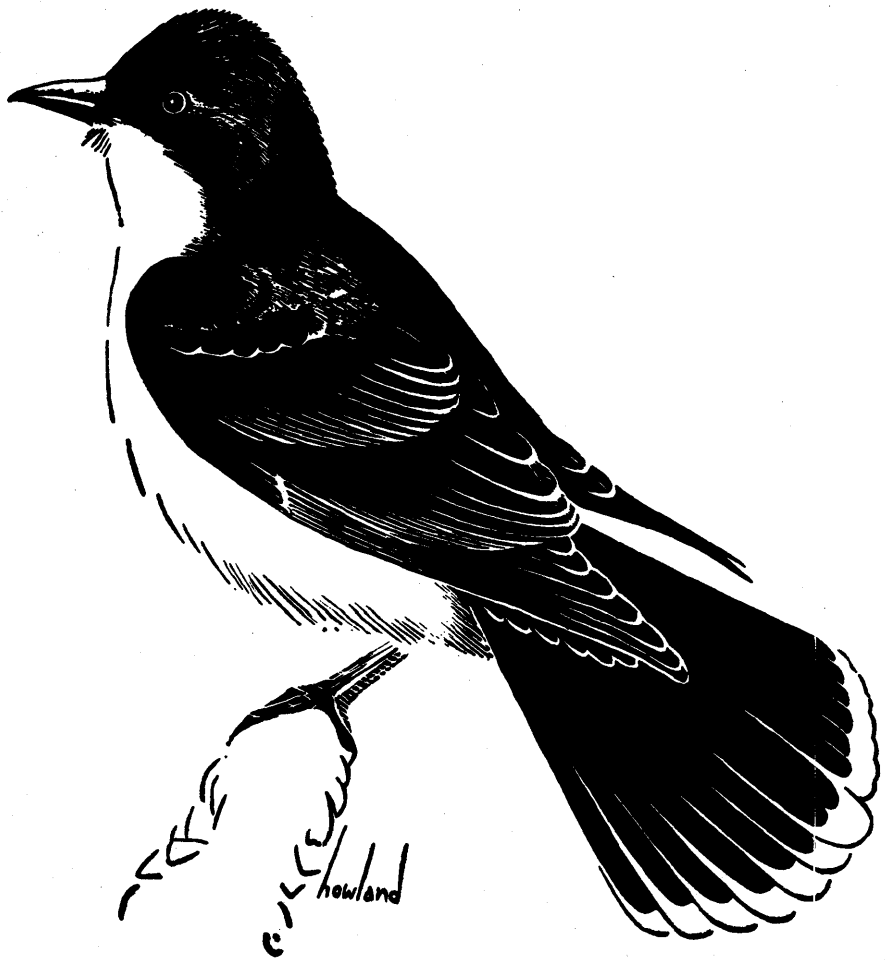


The KINGBIRD



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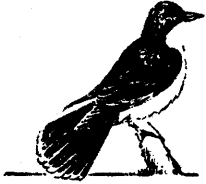
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Editor — Paul A. DeBenedictis
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*White-winged Tern at Salmon Creek, Monroe Co., New York, 19 June 1991,
Photographs by Brian W. Keelan.*

**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

- Brown Booby** (*Sula leucogaster*). 1990-19-A: one off Jones Beach State Park, Town of Hempstead, Nassau Co., 4 October (ML).
- Northern Gannet** (*Morus bassanus*). 1990-29-A: one over Lake Ontario off Edgemere Drive, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 8 November (KG).
- American White Pelican** (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*). 1990-36-A: one on Round Pond and Braddock Bay, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 20, 22 May (RS).
- 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 noveboracensis*). 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).
- Sandhill Crane** (*Grus canadensis*). 1990-15-A: one at Buttercup Farm Sanctuary, Route 82, Town of Pine Plains, Dutchess Co., 26 May (RG, LG). 1990-34-A: one off Hogan Point Road, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 21 May (CC). 1990-35-A: one off Curtis Road, Town of Parma, Monroe Co., 25 March (DF).
- Wood Sandpiper** (*Tringa glareola*). 1990-27-A-D: one at Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, Town of Harrison, Westchester Co., 31 October-5 November (TB, LB, RGu, BF, PD). An account of this second record from New York appears in *The Kingbird* 41:70-72; 1991; a color photograph appears in *American Birds* 45:174; 1991.
- 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.
- Sabine's Gull** (*Xema sabini*). 1990-32-A: one adult and one immature off Milton Point, Rye, Town of Harrison, Westchester Co., 22 September (TB).
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus forficatus*). 1990-12-A: one at Brookins Road, Town of North Norwich, Chenango Co., 9 May (SM).
- Fork-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus savana*). 1990-21-A-J: one on Moscow Road, Town of Hamlin, Monroe Co., 7-15 October (RM, KG, AC, RA, DC, GR, RS, MS, CC, PD); an account of this record, with a photograph, appears in *The Kingbird* 41:1-3; 1991. 1990-26-A: one at intersection of Dog Corners and Dublin Hill Roads, Town of Ledyard, Cayuga Co., 26 September (PH).

- 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.
- Mountain Bluebird** (*Sialia currucoides*). 1990-8-A: one male at North Tarrytown, Town of Mount Pleasant, Westchester Co., 20 April (RL). 1990-24-A: one male at Jones Beach State Park, Town of Hempstead, Nassau Co., 20 October (RKM, SS).
- Townsend's Solitaire** (*Myadestes townsendi*). 1990-2-A-I: one off Duell Hollow Road southeast of Wingdale, Town of Dover, Dutchess Co., 7-14 January (MVW, MK, JK, HM, DF, BB, MY, JB, EB).
- 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).
- Sharp-tailed Sparrow** (*Ammodramus caudacutus*). 1990-20-A-C: six at Beatty Point, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 6 October (KG, CC, AC).
- 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 (*vide* PD).

1990 Reports Not Accepted

- Common Eider** (*Somateria mollissima*). 1990-30-A: one in Lake Ontario off East Manitou Road, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 10 December.

- Sandhill Crane** (*Grus canadensis*). 1990-9-A: one, Town of Big Flats, Chemung Co., 23-27 April, 15 June.
- King Rail** (*Rallus elegans*). 1990-11-A: two 0.5 miles east of Pulver's Corners, Town of Pine Plains, Dutchess Co., 12 May.
- 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.

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

OBSERVERS SUBMITTING RECORDS CITED IN THIS REPORT: Sue Adair, Robert F. Andrle, Matt Bayer, Jean K. Beck, Lysle R. Brinker, Elsa C. Bumstead, Thomas W. Burke, Barbara Butler, Carolyn T. Cass, Anne Clarridge, Richard Clements, James Clinton, Dorothy W. Crumb, Karl David, William C. D'Anna, Paul DeBenedictis, Dorothy M. Fleury, Betsy T. Franz, Donna B. Frauer, Michael F. Galas, Leslie Gershon, Richard Gershon, Art Gingert, Kevin C. Griffith, Susan B. Grove, Richard Guthrie, Paul J. Hess, Jody Hildreth, Steve Kahl, Kenn Kaufman, Mary C. Key, James W. Key, Geoffrey S. LeBaron, Manny Levine, Robert H. Lewis, Robert K. Machover, Helen C. Manson, Robert E. Marcotte, Susan Moran, David M. Nutter, William A. Purcell, Martha Reinhardt, Gerald R. Rising, Margaret S. Rusk, Starr Saphir, Dominic Sherony, Gerry Smith, Robert G. Spahn, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Lyn VanderWerf, Marion E. Van Wagner, William Watson, Mary W. Yegella.

NORTHEASTERN RECORDS OF *ARDEA HERODIAS WARDI* FROM THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES

ROBERT W. DICKERMAN

Postnesting dispersal, especially by immature Great Egret (*Casmerodius [Egretta] albus*) and Little Blue Heron (*Egretta coerulea*) 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 develop 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.

wing chord	culmen	tarsus	tail
FEMALES			
<i>adult herodias</i>			
431-480 (452.8) n=34, SD=9.2	124-145 (134.5) n=32, SD=5.0	150-175 (166.5) n=19, SD=7.3	161-188 (171.0) n=34, SD=6.0
<i>immature herodias</i>			
426-460 (442.4) n=30, SD=9.4	112-135 (124.6) n=31, SD=6.7	140-173 (159.6) n=25, SD=9.5	150-172 (164.4) n=31, SD=5.2
<i>adult wardi</i>			
452-501 (477.2) n=15, SD=14.7	134-157 (143.4) n=16, SD=6.3	181-225 (192.5) n=16, SD=11.5	169-194 (179.0) n=16, SD=6.3
MALES			
<i>adult herodias</i>			
431-480 (452.8) n=34, SD=9.2	124-145 (134.5) n=32, SD=5.0	150-175 (166.5) n=19, SD=7.3	161-188 (171.0) n=34, SD=6.0
<i>immature herodias</i>			
435-475 (459.4) n=27, SD=10.5	123-144 (132.7) n=28, SD=6.1	157-181 (173.5) n=22, SD=7.1	160-180 (169.2) n=27, SD=5.7
<i>adult wardi</i>			
452-501 (477.2) n=15, SD=14.7	134-157 (143.4) n=16, SD=6.3	181-225 (192.5) n=16, SD=11.5	169-194 (179.0) 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*.

Specimen	Location	Wing	Culmen	Tarsus	Tail
MALES					
WHFowler 1316	Pennsylvania: Philadelphia Co. Holmesburg 28 July 1897	<i>"480"</i>	"141"	"205"	???
AMNH 349623	New York; Suffolk Co. Shelter Is. 14 September 1901	470	153	185	163
CMNH 131390	Pennsylvania: Venango Co; 28 September 1947	465	142	193	165
AMNH 826431	New Jersey: Morris Co., Morristown 5 January 1989	465	139	184	184
FEMALES					
FMNH 52392	Wisconsin: Dodge Co. Beaver Dam 20 September 1990	475	138	180	170
CMNH 10143	Pennsylvania: Crawford Co. 9 August 1902	<i>467,470</i>	135	182	172
AMNH 308482	New York: Queens Co. Woodmere 14 October 1944	445±	137	175	169
AMNH 19610 (skeleton)	New Jersey: Passaic Co. Hewett 22 August 1990	457	133	184	173

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.

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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

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

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

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

Region	Species Reported	Seasonality (days)	Advance (days)
Region 1	62	-0.5	6.3
Region 2	62	-0.5	7.6
Region 3	56	-4.1	-1.6
Region 4	54	-9.7	-11.6
Region 5	61	-4.6	1.1
Region 6	46	3.6	-2.7
Region 7	49	0.8	-10.6
Region 8	20	2.5	0.7
Region 9	53	-3.8	2.4
Region 10	51	-10.2	5.7

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.

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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; Twn — township; WMA — Wildlife Management Area; y — young.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

GERALD R. RISING

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 & Mallery Adams, Robert Andrie, 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

James, Dave Junkin, Cal Maybee, Jean Miller, Catherine Mueller, Pat O'Donnell, Vivian Raymond & Michael Pitzrick, Rod Planck, Betsy Potter, Frances Rew, Gerald Rising, Don Roberson, Olga Rosche, Alice Ruhl, Ellen Schoop, M. Smith, Robert Sommerville, David & Debbie Suggs, Robert Sundell, Virginia & Kenneth Waldron, William Watson, Peter Yoerg.

Abbreviations: BIPB – Bird Island Pier, Buffalo; BISP – Beaver Island State Park; BOS – Buffalo Ornithological Society; BOSC – BOS Count; BWS – Burgeson Wildlife Sanctuary; EABC – East Aurora Bird Club; FNSP – Fort Niagara State Park; INWR – Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; NF – Niagara Falls; NR – Niagara River; TNP – Tiffi Nature Preserve; TWMA – Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area.

