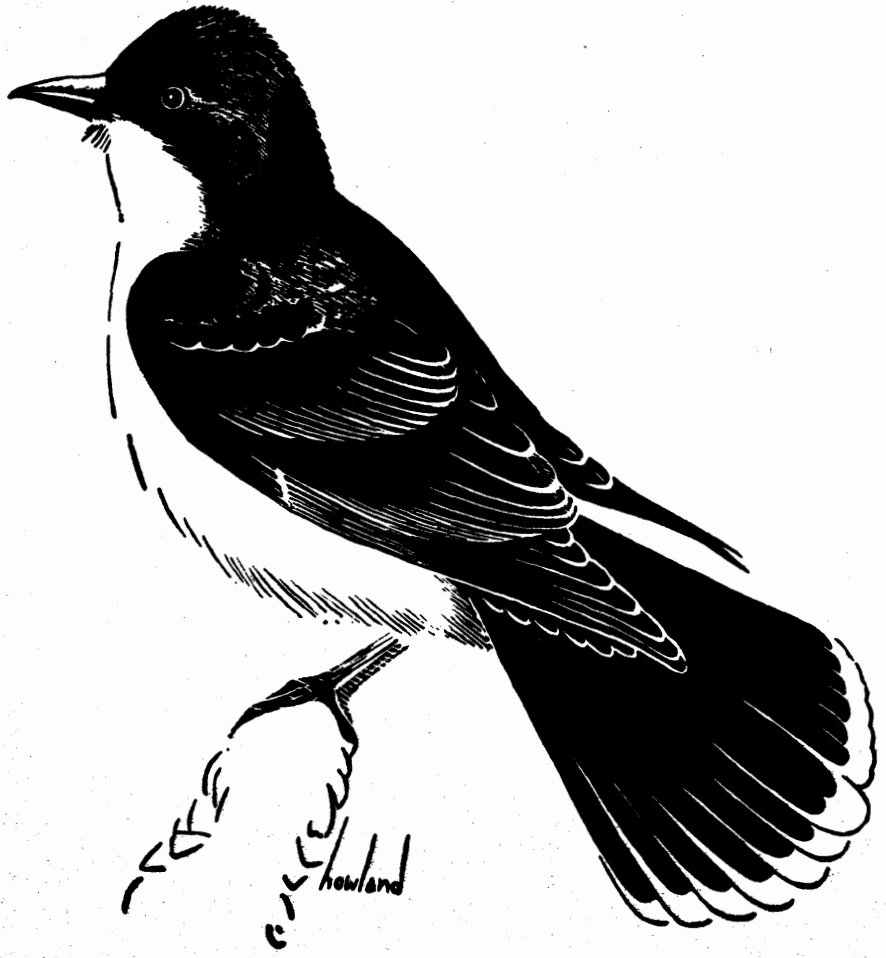


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The **KINGBIRD**

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FIRST RECORD OF MacGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER FOR NEW YORK STATE

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One of us (Veit) identified a MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*) at the Mohlenoff Nursery (now a New York City Parks facility) just after dawn on Wednesday 15 Dec 1999. The nursery is located on Victory Boulevard, along the northern edge of the Fresh Kills marshes, Staten Island, Richmond County, New York. Veit was searching at the time for Orange-crowned (*Vermivora celata*) and Nashville warblers (*V. ruficapilla*) that had been discovered by Andrew Bernick the previous Sunday, 12 Dec. During the subsequent days, a number of observers viewed the MacGillivray's Warbler from as close as 20' with IOX binoculars, and exposed some recognizable photographs. Several of us (Albert Burchsted, Tom Brown, Andy Bernick, Jarrod Santora, plus others not in our party) saw the warbler on Saturday 17 Dec, on the Staten Island Christmas Bird Count, and Burchsted made recognizable recordings of its call note.

The bird spent much of its time foraging in weedy vegetation enclosed within a dilapidated greenhouse. At other times, it would leave the greenhouse and forage along a stand of Norway spruces and in the shrubs and weeds surrounding the spruces. It was last seen by Santora on 28 Dec.

The MacGillivray's Warbler was recognizable as MacGillivray's, and not Mourning (*O. philadelphia*) due to its call note, the coloration of the throat, and the color and configuration of the crescents about the eye. This bird was extremely vocal for an *Oporornis*, uttering bursts of 15-20 calls at a time over a 2-3 minute period, during which time it would flit actively about the shrubby vegetation. The call note of the Staten Island bird can be best described as intermediate between that of a Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) and that of a Yellow-rumped Warbler



Figure 1: MacGillivray's Warbler, Staten Island, Richmond County, NY, on 15 Dec. 1999.

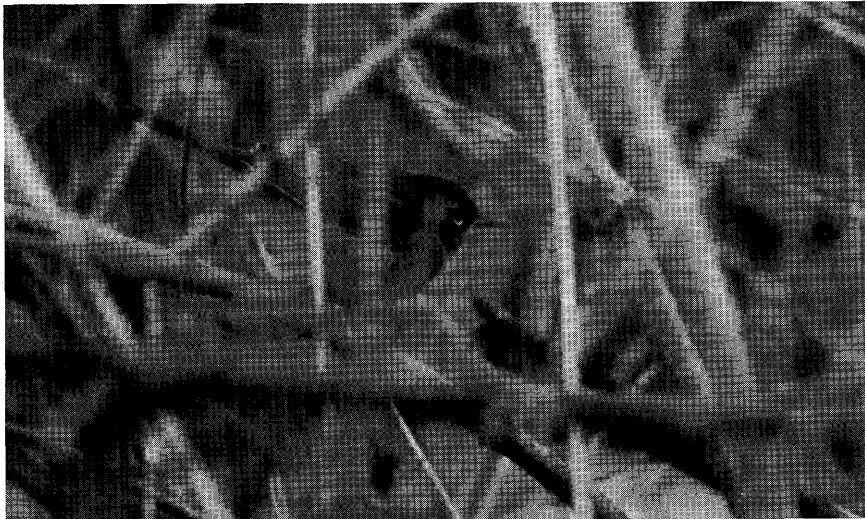


Figure 2: Closeup of same bird

Photos by Steve Nanz

(*Dendroica coronata*). The distinctive note of Mourning Warbler, by comparison, is a sharp "spic", remarkably similar to the chip note of the Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*). Some field guides (Dunn and Garrett 1997) describe the call note of Mourning Warbler as "flat". To our ear it is the note of MacGillivray's that is flat, with Mourning being sharp. In any event, Mourning sounds like an Indigo Bunting, Macgillivray's like a yellowthroat or hoarse Yellow-rumped Warbler. These differences in voice are consistent, and in our opinion, diagnostic.

The throat and upper chest area (the area enclosed by the hood) on our bird were grayish white, without any hint of yellow, and diffusely streaked with dusky but not black. Finally, the eye crescents on the Staten Island bird were bold, white, and together encircled about 2/3 of the circumference of the eye. Mourning Warblers, by contrast, have much narrower, off-white eye-rings that tend to encircle a larger proportion of the circumference of the eye.

IDENTIFICATION AND AGING

To check the validity of field characters cited by various authors as diagnostic in separating MacGillivray's from Mourning Warblers, we examined specimens in the AMNH. We selected 50 specimens of MacGillivray's Warblers and 39 specimens of Mourning Warblers collected between 15 Aug and 31 Jan. We omitted adult males from our selection, using the reasoning that our bird could not have been an adult male on the basis of plumage characters. Adult males in fall and winter are similar to adult males in spring and summer (Dunn and Garrett 1997). We measured the wing chord and tail length of all specimens, in order to use the difference in length of these two structures as a basis for assigning each specimen to one or another species (Lanyon and Bull 1967; Pyle 1998). Then we assessed, for each specimen that could be unambiguously assigned to one or the other species on the basis of measurements, whether the distinctiveness of the above mentioned field characters held true.

For MacGillivray's Warblers, we found that three out of fifty specimens had some yellow on the throat, but none of these three had as bright or extensive yellow as did the average Mourning Warbler. Twenty of the 39 Mourning Warblers that we examined had wing-minus-tail measurements within the range of overlap between the two species, and seven of the twenty had wing-minus-tail measurements well outside the range of Mourning (wing-minus-tail of less than 5 mm) and within the

range of MacGillivray's. We suspect that these seven specimens may be misidentified.

Of the remaining 19 Mourning Warblers, five had throats that were either buff or whitish, and without any trace of yellow. Nevertheless, none of the Mourning Warblers had any hint of obscure darkish streaking on the throat typical of the Staten Island individual and other MacGillivray's Warblers. Assessing the coloration of the eye-ring in museum specimens is difficult due to the vagaries of the style in which the specimens were prepared. Therefore we were unable to quantify the usefulness of this character in distinguishing the species based on the AMNH specimens. Nevertheless, we did not find any Mourning Warblers with bright and restricted orbital crescents that were typical of many of the specimens of MacGillivray's Warblers. In sum, our analysis of the AMNH specimens supported the validity of the field marks that we used to identify the Staten Island MacGillivray's Warbler. We are uncertain about the age and sex of the bird, though it was not an adult male. We lean towards identifying it as a hatching year male, because of the blackish coloration of the lores (females of any age would most likely have greyish lores).

The accumulation of East Coast records since the late 1970's suggests the possibility that the eastwards dispersal of this species has increased in recent years.

STATUS ON THE NORTH AMERICAN EAST COAST

This constitutes the first record for the state of New York, though there is a previous record of a bird banded in Fredonia 29 Oct 1983 (*American Birds* 38(2) p.200) that was considered "probably" this species. In addition, there are seven records from Massachusetts (Veit and Petersen 1993), one record from New Jersey (Walsh 1999) one from Georgia (banded, Jekyll Isle 2 Oct 1987 (*American Birds* 42(1) p.59) and, pending clarification, there are either two or three from Florida. See *Field Notes* 52(3) p. 322 for the first Florida occurrence, and then *North American Birds* 53(1) p.48 and 53(2) p.163. All but two of these East Coast records are from the late fall (Sep to Dec), except for the first from Florida. In addition to the above records, there is a male collected in New Haven, CT in May 1890. This specimen is AMNH #507935, and appears to us to be MacGillivray's. There is also a bird collected by Kenneth P. Able on Block Island, Rhode Island 28 Sep 1972 (AMNH#808837) that appears to us to be a MacGillivray's as well. Able (pers. comm.) felt that the Block Island

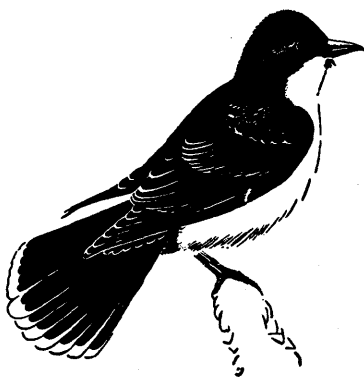
bird was MacGillivray's when collected, and we will report on this and other East Coast records in a subsequent publication.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank Paul Sweet for arranging access for us to the AMNH collection, and the New York City Parks Department for allowing birders access to their nursery on Victory Boulevard.

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GREAT BLUE HERON CONSUMES SPRUCE CONES: A UNIQUE BEHAVIOR

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On 16 May 1999 while exploring a section of Keeney Swamp State Forest (Allegany County) sometimes referred to as the "Gordon Hill Forest", I chanced upon a pair of Common Ravens (*Corvus corax*) exhibiting what I took to be nest-building behavior in a section of woods containing numerous clusters of evergreens. After watching their activity from a distance for approximately fifteen minutes, I was fairly confident that I would be able to relocate the cluster of Black Spruce in which they had chosen to locate their nest. Not wanting to disrupt the process, I quietly retraced my steps knowing that I would return at a later date to confirm the existence of what I hoped would be a new nest.

Other commitments kept me from returning to the site until 31 May. Long before I could see the stand of spruce, sounds not unlike young excited ravens might make, reached my ears. I approached the stand from the north and with 7x35 binoculars scanned the tops for a nest. No evidence of a nest was visible but a hoarse "awking" and croaking periodically erupted from the stand. There were without question, at least two or more birds on the south side of the evergreens. Just as I decided to circle the cluster of evergreens and approach from the south, a large bird launched itself into the air from the southern end of the stand and headed in my direction. I instinctively froze.

Much to my surprise, the bird turned out to be a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*). What happened next surprised me even more. The heron landed in the middle of another Black Spruce 35 to 50 yds. from my location. Awkwardly making its way out on a limb of the tree as far as possible, with wings partially spread for balance, it extended its neck and began tugging and plucking cones and occasionally new growth off the branch above. After collecting four to six cones in its beak, the bird pulled itself in to a more stable position and began crushing them within the back portion of its beak. It took obvious effort, and up to a half-dozen attempts before the heron accomplished the task. Rearranging the contents for ease of swallowing, the bird then did just that.

The Great Blue repeated this process four more times before returning to the nest on the south side of the spruce cluster. I had no doubt that racket that arose from the nest came from young herons expecting to be

fed by a returning parent. Mentally, I chastised myself for not recognizing the familiar sound of young herons sooner. I found better cover hoping for a repeat of what had just occurred.

The wait was not long before the Great Blue was headed in my direction once again. This time the bird landed on the far side of the tree and began the process all over again. Having gathered, crushed, and swallowed what I estimated to be somewhere between 18 and 20 cones, the parent again flew directly to the nest and was greeted with the cries of its hungry offspring.

I was to witness the entire process repeated three more times in trees further away before the adult left the nest for the last time, and headed west towards Black Creek. Having been crouched in hiding for over an hour, I took advantage of the adult's absence to circle the stand of spruce and locate the nest.

The nest itself, located about 50 ft. from the ground near the top of the tree, was another surprise. It was tiny by Great Blue Heron standards, and comprised of what appeared to be loosely woven, small dead branches of evergreens only. I could look through the nest and see two forms moving about within it. I made noises and the forms stopped moving. Spying a small dry dead branch on the ground, I picked it up and snapped it. Two small heads attached to long skinny necks rose over the rim of the nest to look down at me. Having confirmed my count, it was time to leave, and I did.

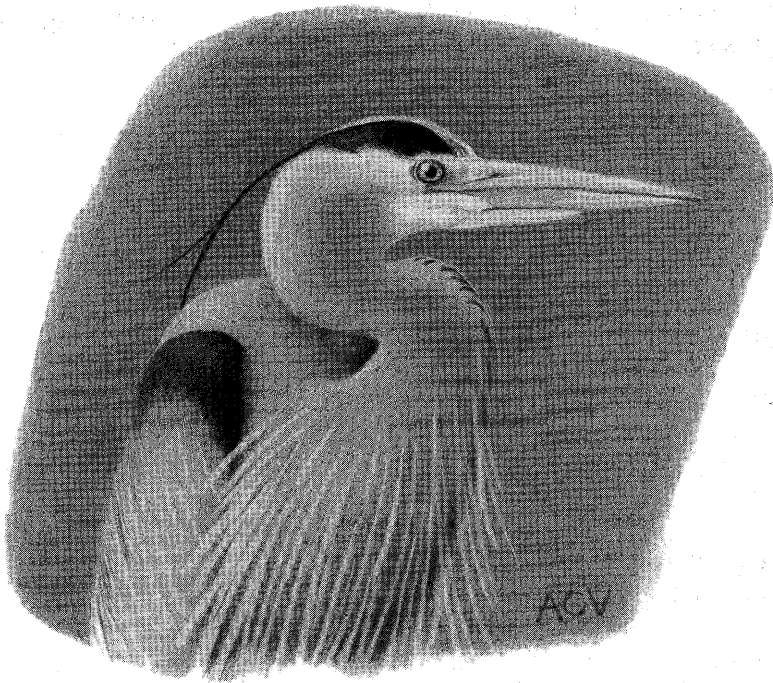
I returned to photograph the nest and birds on 5 Jun and 19 Jun. Both juveniles were in the nest and appeared to be healthy. The nest itself appeared to have been rearranged. On these last two dates both parents were in evidence, taking turns bringing food and watching the nest in the other's absence. On the last date, one the parents discovered me and became highly agitated and distressed. I left as rapidly as possible and did not return to observe the nest again.

