

# The KINGBIRD



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# The KINGBIRD

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## THE NEW CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEW YORK STATE

Emanuel Levine

585 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead NY 11550

With this issue of *The Kingbird* we will be incorporating all changes put forth in the 41st Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union *Check-list of North American Birds* (AOU 1997).

The *Checklist of the Birds of New York State* (1996) followed the 6th Edition of the AOU *Check-list of North American Birds* (1983) and the subsequent 35th through 40th Supplements. The publication of the 41st Supplement (AOU 1997), with its numerous and sometimes dramatic changes, has made it necessary to realign our official list accordingly, as presented here. We will then be in conformity with the 7th Edition of the AOU *Check-list of North American Birds*.

Bird classification today may be in a greater dynamic state than anytime in history, reflecting the results of modern biochemical and DNA-DNA hybridization research. The forthcoming 7th Edition of the AOU *Check-list* will in no way be the final chapter and the changes will continue apace. We will adopt further changes as they appear.

Some may wonder why we must pay heed to this constant rearranging and renaming process. The very simple answer is that one must recognize some responsible central authority in an attempt to bring some order to what has become an increasingly chaotic picture of systematics and English names, so that what appears in these pages can be understood by any reader who picks up *The Kingbird* anywhere in this country.

We will start by summarizing those changes which apply specifically to the *Checklist of Birds of New York State* and then reproduce New York's current checklist of 451 species in its correct AOU confirmation.

The genus of Yellow-nosed Albatross is changed to *Thalassarche*.

The Family Cathartidae (American Vultures) is removed from the Order Falconiformes and placed in the Order Ciconiiformes after the Family Ciconiidae (Storks.)

The Family Anatidae (Geese, Swans, and Ducks) has been extensively rearranged.

In the Family Falconidae (Caracaras and Falcons) please note that Eurasian Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*) has been removed from the *Checklist of the Birds of New York State* by the reversal of the New York State Avian Records Committee's (NYSARC) decision on the record. This change is not the result of any AOU action.

In the Family Phasianidae (Partridges, Grouse, and Turkeys), the genus of Spruce Grouse has been changed to *Falcipennis*.

In this same Family Phasianidae, Northern Bobwhite has been removed and placed in its own Family Odontophoridae (New World Quail.)

In the Family Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings), the specific name of American Golden-Plover has been changed from *dominica* to *dominicus*.

In the Family Laridae (Skuas, Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers), the sequence of Jaegers and Skuas has been reversed.

In the Family Alcidae (Auks, Murres, and Puffins), Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) is replaced by Long-billed Murrelet (*B. perdix*) as the result of a species split.

In the Family Strigidae (Typical Owls), the generic name for Burrowing Owl has been changed from *Speotyto* to *Athene*.

In the Family Picidae (Woodpeckers and Allies), Lewis's Woodpecker has been added to the *Checklist of the Birds of New York State* by a NYSARC decision in mid-1996. This change is not the result of any AOU action.

All of the above changes cover the non-passerine portion of the *Checklist of the Birds of New York State*. The Order Passeriformes includes some 188 species of our checklist and most of the dramatic changes occur within that Order. Listed below you will find the new Family sequence within that Order, followed by changes taking place within those Families.

Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)  
Laniidae (Shrikes)  
Vireonidae (Vireos)  
Corvidae (Jays, Magpies, and Crows)  
Alaudidae (Larks)  
Hirundinidae (Swallows)  
Paridae (Chickadees and Titmice)  
Sittidae (Nuthatches)  
Certhiidae (Creepers)  
Troglodytidae (Wrens)  
Regulidae (Kinglets)  
Sylviidae (Old World Warblers and Gnatcatchers)  
Turdidae (Thrushes)  
Mimidae (Mockingbirds, Thrashers, and Allies)  
Sturnidae (Starlings and Allies)  
Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)  
Bombycillidae (Waxwings)  
Parulidae (Wood Warblers)  
Thraupidae (Tanagers)  
Emberizidae (New World Sparrows)  
Cardinalidae (Grosbeaks and Buntings)  
Icteridae (Blackbirds and Orioles)  
Fringillidae (Fringilline and Cardueline Finches)  
Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

In the Family Tyraonidae (Tyrant Flycatchers), the specific name of Olive-sided Flycatcher is changed from *borealis* to *cooperi*.

In the Family Vireonidae (Vireos), the English name Solitary Vireo is changed to Blue-headed Vireo.

In the Family Hirundinidae (Swallows), Barn Swallow is now placed directly after Bank Swallow, and the generic name for both Cliff and Cave swallows is changed from *Hirundo* to *Petrochelidon*.

In the Family Paridae (Chickadees and Titmice), the genus *Parus* has been replaced by the genus *Poecile* in the case of both Black-capped and Boreal chickadee, and by the genus *Baeolophus* in the case of Tufted Titmouse.

In the Family Emberizidae (New World Sparrows), the genus *Zonotrichia* has been rearranged and the sequence is now: White-throated, Harris's, White-crowned, Golden-crowned.

In the Family Icteridae (Blackbirds and Orioles), the sequence for grackles is now: Common Grackle followed by Boat-tailed Grackle.

It also should be pointed out that the three patronymic English names that ended in s' (Ross', Lewis', Harris') will now appear as Ross's, Lewis's, Harris's.

### CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEW YORK STATE

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With updates through July 1997

#### NOTATIONS

- \* Species known to breed, to have bred, or to have established breeding in New York State (243 species)
- + Extinct (2 species)
- I Introduced (8 species)
- E Extirpated - no longer occurs in New York State but is not extinct (1 species)
- IE Introduced population existed but now extirpated (2 species)

The following notations denote species for which documentation should be submitted to the New York State Avian Records Committee: NYSARC, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850.

- N Species for which documentation should be submitted to NYSARC for observations anywhere within New York State.
- U Species for which documentation should be submitted to NYSARC only when observed in upstate New York.
- A Species for which documentation should be submitted to NYSARC only when observed outside the Adirondacks.
- S Species for which spring observations (especially upstate) should be submitted to NYSARC.

#### SPECIES

Family Gaviidae — Loons

Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellata*

Pacific Loon *G. pacifica* (N)

Common Loon *G. immer* \*

Yellow-billed Loon *G. adamsii* (N)

Family Podicipedidae — Grebes

- Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* \*  
 Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus*  
 Red-necked Grebe *P. grisegena*  
 Eared Grebe *P. nigricollis*  
 Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis* (N)
- Family Diomedidae — Albatrosses  
 Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos* (N)
- Family Procellariidae — Shearwaters and Petrels  
 Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* (U)  
 Black-capped Petrel *Pterodroma hasitata* (N)  
 Mottled Petrel *P. inexpectata* (N)  
 Herald Petrel *P. arminjoniana* (N)  
 Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* (U)  
 Greater Shearwater *Puffinus gravis* (U)  
 Sooty Shearwater *P. griseus* (U)  
 Manx Shearwater *P. puffinus* (U)  
 Audubon's Shearwater *P. lherminieri* (N)
- Family Hydrobatidae — Storm-Petrels  
 Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* (U)  
 White-faced Storm-Petrel *Pelagodroma marina* (N)  
 Leach's Storm-Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* (N)
- Family Phaethontidae — Tropicbirds  
 White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus* (N)  
 Red-billed Tropicbird *P. aethereus* (N)
- Family Sulidae — Boobies and Gannets  
 Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* (N)  
 Northern Gannet *S. bassanus* (U)
- Family Pelecanidae — Pelicans  
 American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* (N)  
 Brown Pelican *P. occidentalis* (N)
- Family Phalacrocoracidae — Cormorants  
 Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (U)  
 Double-crested Cormorant *P. auritus* \*
- Family Anhingidae — Darters  
 Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* (N)
- Family Fregatidae — Frigatebirds  
 Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* (N)
- Family Ardeidae — Bitterns, Herons, and Allies  
 American Bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus* \*  
 Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis* \*  
 Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* \*  
 Great Egret *A. alba* \*  
 Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* \*  
 Little Blue Heron *E. caerulea* \*  
 Tricolored Heron *E. tricolor* (U) \*  
 Reddish Egret *E. rufescens* (N)  
 Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* \*  
 Green Heron *Butorides virescens* \*  
 Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* \*

- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* (U) \*
- Family Threskiornithidae — Ibises and Spoonbills
- White Ibis *Eudocimus albus* (N)
- Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* \*
- White-faced Ibis *P. chihi* (N)
- Roseate Spoonbill *Ajaia ajaja* (N)
- Family Ciconiidae — Storks
- Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* (N)
- Family Cathartidae — American Vultures
- Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* (N)
- Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* \*
- Family Anatidae — Geese, Swans, and Ducks
- Fulvous Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor* (N)
- Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*
- Snow Goose *Chen caerulescens*
- Ross's Goose *C. rossii* (N)
- Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* \*
- Brant *B. bernicla*
- Barnacle Goose *B. leucopsis* (N)
- Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* (I) \*
- Tundra Swan *C. columbianus*
- Wood Duck *Aix sponsa* \*
- Gadwall *Anas strepera* \*
- Eurasian Wigeon *A. penelope*
- American Wigeon *A. americana* \*
- American Black Duck *A. rubripes* \*
- Mallard *A. platyrhynchos* \*
- Blue-winged Teal *A. discors* \*
- Cinnamon Teal *A. cyanoptera* (N)
- Northern Shoveler *A. clypeata* \*
- Northern Pintail *A. acuta* \*
- Green-winged Teal *A. crecca* \*
- Canvasback *Aythya valisneria* \*
- Redhead *A. americana* \*
- Ring-necked Duck *A. collaris* \*
- Tufted Duck *A. fuligula* (U)
- Greater Scaup *A. marila*
- Lesser Scaup *A. affinis* \*
- King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*
- Common Eider *S. mollissima* (U)
- Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus*
- Labrador Duck *Camptorhynchus labradorius* (+)
- Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*
- White-winged Scoter *M. fusca*
- Black Scoter *M. nigra*
- Oldsquaw *Clangula hyemalis*
- Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola*
- Common Goldeneye *B. clangula* \*
- Barrow's Goldeneye *B. islandica*



- Smew *Mergellus albellus* (N)  
 Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus* \*  
 Common Merganser *Mergus merganser* \*  
 Red-breasted Merganser *M. serrator* \*  
 Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* \*
- Family Accipitridae — Kites, Eagles, Hawks, and Allies  
 Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* \*  
 Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* (N)  
 White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus* (N)  
 Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis* (N)  
 Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* \*  
 Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus* \*  
 Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus* \*  
 Cooper's Hawk *A. cooperii* \*  
 Northern Goshawk *A. gentilis* \*  
 Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus* \*  
 Broad-winged Hawk *B. platypterus* \*  
 Swainson's Hawk *B. swainsoni* (N)  
 Red-tailed Hawk *B. jamaicensis* \*  
 Rough-legged Hawk *B. lagopus*  
 Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* \*
- Family Falconidae — Caracaras and Falcons  
 American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* \*  
 Merlin *F. columbarius* \*  
 Peregrine Falcon *F. peregrinus* \*  
 Gyrfalcon *F. rusticolus* (N)
- Family Phasianidae — Partridges, Grouse, and Turkeys  
 Gray Partridge *Perdix perdix* (I) \*  
 Ring-necked Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* (I) \*  
 Ruffed Grouse *Bonasa umbellus* \*  
 Spruce Grouse *Falcapennis canadensis* (A) \*  
 Greater Prairie-Chicken *Tympanuchus cupido* (E)  
 Wild Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo* \*
- Family Odontophoridae — New World Quail  
 Northern Bobwhite *Colinus virginianus* \*
- Family Rallidae — Rails, Gallinules, and Coots  
 Yellow Rail *Coturnicops noveboracensis* (N)  
 Black Rail *Laterallus jamaicensis* (U) \*  
 Corn Crane *Crex crex* (N)  
 Clapper Rail *Rallus longirostris* (U) \*  
 King Rail *R. elegans* (N) \*  
 Virginia Rail *R. limicola* \*  
 Sora *Porzana carolina* \*  
 Purple Gallinule *Porphyryla martinica* (U)  
 Azure Gallinule *P. flavirostris* (N)  
 Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* \*  
 American Coot *Fulica americana* \*
- Family Gruidae — Cranes  
 Sandhill Crane *Grus canadensis* (N)

- Family Charadriidae — Plovers and Lapwings  
 Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (N)  
 Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*  
 American Golden-Plover *P. dominica*  
 Wilson's Plover *Charadrius wilsonia* (N)  
 Semipalmated Plover *C. semipalmatus*  
 Piping Plover *C. melodus* (U) \*  
 Killdeer *C. vociferus* \*
- Family Haematopodidae — Oystercatchers  
 American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* (U) \*
- Family Recurvirostridae — Stilts and Avocets  
 Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* (U)  
 American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana* (U)
- Family Scolopacidae — Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies  
 Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*  
 Lesser Yellowlegs *T. flavipes*  
 Spotted Redshank *T. erythropus* (N)  
 Wood Sandpiper *T. glareola* (N)  
 Solitary Sandpiper *T. solitaria*  
 Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus* \*  
 Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia* \*  
 Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda* \*  
 Eskimo Curlew *Numenius borealis* (N)  
 Whimbrel *N. phaeopus*  
 Eurasian Curlew *N. arquata* (N)  
 Long-billed Curlew *N. americanus* (N)  
 Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*  
 Bar-tailed Godwit *L. lapponica* (N)  
 Marbled Godwit *L. fedoa* (U)  
 Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*  
 Red Knot *Calidris canutus*  
 Sanderling *C. alba*  
 Semipalmated Sandpiper *C. pusilla*  
 Western Sandpiper *C. mauri* (S)  
 Red-necked Stint *C. ruficollis* (N)  
 Little Stint *C. minuta* (N)  
 Least Sandpiper *C. minutilla*  
 White-rumped Sandpiper *C. fuscicollis*  
 Baird's Sandpiper *C. bairdii* (S)  
 Pectoral Sandpiper *C. melanotos*  
 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *C. acuminata* (N)  
 Purple Sandpiper *C. maritima*  
 Dunlin *C. alpina*  
 Curlew Sandpiper *C. ferruginea* (U)  
 Stilt Sandpiper *C. himantopus*  
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*  
 Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*  
 Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus*  
 Long-billed Dowitcher *L. scolopaceus*

- Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* \*  
 American Woodcock *Scolopax minor* \*  
 Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* \*  
 Red-necked Phalarope *P. lobatus*  
 Red Phalarope *P. fulicaria*
- Family Laridae — Skuas, Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers
- Great Skua *Catharacta skua* (N)  
 South Polar Skua *C. maccormicki* (N)  
 Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus*  
 Parasitic Jaeger *S. parasiticus*  
 Long-tailed Jaeger *S. longicaudus* (N)  
 Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* \*  
 Franklin's Gull *L. pipixcan*  
 Little Gull *L. minutus*  
 Black-headed Gull *L. ridibundus*  
 Bonaparte's Gull *L. philadelphia*  
 Mew Gull *L. canus* (N)  
 Ring-billed Gull *L. delawarensis* \*  
 California Gull *L. californicus* (N)  
 Herring Gull *L. argentatus* \*  
 Thayer's Gull *L. thayeri* (N)  
 Iceland Gull *L. glaucoides*  
 Lesser Black-backed Gull *L. fuscus*  
 Slaty-backed Gull *L. schistisagus* (N)  
 Glaucous Gull *L. hyperboreus*  
 Great Black-backed Gull *L. marinus* \*  
 Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*  
 Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea* (N)  
 Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini* (S)  
 Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea* (N)  
 Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica* (U) \*  
 Caspian Tern *S. caspia* \*  
 Royal Tern *S. maxima* (U)  
 Sandwich Tern *S. sandvicensis* (N)  
 Roseate Tern *S. dougallii* (U) \*  
 Common Tern *S. hirundo* \*  
 Arctic Tern *S. paradisaea* (N)  
 Forster's Tern *S. forsteri* \*  
 Least Tern *S. antillarum* \*  
 Bridled Tern *S. anaethetus* (N)  
 Sooty Tern *S. fuscata* (N)  
 White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* (N) \*  
 Black Tern *C. niger* \*  
 Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger* (U) \*
- Family Alcidae — Auks, Murres, and Puffins
- Dovekie *Alle alle* (U)  
 Common Murre *Uria aalge* (N)  
 Thick-billed Murre *U. lomvia* (U)  
 Razorbill *Alca torda* (U)

- Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle* (U)  
 Long-billed Murrelet *Brachyramphus perdix* (N)  
 Ancient Murrelet *Synthliboramphus antiquus* (N)  
 Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica* (N)
- Family Columbidae — Pigeons and Doves  
 Rock Dove *Columba livia* (I) \*  
 White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* (N)  
 Mourning Dove *Z. macroura* \*  
 Passenger Pigeon *Ectopistes migratorius* (+) \*
- Family Psittacidae — Parrots  
 Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus* (I) \*
- Family Cuculidae — Cuckoos, Roadrunners, and Anis  
 Black-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* \*  
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo *C. americanus* \*
- Family Tytonidae — Barn Owls  
 Barn Owl *Tyto alba* \*
- Family Strigidae — Typical Owls  
 Eastern Screech-Owl *Otus asio* \*  
 Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus* \*  
 Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca*  
 Northern Hawk Owl *Surnia ulula* (N)  
 Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia* (N)  
 Barred Owl *Strix varia* \*  
 Great Gray Owl *S. nebulosa* (N)  
 Long-eared Owl *Asio otus* \*  
 Short-eared Owl *A. flammeus* \*  
 Boreal Owl *Aegolius funereus* (N)  
 Northern Saw-whet Owl *A. acadicus* \*
- Family Caprimulgidae — Goatsuckers  
 Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor* \*  
 Chuck-will's-widow *Caprimulgus carolinensis* (U) \*  
 Whip-poor-will *C. vociferus* \*
- Family Apodidae — Swifts  
 Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica* \*
- Family Trochilidae — Hummingbirds  
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris* \*  
 Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus* (N)
- Family Alcedinidae — Kingfishers  
 Belted Kingfisher *Ceryle alcyon* \*
- Family Picidae — Woodpeckers and Allies  
 Lewis's Woodpecker *Melanerpes lewis* (N)  
 Red-headed Woodpecker *M. erythrocephalus* \*  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker *M. carolinus* \*  
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus varius* \*  
 Downy Woodpecker *Picoides pubescens* \*  
 Hairy Woodpecker *P. villosus* \*  
 Three-toed Woodpecker *P. tridactylus* (A) \*  
 Black-backed Woodpecker *P. arcticus* (A) \*  
 Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus* \*

- Pileated Woodpecker *Dryocopus pileatus* \*
- Family Tyrannidae — Tyrant Flycatchers
- Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi* \*
  - Eastern Wood-Pewee *C. virens* \*
  - Yellow-bellied Flycatcher *Empidonax flaviventris* \*
  - Acadian Flycatcher *E. virescens* \*
  - Alder Flycatcher *E. alnorum* \*
  - Willow Flycatcher *E. traillii* \*
  - Least Flycatcher *E. minimus* \*
  - Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe* \*
  - Say's Phoebe *S. saya* (N)
  - Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* (N)
  - Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens* (N)
  - Great Crested Flycatcher *M. crinitus* \*
  - Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis* (U)
  - Eastern Kingbird *T. tyrannus* \*
  - Gray Kingbird *T. dominicensis* (N)
  - Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *T. forficatus* (N)
  - Fork-tailed Flycatcher *T. savana* (N)
- Family Laniidae — Shrikes
- Northern Shrike *Lanius excubitor*
  - Loggerhead Shrike *L. ludovicianus* \*
- Family Vireonidae — Vireos
- White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus* \*
  - Bell's Vireo *V. bellii* (N)
  - Blue-headed Vireo *V. solitarius* \*
  - Yellow-throated Vireo *V. flavifrons* \*
  - Warbling Vireo *V. gilvus* \*
  - Philadelphia Vireo *V. philadelphicus* \*
  - Red-eyed Vireo *V. olivaceus* \*
- Family Corvidae — Jays, Magpies, and Crows
- Gray Jay *Perisoreus canadensis* (A) \*
  - Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata* \*
  - Black-billed Magpie *Pica pica* (N)
  - American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos* \*
  - Fish Crow *C. ossifragus* \*
  - Common Raven *C. corax* \*
- Family Alaudidae — Larks
- Sky Lark *Alauda arvensis* (IE) \*
  - Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris* \*
- Family Hirundinidae — Swallows
- Purple Martin *Progne subis* \*
  - Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor* \*
  - Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* \*
  - Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia* \*
  - Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* \*
  - Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* \*
  - Cave Swallow *P. fulva* (N)
- Family Paridae — Chickadees and Titmice

- Black-capped Chickadee *Poecile atricapillus* \*
- Boreal Chickadee *P. hudsonicus* \*
- Tufted Titmouse *Baeolophus bicolor* \*
- Family Sittidae — Nuthatches
  - Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis* \*
  - White-breasted Nuthatch *S. carolinensis* \*
  - Brown-headed Nuthatch *S. pusilla* (N)
- Family Certhiidae — Creepers
  - Brown Creeper *Certhia americana* \*
- Family Troglodytidae — Wrens
  - Rock Wren *Salpinctes obsoletus* (N)
  - Carolina Wren *Thryothorus ludovicianus* \*
  - Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii* (N) \*
  - House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* \*
  - Winter Wren *T. troglodytes* \*
  - Sedge Wren *Cistothorus platensis* \*
  - Marsh Wren *C. palustris* \*
- Family Regulidae — Kinglets
  - Golden-crowned Kinglet *Regulus satrapa* \*
  - Ruby-crowned Kinglet *R. calendula* \*
- Family Sylviidae — Old World Warblers and Gnatcatchers
  - Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Poliopitila caerulea* \*
- Family Turdidae — Thrushes
  - Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* (N)
  - Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis* \*
  - Mountain Bluebird *S. currucoides* (N)
  - Townsend's Solitaire *Myadestes townsendi* (N)
  - Veery *Catharus fuscescens* \*
  - Gray-cheeked Thrush *C. minimus*
  - Bicknell's Thrush *C. bicknelli* (N) \*
  - Swainson's Thrush *C. ustulatus* \*
  - Hermit Thrush *C. guttatus* \*
  - Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina* \*
  - Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* (N)
  - Redwing *T. iliacus* (N)
  - American Robin *T. migratorius* \*
  - Varied Thrush *Ixoreus naevius*
- Family Mimidae — Mockingbirds, Thrashers, and Allies
  - Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis* \*
  - Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos* \*
  - Sage Thrasher *Oreoscoptes montanus* (N)
  - Brown Thrasher *Toxostoma rufum* \*
- Family Sturnidae — Starlings and Allies
  - European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (I) \*
- Family Motacillidae — Wagtails and Pipits
  - American Pipit *Anthus rubescens*
- Family Bombycillidae — Waxwings
  - Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*
  - Cedar Waxwing *B. cedrorum* \*

Family Parulidae — Wood Warblers

- Blue-winged Warbler *Vermivora pinus* \*
- Golden-winged Warbler *V. chrysoptera* \*
- Tennessee Warbler *V. peregrina* \*
- Orange-crowned Warbler *V. celata*
- Nashville Warbler *V. ruficapilla* \*
- Northern Parula *Parula americana* \*
- Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia* \*
- Chestnut-sided Warbler *D. pensylvanica* \*
- Magnolia Warbler *D. magnolia* \*
- Cape May Warbler *D. tigrina* \*
- Black-throated Blue Warbler *D. caerulescens* \*
- Yellow-rumped Warbler *D. coronata* \*
- Black-throated Gray Warbler *D. nigrescens* (N)
- Townsend's Warbler *D. townsendi* (N)
- Black-throated Green Warbler *D. virens* \*
- Blackburnian Warbler *D. fusca* \*
- Yellow-throated Warbler *D. dominica* (U) \*
- Pine Warbler *D. pinus* \*
- Prairie Warbler *D. discolor* \*
- Palm Warbler *D. palmarum* \*
- Bay-breasted Warbler *D. castanea* \*
- Blackpoll Warbler *D. striata* \*
- Cerulean Warbler *D. cerulea* \*
- Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* \*
- American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* \*
- Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea* \*
- Worm-eating Warbler *Helmitheros vermivorus* \*
- Swainson's Warbler *Limnothlypis swainsonii* (N)
- Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapillus* \*
- Northern Waterthrush *S. noveboracensis* \*
- Louisiana Waterthrush *S. motacilla* \*
- Kentucky Warbler *Oporornis formosus* \*
- Connecticut Warbler *O. agilis*
- Mourning Warbler *O. philadelphia* \*
- Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* \*
- Hooded Warbler *Wilsonia citrina* \*
- Wilson's Warbler *W. pusilla* \*
- Canada Warbler *W. canadensis* \*
- Painted Redstart *Myioborus pictus* (N)
- Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens* \*

Family Thraupidae — Tanagers

- Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* (U)
- Scarlet Tanager *P. olivacea* \*
- Western Tanager *P. ludoviciana* (N)

Family Emberizidae — New World Sparrows

- Green-tailed Towhee *Pipilo chlorurus* (N)
- Eastern Towhee *P. erythrophthalmus* \*
- Spotted Towhee *P. maculatus* (N)

- Bachman's Sparrow *Aimophila aestivalis* (N)  
 American Tree Sparrow *Spizella arborea*  
 Chipping Sparrow *S. passerina* \*  
 Clay-colored Sparrow *S. pallida* \*  
 Field Sparrow *S. pusilla* \*  
 Vesper Sparrow *Pooecetes gramineus* \*  
 Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus* (U)  
 Lark Bunting *Calamospiza melanocorys* (N)  
 Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis* \*  
 Baird's Sparrow *Ammodramus bairdii* (N)  
 Grasshopper Sparrow *A. savannarum* \*  
 Henslow's Sparrow *A. henslowii* \*  
 Le Conte's Sparrow *A. leconteii* (N)  
 Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow *A. caudacutus* (U) \*  
 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow *A. nelsoni* (N)  
 Seaside Sparrow *A. maritimus* (U) \*  
 Fox Sparrow *Passerella iliaca*  
 Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia* \*  
 Lincoln's Sparrow *M. lincolni* \*  
 Swamp Sparrow *M. georgiana* \*  
 White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis* \*  
 Harris's Sparrow *Z. querula* (N)  
 White-crowned Sparrow *Z. leucophrys*  
 Golden-crowned Sparrow *Z. atricapilla* (N)  
 Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis* \*  
 Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus*  
 Smith's Longspur *C. pictus* (N)  
 Chestnut-collared Longspur *C. ornatus* (N)  
 Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*
- Family Cardinalidae — Grosbeaks and Buntings  
 Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis* \*  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus* \*  
 Black-headed Grosbeak *P. melanocephalus* (N)  
 Blue Grosbeak *Guiraca caerulea* (U) \*  
 Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea* \*  
 Painted Bunting *P. ciris* (N)  
 Dickcissel *Spiza americana* \*
- Family Icteridae — Icterines  
 Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* \*  
 Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* \*  
 Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna* \*  
 Western Meadowlark *S. neglecta* \*  
 Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*  
 Rusty Blackbird *Euphagus carolinus* \*  
 Brewer's Blackbird *E. cyanocephalus* (N)  
 Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula* \*  
 Boat-tailed Grackle *Q. major* (U) \*  
 Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater* \*  
 Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius* \*



- Baltimore Oriole *I. galbula* \*
- Bullock's Oriole *I. bullockii* (N)
- Family Fringillidae — Fringilline and Cardueline Finches
- Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* (N)
- Pine Grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator*
- Purple Finch *Carpodacus purpureus* \*
- House Finch *C. mexicanus* (I) \*
- Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* \*
- White-winged Crossbill *L. leucoptera* \*
- Common Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*
- Hoary Redpoll *C. hornemanni* (N)
- Pine Siskin *C. pinus* \*
- American Goldfinch *C. tristis* \*
- European Goldfinch *C. carduelis* (IE) \*
- Evening Grosbeak *Coccothraustes vespertinus* \*
- Family Passeridae — Old World Sparrows
- House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (I) \*

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## SWAINSON'S THRUSH NESTS IN THE ALLEGANY HILLS

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**ABSTRACT** — Swainson's Thrush in the Allegany Hills nests on the lowest branch of hemlock trees far from the trunk.

There is an isolated population of Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) nesting in the Allegany Hills of Cattaraugus, Allegany, and probably Chautauqua counties. The Allegany Hills is part of a larger, physiographic, higher, area extending from the above counties of New York into Pennsylvania, called the High Plateaus section of the Allegheny Plateau (Hough and Forbes 1943, Brauning 1992). The breeding distribution of this thrush in New York is fragmented, occurring in five areas of the state between 549 m (1800 ft) and 1219 m (4000 ft) in elevation (Peterson 1988). The fragmented areas are the Adirondacks, Tug Hill, the Catskills, Chenango County, and the Allegany Hills. They are found essentially in hemlock - northern hardwoods in the Allegany Hills and spruce-fir-northern hardwoods in the Adirondacks, Catskills, and Tug Hill. The Chenango County population appeared to nest in large reforestation plantations of Norway and white spruce (Peterson 1988).

The nesting habit of this thrush in the Allegany Hills population is different from areas where the bird nests in spruce and balsam in the Adirondacks and Catskills and probably birds nesting in Chenango County (Eaton 1981). Birds nesting in areas of spruce (*Picea*) and balsam (*Abies*) place the nest commonly on a horizontal branch near the trunk (Bent 1949, Harrison 1975). All but one of the nests found in the Allegany Hills (Table 1) was located in hemlocks (*Tsuga canadensis*) on the lowest living branch, in a thick area of hemlock needles, several meters out from the trunk. The average height from the ground was 5.8 m (n=9), range 2.3 m to 9.8 m, average distance from the trunk 3.6 m (n=5), average diameter breast high of the hemlocks was 32 cm (n=5). One nest was actually placed in a Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) sapling 2.3 m from the ground and approximately 0.7 m from the end of a hemlock branch, (Table 1, nest 11).

Nests were started by birds placing dead leaves of early mountain rice grass (*Oryzopsis asperifolia*) (nests 1-10) or beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) and maple (*Acer* sp.) leaves (nest 12) in a small crotch near the end of a hemlock branch. The main bowl of this nest was then added, made of hemlock twigs, and in its upper part much moss was worked into the twigs. The lining was of fine dark rootlets and grass stems. The inside diameter was 6.5 cm and inside depth 5.5 cm.

The nests of Swainson's Thrush in northern New England were practically all found in spruces or firs, 11 in spruces and 10 in firs, and usually close to the trunk, though occasionally one was about 2/3 rds the way out on a branch. The

height from the ground varied from 0.7 m to 6.6 m but only two were above 2.3 m (Bent 1949). The location of hemlocks in the Allegheny Hills is usually in what Saunders (1942) called the "hemlock line", a line of springs on the mountain sides, caused by peculiarities in the geological formation. This occurs at about 623 m elevation. The under story of these hemlocks, averaging 32 cm in diameter normally would have a good supply of young hemlocks but in the Allegheny Hills they have largely been overbrowsed by deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and the Swainson's Thrushes have taken to nesting in the terminal ends of the lowest branches of the larger hemlocks (Baird 1990, Anonymous 1992). These areas, far from the trunk of the tree, are more remote from passage by red squirrels (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*) and other similar mammalian predators on their way to the hemlock canopy. Spring runs, deer and mammalian predators are perhaps major selective agents contributing to the present nesting sites of Swainson's Thrushes in the Allegheny Hills.

Table 1. Nests of Swainson's Thrush in Cattaraugus County.

<u>Nest No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Chronology</u>
1	24 Jun 53	Carrollton	Incubating
2	24 Jun 53	Carrollton	Incubating
3	26 Jun 53	Carrollton	Incubating,
	30 Jun 53	"	3 eggs
	4 Jul 53	"	2 young + 1 egg
4	26 Jun 53	Carrollton	Fresh nest
	4 Jul 53	"	Incubating
5	26 Jun 53	Carrollton	Building
	30 Jun 53	"	Incubating
	4 Jul 53	"	Incubating
6	26 Jun 53	Carrollton	Fresh nest, no eggs
7	26 Jun 53	Carrollton	Fresh nest, no eggs
8	26 Jun 53	Carrollton	Fresh nest
9	26 Jun 53	Carrollton	Incubating
10	26 Jun 53	Carrollton	Fresh nest
11	26 Jun 55	Great Valley	3 or 4 young, about 6 days old (1 for WC Dilger behavior study)
12	16 Jul 96	Red House	3 eggs
	23 Jul 96	"	3 eggs
	8 Aug 96	"	Predatorized, nest collected

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# GOLDEN-WINGED AND BLUE-WINGED WARBLERS AT STERLING FOREST: A UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCE

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**ABSTRACT** — This survey documents the unusual long-term coexistence (at least 90 years) of Golden-winged and Blue-winged warblers in Sterling Forest. In this region both species use similar habitat but rarely hybridize.

