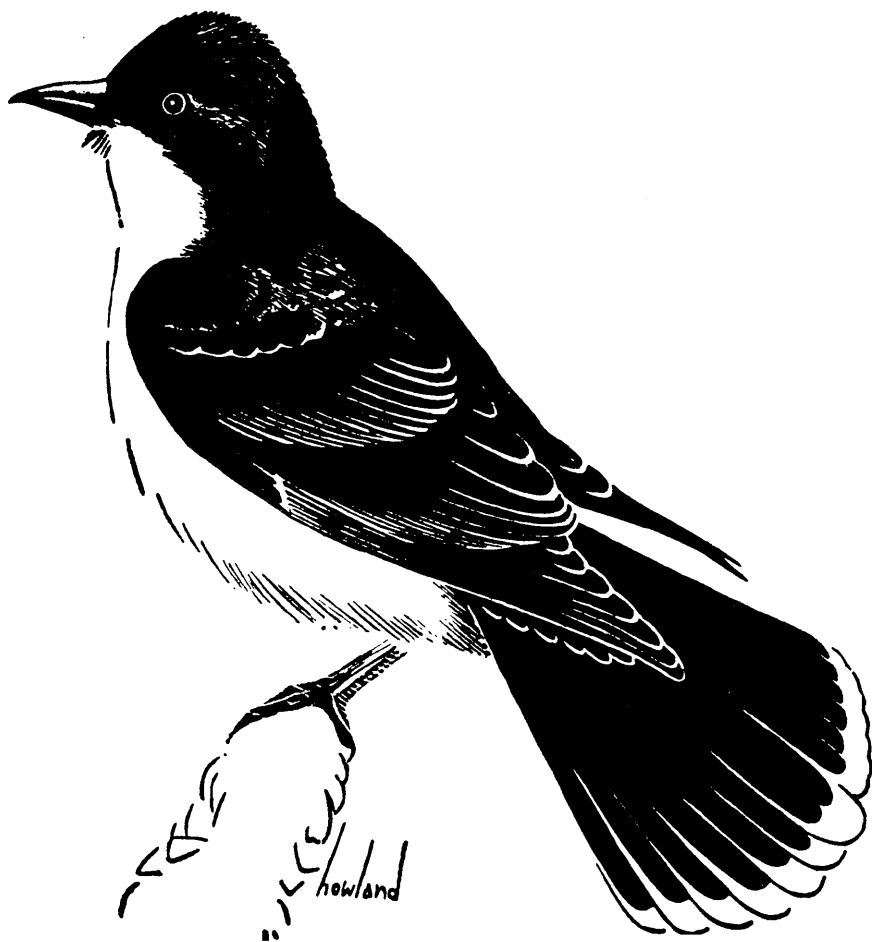


# *The* **KINGBIRD**



VOL. XXXVIII, NO. 1

WINTER • 1988

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

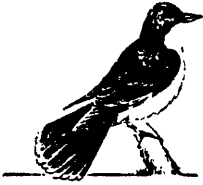
*THE KINGBIRD* (ISSN 0023-1606), published quarterly (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall) is a publication of The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., which has been organized to further the study of bird life and to disseminate knowledge thereof, to educate the public in the need of conserving natural resources and to encourage the establishment and maintenance of sanctuaries and protected areas.

Memberships include a subscription to *THE KINGBIRD* and to our newsletter, *NEW YORK BIRDERS*. Individual member's dues are \$15.00 annually, of which \$8.00 is for *THE KINGBIRD* publication. Other membership classes are: Family Membership (\$20.00), Supporting Member (\$25.00), or Life Member (\$300.00) – payable over a four-year period in equal installments, if member so desires. Student membership is \$10.00. Memberships are on a calendar year basis. Applicants for Annual or Family Membership applying in the second half of the year may reduce payment by one-half. *THE KINGBIRD* institutional subscriptions: \$18.00 per year on calendar year basis only. Single copies: \$5.00. All amounts stated above are payable in U. S. funds only.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP should be sent to the Membership Chairman, Myrna Hemmerick, P.O. Box 2203, Setauket, NY 11733. Send orders for SINGLE COPIES or BACK ISSUES (\$5.00 each), INSTITUTIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS or CHANGES OF ADDRESS to the Circulation Manager, Constance Wilkins, 4000 West Road, Cortland, NY 13045 (phone 607-753-3131).

Publication office is 4000 West Road, Cortland, NY 13045.

Second class postage paid at Cortland, NY.



# The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC

Vol. XXXVIII, No. 1

Winter, 1988

1-64

## CONTENTS

Photographs of New York State Rarities  
 49. Vermillion Flycatcher on Long Island:  
 A First New York State Record . . . . . John Bull 2

First Record of a Ross' Gull  
 for New York State . . . . . Jack Reddall 5

First Substantiated Record of Golden-Crowned  
 Sparrow from New York State . . . . . John Bull 8

Editorial . . . . . 10

Thomas H. Davis, Jr., 1943-1986 . . . . . Robert S. Arbib, Jr. 11

Notes and Observations  
 Burrowing Owls on Long Island . . . . . Arthur Richard 16  
 Late Date For Unfledged Juvenile Wood Thrush . . . . . Mark Gretch 17  
 Shrike Survives Collision . . . . . Vivian Mills Pitzrick 19

Highlights of the Fall Season . . . . . Robert Spahn 20

Regional Reports . . . . . 28

*Editor* – Paul A. DeBenedictis

*Highlights of the Season*

*Editor* – Robert Spahn

*Circulation Manager* – Constance N. Wilkins



*Immature male Vermilion Flycatcher,*

*Jones Beach, Nassau Co., New York, 24-25 September 1987.*

The crown and underparts are red, with a brown patch over the eyes; the nape and rump are brown; the lores, auriculars, back, tail and wings are dark brown, the latter with very pale brown feather edges and wing bars; the throat is pale pink lightly streaked red where it meets the chest; iris dark brown; bill black.

*Photograph by Adrian Dignan.*

**PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES**  
**49. VERMILION FLYCATCHER ON LONG ISLAND:**  
**A FIRST NEW YORK STATE RECORD**

JOHN BULL

During the afternoon of 24 September 1987, Pera Gorson of the Baldwin Bird Club and Chairwoman of the Conservation Committee of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, discovered a male Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) near the U. S. Coast Guard Station at the west end of Jones Beach, Nassau County, Long Island, New York. She notified Adrian Dignan about the bird that night and early the next morning, 25 September, Dignan went out and observed it at close range. An experienced photographer, he took numerous color pictures of the Vermilion Flycatcher. The slide from which the figure was made is on file with the New York State Avian Records Committee. Word of this great rarity quickly reached many birders far and wide. This striking bird obligingly remained in the vicinity the entire day and was seen by many observers, including the writer, and was also photographed by several other people. Unfortunately, it was not found the following two days — a weekend, when hordes of birders searched diligently for it, to no avail.

The Vermilion Flycatcher arrived with many other birds during the passage of a cold front accompanied by strong winds from the west-northwest. At one point both Si Schiff and I watched the Vermilion Flycatcher through the binoculars alongside a Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*), a noteworthy observation in itself. During that second morning, in addition to those two species, several Eastern Kingbirds (*T. tyrannus*) and many individuals of Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) were nearby. These four species of flycatchers, plus warblers and other birds were kept busily engaged in consuming myriads of flies and mosquitoes which were all about. The conspicuous Vermilion Flycatcher was observed flying back and forth from signposts to mullein stalks and various shrubs of sumac, bayberry and beach plum.

This appears to be the first confirmed record of a mainly southwestern species along the seaboard of either the northeastern United States or that of Canada. It is otherwise unreported along the Atlantic coast north of coastal South Carolina where it has occurred along that coast on at least five different occasions, mostly from November to late January, including one collected 5 January 1956. Prior to those occurrences, the first proved record for the entire northeast was that of an inland specimen taken at Toronto, Ontario on 1 November 1949 (Auk, 1950,

67: 517). A Massachusetts report is of a sighting of "An adult male found on Plum Island, Essex County, on October 22, 1954, by" two observers. It was published in *The Birds of Massachusetts* in 1955 by Ludlow Griscom and Dorothy Snyder of the Peabody Museum at Salem, Mass. It was placed by them on their Hypothetical List on page 258. I know of no other reports of this species anywhere else on the northeast coast until the present one on Long Island.

According to the A. O. U. Check-List of North American Birds (1983: 458), the breeding range of the Vermilion Flycatcher extends north and east to California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, western and central Texas and, in recent years to western Oklahoma. It winters north to the southern portions of the same states and east along the Gulf coast as far as central Florida.

Most interestingly, in an article in *The Kingbird* (1983, 33: 11) our Editor, Paul DeBenedictis was the only one of five active observers in the state to predict the occurrence of the Vermilion Flycatcher as an addition to the list of New York State birds!

*Department of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History,  
Central Park West at 79th Street, N.Y. 10024*

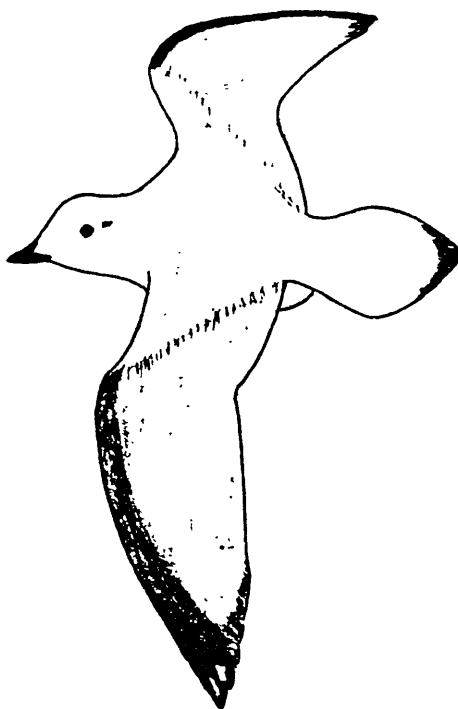
# FIRST RECORD OF A ROSS' GULL FOR NEW YORK STATE

JACK REDDALL

On December 11, 1986, at approximately 11:30 AM, I observed a Ross' Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*) flying and feeding between the rock jetties at the entrance to Montauk Lake in Suffolk County. The day was overcast, dark and gray, with a brisk northeast wind. As I drove into the parking area adjacent to the east jetty intent on searching for Purple Sandpipers (*Calidris maritima*), my eye quickly caught sight of an all white appearing bird about 100 yards from me flying seaward just inside the west jetty. My initial impression was that it was a white Rock Dove (*Columba livia*) because of its pigeon-like flight, and I therefore paid little attention to it as it disappeared over the west breakwater. Within a few moments the bird reappeared flying low over the water between the two jetties directly opposite from where I was parked. It began to feed from the surface of the water, fluttering here and there, occasionally dropping down to pick up bits of food that was floating by on the ebbing tide. Periodically it would rise up and circle for 20 to 30 yards before dropping down to begin the feeding process over again. Its flight was quite buoyant and pigeon-like, which reinforced my first impressions. Several times the bird plunged into the water coming to rest briefly on the surface where it nervously bobbed its head and pecked at the water. Quite obviously, this was not a Rock Dove, but a small, pale, long-winged gull roughly the same size as the numerous nearby Bonaparte's Gulls (*Larus philadelphia*). Most prominent, however, was the bird's long, wedge-shaped tail. The following description was compiled from rough notes which I took at the time of the observation.

HEAD AND NECK: Pure white with a small, suffused, dark auricular spot. This was a very subtle spot and rather difficult to see even when the bird was sitting nearby on the water, noticeable only when it turned its head at just the right angle to me. The bird did not show a discernible neck ring and the head seemed quite small compared with the size of the body. EYE: Small and black. If there was an orbital ring I failed to note it. BILL: Small, pointed and all black. LEGS AND FEET: Dusky (dark). UPPER-PARTS: The mantle was very pale, grayish-white offering only a slight contrast with the underparts. UNDERPARTS: Mostly dull white with no evidence of pink on the breast area. RETRICES: Long, wedge-shape tail. The uppertail including the coverts was white. There was a faded, grayish-black subterminal band confined entirely to the middle retrices with the outer two or three on each side completely white. WINGS: Long and pointed. The

upperwings were very pale, grayish-white. The outer three or four primaries were grayish-black with a small whitish area on each of the webs of the first and second primaries (possibly on the third primary also) that was most evident when the bird was resting on the water with its wings folded back over and beyond the tail. There was a suffused, pale brown carpal bar which required careful, close scrutiny to see when the bird hovered or flew about at close range. The underwing linings were a dull grayish-white. VOCALIZATION: No calls or cries were heard.



Based upon the data compiled, I concluded that this was a Ross' Gull in transitional plumage, molting from first summer into second winter. I continued to watch the bird for 20 to 25 minutes with the aid of 10x50 binoculars and a 15x-60x telescope. It approached as close as 50 yards on a number of occasions while drifting away some 500 yards at the greatest point. On the average it flew about at a distance of 75 to 100 yards. Eventually the bird flew over the west jetty and did not return.



I quickly drove around to the west jetty parking area, a trip of 10 to 12 minutes, but failed to relocate the bird. Regrettably there were no other people who observed this gull although I reported it to the New York City "Rare Bird Alert" later that evening. I returned to the area on December 14 but was unable to relocate the bird.

Similarly appearing species were eliminated as follows: Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) has shorter, more rounded wings and a square tail. A first winter bird is boldly marked with a blackish "W" across the upperwings in flight and has a prominent dark cap and ear-spot. A first summer bird molting in second winter should show some semblance of a hood. Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*) has a square tail. A first winter bird would have a prominent dark ear-spot, dark carpal bar with a second bar and a blackish, subterminal tail band. A second winter bird has an all white tail and has acquired the adult upperwing pattern. Fortunately, there were a good number of Bonaparte's Gulls in the immediate area affording excellent opportunities for comparison. Common Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) is also square-tailed, is somewhat larger and is eliminated for the same basic reasons as for *L. philadelphia*. The Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) is much too large, has a square tail and a larger, longer bill. First winter birds show a dark "W" pattern across the wings in flight, a dark collar and a bold, black tail band. Second winter Kittiwakes have prominent black-tipped primaries. Sabine's Gulls (*Larus sabini*) have slightly forked tail and are eliminated by the striking, tricolored (black, gray and white) upperwing pattern in all plumages. Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) is larger and hooded in all plumages. Finally, the Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) is larger still and would have much darker upperwings and mantle. My previous experience with the Ross' Gull is limited to a sighting of a first winter bird that was present at Jumbo Reservoir in Sedgwick County, Colorado, for about two weeks in April-May 1983, representing a first record for that state. Also, in June 1984, I observed two, possibly three, adult birds in breeding plumage on several occasions in and about the Churchill Manitoba area.

4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80111

[Editor's Note: This account exemplifies well an account which makes review of records by both your Editor and by a records committee much the easier. This report was reviewed and accepted as the first state record by the New York State Avian Records Committee in their recent report, which appears in The Kingbird 38:200-208; 1987[1988].]

## A FIRST SUBSTANTIATED RECORD OF GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW FROM NEW YORK STATE

JOHN BULL

A Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) was observed by many people at Jones Beach, Long Island, New York on 17 and 18 October 1987. This individual was color-photographed on the first date by Adrian Dignan. To my knowledge this was the only period when it was recorded. The slides from which the accompanying figures were made are on deposit with the New York State Avian Records Committee. This is the first substantiated record of this mainly Pacific coast species for New York State. Unfortunately, I did not see this individual. However, at approximately the same location, one was found by Geoffrey Carleton on 31 January 1954 and was seen by many observers, including this writer, until 24 April 1954. It could not be collected, and the photographs taken were unsatisfactory. This report was first published by Bull (1964: 461). It was placed on the Hypothetical List by Bull (1974: 592); however, this report has been reviewed and the record was accepted by the New York State Avian Records Committee (DeBenedictis *et al*, 1984).

The first definite record for the entire Atlantic seaboard of this far western bird was of a specimen collected at Bedford, Mass, on 26 January 1928 by J. B. May, now in the collection of the Boston Museum of Science (Griscom & Snyder, 1955). Another individual was trapped and banded by A. and J. Conway at Easton, Pennsylvania, on 3 June 1952 and examined by Alexander Wetmore, Ludlow Griscom, and Roger Peterson. This record and two other occurrences in Pennsylvania appear in Poole (1964). Other reports were made in New Jersey, some of them somewhat less satisfactory than the above records (Leck, 1984). As one can see by the account on page 168 the description leaves much to be desired. Details are perfunctory at best.

### Literature Cited

- Bull, John. 1964. *Birds of the New York City Area*. Harper and Row, NY.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1974. *Birds of New York State*. Doubleday Natural-History Press. New York, NY.
- DeBenedictis, Paul A, Robert F. Andrlle, Kenneth P. Able, Thomas H. Davis and Robert O. Paxton. 1984. Report of the New York State Avian Records Committee. *Kingbird* 34:216-220.
- Griscom, Ludlow and Dorothy Snyder. 1955. *Birds of Massachusetts*. Peabody Museum at Salem, Mass.
- Leck, Charles F. 1984. *The Status and Distribution of New Jersey's Birds*. Rutgers Univ. Press.
- Poole, Earl L. 1964. *Pennsylvania Birds*. Livingston Publishing Co. American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024



*Two views of a Golden-crowned Sparrow,  
Zach's Bay, Jones Beach, Nassau Co., New York, 17 October 1987.  
Photographs by Adrian Dignan.*



## Editorial

Last year it was my pleasure to announce the formal recognition of the contributions of four past Regional Editors by the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. I am equally pleased to announce that two more persons have joined their ranks through their continuing contributions to *The Kingbird* and to the Federation, and am even happier that we can anticipate more of their efforts.

Robert Spahn has been the seasonal highlights editor since 1982, and before that was Region 2 editor from 1976 to 1982. When the Executive council had to decide whom to honor and whom not, Bob was the closest contributor who failed to qualify. Now over the past two years he has become the newest member of that elite group of individuals who have contributed at least 50 seasonal highlights or Regional reports. It is all the more notable that he did much of this while organizing the Region 2 Breeding Bird Atlas field work, a task I know from personal experience to be a full time job in itself! For his hard work on behalf of the Federation, he is now honored with his fellow editors.

When I assumed editorship of *The Kingbird*, Manny Levine assured me that I would find Connie Wilkins' assistance with the technical aspects of publishing *The Kingbird* invaluable. So it has been. She has taught me a lot. Tardy Regional reports and personal commitments may slow completion of a *Kingbird* issue, but once the material is in Connie's hands, I am as confident as was my predecessor that the preparation of our journal is in good hands. I am sure Max Wheat finds *New York Birders* equally well managed. Connie has been an important contributor to membership drives and a long-standing member of the Executive Committee. The Federation's recent offering of the Hawks field guide to its members at a substantial saving is another result of her many contributions to our organization.

Both of these worthy individuals will be formally honored at the 1988 annual meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. On behalf of the entire membership, I express our thanks to both of you now.

*The Editor*

## THOMAS H. DAVIS, JR., 1943-1986

ROBERT S. ARBIB, JR.

Thomas H. Davis Jr., was born in Jamaica, New York, on 17 July 1943 and died in Far Rockaway, New York, on 15 July 1986. In the 43 years between those two dates, Tom crowded a lifetime of experiences that many of his peers would have been happy to have lived. He developed into one of North America's leading experts on the field identification of birds, devoting at least the last 25 years of his life to what he called his "obsession" with ornithology and bird study in all its various fascinations. Although he didn't seem to devote special attention to it, his life was also that of a gentle, caring, concerned human being with friends literally around the world. For many of us, that was as important a facet of his character as was his expertise and devotion to birds. We will truly miss this sweet, natural man for all his services to his fellow birders. We value the congenial memories we have of him.

Tom Davis, as everyone knew him, will be remembered perhaps primarily for his close association with the Linnaean Society of New York, where he served as its youngest recording Secretary (1967-69), Vice-President (1969-71), President (1961-73) and member of the Council. For 12 years (1972-84) he held the double role of editor of the *Linnaean News-Letter* and editor (and voice) of the New York City Rare Bird Alert. He was known to a wider audience, as frequent contributor and Regional Editor of *The Kingbird* for Region 10, as a member of the NYSARC from 1977 to 1985, for summaries on shorebird identification at Federation meetings, for articles and reviews in the journal *Birding*, for leading field trips to favorite places like Cox's Ledge off Montauk Point (where he was the expert on pelagics) and even more remote places like Surinam, Venezuela and Guatemala.

In the field, Tom was an active participant in Breeding Bird Census work, the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas, breeding bird counts, big day counts and Christmas bird counts. His particular passion was shorebirds, and his studies at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge developed original and definitive data on shorebird migration timing, plumages and molts, and identification. Among his many talents were those of photographer and of recordist. VIREO and the Cornell Laboratory are both beneficiaries of his photographic and tape legacy, and many of his friends still cherish the photographic shorebirds on his Christmas cards.

Tom as not exactly an overnight sensation. He felt his love for birds came from remorse after he had dispatched one with a BB gun at the



*Photograph by Don Riepe.*

age of nine or ten. When he was 15, a summer vacation in Vermont in company with another 15-year old, Craig Parenteau, and the curator of the local museum opened his eyes to the wonder of birds. From then on, he was "hooked for life!" His first pair of binoculars was a battered pair of Bausch & Lomb's, a gift from his grandfather. Later he managed to save enough money to buy himself a fine pair of Bushnells, which he used until his death. His first birding was in the backyard in Woodhaven, Queens County; it expanded into Forest Park, and then to Jamaica Bay, which was, in later years, a focus of his concern. But with maturity came wanderlust and with it trips to the Caribbean, Venezuela, Colombia, Guyana, Surinam, Haiti, Guatemala, Panama, the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador and Mexico. In each of these locales his surveys added to the ornithological knowledge of the region as well as to the knowledge of those who travelled with him.

When Tom was 16, he began to attend meetings of the Brooklyn Bird Club, which met in the Brooklyn Academy of Music. At these meetings he met some to-be-lifetime friends, including John Yrizarry, Esther Swayer, Irene Parks, Helen Dumont, Frank Bader. Other members became a continuing guide and inspiration. As for academia, he had graduated with honors from his parochial school, had won a Regents scholarship, and went off (Uptown) to Hunter College, where he fulfilled a promise to his parents to stay at least a year. But Tom was impatient to establish an independent life, and dropped out in favor of one or two meaningless jobs, finally and it was his career joining the New York Telephone Company, where he soon rose to become the top of his field, an administrative-technical job which I never did understand. However, Tom was a wizard with long-lines switchboards. You could be conversing with him about some ornithological question and he'd interrupt with "Hold on a minute, I'll get Jon Westcoast, Janet Arizona, and Ted Saskachewan and let's talk." A minute later, and a five-way, cross continental conference would be in progress. It never failed to amaze me, even though I knew it was routine for him.

When Tom joined the Linnaean Society of New York, he brought with him a reputation for the sharpest eyes and ears, and the tallest frame, in the local scene. It wasn't long before he was leading field trips to beloved Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Forest Park, and further afield and afloat. His many positions in the Society have already been noted. During the years he was active, no one came anywhere near his hours of devotion and service to the Society. He edited numerous News-Letters, wrote and delivered onto tape at least 1000 Rare Bird Alert reports (some of them with backgrounds of classical music), attended regular and council meetings and committee meetings, and led

field trips. Meanwhile he was an active bird bander, largely with Frank Enders, photographer, recordist and contributor of articles and book reviews to *Birding*, *The Kingbird*, and other ornithological publications.

Anecdotes and memories flood in. The little blue Duster with the license plate TOUCAN, a reminder of tropical adventures. The times he would call me to good-naturedly question a photograph in *American Birds*, "Hey, Bobb-eeee, are you sure that's an Iceland Gull?" Trying to keep up with his long-legged stride in the hills and valleys of Forest Park seemed to leave the older, and shorter, followers panting in his wake. One friend remembers a repair job on a toilet in his apartment; when it was finished he telephoned the plumber to complain that it was still not right. To prove it, he played for the astonished plumber a recording of the mellow-sounding flush before it broke down, and then, the discordant flush after it had been 'repaired.' "You hear the difference?" Tom asked. It was tuned. Arthur Morris remembers Tom with fondness. He remembers one time when they were together and heard a warbler give a typical "chit" call. Art cried "Wilson's Warbler!" where upon Tom corrected, "Black-throated Green." He could identify 29 warbler species by chips alone.

