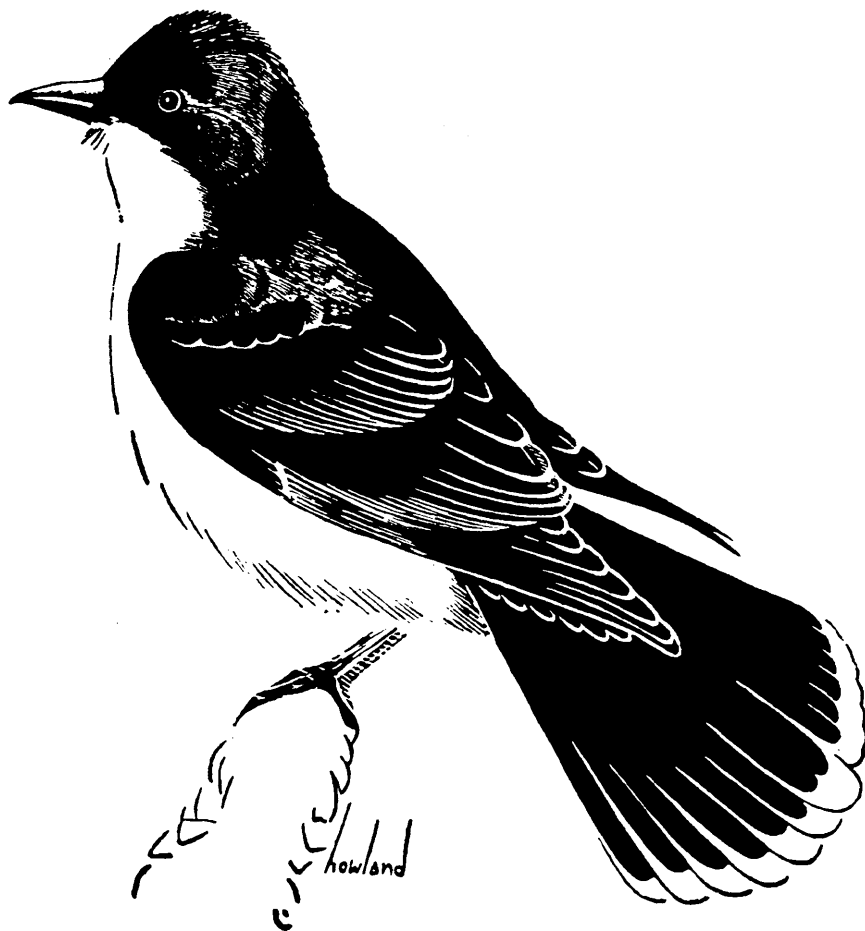


# *The* **KINGBIRD**



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MARCH 1997

## EDITORIAL — FEEDBACK

**Donald A. Windsor**

PO Box 604, Norwich NY 13815

The Federation is an organization run entirely by volunteers. We are not omniscient, nor are we mind readers. We rely on information passed to us by the members we serve. We need feedback!!!

The subscriber base to *The Kingbird* consists mostly of individual memberships in the Federation. As Editor I am often exposed to various expressions of dissatisfaction, not only with this journal, but extending to the Federation itself. Most of these criticisms are well founded and deserve to be considered and resolved. However, criticism often engenders disagreement, because different folks with diverse backgrounds see things differently. Such opposing views can lead to substantial improvements.

**Regional Reports.** In last month's editorial, Regional Reports Editor Bob Spahn presented his views on the Regional Reports. Another view, expressed by former Region 10 Editor Tony Lauro, is printed in the Letters section. The Regional Reports are a very important Federation activity. As such, they deserve to be well thought out and discussed.

Steve Kelling in Region 3 is pioneering a new format for reporting species, each on its own line. What do you think? Would you want all Regions to report this way? The upside is easier location of species. The downside is that we have to use a smaller font (8 point) in order to offset the additional space.

**NYSARC.** The NYSARC report in the last issue generated some criticism. Most of it wonders why reports are rejected. Communication with submitters of reports seems to be wanting. However, no one has yet submitted a formal letter. NYSARC is another important Federation activity. It too deserves open discussion. Grumbling in private solves nothing. We need some feedback here. A big shock to me was hearing that some birders refuse to submit their observations to their Regional Editors or to NYSARC. Such a stance results in a significant loss to the birding community. We must learn why such behavior results and do our best to ameliorate these instances.

Everyone should get into a fight every now and then, just to summon up the blood. But I hate to see birders squabbling with other birders. We should all be on the same side. Anyone itching for a brawl, is encouraged to take on some of those guys who are destroying habitat.

**Readership.** Feedback is essential for *The Kingbird*, because our readership sweeps across a broad gamut, ranging from professors of ornithology to beginning backyard birdwatchers. I have a vague impression that its composition is about 10% credentialed ornithologists, 30% more who are other-ologists interested in avian biology, 50% strictly birders, and 10% just casual birdwatchers. But hey, what do I really know? No survey has ever been

taken. Thus, the reliance on feedback. Comments already received reveal mixed signals. Articles are too specialized, say some. Too general, too shallow, say others. Not usable by ordinary birdwatchers, not at all interesting... Pleas for more and better photos are frequent. As a result, until I get more feedback, expect a motley assortment of something for everyone.

**Letters.** The Letters section of *The Kingbird* is available for discussion, so please take advantage of the opportunity. Such public debate works best if each letter is limited to a single subject, focuses on issues, rather than personalities, and is short. Some of you may have difficulty putting all your thoughts into such a restrictive format. If so, perhaps I can help. Call me to test drive your ideas: 607 338-4628.

## STATUS OF THE LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH IN ALLEGANY STATE PARK

**Stephen W. Eaton**

2596 Ten Mile Road, Allegany NY 14706

**Richard H. White**

1819 Rt. 305, Portville NY 14770

**ABSTRACT** — A census of Louisiana Waterthrushes (*Seiurus motacilla*) was conducted in Allegany State Park in 1996, where 37 km (69%) of 54 km of potential habitat was covered. Territory length was determined to be about 1 km. Seventeen territories were observed along 36 km of stream walked. The population was probably at a very low point due to unfavorable weather conditions over the past three years.

### INTRODUCTION

The Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) is a long-distance, nearctic migrant that breeds in eastern North America along moderate gradient, forested streams, which flow through hilly, deciduous or deciduous/coniferous forests. It winters in Central America, the West Indies and northern South America (Robinson 1995) and is the southern counterpart of a sibling species, the Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*). ( Hereafter, when we refer to the Louisiana Waterthrush, we will simply write waterthrush). Both short and long term Breeding Bird Surveys in the east show the waterthrush is decreasing, but increasing in the central United States (Sauer and Droege 1992). It is considered threatened on its wintering grounds, particularly where

lumbering is occurring along freshwater, moderate gradient streams (Rappole and others 1983).

Allegheny is the largest State Park in New York, approximately 25,600 ha (65,000 acres), and is administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. It is bordered by the New York / Pennsylvania state line on the south, by the Seneca Nation on the west and north/northeast, and by CSX Railroad right-of-way and the village of Limestone on the east (Anonymous 1992). Its location in New York is unique as the area was not glaciated during the Pleistocene, so it still shows its long history of erosion during the Tertiary Period, in its typical dendritic stream pattern (Tesmer 1975). This results in several main streams joined by many tributaries as they make their way to Tunungwant Creek to the east and to the Allegheny River along the east, north and west. These streams are the home for native brook trout and introduced brown trout and contain the largest concentration of wild brook trout streams completely in public ownership in western New York (Cornett 1996).

The character of today's forest in the park is primarily a result of logging activities which occurred up to the time of the park's creation in 1921. Since most of the park was clearcut, today's forest is predominantly second generation and a mixture of even-age stands of various age classes. Significant forest types include cherry, Allegheny hardwoods, hemlock hardwoods, oak and plantations (Anonymous 1992).

The status of the waterthrush has changed since the establishment of Allegheny State Park when Saunders (1942) described it as, "A fall migrant, found along Allegheny Park brooks nearly every year, generally in the latter part of July." He makes no mention of a breeding population occurring in the park. Other birds which have invaded or returned to the park since Saunderson's studies are Northern Goshawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Acadian Flycatcher, and Yellow-throated Warbler (Baird 1990). Between 1840 and 1920 the removal of the forest canopy from the stream banks allowed sunlight to penetrate, increasing water temperatures, increasing erosion of soils, and adversely affecting the aquatic insect life upon which the waterthrush fed (Eaton 1981).

By the 1950's the waterthrush had become established as a breeding species in the Allegheny State Park region. This population increase was probably due in part to the regrowth of the park's forests and the clearing of the streambeds after the impact of the lumbering industry. One of the earliest records of the waterthrush nesting in the Allegheny River Valley was made in 1951 (Eaton 1953). Later it was confirmed as breeding in nine, 5 km<sup>2</sup> blocks in the Allegheny State Park during the *Atlas* program (Eaton 1988). Today there are approximately 54 km of wooded stream border in Allegheny State Park that can be considered potential waterthrush habitat (Table 1).

Table 1. Potential habitat for Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus montacilla*) in Allegany State Park, NY. () = Evidence of territory, but no bird sighted.

STREAM	POTENTIAL HABITAT (Km.)	PAIRS	Km. WALKED	DATES WALKED
Limestone Run	2.00	1	2.00	8 May, 13 Jun
Rice Brook	3.00	2	4.50	6 May, 27 Jun
Irish Brook	1.00	1	1.75	6 May, 27 Jun
Carrollton Run	4.50	1	0.30	17 Jun
Christian Run	1.00	0	0.50	26 Jun
Bay State Brook	1.50	1	1.00	31 May
Cricks Run	2.50	1,(1)	2.50	10 Jul
Holts Run	1.00	1	1.00	7 Jun
Quaker Run (Main)	8.00	0	8.00	30 May; 23, 25 Jun; 2 Aug
Fox Hollow	1.00	0	1.00	11 Jul
English Creek	3.00	2	3.00	30 May, 11 Jun
Coon Run	1.00	0	0.00	-
Stony Brook	3.50	1	2.00	14 Jun
Red House Brook	5.00	1	3.00	8 May; 16, 23 Jul
Hardscrabble Ck	1.50	2	1.50	30 Jun
McIntosh Creek	1.50	0	0.70	1 Jun
Bova Creek	2.50	0	0.00	-
France Brook	3.00	0	0.50	17 Jun
Beehunter Creek	2.00	0	0.50	17 Jun
Stoddard Creek	2.00	0	0.80	14 Jun
Wolf Creek	2.00	1	1.00	25 Jun
Peters Creek	1.00	0,(1)	0.50	10 Jul
TOTALS	54.00	15,(2)	36.05	

#### METHODS

Starting on 4 May 1996 we began walking along the borders of waterthrush habitat in the park. These surveys continued until 2 August 1996 when most of the birds had migrated out of the area. The last bird seen in the region was on 14 August in Ten Mile Creek. Their presence along the streams was noted as "singing birds" or "sightings". Probable occurrence was indicated by fairly continuous deposits of dime-sized droppings on the rocks in the streams. One nest was discovered by looking carefully upstream of a point where fecal sacs had collected in a backwater near the nest site. We surveyed portions of 20 of the 22 streams or 69% of the potential waterthrush habitat. The spring of 1996 was late with the first waterthrush being sighted on 5 May, whereas they usually arrive about 15 April (Eaton 1981).

## RESULTS

Observations in this study are contained in the following chronology. Streams surveyed and distance of stream course walked are included in Table 1. Stream temperatures in Ten Mile Creek (outside the park by 4 km) the forenoon of 5 May was 8 degrees centigrade. Names of streams were taken from Allegany State Park Fishing Guide Map and U.S. Geological Survey maps. Territories were in small headwater tributaries except for one in Red House Brook about 6 km above Red House Lake.

**4 May:** Limestone Run, upper Red House Brook, McIntosh Brook (and Ten Mile Creek, 4 km outside park near Eaton's home): No waterthrush heard or seen.

**5 May:** Ten Mile Creek: First waterthrush heard singing.

**6 May:** Rice Brook: 1 waterthrush 100 m above washed out bridge. Seen in tree approximately 7 m from ground.

**8 May:** Limestone Run: No waterthrush heard from road; Red House Brook above France Brook: No waterthrush seen or heard; Red House Brook below France Brook: 1 waterthrush flew up from feeding in the stream. Observed in a tree 3 m above ground.

**30 May:** English Brook to confluence with Quaker Run: 1 waterthrush chipping and 3-4 songs heard above Frecks, about 150 m upstream from the foot bridge to Ward Trail.

**31 May:** Bay State Brook: 1 waterthrush where road crosses stream, bird flew downstream; McIntosh Creek: No waterthrush.

**7 June:** Holt's Run: 1 waterthrush near road barricade.

**11 June:** English Brook: 1 waterthrush in vicinity of Bear Springs.

**13 June:** Limestone Run: 1 waterthrush in possible juvenal plumage, in headwater area.

**14 June:** Red House Brook from Bova cabins upstream to beaver dams: No waterthrush. Stoddard Brook above camping area: No sightings. Stony Brook above Bear Caves: 1 waterthrush flushed from feeding along stream.

**17 June:** Carrollton Run: 1 waterthrush seen and heard singing near access road. France Brook, upper end: No sightings.

**25 June:** Wolf Run above gate and tributary: 1 waterthrush singing. Family group of 4 birds; at least 3 juveniles nearly same size as adult being fed by an adult (probably female). Young birds catching some of their own food.

**26 June:** Christian Hollow and small hollow to the west: No sightings, but appeared to be good habitat.

**27 June:** Rice Brook: 500m above old bridge found waterthrush nest with 4 young approximately 6-7 days old. Watched adults feeding nestlings. Droppings on rocks in territory about dime sized. Located nest by observing fecal sacs collecting in a backwater just downstream from nest site. Nest 1.5 m above stream. Rice Brook above confluence with Irish Brook: Flushed a fledgling young and saw another bird, probably an adult. Irish Brook: 1 adult waterthrush.



**30 June:** Hardscrabble, west branch: 1 pair carrying food for young, another adult upstream.

**4 July:** Rice Brook: Young had left nest of 27 June. A stub-tailed waterthrush in juvenal plumage about 100 m above old bridge. Could have been from nest but 577 m downstream quite a long distance for such a young bird.

**10 July:** Peters Creek: Several dime-sized droppings along stream, as if by waterthrush, but no sightings or songs. Crick's Run: 1 waterthrush seen near head of west branch. No sightings along east branch, but observed dime-sized droppings.

**11 July:** Fox Hollow: No sightings.

**25 July:** Lower Quaker Run: No sightings

**2 Aug.:** Quaker Run: From start of Black Snake trail to Coon Run near Frecks: No sightings.

## DISCUSSION

Territories of the waterthrush are unusual in that they are essentially linear along stream courses. Near Ithaca, NY, they average 400 m in length, in CT 358 m and in southern IL 930 m (Robinson 1995). Mean length of territories in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area was 297 m (Rilling and others 1996). In Allegany State Park we estimated the territories to be a minimum of 1000 m. The unusually long territories may have been the result of several factors. On 13 June 1994, a severe rainstorm occurred in the park. The timing of this storm probably had a severe impact on nests and young waterthrushes. Since waterthrushes nest relatively close to the stream, they are susceptible to flooding. In the summer of 1995, there were drought conditions until early August. The drought probably decreased the aquatic insect populations. On 18 - 19 January 1996 there was severe flooding, caused by a combination of heavy rainfall and snowmelt in western New York. This flood scoured the stream bottoms and must have reduced the aquatic insect larvae. In the summer of 1996 there were few defoliating insects. In June and July, the diet of the waterthrush changes from aquatic insects to larvae of defoliating insects, so food supplies were again at a minimum. These extremes in weather and food supply have undoubtedly had a negative impact on the local waterthrush population.

The total number of colonies of beaver in the park has increased over the last twenty years. This increase has resulted in the damming of the streams and the opening of the streamside canopy. This also has probably had an adverse effect on the waterthrush population.

Territories of the waterthrush are most vigorously defended early in the season (April and May) and most of our censuses were done in June and July (Table 1). So the territories of the birds observed were more difficult to determine and probably less accurate than if done in April and May. If censuses

are done in the future, territory length would best be determined only in April and May.

### CONCLUSION

From our observations, we determined that the population of waterthrushes in Allegany State Park was approximately 17 pairs with the average territory extending 1 kilometer along a wood bordered stream. Approximately 32% of 54 kilometers of potential habitat appeared to be occupied and it is thought that a series of destructive weather events may have severely reduced the population. This pilot study will provide basic data, at a low point in the population, from which a long term study may be developed.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank Timothy H. Baird for help in the census of Hardscrabble Brook.

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## RING-BILLED GULLS HAWKING STONEFLIES IN EARLY SPRING

Harold G. Klein

5 Haynes Road, Plattsburgh NY 12901

**ABSTRACT** -- Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) were hawking two species of stoneflies (Order Plecoptera, Families Capniidae and Taeniopterygidae) on five days in late March and early April, 1996. The location was northeastern New York State, in Clinton County, Town of Beekmantown. Environmental conditions and hawking behavior are described. The hawking of emerging stoneflies by Ring-billed Gulls appears to be consistent with food foraging behavior relative to optimality theory.

**KEYWORDS:** Ring-billed Gull, *Larus delawarensis*, stonefly, Plecoptera, Capniidae, Taeniopterygidae, New York State, hawking, food foraging, optimality theory.

### INTRODUCTION

Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) were observed hawking insects at the end of March and the beginning of April, 1996, in extreme northeastern New York State. Hawking by a bird, as used here, is simply defined as the pursuit of airborne prey animals while constantly flying about; there is no

perching nor sallying out in pursuit of a particular prey animal. The method by which the prey animal is taken is not considered: this will be discussed later.

The study area was along a small stream (Ray or Rea Brook) in the Town of Beekmantown, Clinton County. Two kinds of stoneflies (Order Plecoptera) were emerging from the stream, and it appeared that these were the only flying insects active so early in the spring. Under a stereoscopic, dissecting microscope (70X) they were identified as Small Winter Stoneflies (Family Capniidae) and Winter Stoneflies (Family Taeniopterygidae) (Borror and White 1970). The observations described below supplement what has been published on insect-hawking behavior by the Ring-billed Gull.

## OBSERVATIONS

### *Environmental Conditions*

Most observations took place in the early afternoon: perhaps the sun had a necessary effect on the insects and also sufficiently warmed and dried the air to cause them to become airborne. Overnight temperatures were in the high 20<sup>0</sup>s. Fahrenheit. The hawking took place on sunny days, with air temperatures ranging from 40<sup>0</sup> to 50<sup>0</sup>F. Wind speeds ranged from light (below five miles per hour) to moderate (about ten miles per hour) and were mostly from the north.

### *Flock Numbers*

The numbers of hawking gulls fluctuated widely between days and within minutes on the same day. The numbers of gulls hawking at any one time were estimated to have been: 29 March, twenty-five; 30 March, ten; 31 March, twenty-five; 1 April, twenty-five; and 6 April, fifty.

As an example of the changeability of flock numbers, on April 6, when the gulls were first seen hawking at about 1 pm, they numbered about 25. Within five minutes the number had increased to about 50; two minutes later only 10 were visible. The increase in numbers appeared to have been caused by gulls coming from surrounding agricultural land or from gulls cruising about looking for an indication of food availability. Presumably, nearby gulls could detect feeding behavior and respond accordingly. Also, the gulls were frequently uttering "kee-aow" calls as they flew about; possibly this alerted others to the feeding activity. Being constantly on the wing, the gulls also moved quickly from one area to another, at distances of hundreds of yards. Presumably, this variation reflected differences in the densities and locations of the prey insects as wind currents carried them about.

### *Non-Hawking Days*

On 2 through 5 April, no gulls were detected hawking insects, although the area was observed several times a day from my nearby house. These days differed from the hawking days in being somewhat cooler (air temperature 35<sup>0</sup>

to 40° F.) and windier (10 to 20 mph, from the north). No insects were seen flying about, but there were small numbers of Small Winter Stoneflies on the streamside tree trunks. Most appeared to have wings that were only half developed. On 6 April the air temperature was 44° F, with light and variable winds under a sunny sky, and the gulls were back, hawking insects. On 7 April through 12 April (end of observation period) a cooler, rainy and snowy weather period ensued, with no gulls observed hawking. There were only small numbers of stoneflies on the tree trunks.

#### *Hawking Behavior*

The hawking behavior was generally similar to other published accounts. The gulls flew swiftly in large flight patterns, circling about at treetop level (about 40 feet) and higher (about 100 feet). Then, at times when they were apparently actively pursuing prey insects, their flight behavior assumed the erratic flying pattern one sees in bats hunting insects. The gulls made quick, sideways movements, often wing flipping to do so. The head and neck was often turned sideways. Sometimes they made very tight, 180 degree turns to double back. Other maneuvers were sudden, upward ascents, accompanied by more rapid wing beats and momentary hovering. These flight patterns suggest that the gulls were discovering the prey insects at close range, and this necessitated rapid adjustments in flight trajectory to seize the prey. Those gulls observed with 10 x 50 binoculars were not flying with the mouth open; on a few occasions I was able to observe a gull open its mouth and snap at something. I could not observe directly what the gulls were feeding upon. My conclusion that it was the two kinds of stoneflies is based on the large numbers I found on the tree trunks, on my nearby house, and seeing some flying about.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

#### *Food Foraging*

This report reaffirms the opportunistic food foraging habits of the Ring-billed Gull and adds to the published list of animal food items, to the habitat source of the animals, and to the foraging behavior of the gull. Martin, Zim and Nelson (1951) state, "The principal items of its diet are fish, beetles, grasshoppers, crickets, true bugs, amphibians, and molluscs." Bent (1963) mentions the Ring-billed Gull following the plow, picking up worms, grubs, grasshoppers, and other insects, as well as small rodents. He also included a description of the hawking of flying grasshoppers. Ryder (1993) cites summer studies of the diet of eastern populations (Great Lakes) of the Ring-billed Gull that indicated it consisted predominantly of fish, arthropods (Orders Coleoptera, Diptera, Homoptera, Odonata, Hemiptera, and Lepidoptera), and earthworms.

### *Hawking*

There have been several reports of hawking behavior by the Ring-billed Gull in this journal. Elliot (1961), Lauro (1977), and Cooley (1983) reported Ring-billed Gulls preying on swarms of flying ants on the shores of Long Island. Chamberlaine (1995) identified flying ants as one of several kinds of airborne animals that Ring-billed Gulls were feeding on, over the extensive wetlands of the eastern Lake Ontario shoreline. Pitocchelli and Capainolo (1990) observed Ring-billed Gulls insect-hawking in Ontario and Maine. Salzman (1995) reported Ring-billed Gulls feeding on what were probably abundant small mosquitoes or midges over a salt marsh on Long Island. In some of these reports the prey animals were only tentatively identified as aquatic insects, mostly because of their occurrence over aquatic habitats. Although not an exhaustive search of the literature, the information presented here gives readers a comprehensive framework of the known diet of the Ring-billed Gull, into which new observations can be integrated.

### *Prey Taking*

Various observers have reported differing aerial prey taking techniques used by Ring-billed Gulls. Cooley (1983) and Pitocchelli and Capainolo (1990) described the gulls as snapping up insect prey with the bill, whereas Salzman (1995) did not observe any bill snapping. He states that the gulls appeared to emulate the basic swallow, swift, or nightjar open bill gathering technique. The latter method is part of the definition of hawking in *The Audubon Encyclopedia of Birds* (Terres, 1980). Because of the difficulty of ascertaining exactly what a flying bird is doing, I believe that the definition of hawking should be simplified, concentrating on the constant flight and leaving out the actual method of taking the prey animals. Possibly both techniques are used by the Ring-billed Gull, depending upon the prey species, specifically the size of the prey animal, its ability to take evasive action, and the need to kill the animal before swallowing it. Chamberlaine (1995) observed that, "The bill is not open as they fly but opens as they flare up and abruptly stop in the air and grasp the prey. At other times I believe the prey goes directly down the gullet with no grasping by the bill."

### *Airborne Prey*

Sometimes, I have used the term "airborne prey animal" instead of insects because Chamberlaine (1995) suggested that the Ring-billed Gulls he observed aerial feeding may have been taking spiders dispersing on air currents by parachuting on silk threads. Spiders, are not insects, thus complicating the terminology and requiring a more general term (such as airborne arthropod), if absolute accuracy is desired.

### *Mayflies*

Parenthetically, one additional animal species can be added to the list of known food items of the Ring-billed Gull. In the late spring of at least two previous years, I have observed Ring-billed Gulls hawking mayflies from Ray Brook at the same site as described for the stoneflies. The large size and the appearance of these insects made it possible to identify them to the Order Ephemeroptera; no further, specific identification was attempted.

## DISCUSSION

Returning to the stoneflies for some concluding commentary, these are very small, slender insects whose body length, not including wings or other appendages, was measured at about seven millimeters for the Small Winter Stoneflies and about ten millimeters for the Winter Stoneflies. (The total length, including wings, was about eight millimeters for the Small Winter Stoneflies and about sixteen millimeters for the Winter Stoneflies.) Therefore, their body masses are much less than that of most other animals cited in the known and suspected items reported in the diet of the Ring-billed Gull, except for the ants, gnats, midges, mosquitoes, and spiders. Given the very small size of these packets of prey relative to the much greater body size and nutritional demands of a large bird, it is a matter of some wonderment that these gulls would make the effort required to hunt the stoneflies. Previous observers (Cooley 1983, Pitocchelli and Capainolo 1990, Chamberlaine 1995) have also raised the question of the efficiency of a large bodied bird feeding on such small prey animals. In the case of the gulls I observed, several factors could have been important. There may not have been much other animal food available because the ground was still frozen, and there was no plant growth occurring to sustain animal life. There were no puddles of rain or snow meltwater in the agricultural fields, and the farmers had not yet begun plowing. On the other hand, the marshes and open waters of Lake Champlain were only three miles away. In addition, and probably most importantly, the abundance and density of the stoneflies must have been sufficient to make it worthwhile for the gulls to exploit this temporary food source.

Interestingly, *The Kingbird* accounts cited here, as well as my observations, indicate that the Ring-billed Gulls were hawking aerial prey that were abundant and in fairly high densities. I conclude that even small animals, flying about in sufficiently high density, are profitably exploitable by the Ring-billed Gull through hawking behavior, although it must be an energy intensive activity for these birds.

### *Optimality Theory*

It appears that the foregoing information is in agreement with optimality theory (Alcock 1989), which states that animals will utilize a foraging behavior

if it produces a net benefit in food energy by maximizing this benefit relative to the energy of the physical effort expended in the pursuit of a particular kind of food. However, food energy is not the only dietary factor in an animal's foraging behavior, as Cooley (1983) and Chamberlaine (1995) have suggested for the Ring-billed Gulls they observed hawking aerial animals. Necessary nutritional components (such as protein or minerals) may be sought also, possibly achieved simply by obtaining a diverse diet, and as an adjunct to energy gathering. Sometimes this must be done at the expense of an adverse energy balance (Alcock 1989:327). Therefore, the instances of hawking reported and reviewed here, should be simply viewed as opportunistic food foraging behavior by Ring-billed Gulls that results in a gain in total nutrition, not only in food energy.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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**MERLIN CATCHES LAPLAND LONGSPUR:  
WHAT IS SO RARE AS  
RARITY CAPTURES RARITY?**

**Michael Pitzrick**

38 Deer Haven Drive, Ithaca NY 14850

**Vivian Pitzrick**

5162 Amity Lake Road, Belmont NY 14813

Hunched against the steady drizzle on 13 April 1996, we found a startling number of about 150 Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*) as they whirled from one spot to another over a large, freshly top-dressed field on Davis Hill in Ward Township, northeast of Scio, Allegany County, New York. Since 1969, observers have previously reported this species in this county only 13 times, with the maximum being ten individuals in February 1985 (*Allegany County Bird Club News* 1969-1996). At about noon, the longspurs dropped to the ground to feed busily less than six meters away. Some males already sported beautiful, full breeding plumage and others were in various stages of change from winter.