## INTRODUCTION

On 25 May, 1997 we conducted a survey of Golden-winged Warblers (*Vermivora chrysoptera*), Blue-winged Warblers (*V. pinus*) and their hybrids in Sterling Forest. Sterling Forest is approximately 20,000 acres of wetlands, and wooded, steep and rocky hills and valleys with pristine lakes and streams straddling the border of New York and New Jersey in Orange and Passaic counties. The largest unfragmented forest remaining in the New York / New Jersey Highlands, which stretch from the Delaware River, northeastward across the Hudson River to Connecticut, lies within Sterling Forest.

Golden-wings and blue-wings nested in this area early in the 1900's, as reported by Eaton (1914) in *The Birds of New York State*. The golden-wing account in *The Atlas of Breeding Birds of New York State* (Confer 1988) reported that both golden-wings and blue-wings still nested in this area, continuing a 90-yr pattern of coexistence. Skully (1997) documented that the long-term coexistence extended westward into contiguous Sussex County, New Jersey. This coexistence is surprising because Gill (1980) reported that there were no known areas where golden-wings and blue-wings coexisted for over 50 years. Since Gill's publication, the Sterling Forest region is still the only region with published data showing prolonged coexistence of these two species.

Frech and Confer (1987) showed that hybrids appeared to be rare in this area. Their study reported 7 golden-wings and 13 blue-wings, but no hybrids. They speculated that the low frequency of hybridization contributed to their coexistence. We conducted the current survey to provide further data on the coexistence of these two species and to observe if they utilize similar habitat.

## METHODS

To detect birds we lured them to us by continuously playing Type II song, as defined by Gill and Murray (1972), at each of 32 roadside stops. At 31 of the roadside sites, we counted only those birds that we saw or heard while we stood near the car. We walked into one site of abandoned farmland with patches of herbs and shrubs.

## OBSERVATIONS

We heard and/or saw 22 male Golden-winged and 22 male Blue-winged warblers. We saw 18 golden-wings and 12 blue-wings and no hybrids. Of the 30 visually identified birds, 29 appeared to have pure phenotypes. One blue-wing had yellowish wing bars, a characteristic indicative of introgression (Gill 1980). Four golden-wings and 10 blue-wings were only heard and these might have included a hybrid or the very rare individual of one species which sings the Type I song of the other species.

Combining results of a previous survey, no hybrids were detected out of 50 birds visually identified in 1986 and 1997. Hybridization is more common at other study sites. As examples, hybrids comprised 9% (22 of 241) of the territorial males in north-central New York (Confer and Larkin in press) and 17% (7 of 41) in the Delaware Valley (Gill 1997). A Chi-square 2 x 2 contingency test comparing the two New York samples showed a significantly lower frequency of hybridization at Sterling Forest ( $\chi^2 = 4.67$ ,  $p < 0.05\%$ ).

Hypothetically, the low rate of hybridization at Sterling Forest might occur because the two species were separated by use of different habitats. Frech and Confer (1987) noted that these two species frequently established overlapping territories in wet portions of the Sterling Forest region. Unpublished portions of the data from that study detected blue-wings at two dry, upland sites where there were no golden-wings. During this current survey of Sterling Forest, we sampled the distribution of golden-wings and blue-wings at 12 wet and 20 dry sites. Dry areas consisted of: 1) cleared right-of-ways with shrub growth under power lines generally bordered with mature forest, and 2) mature forests with openings and small amounts of shrub along the road shoulder. Wet areas consisted almost exclusively of stable alder swamps.

In this survey, the habitat occupancy by both species was virtually identical. We detected (by song and/or sight) 12 golden-wing and 11 blue-wing at 20 dry sites, and 10 golden-wing and 11 blue-wing at 12 wet sites. Our study shows that the density of both species in wet habitats and in dry habitats is about the same, in contrast to the previous, smaller survey (Frech and Confer 1987). The two species often occurred together at the same site. We detected 2 birds at each of 11 roadside sites, and 10 of these sites had one of each species. We walked into one abandoned farmland site which had two individuals of both species, both using similar habitat.

We detected 12 golden-wings at 20 dry sites (60% occupancy) and 10 golden-wings at 12 wet sites (83%). Both species occurred in slightly higher densities in wet sites. However, the difference in habitat occupancy within each species is not statistically significant. Differences in nesting success may occur among the habitats used by golden-wings, and further study of possible habitat effects could be valuable.

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The coexistence of golden-wings and blue-wings for at least 90 years appears to be unique to the region in and around Sterling Forest. The low rate of hybridization is also unique to this region. Apparently these populations have developed some reproductive isolating mechanism which greatly reduces hybridization and probably accounts for their prolonged coexistence. In this region both species nest in alder swamps and upland, shrub habitat. The nesting success of both species in these different habitats is unknown, but could provide critical guidance for habitat management at other sites. The geographic extent and numerical abundance of these populations with low hybridization is also unknown, although the zone of low hybridization extends westward into neighboring New Jersey (Skully 1997). The decline of the Golden-winged Warbler in the eastern portion of its range is so extreme it has been designated a Priority Species by Partners in Flight and a Species of Management Concern by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Consequently, analyses and protection of this population should be a priority for Golden-winged Warbler studies.

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# BARN OWL POPULATIONS AS REFLECTED IN DATA FROM JOHN F. KENNEDY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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**ABSTRACT**—From 1979 through 1995, 113 Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*) were struck by airplanes at John F. Kennedy International Airport, representing 3% of all bird strikes during this 17 year period. The mean number struck was 6.65 per year, ranging from 2 to 17, peaking during the late 1980s. Barn Owls are struck at JFK 12 months a year. The greatest number of strikes occurs during the middle of the summer and then decreases until November. These data may reflect its local populations.

## INTRODUCTION

The Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) is listed as a protected species in New York State and is a species of management concern to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Its populations are fluctuating both in New York and nationally. Some are struck at John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK), Queens County, despite its uncommon status, which may reflect either local abundance or that the species is doing well locally. Barn Owl strikes increased after the nearby landfills were closed, Fountain Avenue in 1985 and Edgemere in 1991, and the Barn Owls shifted their hunting to other suitable areas, including JFK. While the landfills were active they provided vast open areas with large numbers of available rodents. During 3 hours of observations at night at the nearby Fountain Avenue Landfill in 1979, Michael Harrison observed 7 owls feeding on rats. When the landfills were closed, the rat populations plummeted, and the remaining owls hunted prey that were less plentiful and more difficult to locate, as well as prey that were more seasonal, or more difficult to capture.

## METHODS

JFK has the most complete bird strike data set for any airport in the world. Every bird strike reported by a pilot or by the Federal Aviation Administration is investigated, identified, and added to our data base. Each dead bird found within 250 feet of the centerline of a runway is identified and becomes part of our index, enabling us to determine relative seasonal and annual abundance. Based on these data and the number of Barn Owl boxes at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, which is adjacent to JFK, as well as on significant factors, such as closings of local landfills, we analyzed bird numbers in conjunction with bird management methods to determine which methods are most effective.



## RESULTS

From 1979 through 1995, 113 Barn Owls were struck at JFK representing 3% of all bird strikes during this 17 year period. The mean number struck was 6.65 per year, ranging from 2 to 17. The number of strikes per year is graphed in Figure 1. Strikes spiked after nearby landfills were closed and the owls were forced to use other feeding areas, including JFK.

Barn Owl strikes at JFK then appeared to have dropped for several years. On average there were 9 strikes a year from 1979 through 1990, then the number dropped to 7 in 1991, averaging 5 since. The decline is attributable to the closing of the landfills on either side of JFK followed by a several year period of fewer birds feeding over a larger area. However, the number of strikes may not remain so low as a result of the increasing number of successful Barn Owl nesting boxes that the National Park Service has erected throughout the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge.

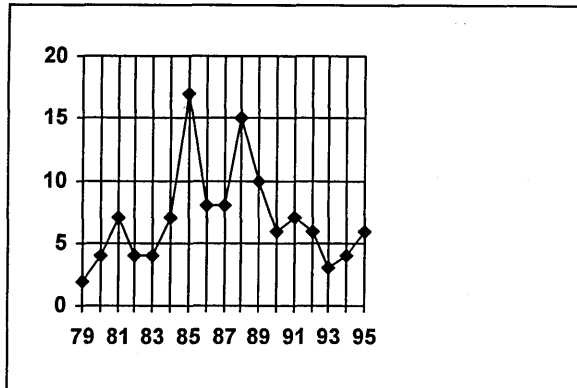


Figure 1. The number of Barn Owls struck at JFK from 1979-1995

## DISCUSSION

Of all the Barn Owls struck at JFK, none resulted in aircraft damage or delays. All the strikes involved single birds. Barn Owl strikes, however, have the capacity to significantly damage an aircraft. When a Canadian Airlines Boeing 737-200 struck a Barn Owl at Palm Springs, California, on 7 May 1994 (Garber 1996), the pilot landed the aircraft safely, and while the one damaged engine was replaced the passengers were put up at a hotel during which time a replacement aircraft was flown in.

Barn Owls are seldom seen flying in the JFK vicinity because they are active over the runways at night, when the Bird Control Unit is not on duty. This accounts for why Barn Owls that were struck are found dead in the morning

when the first bird sweep occurs (when someone drives down the runways to ensure that no birds are physically present on the pavement surface).

Barn Owls are struck at JFK 12 months a year (Figure 2.). The greatest number of strikes occurs during the middle of the summer and then continues for several months. After the summer is over the number of Barn Owl strikes declines each month until the strike record reaches a low in May. The Barn Owl strike rate increases slightly in June, with considerably more in July, and hitting a peak in August, when most of the fledglings are catching food on their own. The airport probably has both the young inexperienced birds hunting over the runways during this time, as well as the experienced adults. The increase in strikes probably reflects the total number in the vicinity of the airport.

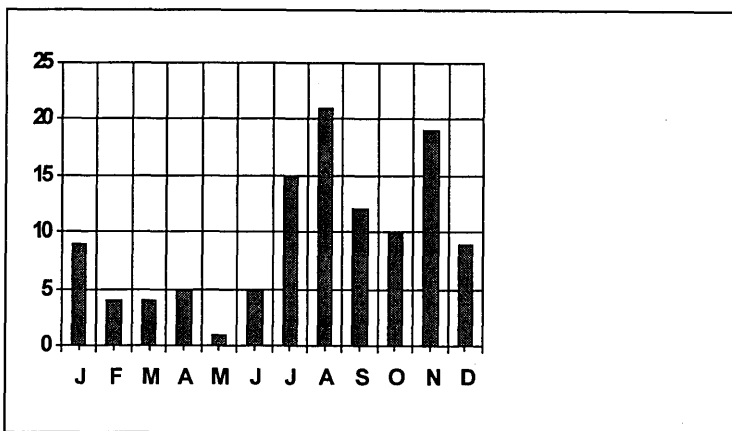


Figure 2. The number of Barn Owls struck each month at JFK from 1979-1995

Barn Owls are known to breed throughout the year in New York, nesting almost exclusively in association with human habitation. In urban areas nests are commonly found in abandoned buildings, in more rural locations their nests are often found around agricultural structures (Sibley 1988).

At JFK, in 1983 Barn Owls nested in Hangar 17 (Chevalier, personal communication, 1996). Barn Owls also used to nest in the old hangars at Floyd Bennett Field, west across Jamaica Bay in Kings County. (Garber 1987, Richard 1988). Barn Owls were still nesting there until the hangars were renovated, which displaced the owls, providing additional impetus to the National Park Service to build and erect Barn Owl boxes in an effort to provide adequate nesting opportunities for them in the area. Chevalier banded 125 Barn Owls from the boxes over the years when visiting Gateway National Recreation Area, the larger area encompassing Jamaica Bay, JFK, and Bennett Field.

In 1996 there were about 20 Barn Owl boxes at Gateway's units near the airport, in Queens and Brooklyn. Of the 20 boxes, about 12 were active. During mid-summer most of the young of the year have fledged and those that live in the

area often feed at the airport. We know that some of the Barn Owls migrate south because those banded by Chevalier in the vicinity of JFK were recaptured at Cape May. Migration occurs primarily in October and November. Then, as some of the birds have migrated south, and the naive birds have either learned, or been struck, the number of Barn Owls in the area probably declines, as does the number of birds that are struck at JFK.

At about noon on 21 December 1996, on the Brooklyn Christmas Bird Count (Cech & Joost 1997), we checked 4 Barn Owl boxes on Canarsie Polder, an island in Jamaica Bay, Kings County; 1 box was empty, 2 boxes had 1 Barn Owl each, and 1 box had 2. When the birds flew as we approached the boxes or rapped on the poles, they were mobbed by gulls.

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# EARLY SPRING FLYCATCHING OF STONEFLIES BY BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS

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**ABSTRACT** — Bohemian Waxwings (*Bombycilla garrulus*) were flycatching two species of stoneflies (Order Plecoptera, Families Capniidae and Taeniopterygidae) on three days at the end of March, 1996. The location was northeastern New York State, in Clinton County, Town of Beekmantown. Environmental conditions and flycatching behavior are described.

**KEYWORDS:** Bohemian Waxwing, *Bombycilla garrulus*, stonefly, Plecoptera, Capniidae, Taeniopterygidae, New York State, flycatching.

## INTRODUCTION

Bohemian Waxwings (*Bombycilla garrulus*) were observed flycatching insects in the early spring of 1996, from 29 through 31 March. Apparently these insects were two kinds of stoneflies (Order Plecoptera) that were emerging from a small stream, Ray (Rea) Brook, in extreme northeastern New York State, in Clinton County, Town of Beekmantown. Although Bohemian Waxwings are well known to practice flycatching, the details of species preyed upon, the seasonality of this type of food foraging, and the behavior accompanying it are not well documented. This account adds to knowledge in these areas.

I could find no formal, detailed definition of flycatching, although the term appears to be commonly used. I believe that common usage, and what I mean here, refers to the predatory behavior whereby a bird perches and waits for a passing insect in flight. The bird sallies out in pursuit and snaps up the insect in its bill. The prey insect is killed and ingested, not necessarily on the wing, but back at its perch.

## OBSERVATIONS

A noticeable difference in Bohemian Waxwing flock size and behavior accompanied the flycatching behavior. Previous to the flycatching episodes, Bohemian Waxwings were seen in a compact flock of about 100 birds on 13 March, and similarly, a flock of about 50 birds occurred near the study area on 25 March. On these occasions, the birds were in compact groups, all in one treetop, a typical appearance. However, during the flycatching observations, only small, well dispersed flocks were observed. The numbers seen were: 20 on 29 March, 1 on 30 March, and 15 on 31 March. These birds were scattered over an area about 100 yards in diameter, occupying several treetops, with four or fewer birds per tree. Individual birds perched on the uppermost branches of the

leafless, deciduous trees, sallying out 15 to 25 yards and returning to the same perch, or flying on to another nearby treetop. Much of the time the birds remained perched on the tree branches, flying out occasionally, apparently only upon sighting a prey insect nearby.

It was not possible to see that the birds were actually catching something out of the air, even with 10 x 50 binoculars at a distance of about 100 to 200 yards. Only the typical flycatching flight behavior assured me that this was the case. This behavior consisted of flying out in a direct line, presumably with a target in sight from the beginning of the flight, and abruptly changing flight direction. The latter behavior apparently indicated the bird had caught the intended prey and was returning to its perch.

Parenthetically, an unexpected event occurred in the case of the lone Bohemian Waxwing observed on 30 March. Although it had previously been flycatching, it perched atop an isolated tree in an old pasture for about ten minutes without flying out. Suddenly, I realized that it had flown down into a nearby clump of trees and had positioned itself well down in the crown of a tree. It sat motionless against the trunk of a white ash tree. Its unusual behavior was soon explained by seeing a Sharp-shinned Hawk cruising among the nearby treetops. The hawk flew higher and moved away, but the waxwing maintained its motionless posture for at least ten minutes after the hawk had left the area.

## STONEFLIES

The assertion that stoneflies were the targets of the flycatching Bohemian Waxwings is based on circumstantial evidence. It was probably too early in the season for other kinds of insects to have hatched or emerged from hibernation; there was no green vegetation for them to feed upon. Also, none were seen flying about or at rest. However, there were many stoneflies visible on tree trunks and on the bordering ice of the stream. Some were also flying about, landing on my nearby house (about 50 yards away). I collected a sample of two kinds and examined them under 70X magnification with a stereoscopic, dissecting microscope.

Using Borror and White (1970) for identification, I concluded that the small ones (about eight millimeters long, including the wings) were Small Winter Stoneflies (Family Capniidae). After a period of growth as aquatic naiads they mature into the adult form and emerge from the stream anytime from November through April. The sexes mate and the female deposits eggs in the water, completing the species life cycle. The larger specimens (about 16 millimeters long, including wings) were identified as Winter Stoneflies (Family Taeniopterygidae), which emerge from streams as adults from January to April. The Winter Stoneflies were much less numerous than the Small Winter Stoneflies. A rough estimate done by surveying the populations on the tree trunks determined that the Winter Stoneflies constituted only about 5% of the total. The stoneflies that I saw flying about did so with a weak, slow, fluttering

flight; they would be easy prey for a flycatching bird. Bent (1965) comments on the Bohemian Waxwing's ability, "It has sometimes been referred to as an expert flycatcher; it must be very smart at this, for it has been known to capture such swift and strong fliers as dragonflies."

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

My observations indicated that flycatching took place from noon to four pm. Perhaps the sun had a necessary effect on the insects and also sufficiently warmed and dried the air to cause them to become airborne. The weather conditions during the three days I observed flycatching were: clear sky; winds five to ten mph, from both the north and the south; and air temperature 40<sup>o</sup> to 45<sup>o</sup>, Fahrenheit. The ground was still solidly frozen, only slightly thawed at the surface as the sun warmed it. Overnight air temperatures were in the upper 20<sup>o</sup>s, Fahrenheit. The stream still had some patches of ice along the sides. Its level and current were moderate, with clear water. The water temperature was around 38<sup>o</sup>F. I continued to look for flycatching Bohemian Waxwings each day until 12 April. Except for two days, 1 and 6 April (when it was sunny and the winds were light), this period was cooler, windier, and rainy or snowy. There were usually only small numbers of stoneflies on the stream side tree trunks.

### FINAL OBSERVATION

Although the last time I saw Bohemian Waxwings flycatching was 31 March, on 1 April at 11 am, on this sunny, windless day, with the air temperature at 50<sup>o</sup>F, I saw three flocks of Bohemian Waxwings fly into the study area in quick succession. The flock numbers were about 25, 25, and 75 birds. The flocks united in a large tree, took off right away, and landed among the trees of the Ray Brook valley. An incomplete view of them allows me to say only that I do not believe they were flycatching. At any rate, after only five minutes the whole flock arose and flew westward. Apparently, they were not interested in flycatching stoneflies, although the conditions were suitable and the opportunity was present, as stoneflies could be seen flying about. At around the same time, about 25 Ring-billed Gulls were hawking over the Ray Brook valley (Klein 1997). It is possible that the presence of the hawking gulls may have inhibited flycatching by the waxwings. There was only one day (31 March) on which both waxwings and gulls were apparently pursuing stoneflies at the same time. However, they were not occupying the same area, being separated by a distance of about 200 yards.

With the study area under daily surveillance until 12 April (when the study had to be interrupted), I saw no Bohemian Waxwings until 12 April, 11 am, when a flock of about 75 birds appeared in the trees above my house. They were in a typical, tight group, vocalizing, but doing no flycatching. They remained only a short time. The air temperature was 50<sup>o</sup>F, with a strong north wind at

about 20 mph, and the sky was cloudy. It had rained overnight, stopping at about ten am. There were small numbers of Small Winter Stoneflies actively crawling on stream side tree trunks. Evidently, the numbers of stoneflies in the air, or the wind conditions, were not conducive for flycatching by the waxwings on this last date of their observed presence on the study area.

## DISCUSSION

A search of some standard North American ornithological works yielded little information on the specific identity of insects that are cited as part of the Bohemian Waxwing's diet. Bent (1965) states that, in the early spring the Bohemian Waxwing "becomes a 'flycatcher' and may be seen sallying out from the tree-tops in pursuit of the tiny flies and beetles that fill the upper air even before the snow and ice have disappeared." Martin, Zim, and Nelson (1951) do not treat the Bohemian Waxwing separately, but under the account of the Cedar Waxwing states that there is slight information on the Bohemian Waxwing's food habits, but it seems to follow the pattern of the Cedar Waxwing. This species' food is nearly 90% fleshy fruits; animal food consists of beetles, ants and other Hymenoptera, flies, bugs, caterpillars, grasshoppers, crickets, and mayflies.

For those Bohemian Waxwings that happen upon a source of insects early in the spring, it probably represents an important addition to the diet, presumably being much richer in proteins and fats than the winter diet of fruits and seeds. This could be of significant benefit; presumably these birds would be flying long distances to their regular breeding range in western North America. For this group of waxwings, the discovery of the emerging stoneflies may have been incidental to foraging for fruits (mostly buckthorn) in the old pasture lands bordering Ray Brook. However, it would be interesting to know if Bohemian Waxwings actively seek out streams in the early spring because they know from experience that such places may be the source of emerging insects.

In any case, this instance of opportunistic food foraging is appropriate to the Bohemian Waxwing's nomadic movements and its need to adjust to varying conditions on a continental basis. In this regard, more observations on the feeding habits of the Bohemian Waxwing in New York and other parts of its non-breeding range might provide some interesting additions to the life history knowledge of this species, with special reference to survival during its nomadic travels.

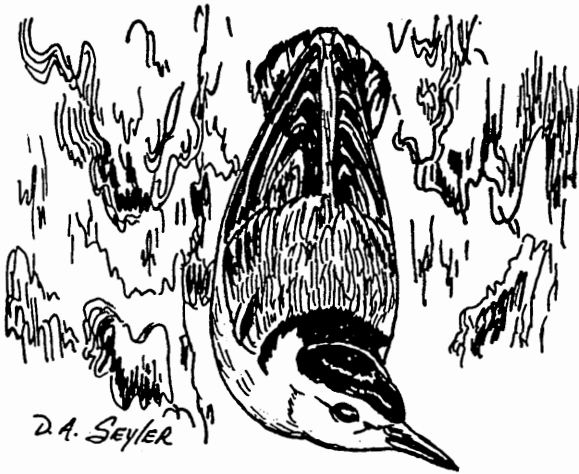
## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to thank my wife, Carole, for advice and assistance in the writing of this article. Thanks are due to the State University of New York, College at Plattsburgh, for library resources and for laboratory and office facilities.

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## LETTER — MORE ON BELL'S VIREOS IN THE EAST

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In the September 1997 issue of *The Kingbird*, Eric Salzman tackles the difficult and potentially sensitive subject of Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) occurrence in New York State and elsewhere along the East Coast. I would like to add some additional information and perhaps clarify a couple of the points Salzman made in the article.

First off, Salzman is certainly correct when he says that there is a fair amount of mystery and confusion surrounding this species in the East. His quote from one western authority familiar with the species rings true: that if a reported Bell's Vireo "looks like the pictures in any of the standard field guides, then it is most certainly NOT a Bell's Vireo!" This statement is correct for some of the older guides still in use, such as the "Golden guide" (particularly misleading) and the "eastern Peterson" guide, whereas a few of the more recent guides, such as the National Geographic Society field guide, do a better job at depicting this species. These misleading pictures in the popular literature, coupled with the species' rather skulking behavior and preference for dense, brushy habitat, have been major contributing factors to the mystery and confusion that exists.

### Reports in the East

Over the years there have been a number of reports of Bell's Vireos in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic states, most from fall, but also with some for spring and summer. If one looks more closely at the literature, however, many of these reports have not been accepted or are deemed hypothetical by the respective state authorities. For example, the sole pre-1990 report from Connecticut was not accepted by that state's bird records committee (Zeranski and Baptist 1990); a late-summer sight record from Cape May, New Jersey, in the late 1980s has since been retracted by one of the two observers (who now believes the bird was a young White-eyed Vireo); and published reports from Virginia and Georgia are judged "hypothetical" (Virginia Society of Ornithology 1987; E.S. Brinkley, pers. comm.; Georgia Ornithological Society 1977; G. Beaton, pers. comm.). Most of these reports are not necessarily erroneous, they apparently just lack sufficient documentation.

Documented records in New England include one collected in New Hampshire on 19 November 1897 (Dearborn 1903; specimen verified by A.R. Phillips, who thought it possibly not of the "eastern," nominate subspecies: *V. b. bellii*) and one photographed in Westport, Connecticut, on 14 October 1991 (Clark and Bevier 1993). In New Jersey, there have been some nine reports of Bell's Vireos since 1940, but most of these lack documentation. A specimen (now at the American Museum of Natural History) was collected at Island Beach State Park on 15 September 1959. There have been two recent documented

records of Bell's Vireos at Cape May: 30 October - 3 November 1994 and 4 December 1996 - 3 January 1997. Both birds were photographed and seen by many observers. The winter record is particularly unusual. Both birds appeared to be nominate *bellii*. That subspecies is brighter plumaged than the western forms, as noted by Salzman. It is also shorter tailed (Oberholser 1974), giving it a slightly different shape. Such were the impressions of several of the observers who studied the two recent Cape May birds. Some of these birders also commented that perhaps as a result of this difference in tail length, the birds did not flick or otherwise move their tails about in the fashion of a gnatcatcher, which is how many people describe the behavior of western Bell's, but more in the fashion of a weak Palm Warbler tail-wag.

The photo of a Bell's Vireo, taken by Herb Clarke and used by Eric Salzman to depict what a true [western] Bell's Vireo looks like, was probably from California. No matter which western race it is, it may appear slightly longer tailed than does *bellii*, the race most likely to occur along the East Coast.

### True Status

So what is the true status of Bell's Vireo in the East? The nominate subspecies breeds in the Great Plains and Midwest. In the eastern part of its range (east to southwestern Michigan and Indiana) it is uncommon to rare, and local. Despite a general declining trend in the species' population as a whole, it appears to have recently spread eastward slightly to Ohio, where it is now a rare to casual transient and summer visitor (Peterjohn 1989). I would disagree somewhat with Salzman's assessment of this species' true status farther east, and think that it is of only casual occurrence in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic states. Bell's Vireos appear to be casual visitors in the Carolinas; in South Carolina, there is one specimen record for 14 October 1985 (Post and Gauthreaux 1989). The species borders on rare but regular in Florida (where it is a transient and winter visitor (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Stevenson and Anderson 1994).

Salzman summarizes some of the reports of Bell's Vireo in New York. I, too, believe the single photograph reproduced in his article of the bird in the hand at Tiana Beach, Suffolk County, on 25 September 1959 is a misleading depiction of a Bell's at best, and not a Bell's Vireo at worst. Single photographs are often misleading, and it can be "dangerous" to make definitive statements about subtly-plumaged birds based on just one photo and no available written details. But the bird in the photo does appear to show an eyering and wingbars that are bolder (thicker) than those of a typical Bell's. The bird also does not look quite right for a young (dark-eyed) White-eyed Vireo, arguably the most likely species with which a Bell's Vireo could be confused. It also doesn't look right for a Cassin's Vireo. I really am not sure what the bird in the photograph is.

No matter how all the past East Coast records of Bell's Vireos "shake out" in the end, several things are certain: this species does occur in this region, at least casually; it is not easy to identify (particularly if the observer has limited or no field experience with the species, especially the race *bellii*); and observers

should strive to carefully document all such reports, obtaining photographs and/or tape-recordings if possible.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON 1997

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The fall of 1997 was generally pleasant, with few weather events to produce fallouts or other special bird concentrations. Sy Schiff in the Region 10 report noted the fewest hurricanes in many years. Only the rainy or wintry weekends of November might have interfered with birders' plans. Temperatures were generally cool across the state all season, slipping to downright cold at 2.5 to 4°F below normal in November. Precipitation ran close to normal in September over most of the state, with Region 2 a bit wetter than most and Region 10 at half normal. In October it was dry everywhere. November precipitation totaled 1/2 to 1 inch above normal across the state, and was marked by a heavy, widespread snowfall on the 14th. As we were to hear for the rest of the fall and winter, El Niño was assigned the blame for nearly all variations in the weather.

Given the generally pleasant fall, one might have expected many lingering birds and late departure dates. However, passerine numbers reported were generally low and departure dates average to early. For the species tracked in the departure date tables, most Regions averaged 1-5 days later than the average of the previous 11 years, while they were farther yet earlier than last year's averages. Exceptions were Regions 4, 7, & 10, where average departures ran late compared with the long term. Very late departures included Greater Yellowlegs, Sanderling, Pectoral Sandpiper, Common Tern, Yellow Warbler, and Baltimore Oriole. On the flip side, very early departures included Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Veery, Brown Thrasher, N. Waterthrush, and Canada Warbler, plus several species not even recorded in this season in some Regions. Continuing the look at dates of interest, state record early fall arrivals included California Gull in Region 1 and Hoary Redpoll and Pine Grosbeak in Region 2. Record late departures were set for Veery (Clinton Co.) in Region 7 and Townsend's Warbler and Cerulean Warbler in Region 10. There were only 11 Regional record late departure dates which you can find bold-faced in the date table.

Looking through the checklist at the groups we track during fall migration, the waterbirds appear first and provided major highlights for most Regions. Region 2 implemented a paid lakewatch position with standardized coverage. The more complete coverage, plus several observers with the new Kowa 874 scopes and El Niño effects, produced a host of large counts and rare birds summarized in that Region's report. The continued loon watch in Region 3 notched another record high for Common Loon at 5671 on 10 November. The bar was also raised for Red-throated Loon in Region 2, with 2777 on 25 November and with 7 days in November with counts above 1000 individuals. Among the grebes, Horned Grebe numbers were not particularly high, but Red-necked Grebe was well represented and Eared Grebe was found in Regions 1 &

2. Double-crested Cormorant numbers continue high across the state and Great Cormorant was noted far inland on Lake Ontario in both Regions 2 & 5. Heron and egret numbers were generally sparse, but Am. Bittern was recorded in six Regions; Great Egret counts exceeded 10 in seven Regions, with 2 even in Region 7; Tricolored Heron remained to 26 November in Region 10; Cattle Egret appeared in Regions 1 & 9; and a Glossy Ibis was located as a first in Livingston Co. in Region 2. Among the waterfowl, interesting notes include: Snow Goose in good numbers in most Regions; a Ross's Goose in Region 1; Brant only fair in most Regions, good in Regions 3, 4, & 7; Mute Swans booming, with reports from six Regions; record high Wood Duck counts noted for Regions 5 & 9, reaching 2397 on 8 October in the latter; Eurasian Wigeon appearing in Regions 7 & 8 in addition to their downstate strongholds; and Ring-necked Duck counts remaining high. Eiders provided much excitement at the Region 2 lakewatch, with the total of 16 Common Eiders nearly equaling the Region's historical total and 40 King Eiders eclipsing the normal 1-2 for a season. King Eiders were also noted in Regions 1, 6, & (of course) 10. On 7 November, an inland-unprecedented 11,635 Black Scoters were totaled at this lakewatch, about 90% of the season's total. Interestingly, good counts for Black Scoter were also noted in Regions 4, 5, & 6 on about the same date. Finally, Ruddy Duck was particularly widespread and in good numbers, with a Regional high of 1139 recorded in Region 1. Overall, of the 18 notable high counts for the fall season, 14 of these were for waterbird species.

The fall hawkwatch data was not as thoroughly summarized as usual this year, but you will find data for the Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch in the Region 4 report, a table for the Camp Pinnacle Hawkwatch in the Region 8 report; brief comments in the Region 9 report; and some comparative notes between the beaches and Central Park in the Region 10 report. Generally the flights were poor, particularly along the beaches. Well inland, the totals were considered poor except at the revitalized watch in Region 8. Interestingly, the more inland watches of Region 9 were termed poor and the more coastal good, while Region 10 saw the Long Island beaches deserted and Central Park counts relatively better. Of further note, only the record high for Merlins at Franklin Mt. And the lack of any sign of a Rough-legged Hawk irruption caught my attention.

The shorebird migration too was lackluster across the State. Peak numbers for most species were dismal. As usual, there were still the few interesting notes, including: Am Golden-Plover numbers in Region 10 and presence in Region 6; Willet in Regions 3 & 7; Hudsonian Godwit in Region 7; and Am. Avocet in Regions 1 & 10. Departure dates were generally early, with exceptions Regional late dates for Black-bellied Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, and Least Sandpiper in Region 4; Semipalmated Sandpiper in Region 7; Pectoral Sandpiper in Region 8; and Am. Avocet in Region 1.