LOONS–DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr two T Somerset and T Yates 26 Oct (BOS). Com. Loon: arr 30 on 13 Oct (BOSC); max 433 T Somerset and T Yates 26 Oct (BOS). Horned Grebe: arr two T Lewiston 5 Oct (WD). Red-necked Grebe: arr two Shadigee 19 Oct (WD). Double-crested Cormorant: max 386 NF 25 Sep (WW). Am. Bittern: one ORLE 13 Oct (BOSC), only record after 1 Sep. Great Egret: max four INWR 15 Oct (BOS); last TNP 20 Oct (WW). Cattle Egret: imm found dying T Ellington 29 Oct (RS). Green-backed Heron: last E Aurora 9 Oct (LH, AR). Black-crowned Night-Heron: max nine BIPB 22 Sep (MG, WW). Tundra Swan: arr 30 Athol Springs (RA), two T Dayton (LB, FR) both 2 Nov. **Greater White-fronted Goose**: Chautauqua L after 9 Nov (RS), first confirmed report for CHAU. Snow Goose: max 12 INWR 2 Nov (RC, MG). Brant: arr max nine 13 Oct (BOSC). N. Pintail: max 25 INWR 6 Oct (D&DS). Blue-winged Teal: last two INWR 2 Nov (WW). N. Shoveler: arr two 15 Sep (WW), max 16 30 Oct (MD, FR), last three 16 Nov (MG, WW), all INWR. Gadwall: max 47 NF 20 Oct (WW). Am. Wigeon: max 275 INWR 6 Oct (D&DS). Canvasback: arr two GENE 13 Oct (BOSC). Redhead: arr 77 BOSC 13 Oct. Ring-necked Duck: arr eight TWMA 28 Sep (WW). Greater Scaup: arr T Lewiston 21 Sep (WD). Lesser Scaup: arr nine T Lewiston 8 Sep (WD). Oldsquaw: arr ten T Lewiston 17 Nov (BOS). Black Scoter: arr six NIAG 13 Oct (BOSC). Surf Scoter: arr one BIPB 22 Oct (EABC). White-winged Scoter: arr 49 L Ontario 13 Oct (BOSC). Com. Goldeneye: arr NIAG 13 Oct (BOSC). Bufflehead: arr two Shadigee 19 Oct (WD). Hooded Merganser: max 100 Mayville 24 Oct (JF, FR). Com. Merganser: arr three BISP 11 Oct (BC). Ruddy Duck: arr Amity L 20 Oct (MA, VP); max 74 Celeron CHAU 22 Oct (RS).

HAWKS–ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: last five INWR 20 Oct (D&DS). Osprey: last T Alfred 17 Nov (EB), an especially late record. N. Goshawk: ORLE 13 Oct (BOSC), among many accipiters reported this season. Rough-legged Hawk: arr two T Yates 19 Oct (WD, BC). Merlin: one NIAG 13 Oct (BOSC); one Buffalo 26, 27 Nov (ES, DS). Peregrine Falcon: possibly two different birds Buffalo 5, 6 Oct (WD). Am. Coot: max 1400 Mayville 30 Nov (LB,FR). Lesser Golden-Plover: arr T Lewiston 8 Sep (WD); last BWS 11 Nov (RS). Greater Yellowlegs: last three BWS 23 Nov (RS), late. Baird's Sandpiper: last TWMA 27 Oct (WD). Pectoral Sandpiper: last NF 17 Nov (BOS), late. Purple Sandpiper: arr two NF 9 Nov (MG, WW). Short-billed Dowitcher: last five TWMA 6 Oct (D&DS). Red Phalarope: arr two Athol Springs 2 Nov (RA). Parasitic Jaeger: arr eight Athol Springs 2 Nov (RA), unusually large number; three Athol

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.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Snowy Owl: arr two Dunkirk 1 Nov (mob). Com. Nighthawk: max 21 T Tonawanda before 18 Sep (PH); last Fredonia 2 Oct (SC). Chimney Swift: max 900 BIPB 29 Sep (BOS).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: last Allegany SP 2 Oct (WW). Tree Swallow: last FNSP 23 Nov (BH, PY), very late. N. Rough-winged Swallow: last 30 TWMA 28 Sep (WW). Bank Swallow: last 12 TNP 1 Sep (BOS). Com. Raven: T Carrollton 17 Sep, Allegany SP 20 Nov (both SE). Winter Wren: arr four T Porter, Wilson, INWR 21 Sep (WD, PO). Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr two TNP (WW), four Golden Hill SP (BC), two T Wilson (WD, PO), all 21 Sep. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Goat I NF 10 Sep (DR); last T Alfred 28 Oct (EB). Hermit Thrush: arr T Wilson 21 Sep (WD, PO). Gray Catbird: two T Aurora 5-12 Nov (LH), late stragglers. Am. Pipit: arr two BIPB 11 Sep (DR). Bohemian Waxwing: three FNSP 17-24 Nov (mob), only record. N. Shrike: arr T Wilson 20 Oct (WD), widespread.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Philadelphia Vireo: last four T Wilson, T Porter, TNP, INWR 21 Sep (WD, PO). Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: 'Lawrence's' TNP 7 Sep (PB, WW). Orange-crowned Warbler: arr INWR 18 Sep (BP); last NIAG 13 Oct (BOSC). N. Parula: arr FNSP 15 Sep (WD, BP). Pine Warbler: arr TNP 7 Sep (WW); last NIAG 13 Oct (BOSC). Prairie Warbler: last two T Amity 7 Sep (VP). Palm Warbler: arr T Tonawanda 13 Sep (WW); last two CHAU 13 Oct (BOSC). Ovenbird: T Aurora 5-11 Nov (LH), late. Connecticut Warbler: T Aurora 11 Sep (LH), only report. Hooded Warbler: last three Chestnut Ridge SP 17 Sep (LH).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: last CHAU BOSC 13 Oct. Dickcissel: T Orchard Park 6 Oct (JM), only record for the year. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 15 BOSC 13 Oct. Chipping Sparrow: last 309 BOSC 13 Oct. Field Sparrow: last T Aurora 20 Oct (LH). Vesper Sparrow: last six BOSC 13 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: last four T Farmersville 1 Oct (GR). **LeConte's Sparrow**: T Hanover 20 Oct (J&TG), confirmed by BOS statisticians. Fox Sparrow: arr BOSC five 13 Oct; last T Aurora 12 Nov (LH). Lincoln's Sparrow: arr T Aurora 18 Sep (LH); last two CHAU, ALLE 13 Oct (BOSC). White-throated Sparrow: arr FNSP 8 Sep (WD). White-crowned Sparrow: arr T Lewiston 5 Oct (WD). Lapland Longspur: arr five NIAG 13 Oct (BOSC). Snow Bunting: arr three T Wilson 20 Oct (WD). Rusty Blackbird: arr twenty TWMA 2 Oct (EABC); max 2078 BOSC 13 Oct; last T Sheridan 28 Nov (R&CB). Com. Redpoll: max 400 FNSP 17 Nov (WD); 17 T Aurora 18 Nov (LH), only other record. Pine Siskin: after six BISP 11 Oct (BC). Evening Grosbeak: after two T Ward 30 Oct (EB); max eight T Chautauqua 3 Nov (FR).

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.

Contributors: David Atwater, Sue Boetger, Betsy Brooks, Jean Bruns, Shirley Cameron, Carolyn Cass, Belma Cerosaletti, Julie Claffey, Tomma Lisa Clark, Anne Clarridge, Jerry Czech, Mike Davids, Bob Dobson, Frank Dobson, Jim Doherty, Peter Fahey, June Feder, Roy Grau, Kevin Griffith, Bill ~ruenbaum, Harriet Hamilton, Tom Hampson, Sandra Hazen, Diane Henderson, Herb & Polly Keating, Bob & Jane Kesselring, John Lehr, Gerry Leubner, Walt Listman, Bob Marcotte, Max & Jane Mason, Robert McKinney, Ferne Merrill, Nancy Miller, Brian Mongi, Laura & Neil Moon, Connie Nitsch, Richard O'Hara, John Olsen, Tom Painting, Bill & Betty Powell, Martha Reinhardt, Marty Robinson, Pat Seager, Pat Scheible, Dominic Sherony, Bob & Ruth Shone, Jeanne Skelly, Sharon Skelly. Robert & Susan Spahn, Cathy & Kristin Spahn, Evan Speck, Paul & Jeff spindler, Ann Stear, Mary Ann Sunderlin, William Symonds, Mike Tetlow, Marianne Thompson, Don & Donna

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.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr two HB 12 Oct, max 175 HB 20 Nov. Com. Loon: arr two HB 24 Sep. Horned Grebe: arr HB 28 Sep. Red-necked Grebe: one HB 28 Sep (CC), one HB 1 Oct (WS), one HB 13 Oct (WS), uncommon in fall. **N. Gannet:** imm Charlotte 27 Nov (RMc). Am. Bittern: last BB 7 Nov, late. Cattle Egret: one Hamlin 27 Oct; several in early Nov (no details). Tundra Swan: arr two BB 29 Oct, max 73 Conesus L 30 Nov. Snow Goose: max four WL 16 Nov. Brant: max 550 HB 13 Oct. N. Pintail: arr 15 HB 28 Sep. Redhead: arr seven Greece 30 Sep. Ring-necked Duck: arr seven Greece 30 Sep. Greater Scaup: arr one HB 24 Sep, max 150 HB 12 Oct. Lesser Scaup: arr IB 9 Sep. King Eider: one Manitou 28 Nov (RO). Oldsquaw: arr HB 19 Oct. Black Scoter: arr seven HB 12 Oct. Surf Scoter: arr HB 19 Oct. White-winged Scoter: arr HB 24 Sep, max 2450 HB 10 Nov. Com. Goldeneye: arr HB 12 Oct. Bufflehead: arr two HB 23 Oct. Red-breasted Merganser: arr HB 28 Sep. Ruddy Duck: arr four BB 14 Oct, max six Greece 9 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: last along the lakeshore HB 18 Nov. Bald Eagle: imm Greece 13 Oct. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Webster 17 Nov (JC), seasonally uncommon. Rough-legged Hawk: arr IB 25 Sep. Merlin: one BPt 29 Sep, one IB 29 Sep, uncommon. Peregrine Falcon: one BPt 10 Oct, one Greece 12 Oct, one BB 2 Nov, one WL 8 Nov, one WL 16 Nov, impressive number of reports this season. Ruffed Grouse: one Pt Breeze 11 Oct (WL), uncommon along the lakeshore. Wild Turkey: four Henrietta 21 Sep, new location; 20 Rush 15 Nov, continuing the spread. Sora: six Greece 6 Sep, nine HB 8 Sep, last Greece 2 Nov, good season for lingering birds. Com. Moorhen: last BB 19 Nov, late. Am. Coot: max 440 IB 7 Nov. Lesser Golden-Plover: three BB 17 Nov, late. **Piping Plover:** *intro*. Solitary Sandpiper: last IB 3 Oct. Hudsonian Godwit: one Parma 31 Oct (RO), only report. Red Knot: one Charlotte 14 Sep, scarce. W. Sandpiper: three IB 25 Oct, two BB 11 Nov, late. White-rumped Sandpiper: arr IB 5 Oct, last two BB 30 Nov, late. Baird's Sandpiper: one IB 3 Oct, scarce. Purple Sandpiper: arr two IB 16 Nov (R&SS, MR). Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one Hamlin 22 Sep (CC, MD), only report. Long-billed Dowitcher: one Greece 5 Nov (KG), only report. Red-necked Phalarope: one WL 29 Sep (MD), one Greece 30 Sep (CC, FD), uncommon. Red Phalarope: one BB 7-11 Nov (JSP, MD, NM, mob). Pomarine Jaeger: one HB 20 Oct (CC). Parasitic Jaeger: one HB 19 Oct (CC, DS); one Greece 9 Nov (KG). Franklin's Gull: six IB 1 Oct (MR), excellent number of individuals. Little Gull: arr Charlotte 13 Sep, one Greece 5 Nov. Glaucous Gull: arr imm Greece 28 Oct. Sabine's Gull: one Charlotte 1 Sep (RMa). Forster's Tern: one Charlotte 6 Nov, two Charlotte 9 Nov, one BB 9 Nov, scarce.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last Webster 28 Sep. Snowy Owl: arr three Charlotte 3 Nov, max seven WL 24 Nov (MD). Long-eared Owl: arr Parma 22 Nov (RO). Short-eared Owl: arr three Hamlin 30 Oct. N. Saw-whet Owl: one Perinto 30 Oct (RMc); one found dead Manitou 28 Oct (RO); one found dead WL

24 Nov (KG). Com. Nighthawk: last three ICW 3 Oct. N. Flicker: max 100 DEP 21 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: last DEP 21 Sep. Willow Flycatcher: last DEP 21 Sep. Cliff Swallow: last IB 6 Oct. Winter Wren: arr Webster 19 Sep. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr three Manitou 20 Sep. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last Manitou 12 Nov, late. Gray-cheeked Thrush: last Manitou 10 Oct. Hermit Thrush: arr six Manitou 22 Sep. Gray Catbird: max 50+ DEP 21 Sep. Am. Pipit: arr Hemlock 17 Sep, last HB 9 Nov. N. Shrike: arr Webster 28 Oct.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Orange-crowned Warbler: one DEP 1 Oct, one BPt 5-9 Oct, one Greece 8 Oct, mediocre total. Palm Warbler: last Sodus Bay 27 Oct, late. Connecticut Warbler: one BB 6-7 Sep (MD), one Manitou 8-9 Sep (JS, SS), one BPt 21 Sep (MD, DS), good year. Mourning Warbler: last IB 14 Oct. Yellow-breasted Chat: two IB 22 Sep (TH), only report.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: last DEP 27 Sep. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Rochester 18 Oct. Chipping Sparrow: last ICW 2 Nov, late. Vesper Sparrow: one BPt 22 Sep, last six Bergen 10 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: last HB 16 Nov. Grasshopper Sparrow: last BPt 21 Sep, late. Fox Sparrow: arr Seneca P 24 Sep, last two Penfield 11 Nov. White-throated Sparrow: arr Greece 11 Sep. White-crowned Sparrow: arr HB 28 Sep. Rusty Blackbird: arr Manitou 20 Sep. Pine Grosbeak: arr Manitou 20 Sep [details? - Ed.]. Com. Redpoll: 3000+ WL 17 Nov. Pine Siskin: arr 30 BPt 29 Sep. Am. Goldfinch: max 500 WL 17 Oct. Evening Grosbeak: arr two Manitou 17 Sep.