Suddenly the flock exploded as a small raptor slashed through it. The hawk pivoted, fanning its tail briefly, revealing three dark bands which contrasted sharply with the dark blue of its unmarked back. It then quartered away, with impressive speed and powerful, deliberate wing beats, not pausing to glide, but coming to an abrupt stop on a leafless tree limb approximately 275 meters across the field. Surprisingly, it had succeeded in its agile and effortless attack and was feeding on one of the longspurs.

After some discussion, we determined that the jay sized raptor was a Merlin (*Falco columbarius*). We eliminated the American Kestrel that has a reddish back and tail, as well as the Cooper's and Sharp-shinned hawks, that fly in a flap-glide-flap pattern and have rounded rather than the pointed wings of this falcon. Also, unlike the sharpie, the under tail coverts were buff, not white. Although expected along the lake plains where it is regularly reported, except in winter or summer, Merlin are seldom recorded in Allegany County, the maxima being five on 23 September 1964 and four in April 1968 (*Allegany County Bird Club News* 1964-1996). They were reported here in spring in 1965, '66, '68 '83, '90, and '96, and in fall in 1964, '85, '87, and '89, but none was reported in the years 1969-1982, a decade and a half. DDT was banned in the United States in 1972 (Nitz 1990). Perhaps the Merlin is finally recovering. The absence of reports during 1991-1995 is unexplained.

During our study at the scene of this unusual Merlin - longspur interaction, we used a 20-power Bausch and Lomb spotting scope and several field guides.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to thank Doris Burton, Belmont, New York, for her research of records through 1978 on reports of these species during the earlier years.

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## SUBTERRANEAN NEST SITE USED BY COMMON RAVENS IN MINEVILLE, ESSEX COUNTY

Mark Gretch

PO Box 392, Elizabethtown NY 12932

**ABSTRACT** — Common Ravens (*Corvus corax*) were nesting in an open pit iron ore mine in Mineville, NY. On 30 May 1996, 3 unfledged young were seen foraging near the rim of the pit, after walking up its slope. This is 48 days after the late date (12 April) previously reported for NY.

## INTRODUCTION

In the early 1970s Republic Steel Company abandoned its iron ore mining operations in Mineville, Essex County, NY. This put an end to about 150 continuous years of iron ore mining at this site.

Over that long span of time the landscape has been altered in many ways. There are mountains of mine tailings that have been piled up and are waiting to be processed again for their rare earths. Alongside are cavernous mine pits from which the tailings have been extracted. On some days plumes of thick mist rise out of deep plunge holes in the earth where chilly subsurface air collides with warmer surface air. This strange phenomenon reminds us that below Mineville lies an intricate gallery of shafts and tunnels.

This landscape offers a unique type of habitat for some species of animals. These abandoned mines are ideal habitat for hibernating bats, including the rare Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*). The largest open pit is known as 21 Mine and it is the site of nesting Common Ravens (*Corvus corax*). Peterson (1988)

in *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*, says that, "all nests except those on a mine structure and an open pit mine (at Tahawus) in Essex County have been on rock cliffs." The nesting site at 21 Mine, I believe, is not much different from other cliff sites, except that it is situated below ground, rather than above ground.

The circumference of 21 Mine is about two-tenths of a mile around and it is 300 feet deep. A series of barbed wire fences surround the open pit and prevent anyone from getting too close. A pioneer growth of aspens, Pin Cherry, and Gray Birch now grow along the rim of the open pit and hide it from view. I have not dared to jump the fence and peer over the edge to view the interior of the pit. However, I have been shown old pictures of 21 Mine. It is a rugged looking place with many ledges and recesses where ravens might nest. The east, west, and north faces are nearly vertical drops and the south face has a more gradual 60 degree slope.

Mining first began here in 1824 and by 1955 it was abandoned. At one time a one and one-half inch steel wire cable was strung across the cavern and a trolley maneuvered miners out over the center where they were lowered by bucket to the floor to chisel and dynamite for iron ore (Jack Brennan, personal communication). It is said that Pauline White, a silent screen star of the 1920s, filmed a daring tightrope scene in the movie *Perils of Pauline* over this same open pit (Lorreta Reynolds and Joan Daby, personal communication). So, this site has a very interesting human history as well as natural history.

## OBSERVATIONS

I first became aware of the ravens at this site in mid May of 1996. I heard them for weeks as their voices echoed out of this mine pit and I watched them swirl over and into the pit. At first I made nothing of this rather unusual behavior. On 29 May I observed the ravens at closer range from just outside the outer fence. On 30 May I watched three unfledged young forage and pick near the rim of the open pit. They had managed to walk up the more gradual south slope of the pit and shortly thereafter they left their nesting pit for the first time. Adult ravens would periodically fly to the rim to monitor the young birds. At a distance I could see that the feathers on the young birds had not completely come in, particularly around their beaks. The thirtieth of May is more than a full month later than the late date (12 Apr) given for unfledged young in the *Atlas* (Meade 1988).

Wade Haskins, a former mine worker and long time Mineville resident, told me (personal communication) that this was not the first year ravens had nested at this site. He thought that perhaps they had returned to this same site for at least six years. The *Atlas* map indicates that ravens were not reported here during the period 1980-86.

Later in the season it became obvious that 21 Mine open pit was continuing to be used by the ravens for night time roosting and day time resting. They seem to know instinctively that this is a safe haven.

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#### LETTER — EUROPEAN STARLINGS ON LOWER HUDSON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Norman I. Stotz

Compiler (New), Lower Hudson CBC  
New York City Audubon Society

71 West 23 St Suite 606, New York NY 10010

For years, the Lower Hudson Christmas Bird Count reported large numbers of European Starlings due to the location of a substantial roost in Manhattan. Beginning with the 95th Count, the reported number plummeted as follows:

<u>CBC</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>European Starlings</u>
94th	19 Dec 93	250,000
95th	18 Dec 94	75
96th	17 Dec 95	521
97th	22 Dec 96	1,217

An unexpected change in personnel and compilers led to a situation where no one knew the location of the roost. In 1996, a search was conducted in areas where it had been reputed to be, without success. In addition, it has been difficult to convince long-time participants to count starlings since they are conditioned to ignore them.

I honestly do not know if the roost still exists; starlings continue to be ubiquitous in the city and I would expect that reported numbers will continue to rise as people grow accustomed to including starlings in the count. Meanwhile, they do well, perhaps too well, in the city.

## LETTER — REGIONAL REPORTS

**Anthony J. Lauro**

8585 New Suffolk Avenue, Cutchogue NY 11935

Robert Spahn's Editorial (1996) makes good points in encouraging written documentation of "special" bird sightings and systematic surveys of breeding and migratory bird movements.

I question, however, Mr. Spahn's contention that bird watching is science. Bird watching is a social pastime with disparate levels of interest and activity. To dismiss a birder's efforts as "interesting rumors" unless accompanied by written documentation is flip and patronizing and a disservice to the membership.

As a past Regional Editor and a local correspondent for the New York rare bird alert, I find that the most difficult aspect of these activities is to obtain any type of report from birders in our area. It takes years of coaxing and encouragement to secure records from birders. I consider it a victory when I get an oral report of interesting bird sightings.

Many birders enjoy seeing their efforts acknowledged by the insertion of their names and/or initials in the Regional Reports. To dismiss their efforts by the deletion of their initials unless the record is "special" is retrograde, especially if the reason is cost driven as suggested by Mr. Spahn.

Mr. Spahn hopes "That all the submitted records will be retained in some fashion". This, of course, includes records not published. To hope that future researchers will ferret out records stored in various locations throughout the state is to hope in vain. If a record is important enough to be saved for posterity, it should be published contemporaneously in *The Kingbird*, in the best manner that the Editor sees fit. A pristine written report by a single observer does not guarantee validity. I would much rather have an oral report by a creditable, experienced birder than a written report by a person with questionable credentials.

Mr. Spahn states that "Early and late dates, while interesting to birders, are mainly weather, observer effort, and luck driven, so may tell us little about population trends". This statement could be disputed but more to the point is that these data provide enjoyment to birders and are not necessarily meant to be indicative of population trends. Nor are rare birds indicative of population trends. In a pure scientific sense, rare birds are just curiosities and do little more than add to a sense of birding fun and as additions to the state list.

I suggest that the Editors of *The Kingbird* publish instructions on how to write a cogent bird report and also advise the members as to what constitutes a "special record". I also suggest that we respect the judgment of the Regional

Editors as to what information they wish to pass on for publication. They are better aware at the local level to determine what constitutes an interesting record.

*The Kingbird* belongs to the membership of the Federation and the printed content should not be subject to unilateral decisions.

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*Kingbird* 46(4): 294-295.

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### REPLY — EDITING THE REGIONAL REPORTS

**Robert Spahn, Regional Reports Editor**  
716 High Tower Way, Webster NY 14580

I thank Tony Lauro for his comments. This reply will address these topics with some expansion on points which may be of general interest.

Birdwatching is an interesting hobby which can be carried out over a wide spectrum of participation levels, none of which is intrinsically "better" than another. Some of the activities can enter the realm of science and/or at least allow the gathering of data/information which can have scientific value. But, it is not always clear where one draws the line. The gathering of records about bird populations is of potential scientific value AND "records" are written, not oral. Birders are free to play the birding/birdwatching game at any level they wish, BUT if they choose to participate at the level of contributing records, then there will be rules and requirements. If the records are of rare events, (for number, time, location, etc.), then detailed, written documentation is an essential part of calling the input a record.

Dismissing oral input or input without written details as interesting rumors is not a flip or patronizing statement. I have come to this strong conclusion after many years of gathering local records and trying to cajole people into documenting sightings. I am completely convinced that such details in writing are an essential part of a record having any future value. I enjoy as much as anyone the oral tales of people's birding exploits. But, if these are to be records, they must be written. Otherwise, they are just tales or "rumors", fun to hear, but of no value to state or local ornithology. I am interested in hearing oral reports, but do not consider it a victory from a records standpoint until I

see it in writing. Locally, I use the rare bird alert line to help decide where to bird or for finding out about possible rarities, but it is not even considered in local records compilation. Likewise, items appearing in the local newspaper bird column are written, but generally are only second-hand, or more distant, and unverified for the rarer material.

On the topic of attaching initials onto records in *The Kingbird*, my main point is that all records are not of high value on the state level. If an urban feeder watcher faithfully records the peak count of 22 starlings and 19 House Sparrows at a feeder each month, he/she is not likely to ever see his/her initials. It might be worth it for somebody in the Region to keep that pile of data in some form because a drop to 5 or a leap to 500 sometime in the future might be a signal of interest. Obviously this is an extreme, but it illustrates the issues relative to recognition. I am firmly of the opinion that *ALL CONTRIBUTORS* in all regions should have their names listed every season they contribute. The initials serve only peripherally for additional recognition, but more importantly to identify the source of special or unusual records to help others assess their validity or to give them a contact, should they wish to pursue more information. As with past editors, I have sent out notes on what I think "special" means, but have added that this is really the province of the Regional editor guided by knowledge of what we are trying to do. I have not edited out any initials to date and, in fact, have asked for more in some cases.

With my local records committee hat on, I would periodically send very faithful contributors a personal note and bend over backwards to find something in their data to publish in our local newsletter's Noteworthy Records section. Here in Region 2 (and in Region 1), we do have the plus that local clubs are assessing records and publishing lots of local data which may not be of great significance at the statewide level. That way, more people are recognized individually more often. Still, some never see or do anything notable. Not every kid gets to play in the major (or even minor) leagues of any sport. Why would I expect birdwatching to be greatly different?

On the future of records, I see no near-term mechanism for gathering all data at the state level. Much of it is in boxes or on computer disks at the Regional or club level. I think that serious researchers will need to go to these sources if they need specific data. I would love to see proposals for how to assemble all the data we need or want in more accessible form at any level. I don't have time and haven't found others locally to enter into a computer all of our monthly checklists. Steve Kelling (Region 3) is trying to do this for his Region and is also trying to have direct e-mail or internet input. The latter adds the problem of assessing veracity. Does anyone else have ideas?

Relative to everything important enough to be saved for posterity being published in *The Kingbird*, I am not convinced that we know enough about what will be important to posterity to select and publish "all". I will probably

continue to differ from some others on the oral versus written. But, written records can be revisited over time. In contrast, oral material tends to rapidly vary with distance from the event in time or space; the original no longer exists. Over time, individuals' credibilities will become established and their records handled appropriately. All regional or local records compilers probably have birders who report great things, none of which they ever can produce for others. Their "records" are generally handled appropriately.

Early and late dates and rarities are fun to gather. The dates involve more people in record gathering than the rarities. Nevertheless, all of the dates are not of such interest as to warrant noting location and observer's initials. A first or last sighting of a species occurring in the middle of its historical date range adds a data point to the overall season's assessment, but certainly is not something to be checked out later. I mentioned the dates specifically out of a very current frustration level over the time it takes to enter and to try to assess the date table data, with little evidence of any visible changes, even for species for which other data suggest major population decreases. But again, it seems to be of interest to many and provides tangible output which may be useful at some point. So we will keep doing it.

In a rare occurrence report I look for some evidence that the observer recognized at the time that the observation was notable, made a serious effort to observe all the details immediately, and then wrote these down without a lot of prior corruption from reviewing field guides and/or talking with others. Obviously, notes written in the field are best. In the verification report I just need all of the details which led the observer to his/her conclusion, hopefully in enough detail to convince me now and others in the future. As a records committee person, I am biased TOWARD acceptance of anything close to convincing, with level of convincing depending on rarity and to some extent on observer. (I'm human and not totally uninfluenced by reputation.) Generally, I leave "special" (= things I'd put initials on) to the Regional editors, but I do tell them that these ought to be things Regionally out of date or place or otherwise of great interest to them, records which somebody might want to check out with the observer later. As far as "records" go, I want anything the observer is willing to send in whatever form they send it. The more detail, the more useful. Material on checklists or in checklist order is easier to work with than random notes on scraps of paper. Numbers and dates are of more use than just check marks. Details from specific, identifiable locales are of more use to people trying to use data later. Added comments and observations on the season are of use to the Regional editor. Anything submitted will be saved.

Finally, there is absolutely no question that *The Kingbird* belongs to the Federation, which is the membership. However, somebody representing the membership must choose (or arm twist) somebody into being editor in order for anything to be published. The editor is going to need to establish guidelines



and make decisions, which at times will be unilateral, in order to put anything in print during our lifetimes. We are trying to keep *The Kingbird* open to include as much membership input as possible in the decisions relative to our guidelines. Over the years, I have included a multitude of questions in my Highlights and Region 2 reports and have received virtually no feedback. Relative to the Regional report editing, I have solicited input from anyone willing to provide it. At the Annual Federation meeting last September, we set up a special meeting with the Regional editors, and anyone else interested, to discuss guidelines and directions. Only the dedicated few showed, most of whom had already provided input in writing. In the end, guidelines have been sent out based on the best we can do to accommodate all. We plan to meet again this year; please join us.

Serious input is welcomed at any time. Prompt reply is not guaranteed, but will come eventually, when the birds aren't flying.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON 1996

ROBERT SPAHN

716 High Tower Way, Webster NY 14580

Overall the fall season was rated bland by most reporters, yet the event of the season in most Regions was driven by the passage of one or both of Hurricanes Edouard and Fran or the arrival of a major storm around 8 November, which produced widespread flooding and was in turn followed by the onset of winter and heavy snowfalls in some Regions. Looking at the weather in more detail, it was quite similar across the state, with few early fronts to drop migrants for viewing. Temperatures were average in September and October and COLD, 5-6°F below normal, in November. First frost dates were average to late in all Regions noting them. Precipitation was heavy in September in most Regions, particularly those touched by the hurricanes. October was closer to normal and more variable across the state. November was wet, with the major storm bringing record rainfalls to areas south and east, but totals at average or below to the north and west. Passerine fallouts were specifically noted for mid September in Regions 3 & 10 and for 25-26 October in Region 10. Elsewhere, they were flagged as poor, though both Regions 3 & 8 reported high counts of nocturnal migrants in September and October.

The biggest story of the season was the effects of the passage of Hurricanes Edouard and Fran. The former producing little birding news, the latter resulting in lots of fallout, particularly to the west. These events are well documented in the Region 1 & 10 reports, highly recommended reading, with Willie D'Anna of Region 1 providing additional context by including birds from nearby Ontario which may or may not have entered New York airspace, lacking detailed written notes for some. Fran moved rapidly west and north to Lake Erie just west of Buffalo on 7 September, then swung northeast back to the coast over the next several days as a tropical depression. It deposited many Black-capped Petrels in Lake Erie, with at least 15 specimens picked up dead along the north shore in Ontario within 40 miles west of Buffalo over the next three weeks. At least seven were detailed within Region 1 from 12 to 21 September and additional individuals were sighted in Regions 2 & 5 on 23 & 12 September, respectively. Several of these were brought in for rehabilitation; none survived to release. The storm also brought Long-tailed Jaeger to Regions 1 & 10; Laughing Gull to Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, & 10; Sabine's Gull to Region 1; Sandwich Tern to Region 10; and Sooty Tern to Regions 1, 2, 6, & 10. Additional effects probably not directly related to the hurricane, but associated with the arrival of any storm from the east at that date period were numbers of

shorebirds in Regions 1, 3, & 5. Hudsonian Godwit in five Regions, and good numbers of jaegers on the Great Lakes.

The Regional reports also include summaries from a substantial number of watches and special studies, including: hawkwatch data from Regions 4, 6, 8, & 10; lakewatches in Regions 1 & 3; an annual fall census in Region 1; banding station data from Regions 2, 3, & 8; and a detailed warbler count in Region 2, a shorebird survey in Region 3, and a Snow Goose collar study effort in Region 7. Each of these provide both interesting reading and population data.

Continuing the search for highlights, it is notable that much of this fall's commentary and many of the standout records were related to waterbirds, including about 69 of 87 citations of rarities. Record high counts, relative to Bull's *Birds of New York State* (1974), include: four Am. White Pelicans in Region 10; 1130 Double-crested Cormorants in Region 1; 2500 Tundra Swans in Region 1; 2000 Ring-necked Ducks in Region 8; 72 White-rumped Sandpipers in Region 3; 16 Black-legged Kittiwakes in Region 2; an unprecedented 18,000 Common Terns at Niagara Falls in Region 1 on 8 September; and 600+ Black Skimmers in Region 10. Additional good waterbird counts include: 3500 Am. Coot in Region 1; 500 Greater Yellowlegs in Region 10; and five Buff-breasted Sandpipers in Region 3. Jaegers produced another group of noteworthy records, with sightings in Regions 1, 2, 5, & 10, including: Pomarine Jaeger - 3 in Region 1, 40+ in Region 2, 9 in Region 5, and 9+ in Region 10; counts of over 20 Parasitic Jaegers in a day from Regions 2 & 5; and 139+ Parasitic Jaegers and over 260 total jaegers for the season from the Lake Ontario lakewatch in Region 2.

Scanning the waterbirds one more time, we note: the maximum of 3206 and total of 4373 for Common Loon past the Taughannock Park lakewatch in Region 3; good Pied-billed Grebe counts from five Regions; other grebes average to low: Snowy Egret in Regions 6 & 8; Cattle Egret in Regions 7 & 10; Tundra Swan early and in good numbers generally; Greater White-fronted Goose in five Regions; widespread good counts for fall of Snow Goose; Ross' Goose in Region 8; high counts for N. Shoveler in Region 1 and Gadwall in Region 6; good diver counts for Ring-necked Duck and Hooded Merganser in Region 8, Surf Scoter in Region 1, and Bufflehead and Com. Merganser in Region 4; and Ruddy Duck in eight Regions. On the negative side is note of the worst waterfowl and larid counts in 15 years from the Moses-Saunders Power Dam area of Region 6. Shorebirds were generally noted for poor numbers, especially Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, and the dowitchers. The shorebird totals in the Region 3 report and a few good local notes for Regions 1, 5, 7, and 8 provide some positives. Gulls were notable mostly for the many rarities, including: the Laughing Gulls noted earlier; Franklin's, Little, Mew (including an individual identified as of subspecies *Larus canus canus*).

California, Thayer's, and Sabine's gulls in Region 1 and Sabine's Gull in Region 5. The white-winged gulls and Lesser Black-backed Gull were also well reported from many Regions. The usual array of seabirds, terns, and alcids was noted in Region 10, with Manx and Audubon's shearwater, Brown Pelican, a late date for Royal Tern, Sandwich Tern, Dovekie, and Black Guillemot of special note.

Moving through the rest of the checklist, we pause first at the hawks and pull in the owls as their nocturnal counterparts. Totals at the hawkwatches were off, with many species past the Franklin Mt. watch at 1/2 the expected number and Region 10 noting a long term drop in the small falcons passing the beach watches. Merlin totals were down generally for this fall. Rough-legged Hawks arrived at early dates in a few Regions, including a record early 19 September in Region 3. However, numbers were low, a first chance to note the general scarcity of all winter irruptive species this fall. Golden Eagle also arrived record early, also on 19 September, in Region 4. An exception to the missing irruptives was Snowy Owl, noted in most Regions and in good numbers in November. Other owl notes were the typical scattered few, with a N. Hawk Owl in Region 7 the only standout. The depressing totals and peaks for Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will are only partially offset by the good news of a cooperative Rufous Hummingbird at in feeder in Region 1 for a month, several October departure dates for Ruby-throated Hummingbird, good Red-headed Woodpecker counts in Regions 2 & 10, and a Three-toed Woodpecker in Region 3.

The passerine picture is generally one of low counts, with explanation sought in the few frontal passages to force groundings and in excellent wild food crops and bare ground resulting in no push to visit feeders. As usual, there are positives, including: good numbers of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in several Regions; Acadian Flycatcher banded in Regions 3 & 4; note of high swallow numbers at Montezuma NWR in Region 3, including an estimate of 100,000+ Tree Swallows; Com. Raven and Fish Crow numbers and ranges increasing; a flock of 80 Bohemian Waxwings in Region 6 in spite of no invasion; Solitary Vireo record late inland in Region 5; good numbers of Blue-winged and Prairie warblers for fall; Orange-crowned Warbler record early on 3 September in Region 3; Cape May Warbler record late inland in Region 5; Connecticut Warbler in Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, & 10; a count of 100+ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in Region 3; six reports of Blue Grosbeak in Region 10; Am. Tree Sparrow record early on 28 September in Region 2; an unprecedented estimate of 10,000 White-throated Sparrows in one locale in Region 10; good counts of both sharp-tailed sparrow species in Region 10 and a good count for Boat-tailed Grackles also in Region 10. Unfortunately, there are also a substantial number of negatives which may suggest species to monitor more closely in future seasons, including: Carolina Wren still down after several bad winters; only a

single report for Sedge Wren, from Region 8; almost all comments on thrushes negative; Brown Thrasher numbers low; specific note of very poor Yellow-rumped Warbler counts, except for one note from Region 3; few Scarlet Tanagers; sparrow numbers generally off in most Regions; most blackbird counts relatively poor; and more news of House Finches with eye disease, including now Region 7. The lack of invasions by irruptive species is not really a negative, just a fact for this year, but nearly all stayed away, with no major chickadee or Red-breasted Nuthatch movements, only a faint echo of last year's N. Shrike invasion, and almost no winter finches.

The departure date tables are another source of potential interesting information. Over all species and Regions, this fall's dates averaged late relative to both last year and the 11-year average for which we have kept comparable data. From the summary table below you will note from Seasonality that Region by Region all were late relative to their 11-year averages, except for Region 6, where few observers led to only a small sampling of dates being reported. The column Advance shows a typical pattern for departure across the state, again except for Region 6 and possibly for the magnitude of lateness for Region 2. Comparing the last two columns in the full departure date table (at the end of this issue), species by species, you will note the preponderance of late departures this fall, with Spotted Sandpiper, Chimney Swift, Barn Swallow, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Am. Redstart, and White-crowned Sparrow significantly late. Notably early departures are for Osprey, Broad-winged Hawk, and Pectoral Sandpiper. I have no idea what these observations mean relative to populations. Several of the species are ones of some concern, others are not. There will be some influence on the numbers due to missing data for some species in many Regions and all from Region 9.

<b>Departure Dates Seasonality and Advance</b>			
<b>Region</b>	<b>Species Reported</b>	<b>Seasonality vs 1986-1996</b>	<b>Advance (Days)</b>
Region 1	60	0.38	4.85
Region 2	62	4.28	8.68
Region 3	61	0.99	1.50
Region 4	55	0.45	-5.32
Region 5	60	3.08	4.19
Region 6	33	-8.88	-14.61
Region 7	55	3.96	-8.95
Region 8	58	3.96	1.28
Region 9	-	-	-
Region 10	53	1.90	10.10

*Seasonality* measures the average difference (in days) between this year's departure and the long-term average dates for the same region. *Advance*

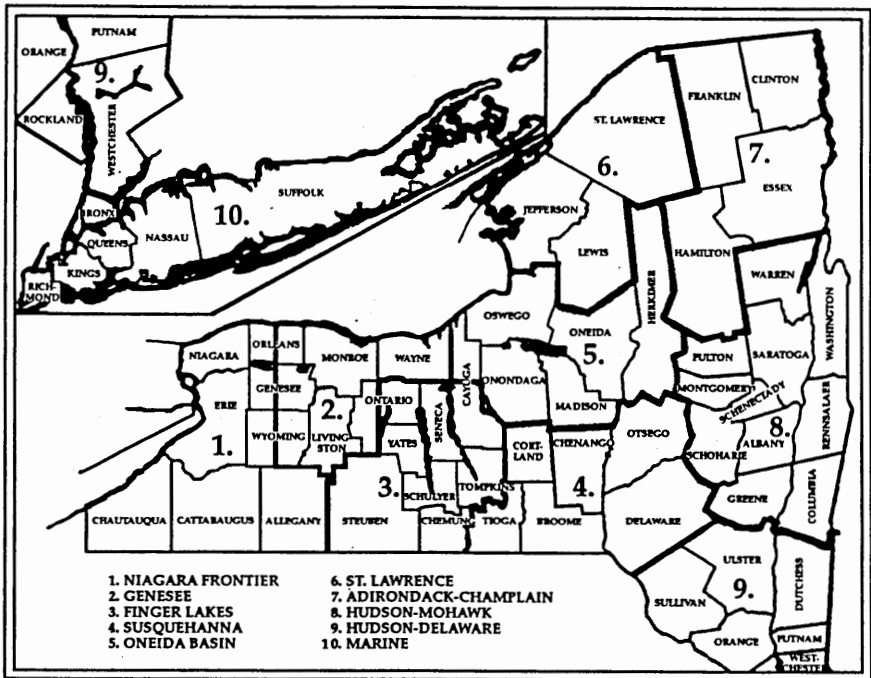
measures the average difference between this year's departure dates in a given region and the departure dates averaged over all ten regions. Negative values mean this year's number is early compared with the overall number.

