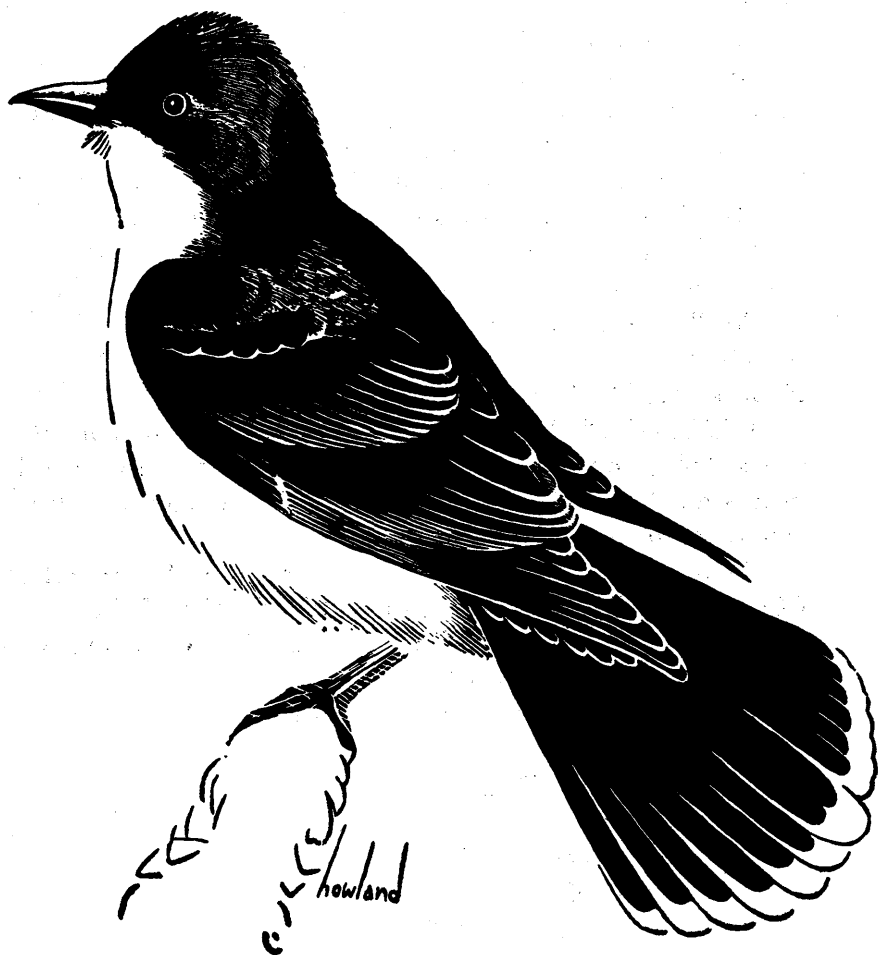


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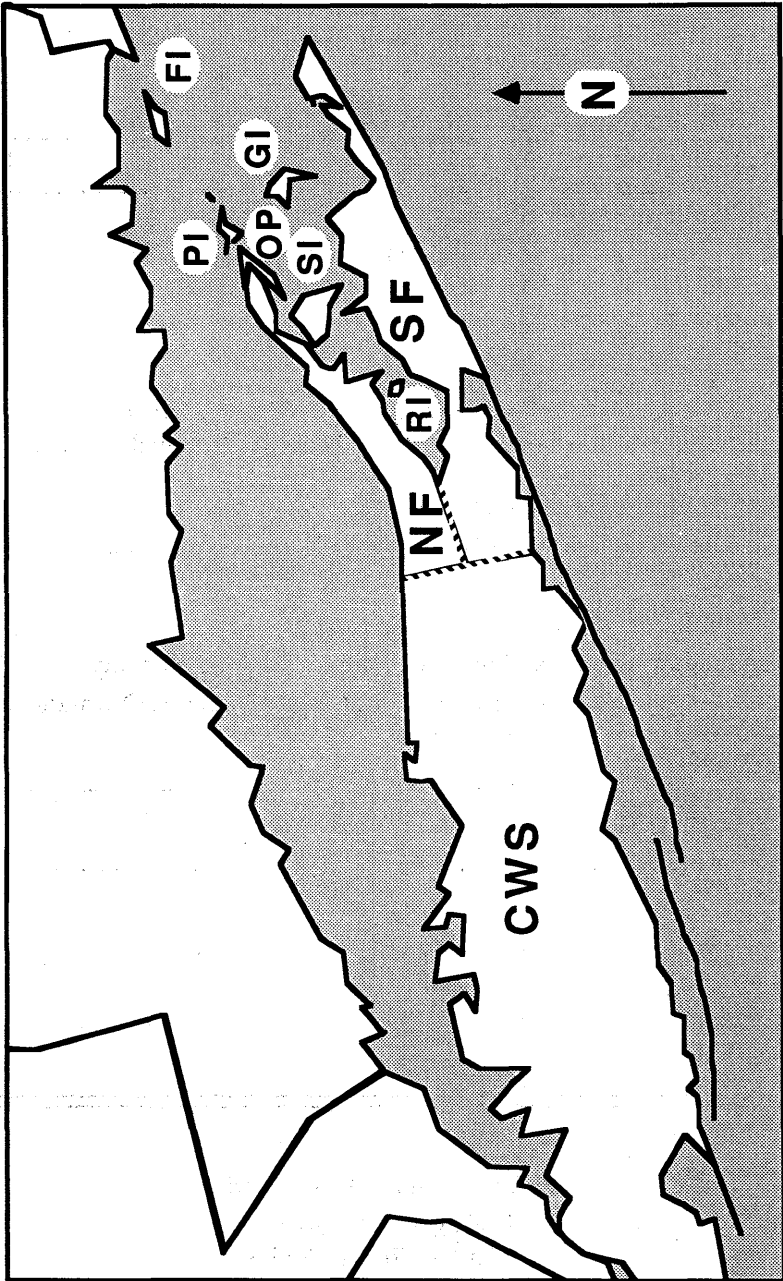


Figure 1. Osprey nesting regions on Long Island, New York. CWS - Central and Western Suffolk; NF - North Fork; SF - South Fork; RI - Robin's Island; SI - Shelter Island; OP - Orient Point; PI - Plum Island; GI

## OSPREY PRODUCTIVITY ON LONG ISLAND 1978-1987: A DECADE OF STABILIZATION

MICHAEL S. FISHMAN AND MICHAEL SCHEIBEL

The Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) population of Long Island, New York is part of an isolated, discrete breeding population that ranges from New York City to Boston, Massachusetts (Spitzer 1980). For the first half of this century, it exhibited great success. It was considered to be one of the largest known concentrations of nesting Osprey in the United States, and it was thought to contain the densest known colony in the world on Gardiner's Island (Chapman, 1908). In 1948, with the introduction of DDT, an organochlorine pesticide later found to adversely affect eggshell development, Osprey productivity on Long Island began a period of severe decline (Spitzer and Poole, 1980). The pesticide was ingested by the Osprey through their primary food source, fish. The fish had absorbed the DDT and its toxic metabolites from eating contaminated prey from areas that received runoff from the agricultural lands and wetlands that had been treated with the pesticide. Since the Osprey is at the top of this food web, it became the victim of a phenomenon known as biological magnification (Spitzer and Poole, 1980). Simply stated, each fish absorbed a small amount of the toxin from the prey it consumed and stored the toxin in its tissues. The Osprey consumed many fish, and thereby absorbed and retained large amounts of the toxin. DDT and its metabolites, such as DDE, cause eggshell thinning and ultimately lower hatching rates. Between 1948, when DDT was first used on Long Island, and 1972, when the Environmental Protection Agency banned its use following a successful local lawsuit (Poole and Spitzer, 1983), the Osprey population along the southern New England coast dropped 90 percent (Spitzer and Poole, 1980). This decline was so well correlated with the use of DDT, that Spitzer (1980) called DDT use "an Osprey reproductive failure experiment". In 1969, the declining use of DDT, increased public awareness of such environmental issues, and human intervention in the form of nest pole construction helped to start the recovery of productivity in this Osprey population. The next decade saw a steady recovery, and in 1977 the first population growth was seen (Spitzer and Poole, 1980). That same year, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation began a regular annual survey of the nesting Osprey of Long Island. We have assembled that data into a summary of the following decade, a decade of population stabilization.

## METHODS

Data for this study were collected by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation personnel during the years 1978 to 1987. Aerial and ground techniques both were used in the surveys. Two aerial surveys were done each breeding season, one in mid May and the second in July. The May survey was carried out in a fixed-wing aircraft and consisted of flying over all previously known nest locations, as well as any new locations reported by local observers. This survey was used to find active nests, which were defined as nests with adult Ospreys observed in an incubating posture.

The follow-up survey in July consisted of an aerial survey from a rotary-winged aircraft. All active nests were revisited and young in the nest were counted. This count was used to estimate the number of young fledged. Some young had not yet actually fledged, and others had fledged and were out of the nest, so this count was assumed to produce a good estimator of total fledged young.

Ground site visits were carried out for the first three years of data collection, mostly to highlight and confirm aerial survey results and to obtain detailed knowledge of nest distribution. Four or five visits were made to each site per breeding season to observe progressive nesting activities. These surveys were discontinued in 1980 because of time constraints on personnel and because it was felt that the aerial survey results were sufficiently accurate. The data obtained from 1980 to 1987 were collected from aerial surveys only.

Data were grouped into nine arbitrarily delineated zones on Long Island (Fig. 1). The central and western Suffolk zone covered from the Riverhead town line, west to the end of the island. It was named for Suffolk County because, when the surveys began in 1977, the westernmost active Osprey nest was in central Suffolk County. Since that time, the birds have spread farther west into Nassau County and in 1988, there were reports of a pair possibly residing at Jamaica Bay in Queens County. The South Fork zone consisted of the entire south fork of Long Island from an extension of the Riverhead town line, east to Montauk Point. The North Fork zone covered the whole north fork of the island, from the Riverhead town line east, up to, but not including the marshes at Hallock's Bay. Those marshes made up the Orient Point zone. The Robin's Island, Shelter Island, Gardiner's Island, Plum Island, and Fisher's Island zones included only the land on those respective islands.

The data were also summed into a category for the whole region. We chose to use this category for our summary for several reasons. First, it allowed a broad overview of the whole Long Island population as a unit,

which we felt would offer more valuable information than a view of arbitrarily delineated zones. Second, it allowed us to avoid the fluctuations in the individual zone data caused by movement of the birds from one zone to another. Ospreys generally return to nest in an area at or near their previous nesting site, or near the nest in which they were born (Ames and Mersereau, 1964; Henny and Wight, 1969; Spitzer, 1980). Due to habitat and space limitations, and perhaps even nest destruction, some would be forced to move such that they would cross the zone boundaries, which have little meaning to the birds. This movement would affect an increase in productivity for one zone and decrease it in another, causing fluctuations of the data in those zones. The net effect on the productivity of the whole region, however, is nothing. We have assumed that most relocation of Ospreys has occurred within the region of Long Island and its outlying islands. Therefore, a study of that region as a whole would be the best indicator of productivity trends there.

Productivity trends were determined for the whole region and for individual zones by running simple linear regressions of the productivity figures over the ten year period in question. Regression equations were calculated on an IBM PC microcomputer using a MINITAB version 5.1.1 statistics software package. Significance tests were run at a 95 percent confidence level using t-values calculated by MINITAB.

We used the variable of young fledged per active nest as a measure of productivity, because it has been traditionally used in the literature (Ames and Mersereau, 1964; Henny and Wight, 1969; Peterson, 1969; Henny and Ogden, 1970; Henny, 1972; Henny, *et al*, 1977; Spitzer, 1980; Spitzer and Poole, 1980) and because it is considered a statistically viable indicator of productivity status (Bernstein, *pers. comm.*). Bernstein (*pers. comm.*) is presently researching other variables for use as statistically valid indicators of productivity.

## RESULTS

Our first impression of the data plots for the whole region was that productivity had leveled off and was stabilizing. The regression and subsequent significance test supported this view. A regression over the ten year period showed that there was no significant trend in the data, but the slope of the regression line ( $m=0.02218$ ) indicated a slight increasing tendency. The only significant outliers were an extremely high productivity in 1981 (1.41 young per active nest), and an extremely low productivity in 1982 (0.73 young per active nest). All other points fell within the 95 percent confidence range. Regressions were also run for the first five years, and the second five years, but the data still

yielded no significant trends. The slope of the regression line for the first five years ( $m=-0.00600$ ) indicated a slight decreasing tendency, and the slope of the regression line for the second five years ( $m=0.02900$ ) indicated a slight increasing tendency.

Regressions of the data grouped into individual zones yielded similar insignificant results. The only significant trend that was found was in the Central and Western Suffolk zone. The slope of the regression line for this zone ( $m=0.09127$ ) indicated a significant increase in young fledged per active nest there. None of the other zones demonstrated significant trends, but it was interesting to note their tendencies. The South Fork ( $m=0.01030$ ), North Fork ( $m=0.01636$ ), Orient Point ( $m=0.02012$ ) and Gardiner's Island ( $m=0.05000$ ) zones all showed increasing tendencies of various degrees. The Robin's Island ( $m=-0.06630$ ), Shelter Island ( $m=-0.00788$ ), Plum Island ( $m=-0.07642$ ), and Fisher's Island ( $m=-0.00800$ ) zones all showed decreasing tendencies of various degrees. A point of interest here is that all of the areas which display decreasing tendencies are small islands extending from the east end of Long Island. Gardiner's Island, however, differs from these in that it does not display a decreasing tendency.

## DISCUSSION

The general leveling off trend observed in the data may be explained by the fact that the Osprey may have reached a sufficient productivity level to maintain their population. This assumes that environmental factors are limiting their further growth in some way, and that the population is a self-sustaining one. Henny and Wight (1969) calculated that 1.22 to 1.30 young needed to be produced per active nest in order to maintain a stable population of Osprey in New York and New Jersey. These figures were considered to be reliable enough to be applied to other east coast populations as well (Henny and Ogden, 1970). The mean productivity value for the Long Island Osprey population over the ten year period of 1978 to 1987 was 1.104 young per active nest. Assuming mortality rates declined after Henny and Wight's study due to the ban of DDT, and that their calculated values for maintaining the population would therefore be slightly lower, it seems reasonable to suggest that the productivity on Long Island is at a level which would maintain the population at its present status. Poole (1980), however, estimated that a productivity rate of 0.79 young per active nest needed to be produced in order to maintain the population along the Atlantic coast between New York City and Boston. If this figure is considered more accurate, due to its more recent calculation, the mean productivity rate suggests the population is actually expanding.

The low productivity figure from 1982 was attributed to prolonged inclement weather during incubation and hatching of the Osprey in that



season (Puleston, unpublished data). Weather data (NOAA, 1982) for Long Island for that breeding season indicate that precipitation in central and western Suffolk County was 7.28 to 8.40 inches (18.5 to 21.3 cm) above the normal. Precipitation on the South Fork at Bridgehampton was 12.09 inches (30.7 cm) above the normal, and on the North Fork at Riverhead was 8.09 inches (20.5 cm) above normal in June, 1982. Most Ospreys are hatched in late May or early June (Chapman, 1908; Brown and Amadon, 1968; Henny and Wight, 1969), and they are most vulnerable to mortality in their first month of life (Henny and Wight, 1969). This inclement weather coincided with the first month of life for most of the Long Island Ospreys, and there is little doubt that it is what caused the severe decline in young fledged per active nest in that year, either through exposure, or perhaps even drowning in the nests. The greatest declines were in the Gardiner's Island, Plum Island, and Fisher's Island zones. These three islands are located off the eastern tip of Long Island in open water, and are probably quite vulnerable to severe weather. Lesser declines were seen in all of the other zones as well.

The high productivity figure in the preceding year is not as easily explained. It is easy to blame bad weather for failure, but one cannot conversely say that good weather necessarily leads to success. Bad weather can be defined easily, but good weather cannot. The peak in productivity could be due to any number of environmental factors including weather, food supply, nesting site availability, or immigration. There were only five more active nests in 1981 than in 1980, and it is unlikely that they could have skewed the data so strongly, so immigration may be ruled out. Of the individual zones, the North Fork zone had the greatest increase in productivity from the previous year. The South Fork, Orient Point, Plum Island, Fisher's Island and Gardiner's Island zones each contributed to the increase to a lesser extent. The Shelter Island and Central and Western Suffolk zones remained constant from the previous year, and the Robin's Island zone decreased in productivity.

The significant increase in productivity seen in the Central and Western Suffolk zone may be accounted for by the increase in the number of productive active nests in the zone during the study period. Between 1978 and 1987, the number of productive nests increased by a factor of ten; more than in any other zone. This may be due to any of the environmental factors listed above, but in this case, immigration is also a possible cause. During the study period, Ospreys expanded westward on Long Island, which may account for the increase in productivity there.

The decreasing tendencies displayed by the outlying islands, though not significant, are intriguing. It is curious to note that Gardiner's Island is the only outlying island that shows an increasing tendency. This may be due to predation. Gardiner's Island is free from any native or introduced mammalian predators (Puleston 1972), such as Raccoons (*Procyon lotor*), which have been known to prey upon nests on or close to the ground (Ames and Mersereau, 1964). There is also little human disturbance or development on Gardiner's Island (Puleston, 1972), which also may play a role. Further study is required before any solid conclusions may be drawn on this point.

The noise which obscures trends in the data from the individual zones is probably due to movement of birds from one zone to another. This hypothesis is testable through banding and field observation studies. However, due to the Osprey's breeding cycle, such a study would require a minimum of three to four years to track each year's hatchlings. This time constraint, coupled with costs involved, make this sort of project unfeasible for anyone other than State or Federal wildlife research units.

Based on the lack of a significant trend, either increasing or decreasing, in data for the whole Long Island region, I would conclude that the productivity of the Osprey population of Long Island has stabilized, with some natural fluctuation, over the decade of 1978 to 1987. The mean productivity value, when compared to Poole's (1980) estimate for maintenance of the population, suggests that the population is increasing.

## SUMMARY

A regression analysis of Osprey productivity data from Long Island, New York shows a level trend with no significant increasing or decreasing trend for the period of 1978 to 1987. There was a significant increase in productivity in Central and Western Suffolk County, possibly due to increased nesting there. There was a significant peak in productivity in 1981, and a significant drop in productivity in 1982 on the whole island region.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank Dr. Charles Smith of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology for his valuable advice and guidance in this project. We would also like to thank Arthur Cooley for coordinating this project. We are indebted to Keith Eggleston of the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University for weather data and maps, and to Daniel Bernstein for sorting and plotting the raw data for interpretation.

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## WATER QUALITY AND THE SUMMER DISTRIBUTION OF COMMON LOON IN NEW YORK

ROB BLAIR

The Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) is dependent on water: it feeds in water, sleeps on water, vocalizes from water, and raises its chicks on water (Olson and Marshall 1952). It is so poorly adapted for terrestrial locomotion that its common name derives from the old English word, *lomme*, as in lummoX (Thomson 1989). The Common Loon appears on land only to construct its nest and incubate its eggs on the shores of its summering lakes (Olson and Marshall 1952). In North America, it spends the breeding season on freshwater lakes across the northern United States and Canada. In winter, it can be found on coastal waters from Baja California to the Aleutian Islands in the West and from the Gulf of Mexico to Labrador in the East (Scott 1987, A.O.U. 1983).

