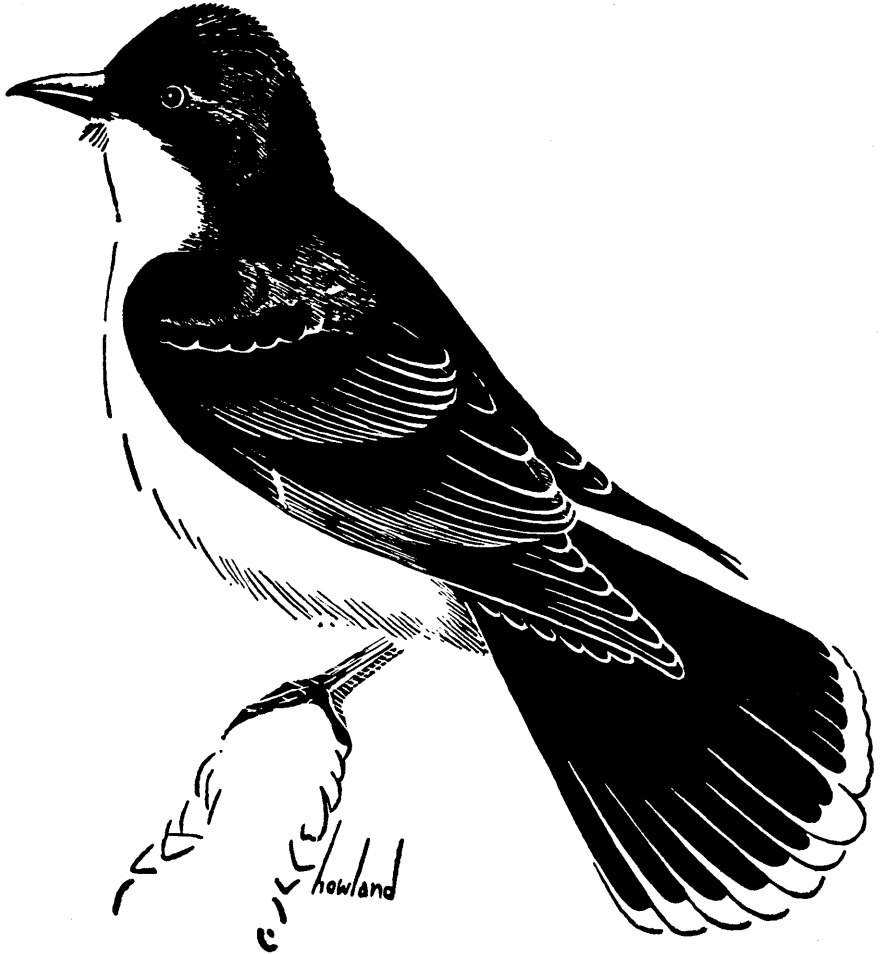


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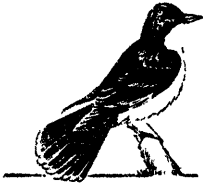
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Highlights of the Season

Editor – Robert Spahn

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SPRING MIGRATION OF THE COMMON LOON THROUGH SULLIVAN COUNTY, NEW YORK

KARL E. PARKER¹ and MICHAEL P. MILLIGAN²

Although the Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) has been the focus of increasing interest in recent years, most research on this species has taken place on the breeding grounds. The recent die-off of loons along the Florida coast (Lange and Stroud 1983) has demonstrated the importance of information concerning loon wintering areas and migration, since loons may be particularly vulnerable during these periods. The following observations are submitted to contribute to an understanding of Common Loon migration in general and of loon movements through New York in particular.

Observations of migrating loons were made on 14 April 1985, a relatively calm, overcast day with precipitation in the form of light drizzle. At 0950 hours Common Loons were observed flying north, coming over the dam of Cliff Lake, a 67.4 ha lake located at an elevation of 326 m in the town of Lumberland, Sullivan County. Loons had been heard tremoloing several times earlier that morning. At 1000 hours, a dozen loons flew over Cliff Lake heading north. Minutes later a group of approximately 40 loons followed. A second group of a dozen loons, also heading north, flew over at 1015 hours. An occasional single bird passed over between flocks. Williams (1973) reported that in Florida loons migrating north from the Gulf usually were grouped in two to six loosely associated flocks of two to 15 birds. More recently, Kerlinger (1982) found the average flock size of loons migrating through Albany County, New York, was 1.39 individuals per group. This average includes both spring and fall migrants, however.

Between 1145 and 1445 hours, loons were observed at Lebanon Lake, a 116.6 ha lake located 2 km southwest of Cliff Lake. It was here that the behavior of the loons was most unusual. On several occasions, over 50 loons were flying simultaneously, circling the lake. The loons did not follow any single flight path, such as flocks of ducks or geese often do, but instead were flying in every direction. The loons frequently tremoloed while in flight.

Some loons were present on Lebanon Lake the following day but none was observed during a visit to the area 18 April to 22 April. The previous year (20 April 1984), individual migrating loons were observed in the same area but neither large flocks nor the unusual flying behavior were observed.

The loon flocks observed at both Cliff and Lebanon Lakes were loose

and unorganized, with no apparent leader. The loons at Lebanon Lake may have been disoriented by the fog, rain, or other climatological factors. It is possible, however, that the behavior served to stimulate or maintain flock cohesiveness and readiness for flight. The senior author has observed similar behavior on a clear, mid-summer morning at a 153 ha Adirondack lake that was used by feeding but not by nesting loons. In that instance, the six adults present had spent the morning feeding at the lake. Without warning one loon took flight, then another, then a pair, until all six were circling and criss-crossing the lake, several tremoloing in flight. After several minutes of flight, the loons headed off in different directions, apparently flying to other nearby lakes.

Although no estimate was made of the altitude at which the loons migrating over Cliff Lake were flying, it is probable that they were quite low, since they were easily observed under conditions of rain and fog. The low altitude could be attributed to the weather, or the loons recently may have taken off from another lake. Loons migrating through Florida (elevation not given but probably close to 0 m) at an estimated altitude of 500 m were not very conspicuous (Williams 1973). Kerlinger (1982) found that loons migrating through eastern New York normally flew between 1500 and 2700 m (above sea level). At those altitudes loons generally were not visible without the aid of binoculars and radar.

A number of possible explanations exist for the large number of loons seen. The weather may have made conditions temporarily unsuitable for migration, resulting in a "pile-up" that was beginning to disperse at the time of the observations. However, it is possible that this area, which has a large number of lakes similar in size and elevation to those used by loons in the Adirondacks, regularly receives a large pulse of migrants moving through in a brief period of time. Arbib (1963) indicated a major northerly migration flight of loons passes through this region of Sullivan County.

Considering that the New York loon population is estimated to contain a minimum of 800 to 1000 adults (Parker *et al.* 1986), the presence of upwards of 100 loons in this area points out the importance of the region for loons during spring migration. Flying at a ground speed between 100 and 160 kmph (60 mph, Bent 1919; 44.6 meters/sec. Kerlinger 1982), loons are probably capable of migrating 1100 km or more in a day (Williams 1973), and thus could easily move from coastal sites to Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River, or the Adirondacks. The ultimate destination of these birds is unknown, however. It is possible that these loons were Canadian birds headed towards northern lakes that experience ice-out later than Adirondack lakes (Arbib 1963). However, the date of the observations does not rule out the possibility that these

birds were headed for the Adirondacks, where some birds do not arrive on breeding lakes there until mid- to late April. Regardless of the flight terminus, this region of lakes may provide an important stopover for feeding and resting, particularly when the weather is unsuitable for migration.

Acknowledgments

This note is based on unpublished data contained in Nongame Unit files. Observations were made by M. Milligan.

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NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Great Horned Owl Predation of Great Blue Heron: In May 1984 I discovered a colony of Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*) nesting at King's Bay State Game Area in the northeast corner of Clinton County, NY. I later was informed that the N.Y. State Department of Environmental Conservation already was aware of this heronry. Their people had discovered it a year earlier while doing a timber inventory of the area.

In the winter 1984 I mapped the colony and did an initial census. The heronry is located in a deciduous wooded swamp and measured 2.3 hectares (300 by 825 feet) in area. It stretches from the shoreline of Catfish Bay through a swampy area to an upland area of oak. The initial census found 44 nests in 21 trees. The trees are the largest white oaks, red maple and ash in the area. Each of the nest trees was marked with numbered aluminum tags. A census of the heronry is done annually after the nesting season.

On 21 April 1985 I observed male herons bringing fine twigs to the nest which the female then arranged in the nest. There was considerable activity in the heronry at that time. I repeatedly viewed the heronry from the periphery through late April and May and found surprisingly little activity. By June I became concerned that the heronry had been abandoned. On 14 June I walked through the middle of the heronry and did not see a single heron. Further observation that year led me to believe that at most only one or two nests were productive. On 1 August, I saw two Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*) flying near the heronry. The December census of the heronry found the colony to be down to 34 nests.

The following year I suspected that the heronry had been disturbed again. On 6 June 1986 while near the periphery of the heronry I noticed considerable white guano on the ground along with many large gray feathers. Looking up into the branches of the large white oak in front of me, I saw two young Great Horned Owls. The young still had downy feathers on much of their body. I followed the trail of large feathers back into the heronry. Bent (Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey, Part Two, 306) says "The great horned owl is a ravenous feeder on a great variety of animal life . . . and will take what is most available and most easily caught." The heronry apparently provided the food source for this opportunistic feeder. Bent (*op. cit.*, 308) continues to say that, "The list of birds eaten is a very long one and contains many large species including Canada goose, swan, American bittern etc."

After a second year of predation at the heronry, the winter census indicated a further reduction of nests in the colony down to 25 nests. Five of those nests were very small and ready to fall to the ground. The remaining nests are an indication of just how well built and sturdy these nests can be after repeated use over many years. It is possible that the owl used one of the nests in the heronry for its own. However, I was not able to find any evidence.

It remains to be seen whether the herons will return to the heronry again this year and whether the Great Horned Owls will use it for the third year as a convenient food source.

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NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Garden Island Revisited: Sixty-one years ago Lewis Fifield, then a resident of Plattsburgh, NY, characterized a trip he made to the Herring Gull colony on Garden Island (Lake Champlain) as his "most interesting ornithological excursion of the year 1925" (*The Oologist* 43(4): 53-55; 1926). On May 24, 1925 he and his brother rowed out to this island-rock, approximately 75 yards by 35 yards, that is located 2100 feet south of a much larger island called Valcour (1000 acres). In 1925 the otherwise level landscape of this island was broken by only 2 large trees and a few bushes. As they approached the island, 80 to 90 gulls arose in the air and began to circle the island emitting screams in objection to the Fifield's untimely entry into their domain. Upon landing the Fifields counted 34 active nests. They found eggs in all stages of incubation.

Other than this old publication, information concerning the wildlife of this island is scarce. In *A Portrait of the Lake Champlain Islands* (Lake Champlain Island Trust, 1979, Darby Bradley and Cheryl King, editors) the authors mention that the Conservation Committee of the Green Mountain Audubon Society undertook an inventory of the bird life on the islands in the early 1970's. However, in the description of Garden Island little is said except that the island is "quite isolated and probably a nesting site." No mention is made of which species nest on the island. Ignatius Lacombe (*pers. comm.*) surveyed the island (block 6293A) in the early 1980's for the N.Y. State Breeding Bird Atlas project. He found no evidence of gulls nesting on the island.

Garden Island is one of 71 small islands (less than 1000 acres) in Lake Champlain. With so little documentation concerning the avifauna of this island and its historic Herring Gull colony, another search of the island for avian breeding activity was planned. On May 17, 1986 Mark Gretch and Harold Klein were transported by boat to Garden Island by Scott Johnson. As we approached, a solitary Herring Gull watched from the top of a dead tree trunk near the center of the island. We were encouraged to find evidence of Herring Gulls showing a preference for the island. We hoped that a small breeding colony might still exist, even though we realized that such small island-rocks are particularly vulnerable to human disturbance. Our hopes were dashed as we started to explore the island. We found no evidence that Lake Champlain Herring Gulls now use this island for nesting. What we did find was evidence of human disturbance, including old campfires and miscellaneous trash left by previous visitors. I have since learned that a campsite existed on the island for a number of summers about 20 years ago. It is our suspicion that every year this island is more frequently used for landings. Boat traffic between Plattsburgh and nearby Valcour Island along with recreational boating on Lake Champlain has increased recently. Such landings during the breeding season more than likely have resulted in the demise of this colony.

The vegetation of this island has not changed much since 1925. There are a few more trees (basswood and northern white cedar) and shrubs (European gooseberry). We found some evidence of breeding of Rough-winged Swallows, Tree Swallows, starlings and, perhaps, Common Mergansers.

If the island were given protection from human disturbance, would the island once again become a haven for the Herring Gull or for other colonial nesting birds? We thought the experiment was worth trying. We have contacted the Champlain Island Trust. They have agreed to help us post the island. Signs urging boaters not to land during the breeding season will be posted.

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EDITORIAL: REGIONAL BOUNDARIES AND MIGRATION DATES

Several additional changes to the Regional reports start in this volume of *The Kingbird*. When I began instituting changes last year, I knew that revising the format of Regional reports would be an evolutionary process. Several readers have suggested that my effort to enhance the narrative part of the Regional reports has had the unfortunate side effect of making some records (especially of rarities) more difficult to find. I agree and have instructed the Regional Editors not to include such records in the introduction to their reports unless there is an obvious event, such as a tropical storm, that ties them together. I remain committed to a strong narrative component to the Regional reports and applaud the Regional Editors' efforts to follow my guidelines.

Several contributors from Regions which presently lack editors have submitted reports directly to me. I commend their efforts to contribute to *The Kingbird*. I will be pleased to forward such reports when a Regional Editor is available. However, I otherwise can not use such submissions in fear of inadvertently committing myself or my successors ultimately to write all of the Regional Reports. Observers are encouraged to prepare Field Notes about observations of exceptional interest, even when they also report to a Regional Editor, to fully document such records. I will be pleased to keep a list of Federation members who are interested in becoming Regional Editors. Please write, even if your Region presently has an editor, to assist me and my successors in finding a replacement should that become necessary. The Regional reports are a valuable contribution to the ornithology of New York. Their value is diminished when some Regions are absent.

Two new matters surface with this volume: Regional boundaries and a new policy for reporting arrival and departure dates.

Regional boundaries.

The current Regional boundaries were described most recently in volume 4 of *The Kingbird*, 32 years ago! Since then uncertainties about some of the boundaries have caused inconsistent assignment of reports to Regional reports. With this in mind, the Executive Committee of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs appointed a committee chaired by Dr. Gordon Meade to review the Regional boundaries. The committee's report was accepted at the September 1986 meeting of the Executive Committee and is instituted in this issue. Only two boundaries are modified. The stated boundary between Regions 3 and 5 in Cayuga County is the Seneca River but, by informal agreement between the Regional Editors, the actual boundary has been NY Route 31. This

difference is too small to show on the Regional map which appears in *The Kingbird*, but two localities that appear in Region 5 reports – the “Seneca River flats” and Fox Ridge – are south of the Seneca River. They now officially are transferred to Region 5. Similarly, because several observers were unclear as to the boundary between Regions 9 and 10 in Westchester County, an informal agreement between Regional Editors directed all Westchester County reports to Region 9, which is inconsistent with the map of Regional boundaries. Several localities in southern Westchester Co. regularly appeared in Region 9 reports as a result of this agreement, which also becomes official now. *The Kingbird* reporting Regions and their boundaries are:

Region 1 – Niagara Frontier: all of Niagara, Erie, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegany Counties and the western halves of Ontario, Genesee and Wyoming Counties west of NY Route 98 (from Pt. Breeze to Batavia), Route 63 (from Batavia to Pavilion) and NY Route 19 (from Pavilion to the Allegany County line).

Region 2 – Genesee: all of Livingston, Monroe and Wayne Counties; the eastern halves of Ontario, Genesee and Wyoming Counties east of NY Route 98 (from Pt. Breeze to Batavia), Route 63 (from Batavia to Pavilion) and NY Route 19 (from Pavilion to the Allegany County line); and the portion of Ontario County west of Mud Creek and NY Routes 64 (from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs) and 21 (from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line).

Region 3 – Finger Lakes: all of Yates, Steuben, Seneca, Schuyler, Chemung, and Tompkins Counties; Ontario County east of Mud Creek and NY Routes 64 and 21; and that part of Cayuga County south of NY Route 31.

Region 4 – Susquehanna: all of Cortland, Tioga, Chenango, Broome, Otsego and Delaware Counties.

Region 5 – Oneida Basin: all of Oswego, Onondaga, Oneida, Madison and Herkimer Counties and Cayuga County north of NY Route 31.

Region 6 – St. Lawrence: all of Jefferson, St. Lawrence and Lewis Counties.

Region 7 – Adirondacks: all of Franklin, Hamilton, Clinton and Essex Counties.

Region 8 – Hudson-Mohawk: all of Fulton, Montgomery, Schoharie, Warren, Saratoga, Schenectady, Albany, Greene, Washington, Rensselaer and Columbia Counties.

Region 9 – Hudson-Delaware: all of Sullivan, Ulster, Orange, Rockland, Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester Counties.

Region 10 – Marine: all of Richmond, Manhattan, Bronx, Queens, Kings, Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

Arrival and departure dates

Arrival and departure dates of migratory birds frequently appear in Regional reports. I have been asked whether these data have any value at all. I do not know. While reviewing them as a prelude to this editorial, I have become convinced that the haphazard way in which these dates generally have been reported diminishes the possibility that any use for them can be found. Some of the problems with these data will be made clearer below. With this issue *The Kingbird* begins a more systematic approach to reporting these data. After consultation with the Regional Editors I have compiled lists of common birds that occur throughout New York and for which we ask Federation members to report local arrival and departure dates to their Regional Editor on a regular basis. These data will be compiled by each Regional Editor and combined into a summary table by myself so that they can be compared more readily both on a Regional basis and also to their long-term averages. These dates will not be repeated in the Regional reports unless they set or tie Regional records.

I have compiled the dates published in *The Kingbird* for the 26-year period beginning with 1961. Table 1 lists the species for which departure dates are solicited and gives the average departure date of each species by Region along with the number of years in which that date was reported. A blank entry means that no dates have been reported for the species in that region. Table 2 lists these species in chronological order of their weighted average departure date. Table 3 lists the species for which arrival dates are solicited and gives their average arrival date of each species by Region along with the number of years in which that date was reported. Table 4 lists these species in chronological order of their weighted average arrival date. In Tables 1 and 3, the **weighted average** date is the average of the Regional dates weighted for the number of years in which the species was reported. The **unweighted average** is the simple average of the Regional averages.