Jaeger counts remained fairly high at the lakewatch in Region 2 this fall, a good Pomarine Jaeger count was noted in Region 10, and a Parasitic Jaeger in

Region 7 was highly unusual. Gull numbers were off at the Niagara Falls super hotspot, but California Gull set an early arrival record on 20 September and a number of odd hybrids kept the experts searching and debating. Elsewhere, gulls of special interest included: Franklin's Gull in Region 6; Black-headed Gull in Regions 2 & 7; California Gull in Region 2; Thayer's Gull in Region 7; Sabine's Gull in Regions 1, 2, 3, & 10; an imm. Ross's Gull on two dates in Region 2; and the great "Mew" Gull debate from Region 10 (look for future commentary in coming issues). Among the terns, the first Forster's Tern in 20 years appeared in Region 4, good Common Tern counts were noted in Regions 5 & 6, and Royal Tern tarried to a very late 16 November in Region 10.

The overall landbird migration picture was on the discouraging side. There were no owl irruptions, only a few scattered Snowy Owl reports for the season and many notes of low numbers for the other species, except for the record highs for Great Horned and Barred owls on the Region 1 annual October Count. Barn Owl in Region 8 provided another small bright spot. Common Nighthawk numbers remain very low and Whip-poor-will was not reported. Woodpeckers would have matched the dismal levels of many other families except for the Black-backed Woodpeckers viewed by many in Region 7 on field trips at the FNYSSBC convention and the cooperative Lewis's Woodpecker in Region 8 in late November.

The huge passerine block of species produced more notes of concern over low counts and generally early departure dates. As always, there were bright spots to buoy hopes to be found in nearly every family. The flycatchers saw a late Least Flycatcher in Region 3 and Western Kingbird in Regions 2 & 10. For the vireos, Red-eyed Vireo lingered to 11 November in Region 9. Fish Crow and Common Raven continue to spread and increase. Gray Jay and Boreal Chickadee were located by most convention birders in Region 7. N. Rough-winged Swallow was tallied in good numbers in Region 1. Carolina Wren showed some signs of rebound and Sedge Wren was noted in Regions 2, 5, & 10. Northern Wheatear appeared in Region 10 and there were even some good night counts of thrushes in spite of no good groundings. Bohemian Waxwing appeared in small numbers in Regions 1, 2, & 6. Among the warblers, high counts were noted for Magnolia in Region 4, Pine (100) in Region 7, and Palm in several Regions. November departure dates were noted for Nashville, Yellow, Cape May, Black-throated Green, and Blackpoll in Region 10; and special rarities included Townsend's in Region 10, Worm-eating in Region 5, Kentucky in Region 10, and Yellow-breasted Chat in Regions 2, 4, 8, & 10. Of special concern is widespread note of low or zero counts for Black-and -white Warbler for the season. The sparrows were well represented by the usual scattering of rarities across most Regions. The best were: Clay-colored Sparrow in Regions 5 & 10; Henslow's Sparrow in Regions 5 & 9; Dickcissel in Regions 2, 9, 7 10; and Lark Sparrow in Regions 9 & 10. Yellow-headed Blackbird was reported in Regions 3 & 10. Finally, the winter finches were nearly all reported

from nearly all Regions, in spite of reports of limited or poor wild food supplies. Arrival dates were often early, but stays brief as numbers dropped by season's end in many locales. Of special note are the very early Pine Grosbeak noted earlier and Hoary Redpoll in Regions 2, 6, & 7.

As always, the Regional reports include much commentary, some enlightening, some just fun. To whet your appetite, a few examples are: the October count summary and hybrid gull notes in Region 1, Gray-cheeked vs Bicknell's thrushes in Region 2, the 1st annual Montezuma Muckrace in Region 3, a new county bird book published and an interesting band return in Region 7, the hawkwatch table in Region 8, and the Mew Gull debate and notes on sharp-tailed sparrows in Region 10. With your seasonal reports to your Regional Editors, you can supply comments and stories they can use to add spice to their editorial commentary.

Once again, the finale will be the selection of the bird of the season. There are several birds which might have been hands down winners a few years ago as firsts for the State, but now have slipped into the "just rare" group. Thus the BOTS Award for the season must go to Region 8's Lewis's Woodpecker, the third record for the species for the state, following on the heels of the one this spring which was, unfortunately, seen only by a few.

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<b>Fall Departure Seasonality and Advance</b>			
	<b>Species</b>	<b>Seasonality</b>	<b>Advance</b>
<b>Region</b>	<b>Reported</b>	<b>vs 1987-1997</b>	<b>(Days)</b>
1	59	-1.3	4.45
2	62	-1.59	4.10
3	57	-4.86	-3.55
4	52	4.27	0.40
5	62	-4.10	-1.92
6	52	-5.53	-10.79
7	49	4.1	-7.36
8	56	-1.06	-1.59
9	6	----	----
10	46	6.04	16.29

**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 DEADLINES**

**Winter Season:** December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

**Spring Season:** March, April, May

Deadline is 7 June

**Summer Season:** June, July, August

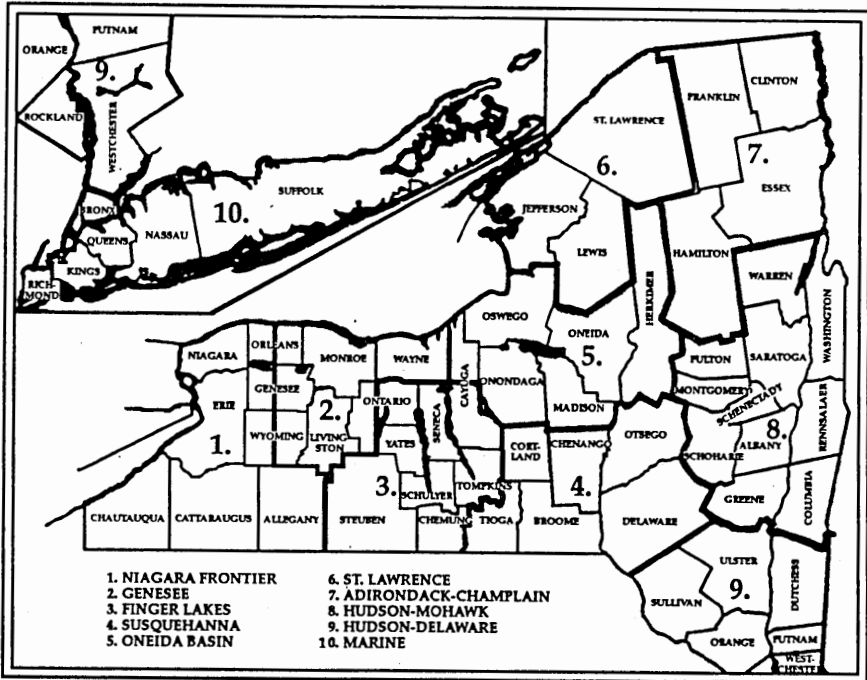
Deadline is 7 September

**Fall Season:** September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



## 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.

## REGION 1 - NIAGARA FRONTIER

WILLIE D'ANNA

2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls NY 14304-4522

After another summer without a 90 degree day, September could not even muster 80 degrees - the first time that has occurred in 22 years. In 1997 only 23 days reached 80 degrees, the fewest in 55 years at Buffalo - normal is 51 days. September's average temperature of 60.5°F was 1.5° below normal. Precipitation was one half inch above normal thanks in large part to 1.37 inches that fell on the 29th, a record for that date. A good count of nocturnal migrant thrushes on the 23rd was followed by a "fallout" in ALLE on the 24th (VP). Good days for passerines were noted on 14 and 27 September around Buffalo and Niagara Falls. October started out mild but the second half of the month found a return to cool and even cold temperatures pulling the monthly average down 0.5 degrees below normal. Precipitation was 0.8 inches below normal but included an early snowfall on the 22nd, the fifth earliest measurable snow in 50 years. The day before, the Southern Tier received a few inches of lake effect snow. According to the National Weather Service, fall foliage color did not peak until the end of October, exceptionally late. At an average of 37.6°F, November was 2.5° below normal and was also the ninth month in the last ten to log below normal temperatures. At 4.32 inches precipitation was only 0.5 inches above normal. However, 16.5 inches of snow made this the third snowiest November on record; 9.5 inches fell on the 14th and the ground remained snow covered the rest of the month. Contrasting considerably with Buffalo, Amity Lake in ALLE was 3.6 inches above normal precipitation in September and 4°F above normal in November (VP). Wild food was noted as plentiful in ALLE including a good crop of spruce cones. White-winged Crossbills, however, utilized mainly white pine cones this season instead of their traditional favorite, spruce.

The 62nd annual Buffalo Ornithological Society October Bird Count was held on the 12th and was compiled by Gerry Rising, Mike Hamilton, and Terry Yonker. The 151 species found equaled the decade average while the nearly 200,000 individuals was about 50% above the decade average. A large count of European Starling (78,758 versus a decade average of 40,273) was the main influence on the total number of individuals. Positive notes included all time high counts for White-winged Scoter (596), Great Horned Owl (26), Barred Owl (11), Red-bellied Woodpecker (46), and Common Raven (17). A count of 13 Carolina Wrens was the highest since 1992 when a record 24 were recorded. Although not quite as fast a recovery as the stock market, this species has made a rapid comeback from the crashes of winters 92-93 and 93-94. The bad news from this year's count included 16 Greater Scaup (lowest since the 60's), 53 Am. Kestrels (lowest since the 60's), 4 Common Terns (lowest since the 50's), 688

Cedar Waxwings (lowest since the 70's), and a decade minimum of 601 House Finches. The only real surprise to me in all of this is Great Horned Owl, a species I have previously flagged at least three times for low numbers. Light winds and greater observer effort may be the explanation for this apparent reversal.

The Batavia Sewage Lagoons continue to rival the Niagara River as the premier location for waterfowl. Record counts of N. Shoveler (400, previous high 238 here last year) and Ruddy Duck (1139, previous high 344 Chautauqua Lake 24 Nov 1972) were the highlights.

Shorebirds were of interest at several inland sites, especially the Countryside Sand and Gravel Pits, the Batavia Sewage Lagoons, Allegheny Reservoir, and Allegany S.P. Although, by Region-wide standards, numbers were not particularly impressive, they were good for these locations and local birders made the most of their rare opportunity.

On the Niagara River, the number of Bonaparte's Gulls and overall gull diversity was down, only 12 species being reported for the season. However, a number of possible hybrids kept birders' interests up, especially for those who wanted to tag the name of a rare species on a few of the odd gulls. While figuring out Great Black-backed x Herring Gull and Glaucous x Herring Gull (the latter known as "Nelson's Gull") is not too difficult, most of the possible hybrids defied attempts at identification. The many races of Herring Gull were also considered but most were too dissimilar. One, however, was believed to be a nominate race Herring Gull from Scandinavia but, unfortunately, photographs were not obtained. While most of these odd gulls were pink-legged, a couple had pale yellow legs and all had mantles between Herring and Lesser Black-backed gulls in darkness. Some of these birds were actually identified as California Gulls. You could hardly blame the birder who found one of these slightly darker gulls with yellow legs, a black mark on the bill, and a streaked and rounded head when he called out his life California Gull. A second look revealed the bird had a yellow iris!

This fall was one of the best in many years for winter finches. The rare White-winged Crossbill was the star, but with good showings by Common Redpoll, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, and Red Crossbill, too. Pine Grosbeak also appeared though in small numbers. Except for the redpoll, all of these species arrived early which is typical for an invasion year. Anticipation of a winter filled with these colorful finches was high. However, a poor cone crop, with the one exception of white pine, leaves the winter status of the crossbills, at least, in doubt.

This is my last report as Regional Editor. I want to thank all the contributors over the years who, by going out into the field and sending in their records, are the real writers of this column. Several people made a special effort on a consistent basis and deserve mention here. Vivian Pitzrick never missed a month and her reports are a model of neatness and accuracy with included notes

on the season and the weather. Gerry Rising, computer sage, put together all the Buffalo Ornithological Society's many counts so that meaningful comparisons could be easily made. Bill Watson and Mike Morgante, two of the most active birders in the Region, supplied volumes of interesting records. Joe Thill provided the Buffalo weather data every month. Betsy Brooks sent in her banding records along with her regular reports. David Suggs, who orchestrates the well done Buffalo Rare Bird Alert, mailed me monthly transcripts of the tape. Bob Andrie and Fran Rew, the B.O.S. Statisticians, gave me access to the Society's many monthly records, which are very ably compiled by Mike Morgante. Finally, thanks to the Allegany County Bird Club and the Jamestown Audubon Society for sending me their newsletters, arrangements for which were made by Vivian Pitzrick and Bob Sundell, respectively. I shall miss this job, which I have enjoyed immensely, and the connections it has given me to the many birders in the Region. I know that you will support the new Regional Editor in the same enthusiastic manner you have me.

The new Editor is **Richard Miga**. Please send in all future reports to Richard at **38 Elm St., Fredonia, N.Y. 14063** or E-mail at **REMELM2463@AOL.COM**. See you in the field!

**Contributors:** Robert Andrie, Tim Baird, Molly Barton, Gordon Bellerby, Ned Brinkley, Robert Brock, William Broderick, Elizabeth Brooks, Bruce Chilton, Glenn Coady, Willie D'Anna, Michael Davis, Carl Dickerson, Dean DiTommaso, Brett Ewald, Kurt Fox, Walt Franklin, Mike Hamilton, Tom Harper, Barbara Henderson, Paul Hess, Jane Heyer, Lyle Hotchkiss, Alec Humann, Dave Junkin, Brendan Klick, Hans Kunze, Mike Morgante, Cathy Mueller, Patrick O'Donnell, Tom O'Donnell, Susan O'Donnell, Michael Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Frances Rew, Gerald Rising, Donald Roberson, Olga Rosche, William Ruscher, Bert Schweigert, Gail Seamans, Audrey Spencer, David Suggs (Buffalo RBA), Debra Suggs, Joe Thill (weather data), Michael Turisk, William Watson, Larry Wilson, Jim Wojewodzki, Peter Yoerg, Mike Zebehazy

**Abbreviations:** BSL-Batavia Sewage Lagoons GENE; BOSOC-Buffalo Ornithological Society October Count, 12 Oct; BRBA-Buffalo Rare Bird Alert; 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; Tift NP-Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo.

#### **LOONS-WATERFOWL**

**Red-throated Loon:** arr T Yates 25 Oct; max 85 T Somerset 11 Nov, good count; T Stockton CATT 15 Nov (BRBA), rare inland.

**Com. Loon:** arr Fort Niagara SP & T Wilson 21 Sep.

**Horned Grebe:** BSL 4 Sep (WW), very early, but one seen L Ontario in Aug.

**Red-necked Grebe:** arr T Yates 19 Oct; BSL 1 Nov, only report away from L Ontario.

**Eared Grebe:** 2 BSL 1 Sep-19 Oct (mob!), originally found 31 Aug.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 1070 Buckhorn I SP 13 Sep (WW), short of last year's record.

**Am. Bittern:** last 2 ALLE BOSOC.

**Least Bittern:** last 2 Tift NP 13 Sep.

**Great Egret:** max 10 BSL 4 Sep & 19 INWR 26 Sep, high counts; last 2 INWR 19 Oct.

**Cattle Egret:** T Porter 9 Nov (SO!,TO), about the sixth fall record, most in Nov.

**Green Heron:** last 3 BOSOC.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** INWR 4 Sep, only report away from Buffalo vicinity.

**Snow Goose:** arr 4 BOSOC; eight other reports.

**Brant:** arr and max 170 T Somerset & T Yates 25 Oct, good count; Woodlawn Beach SP 25 Oct, much less frequent on L Erie than on L Ontario.

**Tundra Swan:** arr Amity L ALLE 10 Oct (VP,MP), early; max 300 Chautauqua L CHAU 16 Nov.

**Gadwall:** max 60 INWR 31 Oct (JH), high count.

**N. Shoveler:** 40 BSL 1 Sep, high early count; 400 BSL 19 Oct (MM), record max.

**N. Pintail:** max 100 BSL 1 Nov.

**Green-winged Teal:** max 37 Allegheny Res, high count for location.

**Canvasback:** arr 2 BSL 19 Oct; max 4000 NF-NR 15 Nov.

**Ring-necked Duck:** 200 BSL & 150 NF-NR 1 Nov, max counts.

**Greater Scaup:** 16 BOSOC, lowest count since the 60s; max 5000 NF-NR 15 Nov.

**Lesser Scaup:** max 300 BSL 1 Nov.

**King Eider:** 2 Golden Hill SP 11 Oct WD,BP), rare.

**eidler species:** 2 T Somerset 25 Oct (MM), rare.

**Harlequin Duck:** T Somerset 8 Nov (MM), rare.

**Surf Scoter:** arr 2 Golden Hill SP 4 Oct.

**White-winged Scoter:** arr T Wilson 21 Sep; 596 BOSOC, count record; 2 BSL 18 Oct & 7 CSG 27 Nov, unusual inland.

**Black Scoter:** arr T Somerset 11 Oct.

**Oldsquaw:** arr 27 BOSOC.

**Bufflehead:** arr 5 BSL 18 Oct.

**Com. Goldeneye:** arr 2 T Yates BOSOC.

**Hooded Merganser:** max 86 INWR 31 Oct, good count.

**Com. Merganser:** 3 arr away from Allegheny Res. CSG 28 Sep.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** arr 12 T Somerset 11 Oct.

**Ruddy Duck:** arr away from BSL Tift NP 1 Oct; record max 1139 BSL 1 Nov (WW); many reports, especially from Southern tier.

#### HAWKS-ALCIDS

**Bald Eagle:** max up to 6 Allegheny Res.; numerous reports.

**N. Goshawk:** T Somerset 9 Nov (MT!,BP,WD), rare.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** arr T Yates 19 Oct; 5 locations CATT; only reports.

**Am. Kestrel:** 53 BOSOC tied last year's count, lowest since the 60's.

**Merlin:** CSG 14 Sep (BS!,FR!,WW!), rare inland.

**Peregrine Falcon:** 5 reports NR and Great Lakes; good showing.

**Com. Moorhen:** last BSL 26 Oct.

**Am. Golden-Plover:** max 115 T Dayton 14 Sep & 75 T Clarence 13 Sep, high counts; last T Dayton 26 Oct.

**AM. AVOCET:** Woodlawn Beach SP 1 Nov (MZ!,RB!,NYSARC), same site as last Aug record and first record outside May-Aug range.

**Whimbrel:** Lakeside Beach SP 14 Sep (WR), rare.

**Hudsonian Godwit:** Allegany SP 26 Oct (TB!,BS!), about the 12th record.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** T Alien ALLE 12 Oct (LH), good find.

**Purple Sandpiper:** two NR-NF 30 Nov, only report.

**Dunlin:** several BSL, CSG, Allegany SP, Allegheny Res., NF-NR, good total & more widespread than usual.

**Com. Snipe:** 19 T Dayton 5 Oct, high fall count.

**phalarope species:** T Hamburg 30 Sep (RA), only report.

**Parasitic Jaeger:** imm T Hamburg 30 Sep (RA!); ad Woodlawn Beach SP 30 Sep (MT!), birds pushed in close by L Erie gale.

**jaeger species:** Woodlawn Beach SP 30 Sep (MT!).

**Franklin's Gull:** 1-2 NR-Buffalo 13 Sep - 9 Oct, only report.

**Little Gull:** max 5 T Somerset 11 Nov, high count away from NR.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** relatively low numbers on NR.

**CALIFORNIA GULL:** ad Reservoir SP NIAG 20 Sep (BP,WD!,NYSARC), earliest ever, previously early date in Nov; ad NPP 23,27 Nov (BP,WD!, NYSARC), sixth consecutive year on the NR.

**Thayer's Gull:** a few NPP and NF through Nov.

**Iceland Gull:** arr NR-NF 15 Nov.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** ad NR-NF 3 Sep (WW!), unseasonal records increasing; probably over a dozen individuals on NR in Nov, all ages.

**Glaucous Gull:** arr NR-NF 27 Nov.

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** imm Golden Hill SP 11 Nov (BP,WD!); NR-NF 29 Nov (BP!); rare but regular.

**Sabine's Gull:** juv NPP-NR 16 Sep; ad NR-NF 1 Nov (GC), rare plumage; only reports.

**Com. Tern:** CSG 14 Sep, rare inland; 4 BOSOC, lowest since the 50's.

**Forster's Tern:** 2-1 NR-Buffalo 6-20 Sep; CSG 5 Oct (BK), unusual inland.

#### DOVES-WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** banded T Alfred 14 Sep (EB), rarely found in fall.

**Great Horned Owl:** 26 BOSOC, count record.

**Snowy Owl:** none.

**Barred Owl:** 11 BOSOC, count record.

**Long-eared Owl:** arr Tift NP 19 Oct, early & much rarer along L Erie than L Ontario; Four Mile Creek SP 2 Nov, only reports.

**Com. Nighthawk:** last two Buffalo 8 Oct.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Tift NP 20 Sep; 1 BOSOC, only reports.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** 46 BOSOC, count record.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr away from breeding areas Tift NP 21 Sep.

**Downy Woodpecker:** 263 BOSOC, decade max.

**Hairy Woodpecker:** 49 BOSOC, decade max.

#### FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS

**Willow Flycatcher:** calling Amity L ALLE 16 Sep (VP!), rarely found after Aug.

**"Trail's" Flycatcher:** Tillman WMA ERIE 13 Sep (MM).

**N. Shrike:** arr Greenwood ALLE 31 Oct.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** last two Tift NP 1 Oct.

**Blue Jay:** partially leucistic bird T Amity 24 Sep (CD,VP).

**Com. Raven:** 17 BOSOC, all in ALLE & CATT, count record.

**Purple Martin:** last BSL 19 Sep.

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** max 500 Goat I 7 Sep.

**Bank Swallow:** last BSL 5 Oct (MM!), late.

**Barn Swallow:** last BSL 19 Oct (MM!,WW!), continues trend of late sightings.

**Cliff Swallow:** BSL 6 Sep, very uncommon after Aug.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 12 T Wilson 7 Sep, good count; 147 BOSOC, decade max.

**Carolina Wren:** 13 BOSOC after none last year, highest count since peak year in 1992.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** arr away from breeding areas Tift NP & Woodlawn Beach SP 20 Sep.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr 2 T Porter 21 Sep.

**Gray-checked Thrush:** arr Fort Niagara SP 14 Sep; max 12 night migrants over Buffalo 23 Sep, high count.

**Swainson's Thrush:** max 43 night migrants over Buffalo 23 Sep, high count.

**Hermit Thrush:** arr away from breeding areas T Porter & T Wilson 28 Sep.

**European Starling:** 78758 BOSOC, decade max.

**Am. Pipit:** arr multiple locations NIAG & CATT 21 Sep; last 3 T Dayton 23 Nov, late.

**Bohemian Waxwing:** 4 Golden Hill SP 16 Nov, (MM!,WD!), rare.

**Cedar Waxwing:** 688 BOSOC, lowest count since the 1970's.

#### WARBLERS

**"Brewster's" Warbler:** Wilson-Tuscarora SP 13 Sep, only report.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr T Lewiston 28 Sep.

**N. Parula:** arr 3 locations NIAG 14 Sep.

**Pine Warbler:** arr 2 Goat I NIAG 14 Sep.

**Palm Warbler:** arr 2 Goat I NIAG 6 Sep; max 15 Goat I 14 Sep, high fall count; last Tillman WMA 13 Oct.

**"Yellow" Palm Warbler:** banded T Alfred 20 Oct (EB!), rarely recorded though probably overlooked.

**Mourning Warbler:** last Tift NP 1 Oct.

**Hooded Warbler:** last INWR 26 Sep.

#### TANAGERS-WEAVERS

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr 3 T Tonawanda 24 Oct.

**Chipping Sparrow:** last T Darien feeder 19 Nov, late but lingerers and wintering birds more frequent in recent years.

**Vesper Sparrow:** 1 BOSOC, continues low counts for this species, 62 year count average is still 74 despite recent lows.

**Fox Sparrow:** arr Buckhorn 1 SP 11 Oct; more reports than usual late Oct & Nov.

**White-throated Sparrow:** arr away from breeding areas, 10 T Alfred 6 Sep.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr Tift NP 24 Sep.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** arr away from breeding areas, 12 Fort Niagara SP 21 Sep.

**Lapland Longspur:** arr T Dayton 5 Oct (BS!), slightly early; T Yates 1-18 Nov; 2 T Houghton ALLE 15 Nov; more reports than usual.

**Snow Bunting:** arr 2 T Dayton 5 Oct (BS!), early; max 300 T Yates 16 Nov.

**E. Meadowlark:** 176 BOSOC, decade max, it's nice to reverse the downward trend.

**Rusty Blackbird:** Amity L ALLE 24 Nov, on the late side.

**Pine Grosbeak:** 2 T Lewiston BOSOC (BE!), third ever BOSOC; 1 Amity L ALLE 31 Oct (VPI); 2 T Somerset 8 Nov; T Wilson 18 Nov; good total.

**Purple Finch:** more reports than usual though not especially numerous.

**House Finch:** 601 BOSOC, decade min.

**Red Crossbill:** Tift NP 8 Sep (AH!), very early; Allegany SP 1 Nov; 6 T Wilson 8 Nov; 1 T Wilson 18 Nov; good total.

**White-winged Crossbill:** arr Allegany SP 19 Oct (BS!), early; max 42 Allegany SP 1 Nov; 20 T Somerset 16 Nov. Many reports, including a few at feeders, perhaps record numbers. Mostly on L Ontario plain and at Allegany SP, usually feeding on white pine.

**Com. Redpoll:** arr 75 Golden Hill SP 25 Oct; max 250 T Somerset 8 Nov; most reports from L Ontario plain.

**Pine Siskin:** arr T Colden 5 Sep (JW!), early; multiple reports thru.

**Evening Grosbeak:** arr Golden Hill SP 4 Oct (WD!,PO), second earliest ever and earliest since mid-40's; max 100 Beaver Meadow Wildlife Refuge 5 Nov; numerous & widespread, especially south & east of Buffalo.

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## REGION 2 - GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

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The season started off pretty wet. The September total of 5.36 inches precipitation was 2.47 inches above normal. There were a number of frontal systems which passed during the month, interspersed with sunny days. The systems seemed not to produce any consistent grounding events, and the early season migration was generally lackluster, especially for the passerines. There were indeed some interesting reports and some early arrivals, but the migration was not stellar at that point. October's temperature was 2°F above normal and precipitation was 0.5 inch below the average. It turned out to be a fairly typical month. November was a bit on the cold side. The average temperature was 3.1° below normal at 37.4°F. Precipitation was 0.67 inches above normal at 3.57 inches. There was a decent amount of snowfall during the month, including over 10 inches on the 14th. The snow cover didn't last long and seemed to have little effect on the bird life. Some slow moving systems out of the northeast helped boost variety and numbers for those counting birds passing along the lake.

The lakewatch at Hamlin Beach State Park was carried out again with some interesting results. The principal observer was Mike Lanzone. He was aided by many other local observers. Very interesting reports included: over 1000 Red-throated Loons tallied on each of 7 days in November, with a maximum of 2777 on 25 November; an impressive maximum of 3985 Double-crested Cormorants on 16 Oct; a Great Cormorant in November, the first in a number of years; a typical, single N. Gannet; and 11,635 Black Scoters tallied by Mike on 7 November, an inland record for the State. Eider counts were amazing, including 16 Common Eiders, 27 King Eiders, and 5 eider species by season's end, the Common Eider total surpassing the total of previous Regional records. The overwhelming majority were immature birds. It will be interesting to see if this begins a trend or was this just an exceptional year due to those northeast weather systems.

It was also a great gull season for the lake watch. **Ross's Gull** and **Sabine's Gull** started the list, followed by very good numbers of Little Gulls and Black-legged Kittiwakes and 5 Black-headed Gull reports. The consistent coverage at Hamlin certainly contributed to these records, but it is unlikely that this kind of season will be repeated annually. The lack of strong weather systems in September kept the jaeger totals fairly low until October when the second best ever total was amassed. A **murrelet species** seen in November was another plus, even though conditions did not allow conclusive identification to species.

The lakewatch also helped the Region produce its highest ever species list for November, 148. This also brought the local year list to 299, just missing 300



once again, and once again due to the failure of some observer's to report and document rarities.

Looking to ongoing studies, Bob Marcotte continued his work in Badgerow Park. A Prairie Warbler in September was a first for the park.

The Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station was operated by the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory under the direction of Elizabeth Brooks. Eighteen Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrushes were banded this season, with 3 of these at first considered Bicknell's until recently published literature indicated new wing-chord criteria throwing these into the overlap zone. These criteria reduce our historical records from that site to only 4 certain Bicknell's Thrushes, none in the fall since 1990. They had a generally good fall season with only a few gaps in coverage at the station.

For the most part, fall arrivals fell within the traditional parameters with the exception of five record early dates. The departures too fell within the historical range with only a couple of exceptions.

Additional pluses for the season included: an Eared Grebe at the lakewatch, excellent numbers of Ruddy Ducks, and a Fish Crow report. In these latter cases it is likely that breeding confirmation will occur in the not too distant future. There were also excellent numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches; Bohemian Waxwing sightings, though not in really decent numbers; and a hint of a good finch winter with all winter finches being reported. The only real warbler pluses were good numbers of Prairie and Palm warblers. Wild food crops seem somewhat limited which may spell a change in numbers of reports as winter progresses.

Negatives included a poor Brant flight and mediocre totals for puddle ducks. The Mute Swan population is climbing dramatically, with Irondequoit Bay and Braddock Bay each having totals exceeding 20 and over 30 being reported from time to time. Once again shorebird habitat was limited and therefore totals were low. N. Shrike reports were few. Wren counts in general were poor, with Sedge Wren now very rare and Carolina Wren only beginning to recover from recent winter losses. Even the usually numerous Yellow-rumped Warblers were scarce this season. Scarlet Tanager continues to be of concern with yet another poor showing. There seemed to be relatively few stragglers this year in spite of the easy fall weather.

Other Regional rarities included a **Western Kingbird** reported by William Evans and the Kellings in the Lyons area in September, the first in recent years. A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, discovered by Jim Kimball near Nations Road, was a first away from the traditional lake shore locations.

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**Abbreviations:** BP-Badgerow Park (Greece), CH-Charlotte (Ontario Beach), CS-Conesus Swamp, G-Greece, GE-Geneseo, HB-Hamlin Beach State Park, HL-Hemlock Lake, HP - Hogan Point, LW-Letchworth State Park, M-Manitou, MP - Mendon Ponds, NR-Nations Road (Avon), RS - Russell Station, WC-Wayne County, and WL-West Lakeshore.

#### LOONS-DUCKS

**Red-throated Loon:** first 1 HB 28 Sep,(K&JF,BE,WS), record early; max 2777 HB 25 Nov (ML); many good single day totals during Nov, with seven day's counts exceeding 1000.

**Com. Loon:** max 2982 HB 7 Nov.

**Red-necked Grebe:** first 1 HB 4 Sep (ML), record early; max 56 HB 23 Nov.

**EARED GREBE:** 1 HB 26-30 Nov (WS!,ML!,mob), uncommon in Region.

**N. Gannet:** 1 HB 23 Nov (ML!), recently nearly annual.

**GREAT CORMORANT:** 1 subad HB 5-7 Nov (BE!,WS!,ML!).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 3985 HB 16 Oct (ML), tremendous count for the Region.

**Am. Bittern:** last 1 BB 16 Oct.

**Green Heron:** max 33 CS 1 Sep, good total.

**Glossy Ibis:** 1 GE 10-28 Oct (K&JF!), typical fall report, new location.

**Snow "Blue" Goose:** 1 WL 30 Sep (D&DT,RA), unusual at this time.

**Brant:** first 300 HB 22 Oct.

**Mute Swan:** counts of > 20 from Irondequoit Bay and Braddock Bay.

**Tundra Swan:** arr 1 BB 23 Oct; max 119 CL 22 Nov.

**N. Pintail:** max 1041 HB 17 Oct, good total.

**Canvasback:** arr 2 G 19 Oct.

**Ring-necked Duck:** arr 1 HB 24 Sep; max 574 Honeoye/Conesus Lakes 15 Nov.

**King Eider:** 1 HB 6,8,10,12,29 Nov; 2 HB 27 Nov; 3 HB 16,23 Nov; 4 HB 25 Nov; 5 HB 7,9 Nov, (all HBLW), unprecedented totals for Region.

