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

Individual member’s dues are $18.00 annually ($15.00 if paid before 31 January), on a calendar year basis only, of which $10.00 is for THE KINGBIRD publication. Other membership classes are: Family ($20.00), Supporting ($25.00), Life ($300.00 single, $400.00 husband and wife payable in four equal annual installments if member so desires), Student ($10.00). Applicants for Annual or Family Membership applying in the second half of the year may reduce payment by one-half.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP should be sent to the chairwoman of the Membership Committee: Myrna Hemmerick, P.O. Box 2203, Setauket, NY 11733.

INSTITUTIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE KINGBIRD are $18.00 to US addresses, $23.00 to all others, per year on a calendar year basis only. Send orders to: Berna B. Lincoln, Circulation Manager, P.O. Box 296, Somers, NY 10589.

Send CHANGES OF ADDRESS, or orders for SINGLE COPIES, BACK NUMBERS, or REPLACEMENT COPIES ($5.00 each) to: Berna B. Lincoln, Circulation Manager, P.O. Box 296, Somers, NY 10589.

All amounts stated above are payable in U.S. funds only. Magazines not delivered through failure to send change of address six weeks in advance will be replaced on request at $5.00 each.

© 1992 Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. All rights reserved.

Postmaster: send address changes to: THE KINGBIRD, P. O. BOX 296, SOMERS, NY 10589
CONTENTS

Photographs of New York State Rarities 53:
  White-Winged Tern  Sharon M. Skelly ........................................ 3

Report of the New York State Avian Records Committee 1990 ............ 5

Northeastern Records of Ardea herodias wardi from the Southeastern
United States  Robert W. Dickerman .................................. 10

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS
Yellow Rail and Sharp-tailed Sparrow in Oswego County
  Mary Alice Koneke.......................................................... 14

Shrike Captures Cardinal
  Vivian Mills Pitzrick and Michael Pitzrick .................................. 15

EDITORIAL – The Kingbird of the 90s........................................... 16

Highlights of the Fall Season  Robert Spahn .................................. 18

Regional Reports................................................................. 25

Editor — Paul A. DeBenedictis
Highlights of the Season Editor — Robert Spahn
Circulation Manager — Berna B. Lincoln
PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES 53:
WHITE-WINGED TERN

SHARON M. SKELLY

On Wednesday, 19 June 1991, Brian and Eileen Keelan offered to assist my study of nesting Black Tern at Salmon Creek, Monroe Co., by providing waterborne transportation, a canoe. I had been in this area locating nests by canoe only three days prior. We had planned to check those nest sites for recently hatched chicks. The three of us met at the launch site, Docksiders, Inc., at about 6:15 PM for a picnic dinner. At 6:45 PM we launched the canoe, after having a brief conversation with the manager of the bar, who was aware of my studies. Less than fifty seconds of paddling later Brian commented, “That bird has a lot of white.” It took a fraction of a second for his comment to register, and another fraction of a second for me to check the nearby terns. The bird which had alerted Brian was flying directly toward us. The gleaming white leading edge of the wing left little doubt as to its identity. My response, “It is! It is!” Aside from comments of disbelief, that was the extent of the conversation in the canoe as we watched an adult White-winged Tern fly directly over us. We were suddenly alerted to an impending collision with a docked boat by Eileen, who was in the bow. Corrective action was immediately taken, and we continued our observation of the bird from the center of the docking area. We enjoyed watching the tern for a few minutes and then paddled to the closest empty dock, from which point I sprinted into the bar, up to the manager and with what I am sure was a wild look, shouted, “Do you have a phone?” This was the same individual who had watched the three of us launch a canoe only minutes earlier. From his reaction, I’m sure he thought that at least one of the remaining two was drowning. Upon clarification that there was a “rare tern” outside, he gave me a strange look and pointed to the wall phone. The first phone call went to my mother, Jeanne Skelly, who asked me to repeat three times what we had and where we were, and then hung up on me. The next call was to a birding family only a few miles away, whom I knew would have the phone numbers to almost all of the local birders. They agreed to make additional calls and I returned to the docks to assure myself that the bird was still around. Indeed it was. Eileen and I kept track of it while Brian went inside to make additional calls.

The ten minutes after we exhausted our list of numbers and supply of quarters were nerve-wracking. Would the bird leave? Would anyone get to
see it other than us? The tern had a bad habit of disappearing for several minutes, which made the situation worse. By 7:20 PM the first people began to arrive. Unfortunately, they arrived at one of the times that the bird had chosen to disappear. Within moments, however, we heard its call. For the next hour, it flew around the area immediately in front of us, calling frequently. At least two birders were equipped with cameras and photographed it. Two reporters for the local evening paper were among the first to arrive after the initial sighting. They stood on the docks planning an article for the following evening’s paper, never taking their eyes from their binoculars. For all the birders who arrived before 8:30 PM, the tern put on a spectacular show. It loosely associated with the resident Black Terns, providing a wonderful opportunity to compare the two species. The plumage differences between Black Tern and White-winged Tern were carefully examined and studied. Also, its call was so distinct from the calls of Black Tern, that in many instances, this difference was the first method we used to locate the bird. In all, approximately twenty people were able to observe it that evening. Unfortunately, despite extensive efforts, it was not relocated subsequently. Documentation of the sighting, including photographs, have submitted to the local records committees, to the NYSARC and to American Birds.

I am sure that all of the birders who saw the tern, and those who looked for it the following day, are appreciative of the cooperation and patience on the part of the management of Docksiders, Inc., who, for two days, found themselves in the ‘hottest’ spot in town.

19G Norwich Drive, Rochester, New York 14624
REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE
1990

The New York State Avian Records Committee received 74 reports from 1990, representing 36 records of birds. This is a substantial and gratifying increase over the previous two years. In addition, single reports were received from 1989 and 1962. Two of the reports from 1990 and that from 1962 are not yet resolved. Reports (see The Kingbird 39:142-156; 1989, for a list of species which should be reported) should be sent to the Secretary:

Todd A. Culver, Secretary
New York State Avian Records Committee
c/o Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology
159 Sapsucker Woods Road
Ithaca, New York 14850

It is important to be accurate, and observers are reminded to be very clear and specific as to locations of the birds which they report. A local name for a locality can be included, but please use named roads and localities from an authoritative map or atlas in all reports.

1990 Accepted Reports


**Northern Gannet** (*Morus bassanus*). 1990-29-A: one over Lake Ontario off Edgemere Drive, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 8 November (KG).


**Magnificent Frigatebird** (*Fregata magnificens*). 1990-17-A-C: one adult at Derby Hill, Town of Mexico, Oswego Co., 23 September (WP, SA, MR).

This is the first record from upstate New York.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** (*Nyctanassa violacea*). 1990-14-A,B: one adult on Bolivar Road near Chittenango, Town of Sullivan, Madison Co., 24, 26-27 May (DC, PD).

**White Ibis** (*Eudocimus albus*). 1990-28-A: one immature at intersection of Route 75 and Shirley Roads, Town of North Collins, Erie Co., 7 November (RA).
Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*). 1990-1-A: one at Baiting Hollow, Town of Riverhead, Suffolk Co., 1 and 15 January; one at Short's Pond near Water Mill (likely the same individual), Town of Southampton, Suffolk Co., 24 February (JC). 1990-6-A: one at south end of Cayuga Lake, Ithaca, Town of Ithaca, Tompkins Co., 8 March (DN). In both records, an escape from captivity cannot be ruled out, but the species is being reported with increasing regularity on the Atlantic coast.

**Yellow Rail** (*Coturnicops noveboracencis*). 1990-18-A: one in brushy area adjacent to mall parking lot at Lansing, Town of Lansing, Tompkins Co., 30 September (KD).

**Mississippi Kite** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). 1990-10-A: one at Derby Hill, Town of Mexico, Oswego Co., 10 May (GS).


**Curlew Sandpiper** (*Calidris ferruginea*). 1990-16-A-D: one at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, Town of Alabama, Genesee Co., 30-31 July (WD, DS, MS, AC). This is the second Upstate record of a species found nearly annually on Long Island.


**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus forficatus*). 1990-12-A: one at Brookins Road, Town of North Norwich, Chenango Co., 9 May (SM).

Cave Swallow (*Hirundo fulva*). 1990-13-A,B: one at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens Co., 23 May (GL, KK). Seen well in mixed species flock of swallows, this is the first record for New York.


Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*). 1990-7-A-C: one at Goat Island, Niagara Falls, Town of Niagara, Niagara Co., 19-22 April (WD, MG, WW).

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*). 1990-33-A-C: one off River Road, 0.3 miles north of intersection with Dygert Road, Town of Portage, Livingston Co., 14-15 May (MR, CC, LV).

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*). 1990-3-A: one at Taughannock Falls State Park, Town of Ulysses, Tompkins Co., 24 January (DN).


Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). 1990-5-A,B: one at southwest corner of Walpole Road and Route 38, Town of Groton, Tompkins Co., 11 and 21 March (SK, DC). The feeder operators hosting this sparrow, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Prinz, said it had been visiting their feeder since late November or early December and that it was last observed on 1 May. 1990-25-A: one at Jones Beach State Park, Town of Hempstead, Nassau Co., 30 October (MB).

1990 Report, Identity Accepted, Origin Uncertain

Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*). 1990-22-A: a pair at Lake Ontario entrance to Irondequoit Bay, Monroe Co., 14 October (JH), photograph on file. A pair of this species was present at Fairhaven Beach State Park, Cayuga Co., for much of November 1990 and reappeared there in November 1991, but details were not submitted to the NYSARC (*fide* PD).

1990 Reports Not Accepted


Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*). 1990-31-A: two adults, one juvenile on Brookhaven National Laboratory property, Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk Co., 6, 21, 25-27 June.

1989 Report Not Accepted

Black-capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*). 1989-15-A: one found dead off Route 20 just west of New Lebanon, Town of New Lebanon, Columbia Co., 30 September. Unfortunately, the specimen, apparently one of a number of this species brought inland by Hurricane Hugo, was not preserved for verification.

Erratum

In "Report of the New York State Avian Records Committee 1988" (*Kingbird* 40: 209-212; 1990) under 1988 Accepted Reports:

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). 1988-10-A two in a field at Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area, Town of Alabama, 21 December (GR). This is one of very few winter occurrences of a Sandhill Crane in New York. should read:

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). 1988-10-A: two in a pasture at intersection of Roberts and Sour Springs Roads on the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, Town of Alabama, Genesee Co., 21 December (GR). This is one of the very few December occurrences of Sandhill Crane in New York. Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge Manager Don V. Tiller states in a letter that these birds were first observed on the Refuge on 15 December at Ringneck Pool, (Town of Shelby, Orleans Co.) and from 17-21 December in the above stated pasture.

One addition, Cave Swallow, was made in 1990 to the New York State List, which now stands at 436 species.

THE KINGBIRD
Respectfully submitted,
New York State Avian Records Committee
Kenneth P. Able
Robert F. Andrle (Chairman)
Thomas W. Burke
Robert O. Paxton
Barbara J. Spencer

Postnesting dispersal, especially by immature Great Egret (*Casmerodius [Egretta] albus*) and Little Blue Heron (*Egretta coeruleascens*) has been well documented (Palmer 1962). Long distance northward postnesting dispersal of the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) has not been yet been demonstrated, probably because of the widespread presence of locally nesting birds and their young throughout the nesting season, and well into the winter months. I will here document the occurrence of the southeastern nesting population (*A. h. wardi*) during the late summer to midwinter in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

**TAXONOMY OF EASTERN POPULATIONS**

Oberholser (1912) revised the species in his inimitable style, splitting it into 11 taxa (including the Great White Heron), 7 from continental North America. That classical revision was essentially followed by the American Ornithologists’ Union Checklist (1957), by Palmer (1962) and most authors. Payne (1979), in contrast, recognized only two blue subspecies for continental North America. He wrote “Southern birds average larger than northern birds but eastern variation in size is clinal, and no subspecies need be recognized...except in Pacific northwest...” (ibid p.198). However, he neither measured specimens nor compared series (pers. comm.).

In fact, the nesting birds from Florida are strikingly larger than nesting birds in the northeast (Table 1), and are much paler in coloration. Because of the lack of adequate numbers of nesting season specimens from the mid-Atlantic states, the sharpness of the gradient between the large pale Florida birds and the smaller, darker northeastern birds can not be determined at present. However, the two populations are distinct in morphology, and in phenology and should not be combined under the same trinomial.