Finally, as noted earlier, there were numerous rarities observed this fall. It would be useful relative to a few of the recent newer or less well understood species added by recent splits to read carefully Sy Schiff's comments in the introduction to the Region 10 report. As often, there are too many rarities to cite all here, and many are already noted above, so my choices of the "best" by Region are: Region 1 - Black-capped Petrel, Long-tailed Jaeger, Mew Gull (*L.c.canus*), Sooty Tern, and Rufous Hummingbird; Region 2 - Black-capped Petrel, Sandhill Crane (3), Piping Plover, and Sooty Tern; Region 3 - Little Blue Heron, Three-toed Woodpecker, and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow; Region 4 - hybrid Greater White-fronted Goose x Canada Goose and Acadian Flycatcher; Region 5 - Black-capped Petrel, Harlequin Duck, Am. Avocet (3), Sabine's Gull, and N. Wheatear; Region 6 - N. Gannet, Snowy Egret, Sooty Tern; Region 7 - Greater White-fronted Goose, N. Hawk Owl, and Western Tanager; Region 8 - Ross' Goose, Gray Kingbird, and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow; and Region 10 - Manx Shearwater, Audubon's Shearwater, Am. White Pelican, Long-tailed Jaeger, Sandwich Tern, White-winged Dove, N. Wheatear, and Bell's Vireo. This list, with its many extreme rarities, presents a difficult choice, but the B.O.T.S Award goes to the many Black-capped Petrels blown far inland.

khvm75a@prodigy.com

**Standard abbreviations:** Regional rarities appear in *bold italics*; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. **In species accounts:** number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! — details seen by Regional Editor; ad — adult; Alt — Alternate plumage; Am. — American; arr — arrival or first of season; BBS — Breeding Bird Survey; CBC — Christmas Bird Count; CO — confirmed nesting; Com. — Common; E. — Eastern; FL — fledgling; FY — adult feeding young; I — Island; imm — immature; *intro* — see introduction to report; juv — juvenile; L — Lake; max — maximum; mob — multiple observers; N. — Northern; NYSDEC — New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; 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; W. — Western; WMA — Wildlife Management Area; y — young.

## REPORTING REGIONS



Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, *except at*:

**Region 1-Region 2** in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties: the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia, NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19 from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

**Region 2-Region 3** in Ontario County: the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64 from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21 from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

**Region 3-Region 5** in Cayuga County: the boundary is NY Route 31.

## REPORTING DEADLINES

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

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

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

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

## REGION 1 - NIAGARA FRONTIER

WILLIE D'ANNA

2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls NY 14304-4522

In 1995 the weather concern was drought. This year it turned to floods. That pattern continued into the fall, making September the second wettest in Buffalo weather history with 7.51" of rain compared to the normal of 3.49". The remnants of Hurricane Fran played a large part. However, lake effect rains dropped even more, especially north of Buffalo in the Town of Tonawanda, which received over 12" for the month! The latter half of October was also wet, driving up that month's total rainfall to 4.22", well above the average of 3.09". November's 2.99" of precipitation was almost an inch below normal, a nice change. However, at five degrees below the average, it was the sixth coldest November this century. September and October, on the other hand, were both within a degree of normal. While Buffalo recorded an average 10" of snow, Sherman in the southwest corner of CHAU had 40" on the 10-14 November alone!

The effects of weather on the distribution of birds are often ethereal. With hurricanes, though, the impact can be dramatic, or so we have read. This season the Region had a chance to experience, firsthand, the leftovers of Hurricane Fran which passed just west of our Region on 7 September. Though tropical systems in the past have deposited a (very) few storm-driven waifs into the Region (most records being in the form of specimens), Fran was the first to give birders an opportunity to see multiple individuals.

Much of the following is from a well researched article, "Hurricane Fran: September 1996" by Bob Curry (*Birder's Journal* 5(6): 283-297). **Although most of the sightings cited by Curry are believed correct, they are not included in the reports section unless they were supported by details of identification and location within New York waters, reviewed by this writer.** Because many of the birds were noted flying east with the wind, then back west onto Lake Erie, it is believed that most, at one time or another, made it to the head of the Niagara River before turning around. Thus, most were probably in our Region, if briefly, and therefore worthy of mention here. **Black-capped Petrels** were the main story of the hurricane. Many were sighted from Waverly Beach, Ontario on Lake Erie (one mile from Buffalo), usually only one at a time. A systematic search of Canadian beaches on the three weekends following the storm, however, turned up *15 specimens* within 40 miles of Buffalo. Only one was found on the New York side of the lake, the difference most likely due to the prevailing winds. The strong southwesterlies



blew two other weakened petrels right off of the lake into Niagara County where they were picked up and taken to rehabilitators. Neither survived. A juvenile **Sooty Tern** was seen from Jaeger Rocks, Ont., at the head of the Niagara River, and an adult from Waverly Beach, Ont., both 8 Sep. An adult specimen was recovered on the Canadian shore 30 miles from Buffalo. A **Wilson's Storm-Petrel** was sighted from Jaeger Rocks 9 and 13 Sep. Three were sighted from Waverly Beach 10 Sep. Unfortunately, only anecdotal evidence supports the Jaeger Rocks sightings as being in our Region. Laughing Gulls were observed in record numbers, including as many as five at the head of the river 14 Sep. Two were seen 9 Sep at Woodlawn Beach S.P., a new park on Lake Erie in the Town of Hamburg ERIE, and another was well inland at Countryside Sand and Gravel pits, CATT 8 Sep. All were in juvenal or Basic I plumage.

Whereas the preceding species were undoubtedly brought here by Fran, many other pelagic species in the area may have simply been stopped in their overland migration by the northward moving storm. The origins of the following birds have been much debated and there is no consensus. Record numbers of jaegers including: five **Long-tailed Jaegers** at Waverly Beach, Ont (RK!) and one at Buffalo, high numbers of Red-necked and Red phalaropes, Sabine's Gulls (including an extremely rare adult inland in CATT), a Black-legged Kittiwake, and an unfathomable **18,000** Common Terns at Niagara Falls 8 Sep (GC) kept the birding extremely interesting between sightings of the even more exceptional pelagics. The week of 8-15 Sep will certainly go down as one of the most exciting in Regional history, and it has local birders anticipating the next tropical storm to pass our way.

Concerning matters of greater long-term importance, the B.O.S. held its 61st Annual October Bird Count 13 Oct, compiled by Mike Hamilton, Gerry Rising, and Terry Yonker. The count area includes the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario and, unlike previous years, I have no breakdown for Region 1. However, most of the trends apply to our Region as well as to the entire count area. Significant all time highs were recorded for Double-crested Cormorants (898 vs. 846 in 1995), N. Shovelers (271 vs. 144 in 1994), Turkey Vultures (394 vs. 267 in 1995), and Common Ravens (14, all in ALLE and CATT where the species is actually becoming easy to find). A decade maximum of 147 Horned Larks was still down from the averages of the 50's and 60's. Decade minimums for species averaging over 100 were 53 Am. Kestrels, 313 Killdeer (lowest since the 1960's), 420 Herring Gulls, 19 Common Terns, 1166 Black-capped Chickadees, 1814 Am. Robins, 168 Chipping Sparrows, 22 Field Sparrows, 90 Rusty Blackbirds, and 820 House Finches (decade average 1569). Other significant counts were 240 scaup (lowest since 1971, decade average 5516), and 294 Ruddy Ducks (third highest ever and highest since 1950).

Species mentioned which are continuing trends suggested by previous B.O.S. count data are Double-crested Cormorant, N. Shoveler, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, and Common Raven on the positive side and Am. Kestrel, Chipping Sparrow, and House Finch on the down side.

Two inland sites continue to vie with the more heavily frequented Niagara River and Great Lakes for birders' attention. They are the now well-known Batavia Sewage Lagoons, which again attracted impressive numbers of waterfowl, and the Countryside Sand and Gravel pits. The latter is in an area of low birder density, but this season it produced Tundra Swan, Snow Goose, Sanderling, White-rumped and Baird's sandpipers, Laughing Gull, and an adult Sabine's Gull.

While most of the birds that were related to Hurricane Fran were not reported after September, jaegers were the exception with several later sightings on Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. These may actually have been later migrants rather than birds lingering since Fran. All three species were seen, including another **Long-tailed Jaeger**.

Though numbers of gulls on the Niagara River were not impressive this season, the variety certainly was, with 15 species reported. Highlights were the Region's third and fourth **Mew Gulls**, including one identified as of the nominate European race, a first, and multiple sightings of **California Gull**, involving at least three individuals. This is the fifth straight year for the latter on the Niagara River.

Yet a third new Regional record showed up during this remarkable season - an adult male **Rufous Hummingbird** at the feeding station of Jim Wojewodzki in the Town of Colden in Erie. Other highlights this season include a record late Least Bittern, a record count of Surf Scoters, Golden Eagle, Willet, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and Kentucky and Connecticut warblers.

**Contributors:** Robert Andrie, Anna Bauer, Paul Benham, William Broderick, Elizabeth Brooks, John Cheney, Bruce Chilton, Glenn Coady, Bob Curry (RCu), Willie D'Anna, Michael Davis, Dean DiTommaso, Kurt Fox, Mike Hamilton, Tom Harper, Barbara Henderson, Paul Hess, Richard Knapton, Hans Kunze, Tom Madison (TMa), Richard Miga, Brian Mongi, Mike Morgante, Judy Mosher, Terry Mosher, Tom O'Donnell, Susan O'Donnell, John Olmstead, Rick Pearson (RPe), Raymond Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Frances Rew, Gerald Rising, Donald Roberson, Olga Rosche, Paul Schnell, Bert Schweigert, Gail Seamans, William Seleen, Jack Skalicky, Sharon Skelly, Robert Smalley (RSm), David Suggs (Buffalo RBA), Robert Sundell, Joe Thill (weather data), John Thill (JnT), Michael Turisk, Kirk Vanstrom, William Watson, Jim Wojewodzki, Alan Wormington, Peter Yoerg

**Abbreviations:** BSL-Batavia Sewage Lagoons GENE; BOSOC-Buffalo Ornithological Society October Count, 13 Oct; BRBA-Buffalo Rare Bird Alert;

Chaut. L-Chautauqua Lake. CHAU; CSG-Countryside Sand and Gravel pits. T Dayton CATT; DH-Dunkirk Harbor, City of Dunkirk; INWR-Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; NF-Niagara Falls; NPP-Niagara Power Project on Niagara River, Town of Lewiston; NR-Niagara River; Tiftt NP-Tiftt Nature Preserve, Buffalo.

**LOONS-WATERFOWL:** **Red-throated Loon:** arr T Wilson 13 Oct (WD!,MT), early; NR-NF 10 Nov (mob), rare away from L Ontario. **Com. Loon:** arr Woodlawn Beach SP 13 Sep, early; max 615 over Chaut. L T North Harmony 2 Nov (RPe), second highest CHAU count ever. **Horned Grebe:** arr Woodlawn Beach SP 13 Sep, early. **Red-necked Grebe:** none. **BLACK-CAPPED PETREL:** Buffalo 12,14,15 Sep (WD!,MM!,RA!,WW!); dead bird floating down middle of NR-Buffalo 14 Sep (RK!,mob); specimens to Buffalo Museum of Science - T Newfane 15 Sep, T Niagara 15 Sep. & Wendt Beach ERIE 21 Sep; first Regional records. **Wilson's Storm-petrel:** none documented in the Region as yet; *intro*. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 1130 Buckhorn I SP 2 Sep (WW), another record for this species; 898 record for BOSOC. **Least Bittern:** Tiftt NP 1 Sep; Tiftt NP 28 Oct (BC!), record late. **Great Egret:** max. 11 BSL 1 Sep; last Oak Orchard WMA 27 Oct, later than usual; widespread in northern counties. **Green Heron:** last three BOSOC. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** ALLE 13 Oct, rare inland. **ibis species:** INWR 11,13 Oct (BRBA). **Tundra Swan:** arr seven BOSOC; max 2500 over Chaut. L-Greenhurst 8 Nov (JC), very high count. **Mute Swan:** INWR 20 Oct (MM!), only report. **Snow Goose:** arr three INWR 5 Oct. **Brant:** 15 Barcelona Harbor CHAU 9 Nov and 50 DH 9 Nov, much less frequent on L Erie than L Ontario; 86 T Wilson 9 Nov, max counts. **Green-winged Teal:** 82 Burgeson Sanctuary CHAU 12 Oct, continued good numbers. **N. Shoveler:** 271 record for BOSOC, of which 268 were at BSL, record for one site. **Canvasback:** arr 55 NF-NR 17 Oct. **Redhead:** arr three BSL 5 Oct. **Ring-necked Duck:** arr 13 BSL 23 Sep (WW!), early. **Greater Scaup:** arr two BSL 23 Sep, early. **Lesser Scaup:** arr BSL 23 Sep. **Oldsquaw:** arr 22 T Wilson 12 Oct. **Black Scoter:** arr T Wilson 12 Oct. **Surf Scoter:** arr 16 T Wilson 12 Oct; record max 104, all males, Wilson 22 Oct (WD). **White-winged Scoter:** 600 T Wilson 12 Oct (WD), high count. **Com. Goldeneye:** arr four NR-NF 17 Oct. **Bufflehead:** arr NR-NF 17 Oct. **Com. Merganser:** arr two INWR 7 Oct. **Red-breasted Merganser:** BSL 1 Sep (GS), early migrant or summering. **Ruddy Duck:** arr seven INWR 26 Sep; max 250 BSL 20 Oct (MM), continuing high numbers at this site.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** **Turkey Vulture:** 394 record for BOSOC. **Rough-legged Hawk:** arr two T Yates and one T Charlotte 19 Oct, low numbers. **Golden Eagle:** imm T Somerset 26 Oct (WD!,mob), about the eighth fall record. **Am. Kestrel:** 53 BOSOC decade min, continued low numbers. **Merlin:**

Buffalo 14 Sep (MH!), only report. **Com. Moorhen**: last two INWR 6 Oct. **Am. Coot**: 3500 Chaut. L 5 Nov (FR). high count. **Am. Golden-Plover**: max 60 T Porter 21 Sep; last Woodlawn Beach SP 26 Oct. **Killdeer**: 313 BOSOC, lowest since the 60's. **Willet**: Olcott NIAG 8 Sep (SO.TO). rare. **Red Knot**: Woodlawn Beach SP 9-13 Sep. only report. **Sanderling**: CSG 8 Sep (BS), rare inland. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: Prendergast Point-Chaut L 7 Sep (KV), unusual inland; CSG 8 Sep (BS), second CATT record; two BOSOC; only reports. **Baird's Sandpiper**: CSG 8 Sep (BS), first CATT record; two DH 10 Sep. only reports. **Purple Sandpiper**: four NR-NF 30 Nov. only report. **Stilt Sandpiper**: BSL 6 Oct (JS), only report. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**: Woodlawn Beach SP 9 Sep (WD.BP). rare. **Red-necked Phalarope**: 12-1 Woodlawn Beach SP 9-21 Sep (mob); nine BSL 9 Sep (WW); Tiftt NP 12 Sep, hurricane related birds. **Red Phalarope**: two Burgeson Sanctuary CHAU 8 Sep (KV) and one Woodlawn Beach SP 10 Sep (WD!), hurricane related birds: Squaw I Buffalo 29 Sep (RA); Allegheny Res. 13 Oct (PY.BH). second CATT record. **POMARINE JAEGER**: two T Somerset 26 Oct (MM!,WD!); Woodlawn Beach SP 31 Oct (MT!); sixth and seventh records. **Parasitic Jaeger**: Woodlawn Beach SP 14 Sep (MT!) and Beaver I SP 15 Sep (PB!), both close focus views!; T Somerset 26 Oct (MM!). **LONG-TAILED JAEGER**: ad Buffalo-NR 8 Sep (AW!), first ever; imm Woodlawn Beach SP 31 Oct (MT!); five individuals were reported at nearby Waverly Beach, Ont. (RK!). **Jaeger species**: T Somerset 26 Oct; Shadigee ORLE 26 Oct; four Woodlawn Beach SP 31 Oct. **Laughing Gull**: NR-Buffalo 8-15 Sep. max five 14 Sep (AW,WD!,MM!); CSG 8 Sep (BS!), second CATT record; two Woodlawn Beach SP 9 Sep (MM!,MT!); hurricane related birds, all juvenal or Basic I plumage, unprecedented. **Franklin's Gull**: NR-Buffalo 5-15 Sep; Woodlawn Beach SP 31 Oct (MT), rare away from NR; NR-NF 10-16 Nov; only reports. **Little Gull**: arr NR-Buffalo 8 Sep; good numbers NR thru. **Bonaparte's Gull**: below average numbers on NR. **MEW GULL**: Basic I NR-NF 10 Nov (SS!,BM!), first imm ever; *Larus canus canus*: Basic II NPP 17 Nov (JO,BCu!,RK!), first for this subspecies. **CALIFORNIA GULL**: ad NPP 10-23 Nov (WD!,mob); two ad NPP 24 Nov (WD!, mob), one with much darker mantle; a third individual found in Dec. **Herring Gull**: 420 BOSOC decade min. **Thayer's Gull**: all ages NPP and NF through Nov. **Iceland Gull**: arr NPP 3 Nov. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: imm NR-NF 3 Sep (WD!), early and a different age than bird observed here in Aug; probably over a dozen individuals on NR in Nov. all ages. **Glaucous Gull**: arr NR-NF 16 Nov. **Black-legged Kittiwake**: NR-Buffalo 14 Sep (MM!), hurricane related; T Wilson 9 Nov (WD!); NR-NF 19.28 Nov (BC!,PY!,WD!). **Sabine's Gull**: one,three NR-Buffalo 8,15 Sep (BH,WD!), hurricane related; ad CSG 8 Sep (BS!), first CATT record; ad Barcelona Harbor CHAU 2 Nov (RS!); rare away from NR and *adults are exceptionally rare*. **Caspian Tern**: Sunset

Bay CHAU 13 Oct (FR!), record late. **Com. Tern**: 18,000 Niagara Falls 8 Sep (GC), unprecedented [HEd: more details on area included and method of estimating would be appreciated for a number so far exceeding any historical data.]; 19 BOSOC decade min. **Forster's Tern**: 2-1 NR-Buffalo 10-29 Sep (mob), only report. **Sooty Tern**: none documented in the Region as yet. **Black Tern**: max 150 NR-Buffalo 8 Sep, still far below historical maxima at this site.

**DOVES-WOODPECKERS**: **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: NF 29 Oct (SO!), second latest ever. **Snowy Owl**: arr T Ellington 5 Nov; many reports. **Barred Owl**: calling to captive bird Lyndonville ORLE 4 Sep (PS), extremely rare L Ontario plain. **Short-eared Owl**: arr T Cambria 15 Nov (SO), only report. **Com. Nighthawk**: max 154 Kenmore ERIE 3 Sep; last T Tonawanda 7 Oct. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: T Colden 12 Oct (JW), late, same feeder that held the Rufous. **RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD**: T Colden 4-23 Oct (JW!, mob), first Regional record. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: arr away from breeding areas Goat I NIAG 5 Sep, early; last two BOSOC.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLING**: **Horned Lark**: 147 decade max for BOSOC, but still down from 50's and 60's. **Barn Swallow**: last four BOSOC, continues trend of late sightings. **Com. Raven**: 14 record for BOSOC; becoming easy to find in ALLE and CATT. **Black-capped Chickadee**: 1166 BOSOC decade min. **Brown Creeper**: arr away from breeding areas four T Wilson & T Porter 21 Sep. **Carolina Wren**: none BOSOC, first miss since 1985. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: arr away from breeding areas three T Wilson 21 Sep. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: arr seven T Porter & T Wilson 21 Sep. **Gray-checked Thrush**: arr NF 10 Sep. **Swainson's Thrush**: arr away from breeding areas NF 10 Sep. **Am. Robin**: 1814 BOSOC decade min. **N. Shrike**: arr INWR 20 Oct.

**VIREOS-WARBLERS**: **Yellow-throated Vireo**: last T North Harmony 24 Sep (KV), very uncommon in Southern Tier. **Blue-winged Warbler**: Buckhorn I SP 4 Oct (BC!), third latest ever. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: arr T Wilson 21 Sep. **N. Parula**: arr Tiffit NP 12 Sep. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: max 10 Tiffit NP 15 Sep, high count. **Pine Warbler**: arr Tiffit NP 10 Sep. **Prairie Warbler**: T Amity 2 Sep, breeding site. **Palm Warbler**: arr Tiffit NP 7 Sep. **Kentucky Warbler**: 20 Sep (MD!), rare. **Connecticut Warbler**: Four Mile Creek SP 18 Sep (SO, TO), rare. **Mourning Warbler**: last two Four Mile Creek SP 18 Sep. **Com. Yellowthroat**: Burgeson Sanctuary CHAU 24 Nov (KV), very late. **Hooded Warbler**: last Evangola SP 22 Sep.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS**: **Dickcissel**: female Jamestown feeder 22 Nov (WS, ph, RS), about the fourth CHAU record. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: arr Amity L ALLE 11 Nov. **Vesper Sparrow**: last Buckhorn I SP 4 Nov. **Savannah**

**Sparrow:** last 29 BOSOC. **Fox Sparrow:** arr three BOSOC. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr Tiff NP 1 Sep; last eight BOSOC. **White-throated Sparrow:** arr away from breeding areas four T Alfred 19 Sep. **White-crowned Sparrow:** arr two Four Mile Creek SP 21 Sep; L Ontario Plain through. **Dark-eyed Junco:** arr away from breeding areas T Wilson 22 Sep. **Lapland Longspur:** arr four T Porter 13 Oct. **Snow Bunting:** arr 50 T Yates 26 Oct; low numbers only. **Baltimore Oriole:** last Tiff NP 26 Sep (MH!), late. **Com. Redpoll:** over Buffalo 15 Nov (PY), only report. **Pine Siskin:** arr three ALLE 13 Oct, scarce. **Evening Grosbeak:** none.

## REGION 2 - GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester NY 14612

Climatic conditions were highly variable and not always fall like this season. In fact, there was a touch of winter. September started things off in a typical fashion with an average temperature of 62°F which was only 0.3° above normal. Precipitation was 2.14" above normal at 5.11". October pretty much followed a similar pattern, with a temperature average of 51.2° and precipitation at 5.4", 0.1° and 2.96" above normal, respectively. The greatest seasonal contrast came in November, where the average temperature of 34.3° was 6.2° below normal and precipitation was 1.2" above normal at 4.12". The end of the season brought more traditional winter fare as the snowfall record for November was eclipsed.

While the season was marked by a variety of conditions, the most striking was the passage of the remnants of Hurricane Fran. It certainly contributed to the above average rainfall, but more importantly, it deposited species associated with the South Atlantic. At other times the usual frontal passages contributed to concentrations of migrants.

The season's species total was quite good. The hurricane additions contributed to the otherwise good Regional coverage provided by many observers including the Hamlin Lakewatch under the direction of Brett Ewald, the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station under the auspices of Braddock Bay

Bird Observatory, and the warbler surveying done by Bob Marcotte at Badgerow Park in Greece.

The Hamlin Beach Lakewatch was once again the place to find loons. Observers felt that the count was about average this year with no outstanding days or counts. A **Pacific/Arctic Loon** was well described from Point Breeze. In winter plumage the two are difficult to separate, and this bird, while most likely a Pacific based on normal movement patterns and records, was not specifically identified. Grebes too were about average. The **Black-capped Petrel** sighted at Hamlin Beach on 23 Sep was a Regional 1st and most likely the highlight of the season. Two Northern Gannet reports from Hamlin Beach were very good and characteristic of the season. Double-crested Cormorants observations continue, but numbers seem to be stabilized and down from some recent years.

Wader highlights included a Glossy Ibis at Round Pond in September and a Least Bittern at Braddock Bay on 12 Oct, a Regional record late date.

The fall waterfowl flights were generally nondescript, with only a few notable observations. The 37 Snow Geese at Hamlin Beach is a good fall total. Brant numbers were mediocre at best. The dark-winged scoters were well down from recent years. Greater Scaup continued to be one of the highlights, with thousands being reported along the lakeshore. Red-breasted Mergansers had a single day total of over 1200 birds on the 16th of Nov. Two King Eider reports from the Region were noteworthy. Ruddy Ducks were well noted, with two groups numbering over 50 individuals during Oct.

Raptor numbers were about average. There were no noticeable trends. An early Rough-legged Hawk in October was not a sign of things to come, as subsequent records were few. There were also a few reports of Peregrine Falcon continuing recent trends. There were rumors of Peregrines in downtown Rochester, but no actual reports were submitted.

Three Sandhill Cranes in Richmond from the 19th to the 26th of November provided only the second fall report of this species in the Region.

Shorebirds put in a poor showing. High water levels left us with a limited amount of habitat and, as a result, a limited number of decent shorebird days. Observers noted a lack of both Pectoral Sandpipers and Dunlin. A **Piping Plover** at Hamlin Beach from 16 - 20 Sep was the best shorebird of the season. Other highlights included: two Hudsonian Godwits at Hamlin Beach in September, two Purple Sandpipers from the piers at the mouth of the Genesee River, and a number of Red-necked Phalarope reports from Hamlin Beach. Four Red Phalarope reports were quite good.

Jaegers were definitely a highlight of the season. The count started in September with over 100 jaegers reported and continued right through the season with record totals in November. Observers noted that the pattern often

seemed to favor a closer approach to shore affording them a better view for separating the species. Still, many were relegated to the unidentified jaeger row on the charts due the range of observation and the difficulty in separating these species. It was generally a decent season for gulls, with three Laughing Gulls reported after Fran passed and reports of Little, Iceland, Lesser Black-backed and Glaucous gulls rounding out the larid highlights. A **Sooty Tern** which rode in on the passage of Hurricane Fran was only the second for the Region and was easily one of the birds of the season. Black-legged Kittiwake numbers were excellent, with a max of 16 immatures on 22 Nov at Hamlin Beach. Forster's Tern numbers were also good, with counts of over 30 individuals in two separate flocks during September.

Snowy Owls put in an early showing, with birds arriving in early November and building to 19 individuals by the end of the month. Short-eared Owls were in short supply at traditional locations.

The passerine migration was generally characterized as moderate, with some species being reported in low numbers. Flycatchers held on late into the season but did not have a particularly strong showing in totals. Banding operations at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Station provided some late flycatcher reports. Swallow concentrations and staging numbers seemed a bit down. Thrush numbers were not impressive, but two **Bicknell's Thrushes** were banded at Kaiser-Manitou Beach Station during the season and an impressive 53 Hermit Thrushes were banded at that location on 11 Oct.

Bob Marcotte's survey at Badgerow Park produced warbler totals which nearly doubled last year's count for the park. Numbers elsewhere were not impressive. Many observers commented on the poor showing for this group. Of special note was the generally poor numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers. Highlights included over ten reports of Orange-crowned Warbler, two sightings of Connecticut Warbler, and a late N. Parula in Mt. Morris during November.

Sparrows were reported in below average numbers. Observers commented on the lack of White-throated and White-crowned sparrows. There was also a scarcity of Eastern Meadowlarks according to a number of observers. Blackbirds in general were found in large numbers but seemed to depart rather early. A lack of reports indicated that it definitely wasn't going to be a finch winter.

**Contributors:** Elizabeth Brooks, Carolyn Cass, Judy & Denis Caysinger, Gary Chapin, Anne Clarridge, Jerry Czech, Kathleen Dalton, Frank Dobson, Robert Dobson, Robert Dows, Colleen Dox-Griffith, Chita Easton, Brett Ewald, Jeanine & Kurt Fox, Bill Gillette, Kevin Griffith, Sandra Hazen, Jim Kimball, Tom Lathrop, John Lehr, Bob Marcotte, Richard Mather, Robert McKinney, Nancy Miller, Richard O'Hara, Betty & Bill Powell, Dominic Sherony, Robert,



Susan, Cathy & Kristin Spahn, Paul Spindler, Dave & Allan Strong, Jerry Sullivan, William Symonds, Dave Tetlow, Don & Donna Traver, Ann Watson.