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, New York 14612

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

C.K. MELIN AND C.R. SMITH

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-shouldered 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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.

Contributors: Gladys Birdsall, Ned Brinkley, Craig Bower, Jack Brubaker, Adam Byrne, Cayuga Bird Club, Chemung Valley Audubon Society, Dick Clements, Karl David, Annette Finney, John Greenly, Eaton Birding Society, William R. Evans, Tracy A. Gingrich, Bernice Hilfiker, Polly Keating, Dorothy McIlroy, Alice Robinson, Dave Russell, Schuyler County Bird Club.

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.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one-four CL 26 Oct-24 Nov; one found in a field near Chemung R in S Corning 17 Nov, subsequently released on Chemung R, where it was last seen 23 Nov. Com. Loon: max 450 on 16 Nov, a migratory movement counted by Cayuga Bird Club over a period of 2 1/4 hours with passage of cold front and associated NW winds. Red-necked Grebe: five reports of singles CL 27 Oct-17 Nov. Double-crested Cormorant: max 620 MNWR during Oct. Am. Bittern: one MNWR 7 and 15 Sep. Least Bittern: one MNWR 6 and

10 Sep. Great Egret: four-six MNWR, 7 Sep-10 Oct, then one through end of Nov. **Cattle Egret**: imm near Seneca Army Depot 10 Oct (WE); also singles near Cortland 13 Oct (GB), 19 Oct (WE), and 31 Oct (AB), each in a different location. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: imm Flint Creek Bridge, Wayne Street, Phelps, 30 Aug-12 Sep (BH, PK, AR!). Tundra Swan: max 70 MNWR 5 Nov. Snow Goose: max 750 MNWR 13 Nov. Canada Goose: max 33,000 MNWR 16 Oct. Brant: max 300 MNWR 23 Oct; several additional reports from CL and SL. Wood Duck: max 730 MNWR 13 Sep. Green-winged Teal: max 1300 MNWR 19 Sep. Am. Black Duck: max 7800 19 Nov. Mallard: max 16,000 MNWR 19 Nov. N. Pintail: max 260 MNWR 16 Oct. Gadwall: max 830 MNWR 38 Oct. **Eurasian Wigeon**: one ad male MNWR 20 Oct (Bill and Sibyll Zilbot). Am. Wigeon: max 170 MNWR 8 Oct. Blue-winged Teal: max 170 MNWR 26 Sep. N. Shoveler: max 240 MNWR 28 Oct. Canvasback: max 9100 MNWR 19 Nov. Redhead: max 450 MNWR 5 Nov. Ring-necked Duck: max 4500 MNWR 23 Oct. Lesser Scaup: max 750 MNWR 5 Nov. Black Scoter: 45 StP 28 Oct. White-winged Scoter: several reports of singles CL 15 Oct-5 Nov; 3 SL 23 Nov. Bufflehead: max 40 MNWR 5 Nov. Hooded Merganser: max 230 MNWR 13 Nov. Common Merganser: max 800 MNWR 27 Nov. Red-breasted Merganser: two CL 26 Oct, one Dryden L 2 Nov. Ruddy Duck: max 120 MNWR 5 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: one along Fall Creek near Ithaca 24 Nov, record late. Golden Eagle: one 7 Oct Taughannock Falls SP; one MtP 28 Oct. Red-tailed Hawk: max 57 MtP 28 Oct. Merlin: several reports from Ithaca area, Seneca Falls, and MNWR. Peregrine: several reports MNWR. Greater Yellowlegs: two Elmira 20 Nov, late. Spotted Sandpiper: last Elmira 23 Oct, late. Hudsonian Godwit: one MNWR 5 Oct (Guy Hodge). Red Phalarope: one CL (at Sheldrake) 12 Nov (NB). **Parasitic Jaeger**: one 29 Oct CL (2 sightings: Sheldrake and Taughannock Pt.), a dark bird with conspicuous white patches in primaries, comparable in size to Ring-billed Gull, forced a gull to disgorge food (WE, NYSARC). **Laughing Gull**: ad CL near Varick 19 Sep (CB, NB, AB), possibly the same bird seen 31 Aug. Bonaparte's Gull: three MNWR 8 Sep; one Myer's Pt CL 20 Oct; 11 Watkins Glen 25 Nov. Ring-billed Gull: max 2100 SpL 1 Nov. Herring Gull: max 1250 SpL 1 Nov. Iceland Gull: one StP 3 Nov. Lesser Black-backed Gull: ad MNWR 7 Sep and 30 Oct - 17 Nov; one StP 20 Sep and 2 Nov; two SpL 1 Nov. Lesser Black-backed x Herring Gull hybrid: ad SpL 1, 11, and 22 Nov (NB, AB, ph). Great Black-backed Gull: max 34 SpL 1 Nov. Caspian Tern: 15 StP 2 Sep, two-four MNWR 7-8 Sep, one MNWR 15 Sep. Forster's Tern: six Myer's Pt CL 2 Sep (JG).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: E. Screech-Owl: scattered, widespread reports Oct and Nov. Snowy Owl: several reports of single birds throughout Region, beginning last week of Oct, coincident with passage of cold front. Short-eared Owl: six-ten Ovid throughout Nov. Red-headed Woodpecker: ad near Ithaca 27 Oct.

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

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.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Cape May Warbler: one Elmira 6 Oct, late. Blackburnian Warbler: max 32 CHWMA 3 Sep. Ovenbird: last Ithaca 6 Oct, late. **Kentucky Warbler**: one CHWMA 16 Sep (CB). **Connecticut Warbler**: ad male Rothermich Road TOMP 19-21 Sep (NB, WE, AF). Wilson's Warbler: one SSW 26 Aug (early).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 16 Oct. Snow Bunting: arr 28 Oct, coincident with passage of major cold front. Red-winged Blackbird: *intro*. Com. Grackle: *intro*. Brown-headed Cowbird: *intro*. Rusty Blackbird: two MNWR 2 Oct. Pine Grosbeak: two at Horseheads feeder late Nov, only report.

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° warmer than the usual 49.1°. November, also slightly milder than average, had four days with record breaking high readings, including 60° 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 (TiOC). 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 -

Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; PM - Portlandville Marsh; WF - Whaupanaucaw Forest, CHEN; WPR Whitney Point Reservoir.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: only one WPR 23 and 28 Nov (MP). Pied-billed Grebe: arr 28 Sep OnRes; last of five singles BROO 28 Oct. Red-necked Grebe: only one WPR 23 Nov (MDv). Double-crested Cormorant: seven scattered reports, max four, through Oct, increasing. Great Blue Heron: one to three widespread through period. Green-backed Heron: last TIOG Oct. Black-crowned Night-Heron: ad NNM 7 Sep, often missed (DW, CC). Snow Goose: arr 20 TIOG Sep; max 80 Afton L 12-13 Nov; last 12 Morris 24 Nov. Brant: *intro*. Canada Goose: max 1,600 CHEN 12 Oct; flocks of 100s widespread through period, more than usual. Wood Duck: last six BROO, OTSE 27 Oct, scarce. Green-winged Teal: only reports Bainbridge Sep-Oct (SM). Am. Black Duck: max 15 BROO 8 Nov. Mallard: max 78 BROO 25 Nov. Blue-winged Teal: only one NNM 17 Nov (DW). Am. Wigeon: max eight WPR 23 Nov (MDv); three other BROO reports Oct. Canvasback: five BROO reports late Nov; max four Dean's Pd 23 Nov. Lesser Scaup: two BROO 8 Nov (HM, BB) only report. Oldsquaw: 35 OnRes 8 Nov, unusual. Black Scoter: seven Goodyear L 8 Nov (HS, JM). Com. Goldeneye: five OnRes 8 Nov; two BROO 25 Nov, only reports. Bufflehead: max 23 Vestal Plaza 8 Nov; seven other Nov reports all BROO, more than usual. Hooded Merganser: arr OTSE 13 Sep; max 10 WPR 23 Nov. Com. Merganser: max 30 BROO 1 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: FMHW total 78, max 17 28 Oct. Osprey: FMHW total 35, versus 61 last year. Bald Eagle: *intro*. N. Harrier: FMHW total 56, versus 34 last year. Sharp-shinned Hawk: *intro*. Cooper's Hawk: FMHW total 26. N. Goshawk: FMHW total 18; max five 17 Nov equals total for 1990. Red-shouldered Hawk: FMHW total 32, double last year. Broad-winged Hawk: max 105 FMHW 20 Sep, total there 212, down from 335 last year. Red-tailed Hawk: *intro*. Rough-legged Hawk: FMHW total 10. Golden Eagle: FMHW total 60, up from 41. Am. Kestrel: FMHW total 60, up from 36. Merlin: two FMHW. Peregrine Falcon: FMHW total five. Ring-necked Pheasant: seven singles through period. Ruffed Grouse: "common" BROO, TIOG early Nov (JS). Wild Turkey: max 60 OTSE 28 Sep; abundant BROO, TIOG through Nov (JS). N. Bobwhite: six OTSE crossing and recrossing road 9 Sep (LC). Virginia Rail: singles NNM and PM 2 Sep, only reports. Sora: last seen NNM 7 Sep (DW). Com. Moorhen: one Bainbridge 1 Sep (DW, CC). Am. Coot: one PM 25 Oct; one WPR 14 Nov; two Otsego L 29 Nov, good count. Killdeer: max 21 on 6 Sep; last two TIOG 2 Nov, scarce. Greater Yellowlegs: up to 15 OnRes 16 Oct-4 Nov, feeding in ever shrinking pools; one BROO 18 Sep; one WPR 4 Nov, good numbers. Least Sandpiper: only one NNM 2 Sep. Pectoral Sandpiper: up to five OnRes 16-27 Oct, only reports. Dunlin: only one Cole P 17 Oct (FHNC staff). Am. Woodcock: max three Morris 26 Oct (JF). Ring-billed Gull: max 80 OPM 29 Oct. Herring Gull: max 30 OPM 30 Nov.