The lists of species differs from fall and spring. The list of species for which fall departure dates are sought contains both water and land birds and avoids species which frequently linger into the early winter period. Departure dates of these species span the period from late August to early December. The list of species for which departure dates are sought is shorter than the list of species for which arrival dates are sought because most observers find it easier to recognize the presence of a new species than to note the disappearance of a species that has been present earlier. Arrival dates are subdivided into a short list of water birds and a longer list of land birds, again avoiding species that regularly overwinter in much or all of New York. Species were selected to span the period from late February to late May. A few species on this list – rails – are included as challenges to observers while others –

Table 1. Average Fall Departure Dates 1961-1986

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5
Osprey	27 Oct [10]	30 Oct [2]	22 Oct [10]	22 Oct [24]	30 Oct [17]
Broad-winged Hawk	2 Oct [8]	16 Aug [1]	20 Sep [6]	30 Sep [16]	19 Sep [12]
Black-bellied Plover	30 Oct [6]	12 Nov [3]	23 Oct [10]	2 Oct [3]	10 Nov [25]
Semipalmated Plover	29 Oct [3]	19 Oct [3]	13 Oct [11]	31 Aug [6]	24 Oct [24]
Greater Yellowlegs	19 Nov [3]	12 Nov [7]	11 Nov [11]	22 Oct [17]	12 Nov [24]
Lesser Yellowlegs	2 Nov [4]	5 Nov [5]	6 Nov [8]	4 Oct [11]	31 Oct [25]
Spotted Sandpiper	1 Oct [2]	18 Oct [8]	8 Oct [10]	28 Sep [14]	11 Oct [23]
Sanderling	4 Nov [4]	1 Nov [4]	5 Oct [4]		15 Nov [24]
Semipalmated Sandpiper	7 Oct [2]	20 Oct [1]	9 Oct [5]	9 Sep [8]	24 Oct [25]
Least Sandpiper	8 Oct [3]	17 Oct [3]	15 Oct [7]	12 Sep [12]	11 Oct [23]
Pectoral Sandpiper	25 Oct [3]	9 Oct [1]	7 Nov [9]	30 Sep [10]	29 Oct [24]
Caspian Tern	20 Sep [11]	18 Oct [7]	12 Sep [11]		8 Oct [19]
Common Tern	14 Nov [4]	6 Nov [10]	28 Sep [6]	10 Sep [2]	18 Oct [22]
Black Tern	29 Sep [4]	14 Sep [5]	3 Sep [3]	26 Aug [2]	17 Sep [17]
Chimney Swift	6 Oct [5]	8 Oct [5]	1 Oct [5]	16 Sep [19]	26 Sep [20]
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	26 Sep [4]	3 Oct [4]	4 Oct [14]	29 Sep [22]	26 Sep [19]
Eastern Wood-Pewee	12 Oct [4]	8 Oct [5]	9 Oct [6]	29 Sep [19]	6 Oct [20]
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	22 Sep [8]	14 Sep [6]	24 Sep [7]	19 Sep [18]	23 Sep [22]
Least Flycatcher	24 Sep [4]	15 Sep [2]		22 Sep [14]	24 Sep [11]
Eastern Phoebe	5 Nov [3]	28 Oct [7]	19 Oct [4]	18 Oct [20]	24 Oct [21]
Great-crested Flycatcher	24 Sep [7]	21 Sep [3]	23 Sep [3]	16 Sep [19]	20 Sep [14]
Eastern Kingbird	22 Sep [9]	28 Sep [4]	22 Sep [4]	18 Sep [21]	18 Sep [19]
Tree Swallow	26 Oct [4]	4 Nov [9]	24 Oct [7]	27 Sep [20]	23 Oct [21]
Barn Swallow	28 Sep [5]	28 Oct [5]	10 Oct [11]	14 Sep [25]	2 Oct [23]
House Wren	15 Oct [3]	12 Oct [5]	12 Oct [8]	6 Oct [18]	16 Oct [17]
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	16 Sep [10]	10 Oct [5]	5 Sep [2]	21 Sep [6]	17 Sep [11]
Veery	23 Sep [3]	1 Oct [3]	3 Oct [3]	21 Sep [22]	29 Sep [15]
Swainson's Thrush	17 Oct [8]	20 Oct [6]	26 Oct [9]	11 Oct [23]	13 Oct [19]
Wood Thrush	20 Oct [2]	16 Oct [7]	21 Oct [7]	9 Oct [21]	8 Oct [14]
Gray Catbird	26 Oct [3]	10 Nov [4]	1 Nov [6]	19 Oct [24]	25 Oct [20]
Brown Thrasher	10 Oct [2]	20 Oct [2]	8 Oct [6]	18 Oct [22]	21 Oct [15]
Solitary Vireo	24 Oct [7]	8 Oct [5]	12 Oct [10]	10 Oct [20]	20 Oct [21]
Yellow-throated Vireo	15 Sep [8]	27 Sep [4]	20 Sep [4]	18 Sep [22]	25 Sep [18]
Warbling Vireo	24 Sep [5]	27 Sep [2]	23 Sep [9]	15 Sep [23]	28 Sep [16]
Red-eyed Vireo	9 Oct [5]	9 Oct [6]	10 Oct [7]	7 Oct [23]	13 Oct [20]

Average Fall Departure Dates 1961-1986

Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Weighted Average	Unweighted Average
14 Oct [14]	12 Oct [18]	22 Oct [12]	26 Oct [4]	10 Nov [2]	22 Oct	25 Oct
14 Sep [4]	24 Sep [10]	7 Oct [13]	20 Oct [1]		27 Sep	23 Sep
25 Oct [21]	7 Oct [9]	22 Oct [8]	29 Oct [9]		27 Oct	25 Oct
11 Oct [17]	4 Oct [8]	1 Oct [9]	23 Sep [5]	17 Nov [2]	11 Oct	11 Oct
21 Oct [18]	27 Oct [5]	2 Nov [16]	8 Nov [5]	27 Nov [1]	3 Nov	7 Nov
4 Oct [16]	11 Oct [4]	18 Oct [14]	30 Oct [4]		21 Oct	23 Oct
22 Sep [13]	17 Sep [6]	1 Oct [13]	8 Nov [2]	24 Nov [1]	5 Oct	11 Oct
28 Oct [19]	18 Sep [4]	30 Sep [5]	26 Sep [3]		28 Oct	16 Oct
12 Oct [14]	6 Oct [4]	12 Oct [13]	3 Oct [5]	12 Oct [1]	11 Oct	8 Oct
20 Sep [13]	3 Oct [3]	7 Oct [10]	5 Oct [2]		2 Oct	4 Oct
17 Oct [15]	2 Oct [7]	25 Oct [14]	29 Oct [13]	13 Nov [2]	23 Oct	22 Oct
24 Sep [17]	19 Sep [1]		19 Sep [4]	12 Oct [15]	30 Sep	28 Sep
21 Sep [12]	3 Oct [2]	9 Sep [2]	17 Sep [4]	19 Nov [8]	15 Oct	9 Oct
31 Aug [5]		11 Sep [2]	3 Sep [3]	2 Sep [1]	12 Sep	8 Sep
2 Sep [6]	30 Aug [6]	24 Sep [17]	13 Oct [9]	30 Sep [1]	23 Sep	24 Sep
22 Sep [15]	21 Sep [15]	30 Sep [16]	29 Sep [9]	30 Oct [5]	29 Sep	1 Oct
17 Sep [7]	10 Sep [9]	22 Sep [15]	14 Oct [5]	26 Oct [2]	30 Sep	3 Oct
	16 Sep [4]	21 Sep [14]	23 Sep [8]	24 Sep [8]	21 Sep	21 Sep
12 Sep [1]	1 Sep [8]	13 Sep [10]	9 Oct [1]	1 Oct [9]	19 Sep	20 Sep
9 Oct [15]	13 Oct [13]	29 Oct [16]	8 Nov [8]	23 Oct [4]	22 Oct	24 Oct
14 Sep [4]	14 Sep [7]	15 Sep [13]	20 Sep [4]	2 Nov [3]	19 Sep	23 Sep
9 Sep [6]	7 Sep [10]	24 Sep [14]	17 Sep [4]	8 Oct [1]	18 Sep	20 Sep
15 Oct [12]	29 Sep [7]	3 Oct [16]	3 Nov [2]		13 Oct	17 Oct
20 Sep [6]	14 Sep [9]	20 Sep [13]	8 Oct [7]	13 Nov [4]	28 Sep	4 Oct
24 Sep [12]	6 Sep [2]	10 Oct [14]	2 Nov [5]	7 Nov [5]	11 Oct	11 Oct
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23 Oct [4]	2 Oct [9]	10 Oct [12]	20 Nov [1]	21 Oct [3]	15 Oct	18 Oct
3 Oct [10]	8 Oct [12]	8 Oct [13]	21 Oct [11]	7 Nov [3]	14 Oct	15 Oct
8 Sep [1]	25 Sep [5]	21 Sep [13]	28 Sep [7]	3 Oct [9]	23 Sep	22 Sep
20 Sep [6]		17 Sep [13]	2 Oct [5]	1 Oct [8]	22 Sep	24 Sep
29 Sep [8]	29 Sep [10]	7 Oct [17]	14 Oct [8]	26 Oct [6]	9 Oct	9 Oct

Average Fall Departure Dates 1961-1986

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5
Blue-winged Warbler	14 Sep [8]	9 Sep [4]	4 Sep [5]	8 Sep [18]	9 Sep [11]
Tennessee Warbler	19 Oct [6]	22 Oct [7]	10 Oct [5]	7 Oct [20]	9 Oct [21]
Nashville Warbler	24 Oct [6]	23 Oct [7]	16 Oct [8]	10 Oct [24]	16 Oct [21]
Northern Parula	7 Oct [11]	17 Oct [6]	7 Oct [5]	24 Sep [17]	7 Oct [21]
Yellow Warbler	28 Sep [6]	27 Sep [5]	19 Sep [7]	18 Sep [19]	24 Sep [19]
Chestnut-sided Warbler	24 Sep [1]	11 Oct [5]	3 Oct [5]	22 Sep [21]	2 Oct [20]
Magnolia Warbler	14 Oct [3]	17 Oct [6]	15 Oct [6]	7 Oct [25]	11 Oct [23]
Cape May Warbler	16 Oct [4]	14 Oct [3]	2 Oct [7]	29 Sep [19]	3 Oct [21]
Black-thr Blue Warbler	18 Oct [3]	12 Oct [6]	9 Oct [9]	29 Sep [24]	11 Oct [23]
Black-thr Green Warbler	12 Oct [5]	9 Oct [5]	12 Oct [9]	8 Oct [23]	13 Oct [24]
Blackburnian Warbler	21 Oct [2]	3 Oct [5]	5 Oct [5]	25 Sep [22]	1 Oct [21]
Bay-breasted Warbler	21 Oct [4]	7 Oct [4]	10 Oct [5]	25 Sep [20]	1 Oct [23]
Blackpoll Warbler	16 Oct [5]	10 Oct [4]	12 Oct [4]	5 Oct [22]	6 Oct [20]
Black-and-white Warbler	15 Oct [5]	30 Sep [3]	5 Oct [4]	27 Sep [17]	1 Oct [18]
American Redstart	15 Oct [3]	18 Oct [7]	27 Sep [6]	27 Sep [22]	5 Oct [20]
Ovenbird	16 Oct [3]	16 Oct [5]	30 Sep [7]	5 Oct [22]	5 Oct [22]
N. Waterthrush	27 Sep [7]	5 Sep [3]	15 Sep [5]	17 Sep [18]	25 Sep [18]
Common Yellowthroat	30 Sep [2]	25 Oct [4]	18 Oct [6]	17 Oct [22]	27 Oct [20]
Wilson's Warbler	28 Sep [3]	8 Oct [1]	3 Oct [4]	28 Sep [23]	3 Oct [21]
Canada Warbler	1 Oct [1]	25 Sep [2]	19 Sep [5]	20 Sep [21]	18 Sep [20]
Scarlet Tanager	29 Sep [2]	7 Oct [5]	16 Oct [6]	2 Oct [22]	7 Oct [19]
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	14 Oct [5]	27 Oct [5]	7 Oct [5]	1 Oct [22]	7 Oct [18]
Rufous-sided Towhee	23 Oct [1]	6 Nov [3]	29 Oct [5]	22 Oct [19]	26 Oct [13]
Lincoln's Sparrow	11 Oct [9]	25 Oct [6]	13 Oct [9]	13 Oct [25]	17 Oct [20]
White-crowned Sparrow	9 Oct [2]	20 Oct [1]	9 Nov [5]	3 Nov [24]	6 Nov [15]
Bobolink	26 Sep [2]	5 Oct [1]	20 Sep [4]	8 Sep [15]	28 Sep [16]
Northern Oriole	27 Sep [2]	6 Oct [2]	27 Sep [5]	14 Sep [21]	15 Sep [20]

Average Fall Departure Dates 1961-1986

Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Weighted Average	Unweighted Average
		9 Sep [4]	21 Sep [3]	25 Sep [3]	10 Sep	12 Sep
26 Sep [6]	30 Sep [7]	29 Sep [15]	17 Oct [7]	31 Oct [11]	10 Oct	11 Oct
3 Oct [11]	2 Oct [15]	2 Oct [15]	21 Oct [5]	9 Nov [5]	12 Oct	16 Oct
6 Oct [2]	26 Sep [6]	28 Sep [14]	20 Oct [2]	7 Nov [6]	5 Oct	9 Oct
31 Aug [4]	6 Sep [3]	22 Sep [13]	21 Sep [3]	9 Oct [9]	22 Sep	20 Sep
28 Sep [6]	13 Sep [6]	26 Sep [13]	6 Oct [2]	16 Oct [4]	28 Sep	30 Sep
24 Sep [10]	21 Sep [12]	9 Oct [17]	23 Oct [5]	23 Oct [7]	8 Oct	10 Oct
21 Sep [2]	26 Sep [6]	27 Sep [11]	14 Oct [3]	29 Oct [6]	4 Oct	6 Oct
5 Oct [5]	27 Sep [10]	29 Sep [14]	17 Oct [2]	1 Nov [7]	7 Oct	10 Oct
27 Sep [13]	6 Oct [12]	7 Oct [17]	22 Oct [4]	31 Oct [4]	9 Oct	12 Oct
23 Sep [4]	18 Sep [7]	26 Sep [15]	11 Oct [4]	28 Oct [3]	29 Sep	4 Oct
1 Oct [6]	22 Sep [6]	23 Sep [13]	10 Oct [1]	16 Oct [2]	30 Sep	4 Oct
3 Oct [3]		10 Oct [15]	2 Nov [5]	4 Nov [8]	12 Oct	14 Oct
25 Sep [5]	18 Sep [11]	23 Sep [13]	24 Oct [5]	4 Nov [8]	2 Oct	5 Oct
20 Sep [5]	20 Sep [13]	25 Sep [13]	1 Nov [6]	31 Oct [9]	4 Oct	7 Oct
14 Sep [6]	15 Sep [9]	26 Sep [15]	29 Sep [2]	13 Oct [6]	1 Oct	2 Oct
12 Sep [3]		19 Sep [12]	5 Oct [1]	13 Oct [5]	21 Sep	22 Sep
10 Oct [7]	10 Oct [7]	23 Oct [16]	18 Nov [5]	2 Nov [6]	22 Oct	21 Oct
24 Sep [3]	17 Sep [9]	28 Sep [17]	12 Oct [4]	7 Nov [3]	30 Sep	4 Oct
15 Sep [7]	8 Sep [6]	22 Sep [14]	9 Oct [3]	27 Sep [6]	20 Sep	22 Sep
26 Sep [8]	26 Sep [12]	2 Oct [14]	19 Oct [5]	28 Oct [6]	5 Oct	7 Oct
29 Sep [8]	22 Sep [14]	3 Oct [17]	27 Oct [6]	2 Nov [4]	6 Oct	11 Oct
13 Oct [8]	13 Oct [5]	20 Oct [12]		27 Oct [4]	22 Oct	23 Oct
28 Sep [2]	2 Oct [3]	14 Oct [15]	20 Oct [13]	4 Nov [7]	16 Oct	15 Oct
24 Oct [16]	1 Nov [12]	31 Oct [13]	7 Nov [5]	29 Oct [2]	1 Nov	29 Oct
10 Sep [4]	2 Sep [2]	15 Sep [13]	9 Oct [5]	1 Nov [3]	21 Sep	24 Sep
4 Sep [4]	30 Aug [4]	16 Sep [14]	8 Oct [2]	7 Oct [3]	16 Sep	21 Sep

Table 2. Species for which departure dates are tabulated listed by weighted average departure date.

Species	Average Date	Species	Average Date
Blue-winged Warbler	10 Sep	Scarlet Tanager	5 Oct
Black Tern	12 Sep	Northern Parula	5 Oct
Northern Oriole	16 Sep	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	6 Oct
Eastern Kingbird	18 Sep	Black-thr Blue Warbler	7 Oct
Great-crested Flycatcher	19 Sep	Magnolia Warbler	8 Oct
Least Flycatcher	19 Sep	Red-eyed Vireo	9 Oct
Canada Warbler	20 Sep	Black-thr Green Warbler	9 Oct
Bobolink	21 Sep	Tennessee Warbler	10 Oct
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	21 Sep	House Wren	11 Oct
N. Waterthrush	21 Sep	Semipalmated Plover	11 Oct
Warbling Vireo	22 Sep	Semipalmated Sandpiper	11 Oct
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	22 Sep	Blackpoll Warbler	12 Oct
Yellow Warbler	22 Sep	Nashville Warbler	12 Oct
Yellow-throated Vireo	23 Sep	Wood Thrush	13 Oct
Chimney Swift	23 Sep	Tree Swallow	13 Oct
Veery	25 Sep	Swainson's Thrush	14 Oct
Broad-winged Hawk	27 Sep	Solitary Vireo	14 Oct
Chestnut-sided Warbler	28 Sep	Common Tern	15 Oct
Barn Swallow	28 Sep	Brown Thrasher	15 Oct
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	29 Sep	Lincoln's Sparrow	16 Oct
Blackburnian Warbler	29 Sep	Lesser Yellowlegs	21 Oct
Eastern Wood-Pewee	30 Sep	Eastern Phoebe	22 Oct
Caspian Tern	30 Sep	Osprey	22 Oct
Bay-breasted Warbler	30 Sep	Common Yellowthroat	22 Oct
Wilson's Warbler	30 Sep	Rufous-sided Towhee	22 Oct
Ovenbird	1 Oct	Pectoral Sandpiper	23 Oct
Least Sandpiper	2 Oct	Gray Catbird	24 Oct
Black-and-white Warbler	2 Oct	Black-bellied Plover	27 Oct
Cape May Warbler	4 Oct	Sanderling	28 Oct
American Redstart	4 Oct	White-crowned Sparrow	1 Nov
Spotted Sandpiper	5 Oct	Greater Yellowlegs	3 Nov

Willow and Alder Flycatcher – are common species whose recent taxonomic history has muddied our knowledge of their migration periods or which – Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Blue-winged Warbler – are undergoing range expansion in New York with possible systematic changes in their status as migrants.

Willow and Alder Flycatchers have been distinguished regularly only since 1977; I have assumed that all Region 9 (and 10) arrival dates for Traill's Flycatcher prior to 1977 refer to Willow Flycatchers. Readers also should note a systematic bias in the averages that results from the date arithmetic which I used to calculate averages across years. To compute averages I converted the dates into calendar dates such that 1 Jan equals 1, 2 Jan equals 2, 3 Jan equals 3 and so on. In leap years, all calendar dates after February come one day later in the year than the same calendar date does in a normal year. I did not correct for this difference and instead computed the average dates as if all dates were in the same year.

In the course of compiling these data I discovered many inconsistencies in reporting them, even from the same Regional Editor. Dates frequently were reported with no explicit indication of their significance. I have had to assume that many were arrival or departure dates. Some species – Gray Catbird and Northern Oriole, for example – mostly vanish relatively early in the fall, but a small residue regularly appear, often at feeders, when severe weather sets in at the end of the fall. Almost no reports come between these times. Individuals which successfully overwinter may be found away from feeders during early spring warm spells, well ahead of the bulk of arrivals. Editors sometimes noted these cases explicitly but usually reported these stragglers as exceptional arrival or departure dates without giving any indication of the corresponding “typical” date, or only a qualitative measure of it. I used these dates, even if they seemed exceptional, whenever they were specifically tagged as an arrival or departure date and ignored them when they were not so identified. A few species which seldom if ever overwinter in New York, such as Chimney Swift and Indigo Bunting, seem to arrive very early in some springs and very late in others, but seldom on intermediate dates. I used all arrival dates for these species.

Dates sometimes were described qualitatively (“two weeks late”) and sometimes explicitly. Only explicit dates could be used. Some Regional Editors primarily reported anomalous dates. A compilation of dates from their reports gives a biased view of migration periods. When less than 15 dates are reported, the average in Tables 1 and 3 are likely to be biased by such anomalous dates. Similarly, dates for species thought to be rare in a Region are more likely to appear than are dates for common species. Hence, Olive-sided Flycatcher is better reported than is Eastern Wood-Pewee. Data for our common birds is just as, or more, valuable.

