov. Great Horned Owl: eight scattered. Barred Owl: only one

Wind late Nov (JS). **SHORT-EARED OWL:** one Waverly 21 Oct (C&JB), second fall report since 1979. Com. Nighthawk: 14, 12 SUNY Bing 3 Sep (HM), most in seven falls; last Bing 12 Sep (A&MD), late. Chimney Swift: two, last 4 Sep. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: five, last one Endw 20 Sep (FL). Belted Kingfisher: 28 through 7 Nov. Red-headed Woodpecker: only two Tioga Nov (LD,EM). Red-bellied Woodpecker: two each Tioga & Broome all fall; one Sherburne after 15 Oct (AI); one Smyrna after mid-Nov (MR), increasing. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 6 to 16 Sep. Downy Woodpecker: 55, decreasing in Nov. Hairy Woodpecker: 32 scattered. N. Flicker: 95, last Oneonta 13 Nov (MD). Pileated Woodpecker: four scattered.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood Pewee: seven, last OPM 16 Sep (MD,KW). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one 1 Sep & two 11 Sep Bing (HM). Traill's Flycatcher: one Bing 11 Sep (HM). Least Flycatcher: small numbers banded Bing (HM); last four Delhi 22 Sep (MC). E. Phoebe: 40, last Delhi 16 Oct (MC). Great Crested Flycatcher: two, last Delhi 9 Sep (MC). E. Kingbird: three, last Norw 22 Sep (DW). Horned Lark: six OPM 7 Oct (MD,KW) only report. Tree Swallow: 20 Vest 18 Oct (SD), late. Barn Swallow: 151, max 75 OPM 4 Sep (MD); last 30 Norw 18 Sep (JL). Tufted Titmouse: 14, commonest in Southern Tier; two Norw through Nov (CW), increasing. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 18, good count, last OPM 25 Nov (MD,KW). Brown Creeper: 16, last Delhi 21 Nov (NE). Carolina Wren: singles Tioga Oct (RB) and McGraw 13 Oct. House Wren: seven, last Bing 16 Sep (HM). Winter Wren: one Tioga in Oct (D&JB). Golden-crowned Kinglet: very high total 80+; 16 Tioga 18 Nov (BB,FL,HM); max and last 20 Wind 20 Nov (JS). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 16, ten Wind through late Nov (JS). E. Bluebird: 95+ to 31 Oct, max 35 Delhi 15 Sep (MC). Veery: three, last Bing 18 Sep (HM). Gray-checked Thrush: singles Bing 18 Sep (HM) and Tioga Oct (D&JB). Swainson's Thrush: seven in Sep. Hermit Thrush: ten, last 12 Oct. Wood Thrush: three, last Bing 7 Oct (HM). Gray Catbird: 70, last Vest 18 Oct (SD). N. Mockingbird: eight through Nov, all Southern Tier. Brown Thrasher: six, last Bing 29 Sep (HM). Water Pipit: 32, arr six Norw 28 Sep (JL); max and last 20 OPM 6 Oct (MD). Cedar Waxwing: max 65+, half imm, Norw 28 Sep (DW,JL); last OPM 7 Nov (MD,KW).

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: 11, max five OPM 16 Sep, last 7 Oct (MD,KW). Yellow-throated Vireo: three, last Bing 17 Sep (HM). Warbling Vireo: ten, last OPM 19 Sep (MD,KW). Red-eyed Vireo: 26, only ten banded Bing through 30 Sep (HM). Blue-winged Warbler: three, last Norw 3 Sep (JL). Tennessee Warbler: 20, "four down from 36 [banded] last year" (JB); last New Vall 14 Oct (JB). Orange-crowned Warbler: one banded New Vall 12 Oct (JB). Nashville Warbler: six, last Bing 26 Sep (HM), very few banded. N. Parula: only one OPM 16 Sep (MD,KW). Yellow Warbler: two, last Bing 18 Sep (HM), fairly late. Chestnut-sided Warbler: ten, last Bing 17 Sep (HM), very few banded. Magnolia Warbler: 33, last Bing 30 Sep (HM). Cape May Warbler: nine, last New Vall 19 Sep (JB). Black-throated Blue Warbler: only one Norw 23 Sep (JL). Yellow-rumped Warbler: 80, last Vest 24 Oct (LB). Black-throated Green Warbler: 32, max 12 OPM 16 Sep (MD,KW); last two Norw 23 Sep (JL). Blackburnian Warbler: two, last OPM 16 Sep (MD,KW). Palm Warbler: five, last New Vall 24 Oct (JB). Bay-breasted Warbler: ten, max four OPM 16 Sep (MD,KW); last New Vall 23 Sep (JB). Blackpoll Warbler: 11, max four OPM 16 Sep (MD,KW); last two Bing 30 Sep (HM). Black-and-white Warbler: three, last Walton 1 Oct (SH), late. Am. Redstart: six, low, last Bing 23 Sep (HM). Ovenbird: four, low, last three Bing 23 Sep (HM). N. Waterthrush: only one Bing 23 Sep (HM). Connecticut Warbler: one banded Bing 1 Sep (HM), two banded New Vall 28 Sep (JB), one bulging with fat, only reports. Mourning Warbler: five banded, last four New Vall 23 Sep (JB). Com. Yellowthroat: 19, "down forty-four percent over 1984" (JB); last OPM 9 Oct (MD,KW). Wilson's Warbler: eight, good count, last New Vall 3 Oct (JB). Canada Warbler: one New Vall 1 Sep (JB).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: seven, last Bing 18 Sep (HM). N. Cardinal: 46 through Oct, very few Nov; dependent fledging Norw 25 Sep (JL), late. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 50, max 15 Bovina Center 15 Sep (EH); heavy night flight ca. one call per minute Norw 21 Sep (JL); last three Norw 28 Sep (DW,JL). Indigo Bunting: six, last New Vall 26 Sep (JB). Rufous-sided Towhee: 13, last Bing 11 Oct (A&MD). Am. Tree Sparrow: 26, arr New Vall 20 Oct (JB). Chipping Sparrow: 80+, 14 OPM 5 Sep (MD,KW); last Delhi 25 Nov (SC). Field Sparrow: 59, last New Vall 20 Oct (JB). Vesper Sparrow: singles Tioga Oct (RB) and OPM 14 Oct (MD,KW). Savannah Sparrow: 24, max 15 Norw 28 Sep (DW,JL); last two Norw 27 Oct (DW). Fox Sparrow: six, arr Vest 30 Oct (SD); last Oneonta 15 Nov (MD). Lincoln's Sparrow: 21, last New Vall 14 Oct (JB). Swamp Sparrow: 52, last New Vall 25 Oct (JB). White-throated Sparrow: 150, max 40 Wind 12 Oct (JS); few in Nov. White-crowned Sparrow: 32, last New Vall 27 Nov (JB). Dark-eyed Junco: 190+, decreasing after early Nov. Snow Bunting: 31, arr two New Vall 31 Oct (JB); last Norw 2 Nov (JL). Bobolink: six, last Apalachin 12 Sep (GW). Red-winged Blackbird: last ten OPM 29 Oct (MD). E. Meadowlark: 14, last New Vall 25 Oct (JB). Com. Grackle: late max 150 Norw 2 Nov (DW); last Hartwick 23 Nov (MD). Brown-headed Cowbird: 15+, last Bing 18 Oct (HM). N. Oriole: three, last New Vall 23 Sep (JB). Pine Grosbeak: arr Edmeston 9 Nov (TR *vide* MD), ten through end Nov. Purple Finch: 95, last Johnson City through Nov (JS). House Finch: max 75 Wind 22 Sep (JS). Com. Redpoll: three, arr Tioga 21 Oct (C&JB); last Chen L 16 Nov (JL). Pine Siskin: 120+, max 25 Oneonta occasionally through Nov (KW). Am. Goldfinch: ca. 530, max 50 OPMf 12 Sep (MD,KW). Evening Grosbeak: large flight, ca. 2400, max ca. 2000 in 25 flocks of 50 to 100 New Vall 18 Oct (JB).

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REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL A. DEBENEDICTIS

The fall 1985 migration offered few birds to observers afield in the Oneida Lake Basin Region. The weather was fine, perhaps too fine to see migratory birds. All three months averaged just above normal in temperature. The killing frost came about a week late on 22 Oct. Subsequent cold periods were few and of short duration. Precipitation was above average in all three months, but most of September's total came on just three days. The first trace of snow at Syracuse fell on 15 Nov, the latest ever, with the first significant snowfall quite late on the 28th. September days generally were clear, but only half of October was sunny and less than a fifth of November saw even a glimpse of sun – what a dreary month!

There were few strong weather systems during the height of the migration. Parties afield after the passage of Hurricane Gloria on 28 Sep found nothing

certainly attributable to that storm. Only two or three dates in September were rated as even mediocre flight days. Dorothy Crumb had only two dates with more than 100 warblers near Pompey, while F. G. Scheider had none along Lake Ontario. The last date when a variety of insectivorous birds were found was 4 Oct. Thrushes, vireos, warblers and sparrows were especially scarce. High counts for most species were single digit numbers. The maximum for Yellow-rumped Warbler was only 130 in Pompey on 11 Oct. The White-throated Sparrow maximum of 242 in Lysander 3 Oct was about half normal, and no Dark-eyed Junco counts exceeded 100.

Water bird counts were equally unimpressive. Red-throated Loon and Pied-billed Grebe were found in moderate numbers, but the other divers were scarce. The high count of Brant exceeded that of Canada Goose, but the latter were more ubiquitously and continually present. Except for a new record high of 1397 Wood Ducks at Toad Harbor near Brewerton on 4 Oct (the only count above 100), dabbling ducks were scarce everywhere. Numbers of diving and sea ducks, except for Oldsquaw and Red-breasted Merganser, were very low and arrivals were late. However, Gary Lee submitted several remarkable records from the Old Forge area, including a Red-necked Grebe, an Oldsquaw, 30 Black Scoter and four Surf Scoter on Otter Lake 26 Oct and 10-12 loons there to 11 Nov.

Neither herons nor shorebirds added much to the season. Robert L. Post watched a concentration of Great Blue Heron build to 21 birds on Otisco Lake during a rainy 12 and 13 Nov; all were gone by the 16th. This was rather late for such numbers. Of the rarer herons, only Great Egret and Black-crowned Night-Heron were found. Shorebird numbers declined steadily from the start of the season but, of the rarer species found most falls, only Whimbrel and Buff-breasted Sandpiper were missed. November shorebird departure dates included a Killdeer present near Old Forge to the 11th, and a White-rumped and rather late Baird's Sandpiper at Little Sodus Bay on 2 Nov and Sandy Pond on 7 Nov. Even gulls were scarce, but included three Laughing, a Franklin's and multiple Little Gull this season.

Raptors were scarce. Only a few accipiters and Rough-legged Hawk were reported. Two hawk flights were described. Following a rainy period, Dorothy Crumb saw 30 Osprey, six N. Harrier, six accipiters of three species, 57 Broad-winged Hawk, a Red-tailed Hawk, three Am. Kestrel and three Merlin pass the Pompey TV towers during the last hour before sunset on 10 Sep. She saw four Turkey Vulture, four more accipiters, and 170 Broad-winged Hawk go by early the next morning. On 20 Oct F. G. Scheider and Ruth Knight watched raptor flight along the east end of Lake Ontario that included 34 Turkey Vulture (the last for the season and a new fall record maximum), an Osprey (last of the season), 20 N. Harrier (high count), two Sharp-shinned Hawk, six Cooper's Hawk (maximum), a N. Goshawk, two Red-shouldered Hawk, 419 Red-tailed Hawk (a new fall record maximum) and two Rough-legged Hawk. Reports of Merlin and Peregrine Falcon remained encouragingly numerous. Singles of Snowy, Long-eared and N. Saw-whet Owl were the only unusual owls reported. The first N. Shrike was at Otisco Lake on 20 Nov, with two subsequent reports from along Lake Ontario.