Initially my impression was that ravens had started this nest, and that for some reason the Great Blues ended up with it. This was the first time I had ever observed Great Blues nesting in an evergreen. This also was the first time I had ever seen this species pluck and consume spruce cones and new growth shoots (greens). Whether the cones or the new growth were fed to the juveniles is not known, as I did not directly observe such activity. What purpose these items might serve is not known. I speculated that the items might be used for roughage to clear a blockage, or assist in breaking down food in the crop.

Additional research on the subject highlighted my ignorance of the species. As it turns out, nesting in spruce or pine trees by the species is a

common occurrence in some regions of North America. In fact, the species will literally nest from the ground up, in a wide variety of tree species. Nesting on cliffs and ledges is also not unheard of (Ehrlich, Dobkin, Wheye, 1988).

There are a number of reports of small flimsy nests that observers were able to look up through when standing on the ground. The pattern appears to be that first year nests are often constructed this way. Additional layers are applied in each successive year, resulting in the heavier, thicker nest that I am familiar with.



As to the consumption of spruce cones and new growth mentioned in my report, at least three sources listed pine needles as possible inner nest lining material, but there was no mention of cones. The closest my findings have come to seed (cone) consumption by this species were quotes from Audubon, 1840 "...and the only seeds that I have found in its stomach were those of the Great Water Lily..."; and Wilson, 1832 "...and the seeds of splatter docks" (Bent, 1926).

To date, other than adding 'nest lining' to the list, I can still only speculate about what use or function the consumption of Black Spruce cones and new growth might serve for the species.

One final note, ravens are listed as one of the few enemies of Great Blue Herons, often destroying their eggs or young fledglings. It is possible that the "nest building behavior" that I observed from a distance on 16 May, was in reality a partial dismantling of the nest in an attempt to get at the eggs or fledglings while the adult herons were absent. This scenario would be more consistent with raven behavior in the sense that the species tends to nest earlier in the year, and is known to be aggressive towards nesting herons.

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GLOSSY IBIS NESTS ON FOUR BROTHERS, ESSEX COUNTY

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ABSTRACT

The history of colonial waterbirds on Four Brothers, Lake Champlain, in Essex County, NY, is documented for the past 150 years. The only colonial nesting species for the first century was Herring Gull, but diversity grew during the second half of the 20th Century. Owned by The Nature Conservancy and managed by High Peaks Audubon Society, the four islands now host eight species of colonial waterbirds, with Glossy Ibis the latest arrival. This is the first ibis colony in upstate New York and apparently the northernmost Glossy Ibis nesting worldwide and part of the northward range expansion of the species in eastern North America during the past half-century.

INTRODUCTION

In the mid-19th Century, the Rev. G. Ingersoll presented Zadock Thompson, author of *Natural History of Vermont*, with Herring Gull eggs collected on "one of the islands called the Four Brothers situated five or six miles from Burlington" (Thompson 1853). For the next century this was the only colonial waterbird species nesting on the Four Brothers. The Herring Gulls were joined by Ring-billed Gulls in 1949 (Belknap 1955). Black-crowned Night-Herons were nesting in 1951 (VT Dept. of Fish & Game), the author found nesting Cattle Egrets in 1973, and Mrs. Carl Buchheister located the first nest of Great Black-backed Gull in 1975 (Carleton 1999). Snowy Egrets were present in 1976 and again in 1984 and 1985, but nesting was not proven. The next increase in the colony came in 1984 when Double-crested Cormorants, present since 1951 (VT Dept. of Fish & Game), finally commenced nesting (Carleton 1999). Great Blue Herons joined in 1993 (Carleton 1999), bringing the list of colonial nesting waterbirds to seven species.

The four small islands, with a total area of just 17.8 acres, are located in the Essex County, NY, waters of Lake Champlain and lie some two miles east of the tip of Willsboro Point. Previous owners have included

the Shipmans, the Hatch family, John Astor, and the University of Vermont. In 1981, The Nature Conservancy acquired the islands from the university and entered into a management agreement with High Peaks Audubon Society, Inc., to provide for protection and studies of the Four Brothers. In addition to colonial waterbirds, the islands also have nesting Canada Geese, Gadwalls, Mallards, Red-breasted and Common mergansers, Spotted Sandpipers, a variety of passerines, and American Black Ducks have nested historically.

To carry out management duties, High Peaks Audubon employs a wildlife manager and warden(s), owns two marine workboats, and is responsible for sanctuary signs, patrols, an annual census, and bird-banding. Banding is done under Master-Station Permit 21553, with a total of 21,750 waterbirds of ten species banded between 1982 and 1999. Census figures are provided to the Great Lakes Colonial Waterbird Census.

OBSERVATIONS

On the early afternoon of June 12, 1999, a High Peaks Audubon banding and census team of 13, led by the author as wildlife manager, landed on the 2.4 acre Island "B", the southeast islet of Four Brothers. Here, guano and Dutch elm disease have killed the overstory of paper birch, American elm, and American basswood in recent decades, allowing dense thickets of young pin (fire) cherry and basswood to spring up. This successional growth provides nesting platforms for Cattle Egrets and Black-crowned Night-Herons, while Double-crested Cormorants use the higher remaining dead snags.

Volunteer Lissa Richardson called our attention to three adult Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) overhead. Although exciting, they were not entirely unexpected, since one had been seen flying from Shelburne Farms, VT, to an apparent roost on Four Brothers two years previously, on May 24, 1997 (Carleton 1999). The three would drift northward in formation on the south wind, then repeatedly return to hang over a favored spot. Knowing the penchant of parent birds to keep watch when intruded upon, we suspected they were incubating birds and their behavior might focus our search for one or two particular nests among so many.

Most of the nests in that area still held sets of eggs, which we began examining and comparing. Three types were found. The smallest and palest elliptical light blue eggs measured about 45x30 mm, typical of Cattle Egret. Most, however, were more subelliptical and larger, about 55x35 mm, and the familiar pale greenish or blue of Black-crowned



Figure 1: Nearly fledged Glossy Ibis 23 July 1999.



Figure 2: Closeup of bird in figure 1.

Photos by J.M.C. Peterson

Night-Heron. One somewhat long subelliptical or elongate ovate set was intermediate, about 50x35 mm, and an unfamiliar deep blue. Our suspicion that this nest, placed five feet high in a crotch near the trunk, was that of Glossy Ibis was confirmed by later research. Colin Harrison (1978) described eggs of this ibis as "Uniform light blue, much deeper than on heron eggs," giving measurements of 53-36 mm (vs. 53-37 for the night-heron).

Six weeks later, on July 23, 1999, the author returned to Island "B" with Warden Richard W. MacDonald and Robert C. Wei. We soon found a nest, south of the putative ibis nest of June 12, placed about 7-feet high in a basswood sapling and containing three downy Glossy Ibis nestlings. With their black down and pink bills circled by three black bands, they were curious looking, to say the least. They were banded, photographed, and replaced in the nest. These were half-grown chicks, or about three weeks old. Shortly after, we retrieved an older, nearly fledged bird of about six weeks from a nearby sapling where it was perched, able to climb and flap awkwardly. This young ibis had a more fully decurved bill, patches of white on the crown and throat, iridescent feathering, and was also banded and photographed before release. The four Glossy Ibis were fitted with size 6 aluminum bands 966-51846 through 51848 and 966-51852.

OCCURRENCE IN EASTERN NORTH AMERICA AND NEW YORK

A half-century ago, the only nesting Glossy Ibis population in the United States was confined to southern Florida. A northward expansion followed, with birds nesting in New Jersey in 1955, Maryland and Virginia in 1956, and Long Island in 1961 (Peterson 1988). By 1970 they had moved up the New England coast to southern Maine (Erwin 1979), nesting in Massachusetts in 1974 (Veit and Petersen 1993). In Maine, breeding was confirmed in three Atlas blocks, possible in two others between 1978-83, all on the extreme southeast coast (Adamus n.d.). Spahn (1998) observed of New York, "Since the earliest discovery of nesting in the state, the center of breeding activity has remained in southwestern LI," noting that this ibis also nests on Staten Island.

The northernmost confirmed Glossy Ibis nesting in Maine was in Atlas block 028 near Portland, Cumberland County. Thus, the Four Brothers not only provide the first and only nesting for upstate New York, but also appear to be the northernmost Glossy Ibis colony in the world.

Into mid-August, three adults and an immature Glossy Ibis frequented nearby Shelburne Bay, VT, on the east shore of Lake Champlain (Theodore Murin, pers. comm.). No band was observed, but this immature may have been 966-51852, the eldest of the July 23 young. In early September, Murin observed two immatures at the south end of an old railroad causeway between Colchester and South Hero, VT. Each was banded on the left tarsus, and undoubtedly were two of the three siblings banded on the nest during late July. On October 6, this writer and Amtrak passenger saw a Glossy Ibis lift with Ring-billed Gulls from a cornfield south of Rouses Point, flushed by the passing northbound "Adirondack." The field is about 37 miles north of Four Brothers and 27 miles northwest of the Vermont causeway where the previous sighting was made.

Lake water levels were quite low in 1999, due to drought, standing just above 96 feet in mid-May and dropping to just over 94 feet by late August, some three feet lower than the year before and perhaps a foot below average. This may have improved feeding depths, resulting in a more attractive breeding situation for this species. The possibility also exists that ibis have nested on Four Brothers since 1997 and were simply overlooked among all of the cormorants, herons, egrets, night-herons, waterfowl, and gulls.

There is a certain irony in knowing that in the same year that Glossy Ibis was added as the eighth species on these New York islands in pioneer or successional vegetation largely a result of cormorant vent activity, the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife obtained a USF&WS permit for cormorant control, solely "for the purpose of enhancing and maintaining avian and plant diversity on State-owned islands in Lake Champlain" (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 1999).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks to The Nature Conservancy for their long-term cooperation and to our friends at the Adirondack Nature Conservancy for continued counsel and support. Thanks, too, to the dozen High Peaks Audubon Wardens and more than 150 volunteers who have worked on the Four Brothers over the past 18 years. With a diversity of eight species of colonial waterbirds now in our care, three of which arrived under Audubon and Nature Conservancy stewardship, we must be doing something right.

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NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

REALLY CONFUSING FALL WARBLER- ANOTHER GYNANDROMORPH

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On 19 Aug 1998 I found a dead Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*) in Altamont, Albany County, New York. The specimen displayed plumage characteristics of both the male and the female of the species. The right side had a blue back, black throat, and white undersides. The left side was dull grey/brown above and yellow/olive below.

The specimen was taken to Dr. William Cook at Columbia-Greene Community College in Hudson, NY, who prepared a laboratory specimen. Although the specimen was fresh, there were no signs of trauma and the cause of death was not apparent.

Preliminary results show that the internal organs corresponded with the plumage characteristics, i.e. testis on the right side and ovary on the left. Organ and tissue samples were submitted for DNA analysis and other tests. The results are not back yet, but will be published when complete.

A color photograph of the specimen placed between male and female Black-throated Blue Warbler specimens can be seen on the Columbia-Greene Community College web site at <http://www.sunycgcc.edu/~mathsci/slide6.html>.

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A HERON SWIM??

Manny Levine

585 Mead Terrace

So. Hempstead, NY 11550

In July of 1999, while birding in Cow Meadow Park, Freeport, Nassau Co. in the company of Sy Schiff, and Al Wollin, the three of us were puzzled by the sight of a "strange" bird in the middle of the man-made pond. It took us a couple of minutes to realize that it was an immature

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, which was *swimming* across the pond, not walking in the water. The fact that it was swimming was readily apparent from the movement of the body as distinctly different from the movement had it been walking on the bottom. At this point the pond is some one hundred yards wide and the heron was midway across. Unfortunately we were then distracted by some shorebirds flying in front of us (we were searching for a Ruff seen there earlier) and by the time we turned back to the heron, it had already clambered up on shore.

Though the combined years of birding experience for the three observers was 150 plus (all three of us being "long in the tooth"), we could not recall ever seeing a swimming heron previously. I have since asked many other longtime birders about this phenomenon and have yet to find any one who has witnessed a swimming heron.

However, in searching the literature I find that *all* authors mention that herons do swim !!!

FIESTA

Comes with warblers
waves of warblers
moving up the continents

Yellows, Bay-breasteds
Black-throated Greens and Blues
Myrtles, magnolias
Flourishing wing-tail skirts of white and black

Redstarts flashing flamenco fans of orange and red
Chestnut-sideds with headresses of the sun

Blackburnians
Flown from orange flames of Aztec fires
The Prothonotary emblazoned with Inca gold

Maxwell Corydon Wheat, Jr.
Courtesy: *Bird Watcher's Digest*

REPORT OF THE NEW YORK AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 1997

The Committee evaluated and made decisions on a total of 76 sightings of birds involving 106 reports. These included 72 reports from 1977, one from 1995 and three from 1994. One report from 1996 is included that was decided previously. Seven reports remain to be resolved. Sixteen reports were filed without review because they were sightings of species not on the list of those which should be reported to NYSARC.