As an expert, Tom was increasingly in the news media when there were questions to be answered. An article on the visit of the Rufous-necked Stint to Jamaica Bay was featured in the *New York Times*, with lengthy quotes by Tom, who saw the bird with the help of friends who carried him around East Pond on a stretcher. An article in the *Wall Street Journal* quoted Tom on birdwatching in Surinam, which had undergone a political upheaval. One of Tom's statements, taken out of context from that article, won him the honor of being declared an enemy of the state. Tom got wry amusement from that.

The crippling stroke that laid Tom low in 1985, and from which he never recovered, shocked all who knew him. Still a young man, tall, thin, looking some thought half-starved, and with the most productive years of his life surely ahead of him, he seemed in normal good health when suddenly an artery burst, leaving him laterally paralyzed. One would be superhuman to experience such a blow in good spirits, or with optimism, and Tom was human. His various moves from one hospital to another were painful, tiring, and at times, must have made him feel bleak and without hope. Frankly, he was not a good patient; he resisted therapy no matter how his caring friends pleaded with him. A few weeks before his death, I visited him at his specially equipped apartment in the Rockaways. He asked me to bring him a bottle of red wine, dark rum, and later to go out for some stuffed clams. He couldn't manage any of them. Against my better judgment, I fetched them. The



apartment was neatly stacked with his tapes, slides, notebooks, and books, which were offered as gifts to friends upon his death.

He attributed the first stroke to an overdose of amphetamines, but there is no medical support for this theory. A weakened artery in the skull had caused an aneurysm, which had ruptured, damaging part of the brain — not the thinking, hearing, seeing part, but the motor responses on his left side. It could have had any number of triggers, even including a genetic weakness, but it was typical of Tom to blame himself.

The American Birding Association has set up a life endowment in Tom's name. The Linnaean Society has been collecting signatures on a petition to the National Parks Department to rename the East Pond as the "Tom Davis Pond," and to place an appropriate stone or bronze marker. You simply can't walk around this pond without thinking of his infectious enthusiasm, good humor, inquiring mind and that long lean figure bent over a telescope with a crowd of friends, students and beginners around him.

*226 Guion Drive, Mamaroneck, NY 10543*

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Burrowing Owls on Long Island:** In his book *Birds of The New York Area* (1964) John Bull mentions two possible occurrences of Burrowing Owl in the New York City area: (1) one caught alive in New York City on 8 Aug 1876 but suspected of having escaped from captivity, and (2) one shot at Westhampton, Long Island, on 27 Oct 1950. The latter was a specimen of the western race (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*) and may have been a genuine wanderer. Considering the foregoing it is against all odds that my wife Hanna and I should have been involved with three occurrences of this species on Long Island between December 1976 and March 1982.

On 28 Dec 1976 we picked up a Florida race Burrowing Owl that was on the verge of dying of exposure during a snow storm. The bird was on the median of the Jones Beach strip at Cedar Beach and it was given first aid and stabilized by Hanna, who has a permit to rehabilitate wildlife. At the time we had no experience with this species so Tom Davis came to our house and photographed and measured the owl. He concurred with us that it was the Florida race (*Athene cunicularia floridana*) thought to be sedentary. Many believed that it had accidentally boarded a truck or ship and was only able to free itself upon arriving here (cf. *Kingbird* 27:69; 1977). At the American Museum of Natural History John Farrand confirmed the identification and both he and John Bull agreed that the wisest course to take would be to return it to Florida. So on 6 Jan 1977 the owl was returned to Miami, Florida, via National Airlines.

On 3 Dec 1978 Port Authority supervisor Sam Chevalier, a close friend, was operating his truck along the back roads at J. F. Kennedy International Airport. Hanna was seated next to him. They were searching for a Snowy Owl seen the day before but instead flushed a Burrowing Owl. A phone call brought Jim Ash to the scene in record time. He had missed seeing the Cedar Beach Owl by minutes and was determined that history would not repeat itself. The owl was identified, with the aid of a 20x scope, as a Florida race bird. The following day Sam saw the owl in the same general area. This individual was quite wary and impossible to approach. The owl was not seen again until 30 Jan, when it was found at a different location on the airport. It was last seen on 1 Feb. At this time, various other raptors were on the airport, including a Peregrine Falcon, Snowy Owl, Short-eared Owl, Common Barn-Owl, and occasional Goshawks and Cooper's Hawks, so the possibility of foul play exists. Copies of my original notes have been filed with the New York State Avian Records Committee.

On 29 Mar 1982 Sam, Hanna and I were birding the airport. We stopped the truck on a dirt road and got out. While looking for sparrows we came upon the flattened and stiff carcass of a Burrowing Owl. It was easily identified by plumage and the distinctive tarsi. At this point Hanna and I had studied the birds in both Florida and Texas, and this too was a Florida race individual! Unfortunately, its remains were misplaced before they could be deposited in a museum collection.

The occurrence of this species on a 6,600 acre airport so far from its normal range immediately suggests the probability of plane-assisted passage, all the more because, within their home range, they also favor airports and similar places such as golf courses. I don't believe anyone familiar with this race of Burrowing Owl would seriously consider that they would undertake an unassisted flight from the state of Florida to New York. One thing, however, is certain wherever they are encountered Burrowing Owls are a joy to watch and are especially entertaining when introducing their young to the outside world.

Arthur Richard, 23 Bartlett Place, Brooklyn, NY 11229

[Anyone who observed the last two of these birds and who has original field notes is encouraged to send a copy of those notes to the NYSARC. Even fragmentary remains of rarities found dead should be saved and deposited in an ornithological collection along with your name, the date and place the remains were found, and an indication of why the specimen should be preserved. Skeletons and scattered feathers usually suffice to permit later verification of a record; New York State's Yellow-billed Loon record is documented by a lower mandible only! — The Editor]

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Late Date For Unfledged Juvenile Wood Thrush** — On 3 July I discovered a female Wood Thrush completing a nest at Heart Lake, Essex County. The site is at an elevation of 2178 feet above sea level. The nest was built only a few hundred feet from the shores of Heart Lake near lean-to number 10. The nest rested in the branches of a Red Maple tree and was 25.5 feet above the ground. The branch it rested on curved gently away from the trunk and the nest was about 24 feet out from the base of the trunk. The tree grew within a few feet of the lean-to.

The outside of the nest was draped generously with bark of the Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*) and a long strand of plastic-like wrapping material. Small shells were found in the mud used for construction of the nest. It had apparently been collected from the nearby shores of Heart Lake. The mud was combined with leaf mold to make a sturdy nest. A few blowfly larva were found in the used nest. The nest also included some Northern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) cones, some dried plant stems, rootlets and one rubber band.

Between 3 July and 6 August I devoted in excess of 15 hours closely observing the behavior of the pair of Wood Thrush from nest building through the fledging stage. Reconstructing the events, I believe the nest was finished on 4 July. Three eggs were laid from 5 July through 7 July. Incubation continued from 8 July through 20 July and the nestling period was from 21 July through 3 August. The dates from the list compiled by Gordon M. Meade

for the N.Y. State Breeding Bird Atlas project (1981) range from 22 May through 1 August for unfledged Juveniles. My observation at Heart Lake indicates that this range should be extended to 3 August. Nesting at Heart Lake probably represents the upper elevational limit for breeding for this species.

My observations closely parallel those reported by Donald Stokes (*A Guide To Bird Behavior Volume II*) for the nestling period. Stokes states that the female broods or attends (standing at the nest's edge) her young about 70% of the time. My observations show that the female was at the nest 62% of the time and the male was there 20%. The nest was unattended 18% of the time. Most of the unattended time occurred at the very end of the nestling phase. Stokes states that the male does about 2/3 of the feeding. My data shows that the male made 62% of all the deliveries of food to the nest. The female usually would leave the nest and return with food within a few minutes. The male usually was gone for a much longer time. During that time the female brooded the young. The male did not brood the young at all. He usually hopped to a nearby branch and alertly stood guard over the nest, waiting for the return of the female. During nesting it is the female that usually attends to cleaning up the nest. This includes either eating the fecal sacs or carrying them away. During the later stages of the nestling phase I observed the female carrying away 57% of the fecal sacs. Many times the female would reach into the nest with her bill and clean it. From my vantage point there was no way of knowing whether she was eating the fecal sacs. For this reason her contribution to removing the fecal sacs actually may be much higher than the 57% which I observed. From my observations the diet of the nestlings were exclusively insects. Branches heavy with the fruit of the Juneberry (*Amelanchier arborea*) hung within 10 feet of the nest. The berries were readily accessible, but at no time did I observe the adult feeding the nestlings juneberries. After the young fledged however, their diet shifted to include some berries. I observed both pin cherries and juneberries being fed to the young.

The adults were silent around the nest as far as I could tell. I heard neither of them sing or call during the nesting period. Both were alert around the nest, with no unnecessary movement that would draw attention to the nest. Even though the juneberry tree was the center of feeding activity for many birds in the area, only one American Robin passed close enough to be chased by the Wood Thrush. The female even allowed four Blue Jays to approach within 15 feet of the nest without giving chase. A Solitary Vireo perched within three feet of the nest and was not chased. Their instinct is not to move unless absolutely necessary.

The young grew so quickly that by age 13 days they virtually outgrew the nest. They were forced to leave, because by this time the nest was too small to contain them.

*Mark Gretch, P. O. Box 748, Champlain, NY 12919*

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Shrike Survives Collision:** Feeder birds exploded in all directions as a mass of gray feathers crashed into the picture window at 2:10 P.M. here at Amity Lake, Allegany County. Sprawled on the ground with hook-tipped beak open, black wings and tail askew but bright eyes open and heart pounding furiously, the mockingbird-sized slate gray bird was alive!

The head and neck were much heavier than a mockingbird's, a black mask extended from the hooked bill back through the eye, the wings showed a narrow white patch, the tail was boldly edged in white and the buffy breast was faintly barred horizontally, but the feet were weak — not talons as would be consistent with the raptor bill. Instead of a Northern Mockingbird, which has a more slender bill with no hook, larger white wing patches but no eye mask or brown breast stripes, this was a Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*.) It was not a Loggerhead Shrike as the eye mask did not extend along the top of the bill.

Hoping it would recover, I carefully laid the shrike in a ventilated box with cover secure. In about a half hour it was rattling the box energetically, and I took it out, holding it first cupped under my hand with its head through between the index and third fingers. Not being a bander, I hadn't realized there was too much bird (so strong, so solid, so big!) to hold this way and so I carefully grasped the legs, index finger between them, close to the body. The bird appeared to be in good condition with plenty of fat. At first it seemed very docile, but not for long. As we tried for a picture, my left hand supporting the breast became a target for the bill, each touch punching a tiny hole drawing a droplet of blood. After multiple samplings, it finally found a better place, the fleshy edge next to the fourth finger nail, where it clamped down hard, twisting at the same time. *Then* I hunted up a leather glove!

In a few minutes when I stepped to the porch to open my hands, the bird stood on the glove momentarily looking around — such a beautiful bird! — and then flew to a low bush nearby to sit for about ten minutes before flying into conifers to the west. As it was then about 3:00 P.M., it should have been able to find food before dark.

This arrival date, 23 November 1987, of the shrike was four days earlier than the one of five years ago.

*Vivian Mills Pitzrick, Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813*

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

The words most frequently associated with this Fall's migration are "lackluster" and "disappointing." They refer mainly to the numbers of migrant landbirds encountered. Positive comments were reserved for raptors (especially those species which typically overwinter here), a few of the waterbirds and shorebird variety. This general summary is a repeat of last fall and echoes the landbird migrations for the past several years now, both spring and fall. Only the particular species associated with the few bright spots vary from season to season.

The weather this fall certainly could have had some impact on perceptions of the migration. September, normally the peak month for landbird groundings, was wet across the state, excepting Region 7, and cool in all but Region 1. In Region 1, tower kills were the lowest since monitoring began in 1967. October remained cool and turned drier in all but Regions 3 and 8. A freak, heavy snowfall hit Regions 4, 8 and 9 on the 4 Oct, causing lots of tree damage and knocking out power for days in some locales but had no discernible effects on birdlife. November brought a roller-coaster pattern all across the state, averaging warmer and drier than normal in most areas. Apparently there were few lingering migrants to seek in these late days of "Indian Summer," as departure dates nearly universally were very early.

We still lack a good quantitative database for numerical comparisons, so the assessment of this season's migration is mostly qualitative as is too often the case. The movement of loons and grebes along the south shore of Lake Ontario was about average, but with peak counts a bit low. Regions 4 and 5 did note some improvement in Pied-billed Grebe numbers over recent years. Among the herons, the fall "event" was Cattle Egret lingering from late October to mid November dates in Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8. Waterfowl reports were mixed, Regions 1, 4 and 8 indicating "good", Region 2 below average, and Region 5 "poor" flights. Generally, the numbers don't appear very impressive. Canvasback and Greater Scaup numbers were high in Region 1; Wood Duck set a state record high in Region 5 and peaked very high in Region 3 at Montezuma NWR; Hooded Merganser counts were very high in several regions; and lots of Common Mergansers gathered in Region 6. Aside from these highs the rest of the numbers reported are not very good in historical context.

There were many notes of "good" raptor counts, but again it is not clear that overall counts rate very high. Region 9 is the only one from which summarizes some of the fall hawk watch data. Some of the peak

counts look very good, but without long-term averages against which to compare this year's results, this is hard to evaluate. Most of the other positive comments relate to winter raptors, of which high counts for N. Harrier, Rough-legged Hawk, and Short-eared Owl are associated with an apparently widespread, vole population high. In addition, we find increases in Turkey Vulture and late reports for Osprey in several Regions. Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon were noted in nearly all regions, but in low numbers; Peregrine populations are impossible to assess without Region 10 data. Two negatives were very low numbers of N. Goshawk and Red-shouldered Hawk.

The shorebird picture was brighter Upstate with Lake Ontario levels down a bit plus habitat provided again at Montezuma NWR in Region 3. However, while variety was excellent, the peak counts reported for many species across the state were not very high, particularly among the "peep" sandpipers and Dunlin. Killdeer counts provided a contrast, with a state record high recorded in Region 5 and several other very high totals. Gull and tern reports were not very impressive, except at the Robert Moses Power Dam in Region 6, where increased coverage has documented a major, regular concentration of gulls and terns and numerous reports of rarer species.

Reports of passerines also are generally negative, though Region 1 notes many very high counts on the annual BOS October Census and several Regions note increases in species which have been expanding their ranges in New York from the south. Flycatchers were considered "poor," but so few normally linger into the fall in any numbers that this is hard to assess. Swallow counts were not particularly good, but again by September the peaks of most species except Tree Swallow, and very locally, Purple Martin and Barn Swallow have passed anyway. Common Raven, Winter Wren and the kinglets bring a bright note to this list with increased numbers. In contrast, virtually all comments on thrushes and mimids, except for Am. Robin, E. Bluebird, and N. Mockingbird, were negative, reinforced in the departure table data where all averaged disappearing much earlier than usual. Vireo and warbler reports continue the negative trend, with very few high counts reported anywhere and departure dates generally early. While a few high counts are reported, there are actually little really good numerical data for any of these species. There were some local good sparrow counts from Upstate, but also numerous reports of very low counts for most species. It is interesting to note the arrival of American Tree Sparrow across the entire state over a relatively brief time span, even though numbers were generally low this fall.

Winter irruptives included Snowy Owl in fair numbers across the state and N. Shrike in nearly all Regions by late October, but there

were very few Bohemian Waxwing and winter finch reports, except for very large counts of Pine Siskin. Numbers of the last species correlated with an excellent crop of E. Hemlock cones. Few half-hardy species remained by late in the season.

As usual, in contrast to the dismal broadbrush picture painted above, there are always local or Regional highlights — too many to list completely. A few of these may whet your appetite to search for more among the Regional Reports. There are continued very high inland counts of Double-crested Cormorant in Regions 1, 3 and 5, not necessarily a plus in everyone's eyes. Late *Plegadis* ibis reports from Regions 2 and 3, may have been the same bird. Records of Swainson's Hawk in Region 9 and Sandhill Crane in Region 5 are even more remarkable in the fall. A Solitary Sandpiper tarried very late in Region 7, a state record late date for Yellow Warbler was set in Region 5 and a very late Indigo Bunting was in Region 9. Other notable reports include a good scattering of late cuckoo reports, low peak counts for Common Nighthawk and high peaks for Chimney Swift, a "giant" starling in Region 7, Connecticut Warblers in Regions 3 and 4, and more evidence of the regular occurrence of Sharp-tailed Sparrow Upstate in Region 2 if the right habitat is searched at the proper time. The possible list of comments is limited mainly by one's interest in searching.

This fall's table of departure dates for species which occur relatively commonly across the state suggests some more quantitative tidbits, given the appropriate disclaimers. Departure dates are even more prone to the problem of poor reporting than are arrival dates, leaving the data highly variable. The problem occurs because one never knows if a given observation is a "departure" date until long after it has happened, in sharp contrast with an arrival [see below — the Editor.] With lots of Regional data, a Regional editor can sort them for the last report of each species. However, this data must first be submitted by individual observers, and too often observers either don't record all of their sighting data or simply don't go back to search for their personal last dates for each species to contribute to their Regional database. The problem is very similar to that of trying to assess numerical declines in species. Additionally, to draw conclusions from this fall's data, we must compare this year's dates with the table of 25-year averages (*The Kingbird* 37:12-15), which are still contaminated by data gathered under different guidelines. We also still lack a computation of the variance of the data in that table for assessing significance of the deviations from average. If one ignores the former problems and, I did this spring (*The Kingbird* 37:136-142), estimates the variance from the data in the recent "The Birds of Monroe County, New York Annotated List" (*Proceedings of the Rochester Academy of Science* 16: 1-64) and assumes that this measure is



similar for all Regions, then quantitative conclusions may be drawn. I first used the estimated variances of individual species' departure dates to compare the mean departure date of each species with its 25-year average, correcting the average a bit for the fact that the Region 10 data is missing from the current season's table. This analysis suggests that 23 of the 62 species in the table departed on dates averaging statistically significantly early across the state relative to their long-term averages. It is also interesting that of 10 species whose departure date averaged late, only one of these is statistically significant given the variance of the data. The early departures included Lesser Yellowlegs, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Great Crested Flycatcher, all of the thrushes and mimids in the table, 12 of the 20 warblers, Scarlet Tanager and Bobolink. Only White-crowned Sparrow departures averaged significantly late. It would seem that this ought to be telling us something about the data, the season or bird populations. Pooling the variance across species, we find that the overall seasonality for a Region must exceed 3.4 days early or late to be statistically significant. Using this criterion, all but Regions 1 and 2 showed an overall significantly early departure pattern for the season. I still have trouble deciding whether differences in the Advance column are real or are still strongly influenced by scanty data as some of the newer editors continue to establish their reporting networks. I would appreciate any comments, positive or negative, about these attempts at quantitative commentary based on these tables from you, the readers.

Over most of the state, this was a good season for finding rarities. Among the best are: Region 1 none!?!; Region 2 Gyrfalcon, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and Brewer's Blackbird; Region 3 Flamingo, Yellow-throated Warbler, and Yellow-headed Blackbird; Region 4 Black Vulture, "Kriders" Red-tailed Hawk, and Varied Thrush; Region 5 Sandhill Crane, Marbled Godwit, and Sabine's Gull; Region 6 Arctic Tern and Razorbill; Region 7 Harlequin Duck, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black-headed Grosbeak and Brewer's Blackbird; Region 8 - Great Cormorant; and Region 9 Black Vulture, Swainson's Hawk, Loggerhead Shrike, "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler and Brewer's Blackbird. The BOTS Award goes to the Gray Kingbird in Region 3, one of very few ever and the first recorded so far inland in New York. Obviously, the decision would be much more difficult if the report for Region 10, which had at least one new bird for the state this fall, had been available this fall. (See elsewhere in this issue.)

*716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580*

Fall Departures 1987

24

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

THE KINGBIRD

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average
Solitary Vireo	11 Oct	6 Oct	30 Sep	18 Oct	9 Oct	6 Oct	12 Oct	26 Sep	23 Oct		9 Oct
Yellow-throated Vireo		20 Sep	5 Sep		15 Sep			6 Sep	15 Oct		18 Sep
Warbling Vireo	21 Sep	3 Oct	17 Sep	15 Sep	20 Sep			19 Sep	17 Sep		20 Sep
Red-eyed Vireo	25 Oct	5 Oct	30 Sep	3 Oct	5 Oct	22 Sep	23 Sep	27 Sep	7 Oct		3 Oct
Blue-winged Warbler	18 Sep	18 Sep	15 Sep	14 Sep	21 Sep				6 Sep		15 Sep
Tennessee Warbler	11 Oct	1 Oct	3 Oct	24 Oct	2 Oct	22 Sep	19 Sep	6 Sep	11 Oct		1 Oct
Nashville Warbler	11 Oct	2 Oct	3 Oct	20 Oct	6 Oct	8 Nov	22 Oct	27 Sep			12 Oct
Northern Parula	20 Sep	17 Sep			6 Oct	3 Oct	8 Sep				22 Sep
Yellow Warbler	20 Sep	5 Oct			19 Sep	3 Sep		8 Sep	23 Sep		18 Sep
Chestnut-sided Warbler	11 Oct	19 Sep	9 Sep	25 Sep	6 Oct	6 Oct	19 Sep		15 Oct		28 Sep
Magnolia Warbler	11 Oct	6 Oct	3 Oct	30 Sep	10 Oct		9 Oct	19 Sep	28 Sep		3 Oct
Cape May Warbler	11 Oct	9 Oct	3 Oct	8 Sep	1 Oct		23 Sep	19 Sep	21 Sep		26 Sep
Black-thr Blue Warbler	11 Oct	12 Oct	30 Sep	23 Sep	5 Oct	6 Oct	30 Sep		12 Sep		1 Oct
Black-thr Green Warbler	11 Oct	4 Oct	30 Sep	27 Sep	17 Oct	6 Oct	8 Oct	22 Sep	6 Oct		4 Oct
Blackburnian Warbler	11 Oct	2 Oct	12 Sep	15 Sep	24 Sep		6 Sep		15 Oct		25 Sep
Bay-breasted Warbler	11 Oct	30 Sep	30 Sep	15 Sep	24 Sep		8 Sep	17 Sep	15 Sep		22 Sep
Blackpoll Warbler	12 Oct	1 Oct	23 Sep	19 Sep	24 Sep			17 Sep	15 Oct		28 Sep
Black-and-white Warbler	11 Oct	30 Sep	30 Sep	4 Sep	26 Sep		6 Sep		20 Sep		22 Sep
American Redstart	12 Oct	17 Oct	15 Sep	27 Sep	24 Sep	2 Sep	17 Sep	20 Sep	22 Sep		24 Sep
Ovenbird	4 Oct	4 Oct	15 Sep	21 Sep	27 Sep	2 Sep	14 Sep	19 Sep	2 Sep		18 Sep
N. Waterthrush	12 Sep	30 Sep	12 Sep	13 Sep	14 Sep	2 Sep					13 Sep
Common Yellowthroat	16 Oct	4 Nov	9 Oct	8 Oct	17 Oct	27 Sep	21 Sep	1 Nov	12 Oct		13 Oct
Wilson's Warbler	11 Oct	1 Oct	5 Oct	8 Oct	24 Sep		16 Sep	4 Sep	24 Aug		22 Sep
Canada Warbler	22 Sep	29 Sep			15 Sep		7 Sep		2 Sep		15 Sep
Scarlet Tanager		30 Sep	30 Sep	26 Sep	21 Sep		23 Sep		29 Sep		26 Sep
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	11 Oct	1 Nov	22 Sep	28 Sep	25 Oct		24 Sep	29 Sep	4 Oct		6 Oct
Rufous-sided Towhee	22 Oct		1 Nov	24 Oct	17 Oct		10 Oct	17 Oct	5 Oct		18 Oct
Lincoln's Sparrow	10 Nov	21 Oct	30 Sep	2 Oct	31 Oct		22 Sep		12 Oct		14 Oct
White-crowned Sparrow	10 Nov	6 Nov	1 Nov	21 Nov	16 Nov		10 Nov	22 Oct	7 Nov		7 Nov
Bobolink	24 Sep	17 Sep	13 Sep	5 Sep	11 Sep		12 Aug	5 Sep	19 Oct		13 Sep
Northern Oriole		4 Oct		8 Sep	6 Sep		14 Aug		29 Sep		12 Sep

**Bold** Regional Record Late*Italics* also isolated later report(s).

Region	Species Reported	Seasonality (days)	Advance (days)
Region 1	58	-1.4	8.7
Region 2	61	-0.5	11.9
Region 3	53	-8.2	-2.0
Region 4	52	-4.9	-5.4
Region 5	62	-5.3	3.4
Region 6	32	-4.8	-9.8
Region 7	52	-5.1	-12.9
Region 8	43	-7.2	-4.7
Region 9	48	-10.1	2.7
Region 10	0		

---

Both this Fall's Highlights and the Region 7 report note that determining departure dates is harder than determining arrival dates. I knew this would be true when I initiated the arrival/departure dates project. In the spring, many birds announce their presence by singing but they remain here long after singing ceases. When you see the first of a species for the year, you know then and there that you have an arrival date. You can only tell that the bird you see today is the season's last tomorrow or the next day, after you have determined that you no longer can find that species. To participate in the departure dates project, you must keep some notes about what you see. Fortunately, the notes may be brief - a simple checkmark will suffice — but you should be prepared in advance to keep those notes.