It appeared to be a good, but mixed season for winter irruptive passerines. High counts of Blue Jay, 85 at Sandy Pond on 18 Sep, and of Black-capped Chickadee, 290 along Lake Ontario on 31 Oct, were not suggestive of incursions. Gary Lee found Gray Jay at Third Lake Swamp and Boreal Chickadee in Limekiln Swamp for the first time ever this fall, but no others were reported out of range. Red-breasted Nuthatch counts peaked at 11/day in September, but only scattered residents were reported afterwards. Am. Robins and waxwings were uncommon, but several Bohemian Waxwings were found in Nov. Finches foretold an interesting winter. Pine Grosbeak arrived at Old Forge on 3 Nov and at Holland Patent on 4 Nov, and were present throughout the Region with counts to 41/day by late November. Purple Finch counts peaked at just seven/day. The only crossbill reported was a male White-winged at Sandy Pond on 21 Nov. Com. Redpoll was found first at Derby Hill on 2 Oct, and counts increased to 45/day by late November. Pine Siskins were found first at Sandy Pond on 29 Sep, and the high count of 20 at Derby Hill came 31 Oct. Evening Grosbeak arrived at Clay Marsh on 30 Sep and were widespread by early Oct, with a maximum of 200 at Derby Hill on 7 Nov. This pattern of abundances is almost the reverse of last winter.

Com. Ravens were seen regularly in northern Herkimer County, where one lead ranger Gary Lee to an illegal deer kill and the eventual conviction of the culprit responsible.

Most species of special concern in the Region did poorly this season. Neither cuckoo was found. Only scattered Tufted Titmouse and N. Mockingbird, and but two Carolina Wrens, both near Syracuse, were reported. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was a surprising miss this fall. Neither kinglet was common, with maxima of 130 Golden-crowned in Pompey on 21 Oct and of 43 Ruby-crowned near Fairhaven on 17 Oct. All of the grassland sparrows were scarce as in recent falls.

A total of 238 species were reported, about average. The only great rarities reported were Glossy Ibis and Long-tailed Jaeger. In addition to those mentioned above, hard-to-find species reported this fall included King Eider, Bald Eagle, Hudsonian Godwit, Western and Purple Sandpiper, all three phalaropes, Parasitic Jaeger, Black-legged Kittiwake, Forster's Tern, Sedge Wren, and Orange-crowned Warbler.

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Abbreviations: DH—Derby Hill, Oswe; LSB—Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, Fairhaven, Cayu; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral, Oswe; NPT—northern Pompey township; SPd—Sandy Pond, Oswe; TS—town of Sterling, Cayu; SVB—Sylvan and Verona Beach, Onei; Syr—Syracuse.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr SVB 8 Oct, max 11 LOL 11 Nov. Com. Loon: arr SPd 12 Sep. Pied-billed Grebe: max 11 LOL 19 Oct. Horned Grebe: arr LSB 4 Oct. Red-necked Grebe: arr DH 6 Oct. Double-crested Cormorant: record max 325 SPd 18 Sep, 318 on 17 Sep. Am. Bittern: last SPd 26 Sep. Great Egret: single Delta L to 8 Sep, two Lewis Pt, Oneida L, 3 Oct. Green-backed Heron: last SPd 10 Oct. Black-crowned Night-Heron: four reports, last Poolsbrook 14 Oct. **GLOSSY IBIS:** imm Chedcardo 3

Nov (FGS, RK), fourth Regional fall record, record late. Tundra Swan: imm Otisco L 17 Nov only report. Mute Swan: seven Lyons Pond, Madi, 7 Sep. Snow Goose: ad white morph Beaver L 3 Nov only report. Brant: arr DH 17 Oct, max 1800 DH 23 Oct. Canada Goose: max only 1739 DH 19 Oct. Green-winged Teal: last LSB 19 Nov. Am. Black Duck: max 152 LSB 19 Oct. Mallard: max 341 LSB 2 Nov. N. Pintail: max 55 DH 14 Oct. Blue-winged Teal: last LSB 8 Oct. N. Shoveler: arr Onon L 2 Sep, last LSB 2 Nov. Gadwall: max 68 LSB 27 Oct. Am. Wigeon: max 186 LSB 2 Nov. Canvasback: arr DH, Otisco L 26 Oct. Redhead: arr LSB 4 Oct. Ring-necked Duck: arr TS 16 Sep. Greater Scaup: arr DH 26 Sep, max 506 DH 5 Oct. Lesser Scaup: arr SPd 28 Sep, max 200 DH 7 Nov. King Eider: one DH 19 Nov (FGS). Oldsquaw: arr DH 20 Oct, max 350 DH 27 Oct. Black Scoter: arr DH 5 Oct. Surf Scoter: arr SPd 28 Sep. White-winged Scoter: arr SPd 28 Sep. Com. Goldeneye: arr SPd 26 Oct. Bufflehead: arr SPd 20 Oct. Hooded Merganser: arr SVB 21 Sep, max 91 Beaver L 3 Nov. Com. Merganser: arr SVB 21 Sep. Red-breasted Merganser: arr DH 5 Oct, max 4900 LOL 23 Nov. Ruddy Duck: arr LSB 4 Oct.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: imm Deer Creek Marsh 2 Nov, SPd 3-7 Nov. Red-shouldered Hawk: one SVB 10-26 Oct. Broad-winged Hawk: last T Webb 15 Sep. Rough-legged Hawk: arr DH 20 Oct. Merlin: nine reports, most LOL 5 Sep to 14 Oct. Peregrine Falcon: eight on three dates LOL 26 Sep to 6 Oct. Virginia Rail: last Clay Marsh 1 Nov. Sora: last SP 29 Sep. Com. Moorhen: last SPd 10 Oct. Am. Coot: arr SPd 28 Sep. Black-bellied Plover: last SPd 7 Nov. Lesser Golden-Plover: last SVB 3 Oct. Semipalmated Plover: max 66 Delta L 1 Sep, last LSB 2 Nov. Greater Yellowlegs: last SPd 10 Nov. Lesser Yellowlegs: last Otisco L 3 Nov. Solitary Sandpiper: last Clay Marsh 3 Oct. Spotted Sandpiper: last Onon L 5 Oct. Hudsonian Godwit: ad near Brewerton 2-8 Sep, imm SPd 26 Oct-3 Nov. Ruddy Turnstone: last SPd 26 Sep. Red Knot: to two/day, last SVB 26 Sep. Sanderling: max 33 SPd 3 Oct, last SPd 21 Nov. Semipalmated Sandpiper: last LSB 2 Nov. W. Sandpiper: five reported last LSB 12 Oct. Least Sandpiper: max 148 Delta L 1 Sep, last SPd 10 Oct. White-rumped Sandpiper: scattered singles 8 Sep to 14 Nov, last at LSB. Pectoral Sandpiper: max 33 Delta L 1 Sep, last SPd 10 Oct. Purple Sandpiper: at least three LSB 14-17 Nov. Dunlin: arr SPd 12 Sep, max 50 LSB 8 Oct, last DH 30 Nov. Stilt Sandpiper: last SVB 22 Sep. Short-billed Dowitcher: Last Brewerton 15 Sep. Am. Woodcock: last 27 Oct, "displaying." Wilson's Phalarope: only report imm Onon L 8 Sep. Red-necked Phalarope: only reports one SPd 28 Sep, two DH 6 Oct. Red Phalarope: only report one SVB 6 Oct. Parasitic Jaeger: arr DH 19 Sep, max 14 DH 6 Oct, last DH 24 Nov. **LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** imm found dead SVB 3 Sep (SH!, NYSARC, spm Rice Creek Biol. Station), third Regional record. Laughing Gull: ad SVB 25 Sep (TL!), SPd 28 Sep (FGS, mob), DH 26 Oct (FGS). Franklin's Gull: imm near DH 20 Oct (FGS, RK). Little Gull: up to two ad and four imm SPd to 29 Sep, record max; ad SVB 8 Sep and 6-8 Oct. Bonaparte's Gull: max 77 SPd 7 Sep. Glaucous Gull: arr Oswego 17 Nov. Iceland Gull: arr Utica 10 Nov. Caspian Tern: max 56 SPd 4 Sep, last DH 6 Oct. Com. Tern: max 302 SPd 4 Sep, last DH 6 Oct. Forster's Tern: one/two per day SPd 2-28 Sep. Black Tern: last DH 6 Oct.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Snowy Owl: only report Oswego 28 Nov. Long-eared Owl: only report NPT 6 Sep. N. Saw-whet Owl: only report Old Forge 28 Oct. Com. Nighthawk: last E Syr 10 Sep. Chimney Swift: last SPd 17 Sep. Belted Kingfisher: one at Old Forge to 10 Nov. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last SPd 19 Sep. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: to five/day 14 Sep to 17 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: family group SPd 18 Sep, last there next day. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: five reported, last LSB 4 Oct. Least Flycatcher: last TS 16 Sep. E. Phoebe: last SPd 10 Oct. Great Crested Flycatcher: last SVB 18 Sep. E. Kingbird: last SVB 12 Sep. Horned Lark: max 400 DH 16 Nov. Purple Martin: last SPd