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

Horned Owl: 16 scattered reports. Barred Owl: three BROO, TIOG Oct and Nov (JS). Com. Nighthawk: last and only one BROO 6 Sep (SR), scarce. Chimney Swift: CHEN 7 Sep; BROO through 17 Sep, scarce. Red-bellied Woodpecker: arr OTSE 17 Oct; one each BROO, TIOG, scarce. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: OTSE, CHEN reports thru Sep. N. Flicker: last two TIOG 20 Oct, early departure. Pileated Woodpecker: good numbers continue.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: two WF 8 Sep (DW), first since 1984. E. Wood-Pewee: max and last five OPM 13 Sep. Alder Flycatcher: last of three OPM reports 6 Sep. E. Phoebe: last BROO and OPM 14 Oct. Great Crested Flycatcher: five OPM reports. E. Kingbird: only one OPM 7 Sep. Tree Swallow: only one OPM 7 Sep. Barn Swallow: last few NNM and OPM 7 Sep. Tufted Titmouse: still expanding territory. Carolina Wren: "notable increase" (HM). House Wren: only five reports early Sep, scarce. Winter Wren: 12 reported Oct and Nov, good numbers. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr BROO 4 Oct; widespread through Nov. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr OTSE 13 Sep; last 28 Oct. E. Bluebird: max 22 WF 13 Oct; last eight BROO 8 Nov. Veery: *intro*. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one banded Vestal 5 Oct, only report. Swainson's Thrush: only one banded 5 Oct. Hermit Thrush: max four OTSE 16 and 26 Oct; three banded Oct; last two BROO 2 Nov. Wood Thrush: *intro*. Gray Catbird: last of 33 fall bandings 19 Oct. N. Mockingbird: "holding their own, possibly increasing" (HM). Brown Thrasher: one TIOG through 10 Nov, late. Cedar Waxwing: max 50 Morris 26 Oct. N. Shrike: arr Norwich 27 Oct; one Morris 18 and 28 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLER: Solitary Vireo: max five OPM 14 Oct. Yellow-throated Vireo: three scattered singles. Warbling Vireo: last of four OPM reports 9 Sep. Philadelphia Vireo: only one banded Vestal 28 Sep. Red-eyed Vireo: max eight OPM 13 Sep. Tennessee Warbler: five OPM. Nashville Warbler: max 3 OPM 9 Sep, scarce. Yellow Warbler: one TIOG 29 Sep; one CHEN early Oct (SM), rather late. Chestnut-sided Warbler: five at two sites OTSE 2 Sep; departed early. Magnolia Warbler: low numbers. Black-throated Blue Warbler: only two OPM 14 Sep. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 48 JC 8 Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: max four OPM 12 Sep. Blackburnian Warbler: two singles only. Pine Warbler: *intro*. Prairie Warbler: arr TIOG 1 Sep; last CHEN 5 Sep. Palm Warbler: Eastern race arr TIOG 4 Oct, last two banded 11 and 13 Oct; Western race banded Vestal 12 Oct for second successive year, uncommon. Bay-breasted Warbler: only two OPM 12 Sep. Blackpoll Warbler: arr three OPM 12 Sep; last of four banding reports 29 Sep. Black-and-white Warbler: one OPM 3 Sep and two there 5 Sep, only ones, scant. Ovenbird: nine singles Vestal in Sep. N. Waterthrush: only one TIOG 2 Sep. Com. Yellowthroat: max eight OPM 12 Sep. Wilson's Warbler: only two singles OTSE, BROO 2 and 3 Sep.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: good numbers OTSE. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: scattered singles Sep; scarce. Indigo Bunting: one TIOG 9 Sep; two OPM 18 Sep, only reports. Rufous-sided Towhee: max six BROO 8 Oct. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr BROO late Oct (JS). Chipping Sparrow: max 25 OPM 12 Oct; last BROO 20 Oct. Field Sparrow: last BROO 28 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: three OPM reports thru 20 Sep, only reports. Fox Sparrow; last of eight reports one TIOG 17 Nov, good numbers.

Lincoln's Sparrow: one Morris 22 Sep; three banded Vestal, good numbers. Swamp Sparrow: last imm OPM 25 Oct, low numbers. White-throated Sparrow: max 24 JC 8 Oct; 44 banded Vestal Sep-Oct, encouraging. White-crowned Sparrow: arr three sites BROO, OTSE 13 Oct; scarce, shortest migration season of record. Bobolink: ten OPM 2 Sep, only report. Red-winged Blackbird: max 1,000 CHEN 10 Oct. E. Meadowlark: six BROO 2 Oct; one TIOG Oct, only reports. Rusty Blackbird: only one Owego 28 Sep (C&JB). Com. Grackle: max 72 BROO 30 Sep, early departure. Purple Finch: last of 16 reports 16 Nov. Pine Siskin: max 20 CVSP, 28 Nov feeding in White Cedar trees, scarce. Evening Grosbeak: arr TIOG Oct; max 20 Morris 19 Nov, scarce.

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.

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.

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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.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr Oswego Harbor 18 Nov, max three FH 29 Nov. Com. Loon: arr SPd 20 Sep, max 53 DH 16 Nov. Pied-billed Grebe: eight FH 23 Oct, 23 reports. Horned Grebe: arr Toad Harbor 1 Oct, max ten LOL 17 Nov. Red-necked Grebe: two Eatonbrook Res 9 Sep, singles DH 14 Oct, Woodman's Pd 12 Nov, FH 18 Nov. **Western Grebe**: one, trailing a small raft of Mallard and Am. Wigeon, DH 20 Oct (MSR; NYSARC). Double-crested Cormorant: max 606 OnonL, SVB 14 Sep. Am. Bittern: one SPd 2 Sep; only report. Great Blue Heron: max 55 Delta L 1 Sep. Great Egret: one E Syracuse 3 Nov. Cattle Egret: ten Pompey, four Mexico 26, 27 Oct (mob). Green-backed Heron: last Montezuma, Holland Patent 29 Sep. Tundra Swan: arr DH 2 Nov, max ten FH 23 Nov. Mute Swan: last Rome Marsh 10 Nov. Snow Goose: max 14 Lake Moraine MADI 5 Oct, last flock Booneville 20 Nov; one blue morph Oriskany Falls 14 Oct. Brant: arr LOL 13 Oct, max 2270 DH 20 Oct, last Oswego H 23 Nov. Canada Goose: Adk arr 29 Sep; *intro*. Wood Duck: max 53 Peter Scott Swamp 13 Oct; *intro*. Green-winged Teal: max 39 Hookway Tract Syracuse 10 Nov. Am. Black Duck: max 112 DH 6 Oct. N. Pintail: max 16 LOL 20 Oct. Blue-

winged Teal: max 30 Delta L 16 Sep, last there 24 Sep. N. Shoveler: six FH 23 Oct to 5 Nov, last there 23 Nov. Gadwall: max 88 FH 3 Nov. Am. Wigeon: max 340 FH 3 Nov. Canvasback: arr DH 16 Oct, eight FH 29 Nov. Redhead: three FH 3 Nov, last there 29 Nov. Ring-necked Duck: arr SPd 2 Sep, max 125 L Moraine, Woodman's Pd 16 Nov. Greater Scaup: arr SPd 5 Oct, max 500 LOL 3 Nov. Lesser Scaup: arr SPd 20 Oct, max 11 Woodman's Pd 4 Nov. Oldsquaw: arr SPd 20 Oct, max 450 DH 16 Nov. Black Scoter: arr SPd 10 Oct, max 22 DH 7 Nov. Surf Scoter: arr SPd 13 Oct, max 41 DH 20 Oct, last SSSP 10 Nov. White-winged Scoter: arr DH 13 Oct, max 45 there on same date. Com. Goldeneye: arr DH 20 Oct, max 400 FH 29 Nov. Barrow's Goldeneye: one DH 17 Nov (DWC, JT). Bufflehead: arr Beaver L 19 Oct, max 80 FH 29 Nov. Hooded Merganser: max 76 SSSP 9 Nov; two Bald Mt Pd Adks 24-30 Nov, late. Com. Merganser: max 320 DH 16 Oct. Red-breasted Merganser: arr SPd 17 SPd, max 3000 DH 30 Nov. Ruddy Duck: arr Beaver L 19 Oct, max 12 there 24 Oct, last FH 17 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: max 31 Radisson 9 Oct, last Holland Patent 26 Oct. Bald Eagle: singles Delta L 1 Sep, OnonL 14 Sep, Hastings 21 Sep, DH 27 Nov. N. Harrier: four near FH 16 Nov; 37 reports. N. Goshawk: five reports. Red-shouldered Hawk: last DH, Sangerfield ONEI 14 Oct. Broad-winged Hawk: max 43 SSSP 11 Sep; last Clay Marsh 16 Oct, late Regional record (D Nash). Rough-legged Hawk: arr near Mexico 13 Oct. Am. Kestrel: max 21 SPd 5 Oct. Merlin: nine reports, 2 Sep to 19 Oct. Peregrine Falcon: three SPd 5 Oct; singles SPd 6 Oct, SSSP 12 Oct, DH 16 Oct. Ring-necked Pheasant: 15 reports. Wild Turkey: max 20 Holland Patent, one Limekiln Campsite Adks 12 Nov. **Yellow Rail**: one found dead Nine Mile Pt OSWE 9 Oct (MAK, NYSARC; see Notes and Observations). Virginia Rail: last Clay M 2 Oct. Com. Moorhen: last SPd 14 Sep. Am. Coot: max 156 FH 17 Nov. Black-bellied Plover: ten Delta L 8 Sep. Lesser Golden-Plover: three Paris uplands ONEI 7 Sep, last there 6 Oct. Semipalmated Plover: max 20 Delta L 1 Sep. Killdeer: max 64 Paris uplands 6 Oct. Greater Yellowlegs: eight Delta L 6 Sep. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 15 Baldwinsville 3 Sep. Solitary Sandpiper: seven Erie Canal, Camillus 14 Sep, last Biddlecum 5 Oct. **Marbled Godwit**: one Delta L to 2 Sep. Ruddy Turnstone: one SVB 2 Sep. Red Knot: imm FH 17-23 Nov, record late. Sanderling: max 48 SPd 22 Sep. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 100 Delta L 1 Sep. W. Sandpiper: two SVB 4 Sep, three FH 15 Nov. Least Sandpiper: max 100 Delta L 1 Sep. White-rumped Sandpiper: last FH 19 Oct. Baird's Sandpiper: last FH 13 Sep. Pectoral Sandpiper: max 20 Delta L 1 Sep. Purple Sandpiper: one FH 14-16 Nov. Dunlin: max 45 FH 20 Oct, last six there 23 Nov. Stilt Sandpiper: last SPd 7 Sep, only report. Com. Snipe: max 36 SSSP 31 Oct, last Holland Patent 19 Nov. Am. Woodcock: last Herkimer 24 Nov. Red-necked Phalarope: one SVB 24 Sep. Red Phalarope: two SVB 28-29 Sep, one SPd 20 Oct. Parasitic Jaeger: arr DH 6 Oct, last two FH 3 Nov; four reports, very poor flight. Franklin's Gull: one SVB 8-21 Sep. Little Gull: one-two ad SPd 1-23 Sep, juv SPd 12 Sep, ad SVB 7-23 Sep. Bonaparte's Gull: max 320 SVB 7 Sep. Great Black-backed Gull: max 120 LOL 3 Nov. Black-legged Kittiwake: seven DH 2 Nov, singles DH 7 Nov, Oswego H 17 Nov. Caspian Tern: max 40 LOL, Baldwinsville 2 Sep.