During the course of measuring essentially every nesting season specimen of Great Blue Heron in North American collections, to estimate on size variation by age, I measured 46 first year birds taken late summer to midwinter in the northeast. It was not feasible to develope a comparable data base for the Florida populations because of the nearly year-round presence there of at least some immature birds from the northeast; indeed, northeastern birds probably outnumber local birds in the winter. Immatures
from the mid-Atlantic states were not measured, as it would be impossible to determine their provenience.

Unfortunately the color differences found between adults of the two populations do not appear to be so well marked among first year birds. However, this may be an artifact of the lack of good, clean, recently prepared series of specimens from the two populations. In any case, color characters were not used in this study.

RESULTS

Of the 46 first year birds measured, I consider 38 to represent young of the northeastern nesting population (Table 1). Eight specimens had one or more measurements that are somewhat to dramatically larger. I consider these birds to represent A. h. wardi (Table 2).

**Table 1.** Measurements of adult, mostly nesting season, Great Blue Herons from the northeastern states (A. h. herodias) and from Florida (A. h. wardi), and of first year birds of the northeastern nesting population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>wing chord</th>
<th>culmen</th>
<th>tarsus</th>
<th>tail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FEMALES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adult herodias</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>431-480 (452.8)</td>
<td>124-145 (134.5)</td>
<td>150-175 (166.5)</td>
<td>161-188 (171.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n=34, SD=9.2</td>
<td>n=32, SD=5.0</td>
<td>n=19, SD=7.3</td>
<td>n=34, SD=6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>immature herodias</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>426-460 (442.4)</td>
<td>112-135 (124.6)</td>
<td>140-173 (159.6)</td>
<td>150-172 (164.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n=30, SD=9.4</td>
<td>n=31, SD=6.7</td>
<td>n=25, SD=9.5</td>
<td>n=31, SD=5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adult wardi</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>452-501 (477.2)</td>
<td>134-157 (143.4)</td>
<td>181-225 (192.5)</td>
<td>169-194 (179.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n=15, SD=14.7</td>
<td>n=16, SD=6.3</td>
<td>n=16, SD=11.5</td>
<td>n=16, SD=6.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **MALES** |          |             |              |
| adult herodias |            |             |              |
| 431-480 (452.8) | 124-145 (134.5) | 150-175 (166.5) | 161-188 (171.0) |
| n=34, SD=9.2 | n=32, SD=5.0 | n=19, SD=7.3 | n=34, SD=6.0 |
| immature herodias |        |             |              |
| 435-475 (459.4) | 123-144 (132.7) | 157-181 (173.5) | 160-180 (169.2) |
| n=27, SD=10.5 | n=28, SD=6.1 | n=22, SD=7.1 | n=27, SD=5.7 |
| adult wardi |               |             |              |
| 452-501 (477.2) | 134-157 (143.4) | 181-225 (192.5) | 169-194 (179.0) |
| n=15, SD=14.7 | n=16, SD=6.3 | n=16, SD=11.5 | n=16, SD=6.3 |
Table 2. Data and measurements of northeastern specimens identified as *A. h. wardi*. Measurements more than one standard deviation larger than the maximum respective measurement for immature *A. h. herodias* are in **boldface**. Measurements greater than the maximal respective measurements of immature *A. h. herodias* are *italicized*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specimen</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Wing MALES</th>
<th>Culmen</th>
<th>Tarsus</th>
<th>Tail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMNH 349623</td>
<td>New York; Suffolk Co. Shelter Is. 14 September 1901</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMNH 131390</td>
<td>Pennsylvania: Venango Co; 28 September 1947</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMNH 826431</td>
<td>New Jersey: Morris Co., Morristown 5 January 1989</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMNH 52392</td>
<td>Wisconsin: Dodge Co. Beaver Dam 20 September 1990</td>
<td>475</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMNH 10143</td>
<td>Pennsylvania: Crawford Co. 9 August 1902</td>
<td>467,470</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMNH 308482</td>
<td>New York; Queens Co. Woodmere 14 October 1944</td>
<td>445±</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMNH 19610</td>
<td>New Jersey: Passaic Co. Hewett 22 August 1990 (skeleton)</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Museum acronyms:
- **AMNH** — American Museum of Natural History, New York
- **CMNH** — Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh
- **FMNH** — Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago
- **WHFowler** — Private collection, measurements from Oberholser (1912); present location unknown.
It should be noted that several immature male “herodias” had tarsal measurements larger than the maximum for adult male herodias! I do not believe this is a problem relating to measurement changes due to immaturity, as all young females had measurements within the range or smaller than those of adults. I expect some of the young males with larger tarsal measurements probably also represent young wardi. However, none of the other measurements of those individuals was notably large, and the conservative approach is to classify them as herodias.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I have measured Great Blue Herons in over 27 collections. I thank the many curators and collection managers for their cooperation.

American Museum of Natural History, 79th Street at Central Park West, New York, New York 10024.

LITERATURE CITED

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Yellow Rail and Sharp-tailed Sparrow in Oswego County: A Yellow Rail (Coturnicops noveboracensis) and a Sharp-tailed Sparrow (Ammodramus caudacutus) were obtained in Scriba, Oswego Co., on 9 October 1991. Both specimens were the result of nocturnal tower collisions. Weather for the thirty-six hours prior to their collection included west to southwest winds of 15-30 knots, which shifted to the northwest and sustained speed until the late afternoon of 8 October 1991. Lake effect rain showers accompanied the winds and continued through this period. By the evening of 8 October 1991 the winds had diminished and shifted back to the southwest; rain showers continued until 11 October 1991. Both birds were found on the morning of 9 October 1991. Both specimens were deposited at Cornell University’s birds and mammals reference collection but had not been cataloged as of this writing. It is interesting to note that these birds, which come from similar habitats, were found on the same date and in the same location during their fall southward migration.

The Yellow Rail is the second record from The Oneida Lake Basin Region. During preparation it was determined to be an adult male. The first record was taken in Oneida County on 3 October 1883 (Eaton, E. H. 1910. Birds of New York, Part 1:234. Univ. of the State of N.Y., Albany). Eaton notes the bird is chiefly a transient visitor to New York and cites Todd as stating that the Yellow Rail is a regular migrant through New York. He gives the dates 15 Sep to 29 October for migration.

The Sharp-tailed sparrow was also determined to be an adult male, but racial identification had not been established beyond that it had come from one of the interior populations. Prior records of Sharp-tailed Sparrow from the Oneida Lake Basin Region include one fall record on 29 August 1960 from a marsh near the town of Mexico, Oswego Co. (Smith, G. A., and J. M. Ryan. 1978. Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Oswego County and Northern Cayuga County, New York. Rice Creek Biological Field Station, Bull., 5:273. S.U.N.Y. at Oswego). It is listed as accidental in Oswego Co. in the same reference, and there are only four recent prior fall records from Region 5 on dates between 29 August and 28 October.

Mary Alice Koneke, RD #1 Box 41, Oswego, New York, 13126-9728
Shrike Captures Cardinal. “What was that!?” Mike exclaimed, snatching up his 10x50 binoculars as one bird pursued another across the yard. Vivian, quickly grabbing her 7x35’s, joined him at the picture window. A gray robin-sized bird with black wings perched quietly in a willow tree about 50 feet away. Although the light was good even with the overcast sky, the bird was facing away, revealing few details. Suddenly a bright red male Northern Cardinal (Cardinalis cardinalis) bolted out over the frozen lake from a lower branch. Immediately the agile gray bird darted in pursuit, striking its slower prey again and again from above, finally grounding it, and then pinning it with its feet while pecking its head. Amazingly, the gray bird then clutched the cardinal with its feet and carried it head first back to within about thirty feet from the window. Plunging into the seven-inch snow cover beneath a honeysuckle bush, again the gray bird repeatedly struck the struggling cardinal with its heavy hooked beak until at last there was no movement from the smaller bird. By this time both birds had disappeared into the snow. However, at intervals the predator lifted its head to look around, revealing the heavy head and neck of a shrike. While it could not be determined whether the black eye mask stopped at the beak or continued over it, this was probably the same bird Vivian identified as a Northern Shrike (Lanius excubitor) here on 26 November 1991, when she was able to see more clearly the mask as well as a bit of white in the wings and at the outer margins of the long tail.

This episode occurred at 8:00 A.M. on 18 December 1991. At midday, examination of the hole in the snow where the shrike had killed the cardinal revealed not so much as a feather or drop of blood, and no tracks led to or from the spot.

Vivian Mills Pitzrick, Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813 and Michael Pitzrick, 4313 Heritage Drive, 2A8, Liverpool, New York,
EDITORIAL — *The Kingbird* of the 90s

It sometimes seems hard to believe that this issue of *The Kingbird* starts the seventh year that I have been Editor. Those years have seen change in Regional editors and in the format of the Regional reports. A new feature, the spring arrival and fall departure dates tables, provides an ever improving data base about one aspect of New York's ornithology. And I have had the pleasure of working with a variety of interesting contributions to New York's ornithology submitted by both amateur and professional ornithologists.

Now, at the start of the 90s, where should *The Kingbird* go next? Although I don't know the answer, I do know from where the answer will come. It will come from those individual members of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs who take the time to share their fascination and enjoyment of New York's birds by preparing and submitting papers to *The Kingbird*. What will these papers describe? New distributional records, unexpected avian behaviors, new insights to avian ecology and conservation are just a few of the old topics that seem never to age.

How many of us remember that, not so long ago, Ring-billed Gull was a rare bird in most of New York? What avian success stories are unfolding now? What is vanishing? We have all heard about "the good old days" of New York birding. Were they really that much better, and how can we prove it? This season marks another in a sequence in mild winters, and some believe this is just a portent of profound changes in climate yet to come. If the future so unfolds, how will New York's bird life change? Real understanding comes only from solid information about the birds around us now, just as today's ornithologists use those classic "birds of..." papers to understand the context of today's birdlife. The Regional reports will be an increasingly valuable resource, especially as more observers contribute to them. Longer contributions, describing the birdlife of that favorite place you visit over and over, with careful assessment of both bird population and habitat changes, can be equally important.

Bird behavior can both entertain and annoy us. The strange event you've never seen before may merit a brief note, if only to encourage others to report similar observations in the same or other species. When the behavior seems likely to be repeated, watch carefully. How often does it occur? How many other birds do it? And under what stimuli and conditions? Simple field notes carefully kept can open a new world of
birding to you, a world which can and should be shared with the rest of the Federation through *The Kingbird*.

But isn’t the natural history of New York’s birds already known? *The Atlas of Breeding Birds of New York State, The Birds of New York* and *The Birders Handbook* are accessible resources for you to learn how much, and how little, is known about so many aspects of New York’s birdlife. The missing pieces will come from your insights and, more importantly, from your submissions, which will define *The Kingbird* of the 90s. I’m looking forward to the final result.

*The Editor*
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

As Ken Able noted in the introduction to the Region 8 report, this generally was another in the growing string of poor migrations. As in the previous ones, "reasons" were advanced: poor winds, no good fronts for pushing or grounding migrants at the peak times, etc. There is an additional note that things may not be as bad as they appeared to us; the West Coast had a great year for eastern passerine vagrants. However, one might argue that this vagrancy was the other side to our completely "wrong" weather patterns or even a sign of populations in real trouble, with remnant individuals scattering all over the map in search of more suitable habitat or routes (like the recent northward bursts of strays from Mexico).

This season's weather again was quite uniform across the state. September brought near or slightly below normal temperatures, breaking long strings of above average months in Regions 3, 6 and 8. Rainfall was near normal everywhere. Late September and early October saw early frosts in many Regions and snowfall in Regions 1, 5 and 7. October's temperatures were back above long-term averages in most Regions, while precipitation was near normal to a bit below in all but Regions 1 and 8. November began cool, ended warm, with precipitation average or above in all but Regions 9 and 10. There were notes of a few good birding days in September and of a widespread late October storm which brought waterfowl to several Regions and a big hawk push through Region 3. Besides late waterfowl, poor shorebirding, and low passerine counts, we find note of abundant wild food crops (except acorns and cones), weather often conducive to birders afield, and numerous half-hardy species and rarities recorded.