5 Sep. Tree Swallow: last SPd 10 Oct. N. Rough-winged Swallow: last SPd 17 Sep. Bank Swallow: last SPd 17 Sep. Cliff Swallow: record max 700 near SVB 5 Sep, last 200 there 8 Sep. Barn Swallow: last near SVB 8 Sep, very early departure. Am. Crow: max 900 SPd 20 Oct. House Wren: last DH 5 Oct. Winter Wren: arr SPd 13 Sep, last there 20 Oct. Sedge Wren: Vernon 12 Sep (TL), second fall report. Marsh Wren: last SPd 10 Oct. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr SPd 14 Sep. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr LSB 13 Sep, last Onon L 16 Nov. E. Bluebird: last 31 Oct. Veery: last LSB 8 Sep. Gray-cheeked Thrush: four reported 16 Sep to 4 Oct. Swainson's Thrush: last LSB 12 Oct. Hermit Thrush: arr DH 28 Sep, last Selkirk Shores SP 9 Nov. Wood Thrush: last LSB 4 Oct. Am. Robin: max only 130 LOL 19 Oct; present Old Forge area to 10 Nov. Gray Catbird: last LSB 14 Oct. Brown Thrasher: last Clay 1 Oct. Water Pipit: arr SPd 5 Sep, max 90 LOL 20 Oct, last SPd 16 Nov. Bohemian Waxwing: one DH 9 Nov, three Texas and five Oswego 20 Oct, 28 DH 23 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: last LSB 19 Oct. Yellow-throated Vireo: last TS 17 Sep. Warbling Vireo: last LSB 13 Sep. Philadelphia Vireo: to six/day, 8 Sep to 4 Oct. Red-eyed Vireo: last SPd 10 Oct. Golden-winged Warbler: record late LSB 13 Sep. Tennessee Warbler: last LSB 12 Oct. Orange-crowned Warbler: about five reported 28 Sep to 6 Oct. Nashville Warbler: last SPd 17 Oct. N. Parula: to two/day 13 Sep to 4 Oct. Yellow Warbler: last SPd 19 Sep, early departure. Chestnut-sided Warbler: last LSB 13 Sep. Magnolia Warbler: last LSB 4 Oct. Cape May Warbler: last SVB 6 Oct. Black-throated Blue Warbler: last NPT 16 Oct. Yellow-rumped Warbler: last SVB 14 Nov. Black-throated Green Warbler: last LSB 12 Oct. Blackburnian Warbler: last NPT 22 Sep. Pine Warbler: last SPd 12 Sep. Palm Warbler: to seven/day 21 Sep to 10 Oct. Bay-breasted Warbler: last LSB 4 Oct. Blackpoll Warbler: last LSB 4 Oct. Black-and-white Warbler: last Syr 11 Oct. Am. Redstart: last LSB 4 Oct. Ovenbird: last LSB 4 Oct. N. Waterthrush: last E Syr 19 Sep. Mourning Warbler: last SPd 5 Oct. Com. Yellowthroat: last SPd 5 Oct. Hooded Warbler: last TS 16 Sep. Wilson's Warbler: last Poolsbrook 22 Sep. Canada Warbler: last TS 16 Sep.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: last Old Forge 21 Sep. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last NPT 22 Sep. Indigo Bunting: last Clay 1 Oct. Rufous-sided Towhee: last LSB 14 Oct. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr DH 20 Oct. Chipping Sparrow: last DH 3 Nov. Field Sparrow: last Limekiln Swamp 13 Nov. and DH 16 Nov. Vesper Sparrow: last Lysander 7 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: last LSB 17 Oct. Fox Sparrow: arr NPT 9 Oct, max 11 there 89 Nov, last DH 9 Nov. Song Sparrow: max 317 Lysander 3 Oct. Lincoln's Sparrow: to 11/day 7 Sep to 14 Oct. Swamp Sparrow: last DH 17 Nov. White-crowned Sparrow: arr SPd 28 Sep, late; max 76 LSB 14 Oct, last DH 9 Nov. Dark-eyed Junco: arr Solvay 16 Sep. Lapland Longspur: LSB 4 Oct, only report. Snow Bunting: arr DH 26 Oct, no high counts. Bobolink: last Lysander 7 Oct, late. Red-winged Blackbird: max 10,500 DH 20 Oct, last count >100 on 10 Nov. E. Meadowlark: last DH 17 Nov. Rusty Blackbird: arr SPd 28 Sep, max 74 Six Mile Creek 23 Nov. Com. Grackle: max 8000 DH 20 Oct, last LSB 17 Nov. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 400 SPd 10 Oct. N. Oriole: last SPd 17 Sep.

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REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL and GERALD A. SMITH

The weather this fall was unusually mild. September temperatures were 1-3 degrees above normal, with the maximum of 84 at Gouverneur on 20 Sep. The first local frosts came 12-14 Sep, but in many areas there was no freeze until 20 Oct. A tenth or more inches of rain fell on about seven dates in September throughout the Region, with totals 2-4 inches above normal largely the result of Hurricane *Gloria* on 28 Sep. October temperatures and precipitation were near normal. There were six to ten dates with measurable rain, but the absence of snowfall was unusual. According to the Regional Climate Center at Cornell, November was "drab." Temperatures averaged about 2 degrees below normal and ranged from 11 degrees to a record-breaking high of 68 on 20 Nov. There were eight to ten dates in November with precipitation. Snow first fell in the second week and again during most of the last week of November. Total accumulations ranged from 4 inches at Canton to 8 inches in Lewis Co.

Hawks generally were scarce. Despite the prevalence of northeast winds that concentrate migrating hawks along Lake Ontario, the only Broad-winged Hawk report was three at ElDorado Beach on 10 Sep. Rough-legged Hawk was very scarce, with only a few ones and twos reported after 19 Oct. Two Golden Eagles seen migrating into New York State near Massena on 2 Nov by several experienced Canadian birders (RB, MG, RG, BP) were extraordinary. A hunter found an Osprey shot near High Falls, Town of Fine, on 19 Oct. It spent the night perched in his lean-to, and he brought it out in his canoe. The next day it was picked up by the DEC and taken to Delmar, where it died. How many other raptors, water birds and waders are needlessly and illegally shot?

There were unprecedented numbers of Little Gull. A total of ten were at ElDorado Beach between 1 Sep and 30 Oct (GAS). Because most reports were of one or two per day, several individuals must have been involved. In addition, five Little Gulls were at Moses-Saunders Dam on 27 Oct and three were there on 2 Nov (RB, *vide* JVR). Numbers of Bonaparte's Gull also were high. Five to 20 per day were at ElDorado Beach to mid-Oct, with a peak of 58 on 23 Sep. Joe VanRiet counted 300 at Moses-Saunders Dam on 19 Oct and a record Regional high of 1000 on 27 Oct.

The passerine migration peaked in mid-October. No Horned Larks and just five species of vireo or warbler were reported. Lee Chamberlaine reported Brown Creeper and Golden-crowned Kinglet moving through Henderson together on 6 Oct. Ruby-crowned Kinglet also were moving in October, with a maximum of 11 at Henderson on 14 Oct.

Food crops were good. O'Shea reports large flocks of American Robins feeding on fallen cherries on 10 Nov, while Evening Grosbeaks gleaned the fruits which remained on the trees. It promises to be a banner year for Bohemian Waxwing. The first was at ElDorado Beach on 19 Nov in flock of 125 Cedar Waxwings. One to five per day were seen thereafter with a maximum of 15 on 22 Nov. There

were two reports of probable N. Shrike from the Potsdam area. After a three-year dearth, winter finches also were numerous. Purple Finch numbers generally were low. Com. Redpoll arrived at Eldorado Beach on 28 Oct, and 20 to 60 per day were seen thereafter. Pine Siskin was first reported in Henderson on 6 Oct, with a maximum of 15 on 12 Oct. Pine Grosbeak was widely reported after its arrival at Eldorado Beach on 2 Nov. The first Evening Grosbeaks arrived at Eldorado Beach on 4 Sep.

A total of 147 species was reported for the period, including 33 waterfowl, 17 raptors, 32 shorebirds and larids, and 65 pre-passerines and passerines. This compares with 150 species last year and 99 in 1984. We report two great rarities: **YELLOW RAIL** and **COM. BLACK-HEADED GULL**. Two sightings of Mute Swan in St. Lawrence Co are unusual, but four swans observed in flight over the Grasse River on 23 Nov could have been Tundra Swan. A female Scarlet Tanager lingered in Potsdam from 11 to 16 Nov (JNA). Tufted Titmouse arrived at Massena, and Kelly recorded the first House Finch for Brasher Falls in Nov. Breeding of House Finch at Canton finally was confirmed by fledged young (M&EH), although the species likely has bred there for a year or so previously. Finally, the Cerwonkas were unable to dissuade their Potsdam neighbors from cutting trees in their yard which they insisted were infested by "worms"—the true culprit was a family of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

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ABBREVIATIONS: EDB—Eldorado Beach Preserve, LOnt—Lake Ontario, MSD—Moses-Saunders Dam, RMSP—Robert Moses SP, SLR—St. Lawrence R, SLU—St. Lawrence University, WI—Wellesley I., WDPd—Wiley-Dondero Ponds, WH—Wilson Hill WMA.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one or two/day after late Sep, scarce. Pied-billed Grebe: max nine WH 10 Oct (JVR). Horned Grebe: arr four RMPD 17 Oct; two-four/day thereafter. Double-crested Cormorant: two to four/day SLR and LOnt Sep-Oct is fewer than usual, last EDB 26 Oct early departure. Am. Bittern: last Canton 17 Oct (JG). Great Blue Heron: max 17 Upper and Lower Lakes WMA 9 Sep, present all sectors including Adirondacks (PO) to early Nov. Great Egret: one flying north over Point Peninsula 23 Nov (L. Gunn *vide* LC) extremely late and unusual for season. Mute Swan: two ad, one j Joe Indian Pd, Colton, 17 Nov and one about 10 Nov (TV). Brant: arr late Oct, max 450 Perch River 26 Oct; one or two cripples daily LOnt to late Nov. Canada Goose: arr Henderson 21 Sep; to 1000/day through mid-Nov in all sectors. Wood Duck: only two records totaling four individuals, very scarce. Green-winged Teal: max 40 EDB 1 Oct, last there 17 Oct; none reported elsewhere. Am. Black Duck: max 80 WDPd Massena 19 Oct and 50 Pillar Pt 25 Nov; at least small numbers reported from all sectors. Mallard: max 75 EDB 9 Sep; otherwise to 40/day in lowland sectors, fewer than in most recent years. N. Pintail: max 26 WH 26 Oct. Blue-winged Teal: max 54 EDB 9 Sep, last there 15 Oct; few reported elsewhere. N. Shoveler: two EDB 3 Sep, where infrequent; max 130 WDPd 19 Oct (JVR) and 50 Perch River 17 Nov; last four WDPd 10 Nov. Gadwall: max 200 WH 19 Oct, scarce otherwise. Am. Wigeon: max 350 WH 19 Oct; scarce away from e SLR. Canvasback: one to two/day only, no reports from traditional Nov concentration areas in the w SLR. Redhead: excellent numbers e SLR during late Oct with max 1500 WDPd 23 Oct-3 Nov (JVR). Ring-necked Duck: max 200 WDPd 3 Nov. Oldsquaw:

