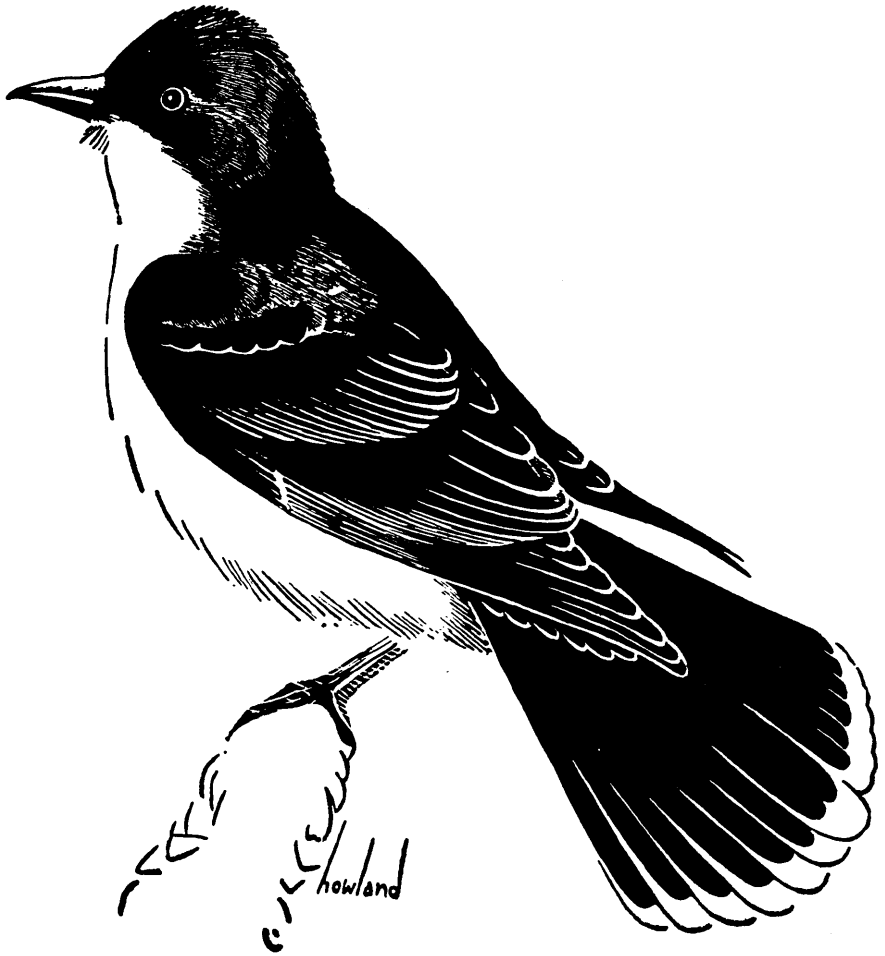


# *The* **KINGBIRD**



**VOL. XXXIX, NO. 1**

**WINTER • 1989**

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# The KINGBIRD

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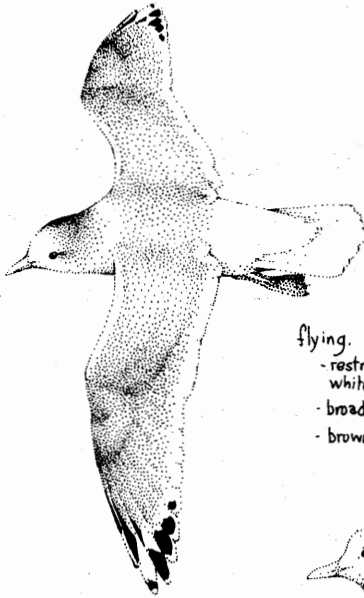
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*Highlights of the Season*

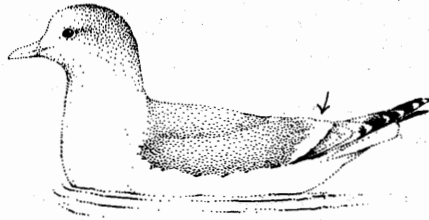
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flying.

- restricted black, extensive white in wing tip pattern.
- broad white trailing edge to wing
- brownish partial hood, dark eyes.



sitting on water.

- showed conspicuous white secondary patch.

LJ '86

Figure 1. Mew Gull at R. H. Saunders Generating Station near Massena, St. Lawrence Co., New York. Sketches by the author.

## First record of Mew Gull (*Larus canus brachyrhynchus*) in New York State

IAN L. JONES

On 4 October 1986, Mark Gawn, Robert A. Bracken, Brian Penny and myself were birding at the R.H. Saunders Generating Station on the St. Lawrence River, near Massena, St. Lawrence Co., in extreme northern New York State. Soon after arriving at the site, we spotted an unusual looking gull among hundreds of Ring-billed (*Larus delawarensis*), Bonaparte's (*L. philadelphia*) and other gulls feeding in the fast water below the dam. The bird had an unmarked greenish-yellow bill, a somewhat darker mantle, more extensive white in the wingtips and slightly smaller size relative to nearby Ring-billed Gulls. Within seconds, we had identified the bird as an adult winter-plumaged Mew Gull (*L. canus* ssp.) Mark Gawn and myself have had extensive experience with this species in North America, and have both seen the species in Europe as well. We carefully studied the bird for over an hour, frequently from less than 30 meters distance and made detailed field notes on the spot. The following description was obtained.

### General

The bird was observed as it foraged in the fast water immediately below the power dam. Normally it circled about about 10 meters above the water, but occasionally swooped down to the surface to grab small fishes. This provided us with excellent views of the dorsal and ventral surfaces of the flying bird, from our observation point on the parapet of the dam. The bird was later observed resting on the water in close company with Ring-billed Gulls. At first sight the bird was clearly a medium-sized adult gull (*Larus* sp.): it had mostly pure white underparts, rump, tail (no sign of dark markings in tail feathers), and underwings, a bluish gray mantle and upper-wing surfaces with restricted black and white patterns on the dorsal surface of the wing tips.

### Bill

The bill looked rather small and short compared with that of Ring-Billed Gulls, and was entirely pale greenish yellow in color, unmarked by any dark pigmentation. The bill shape was also distinctive: the culmen appeared to be nearly smoothly curved from the base of the bill to the tip, and there was no sign of any angular gonys or 'keel' on the lower mandible.

### Head

The bird's head appeared relatively smaller, more rounded, and the forehead steeper compared to those of nearby Ring-billed Gulls. The nape,

the sides of the neck and the top and sides of the back half of the head were densely but diffusely spotted with brown. This spotting formed a brownish hood similar to those of adult winter plumage Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*), and was much darker and more conspicuous than the dark streaking on the heads of nearby Ring-Billed Gulls. The bird's eyes were dark, appearing blackish or very dark brown in color, and looked large. In the same lighting conditions we could easily see the light colored irises of nearby Ring-billeds.

#### **Body**

The bird's breast, belly, the remainder of its underparts, the entire tail and its rump were unmarked white. Its legs and feet (including the webbing) were dull, pale greenish-yellow or yellowish-green in color.

#### **Mantle and wings**

The back (mantle), upper-wing coverts and much of the upper surface of the flight feathers were pearly blue-gray, a shade darker than that of Ring-billed Gulls (based on direct comparisons sitting and flying). The upper-wing surfaces resembled a Ring-billed Gull's, except for the following: All the secondaries and inner primaries were broadly tipped with white, giving the wings conspicuous white trailing edges, wider and more contrasting than those of the Ring-Billed Gulls present. This produced a large white patch on the folded flight feathers when the bird was resting on the water. The wing tip pattern (flying bird) showed restricted black areas and extensive white areas relative to Ring-billed Gulls. The outermost primary appeared not to be fully grown (see illustrations), evidence of recent moult. The outermost fully grown primary had a large white area near the tip. Black spots near the tips of the rest of the outer primaries formed an irregular black sub-apical bar across the trailing edge of the wing tip. White areas in these feathers formed an irregular white bar across the wing tip, separating the black bar from the gray of the remainder of the primaries, and recalling that of Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*). The wing tip pattern closely resembled that illustrated for Mew Gull in the National Geographic Field Guide (National Geographic Society 1987). In flight the bird had a somewhat rounded winged look, likely accentuated by the half grown outermost primary. Compared with Ring-billed Gulls the bird also had a rather weak flight style, with more rapid and shallow wingbeats. When resting on the water the bird appeared rather long winged, with the folded primaries extending well beyond the tail.

#### **Size**

The bird appeared just slightly smaller than Ring-billed Gulls, based on extensive direct comparisons.

Based on this description it is possible to eliminate several similar gull species. Ring-billed Gull is eliminated by the bird's small unmarked

gull species. Ring-billed Gull is eliminated by the bird's small unmarked yellowish bill, dark eye, extensive white wing tip pattern, darker mantle and broader white trailing edges to the wings. Ring-billed Gulls have ringed or dark-tipped bills, light irides, restricted white in the wing tip pattern, a lighter mantle and narrow white trailing edges of the wings. Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) is eliminated by the bird's mottled brownish hood, extensive white in the wing tip pattern, and pale yellowish-green legs. Black-legged Kittiwakes (adult winter) have a smooth grayish partial hood, mostly black wing tips, a lighter mantle and black legs and feet. Herring, California (*L. californicus*) and other large gulls are eliminated by our bird's small size and the unique combination of the characters mentioned above. This leaves only Mew Gull, of which our bird was a typical adult in winter plumage. Based on the above description it is also possible to speculate about the bird's subspecific status. A vagrant Mew Gull in northern New York could originate in western North America (*L. c. brachyrhynchus*) or in western Europe (*L. c. canus*). Fortunately, the North American and Palearctic subspecies are readily identified in the field by the extent and pattern of the wing tip. North American birds have more extensive white in the wing-tip, including the effect of the Franklin's Gull-like white bar, which is lacking in European birds (Cramp and Simmons 1983, Grant 1986). Thus it appears our sighting was of the North American race of Mew Gull (*L. c. brachyrhynchus*). This record represents the first for New York State, and about the sixth for the Province of Ontario (James *et al.* 1976, Wormington 1987), since it was also seen on the Ontario side of the St. Lawrence River. The bird was studied the day following our sighting (5 October) by 18 observers from Ottawa and Toronto, Ontario.

The R.H. Saunders power dam is an area of considerable ornithological interest, well worth a visit by any birder visiting northern New York State. In recent years the site has been regularly checked by eastern Ontario birders, with exciting results. Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's Gull (*L. sabini*) and Franklin's Gull appear to be regular autumn visitors and pelagic vagrants such as Northern Gannet (22-30 November 1986, Weir 1987) and Razorbill (27 November 1987, Weir 1988) have also turned up. The dam attracted a particularly remarkable diversity of gulls on the weekend of 4-5 October 1986, including the Mew Gull, up to 5 Little Gulls (*L. minutus*), 1 Franklin's Gull, 2 Sabine's Gulls, and 1 Black-legged Kittiwake.

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# POINT PENINSULA, JEFFERSON COUNTY; MOUSE RAPTOR MECCA DURING THE WINTER OF 1987-1988.

GERALD A. SMITH

## Introduction

Point Peninsula is an approximately eight square mile area located in the town of Lyme, Jefferson County, New York. Since at least the early 1960s (Belknap 1962), the area has been noted for the large numbers of "mouse-eating raptors" that often winter there. During winters when meadow voles are present in high population densities, raptors such as Rough-legged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl and Long-eared Owl occur in impressive numbers. In these years concentrations observed on Point Peninsula rival those present at Wolfe and Amherst Islands near Kingston, Ontario. Numbers and diversity of wintering raptors reported from these Ontario sites (Quilliam 1973, Bell *et al* 1979) are among the highest ever observed in north-eastern North America. It is likely that Point Peninsula and vicinity, if studied with the same intensity as Wolfe and Amherst Islands, would prove to be one of the premier raptor wintering areas in New York State and perhaps in the northeastern United States.

The remote location of Point Peninsula, far from areas with many active field observers, has resulted in a dearth of systematic observations of wintering raptors. During most years only a few sporadic visits have been made and the data gathered either was noted in *The Kingbird's* Region 6 report for the appropriate season or not published at all. To my knowledge no systematic survey of raptors wintering on Point Peninsula has been made since Belknap's efforts in the winter of 1961-62. Intermittent surveys of variable intensity have been conducted at irregular intervals during the last 20 years by T. Carrolan, G. Smith, R. and J. Walker and the late D. Gordon but these data have not been published. There is a need to document the current status of raptor use of Point Peninsula area during the winter, particularly in light of rapidly increasing development pressures in Jefferson County.

During the fall of 1987 I first visited Point Peninsula during mid October. The numbers of Northern Harriers and Red-tailed Hawks present, combined with observations of high vole densities (tunnels in fields, voles running across roads), suggested the possibility that hawk and owl use of the area during the coming winter would be heavy. I decided to conduct a systematic survey of wintering raptors on Point

Peninsula at a level at least equal to Belknap's survey. This paper summarizes some of the results of my survey.

### Study Area And Methods

Point Peninsula consists mainly of a mosaic of active farmland and abandoned cropland in various stages of succession. Most farming is devoted to growing hay. The area is characterized by poor shallow soils. These soils result in a slow rate of succession and encourage continued hay production and pastureland farming rather than the development of row crop monoculture. Most deciduous woodlands are small "islands" interspersed with cropland and occasional conifer plantations. In some areas large tracts of red cedar mixed with various shrubs are present. Much of the shoreline is developed for summer cottages. However, the permanent resident human population of the peninsula currently is very small. The area is accessible from a series of medium gauge town highways that are little used during the winter months.

The generally open character of this area, light human use and limited road traffic make Point Peninsula an ideal location to conduct roadside censuses. This technique was first used in systematic surveys by Craighead and Craighead (1956) and has been modified by many observers since. Despite the limitations of roadside surveys (Fuller and Mosher 1987), they are useful in providing information on relative abundance, habitat use and other data for raptors in open habitats. On Point Peninsula such surveys provide a cost- and time-effective means of gathering useful data.

During the period 12 November 1987 to 20 February 1988 I conducted 19 surveys along a 25 mile (40 km) route on Point Peninsula and a small part of the adjacent mainland. The route commenced at the corner of the North Shore Road and Pleasant Valley Road and included all plowed roads in the area. Because of limited road choice, approximately two miles of road was covered twice on each survey. However, raptors were counted only during the initial passage. Each survey was conducted by one or two observers from a vehicle moving at 8-15 mph (13-24 km/h). Lower speeds were used when only a single observer was present. Surveys were not conducted on days with adverse weather (strong winds, heavy snow, extreme cold) that could limit raptor activity or detectability. All surveys were conducted between 9 AM and 4 PM EST and were approximately 3 hours in duration. When one or more raptors were detected, the vehicle was halted and a variety of data recorded before continuing. All raptors that could be identified to species were counted. Ninety nine percent of individuals observed were within an estimated three-eighths mile (0.6 km) of the observer(s).

Data recorded on each hawk or owl sighted included species, age,

sex, morph where applicable, habitat association, behavior when sighted and any other comments. All data were taken by the author to maximize consistency of decisions on age/sex/morph for all surveys. Great care was taken to avoid counting individuals more than once in the course of a survey. However, with species such as Northern Harrier which hunt on the wing, some duplication is possible. Any duplication is more than counterbalanced, however, by failure to detect harriers perching on the ground (see Craighead and Craighead) and other hawks perched along wood edges. Thus, survey counts are conservative samples of the total number of birds present in the area.

Short-eared Owl totals were obtained at the close of roadside surveys by counting birds as they left known roosts. Since time limitations prevented a thorough search of Point Peninsula for roosts, it is likely many more individuals than noted here were present. No systematic effort was made to locate nocturnal owls but a few sporadic daytime searches resulted in the limited data reported here.

### Results

A total of 2782 raptor sightings were recorded on the 19 surveys conducted between mid November and mid February. Of the raptors observed, 54.5% were Rough-legged Hawks, 17.7% were Northern Harriers, 15.9% were Red-tailed Hawks, 8.6% were Short-eared Owls and seven other species comprised the remaining 3.3%. The total number of sightings of each species, the number of surveys on which each species was observed, and age/sex/morph data for selected species are provided in Tables 1 and 2. The seasonal pattern of abundance for the seven most common species is provided in Figures 1 and 2.

Each species of raptor present at Point Peninsula during the winter of 1987-88 exhibited its own abundance, occurrence, habitat use, age/sex/morph structure and behavioral patterns. Some of the more obvious and interesting of these are summarized as follows:

**Bald Eagle:** A single first year immature was present for most of January but disappeared when the inshore waters of bays surrounding Point Peninsula froze late in the month. Although seen foraging on dead fish and one Greater Scaup along the lakeshore this eagle was also observed on several occasions perched on the ground and on trees in hayfield areas of the peninsula's interior. When present in these areas the eagle was frequently, vigorously and repeatedly dived upon by groups of Northern Harriers and Rough-legged Hawks.

**Northern Harrier:** The age/sex structure of wintering harriers is particularly interesting. The very low proportion (4.4%) of adult females is especially striking when compared to adult males (24.7%). Northern New York and southern Ontario are near the extreme northern edge

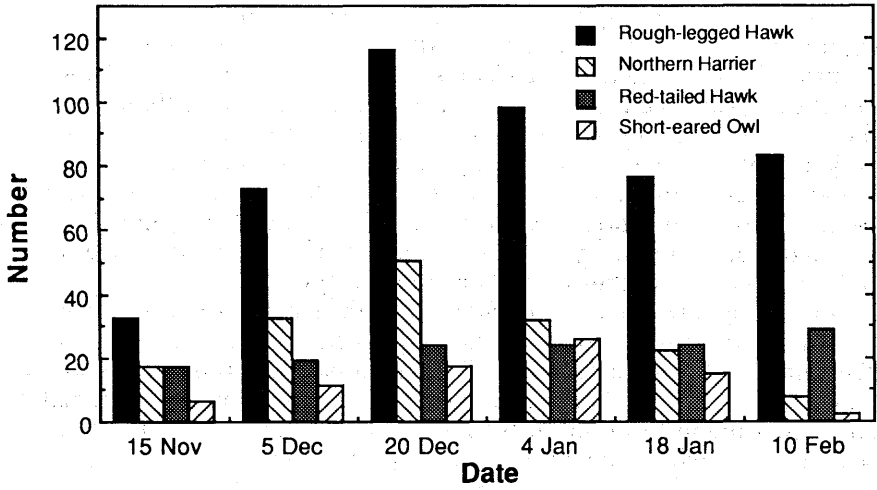


Figure 1. Three-visit means of the commonest raptor species, Point Peninsula, winter 1987-88

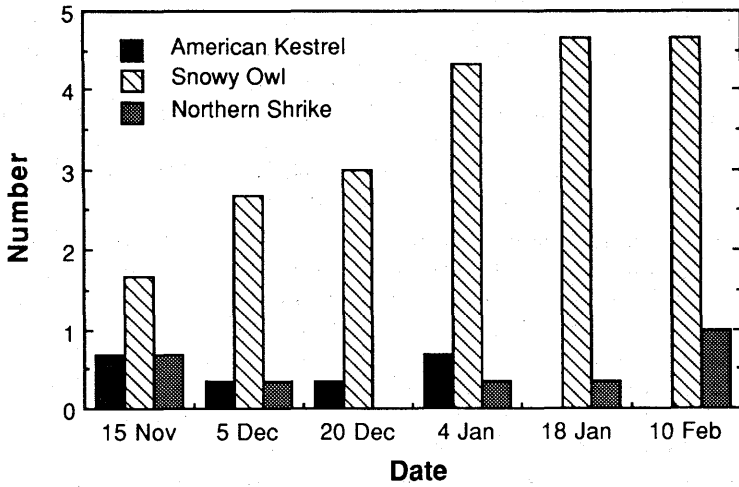


Figure 2. Three-visit means for three rarer raptors, Point Peninsula, Winter 1987-88

of this species' wintering range (Palmer 1988). Adult males of many species winter farther north than females and immatures. This may account in part for the greater frequency of male harriers on Point Peninsula. The very high numbers of immature harriers present at these northerly latitudes is very unusual and may reflect the "holding effects" of a superabundant food source. Three communal roosts of Northern Harriers were located during the winter. All were in old fields containing a mixture of low brush and herbaceous vegetation. Two of these roosts were also used by Short-eared Owls. At their peak from late December to early January these roosts contained 36 and 21 harriers and 30 and 8 owls, respectively. The peak roadside survey count of Northern Harrier was 57 on 18 December. Belknap (1962) considered a harrier noted on 23 December to be late. During the last four winters I regularly have observed small numbers (one to four per day) in Point Peninsula-Cape Vincent area during January, with occasional birds present in February. These records suggest that this species regularly winters in small numbers in parts of northwestern Jefferson county.

**Accipiters:** A total of five sightings, probably involving three individuals of three species were recorded. Since the roadside survey method is not suitable for detecting hawks using woodland interiors, it is possible that accipiters were more numerous than these data suggest.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** The seasonal abundance pattern of this species contrasts sharply with those of the other three common wintering raptors at Point Peninsula. Red-tailed Hawk numbers remained remarkably constant through the winter and did not decline during January and February. The ratio of immatures to adults also remained constant at 3:1 throughout the winter. Observations of locations of Red-tailed Hawks, particularly of the less numerous adults, suggested that many birds maintained consistent hunting ranges for much of the winter. The apparent stability of Red-tailed Hawks on Point Peninsula may be partly related to this species' tendency to hunt largely from perches. Rough-legged Hawks, Northern Harriers and Short-eared Owls frequently hunt on the wing and range over larger areas than Red-tailed Hawks (Craighead and Craighead 1956). Three apparent pairs of Red-tailed Hawks persisted through the winter. These birds were consistently observed as sets of two in close proximity to one another. Territorial defense by pairs against immature Red-tailed Hawks occurred intermittently during December and January and frequently during February. Close perching and courtship behavior was noted in all three pairs beginning in late January. The maximum

one day survey count for Red-tailed Hawk of 33 was obtained on two dates.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** The hordes of Rough-legged Hawk was the most spectacular feature of the winter population of raptors. After late November, it was virtually impossible to be anywhere on Point Peninsula, except the interior of the thickest woods, and be out of sight of one and usually more of these birds. Almost every extensive open area had it's attendant Rough-legged Hawks perched on fence posts or trees and soaring or quartering overhead. The maximum count of 130 on 18 December is the highest total of wintering birds ever reported in New York (Spahn 1988). The ratio of light to dark morph birds of 3-4:1 recorded on Point Peninsula this winter is consistent with my observations of the species elsewhere in central New York during the last twenty years. Three night roosts of Rough-legged Hawks were found, two in conifer plantations and one in a natural stand of red cedar. The interior of these roosts were littered with *Microtus* remains hanging from branches and whitewashed with excreta. My observations of the timing of evening arrival at roosts, flight behavior when approaching roost, and pre-roosting and roosting behavior are in general agreement with those of Schnell (1969) from Dekalb County, Illinois. The Rough-legged Hawk population wintering on Point Peninsula was almost exclusively immature birds. This high proportion of immatures contrasts sharply with my observations of migrating Rough-legged Hawks at Derby Hill, Oswego County, New York, during the spring of 1988, where over the course of the spring the ratio of immatures to adults was 1.5-1.7 to 1. At Derby Hill, as usual, adult Rough-legged Hawks were most frequent before mid April and immatures predominated later. This pattern suggests immatures may winter farther south than adults. Point Peninsula with its superabundant food source and overall favorable wintering conditions may have induced many immatures that otherwise would have continued farther south to stop short, thereby creating the skewed age ratios observed during the surveys.

**American Kestrel:** This species was very scarce with a total of two males and four females observed. No kestrels were noted following the heavy snows of late January. This species is usually very uncommon to rare as a wintering bird in much of northern New York. Apparently no more kestrels than usual were induced to linger at Point Peninsula by high vole populations.

**Great Horned Owl:** A minimum of five resident pair of this species were found on Point Peninsula during the survey period.

**Snowy Owl:** This magnificent arctic owl occurred after mid November. The maximum Snowy Owl count for any Point Peninsula survey was six. However, on three occasions 12 Snowy Owls were counted on 40 mile (64km) surveys between Point Peninsula and Cape Vincent. Migration was noted through mid December, as several owls were seen on one or two surveys at locations where none were present subsequently. After mid December three to six individuals were seen per survey and these birds occupied mutually exclusive territories. These territories were quite constant through the winter and on several occasions owls were observed in boundary chases with each other and with other raptors. Five of the six territorial Snowy Owls were large dark individuals believed to be immature females. The sixth owl was a small light individual believed to be an immature male. The apparent stability of the wintering Snowy Owl population is similar to the pattern observed by Belknap (1962) during the winter of 1961-1962. It is interesting to note the Snowy Owl population of 1987-1988 was concentrated on the mainland between Hardscrabble Road and the isthmus that joins Point Peninsula to the mainland. Snowy Owls were infrequent on the peninsula proper throughout the survey period. In the interior of Point Peninsula, where large concentrations of other raptors occurred, there were only a few sporadic sightings of this species, mostly during the migration period.

**Long-eared Owl:** Although systematic surveys for nocturnal owls were not made, roosting groups of this species were found during several walking transects. Groups of four, six and 12 as well as three scattered singles were located. It is likely detailed searches would have produced many Long-eared and N. Saw-whet Owls as well as possibly other species. Hopefully in the future more observers will be available to conduct searches for nocturnal owls during years with high wintering hawk populations. Based on past results at other locations (Bell *et al* 1979) the possibilities are intriguing.

**Short-eared Owl:** The maximum roost count of 30 on 3 January probably represents no more than 30% of the total number of this species present on Point Peninsula at that time. This crepuscular species, as with nocturnal owls, was severely under-sampled by the surveys. During December and January six roosts of this species containing 6, 8, 12, 14, 18 and 30 birds were located. It was impossible to count more than one roost in an evening with the personnel available. One can only speculate on how many roosts occurred on Point Peninsula, how much interchange of birds occurred between these roosts and

how many Short-eared Owls were actually present at the population peak.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Two individuals were located in red cedar stands during January and February.

**Northern Shrike:** A total of two adults and six immatures were observed during the survey period. All were associated with either brushy old field or mixed brush and red cedar habitat.

### Discussion

The majority of hawks present in the area during the winter of 1987-88 were immatures hatched during the previous summer. Using the ageing criteria from Clark and Wheeler (1987) for those species where age determination is possible, the percentages of immatures by species for the survey period are: Bald Eagle 100 (one immature), Northern Harrier 64.3, Cooper's Hawk 100 (one immature), Northern Goshawk 100 (perhaps the same immature seen 3 times), Red-tailed Hawk 77.9, Rough-legged Hawk 97.4, and Northern Shrike 75. In addition, nearly two-thirds of the Snowy Owls seen were very large dark birds, probably immature females.