**Abbreviations:** BB - Braddock Bay, BP - Badgerow Park (Greece) CL - Conesus Lake, G - Greece, HB - Hamlin Beach State Park, IB - Irondequoit Bay, M - Manitou, MP - Mendon Ponds Park, PB - Point Breeze, and S - Summerville.

**LOONS - DUCKS:** **Red-throated Loon:** arr one HB 11 Oct; max 434 HB 23 Nov. **PACIFIC/ ARCTIC LOON:** one PB 29-30 Nov (MD,KG). **Red-necked Grebe:** arr two HB 21 Sep, early. **BLACK-CAPPED PETREL:** one HB 23 Sep (WS), first Region 2 record. **NORTHERN GANNET:** one HB 1 Nov (CC); one HB 16 Nov (R&SS,BM,WS), immatures. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 150 BB 2 Nov. **Am. Bittern:** last one BB 26 Oct. **Great Egret:** last one HB 13 Oct. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** last one Salmon Creek 12 Oct. **Glossy Ibis:** one G 28 Sep (KG, mob), only fall report. **Tundra Swan:** arr two G 5 Oct; max 109 CL 2 Nov. **Snow Goose:** arr three HB 5 Oct; max 37 HB 11 Oct. **Brant:** arr six HB 11 Oct. **Blue-winged Teal:** last one HB 4 Nov. **Greater Scaup:** max 6000+ BB 23 Nov. **KING EIDER:** one Summerville 22 Nov (BM); one IB 23 Nov (GC,DS), females. **Oldsquaw:** arr five HB 10 Sep. **Surf Scoter:** arr two HB 14 Sep (KG,WS), record early. **Com. Goldeneye:** arr one HB 12 Oct. **Bufflehead:** arr one G 16 Oct. **Com. Merganser:** arr one HB 14 Sep. **Red-breasted Merganser:** max 1200 HB 16 Nov. **Ruddy Duck:** max 62 Cranberry Pond, G 21 Oct.

**HAWKS - ALCIDS:** **Rough-legged Hawk:** arr one G 10 Oct, light morph. **Merlin:** one HB 11 Oct; two Rochester 15 Oct. **Sandhill Crane:** three Richmond 19-26 Nov (J&KF). **PIPING PLOVER:** one HB 16-20 Sep (WS). **Solitary Sandpiper:** last one Salmon Creek 2 Oct. **Upland Sandpiper:** last one HB 1 Sep. **Whimbrel:** one HB 1,12,15 Sep, last. **Hudsonian Godwit:** two HB 5 Oct (KF,WS), uncommon. **Ruddy Turnstone:** last one HB 14 Oct. **Red Knot:** one Charlotte 15 Oct (RMc,RO'H); one Charlotte 21 Oct (BM), uncommon. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** last one Sodus Pt 2 Nov. **Baird's Sandpiper:** last two Salmon Creek 13 Oct. **Purple Sandpiper:** arr one Summerville 20 Nov; two other reports in Nov. **Dunlin:** arr four HB 14 Sep; max 54 BB 2 Nov. **Red-necked Phalarope:** one HB 19 Sep (BE), uncommon; one HB 19 Oct (BE). **Red Phalarope:** one HB 18 Oct (BE); one HB 4 Nov (WS); one M 7 Nov (RO'H); one HB 11 Nov (WS), uncommon. **Pomarine Jaeger:** 15 individuals HB during Sep; 20+ individuals HB in Oct; 5 individuals HB Nov. **Parasitic Jaeger:** 62 individuals HB in Sep; max 13 HB 10 Sep (CC,KF); 43+ individuals HB in Oct; 34 individuals HB Nov. **jaeger species:** 49 unidentified individuals HB Sep; 26+ individuals HB in Oct; 8 individuals HB Nov. **LAUGHING GULL:** three HB 8 Sep (WS,KF), two juv.

one ad. **Little Gull**: max five HB 24 Nov. **Iceland Gull**: arr one G 27 Nov. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: one Cobbs Hill 23 Nov (TL), adult. **Glaucous Gull**: arr one JN 17 Nov. **Black-legged Kittiwake**: arr two HB 10 Nov (WS); max 16 HB 22 Nov (WS), immatures. **Forster's Tern**: 31 HB 14 Sep (KG,WS), max 33 HB 19 Sep (BE), each a single group. **SOOTY TERN**: two passes by probably the same bird HB 10 Sep (KF!,CC!), second Regional record.

**PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS**: **Snowy Owl**: arr one Rochester International Airport last week Oct; total 19+ sev locations all Nov. **Com. Nighthawk**: max 42 HB 5 Sep; dep three sev locations 8 Sep. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: max 15 Avon 2 Sep. good regional total.

**FLYCATCHERS - STARLINGS**: **Willow Flycatcher**: last one Durand Eastman Park 22 Sep. **Purple Martin**: last one HB 15 Sep. **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: last one HB 21 Sep. **Bank Swallow**: last two G 13 Sep. **Cliff Swallow**: last one HB 15 Sep. **Winter Wren**: arr one BP 18 Sep. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: arr two M 19 Sep. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: arr one BB 10 Sep. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: arr one M 19 Sep. banded; last one M 9 Oct. banded. **BICKNELL'S THRUSH**: one M 20 Sep; one M 26 Sep (RMC), banded. **Hermit Thrush**: arr two HB 21 Sep. 20; max 53 M 11 Oct (EB), excellent total. **Am. Pipit**: arr one HB 13 Sep; last four Elba 1 Nov. **N. Shrike**: arr one M 15 Nov.

**VIREOS - WARBLERS**: **Philadelphia Vireo**: last one Webster 6 Oct. **N. Parula**: one Mt Morris 20 Nov (KF), very late. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: four Sep reports; seven reports various 3-12 Oct. **Pine Warbler**: last one HB 2 Oct. **Palm Warbler**: last one CL 14 Oct. **Cerulean Warbler**: last one M 26 Sep. **Connecticut Warbler**: arr one MP 1 Sep (KF), record early; one M 30 Sep (EB). **Mourning Warbler**: last one BP 20 Sep. **Hooded Warbler**: last one Portageville 14 Oct.

**TANAGERS - WEAVERS**: **Indigo Bunting**: last one M 26 Sep. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: arr one BB 28 Sep. **Vesper Sparrow**: last two Lima 10 Oct. **Savannah Sparrow**: last one Avon 25 Nov. **Fox Sparrow**: arr one BP 13 Oct. **White-throated Sparrow**: arr one 1000 Acre Swamp 14 Sep. **White-crowned Sparrow**: arr one - two M,G 19 Sep. **Lapland Longspur**: arr on HB 30 Sep. **Snow Bunting**: arr six HB 12 Oct. **Rusty Blackbird**: arr one MP 18 Sep; max 1500+ Crusoe Lake. Wayne Co, 13 Oct; last one WL 11 Nov. **Pine Siskin**: arr one BB 14 Sep (D&AS), early. **Evening Grosbeak**: arr one HB 14 Sep.

Look at the way the species in Region 3 are reported.  
Each is on its own line, but the font size is smaller.  
Please tell us if you want all Regions to report this way.  
Or, do you prefer the traditional way?  
We would like to adopt a single format for all Regional Reports.  
We would like to arrive at a decision before the next issue.  
We want your comments.

### **REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES**

**STEVE KELLING**

732 Old 76 Rd, Berkshire NY 13736

Wet weather conditions prevailed over the Finger Lakes Region during the fall of 1996. Certainly weatherwise the most newsworthy event of the season was the remnants of Hurricane Fran which brought high winds and heavy rains through the Region on 6-9 September. Throughout the entire month of September strong storms and heavy rain kept water levels high throughout the Region. The first Arctic air mass moved into the northeast on 4 October, and a high pressure on the 11th brought plummeting temperatures. A strong and very slow moving upper level disturbance moving through the northeast on 18-21 October brought heavy rain and flooding to the Region, and the passage of a cold front on the 30th brought heavy winds. A strong storm on 8-9 November brought intense flooding to the north end of Cayuga Lake and the Seneca River. Flood warnings remained in place for two weeks after. Finally, strong cold fronts passed into the Region on the 18th and again on the 26th.

The path of Hurricane Fran was west of the Finger Lakes Region. Consequently we did not see the influx of pelagic birds as was the case on Lake Erie and Ontario. However we did have a few interesting birds attributed to the hurricane. These included several reports of Laughing Gull in the Cayuga Lake Basin, and the observation of jaegers, probably Parasitic, in Ithaca and in the Chemung Valley.

For the fifth consecutive year the migration of Common Loons over Taughannock State Park on Cayuga Lake was observed. Bob Meade and others counted 10,400 Common Loons migrating between 20 October and 6 December. The peak migration of Common Loon was during the week of 10-16 November when 6,443 loons were counted.

The first reports of Trumpeter Swan at Montezuma NWR were in early July. Up to four individuals remained at the refuge through the entire fall period. There was some debate about the origin of these four birds. No tags or other markings were observed on the swans. Following a lead I contacted an individual who was involved in captive rearing of Trumpeter Swan at a private 80 acre pond near the Montezuma Refuge. I was informed that two pairs of Trumpeter Swans had been on this pond, the first pair since 1990. Both pairs of swans were purchased from a breeder in Pennsylvania. Since 1990 at least seven swans have fledged, and these were NOT pinioned and have since dispersed. Four of these, were thought to be at Montezuma, but this finding certainly raises the question as to the origins of the other breeding Trumpeter Swans in Upstate New York.

The largest flight of Broad-winged Hawks ever counted in the Region was made on 18 September from Mount Pleasant located near Ithaca. A total of 3885 hawks were counted by Bernie Guirey, Bill Evans and others. This greatly exceeds the previous Regional fall high of 1500 which was counted on 18-19 September 1960.

For the third consecutive year the fall shorebird migration was monitored by Steve Kelling and others at the Montezuma NWR and throughout the Cayuga Lake Basin (see table). Compared with the previous years, the number of species (26) and number of individuals was up. The five most common shorebirds in the Region were (in order): Killdeer, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, and Semipalmated Sandpiper. Between the last week in August and the first week in September both number of species (20) and the number of individuals observed was at its maximum at the Mays Point Pool of the refuge. Of particular interest was the Regional high number of Buff-breasted Sandpipers (maxima five) observed between 18 August and 8 September.

An event that begins in August and continues through mid October is the concentration of swallows at the Montezuma Refuge. Probably millions of swallows, of six species, use the refuge as a roost. Tree Swallows use the refuge in particular. It is a spectacle to watch these swallows land in the marshes. Each evening they literally look like a funnel cloud of swallows as they concentrate and then land en masse. Observers this year estimated hundreds of thousands of Tree Swallows at the refuge. But this is not a recent development. Thirty years ago Walter Benning estimated that over 600,000 Tree Swallows were at the refuge on 28 September.

There were several good passerine waves in mid-September. On September 10 Ken Rosenberg and mob located 18 species of warblers at Sapsucker Woods in Ithaca. Noteworthy, a Connecticut Warbler and Golden-winged Warbler were observed. On that evening Bill Evans and others listened to a tremendous passage of nocturnal migrants from Mt. Pleasant. Heard were hundreds of

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and many Swainson's Thrushes, Veerys and Wood Thrushes. Then on 16 Sep Jack Brubaker located a warbler flock of 11 species in Texas Hollow. Most notable was a Golden-winged Warbler.

John Gregoire of Kestrel Haven Farm Migration Observatory near Burdett reports that it had its second best banding season in 10 years. While species diversity was low, numbers were high. A high number of both Yellow-rumped Warbler and Common Yellowthroat contributed to the high totals. Also of interest was a high number of Acadian Flycatchers banded.

As well as those birds already mentioned, there were other interesting bird observations which included: Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Greater White-fronted Goose, Lesser Black-backed Gull, **Three-toed Woodpecker**, **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow**, and Dickcissel.

**Abbreviations:** AB - Aurora Bay, CL - Cayuga Lake, DL - Dryden Lake, KF - Kings Ferry, MWG - Mundy Wildflower Garden Cornell University, TSPLW - Taughannock State Park Loon Watch on Cayuga Lake, NSL - North Seneca Lake, SSL - South Seneca Lake, SP - Newman Golf Course, White Lighthouse Jetty, and Stewart Park, SW - Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology at Sapsucker Woods, ITH - Ithaca, MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, MtP - Mt. Pleasant Dryden, MP - Myers Point Lansing, ATM - Allen Treman Marina Ithaca.

**Contributors:** Fred Bertram Jack Brubaker, Chemung Valley Audubon Society, Gary Chapin, Karl David, Stephen Davies, Bill Evans, Andy Farnsworth, John Fitzpatrick, Bernie Guirey, Jim Goodson, Meena Haribal, Steve Kelling, George Kloppel, Gary Lamson, Barb Lyons, Scott Mardis, Bob Meade, Kevin McGowan, Tom Nix, Ralph Paonessa, Bard Prentiss, Bill Retzlaff, Robert Ridgely, Ken Rosenberg, Dave Russel, Rob Scott, Dominic Sherony, Charles Smith, Marie Read, Laura Stenzler.

#### **LOONS- WATERFOWL:**

**Red-throated Loon:** arr CL 1 Nov; max ten TSPLW 3 Nov; last TSPLW 24 Nov.

**Com. Loon:** 258 SCL 1 Nov (JB!); 3206 TSPLW 11 Nov; 2778 TSPLW 14 Nov.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 16 MNWR 28 Sep.

**Horned Grebe:** arr CL 10 Oct; max 8 AB 23 Nov.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max (flight) 965 SP 23 Sep; last (flight) 30 SP 6 Nov.

**Am. Bittern:** nocturnal migrants ITH 9-10 Sep; one MNWR 5 Oct; last SW 22 Oct (BE!), unusually late.

**Least Bittern:** one Queen Catherine Marsh 3 Sep.

**Great Blue Heron:** >50 MNWR 10 Sep; 43 (migrating) CL 10 Oct; singles through Region after 31 Oct.

**Great Egret:** max 15 MNWR 10-29 Sep; last MNWR 28 Oct.

**Little Blue Heron:** one imm Waterloo 11 Oct (FB!).

**Cattle Egret:** one Phelps 28 Oct (FB!).

**Green Heron:** max 25 MtP, nocturnal migrants; last MtP 9 Nov (MR!), unusually late.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** max six MNWR 10 Sep; last Maclean Bog 16 Nov, late.

**Tundra Swan:** arr MP 3 Nov; max 306 MNWR 10 Nov.

**Trumpeter Swan:** four MNWR thru, probable escapes.

**Mute Swan:** one MNWR 10 Nov.  
**Greater White-fronted Goose:** one MNWR 7-13 Oct. almost a yearly occurrence in the 90's.  
**Snow Goose:** max migrating 1980 CL; singles CL after 10 Nov.  
**Brant:** arr SP 3 Oct; max 300 migrating DL 3 Nov; last MP 28 Nov.  
**Canada Goose:** max migrating 9200 SP 23 Sep; 5600 MNWR 10 Nov; 2100 DL 25 Nov.  
**Green-winged Teal:** numerous MNWR through Sep; last MNWR 10 Nov.  
**Am. Black Duck:** max 468 MNWR 10 Nov; 177 AB 23 Nov.  
**N. Pintail:** max migrating 110 CL.  
**Blue-winged Teal:** 15 MNWR 10 Sep.  
**N. Shoveler:** max 30 MNWR 22 Oct.  
**Gadwall:** max 25 MNWR 2 Oct.  
**Am. Wigeon:** max 200 MNWR 28 Sep; 20 MNWR 10 Nov.  
**Canvasback:** arr CL 23 Sep; max 800 MNWR 10 Nov; common CL thru.  
**Redhead:** arr MP 31 Oct; scattered thru.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** max 86 MNWR 10 Nov.  
**Greater Scaup:** arr CL 11 Oct; scattered thru.  
**Lesser Scaup:** arr CL 3 Nov; scattered thru.  
**Oldsquaw:** arr DL 6 Nov; max 75 SP 13 Nov; three Eldridge Lake 25 Nov.  
**Black Scoter:** ten TSPLW 24 Oct; 30 MP 7 Nov.  
**Surf Scoter:** one DL 11 Oct; two ATM 12 Oct; one SP 4 Nov.  
**White-winged Scoter:** arr CL 30 Sep; four MP 29 Oct; two SSL 31 Oct- 5 Nov.  
**Com. Goldeneye:** arr NSL 20 Oct; max 48 AB 23 Nov.  
**Bufflehead:** arr CL 11 Oct; max 48 AB 23 Nov;  
**Hooded Merganser:** max 54 SP 13 Nov; 45 DL 25 Nov.  
**Com. Merganser:** max 40 MNWR 10 Nov.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** max six TSPLW 16 Nov.  
**Ruddy Duck:** arr CL 10 Oct; max 29 MNWR 10 Nov.

#### HAWKS-ALCIDS:

**Turkey Vulture:** max 63 (migrating) CL 11 Oct; 45 migrating TSPLW 24 Oct.  
**Osprey:** 22 MtP 18 Sep; 35 CL 30 Sep.  
**Bald Eagle:** two MtP 18 Sep; MNWR thru.  
**N. Harrier:** 11 CL 30 Sep; 17 CL 11 Oct.  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 16 MtP 18 Sep; 48 CL 11 Oct.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** singles thru.  
**N. Goshawk:** one Queen Catherine Marsh 2 Sep.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** six CL 11 Oct; last Newtown Creek 28 Oct.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** 3885 MtP 18 Sep. Regional record high!  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** one albino MtP 18 Sep; 29 CL 30 Sep; 86 CL 11 Oct.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** one dark morph Dryden 19 Sep (CS!), very early; three dark morph Caroline 17 Nov.  
**Golden Eagle:** two CL 11 Oct (AF!); one Kashong Pt. 30 Oct (FB!).  
**Am. Kestrel:** max 19 CL 11 Oct.  
**Merlin:** arr MNWR 5 Sep; scattered thru.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** arr MNWR 5 Sep; max three CL 30 Sep; two MNWR 8-13 Oct; one Queen Catherine Marsh 8 Oct; one Elmira 20 Oct.  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** two KF 3 Nov. only report!  
**Ruffed Grouse:** one ITH 2 Oct; one DIL woods 16 Oct. only reports!  
**Wild Turkey:** four SW 27 Sep; 42 Bishop Preserve Geneva 15 Nov.  
**Am. Coot:** 100 MNWR 22 Oct; 98 SP 9 Nov; 375 MP 19 Nov.

#### Cayuga Lake Basin/ Montezuma NWR Fall Shorebird Survey

	<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Max - Date</u>	<u>Departure</u>
<b>Black-bellied Plover</b>	17 Aug	11 - 11 Oct	2 Nov

<b>Am. Golden-Plover</b>	18 Aug	6 - 6 Sep	2 Nov
<b>Semipalmated Plover</b>	27 Jul	38 - 18 Sep	11 Oct
<b>Greater Yellowlegs</b>	18 Jul	56 - 21 Aug	3 Nov
<b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b>	18 Jul	196 - 3 Sep	2 Nov
<b>Solitary Sandpiper</b>	12 Jul	8 - 30 Jul	27 Aug
<b>Hudsonian Godwit</b>	8 Sep	19 - 10 Oct	11 Oct
<b>Ruddy Turnstone</b>	31 Jul	2 - 27 Aug	15 Sep
<b>Sanderling</b>	25 Jul	6 - 20 Sep	11 Oct
<b>Semipalmated Sandpiper</b>	13 Jul	95 - 27 Aug	13 Oct*
<b>Western Sandpiper</b>	25 Aug	4 - 20 Sep	11 Oct
<b>Least Sandpiper</b>	7 Jul	123 - 27 Aug	2 Oct
<b>White-rumped Sandpiper</b>	21 Aug	72 - 18 Sep	2 Nov
<b>Baird's Sandpiper</b>	2 Aug	7 - 27 Aug	11 Oct
<b>Pectoral Sandpiper</b>	31 Jul	91 - 8 Oct	16 Oct
<b>Dunlin</b>	18 Sep	121 - 11 Oct	2 Nov
<b>Stilt Sandpiper</b>	14 Jul	30 - 17 Sep	11 Oct
<b>Buff-breasted Sandpiper</b>	18 Aug	5 - 6 Sep**	8 Sep
<b>Short-billed Dowitcher</b>	7 Jul	5 - 21 Aug	29 Sep
<b>Long-billed Dowitcher</b>	15 Sep	11 - 5 Oct	2 Nov
<b>Common Snipe</b>	22 Jul	9 - 27 Aug	25 Sep
<b>Wilson's Phalarope</b>	18 Aug	-	27 Aug
<b>Red-necked Phalarope</b>	18 Aug	-	19 Aug
* Region extreme late	**record number for Region		

**Am. Woodcock:** three Waterloo 18 Nov.

**Jaeger, possible Parasitic:** one dark morph juv SP 18 Sep (SD!, BE!); one EL 20 Sep (DR!).

**Laughing Gull:** one Dryden 10 Sep (RP); one MP 13 Sep (KD).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** arr MNWR 11 Oct; max 41 SP 1 Nov.

**Ring-billed Gull:** 2130 Lansing 29 Sep; 5000 AB 5 Oct; 1500 MP 14 Nov; 994 TSPLW 16 Nov.

**Herring Gull:** 120 CL 11 Oct; 1000 SP 20 Nov; 1000 MNWR 23 Nov.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** arr one ad MNWR 18 Sep; two, adult and first winter MNWR 29 Sep (AF, BR).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** 20 MNWR 29 Sep; eight SP 15 Nov.

**Caspian Tern:** max 12 MNWR 10 Sep.

**Forster's Tern:** one MNWR 30 Sep (KD).

#### PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:

**E.Screech Owl:** one IT 5 Nov, only report.

**Great Horned Owl:** max four IT 5 Nov.

**Barred Owl:** one Ringwood Preserve 9 Oct.

**Long-eared Owl:** one MtP 8-10 Oct; one IT 16 Nov.

**Short-eared Owl:** two Geneva 25 Nov.

**Com. Nighthawk:** one MP 4 Sep; last CL 10 Oct.

**Whip-poor-will:** one West Danby 2 Sep (GK).

**THREE-TOED WOODPECKER:** one Naples 25 Sep (BL!), excellent description.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** one SP 20 Nov.

#### FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** one SP 2 Sep.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** high number banded (JG, no details).

**Horned Lark:** scattered after 29 Sep.

**Purple Martin:** 126 SP 5 Sep; last MNWR 29 Sep.

**Tree Swallow:** >100,000 MNWR 8 Oct.

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** 23 Cayuga Lake Basin 29 Sep.

**Bank Swallow:** last Lansing 29 Sep.

**Cliff Swallow:** last Lansing 29 Sep.  
**Blue Jay:** 432 migrating CL 11 Oct.  
**Fish Crow:** SP thru.  
**Com. Raven:** one Caroline 13 Oct; one Watkins Glen 21 Oct; one Bath mid-Oct; one DL 6 Nov; scattered Chemung Valley 26 Sep thru.  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** one IT 25 Nov; one Harris Hill 23 Nov. only reports.  
**Carolina Wren:** one MWG 18 Sep; one SP 10 Oct; one Watkins Glen 17 Oct; one Ellis Hollow 27 Oct; one Newtown Creek 22 Sep-13 Oct.  
**Winter Wren:** one SW 4 Oct; one SP 4 Oct; one SP 18 Nov.  
**Marsh Wren:** last Queen Catherine Marsh 11 Sep.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr SW 18 Sep; last SP 20 Oct.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** last MNWR 13 Nov (GC), late.  
**E. Bluebird:** 110 (migrating) Cayuga Basin 29 Sep; 74 CL 11 Oct.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** last three Beebe Lake 10 Oct.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** 17 Ringwood Preserve 11 Oct. last.  
**Hermit Thrush:** eight Tompkins Co Airport 15 Oct.  
**Wood Thrush:** 25 Caroline 21 Sep.  
**Am. Robln:** 143 migrating CL 11 Oct.  
**N. Mockingbird:** four SP period; scattered thru.  
**Am. Pipit:** one SP 22 Sep; one 54 KF 10 Nov; last MP 27 Nov.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** numerous throughout Region.  
**N. Shrike:** one SW 15 Oct; one MtP 13 Nov.  
**European Starling:** 400,000 (est) Cayuga 25 Nov (FB!).

#### VIREOS-WARBLERS:

**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr SW 10 Sep; max three SW 15 Sep; last MWF 26 Sep.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** one SW 10 Sep; one Texas Hollow 16 Sep.  
**"Brewster's" Warbler:** one SW 10 Sep.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr SW 6 Sep.  
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** one SP 3 Sep (AW!), early; one AB 16 Sep; one SP 20 Nov (BE!), late.  
**N. Parula:** arr MWF 7 Sep; last SP 4 Oct.  
**Cape May Warbler:** one MWG 18 Sep. only report.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 43 CL 11 Oct; 13 SP 23 Nov.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** max 5 SW 10 Sep.  
**Pine Warbler:** one Ellis Hollow 10 Nov.  
**Prairie Warbler:** one SP 7 Sep. only report.  
**Palm Warbler:** arr Dryden 24 Sep; last MP 13 Oct.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr SW 8 Sep; max six SW 10 Sep.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr SW 5 Sep; max five SW 10 Sep.  
**Ovenbird:** last Dryden 3 Nov ( KM!). late.  
**CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** one SW 10 Sep (KR!); one Larch Meadows, ITH 11 Sep (MF!).  
**Hooded Warbler:** one IT 2 Sep.

#### TANAGERS-WEAVERS:

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** >100 (nocturnal migrants) Mt.P 10 Sep.  
**Indigo Bunting:** last Elmira 6 Oct.  
**Dickcissel:** one King Ferry 25 Sep (BE!); one Lansing 1 Nov (BE!).  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr MP 3 Nov; 9 SP 23 Nov.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** 25 ATM 11 Oct; last Ellis Hollow 10 Nov.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** last MP 17 Oct.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** last SP 9 Nov.  
**Henslow's Sparrow:** one Caroline 21 Sep (SK!).  
**NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW:** one ATM 27 Oct (SK!).  
**Fox Sparrow:** less common than last fall; last report Ellis Hollow 12 Nov.



**Lincoln's Sparrow:** one Caroline 21 Sep; one ATM 29 Sep, only reports.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** one SW 5 Sep; common after 4 Oct.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr SP 5 Oct.  
**Lapland Longspur:** two CL 11 Oct; one KF 13 Oct.  
**Snow Bunting:** arr MP 29 Oct; max 25 MP 10 Nov.  
**Bobolink:** >50 (nocturnal migrants) Dryden 9 Sep, last.  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** >1000 MNWR 8 Oct; >5000 MP 10 Nov.  
**E. Meadowlark:** seven ATM 11 Oct; one Geneva 29 Nov.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** arr MNWR 25 Sep; max 25 SW 4 Oct.  
**Com. Grackle:** 3000 MP 10 Nov; 35,000 Waterloo 11 Nov.  
**Purple Finch:** three SW 4 Oct; one Ellis Hollow 27 Oct; six Caroline 24 Nov; five Watkins Glen 27 Nov, only reports!  
**Pine Siskin:** several Naples 15 Nov.