Table 3. Average Spring Arrival Dates 1961-1986

Waterbirds					
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5
American Bittern	6 Apr [7]	3 Apr [3]	14 Apr [6]	20 Apr [15]	18 Apr [9]
Green-backed Heron	17 Apr [3]	20 Apr [3]	17 Apr [8]	23 Apr [22]	22 Apr [13]
Wood Duck	15 Mar [6]	13 Mar [4]	8 Mar [3]	17 Mar [23]	14 Mar [14]
Green-winged Teal	10 Mar [8]	4 Mar [6]	20 Mar [8]	23 Mar [23]	19 Mar [13]
Northern Pintail	5 Mar [3]	22 Feb [3]	10 Mar [6]	16 Mar [21]	1 Mar [12]
Blue-winged Teal	17 Mar [7]	12 Mar [8]	21 Mar [7]	24 Mar [23]	21 Mar [13]
Osprey	25 Mar [4]	27 Mar [3]	7 Apr [9]	31 Mar [23]	7 Apr [24]
Virginia Rail	22 Apr [10]	3 Apr [5]	24 Apr [8]	26 Apr [6]	20 Apr [13]
Sora	19 Apr [10]	12 Apr [3]	26 Apr [9]	3 May [3]	25 Apr [13]
Common Moorhen	22 Apr [8]	10 Apr [1]	22 Apr [10]	4 May [8]	16 Apr [12]
Black-bellied Plover	8 May [11]	30 Apr [6]	9 May [10]	17 May [7]	15 May [17]
Semipalmated Plover	18 May [4]	4 May [2]	10 May [8]	17 May [9]	13 May [18]
Killdeer	26 Feb [10]	28 Feb [9]	1 Mar [13]	2 Mar [21]	2 Mar [14]
Greater Yellowlegs	24 Mar [8]	24 Mar [4]	6 Apr [11]	20 Apr [21]	31 Mar [16]
Lesser Yellowlegs	8 Apr [5]	1 Apr [3]	19 Apr [9]	27 Apr [18]	11 Apr [17]
Solitary Sandpiper	14 Apr [7]	25 Apr [2]	28 Apr [6]	30 Apr [22]	22 Apr [16]
Spotted Sandpiper	18 Apr [5]	22 Apr [4]	16 Apr [6]	21 Apr [23]	22 Apr [12]
Sanderling		24 May [2]		30 May [1]	23 May [10]
Semipalmated Sandpiper	10 May [4]	5 May [3]	16 May [4]	18 May [8]	18 May [19]
Least Sandpiper	4 May [6]	20 Apr [3]	5 May [5]	13 May [19]	1 May [14]
Pectoral Sandpiper	27 Mar [10]	28 Mar [5]	14 Apr [8]	7 May [5]	10 Apr [18]
Common Snipe	17 Mar [5]	12 Mar [5]	15 Mar [7]	28 Mar [19]	23 Mar [13]
American Woodcock	8 Mar [10]	9 Mar [10]	9 Mar [18]	11 Mar [22]	14 Mar [14]
Caspian Tern	17 Apr [11]	12 Apr [4]	27 Apr [13]	7 May [2]	25 Apr [15]
Common Tern	11 Apr [6]	21 Apr [3]	21 Apr [5]	1 May [14]	27 Apr [16]
Black Tern	3 May [8]	1 May [4]	28 Apr [13]	9 May [12]	3 May [16]
Marsh Wren	9 May [10]	18 Apr [2]	5 May [7]	11 May [5]	7 May [16]
Landbirds					
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5
Black-billed Cuckoo	10 May [5]	13 May [3]	14 May [8]	14 May [22]	11 May [18]
Common Nighthawk	14 May [7]	12 May [3]	12 May [12]	13 May [23]	12 May [18]
Chimney Swift	21 Apr [10]	25 Apr [3]	24 Apr [6]	26 Apr [24]	24 Apr [16]
Ruby-thr Hummingbird	4 May [7]	7 May [2]	9 May [9]	8 May [23]	8 May [18]
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1 Apr [5]	13 Apr [2]	8 Apr [3]	3 Apr [24]	5 Apr [17]
Olive-sided Flycatcher	17 May [11]	18 May [13]	17 May [18]	23 May [17]	18 May [18]
Eastern Wood-Pewee	12 May [5]	10 May [5]	9 May [8]	10 May [24]	12 May [17]
Alder Flycatcher	15 May [3]	15 May [3]	17 May [6]	17 May [7]	17 May [12]
Willow Flycatcher	16 May [4]	11 May [4]	16 May [5]	18 May [11]	14 May [12]
Least Flycatcher	30 Apr [6]	2 May [3]	1 May [4]	2 May [23]	3 May [16]
Eastern Phoebe	20 Mar [11]	22 Mar [8]	15 Mar [10]	24 Mar [24]	25 Mar [19]
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	2 May [6]	28 Apr [4]	5 May [4]	6 May [24]	1 May [15]
Eastern Kingbird	24 Apr [9]	26 Apr [5]	1 May [8]	27 Apr [24]	1 May [20]
Purple Martin	2 Apr [6]	29 Mar [4]	4 Apr [6]	9 Apr [20]	10 Apr [20]
Tree Swallow	24 Mar [14]	17 Mar [13]	24 Mar [14]	25 Mar [24]	23 Mar [18]
N. Rough-winged Swallow	12 Apr [6]	11 Apr [3]	22 Apr [4]	23 Apr [22]	15 Apr [20]
Bank Swallow	21 Apr [3]	8 Apr [4]	22 Apr [4]	24 Apr [18]	15 Apr [20]
Cliff Swallow	23 Apr [4]	2 Apr [4]	16 Apr [4]	26 Apr [20]	18 Apr [19]
Barn Swallow	15 Apr [2]	5 Apr [4]	14 Apr [4]	13 Apr [25]	10 Apr [19]

Average Spring Arrival Dates 1961-1986

Waterbirds					Weighted	Unweighted
Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	Average
19 Apr [9]	26 Apr [12]	20 Apr [15]	10 Apr [4]	3 May [1]	18 Apr	17 Apr
4 May [5]	9 May [11]	16 Apr [17]	13 Apr [6]	20 Mar [1]	22 Apr	19 Apr
28 Mar [9]	6 Apr [12]	14 Mar [16]	12 Mar [6]		19 Mar	17 Mar
28 Mar [10]	19 Apr [12]	15 Mar [16]	16 Mar [8]		22 Mar	21 Mar
22 Mar [18]	6 Apr [10]	11 Mar [17]	14 Mar [7]		15 Mar	12 Mar
30 Mar [3]	29 Apr [3]	21 Mar [16]	20 Mar [10]		22 Mar	25 Mar
16 Apr [13]	20 Apr [16]	9 Apr [17]	3 Apr [10]	15 Mar [2]	7 Apr	4 Apr
28 Apr [5]	7 May [4]	19 Apr [15]	24 Mar [3]		20 Apr	19 Apr
6 May [3]	9 May [3]	1 May [12]		4 May [2]	26 Apr	28 Apr
26 Apr [11]	11 May [5]	23 Apr [14]	19 Apr [6]		24 Apr	23 Apr
23 May [9]	21 May [5]	15 May [7]	15 May [9]		14 May	14 May
19 May [6]	18 May [8]	15 May [12]	16 May [14]	18 Mar [2]	14 May	9 May
15 Mar [14]	25 Mar [13]	5 Mar [14]	3 Mar [4]		6 Mar	6 Mar
15 Apr [11]	2 May [6]	16 Apr [16]	7 Apr [5]		11 Apr	9 Apr
24 Apr [9]	16 May [2]	3 May [19]	26 Mar [2]	25 Mar [1]	21 Apr	16 Apr
6 May [5]	8 May [7]	30 Apr [20]	20 Apr [5]		27 Apr	27 Apr
1 May [10]	2 May [14]	24 Apr [19]	23 Apr [5]		24 Apr	23 Apr
17 May [5]			14 May [1]		21 May	21 May
23 May [7]	23 May [5]	15 May [16]	20 May [2]		17 May	16 May
15 May [9]	20 May [7]	12 May [17]	7 May [2]		10 May	7 May
25 Apr [5]	5 May [2]	29 Apr [13]	21 Apr [13]	13 Mar [2]	15 Apr	15 Apr
6 Apr [13]	19 Apr [13]	28 Mar [13]	14 Mar [9]		28 Mar	25 Mar
23 Mar [13]	28 Mar [11]	14 Mar [18]	10 Mar [5]		14 Mar	14 Mar
26 Apr [5]	12 May [2]	21 May [2]	5 May [2]	24 Apr [5]	25 Apr	29 Apr
4 May [10]	4 May [7]	3 May [14]	2 May [7]	21 Apr [4]	28 Apr	26 Apr
5 May [11]	13 May [10]	9 May [13]	8 May [15]	11 May [4]	6 May	6 May
9 May [7]	9 May [2]	4 May [13]	29 Apr [1]		6 May	4 May
Landbirds					Weighted	Unweighted
Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	Average
20 May [11]	29 May [1]	9 May [16]	7 May [1]		13 May	14 May
20 May [15]	15 May [7]	6 May [15]	10 May [9]	24 Apr [2]	13 May	11 May
2 May [14]	6 May [10]	25 Apr [18]	19 Apr [12]	6 Apr [2]	26 Apr	24 Apr
15 May [11]	13 May [12]	6 May [14]	26 Apr [13]	24 Apr [4]	7 May	6 May
15 Apr [12]	15 Apr [11]	8 Apr [16]	29 Mar [4]		7 Apr	7 Apr
21 May [8]	21 May [11]	16 May [15]	14 May [17]	9 May [9]	17 May	17 May
17 May [11]	19 May [8]	10 May [16]	3 May [9]		11 May	11 May
24 May [5]		26 May [1]	24 May [5]		18 May	19 May
23 May [3]		9 May [3]	19 May [12]	22 May [1]	16 May	16 May
10 May [14]	9 May [9]	1 May [15]	27 Apr [7]	27 Apr [1]	3 May	2 May
3 Apr [12]	5 Apr [12]	24 Mar [15]	18 Mar [10]	20 Mar [4]	24 Mar	24 Mar
9 May [13]	12 May [8]	29 Apr [17]	1 May [10]	13 Apr [2]	4 May	2 May
6 May [12]	20 May [10]	1 May [16]	26 Apr [11]	18 Apr [5]	30 Apr	29 Apr
25 Apr [14]	29 Apr [5]	18 Apr [14]	7 Apr [7]	2 Apr [8]	12 Apr	10 Apr
2 Apr [21]	8 Apr [17]	31 Mar [18]	20 Mar [14]	24 Mar [1]	27 Mar	26 Mar
30 Apr [11]	7 May [8]	22 Apr [16]	11 Apr [10]	12 Apr [3]	21 Apr	19 Apr
29 Apr [9]	2 May [8]	23 Apr [14]	18 Apr [6]		22 Apr	21 Apr
29 Apr [11]	4 May [10]	26 Apr [13]	16 Apr [7]	21 Apr [4]	23 Apr	21 Apr
22 Apr [13]	25 Apr [11]	17 Apr [20]	13 Apr [8]	8 Apr [2]	15 Apr	14 Apr

Average Spring Arrival Dates 1961-1986

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5
House Wren	19 Apr [6]	23 Apr [2]	26 Apr [2]	23 Apr [24]	24 Apr [13]
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	9 Apr [2]	2 Apr [2]		12 Apr [23]	11 Apr [14]
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	18 Apr [8]	14 Apr [6]	23 Apr [2]	26 Apr [25]	22 Apr [16]
Eastern Bluebird	3 Mar [17]	19 Mar [4]	19 Mar [1]	12 Mar [20]	18 Mar [14]
Veery	3 May [3]	6 May [1]	30 Apr [6]	4 May [21]	2 May [15]
Swainson's Thrush	3 May [5]	2 May [5]	5 May [4]	12 May [23]	7 May [21]
Hermit Thrush	31 Mar [4]	29 Mar [2]	6 Apr [5]	14 Apr [23]	13 Apr [17]
Wood Thrush	27 Apr [6]	28 Apr [4]	24 Apr [4]	29 Apr [22]	30 Apr [16]
Gray Catbird	24 Apr [7]		3 May [1]	30 Apr [21]	26 Apr [15]
Brown Thrasher	13 Apr [4]	10 Apr [1]	27 Apr [2]	17 Apr [23]	20 Apr [13]
Solitary Vireo	19 Apr [6]	26 Apr [5]	22 Apr [5]	25 Apr [25]	26 Apr [19]
Yellow-throated Vireo	7 May [6]	7 May [4]	8 May [3]	4 May [24]	4 May [15]
Warbling Vireo	1 May [4]	30 Apr [2]	4 May [3]	2 May [24]	1 May [14]
Red-eyed Vireo	9 May [5]	4 May [4]	12 May [2]	6 May [23]	6 May [15]
Tennessee Warbler	6 May [3]	4 May [2]	10 May [4]	11 May [25]	8 May [19]
Nashville Warbler	27 Apr [7]	23 Apr [2]	3 May [4]	30 Apr [25]	30 Apr [20]
Northern Parula	11 May [6]	30 Apr [4]	9 May [6]	9 May [21]	5 May [19]
Yellow Warbler	25 Apr [7]	24 Apr [4]	26 Apr [4]	28 Apr [22]	27 Apr [20]
Chestnut-sided Warbler	4 May [7]	4 May [2]	7 May [4]	4 May [22]	6 May [18]
Magnolia Warbler	3 May [7]	2 May [2]	1 May [4]	6 May [25]	4 May [19]
Cape May Warbler	5 May [6]	29 Apr [4]	7 May [5]	9 May [24]	6 May [20]
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	6 May [4]	2 May [2]	4 May [3]	5 May [23]	3 May [19]
Black-thr Green Warbler	23 Apr [8]	25 Apr [3]	22 Apr [5]	1 May [24]	30 Apr [21]
Blackburnian Warbler	28 Apr [6]	5 May [2]	7 May [3]	5 May [25]	5 May [19]
Pine Warbler	17 Apr [16]	20 Apr [11]	11 Apr [6]	25 Apr [7]	18 Apr [17]
Palm Warbler	23 Apr [7]	25 Apr [2]	25 Apr [4]	25 Apr [20]	27 Apr [21]
Bay-breasted Warbler	10 May [3]	7 May [3]	15 May [3]	10 May [25]	9 May [18]
Blackpoll Warbler	12 May [6]	10 May [4]	15 May [6]	14 May [25]	15 May [20]
Black-and-White Warbler	25 Apr [6]	22 Apr [3]	22 Apr [5]	28 Apr [21]	29 Apr [20]
American Redstart	3 May [6]	5 May [2]	4 May [4]	5 May [23]	3 May [18]
Ovenbird	30 Apr [8]	2 May [2]	1 May [6]	2 May [23]	4 May [19]
Northern Waterthrush	26 Apr [7]	22 Apr [4]	30 Apr [5]	1 May [24]	28 Apr [20]
Mourning Warbler	10 May [7]	16 May [4]	14 May [3]	15 May [25]	16 May [18]
Common Yellowthroat	4 May [5]	1 May [1]	6 May [4]	2 May [23]	3 May [18]
Wilson's Warbler	10 May [7]	10 May [4]	15 May [3]	12 May [25]	12 May [19]
Canada Warbler	8 May [7]	10 May [3]	9 May [3]	9 May [24]	10 May [18]
Scarlet Tanager	8 May [1]	3 May [2]	10 May [3]	7 May [25]	7 May [16]
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5 May [4]	3 May [1]	9 May [1]	30 Apr [25]	3 May [21]
Indigo Bunting	9 May [1]	2 May [3]	3 May [5]	8 May [25]	8 May [18]
Rufous-sided Towhee	8 Apr [1]	1 Apr [2]		13 Apr [22]	10 Apr [13]
Chipping Sparrow	2 Apr [4]	15 Mar [1]	3 Mar [1]	8 Apr [24]	14 Apr [12]
Vesper Sparrow	27 Mar [7]	27 Mar [2]	29 Mar [7]	5 Apr [23]	5 Apr [14]
Savannah Sparrow	22 Mar [6]	29 Mar [5]	28 Mar [3]	3 Apr [24]	5 Apr [14]
Lincoln's Sparrow	4 May [8]	3 May [2]	4 May [14]	11 May [22]	6 May [16]
White-crowned Sparrow	23 Apr [2]	26 Apr [2]	26 Apr [4]	23 Apr [24]	25 Apr [20]
Bobolink	29 Apr [10]	30 Apr [4]	3 May [5]	5 May [24]	2 May [18]
Northern Oriole	28 Apr [6]	26 Apr [3]	20 Apr [2]	1 May [23]	1 May [14]

Average Spring Arrival Dates 1961-1986

Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Weighted Average	Unweighted Average
3 May [11]	4 May [4]	25 Apr [14]	22 Apr [9]	17 Apr [3]	25 Apr	24 Apr
19 Apr [10]	18 Apr [13]	14 Apr [17]	10 Apr [2]		14 Apr	12 Apr
2 May [6]	3 May [4]	26 Apr [14]	12 Apr [7]	9 Apr [5]	22 Apr	21 Apr
29 Mar [16]	11 Apr [10]	13 Mar [11]			18 Mar	19 Mar
11 May [12]	8 May [8]	3 May [17]	25 Apr [5]		4 May	4 May
16 May [3]	13 May [6]	9 May [16]	2 May [6]	25 Apr [3]	8 May	6 May
19 Apr [11]	20 Apr [7]	14 Apr [16]	31 Mar [2]		13 Apr	9 Apr
6 May [11]	7 May [10]	27 Apr [18]	23 Apr [10]	20 Apr [2]	29 Apr	28 Apr
7 May [11]	7 May [10]	29 Apr [14]	29 Apr [3]		30 Apr	30 Apr
27 Apr [14]	25 Apr [12]	18 Apr [15]	12 Apr [9]		19 Apr	19 Apr
2 May [12]	3 May [18]	29 Apr [18]	19 Apr [8]	21 Apr [1]	27 Apr	25 Apr
7 May [4]	9 May [6]	5 May [15]	3 May [2]	22 Apr [8]	4 May	4 May
7 May [15]	11 May [8]	2 May [16]	2 May [5]	26 Apr [2]	3 May	2 May
15 May [12]	12 May [12]	4 May [16]	7 May [4]	15 Apr [1]	8 May	6 May
16 May [14]	16 May [11]	13 May [17]	6 May [5]	25 Apr [2]	11 May	8 May
6 May [14]	6 May [13]	3 May [18]	1 May [6]		2 May	1 May
12 May [2]	12 May [15]	7 May [15]	27 Apr [4]		8 May	7 May
7 May [15]	9 May [13]	27 Apr [18]	26 Apr [2]	18 Apr [1]	30 Apr	28 Apr
11 May [9]	9 May [15]	5 May [15]	1 May [3]	16 Apr [1]	6 May	3 May
10 May [6]	11 May [15]	6 May [16]	3 May [3]	30 Apr [1]	6 May	5 May
9 May [12]	12 May [8]	6 May [14]	7 May [4]	26 Apr [4]	7 May	6 May
9 May [10]	7 May [14]	4 May [17]	2 May [4]	17 Apr [1]	5 May	3 May
7 May [11]	5 May [13]	1 May [17]	29 Apr [4]	14 Apr [1]	1 May	28 Apr
10 May [6]	8 May [15]	5 May [18]	3 May [6]	24 Apr [1]	5 May	4 May
21 Apr [7]	30 Apr [4]	23 Apr [10]	11 Apr [11]	10 Mar [2]	18 Apr	15 Apr
30 Apr [8]	2 May [10]	21 Apr [19]	19 Apr [1]		25 Apr	25 Apr
15 May [13]	16 May [11]	11 May [17]	6 May [4]	25 Apr [3]	11 May	9 May
20 May [13]	18 May [9]	14 May [16]	3 May [5]	25 Apr [1]	14 May	12 May
1 May [15]	5 May [15]	28 Apr [16]	16 Apr [6]	10 Apr [2]	28 Apr	24 Apr
10 May [12]	11 May [15]	5 May [15]	24 Apr [2]		6 May	4 May
9 May [13]	8 May [15]	4 May [16]	28 Apr [3]	24 Apr [1]	4 May	2 May
8 May [8]	6 May [13]	2 May [17]	20 Apr [5]	17 Apr [2]	30 Apr	28 Apr
21 May [9]	23 May [9]	17 May [10]	17 May [17]	20 May [1]	17 May	17 May
10 May [9]	10 May [12]	2 May [17]	26 Apr [1]	15 Apr [1]	4 May	2 May
18 May [8]	17 May [11]	10 May [17]	2 May [2]	3 May [2]	12 May	11 May
17 May [7]	16 May [15]	9 May [15]	6 May [3]	30 Apr [3]	10 May	9 May
12 May [13]	9 May [11]	6 May [13]	6 May [4]	1 May [3]	7 May	7 May
10 May [14]	7 May [10]	3 May [15]	26 Apr [3]	23 Apr [2]	3 May	3 May
17 May [11]	11 May [8]	4 May [18]	2 May [13]	18 Apr [6]	6 May	5 May
24 Apr [13]	27 Apr [11]	17 Apr [17]	13 Apr [4]		16 Apr	14 Apr
23 Apr [11]	14 Apr [12]	10 Apr [15]	7 Apr [8]		11 Apr	4 Apr
14 Apr [14]	13 Apr [13]	8 Apr [17]	5 Apr [3]		6 Apr	4 Apr
16 Apr [11]	11 Apr [12]	5 Apr [17]	31 Mar [4]		5 Apr	3 Apr
7 May [1]	12 May [12]	1 May [12]	9 May [17]	2 May [2]	7 May	6 May
3 May [25]	28 Apr [16]	20 Apr [16]	23 Apr [11]	20 Apr [2]	26 Apr	25 Apr
8 May [10]	11 May [13]	5 May [16]	2 May [10]		5 May	4 May
7 May [15]	9 May [16]	27 Apr [17]	22 Apr [7]	24 Apr [1]	1 May	28 Apr

Table 4. Species for which arrival dates are tabulated listed by weighted average arrival date.