In this study, I examined the connection between the quality of freshwater lakes and the summer distribution of Common Loons by analyzing 107 lakes in New York. I used information gathered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (hereafter DEC) on the use of these lakes by loons and combined it with 37 lake- and water-quality parameters from each lake collected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (hereafter EPA). My goals were to determine if certain lake- and water-quality parameters differed between lakes occupied and lakes not occupied by loons, and whether these parameters could be used to predict the presence of loons on these lakes.

Recent work on loons and water quality has centered around acid deposition and whether changes in lake acidity have affected loon populations. Parker (1988) found that the acidity of lakes in this same region, the Adirondacks, had no significant effect on loon reproductive success. He did find that lake acidity affected adult feeding behavior of chicks in that the adults fed chicks prey items that were smaller or larger than those normally preferred on neutral lakes. Alvo *et al* (1988) examined an area in Canada that was more severely acidified than those examined by Parker, and suggested that greater brood mortality on acidic lakes could be attributed to a shortage of food for the young. They also concluded that successful breeding was associated with large, clear, high-alkalinity lakes, while lack of breeding was associated with small, brown, low-alkalinity lakes. Both studies noted that loons continue to breed on marginal quality, critically acidified lakes rather than move to areas where food is readily available.

This study examines the link between Common Loon distribution and water quality by looking at 37 lake- and water-quality

measurements. The procedure uses only those parameters that were available through the EPA study and does not involve all factors that may affect loon distribution in summer, including some that have already been shown to be important, such as shoreline development (*i.e.*, how convoluted the shoreline is, Dahmer 1986), availability of islands (Olson and Marshall 1952), and recreational pressure (Titus and VanDruff 1981). Though these factors were not considered, distinct patterns in loon distribution can still be delineated.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

I used logistic regression to examine the association between the Common Loon distribution information collected by the DEC and the lake- and water-quality information gathered by the EPA.

**Loon Distribution:** I obtained information on the summer distribution of loons from a report by the DEC (Parker *et al* 1986). I used all possible information provided by the report including the initial DEC survey from the summers of 1977-1979, surveys by DEC crews in the summers of 1984 and 1985, and surveys by Adirondack Loon Preservation Project Volunteers during the summers of 1983-1985. Generally, the surveyed lakes were larger than 10 ha. I classified all lakes on which loons had never been sighted as non-occupied lakes ( $n=49$ ), lakes on which loons had been sighted at least once but had shown no evidence of breeding as having loons present ( $n=23$ ), and lakes on which loons had shown breeding activity at least once, as evidenced by nests or chicks, as breeding lakes ( $n=35$ ).

**Water Quality:** I gathered water quality information from the EPA sponsored Eastern Lakes Survey Phase I, which was part of the EPA's National Surface Water Survey and a contribution to the National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program (Linthurst *et al* 1986). This survey, which was conducted in the fall of 1984, involved sampling over 1700 randomly selected lakes larger than four ha in surface area in the eastern United States. Physical parameters of the lake, such as elevation, lake area, and watershed area were determined from USGS topographic maps. Water quality characteristics were gathered by landing fixed-pontoon helicopters on the lakes at the apparently deepest part where most samples were taken from the helicopter, 1.5 m below the surface of the water.

The characteristics that were measured included acid neutralizing capacity, calcium, calculated conductance, the ratio of cations to anions, chloride ion, dissolved inorganic carbon, closed system pH, true color, dissolved organic carbon, elevation of the lake surface, air-equilibrated dissolved inorganic carbon, air-equilibrated pH, extractable aluminum, total dissolved fluoride, dissolved iron, bicarbonate ion, lake hydrologic type, dissolved potassium, lake surface area, measured conductance,

dissolved magnesium, dissolved manganese, dissolved sodium, ammonium ion, nitrate ion, Secchi disk transparency (Secchi depth), dissolved silica, depth at sampling site (site depth), sulfate ion ( $\text{SO}_4$ ), sum of anions, sum of cations, surface temperature, total aluminum, total phosphorous, turbidity, ratio of watershed area to lake area, and watershed area. For details concerning the methods used in sampling these characteristics, see Linthurst *et al* (1986).

**Statistical Analysis:** The combination of the Common Loon distribution information and the water-quality survey provided a sample size of 107 lakes: 35 lakes with evidence of breeding loons, 23 with loons present but having no indication of their breeding, and 49 not occupied by loons. This information was analyzed using logistic multiple regression provided by the MIDAS (Michigan Interactive Data Analysis System) statistical package at the University of Michigan. Logistic multiple regression differs from multiple linear regression in that it requires only two states for the response variable (loons or no loons) and that the restrictions concerning the normality of data are relaxed (Cox 1970, McCullagh 1980, Smith 1981). Logistic multiple regression allows prediction of the probability a lake of being in one group versus another, for example, whether a lake is occupied or not occupied by loons, based on the values of the independent variables in the equation. I assume that the probability of being in one group, for example, a lake not occupied by loons, is of the form  $e^{x\beta}/(1+e^{x\beta})$ , where  $x\beta$  is a linear combination of the predictors. The probability of being in the other group is then  $1-[e^{x\beta}/(1+e^{x\beta})]=1/(1+e^{x\beta})$ . In this form,  $x\beta$  is the logarithm of the probabilities of the two outcomes (loon-occupied, not loon-occupied) (cf. King *et al.* 1988). In this particular instance,  $x\beta$  is taken as a linear combination of lake- and water-quality parameters:

$$x\beta = a + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \dots + \beta_i x_i$$

where  $a$  is some constant,  $x_i$  is the value of a specific lake- or water-quality parameter, and  $\beta_i$  is a coefficient.

The method of maximum likelihood was used to estimate  $a$  and the coefficients  $\beta_1 \dots \beta_i$  such that the likelihood (reconstructed probability) of the data as they were actually observed was a maximum. This reconstructed probability is the product of terms like  $1/(1+e^{x\beta})$  for loon-occupied lakes and terms like  $e^{x\beta}/(1+e^{x\beta})$  for unoccupied lakes. The

method of maximum likelihood supplies approximate statistical significance tests for the logistic multiple regression as a whole (that is, the probability that the water quality parameters have nothing to do with loon presence or absence) as well as partial significance tests for each coefficient  $\beta$  in the formula for the logs-odd  $x$  (King *et al* 1988). Problems with correlated variables may arise in multiple logistic regression models. In this case, variables with correlation coefficients of more than .50 were not used in the same model.

I compared lakes occupied by loons with breeding activity (n=35) to those where loons had only been spotted but had shown no evidence of breeding (n=23). A variable by variable comparison, using logistic regression, showed no substantial differences in these two sets of loon-occupied lakes and, consequently, I combined these two groups into one large group representing lakes where loons were present.

I compared lakes on which loons were present (n=58) to those where they had never been seen (n=49) using logistic regression on a variable by variable comparison. Few water quality factors proved to be different between these two groups of lakes, so factors that demonstrated a trend towards being different (indicated by  $p < .1$ ) were flagged for use in developing a model of loon presence and absence. I used these water quality parameters in a multiple logistic regression model. To find the best model possible, I employed the Wald Test in which the variables that provided the least information to the model were deleted if the absolute value of the ratio of their estimated coefficient under the model and their asymptotic standard deviation was less than one (TenHave *pers. comm.*, Cox 1970, McCullagh 1980, Smith 1981).

Finally, this 'best model' was subjected to a validating jackknife procedure (TenHave *pers. comm.*). In this procedure, data from individual lakes were deleted from the data set one lake at a time, and the model was recalculated without the information concerning that particular lake. Then, a prediction was made as to whether loons would or would not occupy that lake based on the model derived from all the other lakes. This prediction was then compared to the actual observation as to whether loons actually did occupy the lake. Thus, I could determine whether the prediction from the model concerning the lake was correct and calculate a percentage of correctly classified lakes.

## RESULTS

**Differences between lakes where Common Loon breeds and does not breed:** Lakes with breeding loons (n=35) had significantly lower levels of total dissolved fluoride than lakes with loons that showed no evidence of breeding (n=23) ( $\bar{x}=2.997 \mu\text{eq/l}$  vs.  $\bar{x}=3.991 \mu\text{eq/l}$ ,  $p=.0134$ ). Because this was the only discernible difference these two groups were combined into one group of loon-occupied lakes to increase sample size.

**Differences between loon-occupied lakes and non-occupied lakes:** In New York, most lake- or water-quality parameters did not differ between lakes that were occupied by loons (n=58) and lakes not occupied by loons (n=49). None of the following characteristics showed significant differences ( $p<.05$ ) in levels between lakes occupied by loons and non-occupied by loons: elevation of the lake, watershed area, the ratio of watershed to lake surface area, surface temperature, depth of the sampling site, Secchi depth, turbidity, color, iron, sum of anions, sum of cations, the ratio of cations to anions, air-equilibrated pH, closed system pH, acid neutralizing capacity, measured conductance, calculated conductance, dissolved organic carbon, extractable aluminum, total aluminum, calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, ammonia, sulfate, bicarbonate, chloride ion, nitrate ion, total dissolved fluoride, total phosphorous, silica, and manganese.

The only characteristic that differed significantly at the 95 percent confidence level between lakes occupied by loons and not occupied by loons, was surface area: loons occupied lakes with significantly larger surface areas. Loons tended to occupy lakes with lower levels of measured conductance, calculated conductance and chloride ion. They also occupied lakes with higher levels of total dissolved fluoride and silica. Although these factors were only significantly different at the 90 percent level; they were combined with lake area in a multiple logistic regression model (Table 1).

**The model for predicting Common Loon presence or absence:** The backwards stepwise logistic multiple regression of the water quality characteristics indicated that the amount of total dissolved fluoride, the measured conductivity, the lake area, and the amount of silica were the best predictors, in that order, of loon presence or absence on a lake in New York (see Fig. 1). These four variables, when combined, explained 53 percent of the variance and were significantly related ( $p=.010$ ) to lake use. For discrimination between loon-occupied lakes and non-occupied lakes, the best expression for log-linear modeling of odds ratios was obtained by:

$$P(\text{Loon Occupied}) = 1/(1 + e^{x\beta})$$



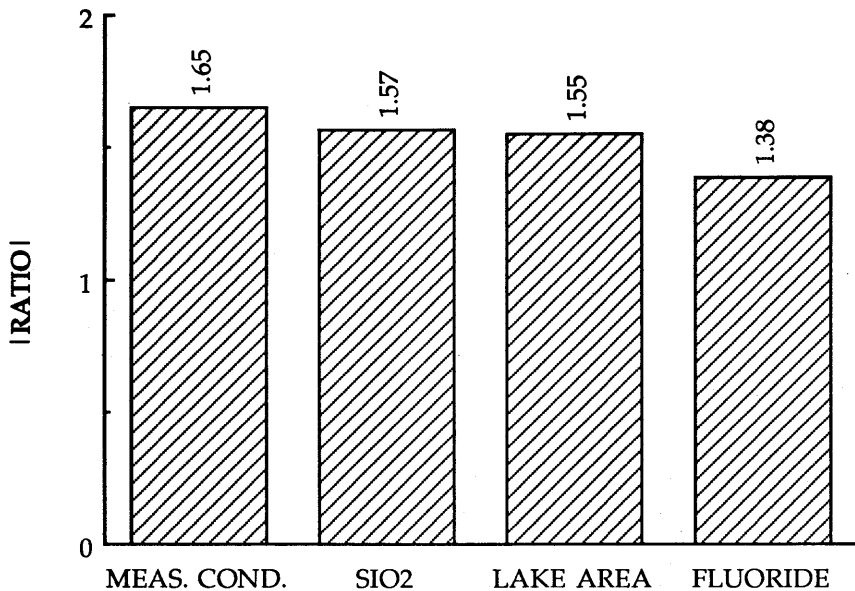


Figure 1. The relative value, as indicated by the absolute value under the model and its asymptotic standard deviation, of water quality parameters best predicting occupancy of lakes in New York by the Common Loon.

Parameter	n=58	n=49	p-value
	Loon Occupied ±s.e.	Not Occupied ±s.e.	
Surface Area	141 ha ±36.7	56 ha ±13.9	.021
Measured Conductivity	29.2 µS/cm ±.24	36.2 µS/cm ±4.20	.086
Calculated Conductivity	29.5 uS/cm ±1.71	36.8 m ±4.33	.086
Chloride Ion	22.3 µeq/l ±5.28	43.9 eq/l ±13.06	.086
Total Dissolved Fluoride	3.4 µeq/l ±.20	2.9 µeq/l ±.19	.087
Silica	3.01 mg/l ±.282	2.33 mg/l ±.231	.067

Table 1. Lake and water quality parameters with trends toward differences between lakes occupied and not occupied by Common Loon in New York.

where  $x\beta = .3771 - .002946 [\text{lake area (ha)}] + .02627 [\text{measured conductance } (\mu\text{S/cm)}] - .20724 [\text{total dissolved fluoride } (\mu\text{eq/l)}] - .1750 [\text{silica (mg/l)}]$

The validating jackknife procedure classified 57.9 percent of the lakes correctly.

## DISCUSSION

In the Adirondack Mountains of New York, Common Loon generally uses lakes larger than 100 ha in area regardless of their water quality. The fact that loons are using larger lakes probably reflects their feeding requirements. Barr (1973) estimated that a pair of loons and a chick would eat 430 kg of fish, usually Yellow Perch, in a season. Their preference for lakes with large surface areas probably reflects the fact that larger bodies of water tend to produce greater fish yields than smaller ones (Youngs and Heimbuch 1982).

In developing a single multivariate model, the best predictors of loon use of a lake in New York were measured conductance, silica, lake area, and fluoride, in that order. Though surface area was the only factor that was significant at the 95 percent confidence level by itself, in this specific combination of factors it ranks as third in importance. These factors indicate that loon-occupied lakes tended to be larger with lower conductivities and higher levels of silica and fluoride. The inclusion of conductance in the model introduces a conglomeration of correlated factors. Conductance is a measure of the resistance of the water column to the flow of electricity. Consequently, it is related to the concentrations of the major ions in the water. In New York, conductance was correlated to bicarbonate, dissolved inorganic carbon, acid neutralizing capacity, magnesium, chloride ion, and potassium. It was inversely correlated to elevation and the level of manganese. This suite of factors may point to lower productivities on loon-occupied lakes, but the pattern is not clear, especially since many of these factors did not appear individually as significantly different between lakes occupied and not occupied by loons.

The lack of any other definitive differences between loon-occupied and non-occupied lakes probably reflects a uniformity of lakes in the region. In other states, I have found that factors such as lake productivity, lake depth, and water clarity differ between lakes occupied and not occupied by loons. This leads me to suspect that most lakes in this region meet the criteria loons use to determine suitability and, consequently, are dispersed among these lakes.

Unfortunately, loons apparently have no ability to discriminate

between the more subtle differences in lakes, including some human-induced changes in water quality. In the Adirondacks, the most important human-induced changes are those brought about by acid deposition. My findings support both Parker's (1988) and Alvo *et al.*'s (1988) contentions that loons attempt to breed and raise young on highly acidified lakes despite a lack of food. Evidence for this point of view is further enhanced by the fact that, for those lakes analyzed here, no substantial differences existed between lakes where loons displayed breeding activity and where they were merely reported as present. In other words, under today's conditions, those factors that I have identified as related to loon distribution are apparently not related to breeding success among those lakes.

Future work on the distribution of loons in the Adirondacks should focus on anthropogenic influences, including summer home development, public access, motorized boat use, and the effects of airborne pollutants.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank Mary Whitmore, Terry Root, and Bobbi Low for their guidance with this project, and Tom TenHave and Kathy Welch for their statistical expertise and advice.

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## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Bald Eagle captures Ring-billed Gull:** On 2 April 1989 I was watching two adult Bald Eagles through a 30x Bausch & Lomb spotting scope from my home. Temperatures were in the 30's. The weather was sunny and beautiful. Ice covered Raquette Pond and Tupper Lake marsh but the Raquette River channel was open. I saw one of the eagles chasing a Ring-billed Gull. They flew in many swoops and turns with the eagle in hot pursuit and the gull in full flight. The first eagle gave up the case and the second eagle took over. Again there were many aerial maneuvers as the gull tried to escape. The second eagle finally forced the gull down into the open water but was unable to get it out of the water. Suddenly a third eagle, a dark immature, appeared. It dove on the gull, pulled it from the water and consumed the prey on the ice shelf. There was no attempt by the two adult eagles to retrieve the prey, even though they sat on the ice near the feeding immature. In the past fifteen years I have seen eagles pursue ducks, and once I watched as a Bald Eagle dove repeatedly on an injured diving duck, but each time the eagle neared the duck, the duck submerged. This is the first time I have seen a Bald Eagle take live prey, but it took three of them to succeed.

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**Black-capped Petrel in Horseheads, NY.** One does not expect to encounter extremely rare birds while attending an evening choir rehearsal. However, on Monday, 25 Sep 1989, I was waiting for the start of a choral group rehearsal at Elmira College, when another member of the group, Neva Kelly, approached me with a plastic shopping bag containing an unidentified bird. The bird had been discovered by members of Neva's fifth grade class outside Ridge Road School in Horseheads that morning. When she opened the bag, I realized immediately that I was looking at a first record for Chemung County. The tubenose beak placed it in the order Procellariiformes. I had never seen any procellariiform species mentioned on our county lists. I went to my car to get my copy of *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding*, Vol. 1, pp. 56-57 (Farrand, J., Jr., ed., 1983. Alfred A. Knopf, New York), which helped us decide that the bird probably was a Black-capped Petrel.

**DESCRIPTION: Size and shape:** The bird was 36 cm from tip of beak to tip of tail. The tail, however, was so worn that it appeared to be notched. The wings were long and pointed. The beak was heavy and somewhat hooked. The nostrils were tubular. **Color and pattern:** The beak was black. The cap, nape, eye patch, upper parts, and upper rump were all black-brown. The underparts, the sides of the rump, and most of the upper side of the tail were

white. The underwings had black-brown primaries and leading and trailing edges. The inner third of the leading edges of the underwings was white. A streak of black-brown extended from the wrist of each underwing to a point midway between the elbow and the trailing edge of the wing. The black-brown of the junction of the upper back and lower nape continued ventrally in a poorly defined streak around the sides of the lower neck. The legs and proximal half of the webbed toes were pink. The distal half of the toes were black. The outer tail feathers were dark dark ventrally as well as dorsally.

**COMPARISON WITH OTHER SPECIES:** The extensive white of the tail distinguished it from the Bermuda Petrel. The heavy bill, white of tail, and length of bird distinguished it from the Greater Shearwater.

The following morning, I researched the historical records of the species in New York State using *Birds of New York State* (Bull, J. 1974, pp 61-62. Doubleday/Natural History Press, Garden City, N.Y.), and Regional reports in *The Kingbird* since the mid-1970's. Neva Kelly's fifth grade class made a project of identifying the bird themselves. Some members of the class also concluded that it was a Black-capped Petrel. I took the bird to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology that afternoon, and several members of the staff confirmed the identification (Charles Smith, Greg Budney, Charles Wolcott). The specimen has been deposited in the Cornell University Vertebrate Collections.