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

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: max 98 Cicero Center, Oneida L 2 Sep. Black-billed Cuckoo: last Erieville 13 Sep. E. Screech-Owl: five reports. Snowy Owl: arr LOL 3 Nov; ten reports. Short-eared Owl: singles DH 13 Oct, Gramby 11 Nov. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one Baltimore Woods 26, 27 Oct, very late. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Erieville 12 Sep-4 Oct, imm Hastings 12 Oct. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: three NPT 24 Sep, 11 Oct, last SPd 13 Oct. N. Flicker: max 28 SPd 20 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: last T Verona 2 Sep. E. Wood-Pewee: max 15 SPd 2 Sep. Alder Flycatcher: last NPT 1 Sep. E. Phoebe: nine SPd 20 Sep. Horned Lark: max 43 Paris uplands 6 Oct. Purple Martin: last SPd 14 Sep. Tree Swallow: max 400 SPd 2 Sep. Bank Swallow: max 30 SPd 2 Sep, last there 14 Sep. Cliff Swallow: last two SPd 14 Sep. Barn Swallow: max 30 SPd 1 Sep. Blue Jay: max 366 Hastings 21 Sep. Com. Raven: two near Holland Patent in Nov. Tufted Titmouse: six Whiskey Hollow ONON 21 Sep. Carolina Wren: 15 reports. Marsh Wren: last Clay Marsh 16 Oct. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr SPd 20 Sep, max 70 SPd 20 Oct. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Pratt's Falls ONON 13 Sep, last DH 7 Nov; *intro.* E. Bluebird: max 32 Toad H, W Monroe 25 Oct. Gray-cheeked Thrush: last SPd 20 Sep. Swainson's Thrush: nine reports, very scarce. Hermit Thrush: arr Clay 6 Oct, last Toad H 25 Oct. Wood Thrush: max six Clay Marsh 12 Sep. Gray Catbird: max 13 Clay Marsh 18 Sep. Brown Thrasher: six reports. Am. Pipit: arr SPd 14 Sep, max 20 Delta L 4 Oct, last Clay Marsh 30 Oct. Bohemian Waxwing: singles SSSP 20 Oct, W Winfield 30 Nov. Cedar Waxwing: max 128 SSSP 12 Oct. N. Shrike: arr Hastings 5 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: arr SPd 14 Sep. Warbling Vireo: max three SPd 1, 2 Sep. Philadelphia Vireo: last Delta L 17 Sep, two reports only. Red-eyed Vireo: max 15 Delta L 1 Sep. Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: "Brewster's" Delta L 1 Sep (FM). Tennessee Warbler: three reports. Orange-crowned Warbler: singles SPd 28 Sep, NPT 4 Nov. Nashville Warbler: max two SPd 2, 20 Sep. N. Parula: max four SPd 20 Sep, eight reports. Chestnut-sided Warbler: max two SPd 20 Sep. Magnolia Warbler: max six NPT, Rome 9 Sep, 17 Oct. Cape May Warbler: singles SPd 1, 20 Sep, Erieville 13 Sep. Black-throated Blue Warbler: max three SPd 20 Sep. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 99 Fulton, LOL 6 Oct, last Nine Mile Pt 10 Nov. Black-throated Green Warbler: max 20 Erieville 12 Sep. Blackburnian Warbler: max six Erieville 12 Sep. Pine Warbler: last SSSP 2 Sep. Prairie Warbler: one Erieville 14 Sep, only report. Palm Warbler: arr Erieville 12 Sep, max nine LOL 6 Oct, last Toad H 14 Oct. Bay-breasted Warbler: max five SPd 14 Sep. Blackpoll Warbler: max three NPT 20 Sep. Cerulean Warbler: one Pratt's Falls 13 Sep, only report. Black-and-white Warbler: max three SSSP 2 Sep. Am. Redstart: max three Delta L, NPT 1 Sep. Ovenbird: max four Brookfield 7 Sep. N. Waterthrush: two reports. Mourning Warbler: max two Erieville 7 Sep, last there 17 Sep. Com. Yellowthroat: max 50 Erieville 12 Sep, last Syracuse 28 Nov. Hooded Warbler: last Noyes Sanctuary 28 Sep. Wilson's Warbler: max three SPd 20 Sep, seven reports. Canada Warbler: last two Pratt's Falls 9 Sep.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: last five Erieville 12 Sep. Rufous-sided Towhee: max 11 NPT 20 Sep. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Erieville 8 Oct, max 36 Clay M 13 Nov. Chipping Sparrow: max 30 DH, Toad H 14 Oct, last Erieville 25 Nov. Field Sparrow: max 10 SVB 11 Sep, last Herkimer 24 Nov. Vesper Sparrow: max and last seven Toad H 14 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: max 20 Erieville 12 Sep, last there 20 Sep. **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**: one found dead Nine Mile Pt 9 Oct (MAK, NYSARC; see Notes and Observations). Fox Sparrow: arr Hastings 13 Oct, last Erieville 26 Nov. Song Sparrow: max 43 DH, Toad H 14 Oct. Lincoln's Sparrow: one's Hastings 8 Oct, NPT 11 Oct, DH 13 Oct, Toad H 14 Oct. Swamp Sparrow: max 29 Peter Scott Swamp 13 Oct, last Toad H 25 Oct. White-throated Sparrow: max 300 LOL 13 Oct. White-crowned Sparrow: max 300 LOL 13 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: arr SPd 28 Sep max 195 DH, Toad H 14 Oct; one "Oregon" Cazenovia 24 Nov (RK). Lapland Longspur: arr SPd 22 Sep. Snow Bunting: arr SPd 20 Oct, max 400 FH 3 Nov. E. Meadowlark: last Holland Patent 22 Oct. Rusty Blackbird: arr Clay M 2 Oct, max 500 there 23 Oct, last there 6 Nov. Com. Grackle: max 330 NPT 30 Oct, last Holland Patent 12 Nov. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 800 SVB 5 Oct. Purple Finch: four Clark Reservation 17 Oct. White-winged Crossbill: singles Moose R Plains Adks 16 Oct, two NPT 21 Oct, one Liverpool 27 Oct. Com. Redpoll: arr FH 17 Nov, max 200+ there on same date, with 100's migrating along LOL that day, almost none thereafter. Pine Siskin: arr NPT 25 Sep, max 40 DH 5 Oct. Am. Goldfinch max 100 Erieville 12 Sep. Evening Grosbeak: arr Delta L 7 Sep, max 18 Erieville 27 Nov.

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.

Contributors: Larry Ambeau, Marilyn Badger, Richard Brouse, Lee Chamberlaine, Kenneth Crowell, Bruce DiLabio, M. McGarry, Paul Kelly, Debbie & Steve Litwhiler, Peter O'Shea, Gerald Smith, June & Bob Walker, Mary & Brian Wood.

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.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: 1-3 per day MSD 1-7 Nov. Com. Loon: arr MSD 4 Oct, max 14 MSD 7 Nov, most reports one-four/day Oct-Nov. Horned Grebe: arr MSD 4 Oct, max 32 Pt Salubrious-PtPen 4 Nov. Red-necked Grebe: one-four/day MSD 4 Oct-7 Nov. **N. Gannet:** *intro*. Double-crested Cormorant: continued increase, max 600 EDB 3 Sep, 100-200 per day several locations Sep, declining to last Three Mile Pt T Lyme 7 Nov (JRW). Great Blue Heron: max seven MSD 22 Sep, 1-2 per day through period. Great Egret: one Rushville StLA 18 Sep (KC). Am. Bittern: one Grasse R Massena 14 Oct (MB), only report. Tundra Swan: influx nw JEFF 3-5 Nov, five-ten/day through period, max 23 PtPen 9 Nov (LBC). Mute Swan: PRWMA population has grown to 20 (RB), should be eliminated soon by NYSDEC before they spread to become a serious pest. Brant: scarce, two reports;150 MSD 4 Oct and 200 plus Henderson (LA). Canada Goose: max 2000/day many sites Oct-Nov. Wood Duck: scarce, scattered, mostly one-two/day, max six w Massena 4 Sep. Green-winged Teal: two-three/day only at EDB 6 Oct to 12 Nov, very scarce! Am. Black Duck: most reports two-six/day, max 60 PtPen 17 Nov. Mallard: mostly 10-50/day, max 130 PtPen 17 Nov. N. Pintail: two MSD 7 Nov, only report! Blue-winged Teal: max and last 60 EDB 22 Sep, very scarce compared to a decade ago. Gadwall: one-three/day, scattered sites SLR and L Ontario, max 30 EDB 10 Nov. Am. Wigeon: max 21 WHWMA 1 Nov (PK), scarce w of e SLR. Canvasback: three WHWMA 23 Oct, pair PRWMA 23 Nov, only reports. Redhead: max 293 WDC 3 Nov and 500 WDC 7 Nov, unreported w WHWMA. Ring-necked Duck: arr five EDB 30 Sep; max 350 WDC 7 Nov, exceeds all other counts by an order of magnitude. Greater Scaup: 2,000-10,000/day SLR e village of Cape Vincent 10 Oct-2 Nov (M&BW), 2000/day Henderson Bay 10-17 Nov. Lesser Scaup: arr 74 MSD 11 Oct, max 85 WDC 7 Nov, reports of thousands dubious. Oldsquaw: arr late Oct, most reports 15-50 per day L Ontario, max 1000 EDB 30 Nov. Surf Scoter: scarce; four MSD 11 Oct, unusual site. Com. Goldeneye: arr widespread first week of Nov, max 250 Wescott Beach SP 17 Nov. Bufflehead: arr three PtPen 4 Nov, max 47 PRWMA 10 Nov. Hooded Merganser: 8-10 per day w Massena all period, max 30 there 4 Nov, scarce elsewhere. Com. Merganser: max 2500-3500/day MSD 7-24 Nov (BDL). Red-breasted Merganser: very scarce, one-four/day only.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: mostly one-three/day, max 16 LWMA 28 Oct; ten T Lorraine 7 Oct (DSL). Osprey: none reported! Bald Eagle: four singles SLR and L Ontario 30 Sep-3 Nov. N. Harrier: one-three/day scattered entire period; max 12 Lakeview 28 Oct. Sharp-shinned Hawk: nine singles 2 Sep to 12 Nov, scarce and declining, a species to be watched. Cooper's Hawk: total five 20 Sep to 4 Nov. N. Goshawk: *intro*. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Harrisville LEWI 14 Sep (BMW), one

MSD 12 Oct (BDL), only reports. Broad-winged Hawk: one Star L StLA 14 Sep, only report! Red-tailed Hawk: max 62 Lakeview 28 Oct. Rough-legged Hawk: arr w Massena 6 Oct, one-three/day widespread thereafter, max 13 Lakeview 28 Oct. Golden Eagle: *intro*. Am. Kestrel: one-three/day widespread all period. Merlin: imm EDB 2 Sep, two Henderson 12 Sep, only reports. Gray Partridge: max 12 CV 12 Sep (MBW). Am. Coot: max 17 Henderson Bay 10 Nov. Black-bellied Plover: one/four day EDB, max 14 EDB 17 Oct. Lesser Golden-Plover: one EDB 27 Sep (RJW); two juv EDB 10-12 Nov, late. Semipalmated Plover: 1-2 per day EDB to 9 Oct. Killdeer: 12-20 per day EDB to 12 Nov; max 27 EDB 13 Oct. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 10 EDB 2 Sep. Upland Sandpiper: one Sand Bay CV 9 Sep (MBW). Sanderling: most 10-20/day EDB through Oct. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 23 EDB 2 Sep; three EDB 10 Nov, late. Least Sandpiper: none reported. White-rumped Sandpiper: four EDB 10-12 Nov. Baird's Sandpiper: one EDB 20 Oct, very late. Pectoral Sandpiper: 3 EDB 9-12 Nov. Dunlin: arr two EDB 9 Oct, max 105 EDB 19 Oct, last two EDB 26 Nov. Com. Snipe: max 12 WB 13 Oct, last one MBay 3 Nov. Am. Woodcock: one-two/day w Massena until 24 Oct. Red Phalarope: one EDB 19 Nov. Parasitic Jaeger: one EDB 6 Oct (GS). Little Gull: one-three/day MSD to 7 Nov, max six on 25 Sep. Bonaparte's Gull: 300-500/day MSD to 7 Nov, max 750 on 11 Sep; most reports away from MSD two-ten per day 2 Sep-18 Nov. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: ad MSD 3 Nov. Great Black-backed Gull: max 410 MSD 3 Nov, 5-20/day away from MSD. Caspian Tern: one-two/day to last EDB 17 Sep, early. Com. Tern: 40-75/day MSD in Sep, few elsewhere.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: max 65-75/day Sep-Oct several sites. Black-billed Cuckoo: one CV 13 Sep (MBW). E. Screech-Owl: one CV after 9 Sep, two Henderson 26 Oct. Great Horned Owl: max four T Louisville 29 Sep. Snowy Owl: arr MSD 1 Nov, *intro*. Com. Nighthawk: last two T Brownville and T Lyme 2 Sep. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: singles only. Belted Kingfisher: singles all period. Red-bellied Woodpecker: increasing slightly, three reports Henderson and CV Oct-Nov. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one-two/day, scattered, last w Massena 8 Oct. Pileated Woodpecker: one Watertown (RB), unusual site.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Phoebe: one-two/day. Horned Lark: mostly 5-20/day scattered, max 40 PtPen 17 Nov. Tree Swallow: max 500 MSD 25 Sep. Bank Swallow: last MSD 25 Sep, late. Cliff Swallow: last MSD 25 Sep (BDL), very Late. Com. Raven: one moving s Lakeview 28 Oct (LBC), definitely increasing in Region, five reports of 8 birds include two-three/day T Lorraine 13-19 Oct (DSL). Black-capped Chickadee: to 20+/day. Boreal Chickadee: one near Ogdensburg 28 Oct (PK), rare outside Adirondacks. Tufted Titmouse: one Watertown 20-22 Oct and one Brownville 14-15 Oct, slight fall incursion? Red-breasted Nuthatch: one CV Sep-Oct only report. White-breasted Nuthatch: max six CV 24 Sep. Carolina Wren: one CV 7 Sep and 10-27 Oct, two Watertown 7-12 Oct. Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 36 CV 24 Sep. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: only one-four/day to last CV 12 Oct. E. Bluebird: one-six/day, max 12 Harrisville LEWI 14 Sep. Gray-cheeked Thrush: two w Massena 8 Oct (MB), only report. Swainson's Thrush: max and last four w Massena 15 Oct. Hermit Thrush: one-two/day during the first half of October. Am. Robin: flocks to