Scanning family groups, we find a fair passage of loons inland, with a good peak count of Common Loon in Region 3. Grebe numbers were generally poor. Noteworthy herons included late Great Egret and Cattle Egret in Regions 3 and 7. The many notes of low waterfowl counts made good numbers for Tundra Swan, Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, and Ruddy Duck (Region 10) stand out. Snow Goose was found in above normal numbers in the western Regions, below normal in eastern ones; is this a shift for the season or a trend? Hawkwatch data is summarized in Regions 4, 9 and 10, and notable movements appear in the Region 3 and 6 reports. Turkey Vulture and Osprey remained late in several Regions. Bald Eagle reports were good, with 80+ birds in Region 9 alone. Golden Eagle counts
were also up a bit, with 60+ in Region 4 and 18+ in Region 9 the highest. Most other raptor notes follow recent trends, but American Kestrel counts improved a bit. Shorebird comments generally noted scarcity, except for Region 7 where good mudflats on Lake Champlain brought the best variety and numbers in years. Some of the more interesting shorebird reports included the first Piping Plover in 40 years, and seasonally very late as well, in Region 2; late records for Lesser Golden-Plover in Regions 1, 2 and 6; Greater Yellowlegs in Regions 1, 3 and 7; Lesser Yellowlegs in Region 8; Hudsonian Godwit in Regions 8 and 10; and Western Sandpiper in Regions 2 and 5; a record late Spotted Sandpiper in Region 3 and a record late inland Red Knot in Region 5; and a very early Red Phalarope in Region 10. Gulls, tern and allies were again relatively lackluster, but Parasitic Jaeger was noted in six Regions, Laughing Gull appeared in Regions 3 and 9, a Regional record six Franklin’s Gull dropped into Region 2, Little Gull appeared in six Regions, Forster’s Tern tarried late in Regions 2 and 10, and Black Tern set a record late in Region 1. Both goatsuckers continue in trouble, with very low counts for southbound Common Nighthawk and only one report of Whip-poor-will. Among the passerines, most species received comments in only two to four Regions, so drawing trends for families or even species is very difficult. Interesting trends include declining numbers of Blue Jay in Region 8; continued increases for Common Raven; Carolina Wren very numerous all across the state; only one report for Sedge Wren, that from Region 10; kinglet numbers good, except for low counts of Ruby-crowned in Regions 5 and 6; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher mostly gone by September; Gray-cheeked Thrush reports good in the eastern Regions, the rest of Catharus thrushes varied in the Regions which commented; large numbers of American Robin lingering in many Regions; only a single Loggerhead Shrike report, from Region 10; a fairly good showing for Orange-crowned Warbler and above average numbers of reports for Pine and Palm Warblers; Canada Warbler flagged as scarce when noted at all; only single notes for Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak; a good sparrow flight in Region 5; and a good fall Rusty Blackbird showing in many regions.

Winter arrivals gave another mixed picture. Rough-legged Hawk arrived in all Regions between the late September and early November period, but numbers were not high. It was an excellent winter for Snowy Owl, with birds arriving in most Regions about 1 Nov, a bit later in Regions 9 and 10. A banding effort along the south shore of Lake Ontario (to be summarized in a future season) suggested that many more than we think may pass; at several sites the 2-4 birds presumed to have taken up residence turned out to be a
## Fall Departures 1991

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Region 1</th>
<th>Region 2</th>
<th>Region 3</th>
<th>Region 4</th>
<th>Region 5</th>
<th>Region 6</th>
<th>Region 7</th>
<th>Region 8</th>
<th>Region 9</th>
<th>Region 10</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broad-winged Hawk</td>
<td>12 Sep</td>
<td>5 Oct</td>
<td>5 Sep</td>
<td>20 Sep</td>
<td>16 Oct</td>
<td>14 Sep</td>
<td>9 Sep</td>
<td>13 Oct</td>
<td>29 Sep</td>
<td>23 Sep</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semipalmated Plover</td>
<td>2 Oct</td>
<td>5 Nov</td>
<td>15 Oct</td>
<td>26 Oct</td>
<td>9 Oct</td>
<td>3 Sep</td>
<td>8 Oct</td>
<td>10 Sep</td>
<td>6 Oct</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Yellowlegs</td>
<td>23 Nov</td>
<td>16 Nov</td>
<td>20 Nov</td>
<td>4 Nov</td>
<td>11 Nov</td>
<td>9 Nov</td>
<td>5 Nov</td>
<td>25 Nov</td>
<td>14 Nov</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanderling</td>
<td>13 Oct</td>
<td>5 Nov</td>
<td>15 Oct</td>
<td>5 Nov</td>
<td>12 Nov</td>
<td>8 Sep</td>
<td></td>
<td>20 Oct</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semipalmated Sandpiper</td>
<td>1 Sep</td>
<td>16 Nov</td>
<td>8 Sep</td>
<td>11 Aug</td>
<td>6 Oct</td>
<td>10 Nov</td>
<td>8 Sep</td>
<td>30 Sep</td>
<td>1 Nov</td>
<td>30 Sep</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Least Sandpiper</td>
<td>21 Sep</td>
<td>25 Oct</td>
<td>8 Sep</td>
<td>2 Sep</td>
<td>4 Nov</td>
<td>21 Sep</td>
<td>20 Oct</td>
<td>1 Oct</td>
<td>1 Oct</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pectoral Sandpiper</td>
<td>11 Nov</td>
<td>23 Nov</td>
<td>15 Sep</td>
<td>27 Oct</td>
<td>3 Nov</td>
<td>12 Nov</td>
<td>7 Oct</td>
<td>9 Nov</td>
<td>5 Nov</td>
<td>17 Nov</td>
<td>31 Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caspian Tern</td>
<td>18 Sep</td>
<td>25 Oct</td>
<td>15 Sep</td>
<td>28 Sep</td>
<td>17 Sep</td>
<td>14 Sep</td>
<td>24 Sep</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Tern</td>
<td>27 Nov</td>
<td>10 Nov</td>
<td></td>
<td>5 Oct</td>
<td>12 Oct</td>
<td>14 Sep</td>
<td>19 Nov</td>
<td>25 Oct</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Tern</td>
<td>30 Nov</td>
<td>31 Aug</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 Sep</td>
<td>7 Sep</td>
<td>25 Sep</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chimney Swift</td>
<td>5 Oct</td>
<td>22 Sep</td>
<td>18 Sep</td>
<td>17 Sep</td>
<td>6 Oct</td>
<td>5 Sep</td>
<td>30 Sep</td>
<td>23 Sep</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Wood-Pewee</td>
<td>10 Oct</td>
<td>12 Oct</td>
<td>6 Oct</td>
<td>13 Sep</td>
<td>13 Oct</td>
<td>2 Sep</td>
<td>19 Sep</td>
<td>27 Sep</td>
<td>1 Oct</td>
<td>30 Sep</td>
<td>28 Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</td>
<td>25 Sep</td>
<td>24 Sep</td>
<td>19 Sep</td>
<td>9 Sep</td>
<td>14 Sep</td>
<td>1 Sep</td>
<td>17 Sep</td>
<td>15 Sep</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Least Flycatcher</td>
<td>8 Sep</td>
<td>21 Sep</td>
<td>11 Sep</td>
<td>1 Sep</td>
<td>24 Aug</td>
<td>28 Aug</td>
<td>15 Sep</td>
<td>6 Sep</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Crested Flycatcher</td>
<td>7 Sep</td>
<td>18 Sep</td>
<td>7 Sep</td>
<td>9 Sep</td>
<td>8 Sep</td>
<td>2 Sep</td>
<td>2 Sep</td>
<td>21 Oct</td>
<td>12 Sep</td>
<td>12 Sep</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Kingbird</td>
<td>29 Aug</td>
<td>30 Aug</td>
<td></td>
<td>7 Sep</td>
<td>2 Sep</td>
<td>10 Sep</td>
<td>26 Sep</td>
<td>7 Sep</td>
<td>7 Sep</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn Swallow</td>
<td>15 Sep</td>
<td>6 Oct</td>
<td>7 Sep</td>
<td>28 Sep</td>
<td>14 Sep</td>
<td>19 Oct</td>
<td>8 Sep</td>
<td>22 Sep</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher</td>
<td>29 Aug</td>
<td>22 Aug</td>
<td>26 Sep</td>
<td>7 Aug</td>
<td>3 Sep</td>
<td></td>
<td>5 Oct</td>
<td>4 Oct</td>
<td>9 Sep</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veery</td>
<td>8 Sep</td>
<td>20 Sep</td>
<td>14 Sep</td>
<td>2 Sep</td>
<td>31 Aug</td>
<td>24 Sep</td>
<td>28 Sep</td>
<td>13 Sep</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td>Region 1</td>
<td>Region 2</td>
<td>Region 3</td>
<td>Region 4</td>
<td>Region 5</td>
<td>Region 6</td>
<td>Region 7</td>
<td>Region 8</td>
<td>Region 9</td>
<td>Region 10</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-throated Vireo</td>
<td>8 Sep</td>
<td>23 Sep</td>
<td>20 Sep</td>
<td>13 Sep</td>
<td>2 Sep</td>
<td>15 Sep</td>
<td>23 Oct</td>
<td>20 Oct</td>
<td>4 Nov</td>
<td>21 Oct</td>
<td>11 Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warbling Vireo</td>
<td>28 Sep</td>
<td>24 Oct</td>
<td>20 Sep</td>
<td>9 Sep</td>
<td>14 Sep</td>
<td>4 Oct</td>
<td>20 Sep</td>
<td>15 Sep</td>
<td>16 Sep</td>
<td>23 Sep</td>
<td>11 Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue-winged Warbler</td>
<td>7 Sep</td>
<td>18 Aug</td>
<td>6 Aug</td>
<td>30 Aug</td>
<td>8 Sep</td>
<td>26 Aug</td>
<td>11 Sep</td>
<td>30 Sep</td>
<td>19 Sep</td>
<td>5 Oct</td>
<td>17 Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Parula</td>
<td>21 Sep</td>
<td>6 Oct</td>
<td>20 Sep</td>
<td>8 Oct</td>
<td>2 Oct</td>
<td>4 Sep</td>
<td>17 Oct</td>
<td>9 Oct</td>
<td>29 Sep</td>
<td>22 Sep</td>
<td>4 Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Warbler</td>
<td>1 Sep</td>
<td>8 Sep</td>
<td>9 Sep</td>
<td>29 Sep</td>
<td>1 Sep</td>
<td>10 Sep</td>
<td>10 Sep</td>
<td>9 Oct</td>
<td>21 Sep</td>
<td>14 Sep</td>
<td>14 Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chestnut-sided Warbler</td>
<td>13 Oct</td>
<td>20 Sep</td>
<td>16 Sep</td>
<td>3 Sep</td>
<td>26 Sep</td>
<td>26 Sep</td>
<td>8 Sep</td>
<td>10 Sep</td>
<td>8 Sep</td>
<td>17 Sep</td>
<td>14 Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape May Warbler</td>
<td>13 Oct</td>
<td>7 Sep</td>
<td>6 Oct</td>
<td>29 Aug</td>
<td>20 Sep</td>
<td>10 Sep</td>
<td>26 Sep</td>
<td>8 Oct</td>
<td>22 Sep</td>
<td>22 Sep</td>
<td>6 Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackburnian Warbler</td>
<td>11 Sep</td>
<td>28 Sep</td>
<td>14 Sep</td>
<td>2 Oct</td>
<td>15 Sep</td>
<td>14 Sep</td>
<td>26 Sep</td>
<td>20 Sep</td>
<td>28 Sep</td>
<td>20 Sep</td>
<td>20 Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay-breasted Warbler</td>
<td>13 Oct</td>
<td>1 Oct</td>
<td>22 Sep</td>
<td>12 Sep</td>
<td>18 Sep</td>
<td>5 Oct</td>
<td>20 Sep</td>
<td>28 Sep</td>
<td>9 Sep</td>
<td>24 Sep</td>
<td>22 Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-and-white Warbler</td>
<td>13 Oct</td>
<td>28 Sep</td>
<td>27 Sep</td>
<td>5 Sep</td>
<td>20 Sep</td>
<td>30 Sep</td>
<td>13 Sep</td>
<td>28 Sep</td>
<td>11 Oct</td>
<td>26 Sep</td>
<td>26 Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ovenbird</td>
<td>11 Nov</td>
<td>30 Sep</td>
<td>6 Oct</td>
<td>23 Sep</td>
<td>24 Sep</td>
<td>28 Sep</td>
<td>21 Sep</td>
<td>25 Sep</td>
<td>11 Oct</td>
<td>3 Oct</td>
<td>10 Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. Waterthrush</td>
<td>18 Sep</td>
<td>18 Sep</td>
<td>8 Sep</td>
<td>2 Sep</td>
<td>14 Sep</td>
<td>14 Sep</td>
<td>28 Oct</td>
<td>19 Sep</td>
<td>18 Sep</td>
<td>12 Oct</td>
<td>12 Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson's Warbler</td>
<td>5 Oct</td>
<td>27 Sep</td>
<td>20 Sep</td>
<td>3 Sep</td>
<td>20 Sep</td>
<td>24 Sep</td>
<td>19 Sep</td>
<td>5 Sep</td>
<td>20 Sep</td>
<td>19 Sep</td>
<td>19 Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Warbler</td>
<td>10 Sep</td>
<td>9 Sep</td>
<td>20 Sep</td>
<td>23 Aug</td>
<td>9 Sep</td>
<td>3 Sep</td>
<td>20 Sep</td>
<td>19 Sep</td>
<td>5 Sep</td>
<td>1 Oct</td>
<td>1 Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarlet Tanager</td>
<td>24 Sep</td>
<td>6 Oct</td>
<td>15 Sep</td>
<td>20 Sep</td>
<td>23 Oct</td>
<td>3 Oct</td>
<td>28 Sep</td>
<td>8 Oct</td>
<td>29 Sep</td>
<td>29 Sep</td>
<td>29 Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</td>
<td>13 Oct</td>
<td>26 Oct</td>
<td>22 Sep</td>
<td>6 Oct</td>
<td>24 Sep</td>
<td>24 Sep</td>
<td>23 Sep</td>
<td>28 Sep</td>
<td>28 Sep</td>
<td>1 Oct</td>
<td>28 Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobolink</td>
<td>15 Sep</td>
<td>21 Sep</td>
<td>2 Sep</td>
<td>29 Aug</td>
<td>20 Sep</td>
<td>15 Oct</td>
<td>19 Sep</td>
<td>17 Sep</td>
<td>20 Oct</td>
<td>17 Sep</td>
<td>17 Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Oriole</td>
<td>1 Sep</td>
<td>3 Sep</td>
<td>14 Sep</td>
<td>30 Aug</td>
<td>7 Sep</td>
<td>22 Sep</td>
<td>25 Oct</td>
<td>14 Sep</td>
<td>20 Oct</td>
<td>14 Sep</td>
<td>14 Sep</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bold** Regional Record Late **Italics** also isolated later report(s).
continuing flow of new birds, with the daily count remaining relatively stable. Bohemian Waxwing was noted in five Regions, but only in low numbers on few dates. The Northern Shrike influx reached nine Regions in the 20 Oct to 17 Nov period, with good numbers reported. American Tree Sparrow arrived in Oct period in all Regions, but no great counts were noted. Finally, it was not a finch winter; for most species in most Regions, counts were low. A large movement of Common Redpoll in mid November was noted in several Regions, but they passed through quickly.