My research indicates that this specimen is only the sixth record of a Black-capped Petrel in New York State. The first four records were from the latter half of the nineteenth century. The fifth was from near Owego in neighboring Tioga County in 1933. All of these records immediately followed the passing of hurricanes. Winds from Hurricane *Hugo* Passed through Chemung County Saturday evening, 23 Sep. According to *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding*, the species breeds only in the mountains of Hispaniola. It is thought to occur in the Gulf Stream north to about the same latitude as Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

"All in all a delightful fall..." from a quick summary in the Region 10 highlights, probably was an appropriate statement for most of us. With local variations, most of the state saw nearly average temperatures and precipitation for much of the Fall. Most of the state experienced a sunny, warm spell in late October and early November, then turned cold for the last two weeks of the season. Region 10 again experienced very heavy rainfall totals for both September and October, while both the Region 1 and 6 reports note the potential fallacy of using average values only. In Region 1 there was a 40 day difference in the length of the growing season across the Region and, in Region 6 there were large differences in precipitation between the lowlands and the higher areas, e.g., only a few inches of snow over most of the Region compared to 5 ft(!) at Barnes Corners. For several Regions the weather event of the season was the passage of the remnant of Hurricane *Hugo* on 22-23 Sep. The bulk of the avian fallout from this storm occurred in Regions 3 and 8. Both Regional reports summarized this passage, and Ken Able also discussed generally when and where one should look for the greatest fallout relative to such a passage. Apart from these Regions, the only other probable hurricane assisted waifs were Willet in Regions 1 and 5 and Long-tailed Jaeger and Gray Kingbird in Region 10. For the remaining Regions, the hurricane passage brought no records of note and even the fact that a passage had occurred often was not reported.

The passage of major groups awaited and monitored by many was somewhat disappointing for most observers again this fall. Among the water birds, numbers generally were quite low, especially for grebes, many of the puddle ducks, Redhead, scaup and scoters. Positive notes included good loon counts in Regions 1, 2 and 5; a large Horned Grebe gathering in Region 2; widespread counts, some unprecedented, of Snow Goose across the state; good Brant counts in Regions 2 and 5; peak counts of over 1000 Wood Duck in Regions 3 and 5; good Canvasback counts only in Regions 1 and 3; and high maxima for Hooded Merganser in Regions 1, 3 and 5. Rarer waterfowl records were few, with the best Eurasian Wigeon and Tufted Duck in Region 10, King Eider in Regions 5 and 10, and Barrow's Goldeneye in Region 7. The Region 3 and 5 reports provided the most comprehensive summaries of peak counts of water birds.

Fall hawk watch data was summarized in a table in the Region 9 report and in the commentary from Region 10. Elsewhere there was either no significant hawk migration, no concerted observation effort, or no data reaching the Regional editors. In the Region 10 report you may read of the contrasts between barrier beach and inland sites and of an hypothesis about the correlation between hawk flights and small bird

flights relative to passage of strong fronts. This hypothesis deserves testing in future autumns. Away from the hawk watches we have late Turkey Vulture in Regions 5 and 8; a late Osprey in Region 8; Bald Eagle reported in all Regions, with special note of their recovery in Region 7; few Northern Goshawk and Red-shouldered Hawk reports; a late Broad-winged Hawk in Region 8; Rough-legged Hawk arriving in late October or November in eight of the nine reporting regions, but at a Regional record early date of 13 Sep in Region 5; and Merlin and Peregrine Falcon reports scattered across most Regions in small numbers and more substantial counts at the beach hawk watches in Region 10.

Among the shorebirds, variety reported was good, but relatively low counts were the rule for most species. In Region 8 a reservoir drawdown and sod farm visits produced relatively good reports this fall. Positive shorebird notes included good counts of Lesser Golden-Plover in Regions 2, 5 and 10; Willet in Regions 1 and 5; two very high counts of Baird's Sandpiper in Region 10; more Buff-breasted Sandpiper than usual, with records in Regions 2, 5, 9 and 10, and a very high count of 16 in Region 10. On the negative side were the generally low maxima recorded for most species. Gulls, terns and their relatives provided little excitement, with the best being the Long-tailed Jaeger in Region 10; Lesser Black-backed Gull in Regions 1, 3, 8 and 9; an unprecedented five species of gulls at Lake Placid in Region 7 in late November; an inland record late date for Caspian Tern on 12 Nov in Region 5; an Arctic Tern in Region 1; hurricane related Greater Shearwater and Least Tern in Region 8; and Black Tern only in Regions 5 and 6.

The passerines are a major element of the fall flights, but most observers agreed that, at best, there were few groundings. For most families and species there were too few reports across Regions to allow assessment of significant trends. In contrast with the general feeling, Regions 3, 5, 9, and 10 did report isolated very good days in late September or mid October. Working through this part of the checklist we find among the flycatchers, a very late Eastern Kingbird in Region 2; fair numbers of Horned Lark in most Regions; a typical peak of 10,000+ Tree Swallow in Region 10; Common Raven reports from 6 Regions; Boreal Chickadee only in Regions 5 and 7; an irruption of Red-breasted Nuthatch noted in Regions 1, 3, 5, 8 and 9; good Carolina Wren numbers; a state record late fledging date, from a nest box(!), for Winter Wren in Region 8; good kinglet counts; few comments about thrushes; good numbers of Northern Mockingbird, with a peak count of 15 in Region 8; an irruption of Bohemian Waxwing noted in reports from Regions 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7, with a peak of 250+ in Region 7 and the arrivals there at Regional record early dates. Shrikes were represented by Northern in 7 Regions and two reports of Loggerhead in Region 3. Vireo and warbler reports were generally skimpy, with exceptions in some good counts



from Regions 5 and 10 and Elva Hawken reporting the best warbler migration in 10 years in Region 5. Yet, positive notes were few, with the best being Orange-crowned Warbler from four Regions; Prairie Warbler in Region 5, Cerulean Warbler in Regions 5 and 8, and Worm-eating Warbler in Region 8, all three species seldom reported in the fall; and Connecticut Warbler found in Regions 1, 3, 5, and 10. The most interesting sparrow reports included American Tree Sparrow arriving over a very narrow range of dates in all Regions; grassland sparrows scarce or unreported in most Regions; Fox Sparrow numbers good and date ranges similar across Regions; and White-crowned Sparrow counts good in several Regions, especially so in Region 8 in mid October. Records of note among the blackbirds included Brewer's Blackbird in Region 1 and single late reports for both orioles, a Northern in Region 1 and an Orchard in Region 10. Although late summer and early fall reports raised hopes for a winter finch invasion, it never really materialized aside from pockets of good Pine Siskin numbers and large numbers of White-winged Crossbill in Region 7.

After this relatively discouraging review of the major groups, we can glean a few additional interesting notes from the Regional reports. First, abundant wild seed, berry, and cone crops suggested that there will be plenty of food for lingering half hardies this winter and the possibility that the finches will yet come, find cones, and persist. There were additional, mostly isolated high counts, including Double-crested Cormorant noted in all Regions reporting with maxima over 100 in Regions 2, 3, 5, 6 and 10, and one individual spending several hours in a backyard pool in Region 5; Great Egret in notably high numbers in Regions 1 and 3; a count of 90 Snowy Egret in Region 10; Wild Turkey continuing to increase wherever noted; a good count of American Coot, a bird which has seemed to be in some trouble in recent years, from Region 1; counts of hundreds of Chimney Swift from Regions 1 and 9; a large concentration of American Crow in Region 6 coinciding with a warm spell on 17 Oct; good Snow Bunting counts in Regions 1, 5, and 9; and very large blackbird counts in Regions 6 and 9. On the flip side, a few additional negatives include very low peak counts for migrating Common Nighthawk, only one Region noting Scarlet Tanager, and the usual very few reports of rails and owls and none for Snowy Owl this fall. For a look at the kind of effort and data we really need to track trends, see the preliminary analysis of the Buffalo Ornithological Society's 53rd annual October census in the Region 1 report. Finally, in a year of generally very early departures, very late dates were recorded for Savannah Sparrow in Region 5, Bobolink in Region 9, and Yellow and Mourning Warblers and Orchard Oriole in Region 10; and to close on a fun note, read of the River Otter playing with Canada Geese in Region 7.

## Fall Departures 1989

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average
Osprey	9 Oct	10 Nov			30 Sep	16 Oct	19 Oct	22 Nov	15 Nov	21 Nov	29 Oct
Broad-winged Hawk	8 Oct	1 Oct			21 Sep		30 Oct	18 Nov	5 Oct	23 Oct	15 Oct
Black-bellied Plover	4 Nov	5 Nov			14 Nov			10 Oct	17 Sep		22 Oct
Semipalmated Plover	8 Oct	14 Oct			12 Nov		8 Oct	10 Oct		5 Oct	14 Oct
Greater Yellowlegs	13 Nov	29 Oct			12 Nov	16 Oct	8 Nov	5 Nov	11 Nov	12 Nov	5 Nov
Lesser Yellowlegs	29 Oct	22 Oct			20 Oct	15 Oct	6 Nov	10 Oct	3 Oct	17 Sep	15 Oct
Spotted Sandpiper	11 Oct	16 Sep			19 Sep	21 Sep	26 Sep	30 Sep	2 Oct	5 Sep	23 Sep
Sanderling	11 Oct	23 Oct			12 Nov						25 Oct
Semipalmated Sandpiper	30 Oct	29 Oct			13 Oct		23 Oct	3 Oct		22 Sep	15 Oct
Least Sandpiper	8 Oct	29 Oct			9 Sep		20 Oct	10 Oct		22 Sep	6 Oct
Pectoral Sandpiper	18 Oct	11 Nov			29 Sep					23 Sep	13 Oct
Caspian Tern	23 Sep	18 Oct			12 Nov	12 Sep				10 Oct	9 Oct
Common Tern	17 Nov	24 Oct			29 Oct	30 Sep	17 Jul			3 Oct	4 Oct
Black Tern	23 Sep	25 Aug			24 Sep	17 Sep				23 Sep	16 Sep
Chimney Swift	8 Oct	16 Sep			26 Sep	21 Sep		22 Sep	24 Oct	24 Sep	28 Sep
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	4 Oct	19 Sep			26 Sep	17 Sep	20 Sep	22 Oct	29 Sep	5 Oct	29 Sep
Eastern Wood-Pewee	8 Oct	16 Sep			7 Oct	6 Sep	16 Sep	23 Sep	22 Oct	9 Oct	28 Sep
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	9 Sep	26 Aug			10 Sep				11 Sep		6 Sep
Least Flycatcher	11 Sep	28 Sep			14 Sep	8 Oct	10 Sep		29 Sep		21 Sep
Eastern Phoebe	24 Oct	24 Oct			22 Oct	11 Oct	10 Nov		31 Oct	25 Dec	3 Nov
Great Crested Flycatcher	9 Sep	10 Sep			7 Sep	2 Sep			13 Sep	25 Sep	11 Sep
Eastern Kingbird	10 Sep	23 Oct			11 Sep	16 Sep	4 Sep		7 Sep	3 Sep	14 Sep
Tree Swallow	22 Oct	22 Nov			29 Oct	11 Sep	26 Sep	22 Oct	11 Oct	29 Oct	17 Oct
Barn Swallow	8 Oct	15 Nov			24 Sep		3 Sep		5 Sep	4 Oct	30 Sep
House Wren	29 Oct	10 Oct			8 Oct		6 Sep		2 Oct	10 Oct	5 Oct
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	24 Sep	9 Oct			2 Sep				19 Sep	4 Oct	23 Sep
Veery	8 Oct	28 Sep					7 Sep		12 Sep	24 Oct	27 Sep
Swainson's Thrush	8 Oct	24 Oct			8 Oct		21 Nov	18 Oct	25 Sep	10 Oct	16 Oct
Wood Thrush	8 Oct	25 Sep			14 Sep	4 Sep	7 Sep	15 Oct	15 Oct	13 Oct	25 Sep
Gray Catbird	20 Oct	29 Oct			23 Oct	25 Sep	8 Oct	15 Oct	19 Nov	29 Oct	21 Oct
Brown Thrasher	8 Oct	18 Oct			27 Sep		26 Sep		9 Oct	9 Oct	6 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	20 Oct	11 Oct			15 Oct		20 Sep	10 Oct	22 Oct	23 Oct	13 Oct
Yellow-throated Vireo	30 Sep	10 Sep			28 Sep		18 Sep		9 Sep		19 Sep
Warbling Vireo	16 Sep	30 Sep			24 Sep	8 Sep			19 Sep	8 Sep	17 Sep
Red-eyed Vireo	13 Oct	8 Oct			8 Oct		20 Sep	28 Oct	24 Sep	16 Oct	8 Oct
Blue-winged Warbler	17 Sep				14 Sep				5 Sep	26 Aug	7 Sep
Tennessee Warbler	10 Sep	28 Sep			5 Oct	17 Sep		15 Oct	12 Oct	30 Sep	29 Sep
Nashville Warbler	14 Oct	28 Sep			11 Oct	4 Oct	12 Oct	14 Oct	30 Sep	4 Oct	7 Oct
Northern Parula	7 Oct	25 Aug			29 Sep		8 Sep		9 Sep	6 Oct	18 Sep
Yellow Warbler	26 Aug	25 Sep			3 Sep				21 Aug	22 Oct	13 Sep
Chestnut-sided Warbler	8 Oct	9 Sep			27 Sep		11 Sep		12 Sep	24 Sep	20 Sep
Magnolia Warbler	21 Oct	24 Oct			5 Oct	3 Oct	18 Sep	22 Oct	7 Oct	4 Oct	9 Oct
Cape May Warbler	23 Sep				27 Sep	13 Oct	3 Sep	1 Oct	13 Oct	9 Oct	29 Sep
Black-thr Blue Warbler	17 Oct	26 Oct			12 Oct		11 Sep	24 Sep	25 Aug	24 Oct	2 Oct
Black-thr Green Warbler	14 Oct	1 Oct			5 Oct	30 Sep	22 Sep	23 Oct	11 Oct	22 Oct	8 Oct
Blackburnian Warbler	8 Oct	28 Sep			21 Sep	21 Sep	22 Sep		21 Sep	24 Sep	25 Sep
Bay-breasted Warbler	8 Oct	25 Sep			24 Sep	3 Oct	8 Sep		4 Sep	25 Sep	22 Sep
Blackpoll Warbler	8 Oct	16 Sep			23 Sep		3 Sep		9 Nov	22 Oct	3 Oct
Black-and-white Warbler	24 Sep	23 Sep			5 Nov	5 Oct	11 Sep		27 Sep	25 Nov	8 Oct
American Redstart	8 Oct	24 Sep			8 Oct		11 Sep		18 Sep	9 Oct	28 Sep
Ovenbird	14 Oct	5 Oct			27 Sep		19 Sep		9 Sep	9 Oct	28 Sep
N. Waterthrush	17 Aug	26 Aug			11 Sep				6 Sep	30 Sep	5 Sep
Common Yellowthroat	29 Oct	24 Oct			15 Oct	27 Oct	25 Sep		15 Oct	16 Oct	17 Oct
Wilson's Warbler	8 Oct	14 Oct			18 Sep				18 Sep	4 Oct	30 Sep
Canada Warbler	9 Sep	21 Sep			18 Sep				12 Sep	29 Sep	17 Sep
Scarlet Tanager	2 Oct	9 Sep			5 Oct		17 Sep		1 Oct	16 Oct	28 Sep
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	18 Sep	18 Nov			18 Sep	18 Sep	16 Sep		5 Oct	8 Oct	1 Oct
Rufous-sided Towhee	14 Nov	15 Oct			3 Nov	17 Sep	7 Sep		22 Oct	30 Oct	3 Jul
Lincoln's Sparrow	14 Oct	14 Oct			1 Oct		30 Sep		17 Oct	24 Oct	11 Oct
White-crowned Sparrow	14 Nov	2 Nov			19 Nov	10 Oct	27 Nov	2 Nov	4 Nov	10 Nov	7 Nov
Bobolink	20 Aug	30 Sep			20 Aug		14 Oct		22 Oct	8 Oct	23 Sep
Northern Oriole	10 Sep	4 Sep			13 Sep		6 Sep		9 Sep	8 Oct	13 Sep

**Bold** Regional Record Late

*Italics* also isolated later report(s).

I turn now to the departure date data in the two summary tables. I continue to separate this from the rest of the report because I have had no feedback or comment from any readers on their feelings relative to either the validity or utility of this effort and I still have strong reservations about these data and the value of the effort required to produce it. This fall's analysis is complicated by two completely missing Regions and two others from which departure dates were provided for less than half the species. It is very hard to make comparisons among Regions or to assess the validity of "Seasonality" when so much data are missing, particularly without the capability to null separate blocks of data from the 25-year base line for statistical comparison by computer. Given this "pre-ramble", the results can be quickly summarized. Departure dates this fall again averaged very highly significantly early relative to the 25-year base line and using the hopefully appropriate variances derived from Region 2 data only. (As noted in previous highlights, these are the only data for which I have enough detail to do this.). Among the 62 species in the tables, 48 averaged early departure, three time "on time," and 11 were late, averaging across the Regions reporting and modifying the 25-year base line averages for the missing data points of this season. Of the 11 late departures, only three appeared to be statistically significant and on close examination two of those were strongly biased by a few extremely late, probably isolated reports. Only Broad-winged Hawk generally averaged significantly late departure. Twenty-seven species had statistically significantly early average departure dates, many of these **very early**. These included 13 of the 20 species of warblers in the table and four of the six swallows. Early departure has been the norm since we began analyzing this data. I cannot determine whether this is a real trend or an artifact of the base line data being highly biased by the inclusion of departure dates from several Regions which were reported mainly because they were exceptionally late, with normal dates in most seasons going unreported. I suspect that there is some contribution from each effect, but enough of the latter to compromise the validity of these data.

<b>Region</b>	<b>Species Reported</b>	<b>Seasonality (days)</b>	<b>Advance (days)</b>
<b>Region 1</b>	62	-3.1	4.8
<b>Region 2</b>	60	-4.3	4.9
<b>Region 3</b>	0		
<b>Region 4</b>	0		
<b>Region 5</b>	61	-5.3	1.9
<b>Region 6</b>	30	-1.8	-6.3
<b>Region 7</b>	46	0.6	-8.4
<b>Region 8</b>	24	7.2	4.0
<b>Region 9</b>	54	-9.5	-13.2
<b>Region 10</b>	57	-9.7	8.5

Moving on to "Seasonality," the average departure across all species reported relative to each Region's overall average, all Regions except for Regions 6 and 7 ran significantly early relative to the base line except for Region 8, which averaged late though with less than half of the target species reported this Fall.

The "Advance" column, measuring relative departures among Regions this season, is very similar to the 25-year average except for Regions 8 and 9, which differed greatly this year in being late and early, respectively. Once again, is this of use to anyone? Do you want more, less, or about the same detail in the attempts at analysis in future seasons?

Finally, the rarities! This season brought a good selection, well distributed across the state. As usual, Region 10 reports a large list of species which would make ornithological headlines in elsewhere, but which are regular on the coast in the Fall and are not even emphasized in that report; these you must dig out for yourselves. The best of the rare visitors by region were: Region 1 - Arctic Tern, Peregrine Falcon, Bohemian Waxwing, Dickcissel, and Brewer's Blackbird; Region 2 - Varied Thrush; Region 3 - Merlin, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and Common Raven; Region 5 - King Eider, Willet, Bohemian Waxwing, and Connecticut Warbler; Region 6 - Golden Eagle, Merlin, Sandhill Crane, and Buff-breasted Sandpiper; Region 7 - Iceland and Glaucous Gulls; Region 8 - Great Cormorant, Greater Shearwater, Barrow's Goldeneye, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Red-necked and Red Phalaropes, Parasitic Jaeger, Laughing Gull, and Least Tern, obviously many of these associated with Hurricane *Hugo*: Region 9 - Yellow-crowned Night-Heron and Dickcissel; and Region 10 - Long-tailed Jaeger, Gyrfalcon, Curlew Sandpiper and Gray Kingbird. The BOTS

award was a difficult pick from among this season's high quality list, but the award goes, posthumously, to the Black-capped Petrel found in a school yard in Region 3 after Hugo's passage.