**COM. EIDER:** 4 HB 7 23 Oct; 1 HB 30 Oct; 5 HB 7 Nov; 1 HB 9,11,21,24 Nov; 2 HB 18 Nov, (all HBLW,ML!), all imm/fem, often flying with King Eiders for direct comparison.

**eider species:** 1 each HB 17,30 Oct, 7, 10, 12 Nov.

**Harlequin Duck:** arr 1 HB 20 Nov (ML).

**Surf Scoter:** max 699 HB 7 Nov.

**Black Scoter:** arr 15 HB 24 Sep, excellent total for so early in the season; max 11,635 HB 7 Nov (ML,*et al*), State record high inland; 10-56 CL 9-22 Nov (KF), great total for that location.

**Oldsquaw:** arr 1 HB 23 Sep.

**Bufflehead:** arr 2 HB 11 Oct.

**Com. Goldeneye:** arr 1 HB 22 Oct, max 1156 HB 7 Nov.

**Hooded Merganser:** max 1056 HB 22 Nov.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 7885 HB 19 Nov.

**Ruddy Duck:** max 243 Silver Lakes 23 Nov (K&JF).

#### HAWKS-ALCIDS

**Rough-legged Hawk:** arr 1 Retsof 25 Oct, dark morph.

**Merlin:** arr 1 G 1 Sep.

**Peregrine Falcon:** 1 HB 9 Nov, only report.

**Am. Coot:** max 303 Silver Lake 23 Nov.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** last 3 NR 13 Nov.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** last 1 G 5 Oct.  
**Whimbrel:** arr 1 HB 4 Sep.  
**Hudsonian Godwit:** 1 HB 16 Oct, (ML).  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** last 1 CH 10 Oct.  
**Red Knot:** 1 CH 7-12 Oct, few this season.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** last 1 NR 11 Nov.  
**Purple Sandpiper:** arr 1 HB 7 Nov.  
**Dunlin:** arr 2 CH 20 Sep; max 45 BB 13 Nov, low peak.  
**Long-billed Dowitcher:** 1 HL 13 Oct (KF!), a first for this location.  
**Com. Snipe:** last 3 Hemlock Lake 5 Nov.  
**Red-necked Phalarope:** first 5 HB 17 Sep, good total early; 3 HB 21 Oct.  
**Red Phalarope:** max 15 HB 27 Nov.  
**Pomarine Jaeger:** arr 1 HB 23 Sep (ML), early; 9 individuals HB Nov.  
**Parasitic Jaeger:** arr HB 15 Sep; 11 individuals HB Oct; 7 individuals HB Nov.  
**jaeger species:** 28 individuals Sep; 2 individuals Nov.  
**Little Gull:** 1 CH 5 Sep; 1 HB 17,21 Sep; 1 CH 2 Oct; 1 CH 24 Oct; 1 RS 28 Oct; seven reports from HB in Oct; max 22 HB 20 Nov (ML), good total for recent years.  
**BLACK-HEADED GULL:** 1 HB 4 Sep (ML!); 1 HB 21 Sep (WS!,ML!); 1 imm HB 1 Nov (KF!); 1 ad HB 29 Nov (ML!,GC); unusual but becoming more regular.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 2363 HB 27 Nov.  
**Iceland Gull:** arr 1 HB 4 Nov.  
**Glaucous Gull:** arr q HB 9 Oct (JoB), record early.  
**Black-legged Kittiwake:** 7 total HB 21,22,25 Oct; max 18 HB 9 Nov, 17 imm, 1 ad (ML); 52 individuals for Nov, good year.  
**ROSS'S GULL:** 1 juv HB 9 Nov (KF!,JF,ML!,RM,JSu,WS!); 1 juv HB 20 Nov, (ML!, JoB), from unusual plumage, almost certainly the same bird, second record for the Region.  
**SABINE'S GULL:** 1 imm HB 9, 15 Sep (ML!); 1 imm HB 24 Nov (ML!).  
**Com. Tern:** max 63 CH 8 Sep.  
**Forster's Tern:** last 3 CH 9 Oct.  
**murrelet species:** 1 HB 15 Nov (ML!,JoB).

#### PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** last 1 M 2 Oct.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** last 1 H 6 Oct.  
**Snowy Owl:** first 1 BB 26 Nov.  
**Barred Owl:** 1 Mendon 26, 30 Sep, new location.  
**Short-eared Owl:** arr 1 HB 23 Oct; max 17 Lima 15,18 Nov.  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** last 1 Penfield 30 Oct.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** last 1 BB 25 Sep.  
**hummingbird species:** last 1 BB 5 Oct.

#### FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** 1 S. Bristol 1 Sep; 1 Genesee 3-4 Sep; 1 CS 5 Sep, good fall total.  
**"Trail's" Flycatcher:** last 1 M 1 Oct.  
**WESTERN KINGBIRD:** 1 Lyons 24-30 Sep (WE!, S&SK!), Regional rarity.  
**N.Shrike:** arr 1 NR 25 Oct.  
**White-eyed Vireo:** 1 banded M 2 Oct.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** last 1 NR 7 Oct.  
**Fish Crow:** 2 G 2 Nov (KG, CD-G).  
**Purple Martin:** last 1 CH 7 Sep.  
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** last 1 CS 19 Sep.  
**Bank Swallow:** last 1 CS 19 Sep.  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max 50+ HB 13 Sep.  
**Carolina Wren:** 1 CS 13 Sep, only report in Sep; 1 South Warsaw 24 Oct, new location; 1 Ellison Park 20 Nov, only Nov report.  
**SEDGE WREN:** 1-2 WC 6 Sep (RS), this bird has become increasingly rare in the Region.  
**Marsh Wren:** 1 BB 26 Oct, last one of season.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** last 3 M 7 Oct.  
**Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush:** 18 banded M 16 Sep-8 Oct (EB), these assignments based on measurements and most recent criteria.  
**Hermit Thrush:** max 44 banded M 7 Oct.  
**Am. Pipit:** arr 2 G 4 Sep; last one NR 26 Nov.  
**Bohemian Waxwing:** arr 1 HB 18 Nov (WS); 1 WL 23 Nov (CC,RMa); 1 DE 26 Nov(GC).

#### WARBLERS

**Golden-winged Warbler:** last 1 M 15 Sep.  
**"Brewster's" Warbler:** 1 LW 21 Sep (J&KF).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr 1 BP 21 Sep (RMa); last 1 G 28 Oct, uncommon.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** unusually scarce this season.  
**Pine Warbler:** last 1 HB 9 Oct.  
**Prairie Warbler:** last 1 BP 9 Sep, first for location.  
**Palm Warbler:** last 1 GE 18 Oct.  
**Hooded Warbler:** last 1 MP 1 Oct.  
**Yellow-breasted Chat:** last 1 banded M 7 Oct.

#### TANAGERS-WEAVERS

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr 1 BB 3 Oct.  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** last 1 NR 9 Oct (JK), very late.  
**NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW:** first 1 NR 28 Sep (JK!), new location for this species, first away from the lake shore; 1 Hogan Point 4 Oct (KF!), traditional location.  
**Fox Sparrow:** last 1 Lima 18 Nov.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr 1 BP 4 Sep.

**White-throated Sparrow:** arr 2 BB, 1 M, 6 BP 13 Sep; max 500+ HB 4 Oct.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr 1 BP 22 Sep.  
**Lapland Longspur:** arr 1 HP 4 Oct.  
**Snow Bunting:** arr 1 HB 11 Oct.  
**Indigo Bunting:** last 1 WC 6 Sep.  
**DICKCISSEL:** 1 HB 3 Nov (ML!), uncommon.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** arr 1 BB 25 Sep.  
**Pine Grosbeak:** 1 Bristol 7 Sep (W&RC!), record early; 2 HB 11 Nov.  
**White-winged Crossbill:** arr 2 M 8 Oct; max 40 HB 8, 23 Nov.  
**Com. Redpoll:** arr 10 HB 26 Oct; max 110 WL 1 Nov.  
**Hoary Redpoll:** 1 HB 1 Nov (R!,S&CS; KG!).  
**Pine Siskin:** arr 1 M 22 Sep.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** arr 2 BB 25 Sep; max 24 HB 1 Nov.

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## REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

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Birding in Region 3 got off to a good start on 6 September, with the first annual Montezuma Muckrace. Eight teams competed to find the largest number of species of birds in the Montezuma Wetland Complex. All the teams together found 146 species and raised \$850 for Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Bard's Sandpipers, the team representing the Cayuga Bird Club, finished first with 119 species. Most of the area of competition was in Region 3, though some was in both Regions 2 & 5. The highlight of the day was a Willet, found by the FLiCCers of the Finger Lakes Community College.

Migration monitors (SJD, BE, AFa, MF, SK, AW, JW) were posted from time to time at Mt. Pleasant, the Stewart Park lighthouse jetty, Michigan Hill and East Shore Drive, in the Ithaca area. Their contributions occur frequently in the Regional summary. Especially interesting were single day flights of 2525 Brant, 200 Northern Pintails, 457 Red-tailed Hawks, and 3 Golden Eagles. A single Sabine's Gull and a single jaeger (sp) were the rarest birds reported from these locations.

At the Taughannock Falls State Park Loon Watch, loon migration got serious with 1100 counted on 8 November. A single day record for the six-year count was set 10 November with 6064. That day was followed by 3287, 11 November. Meanwhile, Bill Evans, and John and Sue Gregoire noted large numbers over Seneca Lake. Bill reported 1119, 10 November. The first-hour flight, believed to consist largely of birds resting on the Finger Lakes overnight, was unusually large this year.

Shorebirds were not monitored as closely at Montezuma NWR as they were the prior three years. Nevertheless, the few reports (from DS and KM) accounted for most of the shorebirds noted in the Region, with some additional contribution from the Elmira Dam (DR).

Reports of neotropical migrants were very sparse after the Montezuma Muckrace. Even with eight teams of some of the Region's top birders on Muckrace Day, very few warblers were found. Several maxima of passerines were from the Clements' Farm in Pine City, 13 September (RC).

Perhaps to make up for the lack of neotropical migrants, all of the winter finches showed signs of a major irruption, with Pine and Evening grosbeaks, Red and White-winged crossbills, Pine Siskins, and Common Redpolls all reported by the middle of November.

Other observations of note were 23 American Golden-Plovers at Perry City, a Franklin's Gull at Myer's Point, an adult **Sabine's Gull** for several days at the Elmira Dam, a probable Regional record of 21 Common Ravens at Gleason Meadows, a **Western Kingbird** in Enfield, tree-perching, berry-foraging Ring-

billed Gulls at Cass Park (AFa), and an unexpectedly low maximum of three Wild Turkeys.

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**Abbreviations:** BiFl - Big Flats CHEM, BoFa - Boors' Farm CHEM, CaL - Cayuga Lake, CaGr - Castel Grisch SCHU, ChR - Chemung River, ClFa - Clements' Farm CHEM, Corn - Corning STEU, CoSq - Consumer Square CHEM, Cove - Covert SE, Danb - Danby TOMP, DryL - Dryden Lake TOMP, DRSP1 - Dodge Road Spruce Plantation TOMP, Dryd - Dryden TOMP, ECRA - Elmira-Corning Regional Airport CHEM, ElDa - Elmira Dam CHEM, Elmi - Elmira CHEM, Enfi - Enfield, ESSC - East Shore Sailing Club TOMP, FaHo - Farnsworth Home TOMP, GAWS - Gleason Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary STEU, GlMe - Gleason Meadows CHEM, Grot - Groton TOMP, HoHo - Hog Hole TOMP, Hors - Horseheads CHEM, HHiP - Harris Hill Park CHEM, Ith - Ithaca TOMP, Lans - Lansing TOMP, Lind - Lindley STEU, LoPd - Lowe Pond CHEM, MaPt - May's Point SENE, MiHi - Michigan Hill TOMP, MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge SENE, MSPd - Mill Street Pond CHEM, MtPl - Mt. Pleasant TOMP, MTSP - Mark Twain State Park CHEM, MWCo - Montezuma Wetlands Complex, MyPt - Myer's Point TOMP, NeCr - Newtown Creek CHEM, OBHi - Old Baldy Hill CHEM, OPTr - Ontario Pathways Trail ONTA, PSt - Park Station CHEM, PeCi - Perry City SCHU, SaWo - Sapsucker Woods TOMP, SERI - Seneca River CAYU, Shel - Sheldrake SENE, Sout - Southport CHEM, StP - Stewart Park TOMP, SuDa - Sullivanville Dam CHEM, Summ - Summerhill CAYU, TCAH - The Center at Horseheads (a/k/a The Holding Point) CHEM, TFSP - Taughannock Falls State Park TOMP, TaFo - Tanglewood Forest CHEM, Vete - Veteran CH.

#### LOONS-DUCKS

**Red-throated Loon:** arr StP 22 Oct; max 5 CaL 17 Nov; last StP 27 Nov.

**Com. Loon:** arr MtPl 13 Sep; max 5671 TFSP 10 Nov; last StP 27 Nov.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 6 DryL 3 Nov; last PSt 15 Nov.

**Horned Grebe:** max 2 StP 25 Oct; last StP 25 Oct.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 230 StP 1 Oct; last MiHi 26 Oct.

**Am. Bittern:** MNWR 6 Sep; last MiHi 21 Oct.

**Least Bittern:** MWCo 6 Sep.

**Great Blue Heron:** max 16 StP 1 Oct; last SuDa 8 Nov.

**Great Egret:** max 20 MNWR 6 Sep; last MNWR 6 Sep.

**Green Heron:** MNWR 6 Sep; last ElDa 11 Sep.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** ChR 5 Sep; last MNWR 29 Oct.

**Turkey Vulture:** max 196 Lans 11 Oct; last GIMe 30 Oct.  
**Snow Goose:** max 690 Ith 22 Oct; last DryL 2 Nov.  
**Brant:** arr Lans 11 Oct; max 2525 Ith 22 Oct; last CaL 17 Nov.  
**Canada Goose:** max 5850 StP 1 Oct; last Lind 27 Nov.  
**Mute Swan:** MWCo 6 Sep.  
**Tundra Swan:** 50 MNWR 29 Oct.  
**Wood Duck:** max 53 LoPd 9 Oct; last LoPd 7 Nov.  
**Gadwall:** arr MNWR 6 Sep; max 2 MNWR 6 Sep; last MNWR 6 Sep.  
**Am. Wigeon:** max 10 MNWR 6 Sep; last MNWR 29 Oct.  
**Am. Black Duck:** max 275 Ith 22 Oct; last DryL 24 Nov.  
**Mallard:** max 110 TCAH 4 Nov; last MSPd 29 Nov.  
**Blue-winged Teal:** max 20 MNWR 6 Sep; last LoPd 28 Sep.  
**N. Shoveler:** max 13 MNWR 6 Sep; last PSt 15 Nov.  
**N. Pintail:** arr MNWR 6 Sep; max 200 Ith 22 Oct; last StP 22 Oct.  
**Green-winged Teal:** arr MNWR 6 Sep; max 57 LoPd 7 Nov; last SuDa 8 Nov.  
**Canvasback:** max 10 MNWR 29 Oct; last StP 28 Nov.  
**Redhead:** arr MWCo 6 Sep; max 40 StP 28 Nov; last StP 28 Nov.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** arr MWCo 6 Sep; max 60 MNWR 29 Oct; last PSt 15 Nov. Oct; last StP 28 Nov.  
**Greater Scaup:** 2 StP 28 Nov.  
**Lesser Scaup:** max 6 MyPt 5 Nov; last StP 28 Nov.  
**scaup sp:** arr StP 22 Oct; max 10 Ith 22  
**Surf Scoter:** 3 ESSC 4 Nov.  
**White-winged Scoter:** arr ESSC 4 Nov; max 4 CaL 22 Nov; last CaL 22 Nov.  
**Black Scoter:** max 14 StP 27 Oct; last CaL 22 Nov.  
**scoter sp:** StP 30 Oct; 8 StP 28 Nov.  
**Bufflehead:** max 120 CaL 17 Nov; last DryL 24 Nov.  
**Hooded Merganser:** 24 DryL 24 Nov.  
**Com. Merganser:** max 39 LoPd 1 Nov; last DryL 24 Nov.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** arr DryL 3 Nov; last DryL 24 Nov.  
**Ruddy Duck:** arr StP 22 Oct; max 5 PSt 15 Nov; last PSt 15 Nov.

## HAWKS-ALCIDS

**Osprey:** max 9 StP 1 Oct; last Hors 8 Nov.  
**eagle sp:** Hors 12 Nov.  
**Bald Eagle:** max 2 MNWR 6 Sep; last ECRA 16 Nov.  
**N. Harrier:** max 11 Lans 11 Oct; last TCAH 8 Nov.  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 11 Lans 11 Oct.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** max 5 MtPl 16 Sep.  
**N. Goshawk:** max 2 GIMe 30 Oct; Enfi 7 Nov.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** max 8 Lans 11 Oct; last Elmi 31 Oct.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** max 432 MtPl 16 Sep; last StP 1 Oct.  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 457 MiHi 26 Oct.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** arr MiHi 22 Oct; max 4 Ith 22 Oct; BiFl 24 Oct.  
**Golden Eagle:** arr FaHo 8 Oct; max 3 Lans 11 Oct; last Ith 22 Oct.  
**Am. Kestrel:** max 15 MtPl 16 Sep.  
**Merlin:** max 2 MtPl 16 Sep; BiFl 14 Nov.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** arr EIDa 14 Sep; last StP 1 Oct.  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** max 2 Hors 18 Oct.  
**Ruffed Grouse:** max 2 GAWS 4 Oct.  
**Wild Turkey:** max 3 GIMe 22 Oct.  
**Virginia Rail:** MWCo 6 Sep.  
**Sora:** MWCo 6 Sep.  
**Com. Moorhen:** MWCo 6 Sep; last LoPd 9 Oct.  
**Am. Coot:** max 400 MyPt 5 Nov.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** max 4 MNWR 17 Oct; last MNWR 29 Oct.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** arr MNWR 6 Sep; max 23 PeCi 7 Sep (BE & AFi); last MNWR 17 Oct.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** max 20 MNWR 6 Sep; last MNWR 17 Oct.  
**Killdeer:** max 30 MNWR 6 Oct; last BoFa 8 Nov.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** max 10 MNWR 6 Sep; last PSt 15 Nov.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 40 EIDa 10 Sep; last TCAH 4 Nov.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** MWCo 6 Sep.  
**WILLET:** MWCo 6 Sep.  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** MWCo 6 Sep.  
**Sanderling:** StP 25 Oct.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 10 MNWR 6 Sep; last MNWR 6 Oct.  
**Least Sandpiper:** max 10 MNWR 6 Sep; last MNWR 17 Oct.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** max 12 MNWR 29 Oct; last MNWR 29 Oct.  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** MNWR 17 Oct.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** max 75 MNWR 6 Oct; last MNWR 29 Oct.  
**Dunlin:** arr MNWR 6 Oct; max 125 MNWR 1 Nov; last MyPt 22 Nov.  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** MNWR 6 Sep.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** MNWR 6 Sep.  
**Long-billed Dowitcher:** max 4 MNWR 17 Oct.  
**Com. Snipe:** max 5 MNWR 6 Sep; last LoPd 8 Nov.  
**Am. Woodcock:** max MWC 6 Sep.  
**jaeger sp:** StP 30 Oct (BE!).  
**FRANKLIN'S GULL:** MyPt 5 Nov (SJD!).  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 21 StP 1 Oct; last StP 25 Oct.  
**Ring-billed Gull:** max 1125 StP 1 Oct.  
**Herring Gull:** max 75 EIDa 25 Oct.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** arr MWC 6 Sep; 2 MNWR 12 Oct.  
**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 3 StP 1 Oct.  
**SABINE'S GULL:** arr EIDa 10 Sep (JS, DR, mob); last StP 1 Oct (AFa!).  
**Caspian Tern:** max 2 MNWR 6 Sep; last StP 13 Sep.  
**Com. Tern:** StP 13 Sep.

#### DOVES-WOODPECKERS

**Rock Dove:** max 100 Elmi 25 Oct.  
**Mourning Dove:** max 225 ClFa 1 Sep.  
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** MWC 6 Sep.  
**E. Screech-Owl:** MWC 6 Sep; DRSP1 18 Nov.  
**Great Horned Owl:** max 2 BiFl 17 Oct.  
**Barred Owl:** BiFl 20 Sep.  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** Route 79 Enfi 11 Nov.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** max 5 EIDa 11 Sep; last EIDa 11 Sep.  
**Chimney Swift:** max 75 EIDa 11 Sep; last EIDa 11 Sep.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** max 4 OBHi 1 Sep; last Sout 15 Oct.  
**Belted Kingfisher:** max 2 MNWR 6 Sep; last NeCr 11 Nov.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** MWC 6 Sep.  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** max 2 ClFa 21 Sep.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** GIMe 27 Sep; last Elmi 10 Oct.  
**Downy Woodpecker:** max 9 GIMe 5 Nov.

**Hairy Woodpecker:** MaPt 6 Sep; HHIP 29 Nov.  
**N. Flicker:** max 20 ClFa 13 Sep; last HHIP 29 Nov.  
**Pileated Woodpecker:** max 2 OBHi 1 Sep.

#### FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

**E. Wood-Pewee:** max 4 ClFa 13 Sep; last ClFa 13 Sep.  
**Least Flycatcher:** last LoPd 9 Oct.  
**E. Phoebe:** max 2 ClFa 21 Sep; last Cove 17 Nov.  
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** MNWR 6 Sep.  
**WESTERN KINGBIRD:** Enfi 27 Oct - 18 Nov (JB!).  
**E. Kingbird:** MWC 6 Sep.  
**N. Shrike:** PSt 15 Nov; Danb 26 Nov.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** max 3 GAWS 4 Oct; last GAWS 4 Oct.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** MWC 6 Sep.  
**Warbling Vireo:** MNWR 6 Sep.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** MNWR 6 Sep.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** max 8 ClFa 1 Sep; last GAWS 4 Oct.  
**Blue Jay:** max 63 GIMe 4 Oct.  
**Am. Crow:** max 324 MiHi 26 Oct.  
**Fish Crow:** StP 25 Oct.  
**Com. Raven:** max 21 GIMe 27 Sep (DR).  
**Horned Lark:** max 100 Vete 8 Nov.  
**Purple Martin:** max 32 MtPl 13 Sep; last MtPl 13 Sep.  
**Tree Swallow:** max 2100 MtPl 13 Sep; last lth 22 Oct.  
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** MNWR 6 Sep.  
**Bank Swallow:** MWC 6 Sep.  
**Barn Swallow:** max 2 MNWR 6 Sep; last EIDa 10 Sep.  
**Cliff Swallow:** MWC 6 Sep.  
**Black-capped Chickadee:** max 33 GIMe 5 Nov.  
**Tufted Titmouse:** max 8 OBHi 1 Sep.  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max 6 TaFo 26 Sep.  
**White-breasted Nuthatch:** max 3 GIMe 4 Oct.  
**Brown Creeper:** max 3 HHIP 29 Nov.  
**Carolina Wren:** MWC 6 Sep; LoPd 8 Nov.  
**House Wren:** max 2 GIMe 4 Oct; last GIMe 4 Oct.



**Winter Wren:** max 2 ClFa 21 Sep; last StP 25 Oct.  
**Marsh Wren:** MWCo 6 Sep; last MTSP 18 Oct.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 10 Summ 26 Oct.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max 3 GIMe 4 Oct; last HHIP 13 Oct.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** MWCo 6 Sep.  
**E. Bluebird:** max 11 MiHi 26 Oct; last HHIP 29 Nov.  
**Veery:** max 2 OBHi 1 Sep; last BiFl 7 Sep.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** MWCo 6 Sep.  
**Wood Thrush:** max 12 ClFa 21 Sep; last ClFa 21 Sep.  
**American Robin:** max 282 MiHi 26 Oct; last BiFl 15 Nov.  
**Gray Catbird:** max 10 ClFa 13 Sep; last BiFl 6 Oct.  
**N. Mockingbird:** max 4 StP 13 Sep.  
**Brown Thrasher:** OBHi 1 Sep; last MWCo 6 Sep.  
**Am. Pipit:** max 23 StP 1 Oct; last MiHi 26 Oct.  
**European Starling:** max 10000 Elmi 10 Oct.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** max 565 Cove 17 Nov; last Elmi 20 Nov.

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** OBHi 1 Sep; last MWCo 6 Sep.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** ClFa 1 Sep.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** MWCo 6 Sep.  
**Nashville Warbler:** max 2 ClFa 13 Sep; last GAWS 4 Oct.  
**Yellow Warbler:** MWCo 6 Sep.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 3 ClFa 13 Sep; last ClFa 13 Sep.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** max 4 ClFa 21 Sep; last DRSP1 21 Nov.  
**Cape May Warbler:** OBHi 1 Sep.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** OBHi 1 Sep; last MWCo 6 Sep.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 15 MTSP 18 Oct; last LoPd 7 Nov.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** max 5 OBHi 1 Sep; last GAWS 4 Oct.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** OBHi 1 Sep; last MWCo 6 Sep.  
**Pine Warbler:** TaFo 26 Sep; last HHIP 13 Oct.  
**Palm Warbler:** arr MtPl 16 Sep; last HoHo 6 Oct.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** MWCo 6 Sep.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** GAWS 4 Oct.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** 2 OBHi 1 Sep.  
**Am. Redstart:** max 3 ClFa 1 Sep; last GIMe 4 Oct.  
**Ovenbird:** OBHi 1 Sep; last MWCo 6 Sep.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** max 20 ClFa 21 Sep; last GIMe 4 Oct.  
**Hooded Warbler:** MWCo 6 Sep.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr 2 ClFa 1 Sep; last ClFa 21 Sep.

#### TANAGERS-WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** OBHi 1 Sep; last GIMe 4 Oct.  
**E. Towhee:** max 10 ClFa 21 Sep; last GIMe 30 Oct.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr LoPd 1 Nov; max 27 ClFa 9 Nov.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** max 15 StP 13 Sep; last BiFl 14 Oct.  
**Field Sparrow:** max 6 GIMe 4 Oct; last MiHi 21 Oct.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** MWCo 6 Sep.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** max 4 Route 31 6 Sep; last MiHi 21 Oct.  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr Grot 28 Oct; max 3 GIMe 3 Nov; last Corn 21 Nov.  
**Song Sparrow:** max 12 MiHi 21 Oct; last BiFl 25 Nov.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr GIMe 4 Oct; max 2 HoHo 6 Oct; last MiHi 21 Oct.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** max 10 HoHo 6 Oct; last TCAH 8 Nov.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** max 15 CoSq 12 Oct; last BiFl 30 Nov.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr GIMe 4 Oct; max 2 MiHi 7 Oct; last BiFl 5 Nov.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 275 ClFa 9 Nov.  
**Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco:** NeCr 11 Nov.  
**Lapland Longspur:** arr Ith 22 Oct; max 2 Ith 22 Oct; last Sout 24 Nov.  
**Snow Bunting:** arr TCAH 18 Nov; max 30 TCAH 18 Nov.  
**N. Cardinal:** max 5 GIMe 27 Sep.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 6 ClFa 13 Sep; last ClFa 13 Sep.  
**Indigo Bunting:** 2 Route 31 6 Sep.  
**Bobolink:** MNWR 6 Sep.  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 4500 LoPd 8 Nov; last BiFl 16 Nov.  
**E. Meadowlark:** CaGr 21 Sep; last TCAH 6 Nov.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** max OPTr 27 Oct.

**Rusty Blackbird:** arr MWC0 6 Sep; max 66 LoPd 7 Nov; last LoPd 8 Nov.

**Com. Grackle:** max 12000 Elmi 10 Sep; last Hors 15 Nov.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 50 BiFl 22 Oct; last BiFl 19 Nov.

**Baltimore Oriole:** MWC0 6 Sep.

**Pine Grosbeak:** Summ 26 Oct - 29 Oct.

**Purple Finch:** max 8 MiHi 26 Oct; last BiFl 30 Oct.

**House Finch:** max 151 MiHi 26 Oct.

**Red Crossbill:** arr PSt 15 Nov; max 10 PSt 15 Nov; StP 28 Nov.

**White-winged Crossbill:** arr MiHi 21 Oct; max 2 Summ 29 Oct; Dryd 24 Nov.

**Com. Redpoll:** arr MiHi 26 Oct; max 22 Shel 17 Nov.

**Pine Siskin:** arr MiHi 7 Oct; max 14 MiHi 26 Oct; Corn 23 Nov.

**Am. Goldfinch:** max 66 MiHi 21 Oct.

**Evening Grosbeak:** arr SaWo 19 Sep; max 40 Arnot Forest 19 Oct; HHiP 29 Nov.

**House Sparrow:** max 70 BiFl 15 Nov.

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## REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

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The weather pattern for Fall continued summer's mostly sunny dry, warm days through much of September and October. September precipitation at Cooperstown totaled 3.03 inches, down from the normal 3.71 inches. In October rainfall measured 1.85 inches, more than an inch below normal. Southern areas of the Region had even greater rainfall deficits. November was turn-around time. Precipitation of 4.76 inches was more than an inch above normal, due in part to the season's first snow storm which struck 14 November, complete with sleet and freezing rain. Two to four inches of heavy, wet snow piled up across the Region and froze, covering the ground for nearly two weeks before melting. The average daily temperature in September was 58.0 °F, a fraction cooler than normal. October's average reading of 48.3 °F was a degree cooler than normal but included 10 straight days of mostly sunny skies and warm temperatures 3 to 13 October. However, November's average temperature was four degrees below normal. The dry fall, preceded by an equally dry summer left water levels of rivers and streams very low until late November. The dry seasons also contributed to poor yields of wild foods, noticeably cones and berries of such shrubs as gray dogwood, autumn olive and mountain ash, favorites of many songbirds.

From a birder's point of view, the dry, rather even summer and fall weather pattern had set up an excellent migration season for water birds. Muddy shorelines and very shallow water provided great feeding areas for waders such as Great Egret and Green Heron, and for shorebirds including the regionally rare Black-bellied Plover. Record late departure dates were also noted for the plover (26 Oct) and for Greater Yellowlegs (13 Nov) and Least Sandpiper (4 Nov).

Ducks, especially diving ducks, were forced to find deeper water and were more concentrated than usual. Birders, particularly at Cincinnatus Lake, Whitney Point Reservoir and Long Pond, were rewarded with excellent duck counts and such less common species as Redhead and Oldsquaw. A Regional rarity was a Forster's Tern, first here in at least 20 years. The seventh full season at the Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch was only average, due mostly to the lack of strong weather fronts. However, a record high count of 24 Merlins was a big consolation. The figure compares with last year's previous record high of nine, according to Chris Vredenburg, compiler. N. Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk and Broad-winged Hawk also had good counts; 85 Golden Eagles were average. Record lows, however, were reported for Bald Eagle and Red-tailed Hawk.

The passerine migration was average at best. One must assume some birds had moved out early either because of poor breeding success or inadequate food or water supplies. Others may have taken advantage of good weather and clear

skies to migrate at night. Few flycatchers were seen and vireos and swallows were scarce. Swainson's Thrush had the best record for thrushes. A single Veery was a record low. The warbler report was seesaw with high marks for Golden-winged Warbler, 30 Magnolia Warblers, two Mourning Warblers and a Yellow-breasted Chat. However, missing Black-and-white Warbler for the first fall ever, lost a lot of points. Good counts were reported for Fox Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow and Rusty Blackbird.

The arrival of Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, Pine Grosbeak and Red Crossbill in September and October seemed to indicate a good finch winter at last. However, by the end of November, they had all moved on except for a few Com. Redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks.

**Contributors:** Cutler & Jeannette Baldwin, Chris Barnes, Les Bemont, Broome Naturalists Club, Peg Burnett, Eleanor Carson, Chenango Bird Club, Mary Dobinsky, Sadie Dorber, John Fritz, Bob Grosek, Elva Hawken, Sara Kinch, Gail Kirch, Bill Lee, Brian & Kelli Miller, Andy Mason, Robert & Rita Pantle, Trish Pepe, Marie Petuh, Dean Spaulding, Eric Sullivan, Gary Sweet, Bill Toner, Chris Vredenburg, Weed Walkers, George Wade, Don Weber (DWb), Don Windsor, Irene Wright.