I recommend the following easy way to keep track of departure dates. You will need two sheets of inexpensive, coarse (1/4 inch or larger grid) graph paper for each month. Orient the paper so you can write along the long (11 inch) axis of the paper. On the first line of each sheet, put "Species — month" along the left margin. Then starting at the right side of the first line and, going left, enter a number for each day of the month in reverse order, starting with 30 (or 31) and ending with 1, in a square of the graph paper. The finished line, say for October, will look like:

Species — Oct. 1 2 3 4 ... 30 31

Refer to the departure dates table in this fall's Highlights, and copy the names of the species from the upper half of the table onto one sheet and the names of the species from the lower half of the table onto the other sheet. Now each day during month that you observe one of these species, check it off (or, even better, jot down how many you saw) in

the column for that date. At the end of the reporting period, your chart will give you all the departure dates at a glance. I will try to have a set of blank master charts available for your club's representatives and your Regional Editor at the upcoming annual meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. You may duplicate and share them freely with whomever wishes to participate in this ongoing departure dates project.

Remember that observations of birds remaining late at feeders or in the field may be discounted by your Regional Editor. You might want to use a special symbol, such as an asterisk or a star, to denote such observations. You should report both the last unexceptional date and any unusual dates to your Regional Editor, explain what makes the latter unusual and provide details for the observation. To alert yourself to such observations, and to remind yourself of when departures normally occur, you may find it useful to add a column for average departure dates between the column for species name and the column for the first day of the month. You can obtain the average dates from *The Kingbird*, Vol. 37:12-15; 1986. Also remember that you may observe some species which depart in early September for the last time in August. You should report those dates with your other departure dates.

Even if you find only a few of these species, your observations are valuable. The more observations your Regional editor has, the more certain we all are that the dates published in *The Kingbird* are accurate. And if you have other observations to share with members of the Federation, include them as well. The Regional reports can reflect only the contributed data of those birders who take the time to summarize and share their observation with others.

### *The Editor*

---

Standard abbreviations: county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPERCASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters; ! — details seen by Regional editor; ad — adult; arr — arrival or first of season; I — Island; im — immature; *intro* — see introduction to report; j — juvenile; L — Lake; max — maximum; mob — multiple observers; NWR — National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC — report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P — Park; Pd — Pond; ph — photographed; Pt — Point; Res — Reservoir; SP — State Park; spm s — specimen; subad — subadult; T — Town of; Twn — township; WMA — Wildlife Management Area; y — young.

## REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

STEPHEN W. EATON

September was warm and wet, temperatures averaging 4° above normal and precipitation 2 inches above normal. Rain fell on 20 days of the month at Buffalo. Bees had great difficulty harvesting the goldenrod nectar flow on the Allegheny plateau but there was no frost at Amity Lake and most other places in southern tier counties. The warbler migration was described as "lackluster" by Terry Mosher at Dunkirk and "most disappointing" by Don Clark at Farmersville Station. Although difficult to prove, most observers in western New York felt that migrant warblers from the North are at population lows and have been for several reasons. Art Clark called TV tower kills south of Buffalo the lowest since he began monitoring them in 1967.

By 1 Oct Lake Erie had cooled to 66°, two degrees warmer than normal, but the 11 month stretch of above average temperature at Buffalo came to a close in October. Temperatures averaged 6.5° below normal, which gave Buffalo the chilliest autumn in 11 years. The first frost occurred rather generally across the Allegheny Plateau on 4 Oct, which was 24 days later than normal at Amity Lake. Frost along the lake plains did not occur until 26 Oct, which made their growing season 205 days (4 Apr to 26 Oct), the longest since 1938 according to the *Buffalo News*. Snow fell in the snowbelt in the lee of Lake Erie on the 11, 21 and 27 Oct. Fall foliage peaked about mid month and Lake Erie cooled to 53 by the end of the month.

November was the warmest in five years and the sunniest in 23. Only the last week of the month was gloomy with an average 12% of possible sunshine during that week. Snow fell on nine days but the ski areas in the snow belt had to settle for only about four inches. Amity Lake in Allegany County and Eaton's pond in Cattaraugus County froze over on 22 Nov, the first of several tries. Lake Erie had cooled to 45° by 30 Nov.

The fruit crop which produces much food for our wintering birds generally was good on the Allegheny Plateau. For the first time in several years wild Black Cherry produced abundant fruit not only in the fertile lowlands but also in the unglaciated hills of southern Cattaraugus County. This also applied to White Ash. Last year White Ash produced abundant seed in the valleys but not in the unglaciated soils. The reverse occurred this year. Turkeys, Ruffed Grouse and deer were seen eating the cherries and Turkeys and Evening Grosbeaks ate the White Ash seed. Eastern Hemlock produced one of the finest seed crops in several years. After every snowstorm the snow surface was peppered with their small seeds and Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch and Dark-eyed Junco fed on these. After one snow melt these same birds were noticed feeding on the seeds on the ground, an unusual habit for chickadees and nuthatches. In the hemlock trees large flocks of Pine Siskins, up to 100 individuals, broke into the small cones and fed on the seeds. Hawthorn fruit was abundant on some species and wild apples did well. One road-killed Ruffed Grouse examined had 106 *Crataegus* berries in its crop. White Pine and Norway Spruce produced abundant cones, not just near the tops of trees but further down on

lower branches. Grape, elderberry, dogwood and viburnum produced good fruit crops. White Oak in southern Cattaraugus County produced good numbers of acorns which were found by a few Wild Turkey flocks and many deer, but Red Oak, which needs at least 2 years to mature, was still 'put back' by the Gypsy Moth.

The water birds along the Great Lakes, Chautauqua Lake and the Niagara River put on a good show in October and November. The 136 Common Loons on the BOS October Count (11 Oct) was seen in highest numbers since 1935, while counts of 136 Pied-billed Grebe and 166 Horned Grebe were the highest in 10 years. A count of 105 Double-crested Cormorant at Fort Niagara State Park on 22 September on Lake Ontario further documents the increase of this bird inland. Great Egrets stayed late in good numbers as did a Cattle Egret in Chautauqua County. A nice flock of Brant and a flock of 33 Snow Geese (all blue) were seen in Chautauqua County. High counts of Canvasback in the Niagara River and of Redhead and Scaup at Lewiston Reservoir was encouraging news. The BOS fall count, summarized by Kathleen Hentz, seemed to indicate that four southern species reduced in numbers in western New York during the winter of 1976-1977 are recovering. These are Red-bellied Woodpecker (seen in second highest numbers ever), Tufted Titmouse (in second highest numbers in 10 years), Carolina Wren (6 were reported and 4 more were known to be in Region but not reported), Northern Mockingbird (third highest ever). Three other species which were reduced in numbers in southern states during the winter of 1976-77 seem to be regaining population strength. These are Eastern Phoebe (10 year high), Golden-crowned Kinglet (10 year high), Eastern Bluebird (highest numbers since 1971). Hermit Thrush and Gray Catbird, which winter a little further south, also may be increasing from the winter of 1976-77 but comparative data from the BOS count are not at hand.

Still another optimistic note is the continuing success of raptors. The BOS October 11 count had the second highest ever totals of Turkey Vulture (106) and Red-tailed Hawk and the highest count ever of Cooper's Hawk, Northern Harrier (164) and Short-eared Owl (6).

No very unusual species were seen during the period in the Region but enough interesting finds encouraged the dedicated birder to continue this rewarding activity. We will miss the thorough and active birding by Dave Gagne, who has moved to Massachusetts; hopefully we will hear from him on vacations.

Contributors: Allegany Bird Club, Robert Andrl, Tim Baird, Tony Bielat, Betsy Brooks, Lois Buck, Buffalo Ornithological Society, Lou and Doris Burton, Cattaraugus County Bird Club, Art Clark, Don and Jane Clark, William D'Anna, Steve Eaton, Don Endres, Dave Gagne, James Gregory, Joe and John Gula, Thomas Harper, Kathleen Hentz, Paul Hess, Johnson, D. King, Walter and Hulga Klabunde, J & N Luensman, Terry Mahoney (TMa), Terry and Judy Mosher, Neveu, Raymond and Vivian Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Fran Rew, Robertson, Arthur and Olga Rosche, B. Smalley, David Suggs, Robert Sundell, VanScoys, Joe Thill, William Watson, Cyril Wolfing.

Abbreviations: BIP-Bird Island Pier, Buffalo; BISP-Beaver Island State Park; BOS-Buffalo Ornithological Society; BOSOC-October 11 BOS Count; BH-Buffalo Harbor; CCNS-Canadaway Creek Nature Sanctuary; DH- Dunkirk Harbor; FMCSF-Four Mile Creek State Park; FNSP-Fort Niagara State Park; INWR-Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; NiagF-Niagara Falls; NiagR-Niagara River; TFNP-Tift Farm Nature Preserve; TWMA-Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr 23 Oct. Com. Loon: max 36 DH 27 Oct., 35 NiagR 8 Nov, *intro*. Pied-billed Grebe: max 6 Mayville 8 Nov; *intro*. Horned Grebe: arr Lakewood 10 Oct; *intro*. Red-necked Grebe: one BIP 2 Oct; two BOSOC 11 Oct. Double-crested Cormorant: *intro*; last NiagR and Great Lakes 25 Oct. Am. Bittern: one TFNP 3 Sep., only report. Least Bittern: one TFNP 2 Sep. Great Egret: max 24 INWR 27 Sep, last 25 Oct. Cattle Egret: one Harmony Twn, CHAU, 13 Nov, late. Tundra Swan: arr INWR 24 Oct; max 172 Mayville 22 Nov. Snow Goose: *intro*. Brant: arr Shadagee Rd, NIAG, 31 Oct; 36 Bear Lake, CHAU, 7 Nov (TM, mob). Canvasback: max 3,500 BISP 22 Nov, high for so early. Redhead: arr three Times Beach, Buffalo, 23 Sep; max 2,100 Lewiston Res 14 Nov, high. Scaup sp.: max 20,000 estimated Lewiston Res 28 Oct, high. Oldsquaw: arr 80 Porter Twn, CHAU, 7 Nov. Black Scoter: arr LaSalle Park, Buffalo, 12 Oct. Surf Scoter: max 17 BH 14 Nov. Hooded Merganser: max 146 INWR 7 Nov. Ruddy Duck : max 14 Lewiston Res 1 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: *intro*. Osprey: 11 reports BOS, last Amity L 29 Sep. Bald Eagle: im INWR 5 Sep; ad INWR 19-20 Sep, 30 Oct, 1 Nov; ad Tuna Creek and Allegheny R 17 Oct. N. Harrier: *intro*. Rough-legged Hawk: arr three Charlotte Twn, CHAU; max 19 CHAU 16 Nov. Ruffed Grouse: one Lewiston Twn, NIAG, 22 Sep, where missed during atlasing field work; a good hatching year; *intro*. Wild Turkey: good hatch this year, many flocks of good size. Sora: one TWMA 4 Oct, late and only report. Virginia Rail: one INWR 26 Sep, only report. Am. Coot: max 250 Mayville 10 Oct. Black-bellied Plover: max 30 INWR 25 Oct. Lesser Golden-Plover: max 13 Lewiston Twn, NIAG, 27 Sep. Whimbrel: last Buffalo 13 Oct. Sanderling: max 92 BIP 23 Sep. Western Sandpi per: one INWR 4 Sep. Dunlin: arr BIP 26 Sep. Long-billed Dowitcher: two Eden Twn, ERIE, 27-30 Sep, one 8 Oct (RA). Com. Snipe: max 50 INWR 21 Sep; last Tonawanda Twn, ERIE, 15 Nov. Wilson's Phalarope: one TFNP 3 Sep, late. Red-necked Phalarope: two B IP 26 Sep. Iceland Gull: one Lewiston Twn, NIAG, 29 Nov. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: one NiagF 27 Nov. Black-legged Kittiwake: one NiagF 27 Nov. Sabine's Gull: one-two Squaw I and BIP 7-24 Oct. Forster's Tern: max four DH 3 Sep. Black Tern: max 16 BIP 9 Sep.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: 2153 BOSOC, highest count ever. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Stockton Twn, CHAU 3 Sep; one FNSP 20 Sep. Snowy Owl: arr DH 31 Oct and BH 12 Nov; at three other lake plain localities in Nov (BOS). Long-eared Owl: arr So merset Twn, NIAG 14 Nov, only report. Short-eared Owl: *intro*. Com. Night-hawk: 37 Tonawanda Twn, ERIE, 7 Sep; max 50 Olean 8 Sep; last two Goat I 30 Sep. Whip-poor-will: one FMCSF 24 Sep. Chimney Swift: 338 BOSOC is 10 year high. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr FNSP 21 Sep. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one INWR through period; one Belmont 21 Oct, 13, 30 Nov and singles Farmersville Station 27 Nov and Salamanca 11 Dec represent increasing reports from valleys of Allegheny Plateau; 19 BOSOC, 2nd highest since 1935.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: N. Rough-winged Swallow: 250 NiagF 12 Oct, late. Bank Swallow: two Porter Twn, CHAU, 21 Sep, late. Com. Raven: four Scio mid-Sep (DK, *fide* Pitzrick); two Alma Pond, ALLE, 21 Nov (BS). Carolina Wren: reported from Jamestown, L Erie SP, BISP, Vandalia, Olean and junction Tuna Creek and Allegheny R during period; *intro*. Marsh Wren: four BOSOC, 2nd report in 7 years. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr CCNS 10 Sep, *intro*. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr CCNS 10 Sep. E. Bluebird: one Portland Twn, CHAU, 8 Nov; 227 BOSOC, 61 more than 1986 and first count over 200 since 1971, *intro*. Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr L Erie SP 10 Sep. N. Mockingbird: 24 BOSOC, 3rd highest ever, *intro*. Water Pipit: 300 Westfield Twn, CHAU 18 Oct. N. Shrike: arr J Davis SP 28 Oct, five other localities Oct and Nov (BOS).

VIREOS-WARBLED: Philadelphia Vireo: three Porter Twn, CHAU, 21 Sep, late. Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Times Beach and Tonawanda Twn, ERIE, 26 Sep. Pine Warbler: one TFNP 24 Sep. Prairie Warbler: one Amity Twn, ALLE, 4 Sep. Palm Warbler: arr Tonawanda Twn, ERIE, 16 Sep. Mourning Warbler: one Silver Creek 24 Sep, late. Hooded Warbler: last TFNP 3 Oct.



TANAGERS-WEAVERS : Indigo Bunting: two Amity L 29 Sep, late. **Dickcissel**: singles Darien 27-31 Oct (TH, WD, mob) and Alden 22 Nov (CW), perhaps the same bird; first Regional record since Apr 1977. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Hamburg 11 Oct but not in ALLE, CHAU, ORLE or GENE until 7-8 Nov. Vesper Sparrow: one Belmont 1 Nov, late; 14 BOSOC was 2nd lowest total in 29 years. Savannah Sparrow: 12 TFNP 12 Oct, late. Fox Sparrow: 3-4 Pomfret Twn, CHAU, and one Amity Twn, ALLE, 3 Nov, late. Snow Bunting: arr five DH 25 Oct; max 1330 in about 15 mi Youngstown to Shadagee Rd, Wilson Twn, NIAG, 14 Nov; eight other reports BOS in Nov. Rusty Blackbird: arr six INWR 24 Sep. Purple Finch: one Farmersville Station 26-27 Oct; one-five Amity L in Nov. Pine Siskin: arr Porter Twn, CHAU, 24 Sep, where perhaps resident after nesting this spring; five Regional reports BOS through Oct, 100+ Farmersville Station 7-20 Nov; 75 Vandalia Nov; max 225 Porter Twn, CHAU; 52 Amity L 30 Nov; six other reports to BOS 3-30 Nov; *intro*. Evening Grosbeak: arr Amity L 16 Oct; max 45 Nov, and 6 reports BOS throughout Region in Nov.

*Ten Mile Road, Allegany, New York 14706*

## REGION 2 — GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

This fall the low level of Lake Ontario had more of an impact on the season than did the characteristically variable temperatures and rainfall. September was gloomy and wet. Rainfall was nearly two inches above normal at 4.6 inches. The average temperature was 61.6° which was only slightly below normal. October's precipitation was considerably lower than September's, with a reading of 1.65 inches. The temperature kept things cool with an average reading of 47.1°, 4.6° below normal. Two strong cold fronts passed through the region during November and temperatures seesawed. The average was 40.6°. Precipitation totaled 2.74 inches, including a hint of the winter snows to come. The weather had little effect on birding. Major frontal systems were sporadic and some weekends, which normally are peak days for birding, were mediocre. There were a few good days when waves were evident, but some of the clear days brought only looks at birds as they flew overhead. On the whole, the season seemed about average.

The most significant feature of the season was the level of Lake Ontario. The lake level was well below recent averages and, as a result, mudflats and shallow pools were exposed along the lakeshore. Irondequoit Bay became a hotspot. The exposed mud was attractive to many species of shorebirds. Birds that normally might have passed over the Region found good habitat and, therefore, were observed in good numbers. The Region enjoyed shorebirding unlike that of any recent years. There were unusually high numbers of Stilt and Baird's Sandpipers and of Long-billed Dowitchers. Phalaropes, both Red-necked and Wilson's, were reported early in the season but their numbers dropped off in the later months. Hudsonian Godwit reports also were up. Less numerous than usual were Lesser Golden-Plover, Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Purple Sandpiper. An injured Spotted Sandpiper lingered until 23 Nov before it disappeared.

Another interesting event was the late influx of long-legged waders. The usual Great Egret were reported in September, but up to three Cattle Egrets were reported during October and, to add to that, singles were reported in November as late as the 15th. Cattle Egrets are not only very unusual in the Region, but these were exceptionally late and in unprecedented numbers. As if this weren't enough, a **Plegadis** ibis appeared at Buck Pond in Greece from 20 to 24 Oct. The same or possibly another was observed later at Irondequoit Bay on 13 Nov. Owing to the difficulty in separating Glossy and White-faced Ibises in the fall, the bird was reported as *Plegadis* species. It has been suggested, although on no known basis, that the lateness of the bird might favor latter species.

Loons were mediocre in numbers, with counts not reaching recent totals during the fall season. Waterfowl enjoyed only an average season with good variety but relatively low numbers. Brant were subpar with a single day maximum of only 520 at Sodus Bay on 31 Oct. Green-winged Teal were reported in good numbers. Numbers of wintering waterfowl began to increase by November. Unusual species included **Harlequin Duck** and **King Eider**. Jaeger flights were poor in September but picked up in October. For the most part, gulls did not do well. Little Gull seemed to be less numerous than usual. The highlights were an immature **Laughing Gull** seen at Irondequoit Bay on 2 Sep and an immature **Sabine's Gull** was seen offshore at Durand-Eastman Park on 8 Oct by Tom Griswold. Sabine's Gull had not been reported in the Region since 1984.

Reports of raptors were quite good. Outstanding observations included a dark morph **Gyr Falcon** and an uncharacteristic fall **Golden Eagle**. O'Hara found an Osprey at Braddock's Bay on 28 Nov, providing a Regional record late date for that species. Bald Eagle totals were good as were Northern Harrier totals. The latter species was found in many locations along the lakeshore where they methodically worked the fields. Many reports of accipiters also were received, with Cooper's Hawk once again the most common of the three. Falcons were well represented by numerous Merlin and Peregrine Falcon sightings. A color-banded Peregrine hinted of a successful program elsewhere in the nation.

The passerine migration was similarly mixed. Kinglets and thrushes were well reported while flycatchers and warbler totals suggested that this was a poor season for them. Yellow-rumped Warblers were somewhat scarce compared to traditional numbers. Beatty Point, in the town of Greece, was the site of a tremendous influx of sparrows and wrens. There were literally hundreds of White-throated, White-crowned and Savannah Sparrows and lesser numbers of Field, Chipping and Lincoln's Sparrows. Along with the sparrows at Beatty Point were 40 Winter Wrens. This easily eclipses any maximum total for recent years. Good totals were also noted elsewhere in the Region. A Sedge Wren was located also at that same locale. The most unusual sparrow reported was **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**. Up to two individuals were reported from Beatty Point from 3 to 10 Oct, three were once again sighted at Hogan Point from 12 to 18 Oct and one was spotted at Irondequoit Bay on 11-13 Oct. This surpassed last year's exceptional total. New locations and higher numbers point either towards a recent change in their status here or an increased effort being made to locate them. Two **Brewer's Blackbird** reports were the Region's first for the fall, and continue the recent string of observations of this species here.

The fall season usually hints at what's to be expected for the upcoming winter season, and this year was no exception. Winter visitors such as Rough-legged Hawk, Snowy Owl, Short-eared Owl and Northern Shrike were noted. Owls were well reported with over ten reports of Snowy Owl. Wintering passerines were represented by American Tree Sparrow, Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting. All of the usual winter finches, except for Pine Grosbeak, were present. Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak were common. Only time will tell us how accurately these trends predicted the winter's highlights.

Contributors: Tom Allison, Nancy Boudrie, Betsy Brooks, Jean Browning, Gary Butler, Shirley Cameron, Steve Carlson, Carolyn Cass, Roberta Childers, M. Clark, Anne Claridge, Jerry Czech, Mike Davids, Gertrude Davis, Bob Dobson, Frank Dobson, Robert Folker, John and Arlieen Foster, Kevin Griffith, Tom Griswold, Harriet Hamilton, John Hanyak, David Harrison, Robert Hazen, Sandra Hazen, Nurak Irasena, Polly Keating, Brian Keelan, Bob and Jane Kesselring, Warren Lloyd, Pat Martin, Robert McKinney, Constance Nitch, Richard O'Hara, Robert Oswald, Tom Painting, Thomas Penner, Martha Reinhardt, Patty Reister, Marty Robinson, Pat Scheible, Marge Schmale, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne and Sharon Skelly, Tom and Pat Smith, Robert and Susan Spahn, Cathy and Cristine Spahn, Paul and Jeff Spindler, Ann Stear, Harriet Stride, David Strong, Mary Ann Sunderlin, William Symonds, Steve Taylor, Dave Tetlow, Mike and Joanne Tetlow, K. and T. Thurston, Don and Donna Traver, Eleanor Weld, Paul Weld, Munro Will and Doris Wilton.