There are a number of possible reasons for this preponderance of immatures including good breeding success, more northerly wintering by immatures and other factors. It is likely, however, that the superabundant food supply provided by the large numbers of voles present is the critical factor. Craighead and Craighead (1956) in Michigan noted a greater proportion of young hawks wintering in a year with high prey densities than in a year when prey was scarce. Inexperienced young raptors, with less well developed hunting skills, are often hard pressed to survive their first winter. The survival of any raptor, especially young birds, would be enhanced by wintering in an area where prey populations are superabundant and readily available. These areas may attract and hold immature birds passing through on migration and, since birds in their first year have no site tenacity to a previous wintering area, they may be readily attracted to sites with high food supplies.

The seven most common raptors present during the survey period all hunt in open habitats where my survey methods are most effective. It is not surprising that most of the hawks and owls observed were associated with cut hayfield, pasture grassland and old field habitats. Rough-legged Hawks, Short-eared Owls, Snowy Owls and American Kestrels largely occurred in the first two types, while Northern Shrikes favored more brushy areas. Red-tailed Hawks and Northern Harriers hunted a broad spectrum of open habitats with harriers most frequent in mowed and pasture areas and Red-tailed Hawks favoring old field types. Since all observations of raptors with prey (N=51) involved small



mammals, all apparently *Microtus*, the differences in habitat use by various species may reflect partitioning of the common food resource.

The overall numbers of raptors present increased rapidly from mid November through mid December, peaking during the last ten days of the month then slowly declining to lower levels. Presumably this pattern reflects the end of fall migration and arrival of large numbers of the arctic breeding species followed by losses due to mortality and/or emigration. This general pattern reflects the large numbers of Rough-legged Hawks, Short-eared Owls and Northern Harriers. Other species, such as the Red-tailed Hawk and Snowy Owl, exhibited different patterns.

Although it is impossible to assess the relative contribution of factors such as mortality, emigration and other possibilities to the decline in raptor numbers over the winter, my observations suggest emigration was a key factor. The winter of 1987-88 was very mild and open in northern New York. The first substantial, sustained (more than 4 inches remaining on ground more than 2 days) snowfall did not occur until late January on Point Peninsula. The near total lack of snow cover left small mammal prey readily available to the wintering raptors. Species sensitive to snow depth, such as Northern Harrier and Short-eared Owl, remained numerous well into midwinter. Following the heavy snowfall during late January numbers of these two species on Point Peninsula plummeted whereas other species decreased only slightly or remained stable. After the decrease in Northern Harrier numbers on Point Peninsula, observations of this species increased to the east and northeast where the snow depth was much less. These observations are highly suggestive of at least local midwinter movements of 25-30 miles. Given the high prey density and ready access to prey enjoyed by the raptors wintering on Point Peninsula prior to the heavy snows of late January, it is reasonable to assume these birds were in good physical condition. Individuals in such condition would have the fat reserves necessary for local movements and perhaps even for longer trips to areas where snow depth would not limit access to prey.

#### **Protection and Management**

The Point Peninsula clearly is a very important raptor wintering area during some years. Point Peninsula together with a few other sites in northwestern Jefferson county, the islands of northeastern Lake Ontario, some areas near Cape Vincent and Wolfe and Amherst Islands, Ontario, form a complex of important raptor habitat. This area may be one of the most critical winter concentration areas in northeastern North America for arctic breeding Rough-legged Hawks, Short-eared Owls and Snowy Owls. Long-term land use planning in this region must include consideration of the importance of the area to wintering raptors.

Planning should include efforts by agencies, organizations and individuals designed to assure that the needs of large populations of wintering raptors as well as the smaller but no less important breeding populations of New York threatened species (Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl) are fully identified and are met. Given the increasing pressures for recreational and other development resulting from the expansion of Fort Drum near Watertown, from intensifying use of Lake Ontario and from changing farming practices, this may prove to be a formidable task. Several factors that contribute to heavy raptor use of Point Peninsula including the following should be considered in planning efforts:

The area's overall habitat diversity including hayfields, old field, cedar and plantation areas and deciduous woodlands spread over an extensive area is critical. This mix provides a wide variety of high quality habitat for large numbers of open country raptors.

Favorable farming practices that include continued hay production rather than the row crop monoculture (corn desert) that now dominate many other areas of upstate New York. Hay farming and associated hedgerows and fence rows contribute to overall habitat diversity. While continuation of these farming practices is due largely to the poor shallow soil limiting row crops, this practice and the slow succession of old fields resulting from soil limitations are important factors in creating favorable habitat diversity for wintering raptors. This diverse habitat mixture also may provide a high quality environment for meadow vole populations. Another farming practice that affects raptors is the hay baling method. Currently farmers on Point Peninsula bale their hay in large round rolls rather than small square bales. These rolls are the left in the fields and gradually brought to cattle feeding areas over the course of the winter. These hay rolls in fields provide elevated perch sites for raptors in areas where none exist otherwise and may also benefit voles, as these animals were observed to burrow into the bales.

The current low level of human winter use of Point Peninsula allows raptors to function with a minimum of human disturbance. In the undeveloped interior of the peninsula, birds of prey rarely encounter humans, except for the occasional rabbit hunter, during the period November to May. This was not always the case. Prior to World War II and particularly during the late 19th century, when the area was dominated by small family farms, human-raptor interactions no doubt were more frequent. Given the prevailing human attitude toward raptors of the time (Bent 1937), the carnage,

particularly during years with high raptor populations, is not pleasant to consider. Point Peninsula of the 1980s is a much more hospitable retreat for wintering hawks and owls than it was 100 years earlier. This largely results from the lower local human population and from changes in the public's attitudes toward raptors.

The general lack of any substantial development in the peninsula's interior and the resultant isolation from human activities are important factors favoring raptor use of the area.

These and other factors contribute to maintaining Point Peninsula as a very important raptor wintering area. Some of these same factors also are important to making this and other northwestern Jefferson County areas of great potential importance as breeding areas for Northern Harrier and Short-eared Owl. While data on breeding raptors is minimal, observations from local birders and records from the New York breeding bird atlas (Andrle and Carroll 1988) strongly suggest this area may be critical to breeding populations of these state "threatened" species. My recent observations indicate there is a substantial Northern Harrier population in the region and sightings of Short-eared Owls, including a pair with young, at three locations during the breeding season suggest they regularly may nest here locally. This region should be thoroughly surveyed for these species, particularly for the more critically threatened Short-eared Owl. These surveys are needed to determine status and to identify breeding sites so that protection may be sought for these areas.

The importance of Point Peninsula and a few other areas in northwestern Jefferson County to raptors justifies increased research and management concern. These spectacular winter concentrations and breeding sites of species rare in the state are a significant regional resource. In seeking to influence land management, to stimulate research and to document further areas of particular importance to these birds, attention should be given to the following items:

Farmers should be encouraged to maintain current practices favorable to raptors. Efforts must include protection of farming over other interests through agricultural districts, etc., with resultant tax and associated benefits to the farming community. The farming community should be apprised of the value of their lands to raptors and of the positive benefits of some practices (e.g., large hay roll bales in fields) to these birds.

Research and monitoring of all types from basic surveys, such as this effort, to detailed ecological studies are needed. These efforts should be encouraged by all groups. Birders visiting the area might collect data in a standardized manner and transmit the same to

**Table 1. Total Observations and Surveys for Diurnal and Crepuscular Raptors at Point Peninsula, Fall and winter 1987-88**

Species	Total Observed	Surveys Observed (N=19)
<b>Bald Eagle</b>	5	5
<b>Northern Harrier</b>	493	19
Adult Male	122	18
Adult Female	22	13
Immature	317	18
Unidentified	32	12
<b>Sharp-shinned Hawk</b>	1	1
<b>Cooper's Hawk</b>	1	1
<b>Northern Goshawk</b>	3	3
<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b>	444	19
Adult	95	19
Immature	346	19
Unidentified	3	3
<b>Rough-legged Hawk</b>	1516	19
Light morph	1219	19
Dark morph	297	19
<b>American Kestrel</b>	6	5
Male	2	2
Female	4	3
<b>Snowy Owl</b>	65	18
<b>Short-eared Owl</b>	240	17
<b>Northern Shrike</b>	8	6
Adult	2	2
Immature	6	5
<b>Total All Species</b>	2782	19

**Table 2. Age/Sex Percentages of Northern Harrier and Red-tailed Hawk and color morph percentages of Rough-legged Hawk by month at Point Peninsula, Fall and Winter 1987-1988.**

Species	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB
<b>Northern Harrier</b>				
Adult Male	9.8	31.1	21.3	38.9*
Adult Female	19.3	10.4	5.6	23.6*
Immature	70.9	58.5	73.1	37.5*
<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b>				
Adult	21.1	24.4	22.9	22.3
Immature	78.7	75.6	77.1	77.7
<b>Rough-legged Hawk</b>				
Light morph	72.3	81.8	82.3	78.1
Dark morph	27.7	18.2	17.7	21.9

NOTE: \* Involves only a few individuals

*The Kingbird* Regional editor(s) as part of these efforts.

Public education efforts among local residents, particularly absentee landowners, to improve appreciation of these birds would be of long-term value. Efforts should focus on the unusual nature of these concentrations and on how people can help maintain them.

Regulatory agencies, concerned organizations and individuals should closely monitor land use patterns and development pressures in the area. Particular concern should be focused on the following:

- Large subdivisions of land and residential construction.

- Any substantial increase in year round residences.

- Any permanent development in the interior of the peninsula.

- Any substantial increase in human presence in the interior of the peninsula at any season.

- Any large scale changes in land use practices particularly reduction in farming followed by development.

- Any development that would substantially increase human/vehicle presence between October and early April.

The *aggregate* impacts of small scale developments in the area.

Efforts should be made to develop a coordinated long-term strategy among all interested parties for management of research, monitoring, protection, education and economic considerations related to raptors in these areas. The latter considerations should be of interest to those concerned with local tourism, as the growing number of birdwatchers gives these spectacular concentrations of wintering raptors the potential to attract visitors from throughout the northeast.

Point Peninsula and a few other areas of northwestern Jefferson County, as well as Wolfe and Amherst Islands, Ontario, probably have attracted significant wintering raptor concentrations since the clearing of the forests. The numbers of birds of prey observed during the current surveys of Point Peninsula and results of Bell *et al* (1979) on the Ontario islands indicate these sites are able to support spectacular populations of hawks and owls. These birds, fleeing from areas of food shortages, now find congenial wintering grounds here. Progress in their conservation has been made from a time not so long ago when our forebears welcomed these winter visitors with trap and gun. The level of enlightenment on the beauty and importance of birds of prey in natural systems among the general public has advanced to a point where illegal shooting in this region appears minimal. During survey visits, and despite the amazing concentration of raptors at Point Peninsula during the winter

of 1987-88, I found no evidence of direct human persecution.

Hopefully this enlightenment regarding birds of prey will carry over to less direct forms of persecution such as habitat destruction. Perhaps our society will be farsighted enough to assure a hungry southbound Snowy Owl looking for a square meal will still find grassy fields filled with voles instead of second homes, boat dealerships or bare ground and corn stubble. If so, it is likely the wandering hawk watcher of 2014 or 2088 will be as thrilled by the spectacle of raptors at Point Peninsula as Belknap and Gordon were in 1961-62 and many others were in 1987-88.

### Acknowledgments

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- RR1 Box 498, Mexico, New York 13114

## SPRING ARRIVALS IN SOUTHERN NASSAU CO., NEW YORK

SEYMOUR SCHIFF

DeBenedictis (1987) instituted a system for systematically reporting in *The Kingbird* arrival and departure dates for a group of common migratory birds in New York State. As mentioned in that report, much data in Regional reports is biased by several effects: 1) exceptional dates are more likely to be reported, 2) the loss of data from the five day midweek period when most birders cannot birdwatch, 3) the loss of data from 12 day midweek periods when it also rains on a weekend, and 4) the diversity of most reporting Regions. After reading the original article and the subsequent attempts to draw conclusions and inferences from the meaning of these first arrival dates (Spahn, 1987), I decided to add another set of data to the already "confused" situation. I wondered how variable these dates would be if they were gathered from a single small area.

The area where I live and do most of my birding coincides with the center of the Southern Nassau Christmas Count Area. Except for an occasional trip to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, almost all of my data comes from Hempstead Lake State Park, Jones Beach State Park and the large oak trees behind my house. Observations from the latter area serves to minimize the problem of loss of midweek data, but only for land birds which arrive in May. This area is small, covered consistently, includes both "normal" and "exceptional" dates and are gathered by a single observer.

I have a minimum of six records in the years 1980 through 1988 for 55 of the 92 species on the original list. The species not included are: 1) the species which winter on Long Island, 2) those not seen in at least six Springs and 3) those for which data either was missing or which I didn't see in the Spring. My arrival dates are summarized in Table I. They consist of the number of days before or after 1 May, which is listed as zero, that each species arrived in each year. Thus, an arrival date of 20 April appears as -11 and 8 May as +7. Missing dates are left blank.

The average date of first arrival for these 55 species over the last nine years was between 30 April and 7 May, an eight day span centered on 3 May. The mean has a two-sigma deviation of 4.23 days. In English this means that, statistically, there has been no significant difference from one season on Long Island to the next during this time period. If the midweek loss of data is considered, one would expect a bias of 3 days. This is what the data shows and any effects of early or late Springs don't appear in these data. Have our seasons on Long Island

been that uniform over the last nine years? I don't know what this all means, but it surely is interesting that there wasn't any difference between years.

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 603 Mead Terrace, So. Hempstead, NY 11550.

Table 1. No. of days  $\pm$  from May 1 each year

SPECIES	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	no. mean yrs
Eastern Phoebe	-32	-40	-20		-37	-31	-46	-33	-28	-33 8
Pine Warbler	-32	-26		-8		-18	-32		-21	-23 6
Hermit Thrush	-11		-13			-11	-27	-20	-7	-15 6
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-18			-8	-16	-31		-12	0	-14 6
Tree Swallow	-32	2	8	0	-23	-18	-32	-12	-14	-13 9
Rufous-sided Towhee	-18	-40				-4	-11	1	-7	-13 6
Palm Warbler	-18	-26	-6	-8	-9	-18	-11		-7	-13 8
Blue-winged Teal		-12	-20	11	-9	-18	-25	-25	2	-12 8
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	-18	-12	-13	7	-9	-18			-14	-11 7
Barn Swallow	-18	-5	-13	7	-9	-18	-11	-12	0	-9 9
Solitary Vireo	-18	-12	-6	-8	-9	-10	-4	2	-7	-8 9
Chipping Sparrow	-12	-5	-6	0	-9	-10	-11	-12	-7	-8 9
Black-and-white Warbler	-4	-5	-13	-8	-2	-11	-4	2	-7	-6 9
Lesser Yellowlegs	-25	-19	1	0	-9	-3	9		0	-6 8
Brown Thrasher	9	-26		0	5	-10		6	-7	-3 7
House Wren	-25	8	28		5	-4	4	-19	-7	-1 8
Common Tern	2	-5	8	0	-2	-3	-4	1	0	0 9
Ovenbird	2	2	-13	-1	5	-4	10	2	6	1 9
Solitary Sandpiper	-4	-5	15	7	5	-4	-4			1 7
Yellow Warbler	2	7	0	0	-2	-4	3	2	11	2 9
Gray Catbird	3	-1	1			1		2	7	2 6
Northern Parula	2	-1	1	0	5	-10	9	6	11	3 9
Black-throated Green Warbler	10	-1	0	6	5	3	-11	6	7	3 9
Semipalmated Plover	-11	15	8		5	-3	-4	6	7	3 8
Northern Waterthrush	2	2	-6	7	5	-4	16	2		3 8
Least Sandpiper	9	2	1	0	5	8	9	13	-14	4 9
Semipalmated Sandpiper	-4	-12	1	0	-9	15	10	13	20	4 9
Common Yellowthroat	2	15	7	6	5	1	3	-12	11	4 9
Indigo Bunting	17	16	12	6	-1		-9	-12	7	5 8
Scarlet Tanager	2	-1	7	0	5	3	8	6	11	5 9
Chimney Swift	9	9	12	11	9	-3	-4	6	-7	5 9
Yellow-throated Vireo	9	-12	1	14	12			6		5 6
Black-throated Blue Warbler	3		7	7	5	-4	10	6	11	6 8



Table 1. Continued.

Northern Oriole	8	0	1	7	9	1	8	6	11	6	9
Green-backed Heron	2	-5		4	16	-11	9	13	20	6	8
Eastern Kingbird	9	-1	1	11	9	3	14	6	7	7	9
Red-eyed Vireo	2	9	7	11	9	4	8	9	11	8	9
Cape May Warbler	3		12	11	5	8		6	11	8	7
Great Crested Flycatcher	9	9	7	6	9	5	10	6	11	8	9
Spotted Sandpiper	4	24	0	6	12	4	14	2	7	8	9
Wood Thrush	9	9	8	7	5	1	25	2	11	9	9
Chestnut-sided Warbler	5		12	11	5	11	10	9	11	9	8
American Redstart	2	16	7	11	9	11	16	6	7	9	9
Swainson's Thrush	15	16	1	11	5	8	16	6	11	10	9
Nashville Warbler	3		7	7	5	26	13			10	6
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	17	2	12	11	5	4	16	6	21	10	9
Magnolia Warbler	8	24	13	12	9	8	4	9	11	11	9
Veery	9	16	1	11	5	8	16	17	18	11	9
Marsh Wren	-11			27	26	15	3	13	11	12	7
Blackpoll Warbler	17	15	12	11	9	11	16	9	11	12	9
Tennessee Warbler	2	24	7	13	16		16	9	18	13	8
Canada Warbler	9	24	12	13	5	11	21	6	20	13	9
Eastern Wood-Pewee	11	16	12	11	9	15		30	7	14	8
Blackburnian Warbler	13	30	12	11	14	25	10	6	11	15	9
Bay-breasted Warbler	13	24	15	14	16	15	16	13	11	15	9
AVERAGE DATE	-1.1	1.3	3.0	5.8	2.7	-1.1	2.1	2.2	4.2	1.6	9
NO. OF SPECIES	54	48	49	49	51	52	48	49	51	55	

Each group consists of 11 consecutive species.

GROUP #1 AVERAGE	-21.5	-19.0	-10.4	-0.9	-15.1	-17.7	-22.1	-13.9	-9.4	-15.0
GROUP #2 AVERAGE	-4.5	-4.5	2.2	-0.2	0.1	-5.6	1.3	-1.1	0.7	-1.4
GROUP #3 AVERAGE	4.4	3.3	4.5	5.7	4.2	1.8	2.8	3.6	5.9	4.1
GROUP #4 AVERAGE	6.2	8.6	5.6	8.7	8.5	4.1	13.0	6.5	10.7	7.9
GROUP #5 AVERAGE	8.3	19.4	10.3	12.8	10.8	13.8	13.1	11.8	13.9	12.5

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Historical Record of Long-eared Owl on Valcour Island:** While researching a natural history exhibit for the Clinton County Historical Museum, Plattsburgh, NY, I uncovered from a relatively obscure Department of Environmental Conservation Research publication, information that I feel should be added to our scanty ornithological history of the Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) for the north country of New York State. The report, "A Study of Predator Control on Valcour Island," (Division of Fish and Game, NY State Conservation Department. *Research Ser. No. 1*; 1949), was an investigation of the effects of predator control on Snowshoe Hare and Ruffed Grouse abundance. For the period 1941-1945, both mammalian and avian predators were trapped, hunted and poisoned on Valcour Island, an island of about 1000 acres situated on Lake Champlain in Clinton County. Avian predators were taken in traps set on poles, which were placed in openings scattered around the island. It was shocking to read about the number of hawks and owls that were destroyed on this small island in the name of scientific investigation. Over a 5 year period 162 Long-eared Owls were killed, 51 in 1941, 43 in 1942, 51 in 1943, 17 in 1944 and none in 1945. Perhaps the only redeeming value of this study was that it identified Valcour Island as a major migratory stopping point for the Long-eared Owl. No data were given as to when these birds were trapped, which would have provided valuable information on the migratory dates for this species. The only other recent report of Long-eared Owl migration for northern New York State (R.S. Slack *et al. Wilson Bull.* 99:480-485; 1987) described mist netting a total of 37 Long-eared Owls over a 6 year period at the 90-acre, Richard A. Noyes Wildlife Sanctuary near Lake Ontario. They found spring migration to peak between 21 March and 14 April.

Those involved in the Valcour Island predator control study also destroyed 62 Great Horned Owls, 20 N. Saw-whet Owls, 14 Short-eared Owls, 16 Barred Owls and one Snowy Owl. The list of hawks and falcons slaughtered is long as well, and included 73 Red-shouldered Hawks, 70 Red-tailed Hawks, 41 Northern Harriers, 78 Am. Kestrels, 7 Peregrine Falcons, 25 N. Goshawks and 7 Merlins.

I was surprised to learn that it was not until 1948 that all of New York State's birds of prey were given the status of protected species. In that year the Great Horned Owl, Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk and the N. Goshawk were added to the protected species list. As late as 1924 even the New York State Conservation Commission described many hawk and owl species as "vermin" (State of N.Y. Conservation

Commission Annual Report, 1924). This report describes the Department's campaign of destruction against these birds which were said to be inimical to the interest of conservation. Game protectors were instructed to destroy species listed as "vermin" whenever opportunity afforded. The 1921 Annual Report of the N.Y. State Conservation Commission reported that the list of vermin species was even placed on the back of hunting and trapping licenses, together with a request to destroy the vermin species whenever opportunity to do so afforded. So by law the game protectors, hunters, trappers and farmers were all leagued together to destroy birds of prey in the name of conservation. This historical perspective gives us a greater appreciation of just how far we have come in protecting wildlife, particularly birds of prey. Once destroying birds of prey was thought of as conservation while today protecting these species is the law. That is progress! The 1940's Valcour Island predator control study was funded by the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Restoration Act. Would anyone believe that this study had anything to do with wildlife restoration today?

Mark Gretch, 133 Lake Street Box 21, Rouses Point, NY 12979

**Huckleberry Island, 1988:** The annual census of this Long Island Sound waterbird colony in New Rochelle, Westchester Co., was made again on 22 and 24 June 1988 (see Künstler and Capainolo 1987, and Ducey-Ortiz *et al.*, *in prep.*). Counts obtained of all colonial species were much greater than any previous years, which started with only a few birds in 1975. In addition, one of two newly recorded species bred successfully. This year's census, taken on foot as opposed to the aerial surveys taken until 1983, was the most thorough of our counts (1986-1988) and thus included many nests and birds we would not have recorded earlier. However, it was felt by all returning visitors, including an owner of the island, that the birds had indeed increased in numbers.

The 1988 count, in pairs, with 1987 results for comparison, and relative size of all coastal New York colonies in 1988 (preliminary data, fide Anne Ducey-Ortiz) are as follows:

Species	1988	1987	Relative size
Double-crested Cormorant	284	92	3rd of 4 colonies
Great Egret	67	10	1st of 15 colonies
Snowy Egret	145	30	2nd of 15 colonies
Cattle Egret	1		5th of 5 colonies
Black-crowned Night-Heron	206	127	2nd of 22 colonies
Herring Gull	2405	1000	data incomplete
Great Black-backed Gull	546	400	data incomplete

A Cattle Egret fledgling on 24 June was indication of the first nesting

of this bird on Huckleberry Island. Since the nearest known colony of this species is on South Brother Island, 9.7 mi (15.6 km) to the southwest in Bronx Co., it is unlikely that this bird originated anywhere other than Huckleberry. This site is one of five recorded in coastal New York in 1988 (Ducey-Ortiz, *pers. comm.*). Numbers of Cattle Egret had been declining from 1985 to 1987 in coastal New York (MacLean *et al.*, 1988) but increased in the 1988 nesting season (Ducey-Ortiz, *pers. comm.*). No nest or adults were seen. An adult Glossy Ibis was also seen this day but no nest was located where it perched before flying in a straight line across the sound for Long Island. A pair of non-colonial Green-backed Herons nested in 1987 but was not sighted in 1988.

It should be noted that the Yellow-crowned Night-Herons reported nesting at the Marshlands Conservancy in Rye by Künstler and Capainolo (1987) last nested there in 1981, apparently because a pair of Great Horned Owls began nesting in the immediate vicinity in 1982 (Alison Beall, *pers. comm.*).

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### **From the Editor**

This issue's Highlights notes a decline in the number of reporters which seems to have occurred in many Regions. The Regional reports are a valuable contribution from amateurs to the science of ornithology. They chronicle the changes in the bird life which have and continue to occur in New York State. The Regional reports are only as good as the data that makes them up. If you are a reporter and your view of what's happening in your Region differs substantially from what you read in these pages, complain to your Regional Editor. If you are not a reporter, become one. All Regional Editors, especially those who cover sparsely populated Regions, welcome the contributions of visitors to their Regions as much as they appreciate the reports of their regulars.

It was gratifying to see all 10 Regions represented in this season's Regional reports. Unfortunately, we are once again in need of an Editor for Region 8. Please contact myself or Manny Levine (see the rear cover) if you are interested. If you are uncertain as to your qualifications, I am sure that any of the recent Regional Editors would be happy to discuss with a potential volunteer what effort the job of Regional Editor actually entails, as well as its rewards.

In case you haven't figured it out already, pages 242 and 267 of Vol 38, No. 4 (Fall 1988) of *The Kingbird* were inadvertently reversed during the final typesetting of that issue.

**The Editor**

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

The Fall of 1988 again brought a migration season ranging from lackluster to downright poor. The diversity of species was good statewide and some local counts of individuals were reasonably good, but variety and counts generally were poor in most localities and over most families of birds. Again, we may speculate about possible impact of the lack of well-defined weather fronts, the cooling and lowered light levels from the passage of smoke from the Yellowstone fires, the early summer drought, or the lack of observers afield in several Regions, but in the end we have yet another fall report which is very poor relative to those of a decade or more past. From the one banding summary, in Region 3, with enough information to assess the mix of birds, it appears that, at least for those species trapped, it was not a case of widespread breeding failure, as 86% of those banded were hatching year birds.

This Fall's weather patterns were relatively similar across the state. September was generally cool and dry, a pleasant respite from the hot summer in many Regions. October was cold and wet, though nearer average in the eastern half of the state; and November was generally a bit above average for temperatures and below for precipitation, except that Regions 9 and 10 ran a bit cooler and much wetter than the others relative to their norms. Over most of the state there was little snowfall through the season. It is not obvious that these patterns should have generated the season's very early departure dates and near total lack of late half hardies. The wild food crop was noted as exceptionally good by several observers, perhaps a surprise for a Fall following a drought period, but there are reports in the literature of stressed plants producing bumper crops of fruits and nuts. The Region 1 report contains some interesting observations of various species using the beechnut crop.