Reports and other correspondence for the Committee should be sent to:
The Secretary of the NYSARC :
Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology
159 Sapsucker Woods Road
Ithaca, New York 14850

1997 ACCEPTED REPORTS

- Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*). 1997-71-A-G: one in Oswego Harbor and Oswego River, City of Oswego, Town of Oswego, Oswego Co., 21-30 December (SDB, WTG, MAK, DWC, GH., BP, JM, TC). Photos on file. This is the second record for the state.
- Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*) 1997-43-A: two at Hudson Canyon., Atlantic Ocean, 14 September (PL).
- American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*). 1997-27-A-B: one at north end of Strawberry Island, Niagara River, Town of Tonawanda, Erie Co., 24, 25 May, 5 June (WW, WD); 1997-35-A: one near Long and Wantray Islands, western part of Oneida Lake, Oswego Co., 6 June, 1, 2, 8 July (CA). Photos on file.
- Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) 1997-53-A-B: one at Hamlin Beach State Park., Lake Ontario., Town of Hamlin, Monroe Co., 5, 7 November (BME, ML); 1997 54-A-B: one at Oswego Harbor, Town of Oswego, Oswego Co., 13, 17 November (GP, Bpur).
- Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*). 1997-30-A-B: one at Pond's Pond, Town of Mexico, Oswego Co., 26 May (Bpur, JT).
- Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) 1997-12-A: one at Lake Shore Marshes Wildlife Management Area, Town of Wolcott, Wayne Co., 28 March (GW); 1997-15-A: one along Route 6 one mile south of Bear Mountain Bridge, Town of Cortlandt, Westchester Co., 3 April (DMN); 1997-31-A: two adults and two young at nest,

- Bonticou Crag, Mohonk Preserve, Town of New Paltz, Ulster Co., 27 April to 10 August (JTB). This is the first breeding record for the state. Photos on file. See *The Kingbird* Vol.48(4): 289-300, December 1998.
- Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*). 1997-3-A: one at Braddock Bay, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 15 January (BM); 1997-13-A: one white morph at Fort Miller, Hudson River, Town of Fort Edward, Washington Co., 30 March (BP); 1997-14-A: one blue morph below Lock Dam, Fort Miller, Hudson River, Town of Fort Edward, Washington Co., 30 March (WGE); 1997-45-A: one at Howland Island Wildlife Management Area, Town of Conquest, Cayuga Co., 9 March (SA).
- Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*). 1997-10-A: one at Snowshoe Road, Stony Point (Henderson Harbor), Town of Henderson, Jefferson Co., 16 March (NL). Photos on file.
- Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). 1997-17-A: one at pond north of Lake Ontario State Parkway, 0.5 mile east of Route 98, Town of Carlton, Orleans Co., 27 April (WW).
- American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*). 1997-38-A: one at Stewart Park, Ithaca, Tompkins Co., 24 July (JL); 1997-42-A: one on Lake Erie beach near Bay View, Town of Hamburg, Erie Co., 27 August (WW); 1997-61-A-B: one at Woodlawn Beach State Park, Town of Hamburg, Erie Co., 1 November (MAZ, RWB).
- Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*). 1997-40-A-B: one at Sylvan Beach, Oneida Lake, Town of Vienna, Oneida Co., 19, 21 August (DWC, DJC). Photos on file.
- Little Gull (*Larus minutus*). 1997-72-A: one at Raquette Pond, Tupper Lake, Town of Altamont, Franklin Co., 9 July (TD).
- California Gull (*Larus californicus*). 1997-6.-A-B: one in field off Wakeman Road and on landfill, Town of Perinton, Monroe Co., 2, 15 February (DS, KCG); 1997-55-A: one on mowed grass area in Reservoir State Park, Town of Lewiston, Niagara Co., 20 September (WD); 1997-56-A: one at Niagara River off Robert Moses Power Plant, Town of Lewiston, Niagara Co., 23, 27 November (WD); 1997-57-A: one at Niagara River off Robert Moses Power Plant, Town of Lewiston, Niagara Co., 14 December (WD); 1997-66-A: one at Lake Ontario, Durand Eastman Park, Rochester, Monroe Co., 12 December (BM).
- Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). 1997-5-A-C: one in field off Route 31F, on a landfill and in field east of Fairport, Town of Perinton, Monroe Co, 1, 15 February, 10 March (DS., MT, KCG, RGM).

- White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*). 1997-39-A-B: one at Salmon Creek, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 29 July (SS,CAS). This is the fifth record for the state.
- Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*). 1997-7-A: one at Daly Road, Town of Brasher, St. Lawrence Co., 8 February (DD).
- Hummingbird (*Selasphorus* species). 1997-46-A: one in backyard Center Moriches, Long Island, Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk Co., 26 September (JDK).
- Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*). 1997-36-A: one at feeder in Richfield Springs, Town of Richfield, Otsego Co., 20 June (DJCe). Photos on file. This is the second record for the state. It had been reported coming to this feeder for a week to ten days prior to this sighting. 1997-59-A-E: one at feeder on Route 8, Brant Lake, Town of Horicon, Warren Co., 17-29 November (LJH, RB, DJC, JMCP, GL). Photos on file. This is the third record for the state.
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*). 1997-28-A: one on Route 20, Town of Darien, Genesee Co., 22 May (WD).
- Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*). 1997-9-A-D: one on State Park Road just east of Long Point State Park, Point Peninsula, Town of Lyme, Jefferson Co., 18-22 February (DWP, BPur, DWC, MAK). Photos on file.
- Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*). 1997-60-A: one at Montauk Point Lighthouse, Town of East Hampton, Long Island, Suffolk Co., 30 November (JeK).
- Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*). 1997-33-A: one at Edgemere Drive, Rochester, Monroe Co., (JBB).
- Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*). 1997-25-A: one at feeder in yard above Irondequoit Bay, Rochester, Monroe Co., 16-17 May (RGS). Bird was reported at feeder daily from 12 May.
- Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*). 1997-41-A: one 1.5 miles south of intersection of Routes 20 and 11, Town of Lafayette, Onondaga Co., 22 August (EW).
- Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*). 1997-44-A-C: one at Vassar College Community Gardens, Poughkeepsie, Dutchess Co., 18 October (MCK, SD, BM).
- Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*). 1997-26-A: one at Nine Mile Point, Town of Scriba, Oswego Co., 12 May (Bpur). This is the tenth record for the state.
- Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*). 1997-48-A: one at Nations Road south of Roots Tavern Road, Town of Genesee, Livingston Co., 28 September (JiK); 1997-49-A-B: one and two at

Hogan Point, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 4-5 October (KF, KCG).
Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*). 1997-51-A-B: one at Hamlin
Beach State Park, Town of Hamlin, Monroe Co., 1 November
(RGS., KCG).

1997 ACCEPTED REPORT, ORIGIN UNCERTAIN

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*). 1997-21-A: one at Lake Flower,
Saranac Lake, Franklin Co., 8 May (TD). Photos on file.

1996 ACCEPTED REPORT

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) 1996-25-A-B: one at Nine
Mile Point, Towns of Scriba and New Haven, Oswego Co.,
4-5 May (SA, MAK).

1995 ACCEPTED REPORT

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). 1995-2-B: one about 0.5 mile southeast
of intersection of Atlantic Ocean Road and Bridge Lane, Town of
Southampton, Suffolk Co., 2 January (ES). Report 1995-2-A was
determined to be not acceptable.

1994 ACCEPTED REPORT

Crane species 1994-58-A: one at Buttonwood Creek and the Lake
Ontario State Parkway, Town of Greece, Monroe Co.,
10 December (KCG).

1997 REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*). 1997-68-A: one at Hamlin Beach
State Park, Lake Ontario, Town of Hamlin, Monroe Co., 23
November.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*). 1997-1-A: one on Lake Ontario, Town of
Parma, Monroe Co., 3 January.

- Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*). 1997-65-A: 11 in six sightings at Hamlin Beach State Park, Lake Ontario, Town of Hamlin, Monroe Co., 7-24 November.
- King Rail (*Rallus elegans*). 1997-34-A: one along Parma-Hamlin Townline Road, Towns of Parma and Hamlin, Monroe Co., 6 June.
- Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*), 1997-32-A: two at George A. Taylor Marsh. Town of Richmond, Ontario Co., 31 May.
- Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*) 1997-24-A: one at Pike's Inlet, Westhampton Dunes, Moriches Bay, Long Island, Town of Southhampton, Suffolk Co., early May.
- Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*). 1997-22- A: one in wetlands east of West Sweden Road ca. one mile north of Torpey Hill Road, Town of Sweden, Monroe Co., 9 May.
- Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) 1997-4-A: one at Charlotte Harbor, Genesee River, Rochester, Monroe Co., 28 January; 1997-62-A-C: one at Point Lookout, Jones Inlet, Long Island, Town of Hempstead, Nassau Co., 23 November to 2 December.
- Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) 1997-8-A: one at Perinton Landfill., Town of Perinton, Monroe Co. 18 February; 1997-47-A: one at Ausable Point, Town of Peru, Clinton Co., 28 September; 1997-67-A: one at Hamlin Beach State Park, Lake Ontario, Town of Hamlin, Monroe Co., 19 November.
- Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*). 1997-69-A: one at Hamlin Beach State Park, Lake Ontario, Town of Hamlin, Monroe Co., 9, 20 November.
- Murrelet species. 1997-70-A: one at Hamlin Beach State Park, Town of Hamlin, Monroe Co., 15 November.
- Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*). 1997-23-A: one at Island Cottage Woods, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 14 May.
- Lark Sparrow, (*Chondestes grammacus*). 1997-37-A: one in Town of Lima, Livingston Co., 11 July
- Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*). 1997-29-A: one at Salmon Creek Road, Town of Lansing, Tompkins Co., 26 May.
- Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). 1997-11-A: one four miles southwest of Mecklenburg, Town of Hector, Schuyler Co., 19 March; 1997-20-A: one in yard, Rochester, Monroe Co., 6 May.
- Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*) 1997-63-A: one about 0.5 mile south of intersection of Jewel and Kobor Roads, Town of Northumberland, Saratoga Co., 20 December.

1994 REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*). 1994-57-A: one at south end of Saratoga Lake, Saratoga Co. 3 December.

Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*). 1994-59-A: one at Lake Ontario off Forest Lawn area, Town of Webster, Monroe Co., 19 December

ADDITIONS TO THE NEW YORK STATE LIST

This report contains no additions to the New York State list, which now totals 454 species.

OBSERVERS SUBMITTING REPORTS IN THIS SUMMATION

Sue Adair, Connie Adams, Brad Bidwell, Susan D. Boettger, John B. Bounds, Joseph T. Bridges, Robert W. Brock, Robert Budliger, Tim Capone, David J. Cesari, Anne Clarridge, Dorothy W. Crumb, Willie D'Anna, Stan DeOrsey, Dean DiTommaso, Frank Dobson, Tom Dudones, Walter G. Ellison, Brett M. Ewald, Kurt Fox., Doug Futuyma, John Gregoire, Sue Gregoire, Kevin C. Griffith, William T. Gruenbaum, Roger Heintz, Linda J. Hoyt, Gene Huggins, Mary C. Key, Jim Kimball, Jeff Kingery, Mary Alice Koeneke, Jay D.Kuhlman, Clifford Lamere, Michael Lanzone, Paul Lehman, Gerry Lemmo, Nick Leone, Emanuel Levine, Jim Lowe, Bob Marcotte, Judith McIntyre, Robert G. McKinney, Barbara Michelin, David M. Nutter, R.O'Hara, John M.C. Peterson, Gerard Phillips, David W. Prosser, Bill Purcell, Barb Putnam, Laurie Ray, Eric Salzman, Seymour Schiff, Dominic Sherony, Sharon Skelly, Catherine A. Spahn, Robert G. Spahn, Mike Tetlow, Jim Tietz, Donald Traver, Donna Traver, William Watson, Glenn Wolford, Everett Wood, Michael A. Zebehazy.

CORRIGENDA

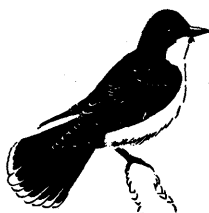
In *The Kingbird* Vol.49(2), June 1999, the following corrections should be made to the NYSARC report:

p. 114 Black-capped Petrel (1996-59-A-B) should read "one found alive but died a few days later"

p. 117 Great Gray Owl (1996-8-A) observer initials should be (DJC).

New York State Avian Records
Committee Compiling This Report

Kenneth P. Able
Robert F. Andrie (Chairman)
Thomas W. Burke
Robert O. Paxton
Charles R. Smith



REPORT FROM AD HOC COMMITTEE TO REVISE NYSARC GUIDELINES

(members Kevin J. McGowan and Thomas W. Burke)

6 November 1999

The addition of two members to the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC), approved at the July 1999 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Federation of New York State Birds Clubs, Inc., necessitated several changes in the guidelines for the committee. Specifically, the criteria for acceptance and rejection of reports needed to be altered to incorporate the additional members. In addition, we recommend an addition in the number of rounds that a report can be considered if resolution is not immediately forthcoming.

CHANGES

III Composition

B. **Change "five" to "seven"**: NYSARC will consist of **seven** members appointed by the President of the Federation with consideration of geographical representation though not rigidly so.

VI. Procedures

D. Evaluation of reports

3. **Change the wording to the following**: A report becomes a "record" if all NYSARC members, or all but one NYSARC member, accept it. If five or more members for whatever reasons do not accept the report, it is then rejected. If the report receives two, three, or four votes only to reject, then the report will be recirculated within four months to all members, along with all comments made on its first review. A second vote will then be taken, and the report will be accepted if all members or all but one accept it. If a majority of the members do not accept the report, it is rejected. If the report receives only two or three votes to reject, it then will be recirculated for a third time along with all comments made on the second review. If the report again fails to be accepted by all NYSARC members or all but one, the report is rejected.

We recommend no change to part 8:

8. No species may be added to the New York State checklist without the unanimous approval of the NYSARC.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. McGowan

Appendix. Summary of votes and consequences

FIRST ROUND	SECOND ROUND	THIRD ROUND
7 - 0 accept	7 - 0 accept	7 - 0 accept
6 - 1 accept	6 - 1 accept	6 - 1 accept
5 - 2 recirculate	5 - 2 recirculate	5 - 2 reject
4 - 3 recirculate	4 - 3 recirculate	4 - 3 reject
3 - 4 recirculate	3 - 4 reject	3 - 4 reject
2 - 5 reject	2 - 5 reject	2 - 5 reject
1 - 6 reject	1 - 6 reject	1 - 6 reject
0 - 7 reject	0 - 7 reject	0 - 7 reject

CHANGES TO THE NYSARC REVIEW LIST

The New York State Avian Records Committee announces the following changes to the Review List.

Reports of the following species from anywhere in New York State will now be reviewed:

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

This eye-catching shorebird is elevated to a full review species (i.e. anywhere in the New York State). Over the last decade, the number of reports of Black-necked Stilt have declined significantly, with few recent recorded individuals staying for more than a day or so. There are very few records away from Long Island. Although identification is relatively simply (except perhaps roosting birds), the decline in the number of sightings has prompted the committee to request descriptions from all Regions of the state.

Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*)

Formerly a review species for upstate New York only, the committee now requests descriptions of all coastal reports including those seen during pelagic trips. We have noted a sharp decline in the number of reports over the past decade, even from offshore pelagic trips, suggesting a significant change in status. Separation from immature Razorbill (*Alca torda*)

as well as Common Murre (*U. aalge*) can be quite problematic. The committee therefore requests detailed descriptions from all Regions of the state.

The following species are removed from the Review List:

Please note that although no longer required by NYSARC, observers are strongly encouraged to submit detailed descriptions to the appropriate Regional editors for inclusion in *The Kingbird* and *North American Birds* (formerly *Field Notes*).

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

The committee no longer solicits documentation of records from upstate New York, although detailed reports should still be submitted to Regional committees and editors. This species is found annually in Region 8 during the winter and with increasing frequency on the southeastern shore of Lake Ontario. Great Cormorants remain relatively common in winter in coastal New York (Regions 9 and 10). The separation of Great Cormorant from Double-crested Cormorant is straightforward and is well-described in the popular field guides.

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*)

Reports of cranes have become quite frequent in the western portion of the state, especially Regions 1 and 2, and typically one or fewer records per annum from the coast (Regions 9 and 10). Although no longer a NYSARC review species, all sightings should be submitted to the appropriate Regional editors together with a description. Observers are reminded to be watchful for other species of crane.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

This species continues to expand its range in New York and is now reported annually from several Lake Ontario hawkwatches. The main stronghold continues to be Region 9 where the species now breeds. Interestingly, Black Vultures remain extremely rare in some reporting Regions (Region 1, for example), and again all reports should be submitted to the relevant Regional editors.