Abbreviations: BB-Braddock Bay, BP-Beatty Point, DEP-Durand-Eastman Park and adjacent waters, HP-Hogan Point, IB-Irondequoit Bay, MB-Manitou Beach, SB-Sodus Bay, SC-Salmon Creek, WL-West Lakeshore.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr Hamlin 5 Oct. Com. Loon: max 150 Hamlin 30 Oct. Horned Grebe: six Hamlin 25 Sep. Red-necked Grebe: one Hamlin 19 Oct, only report. Am. Bittern: last HP 18 Oct. Great Egret: one or two IB to 29 Sep. **Cattle Egret**: four Charlotte 24, 31 Oct (MD,RO'H), one Churchville 25 Oct (BK,JH), two HP 31 Oct (MD), one HP 1 Nov (MR), one WAYN 2 Nov (MD,DT), quite late. Green-backed Heron: last Hamlin 21 Oct. *Plegadis* sp.: *intro*. Tundra Swan: two Hamlin 24 Oct. Brant: *intro*. Canvasback: arr two Kendall 13 Oct. Ring-necked Duck: arr one BB 3 Oct. Greater Scaup: max 50 Hamlin 25 Sep. **King Eider**: singles BB 11-12 Nov (MD, DT), Hamlin 13 Nov (RO'H). **Harlequin Duck**: female Hamlin 8-10 Nov (BK,MR,S H). Surf Scoter: eight Hamlin 10 Oct. Com. Goldeneye: two Hamlin 3 Sep, early. Bufflehead: arr WL 5 Oct. Ruddy Duck: 23 IB 4 Oct, very good total.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: one Letchworth SP 15 Nov, late. Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: one MB 2 Sep, im Hamlin 8 Nov. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Wayne Co 2 Nov, unusual for the season. Rough-legged Hawk: max eight WL 16 Nov. **Golden Eagle**: one Mendon Ponds 4 Nov (MR,NB). Peregrine Falcon: sighting of at least five separate individuals. **Gyr Falcon**: dark morph Webster 22 Nov (DT,DS, NYSARC). Com. Moorhen: one SC 27 Nov, extremely late. Black-bellied Plover: two WL 10 Nov. Lesser Golden-Plover: max 200 Avon 13 Sep. Semipalmated Plover: last SC 16 Nov, late. Killdeer: max 106 IB 4 Nov. Greater Yellowlegs: one Greece 26 Nov, late. Solitary Sandpiper: last IB 20 Sep. Willet: one Hamlin 9 Sep, only report. Spotted Sandpiper: *intro*. Upland Sandpiper: last MB 11 Sep. Whimbrel: one IB 4,7 Sep; one Hamlin 13 Sep. Hudsonian Godwit: one Northrup Creek 4 Sep, one SC 4 Oct, both juveniles. Sanderling: last three IB 6 Nov. White-rumped Sandpiper: max 20 IB 21-22 Sep, high. Baird's Sandpiper: arr IB 12 Sep; last BB 28 Oct. Purple Sandpiper: one IB 21-24 Nov, scarce. Dunlin: arr one WL 16 Sep. Stilt Sandpiper: max 28 IB 14 Sep, high. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: singles IB 1-2 Sep and 18 Sep, both juveniles. Long-billed Dowitcher: max 12 Savannah 10 Oct (DT), excellent number, many other sightings, best year ever. Com. Snipe: last BB 27

Nov. Red-necked Phalarope: max five IB 1-16 Sep. Parasitic Jaeger: max five Hamlin 10 Oct. **Laughing Gull**: *intro*. Little Gull: max two Hamlin 31 Oct, scarce. Glaucous Gull: ims Hamlin 31 Oct and 11 Nov, IB 22 Nov. Black-legged Kittiwake: ims Greece 6 Nov, Hamlin 28 Nov. **Sabine's Gull**: *intro*. Com. Tern: last two IB 1 Nov. Forester's Tern: one Rochester 10 Oct, late.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: last Greece 16 Sep. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one BB 28 Oct, very late. Short-eared Owl: arr two Retsoff 24 Oct, max 11 Hamlin 8 Nov. N. Saw-whet Owl: singles MB 11 Oct, BB 17 Oct. Com. Nighthawk: max 50 Roc hester 4 Sep. Chimney Swift: max 40 IB 18 Sep. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Brockport 11 Oct, late. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr one MB 16 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: last MB 28 Sep. Willow Flycatcher: last song MB 2 Sep. Barn Swallow: max 500 Hamlin 6 Sep, last two IB 18 Oct. Am. Crow: max 1450 at traditional Rochester winter roost 28 Nov. Winter Wren: max 40 BP 4 Oct (DT). Sedge Wren. one BP 10 Oct (BK,JS). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 500 Brockport 4 Oct. Gray-cheeked Thrush: last MB 8 Oct. Hermit Thrush: arr MB 23 Sep. Water pipit: max 200 Rush 30 Oct.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Orange-crowned Warbler: one MB 16 Oct. Palm Warbler: last four BP 4 Oct. Prothonotary Warbler: female SB 19 Sep, late. Mourning Warbler: last MB 5 Sep. Com. Yellowthroat: last MP 4 Nov, preparing to overwinter?

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: male Pittsford 1 Nov, late. Indigo Bunting: last on MB 5 Oct. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr BP 23 Oct. Chipping Sparrow: last Penfield 11 Nov. Field Sparrow: last two WL 24 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: last WL 13 Oct. **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**: *intro*. "Oregon" Junco: one MB 15-16 Oct. Rusty Blackbird: one MB 19 Sep. **Brewer's Blackbird**: female BB 11 Oct (BK) and MB 21 Oct (RO'H), most likely the same individual. Red Crossbill: max ten MB 17 Oct. White-winged Crossbill: max two MB 24 Oct. Pine Siskin: max 100 WL 25 Sep. Evening Grosbeak: arr five MB 19 Sep.

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612

## REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

C. K. MELIN

September and October of 1987 were colder and wetter than normal, but were followed by more typical weather in November. It was the wettest September since 1979. Ithaca reported 21 days with measurable rain, the most ever in the month of September. These frequent rains hampered crop harvesting throughout September and farm fieldwork was restricted until the second week of October. Ithaca had a record low of 25 degrees on 14 Oct, and weather in the Region remained consistently cold for the remainder of the month. November started out nice and warm, with above-average temperatures in the mid-60s to upper 70s. On 10 and 11 Nov, a low pressure system brought up to an inch of snow. Temperatures gradually warmed up following this storm and were quite pleasant by 17 Nov, when a second storm brought rain and high winds gusting to 35-45 mph to the Region. The coldest temperatures of the month followed a cold front on 20 Nov, with temperatures in the teens and wind chill equivalents well below zero. Temperatures warmed up somewhat for the remainder of the month, with rainfall again on 29 and 30 Nov.

The outstanding ornithological event associated with September's weather came during the prolonged period of rainy weather. A stationary front from 17 to 21 Sep was followed by a brief clearing and a nearly unprecedented flight of Broad-winged Hawks through the Region. At Frenchmans Bluff, 300 Broad-winged Hawks were counted in two kettles on 21 Sep. At Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary, a total of 365 Broad-winged Hawks were observed on the same date. Shortly before noon on the following day, the Sanctuary received a phone report of 600 Broad-winged Hawks kettling over nearby Warren Road; observers at the Sanctuary could see approximately 150 Broad-winged Hawks from their location. At Trumansburg, NYSEG workers paused to count approximately 300 hawks. The only other comparable fall flight for Region 3 was the 1500 Broad-winged Hawks reported passing overhead just east of Ithaca 18-20 Sep 1960.

In spite of the prolonged inclement weather, a substantial variety of bird species were reported. Early in September, up to 300 Common Nighthawks and 50 or more Cliff Swallows were reported migrating at locations near Elmira. An impressive total of 27 species of warblers were reported throughout the Region through the first week of Oct. Golden-winged Warbler was conspicuously absent this fall, and none of the southern species near the northern edge of their range in the Region were reported. Resident Icterids were widespread, but were especially conspicuous in large flocks from mid September through the end of October. Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle were common, and Brown-headed Cowbird was particularly abundant with several reports of hundreds during mid October. Eastern Meadowlark and Rusty Blackbird were widely reported, although not in large numbers. Bobolink vanished after the first two weeks of September. By mid October, dozens of Pine Siskins and Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported in flocks. Northern Shrike was reported three times between 25 Oct and 8 Nov. There were four reports of Rough-legged Hawk, and a total of five Snowy Owl reports in November. However, most of these irruptive species had dispersed by late November and there were only scattered reports of a few individual birds thereafter.

At Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, Mays Point Pool was partially drained, creating the only substantial shorebird habitat in the Region, especially since the heavy rainfall and subsequent high water levels eliminated shorebird habitat elsewhere. A total of nineteen species of shorebirds were reported at Mays Point Pool during September, and many shorebird species were present well into October. Most common were Killdeer, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Semipalmated, Least and Pectoral Sandpipers. There were several reports of Wilsons and Red-necked Phalaropes until mid September, and single reports of Western, White-rumped, and Bairds Sandpipers. Other shorebirds observed at Mays Point Pool were Black-bellied Plover, Lesser Golden-Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Sanderling, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Common Snipe. There were several reports of an immature Peregrine Falcon swooping at the shorebird flocks. As many as six Great Egrets frequented the Mays Point Pool until 12 Oct, and Refuge personnel observed a Glossy Ibis between 24 Oct and 1 Nov.

Waterfowl migration was well underway by October, with the following peak numbers reported at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge: American Coot 160, American Black Duck 9,900, Wood Duck 1,400, Ring-necked Duck 2,600, Lesser

Scaup 80 and Common Merganser 830. Tundra Swans arrived late in October, and by 10 Nov a maximum of 20 were reported. November was the peak month for waterfowl numbers, with the following maxima reported: Snow Goose 170, Canada Goose 45,000, Mallard 51,000, Gadwall 290, Northern Pintail 210, Green-winged Teal 980, American Wigeon 440, Northern Shoveler 620 and Hooded Merganser 320.

October was certainly the month for highlights of the season. A **flamingo** appeared at Watkins Glen, following strong north winds, on 3 Oct, where many people observed this very tame, probably escaped bird until it disappeared the following day. Other birders observed a single **Golden Eagle** over Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary on 12 Oct. A male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was briefly observed in a flock of Red-winged Blackbirds near Elmira on 14 Oct. From 31 Oct to 4 Nov, a horde of birders observed and photographed upstate New York's and the Regions first **Gray Kingbird** at the intersection of Rt. 89 and Armitage Road. There were two reports of **Cattle Egret** near Phelps on 1 Nov.

Contributors: J. Brubaker, Cayuga Bird Club, Chemung Valley Audubon Society, Dick Clements, Cornell Campus Bird Study Group, T. Culver, Willie DAnna, Karl David, Genesee Ornithological Society, T. Gingrich, B. Hilfiker, D. McLroy, Schuyler County Bird Club, Steven C. Sibley, Gerry Smith, B. Spahn, M. Welles.

Abbreviations: MNWR-Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, CL-Cayuga Lake, FB-Frenchmans Bluff Nature Conservancy Preserve, FLNF-Finger Lakes National Forest, QCM-Queen Catherine Marsh, SWS-Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon. arr Seneca L & CL Oct, max 200 CL 16 Nov. Horned Grebe: arr CL, MNWR Oct. Red-necked Grebe: one 24 Oct. Aurora. Double-crested Cormorant: max 480 MNWR 9 Sep. Great Egret: *intro*. **Cattle Egret**: *intro*. Green-backed Heron: last mid Oct. Black-crowned Night-Heron: present until mid Oct, CL, MNWR. **Glossy Ibis**: *intro*. **Flamingo**: *intro*. Brant: one near Elmira 24 Oct-11 Nov one Cargill Salt Co. CL 19 Nov-30 Nov. Canvasback: arr CL Nov. Redhead: present all Season CL, MNWR. White-winged Scoter: reported Myers Pt. CL 26-31 Oct. Com. Goldeneye: arr CL 15 Oct. Bufflehead: arr CL 26 Oct. Red-breasted Merganser: arr CL 26 Oct. Ruddy Duck: two reports, CL 27 Oct, MNWR 9 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: widespread, max 28 FB 21 Sep. Osprey. widespread until 30 Oct. Bald Eagle: three to five MNWR most of the season, departure date unknown. N. Goshawk: only report Ithaca 16 Nov. Red-shouldered Hawk: three reports, Ithaca 14 & 23 Sep and FLNF 21 Sep. Broad-winged Hawk: *intro*. Rough-legged Hawk: *intro*. **Golden Eagle**: *intro*. Merlin. only report ad male near Elmira. Peregrine Falcon: *intro*. **Forsters Tern**: reported MNWR 10 Sep (GS). Com. Moorhen: four Ithaca reports.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: one Sullivans Monument 4 Oct. Snowy Owl: *intro*. N. Saw-whet Owl: single report Ithaca 24 Nov. Com. Nighthawk: *intro*. Chimney Swift: 30 QCM 20 Sep, 175 Ithaca 27 Sep using a public school chimney.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: three singles, QCM 5 Sep, FLNF 6 Sep, and Elmira 12 Sep. **Gray Kingbird**: *intro*. Horned Lark: max 200 Dutch Hill 30 Oct. Cliff Swallow: *intro* Am. Crow: observed all season near traditional roost site Mt. Pleasant, Ithaca; 300 Dutch Hill, Elmira 25 Oct, 370 Ithaca 22 Nov. Fish Crow: four reports Ithaca. Carolina Wren: four reports outside the Ithaca area. Winter Wren: several reports after mid Sep. Golden-crowned Kinglet: widespread all season. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: present from late Sep-early Nov, max 8 FLNF 23 Oct. E. Bluebird: present and increasing throughout Region. N. Mockingbird: present and increasing throughout Region. N. Shrike: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Philadelphia Vireo: one Ithaca 14 Sep, two FLNF 30 Sep. **Yellow-throated Warbler**: one Pine City 5 Sep (DC). Connecticut Warbler: one Aurora 3 Sep (KD). Mourning Warbler: one banded SWS 4 Oct.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: widespread after mid Oct. Vesper Sparrow: two Ithaca reports 28 Sep & 5 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: widespread all season. Grasshopper Sparrow: no reports. Henslows Sparrow: no reports. Fox Sparrow: widespread all season. Song Sparrow: a total of 377 the most common species, banded this Fall by J. Gregoire, Burdett. Snow Bunting: several November reports. **Yellow-headed Blackbird**: *intro*. Pine Grosbeak: no reports. Red Crossbill: one Dryden 23 Nov.

84-A Turkey Hill Rd., Ithaca, New York 14850

## REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

JAY G. LEHMAN

To the local weatherman September in Binghamton was "like watching graduation at West Point: a long gray line." Most of the month was quite cloudy and rainy even though the month started out cool and sunny with a record low temperature of 40°F on 4 Sep, 13° below the previous record low for that date. The dismal weather was described by our weather guesser as "Plop, plop, fizz, fizz, oh what crummy weather it is." The month's total rainfall, 4.54 inches, was 1.2 inches above normal. October was cool and dry with temperatures about 5° below normal. A very early snowstorm on 4 Oct dumped heavy wet snow on the eastern parts of the Region. Cooperstown received about two inches, the earliest measurable snowfall for that area, and Roxbury got up to four inches. This storm started a pattern of cold weather which produced record low temperatures at Binghamton of 27 and 29°F on 12 and 14 Oct, respectively. Precipitation for the month was 2.66 inches, 0.34 inches below normal. November started with a two day Indian Summer on 3 and 4 Nov when mean temperatures were 12 to 20° above normal. As predicted "the icebox cometh." Cold blasts soon ended that fleeting memory of summer and produced the first snow of the season in the Southern Tier. Indian Summer returned briefly on 14 Nov, after which an icy blast of record breaking cold returned. Record low temperatures of 8°F and 12°F were recorded on 21 and 22 Nov. The roller coaster ride continued as the month ended warmer but wet. This November was drier than normal, the 1.79 inches of precipitation being 1.2 inches below normal, and seemed just as nasty as last November, which had record breaking cold and 13 inches of snow. At this season's end 6 inches of snow had fallen, and residents felt rather "jerked around" by the changeable weather in October and November.

Last fall I bemoaned the sorry state of waterfowl records in the Region. The contrast this fall season is striking. Many of the species not reported last year were found this fall, sometimes in good numbers. These include Common Loon, Horned and Red necked Grebe, American Wigeon and Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal, which were missed last year, as well as very good numbers of Pied-billed Grebe. Unlike last fall, this year the Chenango Bird Club and I monitored our best waterfowl marsh in Chenango County at North Norwich during September before the hunting season began on 9 Oct. The results are summarized

in the species list below. Read on and enjoy! Unfortunately, birders cannot always beat the hunters to the marsh or, in this case, the lake. Sometimes the early hunter gets the duck. A trophy hunter shot a White-winged Scoter, an unusual bird in this Region, on Guilford Lake on 25 Oct, the last day of the first waterfowl season, before birders got there to see it alive. Readers may recall that in the old days of field ornithology before the advent of quality field guides, good optical equipment, and an abundance of good amateur field observers, ornithologists accepted only "gun barrel" identifications, that is, a dead bird in the hand. Next fall we'll try to beat that snake to the lake!

In addition to waterfowl seen at North Norwich there were reports of Virginia Rail, American Coot, Common Moorhen, Marsh Wren and Rusty Blackbird, all of which are uncommon in this Region in the fall. Chimney Swift and Barn, Bank, Cliff, and Tree Swallow were found feeding on insect hatches over this low altitude bottom of the valley marsh at dates later than expected for Chenango County.

The shorebird migration this fall was excellent and in sharp contrast to that of last fall. No expected species were missed this year. Semipalmated Plover appeared for the first fall in nine. Pectoral Sandpipers seen at three different locations were reported for only the second fall since 1979. Mary Dobinsky reported that the bird reported in Oneonta is the first there since 23 Oct 1976, when a snow storm in western New York coincided with that observation. Semipalmated Sandpiper and Short-billed Dowitcher were reported for only the fourth and first falls, respectively, since 1979. American Woodcock reports occurred during the expected migration period; however, I wonder if the early snowstorm in October will decrease the population next spring. A recent article in *Sports Illustrated* discussed the problems that heavy snowfall and extended cold creates for these worm-eating woodland denizens, especially when deep snow cover extends far south of their immediate location.

The five **Glaucous Gulls** seen and described very well by Marilyn Davis at Whitney Point Reservoir on 22 Nov apparently are the first record for this Region and certainly the first for Broome County! Observers should be alert for unusual gulls in the late fall along the Susquehanna River and its tributaries, because large flocks of wintering gulls, including Glaucous and Iceland Gulls, have been observed along the lower Susquehanna River south of Harrisburg, Pa, in recent years.

Compared to last year, raptor reports are excellent. Goshawks are reported this year, and birding hotline news well south of us suggests that a irruption occurred this fall. It is frustrating that we still miss Red-shouldered Hawks in the fall, especially since they breed in this Region. A **Black Vulture**, possibly the second report from the Region, was seen with Turkey Vultures near Oxford on 2 Sep by Rich Wood, an intern at Rogers Environmental Education Center. He tried to photograph the bird but the result was poor and unusable. Where's our good quality equipment when we need it?! In view of the continuing increase in our population of Turkey Vultures and of Black Vultures in Regions 9 and 10, it was only a matter of time until Black Vultures followed their cousins here. Maximum numbers of Broad-winged Hawks appeared in mid September, which coincides with the time when the migration peak is expected at Hawk Mountain well south of us. An apparent **Krider's Red-tailed Hawk** photographed by James Hoteling at Smithville Flats on 25 Sep is unusual in the East. This bird had a



very white head, large whitish patches on the back and wings, and a very light tail. Mary Dobinsky observed a Cooper's Hawk harassing and diving on a Pileated Woodpecker at Crumhorn Mountain near Oneonta. She previously observed this same behavior between these two species in Wilbur Park, Oneonta on 4 Nov 1984. Sharp-shinned Hawks also joined the fray in Vestal, where Les Bemont saw a large female or immature harassing Crows which were unimpressed. In North Norwich a frustrated immature Sharp-shinned Hawk chased to no avail Blue Jays and Flickers, which were *very* impressed. A Northern Harrier was found with a broken wing by a young trapper near Milford and given to a veterinarian for rehabilitation. This bird was found near a location where up to four Harriers were competing for hunting rights during most of October. Perhaps this is evidence of successful breeding in the area.

Flycatcher, vireo, and warbler, and thrush reports were higher than last fall and more normal. Perhaps insect populations stayed higher. There were no major migration "fall outs" due to the abysmal rainy weather in September. Judy Bell's banding records at Newark Valley indicate that she couldn't band for twelve days in September due to rain. Consequently, warbler numbers were low. In addition, Judy's records indicate that 1987 was her poorest fall for banding since 1983 as measured by the total number of birds captured per 100 net hours. Apparently, our better species list and higher number of reports indicates a more productive season for field reporters. I know that this is especially true in Chenango County. Some of the more unusual records include Pine Warbler, which has been reported only half the time since 1979, and Connecticut and Mourning Warblers, which were missed last year. Field observers should be particularly alert for the latter two species which are hard to find in the underbrush. Generally, they are reported only by banders, as is the case this year. Everyone missed Orange-crowned Warbler this year, but that's normal. The last Tennessee Warbler banded in Binghamton by Harriet Marsi and Gail Kirch on 24 Oct tied the previous late departure record.

Snow Buntings in early November again seem early, but perhaps that is normal. The sparrow migration was good with all species well represented in the reports received. Again, this is probably due to a more productive season in the field. In comparison, at Newark Valley Judy Bell had no "sparrow heaven days" predicted by the number of sparrow chips at dawn or in her banding records which show that sparrow numbers "were down considerably." For example, the numbers of Song Sparrows banded were slightly below average and White-throated Sparrow numbers were the lowest ever. Swamp Sparrow numbers were the lowest since 1983. Despite this, only Fox and American Tree Sparrow seemed scarce overall. Pine Siskin arrived early and frequent, good sized flocks in November indicate a major incursion. Consequently, it is not surprising that Mary Dobinsky saw a flock of twenty feeding on larch cones on 16 Oct near Oneonta. Evening Grosbeaks arrived on time. Look out feeders!

A silly Ruffed Grouse drummed away all fall in Norwich and took advantage of a good wild apple crop into late November by feeding only at dusk in the exposed tree top in my backyard. Perhaps that grouse was not so dumb. Hunters take advantage of this food preference to find "partridge" in the fall.

Species whose range is expanding into the Region appeared in good numbers again this year in the usual Southern Tier sites as well as in the northern part of the Region where they are more sporadic. Red-bellied Woodpecker appeared

at Juanita Angle's feeder in Oxford on 20 Oct and stayed there through the period. In Norwich Carolina Wren and Tufted Titmouse at Crystal Wright's feeder and Northern Mockingbird at Don Windsor's feeder stayed through the period. Red-bellied Woodpeckers reports were higher than normal in the Southern Tier, suggesting a major fall movement, and for those who are interested in such coincidental trivia, one was seen by Victor Bird! The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher reported at Owego Marsh by Harriet Marsi, Bruce Bozdos, and Florence Linaberry on 4 Sep is only the second fall record since 1979. Marie Petuh saw Mockingbirds eating wild rose hips in Johnson City. This is an interesting observation because the northward expansion of Mockingbirds is partially attributed to the cover and food provided by multiflora rose planted for borders and barriers.

Downy and Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Black-capped Chickadee, Blue Jay, and American Crow were common as expected. No one reported a Horned Lark, but I suspect that they are present but not seen. Cutler and Jeanette Baldwin reported a well described **Varied Thrush** in Owego, the first there in ten years. Unfortunately, the bird did not remain long enough for anyone else to see it. Robins took advantage of a good berry crop this fall. Mary Dobinsky saw one hundred feeding on swamp holly berries near Oneonta while a flock of fifty ravaged my Mountain Ash berries in Norwich.

The 170 species reported this fall is the second highest list since 1979. Rarities reported this fall are **Black Vulture**, **Krider's Red-tailed Hawk**, **Glaucous Gull**, and **Varied Thrush**. Much of the species account uses field records of Joe Sedlacek (Valonia Springs, N. Colesville), Mary Dobinsky (OPM), Mildred Clark (Delhi) Jay Lehman (N. Norwich) and banding records from Judy Bell (Newark Valley) and Harriet Marsi and Gail Kirch (Binghamton). No reports were received from Cortland County.

Observers: Juanita Angle, Rich Anthony, Les Bemont, Bruce Bozdos, Cutler & Jeanette Baldwin, Don & Judy Bell, Reynolds Bennett, Victor Bird, Chris Brothers, D. Burgin, Chenango Bird Club (CBC), Sally Carey, Mildred Clark, Chad Covey, Glenip Curran, Marilyn Davis (MDv), Louise Dean, Mary Dobinsky, Sadie Dorber, Margaret Ferranti, E. & P. Getkin, Shirley Hartman, James Hoteling, Gail Kirch, Margaret Layton, Jay Lehman, Florence Linaberry, Harriet Marsi, Leona McDowell, Bud & Evelyn Mead, Ette Mesmer, Marie Petuh, Halliday Pierce, R. & J. Saunders, Joe Sedlacek, Shane Stalter, Tioga Bird Club (TBC); Don Windsor, Anne Whitaker, Rich Wood, Crystal Wright.