CORRIGENDA: It has been brought to my attention that there are at least two factual errors in the highlights commentary for the Summer Season 1989. Such errors should be noted and corrected whenever possible so that they are not repeated as others reference these errors. I do appreciate such input! The line on Blue-winged Warbler on p.221 should read "...a first Franklin County *sight* record...". On p.222, the passage "...a Red-necked Grebe in Region 6, filling in the calendar as the state's first August record." should read "..., the state's second August record.". This type of error is hard to avoid as I do not have either total recall or access to all of the pertinent literature in the time available to assemble the Highlights. My primary resources are John Bull's *Birds of New York* (1974), *The Kingbird* since 1976, and input from the Regional editors who put some of their more interesting records in historical context. If others have additional data, corrections and addition of the new data to these pages is always welcomed.

ADDENDUM: In a letter last fall, Hugh Kingery sent me some data which he had also forwarded to Region 4 and had hoped would appear in the summer report from that region. As a prelude to the White-winged Crossbill invasion of this fall and winter, it is appropriate that we ensure its publication. He estimates a total of 100-200 singing males acting as though on breeding territory in three main state forest areas near Cherry Valley. Actual sightings were: six East Hill, 2 mi e Cherry Valley, 12 Aug; 28 Otsego County State Forest, 15 Aug; seven there 19 Aug; 18 Bear Swamp Pond State Forest on 20 Aug; four in two small state forests near Decatur with higher percentage of larch, less spruce 20 Aug.

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STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS: county names are shortened to their first four letters; months are shortened to their first three letters; ! — details seen by the Regional editor; 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; spm — specimen; subad — subadult; T — Town of; Twn — township; WMA — Wildlife Management Area; y — young.

## REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

STEPHEN W. EATON

September temperatures were slightly above normal until the remains of Hurricane *Hugo* arrived on Sep 23 with peak bursts up to 41 mph. Then temperatures dropped much below normal until the end of the month. This produced an average temperature at Buffalo of 60.8° (1.3° below normal). There were twelve days with at least a trace of precipitation and a total of 3.85 inches of rain, about one half-inch above normal. There was a trace of snow on the plateau at Amity Lake and Vandalia on 24 Sep and a general frost the preceding night giving us a 114 day growing season. In Buffalo frost did not occur until 3 Nov, extending the lake plains growing season by two additional months. The first ten days of October were cloudy and cooler than normal. This was followed by five days of fine 'bluebird weather,' then five days of rain, followed by ten days of 80% sunshine with seven days over 70°. Precipitation was slightly above normal at 2.98 inches. The first 15 days of November continued the fine warm weather of late October, giving a period of 3.5 weeks of unusually warm, dry weather at a time when many birds normally leave the Region. This stretch of good weather and an abundance of fruits such as dogwoods and viburnums may have set the pattern for the Eastern Bluebird to remain north of their usual wintering areas. The last half of November brought cold, windy days with wind gusts over 40 mph on 12 days. Precipitation in the form of rain totaled 4.83 inches (normal 3.62) and snow totaled 7.8 inches (normal 12 inches) at Buffalo. Amity Lake and our farm pond near Vandalia froze on 22 Nov and Lake Erie was at 42° (1 below normal) at month's end. Lake effect snow bursts hit northern Niagara County on 17 and 18 Nov and the traditional snow belt twice near the end of the month.

The fruit crop on the Allegheny Plateau was generally good to excellent depending on the species. Both valley and upland species of grapes (*Vitis* sp.) produced good crops as well as elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) and blackberries (*Rubus* sp.). The best mast producer was Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) as many trees in many different ecological sites produced abundant acorns. Although last year was a fair year for their acorns, this year was the first year for abundant fruits since the defoliation in the Allegheny Hills by Gypsy Moths. Large flocks of Wild Turkeys tore up the forest floor, deer pawed up the leaves and later the snow to feed on the fruit. Grey Squirrels feeding on and storing acorns were abundant and became pests chewing up the tubing of the maple sugar producer. I watched a porcupine, at arms length, push its nose through the leaves and come up with an acorn, rock back on its

haunches and chew the acorn held in its forepaws. Ruffed Grouse often picked up the leavings of acorns left by the deer and also found a few beech nuts (*Fagus*) where these were still healthy. Three bears running the ridge above our house ate acorns and somewhere found an abundance of pokeweed (*Phytolacca*) fruit. There was a good crop of wild apple and hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp.) but there were almost no White Ash and wild Black Cherry fruits, possibly due to the late frost on 11 Jun. Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) and White Spruce (*Picea glauca*) produced abundant fruit and attracted small flocks of White-winged Crossbill and larger flocks of Pine Siskin. The Cucumber Tree (*Magnolia acuminata*) produced an excellent crop of fruit and for two weeks at mid-October attracted large flocks of American Robin.

The October Count conducted by the Buffalo Ornithological Society for the past 53 years, with coverage of 28 regions, five of which are on the Niagara Peninsula in Canada, was held 8 Oct. Gerry Rising has organized the results in the New York portion of the count and Michael Galas has organized, summarized and compared this year's count with previous counts (*Prothonotary* 55(11):131-136). A special thanks to both. The number of participants in this year's count are available in the reference above. Common Loon at 208 (all but 3 in Canadian portion) was at an all time high but Pied-billed Grebe and Horned Grebe continued in lower numbers than in the 1970's and 1980's. Great Blue Heron was reported in the highest numbers ever at 187 (181 in the New York portion) and Great Egret with a count of four has been reported the last four years but previously only once in the 1970's and twice in the 1930's. The 6212 Mallard in the New York portion was a new high as was Northern Pintail at 141. Turkey Vulture has been increasing steadily on the counts since the 1940's and was at a high of 152, all in New York. Cooper's Hawk was another species with a new high, 22. Ring-necked Pheasant, still feeling the shock of urban sprawl and agribusiness farming, continued its decline with a count of 12 (previous low 19). The extent of the Red-breasted Nuthatch invasion was documented with an all time high count of 159 from 16 of the BOS regions. The count of five Vesper Sparrows from only two BOS regions on the October count (391 were tallied in 1969) tells the plight of this species. Even populations to the north must be in trouble.

The show of winter finches, though somewhat better than last year, still was not exceptional by the end of the period. There were several reports of Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, Snow Bunting and more Lapland Longspur than usual, but only small numbers of White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll and Evening Grosbeak were seen.

Probably the most interesting bird of the period was the first fall plumaged Arctic Tern which was seen on each side of the Niagara River near the Peace Bridge from 12-19 Nov. Other birds which quickened the



heart beat were Peregrine Falcon, Bohemian Waxwing, Dickcissel and Brewer's Blackbird.

Contributors: Allegany County Bird Club, Robert Andrle, Wavel Barber, Bellerby, Elizabeth Brook, David K. Bryant, Lois Buck, Ray Budniewski, Buffalo Ornithological Society, Lou & Doris Burton, Cattaraugus County Bird Club, Bruce Chilton, William D'Anna, Eric Derleth, Steve Eaton, Michael Galas, Joe Gula, Sr., Joe Gula, Jr., Holms, C. House, Dave Junkin, Walter & Harriet Klabunde, Terry and Judy Mosher, Raymond and Vivian Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Fran Rew, Gerald Rising, Donald Robertson, Olga Rosche, Ruhl, Pat Schaffner, Joe Thill, Don Tiller, William Watson, Regina & Jim VanScoy.

Abbreviations: BIP - Bird Island Pier, Buffalo; BOS - Buffalo Ornithological Society; ChauL - Chautauqua Lake; DH - Dunkirk Harbor; GHSP - Golden Hill State Park; INWR - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; NF - Niagara Falls; NR - Niagara River; PTwn - Pomfret Township, Chautauqua Co.; TNP - Tiff Nature Preserve; TWMA - Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: two arr GHSP 4 Nov. Com. Loon: max 200 GHSP 28 Oct, *intro*. Red-necked Grebe: arr GHSP 31 Oct. Double-crested Cormorant: max 84 L Ontario off Wilson 15 Oct. Am. Bittern: one INWR 22 Oct, only report. Least Bittern: two TNP 3 Sep, one INWR 13 Sep (ED). Great Egret: *intro*; max 23 TWMA 4 Sep, last INWR 28 Oct. Green-backed Heron: last TNP 12 Oct, late. Tundra Swan: arr 25 Hamburg 18 Oct, max 402 ChauL 25 Nov. Snow Goose: arr Lewiston 5 Oct; one ChauL 25 Nov; last for period INWR 29 Nov. Brant: arr DH 17 Oct; max 65 DH 19 Oct; one GHSP 22 Oct. Canada Goose: max 3097 INWR 29 Nov. Canvasback: max for period 2000 NF 6 Nov. Redhead: arr 30 Four Mile Creek SP 4 Nov, max 38 NF 22 Nov. Ring-necked Duck: arr BIP 6 Oct, max 46 Lewiston Res 29 Nov. Lesser Scaup: max 9,500 Lewiston Res 8 Nov. Oldsquaw: max 30 lower NR 19 Nov. Black Scoter: arr two BIP 6 Oct. Surf Scoter: arr eight BIP 6 Oct; max 21 DH 15 Oct. White-winged Scoter: arr five Porter Twn NIAG 17 Sep. Hooded Merganser: max 153 INWR 13 Nov. Ruddy Duck: max 15 Mayville, ChauL 25 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: two ad, two imm Mohawk Pool INWR 27 Sep and 11 Oct, singles TWMA 30 Sep and Akron 8 Oct. Rough-legged Hawk: arr Clarence Turf Farm ERIE 22 Oct; ten reports 4-29 Nov (BOS). Merlin: one feeding on Cedar Waxwing Arkwright Twn 12 Nov. Peregrine Falcon: one Canadaway Creek, Dunkirk 8 Oct (D&K Bryant). Ruffed Grouse: populations crashed in Allegheny Hills. Wild Turkey: populations still strong on lake plain and plateau. Am. Coot: max 900± Mayville ChauL 25 Nov. Killdeer: two Eden Twn ERIE 24 Nov, late. Willet: one Wright Park, Dunkirk 25 Sep, one TNP 28 Sep, two INWR 30 Sep, possibly the nominate race following Hurricane *Hugo* but without collecting usually considered the western race *inornatus*. Whimbrel: one Canadaway Creek Dunkirk 12 Sep (GJ,Jr). Purple Sandpiper: arr six NF 5 Nov. Pectoral Sandpiper: max 11 Allegheny Res 3 Oct. Short-billed Dowitcher: max six INWR 4 Sep. Red-necked Phalarope: two TNP 12 Oct, late. Bonaparte's Gull: max 14,900 mouth NR 28 Nov. Iceland Gull: arr ABH 17 Nov. Lesser Black-backed Gull: two NR 19-26 Nov. Glaucous Gull: arr Somerset Twn (L.Ontario) 14 Nov. Sabine's Gull: one BIP 28 Sep-1 Oct. Arctic Tern: *intro* (Galas, mob).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Barn Owl: one BOS region 28 ALLE 8 Oct. Short-eared Owl: only report one INWR 5 Oct (ED). Com. Nighthawk, max 71 Tonawanda-N.Tonawanda 5 Sep; one BIP 2 Oct, late. Chimney Swift: max 200+

Buffalo 23 Sep. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Goat I NIAG 11 Sep; one INWR 17 Sep. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Porter Twn NIAG 17 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Horned Lark: 125 estimated PTwn 10,11 Nov. Com. Raven: four Carrollton 9 Sep, singles 11,19 Sep, 14 Oct, 20 Nov; one Alfred 3 Sep; one Ward Twn 10 Oct. Tufted Titmouse: five widely scattered reports through period. Red-breasted Nuthatch: *intro*, 11 reports Sep (BOS); one to 20 Ward and Alfred Twns ALLE Oct; 12 reports Nov (BOS), definitely an invasion year. Carolina Wren: one Alfred Twn 22 Oct; two Times Beach, Buffalo, 29 Oct, only reports (BOS). Marsh Wren: three TWMA 30 Sep. E. Bluebird: six reports e and s Buffalo Oct, four reports Nov (BOS). N. Mockingbird: ten reports lake plain Nov, max nine Lewiston 22 Nov. Am. Pipit: two Newstead Twn ERIE 30 Sep; max 200 PTwn 14 Oct. **Bohemian Waxwing**: max 42 GHSP 29 Oct; also smaller numbers to 7 Nov. N. Shrike: arr INWR 9 Nov (CH); one Beaver Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary 22 Nov, only reports.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: arr in non-breeding area Ft Niagara SP 17 Sep. Tennessee Warbler: arr PTwn 2 Sep. Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Allegany SP 2 Oct. Cape May Warbler: arr Tonawanda 5 Sep. Connecticut Warbler: one ERIE 8 Oct.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Dickcissel: one E Aurora 16 Nov. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr three Tonawanda Twn 23 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: *intro*; one PTwn 18 Oct. Fox Sparrow: arr Tonawanda Twn 13 Oct, good late flight to 25 Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: arr TWMA 21 Sep. White-throated Sparrow: arr Tonawanda Twn 15 Sep. White-crowned Sparrow, arr Portland Twn 27 Sep, now regular in winter on lake plain (*vide* WD). Lapland Longspur, one Eden Twn ERIE 15 Nov, max 60 Somerset Twn 18 Nov, two JDSP 27 Nov. Snow Bunting: max 1000 FNSP 13 Nov; 12 other reports Nov (BOS). Rusty Blackbird: arr two Buffalo 23 Sep; max 100 TWMA 30 Sep. **Brewer's Blackbird**: one Eden Twn ERIE 15 Nov. N. Oriole: one TNP 10 Sep, late. Purple Finch: three reports Oct; five reports Nov (BOS). White-winged Crossbill: arr eight-ten Charlotte Twn 5 Nov, two flocks 15 and 25 on 15 Nov, four Amity Twn ALLE 14 Nov, six Bliss 19 Nov. Com. Redpoll: arr GHSP 28 Oct; one JDSP 27 Nov. Pine Siskin: max 100 GHSP 28 Oct; 12 other reports Oct, eight reports Nov (BOS). Evening Grosbeak: arr two Alfred Twn 2 Nov; max 21 Alfred 29 Nov.

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## REGION 2 - GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

The fall season was typically variable. We had some warm days, some cold days and some in between days. Precipitation was about average for the season. September had an average temperature of 61.7°, which was 0.5° below normal. The precipitation of 2.82 inches was only 0.16 inches above average. October's temperature of 52.6° was 0.9° higher than usual. Late in the month some highs reached the 70's. Precipitation was up slightly at 3.13". November saw a sudden temperature drop at mid month. This put the average temperature 2.5° below normal at 38.1°. Precipitation also was down to 2.01 inches, which was 0.64 inches below normal.

The season was somewhat disappointing in the sense that there were few really good migration days. Whether this was due to conditions or population changes is really not known. We anticipated fallout from Hurricane *Hugo*, which faded before it reached our area and had little if any effect on the Region's birds. We should remember the misfortune that this storm brought to those living in South Carolina and not always think in terms of our own birding experiences.

Birding along Lake Ontario proved to be fairly good. Common Loon was numerous this fall and Red-throated Loon had a single day record high of over 2000 at Pt. Breeze on 31 Oct. Horned Grebe numbers were slightly better than in recent years and the other grebes were present in average numbers. Double-crested Cormorant reports increased towards the end of the season and began to fade in November. There were some waterfowl highlights. Brant had some good totals, and a flock of over 200 birds put down on one of the lakeshore ponds was an unusual sighting in the Region. Tundra Swans reached a maximum of 46 birds at Sodus on 26 Nov. Their numbers are normally much smaller than during the spring migration. Snow Geese seemed to be a bit more plentiful than normal. Puddle ducks generally had reduced numbers while diving duck numbers were about average. Great Blue Herons was still being seen in the area by the end of the season, and two October reports of American Bittern were good.

Shorebirds, as usual, received a mixed review. Habitat was fair to poor yet there were some highlights. Hudsonian Godwit continued to be well reported as was White-rumped Sandpiper late in the season. There were a few lingerers with a late godwit and some Black-bellied Plover and Greater Yellowlegs. Lesser Golden-Plover seemed to be down. Jaeger numbers were mediocre, perhaps due to the lack of coverage at the Hamlin Beach overlook. Gulls were about average, with Glaucous and Laughing Gull being the two high points. Black-legged Kittiwake

reports were down. Terns were generally average with a good total for Common Tern and a few reports of Forster's Tern.

Raptors were about normal with a good influx of Rough-legged Hawk and good numbers of accipiters, particularly Cooper's Hawk. There were a smattering of Merlin and Peregrine Falcon reports to keep the appetites for falcons whetted. Owls tend not to be a fall concern but Barred Owl was found at a new location at Mendon Ponds and a single Long-eared Owl sighting was good in fall. Short-eared Owl moved into the Region during the season with good totals.

The passerine migration was lackluster. Flycatchers were down in general, with the highlight being a late Eastern Kingbird report. Olive-sided Flycatcher was poorly reported this fall. There were some good swallow counts. A good movement of chickadees was noted during the season. Red-breasted Nuthatch and Brown Creeper moved through the Region in good numbers, as did kinglets and Winter Wren. Thrushes only experienced a few good days and were generally scarce. A **Varied Thrush** was observed in Webster for a period of time and very likely was the highlight of the season. Bohemian Waxwing began to show up late in the season. Vireos and warblers were poor at best. Few good flight days existed and species totals were low. The only good flight was of Yellow-rumped Warbler late in the season. Sparrows weren't especially numerous until late in the season. **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** put in its now expected appearance at Hogan Point on 9 Oct, but not as many were found as in recent years. There was a suggestion of an impending finch winter with reports of Pine Siskin, redpolls, both crossbills and some grosbeaks.

Contributors: Scott Adamson, Robert Ambrose, Nancy Boudrie, John Bounds, Elizabeth Brooks, Jean Browning, Carolyn Cass, Belma Cerosaletti, Roberta Childers, Julie Claffey, Tomm Lisa Clark, Anne Clarridge, Frank Dobson, June Feder, John & Arlieen Foster, Kevin Griffith, Ralph Guenther, Harriet Hamilton, Polly Keating, Brian & Eileen Keelan, Wayne Klockner, Walt Listman, Bob Marcotte, Pat Martin, Robert McKinney, Nancy Miller, Brian Mongi, Neal & Laura Moon, Richard O'Hara, Robert Oswald, Bob & Betty Powell, Martha Reinhardt, Patty Reister, Pat Seagel, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne & Sharon Skelly, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Cathy & Kristin Spahn, Paul & Jeff Spindler, David Strong, Mary Ann Sunderlin, William Symonds, Steve Taylor, Dave Tetlow, Mike Tetlow, Don & Donna Traver, Lyn VanderWerf, Joe & Ann Watson, Paul & Mary Weld.

Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; DEP - Durand-Eastman Park; HB - Hamlin Beach; IB - Irondequoit Bay; OB - Ontario Beach, Charlotte; WL - West Lakeshore.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: *intro* (WL). Common Loon: max 1000 Webster 20 Oct. Horned Grebe: 500+ WL 29 Oct. Red-necked Grebe: four WL 29 Oct (R&SS), uncommon in the fall. Double-crested Cormorant: max 210 BB 13 Sep. Am. Bittern: *intro*. Green-backed Heron: last HB 29 Oct (R&SS), late. Tundra Swan: *intro*. Brant: max 2700+ HB 18 Oct (FD), good total. Redhead: arr two

Kendall 24 Sep. Greater Scaup: arr 13 HB 24 Sep. Com. Goldeneye: arr four HB 17 Oct. Bufflehead: arr one HB 17 Oct.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: two imm BB 9 Sep; imm WAYN 25 Oct. Rough-legged Hawk: arr HB 9 Oct. Peregrine Falcon: one E Rochester 23 Sep (PM), one Penfield 8 Oct (PM). Ruffed Grouse: one Moul Rd, Parma 26 Sep (FD), new location. Com. Moorhen: last four BB 16 Oct. Lesser Golden-Plover: max 110 WL 1 Sep. Hudsonian Godwit: max seven Kendall and IB 29 Oct, three-six IB 21-28 Oct. Ruddy Turnstone: last OB 7 Oct. Red Knot: last OB 7 Oct. White-rumped Sandpiper: 25-27 IB 27-31 Oct, good count for Region. Purple Sandpiper: one IB 3-9 Nov, two BB 10 Nov, fair total. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one HB 3 Sep, one WL 9 Sep, poor year. Red Phalarope: one IB 5-7 Nov (MR, mob), seldom found. Parasitic Jaeger: max five HB 22 Oct. Little Gull: arr one IB 3 Nov, scarce. Glaucous Gull: ad HB 9 Oct; one in Basic I plumage HB 14 Nov. Black-legged Kittiwake: one Manitou 16 Sep (RO'H), scarce. Com. Tern: max 100 HB 10 Sep (DS, MT).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: last Greece 5 Oct, late. Barred Owl: one Mendon 12 Oct, new locale. Long-eared Owl: one Manitou 1 Nov (CC). Short-eared Owl: arr three Lima 8 Nov. Com. Nighthawk: max 45 Rochester 6 Sep, fair total for fall. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one DEP 19-25 Nov, late.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: last Island Cottage Woods 23 Sep. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last is only report. E. Kingbird: *intro* (KG). Winter Wren: arr one Penfield 19 Sep, last one DEP 11 Nov. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last Manitou 13 Nov. Gray-cheeked Thrush: last Webster 29 Oct. **Varied Thrush**: female Webster 4 Nov (MAS), first report in recent years. Bohemian Waxwing: three Greece 13 Nov (BMA), three DEP 23 Nov (MR), off to a good start. N. Shrike: arr BB 25 Oct.

VIREOS-WARBBLERS: Blue-winged Warbler: none. Orange-crowned Warbler: one Oatka Creek P 11 Oct (CC), scarce. N. Parula: last is only report. Cape May Warbler: none. Pine Warbler: last Letchworth SP 1 Oct. Palm Warbler: last WL 14 Oct. N. Waterthrush: last is only report.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: arr WL 26 Oct. Fox Sparrow: arr Springwater 26 Sep, last DEP 8 Nov. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: *intro* (KG). Lapland Longspur: arr three HB 14 Oct. Snow Bunting: arr 60 East Lakeshore 21 Oct. Rusty Blackbird: arr one-four WL 28 Sep. N. Oriole: one Greece 16 Nov, late. Red Crossbill: max seven 9 Oct. Com. Redpoll: arr HB 28 Oct. Pine Siskin: arr Manitou 28 Sep. Evening Grosbeak: arr DEP 28 Oct, scarce once again.

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## REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

C. K. MELIN

Average temperatures in Region 3 during the Fall of 1989 were 48 to 52°, and total precipitation for the Fall was 7 to 10 inches. Overall, it was a season of average precipitation with no indication of drought. In September, the main weather highlight was Hurricane *Hugo*, which made landfall in South Carolina and churned its way up the northeast coast, bringing high winds and rain to the Finger Lakes from 21-23 Sep. Following *Hugo*, a **Black-capped Petrel** was found dead in a Horseheads schoolyard 25 Sep. A fifth grade class and their teacher forwarded the petrel to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, where identification was confirmed and the skin deposited in the Cornell University Vertebrate Collection. This specimen is believed to be the sixth New York State record of the species, each record following the inland passage of a tropical storm.

October was exceptional this year for an extended period of bright, warm, sunny days preceded by cool, clear nights. Ithaca, for example, recorded 9 days with a daily temperature range of greater than 30°, about twice the normal and the most to be recorded in the month of October since 1964. During October's mild periods, Pine Siskin, dozens of Eastern Bluebird and over a thousand mixed blackbirds moved through areas near Yellow Barn State Forest. During a cold front and northeast winds from 17-20 Oct, a number of waterfowl were observed resting on Seneca Lake, including 100 Brant, 800 Black Scoter, 6 Surf Scoter, and 40 White-winged Scoter. The last week of October was especially warm and clear, with daytime temperatures in the 60's and 70's and average temperatures well above normal.

November, by contrast, was colder than normal, and there was snow on the ground by Thanksgiving. A cold front on 2 Nov arrived from the Great Lakes and pushed Brant, American Pipit, and Rough-legged Hawk through the Finger Lakes. Another cold front on 9 Nov downed 80 Common Loon on Cayuga Lake, and a second low pressure system on 15-17 Nov, which brought high-wind warnings and tornados to parts of the State, resulted in an impressive flight of Common Loon through the Region: 328 were seen migrating southwards over Seneca Lake, and over 400 were at Treman Marine Park near Ithaca.

During the Fall migration season, numbers of waterfowl were present on Seneca Lake and Cayuga Lake. However, most of the Region's waterfowl were at Montezuma NWR, as expected. A maximum of 900 Blue-winged Teal was at Montezuma NWR in September. By October, waterfowl migration was underway, with maxima of the following at Montezuma NWR: 860 Gadwall, 450 N. Pintail, 1400 Green-winged Teal,

2900 American Wigeon, 469 N. Shoveler, 1600 Wood Duck, 830 Redhead. Waterfowl maxima at MNWR during November included 50 Tundra Swan, 830 Snow Goose, 30,000 Canada Goose, 11,000 Mallard, 2700 Am. Black Duck, 5200 Canvasback, 2400 Lesser Scaup, 30 Bufflehead, 130 Hooded Merganser and 1200 Common Merganser. During October and November, maxima of 4700 Ring-necked Duck and 30 Ruddy Duck were present. Other water birds present at Montezuma NWR during the season were 60 Pied-billed Grebe, 616 Double-crested Cormorant, 800 Great Blue Heron, 24 Green-backed Heron, 60 Black-crowned Night Heron, 9 Great Egret, and 1005 Ring-billed Gull. The four resident Bald Eagle — three adults and one young — were present all Season. There were several reports of an adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Montezuma NWR, the first on 24 Sep following *Hugo*, and then on 2 Oct and 12 Nov.

For another consecutive year, the water level at May's Point Pool at MNWR was drawn down to create mudflats for migrating shorebirds to rest and feed on. Most of the shorebirds were present during September, although a few individuals remained throughout October and November. Most common of the 23 shorebird species present were: Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Least Sandpiper. Also present were: Black-bellied Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Stilt Sandpiper, dowitcher sp., Common Snipe, and Wilson's Phalarope. There were single reports of Hudsonian Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, White-rumped, Western, and Baird's Sandpipers, and Red-necked Phalarope. From 11 Sep until 2 Oct, a Merlin was observed chasing shorebirds at MNWR. Corning Pond, another location in Region 3, also was productive for shorebirds but with fewer individuals, as expected.

There were several reports of Common Raven this season, all at heavily forested areas south of the Finger Lakes. There was one near Horseheads 18 Sep, two at Erin Park Station early November, and one near Elmira on 6 Nov. Common Raven occasionally appear in remote Region 3 locations adjacent to the Appalachian or Allegheny Mountains, but they have not yet been identified as possible breeding species in these areas.

Red-breasted Nuthatch and Golden-crowned Kinglet were common at conifer plantations in state forests, or in the White Pine/Hemlock stands in the Region's gorges and ravines. Birds at the northern limits of their range, and continuing to increase were Northern Mockingbird, Eastern Bluebird, Northern Cardinal, and Carolina Wren. In contrast, Brown Thrasher, Henslow's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Vesper Sparrow were scarce or absent. Most resident and migrant warbler species were observed during the warm and mild weather early in the

fall season, and there were several reports of vireos lingering through the first week of October. Yellow-throated, Solitary, and Red-eyed Vireos were common, and there were several reports of Philadelphia Vireo as well. A total of 26 warbler species was observed in the Region during September, a tribute to the warm weather and the activity of birders. In the Ithaca area, where students bird enthusiastically, warblers persisting after Sep 30 were Tennessee, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Palm, Bay-breasted, Black-and-white, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Pine, and Connecticut Warbler. There were no reports of Worm-eating, Cerulean, Prothonotary, or Golden-winged Warbler. Migrant Snow Bunting is often seen along the rocky shores of the Finger Lakes when they first arrive in the Fall, as was the case this season. As winter closes in, they move into agricultural stubble away from the lakes.

Cone crops of White Spruce, Norway Spruce, and Eastern Hemlock were heavy this year, and by October there were reports of winter finches including Pine Siskin, Evening Grosbeak, and White-winged Crossbills throughout the Region in locations where conifer trees are abundant. There were no reports of Red Crossbill, Common Redpoll or Pine Grosbeak this season.

**Highlights: Black-capped Petrel, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Common Raven, Merlin, Sharp-tailed Sparrow.**

Contributors: J. Brubaker, D. Clements, T. Gingrich, J & S Gregoire, B. Hilfiker, D. McIlroy, C. Melin, W. Ostrander, J. Wells, G. Wolford.

Abbreviations: YBSF - Yellow Barn State Forest; MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; WG - Watkins Glen; FLNF - Finger Lakes National Forest (formerly Hector Land Use Area); HHSF: - Hammond Hill State Forest.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: *intro*. Brant: *intro*. Black Scoter: *intro*. Surf Scoter: *intro*. White-winged Scoter: *intro*.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: *intro*. Broad-winged Hawk: present until Nov, late. N. Goshawk: present all season throughout. Rough-legged Hawk: widespread after 4 Nov. Merlin: *intro*. Ring-necked Pheasant: widespread all season. Virginia Rail: one Hunt Hill Road, Ithaca 18 Oct. Red Knot: one MNWR 1 Sep. Hudsonian Godwit: MNWR 2 Sep. Baird's Sandpiper: six MNWR Sep 9-10. Red-necked Phalarope: MNWR 17 Sep, 30 Sep. Wilson's Phalarope: MNWR 30 Sep, late. Ring-billed Gull: max 1005 MNWR Oct; also 500-1000 all season Cayuga L at Ithaca, Chemung 11 Oct. Herring Gull: max 86 MNWR Sep. Lesser Black-backed Gull: *intro*. Great Black-backed Gull: max ten MNWR Nov. Bonaparte's Gull: four Seneca L 17 Nov. Caspian Tern: two MNWR Sep. Common Tern: three MNWR Sep.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: E. Screech-Owl: present Ithaca all season, none elsewhere. Snowy Owl: none. Short-eared Owl: one WG 21 Nov.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Freeville 17 Sep. Fish Crow: at least three Ithaca all season. Com. Raven: *intro*. Winter Wren: present Sep-Oct around Ithaca & Watkins Glen. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 10 FLNF 21 Oct. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Hunt Hill Road, Ithaca 13 Oct, late.



Swainson's Thrush: two FLNF 28 Sep. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one FLNF 28 Sep. Loggerhead Shrike: Ithaca 30 Sep, 2 Oct, no details. N. Shrike: one Gregoire's banding station, Burdett 9 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: *intro.*

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: present after 27 Oct. Lincoln's Sparrow: one Dryden L 3 Sep-1 Oct. White-throated Sparrow: present after 2 Oct. White-crowned Sparrow: present throughout Oct. Snow Bunting: 11 Seneca lakefront 31 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: one Dryden L 7 Nov (McIlroy). **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**: one Treman Marina 29-30 Sep (Wells). Rusty Blackbird: present Corning Pd, Dryden L, Waneta L Oct-Nov. Pine Siskin: present throughout after 2 Oct. White-winged Crossbill: present Dryden L, FLNF, HHSF after 7 Oct.

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*[There is no Region 4 report because there is no Region 4 editor. Interested volunteer(s) should contact the Kingbird Editor.]*

## REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

GENE HUGGINS

Average weather conditions prevailed through most of the period. A week of rain in mid October may have been a factor in putting down large numbers of Snow Geese, and the end of November with its persistent snow brought back memories of what late fall was like here in the not too distant past.

This fall can best be summarized for its several significant flights of birds. Two major flights occurred over a broad geographical area, primarily the Appalachian Plateau. One flight involved record numbers of Snow Geese. An estimated 8,670 birds were recorded from n Oneida, s Madison and Onondaga Counties. The first 1,000 geese were observed 15 Oct on Cazenovia L. Four days later 1200 were sighted on Otisco L by Robert Post. Woodman's Pond near Hamilton, Madison Co., recorded a maximum of 2,000 on 1 Nov. Snow Geese were found in eight localities occupying extensive cornfields near small lakes and ponds. Only eleven of the blue color phase were recorded. The last record from Otisco L on 23 Nov. The second major flight occurred in the spruce-pine plantations, where Red-breasted Nuthatches were ubiquitous. One observer noted up to 250 per day in s Onondaga Co. alone. Interestingly enough, very few were reported from the Adirondacks and Lake Ontario littoral, where peak counts were just six per day. The only notable exception to this was 28 observed near Derby Hill on 23 Sep. In addition to White-winged Crossbill which had appeared earlier, Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin began to appear in small numbers by the season's end.

Another interesting, but more localized flight occurred on the north-

facing slopes of Pompey Township. A group of 15 Brown Thrashers at n Pompey Township on 24 Sep were the most Dorothy Crumb had ever seen in migration there. These birds, along with a Connecticut and Prairie Warbler, made the last six days in Sep eventful. For several years another focal point for migrating passerines has been near Erieville in Madison Co. Elva Hawken commented that it was the best warbler migration she had seen in 10-12 years. Later, she found eight Black and two Surf Scoters on Erieville Reservoir for an unusual inland report. Sometimes being in the right place at the right time can be a factor in witnessing a good flight. Such was the case for Bill Purcell at his home in Hastings on 21 Sep. For almost two hours following a heavy fog, seven species of raptors including a Bald Eagle and over 300 Blue Jays passed overhead. Sandy Pond and Derby Hill once again were sites both for the arrival of some species and records of uncommon species. A Hudsonian Godwit and a Little Gull were two of the highlights from Sandy Pond, and a record late Caspian Tern was at Derby Hill on 12 Nov.

Positive aspects for this season include over 1,000 Wood Ducks at Toad Harbor on the north shore of Oneida L for the fifth consecutive year. Fish Crows continue their presence around New York Mills and the Whitesboro area of Oneida Co. A Black-and-white Warbler was recorded at Shackleton Pt, Oneida L on 5 Nov, surpassing the old record late date of 18 Oct 1956. Lastly a very interesting report came from Oneida where someone reported a Double-crested Cormorant swimming in a backyard pool for three hours.

Negatives for the season include no reports on Snowy Owl, a very poor flight for thrushes and only scattered reports on Evening Grosbeak toward the end of the period.

A total of 216 species and one color morph was reported, well below average. Notable rarities for the period included King Eider, Willet, Purple Sandpiper, Fish Crow, and Bohemian Waxwing. Other outstanding reports included Red-necked Phalarope, Red Phalarope, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Little Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Common Raven, Boreal Chickadee, Prairie Warbler and Connecticut Warbler.

Contributors: Pat Burns, Kate Coyle, Dorothy Crumb, Paul DeBenedictis, Robert L. Evans, Elva Hawken, Gene Huggins, Ruth Knight, Gary Lee, Sheila McCombie, Belle Peebles, Robert E. Post, Bill Purcell, Margaret S. Rusk, Betty Starr, Magdalena Stooks, Elba Van Dresar, Gary Webb, Glen Wolford.

Abbreviations: DH - Derby Hill, Oswego Co; FH - Fair Sodus Bay and vicinity, Cayuga Co; LOL - Lake Ontario littoral, Oswego Co; NPT - northern Pompey township, Onondaga Co; SPd - Sandy Pond, Oswego Co; SSSP - Selkirk Shores State Park, Oswego Co; SVB - Sylvan and Verona Beach, Oneida Co.; Syr - Syracuse.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr FH 26 Oct, max six FH 4 Nov. Com.

Loon: arr DH 3 Oct, max 1000 LOL 26 Oct, best count in years. Pied-billed Grebe: max eight Otisco L 21 Oct. Horned Grebe: arr SPd 29 Oct, max 26 FH 8 Nov. Red-necked Grebe: arr Otisco L 23 Nov. Double-crested Cormorant: max 260 SPd 3 Sep. Am. Bittern: last SSSP 11 Oct. Great Egret: last Delta L 11 Sep. Green-backed Heron: last Onon L 22 Oct. Black-crowned Night-Heron: imm T Clay 2-6 Sep. Tundra Swan: three SSSP 25 Nov. Snow Goose: *intro*. Brant: arr DH 17 Oct, max 3550 DH 3 Nov. Canada Goose: max 3000 Woodman's Pd 29 Nov. Wood Duck: max 1392 Toad Harbor 1 Oct, last Scott Swamp 29 Oct. Green-winged Teal: max 25 Hookway Tract, Syr 5 Nov. Am. Black Duck: max 60 DH 12 Nov. Mallard: max 165 SVB 7 Sep. N. Pintail: five DH 23 Sep. Blue-winged Teal: last nine T Clay 6 Sep. N. Shoveler: nine Otisco L 21 Nov. Gadwall: arr SSSP 15 Oct, max 45 FH 22 Oct. Am. Wigeon: max 210 FH 22 Oct. Canvasback: arr Woodman's Pd 25 Oct, max 65 Oneida L 18 Nov. Redhead: four Oneida L 4 Nov, next report LOL 26,27 Nov. Ring-necked Duck: arr Otisco L 9 Oct, max 22 SPd 7 Nov. Greater Scaup: arr Oneida L 8 Oct, max 660 LOL 26 Nov. Lesser Scaup: arr DH 23 Sep, max 165 Oneida L 14 Nov. King Eider: imm male Oswego H 19-29 Nov (BP,MSR). Oldsquaw: arr SPd 29 Oct, max 450 DH 1 Nov. Black Scoter: arr DH 17 Oct, max 30 DH 12 Nov. Surf Scoter: arr Oneida L 21 Oct, max 16 DH 17 Nov. White-winged Scoter: arr DH 23 Sep, max 65 there 19 Nov. Com. Goldeneye: arr DH 17 Oct, max 170 LOL 26 Nov. Bufflehead: arr Otisco L 19 Oct, max 93 LOL 19 Nov. Hooded Merganser: arr Old Fly Marsh 3 Sep, max 140 Otisco L 22 Nov. Com. Merganser: arr SSSP 2 Sep, max 30 LOL 26 Nov. Red-breasted Merganser: arr SPd 18 Sep, max 540 FH 22 Oct. Ruddy Duck: arr Beaver L 9 Oct, max 20 there 28 Oct.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: last DeWitt 15 Nov. Osprey: four Hastings 21 Sep. Bald Eagle: ad SPd 18 Sep, ad Hastings 21 Sep, imm SPd 10 Nov, imm DH 17 Nov. N. Harrier: 21 reported for the season. Sharp-shinned Hawk: arr SVB 16 Sep. Cooper's Hawk: arr SVB 16 Sep. Red-shouldered Hawk: three Toad Harbor 27 Oct. Broad-winged Hawk: max 14 Hastings 21 Sep. Rough-legged Hawk: arr Erieville 13 Sep, record early arrival. Am. Kestrel: four Hastings 21 Sep. Merlin: one Fabius 7 Sep, one Erieville 13 Sep, one SPd 18 Sep. Ring-necked Pheasant: 19 reported for the season. Wild Turkey: two Old Forge 16 Nov. Com. Moorhen: eight SPd 2 Sep, last there 24 Sep. Am. Coot: arr SSSP 15 Oct, max 27 SPd 7 Nov. Black-bellied Plover: max 20 Griffis AFB 23 Sep. Lesser Golden Plover: max 61 Canastota 16 Sep, last SPd 1 Oct. Semipalmated Plover: max nine SPd 3 Sep, very scarce. Killdeer: max 83 Canastota 2 Sep. Greater Yellowlegs: max six Delta L 11 Sep. Lesser Yellowlegs: max four Delta L 11 Sep. Solitary Sandpiper: last T Clay 18 Sep. Willet: one Onon L 23 Sep (C.G. Spies *vide* MSR). Hudsonian Godwit: two SPd 1 Oct. Ruddy Turnstone: last two SPd 2 Sep. Red Knot: last three SPd 2 Sep. Sanderling: max 80 SPd 24 Sep. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 23 LOL 2 Sep. Least Sandpiper: max six T Clay 6 Sep. White-rumped Sandpiper: last one FH 8 Nov. Baird's Sandpiper: max seven SPd 2 Sep, last there 3 Sep. Pectoral Sandpiper: max seven Griffis AFB 22 Sep. Purple Sandpiper: two FH 4-8 Nov, one SPd 10 Nov, two Oswego 25-27 Nov. Dunlin: arr SPd 24 Sep, max there 41 10 Nov. Short-billed Dowitcher: one T Clay Pds 2-6 Sep. Com. Snipe: last LOL 25 Nov. Am. Woodcock: last two Hastings 10 Oct. Red-necked Phalarope: five DH 2 Sep(DWC). Red Phalarope: one Oswego 19-25 Nov (MSR,DWC). Pomarine Jaeger: one DH 12 Nov, one Oswego 19 Nov. Parasitic Jaeger: 14 reported for the season 23 Sep-1 Nov. Little Gull: ad DH, SPd