There is a good summary of the Region 1 annual fall count, held on 13 Oct this year. Species counts and total individuals were up over 1990, with wild swings for individual species. However, such data offered without a measure of its variance is almost worthless. With computers now readily available, if you can generate averages and deviations, you can easily generate confidence intervals for estimates. Region 1 also has a banding summary and note of low counts in a tower kill study, a trend since 1982. Region 3 presents its usual good summary of peak waterfowl counts at Montezuma NWR and note of a huge flow of blackbirds south along the Cayuga Lake trough on 10 Nov. From Region 4 comes a banding summary and nestbox data from this summer. Region 6 notes a continued waterfowl and gull survey from the Moses-Saunders Power Dam area. The Region 7 report includes a few notes on neck-banded Canada Goose observations and note of a pheasant release - why in that habitat, when pheasants can’t survive in the flat farmlands of western NY in moderate winters???. Finally, the Region 8 report has scattered notes referenced to long term banding data.

Isolated species reports include a record high Greater Shearwater count off Region 10; a high count of Northern Gannet in Region 10, plus singles in Regions 2 and 6; Double-crested Cormorant still increasing, with numbers from several Regions which would have been record counts only a few years ago; a Sandhill Crane in Region 10; a very high Chimney Swift count from Region 1, though counts remain generally low elsewhere; an unidentified, very late empidonax flycatcher and a very late American Redstart in Region 10; a very late Red-eyed Vireo on 23 Nov and an inland record late N. Waterthrush, both in Region 9; and a record high count of 10,000 Rusty Blackbirds in Region 8.

Again this season we have the departure date tables. I have kept their analysis separate this season because their utility remains questionable and there is no feedback that anyone finds the analysis of any interest or use. The major problem is that any analysis must be relative to some baseline.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Species Reported</th>
<th>Seasonality (days)</th>
<th>Advance (days)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Region 1</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>-0.5</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 2</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>-0.5</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 3</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>-4.1</td>
<td>-1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 4</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>-9.7</td>
<td>-11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 5</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>-4.6</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 6</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>-2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 7</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>-10.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 8</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 9</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>-3.8</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 10</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>-10.2</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

and what the appropriate one is is open to discussion. From the start of tracking this data in 1986, I have noted that the 25-year baseline average gathered from those issues of The Kingbird was biased by varied levels of adherence to editorial guidelines asking for inclusion of only "noteworthy" records. We now have five years of data gathered under consistent guidelines which we can average to use as a baseline for comparison with this sixth year's data. This baseline has also seen a great deal of variability in the level of reporting Region-to-Region and year-to-year. As a further complication, the seasonality table is relative to a 31-year average and I have not had enough time to go back and look at it relative to just the past 5-year baseline. Advance, the relative earliness/lateness among Regions for a given season, has remained fairly consistent year to year, barring events such as very low reporting or the advent of a new editor just establishing a local network. Looking at the overall average (all species over all Regions), we find all of the years since we've specifically sought this data for The Kingbird are significantly early relative to the 25-year average, but none are significantly different relative to one another or to the 5-year average, 1986-90. If we look at individual species, relative to the 25-year average, corrected for missing data, we find 9 species are late, 3 no change, and 50 species departing early this Fall. Relative to the 5-year average, we find 36 late and 25 early departures, with 5 of the late and 3 of the early dates beyond their 95% confidence interval (=2.78 s.d. for 4 degrees of freedom). Using this 5-year baseline, the late averages were for Greater Yellowlegs, Brown Thrasher, Solitary and Warbling Vireos and Wilson's Warbler, while Least Flycatcher,
Yellow-throated Vireo, and Canada Warbler left early. For future seasons, if this is worth doing at all, I will simply compare the recent season to the baseline of 1986-through-the-previous-year data gathered under the most consistent guidelines to date. If this is to have value for long term comparisons, it is critical that many observers participate and that the Regional editors try to be accurate and consistent in finding and screening "departure" dates. [This discussion nicely points out the problems caused by overemphasis of unusual records in the ornithological literature, and which the arrival and departure dates tables are meant to remedy. A current goal of this compilation is to obtain the consistent baseline which Bob has described — The Editor.]

Finally, it was a very good Fall for rarities. The best of the lot by Region are: Region 1 - Greater White-fronted Goose, Sabine's Gull, and Dickcissel; Region 2 - Sabine's Gull and Piping Plover; Region 3 - Cattle Egret, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Eurasian Wigeon and Laughing Gull; Region 4 - Pine Warbler; Region 5 - Western Grebe, Yellow Rail, Marbled Godwit and Sharp-tailed Sparrow; Region 6 - Northern Gannet; Region 7 - Cattle Egret, Purple Sandpiper and Little Gull; Region 8 - Great Cormorant, Greater White-fronted Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Tufted Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye, Hudsonian Godwit and N. Hawk Owl; Region 9 - Wood Stork, Swainson's Hawk and Black-backed Woodpecker; and Region 10 - N. Fulmar, Greater White-fronted Goose, Gyrfalcon, Sandhill Crane, Curlew Sandpiper, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Black-throated Gray Warbler and Blue Grosbeak. The B.O.T.S. Award for this Fall goes to the very rarely recorded LeConte's Sparrow found in Region 1.

716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580

Standard abbreviations: county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters; ad — adult; Alt — Alternate plumage; arr — arrival or first of season; CO — confirmed; FL — fledgling; FY — adult feeding young; 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; Tw — township; WMA — Wildlife Management Area; y — young.
The period was marked by near average temperature and precipitation, those data masking wide variations within each month. In September the mean temperature of 62° was normal and the total rainfall of 3.2 inches was a quarter inch below normal. However, splitting the month gives a different picture: from 1 to 18 Sep, temperature mean was 68° and rain totaled 0.7 inches; from 19 to 30 Sep, the temperature averaged 52° and rain totaled 2.5 inches, finally breaking the year long drought. Despite this, the ground remained very dry causing some structural damage to homes and leading one town to ration water. Several of the pools at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge failed to refill after their summer draw down. Rural areas experienced early frosts on 20 and 21 Sep, but the first widespread killing frost was on 30 Sep. October’s mean temperature, 53°, was 1.5° above average with the usual ups and downs characteristic of this month. Total rainfall, 3.1 inches, was 0.2 inch above average and even included record early measurable snowfall on 4 and 6 Oct. It was a spectacular month for foliage color. November was 1° below average at 39°, but the pattern of September was reversed: from 3 to 10 Nov the average was 14° below normal while from 14-23 Nov, it was 7° above normal. Low temperature records were set on 8, 9, and 10 Nov, and a high on 30 Nov. Precipitation of 4.0 inches was a half inch above normal, with at least a trace recorded on all but two days. Much of this fell as snow, the 18 inch total at the Buffalo airport the most for November since the blizzard winter of 1976-77. Most of the snow fell in lake effect storms on 3 and 24 Nov, the 4-8 inches on 3 Nov being the earliest major snowstorm since 1909.

Mild September winds with a northerly component on only nine days provided little massed migration activity but Willy D’Anna marked 15 and 21 Sep for good passerine flights. On the latter date he and Pat O’Donnell recorded 101 species, including 11 warblers. On 15 Sep with Betsy Potter he found 15 warbler species at Fort Niagara.

On 13 Oct the intensive coverage of the Buffalo Ornithological Society’s 56th Fall Count found 143 species, down 5 from last year and 15 from 1989, despite the fact that the count of individuals was up almost 30%. Compared with the high counts of the previous two years, waterfowl were up a remarkable 36% in the face of national declines, and blackbirds were up 86%.
Compared with the low counts of those years, thrushes were down 40%, mimic thrushes down 55%, warblers down 34%, and sparrows down 16%. The effect of 133 birders in the field on fall departure date records also is evident in the summary chart.

With a few notable exceptions, this was an excellent year for fruit and seed crops in the Southern Tier. Steve Eaton reports good crops for viburnums, Gray Dogwood, White Ash, wild Black Cherry "being scratched up by deer and Wild Turkey," Sugar Maple, White and Chestnut Oak, and wild grape, and "bumper crops" of wild apple and hawthorn. He found no Red Oak acorns and notes that very high squirrel population had already gathered and stored other acorns by the end of the period. Vivian Pitzrick adds good crops of dogwood, Box Elder, crabapple, and buckthorn. Unfortunately Steve also notes a terrible decline of American Beech in the Olean area: 60% already are dead and another 30% infected by beech scale. Only a few smaller trees appear healthy. And the effects of the 3-5 March ice storm continue to be evident in the southern counties.

Gordon Bellerby's flyby counts recorded a November drop in the number of Bonaparte's Gulls in the lower Niagara River from 4000 on 15 Nov to a 305 low on 20 Nov, then rising rapidly to 13,500 on 29 Nov. Large numbers of Herring and Ring-billed Gulls also moved into the river at the end of the month, possibly from the west, for an unusual 20,000 Ring-billed Gulls were observed by Lois Buck and Fran Rew in Dunkirk on 10 Nov.