25 still present in mid Nov. N. Mockingbird: one CV 9 Nov. Am. Pipit: arr five CV 12 Sep, max 30 EDB 9 Nov, last EDB 12 Nov. Bohemian Waxwing: three MSD 24 Nov (BDL). Cedar Waxwing: scarce except near MSD where flocks in Nov, max 275 on 3 Nov. N. Shrike: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: singles only. Red-eyed Vireo: max five CV 22 Sep. Yellow-rumped Warbler: five-ten/day 30 Sep-27 Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: max five CV 24 Sep. Palm Warbler: two-three/day scattered 8 Sep-9 Oct.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: arr T Lorraine 7 Oct, mostly 5-12/day after 20 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: two reports. Song Sparrow: max 24 MSD 25 Sep. Swamp Sparrow: max six WB 13 Oct. White-throated Sparrow: arr away from breeding areas CV 10 Oct, max only ten/day, very scarce. White-crowned Sparrow: arr three MSD 25 Sep, max six/day scarce, last during last week of Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: 25-50/ day everywhere late Sep-early Nov, max 175 MSD 11 Oct. Snow Bunting: 20-60/day many locations Oct/Nov. Red-winged Blackbird: max 150,000 LWMA roost mid Sep. Rusty Blackbird: 5-30 per day scattered Oct. Purple Finch: one-four/day scattered 24 Sep-26 Nov. House Finch: continued expansion with first ever in T Lorraine in the wooded Tug Hill Plateau 7 Oct (DSL), max 234 Ogdensburg 22 Nov (PK). Com. Redpoll: 28 MSD 1 Nov, 85 there 3 Nov (BDL). Pine Siskin: arr w Masseno 16 Oct, max 12-15 there 16 Oct-16 Nov, primarily scattered singles. Evening Grosbeak: poor flight, to ten/ day scattered after 10 Oct.

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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 CLIN, 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 “scraggly 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.

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

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr Westport 12-29 Nov. Com. Loon: ad, two yg Coll I, ESSE (RK), extremely rare breeder on L Champlain. Pied-billed Grebe: Upper Chateaugay L 18 Sep, Bradley Pd 14 Oct; rarely reported. Horned Grebe: arr two Whallon's Bay 10 Nov. Red-necked Grebe: arr Corlear Bay 27 Sep; others at Coll Bay and North West Bay 5 Nov. Double-crested Cormorant: max 150 FBI 7 Sep; others Westport, Ticonderoga, Tupper L. **Cattle Egret**: two feeding among Holsteins outside Whallonsburg 24 Oct (KM!, Mike Peterson), very late. Snow Goose: arr 200 Whallon's Bay 12 Oct. Brant: one MRRA 4 Nov (GL), unexpected. Canada Goose: *intro*; albino with pink eyes, bill, feet in flock of 100 Miner Center, CLIN, late Oct-early Nov (NG). Blue-winged Teal: FBI 7 Sep, only report. Gadwall: FBI 7 Sep, last two Mt View L 19 Sep (MT). Am. Wigeon: hen Malone Rec Pk 27 Sep, only report. Ring-necked Duck: max 65 Moody Pd, EESE, 5 Nov (RH), more than usual and especially on this tiny village pond. White-winged Scoter: arr Plattsburgh 27 Oct. Bufflehead; arr 35 L Colby 4 Nov. Ruddy Duck: drake Plattsburgh 14 Nov (C&JH), rarely reported here.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: *intro.*, imm CPP 7-8 Sep (GF), three imm Tupper L 3 Oct, ad there 6 Nov (CD), ad Franklin Falls 7 Nov (RH), mouth Boquet R 30 Nov (RB, KB). Rough-legged Hawk: arr CLIN 29 Sep, early. **Golden Eagle**: *intro*. Merlin: Saranac L 3 Oct, Ausable Pt 23 Nov, infrequently reported. Ring-necked Pheasant: *intro*. Com. Moorhen: Plattsburgh 2-7 Oct, uncommon here. Am Coot: one-three Ausable Pt 23-25 Nov, unusual location. Lesser Golden-Plover: max five Plattsburgh 8 Sep. Killdeer: 23 Westport 1 Sep, max 68 Plattsburgh 26 Sep (WK), good numbers.

Yellowlegs (sp.): max 25 Mt View L 22 Nov, excellent numbers and late, whichever species they were. Solitary Sandpiper: Plattsburgh to 10 Sep. Ruddy Turnstone: turning stones at the mouth of the Saranac R 10-18 Sep. Red Knot: two Plattsburgh to 2 Sep. W. Sandpiper: one Plattsburgh 2 Oct. White-rumped Sandpiper: five Plattsburgh 3 Sep. Baird's Sandpiper: one Westport 1-5 Sep. **Purple Sandpiper**: one Plattsburgh 14 Sep (HK, WK, CM, !). Dunlin: Plattsburgh 30 Sep- 2 Oct, uncommon here. Am Woodcock: fresh roadkill Hoffmeister, HAMI, 3 Nov (RM), late; Sagamore, HAMI, 17 Nov (GL), extremely late. **Little Gull**: ad Westport 10 Nov (TM, the Petersons, !); another ad between Ausable Pt and Valcour I 25 Nov (WK!). Bonaparte's Gull: max 150 Westport 12 Nov, 30 still there 29 Nov.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Elizabethtown 20 Sep (J&SP). Snowy Owl: arr Ausable Pt 19 Nov; another near Plattsburgh shortly thereafter. N. Saw-whet Owl: banded Elizabethtown 22 Sep (J&SP). Three-toed Woodpecker: Shallow L 8 Sep; also s Sagamore. Black-backed Woodpecker: Bloomingdale Bog 7 Nov; also s Sagamore. Pileated Woodpecker: ad male and imm male at Saranac L village suet feeder 3 Sep-14 Nov (RH).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Horned Lark: CRF 22 Nov (GL), an unusual location. Gray Jay: CRF lean-to and Eighth L 22 Oct, MRRA 26 and 31 Oct. Boreal Chickadee: Bear Pd, HAMI; MRRA; North Meadow, ESSE; and s Sagamore, fairly typical. Tufted Titmouse: Essex, Paradox, and Saranac L, only reports. Winter Wren: CRF early Nov, late. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one (wing chord 97 mm, subspecies?) banded Elizabethtown 26 Sep (JP); one *minimus* (wing 103 mm) banded Keene Valley 11 Sep (WL) and another (wing 108 mm) banded Elizabethtown 1 Oct (JP). N. Mockingbird: Chateaugay after 27 Oct (MH), only report. Bohemian Waxwing: *intro*. Cedar Waxwing: max 50 CRF early Sep. N. Shrike: arr Essex 24 Oct, Moose River Recreational Area HAMI 26 Oct early; several others reported.

VIREOS-WARBLEERS: Philadelphia Vireo: Peru 5 Sep (C&JH), Tupper L 25 Sep (CD), rarely reported in fall. Pine Warbler: Iast Tupper L 15 Sep. Palm Warbler: "Western" banded Elizabethtown 4 Oct, seen there 6 Oct; "Yellow" two banded Elizabethtown 15-19 Oct (JP), seen New Russia 16 Oct (SI). Mourning Warbler: hatching year banded CRF 15 Sep (RM). Wilson's Warbler: arr Tupper L 1 Sep (CD).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: arr three Essex 23 Oct (KM, JP). Field Sparrow: MRRA to 16 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: transients Saranac Lake 7 Oct (RH), New Russia 16 Oct (SI). Lincoln's Sparrow: banded CRF 13 Sep; Jiffy the cat added one to her lifeless list Owls Head 20 Sep (*vide* JT). White-crowned Sparrow: arr New Russia 16 Oct (SI). Snow Bunting: arr seven Paul Smiths 6 Nov, at Jay feeder in Nov; others Crown Pt peninsula, CRF, and Fourth L. E. Meadowlark: MRRA 23 Nov (GL), late. Rusty Blackbird: Raquette L 19 Sep; max 100 migrants Elizabethtown 30 Sep (JP), other migrants Elizabethtown 17 Oct, Essex 24-26 Oct, and last Ausable Marsh 29 Oct. Com. Grackle: max 80 Vermontville 7 Nov; singles Inlet and Lake Clear feeder 21 Nov, late. Pine Grosbeak: arr two Ord Falls, Hudson R, ESSE, 26 Oct (TM). Purple Finch: max 12 CRF Sep; Chateaugay 14 Oct, MRRA 26 Oct, and Elizabethtown feeder 21 Nov, only other reports. House Finch: Chateaugay and L Colby, only reports. Red

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.

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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**.

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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.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: singles SaraL 13 Oct (SZ), Alcove Res ALBA 30 Oct (DM). Pied-billed Grebe: six reports encouraging; max 20 BCRes 21 Oct (KPA); two ad, one juv Nassau L 23 Oct. (PFC). **Great Cormorant**: imm Embough Bay GREE 6 Oct (RPG), third Regional record. Double-crested Cormorant: singles SaraL (BP) and Niskayuna (RPY) 24 Nov, late. Great Blue Heron: max 45 along Mohawk R 8 Oct (RPG). Great Egret: max 12 Vischer Ferry 1 Sep (BP), last five along Mohawk R 8 Oct (RPG). Black-crowned Night-Heron: only report Vischer Ferry 4 Sep (PF). Snow Goose: numbers down relative to recent years; max 100+ TRes 8 Nov (PFC). **Greater White-fronted Goose**: one Harrington Pd RENS 13 Oct (GR). Am. Wigeon: 50 Stanton Pd ALBA 21 Oct (KPA), large number. **Eurasian Wigeon**: one m Stanton Pd 21 Oct

(KPA). **Tufted Duck**: male SaraL 9 Nov through period (RP, GH, SZ, mob), second Regional record. **Black Scoter**: 78 TRes 8 Nov (PFC), large number. **Barrow's Goldeneye**: male SaraL 17 Nov (DAB). **Hooded Merganser**: 50 Loughberry L SARA, 65 TRes 8 Nov, large numbers. **Ruddy Duck**: 20 BCRes 21 Oct (KPA), large number.