**Abbreviations:** BsPd - Balsam Pd, CHEN; BPd - Boland Pd, BROO; BrPd - Brick Pd, TIOG; BVC - Beaver Valley Camp, OTSE; CinL - Cincinnatus Lake, bisected by CHEN and CORT; FMHW - Frankling Mt. Hawkwatch & DOAS Sanctuary; GYL -Goodyear Lake, OTSE; JCy - Johnson City; LPd - Long Pd, CHEN; OnRes - Oneonta Reservoir; OtsL - Otsego Lake; RR&HW - Riley Road and Hawkwatch, CORT; WB - West Burlington and Hawkwatch, OTSE; WPR - Whitney Point Reservoir and nearby area.

#### LOONS - WATERFOWL

**Com. Loon:** WPR 29 Oct. 8, 23 Nov, scarce.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 11 LPd 20 Sep (EH); good numbers thru 15 Nov.  
**Horned Grebe:** WPR 9 Nov; River Rd Endwell 21 Nov, missed some years.  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** 3 reports WPR Nov, max 6.  
**Great Blue Heron:** max 4 each at two Owego sites 16 Sep; 5 Portlandville 28 Sep.  
**Great Egret:** max 11 Susquehanna R Owego 16 Sep; 2 Chenango R Greene 8, 9 Sep, early departure.  
**Green Heron:** max 6 Portlandville Sep; three other reports Sep; TIOG Oct.  
**Turkey Vulture:** 40 GYL 20, 28 Sep; 25 Oneonta 31 Oct; FMHW total 146; last 11 Nov, late.

**Snow Goose:** max 75 overhead Emmons 11 Nov; 50 there 9 Nov (BL); 25 Norwich 15 Nov, good count.  
**Canada Goose:** max 1500 birds in 6 flocks RRHW 1 Oct (BT); 1171 FMHW 2 Oct.  
**Brant:** max 1900 WB Hawkwatch 22 Oct; 96 FMHW 22 Sep; 60 there 27 Oct; singles BROO, high counts continue.  
**Mute Swan:** 2 BPd 14-31 Oct.  
**Wood Duck:** 30+ LPd 20 Sep; Crumhorn L 7 Oct; BrPd 15 Oct, generally scarce.  
**Gadwall:** Hunt Pd 25 Oct (EH); 2 CinL 16 Nov; 4 Endwell 25 Nov (ES), often missed.  
**Am. Wigeon:** Vestal Gravel Pits 18 Nov, only one.  
**Am. Black Duck:** max 38 CinL 16 Nov.  
**Blue-winged Teal:** good numbers Tiog Sep (JB); 14 LPd 20 Sep

(OBC); BPd 15 Oct (WW), excellent after absence last two falls.

**Green-winged Teal:** TIOG good numbers Sep; CinL 24 Oct-4 Nov, max 22, good for recent years.

**Canvasback:** male Endwell 25 Nov, only report.

**Redhead:** 7 Guilford 20 Sep (CBC), first fall since 1984.

**Ring-necked Duck:** CORT 19 Oct ; 21 LPd 24, 25 Oct; 10 OnRes 9 Nov, missed last two falls.

**Lesser Scaup:** Chenango L 20 Oct (CBC); WPR area 26 Oct (ES).

**Black Scoter:** WPR 7 Nov (ES); 8 Nov (T&NT), missed some years.

**Oldsquaw:** WPR 7, 8 Nov, first fall since 1991.

**Bufflehead:** max 12 CinL 28 Oct (MP,SK); five other reports to 23 Nov, average.

**Com. Goldeneye:** TIOG Oct, only report.

**Hooded Merganser:** 23 arr CinL 24 Oct; 20 BVC 6, 13 Nov; max 87 WPR 23 Nov, high count.

**Com. Merganser:** max about 500 WPR 26 Nov (ES), very high count.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 7 over RRHW 11 Oct (BT).

**Ruddy Duck:** LPd 20 Sep (CBC); six reports max 5 WPR

24 Oct - 8 Nov, good count

#### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** FMHW total 66, low count but better than last year; three RRHW 1 Oct

**Bald Eagle:** FMHW total 8, record low; two DELA 28 Nov (ES); imm Morris 29 Nov, only other reports.

**N. Harrier:** FMHW total 52, best in three years; peak one day total 13 on 26 Oct; WBHW total 4; several widespread reports thru.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** FMHW total 289, best count in 3 years; FMHW top daily count 24 on 18 Sep. 6 and 16 Oct; 10 WBHW 10 Oct.

**Cooper's Hawk:** FMHW total 38, below average.

**N. Goshawk:** FMHW total 23, below average; three widespread singles.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** FMHW total 56, lowest count since 1990

**Broad-winged Hawk:** FMHW total 751, best since 1993; top one day count 319 on 18 Sep.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** FMHW total 817 and best one-day total 156, both record low counts for second successive year.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** total FMHW 5, low.

**Golden Eagle:** FMHW total 85, near average; peak flight of 27 on 27 Nov was record high single day count; arr 14 Sep, record early.

**Am. Kestrel:** FMHW total 53; last 13 Oct, early departure.

**Merlin:** FMHW record high total 24 tops previous record high of 9; daily high of 5 on 14 Sep also record high; single reported "zipping in and out of a flock of 60+ starlings" WPR 7 Oct (T&NT); last 21 Oct.

**Peregrine Falcon:** FMHW total 5 near average, only report.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** max 4 Chenango Forks 6 Sep (T&NT); three FMHW 8 Sep-10 Nov; five other reports, good count.

**Ruffed Grouse:** 17 widespread reports; max 6 WB 8 Sep and Morris 8 Oct. excellent count.

**Wild Turkey:** several reports but smaller flocks.

**Am. Coot:** max 85 OtsL 9 Nov, best since coots started wintering there in 1994; max 40 WPR 10 Nov, first year for high counts BROO.

**Black-bellied Plover:** CinL 25, 26 Oct (ES), second successive fall, only 7th report since 1963, record late departure.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** CinL 24 Oct-13 Nov max 21; three other widespread reports, record late departure.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** CinL 25 Oct-5 Nov max 10; Chenango R Norwich 20 Sep-27 Oct; two other singles, excellent count

**Solitary Sandpiper:** Susquehanna R Endwell 22 Sep, scarce.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** 5 reports; max 5 Cin L 25-29 Oct, late departure.

**Least Sandpiper:** max 6 CinL 26 Oct - 4 Nov only report; record late departure bests last year's record late 25 Oct.

**Com. Snipe:** CinL 24 Oct - 4 Nov max 19, record high count.

**Am. Woodcock:** T Preston 6, 7 Oct (EH); Morris 18, 19 Oct (JF).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** BsPd 6 Nov (DW), first fall since 1992

**Ring-billed Gull:** max 300 WPR 13 Nov.  
**Herring Gull:** max 28 BsPd 17 Oct, 6 Nov

**Forster's Tern:** WPR area 28 Oct "in winter plumage, good close looks" (MP,SK), first fall in at least 20 years.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Mourning Dove:** high counts thru.

**E. Screech-Owl:** WB 16 Sep - 6 Nov (TS); Vestal 5 Oct (GK) and 23 Oct (LB); TIOG Sep, Oct, good count.

**Great Horned Owl:** max 4 T Preston thru (EH); three others.

**Barred Owl:** T Preston occasionally thru; max 3 Triangle 26 Sep and 18 Nov (T&NT).

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** Morris 22 Nov (JF), often missed.

**Com. Nighthawk:** singles OTSE 9 Sep; TIOG 10 Sep, scarce.

**Chimney Swift:** 3 FMHW 8 Sep.; frequently at Oneonta Sep, max 4; max two there Oct (IW), late departure.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** singles TIOG Sep, Oct; FMHW 6 Oct.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** five widespread reports Sep, Oct; TIOG Nov.

**N. Flicker:** widespread reports to 26 Nov.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** three reports a month several areas.

#### FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

**E. Wood-Pewee:** 3 reports; max 2; thru 22 Sep, scarce.

**Least Flycatcher:** 7 banded Vestal; max and last 4 Vestal 12 Sep (GK), average.

**E. Phoebe:** average numbers to 29 Oct.

**E. Kingbird:** 3 BPd 20 Sep (BNC); two others.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** 7 reports; max 4; thru 8 Oct, scarce.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** TIOG Sep, only report.

**Warbling Vireo:** singles DELA 15 Sep (AM); BROO 16 Sep (MP, SK), missed last two years.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** 18 banded Vestal to 4 Oct; 6 other singles, low.

**Am. Crow:** max 300 FMHW 26 Oct; 200<sup>+</sup> 6, 10 Nov.

**Com. Raven:** several reports TIOG Sep, Oct; at least 3 FMHW 9 Sep thru, probably not migrants; one found shot near

McDonough 19 Oct and taken to Cornell where it later died (GS fide DW).

**Horned Lark:** FMHW 6 Nov; CHEN 25 Nov, scarce.

**Tree Swallow:** only two CHEN 1 Sep, early departure.

**Barn Swallow:** 3 reports; max 3; thru 23 Sep.

**swallow sp:** 6 BROO 2 Oct.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** average to good counts thru.

**Carolina Wren:** CHEN 12, 27 Sep, 6 Oct; TIOG Oct, scarce.

**House Wren:** 7 reports to 2 Oct, max 3, below average.

**Winter Wren:** 2 banded Vestal Oct; one other, scarce.

**Marsh Wren:** BPd 20 Sep, "seen and singing" (BNC), often missed.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** one report Sep; four Oct max 6; three Nov, good count.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** many reports Oct max 20; last banded 8 Nov.

**E. Bluebird:** max 12 FMHW 30 Oct; 10 Oneonta 24 Oct; last 6 Nov, generally low counts.

**Veery:** banded Vestal 7 Sep (GK), only report, record low.

**Gray-checked Thrush:** banded Vestal 17 Sep, 6 Oct (GK), often missed.

**Swainson's Thrush:** arr Vestal banding station 22 Sep; five reports Oct max 2, good count.

**Hermit Thrush:** 10 Oct reports; max 3, average.

**Wood Thrush:** 7 reports Sep; max 2; last 1 Oct, scarce.

**Gray Catbird:** several reports; max 5; thru 17 Oct.

**N. Mockingbird:** 3 BROO sites; 1 TIOG Oct; BROO, TIOG Nov, average.

**Brown Thrasher:** only one J Cy 22 Sep (MP), "eating *Viburnum* berries", record low.

**Cedar Waxwing:** max 100 Morris 19 Oct, average.

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** T Preston 5 dates 1 - 2 Sep, late departure

**Golden-winged Warbler:** banded Vestal 13 Sep (GK), first fall since 1984.

**Nashville Warbler:** Triangle 21 Sep; banded Vestal 13 Sep, 5 Oct, scarce.

**N. Parula:** Binghamton University 5 Oct (BG), very late.  
**Yellow Warbler:** TIOG Sep, Oct (DWb), late.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 5 banded Vestal to 20 Sep; two others.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** 26 banded Vestal, max 9 on 13 Sep; 3 T Preston 12 Sep; last Triangle 21 Sep, excellent total with best banding in many years.  
**Cape May Warbler:** Triangle 21 Sep; TIOG Sep, average for last five years.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 5 reports Sep; 3 banded Oct, average.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 24 Willet 14 Oct, average.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** only 6 singles, scarce.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** BROO 1 Sep, only report.  
**Palm Warbler:** max 6 WPR 8 Oct (WW); five other reports.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** only 2 Preston 7 Oct (EH), late.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** singles banded 8, 29 Sep, only report.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** *none*, first fall ever.  
**Ovenbird:** 6 banded Vestal to 19 Sep, scarce.  
**Mourning Warbler:** DELA 19 Sep (AM); banded vestal 24 Sep (GK), only second fall in 9 years.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** 5 banded 4 Sep - 3 Oct (GK), good count.  
**Canada Warbler:** Vestal 12, 13 Sep.  
**Yellow-breasted Chat:** banded Vestal 10 Oct (GK), sometimes missed.

#### TANAGERS-WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** 5 widespread singles to 2 Oct, below average.  
**E. Towhee:** max 12 JCy 22 Sep; 2 Oct; average count thru.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr FMHW 6 Nov, late arr.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** max 15 CHEN 6 Oct; last 3 Nov.  
**Field Sparrow:** 8 reports; max 3, fewer than usual.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** BROO 27 Sep, only report.

**Fox Sparrow:** high counts widespread 17 Oct - 17 Nov.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** 3 Vestal 11, 19, 24 Sep (GK); 2 JCy 9 Oct (MP), sometimes missed.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** 4 reports; max 2; last 13 Nov.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** 51 banded Vestal; good counts to 18 Nov.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr 2 Oct; max 13 Willet 14 Oct; last JCy 16 Nov (MP), "after 5" snowfall".  
**Snow Bunting:** arr 10 FMHW 7 Nov; max 30 Richfield Springs 22 Nov; 2 reports small flocks WPR, average.  
**N. Cardinal:** several feeder reports Nov; max 5.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** seven reports; max 2; thru early Oct, scarce and early departure.  
**Indigo Bunting:** none for third of last four falls.  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** 1,000 Bpd 24 Oct; 40 WPR 5 Nov; last 22 Nov, fewer reports.  
**E. Meadowlark:** none Sept; max 15 RR 11 Oct; 6 WB 16, 19 Oct; three CHEN 26 Oct; last 25 Nov, good count.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** 12 CinL 26 Oct; 6 JCy 16 Nov, "one in summer plumage feeding with other blackbirds"; FMHW 26 Oct, 10 Nov; McGraw 14 Nov, very high count.  
**Com. Grackle:** 2,000 WB 25 Oct; 1,000 there 29 Oct; 1,000 B Pd 24 Oct.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** none.  
**Pine Grosbeak:** arr TIOG Oct (BP); 9 FMHW 15 Nov (DS); WB 27 Nov "in the road getting grit" (TS), first since 1993.  
**Purple Finch:** several reports CHEN; max 8; thru 12 Nov (EH), scarce.  
**Red Crossbill:** FMHW 26 Oct; 2 Nov (DS).  
**White-winged Crossbill:** two T Preston 12 Nov, rare in fall.  
**Com. Redpoll:** arr 15 FMHW 2 Nov; 20 there on 7 Nov; 24 Willet 23 Nov (ES); 50 Morris 28 Nov (JF).  
**Pine Siskin:** 3 arr Preston 16 Oct; 25 McGraw 17 Oct; 7 Oneonta 6 Nov; TIOG; last 16 Nov.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** 28 arr FMHW 21 Sep; next report 37 Morris 18 Oct; then widespread but not common.

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## REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The weather in Region 5 was relatively quiet with no storms or unusual events. Temperatures for the three months averaged slightly cooler than normal. September's average temperature was 60.4 °F (1.1° below normal). A high of 80 °F on 2 September and a low of 35 °F on 24 September were recorded for the month. Precipitation for September was 2.57 inches (1.04 inches below normal). October's average temperature was 49.3 °F (1.4 ° below normal) with a high of 81 °F recorded on 9 October. The low for October was 24 °F on 26 October. A total rainfall of 1.5 inches (1.74 inches below normal) occurred during the month. October also had a surprise snowfall of 1.2 inches, 1.2 inches of snowfall above normal. Meteorologist Jim Teske reported that one of the nicest stretches of fall weather in central New York occurred from 4 October through 14 October. November's weather was colder and snowier than normal. The average temperature for the month was 37.4 °F (3.1° below normal). A high of 60 °F on 1 November and a low of 20 °F on 13 November were recorded. Precipitation of 4.28 inches was slightly (0.56 inches) over normal. Snowfall for November was 19.3 inches (10.0 inches above average) making it the eighth snowiest November and the third straight year of November snowfall records making it into the top 10 of snowiest Novembers.

The cone crop was poor over the most of the Region with the exception of some mature white pines. Birch catkins were scarce as were fruits and berries on most shrubs, while thistle production was abundant at many sites.

An adult Great Cormorant, only the second record for the Region, was found by Gerard Phillips in Oswego Harbor on 13 November where it was seen irregularly through the end of the season. The mud flats at Delta Lake have become an attraction for Great Egrets, and the 10 seen in September were the most ever at one location in the Region. *Aythya* ducks were scarce; this has been the case recently with Canvasback and Redhead, but Ring-necked Ducks are normally seen in larger numbers and Greater Scaup never seemed to get here. There were strong Brant and scoter flights seen from Derby Hill as well as at Oswego Harbor and good numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers along Lake Ontario.

Fall hawk flights in the Region will never approach the numbers seen in spring at Derby Hill, but the migration seen over Bishop Road west of Pulaski has been good over the past few years. The mid September time period for Broad-wing Hawk migration was not covered, but October brought a record Turkey Vulture flight plus harriers, Red-shoulders, Red-tails and the first few



Rough-legs. Bald Eagle continues to be found at many area lakes after the breeding season.

The mud flats at Delta Lake provided great habitat for the second Marbled Godwit of the year and Long-billed Dowitcher, a Regional rarity. Early highlights there included Whimbrel, Stilt Sandpiper and Wilson's Phalarope. There was an excellent late October flight with large numbers of Dunlin, Pectoral and White-rumped sandpipers and one Hudsonian Godwit. Purple Sandpiper showed up in November at Fair Haven, as they do so most years. Sanderling counts were very low, probably reflecting sparse coverage of Sandy Pond in September, and no sizable flocks of Am. Golden-Plover were found. Red Knot was missed altogether, and only one Common Snipe was reported.

A total of 16 Parasitic Jaegers was seen at Derby Hill on four occasions in October and early November. This continues the upswing of jaeger sightings after the lean years of 1992-96. Black-legged Kittiwake and Little Gull sightings were few, but larger numbers of Bonaparte's Gull remained later into the season than usual.

Four species of swallows were not reported, somewhat alarming, but there were few reports from Sandy Pond and the eastern shore of Lake Ontario during early September when migrants would be moving through. The last dates for the two reported, Tree and Barn, were very early. Chimney Swift seemed to suffer the same fate with only one report. Although small numbers of Bohemian Waxwings were seen in the State this fall, none was found in Region 5 despite picking through many flocks of Cedar Waxwings and checking the likely Lake Ontario sites.

Red-breasted Nuthatches staged a small irruption but at the same time could still be found in Tug Hill breeding locations unlike the 1995-96 event. For the second straight year, a Blue-headed Vireo was seen at a feeder (not the same one) in late November. Few birders ever made connections with a warbler wave. Cesari called the Rome and Delta Lake migration "poor to nonexistent". Most warbler maxima consisted of only a handful of birds, often from breeding locations, and even Yellow-rumped Warblers were seen in small numbers. The 2 Prairie Warblers and the Worm-eating Warbler were bright spots. A cold front on September 3 seemed to push out many local sparrows and nothing replaced them for about two weeks. At least when the sparrows started to move in earnest in late September they were much easier to find than warblers.

All the winter finches were seen, mostly in small numbers, and they tended to keep moving through due to the lack a cone crop. Evening Grosbeaks seemed to prefer feeders at higher elevations, while Common Redpolls, more dependent on weed seeds than cones, had more hope of finding food.

Rarities for the season included **Great Cormorant**, **Marbled Godwit**, Worm-eating Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow and Henslow's Sparrow. Other hard to find species were Black-crowned Night-Heron, Hudsonian Godwit, Whimbrel, Parasitic Jaeger, Black-legged Kittiwake, Forster's Tern, Prairie

Warbler, and Connecticut Warbler. Misses include Sora, Red Knot, Short-eared Owl, swallows, Gray-cheeked Thrush and Bohemian Waxwing.

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**Abbreviations:** Bvllc - Baldwinsville, CM - Clay Marsh, DH - Derby Hill, DL - Delta Lake, FH - Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, LOL - Lake Ontario Littoral, OneiL - Oneida Lake, SPd - Sandy Pond, SVB - Sylvan and Verona Beach, Syr - Syracuse, UM - Utica Marsh, WPd - Woodman Pond, T Eaton.

### LOONS-DUCKS

**Red-throated Loon:** arr DH 22 Oct; max 4 LOL 19 Nov.

**Com. Loon:** arr SVB 28 Sep; 46 Oswego 19 Nov; max 47 LOL 23 Nov.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 6 FH 13 Oct.

**Horned Grebe:** arr DH 21 Oct; max 35 DH 7 Nov; 30 OnonL 25 Nov.

**Red-necked Grebe:** DH 22 Oct; WPd 10 Nov.

**GREAT CORMORANT:** 1 adult Oswego Harbor 13 Nov thru, 2nd Regional record (GP, mob, NYSARC).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 200 OnonL 21 Sep.

**Am. Bittern:** 1 West Monroe 24 Sep, only report.

**Great Blue Heron:** max 18 DL 1 Oct.

**Great Egret:** max 10 DL 19 Sep; last DL 28 Sep.

**Green Heron:** max 3 West Monroe 3 Oct; last UM 10 Oct.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** singles Bvllc 16 Sep; West Monroe 24 Sep, 9 Oct.

**Turkey Vulture:** 320 Pulaski 11 Oct, record fall count; last Kirkland 3 Nov.

**Snow Goose:** arr Beaver Lake 3 Oct; max 300 First Lake Old Forge 23 Nov, unusual Adks.

**Brant:** arr FH 10 Oct; max 6650 DH 22 Oct; 30 DH 27 Nov, late for a flock.

**Mute Swan:** 2 Cazenovia L 15 Nov; 5 ad & 2 imm SPd 9 Nov; 2 FH late Nov.

**Tundra Swan:** max 7 FH from 17 Nov; 3 DL 2 Nov, a little east of usual route.

**Wood Duck:** max 1720 West Monroe 28 Sep.

**Gadwall:** arr SVB 5 Oct; max 28 FH 1 Nov.

**Am. Wigeon:** arr UM 30 Sep; max 120 FH 13 Oct.

**Am. Black Duck:** max 150 WPd 26 Nov.

**Mallard:** max 271 Cicero 28 Oct.

**Blue-winged Teal:** max 80 DL 3 Sep; one OnonL 25 Nov, late.

**N. Shoveler:** 2 SVB 7 Sep; max 6 DL 1 Oct; last WPd 18 Nov.

**N. Pintail:** arr UM 30 Sep; max 71 DH 22 Oct.

**Green-winged Teal:** max 200 DL 1 Oct.

**Canvasback:** 7 WPd 10-18 Nov, only report.

**Redhead:** arr FH 18 Oct; max 10 FH 1 Nov.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 100 FH 23 Nov, also 50 WPd 18 Nov, but otherwise low numbers.

**Greater Scaup:** arr LOL 26 Oct; max 44 FH 19 Nov.

**Lesser Scaup:** arr LOL 28 Oct; max 125 SVB 20 Nov.

**Surf Scoter:** arr 1 OneiL 28 Sep; max 120 DH 7 Nov.

**White-winged Scoter:** arr Minoa 9 Oct; max 130 DH 22 Oct.

**Black Scoter:** max 135 DH 7 Nov.

**Oldsquaw:** max 220 DH 28 Oct.

**Bufflehead:** arr FH 18 Oct; max 29 LOL 19 Nov

**Com. Goldeneye:** arr SPd 19 Oct.

**Hooded Merganser:** max 100 Beaver L 23 Nov.

**Com. Merganser:** max 484 LOL 12 Nov.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 8000 FH 17 Nov; 3000 Oswego 23 Nov.  
**Ruddy Duck:** arr Minoa 9 Oct; max 14 WPd 10 Nov; last two Beaver L 29 Nov.

#### HAWKS-ALCIDS

**Osprey:** late sightings include 2 LOL 26 Oct and one DL 4, 11 Nov.  
**Bald Eagle:** 1 North Gage 5 Sep; 2 imm 1 Oct-Nov; 2 imm & 1 ad LOL thru; 3 migrants Pulaski 25 Oct; 2 Adks in late Nov; 1 Beaver L 29 Nov.  
**N. Harrier:** max 8 Pulaski 8 Nov.  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 5 Pulaski 25 Oct.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** max 3 Pulaski 26 Oct.  
**N. Goshawk:** 4 widespread reports.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** max 3 Pulaski 25 Oct.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** max 3 Hastings 3 Sep.  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 112 Pulaski 25 Oct.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** arr Pulaski 25 Oct; max seven Pulaski 8 Nov.  
**Am. Kestrel:** max 5 Remsen 5 Sep.  
**Merlin:** 4 different singles DL in Sep; one Schiller Park Syr 28 Sep; one DL 29-31 Oct.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** singles DL 16 Sep & 21 Sep, SPd 19 Oct, Pulaski 26 Oct and New Haven 29 Oct.  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** 3 reports.  
**Ruffed Grouse:** max 4 Fabius 5 Nov.  
**Wild Turkey:** max 70 DL 3 Nov.  
**Virginia Rail:** 2 WPd 4 Nov, late.  
**Com. Moorhen:** max 3 West Monroe 4 Sep; one Fayetteville thru 30 Nov, record late.  
**Am. Coot:** max 220 FH 1 Nov; also 125 DL 11 Nov.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** max 21 DL 7 Sep; 10 DL 3 Nov.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** 2 DL 7 Sep; singles SVB 24 Sep and DL 28 Sep, only reports.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** max 35 DL 8 Sep.  
**Killdeer:** max 54 Schroepfel 1 Sep, generally low numbers reported.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** max 5 DL 7 Sep.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 35 DL 8 Sep.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** last DL 19 Sep.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** max and last 2 SVB 16 Sep.  
**Whimbrel:** 4 DL 7 Sep, only report.  
**Hudsonian Godwit:** 1 DL 26 Oct to 6 Nov.

**MARBLED GODWIT:** 1 DL 28 Sep, sixth Regional record and second for the year (MP).

**Sanderling:** max 4 SPd 1 Sep, very low numbers.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 50 DL 5 Sep.

**Least Sandpiper:** max 20 DL to 8 Sep; last DL 7 Oct.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 4 DL 26 Oct building to max and last of 23 there 11 Nov.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** 2 DL 5 Sep and 1 Hinckley L 12 Sep, only reports.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** max 75 DL 26 Oct to 3 Nov.

**Purple Sandpiper:** 1-4 FH 16 to 26 Nov.

**Dunlin:** arr FH 13 Oct; max 250 DL 31 Oct to 3 Nov; last 3 SVB 13 Nov.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** 1-4 DL to 11 Sep.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** last DL 21 Sep.

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** 1 imm DL 25-28 Sep (DCE, MP).

**Com. Snipe:** 1 Biddlecum 1 Sep, only report.

**Am. Woodcock:** max 2 West Monroe 28 Sep and CM 15 Oct; last CM 26 Oct.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** one DL 3-4 Sep.

**Parasitic Jaeger:** 1 ad SVB 14 Sep; DH sightings - 6 on 1 Oct; 2 on 22 Oct; 2 on 28 Oct and 6 on 10 Nov.

**Little Gull:** 1 Selkirk Shores SP 11 Nov (DCr).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 203 Oneil 2 Sep; 100 SVB 28 Sep; 80 SPd 19 Oct; larger numbers later in season than usual.

**Iceland Gull:** one Oswego 22 Nov.

**Glaucous Gull:** one Oswego 22 Nov.

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** singles DH 1 Oct, 11 Nov.

**Caspian Tern:** max 13 SPd 5 Sep; last SPd 14 Sep.

**Com. Tern:** max 360 SPd 14 Sep; 150 SVB 15 Sep; 6 SVB 28 Sep.

**Forster's Tern:** 1 SPd 19 Sep; 2 FH 8-19 Oct; 1 DH 28 Oct, late.

**Black Tern:** last 2 SPd 19 Sep.

#### PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

**Mourning Dove:** max 68 T Sullivan 24 Oct.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** 1 Kirkland 18 Sep, only report.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 1 West Monroe 4 Sep, only report.

**E. Screech-Owl:** 1 Dewitt 16 Sep; 1 Bville 18 Nov.  
**Great Horned Owl:** 1 DH thru.  
**Barred Owl:** singles New Hartford and Holland Patent.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** 2 N Syr 12 Sep, only report.  
**Chimney Swift:** 8 DL 1 Sep, only report.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** last Paris 1 Oct, injured bird.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 1 FH 24 Oct thru Nov.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 8 Old Forge 12 Sep; max 3 migrants Bville 4 Oct; 1 Pompey thru 30 Nov.  
**Black-backed Woodpecker:** 3 females Third L Creek Old Forge 1 Sep; 1 Rondaxe (Bald) Mtn 3 Nov; pair Beaver R Sta 9 Nov.  
**N. Flicker:** max 14 CM 24 Sep.

#### FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** 2 Clark Reservation 3 Sep; 1 DL 3 Sep; last New Hartford 24 Sep, late.  
**E. Wood-Pewee:** max 8 Kirkland 4 Sep.  
**Willow Flycatcher:** last 2 CM 3 Sep.  
**Least Flycatcher:** max 2 New Hartford 2 Sep.  
**E. Phoebe:** max 7 West Monroe 2 Oct.  
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** max 3 Dewitt 13 Sep.  
**E. Kingbird:** max 3 Bville 1 Sep.  
**N. Shrike:** singles Bville 22 Nov and Mexico 23 Nov, only reports.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** max 6 New Hartford 11 Oct; 1 Oswego feeder 22 Nov, late.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** 6 scattered singles.  
**Warbling Vireo:** max 4 DL 8 Oct; 2 singing SVB 17 Oct.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** 4 singles 8-23 Sep.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** max 16 Kirkland 18 Sep.  
**Gray Jay:** one Beaver R Sta 9 Nov, only report.  
**Blue Jay:** max 112 CM 24 Sep.  
**Am. Crow:** max 2200 Pulaski 25 Oct.  
**Fish Crow:** 2 OnonL after 14 Oct.  
**Com. Raven:** 3 McKeever 12 Sep; 2 Pulaski 11 Oct; 1 Pulaski 25 Oct; 1 DL 31 Oct; 1 Hastings 30 Nov.  
**Horned Lark:** max 20 Kirkland 21 Nov.  
**Tree Swallow:** max 6 N CAYU 10 Sep, few reports.  
**Barn Swallow:** only 4 early Sep reports.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** max 66 Pratt's Falls 15 Sep.  
**Tufted Titmouse:** max 5 New Hartford 15 Sep; migrant Hastings 8 Oct.  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max 40 SVB 27 Sep.  
**White-breasted Nuthatch:** max 11 CM 29 Sep.  
**Brown Creeper:** max 6 Kirkland 3 Nov.  
**Carolina Wren:** 2 individuals Bville in Oct; 1 T Onondaga 4 Nov.  
**House Wren:** max 3 West Monroe 4 Sep.  
**Winter Wren:** 6 Old Forge 1 Sep; migrant max 3 New Hartford 6 Oct.  
**Sedge Wren:** 1 UM 3 Oct, only report.  
**Marsh Wren:** max 12 CM 2 Oct.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 24 Highland Forest 18 Oct.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr SVB 9 Sep; max 20 SVB 5 Oct.  
**E. Bluebird:** max 29 Spafford 5 Nov.  
**Veery:** 2 Hastings 1 Sep, only report.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** singles Kirkland 18-26 Sep, only report.  
**Hermit Thrush:** 1 Clark Reservation 3 Sep, early; max 7 Kirkland 18 Sep.  
**Wood Thrush:** max and last 4 Pratt's Falls 15 Sep.  
**Am. Robin:** max 112 Spafford 5 Nov.  
**Gray Catbird:** max 19 CM 3 Sep; last Kirkland 21 Nov, late.  
**N. Mockingbird:** 2 Green Lakes SP 7 Sep, only report.  
**Brown Thrasher:** Sep max of 2 several locations.  
**Am. Pipit:** arr late Aug, 75 DL 19 Oct; max 200 Pulaski 8 Nov.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** max 150 Pompey 29 Nov.

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** 2 reports.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** about 6 singles in Sep.  
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** 1 DL 8 Sep, early and only report.  
**Nashville Warbler:** max 3 New Hartford 15-21 Sep.  
**Northern Parula:** arr Remsen 5 Sep; four singles only.  
**Yellow Warbler:** 1 Clay 20 Sep, only report.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 4 New Hartford 10 Sep.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** max 8 Kirkland 7 Sep.

**Cape May Warbler:** 2 Whiskey Hollow 14 Sep; 1 Hastings 23 Sep, only reports.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max 4 Kirkland 23 Sep.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 37 SVB 5 Oct.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** max 15 DL 19 Sep.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** max 8 Remsen 5 Sep.

**Pine Warbler:** 6 Bear Springs Fulton 27 Sep at breeding site.

**Prairie Warbler:** singles Kirkland 7 Sep and Whiskey Hollow 16 Sep (MP, JB).

**Palm Warbler:** arr Kirkland 7 Sep; last Kirkland 22 Oct.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr Kirkland 4 Sep; max 4 SVB 9 Sep.