**Summer 1996 Additions:**

**ANHINGA:** one Niemi Rd Lansing 10 Jun (NYSARC, D. Hasselquist), 1st Regional record.  
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** one Canandaigua 12 Jun (mob).

stk2@cornell.edu/ (607)539-7205

## REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

MARY DOBINSKY

7 Spencer Drive, Oneonta, NY 13820

Fall was a little cooler and wetter than normal with a fairly average September and October. November, however, was five degrees colder than usual and had about three inches more precipitation than normal, most of it falling as rain and most of that on 8 November. That day saw a tornado hit Norwich and such one day record rainfalls as: 3.62" at Delhi, 3.41" at Goodyear Lake, and 2.33" at Binghamton. The storm triggered severe flooding in DELA, which still hadn't recovered from last January's floods. Rivers and creeks were soon over their banks everywhere. By 10 November flooded fields looked like late March with Canada Geese and ducks swimming about. Other than the November storm, fall weather was quite bland. There were few cold fronts and south winds dominated until late October. A succession of coastal storms generally veered away from us, although Binghamton caught the tail of storms 17 September and 19 October suffering heavy rains as a result. The first snow held off until 3 November. Wild foods were abundant throughout.

Water levels remained high as this wet year continued. Ponds and lakes seemed the habitat of choice for most water birds, perhaps because river currents were running fast and strong. Excellent counts of grebes and good

flights of Snow Geese and Brant were reported. A hybrid White-fronted Goose x Canada Goose was studied and photographed at Whitney Pt. Reservoir by Chris Barnes, Marie Petuh and Eric Sullivan. Waterfowl highlights included an uncommon Northern Shoveler and high counts of Bufflehead and Ruddy Duck. Most surprising were 10 species of shorebirds including a Regionally rare **Black-bellied Plover** and a flight of rare **Sanderlings**, as well as very late departures of Spotted Sandpiper and Least Sandpiper, the latter at a record late 25 October. Supposedly, shorebirds' sandy, gravelly, muddy feeding areas were flooded over! Diligent observers, afield despite poor conditions, were rewarded!

The scarcity of NW winds and good cold fronts this fall probably had their worst effect on hawk flights. All time lows for Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Harrier and Sharp-shinned Hawk were reported at Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch by Chris Vredenburg, compiler for this sixth full season at the DELA site. "Our best day was 28 October," noted Chris, "the only 'classic' day with birds riding past on the ridge. Best birds that day were 13 Golden Eagles (fair number) and 163 Red-tails (terrible count)". The best hawk day for all areas was 18 September, the first fall day of strong NW winds. BROO's Weed Walkers, on a field trip to Boland Pond, were surprised by a flight of 70 Broad-winged Hawks. Tom Salo counted 44 Broad-wings at Wooley Hill, OTSE, while FMHW counted 22 Ospreys, the season's maximum one-day count for that species. Tom Salo's most exciting raptor experience occurred 14 November near his West Burlington home. He suddenly spotted a mature Golden Eagle in an attack flight and closing in on a feeding Great Blue Heron. Equally suspenseful were the heron's avoidance maneuvers and escape flight and the eagle's final departure in defeat.

Migration for most passerines was generally meager and spotty. There were no good "fallouts". Roundtop Park, Endicott, which had been an excellent site for August migration, had a decent "wave" 5 September and a small, final push 16 September. Some good counts were also reported 21 September in CHEN, the only county participating in the second annual fall North American Migration Count.

The first Regional fall report of **Acadian Flycatcher** was a season's highlight. Birds with high counts for the season included Chimney Swift, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, White-throated Sparrow and, surprisingly, Magnolia Warbler. Most warbler species were present, but at best, in average numbers. In addition to American Robin and Eastern Bluebird, which often remain through November, were Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Northern Flicker. A record late departure was noted for Blackpoll Warbler **24 October** and a tie for record late for White-crowned Sparrow was recorded on 27 November. Particularly scarce this fall were Veery, Wood Thrush, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, and Savannah Sparrow. Missed entirely were Great Crested Flycatcher, Blue-

gray Gnatcatcher and Indigo Bunting, the bunting for the third year in the last four.

Winter birds failed to move south this fall, reportedly content with abundant foods in their northern territories. A single Northern Shrike and a fair number of Snow Buntings was reported. Pine Siskin stopped briefly at a few select feeders late November but quickly moved on, as did two Red Crossbills.

**Contributors:** Carter & Jeannette Baldwin, Chris Barnes, Les Bemont, Broome County Naturalists Club, Mary Dobinsky, Sadie Dorber, Bob Grosek, Steve Hall, Elva Hawken, Bill Howard, Sara Kinch, Hugh Kingery, Gail Kirch, Andy Mason, Bob Miller North American Migration Count, Soini O'Connell, Robert Pantle, Marie Petuh, Tom Salo, Joe Sedlacek, Gerry Smith, Julie Smith, Eric Sullivan, Bill Toner, Jan Trzeciak, Chris Vredenburg, Weed Walkers, Nancy Weissflog, Don Weber, Don Windsor, Irene Wright.

**Abbreviations:** BPd-Boland Pond, BROO: BrPd-Brick Pond, TIOG: BF1-Burlington Flats, OTSE: BUNP-Binghamton University Nature Preserve; CinL-Cincinnati Lake, bisected by CHEN and CORT, CrL- Crumhorn Lake, OTSE: FMHW - Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch; GdL-Goodyear Lake, OTSE; Lpd - Long Pond, CHEN; MPd-Mead Pond, CHEN; MBRes-Mill Brook Reservoir, CHEN; MirL-Mirror L, CHEN; NAMC - North American Migration Count, 9 Sep; OnRes- Oneonta Reservoir; OtsL- Otsego Lake, RTPk-Round Top Park, Endicott; WHHW-Wooley Hill Hawk Watch, OTSE: WPR-Whitney Point Reservoir.

**LOONS- DUCKS: Com. Loon:** max four Susquehanna River TIOG 9 Nov; two FMHW 20 Nov and one 24 Nov; two WPR 21 Nov; singles On Res 10 Sept; Cin L 25, 27 Oct, good count. **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr B Pd 13 Sep; max five M Pd 10 Nov; four Chenango River Norwich 3 Nov; three MB Res 4 Nov; at Ots L from 28 Sep max three; three singles BROO Oct; WPR 16 Nov; matches last year's record numbers. **Horned Grebe:** Ots L 5, 19 Oct; WPR 14, 23, 29 Oct, 16 Nov, high count. **Red-necked Grebe:** two CHEN NAMC, often missed. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max five Gd L 1 Sep, three 15 Sep; three FMHW 18 Sep; three singles BROO Sep, one Oct; last FMHW 10 Nov, average count. **Great Blue Heron:** max seven near Milford 1 Sep; one attacked by Golden Eagle W Burlington 14 Nov, *intro*. **Great Egret:** max six TIOG Sep; two Chenango River Binghamton 18 Sep; last 30 Sep, average. **Green Heron:** six reports Sep max three; last M Pd 13 Oct, very late departure. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** imm Br Pd 29 Sep, missed some falls. **Greater White-fronted Goose x Canada Goose:** WPR 25-30 Oct, "Identification made after 45 minute observation, photographing and subsequent research (IES,MP,CB! NYSARC). **Brant:** max 515 FMHW 3 Nov; 440 there 26 Oct; 500 M Pd 16 Nov (EH); 100 Norwich 6 Nov (DW), rare before 1990, high numbers last three years. **Canada Goose:** continue abundant in ponds and fields. **Wood Duck:**

max 39 Chen NAMC; 14 WPR 27 Sep; 10+ FMHW 13 Oct; last OTSE 10 Nov, generally fewer. **Green-winged Teal**: singles CHEN NAMC; Cin L 27 Oct, scarce. **Am. Black Duck**: max 21 two CHEN sites 1 Nov; ten Can Res 15 Oct. **Mallard**: good numbers Oct, Nov. **N. Pintail**: DELA 13 Oct, first fall since 1990. **N. Shoveler**: only one BR Pd 7 OCT (ES), first fall report in more than 15 years. **Gadwall**: BR Pd 5 Nov, often missed. **Am. Wigeon**: one Br Pd 3, 20 Oct. **Canvasback**: two Cin L; one WPR 14 Oct; single TIOG thru, first fall since 1991. **Lesser Scaup**: max five WPR 1 Nov; pair there 16 Nov, only reports. **Com. Goldeneye**: singles WPR 2 Nov, TIOG. **Bufflehead**: max 34 WPR 1 Nov; two each at two OTSE & one CHEN sites 10 Nov; last nine WPR 26 Nov, high count. **Hooded Merganser**: max 28 L Pd 1 Nov; 23 Cin L 23 Oct; two CHEN NAMC; four other reports Nov; last 11 WPR 26 Nov, high count. **Com. Merganser**: max 250 WPR 16 Nov (BNC); B F1 farm pond 19 Oct - 11 Nov, max 35 (NW); 48 FMHW 13 Nov, high counts. **Ruddy Duck**: arr Mir L 7 Oct; six WPR 22 Oct; three Cin L 25 Oct (ES); max and last seven WPR 16 Nov (BNC), often missed.

**HAWKS - ALCIDS**: **Turkey Vulture**: max 37 Gd L 8 Sep; FMHW total 80. **Osprey**: FMHW total 41; max 22 FMHW 18 Sep. **Bald Eagle**: FMHW total 14; five Can Res 6 Oct. **N Harrier**: FMHW total 25, only half average count. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: FMHW total 214; max 9 on 15 Oct, record lows; a line of five J City 16 Sep "flying south in quick succession" (MP). **Cooper's Hawk**: FMHW total 51, slightly better than average. **N. Goshawk**: FMHW total 12, only a third of average count. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: FMHW total 72, average; max 10 on 12 Nov. **Broad-winged Hawk**: FMHW total 463, below average; max 211 on 14 Sep; 70 B Pd and 44 WH 18 Sep. **Red-tailed Hawk**: FMHW total 918, record low, less than half average count. **Rough-legged Hawk**: FMHW total 13; single day record high three on 29 Oct, 27 Nov. **Golden Eagle**: imm arr FMHW 19 Sep, record early: total 79; max 13 on 28 OCT, "fair numbers" (CV). **Am. Kestrel**: FMHW total nine, vs average seven; **Peregrine Falcon**: FMHW total eight, same as last year; max two on 19 Sep, 3 Oct; Riley Rd CORT 14 Oct. **Ring-necked Pheasant**: several Tiog Sep; W. Burlington 5 Oct; two Bainbridge 6 Oct. **Ruffed Grouse**: max 11 T Preston 13 Nov, generally scarce. **Wild Turkey**: max 100 Chen 13 Nov, not so visible this year, abundant food in the woods. **Com. Moorhen**: max seven CHEN NAMC; B Pd 18 Sep, often missed. **Am. Coot**: Ots L from 28 Sep max 15; two BROO 22, 23 Oct, good count. **Black-bellied Plover**: one ?? 21 Sep, locally rare. **Killdeer**: max 30 Cin L 23 Oct; last CHEN 16 Nov, late. **Greater Yellowlegs**: singles Ots L 3 Sep; CHEN NAMC; BROO 1-3 Oct; CHEN 1 Nov, scarce. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: two Ots L 3 Sep (HK); Cin L 23, 26 Oct (ES), often missed. **Solitary Sandpiper**: three W. Burlington 1 Sep and BROO 3 Oct,

scarce. **Spotted Sandpiper**: max four Ots L 3 Sep; seven other reports, max three; last at three sites 23 Oct, high count late departure. **Sanderling**: seven FMHW 3 Nov (ISH,GS!), first since 1990. **Least Sandpiper**: Cin L 14-25 Oct, max five (ES), often missed, record late departure. **Com. Snipe**: two Cin L 27 Oct, first since 1992. **Am. Woodcock**: one CHEN 8, 13 Sept and 17 Oct; max two (EH); OTSE 26 Oct (TS); last Candor 19 Nov (JS), good count. **Ring-billed Gull**: max 300+ Milford farm fields 22 Oct, usual fall migration stopover site.

**DOVES - WOODPECKERS**: **Mourning Dove**: max 56 CHEN NAMC. **E. Screech Owl**: OTSE 9 Sep (TS); Vestal 13, 15 Sep (GK); TIOG Oct (SH); Candor Nov (JS), fewer than usual. **Great Horned Owl**: Ross Pk Zoo Binghamton 13 Oct "flushed out by crows" (MP); two Vestal Center 6 Sep; CHEN 3 Nov; two BROO 7 Nov; two Candor Nov. **Barred Owl**: Vestal 23 Sep; often T Preston Oct, Nov max three; two Candor Nov, good count. **Com. Nighthawk**: two singles BROO 3 Sep, ever more scarce. **Chimney Swift**: max 30 RT Pk 10 Sep; three FMHW 12 Sep, good numbers. **Belted Kingfisher**: max eight seen while canoeing Milford 1 Sep. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: BUNP 11 Sep; CHEN NAMC; Br Pd 29 Sep; GdL feeder Sep; BROO feeder 26 - 30 Sep; two TIOG sites Nov, excellent count. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: max 11 CHEN NAMC; Oneonta feeder 13 - 30 Nov, very late. **N. Flicker**: W Burlington "common through Nov" (TS).

**FLYCATCHERS- STARLINGS**: **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: RT Pk 17 Sep (MP,ES), often missed. **E. Wood-Pewee**: eight singles to mid Sep. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: banded Vestal 8 Sep (GK); two Nuthatch Hollow Vestal 9 Sep (ES); Hunt's Pd 12 Sep (DW), excellent count. **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER**: banded Vestal (GK), first known Regional fall report. **Least Flycatcher**: three reports max and last two CHEN NAMC late departure. **E. Phoebe**: last Owego 4 Nov (C&JB), late departure. **E. Kingbird**: four singles to 10 Sep. **Horned Lark**: max five Riley Rd, CORT 29 Nov (BT); two CHEN 13, 14 Sep 25 Oct, scarce. **Tree Swallow**: max 500+ WPR 27 Sep (ES); 11 CHEN and single FMHW 11 Oct, last. **Barn Swallow**: OTSE and TIOG reports to 10 Sep, max 10. **Am. Crow**: max 520 FMHW 28 Oct. **Com. Raven**: total of 12 reports FMHW, TIOG and WHHW 6 Sep to 27 Nov, max three, mostly migrants. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: max seven CHEN NAMC; scarce Oct, Nov. **Brown Creeper**: three to four singles a month, average. **Carolina Wren**: singles Vestal 24 Oct (MP); Endwell 26 Oct (JT), no recovery in sight. **House Wren**: twelve reports; max two thru 7 Oct, average. **Winter Wren**: max four J City 11 Oct; last of six singles 25 Oct. **Marsh Wren**: two CHEN NAMC, often missed. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: six reports Oct max three. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: arr OTSE 12 Sep; max 10 J City 11 Oct; last BROO 20 Nov. **E.**

**Bluebird:** max 18 W. Burlington 18 Oct and B Pd 10 Nov, generally fewer. **Veery:** three singles to 30 Sep, scarce. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** TIOG Oct (BH), missed some years. **Swainson's Thrush:** singles banded Vestal 19 and 26 Sep (GK), scarce. **Hermit Thrush:** max five J City 11 Oct; seven banded Vestal Oct; last BROO 13 Nov. **Wood Thrush:** six reports to 23 Sep max three, scarce and early departure. **Am. Robin:** "big flocks" FMHW 3 and 12 Nov. **N. Mockingbird:** Binghamton 30 Oct, 25 Nov (ES), lowest count in 20 years. **Brown Thrasher:** singles CHEN 13 Sep (EH); BROO 15 Sep (GK), scary scarce. **Cedar Waxwing:** max 300+ Milford 1 Sep; abundant thru. **N. Shrike:** T Preston feeder 13 Nov (EH), only report.

**VIREOS - WARBLERS:** **Solitary Vireo:** seven reports max two to 11 Oct, low count. **Yellow-throated Vireo:** Milford 2 Sep, only report. **Philadelphia Vireo:** RT Pk 5 Sep (MP,SK). **Red-eyed Vireo:** max 20+ Cr L 3 Sep. **Blue-winged Warbler:** CHEN NAMC, only one. **Tennessee Warbler:** CHEN NAMC, only report. **Nashville Warbler:** three singles Sep; last two banded Vestal 14 Oct, scarce. **N. Parula:** BROO 6 Sep. (BG), only report. **Yellow Warbler:** three OTSE 2 Sep; RT Pk and TIOG 5 Sep, early departure. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** one OTSE, four CHEN reports to 22 Sep, average. **Magnolia Warbler:** 30+ birds including ten Binghamton 23 Sep (ES) and nine banded Vestal to 27 Sep, best count since 1985. **Cape May Warbler:** two RT Pk 5 Sep, continue scarce. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** five singles Sep; last banded Vestal 13, 14 Oct, average. **Yellow rumped Warbler:** max 73 CHEN NAMC; last CHEN feeder 2 Nov, generally scarce. **Black-throated Green Warbler:** max seven CHEN NAMC; eight other widespread reports mid Sep max three, generally scarce. **Blackburnian Warbler:** max three RT Pk 16 Sep; Chen 14, 21 Sep, average count. **Pine Warbler:** max three RT Pk 16 Sep, usual one report. **Palm Warbler:** CHEN NAMC; banded Vestal 20 Oct; last Bainbridge 24 Oct, average count. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** three CHEN 5 Sep (EH), only report. **Blackpoll Warbler:** J City feeder 6 Oct (MP); Owego 24 Oct (C&JB), low count but record late departure. **Black-and-white Warbler:** four singles Sep, scarce. **Am. Redstart:** seven reports max three to 26 Sep, low count. **Ovenbird:** seven banded Vestal 1 - 13 Sep. **N. Waterthrush:** singles banded 8 and 9 Sep, only reports. **Mourning Warbler:** banded Vestal 7 Sep (GK), first fall since 1988. **Wilson's Warbler:** four banded Vestal 5 - 19 Sep, only reports. **Canada Warbler:** singles Vestal on 1, 9 Sep, never common.

**TANAGERS - WEAVERS:** **Scarlet Tanager:** max three CHEN NAMC; four singles to 21 Sep, generally scarce. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** six reports, max three imm Sherburne 3 Sep, low count. **Indigo Bunting:** none for third fall in last four. **E. Towhee:** max five BROO 24 Sep, good Oct numbers. **Am. Tree**

**Sparrow:** arr J City 11 Oct; max 28 T Preston 16 Nov. **Chipping Sparrow:** max 20 WPR 24 Sep; last Oneonta 19 Nov, late. **Field Sparrow:** max 12 CHEN NAMC. **Vesper Sparrow:** only one BROO 29 Sep. **Savannah Sparrow:** Sherburne 2 Sep; three reports of two each to 23 Oct. scarce. **Fox Sparrow:** 13 reports, max three from 21 Oct to 11 Nov, very limited areas. **White-throated Sparrow:** high counts through period. **White-crowned Sparrow:** max six T Preston 23 Oct; last 27 Nov, ties record late. **Dark-eyed Junco:** max 40 CHEN 26 Oct. **Snow Bunting:** arr late Nov; max 60 W Burlington 27 Nov. **Red-winged Blackbird:** big flocks FMHW 7 Oct, 3 Nov. **E. Meadowlark:** max eight W. Burlington 13 Oct, generally scarce. **Rusty Blackbird:** BROO 15 Nov (ES); CHEN 23 Nov (DW). **Com. Grackle:** max 750 Binghamton 21 - 23 Sep. **Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 80+ CHEN 2 Nov. **Baltimore Oriole:** max four RT Pk 5 Sep; last two there 10 Sep. **Purple Finch:** max 11 CHEN 17, 20 Oct, down from last year. **House Finch:** max 27 McGraw 10 Nov (BT), fewer most areas. **Red Crossbill:** two FMHW 3 Nov (GS). **Pine Siskin:** arr McGraw 10 Nov; max and last 60 there 19, 20 Nov, short stay. **Am. Goldfinch:** max 60 Oneonta 22 Nov, scarce early fall.

## REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

MARY ALICE KOENEKE

362 Nine Mile Point Road, Oswego NY 13126

BILL PURCELL

281 Baum Road, Hastings NY 13076

Fall in Region 5 was generally mild, of normal temperature and precipitation, and with few active weather incidents. The timing of cold fronts did not appear to coincide with migration well enough to produce the kind of fallouts that keep observers and *Kingbird* editors happy. September's climatological data produced no records, however, the remnants of Hurricane Fran passing over Lake Erie to the West of Region 5 on 7 September did provide some interesting birding. The average September temperature was 63.1°F with a high of 87° recorded on 6 September and a low of 39° on 26 September. Precipitation for the month was 4.38" only 0.59" above the norm.

October, according to meteorologist Jim Teske, was "absolutely normal," with an average temperature of 50.7°F, a high of 78° on 1 October and a low of

28° on 5 October. Precipitation was 2.14" which was 1.10" below the historical monthly average.

November proved the most meteorologically interesting of the three months in Region 5. The average temperature was 34.7°F, 5.8° below normal and placing the month as the fourth coldest November on record. A high of 70° was recorded on 8 November and a low of 14° was recorded on 13 Nov. It was the fifth wettest November on record with 5.78" of rain recorded for the month, 2.06" above normal. A 24-hr. rain total of 3.56" on 8 November was the most ever for a 24-hr period in November. Snowfall began during the month of November and a total of 25.9" fell at Hancock Airport, 16.6" above normal making it the second snowiest November on record.

Hurricane Fran, moving over Lake Erie on 7 Sep then to the northeast, produced three **American Avocets** at Sandy Pond (8-9 Sep), two **Laughing Gulls** on Lake Ontario (8 Sep), and a **Black-capped Petrel** found in Skaneateles on 12 Sep. The petrel was taken to a veterinarian and eventually relocated to North Carolina where it later died. Heavy rains associated with the storm's passage put down southbound migrants, particularly shorebirds, including three Hudsonian Godwits (8 Sep) and a total of 21 species of shorebirds at Sandy Pond through 11 Sep. A Laughing Gull at Delta Lake on 15 Sep was the last evidence of Hurricane Fran's passage in the Region. Two Parasitic Jaegers were also seen on southerly winds at Sandy Pond on 11 Sep. In general, the shorebird migration through the Region seemed better than in the recent past, both in species diversity and in numbers.

Waterfowl migration was generally healthy, with a good Brant flight, two reports of **Greater White-fronted Goose**, one report of an Eurasian Wigeon, one of Harlequin Duck and a Regional record of 116 Ruddy Ducks at Beaver Lake Nature Center on the plus side. A Wood Duck staging area in West Monroe was relocated after the old area had been drained several years ago. Scoter numbers were low, probably due to lack of northwest winds in October which would direct them towards eastern Lake Ontario.

Hawk migration was stalled in September while warm, wet weather blanketed the Northeast until 18 September, when on clear skies and light north winds seasonal one day records for Ospreys, Bald Eagles, and Broad-winged Hawks were set on a flight of no more than three hours duration.

Derby Hill had the best jaeger flight of the 1990's on 28 October when northwest winds built slowly over the day and several observers were rewarded for their patience with sightings of three Pomarine Jaegers, 20 Parasitic Jaegers, three Black-legged Kittiwakes, and a **Sabine's Gull**. All but one Parasitic Jaeger and one kittiwake were seen after 1 PM.

Another excellent flight of jaegers at Derby Hill occurred on 3 November when six Pomarine Jaegers (Regional record), one Parasitic Jaeger plus five



jaeger sp. were seen. All but one of the jaegers were seen leaving Lake Ontario east of Derby Hill and flying to the southeast. In addition, 7,470 Brant flew past the Derby Hill bluff on the same day.

The lack of active weather patterns during September and October contributed to observers reports of a poor fall passerine migration. Comments such as "Winter Wrens way down" and "never saw a Palm Warbler" were the rule rather than the exception in the fall reports. A **Northern Wheatear** was seen briefly along the lakeshore on 19 Sep at the James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant by a lucky observer working at the facility.

Winter finches were reported from the Adirondacks, but plentiful wild food kept them from coming in to feeders. Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, and both species of crossbills were all reported feeding on wild food in the Limekiln Lake area.

**Contributors:** Sue Adair, Sue Boettger, Joseph Brin, David Cesari, Phil Clarke, Dorothy Crumb, Robert Evans, Natalia Garcia, Bill Gruenbaum, Gene Huggins, Mary Alice Koeneke, Bill Lee, Gary Lee, Robert Long, David Nash, Matt Perry, Bill Purcell, Paul Richardson, Marge Rusk, Tom Salo, Mickey Scilingo, Gerry Smith, Maureen Staloff, Molly Thompson, Judy Thurber, Ken Zoller.

**Abbreviations:** CM - Clay Marsh, DeltL - Delta Lake, DH - Derby Hill, FH - Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, LOL - Lake Ontario Littoral, OneiL - Oneida Lake, OnonL - Onondaga Lake, SPd - Sandy Pond SSSP - Selkirk Shores State Park, SVB - Sylvan and Verona Beach, Syr - Syracuse, TRGMA - Three Rivers Game Management Area, UM - Utica Marsh.