max 60 EDB 30 Oct, to 30/day LOnt in Nov. Black Scoter: 10-20/day EDB 28 Oct to 15 Nov, max 35 on 13 Nov. Surf Scoter: arr one EDB 30 Oct; two MSD 17 Oct are infrequent migrants on e SLR. White-winged Scoter: three MSD 17 Oct only report, very scarce! Com. Goldeneye: arr five WDPd 19 Oct; max 425 EDB 13 Nov. Bufflehead: arr six MSD 17 Oct; max 30 EDB 13 Nov, but few counts above 10, all LOnt and SLR, scarce. Hooded Merganser: arr WH 19 Oct; max 50 each WH 23 Oct and Black R Bay 17 Nov (KC). Com. Merganser: arr MSD 16 Oct; max 4000 there 10 Nov; numbers on LOnt down. Red-breasted Merganser: max 60 EDB 8 Nov, but few counts above ten, scarce.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: max 23 Smithville 4 Sep (LBC); last 16 Louisville area 20 Nov (MB), very late for so many. Osprey: last Henderson 10 Oct; numbers seem up slightly. Bald Eagle: imm MSD 27 Oct (JVR) only report. N. Harrier: one to three/day, widespread, through late Nov. Sharp-shinned Hawk: max six EDB 10 Sep, none reported after 4 Oct. Cooper's Hawk: five reported, last 28 Oct, scarce. N. Goshawk: one chasing a Blue Jay in Henderson 20 Nov only report. Red-shouldered Hawk: none reported as usual in fall. Red-tailed Hawk: max eight n Watertown 6 Nov (LCB). Am. Kestrel: max 14 EDB 10 Sep. Merlin: six singles 7 Sep to 10 Oct include two reports at Henderson and Louisville away from LOnt where rare. Gray Partridge: covey of eight near Massena all season (JVR) only report. Ruffed Grouse: scarce, most reports one/day. Wild Turkey: five near Pierrepont (KC) only report. **YELLOW RAIL:** one found dead in a driveway in Lisbon on 30 Sep by R. McNeil, a non-birder (spm SLU) is only the second or third Regional record—the others are a 1936 sight record in Gordon and an unpublished mist-netting ca. 1970 (F. Sibley). Am. Coot: max 40 to 50/day WH 20 Oct to 3 Nov. Black-bellied Plover: max 10 EDB 23 Sep, last there 28 Oct early departure, but one of five at WH 25 Oct still present on 3 Nov, only reports away from EDB. Lesser Golden-Plover: 12 EDB 23 Sep only report, unusually high count for this locality. Killdeer: max 50 EDB 23 Sep, last 23 Oct early departure. Greater Yellowlegs: scattered ones and two EDB to 25 Oct. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 34 EDB 7 Sep, last there 24 Sep. Solitary Sandpiper: one EDB 8-10 Sep only report. Spotted Sandpiper: last two EDB 23 Sep. Ruddy Turnstone: four to 16/day EDB 1-4 Sep, one there 23-25 Sep. Sanderling: max 179 EDB 8 Sep, 100-125 there first third Oct, three to 30/day to 4 Nov, excellent flight. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 220 EDB 2 Sep, last 9 Oct. W. Sandpiper: total of seven EDB between 19 Sep and 6 Oct. Least Sandpiper: max 64 EDB 2 Sep and 67 on 5 Sep, last 9 Oct. White-rumped Sandpiper: total of eight EDB between 22 Sep and 8 Oct. Baird's Sandpiper: one EDB 5 Sep only report. Pectoral Sandpiper: one to four/day to 8 Oct, scarce. Dunlin: arr EDB 12 Sep, max 65 on 15 Oct and 66 25 Oct, last 4 Nov, early departure. Com. Snipe: six Helena 19 Oct only report. Am. Woodcock: one Canton 17 Oct only report. Red Phalarope: one EDB 7 Oct only report. **COM. BLACK-HEADED GULL:** one in winter plumage MSD 27 Oct-10 Nov (JVR, RB, MG, RG, & BP; NYSARC). Ring-billed Gull: max 7000 MSD 27 Oct. Herring Gull: max 1000 RMPD 27 Oct. Iceland Gull: three MSD 4 Nov only report. Great Black-backed Gull: max 1000 Robert Moses Power Dam 27 Oct (JVR) is very high count. Black-legged Kittiwake: two ad RMPD 6 Nov (Dilabio *vide* JVR). Caspian Tern: max ten EDB 1 Sep, last there 22 Sep. Com. Tern: one to five/day EDB to 10 Sep, then 29 on 22 Sep, 43 on 23 Sep, last five on 29 Sep.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Great Horned Owl: six reports 10 Oct to 25 Nov. Barred Owl: Wanakena 12 Nov (PO's). No other owls. Com. Nighthawk: one Henderson 3 Sep only report. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last two Canton 27 Sep. Belted Kingfisher: one WH 19 Oct, late. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last Pierrepont 4 Oct. N. Flicker: last Massena 26 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Phoebe: singing 29 Sep, last Pierrepont 20 Oct. E. Wood-Pewee: last one WH 21 Sep. Tree Swallow: 20 near Massena 10 Sep unusually late. Barn Swallow: six near Massena 10 Sep late. Gray Jay: one Chandler Pd, Colton 5

Oct. Am. Crow: numbers seem up; max 300 at roost near Sacket's Harbor 17 Oct; two flocks of 60-100 near Canton on both 20 Oct and 19 Nov. Tufted Titmouse: two at feeders were the first near Massena (Chase & Ashley, *vide* JVR). House Wren: last Canton 4 Oct. Swainson's Thrush: one RMSP 20 Oct, unusual locale. Hermit Thrush: one Henderson feeding on Nannyberry 14 and 17 Oct. E. Bluebird: good numbers in Pierrepont 1 Sep to 6 Oct, max 5, last 3 Nov. Water Pipit: arr two EDB 18 Sep. Eur. Starling: flocks of 100+ south of Canton 19 and 27 Oct. Is this species increasing?

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-rumped Warbler: many mid-Oct; max and last 20 WI 20 Oct. Chestnut-sided Warbler: one 4 Sep. Black-throated Green Warbler: one 29 Sep. Blackburnian Warbler: one 11 Oct. Pine Warbler: one singing Canton 19 Sep.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Canton 11 Oct, late. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Dekalb 6 Nov. Chipping Sparrow: last two Canton 4 Oct. Field Sparrow: one Massena 15-19 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: one WH 26 Sep; two RMSP 20 Oct (JVR). Savannah Sparrow: last RMSP 27 Oct, late! Fox Sparrow: one Massena 26 Sep; one EDB 3 Oct; three RMSP 20 Oct. White-throated Sparrow: only small flocks Henderson 28 Sep; last Massena 20 Oct. White-crowned Sparrow: two RMSP 20 Oct, three Canton 23 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: max 17 Canton 19 Nov. Snow Bunting: arr EDB with 10-25/day to mid-Nov, fewer thereafter. Rusty Blackbird: four Helena 15 Oct (JVR); 60 feeding on Gray Dogwood fruit WI 20 Oct, unusual. Purple Finch: two imm, one ad ♂ Pierrepont 29 Sep; "very few" Henderson (LBC), one 29 Nov. House Finch: "increasing through period, attracting raptors" at feeder in Henderson (LBC). House Sparrow: most in two years in spite of increasing House Finch.

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REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

Weather was exceedingly dry much of the season, producing few grounded migrants, yet exceptionally wet when rain did fall. Newcomb, for example, had 4 inches of rain overnight on 5-6 Sep. The dam at Mountain View, Franklin Co., was released early this year on 24 Sep, and Champlain beaches were exposed by lower lake levels, providing a total of 16 shorebird species. The weak passage of Hurricane *Gloria* the afternoon of 27 Sep was wet and windy, but produced no significant fallout, except perhaps for the Rock Doves wearing bands with the CU prefix of the Canadian Racing Pigeon Union that turned up at Crown Point and Ticonderoga in following days. Coot Hill hawk watch was visited only on 11 Oct, a clear, sunny day of W-NW winds that provided 11 birds of six species, plus 50 Canada Geese and four Common Ravens. By 9 Nov there was snow on the mountains, and on 16 Nov temperatures fell to 10°F at Newcomb, with up to 3½ inches of snow at Paradox the same day, pushing birds into

feeders. At season's end, lower elevations were dusted with snow, while higher elevations were covered with several inches.

The most significant migratory event of the season was lepidopteran, rather than avian. From the Champlain islands to the summits of the High Peaks, Monarch Butterflies moved southward through September and October, with a few present into November and observers judging this the best flight in memory. This brightness was dimmed by raptor injuries and deaths. Open-baited leghold traps led to the death of an eagle and crippling of an owl. The adult, female GOLDEN EAGLE was found 14 Nov in a trap near Elk L., Essex Co., by hunters, and released. Still present the following day and unable to fly, the eagle was taken by N.Y. State Police to Dr. Robert Lopez in Westport, but it died 18 Nov of infection, according to the necropsy by NYS Wildlife Pathologist Ward Stone. The Barred Owl was caught in a deer hunter's set for dogs or coyotes near Elizabethtown, Essex Co., released by the trapper Thanksgiving Day, and has twice undergone surgery on a badly broken leg by Dr. Lopez and Dr. Craig Russell at Westport. An Osprey found shot and Common Raven found injured, both near Lewis, Essex Co., were transported to NYS DEC veterinarian Dr. Edward Becker in Delmar, but did not survive. On a happier note, the orphaned Great Horned Owl that was transported to the Vermont Raptor Center when its Altona nest tree was logged in May was successfully released in September near Woodstock, VT. High Peaks Audubon has formed a task force committee that includes the DEC, local vets, and area wildlife rehabilitators to study bird rehabilitation in the Region, with attention to facilities and funding, and special emphasis upon raptors.

A cliff site along L Champlain north of Westport with a long and lively history of Bald Eagles, plus a site-attached pair of Peregrine Falcons in 1984, was visited by the DEC in June, who saw two adult falcons, but no sign of a nest. On 31 Oct, representatives of the DEC and Adirondack Conservancy who visited the site in the Audubon boat reported two immature Bald Eagles and a group of four to five Peregrine Falcons. This year the peregrine eyrie near Wilmington produced two young, that near Keene Valley three young.

The wild food crop was extremely poor, except for good production of eastern hemlock cones and perhaps of weed seeds. The prospect of a starvation winter didn't discourage Arctic arrivals. After the first Rough-legged Hawk appeared in northern Clinton Co. 10 Nov, there were numerous reports from the plains of Franklin Co. and lake corridor of Essex Co. The 45 Bohemian Waxwings at L Alice 2 Nov. provided a new early arrival date for NYS (MG). Then the Bohemian invasion began: 25 at Tupper L on 15 Nov (AV); 110 at L ALice on 17 Nov was the highest count; one at Tupper L on 19 Nov, six there on 21 Nov (CD), and a few there 26 Nov., and 35 along Teboville Rd., Franklin Co. on 22 Nov (JT), with only a few Cedar Waxwings seen. An early N. Shrike arrived at Owl's Head 21 Oct (JT), followed by sightings at L Alice, Tupper L, and Westport. The first three Snow Buntings appeared on the outskirts of L Placid on 26 Oct (PT) with small flocks of up to 17 birds subsequently at the Four Brothers Islands, Chilson, n. Clinton Co, Paul Smiths, Hogansburg, Moriah, Newcomb, Wadhams, and Westport. Pine Grosbeaks were at Hogansburg by 1 Nov (HW) and increased to

25 at L Alice by 24 Nov, with reports from all four counties. They were seen feeding on buckthorn, flowering crab, highbush cranberry, honeysuckle, mountain ash, sumac, and tamarack. Three Com. Redpolls arrived on Island D of the Four Brothers on 27 Oct (TM,JP) and Bryant's Siding, Franklin Co., had the highest count of 200 on 17 Nov, with other reports from Essex and Franklin Counties.

Six yellow-collared Canada Geese were among the flock at L Alice this fall. One goose, No. J47P, has been observed four times since April 1984, appearing 24 Oct last year, returning 20 Oct this year, and still present on 17 Nov. A Tennessee Warbler netted on Crown Point Peninsula 15 May, 1985, had been banded 16 Sep, 1984, near Hutton, Maryland, in the Allegheny Mountains. On 18 Oct a male Evening Grosbeak was retrapped near Elizabethtown at the same station where it had been banded on 14 Nov, 1980.

The *Birds of Clinton County, New York, Supplement* by Mark Gretch is a much-needed continuation of Philip Warren's 1979 compilation, containing a county map showing all Atlas blocks, additions to the annotated list, and a table of extreme dates and breeding status. Cost is \$1.50. Copies of Phil Warren's *Birds of Clinton County* also are available, and both can be purchased together for just \$4.00. Make checks payable to Northern Adirondack Audubon Society and send orders to: Mark Gretch, P.O. Box 748, Champlain, NY 12919. On 22 Sep, Gretch noted the first Clinton Co. **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** at King's Bay Campsite, bringing the county list to 264 species.

Another regional rarity was the **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** reported without details from Tupper L on 7 Sep (CD). Perhaps the most notable miss of the season was Broad-winged Hawk, not mentioned by any observer, but undoubtedly present. Other birds not mentioned, but surely somewhere within the four northeastern counties were Ring-necked Pheasant, Spruce Grouse, E. Screech-Owl, N. Saw-whet Owl, Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Tufted Titmouse, N. Mockingbird, and a number of other possibilities. In spite of the misses, observers are commended for putting together a seasonal list of some 150 species, up from 130 in both 1983 and 1984.