Species	Average Date	Species	Average Date
Killdeer	6 Mar	Northern Waterthrush	30 Apr
American Woodcock	14 Mar	Gray Catbird	30 Apr
Northern Pintail	15 Mar	Black-thr Green Warbler	1 May
Eastern Bluebird	18 Mar	Northern Oriole	1 May
Wood Duck	19 Mar	Nashville Warbler	2 May
Green-winged Teal	22 Mar	Least Flycatcher	3 May
Blue-winged Teal	22 Mar	Warbling Vireo	3 May
Eastern Phoebe	24 Mar	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3 May
Tree Swallow	27 Mar	Gr. Crested Flycatcher	4 May
Common Snipe	28 Mar	Yellow-throated Vireo	4 May
Savannah Sparrow	5 Apr	Ovenbird	4 May
Vesper Sparrow	6 Apr	Veery	4 May
Osprey	7 Apr	Common Yellowthroat	4 May
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	7 Apr	Bobolink	5 May
Greater Yellowlegs	11 Apr	Black-thr. Blue Warbler	5 May
Chipping Sparrow	11 Apr	Blackburnian Warbler	5 May
Purple Martin	12 Apr	Chestnut-sided Warbler	6 May
Hermit Thrush	13 Apr	American Redstart	6 May
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	14 Apr	Black Tern	6 May
Barn Swallow	15 Apr	Magnolia Warbler	6 May
Pectoral Sandpiper	15 Apr	Marsh Wren	6 May
Rufous-sided Towhee	16 Apr	Indigo Bunting	6 May
Pine Warbler	18 Apr	Lincoln's Sparrow	7 May
American Bittern	18 Apr	Ruby-thr Hummingbird	7 May
Brown Thrasher	19 Apr	Cape May Warbler	7 May
Virginia Rail	20 Apr	Scarlet Tanager	7 May
N. Rough-winged Swallow	21 Apr	Red-eyed Vireo	8 May
Lesser Yellowlegs	21 Apr	Northern Parula	8 May
Bank Swallow	22 Apr	Swainson's Thrush	8 May
Green-backed Heron	22 Apr	Least Sandpiper	10 May
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	22 Apr	Canada Warbler	10 May
Cliff Swallow	23 Apr	Bay-breasted Warbler	11 May
Common Moorhen	24 Apr	Eastern Wood-Pewee	11 May
Spotted Sandpiper	24 Apr	Tennessee Warbler	11 May
House Wren	25 Apr	Wilson's Warbler	12 May
Caspian Tern	25 Apr	Common Nighthawk	13 May
Palm Warbler	25 Apr	Black-billed Cuckoo	13 May
Chimney Swift	26 Apr	Semipalmated Plover	14 May
White-crowned Sparrow	26 Apr	Black-bellied Plover	14 May
Sora	26 Apr	Blackpoll Warbler	14 May
Solitary Vireo	27 Apr	Willow Flycatcher	16 May
Solitary Sandpiper	27 Apr	Mourning Warbler	17 May
Black-and-White Warbler	28 Apr	Semipalmated Sandpiper	17 May
Common Tern	28 Apr	Olive-sided Flycatcher	17 May
Wood Thrush	29 Apr	Alder Flycatcher	18 May
Yellow Warbler	30 Apr	Sanderling	21 May
Eastern Kingbird	30 Apr		

A problem that usually was not obvious is a bias towards weekend dates. Such a bias is obvious from the data when most dates come in pairs separated by five day intervals. It has been most severe in Region 6, where there are the fewest observers, and became less obvious there as the number of observers increased. There seem to have been enough contributors who report daily observations elsewhere that a bias towards weekend dates was not obvious.

These comments are intended to emphasize the deficiencies of haphazard reporting and are not meant as criticisms of the Regional Editors, who often chose to describe other aspects of the season in their reports and did so ably. The Regional reports which have the latter emphasis will change little with the new format adopted with this issue. Other Regional reports will be shortened by the placement of these data in the summary table for each migration period.

The summary table for this season's migration appears in the Seasonal Highlights. It is more complete than usual because it was prepared with the Regional Editors' advance knowledge of the species to be tabulated, but without their advance knowledge of the summary data in this editorial and without advance announcement to contributors. Each Regional Editor now has a copy of the dates which I have compiled for their Region. This editorial provides the list of species to contributors. I hope that the summary tables will become increasingly complete as more observers have the list of species at hand. Accompanying this summary table is a related table that gives the average Regional **seasonality** and **advance** of these dates. The **seasonality** is the average difference in days, species by species, between the long-term average date for that Region and the dates reported in the current season; it measures how early or late, on the average, the season is without respect to other Regions. The **advance** is the average difference in days, species by species, between the date for a given Region and the average date across all Regions for that season; it compares the Regions to each other. For both measures, a negative value means "early."

Finally, it seems likely that these data could become contaminated by erroneous records if gathering them is viewed as a contest rather than as an inquiry. I have taken two steps to minimize this possibility. First, the data will be reported anonymously. Second, the Regional Editors are instructed to request details for dates that are two or three weeks or more beyond the average dates reported in Tables 1 and 2, and to exclude any dates which in their judgment are not representative of the actual migration period. They may at their discretion report such dates in their reports, and an indication that such dates exist will appear in the summary table.

If these data are so questionable, why pursue them? No one will know if arrival or departure dates are useful until a substantial set of consistently gathered dates are compiled. They are data that amateurs can obtain with little change to their usual birding habits. There are many questions that can be posed from these data: Is New York State large enough that the direction of migratory movements can be inferred from arrival and departure dates, or do most species arrive or depart everywhere simultaneously? Do any species appear to arrive from the west (the Ohio valley) rather than the south? Do arrival and departure dates correlate with indices of population size? To what extent are these dates determined by local weather conditions versus day length or other seasonal cues, and does this vary species by species? Do any of the above factors differ when early and late migrants are compared? Are there regular patterns of arrivals and departures within a Region and, if so, with what factors might they be correlated?

This venture is a project of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs which, like the Breeding Bird Atlas, will take time to complete. To be successful it will require the participation of as many observers as possible. Because common birds are involved, even backyard observers can contribute. Indeed, such observations may prove more valuable than those of birders free to observe on weekends only. It requires little change to the birding you do now. The only important thing that you, the observer, must do is to continue to **observe**, to **write down** what you see (keeping regular notes of what you see each day is especially important for determining departure dates) and to **send your observations** to your Regional Editor. Use the Tables 1 and 3 to remember the species on which we are concentrating and Tables 2 and 4 as references as to when to expect arrivals and departures. Don't forget to include the few dates which may fall just outside the standard *Kingbird* reporting periods. Above all, don't restrict your reports to these species and these data. Maxima, spring departures and fall arrivals, reports of the other 200+ species of New York birds and your assessment of local population trends are welcomed by every Regional Editor. Your Regional report cannot properly reflect the events of the season unless you tell your Regional Editor what you observed.

The Editor

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

This season the Regional editors struggled a bit to remain upbeat. Many concentrated on the few bright spots in this fall migration. Gene Huggins, our new Region 5 editor, probably summed up the picture best with, "The fall 1986 migration became one of the worst fall migrations ever witnessed by many of our avid birders." As you read this summary of the Regional reports that follow, there are bright spots to be found in every Region, but generally this was a season characterized by low counts and few really good birding days.

The fall season across the Regions which reported was generally cool to downright cold and wet, except for November. The only real deviation came from Region 7, where the season was termed "often pleasant" although this was tempered by the earliest major snowfall of this century and a record low temperature for the U.S. one November morning, and Region 4, which was milder and drier than most regions to the west. One might have expected the fronts of September and early October to ground some migrants or for the warmer interlude that followed to lead to some very late departure dates, but such was not the case. Once past the waterfowl in the checklist you will find very few high counts and many more very early rather than late departure dates. In the Region 4 report, even the waterfowl report is dismal. The major flights of fall provide a few of the season's highlights.

The loon migration was the best in years, with record high counts of 1008 Red-throated Loon in Region 2 and Common Loon peaks of 3000 in Region 2, 300 in Region 3, and 442 in Region 5. It is interesting to note that both Regions 1 and 6, flanking these regions, reported very low counts for these species. The waterfowl picture was mixed. Many regions comment on low numbers for most species, but in contrast we find a good Brant movement in late October in Regions 2 and 5; excellent counts for several species at Montezuma NWR in Region 3 including 47000 Mallards, 22000 Black Ducks, and 1100 Ring-necked Ducks; 2016 Wood Ducks in Region 5; and a very high 476 Hooded Mergansers in Region 2. Once again Blue-winged Teal was flagged as a species of concern, this time in Region 6.

The major fall hawk watches in our state all are in Regions that failed to report. However, good news among the raptors includes Bald Eagles and Merlins reported from all regions and Peregrine Falcons from four of the seven, with at least 11 individuals from Region 2. Obviously, it would be most interesting to learn of the numbers of species such as the Peregrines passing along the coastal beaches.

Fall Departures 1986

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average
Osprey	25 Oct	16 Nov	20 Oct	11 Nov	16 Nov	26 Sep	1 Nov				29 Oct
Broad-winged Hawk	1 Sep	16 Aug	15 Sep	10 Oct	16 Sep	27 Sep	15 Oct				18 Sep
Black-bellied Plover	19 Oct	26 Oct	29 Sep		16 Oct	16 Sep					9 Oct
Semipalmated Plover		24 Sep	27 Oct		4 Oct	7 Oct	29 Sep				6 Oct
Greater Yellowlegs	4 Nov	22 Oct	10 Nov		8 Nov	20 Sep	26 Oct				25 Oct
Lesser Yellowlegs	14 Oct	19 Oct	3 Nov	9 Nov	22 Oct		28 Oct				26 Oct
Spotted Sandpiper		21 Sep	11 Nov	27 Sep	28 Sep	22 Sep	31 Aug				28 Sep
Sanderling	12 Nov	8 Nov	6 Oct		23 Nov	30 Oct	19 Sep				26 Oct
Semipalmated Sandpiper		20 Oct	3 Nov		18 Oct	30 Sep	22 Sep				12 Oct
Least Sandpiper		27 Sep	3 Nov	4 Oct	19 Oct	6 Sep	29 Sep				4 Oct
Pectoral Sandpiper	15 Oct	9 Oct	27 Oct		12 Oct	16 Sep					9 Oct
Caspian Tern	27 Sep	11 Oct	22 Sep		28 Sep	27 Sep					29 Sep
Common Tern	9 Nov	1 Oct	20 Oct		6 Oct						16 Oct
Black Tern	4 Sep	30 Aug			13 Sep						5 Sep
Chimney Swift	7 Oct	25 Sep	29 Sep	24 Aug	21 Sep	4 Sep					18 Sep
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	23 Sep	29 Sep	4 Oct	28 Sep	15 Sep	18 Sep	16 Sep				23 Sep
Eastern Wood-Pewee	5 Oct	21 Sep	6 Oct	20 Sep	28 Sep	12 Sep					25 Sep
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1 Sep	8 Sep	29 Sep	21 Sep	8 Sep						13 Sep
Least Flycatcher	24 Sep	15 Sep		21 Sep	28 Sep	12 Sep	10 Aug				13 Sep
Eastern Phoebe	16 Oct	16 Oct	19 Oct	14 Oct	18 Oct	3 Oct	6 Sep				8 Oct
Great-crested Flycatcher	21 Sep	13 Sep	15 Sep		21 Sep		10 Sep				16 Sep
Eastern Kingbird		14 Sep	15 Sep	3 Sep	9 Sep	13 Sep	22 Jul				2 Sep
Tree Swallow	5 Oct	31 Oct	3 Nov	26 Jul	15 Oct	6 Oct	9 Sep				30 Sep
Barn Swallow	8 Sep	25 Oct	28 Oct	10 Sep	2 Oct	13 Sep	9 Sep				26 Sep
House Wren	1 Oct	26 Oct	5 Oct	3 Oct	18 Oct	1 Sep	8 Aug				25 Sep
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	11 Oct	5 Oct					17 Sep				1 Oct
Veery	14 Sep	20 Sep	29 Sep	2 Sep	1 Sep		9 Sep				12 Sep
Swainson's Thrush	5 Oct	24 Oct	12 Nov	28 Sep	12 Oct		5 Oct				14 Oct
Wood Thrush		25 Oct	29 Sep	20 Oct	3 Oct		20 Sep				7 Oct
Gray Catbird		29 Oct	24 Nov	20 Oct	1 Nov	27 Sep	22 Oct				25 Oct
Brown Thrasher	5 Oct	4 Oct	29 Sep	8 Oct	3 Oct	26 Sep	20 Sep				30 Sep

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average
Solitary Vireo	19 Oct	5 Oct	5 Oct	18 Sep	18 Oct	12 Oct	14 Oct				8 Oct
Yellow-throated Vireo		8 Sep	21 Sep	15 Sep	14 Sep		28 Sep				17 Sep
Warbling Vireo	28 Sep	21 Sep	15 Sep	13 Aug	28 Sep						14 Sep
Red-eyed Vireo	2 Sep	15 Oct	6 Oct	2 Oct	7 Oct	11 Sep	23 Sep				26 Sep
Blue-winged Warbler	14 Sep	23 Aug	15 Sep	30 Sep	1 Sep						10 Sep
Tennessee Warbler	2 Oct	4 Oct	14 Oct	7 Oct	3 Oct		22 Sep				3 Oct
Nashville Warbler	19 Oct	9 Oct	13 Oct	7 Oct	3 Oct	25 Oct	7 Oct				11 Oct
Northern Parula	5 Oct	27 Sep	20 Oct		25 Sep						4 Oct
Yellow Warbler		12 Sep	11 Sep	30 Sep	15 Sep						17 Sep
Chestnut-sided Warbler		5 Oct	6 Oct	4 Sep	2 Oct		15 Sep				24 Sep
Magnolia Warbler	19 Oct	5 Oct	6 Oct	2 Oct	2 Oct		19 Sep				3 Oct
Cape May Warbler	12 Oct	14 Oct	29 Sep	21 Sep	21 Sep						1 Oct
Black-thr Blue Warbler	27 Sep	<i>17 Oct</i>	6 Oct	13 Aug	2 Oct		18 Sep				23 Sep
Black-thr Green Warbler	21 Sep	5 Oct	6 Oct	21 Sep	7 Oct		22 Sep				28 Sep
Blackburnian Warbler	9 Nov	21 Sep	4 Oct	14 Aug	25 Sep						26 Sep
Bay-breasted Warbler		5 Oct	18 Oct	18 Sep	2 Oct						3 Oct
Blackpoll Warbler		<i>16 Oct</i>	6 Oct	27 Sep	16 Sep						1 Oct
Black-and-white Warbler	22 Sep	21 Sep	6 Oct	20 Aug	27 Sep		10 Sep				17 Sep
American Redstart		8 Oct	6 Oct	1 Oct	3 Oct		3 Sep				28 Sep
Ovenbird	12 Oct	2 Oct	27 Sep	12 Oct	2 Oct		22 Sep				2 Oct
N. Waterthrush	26 Sep	2 Aug		1 Sep	29 Sep						6 Sep
Common Yellowthroat	24 Sep	<i>25 Oct</i>	6 Oct	12 Oct	5 Oct		18 Sep				5 Oct
Wilson's Warbler	26 Sep	8 Oct	29 Sep	17 Oct	25 Sep		14 Sep				29 Sep
Canada Warbler		<i>5 Oct</i>	22 Sep	4 Sep	21 Sep						20 Sep
Scarlet Tanager	8 Sep	1 Oct	29 Sep	18 Sep	2 Oct		1 Oct				24 Sep
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	27 Oct	24 Oct	2 Oct	1 Oct	25 Sep	27 Oct	25 Sep				10 Oct
Rufous-sided Towhee	23 Oct	<i>25 Oct</i>	20 Oct	21 Oct	18 Oct		3 Oct				18 Oct
Lincoln's Sparrow	12 Oct	18 Oct		13 Oct	9 Oct		22 Sep				8 Oct
White-crowned Sparrow	28 Sep	20 Oct	27 Oct	17 Oct	30 Oct	8 Oct	20 Oct				17 Oct
Bobolink	12 Oct	5 Oct	25 Sep	23 Aug	1 Sep						19 Sep
Northern Oriole		5 Oct	25 Sep	23 Aug	2 Sep						13 Sep

Bold Regional Record Late

Italics also isolated later report(s).

Shorebirding nearly unanimously was termed poor due to lack of habitat. The importance of habitat availability was highlighted by Region 3, where a drawdown of the May's Point Pool at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (scheduled to be an annual occurrence now) provided some excitement. Even there, shorebird numbers were not particularly great, except for the record 125 Stilt Sandpipers. Variety was more striking. Overall, there were no real shorebird "misses," though most local areas showed glaring gaps. There were no really exciting finds either. Gulls again exhibited lackluster scarcity, save for the fantastic concentrations and variety in Regions 1 and 6. The Moses Saunders Power Dam on the St. Lawrence River may rival Niagara Falls as the Gull Capital as more birders venture there. Turn to the Region 6 report for the details.

The passerine migration was particularly poor. A few high points include late departure dates for "Traill's" Flycatcher in Region 7, Swainson's Thrush in Region 3, and White-eyed Vireo in Region 2; and a record early arrival for Common Redpoll in Region 2. The winter finch flight was slim except for redpolls and Pine Siskin in most Regions and a scattering of Pine Grosbeaks in Regions 4, 5, 6 and 7. The only other widespread winter irruptives were Rough-legged Hawk, Snowy Owl, Short-eared Owl, and Northern Shrike, which arrived early and in good numbers.

Additional species commentary and interesting notes are scarce enough this season to be lumped. You can find three late breeding-related notes, two a bit difficult to evaluate without more detail: Double-crested Cormorant in Region 7, Ruffed Grouse in Region 7, and Red-bellied Woodpecker in Region 5. A roost of 200 Great Blue Herons in Region 6 in September is a non-breeding high count, and note the census of the Valcour Island heronry in Region 7. From Region 1 we are reminded of the plight of the American Beech and the potential impact of a major wildlife food supply; this fall Region 4 reports Am. Crow feeding on beech mast. Regions 1 and 3 report very few tower kills, in agreement with the scarcity of passerine migrants or weather to bring them low enough to strike towers. The expansion of some of our species of more southerly origin toward the north often appears as a seesaw struggle. This season Tufted Titmouse hangs on in Region 6, but Red-bellied Woodpecker was unreported. Carolina Wren appeared at feeders in the Adirondacks after going unreported for many years. Ring-necked Pheasant numbers are generally reported low, but in Region 7 we have the added note of 1148 released this fall with 0 reports following. Finally, we can finish with a note on the last of the list, House Sparrow carrying grass on 25 November, surely just to line a winter roost?!

Regional Seasonality and Advance

Region	Species Reported	Seasonality (days)	Advance (days)
Region 1	47	-7.5	3.5
Region 2	62	-8.0	4.3
Region 3	57	0.1	8.0
Region 4	50	-7.7	-5.7
Region 5	61	-7.6	2.2
Region 6	27	-7.9	-8.9
Region 7	42	-6.3	-11.8
Region 8	0		
Region 9	0		
Region 10	0		

This season we have a new reporting feature which should provide more data for our analysis of seasonal events, particularly as more data is assembled in future years. The departure dates of some 62 species of widespread occurrence across the state are tabulated here. A second table gives estimates of how this year's dates compare with the past within each region (Seasonality) and among regions relative to this year's average (Advance). More detail concerning the specifics of the effort to gather arrival and departure date data is presented in the Editorial in this issue. There are all sorts of potential biases in such data, many (most?) of which should disappear with increasing numbers of observers and as more data are reported. Currently, I am most skeptical of estimates of Seasonality, primarily because of questions about the long-term averages for each Region used as the baseline for comparison with the current season. Three major problems are: 1) For many Regions, there are only 1-3 data points for many species from the 26 years of reports, in which cases, the "averages" may be unrepresentative and misleading. 2) A reason for the lack of data points in several Regions is adherence to a former editorial policy suggesting that all published dates should be noteworthy; thus, those who followed the guidelines reported only arrival and departure dates, biasing the few dates provided toward the very early or very late. 3) I wonder if the average date is the "proper" statistic, or would the median be more appropriate? It is very interesting to note that despite these problems, this fall the Seasonality is very uniform across Regions, except for Region 3 where much of the data is derived from the Laboratory of Ornithology Monday

Seminar meetings and only pinpointed to within a week. [*“Monday Seminar” dates were not included in the 26 year averages for Region 3 when they were specifically identified as such, except for 1986. –The Editor.*] The Advance column, comparing dates among regions for this season, again excepting Region 3, suggests a north to southwest exit of departing species, on average. It would have been much more interesting if data from Regions 8, 9 and 10 had been included. Again, such data will become more interesting and useful as more years are compiled and as better baseline data can be assembled for the Regions which reported few dates in past issues of *The Kingbird*. Until more data allowing assessment of the normal variation of dates within and across Regions is assembled, I don't feel it is useful to start looking for spatial and temporal patterns across the state for individual species.

Rarities did liven the otherwise dull season in many locales. The quality of the list was high. The best of the season were: Region 1 – Sabine's Gull; Region 2 – Western Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Sharp-tailed Sparrows, and Yellow-headed Blackbird; Region 3 – Red Phalarope; Region 5 – Eared Grebe, Harlequin Duck, Sabine's Gull, Franklin's Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, and Say's Phoebe; Region 6 – Northern Gannet, Sabine's Gull, Franklin's Gull, Mew Gull, a potential first for the state if accepted by NYSARC, Common Black-headed Gull, and Red Phalarope; and Region 7 – Whimbrel, Little Gull, Iceland Gull, and Carolina Wren. The BOTS award must go to New York's first Rock Wren, present in Region 1 near Fredonia from 29 November to at least 3 December.