Treatment of sightings not accepted to single species

Records accepted to the generic level (for example, *Selasphorus hummingbird* sp.) will now be reported in the 'Accepted Records' portion of the NYSARC annual report together with the observer's name(s). Hopefully in these cases, a short explanation of the identification problems involved will be also be provided.

WORK IN PROGRESS

A number of other changes are still being evaluated. The list includes American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*), Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*), Azure Gallinule (*Porphyryula flavirostris*), Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*), Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) and non-coastal reports of Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*), Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*), Least Tern (*Sterna albifrons*).

As some readers will have noticed, Azure Gallinule was recently deleted from the American Birding Association Checklist on the basis of unnatural origins (Dunn et al., 1999 *Birding* 31: 518-524). Currently, NYSARC is conducting its own independent investigation of this sensitive case and would appreciate any new information about the possible origins of the one New York record. We should stress that the identification itself is not in question. All communications will be held in strict confidence.

We encourage all observers to submit detailed documentation of any species or form listed on the NYSARC review list. The review list is meant only as a guideline and under certain circumstances, reports of species not included on the list will be reviewed. Such cases must be accompanied by a cover letter explaining why the record should be examined by NYSARC. A simple example of this category, would be rare wintering records of common breeding species, especially those in which less common species need to be rigorously eliminated. Announcements of additional changes to the NYSARC review list will appear in future issues of *The Kingbird*.

Respectfully,

Kenneth P. Able
Robert F. Andrie
Thomas W. Burke
Willie D'Anna

Kevin J. McGowan
Robert O. Paxton
Angus Wilson (Chairman)

THE REVISED NYSARC REVIEW LIST

In the June 1998 issue of *The Kingbird* (Vol 48, No.2 :116-119) the new guidelines for The New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) were presented to the Federation membership. While much of the guidelines may not make interesting reading to most, there are two provisions that should be pointed out. They are as follows:

Item B in Section VI (Procedures)

Submitted reports will be stamped with the date received and receipt will be acknowledged by the Secretary in writing to the observer within seven working days

Paragraph 6 under Item D in Section VI (Procedures)

The Secretary will advise the observer(s) as promptly as possible of the acceptance or non-acceptance of a report through the use of a simple printed form letter. For the benefit of the observer whose report has been rejected, the form will carry the advice, "If you wish to learn the specific reason(s) for the non-acceptance of this report, please contact the Chair of NYSARC in writing." The name and address of the then current Chair will be included.

The clauses above were specifically included in the new Guidelines to address what some individuals perceived to be a shortcoming in NYSARC procedures and to foster a better relationship between observers and the committee. Birders throughout the state are urged and encouraged to send in reports of sightings of species that appear on the review list.

This list is encoded in the official *Checklist of the Birds of New York State*, and for the convenience of the membership is shown below. Please note that it is not necessary to submit observations of species not shown on this list, unless the species does not appear on the checklist at all, which of course means it is a new species for the state.

SPECIES TO BE REPORTED TO NYSARC

1. Any species new to New York State. A checklist was published in *The Kingbird* 1998 March; 48(1): 2-15.
2. Any addition to the list of species proven to breed in New York State.
3. Any of the following species found anywhere within New York State.

PACIFIC LOON, YELLOW-BILLED LOON, WESTERN GREBE, YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS, HERALD PETREL, MOTTLED PETREL, BLACK-CAPPED PETREL, AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER, WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL, LEACH'S STORM-PETREL, WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD, RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD, BROWN BOOBY, AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN, BROWN PELICAN, ANHINGA, MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD, REDDISH EGRET, WHITE IBIS, WHITE-FACED IBIS, ROSEATE SPOONBILL, WOOD STORK, FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK, ROSS'S GOOSE, BLACK BRANT, BARNACLE GOOSE, CINNAMON TEAL, SMEW, SWALLOW-TAILED KITE, WHITE-TAILED KITE, MISSISSIPPI KITE, SWAINSON'S HAWK, GYRFALCON, YELLOW RAIL, CORN CRAKE, KING RAIL, PURPLE GALLINULE, AZURE GALLINULE, NORTHERN LAPWING, WILSON'S PLOVER, BLACK-NECKED STILT, SPOTTED REDSHANK, WOOD SANDPIPER, ESKIMO CURLEW, WHIMBREL (WHITE-RUMPED SUBSPECIES ONLY), EURASIAN CURLEW, LONG-BILLED CURLEW, BAR-TAILED GODWIT, RED-NECKED STINT, LITTLE STINT, SHARP-TAILED, SANDPIPER, BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER, GREAT SKUA, SOUTH POLAR SKUA, LONG-TAILED JAEGER MEW GULL, CALIFORNIA GULL, THAYER'S GULL, SLATY-BACKED GULL, ROSS'S GULL, IVORY GULL, SANDWICH TERN, ARCTIC TERN, BRIDLED TERN, SOOTY TERN, WHITE-WINGED TERN, COMMON MURRE, THICK-BILLED MURRE, LONG-BILLED MURRELET, ANCIENT MURRELET, ATLANTIC PUFFIN, WHITE-WINGED DOVE, NORTHERN HAWK OWL, BURROWING OWL, GREAT GRAY OWL, BOREAL OWL, ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD, RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD, LEWIS'S WOODPECKER, SAY'S PHOEBE, VERMILION FLYCATCHER, ASH-THROATED FLYCATCH-

ER, GRAY KINGBIRD, SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER, FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER, LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE, BELL'S VIREO, BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE, CAVE SWALLOW, BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH, ROCK WREN, BEWICK'S WREN, NORTHERN WHEATEAR, MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD, TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE, BICKNELL'S THRUSH (OUTSIDE OF KNOWN BREEDING AREAS), FIELDFARE, REDWING, SAGE THRASHER, BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER, TOWNSEND'S WARBLER, SWAINSON'S WARBLER, PAINTED REDSTART, WESTERN TANAGER, GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE, SPOTTED TOWHEE, BACHMAN'S SPARROW, LARK BUNTING, BAIRD'S SPARROW, LE CONTE'S SPARROW, NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW, HARRIS'S SPARROW, GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW, SMITH'S LONGSPUR, CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR, BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK, LAZULI BUNTING, PAINTED BUNTING, BREWER'S BLACKBIRD, BULLOCK'S ORIOLE, BRAMBLING, HOARY REDPOLL.

4. The following species from upstate New York only:

ANY SHEARWATER or STORM-PETREL, NORTHERN GANNET, TRICOLORED HERON, YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON, TUFTED DUCK, COMMON EIDER, BLACK RAIL, CLAPPER RAIL, PIPING PLOVER, AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER, AMERICAN AVOCET, MARBLED GODWIT, CURLEW SANDPIEPER, GULL-BILLED TERN, ROYAL TERN, ROSEATE TERN., BLACK SKIMMER, ANY SPECIES OF ALCID, CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW, WESTERN KINGBIRD, YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER, SUMMER TANAGER, LARK SPARROW, SAVANNAH "IPSWICH" SPARROW, SALTMARSH SHARP-TAILED SPARROW, SEASIDE SPARROW, BLUE GROSBEAK, BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE.

5. The following species away from the Adirondacks:

SPRUCE GROUSE, THREE-TOED WOODPECKER, BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER, GRAY JAY.

6. The following species for spring reports only:

WESTERN SANDPIPER (upstate-NewYork only), BAIRD'S SANDPIPER, SABINE'S GULL.

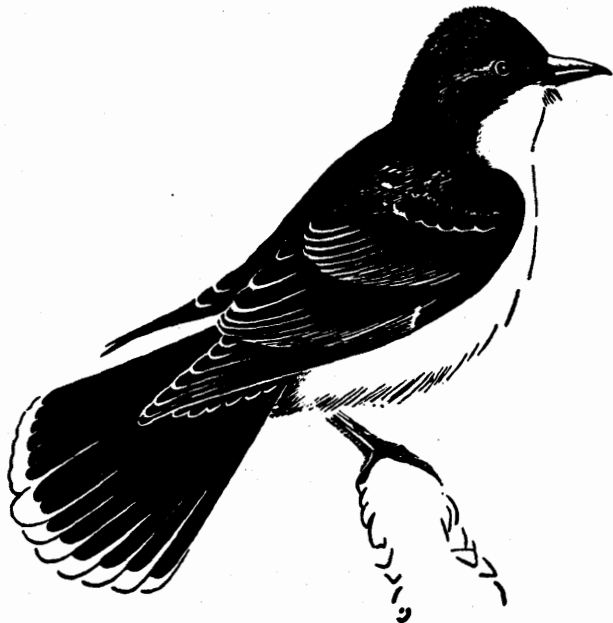
Any reports of birds seen out of season at least four weeks before early arrivals or four weeks after late departures, as summarized in *Birds of New York State* (1974), the *Supplement to Birds of New York State* (1976), or *Bull's Birds of New York State* (1998).

Detailed advice on the preparation of reports can be found in the NYSARC section of the FNYSBC web site, or accessed directly with the following URL:

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/fnysbc/goodreport.htm>

Reports and documentation, such as photographs and video tape if available, should be mailed to:

The Secretary, NYSARC
Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology
159 Sapsucker Woods Rd.
Ithaca, NY 14850



MEET THE MEMBERS OF NYSARC

In order to "put a face" so to speak on NYSARC, a short biographical note of each member is shown below. They are in alphabetical order and each one was written by the member himself.

KENNETH P. ABLE

I began to watch birds seriously and to keep records around age 11. Since that time, I have birded throughout North America, in Mexico, Costa Rica, Peru, New Zealand, Australia, Iceland, England, Spain, France, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and South Africa. I established five first state records for Kentucky and one each for Indiana and Louisiana. As a teenager I decided that I wanted to study birds professionally and pursued that career at the University of Louisville, Louisiana State University and the University of Georgia where I completed a Ph.D. in Zoology in 1971. Since then I have been on the faculty at the University at Albany, SUNY, where I am a Professor of Biology.

My professional life has been devoted to studies of bird migration and orientation, about which I have published more than 100 scientific papers. A recent book (*Gatherings of Angels — Migrating Birds and Their Ecology*, Cornell University Press, 1999) treats these subjects for a lay audience. I am a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) and the Animal Behavior Society and a Corresponding Fellow of the Deutsche Ornithologen-Gesellschaft. In 1996 I was awarded the William Brewster Medal of the AOU. Currently I serve on the Council of the AOU and the Board of Directors of the American Birding Association (ABA). I am editor of the Monographs in Field Ornithology series published by the ABA and of the Gleanings From the Technical Literature column that appears regularly in *Birding*. I was one of the original members of NYSARC and, except for one term, I have served continuously since its inception.

ROBERT ANDRLE

My interest in birds began in boyhood, and later my particular interests became distribution, abundance and ecology. Educated at Canisius College, University of Buffalo and Louisiana State University, my doc-

toral research (Ph.D. in biogeography) was conducted in the Sierra de Tuxtla, Veracruz, Mexico. Employed at the Buffalo Museum of Science as Curator of Vertebrate Zoology, Associate Director, and currently Research Associate. I am a Life and Elective Member of the AOU, Past President and Fellow of the BOS, member of its avian records committee for several decades, and a member of the FNYSBC NYSARC since its creation in 1977, and Chair of same from 1988 to 1999.

I have conducted ornithological research in twenty countries in the Western Hemisphere, Europe and Africa, with specific studies on endangered bird species in Mexico, Guatemala, St. Vincent and St. Lucia, and have studied 23 gull species on four continents.

Have authored some 65 scientific and popular articles, was principal editor of *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*, wrote part of and edited Beardslee and Mitchell's *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region* and its *Supplement*, edited Eaton's *Birds of Cattaraugus County, New York*, Rosche's *Birds of Wyoming County, New York*, contributed data to Bull's *Birds of New York State*, and species accounts to Levine's *Bull's Birds of New York State*.

Have received research grants from 12 U.S. and foreign institutions, led tours in the US, Canada, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Trinidad and Africa, and have been consultant and advisor on environmental matters to several federal, state, municipal and private organizations.

In 1999, I received the Gordon M. Meade Award of the FNYSBC for distinguished service to the Federation.

THOMAS W. BURKE

As a lifelong resident of southern Westchester County, with higher education at Yale University (undergraduate in economics) and New York University (graduate in accounting), and currently pursuing a career in public accounting, I began actively birding in the summer of 1972. To this end, I have traveled through much of the United States and Canada and have taken several trips abroad to Europe, Africa and South America. Over the years I have led numerous regional field trips for various organizations. I published a comprehensive birding newsletter, the *Mianus Field Notes*, covering eastern Westchester and western Fairfield Counties for 15 years. In 1976 I established and still am co-compiler of the Greenwich - Stamford Summer Bird Count. I have been the editor and voice of the New York Rare Bird Alert since early 1984.

I served on the Connecticut Rare Records Committee from its inception in 1985 to 1995 and have been a member of the New York State Avian Records Committee since 1989. I have also been involved with numerous avian and environmental projects in the region and have provided editorial assistance for various published works relative to birds. I remain extremely active in the field, fortunately still enjoying birding immensely and still learning.

WILLIE D'ANNA

I have been birding seriously for nearly twenty years and enjoying every minute of it. While I have lived in western New York my entire birding life, yearly trips have taken me to every corner of North America. The Buffalo Ornithological Society (BOS), one of the first groups to make use of the written verification system, helped me to develop good birding skills during my early years. As an active birder discovering several rare and unseasonal birds, I got plenty of experience with the verification process. While birding on your own is a great way to learn, having an eager companion is even better. I have been fortunate to have my life-partner, Betsy Potter, along on most of my days in the field.

Warblers were the first birds that I really studied hard. Next came shorebirds. In recent years gulls have been my main focus with the late fall and early winter finding me on the Niagara River at every opportunity. For over ten years I compiled bird sighting records for the BOS and wrote the Region One report for *The Kingbird* for four years. Currently, I write the "Highlights of the Season" for *The Kingbird*. I have written various other articles for *The Kingbird*, *Birder's Journal*, *Texas Birds*, and *Ontario Birds* and contributed several species accounts to *Bull's Birds of New York State*.

My education culminated with a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1984. Since that time I have worked as a bridge design engineer for the New York State Department of Transportation and was part of the team that won the 1997 Bridge Design of the Year award from the Association for Bridge Construction and Design.

KEVIN MCGOWAN

I have been the Curator of birds and mammals at Cornell University since 1988. I am directly responsible for the extensive collections of bird and mammal skins, skeletons, tissues, and birds' eggs and nests. I received my Ph.D. in biology in 1987 from the University of South Florida for a study of the social development of young Florida Scrub-Jays. My current research deals primarily with the social and reproductive biology of crows. As a broadly-trained ornithologist, I am also interested in a wide range of topics, including systematics, evolution, biogeography, natural history, and ecology. I am an Elected Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, former Secretary of the Ornithological Societies of North America (OSNA), and the former editor of the Ornithological Newsletter a bi-monthly publication of OSNA. Blurring the line between my professional and private life, I have been an avocational birder since my childhood in Ohio (my written notes date to 1971). I have traveled throughout North America, as well as to Europe, Central America, South America, and Africa, watching and studying birds. I have led birding field trips for groups of all skill levels in Ohio, New York, New Jersey, Florida, and Hawaii. I have been a member of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's "Sapsuckers" World Series of Birding team for ten years. (We finished second overall in 1999 with 220 species seen in one day.) I am very interested in the topics of bird distribution and identification, and am equally interested in educating the birding public about those subjects.