In 2428 net hours from 11 Aug to 10 Nov Elizabeth Brooks banded 148 warblers of 21 species, but more than 5 individuals of only 6 species: 13 Nashville, 37 Magnolia, 20 Yellow-rumped, 8 Black-throated Green, 8 Ovenbird, and 27 Common Yellowthroat. Last year 8 species made this list. On the other hand Don Clark's warbler banding was well up from last year's low. Good news that is probably really bad news: Art Clark's continuing count of tower kills south of Buffalo produced less than 50 birds this year, second lowest in 25 years of recording. The average count is over 800. Weather has a significant influence on these records, but Art notes that the trend since a high in 1982 has been down.

The only NYSARC annotated species recorded this fall was a LeConte's Sparrow.

Contributors: Mary & Mallory Adams, Robert Andre, Margaret Barnett, Gordon Bellerby, Paul Benham, Elizabeth Brooks, Lois Buck, Ray & Cris Budniewski, Bruce Chilton, Sylvia Clarke, Richard Collins, Willy D'Anna, Marian Dornhoffer, Steve Eaton, Jeanine Flory, Mike Galas, Joanne & Tom Goetz, Barbara Henderson, Kathleen Hentz, Paul Hess, Linda Holmes, Alec Humann, Doris Hurlburt, Claribel

Springs, one NF after 28 Nov (mob). Little Gull: max six NR Buffalo 6, 7 Oct (WD, GB), scarce compared to recent years. Sabine’s Gull: two BIPB 6, 7 Oct (mob), only record. Iceland Gull: arr Dunkirk 17 Nov (JF, JG). Lesser Black-backed Gull: Chautauqua L 15 Sep (RS), early; NF area after 10 Nov (mob). Glaucous Gull: arr NF area 27 Nov (RP). Forster’s Tern: arr Barcelona H 7 Sep (RS); max four BIPB 12 Oct (CM), only records. Black Tern: NR Buffalo 30 Nov (GR, WW), very late.


295 Robinhill Drive, Williamsville, New York 14221-1639
REGION 2 — GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

September usually has extremes in temperature. Even though the overall temperature averaged 60.5°, which was less than 2° below average, the range during the month was 60°. Even more of the possible sunlight was seen in September than in July, with a 70% reading. Precipitation was 0.2 of an inch higher than normal at 2.86 inches. October continued sunny with slightly higher than normal temperatures and less precipitation than usual, just 1.65 inches and a nearly an inch below average. November was near normal, but provided a slight hint of winter with a snowfall total of 13.7 inches. The temperature was 1.6° below the long term average at an even 39°. Measurable precipitation was at 2.39 inches, 0.26 inches below normal.

Weather conditions were conducive to birding and provided the Region with a number of good birding days. Frontal systems were not terribly strong, but there were some good migration days. This seemed to be particularly true late in the season, when there was an excellent flight of Common Redpoll. The November snowfall seemed to have little effect on Regional bird life, because there were lingering numbers of some species while others seemed to disappear early. November species totals tended to be very high.

Waters remained open, so some waterfowl tended to linger. Loon numbers were good, with reports of some good flight days for both Red-throated and Common Loons. Horned Grebe numbers appeared to be down slightly along Lake Ontario. Waterfowl were once again mixed. The season as a whole was pretty good. The fall Tundra Swan flight was excellent, Snow Goose also seemed to be relatively easy to find, and there were some good flights of Brant. Puddle duck numbers were quite good overall. Ponds held concentrations of most species, but Northern Pintail and Blue-winged Teal counts seemed a bit low. Bay and diving duck numbers weren't as good. Canvasback and Redhead continued to be somewhat scarce, and diving duck totals were mediocre early in the season but recovered to some degree late in the season. All three scoter species were recorded.

Shorebird habitat was better this year, with lake and pond levels seemingly below normal, but shorebird numbers were not. While most species were recorded, totals were unimpressive. Ontario Beach produced one of its worst shorebird flights in recent years. The shorebird highlight and
the bird of the season was a **Piping Plover** discovered at Braddock Bay on 27 Nov by Robert Beal, not only out of range but also very late. Gulls and terns attracted little note, the highlights being Sabine's Gull in September and Franklin's Gull in October.

Raptor notes indicated a good flight of Rough-legged Hawk, and Peregrine Falcon reports also continued to be on the rise. The late season was enlivened by the arrival of Snowy Owl. The piers at the mouth of the Genesee River held at least three of these large owls and at least that number also were reported at Braddock Bay. Numerous individuals were reported from the eastern to the western boundary of the Region. Short-eared Owl also appeared in good numbers late in the season.

The passerine migration was good for some species. Good numbers of kinglets moved through the Region and totals for Winter Wren were good. Warbler species totals were fairly good, but numbers of individuals continued low. Beatty Point was once again the staging area for good numbers of fall migrant sparrows, notably Song, White-throated and White-crowned Sparrow. Sharp-tailed Sparrow was not found this year. Flycatcher and thrush numbers were down. The only thrush that was consistent was the Hermit Thrush. Half-hardy species were frequent in early November but became scarce towards the end of the month. Carolina Wren continued its increase and was reported in unprecedented numbers.

A tremendous flight of Common Redpolls in mid November hinted of a finch winter. With 3000+ sighted along the lakeshore in a single day, it looked like this was going to be the year. They essentially vanished by late November, and the numbers continued to be scattered.

The most notable rarities for the season were **Northern Gannet** and **Piping Plover**. King Eider, Franklin's and Sabine's Gulls also enlivened the season.

Traver, Paul & Jean Weld.

Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; BPt - Beatty Point; DEP - Durand Eastman Park, Rochester; HB - Hamlin Beach; IB - Irondequoit Bay; ICW - Island Cottage Woods; WL - Lake Ontario shore west of Rochester.


61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, New York 14612
Regional weather patterns for the months of September, October, and November departed from an eleven month trend of above average warm, dry weather. September finished cooler than average with normal precipitation and no striking patterns of frontal movements. October saw temperatures 1-2° above normal with less than average precipitation for the month. A cold front crossed our Region on 6 Oct, pushing a number of migrant songbirds through the area. Another cold front on 19 Oct brought the last noticeable wave of migrating raptors, while a third cold front on 27 Oct brought many waterfowl into the Region. November had colder than average temperatures, with normal precipitation. The first significant snowfall occurred on 11 and 12 Nov, when 5-12 inches fell over much of the Region.

A noteworthy movement of raptors on 28 and 29 Oct, coincident with passage of a cold front, was witnessed by W. Evans over Mt. Pleasant, near Ithaca. It included Golden Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper’s Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Red-shoudered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk and Rough-legged Hawk. A good variety of shorebirds reported from Montezuma NWR included Black-bellied, Lesser Golden- and Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary and Spotted Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Sanderling, Ruddy Turnstone, Semipalmated, Western, Least, White-rumped, Baird’s and Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Stilt Sandpiper, Short-billed and Long-billed Dowitcher, Common Snipe, Wilson’s and Red-necked Phalarope. Reports from throughout the region suggest a good fall migration of vireos and warblers, though numbers generally were small. Solitary, Yellow-throated, Warbling, Philadelphia, and Red-eyed Vireo; and Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Northern Parula, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Prairie, Palm, Bay-breasted and Black-and-white Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Ovenbird, Kentucky, Connecticut, Hooded and Wilson’s Warbler were reported. There were scattered reports of individual or small flocks of Purple Finch, Pine Siskin and Common Redpoll throughout the Region.

Other notable observations for the period include Cattle Egret, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Eurasian Wigeon, Parasitic Jaeger and Laughing Gull. There were several reports of Brant, Black Scoter, White-
winged Scoter, and Oldsquaw from Cayuga and Seneca Lakes, coincident with the passage of several cold fronts in October. The passage of a strong cold front the last week of October brought Rough-legged Hawk, Snowy Owl, Northern Shrike, and Snow Bunting all into the Region. Additional reports of Common Raven came from throughout the area (more than in any past season), including Elmira, Watkins Glen, Spencer, Newfield, and Geneva, possibly reflecting some dispersal of young from the Allegheny Plateau region of northwestern Pennsylvania. Late departures include Osprey, Greater Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Gray Catbird, and Cape May Warbler.

There also is value to careful observation and reporting of more common events. The following report from Ned Brinkley and Bill Evans of an early morning movement of blackbirds across Cayuga Lake is exemplary in the detail it contains: "A flight of blackbirds which included grackles and cowbirds was seen to pass over CL (from Dean's Cove) at 6:30 a.m. on 11/10. There were several strata involved, with the largest/lowest stratum spanning over twice the width of the lake. Estimates are difficult, but the flock(s) moved for over _ hour at the rate of probably 25,000 birds per five minutes. This puts the minimum number at 175,000. No ratios for species could be determined; the birds were simply too high." Information of this kind, even for common species, may be of value to future observers wondering just how common blackbirds used to be. In reading this account, we were reminded of Audubon's account of a flock of over 1 billion Passenger Pigeons he observed near Louisville in 1813.


Abbreviations: CHWMA - Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area; CL - Cayuga Lake; MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, MtP - Mt. Pleasant, Ithaca; SL - Seneca Lake; SpL - Spencer Landfill TOMP; SSW - Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; StP - Stewart Park, Ithaca.


FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: three CHWMA 4 Sep, one CHWMA 6 Sep, one CHWMA 19 Sep. Com. Raven: several reports; max three SpL 11 Nov. Gray Catbird: last Elmira 20 Nov, late. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one 20 Sep and one 3 Oct, both near Ithaca, and one Southport 28 Sep, only reports of an

WINTER 1992 35
increasingly rare fall migrant. N. Shrike: one near Cortland 31 Oct (AB); one Rothermich Rd TOMp 2 Nov; one Myers Pt TOMp 5 Nov; imm King Ferry 26 Nov.


\textit{449 Irish Settlement Road, Freeville, New York 13068}
REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

MARY DOBINSKY

Fall 1991 continued the year’s pattern of warmer and drier weather than normal. September was a little cooler than normal with several days of below average temperatures. October’s average daily temperature, however, was about 2°F warmer than the usual 49.1°F. November, also slightly milder than average, had four days with record breaking high readings, including 60°F on 30 Nov. September rainfall was 0.71 inches below the average 3.32 inches and October had only slightly more than half its normal precipitation, according to National Weather Service records at Link Field in Broome County. November, however, had more than an inch above normal rainfall. Summer’s drought problems persisted into November. Reservoirs and shallow ponds continued dry and caked. Rivers were low early in the period, but water flow improved mid October.

Birds adapted to these conditions in different ways. Many, it turned out, had already left. Migration generally was early with low numbers for most species. This was despite several observations of abundant berries and fruits, particularly Autumn Olive, Gray Dogwood, grapes, Mountain Ash, apples and hawthorns. Herons stayed later into fall than usual. Migrating ducks, in about average numbers, arrived later than customary but didn’t linger. By rare coincidence, 8 Nov was a peak day for duck species throughout Region 4. On that cold, windy morning, eight species either arrived or had maximum numbers reported. Shorebirds were scarce. Flights over the Franklin Mt. hawkwatch site near Oneonta were good, according to Andy Mason, coordinator. The total number of raptors counted was 2782, down from last year’s 3231. However, that could be attributed to the sharp drop in Red-tailed Hawks seen, from 2250 in 1990 to 1500 this year. Sharp-shinned Hawks doubled their numbers this year to 513 and Bald Eagles (13 of them) passed the mountain for the first time in the three years of the hawkwatch operation. Golden Eagle numbers were impressive, too. In the Vestal banding report, Gail Kirch penned a big “0” after Veery and Wood Thrush to emphasize their plight. Only one Veery and four Wood Thrush were reported in all of Region 4. “This is the shortest Sep banding report ever for this station,” Gail wrote, “both for species and number of birds per 100 net hours.” Some late fall warbler movement and the sparrow migration, albeit sparse, improved the October numbers.

The one rarity, by reason of its timing, was a very late Pine Warbler 28
Nov at Candor (TiOG). Bob and Rita Pantle observed the Thanksgiving Day
visitor as he flew back and forth between their feeder and a nearby stand of
large spruce trees. “I believe it was an immature,” Bob said as he described
the bird. “The yellow on its breast was not as extensive as on the four or
five I have banded over the years.”

Another rare event, by reason of numbers, was the flight of an
unprecedented 75 Brant on 22 Oct. As reported by Harriet Marsi, “Rick and
I were on his deck when we heard them coming. The sound was enough
different to alert us to get our binocs.” Previous Regional reports have been
one or two singles.