The major fall flights certainly indicate a lack of birds, shifts in the migration patterns, no groundings, a significant reduction in observers reporting, or some combination of these. The passage of loons and grebes, tracked mostly along the Lake Ontario shore, saw below average peak counts for all species. There were virtually no wandering herons, with only one late Cattle Egret report from Region 5, a Glossy Ibis in Region 1 and a late departing Green-backed Heron in Region 1 of special note. The waterfowl picture was the gloomiest since I have been following or reporting data in New York (over 20 years). Numbers were low for many puddle ducks and most divers, especially so for Am. Black Duck, N. Pintail, Redhead, and scaup. In addition, there were no good counts of Tundra Swan, Brant reports were few and low, and even Canada Goose numbers were reported low in several Regions. The only

really bright spots were large Wood Duck counts in Regions 3 and 5, a record high Ring-necked Duck peak in Region 3, and reports of Greater White-fronted Goose from Regions 1, 2, 5, 6 and 10. The raptor picture looks a bit better. The common, resident species were noted as present in good numbers. Hawk watch totals were down a bit for most species in Region 9's tables, but the Region 10 report suggested good numbers for the shore watches, including increases for Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, N. Goshawk, and Peregrine Falcon. Additional notes on hawk watches include a comment on Wescotts Beach State Park in Region 6, a summary for the Pinnacle watch in Region 8, and commentary from Region 10 on the different mix of species at the various shore watches. It was also good to see that hawkwatchers can tune to other species, at least in Region 10, with a Yellow Rail noted at the Fire Island Hawk Watch and a flight of woodpeckers tallied there one October day when hawks were slow. Returning to the raptors, Turkey Vulture numbers and late records continue to increase, Osprey reports were fewer, and N. Goshawk and Red-shouldered Hawk remain scarce. In the Region 4 report, with no organized hawk watches to summarize, you will find several interesting notes on raptor behaviors observed.

The shorebird pattern is like the above, overall diversity good but counts mostly low. Plover numbers, except for Killdeer, were low in most Regions. Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, and Sanderling were relatively scarce. Most "peep" counts were low, and only Region 3 recorded the typical large numbers of Dunlin. Dowitcher counts were low. The only real positives were a good count of Greater Yellowlegs in Region 1, a record late date for Hudsonian Godwit in Region 2, and a good count of Am. Oystercatchers in Region 10. Of special concern are the low numbers of late migrants, suggesting few immatures, this echoing comments I heard from people who visited parts of the Arctic this summer. This paucity is tempered in the case of Region 10 by water level changes which inundated much prime shorebird habitat at Jamaica Bay after mid October. The center of the state's gull activity was split between Region 1, with 13 species recorded in the Niagara Falls area, and Region 6, with 11 species in the Robert Moses Power Dam area. Elsewhere, numbers and rarities were scarce. Of special note were jaegers noted in four Upstate Regions, and Laughing Gull inland in Regions 1, 2, and 3. Tern counts were generally low away from the coast, with the only noteworthy reports the 26 Forster's Terns in Region 9 and the 200 Common Terns in Region 5. From Region 10 we have good counts for Forster's Tern, Royal Tern, and Black Skimmer, and a single report of Gull-billed Tern.

Among the passerines, nearly all species departed early from all parts of the state and very few reports of high counts were noted. Reciting

the litany, we have low counts for most flycatchers, swallows relatively scarce and gone early, thrushes except for Am. Robin and E. Bluebird all departing nearly two weeks early, vireo reports very low, most warbler counts low and 16 of 20 species in the departure date table gone by dates averaging about 10 days early, most sparrows scarce except in Region 10 where the best Fall sparrow flight in many years occurred, and several blackbird species flagged as below normal in numbers. Given this dismal account, it was interesting to read of increases for several species (Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, and N. Mockingbird) at the northern edges of their ranges, and to find state record late departure dates for Whip-poor-will in Region 10, N. Rough-winged Swallow in Region 1, Golden-winged Warbler in Region 7 and Blackburnian Warbler in Region 6. Record late dates inland in New York for Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Region 1, Least Flycatcher in Region 9 and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Region 2 also were set. In addition, there were very late dates for adults feeding young by N. Mockingbird and Scarlet Tanager in Region 9. Finally, the irruptive species we all await in the Fall simply failed to appear, *en masse*. Among the winter raptors, both Rough-legged Hawk and Snowy Owl were scarce. Only Short-eared Owl concentrations were good in some Regions. Red-breasted Nuthatch and chickadees didn't move in large numbers, N. Shrike reports were few, and Bohemian Waxwing was unreported. And, last on the list, winter finches failed to appear in significant numbers anywhere in the state. Even Evening Grosbeak was very scarce or missing from all regions.

This dismal picture is little changed if we consider the other species often monitored at this season. Starting with the positive side, Double-crested Cormorant numbers continue very high inland; there was a good count for Chimney Swift in Region 1; Common Raven occurred in five Regions besides Region 7; Winter Wren and both kinglets were found in good numbers; Orange-crowned Warbler was reported in typical fall numbers; Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, and Black-throated Green warblers appeared in good numbers in at least some Regions; Pine and Prairie warblers occurred in more Regions than usual for the fall; and "Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco was recorded in Regions 2 and 9. On the opposite side of the ledger Ring-necked Pheasant remains scarce; Am. Coot numbers were very low; Common Nighthawk maxima over 100 were reported only from Regions 1 and 2; Red-headed Woodpecker reports were few; Olive-sided Flycatcher was very scarce except in passage through Regions 9 and 10; the sole report of Loggerhead Shrike occurred in Region 10; and Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Indigo Bunting were all scarce. In general, banding reports were fewer than usual and numbers, where noted, were down; see the reports



from Regions 3, 4, and 7 for more details.

In addition to these notes on numbers and dates, there are many other interesting tidbits scattered through the Regional reports. Among those I found were: from Region 1, ponder whether providing special food for a late hummingbird was an aid or a trap? Banders in Region 2 netted the second intergrade flicker in as many years. In Region 3 we had the season's only reported albino, a N. Mockingbird. The Region 4 report provides a good example of weaving a recent historical perspective as an integral part of most of the records noted. The Region 6 report prompts us again to consider the possible link between increasing House Finch and decreasing Purple Finch numbers. In the Region 7 report we have the story of a Bald Eagle shot as a 'goose or duck' perched in a tree. Region 9's report notes the continued success of a Dutchess Co. bluebird trail with numbers fledged and banded. Finally, in Region 10 we have a pelican over Manhattan making the early morning traffic 'copter report. Several Regions note a scarcity of reporters or reports this fall. This is a chronic problem in the Regions with low population densities and a periodic one elsewhere. It can only improve *The Kingbird's* Regional reports if visitors to different Regions, as well as residents, would provide timely reports to the appropriate Regional Editors. Addresses are listed at the end of each report. [Amen! *The Editor*]

A summary of the Fall Departure Table for 1988 is relatively easy. Compared with the 25-year average departure dates, 41 of the 62 species left significantly early, that is, more than 2 standard deviations early relative to their long term average. Another 4 were very nearly as early in departing. Among these, the thrushes tabulated departed nearly two weeks early, the vireos 10 days early, the warblers 1-2 weeks early, the swallows 2 weeks early and flycatcher departures were normal to 2 weeks early. The only warbler averaging late was Blue-winged but its average was biased by a very late report from in Region 2. Only 6 species had late average departure dates this year, and among these only Rufous-sided Towhee averaged significantly but questionably late, as at least two of the very late dates may represent birds attempting to overwinter. There is simply no question that nearly all species departed early this year. This is reinforced in the Seasonality column of Table 2, which compares the overall average departure dates Region by Region with each Region's 27-year average. All Regions except Region 4 were more than two standard deviations early.

The comparison of the Regional averages with the grand average over all Regions for this Fall is in the Advance column of Table 2. The pattern of Advancement is as expected. The north country empties first and the regions farthest south and west last. The pattern is generally

Fall Departures 1988

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

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

**Bold** Regional Record Late

*Italics* also isolated later report(s).

Region	Species Reported	Seasonality (days)	Advance (days)
Region 1	55	-5.5	4.0
Region 2	61	-9.8	1.4
Region 3	57	-6.0	-0.2
Region 4	54	-1.5	-0.4
Region 5	62	-9.5	-0.9
Region 6	23	-9.9	-14.8
Region 7	43	-4.8	-13.1
Region 8	26	-7.7	-5.0
Region 9	55	-9.4	2.0
Region 10	54	-8.9	13.2

similar to an Advance column prepared from 25-year average departure dates. The way in which I have generated the estimates of variance used in this summary has been detailed in the previous two Winter issues of *The Kingbird* and need not be repeated here. These earlier analyses also have dealt with the difficulties of obtaining good departure date data. This certainly remains a problem with this season's report but it clearly is not an explanation for the very early disappearance of most migrants this Fall.

This was not a good season for rarities. Most have been noted in the commentary above. The best of the rest were: Region 1 - Sandhill Crane and Red Phalarope; Region 2 - Marbled Godwit, Western Kingbird, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow; Region 3 - Clay-colored and Sharp-tailed Sparrows; Region 4 - Western Sandpiper and Brewer's Blackbird; and Region 6 - Pomarine Jaeger, Com. Black-headed Gull, and Carolina Wren. It is worth noting that Region 10, as usual, recorded many vagrants that would rate as extreme rarities elsewhere in the state, but are regular fall visitors on the coast. There were no rarities rating a B.O.T.S. award this season. Let us hope this improves as we all beat the bushes on our Christmas Counts and that the Spring will bring an improved passage of migrant birds.

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Standard abbreviations: county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE; months are shortened to their first three letters; ad — adult; arr — arrival or first of season; I — Island; imm — 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; subad — subadult; T — Town of; Twn — township; WMA — Wildlife Management Area; y — young.

## REGION 1 - NIAGARA FRONTIER

STEPHEN W. EATON

The weather remained normal through September with temperatures averaging about 62°. Away from the lakes temperatures were 3-4° below normal. The month was a bit drier than normal, rain down about an inch and a half at Buffalo International, Jamestown and Amity Lake, and sunnier than normal, with 62% of possible sunshine. A bleak windy day on the 5 Sep brought a Parasitic Jaeger into Barcelona Harbor on Lake Erie for Bob Sundell to savor. Hurricane *Gilbert* contributed only a little, light rain but forest fires in Yellowstone National Park sent enough smoke eastward to produce haze on 10 and 11 Sep. Frost occurred on the Allegheny plateau on 6, 19 and 29 Sep. "October was cold, wet and dreary," to quote the *Buffalo News*, "normally one of the prettiest months of the year in Western New York." Vivian Pitzrick wrote that "October's bright blue weather, wasn't." Temperatures averaged 4.5° below normal at Buffalo and 2.6° below normal at Amity Lake, but frost didn't reach Buffalo until 30 Oct. Precipitation at Buffalo was three inches above normal but below normal at Amity Lake. Water tables across the uplands of the plateau remained low and wells were failing. Sunshine was about 14% less than normal. November was cloudy but remarkably snow-free with mild temperatures, averaging about 3° above normal at Buffalo and Amity Lake. Although precipitation was rather light there were 22 days with at least a trace, mostly rain, at Buffalo and 17 days at Amity Lake. Lake Erie's surface temperature dropped from 50° at the end of October to 45° at the end of November, close to normal for that date. Buffalo received less than an inch of snow during the month, the least amount of snow in 42 years for November when normally it gets 12 inches.

The fruit crop in the Allegheny Hills was unusually good, perhaps because of the unusually sunny summer and sufficient moisture. Any beech not hit by beech blight produced a fair to good crop of nuts. These did not start dropping until mid to late November, when Wild Turkeys soon found them. Large flocks tore up the forest floor in their quest. Earlier bird parties made up of several species were seen feeding on the nuts still in burrs on the branches. These parties usually consisted of one or two Tufted Titmice, a Downy and a Hairy Woodpecker, two White-breasted Nuthatches, a Red-breasted Nuthatch and about ten Black-capped Chickadees. Associated with these but feeding elsewhere on the trees were a few Golden-crowned Kinglets and a Brown Creeper. In parties of their own, large flocks up to 30 Blue Jays also could be seen and heard in the same woods as they flew from one area with a plentiful beechnut supply to the next. When they got to a tree loaded with beechnuts they would stop for a while, get a good nut, then hold it between their legs and hammer out the edible portion. This also was the method used by the chickadee, but the woodpeckers and nuthatches needed to find a place to lodge the nuts in bark before they pounded out the nut. Turkeys and Ruffed Grouse bolted the nuts down whole. Turkeys got them only from the ground but grouse often foraged high in the trees. Twenty five droppings of Wild Turkey, strained in the sink, had only beechnut parts and the crops of three window-killed and two road-killed grouse all had eaten at least some beechnuts. Usually when the Evening Grosbeak is in the Region they

also feed on the nuts while still on the trees, neglecting feeders until beechnuts are scarce; grosbeaks were absent this season. Red Oak produced a fair crop of acorns, the first since the Allegany Hills were hit by Gypsy Moth in 1985. Turkey, White-tailed Deer and Blue Jays feed on these if beechnuts were not readily at hand. The Cucumber Tree *Magnolia acuminata* produced abundant fruit and several birds were observed eating the orange seeds located in cucumber-like fruits. Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker and White-breasted Nuthatch were seen to fly to fruit still on the branches, pick out a seed and then retire to a trunk to hammer out and then eat the the soft inner seed. Hawthorn, Dogwood *Cornus* sp., Viburnum, and Elderberry *Sambucus canadensis* all produced good fruit crops in the Allegany Hills. Hemlock produced another excellent crop of seed which chickadees, nuthatches, juncos and goldfinch ate. Hemlock seed fell from October, after the first heavy frost, through the period.

Dunkirk Harbor and the shores of Lakes Erie, Ontario and Chautauqua continue to attract many interesting waterbirds, shorebirds, gulls, and, fortunately, interested birders. Waterbird maxima, except for Red-throated Loon, were almost all lower than reported in 1987. The sandpipers also seemed to be less evident this fall, at least away from the Great Lakes and Chautauqua Lake. The severe summer drought may have helped hurry them along to the Atlantic Coast beaches. Joe Thill wrote that "...it's been a great fall for gulls of the Niagara River with thirteen species seen on a couple of trips in late November." As the human population increases, so do the gulls, which gladdens the hearts of some but not all observers.

Bob Sundell wrote about a Ruby-throated Hummingbird which has visited a feeder in Jamestown through November. It was given a sugar solution in the morning laced with protein cereal, a protein powder, a little evaporated milk and a little vitamin-mineral powder. In the late afternoon feeding, it was given the straight sugar-water solution. The bird, a female, is still free-flying at the end of the period. It roosts in a nearby twelve foot spruce hedge. Although I admire the attentiveness of the hummingbird and the person supplying the food, this action probably is not in the best interest of the bird.

Warbler migration was only mediocre compared to the 1950's and 1960's. Art Clark, monitoring the kill at TV towers south of Buffalo, found less than 500 birds, a normal number. The winter finches had not arrived by the end of the period and it will be interesting to see where these birds were after examining the National Audubon Society's Christmas Counts next summer.

Rare or unusual species seen on the Niagara Frontier this fall were **Glossy Ibis, Sandhill Crane, Red Phalarope and Parasitic Jaeger.**

Contributors: Allegany County Bird Club, Robert Andrie, Tim Baird, Bellerby, William Bogachi, Robert Brock, Elizabeth Brooks, Lois Buck, Buffalo Ornithological Society, William Burch, Lou and Doris Burton, Cattaraugus County Bird Club, Keith Confer, Bruce Chilton, Arthur Clark, William D'Anna, Steve Eaton, Don Endres, Michael Galas, Joseph Gilbert, Ted Grisez, Joe Gula Sr., Joe Gula Jr., Thomas Harper, Paul Hess, Jamestown Audubon Society, Walter and Harriet Klaubunde, Terry and Judy Mosher, Odie Olsen. Roger Tory Peterson Institute Bird Club, Raymond and Vivian Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Fran Rew, Gerald Rising, Donald Robertson, Olga Rosche, Stephen Socha, Audrey Spencer, David Suggs, Robert Sundell, Joe Thill, Don Tiller, William Watson, Regina and Jim VanScoy.

Abbreviations: ASP - Allegany State Park; BIPB - Bird Island Pier, Buffalo; BOS - Buffalo Ornithological Society; BNS - Burgeson Nature Sanctuary; CCNS - Canadaway Creek Nature Sanctuary; ChauL- Chautauqua Lake; DH - Dunkirk Harbor; INWR - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; LBSP - Lakeside Beach State Park; LESP - Lake Erie State Park; NiagF - Niagara Falls; BOSOC - Buffalo Ornithological Society October Count, 19 Oct; OOWMA - Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area; PTwn - Pomfret township, Chautauqua Co.; TFNP - Tiff Farm Nature Preserve; TWMA - Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr LESP 4 Nov; max 11 ChauL 26-28 Oct. Com. Loon: arr Porter Twn NIAG 24 Sep; 13 ASP 23 Oct; max 20 ChauL 26-28 Oct. Pied-billed Grebe: max 51 BOSOC CHAU 16 Oct. Horned Grebe: arr ChauL 28 Sep and DH 5 Oct. Red-necked Grebe: one L Erie, Evans Twn Erie, only report. Double-crested Cormorant: max 13 Allegheny Res 9 Oct. Am. Bittern: one TWMA 17 Sep, only report. Great Egret: max six INWR 18 Sep, last 23 Oct. Green-backed Heron: one DH 26 Nov, late. Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr Red House CATT 4 Sep, two TFNP 29 Oct. **Glossy Ibis**: one DH 2 Oct (JG, Sr, JG, Jr!). Tundra Swan: arr three NiagF 29 Oct. **Greater White-fronted Goose**: one INWR after 31 Oct. Snow Goose: arr six INWR 1 Oct (00); singles BNS 18 Oct, PTwn 30 Oct, INWR 19 Nov. Brant: arr 30 mouth Canadaway Creek 28 Oct (JG); one INWR 5 Nov; six DH 6 Nov. Wood Duck: one DH 27 Nov, late. Green-winged Teal: max 100 INWR 30 Nov. Am. Black Duck: max 740 INWR 30 Nov. Mallard: max 5400 INWR 30 Nov. N. Pintail: max 20 INWR 30 Nov. N. Shoveler: arr two Dunkirk 7 Sep. Gadwall: arr BIPB 23 Sep; max 20 INWR 30 Nov. Canvasback: max 2000 NiagF 27 Nov. Redhead: max 60 Gayville 7 Nov. Ring-necked Duck: arr DH 11 Sep; max 50 INWR 30 Nov. Greater Scaup: arr BIPB 11 Oct; max 6500 Lewiston Res 12-31 Oct. Lesser Scaup: arr LaSalle P, Buffalo, 18 Sep; max 7800 Lewiston Res 1-31 Oct. King Eider: one NiagF 11-27 Nov. Oldsquaw: arr BIPB 11 Oct. Black Scoter: arr five BIPB 11 Oct; max 30 on 31 Oct. White-winged Scoter: max 400 L Ontario, Wilson to Youngstown NIAG. Hooded Merganser: max 123 INWR 6 Nov. Com. Merganser: max 11 Amity Twn Alle 17 Nov, now seen throughout the year in the upper Genesee and Allegheny River valleys. Ruddy Duck: max seven Lewiston Res 21 Oct.

HAWK-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: one Lockport 11 Nov, late. Bald Eagle: two ad, two imm INWR 5 Sep, one OOWMA 15 Sep, imm mouth Niagara R 22 Sep (white tag right wing), imm Porter Twn NIAG 17 Oct, ad Lewiston 30 Oct; two ad INWR through period (DT), imm 12 Oct, two imm 24 Oct. N. Harrier: five reports 2-24 Sep, six reports in Oct (BOS); one Sheldon Twn Wyom 13 Nov; one INWR 19 Nov, on increase? Sharp-shinned Hawk: five reports Sep, one Oct, five Nov (BOS). Cooper's Hawk: two reports Sep, four reports Oct, three reports Nov (BOS). N. Goshawk: imm NiagF 22 Nov. Broad-winged Hawk: last was only report. Rough-legged Hawk: arr Charlotte Twn, CHAU 21 Oct; max five 30 Oct. Merlin: one Westfield 24 Sep, one Eden Twn Erie 11 Oct. Ruffed Grouse: good productivity in CHAU (JT), poor productivity Allegany Hills (SE). Wild Turkey: excellent productivity southern tier counties; two broods near headquarters INWR 12 Sep. Am. Coot: max 350 Gayville 7 Nov. **Sandhill Crane**: one Carrollton near Limestone CATT 13-22 Sep (RV, mob,!); two near Millport Niag 30 Oct (SS). Black-bellied Plover: none! Lesser Golden-Plover: arr 13 Eden 5 Sep; max 95 Batavia and Oakfield 5 Sep. Greater Yellowlegs: max 123 OOWMA 4 Sep. Lesser Yellowlegs: departure is late. Willet: one Goat I 7-30 Sep, last 2 Oct. Purple Sandpiper: arr NiagF 1 Nov, max seven on 26 Nov. Wilson's Phalarope: three INWR 5 Sep, late. Red-necked Phalarope: one BIPB 25 Sep, irregular. Red Phalarope: one DH 17 Oct. **Parasitic Jaeger**: *intro*. Laughing Gull: one TFNP 8 Nov (WB!). Franklin's Gull: arr Peace Bridge area 20 Sep; one DH 6-7 Nov. Little Gull: arr NiagF 15 Sep; 13 reports Oct, max 12 Niagara R 12 Nov and 13 other reports from along Niagara R and DH (BOS). Bonaparte's Gull: max 11850 mouth Niagara R 25 Oct. Iceland Gull: arr Adam Beck Hydro, Niagara R, 20 Nov. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: arr NiagF 23 Nov. Glaucous Gull: arr Fort Niagara SP 20 Nov. Black-legged Kit-

tiwake: arr Fort Erie 6 Nov. Sabine's Gull: one LaSalle P, Buffalo, 20 Sep; two Niagara River, 5 Nov. Forster's Tern: two reports DH in Sep; 5 reports Niagara R in Oct.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Goat I 10 Sep, last of the two cuckoos (BOS). Long-eared Owl: one Porter Twn NIAG 20 Nov, only report. Com. Night-hawk: max 300 DH 2 Sep; last BIPB 21 Sep. Chimney Swift: max 480 Buffalo 20 Sep. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: *intro*. Red-bellied Woodpecker: six reports on lake plain through period (BOS). Red-headed Woodpecker: singles TFNP 10 Sep, Pt Gratiot 24 Sep, only reports. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Lewiston 19, 23 Oct., wintering? Com. Flicker: nine BOSOC ALLE 16 Oct, two BOSOC CATT 16 Oct, seven BOSOC CHAU 16 Oct, probably some wintering on good crops of grapes (*Vitis riparia*) and other fruits.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: *Myiarchus* sp.: one INWR 11 Oct (DE). N. Rough-winged Swallow: six NiagF 6 Nov, one 12 Nov, late. Bank Swallow: one BIPB 18 Sep, late. Com. Raven: continues to appear in CATT and ALLE at regular intervals. Tufted Titmouse: singles Willing Twn, ALLE 5 Sep, Amity L 27 Sep, NiagF 30 Sep; five reports Oct, three reports Nov (BOS); continues increase from 1976-77 low. Carolina Wren: six reports Sep, four reports Oct (BOS). Marsh Wren: five Machias 24 Sep, first CATT record since 1968; one TFNP 1 Oct. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr Amity L 23 Sep. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr three Pt Gratiot 15 Sep. Gray-cheeked Thrush: two arr Tonawanda Twn 11 Sep. N. Mockingbird: one Lewiston Res 19 Sep; one Alfred 3-30 Nov; five other reports lake plain (BOS). Water Pipit: max 83 Charlotte Twn CHAU 21 Oct; one Wilson Twn NIAG 25 Nov, late. N. Shrike: singles LBSP 30 Oct, Grand I 30 Oct, INWR 19 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLERS, Orange-crowned Warbler: arr TFNP 25 Sep; one Alfred Twn ALLE 12 Oct. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr four Goat I 8 Sep. Pine Warbler: arr INWR 4 Sep; one TFNP 25 Sep. Prairie Warbler: one Amity L PDBA 15 Sep, late. Palm Warbler: arr two LBSP 11 Sep. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Williamsville Glen 1 Sep. Blackpoll Warbler: arr Goat I 10 Sep. Kentucky Warbler: one Ft Niagara SP 5 Sep (!). Connecticut Warbler: one banded Alfred Twn ALLE 19 Sep (EB, ph); one PTwn 9 Oct. Mourning Warbler: one PTwn 23 Sep, late. Hooded Warbler: one PTwn 23 Sep. Yellow-breasted Chat: one Tonawanda Twn 3 Sep, late.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: two CNS 24 Sep, late. Rufous-sided Towhee: one at feeder PTwn 22 Nov. Vesper Sparrow: one Amity L 12 Sep. Fox Sparrow: arr PTwn 30 Sep. White-throated Sparrow: arr four Goat I 15 Sep. White-crowned Sparrow: arr TFNP 30 Sep. Lapland Longspur: one Wilson 25 Nov. Snow Bunting: arr 23 Lewiston Res 21 Oct; max 300 Buffalo 12 Nov. Rusty Blackbird: arr five TFNP 18 Sep. N. Oriole: one NiagF 13 Sep, late. Pine Siskin: three Porter Twn NIAG 20 Nov, only report

*Ten Mile Road, Allegany, N.Y. 14706*

## REGION 2 - GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

The early season began on the cold side but ended on somewhat of a warming trend. September was cooler than usual with an average temperature of 60.1°, slightly more than 2° below normal. The temperature varied from the high of 81° at mid month to lows in the 30's. Precipitation was about an inch below normal at 1.69 inches. October was abnormally cold. Its average of 48.5° was nearly 6° below normal. A high of 82° on 1 Oct was one of the few warm days during the month. Mid month saw a reading of 76°, but the rest of the month



was cold, wet and dreary. The low of 21° was recorded on the last day of the month. The precipitation total of 2.54" was an insignificant 0.2 inches below the average. November was less variable, and a mild 42.6° average temperature brought some relief from what appeared to be a cold fall. This was 2° above normal. The total precipitation of 1.68 inches was 0.97 inches above normal. Snowfall, an insignificant 0.2 inches, was well below the average for the season.

Overall the weather had little effect on bird life in the Region. While it was generally gray and cold, there were no major fronts or storms to bring good numbers of migrants. The unusually cold October was quite possibly responsible for some hastened departures. The migration generally was poor for unknown reasons. Of course the summer's drought is possibly at least a partial cause.