**LOONS-DUCKS:** **Red-throated Loon:** arr LOL 26 Oct; max four FH 17 Nov. **Com. Loon:** max 28 LOL 10 Nov. **Pied-billed Grebe:** max 10 TRGMA 17 Oct. **Horned Grebe:** arr Beaver Lake & UM 16 Oct; max 55 LOL 10 Nov. **Red-necked Grebe:** singles DH 28 Oct and Woodman Pond 31 Oct. **BLACK-CAPPED PETREL:** grounded bird found Skaneateles 12 Sep (Mike Morris, photo Dave Denka), only previous record from OneiL in 1893. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 460 OnonL 22 Sep. **Great Egret:** two OnonL 5 Sep; one-three DeltL thru 27 Sep. **Green Heron:** max 17 West Monroe 2 Sep; last DeltL 4 Nov, late. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** one ad West Monroe 2 Sep. **Tundra Swan:** arr and max 12 Beaver Lake 31 Oct. **Mute Swan:** two FH from mid-Oct. **Snow Goose:** max 200 over Beaver River Sta HERK 9 Nov. **Brant:** max 7470 DH 3 Nov. **Greater White-fronted Goose:** one imm UM 3 Nov (MP) and one Beaver Lake 14 Nov (MT). **Wood Duck:** max 2590 West Monroe 21 Sep; last UM 11 Nov. **Green-winged Teal:** max 75 DeltL 15 Oct. **Am. Black Duck:** max 160 DH 3 Nov. **N. Pintail:** max six DeltL 4 Oct. **Blue-winged Teal:** max 120 DeltL 14 Sep; last UM 16 Oct. **N. Shoveler:** singles DeltL 1 Oct and FH 23 Oct. **Gadwall:** max 33 FH 29 Nov. **Eurasian Wigeon:**

one TRGMA 12-14 Oct (BP). **Am. Wigeon:** max 92 FH 6 Oct. **Canvasback:** max 22 FH 19 Nov. **Redhead:** max 20 FH 16-19 Nov. **Ring-necked Duck:** seven FH 8 Sep, either early arr or local breeders; max 121 FH 19 Nov. **Greater Scaup:** arr SPd 20 Oct; max 400 West Monroe 27 Oct. **Lesser Scaup:** max 70 West Monroe 2 Nov. **Harlequin Duck:** one Fair Haven 30 Nov (BL), fifth Nov record. **Oldsquaw:** max 630 DH 3 Nov. **Black Scoter:** max 22 SSSP 10 Nov. **Surf Scoter:** max six DH 28 Oct. **White-winged Scoter:** max 77 DH 28 Oct. **Com. Goldeneye:** arr DH 28 Oct. **Bufflehead:** arr West Monroe 27 Oct. **Hooded Merganser:** max 50 FH 16 Nov. **Com. Merganser:** max 61 DeltL 20 Sep. **Red-breasted Merganser:** max 110 DH 3 Nov. **Ruddy Duck:** Regional record 116 Beaver Lake 6 Nov (MR); also good counts, 15 DeltL 29 Oct; 16 FH 19 Oct.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** **Turkey Vulture:** max 16 SSSP 20 Oct; Dewitt thru 30 Nov (RL). **Osprey:** max 22 Pulaski 18 Sep. **Bald Eagle:** max five Pulaski 18 Sep; two DeltL Sep thru Sep; one SSSP 20 Oct; one Clay 14 Nov. **N. Harrier:** max five Pulaski 18 Sep. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 15 Pulaski 18 Sep. **N. Goshawk:** one DeltL 21 Sep; two Mexico 10 Nov, only reports. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** last New Hartford 14 Nov; reports only from ONEI. **Broad-winged Hawk:** Regional record 2874 Pulaski and 456 Rome 18 Sep. **Red-tailed Hawk:** max 42 SSSP 20 Oct. **Rough-legged Hawk:** arr and max six SSSP 20 Oct. **Golden Eagle:** one West Monroe 27 Oct. **Am. Kestrel:** daily maxima of four-six to 23 Sep; otherwise poorly reported. **Merlin:** one SPd 11 Sep; three DeltL Sep. **Peregrine Falcon:** two imm DeltL 19 Sep-2 Oct; one imm Syr 27 Nov. **Ruffed Grouse:** max five Noyes Sanctuary 9 Oct. **Wild Turkey:** max 22 Syr Airport 5 Sep; flocks coming to feeders in Adirondacks. **Com. Moorhen:** max 17 West Monroe 2 Sep; last UM 7 Oct. **Am. Coot:** max 110 FH 19 Oct. **Black-bellied Plover:** max 12 Syr Airport 14 Oct. **Am. Golden-Plover:** max 12 Syr Airport 14 Oct. **Semipalmated Plover:** max 20 SPd 10 Sep. **Killdeer:** max 90 T Sullivan 15 Sep. **AMERICAN AVOCET:** three SPd 8-9 Sep (PC), third Regional record. **Greater Yellowlegs:** max 23 DeltL 15 Sep. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 50 T Van Buren 12 Sep. **Solitary Sandpiper:** max eight DeltL 9 Sep; last DeltL 19 Sep. **Upland Sandpiper:** last three Syr Airport 10 Sep. **Hudsonian Godwit:** three SPd 8 Sep; two DeltL 23 Oct, only reports. **Ruddy Turnstone:** max eight FH 8 Sep; last SPd 13 Sep. **Red Knot:** three SPd 10 Sep; one OneiL 14 Sep. **Sanderling:** max 55 SPd 11 Sep. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 36 SPd 13 Sep; last SPd 29 Sep. **Western Sandpiper:** one SPd 8 Sep. **Least Sandpiper:** max 25 SPd 9 Sep. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** max three SPd 11 Sep. **Baird's Sandpiper:** max five SPd 11 Sep; three SVB 25 Sep; last DeltL 15 Oct. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** max 20 SPd 10 Sep. **Purple Sandpiper:** one FH 9-10 Nov, 29 Nov. **Dunlin:** arr

DeltL 23 Sep; max 57 SPd 20 Oct. **Stilt Sandpiper**: max four SPd 9 Sep. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: one DeltL 10-15 Sep. **Common Snipe**: three singles reported. **Am. Woodcock**: two singles reported. **Red-necked Phalarope**: one Delta Lake 14 Sep. **Red Phalarope**: one TRGMA 12 Oct, unusual location; three Nov sightings LOL. **Pomarine Jaeger**: three DH 28 Oct (GS,DC); six DH 3 Nov (BP,SA). **Parasitic Jaeger**: two SPd 11 Sep, unusual on south winds; max 20 DH 28 Oct (GS). **Laughing Gull**: one juv & one ad LOL 8 Sep (PC,GS); one 2nd year DeltL 15 Sep (MR). **Little Gull**: one juv SPd 9 Sep. **Bonaparte's Gull**: max 55 SPd 1 Sep. **Black-legged Kittiwake**: three DH 28 Oct (BP,GS). **Sabine's Gull**: one imm DH 28 Oct (GS). **Caspian Tern**: max 59 SPd 10 Sep; last DH 27 Sep. **Common Tern**: max 96 SPd 10 Sep. **Black Tern**: max 14 SPd 9 Sep.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: **Black-billed Cuckoo**: one Hastings 5 Sep. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: one New Hartford 16 Sep. **E. Screech-Owl**: one N. Syr. 5 Nov, only report. **Great Horned Owl**: two singles reported. **Snowy Owl**: arr Oswego 9 Nov; many reports involving probably six total; one DeltL 14 Nov, far from usual areas. **Barred Owl**: singles West Monroe and Happy Valley WMA 21 Sep, New Hartford 30 Oct and SVB 23 Nov. **Com. Nighthawk**: last six Syr 5 Sep. **Chimney Swift**: max 40 Syr 7 Sep. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: two West Monroe 1 Sep, only report. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: last DeltL 8 Oct. **Black-backed Woodpecker**: one Limekiln Swamp 30 Nov. **N. Flicker**: max 18 CM 2 Oct.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS**: **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: singles West Monroe 2 Sep and SVB 25 Sep, late. **E. Wood-Pewee**: max seven Pratts Falls 16 Sep. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: three reports to 14 Sep. **Least Flycatcher**: four individuals to 18 Sep. **E. Phoebe**: max six New Hartford 21 Sep. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: max two Dewitt 15 Sep. **E. Kingbird**: two West Monroe 14 Sep. **Horned Lark**: 35 T Sullivan 15 Sep, with many imm; max 80 Richland 10 Nov. **Purple Martin**: last five SPd 15 Sep. **Tree Swallow**: max 450 FH 8 Sep. **Bank Swallow**: six FH 8 Sep. **Cliff Swallow**: max 300 Paris 1 Sep; last eight FH 8 Sep. **Barn Swallow**: max 155 CM 4 Sep. **Gray Jay**: four Ice Cave Mtn. HERK 26 Oct. **Blue Jay**: typical late Sep migration not observed. **Fish Crow**: two-four continue Syr. **Com. Raven**: max six Beaver River Sta. 10 Nov, no reports away from Adirondacks. **Tufted Titmouse**: one Thendara 29 Nov, unusual location. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: max 14 Pratts Falls 16 Sep, otherwise no movement noted. **Brown Creeper**: max 11 SVB 24 Sep. **House Wren**: max three New Hartford 18 Sep. **Winter Wren**: max five Whiskey Hollow 21 Sep; several observers noted scarcity. **Marsh Wren**: last CM & UM 6 Nov. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: max 17 SPd 20 Oct. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: arr 20 Sep; max 27 LOL 9 Oct. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**:

last Paris 9 Sep. **NORTHERN WHEATEAR**: one Nine Mile Point 19 Sep (MAK, NYSARC). **E. Bluebird**: max 27 West Monroe 25 Oct. **Veery**: max four Whiskey Hollow 2 Sep. **Swainson's Thrush**: one New Hartford 26 Sep, only report. **Hermit Thrush**: max four Noyes Sanctuary 9 Oct; last 22 Nov. **Wood Thrush**: max 14 New Hartford 10 Sep. **Gray Catbird**: max 30 CM 4 Sep. **N. Mockingbird**: two T Lee 11 Oct, somewhat north of usual haunts. **Brown Thrasher**: max seven New Hartford 21 Sep. **Am. Pipit**: arr 15 Sep; max 60 SPd 20 Oct. **N. Shrike**: arr Sangerfield 2 Nov.

**VIREOS-WARBLERS**: **Solitary Vireo**: max five Kirkland 8 Oct; one Hastings 18 Nov (BP), record late. **Warbling Vireo**: max seven SPd 1 Sep. **Philadelphia Vireo**: seven singles reported; last 30 Sep. **Red-eyed Vireo**: max 25 Kirkland 12 Sep. **Blue-winged Warbler**: one Kirkland 13-15 Sep, only report. **Golden-winged Warbler**: two singles, last 15 Sep. **Tennessee Warbler**: max three New Hartford 10 Sep. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: one New Hartford 10 Sep, only report. **Nashville Warbler**: max five Kirkland 5 Sep. **N. Parula**: record late T Onondaga 24 Nov (PR). **Yellow Warbler**: last New Hartford 8 Oct, late. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: max six New Hartford 16 Sep. **Cape May Warbler**: two Kirkland 13 Sep, record late at Parish feeder after 25 Nov (P.&C.DiPino.BP photo). **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: max five New Hartford 30 Sep. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: several maxima of 30-35 only. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: max 20 Kirkland 22 Sep. **Blackburnian Warbler**: max four Kirkland 13 Sep. **Pine Warbler**: six SVB 24 Sep. **Palm Warbler**: max three UM 19 Sep; last New Hartford 14 Oct, scarce. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: max eight New Hartford 18 Sep. **Blackpoll Warbler**: max seven New Hartford 30 Sep. **Black-and-white Warbler**: max four Kirkland 13 Sep. **Am. Redstart**: max four Kirkland 7 Sep. **Ovenbird**: max 5 New Hartford 23 Sep. **Connecticut Warbler**: one Kirkland 22 Sep. **Mourning Warbler**: last 19 Sep. **Common Yellowthroat**: max 14 West Monroe 2 Sep. **Hooded Warbler**: last 22 Sep.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS**: **Scarlet Tanager**: max 10 New Hartford 18 Sep. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: max five New Hartford 1 Sep. **Indigo Bunting**: max four New Hartford 11 Sep; record late Parish feeder 21-28 Nov. **E. Towhee**: max four Hastings 22 Sep. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: arr ONEI 28 Oct; max 38 CM 13 Nov. **Chipping Sparrow**: max 20 Verona 11 Sep; last West Monroe 25 Oct. **Field Sparrow**: max 10 New Hartford 26; last Paris 24 Nov. **Vesper Sparrow**: one Pompey 19 Sep, only report. **Savannah Sparrow**: max 29 Syr Airport 5 Sep; last there 25 Oct. **Fox Sparrow**: arr New Hartford 17 Oct; max three several locations; last Hastings 12 Nov. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: arr and max three Hastings 22 Sep. **Swamp Sparrow**: max seven UM 21 Oct; last 10 Nov. **White-throated Sparrow**: arr FH 20 Sep; max 35 SPd 20 Oct. **White-**

**crowned Sparrow:** arr Holland Patent 23 Sep; max six Delt L 7 Oct, very low numbers regionwide. **Dark-eyed Junco:** max 22 Hastings 13 Nov. **Lapland Longspur:** two FH 30 Nov, only report. **Snow Bunting:** arr FH 19 Oct; max 160 LOL 10 Nov. **Bobolink:** five New Hartford 3 Sep, only report. **E. Meadowlark:** last Syr Airport 14 Nov. **Rusty Blackbird:** arr Hastings 22 Sep; max 115 CM 2 Oct. **Com. Grackle:** max 12,000 Hastings 19 Oct. **Baltimore Oriole:** max three New Hartford 1 Sep. **Purple Finch:** max six SVB 11 Nov. **White-winged Crossbill:** small numbers in Adirondacks only. **Pine Siskin:** 500+ past DH 7 Nov. **Evening Grosbeak:** two New Hartford 6 Oct, only report away from Adirondacks.

**Corrigenda: Kingbird,** Vol. 46, No. 2, p. 161 (June, 1996). Region 5 summary: "Four species appeared on the Syracuse Christmas Bird Count which had never been previously reported in the winter: Snow Goose, Turkey Vulture, Peregrine Falcon and Bohemian Waxwing." The four species were just recorded for the first time on the CBC.

Mary Alice Koeneke, mkoeneke@aol.com 315-342-3402  
Bill Purcell, wpurcell@dreamscape.com 315-668-2871

## REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL  
256 Morrill Rd, Canton NY 13617

Fall weather was generally wet but mild. There was not a killing frost until mid October. Several inches of snow fell a week before Thanksgiving, followed by several days of subfreezing temperatures when most quiet water was frozen. The larder was well stocked for fall and winter with good crops of white spruce cones, gray birch seeds, and buckthorn berries. According to Bruce Di Labio, water levels in the St. Lawrence River dropped during September, exposing many rocky islands and points where gulls and cormorants rested, but no one commented on how this affected shorebirds or waterfowl.

While 27 species of waterbirds and 9 larids were spotted, Bruce Di Labio found the lowest numbers of waterfowl and gulls at Moses-Saunders Dam in 15 years and speculated that the cause might be a scarcity of small fish. His maxima of Com. Goldeneye and gulls are an order of magnitude lower than in the past. At a hawkwatch at Westcott Beach SP the morning of 18 September with north winds of 12-15 mph, Bob Helmetsie counted nine species including

the only Bald Eagle reported, seven Sharp-shinned and 2 Cooper's hawks, 47 Broad-wings and 41 Red-tails. Numbers of N. Harrier and Am. Kestrel were low. A total of 14 shorebird species was reported, but sightings were few and numbers were mostly in the single digits. The passerine migration appears muted, partially due to fewer reports. Only 14 warbler species were reported. In spite of the mild weather, there were few late departures. Marilyn Badger's Ruby-throated Hummingbird on 4 Oct and N. Waterthrush 1 Oct, both Massena area, are noteworthy. Nick Leone sighted immature Red-headed Woodpeckers at Sackets Harbor and Henderson Harbor on 15 Sep and 3 Nov, respectively. Lee Chamberlaine reported the only Red-bellied Woodpecker on 21 Nov and heard a Tufted Titmouse on 21 Oct. There were no other southern species of note. On the boreal-arctic end of the spectrum, the first Snowy Owl appeared at Black River Bay JEFF 18 Nov and there were three other sightings in the area on 21 and 24 Nov. R. Hill (*vide* G. Smith) reported 80 Bohemian Waxwings at Pt Pen 24 Nov. The only N. Shrike was near Southwick Beach SP on 22 Nov. Winter finches were notably scarce. In all, 139 species were reported by ten observers.

Paul Kelly reported a max of 150 House Finches at his feeder in Adams 11 Nov and observed birds with eye infections through the period. On 3-12 Oct he watched an imm bird with a bill three times normal size; it was found dead on the 12th.

Although two Merlins, Lakeview WMA 4 and 12 Sep (*vide* G. Smith) can not be dismissed, most rarities were aquatic species: an unverified N. Gannet over the St. Lawrence River, a Snowy Egret, a male Eurasian Wigeon, three Ruddy Ducks, several Little Gulls, and a Sooty Tern found 12 Sep at Allendale on the Adams to Lorraine Rd, JEFF, which subsequently died (specimen to Cornell U). The latter was a first Regional record, *vide* G. Smith!

**Contributors:** Marilyn Badger, Lee B. Chamberlaine, Bruce Di Labio, Bob Helmsie, Paul Kelly, Nick Leone, Peter O'Shea, John and Victoria Ohst, Gerald A. Smith.

**Abbreviations:** BRB -- Black River Bay T Brownville JEFF; ED -- Eldorado Shores T Ellisburg; Hen: T Henderson JEFF; HH: Henderson Harbor JEFF; HP -- Head Pond, Massena STLA; LV -- T Louisville STLA; PRWMA -- Perch River WMA JEFF; P Pt -- Pillar Pt T Brownville JEFF; PtPen -- Pt Peninsula T Lyme JEFF; Pt S-- Pt Salubrious T Lyme; RMSP -- Robert Moses SP T Massema STLA; W BSP -- Westcott Beach SP T Henderson JEFF; WHWMA -- Wilson Hill WMA STLA.

**LOONS-WATERFOWL:** . **Red-throated Loon:** singles HP 25 Oct and 2 Nov; SLR, T Morristown 10 Nov; Sawyer's Bay, Hen 11 Nov. **Com. Loon:** max 55 Pt Pen 6 Nov **Pied-billed Grebe:** max and last nine WHWMA 16 Sep. **Horned Grebe:** max 38 W BSP 12 Nov. **Red-necked Grebe:** arr MSD 26

Oct; max three 11 Nov. **Double-crested Cormorant**: max 135 RMSP 7 Oct. **N GANNET**: one Oak Pt STLA 4 Oct (J. Marrs *vide* D.Crumb). **Great Egret**: one Sandy Creek. T Ellisburg 11 Sep. **SNOWY EGRET**: one Toad Hole I 6. 9 Sep (I. Mazzocchi *vide* NL). **Tundra Swan**: 17 CV 16 Nov; 25 Pt Pen 21 Nov. **Brant**: 100 HH 3 Nov. **Canada Goose**: strong migration reported all fall; max 1000 MSD 11 Nov. **Blue-winged Teal**: max 50 ED 3 Sep. **Gadwall**: max 320 WHWMA 26 Oct. **EURASIAN WIGEON**: one male Pt Pen 9 Nov. **Am. Wigeon**: max 240 WHWMA 26 Oct. **Redhead**: max 330 WHWMA 16 Sep. **Ring-necked Duck**: max 110 WHWMA 7 Oct. **Lesser Scaup**: 4000 BRB 17 Nov. **Oldsquaw**: arr four HH 3 Nov. **Black Scoter**: 78 HP and downstream 26 Oct. **Com. Goldeneye**: arr Hen 31 Oct; max 883 HP and RMSP 16 Nov. low. **Bufflehead**: arr ten Pt Pen 10 Nov. **Ruddy Duck**: two on 16 Sep; one f 7 Oct. both WHWMA.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS**: **Bald Eagle**: WBSP 18 Sep. only report. **N. Harrier**: only three reports. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: seven WBSP 18 Sep. **Cooper's Hawk**: two WBSP 18 Sep. **N. Goshawk**: singles WBSP 13 and 18 Sep. only reports. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: one Adams 309 Sep; two Russell 8 Sep. **Broad-winged Hawk**: 47 WBSP 18 Sep. **Red-tailed Hawk**: 41 WBSP 18 Sep. **Rough-legged Hawk**: arr and max five LVWMA 20 Oct. **Am. Kestrel**: three WB 18 Sep only report. **Merlin**: singles Lakeview WMA 4. 12 Sep. **Am. Coot**: singles LV 9 Sep and WHWMA 16 Nov. **Black-bellied Plover**: max six EB 23 Sep. **Killdeer**: max 50 Hen in plowed field 16 Sep; dep one WBSP 17 Nov. **Red Knot**: max eight EB 12 Sep. **Sanderling**: max 50 Henderson 5 Sep. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: one Pt Pen 6 Sep. only report. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: one Pt Pen 6 Sep. **Stilt Sandpiper**: one EB 12 Sep. **Little Gull**: arr one ad RP 17 Aug; two SBSP 12 Sep; two ad winter plumage RMSP 16 Sep; last one 11 Nov. **Bonaparte's Gull**: 46 RMSP 27 Sep. **Ring-billed Gull**: max 213 RMSP 16 Nov. **Herring Gull**: max 1450 HP 16 Nov. **Iceland Gull**: arr and only one HP 16 Nov. **Great Black-backed Gull**: max 316 RMSP 16 Nov. **Com. Tern**: max 18 MSD 10 Sep. **SOOTY TERN**: one Allendale JEFF 12 Sep (*vide* GS), subsequently died. specimen to Cornell U. 1st Regional record. **Black Tern**: max 34 Pt Pen 6 Sep.

**DOVES-WOODPECKERS**: **Snowy Owl**: arr Black River Bay JEFF 18 Nov; three others in area 21, 24 Nov. **Com. Nighthawk**: dep one Massena 4 Sep. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: last MB's feeder 4 Oct. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one Sackets Harbor 15 Sep; one HH 3 Nov (NL). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: only one 21 Nov (LC).

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLING**. **Gray Jay**: four Colton. **Brown Creeper**: max eight Hen 25 Sep. **E. Bluebird**: only three singles, Hen 22 Oct. 12 Nov; Pierrepoint STLA 2 Nov. **Tufted Titmouse**: one 21 Oct. **Bohemian Waxwing**:

80 Pt Pen 24 Nov (R. Hill *vide* GS). **N. Shrike**: one Southwick Beach SP 22 Nov, only report.

**VIREOS-WARBLERS**: **Solitary Vireo**: one LV 10 Sep, only report. **Philadelphia Vireo**: one LV 17 Sep, only report. **Red-eyed Vireo**: one 18 Sep, only report. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: four Hen 25 Sep. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: four Hen 25 Sep. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: two Hen 25 Sep. All other warbler species singles only.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS**: **Scarlet Tanager**: max three Hen 1 Sep. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: arr and max 18 RMSP 2 Nov. **Chipping Sparrow**: max 30 WBSB 13 Sep. **Field Sparrow**: max 25 LV 24 Sep. **Savannah Sparrow**: max three Massena 27 Sep, only report. **Snow Bunting**: arr five Hammond 1 Nov; max 580 Massena 11 Nov. **Purple Finch**: max ten Adams 12 Nov; few others. **House Finch**: 150 Adams 11 Nov (PK); some birds noted with eye disease. **Am. Goldfinch**: max 90 Adams 11 Nov. **Evening Grosbeak**: two LV 1 Sep; five there 31 Oct, only reports.

## REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

Discovery Farm, RR 1 Box 230, Elizabethtown NY 12932-9721

As September began, Lake Champlain stood at a relatively high 96'. Labor Day saw the passage of Hurricane Edouard, and both were celebrated on a hot, hazy, 79° day, with Plattsburgh sweltering at 81° on 3 Sep. Hurricane Fran did manage to bring rain to the area on 7 Sep, with the following week also cloudy and wet. By 24 Sep, the lake had dropped to 95.14', and skies were clear for the second full lunar eclipse of the year on 26 Sep. The first seasonal snowfall on 10 Oct left the High Peaks white the next day, but the month was generally pleasant, with 43% of possible sunshine and temperatures about normal. Winds gusted to 25 mph on 14 Oct, 12" of rain fell on 21-22 Oct, and winds reached 24 mph on 30 Oct. The month was slightly warmer than average, but with somewhat more rain than usual. Champlain was at 95.26' at month's end. Although Inlet received 5" of snowfall during just the first three days of Nov, there was never more than 6" on the ground there throughout the month. Plattsburgh was a mild 55° on 6 Nov, and strong southerly winds continued to pump warm air until reaching a record-high 74° on 8 Nov. The front stalled, then moved backward, while waves of low pressure moved north, bringing steady rains that seemed like they would never end. But end they did on 9 Nov.



after dumping a 3 to 5-inch deluge across the Region, with Peru soaked by 5.22". All rivers left their banks: the Ausable above historic flood stage... the Boquet... the Chazys, Great and Little... the Salmon... rail lines washed out, even the Adirondack Northway closed. To help imagine the force of this event, consider that the Champlain Valley averages under 3" of precipitation for the entire month of Nov. The flood was followed by freezing weather, with Mountain View Lake iced over by 13 Nov after a low of -1°, and by 28 Nov the mercury had dropped to -15° at nearby Owls Head. Limekiln Lake also froze over, but blew out the night of 30 Nov. Although much of the period was wet and gloomy, with Inlet seeing precipitation on 33 days, a seasonal record 192 species turned up, an improvement even over last year's record 186.

The importance of Point au Roche State Park, CLIN, as a stopover for "Greater" Snow Geese from Bylot Island, N.W.T., has become apparent in recent years. [There are two subspecies of Snow Goose that occur in NY State, the smaller nominate *caerulescens* and the larger *atlanticus*, which is referred to as "Greater". (EL)] This fall, Bill Krueger, with the help of Charlie Mitchell and others, continued the effort to read and report neck-collared Snow Geese. During Oct. 81 black-on-yellow collars were read, with 83 more black-on-yellow combinations added in November, for a total of 164 — all apparently placed on nesting female "Greater" Snows from Bylot I. in various years by the Canadian Wildlife Service. This year, for the first time, CWS researchers also placed 2-digit white-on-green satellite radio collars on 60 Bylot I. females, and six of these (plus a paired green-collared gander) showed up at Point au Roche. Canada Geese wearing collars or bibs were also reported from Crown Point, Point au Roche, and Westport. A small Canada Goose with stubby bill and plumage lighter than other Canadas, reported as "Richardson's," spent over a month with Snow Geese at Point au Roche. At Westport, a **Greater White-fronted Goose** was grazing with a Snow and flock of Canadas (report to NYSARC). The three Snow Geese at Tupper Lake since May remained into early November.

Although the Champlain shoreline was inundated by the heavy rains of '96, shorebirds could be found by those willing to check flooded fields and inland ponds. A surprising 22 species, up from 18 last fall, were reported. Tom Dudones and Bob Hagar found a **Whimbrel** at the Saranac Lake airport for a first FRAN record. Krueger and Mitchell encountered a **Hudsonian Godwit** at King's Bay and a **Western Sandpiper** at the Chazy Rivers, CLIN, which responded to a taped call of the species. After four summer Stilt Sandpipers, another two were added this fall: at the Chazy Rivers by Krueger and Mitchell and at the North Country Community College pond along an abandoned railroad grade in Saranac Lake, ESSE, by Dudones.

A Red-throated Loon, trapped in a foot wide opening on iced over Mirror Lake 27 Nov, eventually crawled to shore over thin ice, was captured by Larry Master, and released on open water at Westport 30 Nov. Other northern visitors began to appear, including Rough-legged Hawks by 28 Oct and a first-winter **Iceland Gull** at Westport the same day, spotted by Mike & Susan Peterson and Dean Spaulding. The first Snowy Owl was at - where else? - Owls Head, FRAN, 16 Nov. The next sighting was at the Ray Brook, ESSE, golf course two days later. This bird was taken into custody by guards at the Federal prison there the next day, after coming down inside the coil of razor wire during the night. The emaciated owl was turned over to wildlife rehabilitator Dr. Nina Schoch to have its feet sutured and was held for further treatment before release. Fortunately, Dudones spotted a **Northern Hawk Owl** perched in a dead tree along Route 28, 42 miles north of Long Lake, HAMI, on 18 Nov - the same day he saw the Snowy Owl at Ray Brook! The first Northern Shrikes were at Inlet and Jay by 26 Oct, while American Tree Sparrows arrived at Ausable Point 2 Nov.

The wild food crop rebounded after the Drought of '95, with lots of buckthorn, gray dogwood, mountain ash, red cedar, staghorn sumac, and wild grape available to flocks of Eastern Bluebirds, American Robins, and Cedar Waxwings. On 7 Sep, Bob Yunick checked the HAMI cone crop along Routes 10, 8, and 30: "On Rt. 10 cones were spotty. Spruce and balsam crops were modest. White pine was variable, from none to a few trees with modest numbers." At Essex Chain Lakes, ESSE, on 21 Sep, he found 50% to 75% of white pines along the lakeshore were heavily laden and about 50% of spruces had good cone crops. Nearby Minerva had a modestly good crop of cones on balsam, pine, and spruce. Nevertheless, only small numbers of Purple Finches, Red and White-winged crossbills, and Evening Grosbeaks were reported. At the same time, Pine Siskins and American Goldfinches increased in numbers as the season progressed, promising a winter invasion by at least two species.

Dudones was able to compare a **Western Tanager** in St. Bernard's Cemetery along Little Lake Colby in Saranac Lake with nearby Scarlet Tanagers on 11 Sep for a first FRAN and Regional record (details to NYSARC). With all of the northern visitants to come, it was a real joy to have a western stray to help open a memorable, if soggy, fall.

High Peaks Audubon Society looks forward to welcoming visitors to the Federation's 50th Annual Meeting in Lake Placid, 12-14 Sep 1997.

**Contributors:** Tom & Ethel Baker, John Bruce, Shirley Cook, Anthony & J.C. Deobil, Charlcie Delehanty, Sue Delehanty, Bill Frenette, Robert Hagar, Judy & Roger Heintz, Hal Klein, Bill Krueger, Ignatius Lacombe, Gary Lee, Richard MacDonald, Theodore Mack, Larry Master, Edith Mitchell, Dan Nickerson, Nancy Olsen, Lydia & Paul Osenbaugh, John & Susan Peterson,

Mary Purcell, George Roberts, Morris Salada, Nina Schoch, Dean Spaulding, Trisha Spaulding, Jan Trzeciak, Mary Beth Warburton, Robert Yunick.