**Cerulean Warbler:** singles Whiskey Hollow and Pompey 17 Sep.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** max 4 ONEI 7 & 10 Sep.

**Am. Redstart:** max 5 New Hartford 10 Sep.

**WORM-EATING WARBLER:** 1 Pompey 15 Sep; second fall record (DN).

**Ovenbird:** 1 Pompey 14 Sep, only report.

**Connecticut Warbler:** 1 Paris 30 Sep (MP).

**Mourning Warbler:** last New Hartford 2 Sep.

**Com. Yellowthroat:** max 6 New Hartford 2 Sep.

**Hooded Warbler:** male with 2 fl Kirkland 7 Sep; adult there thru 23 Sep.

**Wilson's Warbler:** max 3 New Hartford 6 Sep.

**Canada Warbler:** 3 reports of 4 individuals to 7 Sep.

#### TANAGERS-WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** max 4 Kirkland 7 Sep.

**E. Towhee:** max 8 SVB 5 Oct; last SVB 24 Oct.

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr CM 12 Oct; max 60 Redfield 9 Nov.

**Chipping Sparrow:** max 15 DL 22 Sep; 1 ad Stillwater Inn HERK 29 Nov, a bit far north.

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** 1 West Monroe 24 Sep (BP), third fall record.

**Field Sparrow:** max 5 West Monroe 2 Oct; last Paris 23 Oct.

**Vesper Sparrow:** max 3 Pompey 19 Sep; last Paris 20 Oct.

**Savannah Sparrow:** max 9 Pompey 20 Sep; last Fabius 18 Nov.

**HENSLOW'S SPARROW:** 1 Hastings 4 Oct, first fall report since 1972 (BP).

**Fox Sparrow:** arr West Monroe 9 Oct; max 6 Verona 19 Oct; last Paris 19 Nov.

**Song Sparrow:** max 55 West Monroe 2 Oct.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr Hastings 22 Sep; only 4 reports.

**Swamp Sparrow:** max 30 West Monroe 2 Oct, last WPd 4 Nov.

**White-throated Sparrow:** widespread 24 Sep - 11 Oct; max 150 Rome 9 Oct.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr DL 29 Sep; max 14 West Monroe 12 Oct.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 200 Pompey 1 Nov.

**Lapland Longspur:** 1 DL 31 Oct, only report.

**Snow Bunting:** arr 8 FH 26 Oct; max 96 FH 8 Nov.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 4 New Hartford 10 Sep.

**Indigo Bunting:** max 3 West Monroe 24 Sep; last there 2 Oct.

**E. Meadowlark:** max 10 Fulton 27 Sep; 1 Mexico 23 Nov.

**Rusty Blackbird:** arr CM and West Monroe 24 Sep, max 133 CM 15 Oct.

**Com. Grackle:** max 600 Hastings 1 Oct; 1 Boylston feeder 29 Nov, unusual.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** imm Stillwater Inn HERK 29 Nov.

**Baltimore Oriole:** singles Camillus 3 Sep and N Syr 10 Sep.

**Pine Grosbeak:** arr Beaver River Station 9 Nov; max 12 Remsen 19 Nov.

**Purple Finch:** max 17 West Monroe 9 Oct.

**Red Crossbill:** max 7 Verona 13 Nov.

**White-winged Crossbill:** arr DH 21 Oct; max 40 Camillus 1 Nov; all other reports were of 7 or less.

**Com. Redpoll:** arr 5 FH 26 Oct; max 60 DH 11 Nov; many flocks of 30-60 reported, usually on the move.

**Pine Siskin:** arr Kirkland 9 Oct; max 30 SVB 24 Oct.

**Evening Grosbeak:** arr LOL 13 Oct; max 70 Boylston 9 Nov; widespread but nomadic.

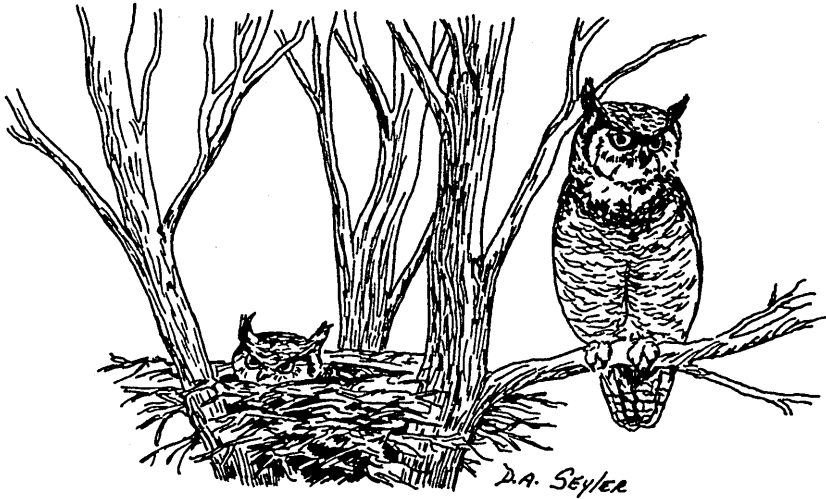
**EXOTICS**

**Ruddy Shelduck:** 4 near Long I on Oneil  
24 Sep.

**Addendum:** Kentucky Warbler - 1  
Labrador Hollow Unique Area 23 May  
1997.

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## REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

P.O. Box 139, Henderson NY 13650-0139

Fall of 1997 was a mixed bag of weather conditions with September bringing rainy, foggy and overcast days with a few sunny ones and mid 50 degree temperatures. The first snow and ice pellets fell in the AM on 1 October, with beautiful and warm days to follow. Temperatures rose into the 50s and 60s until 9 October when it was 79 degrees in Watertown. Sunny days and blue skies followed until 20 October when cool and overcast weather occurred daily until 22 October. Montague in Lewis Co. on Tug Hill recorded a 7 inch snowfall on 22 October, and the Adirondacks at Star Lake recorded 2 inches of snow the same day. On 23 October, Osceola in Lewis Co. received 8 inches of snow overnight followed that day by a mix of rain, snow, sunny skies and then more snow. The rest of the month was mainly overcast with rain. November saw the rain and overcast conditions continue until 14 November when the low was 14 °F at Henderson at 8 am and about 7 inches of snow fell for the day. Then back into the rain and overcast syndrome, with a few colder spells and a low of -7 ° at Highmarket in Lewis Co. on 25 November. On 26 November, a high of 45 degrees was experienced at 7 AM and then back to overcast with rain or snow until the end of the month.

The migration was speedy for many breeding species, but slow for the winter visitors, such as Rough-legged Hawk and Snowy Owl, to arrive. *Microtus* numbers were variable at the usual raptor concentration areas. Some late hangers-on were evident, such as Turkey Vulture, N. Flicker, and E. Bluebird. Some observers felt some species, such as the diving ducks and all woodpeckers away from feeders, were in low numbers. Shorebirds provided some excellent viewing, particularly at a newly constructed private marsh near Chaumont where many observers concentrated their efforts. There were some early indications of a winter finch year, at least compared to the miserable showing of last year. However the finches could not be located consistently and may have been just moving through to points south.

Highlights for the season include the following: large numbers of Tundra Swans; an immature Peregrine carrying a still struggling, probable Willet, which would be a record late date for Willet, if a positive identification had been made; the observation of Gray Partridge at a former location - Pt. Peninsula - and in good numbers; an **American Golden-Plover**; Purple Sandpiper after a long absence at Eldorado Beach Preserve; a **Red Phalarope**, a **Franklin's Gull**; outstanding numbers of Common Terns preparing to migrate; a N. Saw-whet Owl released back to the wild; Com. Ravens all over the Region; return of a **Carolina Wren** to the Kelsey Creek area in Watertown; a few Bohemian Waxwings to make one start to check out any waxwing flocks; Pine Grosbeaks

on the Lake Plain and on Tug Hill; White-winged Crossbills early in Sept on the Lake Plain; large flocks of Common Redpolls and a **Hoary Redpoll**.

**Contributors:** Marilyn Badger, Richard and Marion Brouse, Matt Brown, Shelia Cerwonka, Lee Chamberlaine, Robert Helmetsie, Bettye Hughes, Nick Leone, Deborah Litwhiler, Gene and Pearl McGory, Frank Mueller, Gerry Smith, Mary and Brian Wood.

**Abbreviations:** CV- Cape Vincent; ED- Eldorado Beach, Twn Ellisburg, JEFF; Hen- Henderson; KC - Kelsey Creek, Watertown; PRWMA - Perch River Wildlife Management Area, JEFF; PtPen - Point Peninsula, Twn Lyme, JEFF; SLR - St. Lawrence River; SP- State Park; SnPt- Snowshoe Point, Twn Henderson, JEFF; Twn - Township; WBSP- Wescott Beach State Park, Twn Henderson, JEFF; WHWMA- Wilson Hill WMA, Twn Lousiville, STLA; WM - Wiseman Marsh, Case Rd, Twn Lyme, JEFF.

### LOONS-DUCKS

**Red-throated Loon:** 1 Black Pd WMA 15 Nov (GS).

**Com. Loon:** 2 Wilson's Bay 24 Oct; in lower numbers than usual.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** 4 imm WM 1 Sep; 1 French Creek WMA 19 Sep.

**Horned Grebe:** 4 Sawyer's Bay Twn Hen 17 Oct; 15 Sawyer's Bay Twn Hen 4 Nov; 20 PtPen 16 Nov; 2 Pillar Pt 29 Nov.

**Red-necked Grebe:** 1 PtPen village 24 Oct (GS); 1 ED 28 Oct (MBr); 1 Sawyer's Bay 28 Oct (GM); 2 ED 1 Nov (GS); 1 Pt Salubrious 3 Nov; 1 PtPen 29 Nov (RB).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 1 Beaver Meadow, Watertown 28 Sep; 1 Black River Bay 13 Nov.

**Am. Bittern:** 2 WM 1 Sep; 1 WM 6 Sep.

**Great Blue Heron:** 1 Adams 15 Nov; 1 PtPen 29 Nov.

**Great Egret:** 2 Massena 1 Sep.

**Green Heron:** 1 WM 1 Sep.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 1 Beaver Meadow 27 Sep; 3 Beaver Meadow, Watertown 28 Sep; two Beaver Meadow 19 Oct.

**Turkey Vulture:** 47 WBSP Overlook 11 Oct; 25 WBSP Overlook 16 Oct; 1 Hen 20 Oct; 2 Adams 23 Oct; 2 PtPen 19 Nov.

**Snow Goose:** 1 with Canada's Lakeview WMA 16 Sep; 1 PRWMA 29 Oct; 11 Sackets Harbor 9 Nov; max 60 Lorraine 9 Nov.

**Brant:** moving thru 3 flocks appx 200 25 Oct (fide Louie Cook); 1 ED 30 Oct.

**Tundra Swan:** 12 Three Mile Pt, Twn Lyme, JEFF 7 Nov; 7 ED 8 Nov; 6 PtPen 10 Nov; 16 PtPen 12 Nov; 18 PtPen 16 Nov.

**Am. Black Duck:** 100+ with Mallards in field Hen 20 Nov.

**Mallard:** 400+ in field Hen 20 Nov.

**Blue-winged Teal:** 20 WM 10 Nov.

**N. Shoveler:** max 24 WM 15 Sep.

**Redhead:** max 150+ WHWMA, STLA 8 Nov.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 56+ PRWMA 30 Sep.

**Greater Scaup:** arr 8 PtPen 27 Oct; 500 Pillar Pt 4 Nov; 65 SLR Ogdensburg 8 Nov; 900+ Black River Bay, Sackets Harbor 9 Nov; max approx 10,000 Pillar Pt 29 Nov.

**KING EIDER:** 1 imm male ED 22 Nov (GS).

**White-winged Scoter:** arr 30 SnPt 27 Oct; 1 ED 30 Oct; 1 Colwell Pd, Lakeview WMA 13 Nov.

**Black Scoter:** 1 ad m Sackets Harbor 9 Nov.

**Oldsquaw:** arr 40 PtPen 27 Oct; 15 ED 30 Oct; 15 Sawyer's Bay 15 Nov.

**Bufflehead:** arr 30 PtPen 25 Oct; 6 ED 30 Oct.

**Com. Goldeneye:** arr 1 SnPt 27 Oct.

**Hooded Merganser:** max 200+ WHWMA 8 Nov; 20 Crystal Lk Twn Hen 13 Nov; 10 PtPen 24 Nov.

**Com. Merganser:** 100 Sawyer's Bay Hen 22 Oct.

### HAWKS-ALCIDS



**Osprey:** 1 ED 14 Sep; 2 ED 16 Sep.  
**Bald Eagle:** 1 imm Lakeview WMA, Colwell Hill 4 Sep; 1 first year bird Lakeview WMA 16 Sep; 1 imm Ray's Bay, Tw'n Hen 4 Oct; 1 imm Lakeview WMA 19 Oct; 1 juv WBSP Overlook 11 Oct; 1 imm Alder Acres, Tw'n Lorraine, Tug Hill 20 Nov (DL).  
**N. Harrier:** 10 Lakeview WMA, Colwell Hill 16 Sep; 15 PtPen 18 Sep; 7 PtPen 24 Sep.  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 21 ED 8 Sep; 2 ED 14 Sep; 1 Hen, a regular visitor to feeders - caught Am. Goldfinch 12 Nov.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** 3 ED 16 Sep; 1 Hen 21 Nov.  
**N. Goshawk:** 1 Stony Pt, Tw'n Hen, Wehle Property 11 Nov; 1 imm Sawyer's Bay 20 Nov.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 3 Tw'n CV 5 Oct; 1 imm WBSP Overlook 11 Oct.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** 216 in group Lakeview WMA, Colwell Hill 16 Sep; 1 ad being harassed by pair of ravens JEFF-LEWI Co. Line 23 Sep.  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** 22 ED 8 Sep; 21 ED 16 Sep; 21 WBSP Overlook 11 Oct; 25 WBSP Overlook 16 Oct; 12 WBSP Overlook 7 Nov; 9 PtPen 18 Nov; 11 PtPen 28 Nov.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** arr 1 Tw'n CV 6 Oct; 7 PtPen 18 Nov; 10 PtPen 28 Nov.  
**Am. Kestrel:** singles in Sep and Oct; 5 together CV 9 Oct; 3 PtPen 24 Nov; in low numbers.  
**Merlin:** 1 Lakeview WMA, Colwell Hill 16 Sep; 1 PtPen 26 Sep; 2 (1 ad & 1 imm) ED courting and playing 29 Sep; 1 NY Rt 3, Tw'n Piercefield, STLA 30 Sep; 1 in yard Potsdam 8 Oct; 1 Ray's Bay Tw'n Hen 4 Oct; 1 Town Barn Rd, Tw'n Hen 16 Nov.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** 1 ED chasing a Redtail 8 Sep; 1 imm ED 26 Sep; 1 WM 3 Oct (NL&BH); one Ray's Bay Tw'n Hen 4 Oct; 1 imm carrying struggling prey, a probable Willet, Pillar Pt 3 Nov (GS).  
**Gray Partridge:** 12 Tw'n CV 9 Oct; 16 Tw'n CV 12 Oct; 6 PtPen 12 Nov (GS) - not seen here in some years; 6 Mason Rd Tw'n CV 18 Nov.  
**Ruffed Grouse:** 4 Tug Hill WMA 22 Sep.  
**Wild Turkey:** 18 (3 ad with mixed age young) Gardner Rd Tw'n Montague LEWI 22 Sep; 43<sup>+</sup> Lorraine 9 Nov.

**Com. Moorhen:** 5 Wilson's Bay Marsh 16 Sep.  
**Am. Coot:** 14 PRWMA 24 Oct; 19 Chaumont 25 Oct; 39 SLR, Ogdensburg 8 Nov.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** 1 ad breeding plumage ED 13 Sep; 4 ED 26 Sep; max 5 ED 13 Oct.  
**AM. GOLDEN-PLOVER:** 1 ED 29 Sep (GS).  
**Semipalmated Plover:** 6 WM 4 Sep; 4 ED 17 Sep.  
**Killdeer:** 3 ED 3 Sep; 1 Sawyer's Bay 15 Nov.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** 5 WM 27 Sep; 2 Chaumont 16 Nov.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 8 WM 1 Sep; 3 ED 3 Sep; 1 WM 1 Oct.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** 2 ED 3 Sep.  
**Sanderling:** 25 ED 7 Sep; max 30 ED 21 Sep; 25 ED 26 Sep.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 30 WM 1 Sep; 20 WM 4 Sep; 17 ED 17 Sep.  
**Western Sandpiper:** 1 WM 7 Sep.  
**Least Sandpiper:** 1 WM 4 Sep.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 1 WM 2 Oct; 6 ED 28 Oct; 1 ED 30 Oct.  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** 1 ED 3 Sep.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** max 16 WM 16 Oct - a hard species to find in fall in this Region.  
**Purple Sandpiper:** 1 ED 28 Oct (Mbr), absent from this location for at least five years, used to be a regular there.  
**Dunlin:** 1 WM 15 Sep; 18 WM 15 Oct; max 100 ED 28 Oct; 1 Black Pd outlet ED 25 Nov (GS).  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** 2 WM 15 Sep.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 7 WM 1 Sep; 1 WM 4 Sep.  
**Com. Snipe:** 7 Calcium Pd 19 Oct; 1 Chaumont 16 Nov.  
**Am. Woodcock:** 1 in backyard in Hen village 13 Sep.  
**RED PHALAROPE:** 1 ED 23 Oct (GS).  
**FRANKLIN'S GULL:** 1 first winter plumage Southwick Beach SP 18 Oct (GS).  
**Little Gull:** 1 PtPen village 24 Oct (GS).  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** 75 Southwick Beach SP 3 Sep; max 96 ED 12 Sep; 14 Sawyer's Bay 22 Oct; 28 Sawyer's Bay 15 Nov.  
**Caspian Tern:** 1 over Hen village 6 Sep.  
**Com. Tern:** max approx 500 feeding ED 3

Sep (NL&BH); 17 ED 8 Sep.

**Black Tern:** 3 Southwick Beach SP 3 Sep.

#### DOVES-WOODPECKERS

**Mourning Dove:** had a good nesting year, large flocks everywhere; 80 in flock CV 11 Nov.

**E. Screech-Owl:** 1 calling Hen 13 Sep; 2 heard CV village 23 Sep; 1 Twn CV 15 Nov.

**Great Horned Owl:** 2 Twn CV 15 Nov.

**Snowy Owl:** arr CV 28 Nov, later than normal.

**Barred Owl:** 1 Potsdam 29 Nov (SC); 1 Louisville STLA thru.

**Short-eared Owl:** 3 on back rds CV 15 Nov.

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** 1 Barnes Corners 20 Nov (GS), hit window while attempting to catch Deer Mouse (mouse tracks seen on porch next day), released none the worse.

**Com. Nighthawk:** 1 over CV village 4 Sep; 1 CV 7 Sep; 1 Twn CV 27 Sep.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** max 8 PtPen 18 Sep; 1 Hen 29 Sep.

**Belted Kingfisher:** 1 Wilson Bay Marsh 22 Sep.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 1 imm PtPen 26 Sep (NL&BH).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** 1 male Twn CV 3 Sep; 1 female KC 22 Nov thru (RB); 1 Hen thru.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 1 Twn CV 3 Oct.

**N. Flicker:** 1 Sackets Harbor 13 Nov.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** 1 Hen 11, 13 Sep; pair around freshly worked nest-hole Smithville, JEFF 20 Nov.

#### FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

**E. Phoebe:** 4 Pt Salubrious 5 Oct.

**N. Shrike:** 1 ad Twn CV 3 Nov; 1 Adams 9 Nov; 1 Rodman 25 Nov; 1 PtPen 28 Nov.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** 1 Lakeview WMA 6 Oct; moving thru Hen 11 Oct.

**Warbling Vireo:** 1 singing Hen 7 Sep; 1 singing Hen 10 Sep.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** 1 CV 8 Sep.

**Blue Jay:** 6-700 moving along Lake Ontario shoreline, Ray's Bay Twn Hen 4 Oct (GM).

**Am. Crow:** 300<sup>+</sup> Twn Hounsfeld JEFF 17 Nov; 3-500 at roost on I-81 near Watertown 30 Nov.

**Com. Raven:** 2 Nash Rd Twn Ellisburg 3 Sep; 1 ED 21 Sep; 1 Sixberry Lk Twn Theresa JEFF 21 Sep; 2 NY 177 LEWI 22 Sep; 1 Southwick Beach SP 27 Sep; 1 Potsdam village 6 Nov; 2 Stony Pt, Wehle Property 11 Nov; 1 McKeever Rd Twn CV being harassed by and harassing two N. Harriers 24 Nov; 1 S. Hammond STLA 26 Nov.

**Horned Lark:** 50 CV 15 Nov; max est 100 Outer Massey St Watertown 29 Nov.

**Tree Swallow:** 600<sup>+</sup> Pt Pen 24 Sep; max 4-5000 PtPen 26 Sep; 200<sup>+</sup> Twn CV 12 Oct; 7 near Wilson's Bay 31 Oct.

**Bar Swallow:** 200<sup>+</sup> total ED moving south in small groups 8 Sep.

**Tufted Titmouse:** pair at feeder CV village 18 Oct thru (MW); 1 KC 31 Oct, 2-5 Nov (RB); 1 Sawyer's Bay 20 Nov (fide GM); 2 Louisville STLA 28 Nov; pair Massena 30 Nov (MB).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 4-6 daily at feeder early Sep; 1 Hen 9 Sep; 1 CV village 22 Oct; tough to find in Nov.

**Brown Creeper:** 1 Twn CV 3 Sep; daily at feeder CV thru Oct; 1 yard CV 11 Nov; in low numbers.

**CAROLINA WREN:** 1 KC 21 Oct thru (RB).

**House Wren:** 1 Twn CV 10 Oct.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 20 back rds Twn CV 2 Oct.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 10 back rds Twn CV 2 Oct; moving thru Hen 10 Oct.

**Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher:** 1 CV yard 3 Sep.

**E. Bluebird:** 4 Wellesley I SP 2 Oct; 3 Hen 15 Oct; 6 males feeding on Multiflora Rose near Adams 19 Nov; 3 males Twn Rossie STLA 26 Nov.

**Swainson's Thrush:** 1 Twn CV 8 Oct.

**Hermit Thrush:** 1 Pt Pen 16 Nov.

**Am. Robin:** 1 male feeding imm CV yard 16 Sep.

**European Starling:** many large flocks thru.

**Am. Pipit:** 2 Twn CV 1 Sep; 15 WM 2 Sep; 5 Twn Cv 18 Oct; 100<sup>+</sup> PtPen early Nov (mob).

**BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS:** 5 with Cedar Waxwings Wilson's Bay 6 Nov (FM); 3 PtPen 16 Nov (mob).

**Cedar Waxwing:** 8 Hen 2 Nov; max 40 Wilson's Bay 6 Nov; 8 Hen 19 Nov; 5 Hen 20 Nov; 14 Hen 21 Nov, in low numbers.

## WARBLERS

**Nashville Warbler:** 5 back rds CV 1 Oct.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** 1 CV 3, 8 Sep; 1 KC 8 Sep.  
**Cape May Warbler:** 1 CV 28 Sep.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 10 CV 8 Sep; 1 KC 23 Sep.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 20 CV 8 Sep; heavy movement thru Hen 11 Oct; 6 Hen 2 Nov.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** 6 CV 3 Sep.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** 1 CV 3 Sep; 1 KC 8 Sep.  
**Pine Warbler:** 1 Sixberry Lk Twn Theresa JEFF 21 Sep.  
**Palm Warbler:** 1 CV 3 Sep.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** 1 CV yard 3 Sep.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** 3 CV 8 Sep.  
**Am. Redstart:** 10 CV 18 Sep.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** 1 CV on 4 Sep; 1 CV 8 Sep.

## TANAGERS- WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** 2 CV 8 Sep; last 2 PtPen 18 Sep.  
**E. Towhee:** 1 Limerick Cedars, Twn Lyme JEFF 5 Oct.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr Hen 7 Nov; 11 Wellesley I SP 21 Oct; increasing in Oct then decreasing in Nov.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** 1 Hen 22 Oct; 1 KC 5 Nov (RB), late.  
**Field Sparrow:** 2 CV 22 Sep.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** 1 CV 2 Sep; 1 WM 6 Sep; 1 Town Barn Rd Twn Hen 19 Nov.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** 6 WM 1 Sep; 2 WM 27 Sep.  
**Fox Sparrow:** 1 Potsdam 11 Oct; 1 KC 21 Oct; 1 Alder Acres, Twn Lorraine, Tug Hill, JEFF, 25 Oct.  
**Song Sparrow:** 6 CV 21 Oct; 1 CV 24 Oct; 1 Hen 25 Oct; 3 Hen 7 Nov.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** 4 CV 16 Sep; moving thru Hen 19 Sep; 1 CV 2 Nov.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** 1 CV 12 Oct; 4 CV 25 Oct; 1 CV 1 Nov; moved thru

rapidly.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** arr CV 16 Sep; 1 *Oregon*-type fem ED 5 Oct (BH); 40 at feeders CV 21 Oct.  
**Lapland Longspur:** 4 CV 16 Nov; 4 Mason Rd Twn CV 18 Nov.  
**Snow Bunting:** arr 14 Twn CV 25 Oct; 200+ Hen 19 Nov.  
**Bobolink:** 2 WM 1 Sep.  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** 4000<sup>+</sup> Valley Rd Twn CV 25 Oct.  
**E. Meadowlark:** 1 CV 15 Nov; 2 PtPen 18 Nov.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** 45 KC 7 Oct; 6 CV 8 Oct; 24 Calcium 19 Oct.  
**Com. Grackle:** 1 PtPen 16 Nov (mob); 1 KC 25 Nov.  
**Brown-headed Cowbird:** 100 in a group, mostly imm CV 5 Sep; 25 PtPen 16 Nov (mob); 7 PtPen 24 Nov.  
**Pine Grosbeak:** 2 juv Barnes Corners 30 Oct; 4 ad Hen 11 Nov; 4 Hen 24 Nov; 24 Twn Worth, JEFF Tug Hill 30 Nov.  
**Purple Finch:** 3 (2f & 1m) CV feeder 26 Oct; hard to find in Nov.  
**House Finch:** 40-50 CV feeder 26 Oct, 3 with eye disease.  
**White-winged Crossbill:** 1 or 2 feeding on Juniper (Red Cedar) berries ED 8 Sep (LC); 1 fem at feeder CV village 22-25 Oct (MW).  
**Com. Redpoll:** 1 at feeder KC 8 Nov; first large flock 100<sup>+</sup> Pt Pen 10 Nov; 120 PtPen 12 Nov; 200 back rds CV 16 Nov; 300 Mason Rd Twn CV 24 Nov.  
**HOARY REDPOLL:** 1 PtPen 26 Nov (MW).  
**Pine Siskin:** 1 Hen feeder 9 Sep; 3 Hen 14 Oct; 12 Hen feeder 21 Oct; 12 CV feeder 26, 27 Oct; 10 CV feeder 6 Nov, decreasing thru.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** two Barnes Corners, LEWI 26 Sep; 3 Hen 12 Oct; 22 Hen 14 Oct; 50-60 CV 29 Oct; 150 Barnes Corners 1 Nov; 60<sup>+</sup> No. Osceola LEWI 9 Nov.

## REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M.C. PETERSON

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Despite snow on Whiteface Mountain by 4 September, early autumn was rather pleasant, or extremely dry, depending upon one's outlook. September saw little rain and the High Peaks were again snow-covered on 1 October, while by 23 October Inlet and Lake Placid had 4 inches of snow on the ground. A warm front pushed Plattsburgh thermometers to 61°F on 1 November, with welcome two-day rains across the Region. A 5.0 Richter Scale earthquake with its epicenter at Quebec City shook things up on 6 November. Another 2 inches of rain fell on 9 November, pushing monthly totals 1.5 inches above normal, and seasonal brooks began to flow. By 25 November, however, Inlet dropped to 5°F and Limekiln Lake froze, and this was followed by a memorable 16" Thanksgiving snowfall, ending the season with a blanket of white.

Early indications suggested a winter invasion by a host of boreal birds. Northern waterfowl arrivals included Horned Grebe at Cumberland Head 19 October, Red-necked Grebe at Little Tupper Lake 4 October, Snow Goose at Plattsburgh 27 September, **Ross's Goose** at Point au Roche 15 October, Brant at Limekiln Lake 24 October, Common Goldeneye at Indian Lake, FRAN, 13 November, and Barrow's Goldeneye at Ausable Point 20 November. Northern passerines included Northern Shrike at Speculator 31 October, American Tree Sparrow at Owls Head 22 October, Snow Bunting at Essex 26 October, Pine Grosbeak at Inlet 3 November, Common Redpoll at Saranac Lake 25 October, and Hoary Redpoll at Owls Head by 10 November. All winter finches except Purple Finch were present in good numbers, with Evening Grosbeaks the most numerous in recent years. However, American Goldfinch numbers declined as the season progressed.

Thanks to field trip leader Pat Thaxton, her team of High Peaks Audubon guides, and the excellent birders from all over the state, the 12-14 September Federation meeting at Lake Placid yielded some fine Adirondack birds: two Bald Eagles - one attacked by a Merlin - at Spitfire Lake, Black-backed Woodpeckers at Paul Smiths and South Meadow, ubiquitous Common Ravens, Gray Jays at Bloomingdale and Spring Pond Bogs, Boreal Chickadees at the same bogs and on Whiteface, and American Pipit and Lincoln's Sparrow at Bloomingdale Bog.

A Dark-eyed Junco, banded near Louisa, VA, 23 Nov 1996, struck a window at Lake Clear, FRAN, on 22 October. The bander was none other than Federation Papers Session chairman Wesley Lanyon, who reports that this is the first recovery from more than a thousand birds banded in west-central Virginia since the fall of '94. Bud adds, "We're not on a well-defined flyway here, and I hadn't really expected that any would be intercepted elsewhere." Our thanks to Joanne Manning of Lake Clear for her prompt report.

In addition to the **Ross's Goose** that lingered at Point au Roche 15-18 October, rarities included a **Eurasian Wigeon** at Wilcox Dock near Plattsburgh 1 November, a **Whimbrel** at Chazy Rivers 4 September, two **Hudsonian Godwits** at King's Bay 1-4 November, a **Parasitic Jaeger** at Westport 7-8 November, an adult **Black-headed Gull** at Ausable Point 18 November, and a 2nd-winter **Thayer's Gull** (!) at Ausable Point 28 September. Add to these a Great Egret, the drake Barrow's Goldeneye, a Spruce Grouse, at least four Little Gulls, plus a couple of Hoary Redpolls, and one finds that this was a memorable fall season.

Surprisingly, the total of 17 shorebird species was lower than the 22 found during last year's high water, and even below the 18 species of the drought of '95. Similarly, the overall species count was a relatively low 176, well below the seasonal record of 192 established last autumn, or the previous record of 186 set the prior year. But we found some good boreal birds for Federation visitors, a few Regional rarities, and could look forward to an El Niño winter of invasive Canadian birds.

Our warmest congratulations to authors Bill Krueger and Charlie Mitchell on the appearance of their monumental *Birds of Clinton County*, Second Edition (1997), just published by High Peaks Audubon Society, Inc. This is a successor to the 1979 *Birds of Clinton County* by Philip H. Warren. Special thanks go to Publications Chairman and editor John Thaxton for his encouragement, diligence, and care in seeing this long-awaited and much needed work through the press. Finally, we offer congratulations to Rich MacDonald of Upper Jay upon his appointment as editor of *High Peaks Audubon Newsletter*, a vital link to Regional birders for the past quarter-century.

**Contributors:** Ethel & Tom Baker, William Brown, Mary Buehler, Joan Clark, Jess Darney, Charlcie Delehanty, Tom Dudones, Claire DuRoss, Bernard Duso, Federation field trips, Bill Frenette, Susie Frenette, Mark Gretch, Bea Guyett, Judy & Roger Heintz, Al Hicks, Anne Hungerford, Selma Isil, Paul Kelly, Bill Krueger, Wesley Lanyon, Julie Latrelle, Gary Lee, Richard MacDonald, Theodore Mack, Joanne Manning, Dave McMahon, Charles Mitchell, Sean O'Brien, John Parke, John & Susan Peterson, Frederick Pratt, George Roberts, Dave Russell, Nina Schoch, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dean Spaulding, Trisha Spaulding, Patricia Tarkowski, John & Pat Thaxton, Mary Thill, Jan Trzeciak, Gary Worthington.