A dead Peregrine Falcon and Cedar Waxwing were found in September
by Ken Stalter beside his Franklin (DELA) home. The family believed the
falcon had been pursuing the waxwing when they crashed into the side of
the house with such force they both perished.

The total of 161 species, although down from last year’s record 180, is
about average for fall. Missed species included Semipalmated Sandpiper,
Spotted Sandpiper, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Blue-
winged Warbler, Canada Warbler and N. Oriole, all of which had moved
out in August, plus Am. Bittern, Horned Lark, American Pipit, N. Parula,
Mourning Warbler and Vesper Sparrow

Interesting results from the 1991 Nest Box program in Cortland County
submitted by compiler Bill Toner were received too late for the Summer
report. For Am. Kestrel there were seven nesting attempts, of which five
were successful producing 33 eggs; 22 hatched and 19 young fledged.
Twelve nesting attempts were reported for E. Bluebird, of which seven were
successful; 31 of the 38 eggs hatched and 24 young fledged. In Tree Swallow
boxes, 42 nesting attempts were made, 18 were successful; a total of 191
eggs were laid; 135 hatched and 80 young fledged. Raccoon predation in
one Tree Swallow location was blamed for failures to fledge.

Observers: Cutler & Jeannette Baldwin, Don & Judy Bell, Les Bemont, Bruce
Bozdos, Laura Carter, David Clark, Mildred Clark, Chad Covey, Marilyn Davis,
Mary Dobinsky, Sadie Dorber, John Fritz, Gail Kirch, Margaret Layton, Harriet
Marsi, Rick Marsi, Andy Mason, Bud & Evelyn Mead, Robert & Jean Miller, Ron
Milliken, Susan Moran, Maurice Noyes, Robert & Rita Pantle, Jewell & Charles
Parchinski, Marie Petuh, Steven Rice, Harley Shultes, Joe Sedlacek, Ken Stalter, Tom
& Norene Tasber, Bill Toner, Vestal Banding Station (manned by GK, HM, SR),
Donald Windsor, Irene Wright.

Abbreviations: CVSP - Chenango Valley State Park; JC - Johnson City; FHNC -
Finch Hollow Nature Center; FMHW - Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch, near
Oneonta; NNM - North Norwich Marsh; OnRes - Oneonta Reservoir; OPM -


PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: juv JC 19 Sep (MP) often missed. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one TIOG Sep (B&EM), uncommon in fall. E. Screech-Owl: two OTSE 2 and 22 Sep (JF); reported TIOG Sep and Nov (J&DB, B&EM). Great


7 Spencer Drive, Oneonta, New York 13820

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Gene Huggins

The weather this fall was lovely, with the average temperature and precipitation near normal. In the Adirondacks, the first frost occurred on 20 Sep, with the first snowfall seven days later. The southern portions of the Region recorded a total snowfall of 5.5 inches, but most had melted by the season’s end. The migration was somewhat poor for two reasons: unfavorable wind directions produced in no strong southward flights and there was little weather activity to ground migrants. Plant species, namely Buckthorn, Highbush Cranberry and wild grape, retained their fruits late into the season affording American Robin and Cedar Waxwing ample food supplies. Cones were almost nonexistent in the Region.

Often the fall period is the most interesting time to see rarities and this season was no different than most others. The Region’s first Western Grebe was seen on Lake Ontario. Another much sought after bird was the Region’s first modern record of Yellow Rail, unfortunately of a bird found dead not far from the shores of Lake Ontario. Less unusual, fourteen Cattle Egret found at two separate localities on the same day marked the second highest maximum for the Region. The highlight of this fall’s waterfowl flight was a one day report of a Barrow’s Goldeneye. This represented a second fall report for the Region and the first observation in six years. Among shorebirds, the Marbled Godwit that had arrived in late August at Delta Lake continued its stay for the first two days of the period. A Red Knot at Fairhaven in mid November set a record late departure for the Region.

WINTER 1992
Additional shorebird rarities include a Purple Sandpiper for the third consecutive year, along with both Red-necked and Red Phalaropes at Sylvan Beach.

Other notes of interest among water birds was a disappointing flight of Common Loon and Horned Grebe, with only Pied-billed Grebe showing some increase. Great Egret persisted to the beginning of November for the second year in a row. There was a slight increase in Tundra Swans compared to the three to five seen in previous years. Disturbance may have been a factor in the displacement of approximately 3,000 Canada Geese that are regularly seen in cornfields adjacent to Route 20, four miles east of Madison. The nearby protected enclaves of public water supplies such as the Waterville Reservoir and Woodman’s Pond have now become places of rest for these birds. Moderate numbers of Gadwall, American Wigeon and Bufflehead were evident at Fairhaven Beach State Park and at Beaver Lake. On a negative note, the large numbers of Wood Duck usually found at Toad Harbor on the north shore of Oneida Lake went unreported, but a significantly smaller group was at Peter Scott Swamp.

Although 25 species of shorebirds passed through the Region, numbers were very low, especially for one common local breeder, Killdeer. Only Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers had maxima near 100 at the beginning of September, while other peep averaged no more than 15 per day.

A distinct feature of weather patterns for this fall was the lack of northwest winds. This resulted in no flight days for either raptors or jaegers. One veteran observer commented that it was the first time in twenty plus years that she had seen neither Pomarine nor Parasitic Jaeger from Derby Hill. Notable gulls for the season included a Franklin’s Gull which had a tendency to stay hidden behind a breakwater at Sylvan Beach, and Little Gull appeared regularly at Sandy Pond and at the east end of Oneida Lake. No white-winged gulls had been observed by the season’s end.

Most tyrant flycatchers left the area by 22 Sep, with only Eastern Wood-Pewee and Eastern Phoebe remaining from mid to late October. American Crow continue to exhibit high population levels in both rural and urban areas, with over 200 roosting near the university in Syracuse. Passerines such as kinglets, thrushes, vireos and warblers continue to show a steady decline. Less than fifty per day was the norm for Ruby-crowned Kinglet in the southern highlands. The best flight day for warblers was 12 Sep at Erieville, with Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green Warblers and
Common Yellowthroat showing the best numbers of 20-50 birds. Four species of warblers, Nashville, Yellow, Black-and-white and Wilson's, departed earlier than normal by an average of one week.

Fortunately, not all was that dismal. There was a very good flight of both White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows along the Lake Ontario littoral in mid October. Bill Purcell commented that every country road had a flock of 20-40 birds, most of which could not be identified as they flew into nearby hedgerows. A dead Sharp-tailed Sparrow was the eighth Regional record and the first since 1975. An irruption of Common Redpoll suggested the best flight in three years, and the increased presence of Pine Siskin at feeders raised hopes for an interesting winter.

A total of 227 species plus one color morph and a hybrid were reported with Western Grebe and Yellow Rail as the most outstanding of the great rarities, which also included Barrow’s Goldeneye, Marbled Godwit, Franklin’s Gull and Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

A special thanks to Gary Lee and Marge Rusk for their contributions to the introduction of this report.

Contributors: Sue Adair, Sue Boettger, Candi Cesari, David Cesari, Dorothy W. Crumb, Paul De Benedictis, Robert L. Evans, William T. Gruenbaum, Elva Hawken, Barbara Herrgesell, Gene Huggins, Mary Alice Koeneke, Ruth Knight, Gary Lee, Ferne F. Merrill, David Nash, Bill Purcell, Margaret S. Rusk, Ginny Skoglund, Gerald Smith, Maureen Staloff, Jim Throckmorton, Doug Whitman.

Abbreviations: Adks - Adirondacks; DH - Derby Hill, OSWE; FH - Fairhaven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, CAYU; LOL - Lake Ontario littoral, OSWE; NPT-northern Pompey Township, ONON; OnonL - Onondaga Lake; SPd- Sandy Pond, OSWE; SSSP- Selkirk Shores State Park, OSWE; SVB- Sylvan and Verona Beach, ONEI.


Com. Tern: max 170 SVB 14 Sep. Forster’s Tern: one SPd 1-14 Sep, two there 22 Sep; one SVB 21 Sep.


WINTER 1992

EXOTICS: Red-crested Pochard: pair FH during November, where present last year at the same time.

1065 Westmoreland Ave., Syracuse, New York 13210

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

Gerald A. Smith

After eleven consecutive months of above normal temperatures, September was about 2° cooler than normal. Major cold fronts affected our area on 10-12, 16-17 and 24-26 Sep. Precipitation for the month was near normal. October returned to the global warming pattern of recent years, with temperatures 1-2° above normal and precipitation below normal. Strong cold fronts were evident only during the middle and end of the month. November temperatures were cool at the beginning of the month and warm at the end. Overall temperatures for the month were 1° below normal, but precipitation for the month was above normal.
The highlights of the season were found primarily among the non-passerine birds. Passerines were reported in very poor numbers as the apparent decline in neotropical migrant insectivores continues. Also, given the small number of active observers in our Region, it is likely many small and/or secretive species are under reported.

Of particular interest this season are the results of Bruce DiLabio’s continuing surveys at the Moses-Saunders Power dam area north of Massena. His reports regularly include the highest concentrations of many species of gulls, terns, waterfowl and water birds for the Region. Highlights this fall include the only Red-throated Loon and Red-necked Grebe for the Region. His most unusual bird was a juvenile Northern Gannet on 3 Nov. Other species of interest from this site include Little Gull, Bonaparte’s Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and Great Black-backed Gull. Observations at this site by DiLabio and former area resident Joe Van Reit since the mid 1970s clearly indicate this site as an excellent birding area.

In recent years it has become clear that several sites along the east end of Lake Ontario are good for fall hawk flights during strong north-northeast winds. The best of these are the Montario Point tower at Lakeview Wildlife Management Area and the high bluffs at Wescott Beach State Park. During late October and November several flights were observed, including seasonal high counts for several hawk species. Especially notable at Lakeview were maxima for Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk and Rough-legged Hawk, a total of six Northern Goshawk and three Golden Eagle for the season and a Common Raven. In addition to these flights of raptors, invasions of Snowy Owl and Northern Shrike were noted in much of the Region. Snowy Owl was seen at many locations during November. Most reports were of 1-2 owls per day, and many individuals were present. Shrikes were widespread at 1-2 per day following their arrival at several sites during the last few days of October.

Canada Goose was very common all season near L Ontario and on the St. Lawrence River. In contrast, most other groups were reported in poor or mediocre numbers. The shorebird flight was virtually absent except at the El Dorado Beach Preserve on Lake Ontario. There species diversity was fair but numbers of individuals was low. Highlights include Lesser Golden-Plover, Semipalmated Sandpipers, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird’s Sandpiper and Red Phalarope. Other low points of the season include the aforementioned poor numbers of flycatchers, thrushes, vireos and warblers, as well as a poor flight of winter finches. All in all, the fall of 1991 was nothing to write home about.

Abbreviations: CV - T Cape Vincent; EDB - El Dorado Beach Preserve, T Ellisburg; LWMA - Lakeview Wildlife Management Area; MSD - Moses Saunders Power Dam; PRWMA - Perch River Wildlife Management Area; PtPen - Pt Peninsula, T Lyme; SLR - St. Lawrence River; WHWMA - Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Area; WB - Wilson Bay, Town of Cape Vincent; WDC - Wiley Dondero Canal Area, T Massena.


RR1, Box 498, Mexico, New York 13114

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M.C. PETERSON

Badly needed autumn rains finally began to relieve Regional drought conditions, but didn’t dampen the spirits of observers who reported 166 species, 11 more than last fall. Early September was cool and dry, with the first widespread frost 13 Sep, when Newcomb was a nippy 27°F. Thermometers rebounded to the 80’s by 16 Sep, followed by rain 18 Sep and more frost 21-22 Sep. Another inch of rain fell 25 Sep, and Malone added a quarter inch on 29 Sep. As the month closed, Piseco Lake dropped to a chilly 20°F. Both monthly possible sunshine and precipitation were above average, but yearly precipitation still short of the long-term average. October began with rain, then turned hot and clear, before an inch of rain fell 6 Oct. The High Peaks had snow by 13 Oct, followed by a pleasant week. A cold front brought rain, and even light snow in the Adirondacks,
on 19 Oct. A lovely stretch of Indian Summer followed from 22-26 Oct, then blustery rain 27 Oct, and a clear, cool end of the month. By early Nov, Lake Champlain was again over 95', with much of the month cool. Saranac Lake was 14°F by 9 Nov, but a final spell of warm weather provided relief from 19-21 Nov, before winter began to arrive in earnest.