The population trends of various groups describes the migration and consequently the season itself. Loon numbers seemed down during the period. Common Loons became more numerous later in the season but were still scarce. Red-throated Loons were seen less frequently than in recent years; a record arrival date for Monroe County is still waiting substantiation. This negative trend also appeared to be true for the grebes. Horned Grebe appeared in fewer numbers this season. One species that continues to do well is Double-crested Cormorant. Lakeshore totals were especially good at Braddock Bay. Herons and egrets tend to be less noticeable species in the fall, yet some positives were evident. The Black-crowned Night-Heron reports demonstrated a mild increase. This was also the case for Green-backed Heron, which also seemed to persist a bit later than usual. The waterfowl picture was, as is usual, somewhat varied. Wood Duck and Green-winged Teal were reported in relatively strong numbers, and Am. Black Duck totals, while certainly not approaching historical levels, were at least mildly encouraging. Wintering populations of diving ducks suggested, at least early in the season, that it wasn't a great breeding season. Numbers were down, and the usual large flocks of scaup and mergansers were not as prominent. Things did seem to improve late in the season. Brant reports along the lakeshore were mediocre. Waterfowl variety was enhanced by reports of King Eider and Harlequin Duck.

The hawks provided some highlights. The resident species, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk and American Kestrel, were found in good numbers. Their nesting seasons must have been fairly good. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were well reported, and a couple of Goshawk reports were submitted. Buteos were represented by Red-shouldered Hawk in September and a fair influx of wintering Rough-legged Hawks in October.

Irondequoit Bay once again proved to be the best location in the Region for shorebirds, but there was little good habitat elsewhere. The consensus was that numbers of most regular migrants were up slightly. Plover numbers were only fair. The dryness of the fields may have been a contributing factor. Another negative was dowitchers, whose numbers were noticeably down. On the plus side were Hudsonian Godwits. Reports came from all three months, and a bird stayed at Braddock Bay up to the record late date of Nov 30. Other shorebird highlights included Willet and Marbled Godwit.

The once expected jaeger flights never materialized at Hamlin Beach. Unfavorable winds may have contributed to the poor totals. One observer feels that the pattern may be changing and that this decline may be a continuing trend. Gulls were lackluster as a group. Great Black-backed Gull continued its increase while

Little Gull again fell off from excellent totals of just a few years ago. The gull highlights consisted of a Laughing Gull at Russell Station, a Glaucous Gull at Braddock Bay, and a kittiwake at Greece. Terns were scarce, with few reports of any significant numbers.

The only widely reported owl was Short-eared, which moved into their traditional haunts by mid November and built some numbers by the end of the season. Retsoff was once again a good location, and these owls also were spotted along the lakeshore, though in reduced numbers from the last couple of years. A single Snowy Owl sighting in November was the only one for that species. One very interesting phenomenon was a single day Common Nighthawk flight in Greece on 1 Sep, when Frank Dobson counted 346 individuals during a 45 minute stretch. This is much better than recent years' fall totals. A repeat performance was hoped for on the following evening, but only a single bird was tallied. An intergrade Red-shafted X Yellow-shafted Flicker was banded at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station by Betsy Brooks for the second year in a row.

Flycatcher numbers were about on par with the usual totals. Least Flycatchers were probably the most numerous flycatcher migrant. Olive-sided Flycatcher was poorly reported. Swallows were recorded in about average numbers. Cliff Swallows seemed to be doing fairly well. Tree and Bank Swallows were found in their usual staging concentrations later in the season. The corvid highlight was a Common Raven that spent 12 days in South Bristol. Wrens were noteworthy only in the fact that their totals generally were nondescript. Sedge Wren continued to go unreported while Winter Wren seemed to be on the upside, even without the large concentrations at Beatty Point as last year. Kinglets apparently did well this summer, for they were well reported along the lakeshore. Of special interest were some late Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Point Breeze. They were last seen on 1 Dec. The general feeling on thrushes was that they were scarcer than usual. Swainsons and Gray-cheeked were less numerous at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station. Waxwings were poorly reported during the season. The first Northern Shrike was sighted on 23 Nov.

Vireos were poorly reported. Solitary and Philadelphia Vireos were scarce. It was much the same for warblers. On the negative side we had Golden-winged, Nashville, Black-throated Green and Cerulean Warblers, Northern Waterthrush, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Even the usually common Yellow-rumped Warbler seemed to be down. There were a few positives. Magnolia Warblers were quite numerous, and Ovenbirds seemed to be slightly more numerous than in recent falls. Common Yellowthroat was also well reported. Unusual species included Orange-crowned and Prairie Warblers.

Hogan Point once again was a spot for finding good concentrations of sparrows. There were good numbers of Savannah, Song and Swamp Sparrows. White-crowned Sparrow also seemed to be present in fairly good numbers. A feeling prevalent throughout the Region was that White-throated Sparrows were below recent years' totals. The finch story was rather gloomy. Recent years have seen good flights of siskins and Evening Grosbeaks. Neither of these were present in any numbers. Purple Finches were also quite scarce. The only notable finch reports came from Hamlin Beach where a Red Crossbill and two White-winged Crossbills were seen in November.

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; BPt - Beatty Point; DEP - Durand-Eastman Park; HB - Hamlin Beach; HP - Hogan Point; IB - Irondequoit Bay; MB - Manitou Beach; WL - West Lakeshore.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one Greece 28 Sep (KG), record early, awaiting additional documentation. Horned Grebe: max 81 HB 19 OCT. Red-necked Grebe: one HB 12 Oct, uncommon in fall. Great Egret: one Greece 12 Nov, late. Green-backed Heron: one Salmon Creek 29 Oct (MD, JS), very late. Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 17 IB 15 Sep. Brant: arr 40 HB 28 Oct, last Pt Breeze 12 Nov. Green-winged Teal: max 40 WL 6 Nov. Ring-necked Duck: arr 18 Webster 14 Oct. Greater Scaup: arr 15 Greece 26 Sep. Lesser Scaup: max 1000+ Greece 5 Nov. King Eider: female IB 20-30 Nov (CC, MR, mob), seemingly regular in recent years. Harlequin Duck: female Charlotte 11 Nov (KG); female BB 24 Nov (KG, ROs). Oldsquaw: arr 100 Greece 28 Sep. Black Scoter: arr one Greece 13 Oct. Surf Scoter: arr one HB 12 Oct. White-winged Scoter: arr three HB 16 Sep. Com. Goldeneye: arr 36 HB 23 Oct. Bufflehead: arr three BB 21 Oct. Com. Merganser: arr one BB 17 Sep. Ruddy Duck: max seven Greece 19 Oct.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: N. Goshawk: imm MB 10 Sep; one HB 17 Sep. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Clyde 11 Sep. Rough-legged Hawk: arr one WL 15 Oct. Merlin: one Springwater 1-30 Sep, one Cobb's Hill 15 Sep, one IB 1 Nov. Peregrine Falcon: ad HP 10 Oct (JC,MD,PR). Lesser Golden-Plover: arr five Hamlin 12 Oct, last one IB 12 Nov. Killdeer: max 180 IB 27 Oct. Willet: one Charlotte 3 Sep (KG, ROs), uncommon in fall. Whimbrel: one BB 11 Sep (FD), uncommon. Hudsonian Godwit: one-four IB 5 Sep-31 Oct (MR, JS, mobs), one IB 1-12 Nov (mob); one BB 12-30 Nov, record late. Marbled Godwit: one IB very uncommon, first since 1986. Purple Sandpiper: max three BB 11 Nov (CC,RH, mob), one IB 20 Nov (MR). Stilt Sandpiper: max 46 IB 4 Sep. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one-two Greece 3-5 Sep (KG,ROs), only reports. Com. Snipe: max 61 Salmon Creek 21 Oct. Am. Woodcock: last Mendon Ponds 6 Nov. Red Phalarope: two HB 18 Nov (CC, RO'H), one IB 29 Nov (CC). Pomarine Jaeger: one HB 12 Oct, one HB 19 Oct, poor total for the season. Parasitic Jaeger: max two HB 22 Oct, another very poor total. Little Gull: arr one HB 9 Nov. **Laughing Gull**: one Russell Station 11 Sep (FD). Black-legged Kittiwake: imm Greece 13 Oct (KG), only report.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Short-eared Owl: max 15 Retsoff 26 Nov. Com. Nighthawk; *intro*; last Webster 1 Oct. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr DEP 19 Sep.

FLYCATHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Webster 3 Sep, only report, scarce. Willow Flycatcher: last DEP 3 Sep. Eastern Phoebe: max 10 BPt 15 Oct. **W. Kingbird**: one Avon 5 Sep (J&AF), seventh Regional record, first since 1986. **Com. Raven**: one S Bristol 1-12 Oct (JC). Winter Wren: last HB 3 Nov. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last Webster 6 Nov, late. Water Pipit: last 30 Hamlin 20 Oct. N. Shrike: arr one Greece 23 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Orange-crowned Warbler: one Greece 12 Oct, only report, scarce. Pine Warbler: one Cobb's Hill 13 Sep, only report. **Prairie Warbler**: imm MB 10 Sep (KG, ROs), second fall record MONR. Palm Warbler: last Greece 1 Oct.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: arr two MB 20 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: one Greece 1 Oct, not doing very well. **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**: one Greece 9 Oct (SC, CC),

becoming regular. Fox Sparrow: arr one MB 18 Oct. Oregon Dark-eyed Junco: male Irondequoit 12 Nov (B&BP). Lapland Longspur: arr six HB 19 Oct. Rusty Blackbird: arr one IB 17 Sep. Red Crossbill: one HB 15 Nov, only report. White-winged Crossbill: two HB 26 Nov (RO'H), only report. Pine Siskin: arr Webster 24 Oct, poor year.

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612

## REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

C.K. MELIN

September was cool and dry in the Finger Lakes. The month's cool weather was advantageous to New York's apple crop as it improved coloring of the fruit. It was, however, no help to the vegetable farmers since it slowed the ripening of some of their crops. Soil moisture was "adequate" throughout the month and many farmers took advantage of the dry weather by making rapid progress in the harvesting of fruits, vegetables, and some field crops. It was one of the driest Septembers in twenty years.

Birders reported waves of neotropical migrants during periods of high barometric pressure, in advance of cold fronts. Region 3 bird banders reported surges of migrants on 1 Sep, and fifteen species of warblers, as well as flocks of vireos, tanagers, and wood warblers were reported in the 'hundreds' from Finger Lakes National Forest on 3 and 9 Sep by J. Brubaker. Present in the migration waves on 3 and 9 Sep were Blue-winged, Tennessee, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Black-and-white and Hooded Warbler, Am. Redstart, Ovenbird, and Common Yellowthroat.

The Regional Climate Center at Cornell University reported that smoke from the fires at Yellowstone National Park caused statewide temperatures to be 2 to 6°F. below normal during the early part of September. The first freezing temperatures of the season occurred on schedule around 28 Sep, when as many as 8 warbler species were still present at Finger Lakes National Forest. As the leaves dropped from deciduous trees & shrubs, an exceptionally abundant fruit crop of Common Buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica* came into view, promising plenty of food for wintering birds and wildlife.

Cooler than normal temperatures continued into October, making it the coldest October in ten years and the sixth coldest on record, on a statewide basis. Region 3 received more than the usual precipitation during the month. A low-pressure system over North Carolina developed into a 'northeaster' on 22 Oct, resulting in winter storm warnings, up to nine inches of heavy snow, and tree damage and downed power lines from the heavy wet snowfall. Thousands of people were without electricity following the snowstorm. Ithaca and the surrounding area received a surprising 6.5 inches for the month, all in that one storm, the most ever in the month of October. A flock of 150 Water Pipit, presumably downed by the storm, spent 22 Oct around Clute Pond at Watkins Glen.

Bird banders reported migrant surges in October following the passage of cold fronts into the Region on 8 and 19 Oct. October was also the peak month for migrant waterfowl at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, with maxima of 500

Gadwall, 2700 Green-winged Teal, 2000 Wood Duck, and 50 Redhead reported. By 1 Nov, other migrant waterfowl peaked there, including 4800 Ring-necked Duck, 5300 Canvasback, and 20 Ruddy Duck. Other waterfowl arrived in the Region during this period, including Tundra Swan, Snow Goose, Brant, and Oldsquaw. The list of waterfowl at Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology weekly seminar swelled to 28 species.

Temperatures and precipitation for November were close to average. There were three distinct periods of cold and stormy weather and associated high winds, 2 Nov, 5-9 Nov, and 10 Nov. The last week of November was unusually mild, with temperatures in the 40's and 50's. Maximum waterfowl numbers reported by T. Gingrich at Montezuma NWR during November were 43500 Canada Goose, 58000 Mallard, 8900 Black Duck, 170 Pintail, 2600 Shoveler, 600 Hooded Merganser, and 1300 Common Merganser.

Water levels were drawn down at May's Point Pool in Montezuma NWR this season. Numerous waders used the mud flats there for feeding and resting during the fall migration season. September was the peak month for waders, and some species including Greater Yellowlegs, Sanderling, and Pectoral Sandpiper were present well into November. Fifteen shorebird species were observed at May's Point Pool during the fall season. Peak numbers during September were 53 Semipalmated Plover, 69 Killdeer, 8 Greater Yellowlegs, 261 Lesser Yellowlegs, 57 Spotted Sandpiper, 22 Sanderling, 237 Semipalmated Sandpiper, and 86 Least Sandpiper. Also present during September were 3 Caspian Tern, 371 Double-crested Cormorant, 204 Great Blue Heron, 6 Great Egret, 16 Green-backed Heron, and 50 Black-crowned Night Heron. Local bird clubs also reported singles of Stilt Sandpiper on 10 Sep and of both Wilson's and Red-necked Phalarope on 25 Sep. Pectoral Sandpiper and Short-billed Dowitcher peaked during October with maxima of 558 and 46, respectively. Other additions to the shorebird list were Virginia Rail on 12 Sep, Lesser Golden-Plover on 16 Sep, and Hudsonian Godwit on 11 Sep and 2 Oct. Ring-billed, Herring, and Great Black-backed Gull were reported from Montezuma NWR. Also present during the fall season at Montezuma NWR were Pied-billed Grebe, one Osprey, three Bald Eagles, and Northern Harrier and Red-tailed Hawk. Local bird clubs reported one Peregrine Falcon on 6 Sep, and one Merlin on 29 Oct.

Two other locations in the Region, Corning Pond and Queen Catherine Marsh, were comparable in species diversity to Montezuma NWR when waterfowl and shorebirds were compared, although there were fewer individuals at these two locations as expected. Corning Pond also produced one Sora and two Common Moorhen, which are difficult to find in the Region. Queen Catherine Marsh produced two large woodland species, Great Horned Owl and Pileated Woodpecker. Other species generally associated with woodlands, Ruffed Grouse and Wild Turkey, were widely reported in the southern part of the Region. There was even a report of one Common Raven near Cayuta on 4 Oct.

John and Sue Gregoire of Burdett, NY, operated their bird banding station for 54 days during the Fall Season. A total of 54 species were banded. The most common species banded, with their total numbers, were: 236 Song Sparrow, 144 American Goldfinch, 70 House Finch, 55 Black-capped Chickadee, 39 American Robin, 38 White-crowned Sparrow, 32 Gray Catbird, 29 Yellow-rumped Warbler, 27 White-throated Sparrow, 16 Common Yellowthroat, and 16 Field Sparrow. As expected, 86% of the total were hatch-year birds. There was no Fox Sparrow at

the banding station this fall. John and Sue believe that the dry season and the prolonged summer drought resulted in many nesting failures, as their season total of 897 individuals was a decrease from a year ago when the total was 1411. The Gregoire's also documented the arrival dates of some winter residents. Rough-legged Hawk and American Tree Sparrow arrived on 4 Nov, and Northern Goshawk on 23 Nov. These species have been observed regularly throughout the Region since their arrival dates. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were present from 7-23 Oct, and Hermit Thrushes were present from 4-16 Oct. There were no winter finches in the Region during the Season and no indication of an "invasion" year of irruptive species.

Jeff and Allison Wells observed a juvenile **Laughing Gull** on the breakwater off Ithaca's Stewart Park 18 September. The bird was roosting with Ring-billed Gulls and was observed resting on the breakwater and flying about several times. Jeff later observed one **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** at nearby Allan Treman Marine Park 2 October. Jeff was able to flush the sparrow several times from a cut-over grassy field and was able to get a close-range view of it. Jeff took excellent field notes of his observations and the reports have been forwarded to NYSARC.

Highlights for the Season were Greater White-fronted Goose, Common Raven, Clay-colored Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Laughing Gull.

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Abbreviations: CL - Cayuga Lake; CP - Corning Pond; FLNF - Finger Lakes National Forest; MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; QCM - Queen Catherine Marsh; SL - Seneca Lake; StP - Stewart Park, Ithaca; SWS - Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary, Ithaca; YBSF - Yellow Barn State Forest; WGSP - Watkins Glen State Park; WG - Watkins Glen.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: *intro*; seven Myer's Point CL 7 Nov, 27 CL 12 Nov, 2 SL 12 Oct. Horned Grebe: present CL area Nov; few reports elsewhere. Red-necked Grebe: only report one StP 20 Nov. Double-crested Cormorant: *intro*. Am. Bittern: single report one Waneta L 4 Oct. Great Blue Heron: present all season MNWR, Chemung R, QCM. Great Egret: four MNWR Sep, only reports. Black-crowned Night Heron: present Sep Chemung R, MNWR. Tundra Swan: present CL area after 31 Oct. Snow Goose: one Big Flats 21 Sep, CL after 31 Oct; 100 SL late Nov. **Greater White-fronted Goose**: one Ithaca 15 Nov with 130+ Canada Geese (McIlroy *et. al.*); one Ithaca 17 Nov resting with Canada Geese on a local golf course (DE). Brant: 20 WG 29 Oct; StP 3 Nov. Canada Goose: many throughout after 28 Sep. Wood Duck: *intro*; 36 CP 4 Sep, ten CP 18 Oct. Green-winged Teal: *intro*; present all Season throughout and common in CL area but scarce elsewhere. Am. Black Duck: *intro*; 30 Tabehanna L 29 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: present throughout until 17 Oct. Bald Eagle: *intro*; three MNWR, none elsewhere. N. Harrier: widespread but scarce. N. Goshawk: *intro*. Red-shouldered Hawk: none. Broad-winged Hawk: reported in the Ithaca area Sep but not elsewhere. Rough-legged Hawk: *intro*. Golden Eagle: none. Merlin: *intro*; one Elmira 4 Sep, one Pine City 19 Sep, one 25 Oct near Great Gully (G. Smith). Peregrine Falcon: *intro*. Ruffed Grouse: *intro*; present all season near YBSF heard & seen 'drumming' on sunny days. Wild Turkey: *intro*; eight WGSP South Entrance through Sep-Oct. Virginia Rail: *intro*. Lesser Golden-Plover: *intro*. Hudsonian Godwit: *intro*. Stilt Sandpiper: *intro*. Wilson's Phalarope: *intro*. Red-necked Phalarope: *intro*. **Laughing Gull**: *intro*. Bonaparte's Gull: 2 WG 18 Oct. Caspian Tern: *intro*. Common Tern: 2 MNWR 6 Sep. Black Tern: present MNWR 7 Sep-3 Oct, only locality.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Snowy Owl: none. Barred Owl: reported regularly in the Ithaca area but none elsewhere; present all season and territorial YBSF (Melin). Com. Nighthawk: max 50 Elmira 2 Sep. Chimney Swift: max 50 Elmira 4 Sep. Red-headed Woodpecker: none.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Horned Lark: present all season in agricultural areas. Fish Crow: regularly reported SP Oct-Nov. Com. Raven: *intro*. Red-breasted Nuthatch: no irruption evident. Carolina Wren: present all season QCM & Elmira but none elsewhere. Winter Wren: one FLNF 28 Sep; regular all season Ithaca area. Sedge Wren: one Ithaca (Blue Grass Lane) 22 Sep (*fide* McIlroy). Marsh Wren: one Dryden Lake 26 Sep; five singing Waneta Lake 4 Oct. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last 2 Sep. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: *intro*. Golden-crowned Kinglet: *intro*. E. Bluebird: widespread all season. Hermit Thrush: *intro*. N. Mockingbird: present all season Ithaca area, including one albino at Brooktondale; none elsewhere. Water Pipit: *intro*. Cedar Waxwing: widespread all season. N. Shrike: one SWS 25 Oct. Loggerhead Shrike: none.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Orange-crowned Warbler: one SWS 28 Sep. Pine Warbler: 5 Harris Hill 24 Sep. Palm Warbler: one QCM 17 & 20 Sep. **Prothonotary Warbler**: one Six Mile Creek 19 Sep. *Oporornis* warblers: none. Hooded Warbler: male SWS 12 Sep, present since August (DS).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Clay-colored Sparrow**: one Cornell Ag. Quad. 21 Sep (R. Titus, *fide* McIlroy). Am. Tree sparrow: *intro*. Vesper Sparrow: one near Cayuta Lake 4 Oct. Grasshopper Sparrow: none. Henslow's Sparrow: one Bluegrass Lane 22 Sep. **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**: *intro*. Lincoln's Sparrow: one Bluegrass Lane 22 Sep. White-crowned Sparrow: widespread during Oct. Snow Bunting: arrived in the Ithaca area around 7 Nov; not reported elsewhere. Rusty Blackbird: 14 CP 4 Oct, nine WG area 31 Oct. N. Oriole: none reported.

449 Irish Settlement Road, Freeville, NY 13068

## REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

JAY G. LEHMAN

In contrast to the hot summer, September at Binghamton was cool. There were twenty one days with below average mean temperatures. A record low temperature of 39°F was recorded on 6 Sep, and 34°F on 29 Sep tied the previous low for that date. The only major respite from cool fall weather was created by the remnants of Hurricane Gilbert from 18 to 20 Sep, when temperatures averaged 7-9° above normal. The summer drought continued. September ended with only 2.05 inches of rain, well below the average of 3.32. October started with a short-lived three-day warming trend from 30 Sep to 2 Oct, which was followed by twelve cold days with mean temperatures ranging from 1-16° below normal. A welcome but short Indian Summer from 15 to 18 Oct was followed by continuous, unbroken days of below average temperatures to the end of the month - and snow! On 22 Oct 4.5 inches of snow was recorded at Link Field weather station breaking the previous October record of 2.6 inches. It was worse in Chenango County were up to 8 inches were reported in the Norwich-Sherburne area. At month's end Halloween tricked us with a record low of 19°F, beating the previous low of 22°F in 1965. In October there were 4.9 inches of snow and 2.58 inches of precipitation which is slightly below the norm of 3.00 inches. While October

tricked us with weather like November, there was nothing tricky or earth-shattering about November, unless one includes the earthquake of 26 Nov which shook the Region. A short three-day warming trend from 4 to 6 Nov and a five day Indian Summer from 13 to 17 Nov were interspersed between fourteen days with below average mean temperatures. The month ended warmer with a week of above average mean temperatures. Precipitation was 2.93 inches, about normal for the month.

The most astounding news of the fall was a belated report of breeding Common Loons on Chenango Lake this summer. Marty Conklin reported to Chad Covey that "two loons were seen from early May throughout the summer. They had two fluffy dark young with the adults. The loons called throughout the mating season, and one bird disappeared in mid August. "Fowl" play (Chad's pun) is suspected. On its northern, more isolated end Chenango Lake has an island that may be suitable for loon nesting. The western end of the island is very low to the water with some vegetation for cover. Unfortunately, we will have to wait for another year to confirm breeding. Despite the efforts of the Chenango Bird Club to get people on the lake to report unusual sightings, it seems that they never do until its too late. Consequently, our lament is always "we should have been there last week, month, or year."

Fall is the best time to see waterfowl in this Region, and this fall was no exception, probably due to the early cold weather in October and lots of field work. Double-crested Cormorant, Snow Goose, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, and White-winged Scoter were seen for the fifth time since 1978. One **Brant**, the first reported in eleven years, was seen at Oneonta Reservoir by Mary Dobinsky on 21 and 25 October. Ring-necked Duck, Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, and Ruddy Duck were reported for the seventh fall in eleven. Blue-winged Teal and Oldsquaw were seen for the fourth and sixth time, respectively, since 1978. Large numbers of Bufflehead and Hooded Merganser were seen in October.

There were no fall sightings of northward wandering long-legged waders, but there were a few bright spots. A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was seen at Vestal by Finch Hollow Nature center Staff on 2 Sep for only the second fall record since 1978. An American Bittern was sighted for only the second time in eleven years. Other waterbirds were scarce, due to low water levels as well as the draining of a beaver dam at North Norwich, where many species were found last year. Of the rails, just a few Common Moorhens and American Coots were reported this fall. Shorebirds made an excellent showing due to low water in reservoirs and beaver dams. Eleven species sighted ties the record high for the past eleven years, which was set in 1983 and 1987. Lesser Golden-Plover, and Semipalmated and Pectoral Sandpiper are reported for the third, fifth, and third time, respectively, since 1978. A well-described **Western Sandpiper** was reported at Whitney Point Reservoir on 7 Oct by Harriet Marsi and Bruce Bozdos, providing the first Regional record in eleven years. Common Snipe was seen in highest numbers since 1978.

Raptor reports were encouraging for this Region, which has no regularly maintained hawk watches. All the expected species were reported except Red-shouldered Hawk, which has been seen only once in eight years and four times in the last eleven. Turkey Vulture continued to increase both in the number of reports received and in the highest counts per day. Reports of Bald Eagles were



the second highest in eleven years. Goshawk was reported for the second consecutive year after two consecutive misses. Hurrah! Two sightings of Golden Eagle in one fall was the highest and only the third fall report in eleven years. None of the rarer falcons were reported. Regional reporters made up for low numbers by reporting unusual behavioral observations. Near Oneonta on 14 Sep Mary Dobinsky "noted an immature Red-tailed hawk perched and calling. Soon an adult appeared. The young hawk left its perch and the two flew a couple of circles together. Suddenly, the adult dropped a snake. Without missing a wing beat, the immature caught the snake in midair and returned to its perch." At North Norwich on 24 Sep, Jay Lehman saw an immature Northern Harrier chase to no avail a Ruffed Grouse flushed from the marsh edge. Bill Toner reported that a Northern Harrier captured a blackbird from a flock of about 1,000 at dusk at McGraw on 7 Sep. At North Norwich Jay Lehman saw a Sharp-shinned Hawk attack a Cooper's Hawk at tree-top level on 29 Oct.

There were mixed reports of birds dependent on flying insects. Chimney Swifts were reported in considerably lower numbers than last year, probably due to the dry summer and cool weather in September causing fewer insect hatches, whereas Bank and Cliff Swallows and Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were seen for the fourth, third, fifth and seventh time in eleven falls. This may be attributed to field observers learning to visit lowland marshes in September where insects are more abundant. Marsh Wren reports also remained high due to lowland marshbirding. Southern species continue to do well. Northern Mockingbird, Carolina Wren, and Tufted Titmouse are reported from their usual Southern Tier locations as well as in northern sites in Chenango County. Hooded Warbler and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher were reported for only the second and third fall, respectively, since 1978. Only Red-bellied Woodpecker reports were fewer than last year.