Abbreviations: FHNC-Finch Hollow Nature Center; HPSP-Hunts Pond State Park; JCity-Johnson City; NCol-North Colesville; NV-Newark Valley; NN-North Norwich; OPM-Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; ORes-Oneonta Reservoir; REEC-Rogers Environmental Education Center; VSpr-Valonia Springs; WPres-Whitney Point Reservoir.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: only two WPres 28 Nov (MDv). Pied-billed Grebe: arr TiOG 6 Sep (TBC); last HPSP 22 Nov (CC). Horned Grebe: last Hartwick 19 Oct (MD). Red-necked Grebe: only one WPres 15 Nov (MDv). Great Blue Heron: last 13 Nov. Green-backed Heron: last NN 19 Sep. Canada Goose: first major influx ca. 625 in 8 flocks CHEN 27 Sep (CBC); late max 500 Oxford 27 Nov (MDv). Wood Duck: max 40 Owego Marsh 28 Sep (BB,HM,FL); last OPM 19 Nov. Green-winged Teal: max 13 NN 26 Sep; last five Owego Marsh 28 Sep (BB,HM,FL). Am. Black Duck: max ten NN 10 Oct. Mallard: max 105 OPM 19 & 20 Oct; last 12 Portlandville 13 Nov (MD). Blue-winged Teal: four/weekend NN until 26 Sep. Gadwall: only two NN 19 Sep. Am. Wigeon: only two NN 26 Sep. Ring-necked Duck: only four NN 26 Sep. Greater Scaup: only TiOG Oct (RB). White-winged Scoter: *intro*. Com. Goldeneye: only two m + one f Bowman L 15 Nov (DW). Bufflehead: only one OPM 20 Oct. Hooded Merganser: last U Lisle 22

Nov (MDv). Com. Merganser: arr 14 Sherburne 5 Sep (JL), early; last U Lisle 27 Nov (MDv). Ruddy Duck: only singles REEC (RW) & TIOG (RB) Oct.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** **Black Vulture:** *intro*. Turkey Vulture: several/week until last TIOG 11 Oct (TBC). Osprey: last without date 2nd week Oct. Bald Eagle: only one HPSP 2 Nov (DS fide CC). N. Harrier: last HPSP 18 Nov (CC). Sharp-shinned Hawk: max nine OPM 25 Sep; last FHNC 31 Oct. Cooper's Hawk: one to two/wk OPM to mid Sep; last VSpr 26 Nov. N. Goshawk: only singles NN 3 Oct & Vestal Center 28 Nov (SD). Broad-winged Hawk: max six ORES 16 Sep (MD). Red-tailed Hawk: *intro*. Rough-legged Hawk: singles Lincklaen 27 Oct (CC) & CHEN 7 Nov (DW). Am. Kestrel: max 11 OPM 4 & 25 Sep; last 11 Oct. Merlin: singles 4, 5 & 20 Sep Franklin (SS). Ring-necked Pheasant: singles TIOG Sep Nov (TBC) & OPM 19 Oct; max two Apalachin 23 Nov (P&EG), high. Ruffed Grouse: max five; *intro*. Wild Turkey: max 65 Delhi 21 Nov (SC). Virginia Rail: only one NN 5 Sep. Com. Moorhen: one TIOG 5 Sep (C&JB); max seven NN 19 Sep, last two there 26 Sep, high. Am. Coot: singles NN 26 Sep & TIOG Oct (RB); max & last four NN 10 Oct, high. Killdeer: max 20 ORES 11 Sep (MD); last six HPSP 25 Oct (CC). Greater Yellowlegs: one TIOG 15 Sep (C&JB). Lesser Yellowlegs: max seven NN 12 Sep. Solitary Sandpiper: only singles ORES 10, 14 & 29 Sep (MD). Pectoral Sandpiper: singles ORES 11 Sep (MD) & TIOG 13 Sep (C&JB). Short-billed Dowitcher: only one Owego 16 Sep (C&JB). Am. Woodcock: one to two at three sites to 18 Nov. Bonaparte's Gull: only TIOG Sep (C&JB). Ring-billed Gull: max 100 Otsego L 5 Sep & 5 Nov (MD); last New Berlin 29 Nov (CC). **Glaucous Gull:** *intro*.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** Mourning Dove: max 36 Delhi. Black-billed Cuckoo: only one banded Binghamton 2 Oct. E. Screech-Owl: singles four sites Sep-Nov. Great Horned Owl: singles four sites Sep-Nov. Barred Owl: only TIOG Oct (D&JB). Com. Nighthawk: widely reported, max 20-30 JCity 10 Sep (SD), very high; last Binghamton 27 Sep (BB), late. Chimney Swift: max six Norwich 6 Sep (JL), more reports than usual. Belted Kingfisher: last FHNC 20 Nov. Red-bellied Woodpecker: at five sites TIOG by Nov, high. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last Norwich 16 Nov (JL). N. Flicker: last OPM 31 Oct.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: only one banded Binghamton 12 Sep. E. Phoebe: to six/day. Great Crested Flycatcher: three reports. E. Kingbird: max four OPM 1 Sep. Tree Swallow: max ten NN 5 Sep. N. Rough-winged Swallow: only four OPM 4 Sep, unusual. Bank Swallow: only singles TIOG Sep (RB) & NN 19 Sep, late. Cliff Swallow: two NN 5 & 19 Sep, late. Barn Swallow: max 90 OPM 3 Sep. Tufted Titmouse: increased from four sites Sep to nine sites Oct-Nov. Red-breasted Nuthatch: singles three sites Sep increased to seven reports of one to two at five sites. Brown Creeper: arr one banded NV 12 Oct; to four/day Nov. Carolina Wren: at four sites Oct. Winter Wren: only singles NCol 9 & 18 Oct. Marsh Wren: max six NN 19 Sep & last two there 3 Oct, high. Golden-crowned Kinglet: max four, at eight sites Oct. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Delhi 12 Sep; max five, last VSpr 29 Nov. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: *intro*. E. Bluebird: max 25 OPM 13 Oct; last TIOG Nov. Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr one banded Binghamton 27 Sep; last Endwell 22 Oct (HM, BB, FL); more reports than usual. Swainson's Thrush: arr Norwich 2 Sep (JL); max three mid Sep and at four sites, high. Hermit Thrush: to two/day five sites 6-27 Oct. Am. Robin: max 150 OPM 20 Oct; last Norwich 28 Nov (JL). **Varied Thrush:** *intro*. N. Mockingbird: at four sites Nov. Brown Thrasher: four reports. Water Pipit: only one NN 27 Sep. Cedar Waxwing: max 200 Oneonta 7 Sep (MD); last 18 JCity 11 Nov (MP).

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS:** Solitary Vireo: max six OPM 15 Sep. Philadelphia Vireo: arr one banded Binghamton 15 Sep; last TIOG Oct (RB). Tennessee Warbler: *intro*. Chesnut-sided Warbler: one to four/dy twice/wk to 25 Sep. Cape May Warbler: max two each NN & McDonough 5 Sep (JL). Black-throated Blue Warbler: only three reports. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 30 OPM 25 Sep; last TIOG Nov (LD). Black-throated Green Warbler: to four/day. Pine Warbler: only FHNC 15 Sep, unusual. Prairie Warbler: one banded Bin-

ghamton 13 Sep. Palm Warbler: five singles three sites to 23 Oct, good count. Bay-breasted Warbler: four singles two sites. Blackpoll Warbler: to three/day at three sites. Black-and-white Warbler: two reports. Am. Redstart: three reports. Ovenbird: at three sites. N. Waterthrush: two singles. Connecticut Warbler: singles banded Binghamton 19 & 23 Sep. Mourning Warbler: singles banded Binghamton 12 & 20 Sep.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: max five. N. Cardinal: widely reported; ad + FL Norwich 19 Sep (JL), late & doing well. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 15 OPM 1 Sep. Indigo Bunting: last singles banded NV 2 & 19 Oct. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Vestal Center 22 Oct (SD); max nine in Nov, scarce. Chipping Sparrow: max 60 OPM 13 Oct; last singles Delhi 1 & 2 Nov. Field Sparrow: max 11 to 13 Oct; last four banded NV 16 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: max 12 Walton 3 Oct (SH); last OPM 19 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: last OPM 19 Oct. Fox Sparrow: only three singles to 26 Oct, scarce. Song Sparrow: last 14 Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: four singles Sep, only one report Oct. Swamp Sparrow: max seven, last 24 Oct. White-throated Sparrow: max, last JCity 22 Nov (JS). White-crowned Sparrow: arr banded NV 27 Sep, one to four almost daily seven sites to 31 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: max 100's Vestal 22 Oct (LBe); up to 25 daily many sites Nov. Snow Bunting: arr two Norwich 2 Nov (JL). Bobolink: nine NN 5 Sep, only report. Red-winged Blackbird: max 100 OPM 2 Oct; last Delhi 22 Nov. E. Meadowlark: last eight OPM. Rusty Blackbird: arr six NN 27 Sep CBC; last four there 3 Oct (JL). Com. Grackle: max 75 Vestal 17 Oct (LBe) & NCol 24 Oct; last Delhi 12 Nov. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 40 OPM 30 Oct; last Delhi 30 Nov. Purple Finch: only four singles at three sites Nov. House Finch: max 50 JCity 11 to 19 Nov, very common everywhere! Pine Siskin: arr REEC 27 Sep CBC; mas 25, reports from three sites. Am. Goldfinch: to 25/day thru Nov. Evening Grosbeak: arr two sites 18 Oct; max 90 Norwich 3 Nov (JL).

RD2, Box 68C, Norwich, New York 13815

## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

GENE HUGGINS

The weather this fall was generally mild. Both precipitation and snowfall were below normal. Excellent flight days occurred at Derby Hill from 21 Oct to 8 Nov and for small passerines in southern Madison Co. on 10 and from 20 to 24 Sep.

This season observers saw encouraging numbers of migrating loons and grebes. A Pied-billed Grebe near Erieville on 30 Nov was notably late so far south. Six Great Egrets appeared at Delta Lake and a Cattle Egret was at Holland Patent on the late date of 30 Oct. There were good numbers of Brant, Northern Pintail, Oldsquaw, Common Goldeneye and Red-breasted Merganser along Lake Ontario. Despite the good news for some waterfowl, most dabbling ducks and all species of the genus *Aythya* were at record low levels. The immature male Oldsquaw from the late summer was seen again off Pleasant Point, L. Ontario, on 4 Sep. Oldsquaw peaked at 428 off Derby Hill on 25 October.

A Sandhill Crane was found by a Mr. Breckenridge near Doxtater Rd., Stacy's Basin, Town of Verona, Oneida Co., feeding in a pasture with horses, from 10 to 16 Oct. This is the first fall Regional report. Shorebird diversity was average, but numbers were quite low, especially those of Dunlin and Common Snipe.

The outstanding shorebird this fall was the **Marbled Godwit** found at Delta Lake on 7 Sep, the first record since 1978 and the Region's third. The passage of Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers by Derby Hill and Sandy Pond exceeded last year's total by at least ten birds. Observers noted a marked increase in Great Black-backed Gulls, especially inland on Oneida and Onondaga Lakes.

The raptor flight brought a surprising concentration of 63 Turkey Vultures heading south above the eastern shore of Skaneateles Lake on 12 Oct. This is the highest fall count for the Region. Merlins demonstrated a moderate increase but very few Northern Goshawks and Rough-legged Hawks entered our area. A subadult **Golden Eagle** along Rt. 5 near Oneida on 23 Oct was only the third modern fall Regional report. Once again, an irruption of Snowy Owls appeared along the shore of Lake Ontario. Lesser numbers of Short-eared Owls were inland near Pennellville.

Flycatchers were at an all time low, with an average maximum of just five for each of seven species recorded. Blue Jays migrated from our area in large numbers on 20-23 Sep, one observer commenting on the 100 plus passing over her home in southern Madison Co. for two days. Maxima for Winter Wren, both kinglets and Hermit Thrush were above average for the period. Despite the increased efforts of many birdwatchers, numbers for vireos and warblers were at alarmingly low levels. Yellow-rumped Warbler was the only species with a maximum of over 100 individuals, and that count came from a nesting area. Magnolia and Bay-breasted Warblers both averaged a maxima of 36 per day, but the other warbler species averaged a maximum of only seven per day. Scheider observed a Yellow Warbler at the Three Rivers Game Management Area on the very late date of 13 Nov (report to NYSARC). The most unusual species found was a Prairie Warbler. Most migrant sparrows appeared in very good numbers, but American Tree Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco were at record low levels. An immature male Northern Oriole was at a feeder in Oneida from 1 to 4 Nov. Winter finches were virtually absent, except for an irruption of Pine Siskins and smaller numbers of Evening Grosbeaks. Half-hardy species were scarce during November, with Song and White-throated Sparrow showing up in smaller numbers.

A total of 233 species plus one hybrid were reported this fall. The very rare species included Sandhill Crane, Golden Eagle, Marbled Godwit, Long-billed Dowitcher, Sabine's Gull, the November Yellow Warbler and Prairie Warbler. In addition to these, hard-to-find species reported this fall included King Eider, Bald Eagle, Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, Western Sandpiper, Purple Sandpiper, Pomarine Jaeger, Franklin's and Little Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Forster's Tern, Bohemian Waxwing and Orange-crowned Warbler.

Contributors: Kate Coyle, Dorothy W. Crumb, Paul DeBenedictis, Robert L. Evans, John Hanyak, Elva Hawken, Gene Huggins, Jane D. Kidney, Tom Linda, Sheila McCombie, Belle Peebles, Robert L. Post, Bill Purcell, Helene Reilly, Margaret S. Rusk, Seward Salisbury, Fritz Scheider, Gerald A. Smith, Betty Starr, Magdalena Stooks, Elba Van Dresar.

Abbreviations: DH-Derby Hill, Oswego Co.; FH-Fair Haven, Oswego Co.; LOL-Lake Ontario Littoral, Oswego Co.; PSS-Peter Scott Swamp, Oswego Co.; NPT-Northern Pompey Township, Onondaga Co.; OnonL-Onondaga Lake; SPd-Sandy Pond, Oswego Co.; SSSP-Selkirk Shores State Park; SVB-Sylvan & Verona Beaches, Oneida Co.; TRGMA-Three Rivers Game Management Area.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr DH 3 Oct, max five LOL 15 Nov. Com. Loon: arr LOL 20 Sep, max 200+ LOL 8 Nov. Pied-billed Grebe; max 36 LOL 24 Oct. Horned Grebe: arr LOL 2 Oct, max 350 8 Nov. Red-necked Grebe: arr DH 25 Oct, max two LOL 29 Oct, last 15 Nov. Double-crested Cormorant: record max 500 DH 21 Oct. Am. Bittern: last PSS 17 Sep. Great Blue Heron: max 33 7 Sep. Great Egret: max six Delta L to 19 Sep. Cattle Egret: *intro*. Green-backed Heron: last SPd 22 Oct. Tundra Swan: singles TRGMA 3 Nov, Beaver L. 15 Nov, FH 19-22 Nov. Snow Goose: only report six SPd 8 Oct. Brant: arr DH 8 Oct, max 7,500 DH 21 Oct, last 14 Nov. Canada Goose: max only 1800 LOL 15,22 Nov. Wood Duck: record max 2072 LOL, Toad Harbor 26 Sep. Green-winged Teal. max 69 SPd 8 Oct, last Syracuse 28 Nov. Am. Black Duck: max 420 SPd 8 Oct. Mallard: max 503 19 Sep. N. Pintail: max 1,023 SPd 8 Oct. Blue-winged Teal: max 40 on 6 Sep, last DH 25 Oct. N. Shoveler: arr SVB 19 Sep, max 25 LOL 24 Sep, last 19 Nov. Gadwall: max 105 LOL 19 Nov. Am. Wigeon: max 704 SPd 8 Oct, last Otisco L 27 Nov. Canvasback: arr SPd 29 Oct, max 40 Beaver L 16 Nov. Redhead: arr LOL 6 Sep, max 20 FH 17 Oct. Ring-necked Duck: arr LOL 6 Sep, max 23 SPd 29 Oct. Greater Scaup: arr SPd 24 Sep, max 283 Oswego H 15 Nov. Lesser Scaup: arr LOL 26 Sep, max 151 LOL 24 Oct. King Eider: one DH 25 Oct, female LOL 22 Nov. Oldsquaw: *intro*. Black Scoter: arr SPd 1 Oct, max 79 DH 25 Oct. Surf Scoter: arr SPd 1 Oct, max 284 DH 8 Oct. White-winged Scoter: arr SPd 20 Sep, max 560 DH 8 Oct. Com. Goldeneye: arr LOL 12 Oct, max 557 LOL 15 Nov. Bufflehead: arr LOL 24 Oct, max 20 LOL 12 Nov. Hooded Merganser: arr Beaver L 6 Oct, max 110 there 15 Nov. Com. Merganser: arr OnonL 5 Sep, max 70 LOL 12 Nov. Red-breasted Merganser: arr DH 3 Oct, max 6,400 LOL 12 Nov. Ruddy Duck: arr Beaver L 6 Oct, max 24 there 16 Nov, very low.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: *intro*; last near Tassel Hill, ONEI, 24 Oct. Osprey: max nine LOL 20 Sep. Bald Eagle: im SPd 20 Sep. N. Harrier: max 11 SPd 22 Oct. Sharp-shinned Hawk: max seven T Webb 10 Sep. Cooper's Hawk: ten widely scattered reports. N. Goshawk: im SSSP 17 Sep, only report. Red-shouldered Hawk: four reports, last Tassel Hill, ONEI, 24 Oct. Rough-legged Hawk: arr SPd 22 Oct. **Golden Eagle**: *intro*. Am. Kestrel: max 21 LOL 11 Sep. Merlin: 13 reports, arr NPT and Delta L 7 Sep, record late Tassel Hill 24 Oct. Peregrine Falcon: two DH 21 Oct, one Delta L 11 Sep. Ring-necked Pheasant: only eight reports, rapidly diminishing. Wild Turkey: max 20 along Otisco V Rd 1 Nov. Virginia Rail: one Clay Marsh 22 Sep, only report. Com. Moorhen: max nine SPd 17 Sep, last 4 Oct. Am. Coot: max 181 LOL & Beaver L 24 Oct, last LOL 22 Nov. **Sandhill Crane**: *intro*. Black-bellied Plover: max three SPd 23 Sep, 10 Oct, 22 Oct. Lesser Golden-Plover: max 24 near Verona 3 Sep, last Biddlecum 31 Oct. Semipalmated Plover: max 17 SVB and Delta L 7 Sep. Killdeer: max 326 SVB & Delta L 7 Sep, last LOL 22 Nov. Greater Yellowlegs: max nine SVB & Delta L 7 Sep. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 40 SVB & Delta L 7 Sep. Solitary Sandpiper: max three 7 Sep, last 15 Sep. Spotted Sandpiper: max 17 Delta L 11 Sep. Upland Sandpiper: max and last seven near Rt 31 5 Sep. Whimbrel: one SPd 10 Sep, one FH 15 Sep. Hudsonian Godwit: one Town Isle Golf Course, Kirkville, only report. **Marbled Godwit**: *intro*. Ruddy Turnstone: max two FH and DH, last LOL 1 Nov. Red Knot: only report two SPd 17-20 Sep. Sanderling: max 215 SPd 23 Sep. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 59 SPd 5 Sep. W. Sandpiper: max two SPd, OnonL 5 Sep, one Old Fly Marsh 8 Sep. Least Sandpiper: max 13 SVB & Delta L 7 Sep. White-rumped Sandpiper: max 13 SPd 20 Sep- 1 Oct, last FH 1 Nov. Baird's Sandpiper: max five SPd 5 Sep, last 5 Oct. Pectoral Sandpiper: max 40 SVB & Delta L 7 Sep. Purple Sandpiper: only report three Oswego H 15 Nov. Dunlin: arr SVB & Delta L 19 Sep, max 35 SPd 22 Oct, last FH 15 Nov. Short-billed Dowitcher: max four SVB & Delta L 7 Sep, last 13 Sep. **Long-billed Dowitcher**: one SPd 1 Oct, first since 1985. Com. Snipe: max eight 7 Sep, last LOL 1 Nov. Am. Woodcock: max two SSSP 18 Oct, last LOL 24 Oct. Red Phalarope: max seven DH 28 Oct, two DH 8 Oct, two DH 25 Oct. Pomarine Jaeger: one SPd inlet 8 Oct, another there 14 Nov. Parasitic Jaeger: 14 for the season migrating past DH 24 Sep-6 Nov, max ten on 25 Oct. Franklin's Gull: im DH 5 Nov. Little Gull: two SPd inlet 7-14 Sep, one DH 5 Nov. Bonaparte's Gull: max 200 DH 5 Nov. Ring-billed

Gull: max 2,400 LOL 19 Nov. Herring Gull: max 600 DH 25 Oct. Iceland Gull: singles FH to Oswego 15 Nov, DH 17 Nov. Glaucous Gull: arr LOL 12 Nov. Great Black-backed Gull: max 118 LOL 5 Oct. Black-legged Kittiwake: im DH 25 Oct, 31 Oct, five on 5 Nov. **Sabine's Gull**: one DH 25 & 31 Oct, 5 Nov, latest of eight Regional records. Caspian Tern: max 41 SPd 5 Sep. Com. Tern: max 310 SVB 13 Sep. Forster's Tern: max two SPd 7 Sep-5 Oct, one FH 17 Oct. Black Tern: one SPd 14 Sep, only report.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: Mourning Dove: max 138. Snowy Owl: two Oswego H 12-30 Nov, one SPd 14 Nov. Short-eared Owl: max ten near Pennellville 15-30 Nov. Com. Nighthawk: last Otisco L 2 Sep. Chimney Swift: max 75 SPd 5 Sep. Ruby-throated Hummingbird : max four SPd 5, 7 Sep, Red-bellied Woodpecker: one at feeder Holland Patent after 8 Oct unusually far east. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: to four/day 10 Sep to 4 Oct. Downy Woodpecker: max 21 T Lysander 11 Oct. N. Flicker: max 44 T Webb 10 Sep.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS**: Olive-sided Flycatcher: max two and last LOL 11 Sep. E. Wood-Pewee: max 17 Syracuse 3 Sep. Least Flycatcher: max two Clay Marsh 1 Sep, 6 Sep. E. Phoebe: max nine SPd 24 Sep. Great Crested Flycatcher: max two SPd 7 Sep. Horned Lark: max 45 T Sterling 12 Oct. Purple Martin: max and last four SPd 5 Sep. Tree Swallow: max 210 SPd 11 Sep. N. Rough-winged Swallow: max and last nine SPd 27 Sep. Bank Swallow: max and last 65 SPd 5 Sep. Cliff Swallow: singles SPd 5, 11 Sep. Barn Swallow: max 800 SPd 5 Sep. Blue Jay: max 180 near Hastings 21 Sep. Com. Raven: four at a dump near Forestport 28 Nov, two T Webb 10 Sep. Tufted Titmouse: max seven T Sterling 6 Sep, three near Holland Patent. Brown Creeper: max 50 SPd 2 3 Sep. Carolina Wren: only report Syracuse 3-24 Sep. Winter Wren: max 36 SPd 24 Sep. Marsh Wren: max two until 5 Oct. Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 100 SPd 23 Sep with over 30/day from 23 Sep to 30 Oct. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 250/day, last DH 11 Nov. E. Bluebird: max 19 near Munnsville 12 Oct, 61 birds for the season. Veery: max three/day. Gray-cheeked Thrush: max four/day. Swainson's Thrush: max ten/day. Hermit Thrush: max 15 LOL 4 Oct, last 24 Oct. Wood Thrush: max 12 near Erieville 21 Sep. Am. Robin: max 300 T Sterling 12 Oct. Gray Catbird: max 14/day. Brown Thrasher: max 5/day. Water Pipit: arr SPd 11 Sep, max 45 Stacey Basin, SVB 15 Oct, last Cicero Swamp 7 Nov. Bohemian Waxwing: two five mi w Oswego 12 Nov, only report. Cedar Waxwing: max 300 T Webb 10 Sep, scarce after mid October. N. Shrike: arr TRGMA 30 Oct.