Contributors: Russell Bailey, Merry Baker, Timothy Barnett, Bruce and Carol Beehler, Dirck and Mary Benson, John Bruce, Geoffrey Carleton, Malinda Chapman, Walter Chapman, Marilyn Cross, Charlotte Daley, Charlie Delehanty, Jeanne DeMattos, Walter Ellison, Emily and Jack Geddes, Thomas Hale, Selden Hochschartner, Robert Jerdo, Elsbeth Johnson, Sally Johnson, Mike Kudish, Richard LaValle, Elizabeth Lawrence, Robert Lopez, Theodore Mack, Nancy Martin, Robert McKinney, James Meaker, Deirdre Myers, John Peterson, Charles and Delia Pratt, Craig Russell, David and Kathy Rutkowski, Joey Rutkowski, Tony Sayward, Langdon Stevenson, Catherine and Walter Taber, Patricia Taber, Patricia Tarkowski, Donald Timmons, Armand Vaillancourt, Maurice Villeneuve, Hollis White, Cecelia Wojciukiewicz.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one in basic plumage Indian L, Fran, 3-12 Nov (AH,JT), about twelfth Regional record. Com. Loon: max three Tupper L 22 Nov. Pied-billed Grebe: arr two Tupper L 12 Oct, max nine L Alice 20 Oct, last North West Bay 13 Nov. Horned Grebe: arr 20 Oct n Clin, max eight n Clin 9 Nov. Double-crested Cormorant: record max 400-500 Island A, Four Brothers I on 1 Sep (EJ,JP). Am. Bittern: last imm Monty Bay 1 Sep. Great Egret: last L Alice 2 Sep (CD). Green-backed Heron: two pairs

Monty Bay 1 Sep. Black-crowned Night-Heron: last three Monty Bay 1 Sep. Snow Goose: max 100+ Essex 5 Oct, last Moriah 12 Oct. Brant: arr Indian L 27 Oct (JT), last 12 Westport beach 13 Nov (EJ,JP). Canada Goose: max 2,000 headed s. Crown Point penin 3 Oct. Wood Duck: last Penfield Pd 20 Sep. Green-winged Teal: last three King's Bay 8 Sep. Am. Black Duck and Mallard: showed 1:5 ratio L Alice in Nov. Blue-winged Teal: last 14 King's Bay 8 Sep. Gadwall: female arr Westport 16 Oct, skeletal remains male and female found dead Four Brothers I "C" 27 Oct, perhaps the mated pair that nested there. Redhead: 30 arr King's Bay 31 Oct (MG). Ring-necked Duck: max 145 L Alice 6 Oct (MG), pair Tupper L 22 Sep built to 34 by 8 Nov. Greater Scaup: arr Moody Pd 27 Oct, max 200 King's Bay 31 Oct. Lesser Scaup: arr Moody Pd 29 Oct, with up to 15 scaup (sp) 13-19 Nov, last 20 Nov. Oldsquaw: arr Indian L 11 Nov (JT), last changing male Moody Pd 15 Nov (D&MB). Black Scoter: arr female Indian L 11 Nov (JT). White-winged Scoter: arr two L Champlain, Clin, 20 Oct (MG), imm Raquette Pd 21 Oct (CD) unusual inland, max 40-45 Indian L Fran, 10-11 Nov (AH,JT) also unexpected. Hooded Merganser: max 12 Mountain View/Indian L 1-12 Nov. Com. Merganser: max flocks of 50-60 L Champlain. Red-breasted Merganser: arr Mt. View L 26 Oct.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: max three Coot Hill 11 Oct. Osprey: migrant Coot Hill 11 Oct. Bald Eagle: one ad arr Tupper L Marsh 27 Nov (CD). N. Harrier: migrant Cascade Mt 30 Sep. Sharp-shinned Hawk: migrant Coot Hill 11 Oct, also Tupper L and Witherbee feeders. Cooper's Hawk: last Crown Point penin 16 Sep. N. Goshawk: one taking cats Crown Point penin 20 Sep, max five circling Owl Pate Pd 25 Sep (MB), two migrants Four Brothers I 26 Oct. Red-shouldered Hawk: single migrants Coot Hill and Crown Point penin 11 Oct. Red-tailed Hawk: two migrants Coot Hill 11 Oct, one migrant Four Brothers I 27 Oct. Am. Kestrel: single migrants Four Brothers I on 1 Sep, Cascade Mt 30 Sep. Peregrine Falcon: arr Crown Point penin 20 Sep (JB). Gray Partridge: max 15 Chazy Landing 3 Nov. Wild Turkey: two New Russia 12 Oct, four Witherbee 23 Nov show continued inland penetration w of Champlain lowlands. Virginia Rail: max two Monty Bay Marsh 1 Sep. Sora: last imm Monty Bay Marsh 1 Sep. Com. Moorhen: last Chazy Landing 8 Sep. Black-bellied Plover: arr King's Bay 18 Sep, max 9 King's Bay and 20+ Four Brothers I 27 Oct. Semipalmated Plover: arr 1 Sep, max five 18 Sep, last 2 Oct King's Bay; also at Westport. Killdeer: max 27 King's Bay 29 Sep. Greater Yellowlegs: arr King's Bay 8 Sep, max five King's Bay 22 Sep, four Bryant's Siding, Fran, 26 Sep-8 Oct unusual inland; one Essex 26-27 Oct usual extreme; last Hogansburg marsh off Salmon R 8 Nov (HW) unusually late. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr King's Bay 8 Sep, max six King's Bay 8 & 29 Sep, last King's Bay 10 Oct; also at Crown Point. Solitary Sandpiper: to 3 Sep Westport, last Bryant's Siding 8 Oct (AH,JT). Spotted Sandpiper: one King's Bay to 8 Sep. Ruddy Turnstone: one Rouses Pt 7 Oct (WE,RL,NM), only report. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr King's Bay 1 Sep, max 5 on 5 Oct, last 6 Oct; also Westport. Least Sandpiper: max eight Westport 3 Sep, last King's Bay 2 Oct. Pectoral Sandpiper: King's Bay 18 Sep-6 Oct, max five on 22 & 25 Sep (MG). Dunlin: arr King's Bay 2 Oct, max 10-12 Hogansburg 24 Oct (HW). Short-billed Dowitcher: three King's Bay 2 Oct only report. Com. Snipe: King's Bay 8 Sep-10 Oct, max 14 on 8 Sep. Am. Woodcock: in flight song Paradox 24 Oct (MB). Bonaparte's Gull: 100+ Westport to 1 Sep, also Four Brothers I and Willsboro Bay late Oct. Great Black-backed Gull: max six Four Brothers I on 1 Sept.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Long-eared Owl: calling Witherbee 17-31 Oct, rarely reported. Whip-poor-will: last Witherbee 6 Sep (CW). Red-headed Woodpecker: last Hogansburg Sep. Pileated Woodpecker: eating dogwood berries Paradox 3 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS: STARLINGS: Least Flycatcher: last Tupper L 7 Sep. Horned Lark: arr eight Tupper L munic. park 21 Oct, max flocks of 75 and 150 n Clin 29 Nov. Com. Raven: 2 feeding on red berries summit Cascade Mt 8 Sep (SH). Boreal Chickadee: Cascade Mt and Spring Pond Bog: two Newcomb feeder for fifth year. Brown Creeper: in song Owl

Pate Bog 14 Oct (MB). E. Bluebird: Crown Point, Keene Valley, New Russia, Saranac L in Oct, max 50 Peru 15 Oct suggests abundance. Water Pipit: one summit Cascade Mt (4,098') 30 Sep (B&CB).

VIREOS-WARBLERS: All are last dates at Tupper L, except as noted. Solitary Vireo: 14 Oct. Yellow-throated Vireo: 7 Sep. Red-eyed Vireo: 7 Oct. Nashville Warbler: 2 Oct. N. Parula: 1 Oct. Yellow Warbler: 6 Sep. Chestnut-sided Warbler: 21 Sep. Magnolia Warbler: 20 Sep. Cape May Warbler: 23 Sep. Black-throated Blue Warbler: 6 Sep. Yellow-rumped Warbler: 12 Nov. Black-throated Green Warbler: one giving squeaky song Paradox 24 Sep (MB). "Western" Palm Warbler: migrant in muskeg habitat Spring Pond Bog 1 Oct (B&CB,JP). Bay-breasted Warbler: 28 Sep. Black-and-white Warbler: 9 Sep. Am. Redstart: 7 Sep. Ovenbird: in full song and feeding fledgings Paradox 5 Sep, new late date for NYS fledglings (MB). Wilson's Warbler: 7 Sep. Canada Warbler: 6 Sep.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rufous-sided Towhee: max ten L Alice 2 Nov (MG), high count. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Four Brothers I "C" 27 Oct (TM). Chipping Sparrow: last Tupper L 6 Nov. Fox Sparrow: arr two Tupper L 19 Oct; last Tupper L 15 Nov, one Elizabethtown 26 Oct, the only other location to report. White-crowned Sparrow: Tupper L from 10 to 20 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: max 28 Tupper L 11 Nov. Red-winged Blackbird: eight Indian L and 16 Owls Head to 10 Nov, late high counts. E. Meadowlark: one in small pasture near Blue Mt L 5 Oct (B&CB) scarce in that area. Red Crossbill: 20 Bryant's Siding, 16 Nov (JT), feeding in white pine and the only report this season. White-winged Crossbill: imm at Tupper L feeder 9 Sep, male struck window and died Elizabethtown feeder 8 Nov, only reports following the 1984-85 invasion. Pine Siskin: a few reports of flocks of up to 25 in Oct-Nov, following invasion. Am. Goldfinch: scarce but scattered reports. House Sparrow: entering Tupper L street light fixture in early Nov.

CORRIGENDUM: Gray-cheeked Thrush Moriah 22 Apr 1984 should be 22 May (GC).

Discovery Farm, RD 1, Elizabethtown, N.Y. 12932

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

There is no Region 8 report because we have no Editor for Region 8.

REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Basically this was a rather lackluster season in almost every way. There were no great weather changes with the exception of Hurricane *Gloria* and even that was a bust as far as winds and rain were concerned. Thankfully there was little damage reported, but with one or two exceptions no exotic birds were present either. Reservoir supplies were raised only slightly, and were it not for a few

good rains in November the long drought would still be with us. Mean temperatures for September and October were slightly above normal, but November was slightly below normal. September was a bit wetter than usual but October was quite dry, with less than half the rain that could be expected. November, on the other hand, approached twice its average precipitation. 16 Nov produced a trace of snow at higher elevations but there had been no real freeze in lower areas by the end of the period. Food supplies continue to be good, with excellent fruit, seed and acorn crops throughout the Region.

The only exotic to appear after Hurricane *Gloria* was a Northern Fulmar, but Piermont Pier had more Forster's Terns than usual. The Fulmar was found "spread eagle" in the middle of busy Route 120 in the Village of Chappaqua by Sue Cassone on 30 Sep, three days after the passage of *Gloria*. The bird had an injured leg. It was taken to a rehabilitation center in Stony Point, where it was identified and photographed (EDT, NYSARC). On 16 Oct it was transferred to another rehabilitation center in Surf City, NJ, for further treatment and release. A check in early December found the bird in good condition but not yet released.