ROBERT O. PAXTON

I was born in Lexington, Virginia, in 1932. I have been an avid field birder since the age of nine. Professionally, I worked as a professor of modern European history, publishing works on the history of France during the German occupation of 1940-44. taught at the University of California at Berkeley from 1961 to 1967, at the State University of New York at Stony Brook from 1967 to 1969, and at Columbia University from 1969 until retirement in 1997.

In California, I participated in founding the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, and served as one of the regional editors for *Audubon Field Notes* for the Middle Pacific Coast Region from 1963 to 1967. After moving to New York, I continued to write for *Field Notes* and its successors

(*American Birds*, *North American Birds*) as one of the regional editors of the Hudson-Delaware Region.

As a licensed bird bander since 1970, I have banded birds in France and California as well as in New York. I served as president of the Linnaean Society of New York from 1978 to 1980.

ANGUS WILSON

An enthusiastic birder for the last 23 years, with field experience from a variety of European countries as well as North and South America and the Far East. After travelling widely as a child, I spent my formative years in suburban North London, England, a breeding ground for serious birders. Particularly interested in the identification and distribution of seabirds, gulls, shorebirds and swifts. A firm believer in importance of the Internet as a way for birders throughout the world to rapidly exchange information. To this end, I maintain a heavily-visited web site known as "Ocean Wanderers" (<http://www.best.com/~petrel/index.html>), devoted to bird identification, most notably of pelagic birds. I have also been a regular contributor to the "ID-Frontiers" internet discussion group since its inception. Currently at work on a pair of articles focusing on Red-necked and Little Stints for the ABA's *Birding* magazine.

Educated at the University of St Andrews, Scotland (studied zoology and genetics) and King's College, University of London (Ph.D. in molecular biology). Came to New York in 1991 as a post-doctoral research fellow at world-renowned Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory on Long Island. Spent a year in California as a visiting scientist at UC Berkeley and Tularik, Inc, a biotech start-up company based in San Francisco, before returning to Cold Spring Harbor Lab. Currently, an Assistant Professor at New York University School of Medicine in Manhattan, where I maintain my own research group studying the regulation of gene expression and the life cycle of human herpes viruses.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON 1998

WILLIE D'ANNA
2257 Cayuga Drive Extension,
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

WEATHER EFFECTS

Tropical Storms Floyd and Dennis alleviated the summer drought in much of the state. Eastern areas of New York got drenched by Floyd which dropped as much as 14 inches of rain in Region 9. In addition to widespread flooding, the storm caused mudslides and a dam to fail in Region 7. The earlier Dennis had less impact but it did help to control the forest fires raging in the Adirondacks. These storms produced some interesting birds but only in coastal areas of Region 10. Overall, it was another warmer than average season with September and especially November well above normal. Migrant songbird concentrations were few with only Region 10 noting one day, 11 Sep, as significant.

WATERFOWL

Despite the fact that this group was considered down in Regions 3 & 5 this season, there were several highlights. Brant were found in numbers over 1000 in the Lake Ontario Regions 1, 2, & 5 with an impressive 10,000 in three days at the Hamlin Beach Lakewatch in Region 2. Green-winged Teals had counts of at least 90 in six Regions and a maximum of 309 in Region 2 and Ring-necked Ducks numbered at least 175 in six Regions with a maximum of 550 in Region 1. Those looking in *Bull's Birds of New York State*(1998) will find that these numbers pale in comparison to maxima recorded at Montezuma NWR in Region 3. However, Montezuma is an extraordinary place and compared to other locations in the state, the counts above are quite high. Good numbers of Ruddy Ducks were also found in seven Regions with a maximum of 780 in Region 1 and one was early in Region 7. This species has shown a definite upward trend in recent years. Some other fine counts this season included 1163 Wood Ducks in Region 9, 300 Northern Shovelers and 7600 Greater Scaups in Region 1, 1350 Common Goldeneyes in Region 7, and 639 and 450 Buffleheads in Regions 2 & 7, respectively. Though Snow Geese seemed down in some Regions as compared to the previous fall, 12-14,000 in

Region 7 is a very high count. A flock of 32 Canada Geese would not be worth mentioning, except for one thing – these were the small *hutchinsii* subspecies, carefully documented in Region 1, and a state record count by far! Region 7 reported at least two more of this small form.

OTHER WATERBIRDS

Red-necked Grebe, an uncommon to rare species in much of the state, was considered up in Regions 2, 3, 5, 6, & 7. Jaegers had a fine season on Lake Ontario with 170 individuals in Region 2, 24 in Region 5, and other sightings in Regions 1 & 6. Some gull highlights included Franklin's in Regions 2, 3, 9, & 10, Sabine's in Regions 1 & 5, a Black-headed in Region 2, and a Laughing in Region 3. The Niagara River in Region 1 had an off year but still produced 2-3 California Gulls, an annual visitor there since 1992. Although no scintillating shorebirds were found, several rare and uncommon species showed up in multiple Regions. Hudsonian Godwits were in four Regions, Marbled Godwits in two, Western Sandpipers in five, Purple Sandpipers in four, Buff-breasted Sandpipers in three, Long-billed Dowitchers in four, Red-necked Phalaropes in six, and Red Phalaropes in four.

NORTHERN INVADERS

It was nearly unanimous among the Regional Editors – Northern Shrikes staged a very strong movement. It will be interesting to see if CBC totals for this year rival the record shattering 1995-96 irruption. Bohemian Waxwings came early and were relatively widespread. They were found in Regions 1, 2, 7, 8, & way down south in Region 10, where they are listed as casual in *Bull's Birds of New York State* (1998). Red-breasted Nuthatches were widespread and numerous and they also came early. And, like two years ago, they presaged an invasion of what birders really long for – winter finches. Although numbers were generally modest and some species were already in decline by season's end, any finch invasion nowadays makes birders happy. In Region 10, they must have been ecstatic as numbers of both crossbills, Pine Siskins, and American Goldfinches were very impressive there. Resident Black-capped Chickadee numbers are sometimes augmented by migrants from more northerly regions, as was the case this year. Regions 2, 3, 4, 8, and 9 noticed the movement. A Boreal Chickadee tagged along in Region 9.

MISCELLANEOUS

Although both Braddock Bay in Region 2 and Derby Hill in Region 5 are stellar spring hawkwatching sites, only Braddock Bay has an annual "wrong-way" migration of raptors, which occurs predominantly in August. This season, Derby Hill got into the act with impressive *October* flights. Among the highlights were one-day counts of 224 Red-tailed Hawks, five Bald Eagles, two Golden Eagles, and seven immature Northern Goshawks. Any one of those counts would make for a very respectable spring day. Northern Goshawks were not only in Region 5 but were found in all ten Regions! Among the regular autumn hawk-watches, Region 8 included the totals from Camp Pinnacle, Region 4 gave some highlights from Franklin Mountain, and Region 10 listed highlights from Central Park and Fire Island. 61 Peregrine Falcons at Fire Island set a record one-day total and 260 there established a new season high. Obviously, these are statewide records as well.

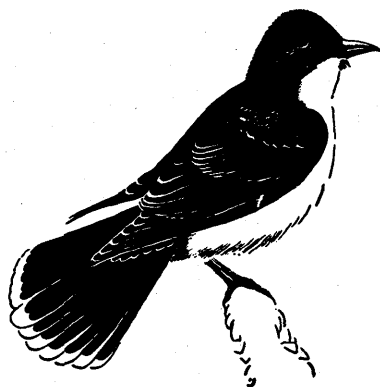
Results from banding stations make one think. In Region 2 over 200 Gray-cheeked Thrushes were banded as were three Connecticut Warblers and one Yellow-breasted Chat. Region 3 banders also got a Connecticut Warbler and both Regions 3 & 8 netted Bicknell's Thrush, a NYSARC review species. All of these birds are rather secretive and they illustrate how banding data may give a truer picture of their status in New York. Of course, it is not just the skulkers that get caught in the nets. The same banding stations documented the already mentioned Black-capped Chickadee invasion.

RARITIES

As usual for the fall, so many rarities were reported that only the very best will be mentioned here. In Region 1 there was a Western Grebe, Loggerhead Shrike, and a Wyoming County first Brewer's Blackbird. Region 2 added Tricolored Heron, Cattle Egret, Black Vulture, Arctic Tern, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Dickcissel, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Region 3 also had a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. An intriguing report of martin seen in Region 3 at the late date of 5 Nov is either a record late Purple Martin or something more exotic. The bird was photographed. We will keep you posted if there are any further developments. Region 4 added two sightings of Black Vulture and a Stilt Sandpiper, a possible first for the Region. In Region 5 birders also found a Black Vulture as well as a Yellow-throated Warbler. The warbler occurred in late November, an

odd time for a southern species in New York. However, the Yellow-throated Warbler has a reputation for late fall vagrancy into the northeast. Region 6 added a Three-toed Woodpecker and a summer leftover Marbled Godwit. Region 7 had a Barrow's Goldeneye and a remarkable number of jaegers on Lake Champlain, including four Parasitics, four Pomarines, and the second Regional Long-tailed Jaeger. What is really interesting is that a jaeger flight was predicted at this location 25 years ago! Read Mike Peterson's account of this event for the whole story. In Region 8, a Western Kingbird provided only the fourth record ever for that Region. Two Clay-colored Sparrows and the previously mentioned Boreal Chickadee were in Region 9. The chickadee was the Region's first since 1981. Tropical storm-related sightings in Region 10 included a White-faced Storm-Petrel (reportedly documented though details not yet submitted), multiple Sandwich Terns, and nine Sooty Terns. Other birds were Purple Gallinule, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Mountain Bluebird and one of the most intriguing, a Barred Owl found within the limits of New York City . Occasionally this species will occur during the winter in The Bronx close to the Westchester border , but this one was in Brooklyn!

My choice for bird of the season (BOTS) goes to the Cave Swallows found in Regions 2 and 10. Pending action by NYSARC on last year's Region 10 sighting, this season's birds could provide the third and fourth records ever in New York. The Cave Swallows this fall were part of a much larger movement into the northeast. Reported sightings also came from Ontario, Quebec, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia, No. Carolina, and Michigan. (Lehman, P. 1999. *Birder's Journal* 8(6):286).



STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in **BOLD UPPERCASE**; 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; BOTS — bird of the season; 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

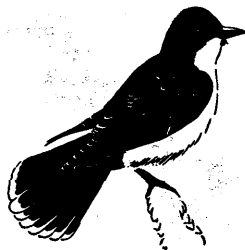
Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

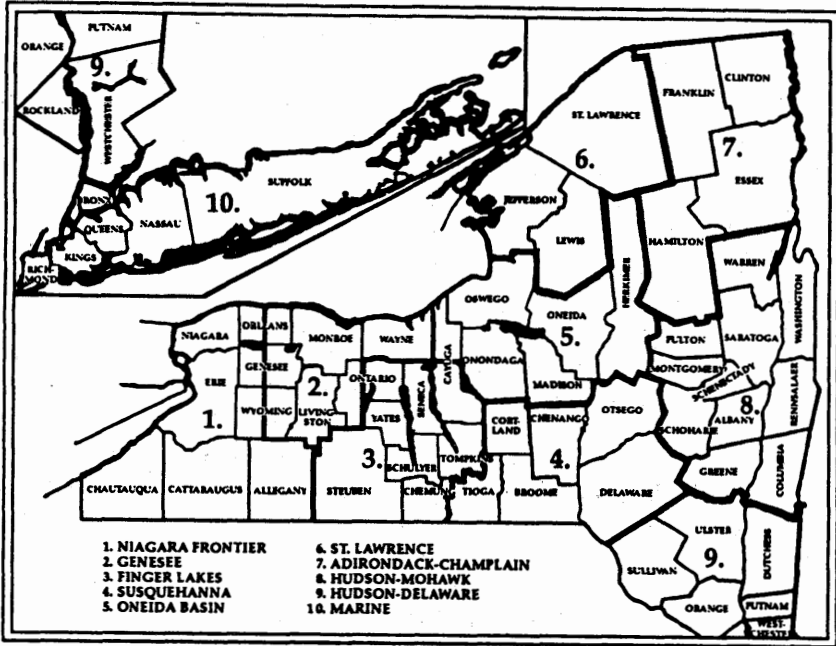
Deadline is 7 September

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

Dick Miga

38 Elm Street

Fredonia, NY 14063-1937

September began with a stretch of six days of midsummer heat and humidity. This was finally broken by the edge of dying tropical storm Dennis, which brought the month's heaviest rains on the 7th, with over one-third of the monthly total recorded on that date. Fortunately, Region 1 was too far west to be affected by Hurricane Floyd, with just some clouds here on the 16th. However, strong winds did cause some limited tree damage on the 23rd, and the Region did get a scare late on the 29th when a tornado watch was placed in effect. Statistically, the average temperature for the month was 64.3°F, 2.4° above normal, making this the warmest September in 28 years. The rainfall total of 3.95" was just over the norm and varied in amounts over the Region.

October continued as a typical autumn month, with the main weather event strong to severe thunderstorms that swept across the area on the 13th. This event followed a sharp cold front that crossed the Region, dropping temperatures over 30° in six hours. Many reports of hail and damaging wind gusts came from Niagara County and the southern region of Erie County. Statistics for the month included an average temperature at the Buffalo Airport of 50.1°. Rainfall total was just less than 3", contributing to continued low subsurface soil moisture and water table levels.

November's main weather event was an intense storm that moved from the Gulf Coast straight north across western New York during the evening of the 2nd. The barometric pressure fell to 29.01" at Buffalo, the lowest at any time since 1992, and the lowest November reading since 1913. Over 3" of rain fell on the suburbs of Buffalo, creating widespread flooding and road closures. The average temperature of 43.9° was 3° above normal. It was the eighth warmest November of the century. Precipitation for the month totaled just over 3" at the airport, just below normal. Over half (1.65") of this rain fell during the storm of the 2nd, establishing a new daily record for the date. (Note that this was only half of some of the reports from the suburbs.) The only snowfall recorded for the month occurred on the 30th, with varying amounts recorded throughout the Region. Meteorological data were obtained from the website of the National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Data and Summary* for Buffalo, NY.

The fall period gave birders in Region 1 hope that a strong winter irruptive movement was in the making, as early reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches, Pine Siskins, Common Redpolls, Evening Grosbeaks and both crossbills were recorded. The outcome of this activity will await the winter report. In any event, it was a positive start.