**VIREOS-WARBBLERS**: Solitary Vireo: max 25 T Webb 10 Sep. Yellow-throated Vireo: max four/day. Warbling Vireo: max 11 SPd 7 Sep. Philadelphia Vireo: max five/day, last Syracuse 3 Oct. Red-eyed Vireo: max 34 T Sterling 6 Sep. Blue-winged Warbler: only report near Hastings 21 Sep, late. Golden-winged Warbler: only report T Sterling 6 Sep. Brewster's Warbler: only report T Sterling 6 Sep. Tennessee Warbler: max 11 T Sterling 13 Sep. Orange-crowned Warbler: about four reported 27 Sep to 6 Oct. Nashville Warbler: max seven/day. N. Parula: arr SPd 11 Sep, max six/day. Yellow Warbler: *intro*. Chestnut-sided Warbler: max seven/day. Magnolia Warbler: max 34 SPd 20 Sep. Cape May Warbler: arr 5 Sep, max five/day. Black-throated Blue Warbler: max eight/day. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 120 T Webb 10 Sep, last SPd 5 Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: max 25/day near Erieville 23, 24 Sep. Blackburnian Warbler: max five/day. Pine Warbler: three reports 4 Sep to 12 Oct. **Prairie Warbler**: one S SSP 5 Oct, latest of five modern Regional fall records. Palm Warbler: arr 13 Sep, max eight SPD 20 Sep, last 12 Oct. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 6 Sep, max 38 T Sterling 13 Sep. Blackpoll Warbler: arr 5 Sep, max four/day. Black-and-white Warbler: max six SPD 23 Sep. Am. Redstart: max 18/day. Ovenbird: max eight/day. N. Waterthrush: max two/day. Mourning Warbler: max and last two SPd 20 Sep. Com. Yellowthroat: max 18 T Sterling 6 Sep. Hooded Warbler: max 11 T Sterling 6 Sep, last Clay Marsh 22 Sep. Wilson's Warbler: arr Clay Marsh 1 Sep, max ten SPD 17 Sep. Canada Warbler: max two/day.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS**: Scarlet Tanager: max six T Webb 10 Sep. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 22/day. Indigo Bunting: last Erieville 7 Oct. Rufous-sided Towhee: max six/day.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr SPd 29 Oct. Chipping Sparrow: max 172 T Lysander 6 Oct, last 17 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: max ten/day, last 17 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: max 32, last SPd 12 Nov. Fox Sparrow: max 25 NPT 30 Oct. Song Sparrow: max 499 T Lysander 6 Oct. Lincoln's Sparrow: arr SPd 11 Sep, max 11/day. Swamp Sparrow: max 95/day. White-throated Sparrow: max 448/day. White-crowned Sparrow: arr SPd 24 Sep, max 135 on 11 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: max 45/day. Lapland Longspur: arr SPd 27 Sep. Snow Bunting: arr SPd 22 Oct, max 220 LOL 15 Nov. Bobolink: max two/day. Red-winged Black bird: max 15,000/day. E. Meadowlark: max 36 Durhamville 1 Oct, last LOL 22 Nov. Rusty Blackbird: arr Clay M 22 Sep, max 38 on 11 Oct, last 22 Nov. Com. Grackle: max 10,000/day. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 2,000/day. N. Oriole: *intro*. Purple Finch : max 12/day, scarce. House Finch: max 383/day, proliferating everywhere. Red Crossbill: four widely scattered reports. White-winged Crossbill: one T Webb 10 Sep, one NPT 31 Oct, two Forestport 28 Nov. Pine Siskin: arr 6 Sep, max 212/day. Am. Goldfinch: max 164/day. Evening Grosbeak: arr 6 Sep, max 105 LOL 24 Oct.

CORRIGENDA: Vol. 37, No. 3, Page 156: *delete* (MSR) *after* Black Tern: max 11 Toad H 11 May. Whip-poor-will: arr 10 May, max seven Rome Sand Plains (MSR) *should read* near Oklahoma Gulf, T Newport, Herkimer Co. (MSR).

Yellow-breasted Chat: arr StMC 14 May, one CV 25 May *should read* arr Oakwood 14 May (C.G. Spies & MSR); ...

1065 Westmoreland Avenue, Syracuse, New York 13210

## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL AND GERALD A. SMITH

September was one of the wettest on record, but there was little or no frost until late in the month. October was unusually cold with temperatures 2-3° below normal, but most of Region 6 was spared the heavy snowfall of 4 Oct. Snow came on 12 Oct.

There were only two light snowfalls in November. Midmonth temperatures were in the 50's, and many migrants tended to linger.

Even in foothill regions, unprecedented numbers of Canada Goose frequented cornfields until the snow came in December. A few other waterfowl species were present in better numbers than typical of recent years, while numbers of Greater and Lesser Scaup, Oldsquaw, all three scoters, Common Goldeneye and Bufflehead were more typical of recent falls. Winter raptors arrived in good numbers on or ahead of schedule. After its arrival at El Dorado Beach on 2 Oct, spectacular concentrations of Rough-legged Hawk on the Pt. Peninsula reached 50 per day by late November. Similarly, Northern Harrier counts of 15-20 per day on the Pt. Peninsula in October increased to 40+ per day by late November. Snowy Owl arrived at the Pt. Peninsula on 22 Nov, and several Northern Shrike were reported in November after its arrival in Canton on 4 Oct. Counts of these mouse-eating species reflect a vole plague combined with a northern raptor incursion in that area — more in the winter report. This report includes Gerry



Smith's summer observations at El Dorado Beach Preserve. Ruddy Turnstone had a poor flight in contrast to fair flights of most the other common shorebirds, and no White-rumped Sandpiper were found at all. Sanderling produced good late season counts. There were a few reports of Golden-crowned Kinglet and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. All of the spot-breasted thrushes were reported in small numbers from 5 Sep to 20 Oct. Twelve species of warbler were reported, the last in mid October. Other than Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin late in Nov, there were no reports of winter finches.

Reports included a total of 166 species including 29 waterbirds and waders, 15 raptors, 25 shorebirds, 21 other nonpasserines and 76 passerines. An astonishing report of six Arctic Tern with hordes of Common Terns at the Moses-Saunders Dam on 10 Sep is provided by a very experienced and reliable observer (BDiL). While this report might be considered tentative pending a NYSARC review, it seems highly possible from this larid hot spot. The topper from this site, however, is a report with good supporting details of a Razorbill seen on 27 Nov by observers (BDiL, RB) familiar with the species on the North Atlantic coast. This would be the first record for the Region and one of the few for upstate New York. Details will be submitted to the NYSARC.

Contributors: Marilyn Badger, Richard Brouse, Sheilla and Bob Cerwonka, Lee Chamberlaine, Stephanie and Victor DeGhett, Bruce DiLabio, John Green, Paul Kelly, Kathy Kotila, Fiona Reid, Brian Watson, Perry Yaw.

Abbreviations: EDB-El Dorado Beach Preserve; MSD-Moses-Saunders Dam; PtPen-Point Peninsula; ULL-Upper and Lower Lakes WMA; SLR-St. Lawrence River.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one in Alt plumage EDB 23 Jun possibly a summering bird; arr EDB 2 Oct; max one-three per day only. scarce; one ULL 8 Oct may be lingering resident. Pied-billed Grebe: two singles only, very scarce. Red-necked Grebe: two-four per day MSD 27 Sep to 30 Oct. only reports. Double-crested Cormorant: 15-60 per day EDB to late Sep, then one to five per day there to early Nov. Cattle Egret: one Potsdam 26 Oct, unusual in fall. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one MSD 10 Sep, unusual for fall. Tundra Swan: two PtPen 15 Nov. Wood Duck: dep three Grasse R 17 Oct. Green-winged Teal: two to ten per day EDB Aug-Sep; few thereafter. Am. Black Duck: 200 Chaumont Bay 15 Nov, good count for recent years. Blue-winged Teal: EDB numbers up slightly from the disaster counts of recent years, to 40 per day Aug-Sep, max 65 on 17 Aug. Am. Wigeon: three males EDB 17 Jun are unusual. Canvasback: 47 MSD 14 Nov, excellent count away from traditional western SLR staging areas. Ring-necked Duck: 500 ULL 13 Oct. Hooded Merganser: 23 EDB 11 Nov. Com. Merganser: nine at MSD 2 Aug increased to 80 on 30 Oct, 3500 11 Nov and 10,000 on 27 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: last MSD 20 Sep. Bald Eagle: three singles Oct-Nov. N. Harrier: *intro*. Sharp-shinned Hawk: to three per day. Cooper's Hawks: to three per day. N. Goshawk: four singles. Red-tailed Hawk: 15-30 per day PtPen in Nov. Rough-legged Hawk: *intro*. Merlin: four singles, including one unusual inland sighting at Stockholm 29 Sep. Peregrine: im MSD 24 Aug possibly an Ontario hacked bird MSD (BDiL, mob); im Rensselaer Falls 2 Oct found unconscious in rat trap in barn, rehabilitated and released by Conservation Officer L. Crane (LBC). Semipalmated Plover: arr EDB 17 Jul, to ten per day to 20 Sep, last 12 Oct. Greater Yellowlegs: arr EDB 22 Jun, very early, to 30 per day in mid Aug, last 17 Sep. Upland Sandpiper: group of three to four Rice Rd, Canton, late Aug suggests breeding. Ruddy Turnstone: arr EDB 1 Aug, late; max 19 on 10 Aug, last 12 Sep. Red Knot: two-six per day EDB 30 Aug-14 Sep. Sanderling: arr EDB 17 Jul, to 100 per day late Aug-early Oct. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr EDB 7 July; most

counts below 60 per day mid Jul to mid Sep, max 435 on 6 Aug, a light-moderate flight. W. Sandpiper: one EDB 29-31 Aug only report. Least Sandpiper: arr EDB 1 Jul, to 20 per day July-Aug, max 74 on 6 Aug, last 16 Sep, good flight. Baird's Sandpiper: arr EDB 25 Aug, max 12 high, last 7 Sep, good flight. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr EDB 18 Jul, to two per day late Jul, few in Aug, to three per day first 10 days Sep; six Pillar Pt 24 Oct. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr eight EDB 8 Jul, to three per day through Jul, few thereafter, last 17 Aug. Am. Woodcock: one on shoreline EDB 20 Aug is very unusual location; two Stockholm 21 Oct. Little Gull: one to three per day MSD 30 Aug 30 Sep (BdiL, mob), probably to be expected there in fall. Bonaparte's Gull: 31 MSD on 21 July had increased to max of 500+ by 7 Nov. Iceland Gull: arr im MSD 30 Oct, early. Black-legged Kittiwake: two im MSD 27 Nov are no longer unexpected at this mecca for gulls. Caspian Tern: max 21 EDB 6 Aug, last there 27 Sep. Com. Tern: highest numbers from eastern SLR where breeding population is most numerous with lesser counts farther west; excellent max of 450 MSD (BDiL, RB) 10 Sep; last there 19 Oct. Arctic Tern: *intro*. Black Tern: decline continues locally, last 30 Aug. **Razorbill:** *intro*.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Great Horned Owl: only resident owl reported. Snowy Owl: *intro*. Com. Nighthawk: four Massena 1 Sep only report. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Stockholm 16 Sep. Belted Kingfisher: last 22 Oct. Red-headed Woodpecker: two ad, one im along S Grass R Rd, Massena, 30 Aug (BDiL).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Gray Jay: three S Colton 17 Nov. Sedge Wren: three singing males N side of S Grass R Rd, Massena, 21 July (BDiL). E. Bluebird: good numbers to 26 Oct. Bohemian Waxwing: one with 20 Cedars Henderson 1 Nov. N. Shrike: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Bay-breasted Warbler: max 20 Henderson 16 Sep.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Pierrepont 4 Nov. Field Sparrow: one Massena 10 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: one Watertown 11 Oct. Fox Sparrow: one Massena 6 Oct, two Stockholm 20 Oct. White-crowned Sparrow: frequent reports 26 Sep to 22 Oct unusual for Fall. Snow Bunting: arr Pierrepont 27 Nov. Rusty Blackbird: three ULL 8 Oct, six Stockholm 24 Oct, 60 Henderson 25 Oct. N. Oriole: one Massena to end of period.

KLC — RD 4 Box 97, Canton, New York 13617

GAS — P.O. Box 498, Mexico, New York 13114

## REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M.C. PETERSON

Although observer activity seemed low, and there were several admissions of difficulty in maintaining fall departure records for *The Kingbird* or in sustaining weekly Operation BirdWatch reports, there were a number of rarities among the 130 species reported. In addition to the Olympic loon and other rare finds, excitement was provided by an active sprinkler and a white woodpecker. And if only the coverage of Franklin County's Indian Lake provided by Jan Trzeciak could be expanded to include all of the 50 Adirondack lakes with at least one square mile of surface area, not to mention some of the 2,700 smaller lakes and ponds! Our understanding of migrant waterfowl away from Lake Champlain seems in its infancy, given past and present coverage of this Region.

The late-summer drought persisted, and September began and ended on a cold note, with Elizabethtown recording 37°F on 3 Sep and Newcomb registering 28°F on the 25th. A storm to the south on 4 Oct largely bypassed the Region, although the mountains were left with their first layer of snow. An inch or more of snow fell 11 October, followed by a temperature drop to 19°F at Newcomb on the 14th and again 19°F at Ray Brook on October 26. Elizabethtown received 1.8 inches of much needed rainfall overnight 27-28 Oct. The following month began with Newcomb a nippy 17°F on 2 Nov, but a late Indian Summer then pushed thermometers to 70°F at Plattsburgh on 4 Nov. By the 20th, however, it was snowing in the Sara-Placid region and the first major cold wave of the season sent the temperature in Plattsburgh plummeting to 8°F on 21 Nov, with windchill factors of -30°F across the Region.

A grounded and distressed **Red-throated Loon** taken to Drs. Craig and Suzanne Russell at Westport for rehabilitation unhappily died 9 Nov. However, a second **Red-throated Loon** that grounded 21 Nov at the Olympic bobsled run was successfully rehabilitated by the Russells, banded and released on North West Bay, L. Champlain, on 22 Nov. A weakened adult Broad-winged Hawk found near Elizabethtown in late August was also rehabilitated at the Westport Veterinary Clinic, banded and released near Elizabethtown on 1 Sep.

The Delephantys were treated to quite a sight on 6 Sep while watering drought-parched flower beds at Tupper Lake. Dashing through the spray, bathing, and sitting in the shrubbery enjoying the fine mist were a Least Flycatcher, 4 Blue Jays, 3 Gray Catbirds, a Solitary Vireo, Magnolia Warbler, 6 Yellow-rumped Warblers, a Black-throated Green Warbler, 3 Scarlet Tanagers, and 9 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.

Larids were well reported. Westport had 3 Bonaparte's Gulls on 8 Sep. The Tupper Lake landfill still had 50 Ring-billed and 75 Herring Gulls on 13 Nov, late and high numbers inland. Richard Guthrie found a first-winter Iceland Gull at the Lake Placid landfill 9 Nov, after spotting a second-winter **Lesser Black-backed Gull** on Mirror Lake on 7 Nov. Also noteworthy inland were a first-winter Great Black-backed Gull Robert Hagar found on Lake Flower on 7 Nov and perhaps the same gull seen by Guthrie at the Lake Placid landfill two days later. One wonders what the effect of mandated landfill closings will be. Only three owls were reported, but all interesting. A Snowy Owl at North West Bay on 8 Nov was the only Regional report, but apparently part of a larger movement in the St. Lawrence, Champlain, and Hudson Valleys. Barred Owls were in courtship at Paradox by 7 Sep. Dick Guthrie found a **Short-eared Owl** along Riverside Drive, Lake Placid, on 6 Nov — an unexpected location.

Bob Hagar was hunting off Forest Home Road, Saranac Lake, toward Shingle Box Mt. on 5 Nov when he encountered a leucistic male Hairy Woodpecker. The bird was creamy white with some indistinct brownish barring on the wing coverts and secondaries, giving a slightly cream brown color to the upper wings when at rest. In flight, "It looked like a white moth flopping around the woods," traveling with a Downy Woodpecker, chickadees, and nuthatches.

Details of several seasonal rarities, including Harlequin Duck and Brewer's Blackbird, are to be submitted to NYSARC. The Regional bird of the season,

however, was the **Black-headed Grosbeak** at the Frank Gauthier feeder, 13 Payville Road, Saranac Lake, 20-22 Nov, identified by Bob Hagar as a first-fall male. Details and color photograph have been submitted to NYSARC; if accepted, this would be a first Regional record, as well as a first for Essex County and the Adirondack Park. By the end of the season, the mouse and vole population was high. This was reflected in an influx of Rough-legged Hawks and several Northern Shrikes. The spruce cone crop was only fair at best, but a heavy crop of eastern hemlock cones was apparently enough to draw in numbers of Pine Siskins. The lack of a beech-oak mast crop may have caused the disappearance of many Blue Jays during the autumn. If not a great winter, it might yet prove to be an interesting one, especially for conifer-eating finches willing to subsist on an abundant supply of hemlock.

Contributors: Bartlett Bailey, Merry Baker, Beverly Brown, Geoffrey Carleton, Dean Cook, Marnie Cook, Charlie Delehanty, John E. Delehanty, Gregory Furness, Frank Gauthier, Bob Gillis, Richard Guthrie, Robert Hagar, Betty Hedges, Anne Hungerford, Elsbeth Johnson, Kitty Kellas, Bruce Landon, Theodore Mack, Brooke Meislohn, Edith Mitchell, Marty Peal, John Peterson, Craig & Suzanne Russell, Karen Smith, Jan Trzeciak, Armand Vaillancourt, Jackie Vientz, Maurice Villeneuve, Hollis White.

**LOONS-DUCKS:** **Red-throated Loon:** Indian L 20 Sep, early, same lake 26-30 Oct (JT), *intro*. Com. Loon: max 12 Lower St. Regis L 12 Nov. Pied-billed Grebe: max three Charlie Pd, FRAN, 9 Sep. Horned Grebe: arr Indian L 29 Oct. Double-crested Cormorant: last Mt View L 5 Oct. Great Blue Heron: Elizabethtown 29 Nov, late. Canada Goose: thousands Malone Recreation P 11-12 Nov, packed so closely no water showed. **Harlequin Duck:** female Indian L, FRAN, 30 Oct-4 Nov (JT!, NYSARC). Oldsquaw: 10 on choppy Indian L after storm 25 Oct only report. Black Scoter: arr seven Indian L 25 Oct, max 20 there 31 Oct. White-winged Scoter: arr female Essex harbor 22 Nov (EJ). Bufflehead: arr nine Indian L 26 Oct.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** Bald Eagle: ad Raquette L 6-7 Sep (BH), im Bay Pd 20 Nov (BL), ad Tupper L 22 Nov, 27-28 Nov (CD) seemed a healthy showing. Peregrine Falcon: ad 9 Oct Tupper L Marsh only report. Gray Partridge: eight Hogansburg 29 Sep only sighting. Ring-necked Pheasant: no reports from Champlain Valley stocking areas, two at Tupper L feeder 28 Oct only report. Wild Turkey: no reports. Could gamebird dollars be better directed? Black-bellied Plover: last ad in Alt plumage Bulwagga Bay 9 Sep (GC). Killdeer: last Teboville Rd, FRAN, night of 5 Oct. Greater Yellowlegs: Westport 16 Sep, Saranac Lake 10 Oct, Hogansburg 22 Oct, a wide showing. Solitary Sandpiper: last Hogansburg 17 Oct, late. Com Snipe: Westport 8 Sep only report. Phalarope (sp.): five sitting and spinning St. Regis R 13 Aug (HW). Bonaparte's Gull: three Westport 8 Sep only sighting, suggests general lack of lakeshore coverage. Iceland Gull: *intro*. **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** *intro*. Great Black-backed Gull: *intro*.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** Black-billed Cuckoo: last Tupper L 19 Sep. Snowy Owl: *intro*. Barred Owl: *intro*. **Short-eared Owl:** *intro*. Red-headed Woodpecker: road-killed male Chasm Falls 1 Oct (JT). Hairy Woodpecker: *intro*.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** Horned Lark: max 300 Goodman Rd, FRAN, 10 Nov (JT). Cliff Swallow: last Tupper L 2 Sep. Com. Raven: many reports. Boreal Chickadee: two Giant Mt 8 Nov only report. Tufted Titmouse: two Port Henry 5 Nov only report. E. Bluebird: departed quickly, last Owls Head 18 Oct. Hermit Thrush: last Tupper L 12 Oct. Am. Robin: often winters in numbers at lower elevations, but one at Saranac Lake 25 Nov was unusual. N. Shrike: *intro*. European Starling: im Westport beach 8 Sep appeared larger than and about 1.5" longer than nearby Am. Robins — a case of gigantism (GC).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Pine Warbler: last Saranac L 6 Oct. Palm Warbler: last Saranac L 23 Sep. Mourning Warbler: last Saranac L 4 Oct.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: squeaky song Paradox 11 Sep (MB). **Black-headed Grosbeak:** *intro*. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Four Brothers Islands 17 Oct (MP). Fox Sparrow: arr Cadyville 16 Oct, Tupper L 22 Oct, Saranac L 7-9 Nov, last Tupper L 20 Nov a good showing. White-crowned Sparrow: arr Saranac Lake 20 Sep. Snow Bunting: small flocks after 29 Oct. Rusty Blackbird: nine feeding on cracked corn at Tupper L feeding station 11 Oct, one there 11 Nov. **Brewer's Blackbird:** 1-3 Owls Head area Oct-Nov (AH, JT! NYSARC). Purple Finch: absent after Oct. White-winged Crossbill: summer flock still feeding in dirt road Owls Head 17 Sep, last 18 there 29 Nov. Pine Siskin: first flocks 30 Lake Placid 7 Nov, 16 Giant Mt. 8 Nov, 50 Tupper L 10 Nov, 11 Essex 22 Nov, by Dec flocks of 50+ widespread, *intro*. Am. Goldfinch: also widespread, but not as numerous as siskins. Evening Grosbeak: arr at feeders from early Oct, max 150 Tupper L 27 Nov suggests a good winter.

*Discovery Farm, RD 1, Elizabethtown, NY 12932*

## REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

LINDA ARMSTRONG

Region 8 was an excellent place to birdwatch this fall. Surely the most impressive sights were the geese — large flocks of Canada Geese and smaller but striking V's of Snow Geese. Birders counted thousands on corn fields in Rensselaer and Albany Cos.

Tomhannock Reservoir seemed reminiscent of the Tule-Klamath area as one V after another appeared in the sky. In the Albany area Thanksgiving was particularly memorable for the almost continual honking of geese overhead.

Birders are all too familiar with confusing fall warblers. The warblers were even more confusing this September because our binoculars were often dripping with water! This was the wettest September on record. There were three major storms and the month as a whole was cool. If the record breaking rainfall didn't get birders' attention, then the beginning of October did. An amazing storm on 4-5 Oct brought strong winds and heavy snowfall to much of our Region. Many deciduous trees were not able to bear the weight of the snow and a great deal of tree damage resulted. Instead of bird song filling the air there was the constant cracking and banging of limbs breaking. Lots of birding hours were spent cleaning up property damage. The weeks that followed continued colder than normal, with more than average precipitation. Another storm, much less severe, struck on 27 Oct. November seemed almost calm by comparison, although there were a number of small storms. Except for two periods of warm temperatures, 3-4 and 17-18 Nov, the month was generally cold with very low temperatures on 20-21 Nov.

Scanning lakes and reservoirs was like flipping through a field guide. Common Loons, along with the three species of grebes and two species of mergansers (Hooded and Common) were seen regularly. More unusual, small numbers of White-winged and Surf Scoters appeared briefly. During a good day in September a birder scoping a lake or reservoir was often treated to Mallards, Black Ducks, small numbers of Wood Ducks, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, and Gadwall, along with Northern Pintail, American Wigeon, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck and Common Goldeneye. October migration added Ring-necked Duck and Canvasback to the list and Bufflehead arrived in November. Poking about near the shore were always a number of American Coots. Paul Connor spotted an **eid** on the Hudson River near Rensselaer. In confusing juvenile plumage, the bird was recorded as simply an eider species? for now, with details forwarded to the NYSARC.

Quite a nice collection of herons also was found in Region 8. Great Blue Herons were reported from numerous locations throughout the period. A Great Egret was seen from Peeble's Island in mid September and two Snowy Egrets turned up at Vosburgh Marsh on 3 Oct. Bill Lee found a Cattle Egret on a farm near Tomhannock Reservoir, where it kept company with a pony and cow for weeks. Green-backed Herons were reported from six locations during September and October and one Black-crowned Night-Heron was seen by Kevin McGrath from Peeble's Island in mid September.

A birder would have had to drive many miles to see all the sandpipers and plovers that migrated through the Region. Black-bellied Plovers were reported only from Rensselaer, while Lesser Golden-Plovers turned up at the Schenectady Co. Airport and a flock of 12 were seen on Coxsackie Flats. Certain locations in Rensselaer Co. during September were best if birders wanted to find Semipalmated Plovers. Killdeer were reported commonly. Greater Yellowlegs were sighted at three locations while only one Solitary Sandpiper was seen. A drive to Tamarac was required to see the only Upland Sandpiper this fall, and a trip to Basic Reservoir was needed to see the only Ruddy Turnstone. Pectoral Sandpipers were found at four different locations and Common Snipe at three.