2 Sep-1 Nov. Bonaparte's Gull: max 320 Oneida L 5 Nov. Iceland Gull: arr imm Oswego 19 Nov. Great Black-backed Gull: max 75 SPd 24 Sep. Black-legged Kittiwake: imm DH 12, 23 Nov. Caspian Tern: max 62 SPd 18 Sep, *intro*. Com. Tern: max 80 SPd 2 Sep, last one there 29 Oct. Black Tern: imm SPd 2 Sep, last two immatures Onon L 24 Sep, late.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: one T Brutus 15 Sep, only report. Great Horned Owl: six reports for the period. Barred Owl: one Holland Patent Oct. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: nine scattered reports. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max five Delta L 11 Sep, last 27 Oct. N. Flicker: max 20 SPd 3 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: max 20 LOL 2 Sep. E. Phoebe: max eight LOL 2 Sep. E. Kingbird: max eight LOL 2 Sep. Horned Lark: max 38 SPd 14 Nov. Tree Swallow: max 80 LOL 24 Sep. Barn Swallow max 55 SPd 3 Sep. Gray Jay: two Old Forge 1 Nov. Blue Jay: max 358 Hastings 21 Sep. Am. Crow: max 253 SPd 28 Oct. **Fish Crow**: two New York Mills 1 Nov (G. Webb). Com. Raven: nine Limekiln L Adks. Black-capped Chickadee: max 60 se MADI 28 Oct. Boreal Chickadee: six Limekiln L 24 Sep. Tufted Titmouse: six Delta L 8 Oct. Red-breasted Nuthatch: *intro*. Carolina Wren: six reports Syr, one report Oneida. Winter Wren: arr SPd 24 Sep, max six SSSP 11 Oct, last Syr 2 Nov. Marsh Wren: last SPd 24 Sep. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr SPd 24 Sep, max 52 FH 22 Oct. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr SVB 16 Sep, max 30 SSSP 11 Oct. E. Bluebird: max 41 Toad Harbor 27 Oct, last three Holland Patent 5 Nov. Gray-cheeked Thrush: three reports 18-27 Sep. Swainson's Thrush: arr Erieville 5 Sep, max six SPd 18 Sep. Hermit Thrush: arr NPT 27 Sep, max six SSSP 15 Oct, last Noyes S 25 Nov. Am. Robin: max 62, very low. Gray Catbird: max 15 SPd 18 Sep. Brown Thrasher: *intro*. Am. Pipit: arr SPd 2 Sep, max 253 there 10 Nov, last ten Mexico 19 Nov. **Bohemian Waxwing**: four DH 23 Nov. Cedar Waxwing: max 170 SPd 28 Oct. N. Shrike: arr Holland Patent 4 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: arr SPd 18 Sep, max six Delta L 8 Oct. Philadelphia Vireo: arr SPd 2 Sep, max eight, last NPT 5 Oct. Red-eyed Vireo: max 12 SPd 3 Sep. Tennessee Warbler: arr SPd 2 Sep, max 21 Erieville 15 Sep. Orange-crowned Warbler: arr SVB 3 Sep, last SSSP 11 Oct. Nashville Warbler: arr SPd, SVB 2 Sep, max nine Erieville 13 Sep. N. Parula: arr SPd 3 Sep, max three. Magnolia Warbler: max 16 SPd 3 Sep. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 69 Delta L 8 Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: max 45 Erieville 13 Sep. Blackburnian Warbler: arr SPd 3 Sep, max 30 Erieville 13 Sep. Pine Warbler: last three Erieville 23 Sep. Prairie Warbler: one NPT 24 Sep. Palm Warbler: arr Erieville 5 Sep, max five, last two Hastings 21 Sep. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr SVB 2 Sep, max 21 Erieville 11 Sep. Blackpoll Warbler: max nine Erieville 11 Sep. Cerulean Warbler: one SPd 2 Sep. Black-and-white Warbler: *intro*. Am. Redstart: max 26 Erieville 11 Sep. Connecticut Warbler: one NPT 24 Sep, first report since 1986 (DWC). Hooded Warbler: one SPd 2 Sep. Wilson's Warbler: arr SPd 2 Sep, max 18 there 3 Sep.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Otisco L 6 Oct, max 95 Mexico 19 Nov. Chipping Sparrow: max 65 Delta L 8 Oct, two still present NPT 30 Nov. Field Sparrow: max 15 Hastings 14 Sep, last one 10 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: one Mexico 25 Nov (DWC), record late. Fox Sparrow: up to seven 26 Sep-22 Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: three reports 17 Sep-1 Oct. White-throated Sparrow: arr SPd 3 Sep, max 200 s ONON 15 Oct. White-crowned Sparrow: arr LOL 1 Oct, max 22 Delta L 8 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: arr SPd 24 Sep, max 64

Mexico 19 Nov. Lapland Longspur: six SPd 12 Nov, three DH 17 Nov, one Mexico 26 Nov. Snow Bunting: arr Old Forge 21 Oct, max 450 DH 17 Nov. E. Meadowlark: last one Mexico 26 Nov. Rusty Blackbird: arr SVB 29 Sep, max 100 s ONON, last Van Buren 29 Oct. Com. Grackle: last Erieville 17 Nov. Pine Grosbeak: arr Old Forge 28 Nov. Red Crossbill: two Erieville 8 Sep, one Limekiln L 12 Sep. White-winged Crossbill: max 40 Erieville 3 Sep. Com. Redpoll: seven NPT 27 Oct, only report. Pine Siskin: arr SPd 1 Oct, max 35 s ONON 15 Oct. Am. Goldfinch: max 25 SPd 29 Oct. Evening Grosbeak: arr Erieville 16 Oct, max 45 Hastings 27 Nov.

ADDENDUM: **Glossy Ibis**: one Scott Swamp 3 May (Alan Townsend, Dennis Maxam *vide* DWC, ph!).

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## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL

The three month period was cool and wet, especially November. Maximum temperatures for September reached the high 80's on 9-10 Sep, while many areas had frost on 27 Sep when temperatures dropped into the 20's. Whereas temperatures were about average and rainfall was below normal in lowland area, in southern St. Lawrence Co. and Lewis Co. mercury readings were a degree or two below normal and rainfall was heavier than normal. October was slightly warmer and drier than expected, with the exception of a dreary week mid month. There was little snow even in the northern plateau. Temperatures for November ran two to three degrees below normal, while precipitation ran from two inches above normal in the lowlands to 3.8 inches, or 50% above normal, on Tug Hill. Snowfall ranged from a few inches in northern St. Lawrence Co. to almost five feet at Barnes Corners.

It is difficult to correlate our anecdotal observations of migratory movements with weather systems. Near Canton, large numbers of blackbirds and starling were associated with cold weather 4 to 9 Oct as were flocks of Killdeer, while a congregation of crows occurred with warm air on 17 Oct. There were reports of "unprecedented numbers" of Snow Goose from all three counties between 19 Oct and 24 Nov, with a maximum of 600 at Castorland Flats, Lewis Co., on 3 Nov. The largest flights of Canada Geese I have ever observed in Pierrepont (several flocks totaling some 12-1500) filled the sky on 13 Nov, just prior to the onset of cold weather. Early arrival of Rough-legged Hawk, Bohemian Waxwing, good numbers of Horned Lark, and early Snow Bunting all suggested more winter visitors than in past winters. However, there were no reports of Snowy Owl or Northern Shrike. Both nuthatches are unusually abundant. Both kinglets arrived in Henderson and Louisville 1-5 Oct, with a wave of Ruby-crowned Kinglet on 22 Oct. There were good numbers of E. Bluebird, but the only spot-breasted thrushes were

two Gray-cheeked in Louisville 7-8 Oct, one Hermit in Watertown 21 Oct, and one Wood Thrush 4 Sep. Large numbers of Chipping Sparrow were in Henderson on 24 and 30 Sep and White-crowned Sparrow was widely reported in early Oct. Some late departures included Regional record lates for Chimney Swift and Cape May Warbler. In Watertown a Belted Kingfisher lingered to 26 Nov, and Marilyn Badger reported a late Fox Sparrow in Louisville. There have been few winter finches, save for a few Pine Siskin and a report of White-winged Crossbill, the only report after the summer's irruption in New England and the Maritimes.

The 150 species reported is a good autumn showing for our Region, thanks to several new contributors. The 19 species of waterfowl included no grebes. Several uncommon shorebirds were reported, including Hudsonian Godwit and **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**. For gulls and terns, Bruce DiLabio recorded a seasonal max of 800 Bonaparte's, 5000 Ring-billed, 10,000 Herring Gull and 2500 Great Black-backed Gull at the Moses-Saunders Dam on 21 Nov. He also found Little Gull, Iceland Gull, Glaucous Gull and Black-legged Kittiwake during the season. Three species of tern were reported: Caspian, Common and Black. Eighteen species of raptor included virtually all likely hawks, save Red-shouldered and Broad-winged, plus both eagles and four owls. There were two unconfirmed reports of a Bald Eagle near ULL WMA, one in late November. Linda Murray, an animal rehabilitator in Oswegatchie, reported repeated sightings of a Golden Eagle in August and September and a subadult Bald Eagle was seen over a period of four weeks at Star Lake. She wrote, "One day the bird was screaming (like a distress call) from close to ground level. About four days later I spotted it airborne, but having difficulty flying... Several primary feathers were missing. I never saw it again." In mid September she watched a pair of Peregrine Falcons swooping and diving. Elsewhere, there were two N. Goshawk, half a dozen reports of Cooper's Hawk, mostly from Jefferson Co., but only three Sharp-shinned. Lee Chamberlaine reported two sightings (same bird?) of Merlin being chased by and then chasing a crow at Eldorado shores on 10 Sep and sitting next to a beach pool at Lakeview WMA on 12 Sep. Four species of owl were reported including E. Screech-Owl and N. Saw-whet Owl. P. O'Shea reports only one Barred, "numbers low" from southern St. Lawrence Co. Reports of game birds were up. KLC spotted a Gray Partridge on the Crary Mills-Eben Rd in Potsdam on 20 Sep. Brian Watson was sure he saw a Chukar, not a Gray, in Morley on 26 Sep. Is some one releasing Chukar or was he mistaken? The Wild Turkey continues to be widely reported.

Among the rarities in addition to the Merlin, **Golden Eagle** and **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** cited above, was **Sandhill Crane**. Other notable reports included a Gray Jay and Common Raven out of range, and Northern Mockingbird in Louisville 13 Oct — was it the same bird to be

seen two miles away on the CBC 18 Dec?

Contributors: Donald Auster, Marilyn Badger, Carol Budd, Richard Brouse, Lee Chamberlaine, Ken Crowell, R. D. Faulkham, Jim Farquhar, John Green, Debbie & Steve Hitwiler, Wayne Jones, Rodger Klindt, Linda Murray, Peter O'Shea, Gerry Smith, Andy Thurber, Brian Watson, Mark Wiggins.

Abbreviations: MSD — Moses-Saunders Dam; ULL — Upper and Lower Lakes WMA; WH — Wilson Hill WMA.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one 17 Sep. Red-necked Grebe: Horned Grebe: one Pt Peninsula 29 Oct. Double-crested Cormorant: 122 MSD 1 to 27 Sep, last 30 on 21 Oct. Snow Goose: *intro*. Brant: two flocks of 100 Fort Drum 1 Nov (SH). Canada Goose: *intro*. Wood Duck: nine Louisville 9 Oct and one 4 Nov only report. Am. Black Duck: max 58 MSD 21 Nov. Canvasback: two WH WMA 21 Oct. Com. Goldeneye: arr and max only 42 MSD 21 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: two reports. Bald Eagle: *intro*. Sharp-shinned Hawk: three Louisville 25 Oct and 9 Nov. N. Goshawk: two Louisville near WH WMA 25 Oct. Rough-legged Hawk: arr Pillar Point 15 Oct, early; large numbers STLA late Nov. Merlin: *intro*. Peregrine Falcon: *intro*. Golden Eagle: *intro*. Gray Partridge: *intro*. Chukar: *intro*. **Sandhill Crane**: two near Wilson Bay, T of St. Vincent, 4 Sep (DF). Hudsonian Godwit: two Lisbon 26 Oct (DA, AT). **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**: one in beach grass at Southwick Beach SP 12 Sep (LBC). Little Gull: ads MSD 17 Sep-30 Oct, max seven on the latter date (BD). Bonaparte's Gull: *intro*. Ring-billed Gull: *intro*. Herring Gull: *intro*. Iceland Gull: MSD 21 Oct and 21 Nov. Glaucous Gull: one MSD 10 Oct and 21 Nov. Great Black-backed Gull: *intro*. Black-legged Kittiwake: three imm MSD 17 to 30 Sep (BD). Caspian Tern: two Lakeview WMA 12 Sep. Com. Tern: max 75 MSD 17 Sep. Black Tern: MSD 17 Sep.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: E. Screech-Owl: one Watertown 28 Sep (DB). Barred Owl: *intro*. N. Saw-whet Owl: one Henderson Shores Unique Land (new state land at Stoney Pt) 29 Oct (MW). Whip-poor-will: one Massena 6 Sep, unusual in fall. Chimney Swift: *intro*. Belted Kingfisher: *intro*. Red-bellied Woodpecker: male in Henderson whole period. Hairy Woodpecker: numbers up.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Gray Jay: one Louisville 23 Oct, a very unusual area for this species. Am. Crow: *intro*. Com. Raven: near Rodman 25 Nov (WJ). Brown Creeper: none Henderson (LBC) but three Louisville. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: *intro*. E. Bluebird: max 12 Diamond 6 Oct. Gray-cheeked Thrush: *intro*. Hermit Thrush: *intro*. Wood Thrush: *intro*. Bohemian Waxing: six in mountain ash Pierrepont 23 Oct, 100 on 25 Nov (KLC).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Cape May Warbler: *intro*.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: departure rather late. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Louisville 23 Oct, several reports Nov. Chipping Sparrow: *intro*. Fox Sparrow: last Louisville 15 Nov, late. White-throated Sparrow: max 300 RMSP 17 Sep. Dark-eyed Junco: arr Watertown 3 Oct. Snow Bunting: arr Louisville 23 Oct. White-winged Crossbill: small flock Sylvia Lake 30 Nov (JF). Pine Siskin: max 28 at Joseph Blake Sanctuary, Champion, 5 Nov; most continued south.

ADDENDUM: Red-necked Grebe: five at MSD 13 Aug (BD), early.

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## REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M.C. PETERSON

With so much recent news regarding the decline of many species of birds, it's gratifying to be able to pass along at least a few positive reports from the North Country.

The recovery of the Bald Eagle is, of course, well-documented, even being featured on network news. This nationwide improvement is reflected in our Regional reports. This fall there were sightings of at least seven birds from eight locations: over Raquette Pond 23 Sep, a migrant crossing Bulwagga Bay from Crown Point peninsula to Coot Hill on 26 Sep, perhaps the same immature at both Port Henry and Westport in late Oct, an adult at Valcour Island 28 Oct, a subadult near Essex 4 Nov, one at Moose River 14-15 Nov, and an adult at Indian Lake (the one in northern Franklin Co.) on 19 Nov. Back in the fall of 1969, by contrast, *none* were reported in this Region. By fall 1979, there were just five eagles at three locations. Slowly, we're seeing improvement.

Commenting on the Bohemian Waxwing back in 1981, Ted Mack speculated, "They have been at Essex three winters so this may be indicative of an extension of the winter range," later adding, "This species is seen each winter." By 1987, the present editor noted that, "Bohemian Waxwings now seems to be an annual visitant in the Champlain district...." A review of the records for the just completed decade now reveals that we were only slightly overoptimistic. Since the winter of 1979-80, this northerner actually failed to appear only in the winters of 1982-83 and 1988-89, a remarkable record for a bird that not too long ago was considered "one of the very rarest winter visitors to New York State" (J. Bull, *Birds of New York*, 1974). This fall Bohemian Waxwing arrived exceptionally early and in good numbers, following reports from neighboring Quebec as early as 10 Oct. Hal Klein and Charlie Mitchell saw the first flock of a hundred or more at Point au Roche on 28 Oct, a new record early date for New York State and Clinton County. Then Eileen McCartney and Hollis White spotted four near Hogsburg 30 Oct for a new Franklin Co. arrival record. Mike Peterson had a flock of 90 or more stop in his yard near Elizabethtown on the morning of 6 Nov for a new Adirondack Park and Essex Co. arrival date (breaking the old record by some two weeks). And they kept coming: Bob Hagar saw a large flock of 250 in Peru on 20 Nov, and Anne Hungerford added 21 at Owls Head on 23 Nov. Given the early arrival dates, perhaps these were birds pushing down from the Hudson Bay Lowlands of northern Ontario (or even northern Quebec?), rather than from the far west. Clearly, another invasion had begun, following major flights in 1980-81 and 1985-86.

Almost absent last winter, Pine Grosbeaks also moved southward out



of Canada, with the first feeding on Highbush Cranberries at Tupper Lake on 25 Nov. Subsequent arrivals were noted soon after at Eighth and Raquette Lakes on 27 Nov, Limekiln Rd. on 29 Nov, Moose River Recreation Area and Onchiota on 30 Nov, and Owls Head on 5 Dec.