Blue Jays were the only "resident" bird showing significant fall movements. Bill Toner saw about 25 apparently migrating at McGraw on 9 Sep. No Pine Siskins were seen for only the second fall in eleven years, and there was no invasion of finches. Evening Grosbeaks arrived rather late and in very small numbers.

Perhaps the cool September also decreased the number of passerines. Banding reports were very discouraging. At Newark Valley Judy Bell reported the poorest fall banding in the six year history of the station as indicated by the lowest total number of birds caught despite an increase in the number of nets used. Only Gray Catbirds were banded in above average numbers, while the lowest totals were recorded for Common Yellowthroat, and Song, Swamp, and Lincoln's Sparrow. At Vestal Harriet Marsi and Gail Kirch reported that warbler counts were low, especially for Tennessee, Nashville, and Blackpoll Warblers. Canada Warbler was last seen at Vestal Center on 3 Sep, earliest departure date since 1961. In contrast, the only Yellow Warbler was reported at Newark Valley on 3 Oct, and Cape May Warblers were seen at Windsor on 29 Oct, the latest departure dates for both species since 1961. Pine Warbler was seen for the third consecutive year and the sixth fall in eleven. Very high numbers of Palm Warblers appeared with reports at five sites in September and at two sites in October.

Other tidbits of note include the lowest number of Indigo Buntings reported since 1984 and the earliest Am. Tree Sparrow arrival, the earliest departure date for Vesper Sparrow, and the latest departure date for Eastern Meadowlark since

1978. Chipping Sparrows stayed somewhat later than the norm for the past eleven years. The highest number of Rusty Blackbirds in eleven years was seen. A **Brewer's Blackbird**, reported without identifying details by Anna Casselberry and Sadie Dorber at a feeder in Deposit on 26 Nov, is only the second fall record since 1978. A late Northern Oriole showed up at Juanita Angle's feeder in South Oxford on 28 Nov and stayed until the end of the month.

The species list of 170 ties that of 1987 as the highest in eleven falls. **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, **Brant**, **Western Sandpiper**, and **Brewer's Blackbird** are rarities. Much of this report was prepared from field reports of Mary Dobinsky (Oneonta area (OPM)), Mildred Clark (Delhi), Jay Lehman (Norwich and North Norwich), and banding records from Newark Valley and Vestal provided by Judy Bell, and Harriet Marsi and Gail Kirch, respectively.

Observers: Juanita Angle, Rich Anthony, Les Bemont, Bruce Bozdos, Cutler & Jeanette Baldwin, Don & Judy Bell, Reynolds Bennett, B. Breidinger, Chenango Bird Club (CBC), Mildred Clark, Bart Cormier, Chad Covey, Marilyn Davis (MDv), Mary Dobinsky, Sadie Dorber, Carl Eastwood, Margaret Ferranti, Esther Graves, Shirley Hartman, R. Howard, Gail Kirch, Nancy Kirch, Margaret Layton, Jay & Chris Lehman, Florence Linaberry, W. Lloyd, Harriet Marsi, Bud & Evelyn Mead, M. Musci, S. O'Connell, Robert & Rita Pantle, Marie Petuh, Halliday Pierce, K. Scott, Joe Sedlacek, Ed Sidote, K. Stalter, Shane Stalter, D. Sterling, Tioga Bird Club (TBC), E. Titus, William Toner, George Wade, Elizabeth Washburn, Don Windsor, Anne Whitaker, Crystal Wright.

Abbreviations: ChFk - Chenango Forks; ChL - Chenango Lake; CRes - Canonsville Reservoir; FHNC - Finch Hollow Nature Center; JCity - Johnson City; NVal - Newark Valley; OPM - Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; ORes - Oneonta Reservoir; REEC - Rogers Environmental Education Center; VSpr - Valonia Springs; VestC - Vestal Center; WPRes - Whitney Point Reservoir.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: *intro*: arr ChL 3 Sep (DW,CE); last five WPRes 21 Oct (MDv). Pied-billed Grebe: arr OPM 7 Sep; max six Millbrook Res Sep-Oct (CC); last Hunts Pd SP 11 Nov (CC). Double-crested Cormorant: arr Millbrook Res 10 Sep (CC); last one WPRes 6 Nov (MDv). Am. Bittern: only one TiOG Sep (D&JB). Great Blue Heron: max six OPM 7 & 10 Sep, decreasing to one/week, last Marathon 28 Nov (MDv). Green-backed Heron: max two Norwich 5 Sep; last Portlandville. **Black-crowned Night-Heron**: *intro*. Snow Goose: seven ChFk 7 Sep (MDv). **Brant**: *intro*. Canada Goose: max 15 flocks of ca 100 Catatonk 14 Oct (JS); last Marathon 28 Nov (MDv). Wood Duck: max 15 N Norwich 6 Sep; last TiOG (D&JB). Green-winged Teal: arr FHNC 6 Oct; max & last four CRes 26 Nov (MP). Am. Black Duck: arr FHNC 2 Sep; max 40 CRes 26 Nov (MP). Mallard: max 40 Otsego L 12 Nov (MD) & CRes 26 Nov (MP). Blue-winged Teal: singles/week to mid Sep; last two ORes 6 Oct. Canvasback: only one TiOG Nov (RB). Ring-necked Duck: max four White's Pd 29 Oct & Geneganslet L 30 Oct (JL); last one ChL 26 Nov (DW). Scaup (sp): Marathon 10-28 Nov (MDv). White-winged Scoter: three WPRes 21 Nov (MDv), unusual. Com. Goldeneye: arr ORes 31 Oct; max three there 18 Nov. Bufflehead: arr three ORes 20 Oct; max 30 on six lakes CHEN 29 & 30 Oct (JL); last Marathon 27 Nov (MDv). Hooded Merganser: max 26 Bowman L SP 30 Oct (JL); last six there 25 Nov (DW). Com. Merganser: arr five S Oxford 3 Sep (DW,CE), early; max 55 Bowman L SP 19 Nov, high (DW,CE). Red-breasted Merganser: only eight WPRes 29 Oct (MDv). Ruddy Duck: arr eight WPRes 29 Oct (MDv); last five Plymouth Res 19 Nov (DW,CE).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: max 40 Franklin 16 Sep (SS); last TiOG 30 Oct (TBC). Osprey: max three N Norwich 6 Sep; one to two/week until last TiOG (C&JB). Bald Eagle: singles CRes 18 Sep (MP,ME,NK) and Vestal 27 Sep (WL); last imm CRes 26 Nov (MP). N. Harrier: max three McGraw 23 Sep & 14 Oct (BT); one to three/week until last imm OPM 25 Oct; *intro*. Sharp-shinned Hawk: peak count four at three sites/week late

Sep; decreasing until last Norwich 11 Nov (DW); *intro*. Cooper's Hawk: four to five/month through Oct, last Guilford 12 Nov (DW,CC,CE). N. Goshawk: only one N Norwich 8 Oct. Broad-winged Hawk: max & last two N Norwich. Red-tailed Hawk: three to four sites/week; max 5 OPM 14 Sep; *intro*. Rough-legged Hawk: arr Oxford 12 Nov (DW,CC,CE); max two Bowman L SP 25 Nov (DW). Golden Eagle: singles Owego 24 Sep (SD) & New Berlin 10 Sep (CC). Am. Kestrel: max 14 OPM 28 Sep, decreasing to five reports/month Nov. Ring-necked Pheasant: at two to four sites/month, high. Ruffed Grouse: eight to 14 reports/month. Wild Turkey: max 40 OPM 14 Sep; reports increasing through Nov. Com. Moorhen: only one TIOG Oct (C&JB). Am. Coot: arr Portlandville 10 Oct; max & last two Owego, good count. Lesser Golden-Plover: only one TIOG 7 Sep (C&JB), uncommon. Killdeer: max 32 Norwich 9 Sep (DW); last TIOG 29 Oct. Greater Yellowlegs: arr one ORes 3 Sep; max two N Norwich 11 Sep; last there. Lesser Yellowlegs: max & last two ORes. Solitary Sandpiper: singles two sites until last ORes 7 Sep. Spotted Sandpiper: singles/week at ORes until mid Sep. Semipalmated Sandpiper: only TIOG Sep (C&JB). **W. Sandpiper:** *intro*. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr & max three N Norwich 24 Sep (DW,CE,EG); last two ORes 15 to 28 Oct, uncommon. Com. Snipe: arr two N Norwich 11 Sep; max three there 1 Oct (DW); last three New Berlin 22 Oct (CC). Am. Woodcock: one to two sites/month. Ring-billed Gull: max 300 Otsego L 11 Nov (MD). Herring Gull: regular at three to five sites/month; max five Otsego L 1 Nov (MD).

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** Mourning Dove: ca 5-25 daily; max 45 OPM 4 Oct. Black-billed Cuckoo: only one Masonville 18 Sep (MP,MF,NK). E. Screech-Owl: singles monthly TIOG. Great Horned Owl: two sites Sep; three sites Oct-Nov. Barred Owl: singles TIOG & Windsor Sep; max & last two Catatunk 14 Oct (JS). Com. Nighthawk: max 30 JCity 8 Sep (MP); last three there 10 Sep (MP). Chimney Swift: singles Norwich 5 Sep & last TIOG. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max three Delhi 5 Sep; three sites/week until last two Norwich. Belted Kingfisher: max 25 reports Sep; decreasing to seven Nov. Red-bellied Woodpecker: singles monthly TIOG. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: five reports Sep, max two; last singles Delhi & OPM 4 Oct. N. Flicker: max ten REEC 6 Sep (JL) & OPM 14 Sep; last one CHEN 24 Nov (DW), late. Pileated Woodpecker: max twelve sites Oct.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** Olive-sided Flycatcher: only one N Norwich 6 Sep. E. Wood-Pewee: max four Milford 10 Sep; at one to four sites/week Sep. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: only one N Norwich. Traill's Flycatcher: three N Norwich 6 Sep. Least Flycatcher: one to two/week at four sites to 24 Sep; max two Norwich. E. Phoebe: max seven N Norwich 6 Sep; last FHNC. Great Crested Flycatcher: only one N Colesville (JS). E. Kingbird: max three N Norwich 6 Sep; last two OPM. Horned Lark: several VSpr 12 Nov. Tree Swallow: max 25 N Norwich 6 Sep; last 8 Owego (MP,MK,NK) & one N Norwich. Bank Swallow: only six N Norwich 6 Sep. Cliff Swallow: only three N Norwich 6 Sep, late. Barn Swallow: max 25 N Norwich 6 Sep; last Sherburne (JL). Tufted Titmouse: at six to seven sites/month, max two. Red-breasted Nuthatch: at six to seven sites Sep-Oct decreasing to five sites Nov, max two. Brown Creeper: three singles Norwich Sep; two at five sites Oct; last Norwich 23 Nov (DW). Carolina Wren: at Norwich & four sites BROO- TIOG Sep-Oct; TIOG Nov; last Norwich 6 Nov, high. House Wren: at six sites Sep, max two; three singles Oct; last banded Vestal. Winter Wren: max three Norwich 5 Sep; four to five reports/month Sep-Oct; last banded Vestal 17 Oct. Marsh Wren: max two N Norwich 11 Sep; singles there 24 Sep & 8 Oct, high. Golden-crowned Kinglet: increasing to ca 15 reports/month Nov, max three. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr singles Norwich & Vestal (HM,GK) 24 Sep; peak 27 reports at 17 sites Oct; last VSpr 27 Nov. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: TIOG Sep (C&JB); last two OPM, good count. E. Bluebird: widely reported in good numbers; max 16 Masonville 18 Sep & OPM 22 Sep; last TIOG Nov (D&JB). Veery: four singles at Vestal (HM,GK) & Norwich to 10 Sep. Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Norwich 6 Sep; singles at three sites until last one banded NVal 3 Oct, good count. Swainson's Thrush: arr banded Vestal 14 Sep; eleven reports until last banded

Vestal, high. Hermit Thrush: arr Owego 11 Sep (MP,ME,NK); eleven singles at seven sites until last banded Vestal 16 Oct. Wood Thrush: many reports Sep, max four; two reports Oct, last two Catatonk (JS). Am. Robin: max 49 N Norwich 29 Oct; last one VSpr 26 Nov. Gray Catbird: max ten OPM 8 Sep; decreasing to singles/week late Oct. N. Mockingbird: three to four sites/month BROO- TIOG. Brown Thrasher: four singles at three sites Sep; one report Oct. Water Pipit: only four N Norwich 29 Oct. Cedar Waxwing: max 95 N Norwich 6 Sep; last six OPM 31 Oct.

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS:** Solitary Vireo: 11 singles Sep; three singles until last banded Vestal Oct. Warbling Vireo: three reports Sep; max & last three N Norwich. Red-eyed Vireo: max eight OPM 8 Sep; decreasing to three singles/week mid Oct. Blue-winged Warbler: only singles ChFk (MDv) & Norwich (CBC). Tennessee Warbler: at four sites Sep, max two Norwich; three singles Oct. Nashville Warbler: ten singles at four sites Sep; two singles Vestal Oct. Yellow Warbler: *intro*. Chestnut-sided Warbler: at six sites Sep; max four Norwich 5 Sep; last one Delhi. Magnolia Warbler: eleven reports at four sites Sep; max four banded Vestal 22 Sep, last banded Vestal. Cape May Warbler: six reports Norwich Sep, max three on 9 Sep; *intro*. Black-throated Blue Warbler: max two Norwich 5 Sep; two singles until last BROO (MP,ME,NK). Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 15 N Norwich 8 Oct; last two OPM 17 Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: max six OPM 14 Sep, decreasing to two singles Oct. Blackburnian Warbler: at three sites Sep, max six OPM 8 & 14 Sep; last Pharsalia GMA (DW). Pine Warbler: only one Norwich 5 Sep, unusual. Palm Warbler: arr FHNC 6 Sep; max ten Hamden 10 Sep, very high!; eleven in four reports until last banded Vestal 11 Oct, excellent. Bay-breasted Warbler: six in five reports at four sites Sep, max two. Blackpoll Warbler: arr one OPM 18 Sep; last there. Black-and-white Warbler: singles at two sites; last two Norwich. Am. Redstart: max two Upper Lisle P 3 Sep (MP,NK,EW); singles three sites until last at ChFk. Ovenbird: nine in eight reports at three sites, last banded Vestal. N. Waterthrush: two singles banded Vestal Sep. Mourning Warbler: two singles banded Vestal; last 22 Sep. Com. Yellowthroat: max ten OPM 4 Oct; five singles at four sites until last banded Vestal. Hooded Warbler: max four Norwich 5 Sep; last there 10 Sep, numerous and late. Wilson's Warbler: arr two banded Vestal 3 Sep; ten at four sites until last banded NVal. Canada Warbler: *intro*.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS:** Scarlet Tanager: max five Norwich 5 Sep; eleven at seven sites until last Delhi. N. Cardinal: widespread up to three at several sites/week, doing well. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max six N Norwich 11 Sep; last two there. Indigo Bunting: two singles Norwich 5 & 25 Sep. Rufous-sided Towhee: max seven Norwich 5 Sep; at two to four sites/week Oct, max two; two singles ChFk Nov. Am. Tree Sparrow: singles OPM 7 Oct, very early, & FHNC 29 Oct; at three to four sites/week after 11 Nov, max eight. Chipping Sparrow: max 25 OPM 4 Oct; last few VSpr 12 Nov. Field Sparrow: max eight OPM 4 Oct; last VestC 22 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: only one N Norwich 6 Sep. Savannah Sparrow: max 15 N Norwich 6 Sep; last few OPM 7 Oct. Fox Sparrow: arr Vestal 14 Oct; last VestC 7 Nov. Song Sparrow: decreasing to seven reports Nov; last WPRes 14 Nov (MDv). Lincoln's Sparrow: four singles until last banded NVal. Swamp Sparrow: max eight N Norwich 24 Sep; last two there 29 Oct. White-throated Sparrow: migration peak 14 reports/week at seven sites, max 12; last VestC 21 Nov (SD). White-crowned Sparrow: arr Delhi 27 Sep; max 14 OPM 7 Oct; last VestC (SD). Dark-eyed Junco: peak at seven sights 6-12 Nov, max nine. Snow Bunting: arr Port Crane 5 Nov (DS). Bobolink: max 13 N Norwich 6 Sep; last five there. Red-winged Blackbird: max 300 OPM 15 Oct; last 12 S New Berlin 19 Nov (DW). E. Meadowlark: max six FHNC 7 Oct; last five OPM 8 Nov, late. Rusty Blackbird: arr six N Norwich 24 Sep; last & max 40 there 29 Oct, very high. **Brewer's Blackbird:** *intro*. Com. Grackle: max 100 OPM 5 Oct; last TIOG Nov (TBC). Brown-headed Cowbird: max 50 OPM 30 Sep; last TIOG Nov (GW). N. Oriole: one to three daily until last Delhi, *intro*. Purple Finch: max four N Norwich 22 Oct; at four sites Nov until last Oneonta 24 Nov. House Finch: increasing

to Nov; max 55 JCity 20 Nov, abundant at feeders! Am. Goldfinch: increasing at feeders in Nov; max 20 OPM 18 Nov. Evening Grosbeak: arr Norwich 3 Nov, late; max 20 New Berlin 19 Nov, very scarce.

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[The following report arrived too late to be included in the previous issue of the Kingbird]

## REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

JAY G. LEHMAN

Hot! Hot! Hot! This summer was hot, but it began cool and dry. At Binghamton the average daily mean temperature was 1.3° below the norm of 63°F, and only 1.05 inches of rain fell, which is 2.6 inches below normal. Daily temperatures were like a roller coaster ride. The eight days through 11 Jun had mean temperatures averaging 8 below normal; a record low of 39°F equaled the previous low for 10 Jun. An abrupt heat wave followed for eleven days with record highs of 91, 90, and 91°F on 14, 15, and 22 Jun, respectively, then the temperature plummeted. From 24 Jun to 2 Jul there were eight days with mean temperatures averaging almost 10° below normal. Record lows of 48, 46, 47, and 44°F were recorded from 28 Jun through 1 Jul. Immediately thereafter the temperature roller coaster zoomed upward. Between 6 and 16 Jul there were eight days with high temperatures between 88 and 98°F. Record highs of 92, 91, 95, 94, and 98°F were reported for 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 16 Jul, respectively, the last record being the highest temperature at the Link Field weather station since records have been kept there. This July was the hottest since 1955 with average high temperatures of 84.1°F, 5.7°F above the norm. The only respite from this heat was the rain that started about mid-month, ending the drought, and which totalled 4.94 inches by the end of month, nearly 1.5 inches above normal. August was very similar to July, hot and dry at the beginning and wet after 23 Aug. There were ten days with daily highs of 87 to 91°F until 15 Aug. Record highs of 90, 88, 89, 87, and 91°F were reported on 2, 10, 11, 12, and 13 Aug respectively. The month ended with more normal temperatures and 5.22 inches of rain, well above the average of 3.35 inches.

In view of the hot weather it was surprising that a Common Loon, which normally spends summers in the cool north, stayed in Chenango County through the summer. Perhaps, loons are crazy! Pied-billed Grebe was reported for only the fifth time since 1979. Common Mergansers are doing well in Otsego and Delaware Counties. We missed American and Least Bittern as usual, but Atlas data suggest that we probably are not covering the proper habitat in our normal birding. On the positive side there are reports of northward vacationing long-legged waders. Two **Great Egrets** were reported. The one seen at Brick Pond near Owego 20 Jun by Jack Knapik and Margaret Layton was probably the same bird reported by Rick Marsi on 6 Aug along the Susquehanna River near Owego and by Dick Clements near Nichols on 25 Aug. A second report at Delhi on 29 Jun was probably a different bird. A well-described **Glossy Ibis**, only the third report for the Region, was seen by Dick Clements near Apalachin on 25 Aug. Since the

ibis and the egret were both seen from Route 17, I vote for Route 17 roadside as the Region's best birding spot for the summer! Because both species were seen in the spring near the same locations, these may have been young non-breeding birds "hanging around" for the summer.

All the expected raptors were seen, including N. Goshawk which is often missed. A bedraggled Goshawk was apparently driven into downtown Norwich by a storm where it was seen by Fred Von Mechow and Laura Carey on 29 Aug. Northern Harrier apparently nested near McGraw. Turkey Vultures are still expanding into the northern parts of the region, especially in Cortland and Chenango County. The bad reputation of Great Horned Owls continues. Jay Lehman reported a Belted Kingfisher harassing a young Great Horned Owl at North Norwich Marsh in August. Bill Toner reported approximately a fifty percent "success" rate for American Kestrel nest boxes that he set up this year in Cortland County. All three contained four eggs but were lost due to predation. Starlings are the suspected culprits in two cases while racoons are the suspects for the third.

This summer good marsh habitat was drastically changed at North Norwich by humans. Apparently, a group of children destroyed the beaver dam which created ideal habitat for Virginia Rail, Sora, and Marsh Wren. Consequently, no Virginia Rails were reported there this year. Sora was reported there just before the marsh was drained but not after, and the number of Marsh Wrens also decreased. However, shorebird habitat was improved by the lowered water level. Elsewhere the drought created good conditions for migrating shorebirds along the edges of reservoirs and lakes. Consequently, the shorebird list of nine species is the second best since the summer of 1979. The only uncommon shorebird was an Upland Sandpiper, apparently migrating, which was heard by Jay Lehman giving its quivering call flying over Norwich in the fog on 27 Jul. This species has been reported in only five of the last ten summers.

While one might expect higher numbers of species expanding their range from the south after two consecutive hot summers, the results were mixed. Carolina Wren reports were more frequent while Red-bellied Woodpecker reports seemed fewer. As usual, Hooded Warbler and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher were seen in low numbers. Yellow-billed Cuckoo reports seemed much higher than normal for the season; perhaps they did notice the very hot weather or perhaps they were delayed in migration by the cold in early June. The variable weather in June, cold at first followed by heat and then cold again, apparently decreased the nesting success of Tree Swallows at two nest box trails operated by Bill Toner at McGraw and Homer. However, Eastern Bluebirds were more fortunate and were affected less by June's temperature extremes, apparently owing to the different timing of their nesting.

As in the two previous summer reports, the species accounts utilize US Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey data because these data represent a standardized effort in the same locations. Results are compared to BBS data for the past four years. The following US Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey Routes were used for this report: Corbettsville, 19 Jun (Jay Lehman); Coventryville, 19 Jun (Les Bemont); Lisle, 29 Jun and Whitney Point, 22 Jun (Bob Pantle); Oxford, 20 Jun (Harriet Marsi); East Newark, 20 Jun (Jack Knapik); Milford, 8 Jun (Bob Miller); and Downsville, 14 Jun (Richard Andrus). Unless otherwise noted, summaries of numbers from these surveys in the species accounts are approximately average. Unlike the previous two summers, no effort was made to monitor state

land habitat, including conifer stands, and as a consequence, low numbers of Swainson's Thrushes are reported. No species appear to have been missed due to this lack of effort, but numbers conifer-belt warblers and other birds may be lower than in the previous two summer reports. Purple Martins are still uncommon and reported in low numbers. Whip-poor-will, Horned Lark, Henslow's Sparrow, and Sedge Wren were missed again. Apparently, no effort was made to visit Horned Lark habitat. We almost always miss Whip-poor-will and Sedge Wren due to the general decline of these species in New York State. However, the one reliable spot in Chenango County for Henslow's Sparrow has been irreversibly changed by the planting of conifers in mowed strips. Most unfortunate! We'll have to look elsewhere.

A breeding plumage Evening Grosbeak with a green bill was seen in South Otselic by Dave Messineo through late July. At least one similar report was received from Chenango County during the Atlas Project. Significantly, both reports are from locations near large conifer stands. Pine Siskins stayed late enough at several locations to suspect breeding.

There were several indications of spring migration extending into this season. Philadelphia Vireos were reported in early June. Two Blackpoll Warblers, usually one of the latest migrants here, were reported by Les Bemont on 19 Jun on the Coventryville BBS. A very late Tennessee Warbler was heard singing at Center Lisle on 1 Jul by Harriet Marsi, Bruce Bozdos, and Florence Linaberry, but apparently this is not unusual for this species.

There were 152 species plus one hybrid reported this summer, which ties 1985 as the second highest summer list since 1979. **Glossy Ibis** and **Great Egret** are the only rarities, while Upland Sandpiper, Philadelphia Vireo, Blackpoll and Tennessee Warblers, and Evening Grosbeak are unusual for the period. A large part of this report is made up of field records of Mary Dobinsky (Oneonta area), Mildred Clark (Delhi), Hugh Kingery (Cherry Valley), and Jay Lehman (Norwich, North Norwich, and Pharsalia Game Management Area).

Observers: Richard Andrus, Rich Anthony, Cutler & Jeanette Baldwin, Don & Judy Bell, Les Bemont (LBe), Bruce Bozdos, Bill Breidinger, Laura Carey, Mildred Clark, Nate Clark, Dick Clements, Peter Colverson, Chad Covey, Marilyn Davis (MDv), Mary Dobinsky, Margaret Ferranti, Finch Hollow Nature Center, Shirley Hartman, Hugh Kingery, Gail Kirch, Jack Knapik, Marge Lafayette, Margaret Layton, Jay Lehman, Florence Linaberry, Harriet Marsi, Rick Marsi, Dave Messineo, Robert Miller, Robert Pantle, Marie Petuh, Joe Sedlacek, Ed Sidote, Bill Toner, Fred Von Mechow, Anne Whitaker, Kathryn Wilson, Don Windsor.

Abbreviations: BBS - Breeding Bird Survey; BCC - Broome Community College; ChFk - Chenango Forks; CVal - Cherry Valley; FHNC - Finch Hollow Nature Center; JCity - Johnson City; OPM - Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; ORes - Oneonta Reservoir; PGMA - Pharsalia Game Management Area; REEC - Rogers Environmental Education Center; WPRes - Whitney Point Reservoir.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: singles Chenango L (DN) & Guilford L (RA) to mid Jun; two Chenango L from mid Aug (PS fide CC); unusual. Pied-billed Grebe: only one OPM 13 Jul, uncommon. Great Blue Heron: increasing to ten reports at four sites Aug, max five. **Great Egret**: *intro*. Green-backed Heron: at three sites Jun & Aug, max two, low. **Glossy Ibis**: *intro*. Canada Goose: at two sites Jun-Jul, nested Lisle, max three; 20 Nichols 25 Aug (DC), early migrants. Wood Duck: at two to three sites/month; max 21 OPM 26 Aug, post-breeding dispersal. Am. Black Duck: only ten Lisle 30 Jul (MP).