**Abbreviations:** AP - Ausable Point WMA; BB - Bloomingdale Bog; CR - between the Chazy & Little Chazy Rivers; CH - Cumberland Head; IL - Indian Lake (FRAN); Kg - King's Bay; PtR - Point au Roche SP; SPB - Spring Pond Bog; TL - Tupper Lake.

#### LOONS-DUCKS

**Red-throated Loon:** CH 15 Sep (NO); IL 30-31 Oct (JT), scarce here.

**Com. Loon:** max 35 CH 20 Oct (BK).

**Horned Grebe:** max 14 CH 19 Oct (BK).  
**Red-necked Grebe:** Little TL 4 Oct (CD); PtR 15 Oct; Wilcox Dock 16 Oct; max 5 IL 30 Oct (JT); AP 1 Nov, a good showing.  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 70 Willsboro Bay 1 Nov (TD), late for so many.  
**Great Blue Heron:** CR & Valcour 30 Nov, fairly late.  
**Great Egret:** Barber Pond, ESSE 5 Sep (BD)-8 Sep (JP,J&PT).  
**Snow Goose:** 1 arr Plattsburgh 27 Sep (RM,JP); reported max 3,000 (+ 25 "Blue" Geese) PtR 1 Nov (TD); many neck collars again read & reported.  
**ROSS'S GOOSE:** ad PtR 15 Oct (BK) to 18 Oct (J&RH,BK).  
**Canada Goose:** max 1,000 Westport 25 Oct (JP,J&PT); neck collars TL & Westport.  
**Brant:** 30 Limekiln L 24 Oct (GL); TL 26 Oct-10 Nov (CDr); Mirror L 11-16 Nov (RM,NS), an excellent showing.  
**EURASIAN WIGEON:** Wilcox Dock 1 Nov (J&RH), an outstanding find.  
**Green-winged Teal:** 4 SLHS 23 Oct; hen PtR 1 Nov (TD), rarely reported.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** St. Regis L 13 Sep, prob local; arr Hadley Pd 27 Sep (RM,JP), early ESSE transients.  
**Surf Scoter:** 2 Snug Harbor marina 18 Nov (BK,CM), only report.  
**White-winged Scoter:** 3 CH 20 Oct; Plattsburgh 23 Oct; AP 29 Oct; TL 9 Nov (CD), where more unexpected.  
**Black Scoter:** drake IL 25 Oct (JT), a good find.  
**Oldsquaw:** max 47 Plattsburgh 6 Nov; 4 IL 6 Nov (JT) and Deer R Flow 11 Nov (TD,RH,TM), less expected locations.  
**Bufflehead:** arr 13 Mountain View L 22 Oct (JT).  
**Com. Goldebeeye:** arr Indian Lake FRAN 13 Nov.  
**Barrow's Goldeneye:** arr drake AP 20-30 Nov (BK,CM).  
**Hooded Merganser:** drake L Arnold (3,772' elev.) 7 Oct (NO), highly noteworthy; max 110 IL and Mt View L 4 Nov (JT).  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** Mooney Bay 27 Sep (J&RH), early CLIN by 35 Days.  
**RUDDY DUCK:** hen Westport 23 Nov (TM,SO,JP,DS) and 24 Nov (WB,RM), 4th ESSE record and new late date.

#### HAWKS-ALCIDS

**Bald Eagle:** 2 Spitfire L 13 Sep; Middle Saranac L 21 Sep; ad TL 23 Oct, 9 Nov; Westport 8 Nov; ad SL 12 Nov, typical of recent years.  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** killed Com. Grackle Speculator 6 Sep (PK).  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** arr Northway exit 38 12 Nov (BK).  
**Merlin:** CR 5 Sep; NCCC Pd 5 Sep; attacking Bald Eagle Spitfire L 13 Sep; ad Wilcox Dock 14 Sep; CH 4 Nov; North Farm Rd. CLIN 22 Nov, a good showing.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** CR 21 Sep; ad TL 29 Sep, less common than previous species.  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** 1,414 reared John White Game Farm near Buffalo released by NYS DEC in Region 7 (476 CLIN, 469 ESSE, and 469 FRAN), but only 3 reported from Essex & PtR.  
**Spruce Grouse:** 1 Kildare, FRAN 14 Sep (BF), only solid sighting.  
**Wild Turkey:** max 18 Limekiln Rd 8 Sep; hen TL 23 Oct; 5 Blue Mountain Lake 28 Oct; 15 Speculator by late Nov, but none from Champlain or St. Lawrence lowlands.  
**Com. Moorhen:** AP 30 Sep (BK,CM), only report.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** Plattsburgh 29 Oct; KB 2 Nov, good finds.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** 20 CR 21 Sep (BK,CM), only report.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** AP 16 Sep; 2 KB 18 Sep, scarce.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** 5 Limekiln L 3 Sep (TD); 6 at 7th L 30 Oct (GL), unexpected; usual reports from AP & CH.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 6 7th L 30 Oct (GL), first HAMI; usual KB & Plattsburgh area sightings.  
**WHIMBREL:** CR 4 Sep (BK,CM), observed 30 min. at 50-300' and 60x, also heard.  
**HUDSONIAN GODWIT:** 2 n. shore KB 1 Nov (TD) - 4 Nov (BK,CM), excellent find.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** AP 1 Nov (TM,SO), late.  
**Western Sandpiper:** AP 1 Nov (TD), rarely reported.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 2 KB 1 Nov (TD) - 8 Nov (J&RH); max 6 KB 4 Nov (BK).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** max 8 KB 27 Sep (BK,CM); Plattsburgh 2 Nov, late.

**Dunlin:** max 25 KB 1 Nov (TD), where present 27 Sep-8 Nov; also PtR 17-18 Oct.

**Am. Woodcock:** near top Weston Mt 10 Oct (J&PT), highly unexpected.

**PARASITIC JAEGER:** dark form main lake Westport 7 Nov (BG,JP,FP,J&PT) - 8 Nov (RM), 3rd ESSE record and new late date.

**Little Gull:** imm Westport 5 Nov; ad Westport 7 Nov (GW); ad AP 18 Nov (BK,CM); ad & imm AP 22 Nov (GW), an outstanding showing here.

**BLACK-HEADED GULL:** ad AP 18 Nov (BK), 1st CLIN and 2nd Regional record.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 100 Westport 8 Nov.

**THAYER'S GULL:** 2nd winter AP 28 Sep (J&RH!).

**Com. Tern:** TL park ballfield 28 Oct (TD), highly unusual.

#### PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

**Black-backed Woodpecker:** South Meadow 12 Sep (MG); Paul Smiths 13 Sep (J&RH,R&SS), only reports.

**N. Flicker:** Perkin's Clearing, HAMI 7 Dec (WB,AH,RM), late for interior.

#### FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

**N. Shrike:** arr imm Speculator 31 Oct (PM); Monty Bay 11 Nov; killed Am. Robin MRRA 13 Nov.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** TL 22 Sep (CD), only report.

**Gray Jay:** 3-4 BB 14-15 Sep (WL,R&SS); 4 SPB 14 Sep (R&SS); pr Lost Pds, HAMI 4 Oct; Raquette L feeder 5 Nov (GL).

**Com. Raven:** ubiquitous FNYSSBC meeting fly trips 12-14 Sep.

**Horned Lark:** arr TL 12 Nov (CD); 5 Heart Lake Rd 21 Nov (J&PT), where also unusual.

**Boreal Chickadee:** BB, Mt. Colden (4,200'), Red R. Slide Brook trail, Phelps trail, Lower WolfJaw, Upper Wolfjaw, Orebed Brook, Armstrong, SPB, Whiteface, an excellent showing.

**Tufted Titmouse:** max 5 Crown Point feeder; other reports from AP,

Elizabethtown, Plattsburgh, TL, and Westport, more than usual.

**Carolina Wren:** singing Westport 1 Nov.

**House Wren:** Speculator 9 Oct (PK), late for HAMI.

**Veery:** Silver L Bog 4 Oct (BK,CM), late CLIN by 36 days.

**Am. Pipit:** arr BB 14 Sep (WL); max 20 SLHS 25 Oct (TD)

#### WARBLERS

**Pine Warbler:** AP 30 Sep (BK,CM), ties CLIN late date; (max 100 NCCC Pd 2 Oct (TD); last TL 3 Oct (CD).

**Palm Warbler:** 2 BB 13 Sep (R&SS); TL 3 Oct (CD), only reports.

**Ovenbird:** Hurricane Mt 10 Oct (J&PT), late ESSE.

**Mourning Warbler:** TL 26 Sep (CD), only report.

#### TANAGERS-WEAVERS

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr 6 Owls Head 22 Oct (AH).

**Vesper Sparrow:** 2 Essex 25 Oct (JP,J&PT), only report.

**Fox Sparrow:** arr PtR 27 Sep (J&RH); SLHS 18 Oct; Speculator 19 Oct-5 Nov; "rusty" type SLHS 25 Oct (TD); Heart L Rd 8 Nov.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** BB 13-14 Sep, last reports.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** banded nr Louisa, VA, 23 Nov 96 (WL) struck window Lake Clear, FRAN 22 Oct (JM); max 100 Speculator 25 Oct (PK).

**Snow Bunting:** arr 6 Essex 26 Oct (J&PT); max 300 Wadhams Thanksgiving; subsequent reports Bay Pd, Malone, MRRA, Paul Smiths, Westport.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** ca. 200 uncut cornfield Malone 18 Nov (JT); New Russia 22 Nov, late.

**Rusty Blackbird:** flock Keene Valley 2 Oct (RM,NS); 1 Malone 18 Nov (JT), good finds.

**Com. Grackle:** max 400<sup>+</sup> Speculator 20 Oct (PK); New Russia 13 Nov, late.

**Pine Grosbeak:** arr Inlet feeder 3 Nov (GL); subsequent reports from Auger L, Bloomingdale, Indian L, HAMI, Keene Valley, Malone, Owls Head, Perkin's Clearing, Lake Pleasant, Ray Brook, Valcour, Westport, and Whallonsburg;

reported feeding on highbush cranberry & winterberry.

**Red Crossbill:** SUNY Plattsburgh 21 Oct (J&RH); AP 20 Nov (BK,CM), only reports in spite of bumper white pine cone crop.

**White-winged Crossbill:** 3 Lake Pleasant 12 Nov (PK), only sighting.

**Com. Redpoll:** arr 20 SLHS 25 Oct (TD); arr 50 Mt Jo 26 Oct (WB,RM), early ESSE; other reports Elizabethtown, Hogansburg, Owls Head, Speculator.

**Hoary Redpoll:** arr 1 Owls Head 10 Nov (JT); arr 1 Essex 22 Nov (JP), early ESSE.

**Pine Siskin:** max 20 Keene Valley 10 Oct; only other reports from Elizabethtown and Speculator.

**Am. Goldfinch:** declined as season progressed.

**Evening Grosbeak:** max 100<sup>+</sup> Speculator 1 Nov; plus flocks of 50 Elizabethtown, 20 Keene Valley, 8 Perkin's Clearing, best fall showing in recent years.

#### ADDENDUM

**Pine Siskin:** male banded 22 mi. e. of Keene, ESSE, 18 Apr 97 (RM) found dead Gardiner, MT, 30 Jun 97 (Joan Winters); recovery location is just north of Idaho - Wyoming state lines, for a flight of ca. 2,000 mi. in just over two months. Bull (1974) and Yunick (NABB 1997, 22:1) report previous recoveries of NYS-banded Pine Siskins in Saskatchewan in Jul 1963 and British Columbia on 18 Jan 1994.

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## REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

JANE DENKER GRAVES

133 York Ave, Saratoga Springs NY 12866-2533

As reported from the Albany County Airport, September's mean temperature was 60.6(F, 0.7( below normal, with 52% possible sunshine. October averaged 48(F, 2.2( below normal, with 60% possible sunshine. November averaged 36.6(F, 3( below normal with 44% possible sunshine. September's precipitation totalled 4.10 inches, 1.15 inches above normal. In October it was somewhat drier, with 1.91 inches of rain, 0.92 inches below normal. The first frost occurred on October 18. In November, things got really wet, with 5.91 inches of precipitation, 2.23 inches above normal, with a major snow event occurring on November 14-15, with 8.6 inches falling. From mid October on, there were six consecutive weekends with rain or snow.

The length and quality of reports lead one to suspect that fewer than the usual number of birders were out and about. Some of this may be due to the significant increase in time devoted to the reinvigorated hawkwatch. There certainly are other factors: less birding, less reporting. No major fronts moved through, and no passerine fallouts were noted. Waterbird trends included high numbers of American Wigeon, Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy Duck, and American Coot, as well as good numbers of Black Scoter. There was a major Common Loon fallout on November 8 at Tomhannock Reservoir, with 118 individuals reported. The hawk migration was excellent, with high numbers of Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Goshawk, and Merlin. Bald Eagle reports were down dramatically, but this is more likely a function of non-observation than non-presence of birds. You are reminded that research biologists ask that we report the ages of Bald Eagles. The most exciting trend during the season was the strong indication of a good winter finch flight, particularly for Red and White-winged crossbill, Common Redpoll, and Evening Grosbeak. In all, 210 species were reported, down from last year's high of 221 species. These included 31 species of waterfowl, 14 species of hawks, 8 species of owls, 14 species of shorebirds, and 26 species of warblers.

Once again thanks are due to Bob Kirker for organizing the Camp Pinnacle Hawk Watch. Coverage was significantly increased this fall, in spite of the bad weather. The hawkwatch was staffed daily from August 18 through December 31, for a total of 119 days, 869 hours, and 4544 hawks. Details on specific numbers are in the statistical section of this report.

One great rarity was present during the period. On November 17, Linda Hoyt noticed an unusual-looking woodpecker feeding in her yard in Brant Lake, Town of Horicon, WARR. After some contemplation of a field guide, she identified the bird as a **Lewis's Woodpecker**. She started notifying area birders, and on November 18 her identification was verified by Bill Lee and Bob Kirker.

The bird remained until November 29, when it was observed entering its roosting hole late in the afternoon and was not seen after that date. This is a third state record, following hard on the heels of the appearance of an adult bird in Richfield Springs, OTSE, this past June [*Kingbird* 47:182,307]. The birding community owes a vote of thanks to Harold and Linda Hoyt for their generous hospitality. They allowed birders to park in their driveway and remained friendly throughout the bird's stay. Other unusual birds included Eurasian Wigeon, Barrow's Goldeneye, Barn Owl, Snowy Owl, and Long-eared Owl.

**Contributors:** Ken Able; Elliott Adams; Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC); Kate Beale; Bob Boehm; Beth Bidwell; Brad Bidwell; Carol Budliger; Robert Budliger; Bill Cook; Walter Ellison; Craig Fosdick; Jane Graves; Rich Guthrie; Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN); William Lee; Andy Mason; Nancy Martin; Laura Meade; Frank Murphy; Tom Palmer; Ray Perry; Barbara Putnam; Jim Sotis; Craig Thompson; Alison Van Keuren; Robert Yunick.

**Abbreviations:** AL - Ann Lee Pond, ALBA; BCR - Basic Creek Reservoir, ALBA; BP - Niskayuna Bike Path, SCHE; CL - Collins Lake, SCHE; CPHW - Camp Pinnacle hawk watch, ALBA; FR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FSF - Featherstonhaugh State Forest, SCHE; FtE - Fort Edward area, WASH; FtM - Ft. Miller, WASH; GI - Green Island, ALBA; HP - E.N. Huyck Preserve, ALBA; JL - Jenny Lake, SARA; L7 - Vischer Ferry Power Station/Lock 7, SCHE; ML - Myosotis Lake, ALBA; MR - Mohawk River; NB - New Baltimore, GREE; NRP - Nott Rd. Park, Guilderland, ALBA; PISP - Peebles Island State Park, SARA; SBR - Stone Bridge Rd., SARA; SCA - Schenectady County Airport; SI - Simmons Island, Cohoes, ALBA; SkW - Skidmore College North Woods, SARA; SL - Saratoga Lake, SARA; SNHP - Saratoga National Historic Park, SARA; SPd - Stanton Pond, ALBA; TP - Thacher Park, ALBA; TR - Tomhannock Reservoir, RENS; VF - Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA; WR - Watervliet Reservoir, ALBA.

#### LOONS-DUCKS

**Red-throated Loon:** 1 SL 16 Nov (JG); only report.  
**Com. Loon:** max 118 TR 8 Nov (WE, NM).  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 20 BCR 6 Sep; last 1 GI 11 Nov.  
**Horned Grebe:** max 14 TR 8 Nov; last 2 FtM 23 Nov.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** max 9 TR 8 Nov.  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 40<sup>+</sup> PISP 5 Oct; last 1 BP 24 Nov.  
**Am. Bittern:** 1 BP 11 Sep; 1 FR 17 Sep; only reports.  
**Least Bittern:** no reports.

**Great Blue Heron:** max 25 MR cruise 7 Sep (HMBC); 13 TR 8 Nov.  
**Great Egret:** max 15 MR cruise 7 Sep; last 1 Clark's Mills WASH 19 Oct (JS).  
**Green Heron:** max 6 MR 10 Sep; last 1 VF 28 Sep.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** max 5 imm MR cruise 7 Sep  
**Turkey Vulture:** max 75+ coming to roost Colonie 7 Sep (RB); last 1 Greenport 3 Nov.  
**Snow Goose:** arr 5 FtM 5 Oct; max 1200 in 8-10 flocks over Walsh Rd. SARA 16 Nov (CF); ca.1000 over Glens Falls 16 Nov (BB).

**Canada Goose:** first 54 Hillsdale 10 Sep; max 3600<sup>+</sup> TR 8 Nov (WE, NM).  
**Brant:** max 60 Amsterdam 26 Oct (TP); 2 CL 25 Oct thru.  
**Mute Swan:** 2 SPd 22 Oct, 1 still there 6 Nov; only report n of COLU.  
**Tundra Swan:** 15 Kinderhook L 11 Nov (Kurt Weiscotten to BEN)  
**Wood Duck:** max 125-130 Dead Creek FtE 7 Oct (BBi); last 1 CL 10 Nov.  
**Gadwall:** max 10 BCR 22 Oct.  
**Eurasian Wigeon:** 2 ad m BCR 18 Oct (WE, NM); 1 remained at least through 11 Nov.  
**Am. Wigeon:** first 5 BCR 7 Sep; max 150 BCR 22 Oct; 52 TR 8 Nov; last 5 VF 11 Nov.  
**Am. Black Duck:** max 25 BCR 22 Oct.  
**Mallard:** max 150 VF 11 Nov.  
**Blue-winged Teal:** max 40 PISP/GI 27 Sep (WE); last one 26 Oct (RP).  
**N. Shoveler:** only 2 reports.  
**N. Pintail:** max 20 SPd 6 Nov; last SL 29 Nov.  
**Green-winged Teal:** max 50 VF 3 Nov; last 1 CL 17 Nov.  
**Canvasback:** 2 SL 26 Oct ; 6 SL 11 Nov.  
**Redhead:** 1 SL 29 Oct; only report.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** first 42 BCR 7 Sep; max 1400<sup>+</sup> BCR 22 Oct (AV).

**Greater Scaup:** 23 SL 2 Nov; 5 TR 8, 12 Nov; only reports.  
**Lesser Scaup:** max 23 SL 11 Nov.  
**Surf Scoter:** 1 TR 8 Nov, only report.  
**White-winged Scoter:** 1 BP 26 Oct; 11 SL 28 Oct; 2 MR Crescent 16 Nov; 3 SL 2 Nov.  
**Black Scoter:** 6 Grafton L RENS 11 Oct; 19 FtM 11 Oct; 10 WR 11 Oct; 29 WR 26 Oct; 15 SL 28 Oct.  
**Oldsquaw:** 6 BCR 22 Oct; 14 SL 28 Oct; 4 TR 8 Nov; 1 L7 24 Nov.  
**Bufflehead:** first 5 VF 26 Oct; max 70 SL 11 Nov.  
**Com. Goldeneye:** first 3 SL 28 Oct; max 200<sup>+</sup> TR 12 Nov.  
**Barrow's Goldeneye:** 1 ad m, 1 ad f TR 12 Nov (CB, RB).  
**Hooded Merganser:** max 59 TR 8 Nov; 35 Galway L SARA 30 Nov.  
**Com. Merganser:** max 47 TR 8 Nov; 60 CL 13 Nov.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** 2 L7 2 Nov; only report,  
**Ruddy Duck:** first 16 ML 18 Oct; max 81 TR 8 Nov.

**Camp Pinnacle Hawk Migration Totals:**

<u>Species</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Peak Flight</u>	<u>Range of Dates</u>
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>	230	33 on 5 Sep	30 Aug-3 Nov
<b>Osprey</b>	183	25 on 16 Sep	30 Aug-11 Nov
<b>Bald Eagle</b>	23	6 on 9 Sep	30 Aug-24 Dec
<b>Northern Harrier</b>	75	5 on 14 Sep	29 Aug-31 Dec
<b>Sharp-shinned Hawk</b>	487	37 on 16 Sep	18 Aug-21 Nov
<b>Cooper's Hawk</b>	93	9 on 27 Sep	30 Aug-14 Dec
<b>Northern Goshawk</b>	38	3 on 27 Sep	3 Sep-12 Nov
<b>Red-Shouldered Hawk</b>	32	5 on 6, 11 Nov	13 Sep-17 Dec
<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>	1849	621 on 16 Sep	28 Aug-5 Oct
<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b>	1178	105 on 17 Oct	30 Aug-24 Dec
<b>Rough-legged Hawk</b>	26	6 on 6 Dec	30 Oct-31 Dec
<b>Golden Eagle</b>	1	-	27 Sep
<b>American Kestrel</b>	95	10 on 5 Oct	30 Aug-24 Nov
<b>Merlin</b>	12	-	14 Sep-4 Dec
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>	19	4 on 1 Oct	18 Aug-4 Oct
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4544</b>	<b>733 on 16 Sep</b>	<b>18 Aug-31 Dec</b>

## HAWKS-ALCIDS

**Osprey:** 20 reports of singles.  
**Bald Eagle:** 1 unspecified Stuyvesant 4 Sep; 1 ad MR Crescent 7 Sep; 2 unspecified NB 9, 30 Sep; 1 unspecified MR 10 Sep; 1 imm Swyer Preserve 26 Sep; 1 imm T Wright SCHO 2 Oct; 1 unspecified Niskayuna 17 Oct; 1 unspecified Alcove R 21 Nov; only reports.  
**N. Harrier:** max 4 Jefferson SCHO 16 Sep (AM); 7 FtE 29 Nov (BP); 14 reports of singles.  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 31 reports of singles.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** 22 reports of singles.  
**N. Goshawk:** 1 TP 14 Sep; 1 Rotterdam 9 Nov; 1 imm VF 11 Nov; 2 imm Walsh Rd. SARA 16 Nov; 1 ad Duell Rd. SARA 23 Nov (CF).  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 1 imm HP 7 Sep (WE), only report.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** max 85 Glens Falls 17 Sep (BBi).  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 12 SBR 26 Oct (BP); 14 T Nortumberland/FtE 18 Nov (BP); 17 bt. Whitehall-Colonie 28 Nov (WE, NM).  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** 1 Amsterdam 31 Oct (TP); 2 Cobleskill 20 Nov (AM); 1 T Glen MONT 22 Nov (*vide* TP); only reports.  
**Am. Kestrel:** 14 reports of singles.  
**Merlin:** 6 reports of singles.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** 1-2 Dunn Mem. Bridge ALBA 3 Oct-26 Nov (DS, BEN); 1 imm f *tundrius* SI, 1 ad m PISP 27 Sep (WE); 1 TR 11 Nov (FM); 1 FtE 24 Nov (BEN).  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** reported COLU, WARR late Sep-mid-Oct; certainly releases.  
**Ruffed Grouse:** 1 drumming PISP 11 Oct (WE, NM).  
**Wild Turkey:** continues in moderate numbers throughout; max 43 T Moreau 29 Nov (BP).  
**Virginia Rail:** 1 Rotterdam Flats 22 Sep, only report.  
**Sora:** no reports.  
**Com. Moorhen:** 2 BCR 7 Sep; 1 BP 22 Sep.  
**Am. Coot:** max 102 BCR 18 Oct; last Livingston 29 Nov.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** 1 CL 9 Sep (RP), only report.

**Am. Golden-Plover:** 21 SCA 9 Sep (RP).  
**Semipalmated Plover:** no reports.  
**Killdeer:** max "hundreds" SCA 9 Sep (RP).  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** 2 VF 10 Oct; 4 TR 28 Oct; 5 reports of singles.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 15 VF 4, 10 Oct; 6 Sharon Springs 23 Oct.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** last 1 VF 10 Oct.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** 2 HP 6 Sep; 1 CL 10 Oct; only reports.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** 1 SCA 2-3 Sep (RP).  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 1 HP 6 Sep; 1 TR 19 Oct; only reports.  
**Least Sandpiper:** 2 AL 4 Sep; 1 HP 6 Sep; 3 Hillsdale 10 Sep; 1 FSF 22 Sep; only reports.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 7 VF 26, 30 Oct; 2 TR 30 Oct; 1 FtE 16 Nov; only reports.  
**Dunlin:** 4 FtM 19 Oct (JS).  
**Long-billed Dowitcher:** 1 VF 4 Oct (BP); identified by voice.  
**Com. Snipe:** 4 E. Stone Arabia MONT 23 Oct (AV).  
**Am. Woodcock:** last 1 VF 5 Nov.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** 5 TR 8 Nov; 3 reports of singles.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 1 ad MR below Cohoes Falls 16 Nov (WL).  
**Glaucous Gull:** one CL 16 Nov (RP).

## DOVES-WOODPECKERS

**Mourning Dove:** max 100 T Saratoga 16 Nov.  
**Black-billed Cuckoo:** 1 FR 27 Sep; 12 Oct (RB), late.  
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 1 Greenport 9 Sep (ADBC).  
**Barn Owl:** 1 Hagaman FULT 16-17 Nov (*vide* TP).  
**E. Screech-Owl:** 7 reports of singles.  
**Great Horned Owl:** 2 FR 27 Nov; 12 reports of singles.  
**Snowy Owl:** one near SL 29 Nov (*vide* JG).  
**Barred Owl:** 3 reports of singles; 1 calling CPHW 29 Sep (RB).  
**Long-eared Owl:** 3 FR 21-28 Nov (DS, RP, mob).  
**Short-eared Owl:** arr T Sharon early Oct (EA); 1 FtE 16 Nov (BBi); 1 Van Epps Rd MONT 23 Nov (TP).

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** 1 calling JL 20 Sep, wing prints in snow 27 Nov (RY); 3 NB week of 5 Nov (RG to BEN).

**Com. Nighthawk:** 2 Crescent 7 Sep (RB); 2 MR 10 Sep; last 1 Jonesville 16 Sep.

**Chimney Swift:** very low numbers reported.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 4 AL 4 Sep; 3 CPHW 4 Sep; 3 Amsterdam 6 Sep; 13 reports of singles.

**LEWIS'S WOODPECKER:** one imm Brant L WARR 17-29 Nov (mob, NYSARC).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** 15 reports of singles.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 5 HP 7 Sep; 3 NRP 27 Sep; last 1 Pharoah L WARR 28 Sep.

**Downy Woodpecker:** max 8 NRP 27 Sep.

**Hairy Woodpecker:** max 5 T Sara 23 Nov.

**N. Flicker:** "several dozen" CPHW 17 Sep (RB).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** max 3 NRP 11 Oct; 17 reports of singles.

**FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS**

**E. Wood-Pewee:** max 4 SkW 8 Sep; 11 reports of singles.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 1 Niskayuna 8 Sep (RG to BEN); 1 Powell Sanctuary COLU 18 Sep (ADBC).

**Least Flycatcher:** 1 SNHP 5 Sep (JG); 1 Indian Kill 21 Sep (RP); only reports.

**E. Phoebe:** max 14 NRP 27 Sep (WE); 1 FR 23 Nov (RB).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** 1 Chatham 1 Sep; 1 Greenport 1 Sep; 1 SNHP 5 Sep; 1 JL 7 Sep.

**E. Kingbird:** 1 Ghent 1 Sep (ADBC), only report.

**N. Shrike:** arr 1 Daniels Rd SARA 28 Oct; 1 T Florida MONT 19 Nov; 1 Brant L 21 Nov; 1 Kingsbury 30 Nov.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** 4 Sep, 8 Oct reports.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** 1 Hillsdale 5, 14 Sep, only report.

**Warbling Vireo:** 5 reports of singles.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** 2 reports of singles.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** max 7 HP 6 Sep; 10 reports of singles.

**Blue Jay:** max 395 migrating over NRP 27 Sep (WE).

**Am Crow:** 1000 CL 13 Nov (WL); ca.2000 bt. Cohoes-Waterford 16 Nov (WL).

**Fish Crow:** 6 over Guilderland 28 Nov (NM); 3 reports of singles.

**Com. Raven:** max 14 T Wright SCHO 11 Oct (KB, Bbo); widely reported throughout Region.

**Horned Lark:** 200-300 FtE 16 Nov (BBi); 100-150 in several flocks over Walsh Rd. SARA 16 Nov (CF); 150 FtE 29 Nov (BP).

**Tree Swallow:** 10 FR 4 Sep; 2 CPHW 30 Sep; 5 CPHW 1 Oct; 1 Greenport 3 Oct.

**Bank Swallow:** 2 HP 6 Sep (WE).

**Barn Swallow:** 4 FR 4 Sep; 25 HP 6 Sep; 2 Amsterdam 14 Sep.

**Cliff Swallow:** 1 FR 4 Sep; 1 Greenport 1 Sep; 2 HP 6 Sep.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** possible irruption JL, max 26 captured 27 Nov (RY).

**Tufted Titmouse:** max 15 NRP 27 Sep; 2 Brant L 22 Nov; 2 Hague thru.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max 5 WR 2 Nov.

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** max 6 Amsterdam 6 Oct.

**Brown Creeper:** 4 singing SkW 17 Sep; 1 singing VF 22 Oct; max 5 WR 2 Nov.

**Carolina Wren:** 6 reports of singles.

**House Wren:** 2 Amsterdam 6, 15 Sep; 6 reports of singles.

**Winter Wren:** 2 PISP 11 Oct; 8 reports of singles.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** arr 4 PISP 5 Oct; max 6 Amsterdam 1 Nov.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr Chatham 13 Sep; max 6 Guilderland 11 Oct.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** one VF 14 Sep, only report.

**E. Bluebird:** max 17 NRP 11 Oct; 20 FtE 23 Nov (BBi), good numbers.

**Veery:** no reports.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** 1 NB 7 Oct (RG to BEN), only report.

**Swainson's Thrush:** 1 Jonesville 28 Sep; 1 Schenectady 28 Sep; 1 C 18 Oct; only reports.

**Hermit Thrush:** 8 Amsterdam 20 Sep; "impressive numbers" NB 9 Oct (RG to BEN); 4 ML 18 Oct; "a few" NB 5 Nov (RG to BEN).

**Wood Thrush:** 9 reports of singles.

**Am. Robin:** max 50-75 FR 23-26 Nov.

**Gray Catbird:** max 10 Amsterdam 13 Sep.

**N. Mockingbird:** 7 reports of singles.

**Brown Thrasher:** 1 FR 4 Sep; 1 Amsterdam 13 Sep; only reports.

**European Starling:** max 800 Jefferson 9 Sep.

**Am. Pipit:** max 12 Gansevoort 19 Oct; 15 T Pittstown RENS 26 Oct.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** max 120 Gansevoort 11 Oct; 65 TR 26 Oct; 81 T Sara 23 Nov.