**Abbreviations:** AP-Ausable Point WMA; CR - between the Chazy & Little Chazy Rivers; ECL - Essex Chain Lakes; IL - Indian Lake, FRAN: MRRR Moose River Recreation Area; WRS - Webb Royce Swamp.

**LOONS-DUCKS:** **Red-throated Loon:** Mirror L 27 Nov, released Westport 30 Nov (LM). **Com. Loon:** 6-8 ad ECL 21 Sep; 18-20 Essex to Port Henry 19-24 Oct; IL to 12 Nov (JT). **Horned Grebe:** arr six Whallon's Bay 24 Oct. **Red-necked Grebe:** arr AP 8 Oct (BK,CN.); max three Whallon's Bay 19 Oct. with one thru; two Raquette L 18 Nov (TD); Westport 19 Nov, a strong showing. **Double-crested Cormorant:** L Colby 3 Oct (RH), unusual inland; max 100 Crown Point 10 Oct; Plattsburgh 23 Nov (RH, TM), late. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** last WRS 2 Sep (JP, DS). **Tundra Swan:** AP 1 Nov (HK, IL), first CLIN record. **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** Westport 18 Nov (RM, DS!). **Snow Goose:** 164 neckbands read, see summary in *intro*; three Tupper Lake pk to 12 Nov (TD); Essex 27 Nov (DN); flock Uncas 3 Nov (GL), late for interior. **Brant:** imm Tupper L pk 7-11 Nov (CD, TD). **Canada Goose:** *intro*; max 1,000+ Malone pk 22 Nov. **Canada "Richardson's" Goose:** one Point Au Roche for over a month with Snow Geese. **Gadwall:** six Sochia Pd, Fish Cr 11 Sep (TD); hen Westport 27 Oct (RM, MP, DS), good finds. **Redhead:** hen Westport 18-19 Nov, recently rare. **Ring-necked Duck:** max 25 Moody Pd 11 Nov (RH). **Greater Scaup:** Moody's 11 Nov (TD), only definite report. **Lesser Scaup:** ten Mountain View L 29 Oct-7 Nov (JT); 2 Moody Pd 9 Nov (TD); 8 there 11 Nov (RH), definite. **scaup sp.:** max 1,000 off Wickham Marsh 27 Nov (DS). **Oldsquaw:** four Essex 20 Oct; drake IL 12 Nov, rarely reported. **Black Scoter:** four Monty Bay 14 Nov, only report. **Surf Scoter:** max five Plattsburgh 20-26 Oct; AP 24 Nov. **White-winged Scoter:** IL 10 Nov, only report. **Bufflehead:** 80 IL 12 Nov (JT), high number inland. **Ruddy Duck:** hen Wilcox Dock 25-31 Oct (J&RH, BK, CM), early CLIN; four drakes IL 12 Nov (JT), rare in FRAN.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** **Bald Eagle:** imm Crown Point; ad Malone; imm Saranac Inn; Saranac Lake airport; ad Tupper L; imm Tupper L Marsh; imm Wadhams; imm Westport; Willsboro Bay; Willsboro Pt, a strong local showing. **Rough-legged Hawk:** arr Essex & Whallonsburg 28 Oct. **Golden Eagle:** two imm Essex 19 Oct (JP, DS), kettling with N. Harrier & Peregrine Falcon; imm Split Rock Falls 27 Oct (RS, MP, D&TS). **Merlin:** last SLHS 15 Sep (TD). **Peregrine Falcon:** ad male CR 10 Sep (BK, CM); migrant Essex 19 Oct (JP, DS); Willsboro eyrie 18 Nov (JP); ad Reber 30 Nov (DN), may have come from same eyrie. **Gray Partridge:** two Pt au Roche 15 Oct (GR), only report. **Wild Turkey:** max 14 Willsboro, with other reports from Lake Clear, MRRR.

Tupper L. and Wadhams, all known locales. **Com. Moorhen**: CLIN 24 Sep, only report. **Black-bellied Plover**: Raquette Pd. FRAN, 23 Oct (CD), unexpected; AP & Pt au Roche more expected. **Am. Golden-Plover**: three Saranac Lake airport 15-16 Sep (TD,RH) unusual; Deyo Rd, CLIN, 5 Nov (BK), late. **Killdeer**: last two Moody's 12 Nov (TD), in snow squall. **Greater Yellowlegs**: max six AP & CR 6 Sep; five SLHS 21-23 Oct (TD), locally high numbers. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: max 31 AP & CR 6 Sep; present 3 Sep-3 Oct; NCCC 25 Sep (TD), unusual inland. **Whimbrel**: Saranac Lake airport 16-17 Sep (TD, RH). **HUDSONIAN GODWIT**: max five King's Bay 19 Oct (BK, CM); three Point au Fer 27 Oct (J&RH), great finds. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: CR 6-10 Sep quite expected, but Tupper Lake Pk 9 Sep (TD), rare in FRAN. **Western Sandpiper**: CR 6 Sep (BK, CM), responded to taped call. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: Pt au Roche 5 Nov (BK), rump seen and call heard. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: CR & King's Bay 2 Sep-3 Oct (BK, CA), max three there 3 Oct. **Dunlin**: AP & CR 3 Oct-14 Nov (BK,CM); max eight there 3 Oct. **Stilt Sandpiper**: CR 6-7 Sep (BK, CM), "greenish legs & drooped bill," NCCC pd Saranac Lake, ESSE, 15 Sep (TD- excellent details). **Short-billed Dowitcher**: CLIN 15 Sep (J&RH); AP 17 Sep (BK, CM), possibly the same bird. **Long-billed Dowitcher**: CR 6-7 Sep, 24 Sep (BK, CM), seen well, responded to tape with same vocalization. **Am. Woodcock**: MRRA 4 Nov (GL), late for interior Adks. **Bonaparte's Gull**: last two Westport 1 Nov. **Iceland Gull**: 1st winter Westport 28 Oct (J&SP, DS), early ESSE fall arrival.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: **Snowy Owl**: Intro.; Owls Head, FRAN, 16 Nov (JT); Ray Brook 18-19 Nov (TD, NS). **N. HAWK OWL**: Long Lake, HAMI, 18 Nov (TD). **Barred Owl**: Keene 26 Sep (J&PT), gave mad "kip-brrr" all at eclipsing full moon. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: tooting Wadhams 27 Oct. **N. Flicker**: three Essex 23 Nov, good number for that date.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS**: **Horned Lark**: 12 Malone 21 Nov (JT), only report. **Cliff Swallow**: CR 9 Sep (BK, CM), late CLIN by 8 days. **Gray Jay**: pr Chubb R, ESSE, 10 Sep; Raquette L, HAMI, 3 Oct; four Bloomingdale Bog, FRAN, 16 Nov, a widespread showing. **Boreal Chickadee**: four Third Brother (3,760') 26 Oct, were found 300' higher than Black-capped Chickadee flock; max ten Bloomingdale Bog 16 Nov; other reports from Indian R and Wolf Cr. **Tufted Titmouse**: vagrants Inlet Sep and Elizabethtown 20 Nov. **Carolina Wren**: Westport 2 Sep (TD), only report. **Marsh Wren**: WRS 2 Sep (JP, DS); Saranac Lake 22 Oct (TD), fairly unusual. **Am. Robin**: MRRA 3-4 Nov, feeding on mountain ash berries. **Brown Thrasher**: trans Elizabethtown 24-30 Sep (JP). **Am. Pipit**: CR 24 Sep (BK, CM); Tupper Lake 9 Oct (TD); two Essex 19 Oct (JP, DS); max 20 WRS 27 Oct (RM, MP, D&TS), a fine showing.

**Cedar Waxwing:** 27 Tupper Lake 25 Nov, as numbers increased. **N. Shrike:** arr Inlet & Jay 26 Oct; imm Wadhams 17 Nov.

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS:** **Tennessee Warbler:** Rand Hill 4 Oct (J&RH), late CLIN by 7 days. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** St. Bernard's Cem., Saranac Lake, 20 Oct (TD), records appear to be increasing in recent years. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** AP 1 Oct (BK, CM), late CLIN by 18 days. **Pine Warbler:** NCCC 25 Sep (TD); AP 1 Oct (BK, CM), late CLIN by 13 days. **PRAIRIE WARBLER:** male Bloomingdale Bog 2 Sep (TD), unexpected location for a regional rarity. **Palm Warbler:** "Yellow", Bloomingdale Bog 2 Sep (TD); Tupper Lake 15 Sep (CD).

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS:** **WESTERN TANAGER:** St. Bernard's Cem, Saranac Lake. FRAN, 11 Sep (TD--details to NYSARC). **Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr AP 2 Nov. **Chipping Sparrow:** max 25 Tupper Lake 22 Sep; one there 8 Nov (CD), late. **Field Sparrow:** two Inlet 2 Nov (GL), late. **Vesper Sparrow:** last Saranac Lake 21 Oct (TD). **Savannah Sparrow:** two Essex 28 Nov (DN - 2 locations). **Fox Sparrow:** one arr Second Brother 26 Oct (J&PT), an unexpected location; Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake more usual. **Song Sparrow:** Inlet 2 Nov and Essex 19 Nov, fairly late here. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** AP 8 Oct (CM), late CLIN by 8 days. **Lapland Longspur:** Reynolds Rd 7 Nov (CM), early CLIN by 2 days; Malone 21 Nov (JT), still a good find. **Snow Bunting:** arr MRRA & Raquette L 1 Nov; max 20 Keene dump 25 Nov; other reports from Cedar R & Malone. **E. Meadowlark:** seven Essex 28 Oct (J&SP, DS), a good number for that date; two Riverside Drive, Lake Placid, 30 Nov (NC), ground snow-covered. **Rusty Blackbird:** Saranac Lake 27 Oct (TD) and two WRS 28 Oct (J&SP, DS), the only reports. **Com. Grackle:** max 75 Moody Pd 27 Oct (RH). **Brown-headed Cowbird:** Inlet 26 Nov (GL), late there. **Purple Finch:** scattered reports from Elizabethtown, Inlet, Lake Placid, & Tupper Lake. **House Finch:** eye disease Wadhams 19 Oct (DS). **Red Crossbill:** Cedar R 9 Sep; two feeding on spruce ECL 21 Sep, the only reports. **White-winged Crossbill:** MRRA 30 Nov, only report. **Pine Siskin:** dozen Second Brother 26 Oct (J&PT), flew into a spruce for the first report of the season; max 75-100 Tupper Lake 10 Nov, with smaller numbers near Elizabethtown and Inlet. **Am. Goldfinch:** ad with begging yg Tupper Lake feeder 2 Sep (CD); max 120 Elizabethtown 21 Nov, with other feeders also reporting large numbers. **Evening Grosbeak:** max 7 Tupper Lake 4 Nov (CD), "only sighting"; Owls Head (J T), "small, sporadic flocks at feeders."

**ADDENDUM: Black-billed Magpie:** Gooley Club, Essex Chain Lakes, ESSE, deer feeders 23-26 May 1996 (Craig & Heidi Plumley, Crystal Tucker--photographs on file), first ESSE and Regional record.

**EXOTIC: Black-hooded Conure:** Lake Shore Rd near Hubble Pt, CLIN, 21 Sep (BK, CM), had metal band on leg.

## REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

JANE DENKER GRAVES

133 York Ave, Saratoga Springs NY 12866-2533

Early fall was a continuation of the abnormally wet summer. As reported from the Albany County Airport, September's mean temperature was 62.3°F, 1.0° above normal, with 57% possible sunshine. October averaged 49.1°, 1.1° below normal, with 59% possible sunshine. November averaged 34.6°, a chilly 5.1° below normal, making it the eighth coldest November on record. There was 30% possible sunshine, 6% less than normal. September's precipitation totalled 5.06", 2.11" above normal, with rain on 16 days and fog on 22. In October things finally started to dry out with 2.03" of rain, 0.83" below normal. The first frost occurred on October 3. November continued the drying trend with a slightly-below-normal 2.91" of precipitation, some of it occurring as snow toward the end of the month.

There were no major fronts during the passerine migration resulting in generally poor sightings reports. In addition, the heavy fruit and mast crops kept birds away from feeders. Diversity was excellent but numbers of individuals were low. 221 species were reported, up from 207 last year. These included 32 species of waterfowl, 15 species of hawks, six species of owls, 17 species of shorebirds, and 25 species of warblers. Waterfowl highlights included large numbers of Ring-necked Ducks on Basic Creek Reservoir in early November and high numbers of Hooded Mergansers on Saratoga Lake and Tomhannock Reservoir in mid-to late November. There was little shorebird habitat available due to high water but there were some sightings both on the Stillwater Flats and at Cohoes. During the FNYSCB meeting in early September a small puddle at the Albany County Airport became the local shorebirding "hot spot". At least it was only five minutes from the hotel. Species seen there included American Golden-Plover and Baird's Sandpiper. In complete contrast to last year, shrike and winter finch sightings were practically nonexistent.

Thanks are due to Bob Kirker for organizing the Camp Pinnacle Hawkwatch this year. Although this watch has been staffed informally and intermittently

for many years, this is the first time that coverage has been consistent throughout the season. It was staffed daily from 28 August through 7 December, for a total of 87 days, 450.6 hours, and 3410 hawks. Details on specific numbers are in the statistical section of this report.

Three rarities were sighted during the period. During the FNYSBC meeting Allen Benton and Dave Russell spotted a **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** in and around the fence at the Albany County Airport shorebird puddle. At the Camp Pinnacle Hawk Watch on October 1 Bill Lee and Jim Suozzo had scope views of a **Gray Kingbird**. NYSARC reports have been requested for both sightings. On November 23 a **Ross' Goose** was found at Tomhannock Reservoir by Kurt Bullock and Bob Budliger. A NYSARC report has been filed. This is the third appearance of this species on Tomhannock Reservoir since 1993. Other unusual birds included Great Cormorant, Greater White-fronted Goose, Barrow's Goldeneye, Red Phalarope, Laughing Gull, Snowy Owl, Sedge Wren, and Dickcissel.

**Contributors:** Ken Able, Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC), Robert Budliger, Paul Connor, Bill Cook, Walter Ellison, Lou Esch, Larry Federman, Craig Fosdick, Jane Graves, Rich Guthrie, Ron Harrower, Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN), William Lee, Andy Mason, Nancy Martin, Laura Meade, Frank Murphy, Ray Perry, Barbara Putnam, Elton Rising, David Russell, Jim Sotis, Craig Thompson, Alison Van Keuren, Robert Yunick.

**Abbreviations:** ACA - Albany County Airport; AL - Ann Lee Pond, ALBA; BCM - Black Creek Marsh State Wildlife Management Area, ALBA; BCR - Basic Creek Reservoir, ALBA; BP - Niskayuna Bike Path, SCHE; BR - Burgoyne Rd. SARA; CL - Collins Lake, SCHE; CPd - Carter Pond, WASH; CPHW - Camp Pinnacle hawk watch, ALBA; FR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FIE - Fort Edward area, WASH; GI - Green Island, ALBA; HP - E.N. Huyck Preserve, ALBA; JL - Jenny Lake, SARA; L7 - Vischer Ferry Power Station/Lock 7, SCHE; NL - Nassau Lake, RENS; NRP - Nott Rd. Park, Guilderland, ALBA; PISP - Peebles Island State Park, SARA; SL - Saratoga Lake, SARA; SBR - Stone Bridge Rd., SARA; SNHP - Saratoga National Historic Park, SARA; SCA - Schenectady County Airport; SI - Simmons Island, Cohoes, ALBA; SPd - Stanton Pond, ALBA; StFl - Stillwater Flats (including Saratoga Sod Farm), SARA; TR - Tomhannock Reservoir, RENS; VF - Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA; WR - Watervliet Reservoir, ALBA.

**LOONS-DUCKS:** **Red-throated Loon:** four reports of singles. **Com. Loon:** max 12 SL 7 Nov; five TR 11 Nov. **Pied-billed Grebe:** max 30 BCR 26 Oct; last one WR 16 Nov. **Horned Grebe:** max five SL 21 Nov; last three SL 24 Nov. **Red-necked Grebe:** last two SL 27 Nov. **Great Cormorant:** one imm

NB 21 Oct (RG). **Double-crested Cormorant**: max 83 GI 15 Sep; last one TR 24 Nov. **Am. Bittern**: one FR 6 Sep; last one Greenport 8 Nov. **Least Bittern**: one VF through 21 Sep. **Great Blue Heron**: max 50 MR cruise 8 Sep (FNYSBC). **Great Egret**: max 30 MR cruise 8 Sep; last one Hillsdale COLU 24 Oct. **Snowy Egret**: two L7 1-25 Sep. **Green Heron**: max 16 L7 1 Sep; last one FR 7 Oct. **Black-crowned Night-Heron**: two reports of singles. **Tundra Swan**: one Round L 31 Oct(WL). **Mute Swan**: no reports n of COLU. **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**: one ad TR 19 Oct (WE, NM). **Snow Goose**: arr one FtM 14 Sep; three reports of flocks numbering 50+ Oct-Nov; max 300 Hedges L WASH 18 Nov; numbers down significantly from last year. **ROSS' GOOSE**: one TR 23 Nov (K. Bullock *vide* RB), third there since 1993. **Brant**: 60 CPHW 30 Sep; max 80 Albany 10 Oct. **Canada Goose**: first 35 JL 22 Sep; max 2200 TR 19 Oct; 1500+ S. Schodack, 1000+ Muitzeskill Rd. RENS 30 Nov. **Wood Duck**: max 107 MR Half Moon Cove SARA 2 Sep; last one WR 30 Nov. **Green-winged Teal**: last 20 TR 11 Nov. **N. Pintail**: max 40 BCR 26 Oct; last four S. Schodack 30 Nov. **Blue-winged Teal**: max 51 Cohoes 7 Sep (WE, FNYSBC); last one BP 9 Nov (RP). **N. Shoveler**: four SP 31 Oct; three SL 24 Nov; only reports. **Gadwall**: only two reports. **Am. Wigeon**: first four BCR 1 Sep; max 100 SP 29 Sep; last two TR 24 Nov. **Canvasback**: 12 SL 24 Nov; 150+ HR Dutchman's Ldg. GREE (LF). **Redhead**: max six SL 31 Oct. **Ring-necked Duck**: first six BCR 1 Sep; max 2000 BCR 9 Nov (JG). **Greater Scaup**: max 150 SL 2 Nov. **Lesser Scaup**: first four NL 11 Oct; max 28 SL 24 Nov; last one GI 30 Nov. **Oldsquaw**: two TR 19 Oct; one BCR 3 Nov; 27 SL 9 Nov; one HR Dutchman's Ldg GREE 28 Nov. **Black Scoter**: 11 NL 6 Nov; 40 Alcove Res 11 Oct; only reports. **Surf Scoter**: only three reports of singles. **White-winged Scoter**: one GI 16-29 Sep; three SL 31 Oct; two SL 24 Nov, only reports. **Com. Goldeneye**: max 154 SL, 155 TR 24 Nov. **Barrow's Goldeneye**: one ad m SL 13 Nov thru (mob). **Bufflehead**: first four MR/PISP 26 Oct; max 43 SL 24 Nov. **Hooded Merganser**: 200 TR 11 Nov; max 284 SL 24 Nov. **Com. Merganser**: max 800 CL 20 Nov; 270 NL 21 Nov; 151 SL 24 Nov. **Red-breasted Merganser**: two HR Stillwater 9 Nov; three reports of singles. **Ruddy Duck**: first BCR 18 Oct; max 76 NL 6 Nov; 56 TR 24 Nov.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS**: **Turkey Vulture**: max nine PISP 7 Sep; last one Hillsdale 25 Oct. **Osprey**: max nine Guilderland 8 Sep (NM); 20 reports of singles. **Bald Eagle**: one ad, four imm HR cruise Albany 8 Sep; two Summit L COLU 9 Sep; one Alcove 10 Sep, 11 Oct; one imm HR Mill Creek 11 Sep; one Greenport 14 Sep; three imm Guilderland 18 Sep (NM); one MR Lock 8 21 Sep; one ad T Hague 21 Sep; two imm New B 29 Sep, 19 Oct, 21 Nov; two imm HR Catskill 6 Oct; one BCR 3 Nov; one imm TR 3, 14 Nov; one imm, Tongue Mt. 14 Nov; one imm CL 12-27 Nov; four ad, one imm T Hague 25 Nov. **N. Harrier**: max



five FtE 17 Nov (CF); five reports of singles. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: 24 reports of singles. **Cooper's Hawk**: 14 reports of singles. **N. Goshawk**: one Galway 26 Sep; one FR 16 Nov; one S. Rensselaer 20 Nov. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: three reports of singles. **Broad-winged Hawk**: max 60 Warrensburg 14 Sep (M. Di Pietro to BEN); 598 Guilderland 18 Sep (NM). **Red-tailed Hawk**: max 12 Cossayuna L area 18 Nov; 15 SBR 30 Nov; albino repeatedly seen Summit L WASH through period. **Rough-legged Hawk**: one T Northumberland 9 Nov; one SBR 17, 30 Nov; two T Moreau 24 Nov; one FtE 29 Nov; only reports. **Golden Eagle**: one imm CL 21 Nov (LE. C. George, RP). **Am. Kestrel**: max 18 Guilderland 18 Sep; four Crane Rd SARA 26 Sep; four Smith Pt. Rd. RENS 27 Sep, 6 Oct; eleven reports of singles. **Merlin**: three reports of singles. **Peregrine Falcon**: one-two Dunn Mem. Bridge 4 Sep-20 Nov (DS, BEN); two HR cruise 8 Sep (FNYSBC); three N. L George 10 Sep (LM, ER); one S. Glens Falls 15 Sep (B. Bidwell); one Petersburg Pass RENS 8 Oct (AV); one Albany 7 Oct (BEN); one Hudson Falls 13 Nov (B/B Bidwell).

#### Camp Pinnacle Hawk Migration Totals

Species	Total	Peak Flight	Range of Dates
Turkey Vulture	134	14 on 15 Sep	30 Aug-25 Oct
Osprey	55	10 on 14 Sep	9 Sep-26 Oct
Bald Eagle	17	6 on 28 Nov	1 Sep-29 Nov
Northern Harrier	34	7 on 19 Sep	30 Aug-5 Dec
Sharp-shinned Hawk	250	49 on 19 Sep	30 Aug-21 Nov
Cooper's Hawk	68	19 on 19 Sep	11 Sep-15 Nov
Northern Goshawk	9	2 on 19 Sep	11 Sep-29 Nov
Red-Shouldered Hawk	48	12 on 29 Oct	19 Sep-3 Dec
Broad-winged Hawk	1861	763 on 14 Sep	28 Aug-26 Sep
Red-tailed Hawk	689	105 on 26 Oct	30 Aug-4 Dec
Rough-legged Hawk	20	10 on 27 Nov	10 Nov-2 Dec
Golden Eagle	4	2 on 19 Sep	12 Sep-15 Oct
American Kestrel	69	25 on 19 Sep	30 Aug-29 Oct
Merlin	11	4 on 19 Sep	14 Sep-29 Oct
Peregrine Falcon	3	14 Sep-4 Oct	-
Totals	3410	810 on 14 Sep	28 Aug-7 Dec

**Ring-necked Pheasant**: reported ALBA, COLU, WARR late Sep-early Nov; releases? **Wild Turkey**: continues in moderate numbers throughout; max 20 Duanesburg 17 Nov; flock of eight regularly seen on SUNYA campus (WE). **Virginia Rail**: one VF 6 Sep; one Rotterdam Flats 27 Sep, only reports. **Sora**: pair Putnam Station WARR through Sep, only report. **Com. Moorhen**: max 14 CP 12 Sep; last two VF 6 Oct. **Am. Coot**: max 67 MR Niskayuna 9 Nov; last

eight SL 24 Nov. **Black-bellied Plover**: one ad SI 7 Sep; two SI 19 Sep; two juv StFl 9 Nov (WE, NM), late. **Am. Golden-Plover**: two ACA 7 Sep; one ACA 3 Oct, only reports. **Semipalmated Plover**: only three reports of singles. **Killdeer**: max 85 StFl 8 Sep. **Greater Yellowlegs**: two ACA 12 Sep; five reports of singles. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: max ten Cohoes 2 Sep; eight Stillwater 8 Sep; eight ACA 12 Sep. **Solitary Sandpiper**: last one FR 24 Oct (DS), late. **Spotted Sandpiper**: max four PISP 7 Sep. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: max eight Stillwater 8 Sep. **Least Sandpiper**: max 20 Niska Isle 1 Sep. **Baird's Sandpiper**: two ACA 7-8 Sep. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: max 10 ACA 14 Sep. **Dunlin**: one juv NRP 12 Oct (WE, NM). **Com. Snipe**: max six ACA 8 Sep; last two T Moreau 14 Oct. **Am. Woodcock**: last one SUNYA 5 Nov. **Red Phalarope**: one BCR 13-14 Oct (RG to BEN); one Stillwater RENS 26 Oct (JS!). **Laughing Gull**: one ad SL 9 Nov (WE!), first report in Region since 1991. **Bonaparte's Gull**: three SL 31 Oct; five TR 11 Nov; four HR Dutchman's Ldg. GREE 20 Nov; three reports of singles. **Herring Gull**: max 3000 MR Colonie 30 Nov (WE, NM). **Iceland Gull**: one SI 3 Nov; one TR 11, 14 Nov; two MR Colonie 30 Nov. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: one GI 29 Sep (RG to BEN); two SI 26 Oct (WE, NM); one MR Colonie 30 Nov (WE, NM). **Glaucous Gull**: one MR Colonie 30 Nov.