Rare bird sightings for the period included a **Western Grebe** observed on 27 November in the Niagara River from the community of Youngstown in Niagara County by Donald Ford. This record, if accepted by NYSARC, will be the fifth for the state since the Western/Clark's Grebe split in 1985. Two **Greater White-fronted Geese** were located by Mike Morgante, Kurt Fox and Bill Watson at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge near Batavia in Genesee County on 13 November. Tom O'Donnell scored a spectacular sighting of a **Ross's Goose**, also at Iroquois NWR, on 11 November. Two reports of **Parasitic Jaeger**, accepted by the Buffalo Ornithological Society Records Committee, were received during the fall, one from Golden Hill State Park in Niagara County on 25 October by Brendan Klick and the second on 13 November from Lakeside Beach State Park in Orleans County by Kurt Fox. Both reports came from the south shore of Lake Ontario, which has been an excellent area for jaeger sightings over the years. As expected, the Niagara River region, already respected worldwide for its gathering of gulls in winter, produced again with an observation of a **California Gull** by Willie D'Anna and Brendan Klick at Devil's Hole State Park on 7 November. Reports of this gull continued through the month from several locations along the river. A **Loggerhead Shrike**, located in the Town of Somerset in Niagara County on 17 October by Sue and Tom O'Donnell, was one of very few reports of this species in recent years in this Region. Ten **Bohemian Waxwings** were reported on 30 October at Golden Hill State Park by Willie D'Anna and Bill Watson and four to nine were spotted at Fort Niagara State Park over the period 21-29 November, beginning with the annual Niagara River field trip led by Bob Brock. Finally, Richard and Dorothy Rosche observed an adult male **Brewer's Blackbird** in the Town of Orangeville in Wyoming County on 27 October, a first record for that county.

Other significant sightings for the period included: Least Bittern on 30 October, tying the late date; **Northern Goshawk** at two locations; Northern Saw-whet Owl at the third earliest fall date on 6 October, unfortunately picked up after fatally striking a window; **Common Raven** in the Town of Charlotte in Chautauqua County; White-crowned Sparrow arriving early on 19 September and Evening Grosbeak observed by William Horne on 24 September, setting a new early arrival date for that species.

The 64th Annual Buffalo Ornithological Society October Bird Count, conducted on the 10th, identified 159 species totaling 144,875 individuals. According to compilers Mike Hamilton, Gail Seamans and Terry Yonker, significant sightings included: two **Glossy Ibis**, a first record for the count, although two ibis (sp.) were recorded in 1990; a Lesser Black-backed Gull, a second report for the count, the first occurring last year; and, for the first time in a decade, a Philadelphia Vireo.

CONTRIBUTORS

Robert Andrlé, Jim Berry, Buffalo Ornithological Society, Bruce Chilton, Willie D'Anna, Mike Davis, Kurt Fox, Mike Galas, Barbara Henderson, Linda Holmes, William Horne, Dave Junkin, Brendan Klick, Hans Kunze, Dick Miga, Mike Morgante, David Neveu, Tom O'Donnell, Susan O'Donnell, Vivian Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Frances Rew, Gerald Rising, Donald Roberson (DRo), Richard Rosche, Dorothy Rosche, Olga Rosche, Gail Seamans, Jack Skalicky, Richard Sowinski, David Suggs (Buffalo RBA), William Watson, Jim Wojewodzki, Peter Yoerg.

ABBREVIATIONS

BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; DH – Dunkirk Harbor, City of Dunkirk; FMCSP – Four Mile Creek State Park, NIAG; FNSP – Fort Niagara State Park, NIAG; GHSP – Golden Hill State Park, NIAG; GI – Goat Island, Niagara Falls; INWR – Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, GENE/ORLE; LBSP – Lakeside Beach State Park, ORLE; OOWMA – Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area, GENE; SPNP – Sinking Ponds Nature Preserve, East Aurora, ERIE; Tift NP – Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo; TWMA – Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area, WYOM; WB – Woodlawn Beach, ERIE.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr 3 T Shadigee 21 Oct (MM); max 328 GHSP 21 Nov (MM).

Com. Loon: max 300 T Somerset NIAG & T Yates ORLE 30 Oct (WD, BOS).

Red-necked Grebe: Olcott NIAG 31 Oct; 1-3 L Ontario 13-23 Oct.

WESTERN GREBE: Youngstown NIAG 27 Nov (DF!).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 1052

The Kingbird 2000 March; 50(1)

Buffalo 9 Sep (WW).

Am. Bittern: TWMA 17 Oct (BK).

Least Bittern: Sheldon Trail T Chautauqua CHAU 30 Oct (JB!), ties record late date.

Great Egret: 11-33 INWR 19 Sep-8 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: WB 10 Sep; BWWTP 2 Oct.

Glossy Ibis: 2 BOS Oct Count 10 Oct, first for the count.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:

2 INWR 13 Nov (MM!, KF, WW).
Snow Goose: arr INWR 28 Sep (RS!).
ROSS'S GOOSE: INWR 11 Nov (TO!).
Canada Goose (*B. c. hutchinsii*): 28
 INWR 21 Oct (MM!); 32 INWR 13 Nov
 (MM!); 10 INWR 21 Nov (MM!).
Brant: arr 450 GHSP, 190 Olcott NIAG 18
 Oct (BC); max 1045 T Somerset NIAG 24
 Oct (WD, mob).
Trumpeter Swan: OOWMA 4 Oct-8 Nov
 (BK), had band, origin unknown.
Wood Duck: SPNP 13 Nov (LH).
Am. Wigeon: 220 OOWMA 3 Oct.
Am. Black Duck: 50 OOWMA 23 Oct.
Blue-winged Teal: BWWTP 7 Nov (GS).
N. Shoveler: 300 BWWTP 24 Oct (GS,
 BOS); 135 BWWTP 28 Nov (GS).
Green-winged Teal: 113 BWWTP 23 Oct.
Canvasback: arr TWMA 31 Oct.
Redhead: arr Tiff NP 1 Oct.
Ring-necked Duck: arr 4 BWWTP,
 OOWMA 19 Sep.
Greater Scaup: max 7600 Niagara Falls
 14 Nov (BK).
Surf Scoter: arr 2 T Somerset NIAG 4
 Oct.
White-winged Scoter: max 358 LBSP 13
 Nov.
Black Scoter: max 105 Somerset NIAG
 25 Oct (BK).
Ruddy Duck: 2-780 many locations 19
 Sep-21 Nov.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: SPNP 21 Oct (LH).
N. Goshawk: NIAG 24 Sep (SO); WB 27
 Sep (BK); both early fall dates.
Merlin: T Sheridan CHAU 6 Oct.
Peregrine Falcon: Niagara Falls 21 Nov
 (WD).
Com. Moorhen: 2 BWWTP 2 Oct.
Black-bellied Plover: BWWTP 2 Oct.
Am. Golden-Plover: 2 T Wilson NIAG 24
 Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: 2 INWR 13 Nov
 (MM).
Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 INWR 31 Oct.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: BWWTP 23
 Oct.
Baird's Sandpiper: BWWTP 19 Sep.

Red-necked Phalarope: BWWTP 3 & 5
 Oct (GS).

Red Phalarope: Bird I Pier Buffalo 24
 Nov (BC).

PARASITIC JAEGER: GHSP 25 Oct
 (BK); LBSP 13 Nov (KF).

CALIFORNIA GULL: Niagara River
 area 1-27 Nov (WD, mob).

Thayer's Gull: 2 Lewiston NIAG 29 Nov
 (BK).

Iceland Gull: arr Niagara Falls 9 Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1-8 St.

Columbans CHAU on L Erie to Niagara
 Falls 1 Oct-28 Nov.

Sabine's Gull: DH 9 Nov (DM-ph, DN,
 mob).

Caspian Tern: LaSalle P Buffalo 30 Sep.

Forster's Tern: Niagara Falls 25 Oct, 6
 Nov (RR, WD, BP).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Tiff NP & GI 13,
 15, 19 Sep.

Snowy Owl: T Belmont ALLE 21 Nov.

Short-eared Owl: T Shelby ORLE 11 Nov
 (SO).

N. Saw-whet Owl: Jamestown CHAU 6
 Oct (JB), window kill to Roger Tory
 Peterson Institute collection, 3rd earliest
 fall date.

Com. Nighthawk: 2 Amherst & 1
 Lancaster ERIE 28 Sep.

Chimney Swift: 1000 Bird I Pier Buffalo
 30 Sep (WW, mob).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Amity L
 ALLE 30 Sep (VP).

Red-Headed Woodpecker: FNSP 29
 Nov (MG).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: 2 GI 8 Oct (DRo).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: T Charlotte
 CHAU, T Wheatfield NIAG 26 Sep (FR,
 BP).

E. Kingbird: 4 Tillman WMA ERIE 6 Sep.

N. Shrike: arr 2 T Yates ORLE 24 Oct;
 many more reports from various sites.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: T Somerset
 NIAG 17 Oct (S&TO), scarce in recent
 years.

Blue-headed Vireo: Forest Lawn

Cemetery Buffalo & Salamanca CATT 17 Oct.

Warbling Vireo: GI 25 Sep (DRo).

Philadelphia Vireo: T Wheatfield NIAG 26 Sep; BOS Oct Count 10 Oct.

Com. Raven: 2 T Charlotte CHAU 4 Sep (FR), new location, most reports are from ALLE.

Tree Swallow: INWR & T Sheridan CHAU 24 Oct (BK, DN).

N. Rough-winged Swallow: 54 INWR 2 Oct (MM, mob).

Barn Swallow: 3 INWR 3 Oct.

Marsh Wren: 2 BWWTP 17 Oct (BK).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr 3 T Wilson NIAG 18 Sep (WD, BP).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: T Sheridan CHAU 14 Nov (DN).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Pt Gratiot CHAU 27 Sep (DN).

Veery: FNSP 22 Sep.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Tonawanda ERIE 7 Sep (PH); many reports thru 10 Oct, several banded Wethersfield WYOM (DJ).

Hermit Thrush: arr T Wilson NIAG 18 Sep.

Am. Pipit: arr BWWTP 19 Sep.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: 10 GHSP 30 Oct(WD, BOS, WW); 4-9 FNSP 21-29 Nov (BOS field trip, mob).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: 2 Amity ALLE 7 Sep (VP).

Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 each 5 locations in ERIE, WYOM, NIAG Sep, Oct.

Yellow Warbler: Tiff NP 25 Sep (PY).

Magnolia Warbler: T Sheridan CHAU 22 Oct (DN).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: T Somerset NIAG 24 Oct (WD, BP).

Pine Warbler: arr GI 14 Sep.

Prairie Warbler: Amity L ALLE 1 Sep(VP).

Palm Warbler: arr GI 14 Sep.

Bay-breasted Warbler: GI 11 Oct.

Blackpoll Warbler: GI 11 Oct.

Hooded Warbler: Tiff NP 5 Oct (BC).

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: WB 25 Sep.

Chipping Sparrow: T Wales ERIE 16 Nov (OR).

Fox Sparrow: arr T Wethersfield WYOM 5 Oct, banded.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 3 FMSCP 22 Sep.

White-throated Sparrow: arr Niagara Falls 15 Sep.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Eden Valley ERIE 19 Sep (RA), tied early fall arrival date.

Lapland Longspur: arr 6 T Somerset NIAG 21 Oct.

Snow Bunting: arr 20 Olcott NIAG 19 Oct.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Amity L ALLE 19 Sep.

Indigo Bunting: Warsaw WYOM 3 Oct (HK).

Rusty Blackbird: 10 TWMA 26 Sep.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: Orangeville WYOM 27 Oct (R&DR).

Baltimore Oriole: 2 Amity L ALLE 15 Sep.

Red Crossbill: arr 2 GHSP 31 Oct (BK).

White-winged Crossbill: 1, 4 GHSP 13, 19 Nov (WD, MG, GR).

Com. Redpoll: arr T Colden ERIE 9 Nov (JW).

Pine Siskin: arr BWWTP 2 Oct.

Evening Grosbeak: arr T Lewiston NIAG 24 Sep (WH), record early arrival date.

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REGION 2 – GENESEE

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The fall season did little to ease the overall lack of water. Generally speaking, everything was about average, but we were significantly behind to start the season. Statistically it was a very good season, but more on that later. September temperatures were 2.3°F above average at 64.0°. The high was a very warm 87° on the 6th. The 3.41" of precipitation was about average, but the bulk fell on only three days: the 7th, 16th and 29th. The rest of the month totaled less than an inch. Possible effects of Hurricane Floyd were never felt.

October was a typical autumn month. The average temperature of 50.9° was just a scant amount (0.2°) cooler than usual. There were many crisp days and plenty of sunshine. The month finished with a taste of Indian Summer. The high of 78° was attained on the 13th and a high of 77° was reached on the 30th. Precipitation totaled just over 2", which was 0.32" below normal. The bulk of the rain fell during a two day period on the 13th and 14th, while the final 13 days of the month saw a total of less than 0.2". This monthly total kept surface soil moisture at a decent level, but the subsurface soil moisture continued to be low from the effects of the summer drought.

November was for the most part mild. The average temperature of 44.9° was 4.4° above normal. Only a single day, the 30th, maintained below freezing temps. The high of 71° on the 22nd tied the all time high for that date and kept the average up. Overall precipitation was 2.86", which was only slightly below normal. Once again the bulk fell in a limited period, with over an inch on the 26th. Snowfall was 4.7", compared to the usual of about 6". The majority was focused on the 29th and 30th when the Region experienced some lake effect snows. The only really major weather story for the month was a storm that passed through the Region on 2 November, accompanied by 50–60 mph winds that caused considerable tree damage.

It was a banner season for species. The total for September was 224. This is the highest total ever for a non-May month. Contributing factors included the quest for 300 species in the Region in 1999 undertaken by Dave Tetlow. Combine this with the consistent and effective coverage at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station and the Yanty Creek Banding Station, under the direction of the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, and

the Hamlin Beach Lakewatch, directed by Brett Ewald, and we had an incredible stretch of records.

When you add October's 198 species and November's 150 to the record September total, we ended the season with a year-to-date total of 296 species. The 10-year average is 282.2. This very good total was accompanied by both some positive and some negative trends and only represented species tallies, not a real picture of the migration. On the plus side were: an impressive Red-necked Grebe showing during September; 10,000 Brant past the Hamlin Beach Lakewatch during a three day period in October; a Greater White-fronted Goose in Lima, providing the first documented record for Livingston County; a record 639 Buffleheads at Hamlin on 4 November; and high Ruddy Duck counts in Wyoming County. Many observers commented that the shorebird habitat was pretty good and that shorebird variety was decent for the most part, even though total numbers were not impressive. Baird's Sandpiper was recorded in Livingston County for the 3rd, 4th and 5th times. The season ended with over 170 jaeger sightings at the lakewatch, the second best season's total ever. Reports of both Thayer's Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull continued. An Arctic Tern at Hamlin in October was a good find, as was a new record high of five Caspian Terns in Livingston County in September. Long-eared Owl in October was also unusual. There was a very good flight of Blue Jays in September, and some observers commented on the Red-breasted Nuthatch invasion during that month. The banding stations ringed record numbers of Gray-cheeked Thrushes. Observers found good numbers of Northern Shrikes and American Pipits. Winter finches put in an appearance at the end of the season, but overall numbers of individuals were limited.

The down side included a very average season for loons and the early Horned Grebe flight. Spotted Sandpipers seemed to leave the Region early. Ruddy Turnstones and Red Knots were also scarce. It was a relatively poor season for Black-legged Kittiwake. The dwindling of reports and numbers of Common Nighthawks continued.