Following their 3-county invasion the previous summer, White-winged Crossbills also continued to arrive in force from the boreal forests of Canada. In Franklin County, Ted Mack reported, "There are 50 to 100 anywhere a car stops from Lake Placid to Paul Smiths...." From Hamilton County, Gary Lee noted, "White-winged Crossbills all during the period, everywhere — several dead on the highway killed by cars and picked up by [Common] Ravens." The last Adirondack incursion of this magnitude was the "Atlas Invasion" that began in July 1984 and continued into early 1985.

Thanks largely to sustained efforts by Greg Furness at Crown Point peninsula (Lake Champlain), Charlcie Delehanty (Champlain, Raquette Pd., Tupper L), and Jan Trzeciak (Indian-Mt. View Lakes, Franklin Co.), a wide variety of waterfowl was reported. Geese and diving ducks were well-represented, with six reports of Snow Geese, including a few "Blue" morphs. Also noteworthy were records of all three scoters from a variety of waters. An apparent "Arctic/Pacific" Loon along the Vermont shore near the Champlain Bridge in early Nov was seen swimming out toward Crown Point, but, alas, was never observed crossing into NYS waters. But both Red-throated and Common Loons were reportedly seen safely on the Essex Co. side of the narrows in following days.

The autumn weather was largely unremarkable. The few highlights included 1.98 inches of rain at Plattsburgh on 20 Sep, the first killing frost at Owls Head on 10 Oct, rains 20-21 Oct, followed by a mild spell from 24-28 Oct, and temperatures in the 60°Fs at Plattsburgh 14 Nov. The period closed with thermometers dropping to 9°F at Ellenburg Depot and Ray Brook on 27 Nov, the shooting to 55°F (accompanied by winds of 60 mph) at Plattsburgh the following day.

Although, as always, there were a few easy "misses" of birds that were surely here, a total of 147 species was reported, up significantly from the 105 species in the fall of 1988. A number of further avian nuggets are buried within the seasonal records that follow, but certainly the occurrence of five different gulls in the Lake Placid area on 25 Nov is without precedence. And finally, for lack of a suitable Bird-of-the-Season candidate (the loon having failed us), we offer as Mammal-of-the-Season [MOTS Award] the four River Otter, seen daily at Owls Head, who enjoyed startling the staid Canada Geese by poking their heads up suddenly through the ice behind them!

Contributors: Merry Baker, Sue Boettger, Geoffrey Carleton, Walter Carsten, Jan Cooper, Charlcie Delehanty, Greg Furness, William Gruenbaum, Robert Hagar, Anne Hungerford, Hal Klein, Gary Lee, Theodore Mack, Eileen

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Abbreviations: CPP - Crown Point peninsula; IL - Indian Lake, Franklin Co.

**LOONS-DUCKS:** Red-throated Loon: *intro*. Com. Loon: *intro*. Pied-billed Grebe: Saranac L 3 Oct, unusual location. Horned Grebe: 2 arr IL 19 Nov. Double-crested Cormorant: CPP to 10 Nov, late. Black-crowned Night-Heron: Seventh L inlet 19 Oct (GL), unusual inland location. Snow Goose: 75 arr Point au Roche 14 Oct, max 300+ Raquette Pd 17 Oct, 35 IL 19 Oct, 200 CPP 28 Oct with few "Blue" morphs, flock with few "Blue" morphs at Vermontville 25 Oct and Franklin Flow 28 Oct; *intro*. Canada Goose: one summered Westport with domestic geese, max 1000 Malone Rec Pk, feeding in cornfields 10-21 Nov. N. Pintail: pr arr CPP 25 Oct. Canvasback: arr Tupper L 24 Oct. Ring-necked Duck: max 65 Tupper L 5 Nov. Lesser Scaup: arr Mt View L 23 Oct. Oldsquaw: arr CPP 25 Oct. Black Scoter: arr Malone Rec Pk 16 Oct, max 35 IL 19 Oct, CPP 26 Oct-10 Nov. Surf Scoter: arr IL 12 Oct, max 4 CPP 11 Nov. White-winged Scoter: arr pr Corlear Bay, ESSE, 6 Oct (LS), max 21 IL 19 Oct. Com. Goldeneye: arr two CPP 25 Oct. Bufflehead: arr IL 17 Oct, max 100 there 23 Oct, males throwing heads back and growling. Hooded Merganser: max 11 Whallonsburg 24 Oct (JP). Com. Merganser: max 90 Corlear Bay 6 Oct. Red-breasted Merganser: one L Abenake Sep (RM), uncommon inland.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** Bald Eagle: *intro*. Rough-legged Hawk: arr CPP 19 Oct. Peregrine Falcon: still at Webb Royce Swamp, ESSE, 12 Oct (JPa). Am. Coot: max 12 CPP 25 Oct extraordinary for Region. Semipalmated Plover: Mt View L 8 Oct, unusual inland. Greater Yellowlegs: a flock of 60 yellowlegs (sp.) at Bryant's Siding, FRAN, 18 Oct were mostly Greater (JT). Lesser Yellowlegs: 4 arr Seventh L 19 Oct, 6 there 24 Oct (GL), unexpected. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 50 sand bar in Mt View L end of channel 20 Oct (JT), an exceptional number anywhere in this region. Least Sandpiper: max 10 IL-Mt. View L channel 19-21 Oct. Bonaparte's Gull: max 30 Westport 26 Sep, last Whallon's Bay 22 Oct. **Iceland Gull:** two j L Placid 25 Nov (RH,LM). **Glaucous Gull:** two j L Placid 25 Nov (RH,LM). Great Black-backed Gull: three Lake Placid 25 Nov (RH,LM).

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** Black-billed Cuckoo: Saranac L 7 Sep a good find; calling at night Owls Head 1 Oct last report. Long-eared Owl: calling Essex 19 Nov (JPa). Black-backed Woodpecker: Moose River RA 30 Nov the only report.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLING:** Horned Lark: max 25 Normans Ridge 25 Oct; Moose River RA 27 Oct an unusual spot. Gray Jay: six trips to look for this species at Paul Smiths were all successful, with two landing on Ted Mack's car on the last trip in mid Nov; also reported from Carry Pd lean-to, Eighth L, Moose River RA, and Sabattis Rd. Com. Raven: continues to frequent CPP. Boreal Chickadee: one visited a Mountain View feeder on 5 Nov, a day of bird movement (AH). Tufted Titmouse: two Port Henry feeder only report. Golden-crowned Kinglet: giving short song near Paradox 3 Nov (MB). Bohemian Waxwing: *intro*. Cedar Waxwing: another with an orange tail band reported at Crown Point 30 Oct (JC). N. Shrike: arr Tupper L 23 Oct; others seen at S Schroon 12 Nov, Owls Head 21 Nov, and Saranac L 30 Nov.

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS:** Palm Warbler: Madawaska 30 Sep (TM), probably a migrant who found some familiar habitat for a stopover.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: arr two Owls Head 19 Oct. Field Sparrow: still in hawthorn thickets at CPP 26 Sep. Fox Sparrow: arr Tupper L 18 Oct, remained to 5 Nov. White-crowned Sparrow: arr Tupper L 27 Sep; birds lingered late this year with an ad at a Saranac L feeder to 19 Nov (RH), an imm at a L Placid feeder to 25 Nov, and the last imm at a Tupper Lake feeder to 27 Nov. Dark-eyed Junco: one with white wing bars visited a Mountain View feeder 20 Nov (AH). Snow Bunting: arr Uncas Rd, Inlet, 21 Oct (GL), max 50+ Normans Ridge 25 Oct, also at Paul Smiths 27 Oct, CPP 28 Oct. Red-winged Blackbird: large flocks headed south CPP 28 Oct. Rusty Blackbird: one Point au Roche 28 Oct the only report. Pine Grosbeak: *intro*. White-winged Crossbill: *intro*. Evening Grosbeak: 20 flying near Elizabethtown 4 Nov typical, with few visiting feeders by the end of the period, although numbers could be heard overhead.

CORRIGENDUM: The Com. Black-headed Gull on L Champlain 29 Oct 1988 (*Kingbird* 39:241) should be deleted; it was not observed in New York waters.

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## REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

KENNETH P. ABLE

It was a pleasant and normal autumn in eastern New York. September was slightly warmer and slightly drier than average, with many sunny, warm days; the only extended period of rain occurred in mid month. October continued warmer than normal, but slightly wetter. At least light rain occurred on 19 of the first 22 days of the month, with heavier amounts mid month, culminating with over 2 inches on 20 Oct. Temperatures in November averaged exactly normal, rainfall slightly less than normal, and snowfall below normal.

For observers on the ground, it was apparently a generally lackluster migration (yet another one!). No one reported major "waves" of passerine migrants nor large groundings. Hawk migration must have either dribbled through or happened when observers were not on station. The drawdown of Basic Creek Res and coverage of a sod farm produced many interesting shorebird sightings for this inland Region. They illustrated once again that during migration seasons it is profitable to check local water bird habitat whenever inclement weather occurs (especially rain). Species that would otherwise pass over the area unnoticed often come to ground under these circumstances. For the same reasons that they usually don't land in the first place, however, they tend to leave as soon as the weather improves. Among the rare water birds **not** associated with Hurricane *Hugo* (see below) were the first Regional record of **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**, second record of **Great Cormorant**, third record of **Parasitic Jaeger**, plus **Barrow's**

## **Goldeneye, Long-billed Dowitcher, Red-necked and Red Phalarope and Laughing Gull.**

There were indications at the end of the summer that irruptive boreal species might make a good showing. With respect to Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-winged Crossbill, and Pine Siskin that proved to be true. In contrast to last year, Evening Grosbeak was present in small numbers, but only at a fraction of their typical abundance in recent years.

Hurricane *Hugo* was the major bird event of the season. Although the storm went inland in the Carolinas, passed northward overland, and came no nearer to our area than its passage through western New York and into southern Ontario during the night of 22-23 Sep, it brought a number of birds to our Region. The few observers out looking were amply rewarded. If we needed another lesson of the sort provided by Hurricane *David* in 1979, this was it. In Albany, the storm produced sustained southerly winds of only 30 mph during the night, with the highest gust 47 mph. Less than 1/4 inch of rain fell. Despite its weakness and the facts that it was overland for hundreds of miles before reaching New York and that its center passed far to the west of us, it probably carried many birds over a vast area east of its center (always the best sector of such storms for birds). By late afternoon on the 23rd, the rains had ended and with the passage of a cold front, skies cleared rapidly and the winds shifted abruptly to the northwest. Nearly all of the interesting birds were seen while it was still raining on the 23rd, and by the next morning essentially all were gone. The obviously storm-related records were: **Great Shearwater**: one Alcove (KPA, NYSARC), second(!) Regional record; **Wilson's Phalarope**: one Basic (BC, KPA); **Red-necked Phalarope**: four Alcove (KPA); **Laughing Gull**: imm Basic (BC, KPA), one Catskill (RPG), fourth Regional occurrence; **Common Tern**: two Alcove, others Catskill; **Least Tern**: three Catskill (RPG), second Regional occurrence. Unfortunately, this was probably only the tip of the iceberg.

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Abbreviations: Alcove - Alcove Res, ALBA; Basic - Basic Creek Res, ALBA; FiveR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; SaraL - Saratoga L; TomR - Tomhannock Res, RENS.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: first migrants Alcove 9 Oct (BC); max 20 SaraL 28 Oct (SBT). Pied-billed Grebe: three reports. **Great Shearwater**: *intro*. **Great Cormorant**: imm New Baltimore 29 Oct (WC, RPG), second Regional record. **Double-crested Cormorant**: max and last 50 Stuyvesant 29 Oct (WC). Am.

Bittern: one Whitehall 16 Sep (JS), Ghent 20 Oct (HG), rarely reported in fall. Great Egret: at least 21 reported through 24 Sep. Snowy Egret: one Cohoes 7 Sep (KPA), only report. **Little Blue Heron**: two Castleton 1 Sep (PFC), only report. Mute Swan: continues to increase; two Clarke's Mills, WASH were far north (JS). Snow Goose: widely reported in large nos.; max 5000 Chatham 22 Oct (KD, EG). Brant: 40 Basic 21 Oct (BC). Green-winged Teal: max 80 Basic 12 Sep (PFC). Blue-winged Teal: max 60 Basic 12 Sep (PFC). N. Shoveler: 12 TomR 28 Oct (BC). Am. Wigeon: two Cohoes 7 Sep (KPA), early. Redhead: *ten* Alcove 21, 22 Oct (BC). Ring-necked Duck: one Basic 7 Sep (KPA), early; max 200 Basic 1 Nov (PFC). Oldsquaw: max eight SaraL 12 Nov (SBT). Black Scoter: max 40 Alcove 21 Oct (BC). Surf Scoter: max 50 Alcove 21 Oct (BC). White-winged Scoter: max 100 Alcove 21 Oct (BC). Com. Goldeneye: max 100+ SaraL 12 Nov (SBT). **Barrow's Goldeneye**: ad male TomR 5, 18 Nov (FM, et al.). Hooded Merganser: max 15 TomR 28 Oct (BC). Ruddy Duck: max 90 Alcove 29 Oct (BC).

HAWK-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: COLU 24 Nov (ADBC), late. Osprey: E Greenbush 22 Nov, late. Bald Eagle: ten reports, three ad, three imm, four unknown. N. Harrier: group of eight near Hudson 18 Nov (RLH), large number. Cooper's Hawk: ten reports. N. Goshawk: five reports. Broad-winged Hawk: poor flight; max 125 Pinnacle 18 Sep (PFC); very late reports, one each at Hague 5 Nov (ER), Claverack 10 Nov (WC), ad Berne 18 Nov (KPA). Rough-legged Hawk: five reports, first 29 Oct. Golden Eagle: ad near Raymertown RENS 12 Nov (PFC!). Merlin: five reports, earliest 7 Sep. Peregrine Falcon: ad Basic 25 Sep to 9 Oct. Ring-necked Pheasant: four reports COLU (WC, ADBC). Wild Turkey: hen with two 1/3 grown poultts near Schenectady 10 Sep (PDeB), late. Sora: one Roger's I COLU (WC), seldom reported in fall. Com. Moorhen: three Carter L WASH (JS), seldom reported in fall. Black-bellied Plover: one to eight (max) Basic 4 Sep to 10 Oct (KPA), rare locally. Lesser Golden-Plover: numerous reports Basic; 26 max, last Schodack RENS (PFC). Greater Yellowlegs: max 50 Basic 10 Oct (KPA). Lesser Yellowlegs: max 30 Basic 23 Sep (KPA). Solitary Sandpiper: last 24 Sep. Ruddy Turnstone: one Basic 24 Sep (AOL), rare locally. Sanderling: one, three Basic 19, 23 Sep (KPA), rare locally. White-rumped Sandpiper: last TomR 28 Oct (BC). Pectoral Sandpiper: max 60 Basic 10 Oct (KPA), last there 22 Oct (BC). Stilt Sandpiper: one to 10 (max) Basic 4-24 Sep (KPA). **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**: one j sod farm Bemis Heights SARA 1-4 Sep (SBT, BP, et al.); one Basic 24 Sep (BC), perhaps a result of *Hugo*; first Regional records. Short-billed Dowitcher: one Basic 1-12 Sep (KPA). **Long-billed Dowitcher**: one j Basic 19, 23 Sep (KPA), fourth identified in Region. Am. Woodcock: one FiveR 4 Nov (AM), late. Wilson's Phalarope: one Collins L. 17 Sep (ES); *intro*. **Red-necked Phalarope**: one Alcove 24 Oct (KPA); *intro*. **Red Phalarope**: one Alcove 24 Oct (KPA), fourth Regional record. **Parasitic Jaeger**: one j Thirteenth L WARR 14 Sep (KPA), third Regional record. **Laughing Gull**: two imm Alcove 21 Oct (BC), fifth Regional record; *intro*. Lesser Black-backed Gull: two ad, one Basic II plumage, Collins L, Colonie Landfill 2 Nov (CG, SBT). Com. Tern: seven Castleton 21 Oct (PFC), large no; *intro*. **Least Tern**: *intro*.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: one calling strongly FiveR 16 Oct (AM), late. Long-eared Owl: one picked up injured Schenectady 2 Nov. Short-eared Owl: one Stuyvesant 24 Oct (MS); one Palatine 25 Nov (SP); both early. N. Saw-whet Owl: one each netted New Baltimore 23 Oct (RPG), Berne 5 Nov (KPA). Red-headed Woodpecker: Fonda 25 Nov (SP), only report. Red-

bellied Woodpecker: good numbers COLU.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: last FiveR 19 Sep (AM). Purple Martin: late Kinderhook 6 Sep (AOL). Blue Jay: scarce for third consecutive year Jenny L (RPY). Com. Raven: 13 individuals reported from regular sites; continues to increase. Black-capped Chickadee: not an irruption year at Jenny L (RPY) or elsewhere. Red-breasted Nuthatch: RPY banded 25 at Jenny L Jul-Nov, with fewer after Aug; appeared outside breeding areas end Aug, present in good nos. all period. Carolina Wren: holding in good nos. in Hudson R valley s of Albany. Winter Wren: very late nest in nestbox Jenny L fledged 3 Sep (RPY). Gray-cheeked Thrush: no reports. Swainson's Thrush: nine banded New Baltimore during period (RPG); nocturnal calls heard Schodack Center 16 Sep, 18 Oct (PFC). Hermit Thrush: one each Berne, Jenny L 18 Nov, 23 Nov (KPA, RPY), late. N. Mockingbird: 15 in flock Stuyvesant 10 Oct (RLH). Am. Pipit: first Cohoes 7 Sep. N. Shrike: two reports Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Philadelphia Vireo: six reports, last New Lebanon 15 Oct (Grant). Pine Warbler: one Burnt Hills 8 Nov (NO), late. Cerulean Warbler: one L Taghkanic COLU 3 Sep (WC), rarely reported in fall. Worm-eating Warbler: one banded New Baltimore early Sep (RPG), rarely reported in fall.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Basic 29 Oct (BC). Chipping Sparrow: singles Hague 18 Nov (ER), Jefferson 25 Nov (AM), COLU through 30 Nov (ADBC). White-crowned Sparrow: hundreds northeast SCHO 14-16 Oct HF(BB, KB). Lapland Longspur: arr four Basic 30 Sep. Snow Bunting: arr, dead on road Basic 23 Oct (BB, KB). Red-winged Blackbird: female Hague 30 Nov (ER). Rusty Blackbird: max 40 SaraL 12 Nov (SBT). Purple Finch: average nos. Jenny L. (RPY); large numbers moving Albany area early Oct to mid Nov (SBT). House Finch: numbers down in Schenectady; 140 banded to end of period versus 1296 in peak year 1985 (RPY). Red Crossbill: no reports. White-winged Crossbill: moderate numbers after early Sep; max 51 Camp Pinnacle 9 Oct (SBT). Com. Redpoll: three reports of five birds 24 Oct, 11, 23 Nov (SBT). Pine Siskin: arr 20 Petersburg RENS 1 Oct (AR); moderate numbers through end period. Evening Grosbeak: scarce after mid Aug Jenny L (RPY); first outside breeding areas Alcove 21 Oct (BC); max 50 E Greenbush 25 Nov (MK).

ADDENDUM: Cooper's Hawk: one banded Cuba, N.Y., Sep 1984 as a hatching year bird (M.C. Forness), was recovered Harlemville COLU in mid May 1988 (fide RPG).