Canada and Snow Geese made a better than usual showing throughout the Region. Snow Geese were reported from all hawk watches after mid-October. The most unusual report was 175 blue morphs over Monroe on 7 Oct (JY). Huge movements of Canada Geese were reported after mid-September and wintering populations are exceptionally high. Black Scoter, always unusual here, made a good showing on local lakes and the Hudson River. Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon were seen in better than usual numbers, perhaps an indication of a successful hacking season in the Northeast. At least seven Bald Eagles—one tagged and two untagged adults, two subadults, and two immatures—that summered at Rio-Mongaup Reservoir, Sullivan Co., remained there all season. Several singles were reported away from the hawk watches as well. Peregrine Falcon continues its slow increase, and several were seen away from hawk watches. One was observed regularly each evening by commuters driving over (and often nearly off) the Tappan Zee Bridge until the shortening days prevented their seeing it. Wild Turkeys are reported everywhere in the Region despite both spring and fall hunting seasons. One was killed crossing the Taconic Parkway in September. Northern Bobwhite continues to persist, but is reported only once or twice a year now. Warren Sod Farm on Pine Island was visited almost daily and had a good variety of shorebirds, although not the numbers of most years.

Resident owls were up in numbers, while flycatchers were down. Horned Larks arrived in good numbers and indications are for a large winter population. Swallows were scarce compared to most years, but kinglets and Brown Creepers were up. Most regular species of warbler were well reported, especially in Dutchess Co. The only waves reported came 17-18 and 23 Sep and 2 Oct. Again this year Stony Kill Environmental Center in Dutchess Co. was a mecca for sparrows during October. Good numbers of Song, Savannah, White-crowned and White-throated Sparrow were reported, and even the elusive Lincoln's Sparrow and Dickcissel were there. Most species of blackbird were down. The huge flocks usually reported were missed this year except in Dutchess Co., where Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles numbered in the low thousands. Pur-

ple Finch, Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak all were moving past the hawk watches on the high ridges by early October, and even Common Redpolls were reported that month. It looks like we might be in for a good winter finch year for the first time in the last five or more years.

Birds of special interest for the period were: Northern Fulmar, Greater White-fronted Goose, Swainson's Hawk, Western Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Black Skimmer, Snowy Owl, Western Kingbird, Northern Shrike, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and Brewer's Blackbird.

Contributors: John Askildsen, Diane & Joe Bradley, Al Brayton, Judy Cinquina, Neil Curry, Robert F. Deed, Liz & Lew Dumont, Jan & Francis Fitzpatrick, Valerie Freer, Florence Germond, Sibyl Gilbert, Bill Lee, Helen Manson, Adam Martin, John McIlwaine, Bob Slechta, Selden Spencer, John C. Stellwagen, Jay Tischendorf, John Tramontano (JT), Ed D. Treacy, Marion Van Wagner, Barbara & John Voigt, John Yrizarry.

Abbreviations: BSHW–Butler Sanctuary Hawk Watch, Mt. Kisco; HMHW–Hook Mountain Hawk Watch, Nyack; MPHWH–Mount Peter Hawk Watch, Warwick; WSF–Warren Sod Farm, Pine Island; WBC–Waterman Bird Club of Dutchess Co.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr Sterling Forest 20 Oct; two Norrie Pt, Dutc, 23 Oct; three at Tappan Zee on 30 Oct increased to five on 3 Nov and still present 24 Nov. Com. Loon: many at hawk watches all season. Horned Grebe: one Kiamesha L 27 Nov, only report. Double-crested Cormorant: one on Rondout Res 29 Sep was unusual away from the Hudson R; many over BSHW and HMHW, including 40 over HMHW on 17 Oct. Great Egret: two Rye Hill Pd, Monroe, 10-18 Sep, unusual away from the Hudson R. Little Blue Heron: im Amawalk Res to mid-Sep. **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**: one shot by a hunter, who thought it was an im Snow, Dutch 10 Oct (FG), no other details. Brant: one at a pond in Monroe 4 Nov remained the following week. Green-winged Teal: max > 50 Amawalk Res 13 Oct. N. Shoveler: several at Rye Hill Pd, Monroe, 28 Oct-9 Nov, four Croton Res 17 Nov. Redhead: one Tamarack, Dutc, 1-2 Oct. Ring-necked Duck: arr ten Kenozia L, Ulst, 10 Oct. Black Scoter: several singles from mid-Oct to mid-Nov, max 400 Cornwall Bay 20 Oct. White-winged Scoter: arr three Tappan Zee 18 Nov. Com. Merganser: arr widespread 1 Nov, numerous by end of period. Ruddy Duck: up to 400 Piermont Pier by end of period, another 100-200 at Croton Point across the Hudson R.

**Mount Peter, Warwick
1 Sep-17 Nov, 408.2 hrs.**

	Total	Maximum	Date
Turkey Vulture	*105	32	10/22
Osprey	110	12	10/6
Bald Eagle	3	2	9/28
Northern Harrier	76	9	10/27
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1343	144	10/6
Cooper's Hawk	41	8	10/6
Northern Goshawk	6	2	10/12
Red-shouldered Hawk	48	8	10/31
Broad-winged Hawk	1210	277	9/17
Red-tailed Hawk	419	117	11/15
Rough-legged Hawk	2	1	9/21,30
Golden Eagle	3	1	10/27,28,11/3
American Kestrel	167	19	9/28,10/6
Merlin	10	1	9/11-10/19
Peregrine Falcon	7	1	9/10-11/15

	Hook Mt, Nyack 1 Sep-31 Oct		Butler Sanctuary, Mt. Kisco 1 Sep-16 Nov, 586.3 hrs.		
	Maximum	Date	Total	Maximum	Date
Turkey Vulture	9	10/20	210	46	10/17
Osprey	14	9/25	333	50	10/6
Bald Eagle	1	9/11,10/31	8	3	9/12
Northern Harrier	28	9/23	248	17	10/6
Sharp-shinned Hawk	257	10/8	*3377	206	9/12 (early)
Cooper's Hawk	*19	9/29	*140	14	10/8
Northern Goshawk	1	9/29,10/7,11,21	*27	3	10/22,11/10
Red-shouldered Hawk	19	10/31	*188	86	10/31
Broad-winged Hawk	5108	9/12	10091	4060	9/12
Red-tailed Hawk	29	10/31	431	60	11/15
Rough-legged Hawk	None	None	*3	2	10/27
Golden Eagle	1	10/21	1	1	10/21
American Kestrel	27	9/25	*620	75	9/11,12
Merlin	7	9/22	*32	5	10/6,7,8
Peregrine Falcon	2	9/30,10/6	*12	2	10/6,7,12

* = new record

HAWKS-ALCIDS: BLACK VULTURE: one HPHW 8-9 Oct (JC, EDT), first for that count. Turkey Vulture: max 60 over Oran Co landfill, Goshen, 28 Sep. Cooper's Hawk: one through Nov at WSF N. Goshawk: three over Port Jervis 8 Nov only report besides hawk watches. **SWAINSON'S HAWK:** im WSF 15 Sep (JS, ph, NYSARC) second Regional record, the first a female collected at Cornwall 14 Oct 1892. Red-tailed Hawk: max 252 over Port Jervis 28 Oct (NC); 135 there on 16 Oct high for so early a date, while 148 on 8 Nov were more normal. Rough-legged Hawk: one WSF 6 Oct early, another there 2-18 Nov; reports suggest a high population this winter. Golden Eagle: one with a rabbit Cimmaron Pd, Sull, 29 Aug, very early; singles Port Jervis 16 and 25 Oct, two there 28 Oct (NC). Am. Kestrel: despite BSHW's record max 620, other observers found migrants and resident birds scarce; only eight residents in Dutch in Nov (WBC). N. Bobwhite: a covey of young at Bashakill 10 Aug (JT); one Monroe 6 Sep (LD, ph). Black-bellied Plover: four Croton Pt 2 Sep, max seven WSF 21 Sep. Lesser Golden-Plover: max 110 WSF 21 Sep; last four there 12 Oct. Upland Sandpiper: last four WSF 15 Sep. **W. SANDPIPER:** two WSF 16-18 Sep (JS). Pectoral Sandpiper: max 22 WSF 4 Oct. **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:** four WSF 4 Sep, three on 7 Sep, last on 20 Sep. Laughing Gull: last up Hudson River one Brown's Pd, Newburgh 27 Oct. Bonaparte's Gull: one Brown's Pd, Newburgh, 11 Nov only report. **BLACK SKIMMER:** one Bashakill 15 Oct observed "fishing" over the water (Al Gutche and several DEC employees), much too late to be related to Hurricane Gloria.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Rockland L to 23 Oct, unusual considering their rarity all summer. E. Screech-Owl: reported back in S. Nyack in Sep after years of absence. **SNOWY OWL:** one Bloomingburg, Sull, 8 Nov (E. Hultslander), only report. Barred Owl: one at the parking lot in Bashakill 7 Sep; two answered Screech Owl tapes this period, one in Warwick and the other in Dutc. Short-eared Owl: one 11 Nov at WSF was later found dead (no details); one MC 23 Oct. N. Saw-whet Owl: one N. Saugerties 26 Oct, two on 20 Nov (AB). Whip-poor-will: at least two near Earl Res, Highland Mills, from 14 May thru mid-Sep. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 75 passed BSHW.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: none! E. Wood-Pewee: ad feeding young in Dutc as late as 17 Sep. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: three Dutc first week of

Sep, and one the second week. **W. KINGBIRD**: one near Pawling 9 Oct (JMCI, SG). Horned Lark: several hundred at WSF thru Nov. Am. Crow: more than 10,000 at Middletown roost in Nov, more than usual so early in the season. Com. Raven: a convincing but unconfirmed report of one compared with nearby crows at Sloatsburg 14 Sep. Red-breasted Nuthatch: family group S. Nyack thru period; an imm begging food from nearby ads for 10 min on 25 Oct went unrewarded. Carolina Wren: family groups S. Nyack thru period; numbers good along the Hudson R. Wood Thrush: last 25, 28 Sep Dutc. Gray Catbird: last Dutc 16 Nov. Water Pipit: max 120 WSF 3 Nov, last 20 there 15 Nov. **N. SHRIKE**: one Pound Ridge Res 15-17 Nov (Ed Kanze, mob).

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: one Hook Mt 22 Oct, rather late. Orange-crowned Warbler: one on goldenrod in Chester 8 Oct. Pine Warbler: one at a seed feeder in Campbell Hall 21 Nov (JFF), late. Palm Warbler: one Monroe 20 Oct, late. Connecticut Warbler: one 20 Sep Highland Mills, only report. Wilson's Warbler: last Highland Mills 11 Oct, late.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: ♀ at feeder Rhinebeck in early Nov (Beatrice Cross, ph), late. Am. Tree Sparrow: first two Stony Kill 19 Oct, good numbers by end of period. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: a dark-plumaged bird at Piermont Marsh 14 Oct (Peter Derven), first Rock record in 10 years. Fox Sparrow: arr Dutc 3 Oct, regular after that date. White-throated Sparrow: arr Highland Mills 21 Sep, earlier than usual. White-crowned Sparrow: up to 25 singing, Stony Kill, 19 Oct. Snow Bunting: record early HMMW 20 Oct, where seen feeding 23, 24 Oct often as close as ten feet as Sharp-shins floated by only a few feet overhead; max 75 WSF 11 Nov and 40 Claryville 29 Oct. Bobolink: max 200 WSF at start of period. **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**: two ♂ reported without details WSF 11 Nov (JT). N. Oriole: ♀ feeding on suet Monticello 16 Nov-8 Dec (D,K,N Niven), late. Pine Grosbeak: 12 Vassar Coll 27 Nov, two feeding on Crab Apples near Pawling 28 Nov. Com. Redpoll: about ten Ashokan 23 Nov; one near East Park, Dutc, 31 Oct. Pine Siskin: numerous at all hawk watches in Oct, one flock of about 90 Hook Mt Beach 5 Nov; three or four at Rock L 7 Nov; nine at Highland Mills, 21 Oct; reported at about nine feeders in Dutc in Nov. Evening Grosbeak: arr Wurtsboro 30 Aug, numerous at all hawk watches in Oct, reported at many feeders in Nov.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 – MARINE

JOSEPH A. DiCOSTANZO

It was a mild, dry fall until November when the weather cooled off and became wetter. In September the temperature was at or above normal on 22 days. Three days of 90+° F from the 4th to the 6th were some of the hottest days of the year. The month's average of 70.5° was 2.2° above normal. Most of September was dry until Hurricane Gloria brought 3.13 inches of rain on the 27th on its pass through the Region. This put the total for the month at 4.75 in., 1.09 in. above

normal. October continued the pattern with temperatures at or above normal on 20 days. This produced an average of 59.5° for the month, 1.8° above normal. October's meager rainfall of 1.30 in. was 2.11 in. below normal. In November temperatures mostly hovered around normal with an average of 47.2°, 0.2° below normal. The rains finally returned to the Region with a total of 7.95 in. in November, 3.81 in. above normal. (All weather data from New York City.)