The great advantage of the lingering drought was the continued exposure of mudflats along Champlain, which started the season at a low 94.35' on 1 Oct. Shorebird variety and numbers were the best in recent memory, especially at the Plattsburgh mudflats and, to a lesser extent, Westport beach. A total of 21 shorebird species was recorded, including several Regional rarities: Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Western Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, and Purple Sandpiper.

As summer breeders left, more northern rarities began to arrive. Red-throated Loon and Red-necked Grebe are seldom seen in this Region. Two adult Little Gull were found. Rough-legged Hawk arrived early, and two Snowy Owl appeared after mid November. A Bohemian Waxwing was feeding in a mountain ash outside Saranac Lake in company with 6 Am. Robin on 8 Nov; this waxwing has now appeared in all but two winters since the winter of 1979-80, or 11 of the last 13 years. Northern Shrike arrived early at Essex and in HAMI. Based upon fall arrivals, this doesn't bode well for a "winter finch" winter, except perhaps for Am. Goldfinch. Reasons for the presence of two other rarities, Cattle Egret and European Goldfinch, in the Region remain a mystery.

Another apparent northern arrival was the banded Canada Goose at Westport on 5 Sep which joined the flock of nine that had been present since mid July. Jeff Carleton and Mike Peterson were able to read the number with the help of a spotting scope. The goose [#768-57678] had been banded as an adult male 36 miles north of Fort Chimo, Quebec, on 7 Aug 1986, and had reached an age of 6 years., 3 months. The banding site is near the mouth of the Whale River in the Alukpaluk Bay portion of southern Ungava Bay, north of Lat. 58°.

Although the NYSDEC stocked 1,057 Ring-necked Pheasant by 1 Oct (532 Cl1n, 525 Esse), the only reports were of a hen at a Saranac Lake village feeder, a pair in Clinton County, and 4 visiting the trailer court near Lake Clear airport. DEC Regional Director Tom Monroe admits that the Adirondacks generally have poor pheasant range, adding: "Studies have shown that fewer than 5% of the pen-raised birds that are stocked survive to the following breeding season due to a variety of negative factors including
poor habitat, weather, and predation."

Bald Eagles continued to be reported with some regularity, and some of this recovery should be credited to the DEC "megahack" program of the 1980s. Now there may be a glimmer of hope for our other eagle, as well. Walter Chapman reported (!) an imm Golden Eagle seen from the summit of Goodnow Mt., ESSE, 2 and 21 Oct, engaged on the latter date in aerobatics with a 2-3 ft long "scraggley branch." On 22 Oct, Gary Lee had a Golden Eagle (!) at the Moose River Recreation Area, HAMI, near the last active eyrie in the State, and a pair was present there on 8 Nov.


Abbreviations: CRF - Cedar River Flow; FBI - Four Brothers Islands; MRRA - Moose River Recreational Area.


Crossbill: two e Indian L, HAMI, 14 Oct (RB), only report. White-winged Crossbill: Lake Clear airport 10 Oct and MRRA 26 Oct, only reports. Com. Redpoll: arr 15 feeding on birch catkins Tupper L 12 Nov, a dozen there 17 Nov; 12 Heart L 17 Nov; rather sparse, but perhaps indicative of things to come. Pine Siskin: small numbers reported from just 8 locations through the season. Am. Goldfinch: still feeding yg; Elizabethtown 22 Sep, where only two banded in Oct, but 150+ during Nov with few repeats, suggesting a good flight. European Goldfinch: one Crown Pt Village feeder 2-3 Nov (A&JT!). Evening Grosbeak: only reports from CRF, Elizabethtown, Limekiln L, and Tupper L, where max 35 was reported.

Discovery Farm, RR 1, Elizabethtown, New York 12932

REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

Kenneth P. Able

Weather patterns during the fall basically continued the trends of the past many months. September was slightly (by 1.3°) cooler than normal, the first such month since May, 1990. October and November returned to above normal average temperatures. September had normal precipitation. October and November were wetter; the latter month had precipitation on 20 different dates for a total over 1.7 inches above normal. The first snowfall of the season (1.5 inches in Albany) occurred on 11 Nov.

Generally uneventful weather during September and October may have accounted for another generally lackluster migration. Reporters did not note any major waves or groundings of migrants and many species were not even reported by observers. This adds yet another to a growing series of migrations, both spring and fall, when birds seemed scarce. How much of this is a function of weather and how much due to population declines among migrant species is difficult to say. Interestingly, the California coast experienced one of its best fall seasons ever for eastern vagrants, mostly warblers. One would not generally expect the occurrence of large numbers of vagrants from species whose populations have experienced a major diminution.

The series of mild, generally snowless winters has been favorable to Carolina Wren. The Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club Dial-A-Bird requested
sightings and received reports of more than 30 individuals. Most were in lowland areas in the river valleys, but a pair in Berne has been surviving for several years at that higher elevation, and one in Ballston L and two in L George Village WARR must be very near the northern limit of the species’ range in this part of the state.

Fruit and berry crops were abundant throughout the Region and encouraged large numbers of American Robin to linger. With the exception of hemlock, cone crops were very poor. Crossbills, redpolls and Pine Grosbeak were essentially absent, Pine Siskin was scarce, and Evening Grosbeak continued the pattern of scarcity that has characterized recent winters. By mid November there was evidence of a good invasion of boreal raptors and Northern Shrike. Interestingly, numbers of these visitors seemed to peak in November and declined thereafter, suggesting perhaps that local prey abundances were not to their liking and they moved on. Snowy Owl arrived very early (late October) and some of them were in poor condition. One found dead in Livingston had apparently starved, and two recovered in Feura Bush and rehabilitated by the DEC were emaciated.

It was an excellent fall for rarities in this landlocked Region. These included Great Cormorant, Greater White-fronted Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Tufted Duck, Barrow’s Goldeneye, Golden Eagle, Hudsonian Godwit, N. Hawk Owl and Bohemian Waxwing.

This is my last Region 8 report. I want to thank all contributors for their reports during my tenure. The new Region 8 editor is: Alan Mapes, Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, New York 12054.


Abbreviations: BCRes - Basic Creek Res ALBA; DAB - Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club Dial-A-Bird tape; FiveR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar; SaraL - Saratoga Lake; TRes - Tomhannock Res RENS.


WINTER 1992 55


VIRESOS-WARBLERS: Orange-crowned Warbler: one Geoffroy’s Pd COLU 14 Sep (BC), rarely reported. Yellow-breasted Chat: one Chatham 28 Sep (PI), rare in fall.


Department of Biology, State University of New York, Albany, New York 12222
The weather this fall was very much the same it has been in other recent falls. September began with the “three H’s” and remained that way up until the first front arrived on 10 Sep. A total of ten more fronts would arrive in the Region during the entire period. These fronts were not “classic” northwestern cold fronts that produce significant “fallout” days of migrants. Rather, they were of western origin, featuring west-northwest to west winds, not accompanied by cold temperatures and typically short-lived. In between these “duds” generally were periods of the “three H’s” or, later on, cold, damp, cloudy weather. An example of this was 1-6 Oct, when the fall migration should have been at its apex, we endured six days of rain, fog, haze and clouds.

Precipitation levels were normal for September and way below for normal for October and November, leaving reservoir levels at an average of 45%. Northeast storms occurred on 17 and 29-31 Oct, the strongest storm since Ash Wednesday, 1962, and 10 Nov. None of these storms produced any storm related birds in Region 9.

Even though this report includes some very notable rarities, the general feeling among birders is that this fall was lackluster. There were average numbers of shorebirds. Ducks, raptors and passenines were with few exceptions low in numbers. A total of 242 species of birds were reported this fall.

Northern Gannet once again appeared in western Long Island Sound, when 3 were observed off Rye on 29 Oct and a high of 14 were noted on 28 Nov (TWB). There were 16 reports of Black Vulture for the Region. This number of records is obtained almost every season in Region 9. It is clear now that Black Vulture has established itself west of the Hudson and is making inroads east of it. Will someone please find a nest? Bald Eagle reports were too numerous to list, with over 80 individuals reported. Peak counts at the hawkwatches were just ones and twos, but these were obtained on several dates, and three to four reported all period from Neversink and Rondout Reservoirs. There were 18 reports of Golden Eagle, singles only at the hawkwatches, and others were reported from all over the Region. Forster’s Tern appeared in numbers off of Rye for the third year in a row and remained through the period. Previously, they were unheard of in the western end of the sound.
Common Raven continues to increase in the northern sections of Region 9 and appeared in unprecedented numbers in SULL and DUTC counties.

Both cuckoos were very scarce this period. American Crow roosts activated again late this fall in Harrison, Nanuet, Poughkeepsie and Middletown, with the later roost at 6,000 and rising! Carolina Wren was reported in record high numbers from all counties of the Region. Eastern Bluebird, Gray-cheeked Thrush and Swainson's Thrush were well reported in the Region. Also numerous this season, many American Robin, Gray Catbird and Brown Thrasher lingered through end of period. Cedar Waxwing was present in high numbers through Nov. There were 26 species of warblers reported.

Adam Martin watched a **Wood Stork** fly past the Mt Peter hawkwatch several times on 27 Oct, and finally disappear in the area of Greenwood Lake, never to be refound. It was a first record for ORAN. Only one visitor at the Hook Mt Hawkwatch was lucky enough to see a dark morph **Swainson’s Hawk** in the swirling masses of Broad-winged Hawk on 12 Sep (PB!). Certainly a stellar find was a female **Black-backed Woodpecker** observed at length, sitting, in flight and heard calling at the Harcourt Sanctuary in New Paltz on 9 Nov (AB!). Tundra Swan, Eurasian Wigeon, dark morph Broad-winged Hawk, Snowy Owl and Blue Grosbeak also added spice to the season, and other rare but regular migrants included in this report are: Red-necked Grebe, Iceland Gull, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Wilson’s Phalarope, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Caspian Tern, Long-eared Owl, Kentucky Warbler, Dickcissel, and Common Redpoll.

Abbreviations: BASH - Bashakill Marsh; BSHW - Butler Sanctuary Hawkwatch; CIMS - Constitution Island Marsh Sanctuary, PutN; CB - Cornwall Bay; CPt - Croton Point; HMHW - Hook Mtn Hawkwatch; MC - Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; MPt - Milton Point, Rye; MPHW - Mt. Peter Hawkwatch; NPSP - Norrie Point State Park, DUTC; PP - Playland Park, Rye; RSPP - Rockefeller State Park Preserve, WEST; RLSP - Rockland Lake State Park; RN - Rye Nature Center; SKEC - Stony Kill Environmental Center, DUTC; WSF - Warren Sod Farm, ORAN.


**HAWKS-ALCIDS: Season Hawkwatch totals and maxima:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>BSHW max/date total</th>
<th>HMHW max/date total</th>
<th>MPHW max/date total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black Vulture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey Vulture</td>
<td>78/20 Oct 867</td>
<td>15/8 Oct 76</td>
<td>18/13 Oct 41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osprey</td>
<td>37/18 Sep 414</td>
<td>38/2 Oct 367</td>
<td>11/8 Oct 132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bald Eagle</td>
<td>twos 22</td>
<td>singles 13</td>
<td>singles 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Harrier</td>
<td>10/18 Oct 77</td>
<td>7/19 Oct 71</td>
<td>7/12 Oct 34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharp-shinned Hawk</td>
<td>111/29 Sep 2136</td>
<td>232/14 Oct 2841</td>
<td>186/13 Oct 1424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooper’s Hawk</td>
<td>37/4 Oct 308</td>
<td>23/30 Sep 142</td>
<td>28/13 Oct 104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-shouldered Hawk</td>
<td>16/30 Oct 81</td>
<td>22/14 Oct 76</td>
<td>10/21 Oct 48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broad-winged Hawk</td>
<td>1642/13 Sep 5030</td>
<td>2260/12 Sep 4997</td>
<td>530/13 Sep 1532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough-legged Hawk</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Eagle</td>
<td>singles 7</td>
<td>singles 1</td>
<td>singles 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Kestrel</td>
<td>66/18 Sep 697</td>
<td>57/9 Sep 662</td>
<td>37/7 Oct 239</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Black Vulture: two Ellenville 6 Sep (VF), two MPHW 27 Sep and 13 Oct (AM), one over Route 343 in n DUTC 1 Sep (AJ), two of the four that summered near Garrison PUTN remained near CIMS until mid Sep (JR), four Bear Mt 15 Sep (GP), three along NYS Thruway Rock (JSil). Turkey Vulture: 53 staging at Monticello 26 Aug (D&CN). Osprey: max 77 PP 20 Sep (RJK, JPA), juv Muscoot Res WEST 11 Nov (JPA, DQ). Bald Eagle: intro; total of nine over Rye 20&21 Sep (TWB, RJK), three Bear Mt all season (WF, DM), four Shawanagunks all season (JPT), arr two Iona 18 Nov (ET). N. Harrier: scarce. Sharp-shinned Hawk: continues decline of recent years. Broad-winged Hawk: inland ridges missed.