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Standard abbreviations: county names are shortened to their first four letters; months are shortened to their first three letters; ad—adult; arr—arrival or first of season; BBS—Breeding Bird Survey; bnd—banded; CO—confirmed; f—female, FL—fledgling; Ft—Fort; FY—adult feeding young; GMA—Game Management Area; H—Harbor; I—Island; im—immature; *intro*—see introduction to report; j—juvenile; L—Lake, m—male; 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; R—River; Res—Reservoir; SP—State Park; spm—specimen; T—Town of; Twn—township; wk—week; WMA—Wildlife Management Area; y—young.

REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

STEPHEN W. EATON

In contrast to sunny, pleasant August, September was a gloomy month on the Niagara Frontier. However, average temperatures at Buffalo were near normal at 61.7° and precipitation was only half an inch above normal at 3.88 inches; 4.49 inches fell in Jamestown. The gloominess came from the cloudiness with only 36% of possible sunlight. Vivian Pitzrick pointed out that with all the rain the leaves fell early and, with little sunshine to produce color, the first show of bright reds and yellows in maple, birch and aspen was poor.

For a few days in October, color in the oaks and some of the other hardwoods was good but after a hard freeze on 10 Oct all color and most leaves came down. Temperatures for the month at Buffalo averaged 50.9°; at Jamestown 45.9°. Precipitation at Buffalo totaled 4.34 inches, about 1½ inches above normal, and was 4.47 inches in Jamestown. In Allegany County rain fell on 16 days and it was generally a cold and cloudy month.

November was cool and relatively dry. It was the coolest November in 10 years at Buffalo and much drier than last year's record rainfall. The average temperature for the month at Buffalo was 37.7°, 2.5° below normal. Precipitation as rain came mostly during one storm on 26 Nov. A narrow lake effect "snow burst" dumped 13.7 inches of snow at Greater Buffalo International Airport on 13 and 14 Nov. Snow fell in Buffalo on 11 days. Away from the effect of Lake Erie, snow fell on 8 days at Wellsville. Amity Lake froze over on 14 Nov but thawed intermittently until 26 Nov and remained open to the end of the month. The farm pond at our home froze over the same night but stayed mostly frozen to the end of the month. Total sunshine at Buffalo was 27% of possible, about 2% below normal.

In the southern tier counties of the Region, the fruit crop on shrubs and trees seemed to be a little better this year. In Allegany County Vivian Pitzrick said seed was plentiful on Box Elder, White Ash, Wild Grape and Gray Dogwood but scarce on thornapple and Crab Apples. In Cattaraugus County seed also was excellent on White Ash in valley and glaciated soils but lacking on trees of the unglaciated soils, perhaps due to acid rain. Surprisingly, American Beech produced a fair crop of fruits, though many of the trees are dying of the beech blight. Wild Turkeys, Ruffed Grouse, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Blue Jays, Black-capped Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches, and Evening Grosbeaks all were seen feeding on these fruits. When the beeches are all gone, like the chestnut, they will leave a void very hard to fill in the forested country of New York.

The absence of intense low pressure cells over the Great Lakes during September and early October allowed migrants to stream over and a very light tower kill south of Buffalo was monitored by Art Clark and Art Schaffner. They did pick up some unusual species rarely seen alive on migration in the Region.

The exciting show of gulls along the Niagara River materialized as usual this fall with a total of 12 species (8 species listed in addition to the 4 almost always present ones – Bonaparte's, Ring-billed, Herring, and Great Black-backed). Over

*

most of the Region we must be content to see a few Ring-billed and perhaps a lone Herring Gull.

The winter finches have not been too exciting through November. There are a few more Evening Grosbeak than last year and American Goldfinch and House Finch, a few redpoll and Pine Siskin add to the traffic at feeders.

The bird of the year for the Region must go to the **ROCK WREN** which showed up at the backyard of Terry Mahoney in Fredonia, Chautauqua County, on 29 Nov. It was seen by numerous competent observers and photographed by Allen Benton. There is one other record for the Buffalo Ornithological Study Area, a bird which was located 6 Dec 1964 at St. Catherines, Ontario by Richard Brownstein and Joanna Berger and collected the next day by Robert Andrie and Arthur Clark. The *A.O.U. Check-List* (6th edition, 1983) lists a record from Rockport, MA. This is the first New York State record. The Check-List also suggested that these eastern records pertain to individuals transported in railroad boxcars. However, Phillips (*The Known Birds of North and Middle America*, Part 1, 171; 1986) refutes this idea as a far fetched theory of modern ornithologists and asks why the Canyon Wren, a better candidate, is not also transported accidentally in boxcars.

Other interesting observations include Harlequin Duck, Peregrine Falcon, Red Phalarope, five rather rare gulls and Bohemian Waxwing.

Contributors: Allegany County Bird Club, Eileen Anderson, Robert & Pat Andrie, Tim Baird, Warren Berry, Robert Brock, Lois Buck, Buffalo Ornithological Society, Lou & Doris Burton, Cattaraugus County Bird Club, Bruce Chilton, Art Clark, Don & Jane Clark, Mary Clemesha, David Cooper, Dave Cooney, Jr., William D'Anna, Steve Eaton, Don Endres, Marcya Foster, James Gregory, Joe Gula, Joe Gula, Jr., Thomas Harper, Paul Hess, Jamestown Audubon Society, Wilma Laux, Terry Mahoney, Terry & Judy Mosher, Neveu, Linda O'Brian, Vivian Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Fran Rew, Archie Richardson, Carol Roby, Arthur & Olga Rosche, Ruth & Charles Sanderson, Art Schaffner, Robert Spahn, David Suggs, Robert Sundell, Joe Thill, Robert Wagner, Watson.

Abbreviations: BOS–Buffalo Ornithological Society; Chau–Chautauqua; Dh–Dunkirk Harbor; FNNSP–Ft. Niagara State Park; INWR–Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; NP–Nature Preserve; NS–Nature Sanctuary; Ont–Ontario.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one FNNSP 23 Nov, only report. Com. Loon: arr Chau L 14 Sep; max 30+ L Ontario, Niag 25 Oct. Pied-billed Grebe: max 5 DH 29 Nov. Horned Grebe: max 36 DH 8 Nov. Red-necked Grebe: one FNNSP 16 Nov, only report. Double-crested Cormorant: arr Lewiston Res 6 Sep; one Niagara R 23 Nov, late. Am. Bittern: two INWR 19 Oct, rare in Region. Least Bittern: one captured Jamestown 6 Oct, released Burgeson NS 8 Oct (RS). Great Egret: max 16 INWR 30 Sep; last 4 INWR 13 Oct. Black-crowned Night Heron: max 3 DH 22 Oct. Tundra Swan: arr 30 over Chau L 19 Sep, earliest Chau record; max 400 Chau L 12 Nov. Snow Goose: arr Burgeson NS 27 Sep; one Amity L 27 Oct, later died; last two INWR 16 Nov. Canada Goose: max 1,350 over Darien 27 Sep; great movement over region 27-28 Sep. Am. Black Duck: max 36 INWR 13 Nov. N. Pintail: arr Yates, Orle, 20 Sep. N. Shoveler: arr Tiff Farm NP 6 Sep. Gadwall: arr 5 Tiff Farm NP 5 Oct; 50 Burgeson NS 22 Oct; max 93 INWR 12 Nov. Canvasback: arr 10 Niagara Falls 25 Oct. Redhead: arr Tiff Farm NP 5 Oct. Ring-necked Duck: arr Tiff Farm NP 21 Sep. King Eider: arr Ft Erie, Ont, 15 Nov. Harlequin Duck: three DH 20 Nov (JG, mob). Oldsquaw: max 150 Niagara Falls 23 Nov. Black Scoter: arr Buffalo H 7 Oct. Surf Scoter: arr ten Buffalo H 7 Oct. White-winged Scoter: arr five

Lakeside Beach SP 28 Sep. Com. Goldeneye: max 60 Lake Erie SP 1 Nov. Bufflehead: arr Niagara Falls 25 Oct. Hooded Merganser: max 238 Chau L 27 Nov. Ruddy Duck: arr three Lewiston Res 4 Oct; max 14 Chau L 25 Oct.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: 12 reports to BOS, widespread. Bald Eagle: ad Tonawanda 13 Sep; ad Burgeson NS 28 Sep; ad Amity L 4 Nov; two INWR 8 Nov; ad Lewiston 28 Nov. N. Harrier: singles from six sites throughout Region for period. Rough-legged Hawk: arr Burgeson NS 25 Oct; max five Porter, Niag, 8 Nov. Merlin: one Eden, Erie, 13 Oct, only report. Peregrine Falcon: arr Buffalo 24 Sep; two ads there 27 Sep; last there 24 Oct, feeding on Rock Doves downtown. Virginia Rail: one Tiff Farm NP 5 Oct, late. Com. Moorhen: one DH 28 Nov, late. Lesser Golden-Plover: max ten Clarence Sod Farm 5 Oct. Killdeer: one Amity L 14 Nov, late. Whimbrel: one LaSalle P, Buffalo, 17 Sep, only report. Ruddy Turnstone: one Goat I 5 Nov, only report. Purple Sandpiper: arr Niagara Falls 5 Nov. Dunlin: four Niagara Falls 23 Nov. Stilt Sandpiper: one LaSalle P, Buffalo 11 Sep. Am. Woodcock: one Amity L 9 Nov, late; very poor flight Catt (SE). Red-necked Phalarope: max seven LaSalle P, Buffalo 11 Sep. Red Phalarope: one Chau L 21 Oct (WB, ph). Franklin's Gull; arr Ft. Erie, Ont, (Peace Bridge) 11 Sep. Little Gull: max 6 Lewiston 29 Nov. Com. Black-headed Gull: singles Niagara Falls 23 Nov (RS, mob), Lewiston 15-29 Nov (WD, mob). Iceland Gull: arr Robert Moses Power Station 16 Nov. Lesser Black-backed Gull: one Adam Beck Hydro 16 Nov. Glaucous Gull: arr Niagara R 14 Nov. Black-legged Kittiwake: one Queenston, Ont, 8 and 15 Nov. Sabine's Gull: one Lewiston 1 and 8 Nov (WD, BP). Forster's Tern: max six LaSalle P, Buffalo, 23 Sep.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Snowy Owl: arr Tonawanda 20 Nov. Com. Nighthawk; max 100± in loose flock over Allegheny R, Salamanca 2 Sep, stragglers followed flock (TB); several hundred seen along Niagara R same date. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Lewiston 16 Nov late.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: N. Rough-winged Swallow: eight Niagara Falls, Ont, 20 Oct, late. Com. Raven: one Amity L 13 Sep (VP); one Allegheny Valley near Salamanca 14 Sep (TB); four Burgeson NS 19 Oct; one over Vandalia, Catt, 23 Nov (SE). Red-breasted Nuthatch: arr Silver Creek: Chat, 8 Sep; eleven localities reported to BOS through period. **ROCK WREN:** *intro*. Carolina Wren: one Eden 28 Sep; one Belmont 20 Oct; two Fredonia 19 Nov, one died (TM); two Vandalia, Catt, (Ten Mile Valley) after 23 Oct. Sedge Wren: one Burgeson NS 16 Oct (DC), late and rare in Region. Marsh Wren: one Bird Swamp, Franklinville, Catt 27 Sep, rare on Allegheny Plateau in Region; one Tonawanda WMA 29 Nov, late. E. Bluebird: max 45 Amity L 20 Oct. N. Mockingbird: one Jamestown 3 Oct; one Lewiston 16-23 Nov; one Porter Twn, Niag, 27 Nov, only reports. Water Pipit: max 45 Eden, Erie, 14 Oct. Bohemian Waxwing: one INWR 18 Nov (DE). N. Shrike: arr INWR 19 Oct; four reports BOS Nov. Loggerhead Shrike: none.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Philadelphia Vireo: one FNSP 1 and 7 Sep; one INWR 10 Sep; one Pomfret Twn, Chat, 14 Sep; max four tower kill Colden 2 Oct. Orange-crowned Warbler: one Pomfret Twn, Chat, 17 Oct. Pine Warbler: one tower kill Colden 2 Oct; one Tiff Farm NP 5 Oct, rare in Region. Hooded Warbler: one Tiff Farm NP 5 Oct, late.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Chipping Sparrow: one Pomfret Twn, Chat, 17 Nov, late. Fox Sparrow: arr Porter Twn, Niag, 19 Oct. Snow Bunting: arr Westfield Twn, Chat, and Barcelona, Chat, 25 Oct. White-winged Crossbill: arr 32 Charlotte Twn, Chat, 25 Oct. Com. Redpoll: arr N. Tonawanda 20 Nov, two other reports. Pine Siskin: arr Silver Creek, Chat, 8 Oct; max 120 Youngstown to Wilson 25 Oct. Evening Grosbeak: arr Amity L 24 Oct, several other Regional reports.

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REGION 2 – GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

The trend of wetness continued into and through the fall season. This weather seemed to have no major effect on the migration, but there were ramifications of these conditions. September turned out to be relatively cool and wet. The rainfall total of 5.11 inches was more than double the average. Temperatures were cool during most of the month with a warming trend toward the end. October continued wet with a total rainfall of 3.56 inches. Although less than September's total, it was still 1.02 inches above normal. The cool temperatures continued, averaging 1.8° below normal. November was cold and dry. Temperatures were below normal by 3.7° and precipitation totaled 1.93 inches, which was below normal.

The wetness at times made birding difficult. There were days during September when the rainfall grounded migrants, but it was difficult to observe them under the conditions. The lake level also rose thus reducing shorebird habitat at the shore. On the other hand, the rainfall produced flooded fields in the Region and created some additional habitat. October experienced only a series of weak cold fronts that forced birds into the Region at a slow pace at best. A cold spell hit the Region during the middle of November and may have been responsible for the excellent movement of late fall and winter resident birds into the Region.

Waterbirds received mixed reviews during the season. Returns seemed a bit late with few birds present until after 21 Sep. Loons, particularly Common, were reported in good numbers. Some waterfowl species were noted in low to moderate numbers. Included in this list were Black Duck, scaup, Hooded Merganser and the dark-winged scoters. Canada Geese migrated in good numbers during the early part of the season. Included in these flights were good numbers of Snow Geese, a species which generally is scarce in the fall. The shorebird season was mediocre at best. The only highlights were the numbers of phalaropes and some reports of the often elusive Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Jaeger reports were down from recent years.

The raptor season was highlighted by encouraging reports of Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon. The latter species was reported six times in October and nearly as many times in September. Winter visitors also were reported in good numbers with many sightings of Rough-legged Hawk, Snowy Owl and Short-eared Owl. This may tell us something about the winter to come or about conditions north of here. Short-eared Owls were noted migrating across Lake Ontario.

The landbird migration was less than exciting. Warblers and flycatchers were notably down. The only encouraging totals were for thrushes, Winter Wren and kinglets. The late season migration of these groups was good.

The rarities this season were almost exclusively passerines: Western Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, and two Sharp-tailed Sparrows. The last species quite possibly is present more often than it is recorded.

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Brooks, Carolyn Cass, Julie Claffey, Anne Clarridge, William Colzman, Rich Connolly, Jerry Czech, Gertrude Davis, William Dingerson, Bob Dobson, Frank Dobson, Jim Doherty, Kay Doris, John & Arlieen Foster, Bill Gillette, Mary & Ralph Gerner, Kevin Griffith, E. Hall, Harriet Hamilton, Tom Hampson, Bob & Sandra Hazen, Nurak Irasena, Øivind Jensen, Herb & Polly Keating, Brian Keelan, Bob & Jane Kesselring, Nancy Kilborn, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Pat Martin, Mary Mattei, Robert McKinney, Eleanor Murtaugh, Richard O'Hara, Tom Painting, Marge Randall, Martha Reinhardt, Patty Reister, Marty Robinson, Marge Schmale, Jeanne & Sharon Skelly, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Cathy & Kristin Spahn, Ann Stear, Harriet Stride, Mary Ann Sunderlin, William Symonds, Steve Taylor, Dave Tetlow, Mike & Joanne Tetlow, Don & Donna Traver, Eleanor Weld, Munro Will, and Doris Wilton.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock Bay; DE—Durand-Eastman Park and adjacent waters; HBSP—Hamlin Beach State Park; IB—Irondequoit Bay; ICW—Island Cottage Woods; WL—West Lakeshore.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr HBSP 5 Oct, max 1008 HBSP 28 Nov. Com. Loon: max 3000 HBSP 1 Nov. Pied-billed Grebe: max 20 Greece 14 Sep. Horned Grebe: 120 WL 14 Nov. Red-necked Grebe: one BB 16 Oct, generally more sightings. Double-crested Cormorant: max 150 WL 21 Sep, Charlotte 21 Nov. Am. Bittern: last Greece 13 Sep. Least Bittern: last Greece 11 Sep. Green-backed Heron: last HBSP 25 Oct, late. Snow Goose: max 34 Webster 29 Sep. Brant: arr 25 Charlotte 5 Oct, max 1520 HBSP 30 Oct. Canada Goose: max 20,000 Wayne 16 Nov. Gadwall: max 250 Savannah 12 Oct. Canvasback: arr six Greece 20 Oct. Greater Scaup: arr 30 WL 27 Sep. King Eider: im m Pt. Breeze 16-30 Nov (WS, MR); two f BB 19-30 Nov, im m BB 19-30 Nov (MR, CC, MR); f Charlotte 20 Nov (RO), excellent total for the season; some of reports may be of the same individual. Black Scoter: arr two HBSP 27 Sep. Surf Scoter: arr HBSP 4 Oct, late. Com. Goldeneye: arr one HBSP 15 Oct. Bufflehead: arr seven Greece 10 Oct. Hooded Merganser: max 476 Sodus 15 Nov. Red-breasted Merganser: arr ten HBSP 14 Sep, good Nov flight also.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: three reports. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Springwater 1-15 Sep. Rough-legged Hawk: max 13 Hamlin to Webster 13 Nov. Merlin: eight reports. Peregrine Falcon: eleven reports, very encouraging. Virginia Rail: one Mendon Ponds 25 Oct, traditional wintering spot. Sora: last one Greece 19 Oct. Upland Sandpiper: last Hamlin 14 Sep, late. Whimbrel: singles BB 3 Sep, one HBSP 8 Sep, scarce. Ruddy Turnstone: last two Greece 8 Nov. Red Knot: max seven Charlotte 15-17 Sep. Purple Sandpiper: arr one IB 7-8 Nov. Dunlin: last BB 23 Nov. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr Charlotte 5 Sep, max four Hamlin 13-17 Sep. Am. Woodcock: last Greece 14 Nov. Red-necked Phalarope: two Manitou 11 Oct, two Greece 28 Oct. Parasitic Jaeger: max four HBSP in Nov. Little Gull: arr Charlotte 2 Sep, im Charlotte 20-25 Sep. Iceland Gull: arr 1st year bird IB 22 Nov. Glaucous Gull: arr 1st year bird DE 20 Nov. Black-legged Kittiwake: one Hamlin 1 Nov, only report, scarce. Forster's Tern: one Charlotte 8 Nov (RS, KG), late, very few reports this year.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Snowy Owl: many reports from various locations, looks like a good year. Short-eared Owl: max four Retsof 1-30 Nov.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: last one IC 14 Sep. **WESTERN KINGBIRD**: one Greece 12 Sep (KG), observed at close range, fought a stiff breeze in order to stay perched on a wire, sixth Regional record. N. Rough-winged Swallow: one BB 2 Oct. Cliff Swallow: last one BB 26 Sep. Common Raven: one Webster 9 Sep (SSP), continued increase? Carolina Wren: max two Rochester 25 Oct. Winter Wren: max 11 Rochester 6 Oct, good numbers this fall. Sedge Wren: one Hogan Pt 28 Sep, continues good reports for the year. Marsh Wren: last IC 19 Oct. Gray-cheeked Thrush: last Cobb's

Hill 9 Oct, good totals this fall. Water Pipit: last IB 22 Nov, late. N. Shrike: arr Carlton, over 15 reports this season.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: **WHITE-EYED VIREO:** one Manitou 29 Oct (EB, WS), record late, banded, photographed and released. Philadelphia Vireo: last Cobb's Hill 9 Oct. Orange-crowned Warbler: last Irondequoit 4 Oct. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 90 Irondequoit 4 Oct, scarce.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: arr two Pittsford 7 Oct. **SHARP-TAILED SPARROW:** two of an interior race Hogan Pt 1-7 Nov (MD, mob, ph); departure is record late by five days. Fox Sparrow: last Penfield 6 Nov. Dark-eyed Junco: one "Oregon Junco" Fairport 17 Nov (NK). Lapland Longspur: arr HBSP 28 Sep. Yellow-headed Blackbird: one Hamlin 7 Nov (RO); this species has had a good year in the Region. Red Crossbill: arr DE 15 Nov. Com. Redpoll: arr two Manitou 15 Oct, record early by two days. Pine Siskin: max 550 Manitou 11 Nov. Evening Grosbeak: arr two HBSP 15 Oct.