The birding event of the season was without a doubt Hurricane Gloria. Called one of the major storms of the century by meteorologists, Gloria roared up the Atlantic coast on 27 Sep. Winds up to 130 mph were measured when Gloria dealt Cape Hatteras a glancing blow on the 26th. By the time it hit Long Island at noon at the west end of Fire Island, its winds had diminished to about 90 mph with gusts to 100 mph. Because Gloria arrived at low tide, damage along the beaches was small but the high winds knocked down thousands of trees throughout the Region. Eastern Long Island was hardest hit. Damage might have been even greater except for the fact that Gloria crossed Long Island very rapidly at a speed of 40 mph. Birding in the afternoon of the 27th after Gloria passed and on the days that followed was often frustrating because of the crazy quilt pattern of road and bridge openings and closings due to downed trees, power lines and the sometimes unfathomable whims of the authorities.

The birds brought by Gloria to the Region were a varied lot. There were scattered reports of Wilson's Storm-Petrels and one Leach's. A frigatebird was photographed over South Beach, Staten Island, by Dorene Morese and Phil Kearney as the eye of the storm hit Fire Island. While almost certainly a Magnificent Frigatebird, at the time of this writing the photos have apparently not yet been examined critically. Immediately after the storm on the 27th, birders found an Am. Avocet, small groups of Whimbrels and two Marbled Godwits at the West End of Jones Beach. The following day Arthur Morris counted sixty Western Sandpipers at Mecox Bay. One Red-necked Phalarope was at Point Lookout on the 28th and Bob Laskowski found a dead Red Phalarope at Timber Point the same day.

Gloria brought quite a variety of terns to Long Island. At least three Gull-billed Terns were at Mecox Bay on the 28th. Caspian and Royal Terns were widespread after the storm, with some lingering in the Region for weeks. Arthur Morris and I counted 12 Caspians at Mecox on the 28th and Ken and Sue Feustel found ten at Fire Island inlet on the 29th. The last lingerers reported were two at Shinnecock 27 Oct. There were an estimated 20 Royals at Mecox on the 28th and 40 at Fire Island inlet on the 29th. The latest report was of one at the West End, Jones Beach, on 5 Nov. Small numbers of Sandwich Terns also were widespread. Paul Buckley estimated at least 20 between Democrat Point and Montauk on the 28th. Paul found a "*portlandica*" **ARCTIC TERN** at Democrat Point on 28 Sep. The storm also brought good numbers of Forster's Terns to Long Island. There were 120+ at Mecox on the 28th and 70 at Fire Island inlet on the 29th. The only tropical terns reported were an immature **BRIDLED TERN** at Mecox and two **SOOTY TERNS** at Montauk found by Tony Lauro on the afternoon of the 27th. Rounding out the Larids were 200+ Black Skimmers at Mecox on the 28th.

One of the most fascinating aspects of the bird fallout from Gloria was the

large number of land birds that the hurricane brought, particularly to Jones Beach. Birders arriving at the West End as soon as the causeways were opened in the midafternoon found the ground carpeted with thousands of passerines. Overhead, hundreds of Chimney Swifts were flying west into the wind. We watched warblers attempting to cross the bay and dropping into the water, apparently no longer able to fight the wind, only to be picked up by Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls taking advantage of an easy meal. The predominant species was Cape May Warbler. Al Wollin estimated 3000 or more Cape Mays on the West End, a number that seems very credible from my own observations. Al also estimated 150 Black-throated Blue Warblers, 1000-2000 Am. Redstarts and 2000-3000 Boblinks. A very surprising aspect of the warblers was that the majority of them appeared to be adults. Ornithologists believe that the adults of many warbler species migrate south over the Atlantic Ocean while the young birds move along the coast. Perhaps these birds were caught over the ocean by Gloria and carried back northward to Long Island. Other hurricane records in the rest of the report are marked simply - Gloria.

Arthur Morris continued his shorebird survey at JBWR. Continuing the trend established in August, most species were found in below average numbers. He also found that many species departed early. An exception was Semipalmated Sandpiper; peak numbers were up 20%. Another exception was Am. Oystercatcher, which lingered late in unprecedented numbers. For much of September, Arthur found about 20 species on any given day, but on 30 Sep he recorded 27 species. On that day several birders were treated to the sight of Semipalmated, Western, Least, White-rumped and Baird's Sandpipers all in one binocular field. Diversity declined to about 15 species per day in October and to less than ten in November.

Reports were received from two coastal hawk watches. Arthur and Hannah Richard summarized the eighth year of the Breezy Point Raptor Banding Station. The station was operated for 34 days from 17 Sep to 24 Oct, three days longer than last year. They banded only 89 hawks, well below their seven year average of 247. The difference was due solely to the small numbers of Am. Kestrels banded, only 34, well below their average 198. Other species, 41 Sharp-shins, one Cooper's, one N. Harrier, one Peregrine and 11 Merlins were about normal. The Richard's total of 811 hawks seen was their all time low, once again caused by record low numbers of Am. Kestrels. Other species were seen in average numbers. Drew Panko's report on the fourth year of the Fire Island Hawk Watch provided some interesting contrasts. This year the watch was kept on 36 days from 11 Sep to 27 Oct, seven days more than last year and over a longer period. This is somewhat longer than in 1983, their longest previous coverage. Their total of 4377 hawks was the highest yet. They counted 1615 Am. Kestrels, up from a high of 1204 in 1982. Other species numbers included (previous high and year in parentheses): Sharp-shinned-1282 (676-'84); N. Harrier-239 (151-'84); Osprey-167 (108-'84); Merlin-1027 (497-'83). A total of 40 Peregrines was down from last year's high of 53.

Rarities: Eared Grebe, Leach's Storm-Petrel, frigatebird, Sandhill Crane, Sandwich Tern, Arctic Tern, Bridled Tern, Sooty Tern, Burrowing Owl, Say's Phoebe, Western Tanager, Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Abbreviations: JBch—Jones Beach; WEJB—West End, Jones Beach; NYC—New York City; LI—Long Island; SI—Staten Island; CRSP—Connetquot River State Park; HILSP—Hempstead Lake State Park; JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; NYRBA—New York Rare Bird Alert; RMSP—Robert Moses State Park.

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LOONS-DUCKS: EARED GREBE: JBWR 22 Sep-18 Nov (I. Cantor, mob), this was an often elusive individual. N. Gannet: invaded w LI Sound 28-30 Nov; 50 at Throgs Neck Bridge 28 Nov. Tundra Swan: max 11 Mashomack Nature Preserve, Shelter I 17 Nov (AC); six Hook Pd 24 Nov. "Blue" Goose: one with 60 Snows JBWR 29 Oct (TH), only report. Eurasian Wigeon: two males coming out of eclipse plumage JBWR 29 Sep (JD); one Lawrence 23 Oct (A. & M. Penzer). King Eider: one Montauk 7 Oct, early; one Caumsett SP 24 Nov (B. Conolly, E. Carey *vide* LLAS), rare for the locality. Harlequin Duck: Montauk after 5 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: four reported, all im, one Laurel Hollow 9 Oct (A. & L. Lindberg); two Southold 18 Oct (A. Bisk); one Riis P 24 Nov (JD, AS), all. N. Goshawk: im Yaphank 8 Oct (RA), only report. **SANDHILL CRANE:** ad & im Mt Sinai 17-30 Nov (C. Bergold), im picked up injured 23 Nov, died same day. Lesser Golden-Plover: 160 Riverhead sod farm 24 Sep (PB), very high. Am. Oystercatcher: 125 JBWR 19 Oct (AM); 65 JBWR 23 Nov, unprecedented numbers for fall. Upland Sandpiper: one Hofstra campus 1 Sep (JL, HR), only report. Marbled Godwit: JBWR after 19 Nov, late. Red Knot: about 500 JBch 3 Nov, very high count for so late. Pectoral Sandpiper: one JBWR 19-29 Nov (TH, A. Skopac), late. Curlew Sandpiper: one, at least at a time, JBWR 17 Sep-2 Oct. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: max 8 Riverhead sod farm 23 Sep (RA). Ruff: two reports, JBWR 25-29 Sep (AM); Dune Rd 1 Oct (PB). Iceland Gull: im Rye 16 Nov. Lesser Black-backed Gull: photographed JBch 28 Sep, apparently the nominate race (P. Post); Riis P after 24 Oct (mob); WEJB 5 Nov (J. McConville, H. & L. Merryman); JBWR late-Nov (NYRBA). **SANDWICH TERN:** three Mecox 28 Sep (AM, JD); five Fire I inlet 29 Sep (KF, SF); five WEJB 1 Oct (FF); six Mecox 1 Oct (BS); three Mecox 6 Oct (AM). Com. Tern: last Montauk 23 Nov (NYRBA). Forster's Tern: 20 Zach's Bay, JBch 5 Nov (FF), late for so many. Dovekie: two Montauk 30 Nov (R. Kelly), only alcid report.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: BURROWING OWL: Shinnecock from approx. 17 Oct-23 Oct, seen by birder on 21 Oct and reported by duck hunter to have been present for five or six days (S. Elliott). N. Saw-whet Owl: JBch 17 Oct (AW); JBWR 24 Nov, only reports.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: SAY'S PHOEBE: Fire I Hawk Watch 6 Oct (DP). W. Kingbird: Forest P 29 Sep; JBch 17-19 Oct; one Rye 17 Nov; JBWR after 21 Nov. Loggerhead Shrike: RMSP 17-20 Sep (*vide* FF), only report.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Golden-winged Warbler: one JBch 1 Oct, very rare in fall, perhaps Gloria. Orange-crowned Warbler: JBWR 20 Oct Rye 11 Nov; Montauk 13 Nov, only reports. Yellow-throated Warbler: one JBch 28 Sep (J. Popp). Gloria, very rare in fall. Worm-eating Warbler: two WEJB 27 Sep (AW), Gloria, rare on outer beaches. Connecticut Warbler: WEJB 27 Sep, Gloria. Yellow-breasted Chat: WEJB 27 Sep, Gloria.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: W. TANAGER: WEJB 9 Oct (R. Villani), no details received

but observer is familiar with species. Blue Grosbeak: total of five reported 2 Sep-20 Oct. Dickcissel: JBCh 8 Sep; Jones 28 Sep, only two reports. Vesper Sparrow: JBCh 28 Sep (AW), only report. Lark Sparrow: three JBCh 28 Sep (AW) ties state record max, but not Gloria related as two there 26 Sep (QCBC). White-crowned Sparrow: many reports mid-Oct, above average. Lapland Longspur: very few reports, two Southampton 9 Nov; two JBCh 13 Nov; one Bay P 20 Nov. Snow Bunting: max 60 Great Kills, SI 3 Nov (T. Preston), other small flocks. **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**: Seatuck 12 Sep (Seatuck staff). White-winged Crossbill: Great Kills P, SI 23 Nov (AM), only report. Com. Redpoll: scattered reports of small numbers, three JBCh 17 Nov; six Caumsett SP 24 Nov. Pine Siskin: max 40 JBCh 26 Oct (AM); other scattered reports. Evening Grosbeak: max 40 JBCh 26 Oct (AM); other scattered reports.