One nice but chilly occupation during the fall was listening to owls. Both Great Horned Owls and Eastern Screech-Owls livened up the nighttime woods in many areas. Can it be true that Robert Yunick is our only reporter who hears Barred Owls? His report from Jenny Lake on 7 Sep was the only one. A small influx of Snowy Owls made many birders shudder at the thought of a possible severe winter approaching.

Apparently that 4 Oct storm didn't daunt some of our thrushes, since many of the reports contained October dates for Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, and American Robin. Gray Catbirds were seen until mid November at two locations. Similarly, Region 8's sparrow list is impressive in the number of species reported. Chipping, Field, Vesper, Savannah, Grasshopper, Song, and Swamp Sparrows moved out, White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows moved through, and American Tree, Fox, and some White-Throated Sparrows moved in to overwinter.

Some of our wintering species arrived during the fall and set up residence. A

few Northern Mockingbirds moved around to establish their fall-winter feeding territories, Water Pipits arrived in flocks ranging to one hundred, Horned Larks arrived on 31 Oct, two Northern Shrikes were sighted, and Snow Buntings turned up at four locations. No Common Redpolls were reported but Pine Siskins arrived as early as 17 Oct at Five Rivers.

Contributors: Ken Able, Estelle Anderson, Malcolm Archard, Linda Armstrong, Joseph Bach, M. and H. Burrell, Monty Calvert, Paul Connor, Donald Davis, Dorothy Goodfellow, Dick Guthrie, R. Harrower, A. and M. Kochlein, Bill Lee, David Lee, Gerry Lemmo, Arthur Long, Alan Mapes, Jane McCormick, Kevin McGrath, Laura Meade, Tom Palmer, Barbara Putnam, Elton Rising, Jane Robertson, Walton Sabin, Robert Yunick.

**LOONS-DUCKS:** Com. Loon: common at Alcove Res, Forest Bay, Saratoga L, Tomhannock Res all period. Pied-Billed Grebe: small numbers seen regularly. Horned Grebe: max 15 Tomhannock Res 15 Nov. Red-Necked Grebe: two Saratoga L 15 Nov. **Great Cormorant:** im Hudson Rivers of Rip Van Winkle Bridge 24 Sep (BC!). Double-crested Cormorant: a few at Catskill, Five Rivers, Greenport, Mohawk-Crescent, Rensselaer; im Bell's Pd unusual in shallow freshwater. Am. Bittern: single report Ft Miller 9 Oct. Great Egret: *intro*. Snowy Egret: *intro*. Cattle Egret: *intro*. Black-crowned Night-Heron: *intro*. Brant: two, possibly the same individuals, at L George, L George Village and Saratoga L, late Oct-early Nov, more reports than usual. **Eider, sp.:** *intro*.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: small groups through 24 Oct. Osprey: max 7 Amsterdam 20 Sep, individuals seen Catskill, Kinderhook, Germantown, Mohawk River, Troy, Visher Ferry. Bald Eagle: im Rensselaer 20 Sep, im Vosburgh Marsh 3 Oct, ad Mohawk R 30 Nov. N. Harrier: max 4 Coxsackie Flats 18 Nov. Sharp-shinned Hawk frequent at Helderberg Hawk Watch to mid Nov; hunting feeder in Clarksville Sep-Oct. Cooper's Hawk: singles Castleton 20 Oct and 21 Nov, Five Rivers 23 Nov, L Taghkanic 27 Sep. N. Goshawk: singles Silver Bay 4 Sep, Powell Sanctuary 10 Oct, Cherry Plain 18 Oct. Red-shouldered Hawk: Paul Connor again is the only observer to report this species Pine Swamp and Helderberg Hawk Watch. Broad-winged Hawk: max 171 migrating Helderberg Hawk Watch 15 Sep. Rough-legged Hawk: three reports Coxsackie Flats, Saratoga L area in Nov, one light morph Niskayuna. Am. Kestrel: reported 'everywhere'. Merlin: one atop shopping mall in Colonie 30 Oct (DG). Peregrine Falcon: one Schodack Center 1 0 Oct. Ruffed Grouse: reported most often from Hague. Wild Turkey: few reports, wonder if hunters got the birds or bird watchers. Plovers: *intro*. Greater Yellowlegs: *intro*. Ruddy Turnstone: *intro*. Sandpipers: *intro*. Bonaparte's Gull: small numbers Tomhannock Res Sep, Rensselaer Oct, Saratoga L Nov. Ring-billed Gull: large numbers, 300+ Rensselaer after 20 Sep. Herring Gull: smaller numbers Rensselaer after 20 Sep. Great Black-backed Gull: even smaller numbers Rensselaer after 20 Sep.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** Black-billed Cuckoo: single report Amsterdam 30 Sep. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: singles Berne 14 Oct (KA), Five Rivers 10 Oct (LA), Powell Sanctuary 10 Oct (DG), late. Snowy Owl: sightings Albany, Corinth, Delmar, Glens Falls, Selkirk early Nov. Barred Owl: *intro*. N. Saw-whet Owl: netted Berne 26 Oct. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: active throughout s part of Region during Sep. Red-headed Woodpecker: only report two Pine Swamp 6 Sep. Red-bellied Woodpecker: only report Stockport Station 5 Oct.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** Horned Lark: arr Schenectady Co. Airport 13 Sep. Fish Crow: numerous reports Five Rivers, Niskayuna, Saratoga, Schodack, Troy; does this number seem fishy to anyone? Com. Raven: reports from Thacher P n to Hague. Carolina Wren : singles Amsterdam in Sep, New Baltimore in Oct, daily at feeder in Clarksville through Nov. House Wren: only reports Germantown 15 Oct and Castleton 20 Oct. Winter Wren: only sightings Jenny L 19 Sep, Amsterdam 19 Oct, Schenectady Oct and

Nov, Tomhannock 26 Nov. Marsh Wren: only report Black Creek Marsh early Sep. N. Shrike: arr Five Rivers 13 Nov, another Amsterdam 15 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Tennessee Warbler: last was only report. Magnolia Warbler: last was only report. Cape May Warbler: only two reports. Yellow-rumped Warbler: many at L George Village 22 Sep, few Five Rivers 5 Oct, two L Taghkanic 24 Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: numerous L George Village-Glens Falls area 11 to 22 Sep. Prairie Warbler: three reports Five Rivers 4 Sep, Schodack Center 10 Sep, L Taghkanic 27 Sep. Palm Warbler: one L Taghkanic 24 Oct. Bay-breasted Warbler: one Pine Swamp first week Sep. Blackpoll warbler: one Pine Swamp first week Sep. Am. Redstart: last was only report. Ovenbird: only two reports. Com. Yellowthroat: only two singles reported, will more show up on Christmas Bird Counts?

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: N. Cardinal: n most report Silver Bay 4 Sep. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: sightings from L George Village s to Tamarack during Sep. Rufous-sided Towhee: max four L Taghkanic 27 Sep. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr L George Village 24 Oct. Chipping Sparrow: max at Warren City late Sep. Field Sparrow: last Five Rivers 10 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: only reports Brookview 20 Oct, Staats I 28 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: last two Brookview 9 Oct. Grasshopper Sparrow: only report Schenectady Co. Airport early Sep. Fox Sparrow: arr Black Creek Marsh late Sep. Song Sparrow: only reports from s part of Region, L Taghkanic 27 Sep. Swamp Sparrow: most seen in Sep, then at Five Rivers 21 Oct. White-throated Sparrow: arr Five Rivers 14 Sep, many in Oct then few in Nov. White-crowned Sparrow: arr Amsterdam 4 Oct, last Staats I 22 Oct. Snow Bunting: three reports within one week L George, Amsterdam, Raymertown 14-22 Nov. Red-winged Blackbird: last reported W. Taghkanic 9 Sep. E. Meadowlark: last Cropseyville 29 Sep. Rusty Blackbird: max 12 Five Rivers 7 Oct. Common Grackle: last 100 W. Taghkanic 9 Sep. Purple Finch: few reported, most left Jenny L early Sep with a few remaining until Nov, small numbers seen Amsterdam 10 Oct, 12 L Taghkanic 24 Oct, six Schodack Center 20 Nov. Pine Siskin: *intro*; max 20 Five Rivers 17 Oct, 20 Tomhannock 8 Nov. Evening Grosbeak: arr Amsterdam 9 Oct, max 25 Five Rivers 16 Oct.

RD 1 Box 159 Feura Bush, N.Y. 12067

## REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

HELEN C. MANSON

September was cool and rainy with many dreary days which made it difficult to look for fall warblers. In fact some observers found the fall migration disappointing. Hawks were missed in Dutchess County. However hawk watching at Butler, Bear Mountain, Mount Peter and The Trapps met with good results.

October brought a surprise freak storm with snow up to twelve inches deep on 4 Oct that laid waste much of central and eastern Dutchess Co. The heavy, wet snow on top of the fall foliage brought down trees and knocked out power for up to eleven days. Some woodlands will take years to recover. Some may never recover. It will be interesting to see what effects this devastation will have



on returning migrants in the spring. No doubt some areas will benefit, as tree loss will allow new growth and perhaps will be helpful to some ground nesters. During the storm birds came to feeders. It was unusual to see a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at the feeder feeding in the snow. The rest of the October remained cool with some frost toward the end of the month. Heavy migration was noted on 5 October and again on the 16th and the 27th.

On 13 Oct at dawn there were 9000 Red-winged Blackbirds, 3000 Common Grackles, 250 Rusty Blackbirds and 80 Brown-headed Cowbirds in Croton Bay Marsh. They all left the marsh because hunters discharged shotguns there.

November was colder than normal even though it was warmer than November last year. A heavy snow on 11 Nov dumped eight inches on some parts of the Hudson Valley and brought in the first Snow Buntings. Chipping Sparrows stayed late and Tree Sparrows were late arriving.

Several notable birds were reported. The first **Forster's Tern** recorded in Dutchess County where eight were observed at the old Ferry dock in Beacon, as they perched on old pilings. They were found by Steve Stanne on 26 Oct and observed the next day by others. Ten were noted at Highland Falls on 5 Nov., ten days after the Beacon sighting. Once again Stony Kill Farm, south of Wappingers Falls, produced a good variety of sparrows. October is the time to check the gardens and weed patches. At Warren Sod Farms in Orange County a **White-rumped Sandpiper** and other good shorebirds as well as a **Loggerhead Shrike** were found.

Contributors: Fred and Wava Abbott, John Askilsen, Barbara Butler, Jeff Daley, Valerie Freer, Florence Germond, Sibyl Gilbert, Mark Gretch, Alice Jones, Jacklie Jones, Jim and Mary Key, Helen Manson, Greg Pasquariello, Eleanor Pink, Selden Spencer, John Tramontano, Ed Treacy, Marion VanWagner, Joe Weise, Mary Yegella.

Abbreviations: SCAS-Sullivan County Audubon Society, WBC-Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one 15 Nov. Rhinebeck. Com. Loon: one Never-sink Res 13 Nov (MG), one Rondout Res 14 Nov, two Pepacton Res 19 Nov (SCAS). Pied-billed Grebe: one Cole L 19-22 Oct, Frost Valley, several Nov sightings DUTC. Horned Grebe: one Ashokan Res 1 Nov (SS). Double-crested Cormorant: four on Hudson R 19-20 Sep (WBC, SCAS), Greenwood L, a new locality (JT), one Cole L 4 Oct (MG). Great Blue Heron: good Nov reports from DUTC and SULL. Great Egret: one L Oniad 2-3 Oct (WBC). Green-backed Heron: singles 9 Oct and 25 Oct (WBC). Snow Goose: large flock Pine Plains 21-25 Nov. Brant: one Beaver Dam and Tamarack 6-16 Nov (MVW), one Pine Plains 22 Nov. Wood Duck: many DUTC Oct, four 4 Nov. Stissing, four Wappingers L 5 Nov. Green-winged Teal: three Wappingers L 9-20 Oct, six Pawling 25 Oct, one Tamarack 30 Oct. Am. Black Duck: good numbers DUTC, five Rondout Res 13 Nov. N. Pintail: three Dover Plains 25 Oct. Blue-winged Teal: two Claryville 10 Sep (JW) one Wappingers L 30 Oct. Gadwall: up to nine Wappingers L. Canvasback: 16 Abel's L 7 Nov (BB). Redhead: female Hunns L 26 Oct (MVW). Ring-necked Duck: many in inland ponds in DUTC in Nov. Greater Scaup: one Hunns L 30 Oct. Oldsquaw: two Rondout Res 14 Nov (SCAS), one Ashokan Res 1 Nov (SS). Black Scoter: (no number given) Ashokan 1 Nov (SS), one Hunns L 26 Oct. Surf Scoter: Ashokan Res 1 Nov (SS). Com. Goldeneye: three Wappingers L 5-16 Nov. Bufflehead: three Wappingers L 24-27 Oct, one Abel's L 5 Nov, three 8 Nov. Hooded Merganser: six Morningstar L 20 Nov (VF), one Cole L 3 Nov (MG). Com. Merganser: eighteen Rondout Res 14 Nov, one Wappingers L 13 Nov, three Cole L 15-20 Nov. Ruddy Duck: three Wappingers L 8 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Fall hawkwatch totals, excluding rarities, were:

Hawkwatch	Butler	BearMt	MtPeter	Trapps
Osprey	642	68	193	10
Bald Eagle	14	14	4	
N. Harrier	279	19	80	30
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3924	468	1613	142
Cooper's Hawk	119	27	81	3
N. Goshawk	9	3	4	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	147	10	98	2
Broad-winged Hawk	13,071	15,190	5097	451
Red-tailed Hawk	677	124	657	45
Golden Eagle	11	3	1	
Am. Kestrel	924	104	321	9
Merlin	23	7	13	
Peregrine Falcon	8	3	5	1

**Black Vulture:** four Trapps Hawkwatch 30 Oct. Osprey: one Dennison's Ford 9 Nov, one Wassaic 1 Oct, one Hyde Park 2 Oct. Bald Eagle: one Claryville 13 Nov, two Rondout Res 14 Nov. N. Harrier: one Tamarack 30 Oct, one Blueberry Hill 2 Nov. N. Goshawk: one Blue Hill 31 Oct. **Swainson's Hawk:** im light morph Butler Hawkwatch 5 Sep (NYSARC). Rough-legged Hawk: one Red Hook 13 Nov, one Butler Hawkwatch. Peregrine Falcon: one Minisink 6 Sep (ET). Ring-necked Pheasant: continues low in DUTC except when released for hunting. Ruffed Grouse: ad with two y Parksville, fair numbers DUTC. Wild Turkey: doing well, numbers continue on upswing throughout Region. N. Bobwhite: none reported. Com. Moorhen: three Hunns L 22 Oct. Am. Coot: one Verbank 8 Nov, one Rudd Pd 8 Nov, one Wappingers L. Black-bellied Plover: record max 21 Warren Sod Farm 13&16 Nov (ET). Lesser Golden-Plover: 20 to 50 Warren Sod Farm throughout Sep, last 4 Oct (JT ET). Killdeer: 20 Dutchess Airport 5 Sep (OW), 15 Pawling 25 Oct, 40 Warren Sod Farm 4 Oct. Greater Yellowlegs: one Tamarack 30 Oct. Spotted Sandpiper: one Mud Pd 9 Sep. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** singles Warren Sod Farm 4 Oct (GP). Amawalk Res 7 Sep. Pectoral Sandpiper: six Warren Sod Farm 1 Oct, 12 same are a 4 Oct; one Salt Point 27 Nov (MVW). Buff-breasted Sandpiper: peak twelve Warren Sod Farm 12 Sep (JT). Short-billed Dowitcher: one Croton Bay 5 Sep. Com. Snipe: three Salt Point 27 Nov (MVW) Am. Woodcock: three Blue Hill 2 Nov, one sat under a spruce tree in yard from early morning till dark 12 Nov (FG), one seen walking out from under evergreen into the snow 12 Nov (JD); the ground was not frozen. Caspian Tern: two Croton Bay 16 Sep, first fall record since 1981. **Forster's Tern:** *intro*.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** Black-billed Cuckoo: one 7 Sep (MVW). one Stony Kill 12 Oct (WBC). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Millbrook 21 Sep, one Pleasant Val 22 Sep. E. Screech-Owl: two calling Frost Valley 28 Sep, several in DUTC. Great Horned Owl: heard regularly Pleasant Valley and Rhinebeck. Snowy Owl: one observed twice New Paltz College Campus, perched on Science Building at dusk, 3 and 12 Nov. Barred Owl: all season Poughkeepsie. Long-eared Owl: one flew across road in the evening Claryville 12 Nov (JW). N. Saw-whet Owl: one Herds Creek, Pawling, 11 Nov (SG). Chimney Swift: last Middletown 11 Oct, a week later than normal (JT), ten moving south Stony Kill 7 Oct. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one Poughkeepsie 24 Oct, visited flowers briefly. Red-bellied Woodpecker: becoming more common throughout Region. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Pleasant Valley 22-23 Sep, one Hyde Park 27 Oct, two Vassar College 13 Nov.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** Olive-sided Flycatcher: one 2 Sep, two 4 Sep, one 8 Sep (WBC). Horned Lark: 50 Amenia 8 Nov, 200 Red Hook 14 Nov, migrating flocks of 50 Warren Sod Farm 20 Sep. Tree Swallow: 50 on 2 Oct, seven on 17 Oct (WBC). Am. Crow: Middletown Roost up to 9500 birds by 30 Nov (JT). Com. Raven: one observed twice,

two hours apart, Bear Mt Hawkwatch 18 Oct, three Claryville 11 Nov, two feeding on deer carcass New Denman Rd 17 Nov (JW). Red-breasted Nuthatch: seem to have moved in to some feeders in DUTC, two Vassar Campus 25 Nov. Brown Creeper: seem scarce in DUTC in Sep but well reported in Oct and Nov; two Frost Valley 5 Oct-13 Nov. Carolina Wren: one at feeder Ferndale 18-19 Nov, at several feeders DUTC. House Wren: one Stony Kill 26 Oct. Winter Wren: one Buttercup Sanctuary 23 Sep, one Penny Haworth 29 Aug, almost a month early. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 15 Frost Valley 21 Oct (AJ), six on 31 Nov. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: twenty Claryville 20 Nov (JW), good numbers Mt Peter 17 Oct (JT). E. Bluebird: three Bashakill 29 Oct, 25 Stissing 28 Nov, 19 Moores Mills 30 Nov. Swainson's Thrush: one in Crabapple tree, observed for five minutes, 21 Oct (EP). Hermit Thrush: one 7 Nov, one 25 Nov (WBC). Am. Robin: good numbers moving through Frost Valley, feeding in open field and on berries, 3 Nov. Gray Catbird: one 16 Oct (MVW), one Bashakill 10 Oct. Water Pipit: two Stony Kill 31 Oct, 50 Warren Sod Farm 10-11 Oct, 30 Pine Island Turf Farm 12 Oct. Cedar Waxwing: many in Oct, few in Nov DUTC. **Loggerhead Shrike**: ad Warren Sod Farm 5 Sep (FWA), within a week of one detected there three years ago.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: one Sharpshoon 9 Sep (WBC). Philadelphia Vireo: one Bashakill 5 Sep, one Mt Kisco 20 Sep (JJ). Chestnut-sided Warbler: one Pawling 15 Oct, late. Yellow-rumped Warbler: one Bashakill 19 Oct; **Audubon's** race with Myrtle race Mt Peter 17 Oct (JT). Prairie Warbler: one 17 Sep (EP). Palm Warbler: one 18 Oct Dover Plains.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: one DUTC 29 Sep. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: *intro*. Indigo Bunting: im feeding with House Finches 28 Nov (MVW). Dickcissel: one Stony Kill 7 Oct. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 10 Nov. Chipping Sparrow: last Rhinebeck 22 Nov, Middletown late Nov. Field Sparrow: lingered into early Nov. Savannah Sparrow: up to 20 Stony Kill throughout Oct, last Frost Valley 31 Oct. Fox Sparrow: appeared at several feeders DUTC 11 Nov. Song Sparrow: very low in DUTC. Lincoln Sparrow: one Stony Kill 7 Oct, three in mixed flock of sparrows in field below Mt Peter 11-12 Oct (JT). Swamp Sparrow: up to ten Stony Kill Oct, six in swamp Verbank 23 Oct, with mixed flock of sparrows Mt Peter 11-12 Oct. White-throated Sparrow: good numbers. White-crowned Sparrow: four Stony Kill 24 Oct, low; with mixed flock Mt Peter. Dark-eyed Junco: Valerie Freer banded the first 27 Sep, two weeks earlier than usual. Lapland Longspur: two Red Hook 14 Nov. Snow Bunting: up to 500 Red Hook 13 Nov, after first Nov snowfall. Bobolink: one Stony Kill 12 & 19 Oct. Red-winged Blackbird: up to 200 Red Hook 13 Nov. E. Meadowlark: very scarce DUTC, one 8 Nov. Rusty Blackbird: one DUTC 30 Oct. three 8 Nov. **Brewer's Blackbird**: one at feeder Andes 12 Oct, observed closely from 5-8' on and off 10 am to 3 pm (G&DW). Com. Grackle: large flock near Verbank 1 Nov, up to 50 Red Hook 13 Nov. Brown-headed Cowbird: 50 Red Hook 13 Nov. Purple Finch: came to feeders DUTC by mid Oct. Pine Siskin: few at feeders mid Oct-Nov, fifty picking gravel along roadway 28 Nov (MY). European Goldfinch: at feeder Warwick 11 Oct, origin uncertain. Evening Grosbeak: few came to feeders Oct and Nov DUTC and SULL and none seemed to stay.

*Moores Mills, RD 4, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569*

*[The Region 10 report had not arrived in time for this issue of The Kingbird  
– The Editor.]*

*[The following report arrived too late for inclusion in the previous issue of The Kingbird – The Editor..]*

## REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

JAY G. LEHMAN

Summer at Binghamton was somewhat of a paradox: it was warmer with more sunny days caused by a dominant high pressure system off the Atlantic coast but also wetter than normal. The 3.82 inches of rain in June was slightly above the norm of 3.60 inches. Although rainfall came in spurts of cool weather, I recall the heat. This was the first summer since I moved here from the hotter, more humid state of Delaware that I regretted not owning an air conditioner! During June there were eighteen days with average temperatures above the norm resulting in an average monthly temperature of 64.3°F, 2.1 above the norm. July-like temperatures occurred on twelve of thirteen days from 13 to 25 Jun. The hottest day of this period, 19 Jun, on which a record breaking high of 87°F was recorded, was hot enough to melt strawberries according to our local weather wizard. In July there was more of the same. The dog days of summer melted together during 19 of the first 26 days in which the average temperature was above the norm. Despite the high average temperature for July of 71.1°F, 2.2 above the norm, few days had record breaking temperatures. On 11 Jul 88°F tied the previous high, while 88°F on 24 Jul broke the previous high of 86°F set in 1979. July was wetter than normal with 4.35 inches of rain, almost an inch above the norm of 3.48. August was cool and wet except for a period of six days from 14 to 19 Aug with above average temperatures, during which a record high of 92°F was recorded on 17 Aug. The average temperature for August was 66.1°F, 1.1 below normal. The 4.17 inches of rain was 0.87 inches above normal.

Encouraging reports of waterfowl received were Pied-billed Grebe and Blue-winged Teal. The Pied-billed Grebe was only the fourth report since 1979, and it was good to have an old friend, Blue-winged Teal, return to the list. Last summers miss was the first since 1979. There were excellent reports of Virginia Rail, Common Moorhen, and Marsh Wren. American Bittern, also the fourth reported since 1979, was another special treat this summer. These records were a direct result of the extra attention given to our limited marshland habitat in Broome and Chenango Counties. Keep up the good work!

Most reports of raptors were encouraging. There were good numbers of Northern Harrier, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Broad-winged Hawk. The relative abundance of Red-shouldered Hawks continued from the Spring (see Addendum below). Unfortunately, no Goshawks and only a few Sharp-shinned and Coopers Hawks were seen. However, these species require special effort to find in breeding season because they become secretive; hence, no apparent decrease in population is suggested by their low numbers. The northward movement of Turkey Vultures continues with increasing reports from Chenango County. A report of a Golden Eagle in Tioga County on 26 Jul lacked sufficient

details to distinguish it from the much more likely immature Bald Eagle, one of which was reported from the nearby Whitney Point Reservoir on 27 Jul.