Blue-winged Teal: only one N Norwich 20 Aug. Hooded Merganser: only single reports/month OPM; max five ORes 22 Aug. Com. Merganser: six Delhi 18 Jun; female + seven imm Oneonta on Susquehanna R 24 Jun-20 Jul, breeding?; six ORes 17-18 Aug; very high.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: up to ten reports at six sites/month Jul; max 14 S Oxford 27 Aug (ES *fide* DW), high and increasing in CHEN. Osprey: arr one OPM 5 Aug; singles two sites CHEN Aug. Bald Eagle: only one imm Millbrook Res 20 Aug (NC *fide* CC). N. Harrier: singles two sites Jun; one to two at five sites Aug; max pair + imm McGraw 25 Aug (BT), good count. Sharp-shinned Hawk: only singles at two sites Jun & Aug; singles at three sites Jul, fair count. Cooper's Hawk: two singles Delhi & Milford 8 & 16 Aug; max two Milford 25 Aug. N. Goshawk: three singles at three sites CHEN, very good. Red-shouldered Hawk: only one Whaupanaucan SF 30 Jul (DW). Broad-winged Hawk: one Oquaga Creek SP 27 Jul; five singles at three sites 16 to 21 Aug. Red-tailed Hawk: up to 14 reports at three sites Jun, max four; decreasing slightly thereafter. Am. Kestrel: up to 12 reports at five sites Jul, max three; max six OPM 22 & 27 Aug, early migrants?. Ring-necked Pheasant: only one Homer 2 Jun (BT). Ruffed Grouse: up to six reports at four sites Jul, max two; max five Delhi 25 Aug. Wild Turkey: at three sites Jun-Jul, seems low; at three sites Aug, max 30 OPM 1 Aug. N. Bobwhite: only TiOG (D&JB), uncommon. Sora: only one N Norwich 4 Jul. Com. Moorhen: max three N Norwich 5 Jun (DW); TiOG, N Norwich, Bainbridge Jul-Aug, good report. Killdeer: max 68 Otsego L 11 Aug (HK), post breeding flock. Greater Yellowlegs: seven reports at three sites Aug; max four Otsego L 16 Aug (HK), high. Lesser Yellowlegs: five reports at Vestal & Otsego L 7 to 17 Aug; max three Otsego L 11 Aug (HK). Solitary Sandpiper: arr Preston 7 Aug (DW); singles N Norwich (DW) & ORes to 30 Aug. Spotted Sandpiper: several at two sites Jun-Jul; nine reports at five sites Aug, max & last two ORes 30 Aug. Upland Sandpiper: *intro*. Semipalmated Sandpiper: only TiOG Aug (C&JB). Least Sandpiper: only four ORes 30 Aug. Com. Snipe: singles N Norwich 19 Jun, Norwich 20 Jul (DW), & Otsego L 16 Aug (HK). Am. Woodcock: only ad + y McGraw 27 Jun (BT). Ring-billed Gull: max 200-300 Cooperstown Aug (HK). Herring Gull: singles Norwich twice in Jun (DW), TiOG Aug, & WPRes 19 Aug; max three Vestal 7 Aug (MP).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: 102/eight BBS's; max 26 Delhi 27 Jul. Black-billed Cuckoo: up to four singles at three sites/month, max 2 Delhi 24 Jul. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: eight/four BBS's; singles Windsor 20 Jun, ChFk 24-28 Jun (MDv), & Delhi 4-5 Aug, high. E. Screech-Owl: only singles REEC 31 Aug (JL) & TiOG Aug (C&JB). Great Horned Owl: two Coventryville BBS; singles six sites Jul-Aug; max three McGraw 31 Aug (BT), high. Barred Owl: singles Downsville BBS & Delhi 16 Jul. Com. Nighthawk: singles Oneonta 27 Jun & JCity 6 Jul; seven/six reports at four sites from 13 Aug; max ten JCity 24 Aug (MP), good count. Chimney Swift: 35/five BBS; max 25 Norwich mid Jul; last ten there 27 Aug. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: almost daily at up to five sites/month; max seven Delhi 14 Aug. Belted Kingfisher: at four sites Jul, max nine OPM 28 Jul; decreasing thereafter. Red-bellied Woodpecker: only TiOG (D&JB). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 21/seven BBS; at six sites Jun decreasing to four at three sites Aug, max several. Downy Woodpecker: 19/eight BBS; at up to five sites/month Jun, max several; decreasing thereafter. Hairy Woodpecker: only two/two BBS, lowest since 1985; reports decreasing to three at two sites Aug, max two. N. Flicker: 11/six BBS; peak at six sites Jul; max four OPM 30 Aug. Pileated Woodpecker: singles OPM 2 Jul & CVal 27 Aug; max two Delhi 31 Jul, quite low.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: only singles Lisle 30 Jul (MP) & Norwich 28 Aug (DW). E. Wood-Pewee: 30/eight BBS; 12 reports at seven sites Jun decreasing to nine reports at three sites Aug, max 5 OPM 26 Aug. Alder Flycatcher: 17 / four BBS; singles Jun & Jul; at two sites Aug; max four; last OPM 17 Aug. Willow Flycatcher: 11/five BBS; at three other sites Jun; max three N Norwich 4 Jul; last Delhi 18 Jul. Least Flycatcher: 45/eight BBS; decreasing to singles at three sites Aug, last one Norwich 21 Aug. E. Phoebe: 55/eight BBS; at four to five sites/month, max three. Great



Crested Flycatcher: 22/five BBS; max four Windsor 20 Jun; up to five sites/month; last Valonia Springs 20 Aug (JS). E. Kingbird: 27/six BBS; at about four sites/month; max & last 13 OPM 30 Aug. Purple Martin: two North Colesville 23 Jun & 24 Jul (JS); only TIOG Aug (C&JB), few. Tree Swallow: 53/eight BBS; max 60 OPM 29 Jun; last eight there 26 Jul. N. Rough-winged Swallow: four/four BBS; three reports/month at three sites, max four; last two Milford 11 Jul. Bank Swallow: 52/three BBS; at three sites Jul-Aug, max 15 Norwich (DW); last three N Norwich 20 Aug. Cliff Swallow: 13/two BBS; two to four sites/month; max 50 Norwich 19 Aug, migration; last two OPM 22 Aug. Barn Swallow: 201/eight BBS; max 300 OPM 29 Jun; 15-50/flock three sites 9 to 25 Aug, migration flocks. Tufted Titmouse: three/two BBS; at three to four sites/month, max four BCC 22 Aug. Red-breasted Nuthatch: increasing to three sites/month; max seven PGMA 28 Aug. White-breasted Nuthatch: seven/five BBS. Brown Creeper: two Oxford BBS; singles at two sites Jun-Jul & at three sites Aug. Carolina Wren: singles Norwich Jun & Aug, Greene 25 Jul (MDv), and TIOG Jul-Aug, high. House Wren: 99/eight BBS. Winter Wren: up to five reports at three sites/month, max two; ad + several y CVal 18 & 22 Aug; last two PGMA 28 Aug, good count. Marsh Wren: max seven N Norwich 4 Jul; last one there 20 Aug. Golden-crowned Kinglet: only one/eight BBS; ad + imm Norwich, late breeding?; max & last seven PGMA 28 Aug. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max two BCC 22 Jul (FHNC staff); last TIOG (C&JB). E. Bluebird: three/three BBS; at up to five sites/month, max 12 OPM 25 Aug. Veery: 80/eight BBS, somewhat low; at up to seven sites/month, max 12 OPM 1 Jun. Swainson's Thrush: only one PGMA 28 Aug, low but low effort. Hermit Thrush: 12/eight BBS, high; only two others PGMA 3 Jul (DW). Wood Thrush: 116/eight BBS; at up to nine other sites/month, max eight OPM 14 Jun. Gray Catbird: 99/eight BBS. N. Mockingbird: at up to three sites/month in Southern Tier; only one in north at McGraw 27 Jun (BT). Brown Thrasher: 13/six BBS, high. Cedar Waxwing: 59/ seven BBS, low; max 65 OPM 30 Aug.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: three/two BBS; at up to three other sites/month, max four OPM 24 Jun. Yellow-throated Vireo: seven/three BBS, at up to three other sites/month, max two; last one OPM 27 Aug. Warbling Vireo: 19/seven BBS; at up to four other sites/month, max five OPM 8 Jun; last one Delhi 30 Jul. Philadelphia Vireo: one PGMA 4 Jun (DW,PC), late migrant?; TIOG Jul (C&JB), unusual; arr singles REEC 31 Aug (JL), & ChFk 30 & 31 Aug (MDv), unusually high. Red-eyed Vireo: 220/eight BBS, very high; at up to six other sites/month, max 11 CVal 27 Aug. Blue-winged Warbler: 12/four BBS, highest since 1985; at up to five sites/month, max two; last singles OPM & CVal 27 Aug. Brewster's Warbler: only one PGMA 4 Jun (DW,PC). Golden-winged Warbler: only one Oxford BBS. Tennessee Warbler: one PGMA 19 Jun (DW), late migrant; *intro*; arr & max four PGMA 28 Aug (JL). Nashville Warbler: two Oxford BBS; only two other singles PGMA 17 Jul (DW) & 28 Aug (JL). Yellow Warbler: 170/eight BBS, highest since 1985; last two OPM 22 Aug. Chestnut-sided Warbler: 53/seven BBS, highest since '85; at up to seven sites/month, max seven OPM 10 Aug. Magnolia Warbler: four/four BBS; at up to four other sites/month, max six PGMA 28 Aug. Cape May Warbler: arr REEC 31 Aug (JL). Black-throated Blue Warbler: six/four BBS, rather high; singles at up to two sites/month; last one CVal 27 Aug. Yellow-rumped Warbler: 15/five BBS; at up to six other sites/month; max six OPM 22 Aug. Black-throated Green Warbler: 15/four BBS, highest since 1985; at up to four other sites/month, max four CVal 27 Aug; ad + two FL REEC 31 Aug (JL), late breeding?. Blackburnian Warbler: eight/two BBS; singles at up to two other sites/month; max three OPM 10 Aug. Prairie Warbler: two/two BBS; at up to three other sites/month, max four Norwich 11 Jun; last BCC 22 Jul. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr & only one banded Vestal 21 Aug. Blackpoll Warbler: *intro*. Black-and-white Warbler: 18/two BBS, high; at up to five other sites/month, max two. Am. Redstart: 47/five BBS; at up to seven other sites/month, max two. Ovenbird: 93/eight BBS; at up to six other sites/month, max eight OPM 13 Aug. N. Waterthrush: three/two BBS; at only one other site OPM, max two Jun & last one 27 Jun. Louisiana Waterthrush: three/two BBS; singles at three other sites, last CVal 15 Aug. Mourning Warbler: one/one

BBS; at up to three other sites/month, max three Norwich 11 Jun & OPM 2 Jul. Com. Yellowthroat: 245/eight BBS, high. Hooded Warbler: only two males Norwich 11 Jun. Canada Warbler: one/one BBS; at up to three other sites/month, max two.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: 54/eight BBS, high. Cardinal: 55/eight BBS, high; at up to five other sites/month, max three. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 57/eight BBS, high; at up to seven other sites/month; max seven CVal 27 Aug, migrants. Indigo Bunting: 79/eight BBS, high; at up to five other sites/month, max six OPM 4 Jun. Rufous-sided Towhee: only 12/five BBS, lowest since 1985; at up to six other sites/month, max seven CVal 27 Aug. Chipping Sparrow: 144/eight BBS, highest since 1985; max 30 OPM 30 Aug. Field Sparrow: 58/eight BBS; at up to six other sites/month. Vesper Sparrow: at up to five sites/month, max five CVal 17 Aug; last OPM 25 Aug, good count. Savannah Sparrow: 48/seven BBS; at up to six other sites/month, max nine. Grasshopper Sparrow: seven/three BBS, fairly high; at up to four other sites/month, max four; last two Lisle 30 Jul (MP), good count. Song Sparrow: 260/eight BBS, highest since '85. Swamp Sparrow: 11/eight BBS, below average. White-throated Sparrow: nine/three BBS; at up to three other sites/month, max four Norwich 11 Jun. Dark-eyed Junco: 42/seven BBS, fairly high; at up to four other sites/month; max 10 CVal 27 Aug. Bobolink: 111/eight BBS, highest since '85; at up to six other sites/month, max 40 OPM 14 Jun. Red-winged Blackbird: 427/eight BBS. E. Meadowlark: 52/seven BBS. Com. Grackle: 153/eight BBS. Brown-headed Cowbird: 50/eight BBS. N. Oriole: 66/eight BBS; last four Delhi 26 Aug. Purple Finch: 10/two BBS; at up to three other sites/month, max four OPM 8 Jun. House Finch: 65/five BBS, highest since 1985. Pine Siskin: regular at four sites until 11 Jun, max two; through late Jun Truxton (BB fide BT), late. Am. Goldfinch: 73/eight BBS, lowest since 1985. Evening Grosbeak: *intro*.

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## REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL A. DEBENEDICTIS

The fall 1988 migration is best summarized as uneventful. Just about everything we would expect to happen on an average year happened, and little more. There were almost no great rarities, few unseasonal records and few exceptional numbers or misses as well. The weather may have contributed to this. The fall was generally mild, temperatures running somewhat on the cool side but seldom cold, precipitation just below average in total and rather uniformly distributed. The first killing frost in Syracuse came late in October, extending the growing season by about 10 days at the end, and the only significant snow fall came in early November, and soon melted.

A mediocre waterbird flight continued in the same vein all fall. Shorebird numbers were very unimpressive after mid September, suggesting that many of the high arctic species that pass through this area after that date had a poor nesting season. Waterfowl numbers were low, with no large concentrations of geese reported, few big days for divers at Derby Hill, and only one rarity, a **Greater White-fronted Goose**, reported. Gull numbers were low, and the two white-winged species didn't arrive until the end of November, with single reports of each species. Single Great Egret and Cattle Egret were the only wandering herons reported. The only misses were rare but annually detected species: Hud-

sonian Godwit, Purple Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope and Black Tern, and we lost Long-billed Dowitcher because our sole October dowitchers were heard calling Short-billed Dowitcher calls.

Landbirds trickled through all three months. Most insect eaters left rather abruptly about 25 Sep and few swallows, flycatchers, vireos or warblers were reported after that date. The virtual absence of Tree and Barn Swallows along Lake Ontario after mid September was especially striking. Sparrow numbers in October were very low, and neither Vesper Sparrows nor Lapland Longspur were reported this season. Other surprising misses included N. Rough-winged Swallow, and Blue-winged, Golden-winged and Connecticut Warbler; not so surprising misses included Gray Jay and Loggerhead Shrike. There were no real rarities but a Prairie Warbler report was unusual for Region 5.

Tufted Titmouse, N. Mockingbird and Carolina Wren all appear to be benefiting from the past series of mild winters, but have not appeared far from their usual centers of abundance in our Region.

Irruptive species added nothing to the season. Only resident raptor species were reported in significant numbers, with Red-shouldered Hawk missed completely (not unusual in recent years). Two N. Saw-whet Owls were the only unusual members of their order reported, and Northern Shrike arrived late and few in number. Irruptive passerines were present in very low numbers, the passage of Red-breasted Nuthatch over early and only Pine Siskin at all widely, but sparsely reported among the finches. The only reports of redpoll and Pine Grosbeak lacked details, which seems appropriate given their virtual absence elsewhere this season, and crossbills were unreported. Most impressive by its scarcity was Evening Grosbeak; it will be a long time before it will again be feasible to list all non-Adirondack sightings in a Region 5 fall Report!

At total of 230 species were reported, somewhat below average. The only great rarity was **Greater White-fronted Goose**, the third fall record from our Region. Other notable reports included Cattle Egret, Whimbrel, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Red-necked and Red Phalaropes, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaeger, Little Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Forster's Tern, and Prairie Warbler.

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Abbreviations: DH - Derby Hill, Oswego Co.; FH - Fairhaven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, Cayuga Co.; LOL - Lake Ontario littoral, Oswego Co.; NPT - northern Pompey township; OneiL - Oneida Lake; OnonL - Onondaga Lake; SPd - Sandy Pond, Oswego Co.; SVB - Sylvan and Verona Beach, Oneida Co., Syr - Syracuse.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr 11 DH 26 Oct. Com. Loon: arr SPd 19 Sep, max 63 LOL 12 Nov; last from Adirondacks on 23 Oct. Horned Grebe: arr 4 DH 26 Oct. Red-necked Grebe: arr 2 DH 5 Nov. Double-crested Cormorant: max 1043 SPd 3 Sep. Am. Bittern: last SPd 11 Sep. Great Egret: one Otisco L 3-5 Oct (RLP) only report. Cattle Egret: one n Chittenango 7-16 Nov (mob), late. Green-backed Heron: last SPd 26 Sep. Tundra Swan: only reports one FH 19 Nov, two Bridgeport 22 Nov. **Greater White-fronted Goose**: one 3.3 mi e Madison 23-24 Nov (GH, DWC). Snow Goose: only report FH 30 Oct. Brant: arr and max 1350 DH 29 Oct. Canada Goose: first counts above 100 FH 9 Sep, max 1323 on 6 Nov. Wood Duck: max 1824 Toad Harbor 25 Sep, last OneiL 15 Nov. Green-winged Teal: max 45 Delta L, SVB 1 Sep. Am. Black Duck: max 77 FH 25 Nov. Mallard: max 590 FH 25 Nov. N. Pintail: max 65 DH 26 Oct. Blue-winged Teal: last Clay

Marsh 2 Oct. N. Shoveler: one SVB 25 Sep, 3 reports Nov, max 3. Gadwall: arr 24 Sep, max 95 FH in Nov. Am. Wigeon: max 160 FH 6 Nov. Canvasback: arr Otisco L 13 Oct, max 89 OneiL 15 Nov. Redhead: two SPd 19 Sep, next report OneiL 23 Nov. Ring-necked Duck: arr SPd 24 Sep, max 25 FH 30 Oct. Greater Scaup: arr SPd 24 Sep, max less than 300, low. Lesser Scaup: arr Beaver L 21 Oct, max 195 FH 25 Nov. Oldsquaw: arr DH 5 Nov. Black Scoter: arr DH 23 Oct. Surf Scoter: arr DH 28 Sep. White-winged Scoter: arr DH 28 Sep. Com. Goldeneye: arr DH 29 Oct, max 167 FH 19 Nov. Bufflehead: arr Otisco L 13 Oct, max 58 FH 13 Nov. Hooded Merganser: arr Otisco L 29 Oct, max 78 Beaver L 24 Nov. Com. Merganser: arr SPd 24 Sep, max 1250 FH 13 Nov. Red-breasted Merganser: arr SPd 24 Sep, max 9000 FH 13 Nov. Ruddy Duck: arr Beaver L 21 Oct, max 48 there 4 Nov; up to 21 L Neatawana, Fulton, late Nov, very many for that locality.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: last Holland Patent 30 Oct. Bald Eagle: imm OneiL 15 Oct, ad there 13 Nov, imm DH 12 Nov, one Bald Mt Pd 20 Oct. Sharp-shinned Hawk: arr SVB 10 Sep. Cooper's Hawk: arr SBV 5 Sep. N. Goshawk: two reports only. Red-tailed Hawk: max nine. Rough-legged Hawk: arr W Monroe 31 Oct. Merlin: four singles 7 Sep to 5 Nov. Peregrine Falcon: imm SVB 1 Sep, female hacked Ottawa chasing Rock Doves downtown Syr late Oct. Wild Turkey: flock of 15 Minnehaha far north. Virginia Rail: last (and only) Pennelville 12 Oct. Sora: last (and only) Pennelville 12 Oct. Com. Moorhen: last FH 25 Sep. Am. Coot: arr SVB 5 Sep, max 47 FH 30 Oct. Black-bellied Plover: max 9 SVB 5 Sep. Lesser Golden-Plover: max 60 SVB 6 Sep, last SPd 11 Sep, early departure. Semipalmated Plover: max 19 SBV 5 Sep, low. Killdeer: max 200 SVB 5 Sep. Greater Yellowlegs: max 24 SVB 5 Sep. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 60 SVB 6 Sep. Solitary Sandpiper: last SPd 24 Sep. Ruddy Turnstone: last SVB 19 Sep. Whimbrel: one SPd 18 Sep (MSR). Red Knot: last SVB 19 Sep. Sanderling: max 20 SPd 11 Sep, low. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 65 SBV 5 Sep. W. Sandpiper: one SPd 3 Sep only report. White-rumped Sandpiper: last FH 16 Oct. Baird's Sandpiper: last SPd 15 Sep. Pectoral Sandpiper: max 15 SVB 5 Sep. Dunlin: arr SPd 24 Sep, max 9. Stilt Sandpiper: max 33 OnonL 4 Sep, last Clay 24 Sep. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one SPd 8-11 Sep. Short-billed Dowitcher: last SVB 10 Sep, then two Otisco L 26-29 Oct (RLP). Com. Snipe: last SPd 24 Sep, very early. Am. Woodcock: last NPT 24 Oct. Red-necked Phalarope: a SVB 5 Sep. Red Phalarope: on FH 30 Oct, two SPd 22 Nov. Pomarine Jaeger: one Oswego 19 Oct. Parasitic Jaeger: four reports DH, max 10 on 18 Nov, last on 29 Nov, late. Bonaparte's Gull: max 71 SPd 3 Sep. Little Gull: one DH 18 Nov, three there 29 Nov. Iceland Gull: arr Fayetteville 29 Nov. Glaucous Gull: arr Fayetteville 29 Nov. Black-legged Kittiwake: two DH 29 Nov. Com. Tern: max 85 SVB 15 Sep, last only Oct report. Forster's Tern: imm SVB (where seldom found) 6 Sep, two SPd 9-15 Sep.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** Black-billed Cuckoo: four reports, last FH 25 Sep. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: three Erieville 12 Sep only report. N. Saw-whet Owl: one Old Forge 3 Oct, one found dead NPT 29 Nov. Com. Nighthawk: max 38 Syr 1 Sep, last FH 29 Sep. Chimney Swift: departure early. Red-headed Woodpecker: only report imm Deer Creek WMA 7 Sep. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one Erieville 8 Nov rather far se in Region. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 5 between 15 Sep and 13 Oct. N. Flicker: max 24 SPd 24 Sep.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLING:** Olive-sided Flycatcher: last FH 25 Sep, late. Traill's Flycatcher: last Poolsbrook 3 Sep. Least Flycatcher: last Sterling 12 Sep. Horned Lark: max 300 SPd 5 Nov. Purple Martin: last SPd 8 Sep. Tree Swallow: last only report in October. Bank Swallow: last SPd 8 Sep. Cliff Swallow: last FH 9 Sep. Blue Jay: max 60 FH 25 Sep. Am. Crow: max 68 FH 6 Nov, no concentrations found. Black-capped Chickadee: max 100 FH 25 Sep. Red-breasted Nuthatch: arr SPd 3 Sep, max 20 on 24 Sep, few after late October. Brown Creeper: max 35 SPd 19 Sep. Carolina Wren: at least four reported Syr. Winter Wren: arr SPd 8 Sep, max 15 FH 25 Sep, last Beaver L 24 Nov. Marsh Wren: last Clay Marsh 2 Oct. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr SPd 18 Sep, max 55 there 25 Sep, 16 Oct. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr SPd 11 Sep, max 80 there 18 Sep.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last SPd 5 Sep. E. Bluebird: last Erieville 8 Nov. Gray-cheeked Thrush: four reports 12 to 25 Sep. Swainson's Thrush: arr SPd 11 Sep. Hermit Thrush: arr SPd 15 Sep, last there 12 Nov. Wood Thrush: straggler S Shore Rd, Old Forge, to late Nov (GL). Am. Robin: max 85 29 Oct. N. Mockingbird: numbers up Syr area. Water Pipit: arr SPd 11 Sep, last Sixty Rd ONON 4 Nov. Cedar Waxwing: no counts above double digits. N. Shrike: arr LOL 12 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: arr FH 12 Sep. Philadelphia Vireo: last FH 25 Sep. Red-eyed Vireo: max 35 FH 12 Sep. Orange-crowned Warbler: only report Hastings 2 Oct. N. Parula: arr SPd 10 Sep. Magnolia Warbler: max 29 FH 12 Sep. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 35 SVB 24 Sep. Pine Warbler: last SPd 24 Sep. Prairie Warbler: one Verona Beach 14 Sep (Dave Cesari, Kate Coyle *vide* DWC), seldom reported in fall. Palm Warbler: arr SPd 7 Sep, last Hastings 13 Oct. Bay-breasted Warbler: max 13 FH 9 Sep. Blackpoll Warbler: arr SPd 3 Sep. Am. Redstart: max 11 FH 12 Sep. Mourning Warbler: last NPT 12 Sep. Hooded Warbler: last Verona 15 Sep.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: arr FH 30 Oct. Chipping Sparrow: last Syr 30 Oct. Field Sparrow: last FH 19 Nov. Savannah Sparrow: last Three Rivers GMA 26 Sep. Fox Sparrow: up to six between 6 Oct and 22 Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: only reports 24-26 Sep. White-throated Sparrow: arr SPd 8 Sep, max 75 FH 25 Sep. White-crowned Sparrow: arr Clay 25 Sep, max 14 Hastings 13 Oct, last there 25 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: arr SPd 11 Sep. Snow Bunting: arr SPd 29 Oct, max 102 FH 12 Nov. Red-winged Blackbird: almost none after mid Nov. E. Meadowlark: last Verona 15 Oct. Rusty Blackbird: arr FH 26 Sep, almost none after 6 Nov. Com. Grackle: last OnonL 10 Nov. Brown-headed Cowbird: almost none after mid Nov. Pine Grosbeak: four Holland Patent 9 Nov (RLE) only report. Purple Finch: scattered reports probably of local breeders. Com. Redpoll: only report without details, possibly House Finch. Pine Siskin: on SVB 15 Sep, a few after 5 Nov. Am. Goldfinch: max 40 DH 5 Nov. Evening Grosbeak: only reports five Erieville 2 Oct, seven Holland Patent 14 Nov, very scarce.

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## REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL

September was slightly cooler and drier than average, but frost came only during the last week of the month. October was decidedly cool and wet, with a significant snowfall during the third week. Ponds iced over the last of the month. In November both temperature and precipitation were above normal. Snowfall was light, with six inches falling in St. Lawrence and Lewis Counties on 2-3 November. Gale winds blew on 10 Nov and again on 17-18 Nov.

The total of 134 species sighted was down slightly from former years. Coverage of eastern Lake Ontario and the Saint Lawrence River yielded 30 species of waterbirds, including 19 ducks. There were ten species of raptors including unprecedented numbers of Red-shouldered Hawk. Bruce DiLabio's regular coverage of the waters both above and below Moses-Saunders Dam uncovered 11 larids and 17 kinds of shorebird. In addition there were 14 other non-passerines and 58 passerines, including three vireos and four warblers, reported.