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## REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

HELEN C. MANSON

September was mild and wet with above average temperatures and much needed rain. October continued the warm trend. The summer-like days lasted through mid month, color came late and was as brilliant as ever. Rain at the end of the month stripped the leaves from the trees. November was a mixture of mild weather followed by cold with a first major snowstorm falling on Thanksgiving Day, when three inches blanketed the mid Hudson Valley. This ushered in a spell of cold that continued to the end of the month.

Due to a good growing season the wild food crop is abundant. Acorns and nut crop will provide food for Wild Turkey, deer and squirrels. Multiflora rose, bittersweet, dogwood and wild grape as well as sumac and abundant weed seeds will enhance the survival of the wintering birds as well as the half-hardy species that tend to linger.

Hawk migration was good, peaking around mid September. Warblers came through in good numbers and Yellow-rumped Warbler lingered well into November feeding on the abundant Poison Ivy berries. Two immature Yellow-crowned Night-Heron were found in Dutchess Co., one 4 Sep in eastern Dutchess and the other on 12 Sep in central Dutchess. Thrush numbers seem way down. Sparrows continue to be found in good numbers in the Stony Kill and Vassar Farm Gardens. A most spectacular sight was a huge flock of blackbirds in the Red Hook area, numbering up to 50,000. They filled the tops of the corn and the trees. Mostly Common Grackle and Red-winged Blackbird, they blackened the sky, perhaps as the Passenger Pigeon did so many years ago. They only stayed a few days, leaving the corn and weed seeds for the resident wintering birds. Pine Siskin passed through in good numbers, few lingering. Red-breasted Nuthatch moved into the area in September, leaving good wintering population, a welcome addition the Region's feeders.

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Abbreviations: WBC - Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: three Rondout Res 5 Nov, one L Carmel 9 Sep (FB). Horned Grebe: one Abel's Pd 31 Oct (BB), one Hudson R 4 Nov (SS). Double-crested Cormorant: two pd on Creek Road DUTC 22 Oct, one Rio Res 1 Nov, most seen in the Hudson R. Am. Bittern: none. Great Egret: six to eight DUTC Sep, one L Carmel 17 Nov. Cattle Egret: one 14 Sep. Tivoli. Green-backed Heron: one Humpo Marsh 27 Oct. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one Humpo Marsh 15 Sep. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: *intro*. Snow Goose: first two in a flock of Canada Geese Lock Sheldrake 30 Aug, first major flight Warwarsing 16 Oct. Brant: 75 DUTC 8 Oct, 200 Warwarsing 18 Oct. Wood Duck: 12 Humpo

Marsh 15 Sep. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: *intro*. Snow Goose: first two in a flock of Canada Geese Lock Shelldrake 30 Aug, first major flight Warwarsing 16 Oct. Brant: 75 DUTC 8 Oct, 200 Warwarsing 18 Oct. Wood Duck: 12 Humpo Marsh 15 Sep, four Vassar Farm 15 Sep. Green-winged Teal: five Humpo Marsh 15 Sep, two Craft Pd 15 Nov. Am. Black Duck: max 100 Hudson R 28 Oct. N. Pintail: one South Bay 24 Oct. Blue-winged Teal: max 12 Bashakill wetlands 17 Oct. Gadwall: 24 Wappingers L Nov. Am. Wigeon: six L Carmel 16 Oct. Canvasback: one L Carmel 7 Oct. Ring-necked Duck: in most lakes and ponds till freeze up. Greater Scaup: three Netherwood 22 Oct (EP). Lesser Scaup: four L Carmel 8 Nov. Oldsquaw: max 100 over Constitution Marsh early Nov. White-winged Scoter: three Hudson R 4 Nov. Com. Goldeneye: max 24 Wappingers L 10 Nov (BM). Bufflehead: five Abel's Pd 4 Nov, 12 L Carmel 7 Nov. Com. Merganser: four Sylvan L 15 Nov, four L Carmel 8 Nov. Ruddy Duck: max ten Abel's Pd 15-16 Oct, four Hunn's L 5 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Hawk watch totals:

	Mt Peter	Trapps	Hook Mt	Butler
Osprey	103	15	436	63
Bald Eagle	3	2	13	17
N. Harrier	85	17	182	238
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1632	124	3922	4841
Cooper's Hawk	75	8	101	312
N. Goshawk	2	1	4	4
Red-shouldered Hawk	68	17	42	147
Broad-winged Hawk	6241	5427	8114	10281
Red-tailed Hawk	382	50	51	137
Rough-legged Hawk	3	3	1	4
Golden Eagle	4		1	
Am. Kestrel	271	19	882	1326
Merlin	24	1	46	65
Peregrine Falcon	7	1	13	22

Black Vulture: now regular in S Oran, Mt Peter, Bear Mountain. Black-bellied Plover: one Amenia 17 Sep. Greater Yellowlegs: four n DUTC 11 Nov, two L Carmel 7 Nov. Solitary Sandpiper: one Beaver Dam 29 Sep. Spotted Sandpiper: one Vassar Farm 11 Oct. White-rumped Sandpiper: one WEST 11 Nov. Baird's Sandpiper: one Warren Sod Farm 5 Sep. Stilt Sandpiper: one WEST 4 Nov. Short-billed Dowitcher: 12 Thompson Pd 28 Oct. Com. Snipe: one 29 Nov. (DF). Lesser Black-backed Gull: three WEST 17 Sep.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: one Stony Kill 14 Oct (ET). Short-eared owl: one Butler Sanctuary, first record there (FB). Com. Nighthawk: singles DUTC 8 and 17 Sep, very scarce. Chimney Swift: 100s Poughkeepsie mid Sep, one Middletown 24 Oct, late (JPT). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: several DUTC Oct, Nov.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Canoe Hill 8 Sep (MVW), one Warwarsing 10 Sep. Horned Lark: good wintering numbers in suitable habitat throughout the Region. Tree Swallow: good migration, max 400 Tamrack 23 Sep. Red-breasted Nuthatch: *intro*. Brown Creeper: good sightings in DUTC, SULL Nov. House Wren: most left by late Sep. Winter Wren: one or two most areas. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one Warwarsing 6 and 16 Sep. Golden-crowned Kinglet: good numbers mid Oct. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: also good numbers. Hermit Thrush: one DUTC 7 Sep, one 30 Sep, only reports. Am. Robin: 100s going to roost near Pleasant Valley. Brown Thrasher: one Claryville 5 Oct.



Am. Pipit: max 50 Stony Kill 11 Oct, as many Willowbrook 27 Oct (MVW), excellent numbers in farmlands ORAN Oct (JPT). N. Shrike: one Separate Rd DUTC 5 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: one DUTC 8 Sep; one WBC 12-13 Sep. Warbling Vireo: singing Freedom P through 19 Sep. Tennessee Warbler: good migration. Yellow-rumped Warbler: many through Nov, eating Poison Ivy berries. Blackpoll Warbler: arr 4 Sep. Hooded Warbler: one singing Doodletown Rd 6 Sep (ET).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: one Vassar Farm 12 Oct. Dickcissel: one briefly Pleasant Valley 24 Oct, one observed well Warren Sod Farm 10 Oct. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr DUTC 27 Oct. Chipping Sparrow: lingered SULL to 8 Nov. Vesper Sparrow: on Stony Kill 14 Oct, one Warren Sod Farms 20 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: many Stony Kill Gardens through Oct, one Vassar Farm 2 Nov. Fox Sparrow: two Stony Kill 23 Oct, two singing Turkey Hollow 30 Oct. Lincoln Sparrow: one 14 Oct, one or two Stony Kill Gardens and Vassar Farm. Swamp Sparrow: max 12 in brush pile Verbank 10 Oct (HM). White-crowned Sparrow: max eight Stony Kill Gardens 11 Oct. Lapland Longspur: one Red Hook 25 Nov. Snow Bunting: max 500 Red Hook 25 Nov. Bobolink: two Vassar Farm 22 Oct, late. E. Meadowlark: three Vassar Farm 30 Nov. Purple Finch, few reported, max five Baird P 25 Oct (WBC), did not linger most areas. Evening Grosbeak: 12 daily at feeder Claryville, max 25 DUTC.

*Moores Mills, RD 4, Pleasant Valley, N.Y. 12569*

## REGION 10 — MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF AND ALVIN WOLLIN

September's weather continued the summer's normal temperatures and considerably greater than normal precipitation. A cool spell at the beginning and the end of the month was offset by above 90° F. temperatures on 10 and 11 Sep. October had 12 days over 70°, most over 75°, and four days, or nights to be more precise, down to 40°. Actual rainfall was 7.48 inches compared to a normal of 3.41. For a change November was dry with only 2.79 inches of rain against a normal of 4.14. The temperature averaged 0.5° below normal, exactly the amount October was above normal. It was 70° on 14 Nov. All in all a delightful fall (when it was dry), particularly since two major hurricanes veered out to sea, sparing the Northeast. Winter started early at Thanksgiving when the Region enjoyed its first snowfall of 6-9 inches. By the last weekend of the month all was melted. But these are the statistics.

The wet weather of August blurred into September. Consequently, the dominant action early in the season continued to be shorebirds. There appeared to be larger numbers of the uncommon shorebird species in September but lackluster land birding on the south shore. Reports of the more uncommon shorebirds came from four places, namely, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Jones Beach West End, Cedar Beach and the Suffolk Co. sod farms farther to the east. In some cases the numbers are impressive. Details are listed under species accounts.

The one significant weather event, if you can ignore a white Thanksgiving, was one of the hurricanes which missed us. It appeared to have dropped an imm **Long-tailed Jaeger** in Zachs Bay on 23 Sep. This bird, found by Paul Buckley and Tony Lauro, lingered for several hours in the morning resting on the beach. (As reported to this observer, Tony finally showed up at the Fire Island Hawk Watch and announced the find. To a man that post was instantly deserted leaving Tony standing alone at the site.) This same storm may have also been responsible for a **Gray Kingbird** found at Montauk Point by William Purcell on 25 Sep. The bird lingered for several days in the vicinity of the restaurant.

The real highlight for most birders was a dark morph imm **Gyr Falcon**. It first appeared at Tobay 5 Nov and then frequented the area of the Meadowbrook Parkway dump and Jones Beach. It stayed through the end of the period and gave hundreds the opportunity of seeing a rare raptor. In the last 10 years we have seen three birds of this northern species in the Region, in each case a different morph.

Details of the hawk watches at Pelham Bay Park and Fire Island were supplied to us by Bob DeCandido and Drew Panko. The contrasts and similarities between the two sites, one an inland habitat and the other a

barrier beach one are interesting. First, in both cases 90% of the raptors were migrating during September and October, with October being the peak month in terms of species and total numbers. September was when most American Kestrel and almost all Broad-winged Hawk were migrating. Without these two species the bulk of the action was in October. Second, the best dates at both sites were 24 Sep and 22 Oct, days with strong NW winds. The latter date coincided with a late warbler flight and the peak sparrow movement of the next day (see below). This tells us that if there is a strong raptor flight, we should be looking for land birds and the less powerful flyers the day after. This hypothesis is to be verified next Fall. Pelham Bay Park watchers saw 2233 Broad-winged Hawk (almost all in September), 17 Turkey Vulture, eight Bald Eagle, 269 Red-tailed Hawk and two Golden Eagle (mostly in October). None of these species were seen migrating at the beach. Fire Island watchers saw three times as many American Kestrel (2243), twenty times as many Merlin (1358) and 10 times as many Peregrine Falcon (195). Sharp-shinned Hawk (1000+) and Northern Harrier were about equal in both locations (300+), but there were only one sixth as many migrating Osprey (269 against 1615).

Except for a few October sparrow days at Jones Beach (*per* Tom Burke of the NY RBA, e.g., "there were thousands of sparrows on 23 Oct"), few land birds appeared on the south shore. However, the variety of species held up. Other areas of the Region appeared better, but we could use data beyond just the "good birds". Other observers reported a large sparrow/junco flight on 23-24 Oct. Henry Flamm reported a good sparrow flight from Staten Island on 24 Oct. Early September reports of Purple Finch raised expectations of a finch flight. However, they petered out and the finches failed to appear.

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Abbreviations: CB - Cedar Beach, LI; CP - Central Park; LI - Long Island; FI - Fire Island; JBWR - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JFKWS - John F. Kennedy Wildlife Sanctuary (Tobay); JBch - Jones Beach; LI - Long Island; MPt - Montauk Point; NYRBA - New York Rare Bird Alert; ShIn - Shinnecock Inlet; SF - Sodfarms, Riverhead, LI; SI - Staten Island; WEJB - West End Jones Beach.

LOONS-DUCKS: Eared Grebe: one s Montauk Harbor 6 Nov. Double-crested Cormorant: large numbers at ShIn during August, max 450 on 5 Sep (HMcG). Snowy Egret: 90 CB 15 Sep (KF). Tundra Swan: three JBch 18 Nov, five Hook Pd 19 Nov, eight WEJB pools 21 Nov. Snow Goose: 3400 including eight blue morph FI hawk watch 14-15 Oct. Greater White-fronted Goose: Mill Neck 7 Oct (Barbara Conolly). Wood Duck: 26 Muttontown Preserve 12 Oct (Allan Lindberg), seven JBch 2 Nov, an unlikely location and a large number (LS & AW). Eurasian

Wigeon: one JBWR 4 Sep and there after. Tufted Duck: one CP reservoir 18-22 Nov. Com. Eider: arr MPt 30 Sep. King Eider: single birds Jones inlet, ShIn, MPt in Nov.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: one JBWR 3 Oct (TH), *intro.* Bald Eagle: *intro.* Golden Eagle: *intro.* **Gyr Falcon:** *intro.* Lesser Golden-Plover: 85 adults SF 4 Sep (PG), 158 SF 5 Sep, 115 SF 11 Sep (BA), 148 SF 12 Sep (PG). Am. Oystercatcher: 60+ Wantagh Marsh 10 Oct (PM). Am. Avocet: one Mecox Inlet 17 Sep into Oct (Mike Cooper et al). Whimbrel: six CB 15 Sep (K&SF), five WEJB 1 Oct. Hudsonian Godwit: up to seven JBWR 1 Sep to 12 Nov, also WEJB and JFKWS. Marbled Godwit: singles JBWR to WEJB Sep. White-rumped Sandpiper: 52 along JBCh strip 1 Sep (HMCG). Baird's Sandpiper: 14 CB 3 Sep (HMCG), 14 CB 8 Sep (KF), other reports there and along s shore LI until 21 Sep (MOB). Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 16 SF 12 Sep (BA), various reports in Sep along s shore LI. Curlew Sandpiper: one in Basic plumage WEJB 1 Sep. Parasitic Jaeger: one MPt 30 Sep, two 10 Oct, one Jones Inlet 20 Nov. **Long-tailed Jaeger:** *intro.* Forster's Tern: max 36 Georgica Pd 2 Sep (HMCG), compared to 100+ last year at JBCh. Little Gull: singles various locations. Com. Black-headed Gull: one Georgica Pd 9 Sep (HMCG). Caspian Tern: a few mid Sep to mid Oct. Royal Tern: a few on s shore LI from mid Sep to 18 Nov.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** Long-eared Owl: a few in Nov. Short-eared Owl: ten Shinnecock late Nov. N. Saw-whet Owl: arr 26 Oct. Red-headed Woodpecker: two WEJB 7 Oct (AM). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: many s shore LI 8 Oct.

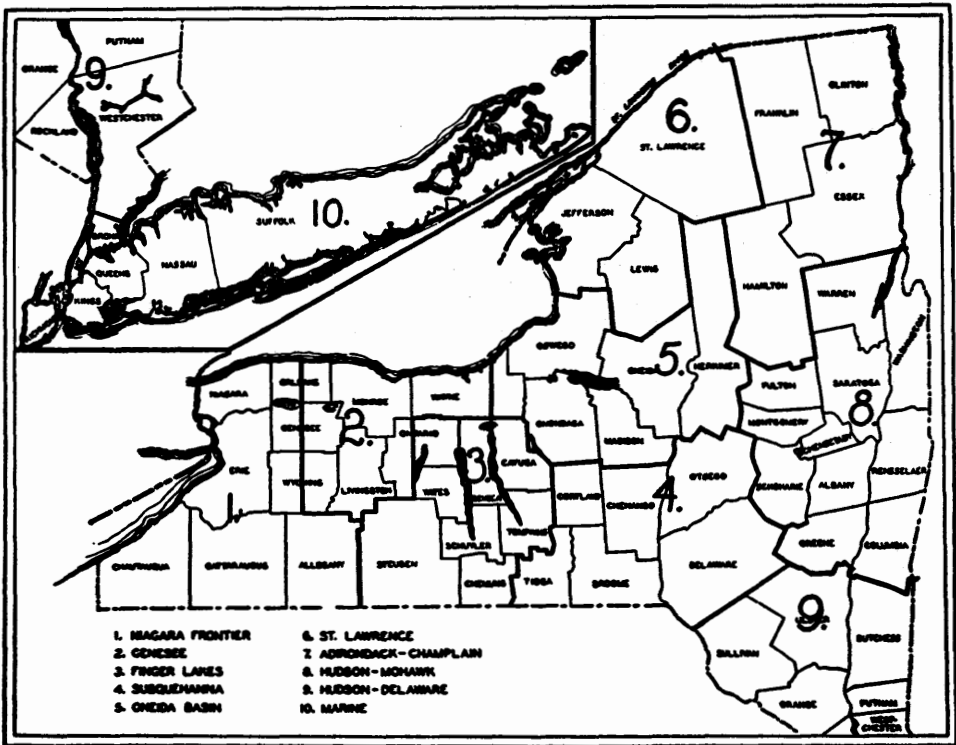
**FLYCATCHERS-STARLING:** W. Kingbird: four singles s shore LI 29 Sep to 21 Oct. **Gray Kingbird:** *intro.* Tree Swallow: 10,000+ SF 4 Sep (HMCG). E. Bluebird: four PP 24 Oct (DK), eight Amagansett 11 Nov (PG), nine JBCh 18 Nov (MB), rare along the coastal strip. Am. Pipit: 15 WEJB 11 Nov (PM).

**VIREOS-WARBBLERS:** Orange-crowned Warbler: one CP 3 Sep, one FI 16 Oct (LS & HR), one JFKWS 21 Oct (PM). Yellow Warbler: JBCh 22 Oct. Black-throated Blue Warbler: one JBCh 22 Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: one JBCh 22 Oct. Blackpoll Warbler: one JBCh 22 Oct. Black-and-white Warbler: one CP 25 Nov. Connecticut Warbler: one JBWR 13 Sep (TH), one banded FI 21 Oct. Mourning Warbler: one SI 10 Sep (HF), one JBWR 14 Oct (AM, Bill Thompson). Hooded Warbler: one CP 4 Sep, 7-8 Oct. Yellow-breasted Chat: several reports s shore LI.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS:** Dickcissel: several reports s shore LI. Clay-colored Sparrow: several reports s shore LI. Vesper Sparrow: one WEJB 9 Oct (MB,AL,EL), six WEJB 21 Oct (MB), others, somewhat more than in prior years. Lark Sparrow: two WEJB 9 Oct (MB,AL,EL). Sharp-tailed Sparrow: a highly colored bird, probably of an inland race, JBCh 4 Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: one SI 24 Oct (HF), various other localities. Lapland Longspur: five CB 7 Oct, first date. Boat-tailed Grackle: one JBCh Oct 14, away from its usual sightings (KF). Orchard Oriole: one WEJB 23 Sep. Red Crossbill: one MPt 21 Nov. White-winged Crossbill: one Rockville Centre 6 Nov (AW). Evening Grosbeak: one Alley Pd P 30 Nov.

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## REPORTING REGIONS



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

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

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

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

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

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