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** 1 Kinderhook 7 Sep; 1 Austerlitz 11 Sep.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** 1 AL 7 Sep, only report.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** 5 reports of singles.  
**Nashville Warbler:** 3 PISP 27 Sep; 8 reports of singles.  
**N. Parula:** 4 reports of singles; 1 Ghent 16 Nov (ADBC), late.  
**Yellow Warbler:** 3 reports of singles.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 6 reports of singles.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** max 2 SUNY 30 Sep; 10 reports of singles.  
**Cape May Warbler:** one SkW 10 Sep, only report.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 2 PISP 28 Sep; 3 CPHW 28 Sep; 7 reports of singles.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 32 NRP 11 Oct.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** 3 HP 6 Sep; 4 NRP 27 Sep; 3 PISP 28 Sep; 18 reports of singles.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** 7 reports of singles.  
**Pine Warbler:** 4 reports of singles; last one Jonesville 28 Sep.  
**Prairie Warbler:** 1 Gansevoort 1 Sep; 1 Chatham 25 Sep; only reports.  
**Palm Warbler:** 3 MR Lock 10 15 Sep; 3 Harrisburg Rd WARR 11 Oct; 4 reports of singles.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** 1 HP 6 Sep; 1 SkW 10 Sep; only reports.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** 2 NRP 27 Sep; 4 PISP 27 Sep; 8 reports of singles.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** max 3 CPHW 28 Sep; 4 reports of singles.  
**Am. Redstart:** 9 reports of singles.  
**Ovenbird:** 1 Austerlitz 6 Sep; 1 SUNYA 24 Sep; 1 CPHW 27 Sep; only reports.  
**Mourning Warbler:** 2 SkW 10 Sep; 3 reports of singles.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** 3 reports of singles.  
**Canada Warbler:** 1 FR 4 Sep, only report.  
**Yellow-breasted Chat:** 1 Austerlitz 2 Oct (ADBC).  
**Scarlet Tanager:** only 3 reports of singles.

**E. Towhee:** max 6 SNHP 5 Sep; 6 reports of singles.  
**Am. Tree-Sparrow:** arr 1 PISP 11 Oct.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** max 30 SUNYA 22 Sep; last one Jefferson 8 Nov.  
**Field Sparrow:** last one Ghent 15 Nov.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** last one Clifton Pk. SARA 28 Oct.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** max 2 NRP 28 Sep; last 1 BCR 18 Oct.  
**Fox Sparrow:** max 6 T Wright SCHO mid-Oct-2 Nov; 23 reports of singles.  
**Song Sparrow:** max 38 NRP 27 Sep.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** 7 reports of singles.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** max 3 NRP 27 Sep; last 1 VF 3 Nov.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** arr 1 Amsterdam 10 Sep; max 30 NRP 11 Oct.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr 1 NRP 27 Sep.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 100 T Sara 16 Nov; first migrants JL 10 Oct.  
**Lapland Longspur:** 2 FtE 18 Nov (CF); 1 FtE 23 Nov (BBI).  
**Snow Bunting:** arr 1 Greenwich 19 Oct; max 85-90 FtE 16 Nov (BBI).  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 6 HP 6 Sep; 4 reports of singles.  
**Indigo Bunting:** no reports.  
**Bobolink:** 4 heard Amsterdam 6 Sep (TP); last 2 Amsterdam 7 Sep.  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** max ca.3000<sup>+</sup> T Sara 25 Oct.  
**E. Meadowlark:** last 2 FtE 18 Nov.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** arr 1 CL 8 Oct; max 10 VF 3 Nov.  
**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 1500<sup>+</sup> SUNYA 23 Sep.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** 1 HP 7 Sep; 1 FR 12 Oct; only reports.  
**Pine Grosbeak:** 1 imm m singing CPHW 13 Nov.  
**Purple Finch:** reported in small numbers thru; max 5 NRP 11 Oct.  
**House Finch:** max 60 T Sara 23 Nov.  
**Red Crossbill:** reported in moderate numbers 16 Sep through period; max 15 CPHW 3 Nov (KA).  
**White-winged Crossbill:** widespread reports throughout period; max 20<sup>+</sup> TR 12 Nov (RB); 20 Amsterdam 10 Nov (TP); 20 Brant L 22 Nov (WE); 30 Guilderland 30 Nov (WL).

**Com. Redpoll:** widespread reports; max  
125-150 FtE 23 Nov (BBi).  
**Pine Siskin:** max 24 T Wright SCHO 2  
Nov.

**Am. Goldfinch:** max 80 FtE 5 Oct.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** widespread reports 24  
Sep thru; max 40 Warrensburg 26 Oct; 24 T  
Wright SCHO 5 Nov.

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## REGION 9 - HUDSON - DELAWARE

MICHAEL BOCHNIK

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The fall season could be characterized as cold. October was slightly colder than normal but September and November were about 4 degrees below average. The only significant weather event was a mid November snow in the northern part of Region 9.

A strong cold front on 20 September failed to bring in large kettles of Broad-winged Hawks at the usual inland hawk watches. Most of the hawks were driven to the coast where 10,406 Broad-winged Hawks were counted at Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary. The site also produced 13 Bald Eagles that same day.

Valerie Freer and others reported 2216 Wood Ducks flying into the Bashakill Marsh on the evening of 2 October, 2110 on 5 October, and 2397 on 8 October.

An immature male oriole, possibly a hybrid Bullock's x Baltimore, showed up on 28 November at Rockefeller State Park. The bird had a black line going down the middle of its throat, white belly but no distinct line through the eye. More about this bird in the winter write-up.

Highlights include: Eurasian Wigeon, Marbled Godwit, Wilson's Phalarope, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Lark Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Dickcissel, and White-winged Crossbill.

**Contributors:** Cheryl Barrett, Michael Bochnik, Bob Bowler, Thomas Burke, John Burroughs Natural History Society, Bill Cook, Renee Davis, Valerie Freer, Lois Head, Liz Hinkley, Barbara Michelin, Cindy Niven, Norma Niven, Jim Previdi, Ruth Shursky, Selden Spenser, J. Totten, Alison Van Keuren, Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, C. Weiss

**Abbreviations:** BS - Butler Sanctuary, CPP - Croton Point Park, EGR - Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, HM - Hook Mountain, LHVBL - Lower Hudson Valley Bird Line, PP - Piermont Pier, RNC - Rye Nature Center, RSP - Rockefeller State Park, RTWBC - Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, and MC - Marshlands Conservancy,

### LOONS-DUCKS

**Com. Loon:** 2 PP 5 Oct; 3 Ashokan Res 1 Nov.  
**N. Gannet:** 2 EGR 22 Nov.  
**Little Blue Heron** 1 CPP 12 Sep, 12 Oct; 1 PP most of Sep.  
**Cattle Egret:** 4 CPP 9 Oct; 1 Dutchess 8, 18 Oct.  
**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** 1 CPP 27 Sep - 5 Oct; 1 Bashakill 12 Oct; 1 Dutchess 14 Oct.  
**Black Vulture:** 1 BS 20 Sep; numerous reports on west side of Hudson.

**Wood Duck:** 2397 Bashakill 8 Oct.  
**Eurasian Wigeon:** 1 MC 25 Oct.  
**Black Scoter:** 1 PP 29 Nov.

### HAWKS-ALCIDS

**Bald Eagle:** 13 EGR 20 Sep.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** 2657 HM 17 Sep; 10,406 EGR 20 Sep.  
**Sora:** 8 CPP mid Sep (HVRBA).  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** 1 MC 10-25 Sep.  
**Marbled Godwit:** 1 EGR 25 Oct.  
**Sanderling:** 2 CPP 12 Sep.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 2 MC 25 Oct.



**Stilt Sandpiper:** 2 MC 14, 22 Sep.  
**Wilson's Phalarope:** 4 Lake Evans 16 Sep.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** 1 CPP 12 Oct.  
**Iceland Gull:** 1 Ellenville 25 Oct-22 Nov; 1 Walkill River 11 Nov.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 1 EGR 4, 26 Oct.  
**Glaucous Gull:** 2 Ellenville 12 Nov.  
**Black-legged Kittiwake:** 1 Arthursburg, Dutchess 1 Nov (HVRBA).  
**Com. Tern:** 1 Lake Evans 9 Sep.  
**Forster's Tern:** 12 EGR 12 Oct.

#### PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

**Chimney Swift:** 4 Newburgh 27 Sep, late.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 21 EGR 20 Sep.

#### FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

**N. Shrike:** 1 Youngsville 27 Nov.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** 2 RNC 3 Oct.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** 1 MC 11 Nov, late.  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** widely reported  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** 1 RNC 7 Sep.  
**Bicknell's Thrush:** 1 RNC 4 Oct.

#### WARBLERS

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**Orange-crowned Warbler:** 2 Meyer Preserve 3 Oct (HVRBA)  
**Ovenbird:** 1 Ulster Co. 3 Oct.

#### TANAGERS-WEAVERS

**Lark Sparrow:** 1 Vassar Farms 18 Oct (LH,CB); 1 Wappingers Falls 29 Oct - 2 Nov.  
**Henslow's Sparrow:** 1 CPP 28 Sep; 2 CPP 12 Oct; 1 Mt. Kisco 12 Oct.  
**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** few MC Oct.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** 1 MC 22 Sep.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** 1 male Swan Lake feeder 19 Oct.  
**Blue Grosbeak:** 1 CPP 12 Sep.  
**Dickcissel:** 1 CPP 10, 13 Oct.  
**oriole, sp:** 1 RSP 28 Nov.  
**White-winged Crossbill:** 1 Rye 25 Nov  
**Common Redpoll:** 2 MC 12 Nov; 100 Thompson Pond Preserve 23 Nov.  
**Pine Siskin:** many reports, but only numbering a few from Oct and Nov.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** many report from late Sep to Nov.

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## REGION 10-MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF

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We can blame everything on El Niño. Everything that happens out of the ordinary is blamed on it. This fall had the fewest hurricanes in years and few well defined frontal systems. The fall was colder than normal, but contained fewer extremes. As a result we had no freezing spells and no exceptionally warm periods, just a bland cool stretch with almost half the usual amount of rain in September and October and somewhat more than normal in November. The lack of extreme cold resulted in many late, insectivorous migrants. See the last dates for warblers.

November exhibited our usual 6 one-half day weather cycle of two days of rain, five days clear. November rain fell on the weekends; thus, restricting birding for most. The late weekend storms did offer an opportunity to some.

The former Fort Tilden Army Base, which is now a park, occupies about two and a-half miles of the roughly four miles of the Rockaway Peninsula that lies west of the Marine Parkway Bridge. There are prime ocean-viewing spots from bluffs within the area, which should be visited in easterly and northeasterly blows to view storm-driven pelagic species. Then a couple of miles further west, Breezy Point, the western tip of the peninsula affords more opportunity for pelagics. This area has remained a largely ignored resource, a situation which should change as birders find that access to the former army base is no longer restricted. Regular visits during inclement weather should have its rewards, as the few records listed in this species account would seem to indicate.

Along the beaches this turned out to be a poor season for both hawks and "dickey" birds. In September and October no sustained flight patterns emerged, and no sustained sequences of fronts were moving through. This lack of the "proper wind patterns" certainly contributed to the lackluster season along the outer beaches. The Fire Island Hawkwatch reported dismal results. Northern Harriers, Sharp-shinned Hawks, American Kestrels and Merlins were substantially down; Ospreys and Peregrine Falcons continue to do well, a bright spot in an overall alarming and very poor picture. Results from the Central Park Hawkwatch, which shares a distribution pattern with the mainland, were not available from prior years for comparison. As the data show, vultures and buteos tend to migrate to the west and falcons along the beach.

The Fire Island Hawkwatch at Robert Moses State Park tallied the following raptors between 10 September to 20 November. Data are from Drew Panco.

Ospreys 234, Bald Eagles 2, Northern Harriers 108, Sharp-shinned Hawks 383, Cooper's Hawks 18, Red-tailed Hawk 1, American Kestrels 1224, Merlins 805, Peregrines 140, TOTAL: 2915.

The New York City Hawkwatch, located atop Belvedere Castle in the middle of Central Park, tallied the following raptors between August 15 and December 15, 1997. Data are from Bob Decandido.

**Black Vultures** 3, Turkey Vultures 137, Ospreys 459, Bald Eagles 18, Northern Harriers 33, Sharp-shinned Hawks 1212, Cooper's Hawks 109, Northern Goshawks 2, Red-shouldered Hawks 30, Broad-winged Hawks 4646, Red-tailed Hawks 117, Golden Eagle 1, American Kestrels 215, Merlins 23, Peregrines 15, Unidentified accipiters 31, Unidentified buteos 14, Unidentified falcons 13, Unidentified raptors 94, TOTAL: 7172.

Angus Wilson and Andy Guthrie, in a report of three Eurasian Wigeons at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on 11 October, pointed out that one of the two males is probably a hybrid "based on its American Wigeon-like flank pattern". Hybrids of the two species are now well documented on the West Coast. We should look more closely at any Eurasian Wigeon which occurs in the State.

Anyone who thinks gulls are dull can now read about the so called "**Mew Gull**" altercation. On Sunday, 23 November 1997 while birding in Jones Inlet from the Point Lookout side, Manny Levine, accompanied by your Regional editors, discovered a small post second-summer gull which appeared to match the description of a Mew Gull. Monday drew a large group of birders, some of whom confirmed this identification. By Tuesday additional birders arrived, but some had reservations. The bird in question, although sufficiently distinct from a Ring-billed Gull to be easily picked out of a group of mixed species, was not perfectly identical to a "typical" Mew Gull. The variability of both species and their similarity to each other is well known and these facts have compounded the problem. At the end of the reporting period the controversy remained. The nays, yeas and undecided include knowledgeable birders in each column. As of the end of the season, the bird remains; the controversy remains. Reports have been sent to NYSARC and others are in preparation.

A bright adult female or young male **Townsend's Warbler** was found at Montauk Pt on the extraordinary date of Sunday 30 November by Jeff Kingery and Claudia Leff and was subsequently seen by Joan Quinlan, Hugh McGuinness and Patricia Lindsay.

This season was the first to fully test the fall status of Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows in our marshes. Generally, it's a daunting job to uncover a marsh sparrow, and then make out the differences from our local breeding subspecies. We have reports from mid September to mid October for the "new" species. The Nelson's now appears to be a common migrant. We have yet to see what the Christmas count results will be.

The invasion of northern species started this year with an incursion of finches in quantities that have not been seen in many years. Then, both King Eider and

Common Eider arrived along with the usual Harlequin Ducks at the Pt Lookout jetties in late November (numbers of eiders are relatively scarce this far west on Long Island). More Kings were in evidence here, early in the winter season, than had been seen at Montauk all of last year. For the finches this has turned out to be the great "fly-through" invasion. No birds appear to have stayed, but there were considerable numbers of Purple Finches; some Red Crossbills; many White-winged Crossbills; Common Redpolls; Pine Siskins; numerous American Goldfinch and even a few Evening Grosbeaks. Almost all were seen along the outer beaches, mostly early in the morning.

Best birds of the season: **Black Vulture** in Central Park, possible **Mew Gull**, **Sabine's Gull** well off Montauk Pt, **Northern Wheatear** on SI for too short a visit, **Townsend's Warbler** at Montauk and the LARGE numbers of northern finches and especially **White-winged Crossbills**.

**Comment:** A special note on the Spring and Fall pelagic trips run out of Montauk by John Askildsen. These premiere birding trips out into the deep waters off the continental shelf are run by John as a labor of love. He personally organizes and subsidizes them because of his love of pelagic birding. The fee is modest when compared to a full day of deep sea fishing, and everyone catches birds while the fishermen don't always catch fish. John is to be supported and encouraged.

**Contributors:** John P. Askildsen, Bob Adamo, Rich Berube, Steven Biasetti, Paul A. Buckley, Andy Baldelli, Cosmo Bloom, Thomas W. Burke, James Clinton, Sr., Mike Cooper, Bob DeCandido, Lester Feldman, Tom Fiore, Henry F. Flamm, John J. Fritz, Ken Feustel, Tom Fiore, Sharon Freedman, Paul H. Gillen, Andy Guthrie, Cliff Hagen, Ethel Hill, Robert J. Kurtz, Max and Nellie Larsen, Anthony J. Lauro, Emanuel Levine, Patricia Lindsay, Chris Lyons, Hugh McGuinness, Al Ott, Drew Panko, Dorothy Poole, Peter Post, Beverly Prentice, Joan Quinlan, J. Passey, Herbert H. Roth, Eric Salzman, Starr Saphir (StS), Seymour Schiff (SS), Lore J. Schore, Peter Shen, Marty Sohmer, John Suggs, Chris Valle, Steve Walter, Angus Wilson (AnW), Alvin Wollin (AW).

**Abbreviations:** CP - Central Park; CPHW - Central Pk Hawkwatch, 15 Aug to 15 Dec; CLP - Clove Lake Park, SI; FI - Fire Island; FIHW - Fire Island Hawkwatch, 10 Sep to 20 Nov; FBF-Floyd Bennett Field; FP - Forest Park; FT - Fort Tilden, Queens; GKP - Great Kills Park, SI; HLSP - Hempstead Lake State Park; JBWR - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBWE - Jones Beach West End; LI - Long Island; MEB - Mecox Bay; MP - Montauk Point; NYRBA - New York Rare Bird Alert; PL - Point Lookout side Jones Inlet; PP - Prospect Park; RMSP - Robert Moses State Park; RP - Riis Park, Queens; SHIN - Shinnecock Inlet; SI - Staten Island; ZB - Zachs Bay, Jones Beach.

### LOONS-DUCKS

**Red-necked Grebe:** MP 8 Nov; RP 27 Nov; MP 29 Nov.  
**N. Fulmar:** 4 17 mi S of MP 14 Sept (NYRBA).  
**Cory's Shearwater:** FT Nov 8 (AO,EH).  
**Sooty Shearwater:** FT Nov 8.  
**Least Bittern:** JBWR 4 Oct (NYRBA).  
**Tricolored Heron:** JBWR 26 Nov.  
**BLACK VULTURE:** SI landfill 4 Sep; 3 (CPHW).  
**Turkey Vulture:** 137 (CPHW); others.  
**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Riverhead 28 Nov (AB).  
**Snow Goose:** 1000<sup>+</sup> JBWR 11 Oct; 4000<sup>+</sup> RMSP 16 Nov; others widely scattered.  
**Tundra Swan:** 3 Hook Pond 30 Oct to 9 Nov; 2 Hook Pond 28 Nov; 17 marsh between Gilgo and West Gilgo 14 Nov (DF); 4 over Neponsit 14 Nov; Makamah Nat. Pres., Fort Salonga, Suffolk Co 22 Nov; 1 RMSP 18 Nov.  
**Eurasian Wigeon:** 3 at JBWR, one of which may be a Wigeon hybrid; others.  
**King Eider:** MP 14 Sep; 8 PL 22 Nov thru.  
**Com. Eider:** 200 MP 14 Sep, 1 Nov; 2500 29 Nov; PL 11 late Nov thru.  
**Harlequin Duck:** 5 late Nov thru.  
**Com. Merganser:** CLP mid Nov; returned to HLSF late Nov.

### HAWKS-ALCIDS

**Osprey:** 459 (CPHW); 234 (FIHW).  
**Bald Eagle:** 2 Gilgo 3 Sep; 18 (CPHW); 2 (FIHW).  
**N. Harrier:** 33 (CPHW); 108 (FIHW).  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 1212 (CPHW); 383 (FIHW).  
**Cooper's Hawk:** 109 (CPHW); 18 (FIHW).  
**N. Goshawk:** 2 (CPHW); other widely scattered reports.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 30 (CPHW); somewhat more reports this Fall.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** 4646 (CPHW).  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** 117 (CPHW); 1 (FIHW).  
**Golden Eagle:** 125<sup>th</sup> St and Riverside Dr, Manhattan 28 Oct (TF); also vicinity of Riverside Church 8 Nov (JS); CP 17 Nov (MS).  
**Am. Kestrel:** 215 (CPHW); 1224 (FIHW).  
**Merlin:** 23 (CPHW); 805 (FIHW).

**Peregrine Falcon:** 15 (CPHW); 140 (FIHW).  
**Wild Turkey:** 1 Van Cortland Pk 19 Nov  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** extraordinary numbers on sod farms in early Sep with a max of 240 at Doctor's Path on 12 Sep; small flocks of up to 40 as late as 19 Oct.  
**Am. Oystercatcher:** 100<sup>+</sup> JBWR 12 Oct.  
**Am. Avocet:** 2-3 JBWR from 17 Sept; 1 there 9-18 Oct.  
**Hudsonian Godwit:** 1 JBWR 6 Sep; 4 JBWR 11 Sep; 2 JBWR 8-23 Nov; 1 JBWR 16 Nov; RMSP 8 Nov; 1 Sagg Pond 9-11 Nov; RMSP 9 Nov.  
**Marbled Godwit:** 1 MEB 1 Sep; 6 JBWR 6 Sep; 8 JBWR 11 Sep; 2 JBWR to 23 Oct.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 7 Sagg Pond 9 Nov; 2 JBWE 16 Nov.  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** mid to late Sep.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 3 MEB 9 Nov.  
**Purple Sandpiper:** rocks Far Rockaway, Pt. Lookout early Nov thru.  
**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** SI 4 Sep; several at sod farms mid to late Sep.  
**Long-billed Dowitcher:** to 2 Nov.  
**Wilson's Phalarope:** JBWR 6 Sep.  
**Red-necked Phalarope:** JBWR 11, 20 Sep.  
**Pomarine Jaeger:** 4 seen 17 mi S of MP 14 Sept (JP).  
**Parasitic Jaeger:** 4 MP 11 Oct; 6 MP 11 Oct, 19 Oct; 2 MP 25 Oct, 1 Nov (NYRBA); 1 Shagwong Pt. 1 Nov; 8 (3 dark morph, 5 light) Breezy Pt 15 Nov; 4-5 FT 22 Nov; others.  
**Laughing Gull:** thru 23 Nov.  
**Black-headed Gull:** MP 11 Oct.  
**MEW GULL:** possible post 2<sup>nd</sup> summer PL 23 Nov thru, identification not yet verified, *intro*.  
**Iceland Gull:** various late Oct thru.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 11 Fresh Kills Landfill, SI 31 Oct; numerous reports throughout the season, the species is definitely increasing in our area.  
**Glaucous Gull:** various 1 Nov thru.  
**Black-legged Kittiwake:** MP 25 Oct (SB); RMSP 8 Nov (JQ); 15<sup>+</sup> MP 8 Nov (MC); Far Rockaway 22 Nov (M&LL).  
**SABINE'S GULL:** 1 ad 50 mi S of MP 6 Sept; 1 ad 17 mi S of MP 14 Sept, from fishing boat no details (JP).

**Caspian Tern:** 2 SI 9 Sep; on shore among the resting gulls ZB 25 Sep; 2 FI 5 Oct; last 8 Oct.

**Royal Tern:** 17 New Suffolk Harbor 1 Sep; 12 JBWR 21 Sep; 22 SHIN 4 Oct; 1 Democrat PT 25 Oct; 2 JBWE 2 Nov; 1 JBWE 16 Nov.

**Com. Tern:** 1 JBWE 25 Nov.

**Forster's Tern:** 28 JBWE 2 Nov.

**Black Tern:** 6 SI 9 Sep; others to 11 Sep.

**Razorbill:** 3 MP 29 Nov (HMc).

#### PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** ZB 30 Oct.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Breezy Pt 6 Nov; JBWE 15 Nov.

**Barn Owl:** FBF 16 Nov; JBWR 19 Nov.

**Long-eared Owl:** JBWE 13 Nov; 4 JBWE 25 Nov; CP mid Nov thru.

**Short-eared Owl:** Spring Creek 19 Nov; JBWR 22 Nov, same bird?

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** JBWE early Nov.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** several on the beaches during migration including SI; two imm, one ad CP late Oct thru; total of 4 CP late in season.

**Hairy Woodpecker:** more than usual on the beaches where they are normally rare.

#### FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** JBWE 14 Sep.

**Western Kingbird:** 2 RMSP 13 Sep; Gilgo 2 Nov; RMSP 18 Nov; RP 22 Nov thru; along Meadowbrook Pkwy 29 Nov (PP).

**N. Shrike:** Dune Rd 28 Nov (SB).

**White-eyed Vireo:** PP 15 Nov thru.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** East Quogue Oct 17; PP 22 Nov.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** several to mid Sep.

**Barn Swallow:** thru 15 Nov.

**Sedge Wren:** RP 26 Sep (PB).

**Marsh Wren:** PP 23 Nov.

**NORTHERN WHEATEAR:** GKP 5-6 Sep (CH *vide* HF).

**Gray-checked Thrush:** CP 1, 4 Nov (TF,CB).

**Wood Thrush:** CP 19 Nov (DP).

**Am. Pipit:** mostly fly over migrants.

#### WARBLERS

**Golden-winged Warbler:** JBWE 19 Sep (JQ), extremely rare on the beach.

**Tennessee Warbler:** thru 11 Oct.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** somewhat more this year CP to MP.

**Nashville Warbler:** feeder off East Lake 29 Nov (PL).

**N. Parula:** to 26 Oct.

**Yellow Warbler:** to 9 Nov.

**Magnolia Warbler:** to 11 Oct.

**Cape May Warbler:** to 12 Nov.

**TOWNSEND'S WARBLER:** female MP 30 Nov, *intro*.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** to 29 Nov.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** to 11 Oct.

**Pine Warbler:** Gilgo 2 Nov; JBWE 14 Nov (DF).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** to 7 Oct.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** to 23 Nov.

**Cerulean Warbler:** JBWE 7 Oct (SS).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** to 30 Oct.

**Am. Redstart:** to 11 Oct.

**Ovenbird:** CP Oct 18.

**Kentucky Warbler:** GKP 18 Sep.

**Connecticut Warbler:** mid Sep - 6 Oct.

**Wilson's Warbler:** CP Oct 18.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** a scattering of reports SI to MP.

#### TANAGERS-WEAVERS

**Summer Tanager:** CP 27 Sep (TF); Gilgo 7 Oct (HR,LS).

**Scarlet Tanager:** to 11 Oct.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** single birds late Sep - end Oct.

**Vesper Sparrow:** several migrants.

**Lark Sparrow:** several.

**Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** migrants mid Oct - mid-Nov.

**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** migrants mid Oct - mid Nov.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** widely scattered reports mid Oct - mid Nov.

**Lapland Longspur:** single birds JBWR, Smith Pt Pk, Ferry Pt Pk (Bronx) late Sept - early Nov.

**Snow Bunting:** 150<sup>+</sup> JBWE late Nov thru; others.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** to 12 Oct.

**Blue Grosbeak:** single birds and pairs mid-Sep - mid Oct.

**Dickcissel:** SI to MP early Sep - early Oct; E. Hampton 23 Nov.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** imm male CP 23 Oct - 18 Nov (MOB).

**Rusty Blackbird:** more migrants this year.

**Boat-tailed Grackle:** 150<sup>+</sup> Howard Beach (by JBWR) 9 Nov, the colony is holding its own; others in the Hamptons.

**Baltimore Oriole:** last report female Riverdale Pk 19 Nov.

**Purple Finch:** scattered small groups mid Nov thru.

**House Finch:** numbers reduced, probably due to disease.

**Red Crossbill:** scattered small groups mid Nov thru.

**White-winged Crossbill:** flights along beaches throughout the Region early Nov thru, the largest numbers in many years.

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**Com. Redpoll:** sporadic birds along beaches Nov thru.

**Pine Siskin:** sporadic birds and groups Oct thru, tapering off into late Nov; hundreds 18 Nov.

**Am. Goldfinch:** huge flights Oct with fewer later in season.

**Evening Grosbeak:** 1 JBWE 27 Sep; 1 JBWE 26 Oct; 2 CLP 30 Oct; 1 CP 29 Oct, 12 Nov; 1 RP 16 Nov; FI 18 Nov.

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## Fall Departure Dates 1997

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



Species	Fall Departure Dates 1997 (Cont'd)										Average	11-yr Ave
	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10		
Solitary Vireo	5 Nov	10 Oct	4 Oct	13 Oct	22 Nov	11 Oct	18 Oct	12 Oct		4 Nov	21 Oct	14 Oct
Yellow-throated Vireo	29 Aug	9 Sep	6 Sep	1 Sep	24 Sep		8 Aug	14 Sep		10 Oct	8 Sep	15 Sep
Warbling Vireo	27 Sep	21 Sep	6 Sep	16 Sep	17 Oct	10 Sep		15 Sep			20 Sep	17 Sep
Red-eyed Vireo	30 Sep	4 Oct	4 Oct	4 Oct	6 Oct	8 Sep	27 Sep			11 Oct	30 Sep	5 Oct
Blue-winged Warbler	14 Sep	6 Sep	6 Sep	20 Sep	6 Sep			11 Sep			10 Sep	7 Sep
Tennessee Warbler	12 Oct	14 Sep	6 Sep		6 Oct		16 Sep	30 Sep		11 Oct	26 Sep	28 Sep
Nashville Warbler	12 Oct	10 Oct	4 Oct	5 Oct	17 Oct	5 Oct	5 Oct	27 Sep		29 Nov	12 Oct	8 Oct
Northern Parula	2 Oct	26 Sep		5 Oct	26 Sep		16 Sep	7 Oct		26 Oct	2 Oct	28 Sep
Yellow Warbler	8 Sep	6 Sep	6 Sep	1 Oct	20 Sep	1 Sep		28 Sep		9 Nov	21 Sep	13 Sep
Chestnut-sided Warbler	28 Sep	3 Oct	13 Sep	21 Sep	26 Sep		13 Sep	21 Sep		8 Sep	20 Sep	25 Sep
Magnolia Warbler	13 Oct	12 Oct	21 Nov	21 Sep	2 Oct	8 Sep	2 Oct	30 Sep		11 Oct	6 Oct	4 Oct
Cape May Warbler	12 Oct	7 Oct	1 Sep	21 Sep	23 Sep	28 Sep	7 Sep	10 Sep		12 Nov	26 Sep	26 Sep
Black-thr Blue Warbler	5 Oct	11 Oct	6 Sep	12 Oct	9 Oct	23 Sep	5 Oct	28 Sep		11 Oct	2 Oct	6 Oct
Black-thr Green Warbler	12 Oct	5 Oct	4 Oct	13 Oct	25 Sep	4 Oct	3 Oct	6 Oct		29 Nov	11 Oct	7 Oct
Blackburnian Warbler	13 Oct	25 Sep	6 Sep	1 Sep	27 Sep	8 Sep	13 Sep	14 Sep		11 Oct	19 Sep	25 Sep
Bay-breasted Warbler	12 Oct	28 Sep	6 Sep	7 Oct	26 Aug	3 Sep	27 Sep	10 Sep		7 Oct	20 Sep	26 Sep
Blackpoll Warbler	2 Oct	3 Oct	4 Oct	29 Sep	26 Sep	23 Sep	22 Sep	30 Sep		23 Nov	4 Oct	30 Sep
Black-and-white Warbler	20 Sep	3 Oct	1 Sep	28 Aug	21 Sep	8 Sep	6 Sep	28 Sep		30 Oct	19 Sep	25 Sep
American Redstart	5 Oct	5 Oct	4 Oct	6 Oct	27 Sep	18 Sep	26 Sep	24 Sep		11 Oct	30 Sep	1 Oct
Ovenbird	1 Oct	28 Sep	6 Sep	19 Sep	14 Sep	26 Sep	10 Oct	27 Sep		18 Oct	26 Sep	27 Sep
N. Waterthrush	14 Sep	14 Sep		30 Aug	20 Aug						4 Sep	13 Sep
Common Yellowthroat	15 Oct	26 Oct	4 Oct	8 Oct	20 Oct	1 Sep	14 Sep	9 Oct		23 Nov	10 Oct	15 Oct
Wilson's Warbler	12 Oct	26 Sep	21 Sep	3 Oct	24 Sep	8 Sep	16 Sep	5 Oct		18 Oct	28 Sep	25 Sep
Canada Warbler	20 Sep	6 Sep		13 Sep	7 Sep	5 Sep	17 Aug	4 Sep			5 Sep	15 Sep
Scarlet Tanager	3 Oct	3 Oct	4 Oct	2 Oct	27 Sep	18 Sep	26 Aug	27 Sep		11 Oct	26 Sep	28 Sep
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	17 Sep	1 Oct	13 Sep	1 Oct	24 Sep	18 Sep	1 Oct	13 Oct		12 Oct	27 Sep	30 Sep
Rufous-sided Towhee	17 Oct	30 Oct	30 Oct	15 Nov	24 Oct	5 Oct		12 Oct		15 Nov	26 Oct	20 Oct
Lincoln's Sparrow	12 Oct	7 Oct	21 Oct	9 Oct	8 Oct		3 Oct	11 Oct		12 Nov	14 Oct	13 Oct
White-crowned Sparrow	18 Oct	25 Oct	5 Nov	16 Nov	27 Oct	27 Nov	25 Oct				2 Nov	1 Nov
Bobolink	14 Sep	7 Sep	6 Sep		27 Aug	1 Sep		7 Sep		11 Oct	10 Sep	14 Sep
Northern Oriole	14 Sep	14 Sep	6 Sep	28 Aug	10 Sep			12 Oct		19 Nov	23 Sep	14 Sep

**Bold** Regional Record Late

*Italics* also isolated later reports

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*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.

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