Starting the larid season at Moses-Saunders Dam on 4 Sep were three Little, 1500 Bonaparte's, 1000 Ring-billed, 100 Herring and 125 Great Black-backed, along

with 200 Common Tern. There was a maximum of six Little Gull (one juv, three in Basic II plumage and two ad) on 11 Sep. The count of Bonaparte's Gull decreased to 750 in Nov, while Ring-billed, Herring and Great Black-backed Gull increased to maxima of 4500, 1250 and 300, respectively, on 3 Nov. By contrast, the greatest number of gulls reported from eastern Lake Ontario was 50 Ring-billed Gull. The piece de resistance was an adult **Common Black-headed Gull** in winter plumage sighted by B. DiLabio at Moses-Saunders Dam on both 3 and 27 Nov. This appears to be the second Regional sighting, the first being in 1986. On 9 Nov, there were three juv **Pomarine Jaeger** harassing the gulls. DiLabio spent the better part of four hours confirming the identification vis-a-vis Parasitic. The larid list is topped off with arrival of Iceland Gull on 9 Nov and a Black-legged Kittiwake on 3 Nov, with a max of three, all in first winter plumage, on 9 Nov.

For the fall hawk migration, Lee Chamberlaine calls attention to the outlook at Wescotts Beach SP. Dick Brouse reports that beaver activity affecting North Country Bird Club's Joseph A. Blake Sanctuary has attracted ducks, including Am. Black Duck and the only Wood Duck reported, on 25 Sep.

Among landbird movements were reports of Common Nighthawk the first week of Sep in both Massena (five) and Brownville (eight). Lee Chamberlaine reports good flights of Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Song Sparrow and White-throated Sparrow in Henderson on 8 Oct. He observed Golden-crowned Kingbird 25 Sep, and on 1, 14 and 16 Oct. Four Brown Creeper were also seen on 8 Oct. Ken Crowell noted flocks of several hundred European Starling in Canton in mid Oct. Flocks of 100 and 200 Tree Swallow were seen at Robert Moses SP on 7 and 18 Sep, respectively. A flock of 6000 Red-winged Blackbird at Baggs Corner on 27 Oct was the largest ever seen in the fall by Lee Chamberlain. At Eldorado Beach Preserve on 24 Sep, R. Brouse sighted three Water Pipit and two **Lapland Longspur**, a species rarely reported from our Region. A Blackburnian Warbler seen in Massena on 18 Nov by Marilyn Badger is a Regional late record. Flights of White-throated Sparrow were reported for Jefferson Co. for 27 Sep to 8 Oct. The only report for White-crowned Sparrow was five WH 29 Sep.

Arrival of winter visitors was slow. A few Rough-legged Hawk were seen after 11 Nov. An early Snowy Owl in Parishville 19 Oct and another in Lisbon 16 Nov were the only reports, but there were no reports from the Pt Peninsula. The first and only Northern Shrike was an immature at Stony Pt on 25 Nov. American Tree Sparrow arrived Watertown on 1 Oct and Snow Bunting on 19 Nov, both in small numbers. There were no winter finches other than Purple Finch and Evening Grosbeak, of which only scattered sightings were reported.

Is Canada Goose down, dispersed by the mild weather, or too common to be reported? A flock of 60-80 Rock Dove is now seen regularly in Canton and flocks of 20-40 are seen in rural areas. Does this mark a trend? Mourning Dove is also up in rural areas. Lee Chamberlain reports very few Purple Finch and 40 House Finch regularly at his Henderson Feeder; similarly in Massena, Marilyn Badger 15-30 House Finch in Sep and a maximum of six Purple Finch on 20 Oct. Both Marilyn Badger and Dick Brouse report **Carolina Wren**. The first, a first sighting for St. Lawrence Co., was in Louisville 13 Nov, and the latter was in Watertown 29 Sep. These sightings may reflect the string of mild winters. The species was last reported in the Region by Brouse in Feb 1987.

Contributors: Marilyn Badger, Richard Brouse, Lee Chamberlaine, Ken Crowell, Mary Beth Derrick, Bruce DiLabio, John Green, Bob Helmetsie, Paul Martin, Len Olivette, Erma Schell, Nicholas Smith and Brian Watson.

Abbreviations: EDB - Eldorado Beach Preserve; HPt - Hawkins Pt in RMSP; LOnt - Lake Ontario; PR - Perch River WMA; PtPen - Pt Peninsula, Town of Lyme; MSD - Moses-Saunders Dam; RMSP - Robert Moses SP; ULL - Upper and Lower Lakes WMA; WB - Wescotts Beach SP; WH - Wilson Hill WMA; SLR - St. Lawrence River.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: 22 Cranberry Lake 16 Oct (MBD); arr and max MSD seven on 6 Oct, last 21 Nov. Red-throated Loon: one MSD 6 Oct, two MSD 3 Nov. Horned Grebe: five PtPen 19 Nov. Red-necked Grebe: max four MSD 6 Oct. Double-crested Cormorant: max at MSD 150 29 Sep, last 21 Oct. **Greater White-fronted Goose:** one PRWMA 8 Oct (LBC). Snow Goose: one Pamela 26 Nov. Canada Goose: " Heavy movement in (e LOnt) area 6 Oct"; max 350 MSD 6 Nov. Wood Duck: *intro*. Green-winged Teal: five MSD 6 Nov only report for year. Am. Black Duck: max 15 on SLR and 19 on LOnt. N. Shoveler: three PR 8 Oct only report. Am. Wigeon: max 300 PR 8 Oct. Gadwall: max 150 Ray's Bay, LOnt, 29 Nov. Canvasback: ten SLR 1 Set and 5 Nov. Ring-necked Duck: max 100 PR 8 Oct. Greater Scaup: 11 above MSD 6 Oct, unusual. Lesser Scaup: 20 ULL 10 Oct, unusual there; max 2000 e LOnt 5 Nov. Oldsquaw: several reports from MSD and LOnt; arr MSD 3 Nov, max 17 on 9; max PtPen 25 on 19 Nov. Black Scoter: arr and max four males, ten females MSD 3 Nov. Surf Scoter: arr four MSD 6 Oct. White-winged Scoter: arr 28 MSD 6 Oct. **Com. X Barrow's Goldeneye:** ad male hybrid MSD 17 Nov (BDiL). Bufflehead: arr 12 MSD 3 Nov and ten e LOnt 5 Nov only reports. Hooded Merganser: max 50 WH 12 Nov. Com. Merganser: max 4000 MSD 6 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: 30 WB 8 Oct. Osprey: none. Accipiters: none! Red-shouldered Hawk: three WB 8 Oct, 5 WB 19 Oct, one Pierrepont 9 Oct. Broad-winged Hawk: only two Massena 7 Sep. Rough-legged Hawk: *intro*. **Golden Eagle:** single ad 3 and 21 Nov. Peregrine Falcon: ad MSD 25 Sep. Ruffed Grouse: moderate numbers. Wild Turkey: flocks of 20 or more in Dekalb, Morely and Lisbon. Killdeer: last Pierrepont 3 Oct. **Pomarine Jaeger:** *intro*. Little Gull: *intro*. **Com. Black-headed Gull:** *intro*. Bonaparte's Gull: *intro*. Ring-billed Gull: *intro*. Herring Gull: *intro*. Iceland Gull: *intro*. Great Black-backed Gull: *intro*. Com. Tern: *intro*, last 20 MSD 11 Sep.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: Great Horned Owl: several sightings from Louisville and HPt (MB); one HPt 6 Nov. Long-eared Owl: one HPt 6 Nov. N. Saw-whet Owl: one Louisville 30 Sep. Com. Nighthawk: *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: E. Phoebe: last Henderson 9 Oct. Tree Swallow: *intro*. Brown Creeper: *intro*. House Wren: one Henderson 14 Oct, late. Golden-crowned Kinglet: *intro*. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: *intro*. E. Bluebird: regular sightings from late Sep to mid Oct in Watertown and Pierrepont. Water Pipit: *intro*. N. Shrike: *intro*. European Starling: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Yellow-rumped Warbler: *intro*. Blackburnian Warbler: *intro*.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Louisville 13 Sep. Am. Tree Sparrow: *intro*. Chipping Sparrow: last six Massena 5 Sep. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** one killed by cat Watertown 29 Oct, late and seldom reported in Region 6. Fox Sparrow: one Massena 22 Sep. White-throated Sparrow: *intro*. White-crowned Sparrow: *intro*. **Lapland Longspur:** *intro*. Snow Bunting: *intro*. Red-winged Blackbird: *intro*. Rusty Blackbird: two ULL 4 Nov. Purple Finch: *intro*. House Finch: *intro*.

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## REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M.C. PETERSON

The lack of hawkwatchers and shortage of warbler-watchers, indeed the general scarcity of birders across the Region, is reflected in this autumnal report. There were, as always, more than a few interesting sightings, notably among the waterfowl, raptors, and boreal specialties. But just 105 species were reported, surely only a token listing of those present. There were, for example, no reports of any accipiters, of Herring Gull, Rock Dove, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, any swallows, European Starling, or of House Sparrow. There were undoubtedly a few around.

Weather was certainly mixed. Thermometers reached a record monthly high of 81°F on 2-3 September, followed by an inch of rain at Peru 4 Sep and a cold front that had chickadees fluffing their down at Newcomb and Ray Brook, where temperatures on 8 Sep were 30°F. Elizabethtown's first frost hit 16 Sep, but 18-19 Sep saw highs in the 70's. Lowest monthly temperature was a cool 20°F on 29 Sep. The month saw only 1.5 inches of rain. October began warm, with Plattsburgh reaching 72°F on the first. There were 2 inches of snow and sleet at Elizabethtown 22 Oct. The month ended with rain, flurries, and snow on the Adirondacks at higher elevations. The Champlain Valley had just 0.3 inches of snow in October. November began with rain over much of the region on the first, with 4 inches of snow at Indian Lake. The next day there was a snowfall of 11 inches at Malone yet less than an inch at Elizabethtown and elsewhere. By 23 Nov, Newcomb registered a seasonal low of 5°F. On Thanksgiving, Lake Champlain stood at 96.10 ft. with a water temperature of 45°F. An earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale rocked the Region at 6:40 PM on the evening of 25 Nov. Hopefully the quake shook a few couch potatoes out into the field for the winter season.

At 4 PM on 13 Nov, 73-year old Carl Davis loaded his shotgun with No. 4 shot, stepped outside his Plattsburgh home, and brought down what he allegedly mistook for a goose or duck perched in a tree across the road. The bird fell into the South Junction Road where a passing motorist who witnessed the incident stopped and told Mr. Davis to call the NYS DEC. The dead "duck" was, in fact, a Bald Eagle. Moreover, the immature bird was a 1988 release from the New York restoration program. Captured in Alaska, the eaglet had been transported to Alcove Reservoir and hacked back into the wild at a cost of \$6,000. Davis was charged with a criminal violation of taking and possessing an endangered species under NYS law and appeared before Plattsburgh Town Justice Philip Drollette, who imposed the maximum State fine of \$250. The shooting was also a violation of the Federal Eagle Act, Endangered Species Act, and Migratory Bird Treaty Act, where stiffer penalties are available. However, it is reportedly the policy of the U.S. Dept. of Justice not to pursue Federal criminal charges in such cases already before a State court. Sources close to the case suggest that Federal civil proceedings are still possible; civil cases are tried before an Administrative Law Judge and financial penalties can be imposed.

Other species shot in this Region in recent years include Common Loon, Great Blue Heron, Osprey, American Kestrel, Merlin, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, and Belted Kingfisher. Until and unless State penalties are strengthened, which



we urge, to help curtail this mindless killing of protected birds, the appropriate course of action might be to allow the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to lead in taking such cases before the Federal courts. Otherwise, the DEC must apprehend and prosecute two dozen perpetrators (each fined the NYS maximum, which is not always the case) to pay for just one eagle. Lt. King and the NYS DEC are to be commended in this case, but surely \$250 is a small price for our National bird. This might be an opportune time for the Department to ask the Legislature to bring NYS penalties in line with Federal law.

Seasonal banding efforts were limited: 28 individuals of 14 species banded in the Cedar River valley 8-11 Sep and 52 individuals of 16 species banded near Elizabethtown 9 Sep-1 Oct.

Contributors: Merry Baker, Geoffroy Carleton, Charlcie Delehanty, Michael DiNunzio, George Doyle, Robert Gillis, Anne Hungerford, Garry Lee, Theodore Mack, Norman Mason, Robert McKinney, John & Susan Peterson, Margaret & Toby Secone, Betsy Tisdale, Jan Trzeciak, Hollis White, Frank Witebsky.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: Indian L 14 Nov (JT). Com. Loon: migrant over Scofield Mt ESSE 4 Sep (MB). Pied-billed Grebe: n L George 26 Nov, late. Horned Grebe: max 28 Westport 7 Nov (GC), high. Green-backed Heron: Westport 6 Oct (GC), late. Snow Goose: 100+ Lower St. Regis L 10 Oct unexpected. Brant: many arr Mt View and Indian L 3 Oct (JT). Canada Goose: thousands Mt View and Indian L during Oct, two wearing yellow collars; one of 60 on second pond near Baker's Mills 26 Sep also sporting a yellow collar. Canvasback: arr Tupper L 19 Oct (CD). Ring-necked Duck: arr Westport 6 Oct (GC) early; max 61 Tupper L 8 Nov. Black Scoter: 170 Mirror L 3 Nov. Surf Scoter: 23 Tupper L 19 Oct, three Mirror L 3 Nov. White-winged Scoter: 25 Mirror L 3 Nov (RH); all scoters unusual inland.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: migrant Gothics 24 Sep, two Tupper L 17 Nov, late. Bald Eagle: ad Franklin Falls to 1 Sep (TM), ad Eagle L early Sep (M&TS), Winch Pd ESSE 16 Oct (BT), imm Mt View L 18 Oct, two there RR bed same date (JT), *intro*. Rough-legged Hawk: arr Tupper L 3 Nov. Merlin: crossed summit of Gothics low 24 Sep (TM). Ring-necked Pheasant: 490 released CLIN Sep, 490 released ESSE Sep, none reported. Wild Turkey: one near L Utowana 4 Nov unexpected (CD). Greater Yellowlegs: arr two Hogansburg 27 Sep (HW). Pectoral Sandpiper: arr two Hogansburg 15 Oct, max 5 Westport 1 Nov.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Great Horned Owl: put up domestic geese Westport 2:30 PM dark afternoon of 6 Oct. Long-eared Owl: yipped a few times night of 12 Oct Paradox, seen and heard Westport 31 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Alder Flycatcher: with fledglings in Paradox swamp 19 Aug (MB). Gray Jay: max 15 Keese Mill Rd 3 Sep, Sabattis Road Bog 4 Sep (TM), tamarack bog s of Paul Smiths 28 Oct (CD), Moose River Plains. Boreal Chickadee: Ferd's Bog and Cedar River. Tufted Titmouse: Elizabethtown 20 Sep (JP). Gray-cheeked Thrush: migrant Elizabethtown 29 Sep (JP). Hermit Thrush: last heard Paradox 19 Oct. Water Pipit: 100 Hogansburg 15 Oct only report. N. Shrike: arr Elizabethtown 13 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Golden-winged Warbler: struck window Ausable Forks 17 Oct (GD), record late for Region. Palm Warbler: Ferd's Bog 29 Sep (FW) only report.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: N. Cardinal: male Cedar R Rd 1 Nov unusual. Field Sparrow: Tupper L feeder 2-3 Nov, late. Savannah Sparrow: transient banded Elizabethtown 20 Sep. Fox Sparrow: Oct reports from Bloomingdale, Saranac Lake, Tupper Lake. Lincoln's Sparrow: banded Cedar R early Sep, three transients banded Elizabethtown 12-30 Sep. White-crowned Sparrow: arr Owls Head 2 Sep to Tupper L 25 Sep. Dark-eyed Junco:

one "Pink-sided" or "Oregon" in flock of 15 Owls Head 24-25 Oct (JT). Snow Bunting: Inlet and Cedar R Nov only reports. Com. Grackle: max 300 Owls Head 15 Oct. Pine Grosbeak: Moriah feeder late Nov only report. Evening Grosbeak: extremely scarce; McKinney observed, "In 28 years of deer hunting in the central Adirondack area in November, I don't think I ever had a week without a single northern finch, including Evening Grosbeak."

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## REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

LINDA ARMSTRONG

The birding, or should I say the reporting of birding activities this fall, was scarce. Reports are scattered and few in number. September was cooler than normal but there were few rainy days to interfere with being outside, in fact, this was the driest September on a statewide basis since 1969. October followed as another cold month, again with below normal precipitation in most of the Region. Finally November was simply an average month weather wise. So with no terrible weather patterns to disrupt time spent outside there were some exciting birds seen. Golden Eagles were observed from two different locations, one at Haines Falls on 14 Oct and the other in Cherry Plain on 12 Nov. At Pinnacle, one of our hawk watching spots, Peregrine Falcons were seen on 18 Sep, 5 Oct and two were seen on 6 Oct. A Barred Owl was described as performing 'magnificently' at North Lake near Haines Falls 15 Oct. The bird was visible at fifty feet for over one half hour. Red-bellied Woodpeckers appear to have found directions to Region 8. One was seen feeding at a suet feeder in W. Taghkanic on 3 Nov, another was observed at Stockport Station on 30 Sep and, although it's early for this report, another was observed on a New Year's Celebration bird count at Five Rivers.

Arthur Long spent time on both 14 and 16 Sep at Pinnacle. During these two days he reports seeing ten different species. His totals for the two days were: Turkey Vulture: 2,1; Osprey: 7,0; Northern Harrier: 0,1; Sharp-shinned Hawk: 3,1; Cooper's Hawk: 1,1; Red-shouldered Hawk: 0,1; Broad-winged Hawk: 48,10; Red-tailed Hawk: 4,2; American Kestrel: 3,1; and Merlin: 0,1, respectively.

Contributors: Estelle Anderson, Linda Armstrong, Joseph Bach, Kate Beale, Juna Beaty, Bob Boehem, Melissa Brewer, Paul Connor, Bill Cook, Bruce Craig, Donald Davis, Paul Davis, Dolly Kennedy, Arthur Long, Betty McGuire, Laura Meade, Barb Putnam, Elton Rising, Joan Robertson, Jim Sotis.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: reported commonly from Alcove Res, Embough Bay, Hague, Saratoga L, Tomhannock Res throughout period. Pied-billed Grebe: small numbers seen Bell's Pd, Tamarac, Tomhannock Res Oct and Nov. Horned Grebe: singles Embough Bay 5 Oct, Tomhannock Res 6 Nov. Double-crested Cormorant: max 25 Embough Bay 1 Sep. Great Egret: one Churchtown 16 and 24 Sep, three Stockport 30 Sep. Green-backed Heron: last Churchtown 10 Sep. Mute Swan: single report five Embough Bay 15 Oct. Snow Goose: max 540 Pinnacle 5 Oct. Canada Goose: max 2000 plus both Stuyvesant and Tomhannock Res Nov. Wood Duck: last Embough Bay 15 Oct. Green-winged Teal: two reports, few Sikule Pond 19 Sep, eight Raymertown 6 Nov. Am. Black Duck: max 100 Embough Bay 5 Oct. Mallard: max 75 Embough Bay 15 Oct. N. Pintail: two locations, four Embough Bay 15 Oct, four Stockport Station 30 Sep. Blue-winged Teal: last six Vischer's Ferry 4 Oct. N. Shoveler: single report, two Sikule Pd 19 Sep. Gadwall: two locations, dozen Coeymans Hollow 10 Oct, two Raymertown 6 Nov. Am. Wigeon: last two Raymertown 6 Nov. Canvasback: max 30 Tomhannock Res 6 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: single report 33 Bell's Pd 15 Oct. Scaup sp: max 50 Tomhannock Res 6 Nov. Black Scoter: single report male Saratoga L 10 Nov. Com. Goldeneye: max 90 Tomhannock Res 6 Nov. Bufflehead: last eight Saratoga L 10 Nov. Hooded Merganser: single report eight Tomhannock Res 6 Nov. Com. Merganser: Schodack Landing and Mohawk River all season. Ruddy Duck: sole location 12 Basic Res 10 and 31 Oct.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: small groups through 6 Oct. Osprey: individuals seen Catskill, Eagleville, Embough Bay, Mohawk River, Schyulerville, Tomhannock Res, Warren City. Bald Eagle: two reports, imm Basic Res 31 Oct, one Stuyvesant 7 Oct. N. Harrier: Pinnacle and various locations in RENS to 27 Nov. Sharp-shinned Hawk: seen frequently at Pinnacle to mid Nov, hunting near feeder in Clarksville Sep-Oct. Cooper's Hawk: reported from Pinnacle, Rensselaer and Tamarac. N. Goshawk: single location, one Pinnacle 20 Oct, 27 Oct, 3 Nov. Red-shouldered Hawk: single location Pinnacle, *intro*. Broad-winged Hawk: single location Pinnacle, *intro*. Rough-legged Hawk: single report by Arthur Long at Pinnacle. Golden Eagle: *intro*. Merlin: single location Pinnacle; *intro*. Peregrine Falcon: *intro*. Ring-necked Pheasant: two locations, one Churchtown 3 Sep, one Taghkanic 12 Oct. Ruffed Grouse: reported from Cambridge, Churchtown, Clarksville, RENS, Schoharie, Selkirk. Wild Turkey: few reports, small flocks Cambridge, Schoharie. Virginia Rail: one Raymertown 25 Sep (PC). Killdeer: reported throughout period. Greater Yellowlegs: two locations, one Castleton 4 Sep one Basic Res 10 Oct. Ring-billed Gull: most often reported from RENS all season. Herring Gull: smaller numbers but same places and dates as Ring-billed. Great Black-backed Gull: even smaller numbers but same as above.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** Black-billed Cuckoo: single report Schodack Center 12 Sep. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: single report this year one Churchtown 3 Sep. E. Screech-Owl: two locations Clarksville and W. Taghkanic. Great Horned Owl: same as E. Screech-Owl. Barred Owl: as above plus one North L 15 Oct. Com. Nighthawk: single location nine Catskill 1 Sep. Chimney Swift: max dozens Five Rivers 12 Sep. Belted Kingfisher: seen throughout period in Clarksville, wintering bird on Onesquathaw Creek. Red-bellied Woodpecker: *intro*. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: single report two ad Black Creek Marsh 30 Sep. Pileated Woodpecker: seen commonly Clarksville all season, numerous dates at Hague.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** E. Wood-Pewee: seen frequently RENS during Sep. Least Flycatcher: single location one New Baltimore 16 Sep. E. Phoebe: small numbers from Basic Res, Cambridge, Churchtown, Clarksville, Embough Bay, Five Rivers, Hague, Raymertown. Horned Lark: single location Staats I 4 Oct and into Nov. Tree Swallow: max 200 Schodack Landing 4 Sep then throughout. Bank Swallow: last 42 Churchtown 10 Sep. Cliff Swallow: two locations two Embough Bay 1 Sep, one Brookview 8 Sep. Barn Swallow: max 80 Schodack Landing 4 Sep. Fish Crow: numerous reports, Castleton, RENS, Stuyvesant. Com. Raven: reported Thacher P n to Hague. Carolina Wren: one Stockport Station 30 Sep. House Wren: two reports, Churchtown and Schodack Center through 4 Oct. Winter Wren: three sightings, North L 15 Oct, Raymertown 23 Oct, Schodack Center 22 Sep. Marsh Wren: two locations, one Embough Bay 15 Oct, one RENS 20 Oct. Golden-crowned Kinglet: numerous Schoharie 3 Oct. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last reported five Pine Swamp 21 Oct. E. Bluebird: greatest numbers reported from Clarksville-Onesquathaw Creek, up to two dozen throughout period. Gray-cheeked Thrush: single bird Schodack Center mid Sep. Swainson's Thrush: common nocturnal migrant in Schodack Center until 4 Oct (PC). Hermit Thrush: single report one Schodack Center 21 Sep. Wood Thrush: Schodack Center until 19 Sep. N. Mockingbird: one downy fledgling reported Churchtown 10 Sep. Brown Thrasher: last report Schoharie 4 Oct. Water Pipit: 12 East Greenbush 4 Oct. Cedar Waxwing: max 130 Pine Swamp 21 Oct.

**VIREOS-WARBLERS:** Solitary Vireo: two locations, one Embough Bay 15 Oct, Schoharie 17 Sep through 16 Oct. Warbling Vireo: seen through mid Sep Schoharie.

Red-eyed Vireo: several Schoharie mid Sep. Golden-winged Warbler: single report, male Five Rivers 1 Sep. Tennessee Warbler: twelve plus Schodack Landing 28 Sep. Chestnut-sided Warbler: two Embough Bay 15 Oct. Magnolia Warbler: last Saratoga City 2 Oct. Black-throated Blue Warbler: one W Taghkanic 15 Sep. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 150 Raymerton area 25 Sep. Black-throated Green Warbler: numerous in both Schodack Landing and Schoharie mid Sep. Blackburnian Warbler: single location Schoharie 17 Sep. Pine Warbler: single location Schoharie 18 Sep and 16 Oct. Palm Warbler: last ad male Schoharie 9 Oct. Bay-breasted Warbler: one W Taghkanic 21 Sep. Blackpoll Warbler: last six Schodack Landing 28 Sep. Am. Redstart: Castleton 14 Sep, Five Rivers 12 Sep. Ovenbird: Schoharie 18 Sep and 3 Oct. Com. Yellowthroat: max four Brookview 4 Oct.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: a large fledgling being fed by ad female at Schodack Landing 28 Sep (PC). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last report three W Taghkanic 21 Sep. Indigo Bunting: juv Churchtown 3 Sep. Rufous-sided Towhee: Schoharie 17 Sep through 15 Oct. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Cambridge 5 Nov. Chipping Sparrow: last Schoharie 16 Oct. Field Sparrow: last Schodack Landing 16 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: single report one Tamarac 6 Nov. Fox Sparrow: one to four Schoharie 16 Oct through 15 Nov. Song Sparrow: max 50 Raymerton area 25 Sep. Lincoln's Sparrow: one Raymerton 25 Sep. Swamp Sparrow: last Basic Res 10 Oct. White-throated Sparrow: arr Churchtown 24 Sep, many in Schoharie by 9 Oct. White-crowned Sparrow: arr Vischer Ferry 4 Oct. Red-winged Blackbird: last Embough Bay 15 Oct. E. Meadowlark: single report Churchtown 24 Sep. Rusty Blackbird: hundreds on Tongue Mt Trail, T Bolton, 19 Oct (ER). Com. Grackle: few reported; two Churchtown 3 Sep 10 Sep, two Embough Bay 15 Oct, max 12 Hague 15 Sep. Purple Finch: max 25 Pinnacle 19 Oct. Com. Redpoll: single report two Eagleville mid Nov. Pine Siskin: one Pinnacle 19 Oct, three Hague 27 Oct.