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REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

C. K. MELIN

Temperatures in September were below the 30-year mean, and most of its precipitation fell during the latter half of the month. The first nine days of September were sunny, except for a cool front on 5 and 6 Sep which brought about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of rain to the Region. Much colder air, with low temperatures in the 30's, followed fronts on 12 and 15 Sep. Little rainfall was associated with these cold fronts. Another front, spawned by the same system, became stationary across the State on 19 Sep and dominated the weather with clouds and showers for the remainder of the month. This extended period of rainy weather delayed harvesting of corn and hay silage, but crop yields and quality were normal. Strong thunderstorms, associated with the stationary front, brought over one inch of rain to the Region on 30 Sep and 1 Oct. Trees were blown down and there were power outages in Ithaca. This front finally moved out to sea on 4 Oct, followed by a cold front, freezing temperatures, and strong, gusty winds through 7 Oct. There were more cold fronts on 9 and 14 Oct which brought light rainfall, followed by a very sunny period from 18 through 25 Oct.

Cold fronts with light rainfall passed through on 26 and 29 Oct, when the following peak numbers were reported at MNWR: Gadwall 410, Am. Wigeon 470, Wood Duck 540, Canvasback 160. During the final week of October, the following wintering waterfowl were first reported: Oldsquaw, White-winged Scoter, Common Goldeneye, and Bufflehead. On 31 Oct most areas reported their lowest temperatures of the month. November was the coldest on record since 1980, and precipitation for the Region was normal. There were cold fronts with associated precipitation on 2 and 6 Nov, followed by a powerful cold front on the 9th which brought high winds of 40 to 50 mph. The first snow for the Region fell 11 Nov, with up to 5 inches reported. This was followed by an extended period of very cold temperatures through 25 Nov, including record-breaking low

temperatures in the Region on 20 Nov. On 26 Nov, a relatively warm front brought heavy rains and flooding along the Susquehanna River. Following this front, the weather was milder for the remainder of the month. Many waterfowl numbers peaked during November, with MNWR providing these maximum counts: Tundra Swan 30, Canada Goose 62,000, Mallard 47,000, Am. Black Duck 22,000, N. Pintail 40, N. Shoveler 130, Redhead 220, Ring-necked Duck 1100, Hooded Merganser 200, Com. Merganser 1100.

The highlight of the season was the shorebird habitat at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge created by drawing down the water level in the Mays' Point Pool. Throughout September and into the first weeks of October, hundreds of shorebirds totaling 23 species were observed resting and feeding upon the mudflats there. An immature Merlin was reported there from 6-8 Sep spooking the shorebirds into flight. It was last seen on 29 Sep. Shorebird numbers appear to have peaked on 7-8 Sep, when there were over 500 Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, 20 Semipalmated Plover, 40 Lesser Yellowlegs, 15 Pectoral Sandpiper, and 125 Stilt Sandpiper. Five individuals or fewer of the following species were reported from Montezuma in Sep: Black-bellied and Lesser Golden-Plovers, Greater Yellowlegs, Hudsonian Godwit, Willet, Sanderling, Western, Baird's, and White-rumped Sandpipers, and Short-billed Dowitcher. Three individuals each of both Wilson's and Red-necked Phalarope were reported throughout Sep.

There was a spectacular migration of Com. Loon through the Region between 23 Oct and 10 Nov. This migration included large flocks of up to 300 birds, and a typical report included 100 birds. Contributors reported these flocks from Canandaigua, Keuka, and Cayuga Lakes, and included descriptions of the birds feeding, diving, and calling. The maximum number of 300 loons was reported 7 Nov from Canandaigua Lake.

There were three distinct clusters of warbler reports which appear to be associated with passing of cold fronts. One cluster of reports fell between 4-7 Sep, and included Blue-winged, Tennessee, Nashville, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Pine, and Prothonotary Warblers. The second cluster of reports is from S. Sibley at Sapsucker Woods, who reported ten species of warblers in a single day during the week of 15 Sep. The third cluster of reports is during the final days of September and the first days of October, when a rainy stationary front halted migration before the front passed on 4 Oct. Reports during this period included waves of Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Pine, Palm, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Black-and-white, Am. Redstart, Ovenbird, Com. Yellowthroat, Hooded, and Wilson's Warblers. S. Sibley reported 13 warbler species from Sapsucker Woods on 1 Oct. This period also saw the last reports of Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Except for these periods, there were very few reports of warbler species. There were few reports of sparrow species as well.

Contributors: J. Brubaker, E. Gates, B. Hilfiker, P. Keating, M. Lerch, R. McKinney, A. Marocchini, D. McIlroy, C. K. Melin, L. Robson, S. Sibley.

Abbreviations: SWS-Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; MNWR-Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; FLNF-Finger Lakes National Forest.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: *intro*. Red-necked Grebe: 5 & 20 Oct Dryden Lake. Double-crested Cormorant: increasing in the MNWR area, max 95 on 8 Oct. Am. Bittern: single report 2 Nov MNWR. Great Egret: max 13 MNWR 8 Sep. Black-crowned Night-Heron: present all season MNWR, max 30 on 12 Nov. Snow Geese: virtually absent after 30 Sep, when a max 190 were at MNWR.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: There were no reports of raptor migration, and N. Harrier, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawk, Goshawk, Red-tailed Hawk and Am. Kestrel were reported throughout the Region all season. Turkey Vulture: last 3 Nov. Bald Eagle: 2-3 MNWR all season. Red-shouldered Hawk: only report FLNF 2 Oct. Rough-legged Hawk: several scattered reports, particularly in Nov, hinted at the possibility of an invasion year. Ring-necked Pheasant: scarce and local. Wild Turkey: present all season throughout Region, and regularly reported in the vicinity of Watkins Glen SP. Red Phalarope: one MNWR 5 Oct, detailed report, including ph. Bonaparte's Gull: only three reports, last 19 Oct MNWR. Ring-billed Gull: reported all season in substantial numbers. "White-winged" gulls: no reports. Great Black-backed Gull: present all season in the Ithaca area, first report elsewhere Watkins Glen 30 Nov. Caspian Tern: all reports MNWR. Com. Tern: only two reports, MNWR 6 Sep and 20 Oct. Black Tern: no reports.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoo: no reports. E. Screech-Owl: several reports throughout season, single occupying a wood duck nest box in Queen Catherine Marsh 22 Oct. Great Horned Owl: several reports all season and reported calling in Nov. Snowy Owl: reported Hayt's Corners 5 Nov, MNWR 30 Nov. Barred Owl: not reported outside the Ithaca area. Short-eared Owl: three Hayt's Corners 4 Nov, and reported there several times since. N. Saw-whet Owl: single report Connecticut Hill 25 Oct. Com. Nighthawk: very few reports, max 100 Elmira 5 Sep. Red-headed Woodpecker: two Ithaca 9 Sep, one im near Ithaca 18 Sep, one Sullivan's Monument 5 Oct, only reports. Red-bellied Woodpecker: not reported outside the Ithaca area. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: present all season throughout Region. Pileated Woodpecker: reported only in the Ithaca area.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: single report Aurora 11 Sep. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: departure is sole report. There were no Regional reports of Acadian, Alder, Willow, or Least Flycatcher. Horned Lark: several scattered reports, max 40 MNWR 18 Sep. Swallow peaks all MNWR 8 Sep: Purple Martin eight, Tree Swallow 1500, N. Rough-winged Swallow 100, Bank Swallow 30, Barn Swallow 100. Cliff Swallow: no reports. Fish Crow: last Ithaca 17 Nov. Com. Raven: single report two birds seen and heard Connecticut Hill 3 Nov. Red-breasted Nuthatch: present throughout Region in greater than usual numbers. Carolina Wren: territorial and present in good numbers throughout Region. Winter Wren: several late Sep/early Oct reports. Marsh Wren: present MNWR and Queen Catherine Marsh until Oct, no other reports. Golden-crowned Kinglet: present all season with substantial numbers reported during the first week of Oct. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: present throughout Region, last report Aurora 16 Nov. E. Bluebird: several scattered reports of six birds or more, max 20 Krum's Corners 19 Sep. Veery: all reports Ithaca area. Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Ithaca 29 Sep, last 2 Oct FLNF, only reports. Swainson's Thrush: several scattered reports, last Ithaca 12 Nov, late. Hermit Thrush: several scattered reports, last Ithaca 20 Oct. Wood Thrush: not reported outside the Ithaca area. Am. Robin: throughout Region, including a fascinating report of "hundreds of a pale race" FLNF 19 Oct. Gray Catbird: reported as increasing, M. Lerch banded many more than usual, reported until 24 Nov. Brown Thrasher: three Sep reports from Ithaca, not reported elsewhere. Water Pipit: several reports, max 50 Elmira 18 Oct. Cedar Waxwing: present in substantial numbers following the abundant fruit and wild grape crop, max 100 MNWR 8 Sep. N. Shrike: two reports, one Elmira 21 Oct, one FLNF 30 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLES: *intro*.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Dryden 18 Oct. Field Sparrow: last Ithaca 20 Oct. Song, Swamp and White-throated Sparrow were reported all season in the Ithaca area. White-crowned Sparrow: several October reports throughout the Region. Lapland Longspur: single report Ithaca 31 Oct. Snow Bunting: arr 26 Oct. Red-winged Blackbird: max 1000 MNWR 8 Sep. Rusty Blackbird: max 14 SWS 5 Nov. Com. Grackle: max 100+ Caton 1 Nov. Brown-headed Cowbird: present all season but few reports. N. Oriole: departure Ithaca sole report. Pine Grosbeak: no reports. Com. Redpoll: two eating weed seeds Mt Pleasant 22 Nov, only report. Pine Siskin: present throughout Region after mid-October. Evening Grosbeak: present throughout Region after 27 Oct.

84-A Turkey Hill Road, Ithaca, NY 14850

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

JAY G. LEHMAN

After a cool end to August, temperatures at Binghamton were nearly normal for the first three weeks of September except for two short cool periods. Rainfall was well below normal. Due to an abnormal shift north in the jetstream, the last week of the month was very warm with eight consecutive days of above-average mean temperatures and record highs of 82° and 83° on 26 and 30 Sep, respectively. This week also was very wet, resulting in average rainfall by the end of the month. The warmth continued into the first four days of October, but the rest of that month mostly was cooler and drier than normal. Inconsequential cold fronts moved through about every seven days but created little notable bird movement. November started normally but turned nasty in time for Veteran's Day, giving us winter weather normally expected three weeks later. From 10 to 23 Nov there were eleven days with mean temperatures substantially below the norm, record lows of 16°, 12°, 15°, and 10° on 13, 14, 19, and 20 November, and 13.4 inches of snow. The month ended with a week of normal temperatures and precipitation 2.7 inches above normal – most of it snow!

There were few birds to be observed afield this fall. Waterfowl species were missed or their numbers were down. There were fewer reports of Pied-billed Grebe than in the previous two falls. Horned Grebe and Red-breasted Merganser were missed for the first time since 1982, Double-crested Cormorant for the first time since 1981, and Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, and Black Scoter for only the third time since 1978. The strong November cold fronts which push these species south also brought record cold and significant or total ice coverage to many of our small lakes, particularly in Chenango Co., by mid-month this year. Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal, N. Pintail, and Am. Wigeon, which are reported infrequently here, were not found this fall, perhaps due to the ice. Also

there are few suitable feeding/resting areas protected from hunters to encourage stop-overs. The only bright notes are the highest number of Com. Loon since 1978, and at least there were Mallards!

But for an exceptional showing of three Bald Eagles in Chenango Co., apparently thanks to the DEC's hacking program, raptor reports were rather dismal too. Sharp-shinned and Broad-winged Hawk and N. Harrier were scarce. Am. Kestrel were much less common than last year. Rough-legged Hawk appeared rather late. Red-shouldered Hawk was missed for the fourth time since 1978 and N. Goshawk for the third time since 1978. Perhaps Goshawks stayed in our statelands this fall to prey on the high Ruffed Grouse population. One brave grouse was still drumming at Norwich into mid-November.

Shorebird counts were equally unimpressive. There was no Greater Yellowlegs for the first time in nine years, no Solitary Sandpiper for the first time since 1982, and only single reports of Spotted and Least Sandpiper.

Reports of species dependent on insect populations were downright depressing. Chimney Swifts, usually present in early September, and Tree Swallows were not reported for only the second and first fall in nine, respectively. Flycatcher counts were poor. There were only one Great Crested Flycatcher and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and only a single report of several Eastern Kingbird. Least Flycatcher numbers were low. Veery, Swainson's and Hermit Thrush counts were low. Water Pipit was not seen for the first fall in nine. Vireo and warbler reports were abysmal, with either very low numbers or early departures. Solitary and Yellow-throated Vireo, Bay-breasted, Black-throated Green, and Blackpoll Warbler, and Am. Redstart counts were very low. The lowest number of Yellow-rumped Warblers in four years was banded at Newark Valley; this trend is echoed by Region-wide field reports. Warbling Vireo, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, Palm, and Black-and-white Warbler were not reported for the first fall in nine. N. Waterthrush, Canada and Black-throated Green Warbler departed early. So did Scarlet Tanagers.

My summer report contains some interesting and perhaps relevant data: near record rainfall in July; early reports of Palm Warbler and Rusty Blackbird in August; early flocking of Chimney Swifts and very late dependent young of Com. Nighthawks; and speculation about the effect of wet weather on insect procurement. Banding records from Vestal during the last week of August, received late, also include fewer warblers than usual. Perhaps many species departed early, as is indicated in the summer report for Region 6 north of us. That's enough bad news!

There were a few bright spots. Gray Catbird numbers banded at Newark Valley increased 100% over the previous three years and included a high percentage of young. High counts of Tennessee Warblers were banded at two sites. There were plenty of Carolina Wrens and late records of Blue-winged and Wilson's Warbler. The early cold in November apparently affected behavior of a number of species. Joe Sedlacek saw 250 Am. Crows feeding on beech, stocking up fat reserves, at Valonia Springs on 25 Oct. They may have known cold was coming. Counts of Mourning Dove, Downy and Hairy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Am. Goldfinch, and Red-breasted Nuthatch were higher than in last year's

mild November, suggesting movement or greater feeder activity. Snow Buntings arrived early. There were record numbers of Horned Larks in November. A high count of 80 House Finch appeared at Margaret Layton's feeder in Endwell on the first stormy November day.

No great rarities were reported, but Snow Goose, Philadelphia Vireo, Pine Warbler, and Orange-crowned Warbler are unusual. There were 140 species reported, which is the shortest list in five years. Much of the species account uses field records of Mary Dobinsky and Kathryn Wilson (OPM), Joe Sedlacek (Windsor), and Judy Bell's (NV) and Harriet Marsi's (Vestal) banding results.

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Abbreviations: avg-average; Bing-Binghamton; CRes-Cannonsville Reservoir; decr-decreasing; End-Endwell; FHNC-Finch Hollow Nature Center; inc-increasing; NV-Newark Valley; OPM-Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; WPres-Whitney Point Reservoir.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: arr CRes 14 Sep (SD), earliest since 1978; last WPres 9 Nov (A & MD). Pied-billed Grebe: arr Hunts Pd 27 Sep (CC); last OPM 28 Oct. Great Blue Heron: decr reports Sep-Oct; uncommon Nov. Green-backed Heron: last Franklin 17 Sep (S & KS). Snow Goose: arr Cort 25 Sep (SW), earliest since 1978; last six Oxford 11 Oct (J & CJ). Canada Goose: arr ten W End 16 Sep (JS); peak flight all areas 21 Sep-16 Oct, max 500 Oxford 25 Oct-16 Nov (A & MiD). Wood Duck: last OPM 28 Oct. Am. Black Duck: arr four Hunts Pd 27 Sep (CC). Greater Scaup: only one CRes 5 Oct. Oldsquaw: arr WPres 2 Nov (A & MD), last two Chen L 15 Nov (CC, DW, JL). Bufflehead: arr three OPM 3 Nov; last WPres 15 Nov (A & MD). Hooded Merganser: arr four Norwich 18 Oct (DW); last two Hunts Pd (CC, DW, JL). Com. Merganser: max 37 Walton 17 Oct (MC, SH); last two Chen L 23 Nov (JL). Ruddy Duck: last two WPres 30 Nov (SD, AC).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: max six McGraw 10 Oct (BT); last Windsor 12 Oct (JS). Osprey: usual decr reports to Nov, unusual then since 1978. Bald Eagle: one Franklin 27 Sep (KS); im N Norwich 25 Sep-10 Oct (EG); 2nd yr Chen L to 18 Sep (MC *vide* CC), trailing tether; ad Oxford 14 Sep (J & CJ); most reports since 1978. N. Harrier: last New Berlin 8 Nov (CC), scarce. Sharp-shinned Hawk: max four McGraw 10 Oct (BT), scarce. Cooper's Hawk: last im Hunts Pd 15 Nov (CC, DW, JL), avg reports. Broad-winged Hawk: fewest since 1978. Red-tailed Hawk: migration peak avg five/day OPM 3 to 7 Nov. Rough-legged Hawk: arr Cort 12 Nov (DP). Am. Kestrel: 40% decrease from 1985; last OPM 24 Oct (MD). Ring-necked Pheasant: max & last two Norwich 18 Oct (DW), unusual there, still scarce all areas. Ruffed Grouse: 47% incr/report over 1985. Wild Turkey: incr to 20/report Nov; about same totals as 1985. Killdeer: migration max 75 Franklin 29 Sep (KS); last Oxford 9 Nov (A & MD). Lesser Yellowlegs: only reports Oxford 2 & 9 Nov (A & MD). Am. Woodcock: arr one bnd Vestal 23 Sep (HM); last Delhi 10 Oct (DC). Ring-billed Gull: max 100 Otse L 18 & 25 Sep & 8 Nov (MD). Herring Gull: max 20 Otse L 15 Nov (MD); last report Norwich 29 Nov (DW).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: late max 60 OPM 25 Nov. Black-billed Cuckoo: only one bnd NV 4 Sep. E. Screech-Owl: only three reports, low; last Vestal Center 18 Nov (SD). Great Horned Owl: eight Oct-Nov, avg report. Snowy Owl: only two Lisle 20 to 30 Nov (Mr. S). Com. Nighthawk: max 12 Vestal 2 Sep & late max 11 there 10 Sep (SD); last Tiog Oct. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: sev/wk to mid-Sep; few thereafter. Belted Kingfisher: avg reports decr to Nov. Red-headed Woodpecker: only report Tiog Sep (LD). Red-bellied Woodpecker: only report NV Sep-Oct (LD, JB). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max five OPM 25 Sep; last bnd NV 30 Sep. N. Flicker: max eight OPM 24 Sep (MD, KW); last there 28 Oct, earliest departure since 1978.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood Pewee: max nine OPM 3 Sep. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: only one bnd NV 21 Sep. Traill's Flycatcher: arr one bnd Vestal 2 Sep; last bnd NV 21 Sep. Least Flycatcher: only three bnd Vestal 2, 10, 21 Sep. E. Phoebe: decr to mid-Oct as usual. Great Crested Flycatcher: only report McGraw first wk Oct (BT). E. Kingbird: only four OPM 3 Sep. Horned Lark: highest Nov reports since 1978; max 30 Norwich 23 Nov (JL), late. Barn Swallow: max six Walton 10 Sep (SH). Tufted Titmouse: widespread reports incr Southern Tier only, max six Valonia Springs 25 Oct & 17 Nov (JS). Red-breasted Nuthatch: incr numbers/reports over 1985, max four Valonia Springs 10 Oct & 1 to 23 Nov (JS). Brown Creeper: max four OPM 28 Oct; last Norwich 22 Nov (JL). Carolina Wren: singles Bing 9 Nov (DO'N), Vestal all yr to 16 Nov (MW), Truxton 6 Nov (DP), usual sites; two Norwich all fall (CW) & one Smyrna 16 Nov, unusual there; most reports since 1978. House Wren: two to five per wk Sep. Winter Wren: singles bnd Vestal 2 Oct & NV 17 Oct, low and only reports. Marsh Wren: only one bnd NV (JB), fifth report since 1978. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr one bnd Vestal 2 Oct; max and last 20 Windsor 29 Nov. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr one bnd NV 18 Sep; last 10 Windsor 29 Nov, max. E. Bluebird: migration max 15 Windsor 18 Oct; last Tiog Nov. Veery: only two bnd Vestal 2 Sep. Swainson's Thrush: arr one bnd Vestal 7 Sep, very low. Hermit Thrush: only three 11 Oct & one 16 Oct bnd Vestal, very low. Wood Thrush: one/two wk Sep, normal; two Windsor 12 & 18 Oct, late max. Am. Robin: max 100 Norwich 18 Oct (DW); last 25 Nov OPM. Gray Catbird: very high Oct reports. N. Mockingbird: seven reports three sites normal Southern Tier. Brown Thrasher: max three OPM 15 Sep; five Oct, high. Cedar Waxwing: max 250 OPM 24 Sep; last 10 Valonia Springs 25 Oct (JS). N. Shrike: only one Truxton 20 Nov (DP).