**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** Olive-sided Flycatcher: one BSHW 3 Sep (SR).


EXOTICS: Monk Parakeet: one MC 1 Sep (TWB).


202 Millertown Road, Bedford, New York 10506
The weather for the Fall reporting season was more tranquil and normal after the unusually warm first half of the year. The month of September was actually 0.8° below normal. October and November were 0.7° and 1.1° above normal, respectively, negligible compared to earlier in the year. There was a new daily record high of 93° on 17 Sep and another of 70° on 30 Nov. On the cool side, the evening lows did not reach 40° until 14 Oct and the temperature did not go below 30° until 26 Nov. This lack of cold weather had less effect on birding during the current period than it did for the Winter period.

Rainfall normally is low for this period, 11.21 inches for the three month period. We received 7.80 inches this fall, with the largest shortfall in November, which is usually the wettest month of the three. The paucity of rain significantly decreased the numbers and varieties of shorebirds seen compared to the last few years, when we had substantial rain in the late summer and early fall. The warm fall also had a negative effect on the numbers and species of ducks in our Region. Ducks were scarcer and arrived later. Especially notable was the lack of Greater and Lesser Scaup at a number of locations where they usually are quite numerous. On the positive side, eiders were seen in greater numbers early in the winter.

A fierce late fall storm in early November disrupted some birding plans. On November 9, a group from the Rochester/Syracuse area consisting of Jeanne Skelly, Julie Claffee, John Hanyak and Dorothy Crumb arrived at Montauk for a pelagic trip, but found the weather too poor to allow the boats to leave the harbor. Instead they birded at Montauk Point, where they were rewarded with 3 unidentified shearwaters, 10,000 Northern Gannet, 40-50 Common Eider, 50 Black-legged Kittiwake and 7 Black Guillemot.

The Fall hawk flight was about the same this year as last, but more small raptors were seen at the Region’s hawkwatches. Both Fort Tilden and Fire Island reported about a third more American Kestrel and Sharp-shinned Hawk this year. Large accipiters were more obvious and there were numerous reports of lingering Cooper’s Hawk, a number which appear to be wintering. A few N. Goshawk were reported. However, besides reports of migrants from the hawkwatches, there were other birds which appeared to linger and perhaps will spend the winter here. Merlin numbers at the Fire
Island hawkwatch were about same as last year. Because of the increase in the nesting pairs of Peregrine Falcon, this raptor is widely seen over most of the Region. Two birds frequented the water tower at Jones Beach this Fall, a light-colored small bird and a very large dark bird, the latter seen as far west as the jetty.

A female Black-throated Gray Warbler was found at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on 13 Oct by Howard Boltson et al. This sighting is substantiated by a fair but identifiable photograph and a NYSARC report. Two uncommon species were seen in significantly greater numbers this fall, Orange-crowned Warbler and Clay-colored Sparrow. Blue Grosbeak, a species slowly extending its range northward, was also seen more widely this Fall. Northern finches were few and far between this Fall. A notable exception was a flight at Robert Moses State Park of Purple Finch, Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin (as reported by Tony Lauro).

In an after note to Hurricane Bob of last August, Howard Bolston reported a pair of Osprey finally bred and fledged two birds from a platform in a marsh on the North Shore, only to have the nest blown away by the force of the wind. We'll have to wait for Spring to see if the birds rebuild the nest.


Abbreviations: CB - Cedar Beach; CLP - Clover Lake Park, Staten Island; FI - Fire Island; FBF - Floyd Bennett Field; FT - Fort Tilden; GKP - Great Kills Park; HLSP - Hempstead Lake State Park; HPd - Hook Pond, East Hampton; JBWR - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JFW - John F. Kennedy Wildlife Sanctuary (ToBay); JBch - Jones Beach; JBWE - Jones Beach West End; LI - Long Island; MPt - Montauk Point; NYRBA - New York Rare Bird Alert; PBP - Pelham Bay Park; PP - Prospect Park; RMSP - Robert Moses State Park; SPd - Sagaponack Pond; ShIn - Shinnecock Inlet; SI - Staten Island.

four HPd after 19 Nov (mob). **Greater White-fronted Goose:** one near Riverhead 29 Oct (AB), one HPd 30 Nov (AL, AB). Snow Goose: blue morph JFKWS 19 Oct (PM), one County Farm, Yaphank (JR), others JBWR mid Nov; more blue morph reports than usual. Wood Duck: 50 Mill Neck 6 Oct (BC). Eurasian Wigeon: one 2-13 Sep, two 14-15 Sep, then one to 15 Nov JBWR, one FFB 29 Oct, one Mattituck 28 Nov (mob). Ring-necked Duck: reported JBWR 3 Nov, where seldom found. Com. Eider: intro, two FT 23 Sep, one JBWE 2 Nov, one FI Inlet 3 Nov, 40-50 MPt 9 Nov, 35 MPt 13 Nov, 100+ MPt 30 Nov, 12 Orient Pt 30 Nov. King Eider: two MPt 13 Nov, 15 MPt 30 Nov (NYRBA). Harlequin Duck: two ShIn 6 Nov (JR, Barbara Conolly) to end of period; six PL 23 Nov to end of period (mob).

large number for this location. Forster's Tern: 30 SPd 2 Sep, good numbers in Jones
Inlet mid Nov, some to end of month. Black Tern: two Oyster Pd 1 Sep, one SPd 2
Sep, one Oyster Pd 7 Sep (NYRBA). Razorbill: four MPt 24 Nov, one ShIn 29 Nov
(Peter Joost, Mary Kane Hayes, JR), also seen 30 Nov (NYRBA). Black Guillemot:
intro.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: noted in Sep. Yellow-billed
Cuckoo: better than usual fall flight. E. Screech-Owl: at usual places on LI North
Shore. Great Horned Owl: at usual places on LI North Shore. Snowy Owl: singles
FBF 29 Oct, JBWR 14 Nov (LP), GKP early Nov (mob), JBWE mid Nov to end of
period (mob), Riverhead 6 Nov (PG), one CB 28 Nov; one-two ShIn mid Nov to end
of period (mob); more than usual. Long-eared Owl: very scarce this year. Com.
Nighthawk: almost no reports other than "few or no birds." Red-headed
Woodpecker: reported South Shore LI 18 Sep-20 Oct, scarcer than usual.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Empidonax species: one Accabonack, East Hampton
28 Nov, subsequently thought to be a Least (fide TB, no details); very late for an
Empidonax regardless of species. W. Kingbird: one Garvies Pt Preserve 28 Sep
(Don Thompson), one MPt 28-30 Sep, one FT 20 Oct, two Breezy Pt 23 Oct. Scissor-tailed
Flycatcher: one RMSP 19 Oct (AL, AB, mob). Tree Swallow: several JBWE through
the period and appear to be wintering. Sedge Wren: one seen and heard Crab
Meadow 2 Sep (HB). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 1000+ RMSP 19 Oct (HR, mob). E.
Bluebird: one JBWE 24 Nov (Lester Feldman). N. Wheatear: one RMSP 7-10 Oct,
(AL,KF, mob!). Am. Pipit: 12 Old Brookville 2 Nov (Ralph Cioffi). N. Shrike: one
JBWE 17 Nov (mob). Loggerhead Shrike: one CB (no date).

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: one Clove L P SI 3 Nov (HF), one MPt 30
Nov (NYRBA). Philadelphia Vireo: a few scattered reports early Sep. Golden-
winged Warbler: one Baldwin birdbath 8 Sep (EL), one Napeague 12 Sep (Pat
Lindey, Viso). Orange-crowned Warbler: one Brooklyn 29 Sep, one JBWE 29 Sep
and 10 Oct, one FT 19 Nov, one JBWE 17 Nov (EL), several reports eastern LI. Black-
throated Gray Warbler: intro. Cerulean Warbler: one Garvies Pt Preserve 12 Sep
(Herb Roth, Don Thompson, mob). Am. Redstart: one MPt 28 Nov (Hugh
Kentucky Warbler: one CLP 5 and 20 Sep (HF). Connecticut Warbler: two reported
JFWS 12 Sep (NYRBA). Hooded Warbler: one JBWE 21 Sep (NYRBA). Yellow-
breasted Chat: one Brooklyn 22 Sep, one CLP 2 Nov (HF), one MPt 28 Nov, others at
JBWE.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Summer Tanager: one Greenwood Cemetery Brooklyn
29 Sep (Todd Olsen). W. Tanager: one FT 29 Nov (Tom Fione). Blue Grosbeak: at
least seven JBch, JFKWS, CB, RMSP and Smith Pt Co P Sep 16- 14 Oct. Dickcissel:
three RMSP 7 Oct, one JBWE 13 Oct (NYRBA). Clay-colored Sparrow: one RMSP 12
Sep, one JBWE 14-16 Sep, one MPt 15 Sep, one JFKWS 21 Sep (KF), one CB 26 Sep
(SS), one FT 9 Sep- 5 Oct, one MPt 30 Sep, one JBch 20-27 Oct (mob), two near
Ponquogue Bridge 23 Oct (Aline Dove,PG). Vesper Sparrow: several reports from
RMSP mid Oct, one FT 21 Oct. Grasshopper Sparrow: one JBWE 16 Sep, one 14 Oct


603 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, New York 11550
REPORTING REGIONS

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

REPORTING DEADLINES

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

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

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

Fall Season: September, October, November
Deadline is December 7
FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

1991-1992 Officers
President
Stanley R. Lincoln, P.O. Box 296, Somers, NY 10589
Vice-President
William Lee, 2171 Grand Blvd., Schenectady, NY 12309
Corresponding Secretary
Mary Ann Sunderlin, 505 Bay Road, Webster, NY 14580
Recording Secretary
Valerie M. Freer, RD 1, Box 216, Ellenville, NY 12428
Treasurer
Berna B. Lincoln, P.O. Box 296, Somers, NY 10589
Editor of THE KINGBIRD
Paul DeBenedictis, 306 Kensington Place, Syracuse, NY 13210
Editor of NEW YORK BIRDERS
Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr., 333 Bedell Street, Freeport, NY 11520

Appointed Committees
Membership: Myrna Hemmerick, Ch.,
P.O. Box 2203, Setauket, NY 11733
Conservation: Harriet T. Marsi, Ch.,
Box 1, Powderhouse Road,
Vestal, NY 13850
Publications: Emanuel Levine, Ch.,
585 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, NY 11550
Research: Charles R. Smith
449 Irish Settlement Rd., Freeville, NY 13068
By-Laws: Richard Sloss, Ch.,
1300 Seawane Drive, Hewlett Harbor, NY 11557
Administrative: Stanley R. Lincoln, Ch.,
P.O. Box 296, Somers, NY 10589
John J. Elliott Memorial: Paul DeBenedictis, Ch.,
306 Kensington Place, Syracuse, NY 13210
Lillian C. Stoner Fund: John L. Confer, Ch.,
RD #1, Hammond Hill Road, Brooktondale, NY 14817
New York State Avian Records: Robert Andrle, Ch.
Send reports to NYSARC,
159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850
Attn: Todd Culver
Federation Waterfowl Count: Walton B. Sabin, Ch.
625 Kenwood Ave., Slingerlands, NY 12159
Circulation Manager: Berna B. Lincoln
P.O. Box 296, Somers, NY 10589

Elected Committees
Auditing: Irving Cantor, Richard Sloss, Norman Stotz
Nominating: Chad E. Covey, Ch., Harriet T. Marsi, Charles R. Smith