Great Gull Island Project, A.M.N.H.,
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REGION 10 – MARINE

JOSEPH A. DICOSTANZO

(Editor's Note: This report of Summer, 1985 arrived too late to be included in the preceding issue of The Kingbird.)

Overall, it was a cool summer with average rainfall in the Region. Temperatures were normal or below on 21 days in June putting the month's average at 68.6° F, 2.8° below normal. June's total rainfall of 4.41 inches was 1.18 above normal. The weather moderated a little in July but the pattern remained the same. Normal or below temperatures on 18 days kept the month's average at 76.2°, 0.5° below normal. July's total rainfall of 4.41 in. was 0.64 above normal. Temperatures in August remained at or below normal on 18 days. However, 90°+ readings on the 14th and 15th helped raise the month's average to 75.4°, exactly normal. August was drier than the previous two months with 2.58 in. of rain, 1.45 below normal. (All weather data are from New York City.)

The summer reporting period really covers three seasons: late-spring migration, breeding season and early-fall migration. June sees the end of the spring migration with flycatchers often at their peak numbers in early to mid-June. Late migrant warblers continue to pass through as evidenced by Magnolia and Black-throated Blue Warblers at Great Gull Island 8 June. A Kentucky Warbler found by Tony Lauro at Hecksher the same day is harder to characterize because it could be breeding here at the northern limits of its range. Early July saw the beginning of the fall shorebird migration, particularly at Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Shorebird numbers swelled there through August producing New York State's first record of Rufous-necked Stint. Cool fronts on 21 and 31 Aug brought the first significant numbers of fall migrant passerines to the Region.

Among Long Island breeders the Osprey continues its comeback. Mike Scheibel

reports 170 young in 129 active nests, with the most western nest now at Mill Neck. Marilyn England found 13 female N. Harriers on nests between Tobay and Captree. Peregrine Falcons again nested on the Throgs Neck Bridge in New York City. Jon Greenlaw reports that Black Rails continue at their Oak Beach Marsh breeding outpost. Am. Oystercatchers are thriving. Brooke Lauro found 65 pairs between the Meadowbrook and Robert Moses Causeways. Eric Salzman reports that Cerulean Warblers are maintaining their recently established toehold on LI at Sag Harbor. A pair of Hooded Warblers with two young found at Shu Swamp in June by Barbara Spencer was the second nesting record for Long Island.

Don Riepe reported on the breeding of several species at Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Mute Swans bred for the second time; the first record was last year. The Laughing Gull colony established there in 1979 has increased to an estimated 2400 pairs. The refuge's nest box program for Com. Barn-Owls was once again a success with 26 young banded this summer. Boat-tailed Grackle was added to the New York State list of breeding birds in 1981. A female seen carrying food at the refuge on 15 Jul provided evidence that the species continues to breed there.

John Zarudsky reported on the breeding of a number of colonial waterbirds in the Town of Hempstead. Among waders he reported the following counts of nesting individuals: five Tricolored, 18 Little Blue and 23 Green-backed Herons, 266 Black-crowned and 23 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, 174 Snowy, 96 Great and 10 Cattle Egrets and 343 Glossy Ibis. He estimated a total of 34 pairs of nesting Am. Oystercatchers. Two pairs of Gull-billed Terns were seen frequenting the marshes and were thought to be breeding but no nests were found. An estimated 945 pairs of Com. Terns were nesting in the same marshes. Ten to twenty pairs of Least Terns, recently declared an endangered species, were found nesting at Silver Point on Atlantic Beach and another 52 pairs were at Cedar Creek Park.

Arthur Morris conducted the fifth year of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge shorebird survey, started by Tom Davis in 1981. He found that numbers of birds were late in arriving this fall and total numbers of birds were well down from the averages of the previous three years. Red Knots numbers were down and Greater Yellowlegs, Sanderlings, Least Sandpipers and Short-billed Dowitchers were all "way down." One species that ran counter to this trend was northbound White-rumped Sandpipers in early June, with 21 on 1 Jun. A count of 2291 Semipalmated Sandpipers 3 Aug was a new maximum for the species. Numbers of all species combined peaked in mid to late Aug, with 25 species recorded 18 Aug and 4053 birds on 22 Aug.

On 31 Aug Arthur Morris found a molting eclipse-plumaged male Eurasian Wigeon at Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge. This species now is being seen there regularly throughout the year, sometimes in pairs. Is breeding a far-fetched possibility? After all, the Region's first breeding record of Am. Wigeon came from there in 1961. With a little luck Region 10 could add a new species to North America's list of breeding birds within the next couple of years.

Rarities: Magnificent Frigatebird, White Ibis, Bar-tailed Godwit, Rufous-necked Stint, California Gull.

Abbreviations: WEJB–West End, Jones Beach; NYC–New York City; GGI–Great Gull Island; LI–Long Island; SI–Staten Island; CRSP–Connetquot River State Park; HLSP–Hempstead Lake State Park; JBWR–Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; NYRBA–New York Rare Bird Alert; RMSP–Robert Moses State Park.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: two evidently summered at Moriches Bay (JR). Wilson's Storm-Petrel: higher than normal numbers in eastern LI Sound in Jun (M Male). Double-crested Cormorant: recently established colonies continue at South Brother I, NYC, and at Gardiner's and Fisher's I (*vide* RP). **MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD:** female flying east over GGI 3 Jun (JD, E Carrington). Least Bittern: birds seen regularly at JBWR during Aug were the only reports. **WHITE IBIS:** im Cold Spring Harbor 13 Aug (R Laskowski), very rare. Hooded Merganser: fledgling JBWR 10 Jul (DR), the species is not known to breed in the Region.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Red-shouldered Hawk: three young in a nest at Yaphank 2 Jun (JR), uncommon breeder on LI. Am. Oystercatcher: new high count, about 200 North Line I 22 Aug (JZ). Am. Avocet: Shinnecock 4 Aug (JR); JBWR 6 Aug, only two reports. Upland Sandpiper: six Republic Airfield 7 Aug (AL), highest number reported. Hudsonian Godwit: 18 Line I 5 Aug, high. **BAR-TAILED GODWIT:** seen and photographed at Bay P 5-6 Jun (ML). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2291 JBWR 3 Aug (AM), record local high. **RUFOUS-NECKED STINT:** first state record, 27 Jul-11 Aug (RC, G & M Dreameaux). Curlew Sandpiper: JBWR 14-27 Jul; Moriches Bay 25 Jul (PG, PB), only two reports. Ruff: alt plumage WEJB 8 Aug (AW), only report. Am. Woodcock: first breeding record for GGI (T. Ansel). Wilson's Phalarope: JBWR mid-Aug, only report. Little Gull: Shinnecock 1 Jun, very uncommon in summer. Com. Black-headed Gull: JBWR 14 Jun (PAB), very uncommon in summer. **CALIFORNIA GULL:** bird in "third winter" plumage, WEJB 31 Jul (PAB), third Regional and fourth state record. Gull-billed Tern: two frequenting the Cedar Beach tern colony in mid-Jul (BS) may have attempted to breed. Caspian Tern: JBWR 3 Aug, only report. Royal Tern: two GGI 3 Jun (JD, H Hays), only spring report; small numbers around the Region after mid-Aug. Black Tern: one spent Jun and Jul in a Com. Tern colony in a marsh in Easthampton, but there was no evidence of breeding (ES).

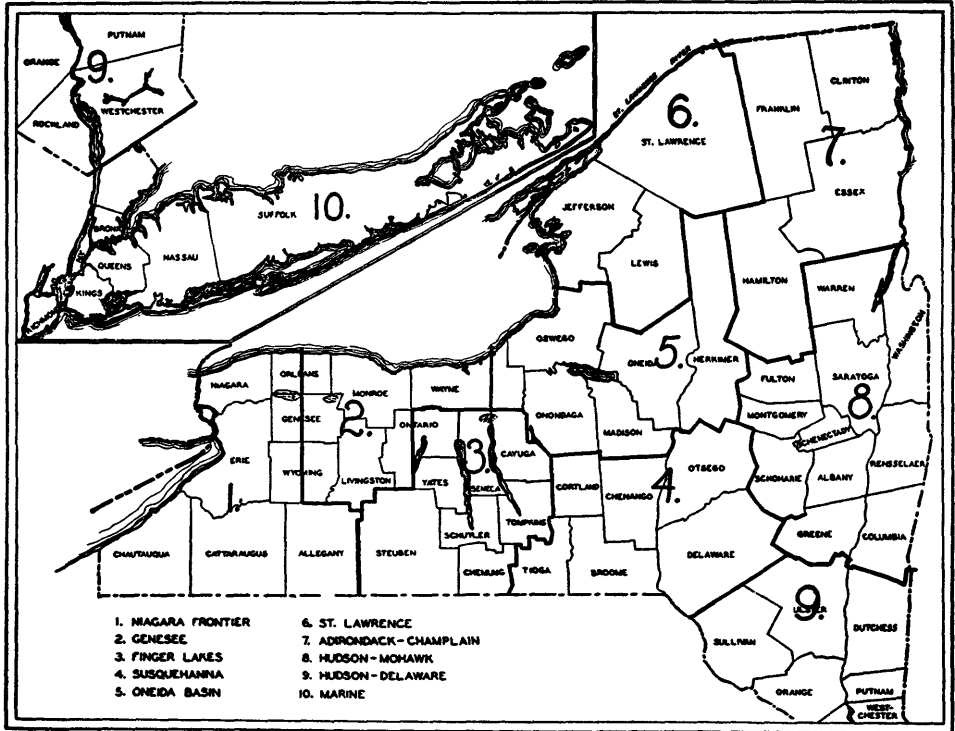
FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Acadian Flycatcher: a few scattered reports til mid-Jun. Willow Flycatcher: GGI 9 Jun (JD, R Young), first record for locality. Red-breasted Nuthatch: GGI 26 Jun-4 Jul (T Male), normally very uncommon at this time; good numbers throughout Region in late Aug.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Golden-winged Warbler: Prospect P 13 Aug (NYRBA), very rare on LI in the fall. Prairie Warbler: reported "down on LI" (PB). Worm-eating Warbler: Buck's Hollow, SI 22 Jun (AM), unusual there at that date.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Lark Sparrow: arr JBWR 28 Aug (S Deifik, I Pulver). Grasshopper Sparrow: one report Mitchell Field 9 Jun (SD), has declined sharply in Region in recent years.

Great Gull Island Project, A.M.N.H.,
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For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. IV Nos. 1 and 2

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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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