VIREOS-WARBBLERS: Solitary Vireo: only one bnd NV 18 Sep, record early departure since 1961. Yellow-throated Vireo: only one OPM 15 Sep. Philadelphia Vireo: singles bnd Vestal 27 Sep & 2 Oct, last rather late. Red-eyed Vireo: max 14 OPM 3 Sep, normal reports. Blue-winged Warbler: singles bnd NV 1, 4, & 30 Sep, latest departure since 1961. Tennessee Warbler: max 15 bnd NV; 45 bnd Vestal & NV, very high. Orange-crowned Warbler: only one bnd NV, third since 1978, late. Nashville Warbler: max three bnd NV 18 Sep & Vestal 7 Oct. Yellow Warbler: singles bnd NV 27 & 30 Sep. Chestnut-sided Warbler: max two bnd Vestal 2 Sep & NV 4 Sep. Magnolia Warbler: max four bnd Vestal 14 & 21 Sep. Cape May Warbler: max two bnd NV 13 Sep. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max seven OPM 24 Sep; last bnd NV 17 Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: singles OPM 3 Sep & bnd Vestal 21 Sep, lowest numbers since 1978 & earliest departure since 1961. Pine Warbler: only one Homer 6 Sep (BB), fourth fall report since 1978. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr one bnd Vestal 3 Sep, very low. Blackpoll Warbler: only one bnd Vestal 27 Sep, very low. Am. Redstart: max three bnd Vestal 14 Sep, scarce. Ovenbird: max four bnd Vestal 3 Sep. N. Waterthrush: only one bnd NV 1 Sep, earliest departure since 1978. Mourning Warbler: max & last two bnd NV 30 Sep. Com. Yellowthroat: max nine bnd NV 4 Sep. Wilson's Warbler: max two bnd NV 21 Sep; last there 17 Oct, record late since 1961. Canada Warbler: max two bnd Vestal 2 Sep; last there 4 Sep, earliest departure since 1961.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: max two OPM 3 Sep & Delhi 10 Sep (MC); last bnd NV, ties early departure since 1961. N. Cardinal: pair FY Delhi 18 Sep (MC), late. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max five OPM 3 Sep. Indigo Bunting: last bnd NV 30 Sep. Rufous-sided Towhee: max three OPM 3 Sep. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Delhi 1 Nov (MC), late; max four Hunts Pd 15 Nov (CC, DW, JL). Chipping Sparrow: max 20 OPM 15 Sep; last Oneonta 24 Oct (MD). Field Sparrow: max five N Colesville 11 Oct & Windsor 12 Oct; last three bnd NV 20 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: only one Truxton 28 Sep (DP), earliest departure since 1978. Savannah Sparrow: max six Norwich 4 Oct (JL), last. Fox Sparrow: arr NV 19 Oct; max & last two Delhi 1 Nov (MC). Song Sparrow: max 35 Windsor 18 Oct; last five there 22 Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: max two bnd NV 18 Sep & 7 Oct. Swamp Sparrow: max 11 bnd NV 7 Oct; last four OPM 20 Oct. White-throated Sparrow: max 20 Windsor 18 Oct. White-crowned Sparrow: early arr Delhi 28 Sep (MC); max five NV 12 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: max 200 Hunts Pd 15 Nov (CC, DW, JL). Snow Bunting: early arr three Oneonta 24 Oct (MD). Red-winged Blackbird: max 200 OPM 20 Oct; last Vestal Center 23 Nov (SD). E. Meadowlark: max four OPM 15 Oct; last Triangle 18 Oct (A & MD). Com. Grackle: max 100 Windsor 12 Oct; last Homer 28 Nov (BB). Brown-headed Cowbird: max 200 Franklin 18 Sep (KS); last three Delhi 21 Nov (MC). N. Oriole: max & last two OPM 3 Sep. Pine Grosbeak: arr Norwich 29 Nov (ER), only report. Purple Finch: max six Bovina 28 Oct (DR); last FHNC 22 Nov. House Finch: flocks incr into Nov. Pine Siskin: arr Truxton 16 Oct (DP); max 40 Oneonta 7 Nov (MD). Am. Goldfinch: max 57 bnd NV 18 Sep. Evening Grosbeak: arr NV 20 Oct (JB); max 100 Oneonta 27 Nov (MD).

Corrigendum: Upland Sandpiper E. Springfield (not Springville) & Salt Springville Jul 1985 not 1986.

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REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

GENE HUGGINS

The fall 1986 migration became one of the worst fall migrations ever witnessed by many of our avid birders. Despite the gloom, there were a few positives for the season which included increased numbers of Common Loon and Horned Grebe and a near record high count of Wood Duck. An incursion of Snowy Owl and Northern Shrike brightened everyone's hopes for a more exciting winter. American Robin and Cedar Waxwing continued their steady increase. Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak were evident by the season's end.

Negatives for the season included: Pied-billed Grebe numbers were down. There were very few American Bittern and white herons were almost nonexistent. Populations of geese, except Brant, and most species of ducks showed low numbers. Ring-necked Pheasants continued their decline throughout the Region and, surprisingly, very few American Coots were found. The variety and numbers of shorebirds were at their lowest in recent memory. The jaeger flight off Derby Hill was not impressive as far as numbers were concerned, and numbers and variety of gulls were poor. Few white-winged gulls arrived by the end of the

season. Migrant Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, along with many other species of woodpeckers, were scarce in the Region. Low numbers and early departure dates were the rule for flycatchers, swallows, thrushes (except Am. Robins), vireos, warblers and sparrows. Horned Lark and Snow Bunting showed no major influx upon the open fields of the Region.

Approximately 215 species were reported, below average. Rarities for the season were Eared Grebe, Harlequin Duck, Sabine's Gull, Say's Phoebe and Kentucky Warbler. Other hard-to-find species reported this fall include Great Egret, Bald Eagle, Hudsonian Godwit, Western and Purple Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, Black-legged Kittiwake, Franklin's Gull, Forster's Tern, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Connecticut Warbler.

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Abbreviations: Adk's-Adirondacks; DH-Derby Hill; LSB-Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; FH-Fair Haven; LOL-Lake Ontario littoral; NPT-northern Pompey township; SPd-Sandy Pond; SVB-Sylvan & Verona Beach, TRGMA-Three Rivers GMA.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr 11 Oct, max 10 LOL 25 Oct. Com. Loon: arr 13 Sep, record fall max 442 there 25 Oct. Pied-billed Grebe: max 12 LOL 21 Sep. Horned Grebe: arr 11 Oct, max 136 LOL 25 Oct. Red-necked Grebe: arr SVB 18 Oct, max three LOL 8 Nov. **EARED GREBE**: single from St. Paul's Cemetery, Oswego, 22 Nov (mob). Double-crested Cormorant: max 100 LOL 28 Sep. Am. Bittern: last Clay Marsh 12 Oct. Great Egret: single LSB 1 Sep. Green-backed Heron: last 30 Sep. Tundra Swan: max six Oneida L 29 Nov. Brant: arr DH 9 Oct, max 5886 DH 30 Oct. Canada Goose: max only 1395 Beaver L 22 Nov. Wood Duck: max 2016 Toad H 28 Sep (FGS). Green-winged Teal: max 87 SPd 9 Oct, last 9 Nov. Am. Black Duck: max 318 SPd 9 Oct. Mallard: max 200 Beaver L & Clay Marsh 26 Oct. N. Pintail: max 46 DH 9 Oct. Blue-winged Teal: max 108 TRGMA 6 Sep, last LSB 1 Nov. N. Shoveler: arr Oneida L 13 Sep, last LSB 1 Nov. Gadwall: max 21 LSB 25 Oct. Am. Wigeon: max 218 DH 16 Oct. Canvasback: arr 25 Oct LSB, max 41 LOL 30 Nov. Redhead: arr 14 Sep LSB, max eight FH 28 Nov. Ring-necked Duck: arr LSB 14 Sep, max 76 LSB 1 Nov. Greater Scaup: arr LSB 21 Sep, max 423 DH. Lesser Scaup: arr Scott Swamp 9 Oct, max 196 DH. **HARLEQUIN DUCK**: female Nine Mile Pt 7-22 Nov (mob). Oldsquaw: arr DH 30 Oct, max 221. Black Scoter: arr DH 16 Oct, max 92 DH 2 Nov. Surf Scoter: arr DH 9 Oct, max 16. White-winged Scoter: arr SPd 9 Oct, max 264. Com. Goldeneye: arr LOL 25 Oct. Bufflehead: arr LOL 25 Oct. Hooded Merganser: arr LSB 11 Oct, max 77 LOL 23 Nov. Com. Merganser: arr LOL 12 Oct. Red-breasted Merganser: arr LOL 12 Oct, max 3655 LOL 22 Nov. Ruddy Duck: arr Beaver L 2 Oct.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: max six DH 9 Oct; record late 16 Nov Holland Patent (RE). Bald Eagle: im SPd 9 Oct, near Oswego 25 Oct, LOL 28 Nov. N. Harrier: max five LOL 25 Sep, 12 Oct. Red-shouldered Hawk: one LOL 16 Sep. Broad-winged Hawk: max three. Rough-legged Hawk: arr LSB 11 Oct. Merlin: five reports, most LOL, 6 Sep to 9 Oct. Virginia Rail: max two Poolsbrook 1 Sep, last 9 Sep. **SORA**: one Poolsbrook 1 Sep, last 2 Sep. Com. Moorhen: last LOL 18 Oct. Am. Coot: arr LOL 25 Sep. Black-bellied Plover: max one, low. Semipalmated Plover: max six SPd 6-13 Sep. Solitary Sandpiper: last window kill B. Burt's home Jamesville 20 Oct. Hudsonian Godwit: max nine SPd 9 Oct. Ruddy Turnstone: last SPd 15 Sep. Red Knot: to two/day, last SPd 14 Sep. Sanderling

ing: max 43 SPd 6 Sep. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 47 SPd 7 Sep. W. Sandpiper: two SVB 13 Sep. Least Sandpiper: max 12 Onon L 1 Sep. White-rumped Sandpiper: to two/day 6 Sep to 23 Nov, the last record late LOL (FGS). Baird's Sandpiper: max three Onon L 1 Sep, last SPd 28 Sep. Pectoral Sandpiper: max nine TRGMA 21 Sep. Purple Sandpiper: one Fairhaven 22-23 Nov. Dunlin: max 21 SPd 9 Oct, last 23 Nov. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: im SPd 6 Sep. Short-billed Dowitcher: last Onon L 14 Sep. Am. Woodcock: last 8 Nov. Pomarine Jaeger: one SVB 27 Sep-20 Oct (mob), first Oneida Lake record. Parasitic Jaeger: max five DH 6 Oct. Franklin's Gull: im LSB 14 Sep (FGS). Bonaparte's Gull: max 52 SVB 13 Sep. Iceland Gull: record early arr SVB 2 Nov (GW & MSR). Black-legged Kittiwake: im DH 23 Oct (FGS). **SABINE'S GULL**: one DH 15 Oct (DWC & KC). Caspian Tern: max 34 SPd 14 Sep. Com. Tern: max 34 SVB 13 Sep. Forster's Tern: one SPd 7 Sep.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one LOL 13 Sep only report. Snowy Owl: fifteen reports by the end of the period, apparently not lingering long at any location except Oswego H. Red-bellied Woodpecker: male FY Otisco L 18 Sep (RP). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: to seven/day 4 Sep to 7 Oct. Black-backed Woodpecker: one outlet of Stink L 29 Nov (GL).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: max 23 LOL 1 Sep. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: two reported for the period. **SAY'S PHOEBE**: one SPd 22 Oct (FGS), second Regional record. Horned Lark: max 225 SPd 15 Nov. Purple Martin: last Oneida 6 Sep. Tree Swallow: max 60 LOL 7 Sep. Barn Swallow: max 75 LOL 1 Sep. Gray Jay: max 3 T of Webb 4 Sep (FGS). Am. Crow: max 3000 SPd 9 Oct. Boreal Chickadee: one Nine Mile Pt 14 Nov (DWC). Carolina Wren: one Kirkville 24 Oct (JL), one DeWitt 11 Aug (DWC), late report. Winter Wren: arr SPd 6 Sep, last LOL 25 Oct. Marsh Wren: last SPd 12 Oct. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr SPd 13 Sep. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr SPd 13 Sep, last LOL 1 Nov, max 150 NPT (DWC). E. Bluebird: last 18 Nov. Gray-cheeked Thrush: two reports 13 Sep and 3 Oct. Hermit Thrush: arr FH 2 Oct, last Lysander 26 Oct. Am. Robin: max 300 Lysander 26 Oct. Water Pipit: arr SPd 14 Sep, max 6 SPd 12 Oct, last 28 Nov. N. Shrike: arr LOL 2 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Philadelphia Vireo: to six/day 6 Sep to 7 Oct. Golden-winged Warbler: max 2 LOL 1 Sep. Orange-crowned Warbler: four reported 7-9 Oct. Yellow-rumped Warbler: last Oneida 2 Nov. Palm Warbler: two reported, 9 Sep and 7 Oct. **KENTUCKY WARBLER**: one NPT 11 Sep, second fall record (DWC). Connecticut Warbler: one Davis Rd woods 22 Sep (FGS). Mourning Warbler: three reported 1-16 Sep. Hooded Warbler: last LOL 21 Sep.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: last Lysander 7 Oct. Tree Sparrow: arr DH 19 Oct. Chipping Sparrow: last DH 19 Oct. Field Sparrow: last Clay Marsh 6 Nov. Vesper Sparrow: last SPd 23 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: last Lysander 7 Oct. Fox Sparrow: max 14 NPT 28 Oct (DWC). Song Sparrow: max 233 Lysander 7 Oct. Lincoln's Sparrow: to four/day 14 Sep to 9 Oct. Swamp Sparrow: last Onon L 17 Nov. White-crowned Sparrow: arr SPd 25 Sep, max 71 Lysander 7 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: max 175 LOL 19 Oct. Lapland Longspur: two reports LOL 2 and 23 Nov. Snow Bunting: arr LOL 18 Oct, max 240 LOL 25 Oct. Red-winged Blackbird: max 3000 LOL 12 Oct, low, last count >100 on 18 Nov. E. Meadowlark: last Fabius 4 Nov (PR). Rusty Blackbird: arr Three Rivers GMA 21 Sep, max 300 Clay Marsh 19 Oct. Com. Grackle: max 5000 LOL 11 Oct, last Sterling 22 Nov. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 390 SPd 7 Sep. N. Oriole: last Noyes Sanctuary 6 Nov (LL), late. Pine Grosbeak: single male Balsam L 29 Nov (GL). Purple Finch: max 6 LOL 18 Oct. Red Crossbill: seven at Stink L 29 Nov (GL). Com. Redpoll: arr LOL 21 Nov, max 60 LOL 23 Nov. Pine Siskin: arr LOL 18 Oct, max 62 LOL 25 Oct. Evening Grosbeak: max 21 Wampsville 5 Nov.

1065 Westmoreland Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13210

REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL and GERALD A. SMITH

Wet, cold and wet – enough said about September. October temperatures were 1 to 3° below normal, but precipitation was about normal with measurable rain falling on about one day in three. The only snow fell in Lewis Co. and southern St. Lawrence Co. the last day of the month. November was also cool, but not wet. Total snowfall ranged from 3-18 inches, with the maximum fall on 21 Nov.

According to notes from Lee Chamberlaine, the fall migration was marked by flights of N. Flicker in mid-September, both kinglets and Yellow-rumped Warbler during the last week of September, Tree Swallow in early October, White-throated Sparrow on 5 and 12 Oct, and followed by Dark-eyed Junco on 16, 17 and 25 Oct. Late departures were a Rose-breasted Grosbeak on 27 Oct and a N. Oriole on 4 Nov, while Snow Bunting was reported as early as 25 Oct. Lingering half-hardies included two male Red-winged Blackbirds 25-30 Nov in Stockholm, a disabled male Com. Grackle to 22 Nov in Henderson and a Song Sparrow at R. Brouse's feeder well into November.

With regard to species whose range is expanding north, Turkey Vulture and N. Cardinal no longer evoke reports except for one Cardinal in N. Russell, where they are unusual outside of villages in foothills. Tufted Titmouse at three Henderson feeders were only reports. Purple Finch was down in Henderson with four on 4 Oct and barely outnumbers House Finch 8:6 in Canton. In contrast, House Finch is the most abundant species at RB's feeder in Jefferson Co with a maximum of 42, surpassing 26 Mourning Dove, 31 Am. Goldfinch and 35 Evening Grosbeak. There were no reports for Red-bellied Woodpecker or any other species.

David Gagne, a new observer from the Wanakena Ranger School, reports Black-backed Woodpecker, N. Raven, Boreal Chickadee, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush and both kinglets, all from mid-October – so the boreal species are there if anyone looks for them! He saw an early Com. Redpoll in Wanakena on 23 Oct.

High water in Lake Ontario and the heavy rainfall reduced shorebird habitat. Only Sanderlings occurred in fair numbers at EDB during September and October. In contrast, Lesser Yellowlegs was not reported at all, most extraordinary!!

The most exciting birding for the period – indeed, for the decade – was at Moses-Saunders Dam in Massena. Here several skilled Canadian birders spotted one rarity after another. Counting an unconfirmed Arctic Tern a total of 15 species of Larids was reported! On 5-6 Oct nine species of gull were sighted including a tentative state record for **MEW GULL** (pending NYSARC review) and Regional records for Common Black-headed, Lesser Black-backed, Sabine's and Franklin's Gull. A Peregrine Falcon and Red Phalarope were sighted the same weekend. Six weeks later a **NORTHERN GANNET** stayed for a week – another species not cited in Gordon's 1975 Regional check-list. Unusual but less rare was a Ruddy Duck. While such species as Thayer's Gull, Arctic Tern and Black-backed Woodpecker require NYSARC documentation, they are "old hat" to Ontario birders. It would seem that the St. Lawrence River has greater affinity with eastern Ontario than with the warmer Great Lakes region.

A total of 158 species including 33 waders and waterfowl, 47 raptors and shorebirds, 17 fowl, owls, and non-passerines and 61 passerines was reported.

Contributors: Marilyn Badger, Bob Bracken, Richard Brouse, Dan Branton, Sheila Cerwonka, Lee Chamberlaine, Bruce DiLabio, Ken Crowell, Mark Gawn, John Green, Scott Harris, Everett & Mildred Howard, Ian Jones, Fiona Reed, Gerry Smith, Sally Stevens, Terry Thorpe, Eric Tull, Joe VanRiet, L. Wallace, Brian Watson.