**DOVES-WOODPECKERS**: **Mourning Dove**: max 85 SBR 17 Nov. **Black-billed Cuckoo**: one Rotterdam 17 Oct, late. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: one AL 14 Sep. **E. Screech-Owl**: six reports of singles. **Great Horned Owl**: two Indian Kill 4 Nov; pair Mechanicville 8 Nov; eleven reports of singles. **Snowy Owl**: one near SL 10 Nov (photo in *Saratogian* 16 Nov); one Latham 18 Nov (BEN). **Barred Owl**: three reports of singles: heard in daytime Grapeville 14 Sep (PC). **Short-eared Owl**: ten FtE 27 Nov (B. Bidwell). **N. Saw-whet Owl**: one NB 19 Oct (RG to BEN); one dead on road Salem 13 Nov (RB); one dead on road Burnt Hills 24 Nov (RY). **Com. Nighthawk**: four Central Pk SCHE 1 Sep; ten Schenectady 2 Sep; one BP 3 Sep; five Slingerlands 5 Sep; last four Albany 9 Sep. **Whip-poor-will**: calling Coeymans Hollow through mid-Sep (CT). **Chimney Swift**: max 105 VF 2 Sep; 275 PISP 21 Sep. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: only three reports. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: no reports. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: two NRP 2 Oct; two NB 21 Nov; two T Northumberland 24 Nov; nine reports of singles. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: last one SUNYA 8 Oct, only report. **Downy Woodpecker**: scarce at JL (RY). **Hairy Woodpecker**: scarce at JL. **N. Flicker**: few reports.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLING**. **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: no reports. **E. Wood-Pewee**: few reports. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: one Schodack Ctr. 19 Sep (PC), near same spot as Aug. sightings, only report. **Least Flycatcher**: one Indian Kill 16 Sep (RP), only report. **E. Phoebe**: max four BCM 29 Sep. **Great**

**Crested Flycatcher:** one SNHP 11 Sep; one T Hague 28 Sep. **E. Kingbird:** one L7 1 Sep. **GRAY KINGBIRD:** one CPHW 1 Oct (WL. J. Suozzo). NYSARC requested, second Regional record if accepted. **Horned Lark:** present in moderate numbers throughout Region. **Tree Swallow:** last ten Cohoes 5 Oct. **Cliff Swallow:** last one SNHP 8 Sep. **Barn Swallow:** only one report. **Blue Jay:** scarce at JL (RY). **Fish Crow:** family group HR Mill Creek 1. 11 Sep; seven reports of singles. **Com. Raven:** widely reported throughout Region. **Black-capped Chickadee:** numbers dropped sharply JL after mid-Sep (RY). **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** scarce JL. **Carolina Wren:** only two reports. **House Wren:** only one report. **Winter Wren:** 13 reports of singles. **Sedge Wren:** one imm NRP 28 Sep (WE). **Marsh Wren:** last one NB 21 Oct. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** first two CPHW 30 Sep. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** first one AL 21 Sep (JG), singing; max ten NB 6 Oct. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** one VF 2 Sep, only report. **E. Bluebird:** max 25 Warrensburg 4 Oct; 17 VF 27 Oct; numbers up from last year. **Veery:** only one report. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** no reports. **Swainson's Thrush:** nocturnal migrants heard Schodack 9-10 Sep, 7-8 Oct (PC). **Hermit Thrush:** three Powell Sanctuary 5 Oct; ten NB 19 Oct; five NB 21 Oct; six reports of singles. **Wood Thrush:** only three reports of singles. **Am. Robin:** 77 NRP 2 Oct; max 200 FR 10 Oct. **Gray Catbird:** max 14 HP 1 Sep. **N. Mockingbird:** few reports. **Brown Thrasher:** one Austerlitz 9-10 Sep, only report. **Am. Pipit:** max 25 FtE 12 Oct. **Cedar Waxwing:** max 60 Hague Beach 16 Nov; 50+ WASH 17 Nov; 50 Delmar 29 Nov. **N. Shrike:** one Dutchtown Rd WASH 17 Nov (LE), only report.

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS:** **Solitary Vireo:** four Sep, seven Oct reports. **Yellow-throated Vireo:** two-three singing Mill Creek Marsh 1 Sep (PC); one SNHP 4 Sep, only reports. **Warbling Vireo:** four reports of singles. **Philadelphia Vireo:** four reports of singles; last one NB 6 Oct, late. **Red-eyed Vireo:** max 15 PISP 9 Sep; nine WR 14 Sep. **Blue-winged Warbler:** one HP 1 Sep; one SNHP 4 Sep; one Hillsdale 5 Sep. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** no reports. **Tennessee Warbler:** only three reports of singles. **Nashville Warbler:** four reports of singles. **N. Parula:** max three SUNYA 13 Sep; five reports of singles. **Yellow Warbler:** only two reports of singles. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max five PISP 7 Sep; five reports of singles. **Magnolia Warbler:** max five VF 2 Sep; five Indian Kill 16 Sep; 15 reports of singles. **Cape May Warbler:** one VF 7 Sep, only report. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** six reports of singles. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 26 NRP 2 Oct. **Black-throated Green Warbler:** max five WR 14 Sep; four AL 21 Sep; 20 reports of singles. **Blackburnian Warbler:** five reports of singles. **Pine Warbler:** four reports of singles; last one Hillsdale 27 Sep. **Prairie Warbler:** one Pine Bush 7 Sep; one FR 9 Sep; last one WR 14 Sep. **Palm Warbler:** one Pine Bush 7 Sep; one VF 6 Oct; last

one FR 7 Nov. only reports. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** max three PISP 7 Sep; two SUNYA 13 Sep; two WR 14 Sep; two reports of singles. **Blackpoll Warbler:** max four Powell Sanctuary 5 Oct; seven reports of singles. **Black-and-white Warbler:** max three PISP 7 Sep; nine reports of singles. **Am. Redstart:** twelve reports of singles. **Ovenbird:** max three Skidmore 12 Sep; seven reports of singles. **N. Waterthrush:** three reports of singles. **Mourning Warbler:** one Hillsdale 5 Sep; one SNHP 29 Sep. only reports. **Com. Yellowthroat:** max eight HP 1 Sep. **Wilson's Warbler:** four reports of singles. **Canada Warbler:** two reports of singles.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS:** **Scarlet Tanager:** max three PISP 7 Sep; five reports of singles. **N. Cardinal:** tailless juv still being fed WR 14 Sep (WE. NM). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** eight reports of singles. **Indigo Bunting:** last one GI 15 Sep. **Dickcissel:** one NB 13 Oct (RG to BEN). **E. Towhee:** six reports of singles. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr one Guilderland 7 Oct. **Chipping Sparrow:** max 31 SUNYA 8 Oct; last one Austerlitz 23 Nov. **Field Sparrow:** last one FR 13 Oct. **Vesper Sparrow:** last one SCA 28 Oct. **Savannah Sparrow:** max six NRP 2 Oct; last one ACA 3 Oct. **Henslow's Sparrow:** one imm SNHP 4 Sep (JG). **NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW:** one ACA 8 Sep (A. Benton/DR!). NYSARC requested. **Fox Sparrow:** four-six BR 9 Nov; four reports of singles. **Song Sparrow:** max 41 NRP 12 Oct. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** four reports of singles. **Swamp Sparrow:** max nine BCM 29 Sep; last eight VF 26 Oct. **White-throated Sparrow:** arr one NB 13 Sep; max 18 NRP 12 Oct. **White-crowned Sparrow:** arr five SNHP 5 Oct; one imm FR 20-21 Nov. **Dark-eyed Junco:** max 50 T Northumberland 10 Nov. **Snow Bunting:** arr one Hague 5 Nov; max 50-60 SCA 17 Nov. **Bobolink:** migrants heard Schodack early morning 8 Sep (PC); last one SNHP 8 Sep. **Red-winged Blackbird:** max 5000+ WR 25 Oct. **E. Meadowlark:** last two FtE 30 Nov. **Rusty Blackbird:** arr one WR 2 Oct; max 12 VF 27 Oct; 12 Cold Spring Rd SARA 31 Oct. **Com. Grackle:** max 6000 WR 20 Oct. **Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 500+ SUNYA 15 Sep. **Baltimore Oriole:** six reports of singles. **Purple Finch:** began appearing in small numbers after 13 Oct. **Red Crossbill:** three heard JL 1 Sep (RY). **Pine Siskin:** five Nov reports; max 30 Dutchtown Rd. WASH 18 Nov (LE). **Am. Goldfinch:** max 100 Warrensburg 26 Nov. **Evening Grosbeak:** no reports.

**Addendum:** Summer 1996 report: **Bald Eagle:** pr SCHO, fledged two young.  
*internet: jgraves@skidmore.edu*

## REGION 9 - HUDSON - DELAWARE

No report was received.

## REGION 10 - MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF

603 Mead Terrace, S. Hempstead NY 11550.

ALVIN WOLLIN

4 Meadow Lane, Rockville Centre NY 11570

The Fall was mild without a warm period or a significant cold spell until mid November. The temperature just drifted down throughout the fall. There were no days over 90°F in September, over 80° in October, or over 70° in November. Temperatures did not go under freezing except for spells in mid and then late November. The first two months were normal and the last 4.6° below. What we did have was rain. All three months were significantly wetter than normal, with 4.35 inches falling on 19 October and 1.91 inches falling on 26 November: both record highs for daily precipitation. Rain cooperated and fell mostly mid week sparing the weekends when most birders were out.

Two hurricanes, Edouard and Fran brushed the Region this fall. They contributed some birding excitement without causing appreciable damage or presenting any great rarities. The best summary of results for Long Island was posted on the internet by Paul A. Buckley and with his permission we are quoting excerpts here. Other details and descriptions of the rarer birds were supplied to us by Angus Wilson and the species accounts have some additional information. Paul's report follows:

"Hurricane Edouard, Saturday 2 September

"After Edouard, for the record, nothing was found on LI except a juv **Sooty Tern** at Montauk on 2 Sept., when a few **Wilson's Storm-Petrels**, **Greater** and **Cory's shearwaters** were also seen (up to 100+ in total), plus a single **Manx** and (yes...) **Sooty Shearwaters**, and a few **Parasitic Jaegers**. But all except the **Sooty Tern** had been around for weeks, so were not Edouard birds. At Montauk on Monday 2 September winds never exceeded 35mph, and were first due N then shifting to the NW. Here there was essentially no rain.

"Hurricane Fran, Saturday 7 September

"Jones Inlet: 600+ adult **Black Skimmers** (close to the normal total LI breeding population and there were other large flocks around); Fire Island Inlet (Democrat Point): adult **Sooty Tern**, juv **Long-Tailed Jaeger**, **Audubon's Shearwater**, juv/1st winter **Black-Legged Kittiwake**; Moriches Inlet: adult **Sooty Tern**."

"Hurricane Fran, Sunday 8 September

"Jones Inlet: one adult, one juv **Sooty Tern**; Jones Beach (Zachs Bay): juv. **Sooty Tern**; Fire Island Inlet: juv **Sooty Tern** (previous day's adult's remains found, probably taken by a Red Fox seen there earlier in the week); Montauk Point: a single 1-year old **Sandwich Tern**.

"The storm brought in about 20-30 **Black Terns** along the LI South Shore, but apparently no **Royal** or **Forster's terns**, usual LI hurricane birds. Unlike after Edouard, no shearwaters or storm-petrels were found, save one **Cory's** picked up moribund at Moriches Inlet. Winds (and on the 7th, exceedingly dense fog) were steadily 10-25mph out of the E/SE from late Friday night the 6th through at least late Sunday night the 8th, but essentially no rain occurred."

Two ad and two imm **AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS** were discovered near Peconic in late Sep, then at Southampton 3 Oct. On 9 Oct two imm were seen at Mecox and two (perhaps the same) were at Towd Pt, Southampton the same day. A pair remained in the vicinity until 15 Oct.

A front on 18 Sep was followed by one of the best flight days for the season at the Fire Island Hawk Watch when over 450 raptors were observed including 100+ Ospreys. This day also produced migrating Bobolinks and Evening Grosbeaks. However, overall this was not an auspicious year for raptors. Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk and American Kestrel continue a downward spiral in migration along the outer beaches. These birds are either in trouble or have changed their movements. These species were represented by less than half the numbers of the last 13 year average.

We mentioned the increased numbers of large terns in the last report. Paul Gillen reported 20 Caspian Terns in Mecox Bay on 1 Oct. The number is large and the date is late. He also reported a Royal Tern at East Hampton on the very late date of 7 Nov. Both Royal and Caspian terns were seen by others into November this year.

The most unusual bird this season was a **White-winged Dove** found in a tree at Jones Beach West End by Ken Feustel on 29 Oct. It stayed just long enough to be photographed. A **Bell's Vireo** was seen near the Ponquogue Bridge, Shinnecock on 26 Oct by Eric Salzman. An article on this sighting will appear in *The Kingbird*. Another was reported from Central Park 18-19 Sep (NYRBA), no details.

There has been an the increase in numbers of Clay-colored Sparrow reported in the past few fall seasons. The new and better field descriptions

appearing in the literature may have been a factor. We need to monitor this trend.

Angus Wilson accompanied by Andy Guthrie, Tony Lauro and Tom Burke reported on a major flight movement the night of 25 Oct. White-throated Sparrow in numbers greater than 10,000 were estimated to be along the Ocean Highway from JBWE to RMSP on 26 Oct.

The northern finch migration was virtually nonexistent this Fall with a few scattered birds passing through along the South Shore mostly early in the morning.

**Notes on identification:** The recent splitting of species in the last AOU supplement requires some comments on identification. The splits offer special problems for Region 10, since we see the newly created species primarily in the fall when plumages are most difficult to separate. We are aware of the identification problems and, hopefully, the species accounts which follow this section reflect this concern. Splits which affect the Region and have special identification problems are touched on below.

There is considerable confusion in separating Gray-cheeked Thrush and Bicknell's Thrush. Substantiation of fall migrating birds is still open to question, at present, at least for us. We believe details should be supplied with reports to help confirm any fall sightings.

With the former Sharp-tailed Sparrow now split into Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, birders are faced with separating the two species. While the Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) is the only breeding sharp-tailed in the state it is now realized that Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*A. nelsoni*) occurs in winter as well, despite the lack of specimen evidence. Matters further get complicated when birders try to refine *A. nelsoni* down to one of its three subspecies, something made even more difficult by the secretive nature of the bird. The real question, of course, is what have we been reporting on Christmas Counts during the past years?

Another identification problem we are faced with is separating Baltimore Oriole and Bullock's Oriole. Almost all records of the latter species are of fall and winter birds, where there is the difficulty of separation from dull female Baltimore Orioles. Some field guides are not too helpful and the two species are known to hybridize. Look for the line thru the eye in the area of the lores in Bullock's, in addition to other field marks.

**Contributors:** Bob Adamo, Steven Biasetti, Jim Ash, Howard Boltson, Paul A. Buckley, Thomas W. Burke, Bertel Bruun, Dale Dyer, Lester Feldman, Henry F. Flamm, S. Friedman, John J. Fritz, Ken Feustel, Tom Fiore, Doug Futuyama, Paul H. Gillen, Andy Guthrie, Robert J. Kurtz, Anthony J. Lauro (AJL), Emanuel Levine, Allan Lindberg, Patricia Lindsay, Hugh McGuinness, Peter Martin, Beverly Prentice, Joan Quinlan, Herbert H. Roth, Eric Salzman,

Seymour Schiff, Lore J. Schore, Richard Veit, Steve Walter, Angus Wilson (AnW), Alvin Wollin (AW).

**Abbreviations:** CA-Calverton; CP-Central Park; CLP-Clove Lake Park, SI; CU- Cupsogue Co Park ; DP-Democrat Point, Fire Island; FI-Fire Island; FP-Forest Park; JBWR-Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBCH-Jones Beach; JBWE-Jones Beach West End; JNIN-Jones Inlet; LI-Long Island; MOB-Many Observers; MEB-Mecox Bay; MP-Montauk Point; MOR-Moriches; NYRBA-New York Rare Bird Alert; PP-Prospect Park; PtL-Point Lookout; RMSP-Robert Moses State Park; SHIN-Shinnecock Inlet; SI-Staten Island; TOB-Tobay ocean front; ZB-Zachs Bay.

**LOONS-DUCKS:** **Horned Grebe:** first SHIN 17 Nov. **Red-necked Grebe:** MP 10,11,16,30 Nov. **Cory's Shearwater:** 50 MP 2 Sep; 14 DP 8 Sep; 20 MP 18 Sep; six MEB 13 Oct; MP 22 Oct; three MP 9 Nov. **Greater Shearwater:** two MP 2 Sep; two MP 18 Sep. **Sooty Shearwater:** two MP 2 Sep; TOB 24 Oct. **MANX SHEARWATER:** MP 2 Sep (AnW, AL); RMSP 8 Oct (HR, LS). **AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER:** DP 7 Sep (AnW, AG). **AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** two ad and two imm near Peconic late Sep; then Southampton 3 Oct; two imm MEX 9 Oct; two (perhaps the same) Towd Pt. Southampton 9 Oct. **Brown Pelican:** SHIN off Dune Rd 16 Sep (BB). **Great Cormorant:** JBWR East Pond 7 Sep; we are beginning to see this species earlier and later than during the winter. **Am. Bittern:** CP 12-13 Oct; others south shore. **Least Bittern:** JBWR 8 Sep. **Cattle Egret:** JBWR 15 Sep; Horse Farm, MP 9 Nov thru. **Tundra Swan:** 14 Hook Pond, E. Hampton 6 Nov; ten on 21 Nov; two JBWR 17-24 Nov. **Greater White-fronted Goose:** MEB 10 Nov (TB). **Snow Goose:** 4000 over CP 27 Nov. **Eurasian Wigeon:** JBWR 24 Sep thru; Hook Pond 9 Nov thru. **Com. Eider:** 25-30 Jones Inlet 7 Nov; 1000 MP 3 Nov; 3000 9 Nov; 7500+ 30 Nov. **King Eider:** MP 16 Nov. **Harlequin Duck:** one PtL 2 Nov; increasing to five 16 Nov thru; MP 9-10 Nov; SH 23 Nov.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** **Turkey Vulture:** Clove Lake Pk, SI 10 Sep. **Mississippi Kite:** CP 7 Sep (TF) and 8 Oct (SF *fide* NYRBA). **Bald Eagle:** SI 2 Sep; Jamesport 19 Sep; five CP 19 Sep; ad JBWE 3 Oct (unusual, most migrants on the strip are imm); RMSP 12 Nov. **N. Harrier:** one half the usual numbers past the beach watches. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** half the usual numbers. **N. Goshawk:** JBWE 16 Oct; others. **Rough-legged Hawk:** Ft. Tilden Hawk Watch 14 Oct; CP and JBWE early Nov. **Golden Eagle:** Ft. Tilden Hawk Watch 14, 29 Oct; good numbers CP Hawk Watch. **American Kestrel:** half the usual numbers. **Am. Golden-Plover:** from 76 Doctor's Path, Riverhead 4 Sep increasing to 250 18 Sep; others along South Shore; Bridgehampton 29-30 Nov. **Semipalmated Plover:** nine DP 12 Oct. **Piping Plover:** eight DP 29 Sep, last report. **Am. Oystercatcher:** ten wintering across from JBCH fishing piers.



**Am. Avocet:** JBWR 1-21 Sep. **Greater Yellowlegs:** 500 Massapequa Preserve 8 Oct. a very large number for this location. **Upland Sandpiper:** CA 2 to 8 Sep. **Hudsonian Godwit:** two JBWR 8 Sep; CA 18 Sep. **Marbled Godwit:** two to four JBWR 1-21 Sep; 26 Oct to 24 Nov; SHIN 10-11 Nov. **Baird's Sandpiper:** JBWR 1-15 Sep. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** 15 CA 6 Sep; 175 CA 18 Sep; 40 CA 19 Sep. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** 8+ Cutchogue 20 Sep. last date this site. **Wilson's Phalarope:** JBWR 15-28 Sep. **Red-necked Phalarope:** JBWE 8 Sep. **Pomarine Jaeger:** FI 13 Sep; MP 30 Sep; off RMSP 8 and 14 Oct; two MP 19 Oct. three MP 20 Oct. **Parasitic Jaeger:** FI early to mid Sep; MP early Sep. then sporadically late Sep to early Nov. **LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** juv DP 7 Sep (AnW, AG). **Black-headed Gull:** Miller Field, SI 23 Nov(RV). **Bonaparte's Gull:** five summered at JBWE till late Aug and few appeared after; a small flock appeared in Jones Inlet Oct 31 but no groups thereafter. **Iceland Gull:** MP 29 Nov. **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** DP 7 Sep; 3rd year bird TOB 22 Sep; three MEB 28 Sep; CP 8 Oct, JBWE 12-14 Oct; MP 20-22 Oct; five near Hook Pond 19 Oct; two 9 Nov; two MP 16 Nov; JBWE 11-17 Nov. **Black-legged Kittiwake:** juv/1st winter DP 7 Sep; MP 18 Sep; three MP 16 Nov; six MP 30 Nov. **Caspian Tern:** many birds along South Shore early Sep to 7 November. **Royal Tern:** many birds along South Shore early Sep to mid Oct; ocean off E. Hampton 7 Nov. late date (PG). **Sandwich Tern:** MP 8 Sep. **Forster's Tern:** 40 MEB 18 Sep. **Black Tern:** 20-30 along South Shore associated with Hurricane Fran. **SOOTY TERN:** juv MP 2 Sep; ad DP 7 Sep; ad MOR 7 Sep; ad and juv JNIN 8 Sep; ZB 8 Sep. **Black Skimmer:** 600+ JNIN 7 Sep; others same period, aftermath of Hurricane Fran. **Dovekie:** MP 30 Nov. **Razorbill:** MP 9 Nov; two MP 29 Nov; 12 MP 30 Nov. **Black Guillemot:** MP 29-30 Nov (MOB).

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** **WHITE-WINGED DOVE:** JBWE 29 Oct (photo to *American Birds*) (KF). **Snowy Owl:** three JBWE 23 Oct. one or more thru; Dune Road 29 Nov thru; others in Nov at Smith Pt Pk, Eatons Neck, CU, Mecox. **Long-eared Owl:** Gilgo 26 Oct; CP 17 Nov thru. **Short-eared Owl:** CU 3 Nov; Great Kills Pk, SI 6 Nov. **N. Saw-whet Owl:** a few mid Nov on Jones strip; CP 28 Nov. **Chimney Swift:** RMSP 11 Oct. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** a dozen birds mid Oct to mid Nov in movement along south shore inc SI and NY city parks.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLING:** **Ash-throated Flycatcher:** SHIN 10 Nov (JA, HMG *fide* ES); RMSP 10 Nov (PL); JBWE 10 Nov (AJL). **Western Kingbird:** JBWE 15 Sep; FI 19 Sep; Gilgo 30 Sep; JBWE 4 Oct. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** few birds this year. **Sedge Wren:** JBWE 30 Oct (DF). **Northern Wheatear:** Dune Rd. SHIN 16 Sep (BB). **Am. Robin:** 1000 FI Hawk Watch 12 Nov; very large flights of this species this fall along the beaches. **Am. Pipit:** fly over

JBWE and RMSP mid Oct to late Nov. **N. Shrike**: Bridgehampton 29 Nov; Nissequogue River, Smithtown 30 Nov.

**VIREOS-WARBLERS**: **BELL'S VIREO**: near Ponquogue Bridge, Shinnecock 26 Oct (ES), supported with lengthy details. **Warbling Vireo**: East Quogue 5 Oct, late date. **Golden-winged Warbler**: ZB 14 Sep; three PP 15 Sep. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: scattered reports 29 Sep to 29 Nov. **N. Parula**: East Quogue 22 Oct, latest date. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: JBWE Nov 3; Tiffany Creek Reserve (Oyster Bay) 6 Nov (AL). **Yellow-throated Warbler**: CP 1 Oct. **Prothonotary Warbler**: male CP 8-18 Sep; female CP 1 Oct. **Worm-eating Warbler**: Clove Lake Pk, SI 11 Sep. **Connecticut Warbler**: CP 16 and 29 Sep; JBWR 21 Sep; Quogue 26 Sep; FI banding station 30 Sep.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS**: **Scarlet Tanager**: last 12 Oct. **Blue Grosbeak**: two MP 8 Sep; CP 18 Sep, 8 Oct; RMSP 11 Oct; PP 22 Oct. **Dickcissel**: MP dump 8 Sep; ZB 14 Sep; two MP dump 29 Sep; Shinnecock 3 Oct; six RMSP 12 Oct; Gilgo 1, 16 Oct; two JBWE 5, 20, 26 Oct, 2 Nov. **Clay-colored Sparrow**: CP 21 Sep; Gilgo 22 Sep; JBWE 12, 15, 18 Oct; CP 20 Oct; two MP 27 Oct; JBWE 3 Nov. **Vesper Sparrow**: more migrants along the Jones Beach strip this year. **Lark Sparrow**: CP 11 Sep; RMSP 14-22 Sep; CB 14 Sep; Gilgo 30 Sep; CP 20 Sep; JBCH 18-24 Oct. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: JBCH 17, 20 Oct; RMSP 26 Oct. **Henslow's Sparrow**: Riis Park 26 Oct (DD *vide* NYRBA). **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow**: 25 Oak Beach Marsh 11 Oct (KF). **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow**: four *subvirgatus* subspecies between Ponquogue Bridge and SHIN 5 Oct (ES); five Oak Beach 21 Oct; two CB 26 Oct. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: three MP dump 8 Sep; JBWE 11-15 Oct; ZB 12 Oct; others CP, RMSP. **White-throated Sparrow**: 10,000+ Jones Beach strip and RMSP (AnW *et al*). **Lapland Longspur**: two JBWE 4 Nov; seven CB 23 Nov; seven JBWE 24 Sep, three 30 Nov. **Snow Bunting**: JBWE 11 Nov thru. **Bobolink**: early Sep to late Oct. **Boat-tailed Grackle**: hundreds at JBWR roost 24 Nov. **Baltimore Oriole**: to Nov 20. **Bullock's Oriole**: female JBWE 26 Oct (DF). **Red Crossbill**: ten JBWE 26 Oct; two JBWE 2 Nov. **Pine Siskin**: 12 JBWE 2 Nov; six JBWE 3 Nov; some CP 2 Nov. **Evening Grosbeak**: three FI 20 Sep.

syschiff@ascensionet.com

Later in the season it became obvious that 21 Mine open pit was continuing to be used by the ravens for night time roosting and day time resting. They seem to know instinctively that this is a safe haven.

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## Fall Departure Dates 1996

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

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

**Bold** Regional Record Late*Italics* also isolated later reports

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

*The Kingbird* publishes papers on all aspects of the ornithology of New York State. Articles should adhere to the standard journal format: Title - Abstract - Introduction - Methods - Results/Observations - Discussion - Conclusion - Literature Cited. **Titles** tell what the article is about. The birds involved should be named, either specifically or as some appropriate higher taxa. **Abstracts** must be terse, but able to stand alone, separate from the article. The **Introduction** should provide the background necessary to understand what follows. The **Methods** explains how the information being reported was obtained. The **Results/Observations** reveals what was found. The **Discussion** puts those results in perspective with the current knowledge base. The **Conclusion** is essentially the punch line, stating what the authors want the readers to take away. The **Literature Cited** tells where any information other than the authors' came from. It must state the exact pages! If you have no literature to cite, then your manuscript is not ready for submission; you have more work to do.

Some types of articles cannot readily conform to the above structure. Essays, literature reviews, letters, opinions, corrections, and so forth can have their own structures. But, they must have some structure.

Articles should be as short as feasible. All authors should eschew long paragraphs and pages of monotonous text. Use subdivisions to enhance communication. Strive to make articles user friendly. Tables and figures must be separate from text, so that they are not split by possible page breaks. Write to communicate with readers. Do not bury your punch lines; put them where they can be readily seen. If you are reporting a new record or a new discovery, say so. But, be sure to identify the previous record or explain why your discovery is new. Use the golden rule; write the kind of articles you like to read.

### MECHANICS

Manuscripts must be typed single-sided, with at least one inch margins on all sides. Follow similar articles in **recent** issues as guides to style or consult: Huth EJ, Council of Biology Editors. *Scientific Style and Format. The CBE Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers*. 6th Ed. NY: Cambridge University Press; 1994. 825 pages. Names of bird species follow the most recent A.O.U. Check-list and its Supplements.

Place each table on a separate page. Figures should be drawn in black ink. Photographs should be submitted as black-and-white glossy prints, although 35 mm slides can be converted. Place all captions on a separate page.

Submission of manuscripts on computer disks is preferred and encouraged, but only on HD (high density) disks, no DD (double density). Please identify the word processing software and its version. A paper printout, double-spaced, must accompany each disk. However, manuscripts not on disks should be single-spaced, so as to minimize electronic scanning costs. Manuscripts may be submitted to the Editor or to the Chair of the Publications Committee. Please include your phone number. Discussion with the Editor prior to submission may be beneficial.

**Editor of *THE KINGBIRD***

Donald A. Windsor, PO Box 604, Norwich NY 13815

**Editor of *NEW YORK BIRDERS***

Phyllis R. Jones, 9 Hallock Road, Pond Eddy NY 12770

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3071 Pee Dee Road, Bliss NY 14024

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585 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead NY 11550

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1300 Seawane Drive, Hewlett Harbor NY 11557

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9 Hallock Road, Pond Eddy NY 12770

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**Federation Waterfowl Count:** Walton B. Sabin, Chair

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P.O. Box. 296

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