HAWK-ALCIDS: **Bald Eagle**: continues in good numbers, 12 reports. **N. Goshawk**: slight increase with nine reports including two migrants passing Petersburg Gap RENS 21 Sep (JS). **Red-shouldered Hawk**: two still at breeding locale Cherry Plain 26 Oct (PFC). **Broad-winged Hawk**: max 120 Pinnacle 11 Sep (PFC). **Rough-legged Hawk**: arr SARA 8 Nov (BP). **Golden Eagle**: two singles reported without details, TRes 10 Nov (FM, *fide* BB), Black Dome Mt GREE 16 Nov (PR). **Wild Turkey**: continues to increase. **Am. Coot**: 15 BCRes 21 Oct (KPA), large number. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: three Greenport COLU 16 Nov (BC), very late. **Hudsonian Godwit**: one SaraL 14,15 Nov (GH, SZ, mob). **Am. Woodcock**: two Cambridge 6 Nov (JS), late. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: near ad Colonie 14 Nov (KPA).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **Snowy Owl**: arr W Lebanon 16 Oct (*fide* RLF); 11 birds reported; *intro*. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: one Schodack Center 10 Oct (PFC), only report. **N. Hawk Owl**: one Fort Edward 16 Nov through period (GH, mob). **Whip-poor-will**: female found dead Albany 14 Oct (RPG), late. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one RENS 1-2 Oct (JJC), only report. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: continues slow expansion, one Fort Edward 24 Nov (BP). **Downy Woodpecker**: very low Jenny L (RPY).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: one Vischer Ferry 29 Sep (DAB), late. **Blue Jay**: scarce Jenny L (RPY). **Com. Raven**: many reports including 22 Thirteenth L WARR 7 Sep (KPA), 18 Stephentown Center. 4 Oct (PFC), 15 Hague Landfill 23 Nov (LM). **Black-capped Chickadee**: not a flight year Jenny L (RPY). **White-breasted Nuthatch**: disappearing Jenny L, declining Schenectady (RPY). **Carolina Wren**: *intro*. **E. Bluebird**: good numbers. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: three reports, first in several years. **Wood Thrush**: one found dead Colonie 17 Oct (RPG), late. **Gray Catbird**: one Gallupville through 25 Nov (BB, KB). **Bohemian Waxwing**: one Plotterkill Preserve 17 Nov (MW). **N. Shrike**: arr Gallupville 3 Nov (BB,KB), nine reports.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: **Orange-crowned Warbler**: one Goeffroy's Pd COLU 14 Sep (BC), rarely reported. **Yellow-breasted Chat**: one Chatham 28 Sep (PI), rare in fall.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **White-throated Sparrow**: another disappointing migration (RPY). **Dark-eyed Junco**: breeding population Jenny L continues low since 1985 collapse (RPY); good numbers in migration. **Rusty Blackbird**: very large numbers, max 10,000 Hague 31 Oct-4 Nov (DM, LM). **Pine Grosbeak**: two Mill Creek Preserve COLU 30 Nov (KD, EG), only report. **House Finch**: numbers down Cambridge (JS). **Com. Redpoll**: one report. **Pine Siskin**: arr FiveR 3 Oct (AM), very small numbers. **Evening Grosbeak**: arr Old Chatham 28 Sep; continues to be scarce, max 12 Clifton P.

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REGION 9 — HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

JOHN P. ASKILDSEN

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 passerines 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.

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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.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: arr MC 1 Oct, five Ashokan Res 2 Nov(SS), five reports Hudson R between CPt and CB in Nov. Red-throated Loon: arr CB 2 Oct, one CPt 19 Nov (JS), eight MPt 28 Nov (TWP). Pied-billed Grebe: five BASH 9 Sep, five Amawalk Res 11 Nov, eight RLSP 26 Oct (FB), many reports, remained common through period. Horned Grebe: one found dead PP 21 Sep, five Kensico Res 11 Nov. Red-necked Grebe: one NPSP 14 Nov (MVW, EP, OW), one MPt 28 Nov (TWB). **N. Gannet:** *intro*. Great Cormorant: four PP 9 Oct. Double-crested Cormorant: 50 SKEC 9 Oct, 15+ Dennings Pt 15 Sep, 30 Piermont Pier 26 Oct. Am. Bittern: one Walkkill, no date, one MC 21 Sep-27 Oct (LB, TWB). Great Blue Heron: 33 reported from DUTC in Sep and 26 from BSHW this fall. Great Egret: 14 BASH 29 Aug, two CIMS through mid Nov (JR). Snowy Egret: two PP 10 Nov. Cattle Egret: one Crugers 2 Sep, one Upper Kay's Pd 7 Sep (AJ), one MC 2 Sep, one PP 20 Sep (TWB). Green-backed Heron: two Fishkill-Beacon 12 Oct. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: one MC 14 Aug. **Wood Stork:** *intro*. Tundra Swan: one Kensico Res WEST 14 Nov (DQ). Mute Swan: 150 Dennings Pt 15 Sep, 140 WEST res 11 Nov. Snow Goose: one blue morph 24 Oct-30 Nov, 60 SKEC 9 Oct, 35 Vassar Farm 19 Oct, 461 BSHW through fall. Brant: six PP 23 Oct, 90 MPt 7 Nov increased to 140 by 23 Nov (TWB). Canada Goose: 768 BSHW 12 Oct, 854 BSHW 13 Oct and season total there 6064. Wood Duck: 100s BASH 1 Sep, 511 CIMS 6 Oct (JR), two PP 24 Oct (TB). Green-winged Teal: 28 Bill Georges Farm 14 Nov, 72 MC 4 Oct, 200 CIMS during Oct (JR). **N. Pintail:** small numbers scattered DUTC, PUTN and WEST Oct and Nov. Blue-winged Teal: 50 BASH 1 Sep, down to 30 by 9 Sep, five MC 18 Nov, three Cross River Outlet after 11 Nov (JPA, DQ). **N. Shoveler:** uncommon, three RLSP 26 Oct, two MC 31 Oct. Gadwall: four Wappingers L 5 Sep, 155 RLSP 26 Oct (CH)! Eurasian Wigeon: drake Tarrytown L Res 16 Nov (DP) and later presumably the same bird just across Hudson R at Rockland L 20-30 Nov (JH); drake 6 1/2 Station Sanctuary ORAN 28 Nov (HS). **Am. Wigeon:** two Kensico 2 Oct; eight L Oneid 7 Nov; 28 WEST res 11 Nov, 75 on 30 Nov (FB). Canvasback: scarce, four PP 2 Nov, 30 by 28 Nov (TWB). Redhead: male Kensico Res 2-4 Oct (DQ), rare fall migrant. Ring-necked Duck: four Travers L 28 Oct, 41 Kensico 11 Nov, 230 Abels Pd 6 Nov, 10 RLSP 30 Nov, scarce. Greater Scaup: one

MC 22 Sep, one Kays L 7 Nov, one Kensico 11 Nov, numbers extremely low. Lesser Scaup: 18 PP 18 Oct, two Abels Pd 23 Oct, one Kays Pd 30 Oct. Oldsquaw: one PP 2 Nov, 20 NPSP 14 Nov (OTW, MVW, EP). Black Scoter: one PP 15 Oct, three MPt 2 Nov(TWB). Surf Scoter: one PP 15 Oct. White-winged Scoter: three PP, 18 CB 20 Oct (ET). Com. Goldeneye: scarce. Bufflehead: one PP 15 Oct, 15 Kensico Res 11 Nov, scarce. Hooded Merganser: 40 L Carmel 15 Nov, 15 WEST res 11 Nov, good totals. Com. Merganser: max 2000 West Branch Res 26 Nov (JS). Red-breasted Merganser: two PP 23 Oct. Ruddy Duck: arr MC 8 Oct, 200 L Carmel 15 Nov increased to 410 by 26 Nov (JS), 100 CPt 19 Nov, 56 Piermont Pier 26 Oct, very good numbers.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Season Hawkwatch totals and maxima:

Species	BSHW		HMHW		MPHW	
	max/date	total	max/date	total	max/date	total
Black Vulture						2
Turkey Vulture	78/20 Oct	867	15/ 8 Oct	76	18/13 Oct	41
Osprey	37/18 Sep	414	38/ 2 Oct	367	11/ 8 Oct	132
Bald Eagle	twos	22	singles	13	singles	8
Northern Harrier	10/18 Oct	77	7/19 Oct	71	7/12 Oct	34
Sharp-shinned Hawk	111/29 Sep	2136	232/14 Oct	2841	186/13 Oct	1424
Cooper's Hawk	37/ 4 Oct	308	23/30 Sep	142	28/13 Oct	104
Northern Goshawk	3/30 Oct	16	singles	6	4/13 Oct	12
Red-shouldered Hawk	16/30 Oct	81	22/14 Oct	76	10/21 Oct	48
Broad-winged Hawk	1642/13 Sep	5030	2260/12 Sep	4997	530/13 Sep	1532
Red-tailed Hawk	83/29 Oct	526	5/29 Oct	35	20/20 Oct	160
Rough-legged Hawk				1		
Golden Eagle	singles	7	singles	1	singles	2
American Kestrel	66/18 Sep	697	57/ 9 Sep	662	37/ 7 Oct	239
Merlin	7/ 8 Oct	77	10/ 9 Oct	59	8/13 Oct	27
Peregrine	5/ 9 Oct	23	4/1&8 Oct	32	2/ 9 Oct	7

Black Vulture: two Ellenville 6 Sep (VF), two MPHWH 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 I 8 Nov (ET). N. Harrier: scarce. Sharp-shinned Hawk: continues decline of recent years. Broad-winged Hawk: inland ridges missed

bulk of migration; 1287 BSHW 12 Sep, 1275 HMHW 13 Sep, 529 Bear Mt 13 Sep, 16,000 PP and RN 20-21 Sep (AF, RJK, TWB, JPA, TM); dark morph BSHW 11 Oct (SR). **Swainson's Hawk:** *intro*. Red-tailed Hawk: large incursion of imm very late in the period. Rough-legged Hawk: one HMHW 21 Sep, extremely early, one Vassar Farm 27 Nov, a light Morph and a dark morph WSF 29 Nov-1 Dec respectively. Golden Eagle: *intro*; one Bear Mtn 24 Oct, arr two Stissing DUTC 17 Nov (JP). Peregrine: 70 reports; four BSHW 4 Oct, two Bear Mt in Oct, five Shawangunks through period. Ring-necked Pheasant: scarce. Wild Turkey: reported in lower numbers. N. Bobwhite: three NPSP 6 Nov. Clapper Rail: two MC 3 Nov. Virginia Rail: three MC 3 Nov. Sora: three 5 Oct, Com. Moorhen: one MC most of Sep, seven Dietricks Pd 1 Sep, one PP 11 Oct. Am. Coot: 60 Sylvan L 24 Nov, 47 WEST res mid Nov; good numbers. Black-bellied Plover: one WSF 8 Sep. Lesser Golden-Plover: 255 WSF 8 Sep (JPT), one MC 20 Sep (TWB). Am. Oystercatcher: two PP 1 Sep (TWB). Upland Sandpiper: 14 WSF 30 Aug (JPT). Ruddy Turnstone: four PP 16 Nov, Red Knot: one MC 2 Sep. W. Sandpiper: two MC all Sep. Baird's Sandpiper: one MC 28 Sep (TWB), five WSF 2 Sep (EAMBC). Pectoral Sandpiper: six WSF 12 Oct, one L Welch 3 Nov (WF, DM). Purple Sandpiper: three PP 2 Nov, 20 MPt 28 Nov. Dunlin: one MC 2 Sep, 140 MC 6 Nov, three L Welch 5 Nov, one on 9 Nov (WF, DM). Stilt Sandpiper: juv MC 16 Sep. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: four WSF 3 Sep (ET), max nine WSF 10 Sep (HAS). Com. Snipe: quite numerous at CIMS through end of period. Wilson's Phalarope: one MC 28 Sep (TWB). Laughing Gull: 200+ MC 5 Oct. Bonaparte's Gull: two NPSP 14-17 Nov, very rare on the Hudson, one PP 11 Oct, 25 MPt 28 Nov. Iceland Gull: first year bird MPH 31 Oct (ET). Lesser Black-backed Gull: arr PP 19 Sep (TWB), arr MPt 21 Sep for 6th year in a row (TWB, LB). Caspian Tern: one PP 14 Sep (TWB). Com. Tern: one PP 14 Sep. Forster's Tern: max 11 Rye 11 Oct and 12 on 31 Oct (TWB); *intro*. Least Tern: gone at Rye by end of Aug.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Snowy Owl: one Middletown 19 Nov (JPT), one Debucks sod farm ORAN 28 Nov (JY), one along railroad tracks in Newburgh late Nov (HH). Barred Owl: four reported DUTC Sep, three in Oct; retreating from many locations n WEST. Long-eared Owl: one Claryville, SULL 28 Aug (JW), has previously bred in the area. Short-eared Owl: one HMHW 8 Oct (PF). Com. Nighthawk: scarce in migration, only 34 from BSHW all season. Chimney Swift: scarce. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 40 BSHW to 3 Oct, 25 at Crugers 2 Sep (AJ), last date in DUTC 27 Sep. Red-headed Woodpecker: one BSHW early Oct, up to three NPSP 17-19 Nov (MOB), imm Harcourt Sanctuary, New Paltz, early Nov (SS), one Bear Mt early Oct. **Black-backed Woodpecker:** *intro*. Pileated Woodpecker: three Doodletown 21 Sep, BSHW entire period.