Observers made little mention of trends one way or the other for either passerines or for the migration generally. The banding stations added a considerable volume of data to the mix, but the total field birding picture revealed little, if anything, relative to trends.

The list of rare species was quite extensive. September records included Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, Black Vulture, Franklin's Gull, White-eyed Vireo, Dickcissel and Yellow-headed Blackbird. The October total featured Great Cormorant, Snowy Egret, Franklin's Gull, Black-headed Gull and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. November added

reports of Cattle Egrets and a maximum of four King Eiders. The local bird of the season was most assuredly the independent sightings of **Cave Swallow** from Braddock Bay and Hamlin Beach on 23 November by Dave Tetlow and Brett Ewald and John Bounds, respectively. These were a first record for the Region. They fit with record numbers of this species in the Midwest and Northeast this fall.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Braddock Bay; C – Charlotte, Ontario Beach; CL – Conesus Lake; G – Greece; GE – Geneseo; H – Hamlin; HB – Hamlin Beach; HP – Hogan Pt, Greece; IB – Irondequoit Bay; IC – Island Cottage Woods; K – Kendall; LL – Lake LaGrange WYOM; M – Manitou; NC – Northrup Creek, Greece; NR – Nations Rd, Avon & Geneseo; R – Rochester; SL – Silver Lake; YC – Yanty Creek, Hamlin.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr HB 14 Oct.

Red-necked Grebe: arr HB 13 Sep; max 24 HB 14 Oct.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 44 CL 17 Sep, good total for the location.

GREAT CORMORANT: imm HB 7 Oct (BE); ad HB 19 Oct (BE).

Am. Bittern: last BB 15 Oct.

SNOWY EGRET: imm NC 26 Oct (DT), record late.

Little Blue Heron: ad K 6 Sep (DT); imm IB 11 Sep (DT, SS, CS).

TRICOLORED HERON: BB 11 Sep (DT).

Green Heron: last Salmon Creek 2 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 LL 4-5 Sep, unusual location.

BLACK VULTURE: North Chili 22 Sep (DT).
Snow Goose: arr 3 HB 21 Sep.
Brant: 2056 HB 14 Oct; max 4302 HB 18 Oct; 4242 HB 24 Oct.
Tundra Swan: arr 3 HB 18 Oct.
Eurasian Wigeon: male NC 23-31 Oct (KF).
Blue-winged Teal: last BB 21, 23, 24 Nov, late.
N. Pintail: max 480 HB 21 Sep.
Green-winged Teal: max 309 HB 21 Sep.
Canvasback: arr 15 HB 23 Oct.
Redhead: arr HB 10 Sep.
Ring-necked Duck: arr 4 CL 17 Sep; max 400 Honeoye L 20 Nov.
Greater Scaup: max 2799 HB 25 Nov.
Lesser Scaup: max 300 Honeoye L 20 Nov.
KING EIDER: arr HB 19 Oct (BE); 3 HB 4 Nov (BE, DT); 1 HB 21 Nov (WS); 4 HB 30 Nov (BE, WS).
Surf Scoter: arr 3 HB 5 Sep.
Black Scoter: arr HB 5 Sep.
White-winged Scoter: max 2373 HB 30 Nov.
Oldsquaw: arr BB 27 Sep.
Bufflehead: arr HB 12 Oct; max 639 HB 4 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: arr HB 7 Oct; max 508 HB 6 Nov.
Com. Merganser: max 2500 G 25 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 3584 HB 22 Nov.
Ruddy Duck: 90 LL 23 Oct; 109 LL, SL 27 Oct; max 301 CL 20 Nov; 257 SL & WYOM 14 Nov; 147 SL & WYOM 21 Nov.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

N. Goshawk: C 12 Oct (RO); HB 2 Nov; scarce.
Red-shouldered Hawk: CL 27 Nov, uncommon in fall.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr R 30 Sep.
Merlin: HB 12 Nov; 2 WL 23 Nov.
Peregrine Falcon: NR 9 Nov.
Sora: last HB 9 Oct.
Com. Moorhen: last BB 2 Nov.
Am. Coot: max 350 SL 27 Oct.
Solitary Sandpiper: last 2 NC 2 Oct.

Willet: H 7 Sep (DT), only report this year.
Upland Sandpiper: last Batavia Airport 2 Sep.
Hudsonian Godwit: NC 23 Sep (DT); scarce.
Western Sandpiper: LL 7-8 Sep, interesting location.
Baird's Sandpiper: last 2 IB 9 Oct.
Purple Sandpiper: arr BB 6 Nov.
Dunlin: arr 2 BB 27 Sep.
Stilt Sandpiper: last NC 2 Oct.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr Elba 14 Sep, only report.
Long-billed Dowitcher: arr 1 juv IB 14 Sep.
Red-necked Phalarope: IB 2-9 Sep (DT et al); 2 HB 21 Sep (BE).
Red Phalarope: max 10 HB 17 Sep (DT, BE); Shore Acres 9 Oct.
Pomarine Jaeger: arr HB 18 Oct; HB 21 Oct; HB 24 Oct; 2 HB 25 Oct; 3 HB 27 Oct; 11 HB 3-30 Nov.
Parasitic Jaeger: 4 HB 11 Sep; total 31 HB Oct; total 50 HB 4-25 Nov.
jaeger (sp.): 4 HB Sep; 25 HB Oct; 37 HB Nov.
FRANKLIN'S GULL: 2 ad IB 11 Sep (SSk, DT); juv NC 23-24 Oct (DT).
Little Gull: max 8 HB 6 Nov; total 24 HB 5-30 Nov.
BLACK-HEADED GULL: ad C 10-11 (DT); ad HB 12 Oct (BE); imm HB 19 Oct (BE, WS).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 1633 HB 17 Nov.
THAYER'S GULL: ad HB 17 Nov (BE).
Iceland Gull: arr HB 18 Nov.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: ad C.17 Sep; first winter HB 8 Oct; ad HB 9 Oct; ad HB 25 Oct; ad CL 27 Nov.
Glaucous Gull: arr 1st yr HB 9 Nov.
Black-legged Kittiwake: arr 2 HB 27 Oct.
Com. Tern: max 11 C 3 Nov; last 2 BB 4 Nov.
ARCTIC TERN: HB 5 Oct (BE, WS, DT).
Forster's Tern: last BB 16 Nov.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Long-eared Owl: 2 HP 31 Oct.
Short-eared Owl: arr HB 11 Oct.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Bergen Swamp 16

Sep; Penfield 30 Sep.
hummingbird (sp.): Penfield 9 Oct (CZ);
GE 16 Oct (RB).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr 2 Conesus
4 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last Cuylerville 1
Sep.
"Traill's" Flycatcher: last IB 7 Oct (DT).
N. Shrike: arr G 22 Oct; M 19, 20, 25, 26
Oct, each banded; max 4 NR 31 Oct.
White-eyed Vireo: M 20-23 Sep (BBBO);
M 27 Sep (BBBO); both banded.
Philadelphia Vireo: last M 11 Oct, band-
ed.
Fish Crow: Russell Station 18 Sep (DT).
Purple Martin: last HB 5 Sep.
Bank Swallow: last WAYN 11 Sep.
CAVE SWALLOW: HB 23 Nov (BE); BB
23 Nov (DT).
Winter Wren: 57 banded YC 1-15 Oct; 59
banded M Oct.
Sedge Wren: HP 18, 25, 30 Sep (DT),
very scarce.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr M 14 Sep,
banded; last HB 13 Nov, late.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 2 Crusoe L,
WAYN 11 Sep; max 26 M 19 Sep, banded;
106 banded M 1-30 Sep; 120 banded YC
1-30 Sep; last M 11 Oct, banded.
N. Mockingbird: max 14 NR 12 Oct (JK).
Am. Pipit: max 1050 GE 17 Oct (JK); 400
GE 24 Oct (JK); last 2 Cuylerville 14 Nov.
Bohemian Waxwing: arr HB 7 Nov.

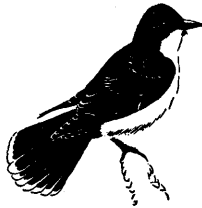
WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr HP 18
Sep; M 11 Oct, banded.
N. Parula: arr IC, BB 4 Sep.
Pine Warbler: last HB 13 Nov.
Palm Warbler: last G 10 Oct.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 55 M 20 Sep,
banded; 235 banded M 1-30 Sep.
Connecticut Warbler: arr M 10 Sep
(BBBO); M 12 Sep (BBBO); M 15 Sep
(BBBO); all banded.
Mourning Warbler: last M 20 Sep, band-
ed.
Hooded Warbler: last Hemlock 23 Sep.
Yellow-breasted Chat: M 20-21 Sep
(BBBO), banded.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Beatty Pt G 3 Oct.
DICKCISSEL: BB 6 Sep (DT); BB 29 Sep
(DT).
Savannah Sparrow: max 120 NR 25 Sep.
**NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPAR-
ROW:** YC 18 Sep (DB), banded; YC 6 Oct
(DB), banded; HP 3 Oct (DT).
Fox Sparrow: arr Webster P 3 Oct; last
HB 13 Nov.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr 2 HP 12
Sep.
Lapland Longspur: arr 2 HP 3 Oct.
Snow Bunting: arr HP 10 Oct; max 2665
HB 9 Nov.
Indigo Bunting: last 3 Mt Morris 4 Oct.
E. Meadowlark: 30 GE 3 Nov (JK), good
late total.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:
Beatty Pt G 26 Sep (DT).
Rusty Blackbird: arr IB 17 Sep.
Pine Grosbeak: arr HB 20 Nov.
Red Crossbill: arr HB 25 Oct (BE, WS).
White-winged Crossbill: arr H 27 Oct
(DT).
Com. Redpoll: arr 76 HB 28 Oct.
Pine Siskin: arr HB 19 Sep.
Evening Grosbeak: arr 10-25 several
locations 30 Oct.



REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

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The most important weather event of fall 1999 was the rain brought by Hurricane Floyd. The 3" that fell on the Region helped to relieve the drought conditions, which had continually worsened since April. September was the wettest month in the Region since August 1994. On the down side, both October and November were again drier than normal. September was 2.9°F warmer than normal and November was 4.5° warmer than normal. October was 1.7° below normal. Only one day, 17 November, remained below freezing. Ithaca received two snowfalls: 1.4" on 16 November and 2.3" on 30 November. Areas immediately south of the Finger Lakes received several inches of snow on 30 November.

September's rain caused water levels in rivers to go from very low to rather high. As a consequence, little shorebird activity occurred in them, and the presence of gulls and ducks was reduced as islands and shallows disappeared. The rain did help dampen some of the dried up wetlands and provided some shorebird habitat. Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge managed water levels in Benning Marsh and the May's Point Pool, producing excellent shorebird numbers, especially at May's Point.

The overall warmer than normal temperatures may have been partly responsible for the Regional record late occurrences of Lesser Yellowlegs, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Nashville Warbler and Chestnut-sided Warbler. Departures for most species, however, were near average. A cold front on 15 November, which ushered in the subfreezing temperatures of the following three days, also ushered in a spectacular flight of Common Loons past the Loonwatch at Taughannock Falls State Park. The 4414 Common Loons counted that day was the second highest single day count since the Loonwatch was established.

At Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory, John and Sue Gregoire banded 3362 birds, the most they have banded in a single fall season in their 14 years of operation. Black-capped Chickadee, Downy Woodpecker, Dark-eyed Junco and Blackpoll Warbler were banded in significantly higher numbers than previous records. House Wrens and Nashville Warblers also ensnared themselves in record numbers. The station documented a major irruption of Black-capped Chickadees, with 600 banded in October alone. In fact, John and Sue banded more chickadees

in the last ten days of October than they had in the last 13 fall seasons combined. Their first Bicknell's Thrush topped their list of rarities banded.

Several birders tracked the shorebirds using Montezuma's ably managed habitat at May's Point. Rarities were Red Phalaropes in September and October and Hudsonian Godwits continually from late September through the end of October.

The Montezuma Muckrace turned out record numbers of birding teams and a record number of species. All of the top four teams surpassed the 120 species mark, but none of them found the bird of the day, a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

Totaling the maximum number of birds of each species reported from each different site in the Region produced the following results when compared with last year's figures: 135 species, no significant change; 69 species significantly higher; 51 species significantly lower. In looking at the numbers for the six species mentioned above as banded in record high numbers at Kestrel Haven, four showed significant increases Region-wide. Downy Woodpecker was up insignificantly and House Wren was actually down insignificantly.

Most species of water birds showed significant declines. Most raptors showed no significant change, but Broad-winged Hawks and American Kestrels were down. Red-tailed Hawks were up significantly. Many observers on several days and in several locations reported seeing dozens of redtails migrating.

Shorebirds yielded a mixed picture of ups, downs and no changes. Common Nighthawks and swallows were mostly down, but Chimney Swifts were up. Chickadees, nuthatches and kinglets increased. The fruit-eating thrushes and mimics were up. Woodpeckers, vireos and warblers were largely unchanged. Sparrows, except grassland sparrows, were up significantly. Grosbeaks and finches, including winter invaders, were almost all reported in significantly higher numbers. Starlings were up and House Sparrows were down.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AB – Aurora Bay CAYU; Caro – Caroline; CL – Cayuga L; Crng – Corning; CU – Cornell University; DH – Dutch Hill CHEM; DryL – Dryden L; ED – Elmira Dam CHEM; EHI – Elmira Holiday Inn CHEM; Enf – Enfield; GM – Gleason Meadows CHEM; HHP – Harris Hill P CHEM; Ho – Hopewell; JpD – Jennings Pd TOMP; KH – Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory SCHU; LoPd – Lowe Pd CHEM; MTSP – Mark Twain SP; MNWR – Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; MyPt – Myers Pt TOMP; NBF – Newtown Battlefield Reservation CHEM; NeCr – Newtown Creek CHEM; Newf – Newfield; NMGC – Newman Municipal Golf Course TOMP; PS – Park Station CHEM; SM – Savannah Mucklands SENE; So – Southport; SSF – Summerhill State Forest CAYU; StP – Stewart P TOMP; Sum – Summerhill; SW – Sapsucker Woods TOMP; TCAH – The Center at Horseheads; TFSP – Taughannock Falls SP; WD – West Danby; WE – West Elmira; WERF – West Elmira Riverine Forest CHEM.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: TFSP 15 Nov (BE, BM, mob), only report.
Com. Loon: arr CL 5 Sep; max 4414 TFSP 15 Nov; 200 AB 31 Oct.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 19 TCAH 10 Sep; 9 ED 8 Oct.
Horned Grebe: arr and max 8 MyPt 12 Oct; 5 SLSP 23 Oct.
Red-necked Grebe: StP 20 Oct; PS 13 Nov; CL 21 Nov; first fall reports since 1994.
Double-crested Cormorant: 30 GM 18 Sep; max and last 41 WD 7 Nov, low.
Am. Bittern: MNWR 13 Sep, 17 Oct; TCAH 15, 23 Oct; only reports.
Great Blue Heron: max 17 MNWR 11 Sep; 12 So 5 Oct.
Great Egret: max 10 MNWR 4 Sep, low; last MNWR 15 Oct.
CATTLE EGRET: MNWR 8 Oct (BG) - 31 Oct (RB).
Green Heron: max 7 TCAH 10 Sep; last LoPd 24 Sep.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 26 MNWR 4 Sep, very high; 2 WERF 1 Sep; last 2 MNWR 19 Sep.
GLOSSY IBIS: 2 MNWR thru 11 Sep (mob).
Turkey Vulture: max 44 ED 19 Oct; last WERF 7 Nov.
GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: MNWR 17 Oct (JB, EBC) & 27 Oct (GP, MV); SM 24 Nov (GP, MV).
Snow Goose: arr MNWR 11 Sep; max 41 MNWR 17 Oct, low; "good sized flock" MNWR 27 Nov.
ROSS'S GOOSE: MNWR 14 Oct (MGa, GP, BW) - 18 Oct (BF); last Hope 15 Nov (SSH).
Brant: arr 30 Route 38 Dryden 3 Oct; max 400 TCAH 24 Oct; 300 Ithaca 14 Oct; last "some" Caro 7 Nov.
Tundra Swan: arr MNWR 23 Oct; max "several hundred" CL 30 Nov.
Trumpeter Swan: (not yet on NYS Checklist); 2 MNWR 18 Oct.
Wood Duck: max 57 TCAH 10 Sep; last KH 2 Nov.
Gadwall: max 2 TCAH 8-15 Oct; last MNWR 13 Nov.