The shorebird report was the best since 1979, with ten species surpassing the list of nine reported in 1985. Could this have been due to the wet weather and more rain pools? Special thanks to the good folks in the Naturalists Club of Broome County who found and monitored good shorebird habitat at the sandpit at Vestal. Dunlin and Short-billed Dowitcher were recorded for the first, and Semipalmated Sandpiper for the third summer in the last nine summer reports. Unfortunately, there is often a dark cloud in every silver lining. Upland Sandpiper, observed in four of the last nine summers, was not reported.

Ring-necked Pheasants remained low to non-existent in this Region and habitat change is a factor. That same change contributes to the continuing increase in Wild Turkey. Sadly, Common Nighthawks and Purple Martins were still scarce, while Whip-poor-wills were essentially non-existent here. No Horned Larks were reported, but they are often missed because most birders dislike birding on treeless windswept hilltops, meadows or pastures. Horned Larks can be found in this habitat if we look. Acadian Flycatcher, Tufted Titmouse, Mockingbird and Hooded Warbler, all southern species expanding their range northward, were reported although the latter two were less frequent than in the winter. The Acadian Flycatcher, banded at Binghamton on 31 Aug, appears to have been a fall migrant, and may have spent the breeding season north of our Region. In the same category, no Carolina Wren and only one Red-bellied Woodpecker, in Tioga Co., were reported. Again there were no Sedge Wrens and very few Henslows Sparrows. Fortunately, Grasshopper Sparrows and Vesper Sparrows did rather well. At one site in Chenango County there were two apparent pairs of Vesper Sparrows this summer where there was only one last year. The only difference this year was more plowed ground and a second field of short, late fodder corn about one-quarter mile from the first. This appears to be "significant" habitat that could be endangered by the government dairy buy-out program.

Many of our common birds, including Black-capped Chickadee, Common Crow, Blue Jay, and American Robin, which are not listed below, were reported in about average numbers. Overall numbers reported on the US Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes were average compared to BBS results for the previous two years. Similarly, averages across BBS routes (in parentheses) were normal for the following widespread species: Mourning Dove (12), N. Flicker (2.4), E. Wood-Pewee (4.9), Least Flycatcher (9.4), E. Phoebe (7), Tree Swallow (5.6), House Wren (13.4), Gray Catbird (12.4), Cedar Waxwing (8.9), Yellow Warbler (19.9), Chestnut-sided Warbler (4.3), Ovenbird (7.6), Com. Yellowthroat (26.3), Scarlet Tanager (4.4), N. Cardinal (4), Indigo Bunting (7.5), Rufous-sided Towhee (4), Chipping Sparrow (16.1), Field Sparrow (7.3), Savannah Sparrow (6.9) Bobolink (11.5), Red-winged Blackbird (64.4), E. Meadowlark (6.8), Com. Grackle (21.1), Brown-headed Cowbird (4.9), N. Oriole (7) and House Finch (4.6). Averages were down from 1985 and 1986 for Barn Swallow (20.4), Veery (6.5), Wood Thrush (9.6), Red-eyed Vireo (16.9), Am. Redstart (3.4) and Am. Goldfinch (10.5) but up for Warbling Vireo (3.6), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (5.8) and Song Sparrow (37.1). BBS data is used because it represents a relatively standardized

effort: 25 miles, 50 stops, three minutes per stop. Data from the following BBSs are included in this report: Corbettsville (Jay Lehman), Coventryville (Les Belmont), Lisle and Whitney Point (Robert Pantle), Dryden (Greg Butcher), Oxford (Harriet Marsi), Vestal Center (Margaret Layton), and Milford (Robert Miller). However, since BBS data are biased towards roadside habitat, for some species a summary of other reports, which are obtained haphazardly, is included. Neither data set may adequately represent breeding populations.

As in 1986, I monitored woodland species in Chenango County, especially those preferring conifers located in state land at Bowman Lake, near McDonough, Geneganslet Lake, Pharsalia Game Management Area, and the Pharsalia Truck Trail including Michigan State Forest on North Road from East Pharsalia. On 11 Jul I counted birds for two and one quarter hours from the roadside on the Truck Trail and North Road, a 9.8-mile stretch of back road surrounded by woodland, by stopping every quarter mile, and correcting for those heard at the previous stop. The numbers obtained probably would have been higher if the census had been taken in mid-June instead of early July. For Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Winter Wren, Brown Creeper, Veery, Hermit and Swainsons Thrush, Solitary Vireo, Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, Blackburnian, and Mourning Warblers, White-throated Sparrow, and Dark-eyed Junco, these data more nearly represent breeding populations in preferred habitat than does BBS data, because BBS routes usually sample a variety of habitats. Last year I noted that logging of spruce apparently decreased Swainsons Thrush numbers at several locations. It seemed so again this summer in certain locations. However, thinning or managing forests can be a double-edged ax. Cutting spruce may decrease Swainsons Thrushes, but Winter Wrens love the resulting slashings. After the thinning when blackberries take over the undergrowth, Mourning Warblers move in, and Black-throated Blue Warblers apparently prefer the resulting thick fern and sapling undergrowth in thinned hardwoods and pine.

On the bright side (if a raven can ever be considered the "bright side"), the **Common Raven** in Pharsalia Game Management Area on 11 Jul, which I identified by its large size relative to two marauding crows, its large bill, and wedge shaped tail, was the first in Chenango County in at least nine years. A well-described Dickcissel was observed in Otsego County on Dog Hill Road, Maryland, on 29 Jun by Mary Dobinsky. Perhaps a spring report received from Cortland County without details may have had some merit. Was there a localized incursion this year? The list of 148 species is slightly above the average of 146 for the previous eight years. Common Raven and Dickcissel are definite rarities. Philadelphia Vireo, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Semipalmated Sandpiper are rarely reported in this Region but perhaps should be considered lesser rarities, since they probably pass through unobserved most years. Acadian Flycatcher, reported in three previous summer reports since 1984, and Marsh Wren may be becoming less rare here.

Observers: Cutler & Jeanette Baldwin, Les Belmont (LBe), Mildred Clark, Chad Covey, Marilyn Davis (MDv), Louise Dean, Delhi Bird Club, Mary Dobinsky, Margaret Ferranti, Finch Hollow Nature Center, Polly & Earl Getkin, Connie Hart, Shirley Hartman, Gail

Kirch, Nancy Kirch, Margaret Layton, Jay Lehman, Harriet Marsi, Eileen Patch, Marie Petuh, Joe Sedlacek, Shane Stalter, Tom Tasker, Tioga Bird Club, Elizabeth Titus, Elizabeth Washburn, Anne Whitaker, Kathryn Wilson, Don Windsor.

Abbreviations: B&DS&G-Bailey & Dickinson Sand & Gravel, Vestal; Breeding Bird Survey-BBS; FHNC-Finch Hollow Nature Center; JCity-Johnson City; OnRes-Oneonta Reservoir; OPM-Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; PhGMA-Pharsalia Game Management Area; PhTT- Pharsalia Truck Trail; RECTr-Rogers Environmental Education Center; WPre-Whitney Point Reservoir.

LOONS-DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: one to two OPM 24 to 31 Aug (MD) only report. Am. Bittern: only one Pendell Swamp BROO (MP,ML,EP). Great Blue Heron: increased from singles at seven sites Jun to up to ten by 31 Aug, post breeding dispersal. Green-backed Heron: only two reports from one site BROO Jun and at seven sites CHEN & BROO Jul-Aug, postbreeding dispersal; max eight B&DS&G 22 Jul (MP). Canada Goose: arr 15 Pendell Swamp BROO 15 Jul (MP); 88 Sherburne 15 Aug (JL), early. Wood Duck: increased from singles at two sites in Jun to up to eight at seven sites Aug, post-breeding dispersal. Am. Black Duck: increased from two OPM Jun (MD) to up to 15 at seven sites by 17 Aug, post-breeding dispersal. Blue-winged Teal: only one DPW Swamp BROO 8 Aug (MP,NK). Hooded Merganser: only three OPM 11 Aug (MD), scarce.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: up to six at six sites OTSE, DELA, BROO Jun-Aug; two S Oxford 14 Jun, Norwich 20 Jun, and six Chenango L 4 Jun & Norwich 29 Aug, unusually many for CHEN. Osprey: arr OPM 7 Aug; singles there 11 & 12 Aug (MD); last B&DS&G 30 Aug (MP). Bald Eagle: singles Walton 3 Jun (SH), (im) WPre 27 Jul (TT,CH) and OPM Aug (MD), good count. N. Harrier: male Waupaunauchau SF 9 Aug (DW), im Plymouth 15 Aug (JL), one Bainbridge 21 Aug (DW), good count CHEN. Sharp-shinned Hawk: singles Delhi 1 Jun (MC) and im N Norwich 15 Aug (JL) only reports, scarce. Coopers Hawk: one JCity 28 Jun (MP) only report. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Oxford BBS; two FHNC 25 Jun; singles PhTT 11 Jul & Bowman L 19 Jul (JL); TIOG 25 Jul (C&JB); excellent numbers. Broad-winged Hawk: singles at six sites Jun-Jul; one or two at two sites Aug, high. Red-tailed Hawk: max for seven sites six. Am. Kestrel: max for seven sites ten. Ruffed Grouse: max at five sites in Jun two, decreasing to only one OPM 18 Aug. Wild Turkey: two females + 25 im N Colesville 18 Jun (JS), female + seven im Bowman L (JL) and flocks of 21 Bainbridge (DW), 6 Delhi (MC) & S Otselic from 15 Aug indicative of breeding success. Virginia Rail: three N Norwich 22 Aug (JL) & Newark Valley Aug (C&JB), unusually many. Com. Moorhen: five im DPW Swamp 6 Aug (MP,BT); three ad + two im N Norwich 22 Aug (JL), unusually many. Killdeer: max from nine sites 25 in Jul then slightly less numerous in Aug. Greater Yellowlegs: one Otsiningo Park 26 Jul (MP,ML) only report. Lesser Yellowlegs: singles TIOG Jun (LD) & Aug (C&JB). Solitary Sandpiper: arr OnRes 13 Aug (MD); max seven RECTr 15 Aug (JL). Spotted Sandpiper: up to four at five sites Jun-Aug; last two RECTr 15 Aug (JL). Least Sandpiper: TIOG Aug (C&JB); last RECTr 15 Aug (JL). Semipalmated Sandpiper: two B&DS&G 22 Jul (MP) only report. Dunlin: last B&DS&G 1 Jun (MP); arr there 30 Aug (MP,NK), unusual. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr B&DS&G 30 Aug (MP,NK). Com. Snipe: one RECTr 15 Aug (JL) only report. Am. Woodcock: one Bainbridge 4 Jul (DW) only report. Bonapartes Gull: arr OnRes 30 Jul & Crumhorn L 31 Aug (MD), unusual in summer. Ring-billed Gull: migration max 60 Otsego L 1 Aug (MD). Herring Gull: one to three scattered at two sites BROO.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: *intro*; max from eight sites 25. Black-billed Cuckoo: singles at three sites in Jun and found more regularly at five sites Jul-Aug. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Whitney Point BBS only report. E. Screech-Owl: reported from three sites. Great Horned Owl: found more regularly in Aug than in Jun. Barred Owl: singles PhTT 4 Jul & Plymouth 15 Aug (JL), only reports. Com. Nighthawk: three

reports Vestal to 28 Aug (LBe); last Norwich 31 Aug (JL), scarce. Chimney Swift: max 15 Binghamton (MP,ML) & Norwich (JL); migration max several hundred Binghamton 27 Aug (LBe). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max from eight sites three, normal. Belted Kingfisher: max from eight sites five. Red-bellied Woodpecker: *intro*. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max from eleven sites three, normal. Downy Woodpecker: 13 on six BBS routes; less conspicuous in Aug. Hairy Woodpecker: decreased to 1-2/report in mid Aug. N. Flicker: *intro*; max six Jul to mid-Aug. Pileated Woodpecker: decreased from one to two at six sites in Jun to singles at one site Jul-Aug.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Norwich 8 Aug (DW) only report. E. Wood-Pewee: *intro*; up to two at eight sites Jun, normal; migration peak 12 OPM between 17 and 26 Aug (MD). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Norwich 23 Aug (JL) only report. **Acadian Flycatcher:** *intro*. Willow Flycatcher: seven on five BBSs, lower than 85 & 86; last two OPM 4 & 5 Aug (MD). Alder Flycatcher: 11 on four BBSs in Jun, max seven Milford BBS, high. Least Flycatcher: *intro*; decreased from six at five sites in Jun to two in Aug. E. Phoebe: *intro*; max from 14 sites six. Great Crested Flycatcher: 14 on six BBS routes, about average; decreased to singles at two sites in Aug. E. Kingbird: 31 on six BBS routes Jun, above average; migration peak 20 between 20 Jul and 17 Aug. Purple Martin: two to three only two sites Jun; only TIOG Aug, scarce. Tree Swallow: *intro*; max 25 in Jun, normal; late max ten Pendell Swamp BROO 8 Aug (MP,NK), last two OPM 31 Aug (MD). N. Rough-winged Swallow: up to six from six sites Jun, decreasing to two at two sites in Aug. Bank Swallow: 17 on three BBS routes, about av; 200+ at two breeding sites Norwich & Vestal Jun-Jul; last two N Norwich 15 Aug. Cliff Swallow: 11 on three BBS routes, slightly down; max at four sites Jul-Aug 20. Barn Swallow: *intro*; widespread 20-75/site 15 to 20 Aug, migration flocking. **Com. Raven:** *intro*. Tufted Titmouse: five on three BBS routes, more than 85 & 86; weekly at Vestal, Chenango Forks, TIOG Jun, only two rpts there Jul. Red-breasted Nuthatch: up to four at five breeding sites CHEN Jul; one to three OPM Aug. White-breasted Nuthatch: five on four BBS routes, normal. Brown Creeper: up to five at four sites CHEN 5 to 19 Jul; max 11 PhTT 11 Jul (JL). House Wren: *intro*. Winter Wren: singles OPM, Milford BBS, Norwich, PhGMA & two McDonough Jun-Jul; max five PhTT (JL), excellent!. Marsh Wren: one DPW Swamp BROO 12 Aug (ML); max eight N Norwich 22 Aug (JL); high. Golden-crowned Kinglet: one or two at two sites Jun; up to seven at four breeding sites CHEN; max 16 PhTT 11 Jul (JL), high. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr male Endwell 28 Aug (ML), early. E. Bluebird: 11 on five BBS routes; up to 16 at nest box sites. Veery: *intro*; max eight PhTT 11 Jul. Swainsons Thrush: one PhGMA 5 Jul; 12 PhTT 11 Jul; 2 McDonough 19 Jul; still doing well. Hermit Thrush: max from three sites CHEN five; max 10 PhTT 11 Jul; singles at two other sites. Wood Thrush: *intro*. Gray Catbird: *intro*. N. Mockingbird: singles at ten sites Jun-Aug, good. Brown Thrasher: nine on six BBSs, normal. Water Pipit: one Walton 7 Jun (SH), late migr. Cedar Waxwing: *intro*.

**VIREOS-WARBBLERS:** Solitary Vireo: to four at seven sites, normal; max seven PhGMA 5 Jul & 11 PhTT 11 Jul (JL). Yellow-throated Vireo: nine in three BBSs; up to three at four sites, normal; last OPM 19 Aug (MD). Warbling Vireo: *intro*; last Sherburne Four Corners 15 Aug (JL). Philadelphia Vireo: arr TIOG Aug (C&JB). Red-eyed Vireo: *intro*. Blue-winged Warbler: three on two BBSs, lower than 85 & 86; up to three at six sites, normal. Golden-winged Warbler: one Vestal 6 Jun (LBe) only report. Tennessee Warbler: arr two Norwich 15 Jul; last there 21 Aug (JL). Nashville Warbler: four on three BBSs, higher than 85 & 86; one or two at six sites, normal. Yellow Warbler: *intro*; last OPM 13 Aug (MD). Chestnut-sided Warbler: *intro*; max eight PhTT 11 Jul (JL). Magnolia Warbler: six on two BBSs, higher than 85 & 86; up to seven at four breeding sites CHEN Jul; max 31 PhTT 11 Jul (JL). Cape May Warbler: arr OPM 19 Aug (MD). Black-throated Blue Warbler: eight Oxford BBS, high; max ten PhTT 11 Jul (JL). Yellow-rumped Warbler: 11 on three BBS, lower than 86; up to five at three sites CHEN Jul; 16 PhTT 11 Jul, normal



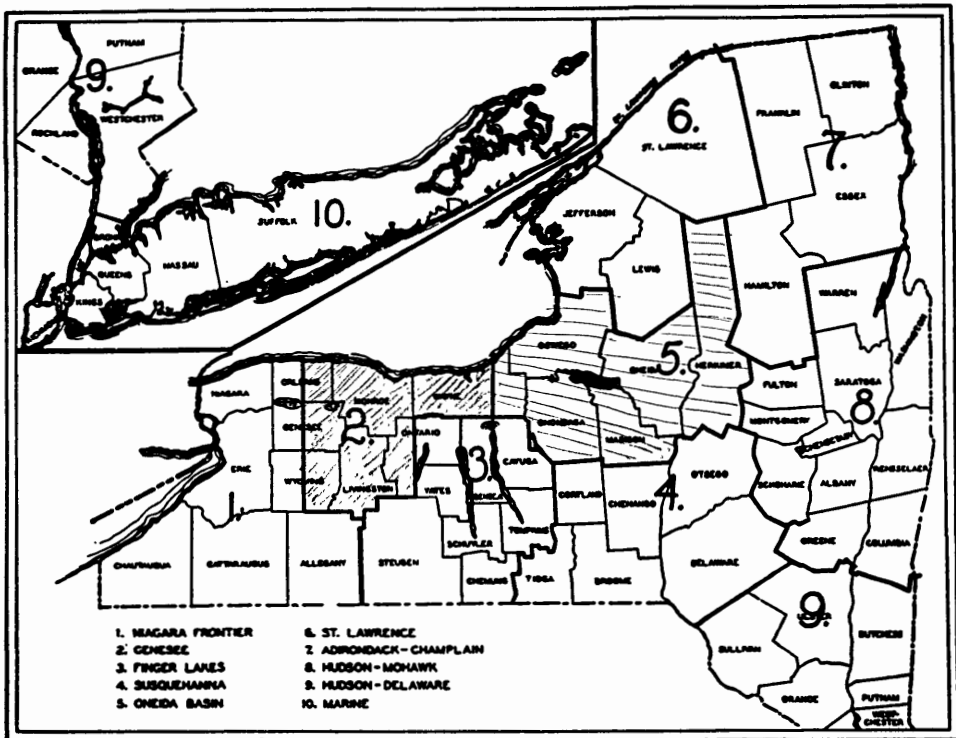
there; migration max 30 OPM 25 Aug (MD). Black-throated Green Warbler: 14 on four BBSs, normal; max 12 PhTT 11 Jul (JL); migration max 20 OPM 5 Aug (MD). Blackburnian Warbler: two on two BBS, lower than 85 & 86; two to seven at three sites CHEN Jul; max 22 PhTT (JL), normal there. Prairie Warbler: singles at two sites Jun & one site Aug, low. Black-and-white Warbler: eight on four BBSs, lower than 85 & 86; up to three at eight sites Jun, normal; last banded Binghamton 14 Aug (HM, GK). Am. Redstart: *intro*; elsewhere normal up to four at eight sites Jun-Aug. Ovenbird: *intro*; last OPM 25 Aug (MD). N. Waterthrush: only singles three sites Jun. Louisiana Waterthrush: four on three BBSs & one to two at two sites Jun-Jul, normal; last OPM 4 Aug, rather late. Mourning Warbler: two Milford BBS & one to three six sites Jun-Aug, high; max four PhGMA 5 Jul and six PhTT 11 Jul, normal there. Com. Yellowthroat: *intro*. Hooded Warbler: male Norwich 20 Jun (JL, CC) only report. Wilsons Warbler: TIOG Jun (LD), late; arr one banded Binghamton 16 Aug (HM, GK). Canada Warbler: five on two BBSs, high; up to five at three sites Jun-Aug, normal; last banded Binghamton 29 Aug (HM, GK).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: *intro*; several to mid-Aug at eight sites, normal; last four OPM 18 Aug (MD). N. Cardinal: *intro*; several at eight sites Jul-Aug, normal. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: *intro*. Indigo Bunting: *intro*; daily singing stopped Endwell 20 Aug (ML), late. Dickcissel: *intro*. Rufous-sided Towhee: *intro*. Chipping Sparrow: *intro*. Field Sparrow: *intro*. Vesper Sparrow: the usual one to two at three sites Jun-Jul; max four OPM 6 Aug (MD). Savannah Sparrow: *intro*. Grasshopper Sparrow: five on three BBS routes, rather high; up to three at seven sites Jun-Jul, good count. Henslows Sparrow: only two Vestal Center BBS, low. Song Sparrow: *intro*. Swamp Sparrow: five on two BBSs; up to five at eight sites, about average. White-throated Sparrow: 11 on four BBS routes, about average; max eight PhTT 11 Jul. Dark-eyed Junco: 20 on six BBS routes, slightly lower than 85 & 86; max 14 PhTT 11 Jul. Bobolink: *intro*; flocks of 10-25 OPM & CHEN 4-15 Aug, post-breeding gathering; first six overflight migrants Norwich 16 Aug. Red-winged Blackbird: *intro*; flocks 40-200 at four sites, post-breeding gathering. E. Meadowlark: *intro*. Com. Grackle: I. Brown-headed Cowbird: *intro*. N. Oriole: *intro*. Purple Finch: eight on five BBS routes, about average; max four OPM & two sites CHEN. House Finch: *intro*. Pine Siskin: up to three, last two Oneonta 11 Jun (MD), late. Am. Goldfinch: *intro*; flocks of 10-20 through Aug, normal.

Addendum to Spring Report: Red-shouldered Hawk: arr PhTT 15 Mar (JL), early; pair 5 Apr & four at three sites 16 May CHEN, high.

RD2, Box 68C, Norwich, New York 13815

## 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

# FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

## 1988 Officers

### President

Berna B. Weissman . . . . 15 Laurel Hill Road, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

### Vice-President

Chad E. Covey . . . . . Box 301 R.D. 3, New Berlin, NY 13411

### Corresponding Secretary

Mary Ann Sunderlin . . . . . 505 Bay Road, Webster, NY 14580

### Recording Secretary

Øivind E. Jensen . . 176-5 Meadowbrook West, North Chili, NY 14514

### Treasurer

Stanley R. Lincoln . . . . . P.O. Box 362, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549

### Editor of THE KINGBIRD

Paul DeBenedictis, 306 Kensington Place, Syracuse, NY 13210

### Editor of NEW YORK BIRDERS

Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr., 333 Bedell Street, Freeport, NY 11520

## *Appointed Committees*

**Membership:** Myrna Hemmerick, Chr.,

P.O. Box 2203, Setauket, NY 11733

**History Research:** Gordon M. Meade, Chr.,

27 Mill Valley Road, Pittsford, NY 14534

**Conservation:** Harriet T. Marsi, Chr., Powderhouse Road,

Box 1, H.C. 61, Binghamton, NY 13903

**Publications:** Emanuel Levine, Chr.,

585 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, NY 11550

**Research:** Charles R. Smith, Chr.,

159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850

**Finance:** Stanley Lincoln, Chr., P.O. Box 362, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549

**Bibliography:** Allen Benton, 292 Water St., Fredonia, NY 14063

**Breeding Bird Atlas:** Gordon M. Meade, Chairman,

27 Mill Valley Rd., Pittsford, NY 14534

**By-Laws:** Richard Sloss, Chr.,

1300 Seawane Drive, Hewlett Harbor, NY 11557

**John J. Elliott Memorial:** Paul DeBenedictis, Chr.,

306 Kensington Place, Syracuse, NY 13210

**Lillian C. Stoner Fund:** John L. Confer, Chr.,

R.D. #1, Hammond Hill Road, Brooktondale, NY 14817

**New York State Avian Records:** F. G. Scheider, Chr.

Send reports to NYSARC, c/o Richard G. Evans, Laboratory of  
Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850

## *Elected Committees*

**Auditing:** Irving Cantor, Richard Sloss

**Nominating:** Harriet T. Marsi, Chr.,

Powderhouse Road, Box 1, H.C. 61, Binghamton, NY 13903