Abbreviations: EDB–Eldorado Beach Preserve; MSD–Moses-Saunders Dam; PR–Perch River WMA; ULL–Upper & Lower Lakes WMA; SLR–St. Lawrence River.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one above MSD on 12, 24 and 31 Oct (BDiL). Com. Loon: one to three per day only, scarce. Pied-billed Grebe: a few reports of two to four per day; last EDB 26 Oct. Horned Grebe: one to two per day late Oct-Nov on L Ont, scarce there; five MSD 24 Oct. Red-necked Grebe: 19 above MSD 24 Oct, 11 on 31 Oct (BDiL). N. GANNET: im MSD and Cornwall I, Ont, 22-29 Nov (TT, ET); second or third Regional record. Double-crested Cormorant: less numerous along L Ont and upper SLR than recent fall seasons, mostly two to four per day, max 12 EDB 17 Sep, 75 MSD 12 Oct; last Pt Pen 23 Nov. Am. Bittern: max and last four Southwick Beach SP 25 Sep (LBC), an unusually high count for fall. Great Blue Heron: one to four per day all sectors Sep-Oct; max an extraordinary 200 flying in group to roost at ULL in Sep (LW *vide* LBC), probably a Regional fall record max; scattered singles present in Nov. Great Egret: three near Helena (Fran?) 11 Oct (JVR), extraordinary number for that location and date. Green-backed Heron: last two Southwick Beach SP 25 Sep. Mute Swan: 11 PR 6 Oct (LBC) suggest this unwelcome population is expanding. Snow Goose: one PR 6 Oct and two EDB 1 Nov only reports. Brant: 110 EDB 30 Oct only report. Wood Duck: two-four per day scattered. Green-winged Teal: three to five per day EDB Sep-Oct; max 11 there 3 Sep. Am. Black Duck: max 200 Pt Pen 11 Nov (SH); generally 1-6 per day scattered otherwise; scarce as usual for recent years. Mallard: max 200 Pt Pen 11 Nov. N. Pintail: one EDB 8 Sep and two there 5 Oct, *only* reports, very scarce. Blue-winged Teal: scarce; three to ten per day EDB 1 Sep to departure 3 Oct; max only 18 there 3 Sep; what has happened to this species? Gadwall: unusually many at EDB with 2-20 per day Sep to 10 Nov, max 35 on 31 Oct. Am. Wigeon: max 300 PR 6 Oct; last 11 Pt Pen 11 Nov. Ring-necked Duck: unusual numbers EDB with 15-35 per day 5 Oct-Nov; max 500 PR 6 Oct (LBC). Greater Scaup: as usual, thousands present in the large bays of northeastern L Ont through late Nov. Oldsquaw two WH 13 Sep (MB) very early arr or possibly summering birds; next report 10 EDB 31 Oct. Black Scoter: seven to 12 per day EDB 18-25 Oct; 120 males above MSD 24 Oct, 40 on 31 Oct (BDiL). Surf Scoter: arr and max 22 EDB 31 Oct. Com. Goldeneye: arr ten EDB 1 Oct. Bufflehead: arr 7 EDB 30 Oct; 18 MSD 31 Oct. Com. Merganser: unusual numbers, two-15 per day EDB Sep-Oct; 45 MSD-Hawkins Pt 24 Sep, 5000 on 21 Nov, max 10,000 29 Nov. Red-breasted Merganser: arr 27 EDB 27 Sep; ten-30 per day there to mid-Nov. Ruddy Duck: one PR 6 Oct (LBC), rarely reported in this Region.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: seven singles reported. Bald Eagle: im Henderson Harbor 1 Sep (SS), hacked at Alcove Res near Albany. N. Harrier: two to five per day through the period; good numbers all lowland sectors. N. Goshawk: im EDB 26 Sep and one Adams Ctr 19 Oct only reports. Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 29 in five hr flight EDB 27 Sep; scattered other reports of migrants primarily from the L Ont shore. Cooper's Hawk: three in five hr flight EDB 27 Sep plus three other singles, only reports. Broad-winged Hawk: three in five hr flight at EDB 27 Sep plus five other singles, only reports. Red-tailed Hawk: max 17 EDB flight of 27 Sep; otherwise one to four per day. Rough-legged Hawk: arr and max seven Cape Vincent to Pt Pen 19 Oct (SH); one to four per day thereafter. Am. Kestrel: max six each EDB 11 Sep and 27 Sep. Merlin: two EDB 27 Sep (GAS), only report. Peregrine Falcon: one MSD 4 Oct (BB, MG). Gray Partridge: five 2 mi N of

Watertown 23 Nov (RB); what is status of this seldom-reported species? Wild Turkey: ten S. Hammond 29 Sep (LBC) and one Massena 9 Oct (MB), new sites for our locally expanding population. Semipalmated Plover: two to seven per day EDB. Killdeer: max 34 Massena to Louisville 12 Sep (MB). Greater Yellowlegs: one Wescott Beach SP 20 Sep (LBC), *only report!* Spotted Sandpiper: singles only. Red Knot: im EDB 12 Sep, *only report.* Sanderling: three-20 per day Sep, max 60 on 13 Sep; two-eight per day Oct; last 2 Nov. Semipalmated Sandpiper: three to ten per day EDB. Least Sandpiper: one EDB 5-6 Sep, *only report.* Pectoral Sandpiper: one Ellisburg 16 Sep, *only report!!* Dunlin: arr EDB 17 Sep; max 26 EDB 21 Oct; last there 14 Nov; poor flight. Red Phalarope: one MSD 4 Oct (BB, MG). **FRANKLIN'S GULL:** im MSD 14 Sep-24 Oct (BB, MG, BDiL, *fide* JVR). Little Gull: three Southwick Beach SP 28 Sep (LBC); two to three in second winter plumage per day MSD 14 Sep to 16 Nov, max five on 24 Oct (BDiL, JVR). **COM. BLACK-HEADED GULL:** ad in Basic plumage MSD 24 Nov (DB, NYSARC). Bonaparte's Gull: 300 MSD 14 Sep, max 1200 MSD 12 Oct decreasing to 40 late Nov. **MEW GULL:** ad MSD 5 Oct (J, NYSARC). Ring-billed Gull: max 5000 21 Nov. Thayer's Gull: one Basic I plumage MSD 21 Nov (BDiL). Iceland Gull: two in Basic I plumage MSD 21 Nov, three im 26 Nov. Lesser Black-backed Gull; one in Basic I plumage MSD 10, 12 Oct (BDiL). Glaucous Gull: four MSD 21 Nov, max seven 25 Nov. Black-legged Kittiwake: ims MSD 5 Oct and 29 Nov. **SABINE'S GULL:** im MSD 14 and 24 Sep, ad there 5 Oct (BB, MG, BDiL, JVR). Caspian Tern: two to five per day EDB. **ARCTIC TERN:** im MSD 5 Oct (BDiL, BB). Com. Tern: 25 MSD 14 Sep, 18 on 24 Sep.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: N. Saw-whet Owl: one heard Massena 4 Sep (MB), *only owl reported.* Com. Nighthawk: 26 Massena 4 Sep; also Sep sightings in Pierrepont. Chimney Swift: one Massena 1 Sep *only report.* Ruby-throated Hummingbird: five reported. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: two im Henderson 28 Sep and two ad there 29 Sep. Black-backed Woodpecker: females Wanakena 12 and 18 Oct (DG); one Massena 10 Oct (BDiL), clearly moving through this atypical lowland farmland.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Horned Lark: increasing in Jeff (LBC). Purple Martin: last Henderson 2 Sep. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one at feeder in Henderson 2 and 28 Sep; "small numbers through 4 Oct" (LBC); one at feeder Canton through Oct and Nov; notably absent from feeder in Stockholm (FR). Brown Creeper: one regularly at feeder Watertown (RB). Marsh Wren: last Stony Cr Marsh, Henderson, 17 Oct. E. Bluebird: common as usual in migration in central StL, max eight Pierrepont 28 Sep and five 18 Oct. Hermit Thrush: one Canton 18 Oct and last Wanakena 12 Oct. Am. Robin: last Louisville 18 Nov. Water Pipit: one EDB 13 Sep. Bohemian Waxwing: arr Canton 28 Oct (MEH); 100 Massena 20 Nov – promises to be a good year! N. Shrike: arr Louisville 2 Nov and Stockholm 8 Nov, portending a good year.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Only four species reported. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 70 Wanakena 12 Oct.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Watertown 3 Nov. Chipping Sparrow: last Louisville 25 Sep. Fox Sparrow: three Wanakena 18 Oct (DG); one Canton 15 Oct. White-crowned Sparrow: three Canton 8 Oct (MEH). Pine Grosbeak: arr Massena 29 Oct and Potsdam 3 Nov. Com. Redpoll: Louisville 14 Nov. Pine Siskin: arr 17 EDB 4 Oct and Louisville 14 Nov; max 60 Wanakena 10 Oct. Evening Grosbeak: many small flocks through period Jeff; flocks of six to 75 in Wanakena during Oct.

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REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

Despite early snows and some cold nights, fall was often pleasant across the Region. Ray Brook dropped to 42°F by 2 Sep, yet Lake Champlain's waters were still 65°F on 4 Sep, warming the basin and allowing boat trips to the Four Brothers Islands until late in the month. The High Peaks were snow covered as early as 12 Sep when Whiteface Mt. recorded 8" and the streets of Saranac Lake had 1"-3". WPTZ Plattsburgh reported the storm as the earliest first major snowfall since 1899. Newcomb and Ray Brook fell below freezing to 31°F on 16 Sep, these two chilly Essex Co. hamlets dropping further, to 22°F, on 10 Oct. Another snowstorm hit parts of the Region 6 Nov, leaving 5" at Paradox. Then gale force winds buffeted forests on 10 Nov, knocking down trees. Newcomb took honors as the coldest spot in the country (except for mountaintops) on 14 Nov, when local thermometers dropped below zero for the first time, registering a nippy -2°F. Finally, a major storm tracked across the Region 20-21 Nov, dumping a foot or more on Elizabethtown. Nevertheless, this really wasn't a bad fall. Really.

Migration appeared generally light, but produced excellent variety, with individual numbers fairly high for a few species. This is reflected in the banding totals near Elizabethtown, where just 104 birds, but of 29 different species, were banded between 14 Sep and 25 Nov. The most numerous were 15 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 14 Evening Grosbeaks, 12 Black-capped Chickadees, and 10 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, followed by seven Blue Jays and six Eastern Bluebirds. Most unexpected was a Tufted Titmouse 5 Oct, the first banded in the Region; three titmice visited the same rural feeding station 22 Nov, suggesting a movement.

Feeders across the Region provided other interesting birds. A Rock Dove wearing a Canadian Racing Pigeon Union band from a loft in Jerseyfield, Ontario, stopped at the Borland feeder in Speculator 10-20 Sep. A pair of *American Crows* regularly visited the Delehanty suet feeder in Tupper Lake. Boreal Chickadee returned to the Chapman feeder in Newcomb for the *sixth* consecutive year, surely a state record. A **CAROLINA WREN** appeared at the Hagar feeder in Saranac Lake on 22 Oct, for the second Franklin Co record and first since 1954; the wren remained through the end of the period, sometimes roving up to the Benson feeder on nearby Moody Pond. A Northern Shrike arrived at a Tupper Lake feeder 9 Nov, while a male Northern Cardinal in Newcomb during Nov was out of its usual range. Common Redpoll appeared at the Delehanty feeding station in Tupper Lake 19 Nov, followed by a few at Newcomb feeders the following week.

Meanwhile, out in the wilds there were some good finds, too. Waterbirds were well represented: two species of loon, three grebes, three geese, six puddle ducks, eleven divers (including all three scoters), and three mergansers, plus moorhen and coot. Raptors were well represented (13 diurnal, 5 owls), although Coot Hill hawk watch was visited only 6 Sep, a day that provided only nine birds of four species. Unhappily, a Merlin found shot at Essex 5 Oct died three days later in spite of veterinarians' efforts; one sometimes wonders when the

shooting and trapping of nongame birds will end. (Only weeks earlier a Great Blue Heron also died of a gunshot wound, so the problem is not limited to "chicken hawks.") One also wonders where the Peregrine Falcon *northbound* at high speed over Moriah on the late afternoon of 23 Nov was headed. A Sandhill Crane independently reported by several local residents in Saranac Lake during October was not verified.

As Mark Gretch noted, "This was not a good fall for shorebird observations." Lake Champlain was high (over 96 ft. in early September), but fortunately one of the smaller ponds at Lake Alice GMA was low from early September to early October. Only a dozen shorebirds were found over the entire Region, but included two **WHIMBREL**. The five larids included two reports of **LITTLE GULL** and an Iceland Gull. The six woodpeckers included a female Three-toed Woodpecker at Ferd's Bog 2 Nov, this one showing a clearly marked back, but not much white through the eye. Passerines were representative, but there were many misses: for example, only a dozen warblers could be found in all four counties. Some species appeared in good numbers, though, as shown in the maxima for Horned Lark, Barn Swallow, American Robin, Water Pipit, Snow Bunting, Common Grackle, and Evening Grosbeak. No less worthy of note were the record *five* "not so" Solitary Vireos Jeff Carlton had at Moriah 22 Sep, or the *six* Yellow-throated Vireos reported by Jan Trzeciak from Owls Head 28 Sep. Seven winter finches had been reported by the end of the season, but in no extraordinary numbers. Curiously, there were no reports of House Finch. A record seasonal total of 165 species were reported, compared with 130 in both 1983 and 1984 and the previous high of 150 species in 1985.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: Indian L, Fran, 24-27 Oct; Crown Pt 25 Oct-28 Nov (WE). Com. Loon: max 10 Four Brothers I 19 Sep. Pied-billed Grebe: max 10 L Alice 22 Sep. Horned Grebe: max 10 North West Bay 23 Nov. Red-necked Grebe: arr Heart Bay 2 Nov. Double-crested Cormorant: three y still in nest Four Brothers I "A" 19 Sep (RB, JP), late. Great Blue Heron: 666 nests tagged in 426 trees Valcour I heronry 1986. Snow Goose: four Champlain reports. Brant: arr 14 Franklin Falls Pd 3 Oct (RH). Gadwall: arr f Westport 8 Nov. Am. Wigeon: arr two f L Alice 30 Oct. Canvasback: 106 Crown Pt 28-29 Nov. Redhead: arr f Crown Pt 28 Nov. Ring-necked Duck: max 500 L Alice 29 Sep. Lesser Scaup: arr two f Indian L, Fran, 25 Oct (JT). Oldsquaw: arr m Basic plumage Mt View L 23 Oct. Black Scoter: arr Indian L, Fran, 23 Oct (JT). Surf Scoter: arr f Heart Bay 2 Nov. White-winged Scoter: arr Indian L 23 Oct, max three there 27-28 Oct and Bulwagga Bay 25 Oct. Com. Goldeneye: max 800 Monty Bay 28 Nov. Bufflehead: max 20 North West Bay 23 Nov. Hooded Merganser: max 25 L. Alice 30 Oct. Com. Merganser: max 130 Indian L, Fran, 7 Nov, high inland. Red-breasted Merganser: arr three Indian L 10 Oct.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: two im site attached Coot Hill 6 Sep perhaps offspring of spring pair. Osprey: late report of one taking Wood Duck Penfield Pd Aug. Bald Eagle: migrant Elizabethtown 15 Sep; im Crown Pt State Hist Site 19 Oct; im chased by

two Am. Crows Saranac L 4 Nov. Rough-legged Hawk: arr Westport and Wallonsburg 25 Oct. Peregrine Falcon: f Palisades, L Champlain, 5-25 Oct (WE). Gray Partridge: two Champlain 8 Sep. Ring-necked Pheasant: 1148 released Clin/Esse by DEC, none reported. Ruffed Grouse: three late j Tupper L 15 Oct. Com. Moorhen: three Monty Bay Swamp, Clin, 9 Sep (MG). Am. Coot: Webb Royce Swamp, Esse, 5 Oct (RB, KB). Semipalmated Plover: L Alice 15-29 Sep. Greater Yellowlegs: L Alice 8 Sep-22 Oct, max 11 there 22 Sep; five resting on stumps Mt View L 26 Oct. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Miner L 28 Oct (TM). **WHIMBREL**: two n end of runway at L Clear's Adirondack Airport 6 Sep (JF, GC, RH); first Fran rec, third from Adirondack Park, fourth for Region and only report in over a decade. Ruddy Turnstone: Port Henry 5 Sep (GC, TM), second latest Esse. Sanderling: two Four Bros, one mouth Boquet R 19 Sep (RB, JP). Semipalmated Sandpiper: L Alice 9-29 Sep, max four there 22 Sep. Least Sandpiper: one L Alice 29 Sep only report. Dunlin: arr L Alice 29 Sep. Com. Snipe: max 20 L Alice 22 Sep. Am. Woodcock: Indian L, Hami, 13 Nov, 3' snow on ground. **LITTLE GULL**: three ad Crown Pt 25 Oct, one ad there 7 Nov (WE, RL, NM, CR, ph). Bonaparte's Gull: max 200 Westport 2 Sep. **ICELAND GULL**: Basic II plumage Cumberland Head ferry landing 15 Oct (RH), first Clin rec. Great Black-backed Gull: max 13 Boquet R 19 Sep.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Snowy Owl: arr Chazy Landing 19 Nov (MG). Long-eared Owl: soft, puppylike barking call Paradox 28-29 Oct (MB) probably this species.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Traill's Flycatcher: rec late banded Elizabethtown 18 Sep (JP). Horned Lark: max 200 N Farm Rd, Clin, 23 Nov. Barn Swallow: max 100 Monty Bay Marsh 9 Sep. Boreal Chickadee and Tufted Titmouse: *intro*. **CAROLINA WREN**: *intro*. Marsh Wren: two Monty Bay Marsh to 9 Sep. Golden-crowned Kinglet: abundant, still in song Paradox 21 Oct. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: transient Elizabethtown 17 Sep (RB) unusual inland. E. Bluebird: last flew over Cherry Ridge, Hami, 13 Nov (RM). Hermit Thrush: j in song Paradox 1-4 Oct. Am. Robin: max 75 L Alice 7 Oct eating autumn olive and wild grapes; Rt 28N Newcomb 13 Nov (WC), late inland. Water Pipit: max 75 plowed cornfield Chazy Landing 8 Oct. N. Shrike: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: singing Paradox 24 Sep; *intro*. Yellow-throated Vireo: *intro*. Red-eyed Vireo: singing Paradox 2 Sep. Black-throated Green Warbler: full song Paradox 6 Sep, whisper song Elizabethtown 15 Sep. Black-and-white Warbler: singing Paradox 10 Sep. Ovenbird: flight songs and feeding y Paradox 10 Sep (MB). Wilson's Warbler: arr Tupper L 9 Sep.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: N. Cardinal: *intro*. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Tupper L 30 Oct. Field Sparrow: Tupper L feeder 7 Nov. Vesper Sparrow: Tupper L feeder 3 Nov. Fox Sparrow: Tupper L 18 Oct-13 Nov, Elizabethtown 20 Oct, only reports. Lincoln's Sparrow: six Moriah by 18 Sep (GC). White-throated Sparrow: singing Chilson 28 Sep. White-crowned Sparrow: arr Moriah 17 Sep (GC), early. Snow Bunting: arr Paul Smiths 2nd wk Oct, max 500-600 N Farm Rd, Clin, 23 Nov. Red-winged Blackbird: Tupper L to 30 Nov, late, Rusty Blackbird: Tupper L feeder 14-27 Nov, only report. Com. Grackle: max 200 Tupper L 22 Sep. Pine Grosbeak: heard Hogansburg and Paradox Nov. Purple Finch: singing Paradox 19 Oct. Red Crossbill: singing Paradox 2 Sep-18 Nov, max 20 there 31 Oct; ten Owl Pate Mt 21 Oct (MB); three gravel rd Newcomb 25 Nov (WC); road killed j Owls Head 30 Nov. Com. Redpoll: arr 20 Owls Head and 10 Teboville, Fran, 14 Nov (JT); *intro*. Pine Siskin: max 55 Tupper L 22 Oct. Am. Goldfinch: feeding y Tupper L feeder in Sep. Evening Grosbeak: max 150 Indian L, Hami, 7-15 Nov. House Sparrow: carrying grass Whallonsburg 25 Nov (EJ) following major snowfall!

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REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

[The new Editor for Region 8 effective the winter season is **Mrs. Linda Armstrong**, RD 1, Box 159, Feura Bush, NY 12067.]

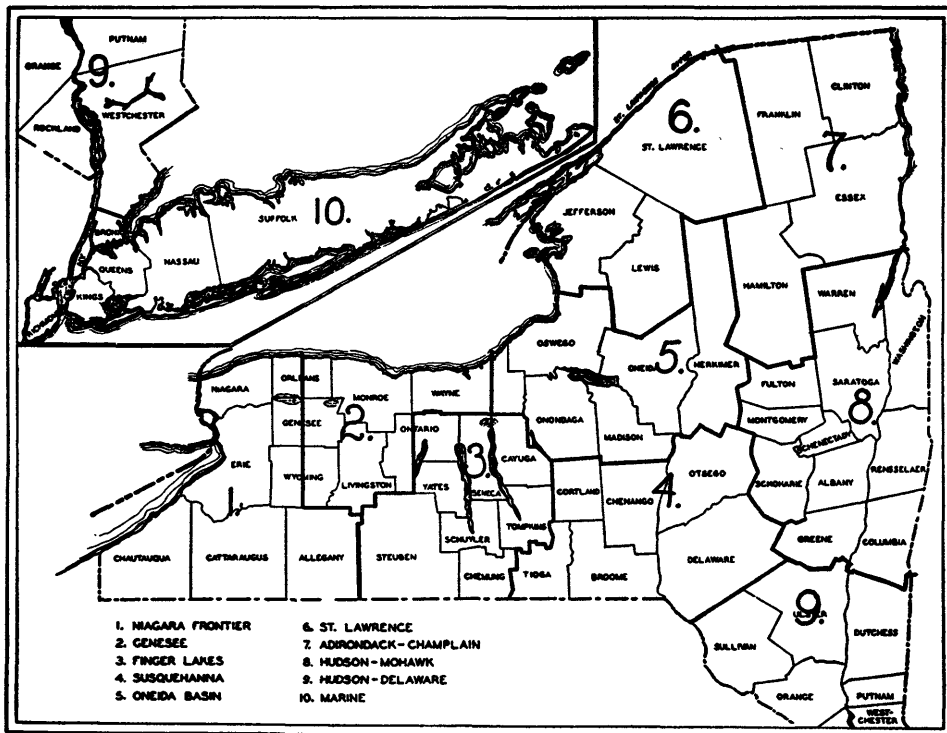
REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

[The new Editor for Region 9 effective the spring migration period is: **Ms. Helen Manson**, Moores Mills, RD 4, Pleasant Valley, New York 12569.]

REGION 10 – MARINE

[The new co-editors of Region 10 effective the winter season are **Tony Leukering** and **John Walsh**. Send reports *c/o American Birds*, 950 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022.]

REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. XXXVII No. 1, p. 9-10.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February
Deadline is March 7

Spring Season: March, April, May
Deadline is June 7

Summer Season: June, July, August
Deadline is September 7

Fall Season: September, October, November
Deadline is December 7

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