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

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one RN 1 Sep (TWB). Alder Flycatcher: 1 1 Sep (JPA, SR). Least Flycatcher: one PP 15 Sep. E. Phoebe: last BSHW 14 Oct, 9 Vassar Gardens 13 Oct, 1 RSPP 14 Nov (RN). Great Crested Flycatcher: one RN 21 Oct (TWB), record late. Horned Lark: several dozen WSF in Nov, 150+ Greggs Farm DUTC 14 Nov. Bank Swallow: Rye to mid Sep, small flock flew past BSHW 8 Oct (SR). Barn Swallow: to late Sep in Rye, 30 DUTC 10 Oct (CT), one 6 1/2 Station Sanctuary 19 Oct, "latest record in Hudson Valley by 12 days" (*vide* ET). Blue Jay: migration underway by 26 Sep at BSHW, max 800 on 4 Oct, and 8000 total for season (SR). Am. Crow: *intro*. Fish Crow: six PP 26 Oct, 1 PP 16 Nov, one Montgomery Place 19 Oct, 1 SKEC 19 Oct, definitely pushing inland. Com. Raven: *intro*. Red-breasted Nuthatch: very scarce. Winter Wren: one RN 27 Sep, five Doodletown 13 Oct (PD). Marsh Wren: two Dennings Pt 15 Oct, one MC 26 Nov. Am. Pipit: two MC 21 Sep, 100s WSF 12-19 Oct (EAMBC).

VIREOS-WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: last MC 24 Sep, all on Long I Sound. Philadelphia Vireo: five reports DUTC and SULL in Sep. Red-eyed Vireo: good numbers SULL; one PP 23 Nov (DP), late. Yellow Warbler: four Pine Ridge DUTC 9 Oct, late. Cape May Warbler: two RN 2 & 22 Sep, one Vassar 24 Sep. Black-throated Green Warbler: notable incursion 27-28 Sep. N. Waterthrush: four PP 27 Oct. Kentucky Warbler: one Wagent's Pd Minetorn Rd 21 Sep (JC). Mourning Warbler: one RN 2 Sep (JPA).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Blue Grosbeak: one SKEC 25-27 Oct (MVW, mob), first for DUTC. Dickcissel: singles SUNY at Purchase mid Oct (PS), PP 23 Oct (TWB), SKEC 20 Oct (D&JB), Catskill Aqueduct, Yonkers late Nov (RF). Vesper Sparrow: four SKEC 20 Oct (ET), one PP 23 Oct, one Amenia 25 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: good numbers reported. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: four MC 12 Oct. Fox Sparrow: arr Tymor 23 Oct, one SKEC 24 Oct, one PP 13 Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: five reports WEST and DUTC in Oct, very dark individual Vassar 10 Oct (MVW, EP). White-throated Sparrow: arr Rye 20 Sep, Monticello 29 Sep. White-crowned Sparrow: numerous reports; arr Bedford Hills 5 Sep (TM), late; 28 Nov WSF (JY). Snow Bunting: one HMHW 26-31 Sep (PF), one PP 31 Oct, three 17 Nov PP; scarce. Bobolink: scarce. E. Meadowlark: widespread after late Sep. Rusty Blackbird: one MC 30 Sep, 70 Poughkeepsie 29 Oct.

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

CORRECTION: Vol. 41(4):286. Yellow-headed Blackbird: one MC 31 Aug, not 23 Aug.

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REGION 10 — MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF AND ALVIN WOLLIN

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.

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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; JFKWS - 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.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-necked Grebe: one MPt 16 Nov (NYRBA). N. Fulmar: one 20 mi s FI Inlet 22 Sep (PM). Cory's Shearwater: six from Finback II 7 Sep (JF), one MPt 16 Nov (NYRBA). Greater Shearwater: 625 from Finback II 7 Sep (JF). Manx Shearwater: one from Finback II 7 Sep (JF), one 20 mi s FI Inlet 22 Sep (PM). Wilson's Storm-Petrel: five 20 mi s FI Inlet 22 Sep (PM). N. Gannet: *intro*, 11 Hempstead Harbor 25 Nov (BS, Barbara Lansing); reported in increasing numbers in LI Sound and off SI. Great Cormorant: arr MPt 31 Oct (JR). Double-crested Cormorant: 2450 migrating west RMSP 15 Oct (JR). Tundra Swan: one JBWE 15 Sep (SS, AW), two to

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 FBF 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).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: one Whitestone 10 Oct (Art Skopec). Osprey: one Caleb Smith SP 14 Nov (Ed Kirchmeiser), late. Bald Eagle: three PBP 20 Sep, imm Lawrence Marsh 7 Oct (JB), one FI 13 Oct, one JBWR 9 Nov. Sharp-shinned Hawk: *intro*. Cooper's Hawk: *intro*. N. Goshawk: *intro*. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Hempstead L SP 20 Oct and later (SS, AW). Broad-winged Hawk: 3,501 at PBP hawkwatch this year, versus 18,739 last year; a few on the outer beaches; one Horse Farm, MPt 29 Nov (NYRBA), late. Red-tailed Hawk: wintering birds along the Meadowbrook Parkway arrived at the end of Oct. Rough-legged Hawk: scarce. Am. Kestrel: *intro*. Merlin: *intro*. Peregrine Falcon: *intro*. **Gyrfalcon**: dark morph over Little Neck Bay, Queens 16 Nov (Mary Normandia *vide* TB), no details. Virginia Rail: one Central P 18-19 Sep, one PP late Oct (NYRBA). Sora: one Goethel Bridge SI 15 Sep (HF), one PP late Oct. **Sandhill Crane**: one flew by FI hawkwatch 28 Oct (Bob Kurtz). Lesser Golden-Plover: max 172 Riverhead sod fields 8 Sep, 100+ still present 11 Sep, other scattered reports. Am. Oystercatcher: 77 JBWE 14 Nov (LP). Am. Avocet: one Oyster Pd MPt 8 Sep (NYRBA). Willet: one New Springfield SI 3 Nov (HF). Whimbrel: several CB early to mid Sep. Hudsonian Godwit: one 2 Sep, four 15 Sep, one 20 Oct, all JBWR (NYRBA). Baird's Sandpiper: singles from JBWR to MPt 1 Sep-10 Oct. **Curlew Sandpiper**: one JBWR 13 Sep (Paul Steinneck), one GKP 13 Oct (John Stonick *vide* HF). Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one JBWR 1 Sep; one CB 2 Sep; one FI 2 Sep; one SPd 2 Sep; five Doctor's Path Riverhead 6 Sep and eight there 11 Sep (PG); one Miller Field SI 9 Sep (Bob Clermont, HF, Scottie Jenkins). Wilson's Phalarope: two SPd 2 Sep (NYRBA). Red-necked Phalarope: one in surf Sumken Meadow SP (HB), unusual in LI Sound. Red Phalarope: imm East Pd JBWR 2 Sep (Arthur Morris). Parasitic Jaeger: one FI Inlet 16 Nov, one Jones Inlet 16 Nov (Andrew Vallely, Paul Steinneck, Jim Ash). Little Gull: one ShIn 13 Nov (Myrna Hemmrick *vide* JR), two MPt 24 Nov (AB, TB, KF, mob), one Moriches Inlet 27 Nov (James Griffin *vide* JR). Com. Black-headed Gull: one JBWR 7-13 Sep, one SPd 11 Sep, one ShIn 30 Nov (AL). Glaucous Gull: GKP 11 Nov (Howie Fischer *vide* HF), one MPt 16 and 24 Nov, one ShIn 17 Nov (NYRBA). Black-legged Kittiwake: *intro*, two ad Moriches Inlet 27 Nov (James Griffin *vide* JR). Gull-billed Tern: one JBWR 2 Sep (Rick Cech). Caspian Tern: one FT 1 Sep, two Broad Channel 11 Sep, two FI Inlet 2 Oct (JF), two RMSP 10 Oct, three ShIn 11 Oct (NYRBA). Royal Tern: one JBWR 8 Sep, two Zachs Bay 13 Oct, 25 FI 28 Oct (NYRBA), three JBWE 7 Nov (Bob Hines). Com. Tern: 675 SI 1 Sep (HF), a very

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 (*vide* 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 McGuiness). Prothonotary Warbler: one Mutn 3 Sep (Al Lindberg, Adrian Dignan). Kentucky Warbler: one CLP 5 and 20 Sep (HF). Connecticut Warbler: two reported JFKWS 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.

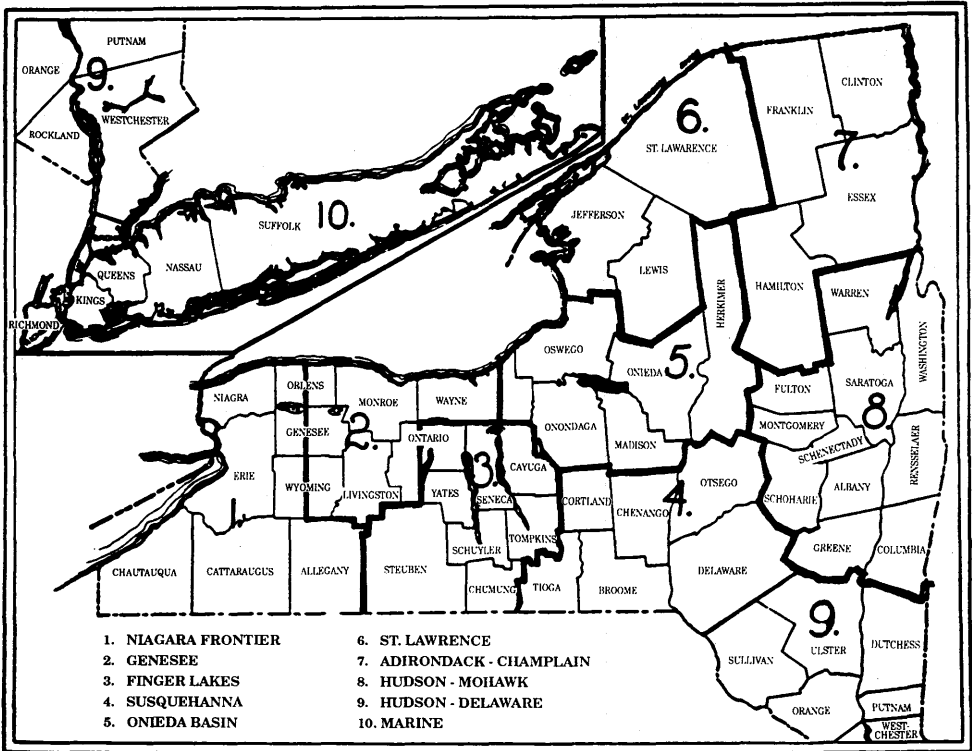
TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Summer Tanager: one Greenwood Cemetery Brooklyn 29 Sep (Todd Olsen). W. Tanager: one FT 29 Nov (Tom Fione). Blue Grosbeak: at least seven JBch, JFKWS, CB, RMSP and Smith Pt Co P Sep 16- 14 Oct. Dickcissel: three RMSP 7 Oct, one JBWE 13 Oct (NYRBA). Clay-colored Sparrow: one RMSP 12 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

RMSP (KF). Henslow's Sparrow: one JBWR 1 Sep (KF). Lark Sparrow: one RMSP 28 Sep, one RMSP 10 Oct, one MPt 28-29 Sep, one RMSP 10 Oct, one Easthampton 27 Oct (NYRBA). Fox Sparrow: few seen this fall and fewer reported. Lincoln's Sparrow: just a few reports. Lapland Longspur: one-five JBWE 29 Sep to end of period (mob). Snow Bunting: arr JBch 23 Nov. Bobolink: few reports, one RMSP 1 Oct (JF, JR). Com. Grackle: 2000 Sands Point 15 Oct (BS), 1000 Welwyn 18 Oct. Red Crossbill: some on Dune Rd Shinnecock 21 Nov (NYRBA). Com. Redpoll: a few from s shore LI 14-21 Nov (NYRBA). Pine Siskin: very few.

EXOTICS: Monk Parakeet: Zachs Bay 21 Oct (Joan Quinlan), Captree SP 29 Oct (JF).

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

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