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

*[This is Linda Armstrong's last Region 8 report. Her absence will make my job as Editor and these pages a little less cheerful. On behalf of the Federation, thanks Linda for the fine job you have done as Region 8 Editor. Sadly, no one has offered to fill Linda's shoes and we are without a Region 8 Editor next season. ]*

## REGION 9 - DELAWARE-HUDSON

HELEN C. MANSON

A pleasant September brought relief from the long, hot summer. Fall migration is always exciting and it was good to get out birding again. The cool weather of October brought some late frost and splendid color. Rain, coming late in the month, stripped the leaves from the trees. November was a little colder than normal with some snow midmonth. Together with the coolness of October November made this the coldest fall in many years. Once again the lush weed patches of the Stony Kill Gardens provided food for many migrants well into November.

The Dutchess Bluebird Trail had a good year. From 131 boxes 609 young were fledged, of these 470 were banded by Florence Germond. This does not include all the other boxes that are scattered about the rest of the region.

A Great Horned Owl was found by a woman who is not a birder. In fact she is afraid of birds. She heard the crows mobbing something for a day or two and found the owl huddled under a tree. She called her neighbor, Barbara Michelin,

who is a birder, and they found the owl was unable to fly. Several calls were made until finally the Life Line For Wildlife was reached and Donna Tracy arrived. The owl was taken to the center. At last report it was doing well and may be released. The second rescue concerns a Wood Thrush. The bird was found 5 November in the protected area by a house. Mary Key was called and she found the bird in apparent good health, but it had no tail and could only fly a foot or two from the ground. She took it to the Millbrook School Zoo where it seems to be doing well. It is hard not to interfere when we see an animal in trouble. It is good to know there are those who care and will do something about situations such as these.

Contributors: Barbara Butler, Peggy Fascinai, Valerie Freer, Florence Germond, Sibyll Gilbert, Jim and Mary Key, Helen Manson, Barbara Michelin, Jack Orth, Eleanor Pink, John P. Tramontano, Edward Treacy, Marion VanWagner, Otis Waterman, Jo Weise.

Abbreviations: Basha - Bashakill Wetlands; EMBC - Edgar Mearns Bird Club; WBC - Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one Washington Res 4 Nov, two Neversink Res 18 Oct, one Hunns L 26 Nov. Pied-billed Grebe: good reports throughout area. **Great Cormorant:** two imm observed at 20 yds on pilings near Conn's Hook, Hudson R, 21 Oct (ET). Double-crested Cormorant: observed throughout period along the Hudson R. Am. Bittern: two Salt Pt area 1 & 7 Sep. Great Blue Heron: many reported DUTC. Great Egret: one Netherwood through Sep-Oct, one Amenia 16 Sep. Green-backed Heron: one 23 Sep (BB). Snow Goose: max 150 over Hook Mt 4 Oct. (ET), max 250 Highland Falls 6 Oct; small flock lingered DUTC through Nov. Brant: one Monroe 16 Nov, two Cornwall Bay 5 Nov. Canada Goose: 1000s migrating, as many stay. Wood Duck: good numbers DUTC, ULST. Green-winged Teal: three Basha 20 Oct (SCAS), 15 Amenia 22 Oct (HM), ten Travers Marsh 3 Nov (MVW), Humpo Marsh 22 Sep. Am. Black Duck: six to eight several sites DUTC. N. Pintail: one Basha 3 Sep (EMBC), three Travers Marsh 15-21 Oct (MVW), one Dieterich L 16 Oct. Blue-winged Teal: three Wappingers L 26 Oct, one Hunns L 24 Nov. Gadwall: seven Wappingers L 4 Nov. Am. Wigeon: 15 Wappingers L 11 Nov. Canvasback: max 300 Cornwall Bay 28 Oct. Ring-necked Duck: max 50 Abels L Oct-Nov, 75 Hunns L 15 Nov. Greater Scaup: 50 Hunns L 25 Oct, one Kays Pd 12 Nov. Oldsquaw: one Kays Pd 3 Nov (MVW). Black Scoter: one Dieterich L 16 Oct, one near WPMA 21 Oct (ET). Com. Goldeneye: four Wappingers L 11 Nov, two Kays Pd 28 Nov. Bufflehead: four Abels L 27 Nov (BB). Com. Merganser: nine Hunns L 26 Nov. Ruddy Duck: two Kays Pd 13 Oct, one Abels L 2 Nov.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS: Fall hawkwatch totals:**

Hawkwatch	Mt Peter	Bear Mt	Trapps
Osprey	229	64	3
Bald eagle	12	7	
N. Harrier	96	18	11
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1516	171	112
Cooper's Hawk	64	11	7
N. Goshawk	2	1	
Red-shouldered Hawk	31	3	5
Broad-winged Hawk	6515	4349	14
Red-tailed Hawk	653	13	57
Rough-legged Hawk			1
Golden Eagle	3	1	
Am. Kestrel	416	86	4
Merlin	12	2	1
Peregrine Falcon		5	1

Black Vulture: three Bear Mt 21 Oct, five 24 Oct; two Mt Peter 25 Oct. Turkey Vulture: 14 feeding on dead deer Salt Point 20-21 Oct; 12 Wiccopee 24 Oct. Osprey: one over Abels L 4 Nov. Bald Eagle: one Neversink Res 2 Sep, one Rondout Res 22 Sep, two imm Mongaup Res 15 Nov, one over East Park 31 Oct, two flying south Port Jervis 9 Nov. N. Harrier: several DUTC in Nov. Sharp-shinned Hawk: reported from feeders; two Vassar Farm 13 Nov (JMK). Cooper's Hawk: one Vassar College 14 Nov (OTW). N. Goshawk: one Pawling 11 Sep, one Claryville 22 Nov (JW). Broad-winged Hawk: max 500 Dover Plains 21 Sep (WBC). Red-tailed Hawk: 220 passing over Port Jervis lookout 3 Nov (ET). Rough-legged Hawk: only one. Golden Eagle: one Lookout Port Jervis 9 Nov. Am. Kestrel: low in DUTC, big comeback in numbers passing Mt Peter in the fall. Ring-necked Pheasant: few observed in DUTC. Ruffed Grouse: one observed drumming 24 Sep, two Brace Mt 3 Sep (BB). Wild Turkey: regularly along Palisades Parkway, becoming more common in most areas. N. Bobwhite: one Brace Mt 3 Sep. Sora: one Stissing throughout Sep and Oct. Black-bellied Plover: several Warren Sod Farms 26 Sep. Lesser Golden-Plover: max 50 Warren Sod Farms by 25 Sep. Killdeer: max 30 DUTC Airport 23 Oct. Greater Yellowlegs: one 1-2 Sep. Beaver Dam (MVW), five Cape Pond 3-8 Oct (VF) where water drained leaving mud flats. Lesser Yellowlegs: four Travers Marsh 15-16 Oct, two 21 Oct. Solitary Sandpiper: one 21 Sep (WBC), one Beaver Dam 3 Sep. Spotted Sandpiper: one Cape Pond 21 Sep. Upland Sandpiper: max 27 Warren Sod Farms 25 Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: one Travers Marsh 16 Oct. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: few noted in transit Warren Sod Farms (JPT). Pectoral Sandpiper: max six Travers Marsh 15-28 Oct. Com. Snipe: two Conklin Marsh 22-30 Oct (JMK). Laughing Gull: one Conn's Hook 22 Oct (ET). Bonaparte's Gull: one on Hudson R at Danskammer. Iceland Gull: imm 6 1/2 Mile Station 19 Nov. Com. Tern: two New Hamburg 5 Nov (OTW). Forster's Tern: for the second consecutive year a flock of 26 birds working the waterfront about Conn's Hook at Highland Falls 21 Oct (ET).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: two Canoe Hill 2 Sep, two Turkey Hollow 16 Sep (MVW), one Wappingers Falls 14 Sep (BB). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one 14 Sep Tamarack. E. Screech-Owl: one each in several places DUTC. Great Horned Owl: *intro*. Barred Owl: two mobbed by crows Vassar College, two Highland Mills, one perched in tree during the day (VF). Com. Nighthawk: one 10 Sep (JMK). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one DUTC 25 Sep, three Forestburgh into Oct. Red-headed Woodpecker: imm Pawling 25 Oct, one Millbrook area 23 Nov. Red-bellied Woodpecker: on the increase throughout Region. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max seven DUTC in Sep, two Tivoli 5 Oct (WBC), one Callicoon Center early Nov. N. Flicker: five 26 Nov (EP).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: two DUTC 10 Sep, one Warwarsing 13 Sep (JO), one Hook Mt 23 Sep. Least Flycatcher: one 5 Oct (BM), very late. E. Phoebe: most areas well into Oct. Horned Lark: flocks Warren Sod Farms, max 50 Millbrook School 16 Nov; 12-14 Bangall Rd and Canoe Hill. Tree Swallow: max 300 6 Sep. N. Rough-winged Swallow: three 1 Sep. Bank Swallow: one 2 Sep. Cliff Swallow: three Brace Mt 3 Sep. Am. Crow: max 8000 Middletown Roost by 30 Nov, normal number; max 500 Vassar Farm 22 Oct. Com. Raven: two 12 Nov, one harassed by crows Claryville 14 Nov, five Mt Peter 29 Oct, one Port Jervis 9 Nov, three Trapps Oct. Red-breasted Nuthatch: noted in Pleasant Valley mid Sep and mid Oct. one-two several areas DUTC. Carolina Wren: fairly common in central DUTC, max five 23 Nov (MVW), pair Wurtsboro 18 Oct. Winter Wren: one Claryville 9 Nov, max six late Nov (JW), one banded 9 Oct (VF), one Kidd Lane 5 Oct (WBC). Golden-crowned Kinglet: six Flint Hill 26 Nov (HM), 12 Grahamsville 13 Nov (JW). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: three Forestburgh into Oct, one 8 Nov (MVW), few others. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: singles Angels Hill 6 Sep, 14 Sep (PF). E. Bluebird: small flocks through Nov; *intro*. Veery: one 5-7 Sep (EP), one Basha 25 Sep. Hermit Thrush: max four Depot Hill 15 Oct, two Canoe Hill 21 Oct, two Reese Park 5 Nov (WBC). Wood Thrush: *intro*. Am. Robin: max 100 Vassar Farm early Nov. N. Mockingbird: settled into winter food supply, multiflora rose hedges, bittersweet etc.

Water Pipit: arrived in large numbers Warren Sod Farms, max 50 Bangall Rd 29 Oct, ten Conklin Marsh 5 Nov. Cedar Waxwings: 100+ Separate Rd 5 Sep, ten Vassar Farm 13 Nov. N. Shrike: one singing Vassar Farm 19 Nov (JMK).

VIREOS -WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: several throughout DUTC Sep. Red-eyed Vireo: one Dennings Pt 23 Oct (WBC), record late. Chestnut-sided Warbler: two Stormville 16 Oct. Cape May Warbler: two Fishkill 28 Oct. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 12 eating poison ivy berries 2 Oct, eight Basha 16 Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: one Dennings Pt 23 Oct. Prairie Warbler: two Depot Hill 15 Oct. Palm Warbler: one 25 Oct. Blackpoll Warbler: two 30 Oct. Scarlet Tanager: two Montgomery Place 25 Sep. Indigo Bunting: one Stony Kill Gardens 7 Oct. Am. Tree Sparrow: three Verbank 12 Oct. Chipping Sparrow: two Flint Hill 29 Oct. Field Sparrow: reported through Oct. Vesper Sparrow: two Grape Hollow 21 Sep (SG). Savannah Sparrow: max 12 Stony Kill Gardens 4 Oct. Grasshopper Sparrow: one Stony Kill Gardens 7 Oct. Henslow's Sparrow: one Humpo Marsh 22 Sep, one Warwick 1 Oct. Fox Sparrow: DUTC and SULL early Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: max four Stony Kill Gardens 7 Oct. Swamp Sparrow: one Stony Kill Gardens 7 Nov. White-crowned Sparrow: max ten along roadside Amenia 29 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: appeared late Sep. E. Meadowlark: two 14 Nov. (HM). Purple Finch: common at some feeders, max 14 (FG). Pine Siskin: ten Wurtsboro 21 Oct, none DUTC. Evening Grosbeak: in flight over Monroe late Sep, two Stormville 23 Oct, also over Mt Peter late Sep, only reports,

*Moores Mills, RD4, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569*

## REGION 10 - MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF & ALVIN WOLLIN

After the hot weather of mid summer the Fall reverted to a somewhat more usual weather pattern. September and November were very close to normal in temperature while October was almost 5° below normal. Both September, which was normal, and October, which was cold, each produced a new record low during the month. Only one day during the entire Fall season was below freezing. Precipitation for the period was below normal for September, average for October and over double in November; and just average for the entire Fall. However, for a change, the entire migration period had a virtually unblemished record for clear weekends, affording most birders a maximum of time to be outdoors.

Reporting for the Fall Season started on 1 Sep with the CBS radio traffic helicopter reporting a pelican over Manhattan flying west. [We offer this special field report without comment]. Equally astonishing was the 10 Oct report of birders David Mizrahi and Al Bell from the Fire Island Hawk Watch. A **Yellow Rail** landed on the median strip in front of them just long enough to be identified before flying off.

With the advent of a network of "Hawk Watches" we now have information to survey raptor migration patterns in Region 10. There are marked differences between the southern barrier beaches and the mainland sites, as evidenced by differences in both species and numbers as reported by the Fire Island compared to the Pelham Bay Hawk Watch. Pelham watchers report *buteos* in large numbers, Turkey Vultures and fewer falcons. On the barrier beaches there are very few

buteos and almost no Turkey Vultures. A mix of falcons comes early in the season while the large flight of Sharp-shinned Hawks comes later. For example Jones Beach had a large flight on 15 Sep mostly of American Kestrel; a major flight on 13 Oct of 50% Sharp-shinned Hawk and 25% each of American Kestrel and Merlin, along with Osprey, Cooper's Hawk, Peregrine Falcon and Northern Harriers. At Pelham 16 Sep was the peak of the Broad-winged Hawk flight when 6030 were reported. Steve Walter reported totals for the season at Pelham Bay including 1447 Osprey, 8366 Broad-winged Hawks, 19 Bald Eagles and 25 Turkey Vultures. All the Hawk Watches reported Bald Eagles in increasing numbers, a promising sign. Also of note were the larger numbers of Peregrine Falcon, Cooper's Hawk and Goshawk than in recent years.

Both Eastern Screech-Owl and Great Horned Owl were reported throughout the fall season from the Muttontown and Welwyn Preserves on the north shore of Nassau Co. where suitable habitat is available. None were reported from the south shore.

The sod farms on eastern Long Island continue to attract migrating shore birds. On 7 Sep Paul Gillen reported 97 Lesser Golden-Plover, three Pectoral and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Cutchogue, on 9 Sep John Bull reported 40 Lesser Golden-Plover and four Buff-breasted Sandpiper in a pasture near Mecox Bay, and on 21 Sep James Clinton reported 81 Lesser Golden-Plover, nine Pectoral, eight Buff-breasted Sandpipers and a Reeve in Wading River. Smaller numbers of the first two species above were reported into early Oct. Arthur Morris reported on shorebirds at Jamaica Bay. Based on the last seven year average, numbers were slightly higher in early Sep and slightly lower from mid Sep to mid Oct. From late Oct through late Nov the shorebirds were down 86% due to the Refuge personnel maintaining the East Pond water level at exceptionally high levels. Migrating Dunlin, among other birds, found no suitable habitat available at the site during this period. Forster's Terns appeared in larger numbers and stayed longer at Jones Beach. Over 100 were seen flying south from the inlet behind the Coast Guard Station toward the ocean on 16 Oct and at least 60 still remained on Oct 30. By early Nov they were all gone (SS,AW).

Most observers commented on the increased numbers of both flycatchers, thrushes and sparrows during migration. Oct 30 had large numbers of E. Phoebes and huge flocks of Tree Swallows at Jones Beach. In addition this was the first Fall in quite a few years that we saw good numbers of sparrows along the edges of vegetation at Jones Beach. This pattern persisted over a period of weeks with the peak of the sparrow flight on 20 Oct. In addition many observers commented on the large numbers of White-crowned Sparrows seen this fall. Whether the overall nesting season was successful or the weather cooperated, it is an encouraging sign. On the other hand migrating finches and Red-breasted Nuthatches were virtually absent during migration. A group of 50 Pine Siskin was the largest and almost only report of this species. For diversion the Fire Island Hawk Watch had a woodpecker flight on 6 Oct which included one Red-headed, three Red-bellied, one Downy along with Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Flicker (SW).

Christopher McKeever sent us a belated report received from Kimble Hicks on the Hither Hills Bluebird Box Project for the past Summer. In summary, 19 boxes produced 22 Bluebird fledglings in 6 of the boxes. In addition 12 boxes had House Wren nests and 2 boxes had Tree Swallow nests. Careful readers will



notice this adds to 20 boxes. Of interest is the comment that "one of the Bluebird pairs built a nest over a House Wren nest. A first. Usually the reverse." The members of the project are to be commended. We would like to believe this has something to do with wide spread reports of E. Bluebirds this Fall from Eastern Long Island.

A FINAL NOTE: It is part of the Fall reporting requirements of the regional editors to furnish a synthesis of last sightings for the selected group of 62 migrants on the "Fall Reporting Form". This is particularly difficult for Region 10 as ten of the birds on the list regularly overwinter here. It is impossible to separate the individuals which stay from true migrants without additional information from you, the observer. We solicit your help.

Contributors: John Bull, Thomas W. Burke, Ralph Cioffi, James Clinton, Sr., Steve Dempsey, Lester Feldman, Paul H. Gillen, Thomas Hook, William J. Kolodnicki, Anthony J. Lauro, Emanuel Levine, Hugh McGuinness, Christopher K. McKeever, David Mizrahi, Arthur Morris, Michael O'Brien, Robert O. Paxton, Bill Paterson, Drew Panko, Herb Roth, Seymour Schiff, Lore J. Schore, Steve Walter, Alvin Wollin.

Abbreviations: APP - Alley Pond Park; BNL - Brookhaven National Laboratory; FI - Fire Island; JBWR - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBch - Jones Beach; JFKWS - John F. Kennedy Wildlife Sanctuary (Tobay); LI - Long Island; MeB - Mecox Bay; PBP - Pelham Bay Park; RMSP - Robert Moses State Park; ShIn - Shinnecock Inlet; WEJB - West End Jones Beach.

LOONS-DUCKS: Tundra Swan: two Hook Pd 27 Nov. **Greater White-fronted Goose:** one with orange bill of Greenland race MeB 8 Nov (PG). Snow Goose: blue morph JFKWS 10 Oct (Harriet Sato, LS). Wood Duck: ten Muttontown 6 Oct. Eurasian Wigeon: one JBWR, same bird which remained through the summer, one Eastport 12 Nov, one Deephole Creek, Mattituck, 21 Nov (PG). Tufted Duck: one CP Reservoir 27 Nov (Steve Sherman). Harlequin Duck: two JBWE 15-22 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: one Rockville Centre 28 Sep (LF), Muttontown 29 Sep (Al Bell). **Yellow Rail:** *intro.* Sora: Cow Meadow, Freeport 6 Sep (JB). Lesser Golden-Plover: *intro.* American Oystercatcher: fall peak of 106 JBWR 29 Oct (AM). Whimbrel: eleven on school yard grounds in West Hempstead 23 Oct (Millard Lindauer). Hudsonian Godwit: various reported at locations from JBWR to MeB from 3 Sep to mid Nov. Marbled Godwit: four JBWR 5-8 Sep dwindled to one 4 Oct (AM). Baird's Sandpiper: one JBWR 3 Sep (SS). Purple Sandpiper: arr JBch 6 Nov. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: JBWR 7 Sep (TH); *intro.* **Ruff:** *intro.* Wilson's Phalarope: MeB 2-5 Sep (HMG). Red-necked Phalarope: swimming in ShIn 11 Oct (MO'B). Little Gull: one ShIn 6 Oct (MO'B); one JBch 27 Nov (SW). Com. Black-headed Gull: Gull-billed Tern: one JBWE 15 Sep (SS, AW). Caspian Tern: two ShIn 2 Sep, one MeB 5 Sep, two JBch 13 Sep, JBWE 18 Sep. Royal Tern: one JBch 1 Oct, 80 ShIn 8 Oct (MO'B), 15 MeB 27 Oct (PG). Forster's Tern: *intro.* Black Tern: two JBWR through early Sep, two FI 4 Sep, one PBP 30 Sep. Black Skimmer: 466 roosting on spit at tern nesting area JBWR 8 Oct (AM). E. Screech-Owl: *intro.* Great Horned Owl: *intro.* Snowy Owl: Smith's Pt 11 and 27 Nov (JC), JBch 25 Nov. Long-eared Owl: JBch 18 Oct (Matt Bayer, LS). Short-eared Owl: PBP Hawk Watch 23 Oct (SW), JBWR 4 Nov. N. Saw-whet Owl: JBWR 27 Oct and 18 Nov, two JBch 30 Oct.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Monk Parakeet: pair PBP throughout period (David S. Kunstler). Canary-winged Parakeet: JBch Sep 2 (Jacqueline and Jean Paul Latil). Com. Nighthawk: 33 over Franklin Sq. 9 Sep (Joann Larsen). Whip-poor-will: New Suffolk 21 Nov (PG). Red-headed Woodpecker: *intro.* Red-bellied Woodpecker: *intro.*

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: JBCh 12 Sep and 7 Oct. W. Kingbird: scattered records from all over, PBP 14 Sep, Welwyn Preserve, Glen Cove 23 Sep, JBWR 28 Sep, RMSP 6 Oct. Cliff Swallow: six JBWR 1 Sep (HMG). E. Bluebird: three JBWR 25 Oct (TH), five Oakland L 9 Nov, four Planting Fields 11 Nov, four to six BNL early Oct through Nov (JC). Hermit Thrush: 50 JBCh 20 Oct. **Loggerhead Shrike:** one JBCh 6 Sep (JB).

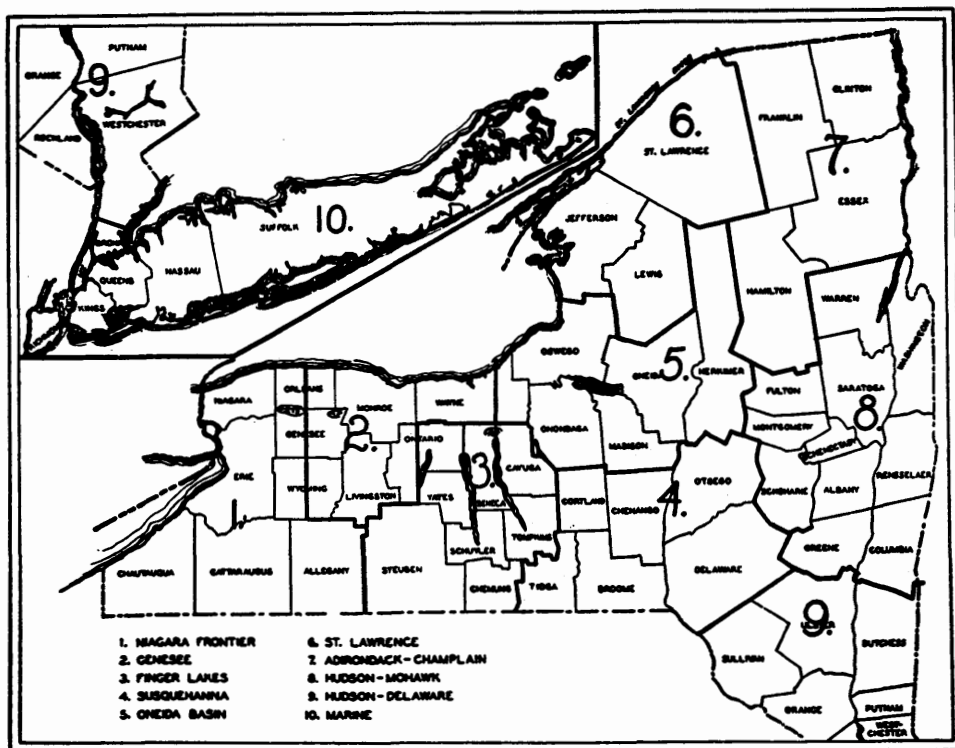
VIREOS-WARBLERS: Warbling Vireo: Accabonac 4 Sep (HMG). Philadelphia Vireo: JBWR 3 Sep (SS), Amagansett 4 Sep, RMSP 16 Sep, two JBWR 6 Oct. Brewster's Warbler: FI Sunken Forest 24 Sep (SS). Orange-crowned Warbler: one Far Rockaway 5 Oct (JB), 9 Oct (JC). Cape May Warbler: one ShIn 31 Oct (PG). Pine Warbler: two JBCh 3 Nov. Prothonotary Warbler: Sands Point Preserve 22 Sep (Herb Mills). Connecticut Warbler: JBWR 16 Sep (Stu Lipkin), JBCh 6 Oct (JB).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Summer Tanager: BNL 12 Sep (JC). Blue Grosbeak: two juv FI 2 Oct (AM,DM), one JBCh 11 Oct. Dickcissel: one 22 Sep JBCh (EL) and another in the same spot 9-10 Oct. Clay-colored Sparrow: close to a dozen reports along the south shore of NASS and SUFF from 16 Sep to 22 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: Glen Cove 12 Oct(RC), RMSP 14 Oct, APP 19 Oct (SW), 25 Oct JBWR(TH). Lark Sparrow: JBCh 2 Oct (LF) Garvies Pt Rd 16 Oct (RC). Grasshopper Sparrow: JBCh 12 Oct. Lincoln's Sparrow: JBCh 21 Sep (EL), one RMSP 14 Oct, JBCh 20 Oct. White-crowned Sparrow: *intro*. Lapland Longspur: Smith Pt 7 Nov (JC); ShIn 8-29 Nov (MO'B). Snow Bunting: arr JBCh 10 Nov. Yellow-headed Blackbird: RMSP 2 Oct (AM,AL). Rusty Blackbird: Douglaston Marsh 15 Nov (Queens Co Bird Club). Boat-tailed Grackle: eight of both sexes Cedar Beach 1 Oct (HR). Purple Finch: APP 27 Oct (Art Wagner, Sam Yeaton). Pine Siskin: 50 Lawrence 8 Nov (Helen Herschbein).

EXOTICS: Chilean Flamingo: 5 Nov last date for which we have received reports.

603 Mead Terrace, S. Hempstead, NY 11550.

## 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.

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

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