EURASIAN WIGEON: MNWR 11-12 Sep (GP, MoMu); MNWR 13 Nov (GC).
Am. Wigeon: max 120 MNWR 11 Sep; last MNWR 13 Nov.
Am. Black Duck: "rafts" AB 22 Nov.
Blue-winged Teal: max 26 TCAH 10 Sep; last MNWR 27 Oct.
N. Shoveler: "lots" MNWR 9 Oct; last 2 MNWR 22 Nov.
N. Pintail: max 200 MNWR 7 Nov.
Green-winged Teal: max 300 MNWR 14 Oct; 55 TCAH 23 Oct.
Canvasback: arr MNWR 13 Nov, very low, only report.
Redhead: MNWR 28 Sep; MNWR 18 Oct; last MNWR 27 Oct; only reports.
Ring-necked Duck: max 19 PS 24 Oct, low; last 13 PS 20 Nov.
Greater Scaup: 2 MyPt 14 Nov, only report.
Lesser Scaup: max 10 DryL 21 Oct; last 5 MyPt 14 Nov.
scaup (sp): arr MNWR 28 Sep.
Surf Scoter: arr & max 2 Hog Hole TOMP 21 Oct; last Portland Pt 26 Oct.
White-winged Scoter: arr AB 10 Oct; max & last 3 MyPt 27 Oct.
BLACK SCOTER: arr AB 10 Oct (DG), early; max & last 30 MyPt 8 Nov (BF).
Oldsquaw: arr 6 MyPt 27 Oct; max & last 25 Ithaca 16 Nov.
Bufflehead: arr MNWR 23 Oct; max 70 CL 21 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: arr 3 MyPt 6 Nov; max 30 CL 21 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: max 30 PS 16 Nov; last 6 MWC 24 Nov.
Com. Merganser: max 22 WERF 4 Sep.
Red-breasted Merganser: arr MNWR 28 Sep, early; max & last 4 CL 21 Nov.
Ruddy Duck: max 16 DryL 21 Oct; last TCAH 22 Nov, late.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: max 6 StP 21 Sep; last PS 24 Oct.
Bald Eagle: max 2 MNWR 13, 27 Nov; KH 4 Sep; Dryden 3 Oct; MtP 6 Nov.
N. Harrier: max 4 MNWR 28 Sep.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 3 KH 17 Sep.
N. Goshawk: SSF 2, 31 Oct; KH 3, 7 Oct; CayH 2 Nov; only reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: arr KH 1 Sep; max 4 Dryden 27 Oct; last Chemung Nov, late.

Broad-winged Hawk: max 1 KH 1, 19, 23 Sep; last Tanglewood Forest CHEM 15 Oct, late; only reports.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 71 Dryden 27 Oct; 29 TCAH 23 Oct; 28 Cornell Pheasant Farm TOMP 6 Nov.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr KH 19 Oct; "several" MNWR 27 Nov.

Golden Eagle: CU 28 Oct (MW), only report.

Am. Kestrel: max 3 DH 8 Oct.

Merlin: arr Dryden 2 Sep; numerous reports from numerous locations.

Peregrine Falcon: MNWR 11, 21, 23 Sep, 12, 27 Oct.

Ring-necked Pheasant: DryL 2 Oct; MTSP 16 Oct; Treman Marina SP 23 Oct; 1 KH, entire period; only reports.

Ruffed Grouse: max 6 KH 6 Nov; 4 Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 30 Oct.

Wild Turkey: max 40 WD 18 Sep.

Virginia Rail: DryL 5 Sep; TCAH 10 Sep; MNWR 11 Sep; last TCAH 1 Oct; only reports.

Sora: MNWR 11 Sep, only report.

Com. Moorhen: max 32 TCAH 10 Sep, very high; last TCAH 29 Oct, very late.

Am. Coot: max 101 SLSP 23 Oct.

SANDHILL CRANE: 2 Cameron State Forest STEU 20 Nov (SM).

Black-bellied Plover: max 5 MNWR 11 Sep; MyPt 20-21 Sep; last 3 MNWR 10 Nov, late.

Am. Golden-Plover: max 16 MNWR 4 Sep; TCAH 19 Sep; last MyPt 12 Oct.

Semipalmated Plover: max 36 MNWR 2 Sep; MyPt 10-11 Sep; last MNWR 18 Oct, late.

Killdeer: max 151 MNWR 2, 4 Sep, high; 50 KH 1 Oct; last MNWR 13 Nov.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 71 MNWR 2 Sep, high; last MNWR 13 Nov.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 201 MNWR 2 Sep, high; last MNWR 21 Nov (BF, MMe, BOS), ties Regional late record.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 5 MNWR 11 Sep; last MNWR 23 Sep.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 3 MNWR 4 Sep, high; last MyPt 21 Oct, late.

Hudsonian Godwit: arr 3 MNWR 21 Sep (GP, DRo); max 4 MNWR 23 Sep (JF, StK, JW, MW); last MNWR 31 Oct (RB).

Ruddy Turnstone: MNWR 13, 19 Sep, late; only reports.

Sanderling: max 3 MNWR 19 Sep; MyPt 10-11 Sep; StP 15 Sep; last MNWR 31 Oct, late.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 151 MNWR 2 Sep, very high; last 100 MNWR 7 Nov (LSt), Regional late record.

WESTERN SANDPIPER: MNWR 23 Oct (A&JW), late, only report.

Least Sandpiper: max 171 MNWR 2 Sep, high; last MNWR 27 Oct, very late.

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 10 MNWR 4 Sep; last MNWR 13 Nov.

Baird's Sandpiper: max 5 MNWR 2 Sep; last MNWR 16 Sep.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 151 MNWR 23 Oct; 13 LoPd 16 Oct; last MNWR 13 Nov, very late.

Dunlin: arr 3 MNWR 19 Sep; max 83 MNWR 14 Oct; 23 StP 26 Oct; last MNWR 13 Nov.

Stilt Sandpiper: max 34 MNWR 13 Sep, high; 4 LoPd 24 Sep, 3rd CHEM record (JSc); last MNWR 23 Oct, late.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: max 2 MNWR 6 Sep (JF, StK, JW, MW); last MNWR 22 Sep (GK).

Short-billed Dowitcher: max 25 MNWR 11 Sep; last "several" MNWR 15 Oct, late.

Long-billed Dowitcher: max 16 MNWR 23 Sep; last 3 MNWR 23 Oct.

dowitcher (sp): last MNWR 25 Oct.

Com. Snipe: max 11 MNWR 4 Sep; last LoPd 16 Oct.

Am. Woodcock: Danby 4 Sep; Hector 28 Oct; Newf 31 Oct; last KH 2 Nov.

Wilson's Phalarope: MNWR 23 Sep (mob), only report.

RED PHALAROPE: MNWR 17-19 Sep (GP); 2 MNWR 16 Oct (DA, MH, MMe, MSa, MWi).

LAUGHING GULL: 5 DryL 4 Oct (BP).

FRANKLIN'S GULL: 2 ED 26 Nov (BiO), 2nd CHEM record.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 8 SLSP 23 Oct; last ED 11 Nov.
Ring-billed Gull: max 560 EHI 18 Oct, very low.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: arr MNWR 4 Sep; max 2 MNWR 23-24 Sep, 23 Oct; last StP 20 Nov.
Caspian Tern: max 6 ED 9 Sep; 5 MNWR 11 Sep; last MNWR 16 Sep.
Com. Tern: max 5 StP 9 Sep, high; 2 StP 10 Sep; ED 16 Sep; last EHI 18 Sep; only reports.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Rock Dove: max 242 ED 22 Nov, high.
Mourning Dove: max 124 Genoa 25 Sep.
Black-billed Cuckoo: MNWR 11 Sep (MoMu), only report.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: MNWR 11 Sep; WD 15 Sep; only reports.
cuckoo (sp): last Danby 23 Sep
E. Screech-Owl: max 2 WERF 1 Sep.
Great Horned Owl: max 6 KH 12 Sep, high.
Snowy Owl: MWC 23-24 Nov (J&CSI), early.
Short-eared Owl: arr MNWR 14 Oct, early; SM 24 Nov; only reports.
N. Saw-whet Owl: dead Enf 19 Nov (BE), only report.
Com. Nighthawk: max 29 WE 8 Sep; 6 WERF 1 Sep; last StP 21 Sep.
Chimney Swift: max 27 EHI 6 Sep; last 11 ED 20 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 9 KH 9 Sep; last So 3 Oct.
Belted Kingfisher: "several" DryL 5 Sep; 4 TCAH 10 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last MyPt 6 Nov.
N. Flicker: max 15 BF 19 Sep; 8 WERF 4 Sep.
Pileated Woodpecker: max 4 KH 21 Nov, high; 3 WERF 4 Sep & 27 Nov.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: max 8 MNWR 11 Sep; last WD 6 Oct, late.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: KH 2, 14-16

Sep; MNWR 11 Sep; only reports.
ACADIAN FLYCATCHER: KH 3-4, 11-12 Sep (J&SGr).
Least Flycatcher: max 3 KH 14 Sep; last MNWR 25 Sep.
E. Phoebe: max 5 Hector 8 Sep; 5 BF 19 Sep; last Dryden 25 Oct.
Great Crested Flycatcher: Danby 15 Sep; last HHP 19 Sep; only reports.
E. Kingbird: KH 3-12 Sep; last NMGC 15 Sep, late; only reports.
N. Shrike: arr MNWR 15 Oct, early; max 2 Danby 26 Nov, high.
WHITE-EYED VIREO: Ithaca 21-25 Nov (BE).
Blue-headed Vireo: max 4 Spencercrest Nature Center STEU; 2 Oct; last Crng 27 Oct (JLe), very late.
Warbling Vireo: max 4 Newf 10 Sep; last GM 18 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr Newf 10 Sep; last SW 25 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: "many" CU 10, 15 Sep; "many" WD 4 Sep; last MNWR 18 Oct.
Blue Jay: max 100 Ithaca 27 Sep; 35 Ithaca 28 Sep; 30 GM 18 Sep; 27 NeCr 3 Oct.
Fish Crow: max 5 Elmira 3 Nov.
Com. Raven: max 6 Elmira 15 Sep.
Horned Lark: max 150 Veteran 30 Nov; 101 Sum 31 Oct; 100 MTP 29 Oct.
Purple Martin: KH 12 Sep, low, only report
martin sp: (See *Highlights*); SM 5 Nov (CT), late.
Tree Swallow: max 50 JPD 6 Oct, very low; last MNWR 30 Oct, late.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: MNWR 11 Sep; last MNWR & SM 5 Nov (CTH), very late; only reports.
Bank Swallow: SM 11 Sep (MoMu), only report.
Barn Swallow: max 7 TCAH 10 Sep; MNWR 24 Oct; last SM 5 Nov (CT).
Black-capped Chickadee: max 119 KH 21 Oct, very high; 116 KH 27 Oct.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: "an abundance" Sum 10 Nov.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 10 GM 18 Sep, high.
Brown Creeper: "lots" SSF 20 Nov.

Carolina Wren: max 4 NeCr 3 Oct; 4 So 31 Oct; high.
House Wren: max 3 KH 4 Sep; last BF 6 Oct.
Winter Wren: arr GM 18 Sep; 2 So 3 Oct; 2 WERF 29 Nov.
Marsh Wren: max 4 TCAH 10 Sep; last MNWR 30 Oct, late.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: "dozens" SSF 31 Oct; "a huge complement" StP 27 Oct.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr KH 18 Sep; max 19 PS 9 Oct; last WERF 27 Nov.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 2 WD 26 Sep, only report.
E. Bluebird: max 25 GM 18 Sep; 20 HHP 19 Sep; 20 KH 24 Sep.
Veery: "numerous" night migrants Caro 10 Sep; last KH 16 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr CayH 21 Sep; "many" night migrants WD 25 Sep; last CayH 7 Oct.
BICKNELL'S THRUSH: 1 banded KH 15 Sep (J&SGr !).
Swainson's Thrush: arr 1 night migrant Caro 10 Sep; "many waves" night migrants WD 25 Sep; "numerous" night migrants CayH 21 Sep; 4 SW 23 Sep; last WD 22 Oct, late.
Hermit Thrush: max 3 GM 18 Sep; last KH 27 Oct.
Wood Thrush: last CayH 7 Oct.
Am. Robin: max 400 Dryden 1 Nov; 175 KH 23 Nov.
Gray Catbird: max 25 TCAH 10 Sep, high; last KH 21 Nov (J&SG), very late.
N. Mockingbird: max 11 TCAH 29 Oct, high; 4 NMGC 15 Sep.
Brown Thrasher: WERF 4 Sep; GM 18 Sep, late; only reports.
European Starling: max 24,337 TCAH 15 Oct.
Am. Pipit: arr MNWR 6 Sep; "large flocks" Genoa 2 Nov; last TCAH 19 Nov.
Cedar Waxwing: max 150 KH 9 Oct; 150 So 10 Oct; "several large flocks" WD 17 Oct.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: WD 4 Sep; last KH 2-7 Sep; only reports.
Tennessee Warbler: KH 4-7 Sep; Dryden

1 Oct; JPd 4 Oct; last KH 4 Oct; only reports.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr KH 18-21 Sep; StP 29 Sep, 4, 7 Oct; last Dryden 9 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: max 7 KH 27 Sep, high; 5 WD 19 Sep; last StP 6 Nov (BE), Regional late record.
N. Parula: arr Elmira 17 Sep; NBR 19 Sep; only reports.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: "lots" CU 22 Sep; last So 9 Oct (DCI), Regional late record.
Magnolia Warbler: "lots" CU 22 Sep; last KH 3 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: arr CU 10 Sep; max 2 BF 19 Sep; last TCAH 8 Oct, late.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 4 CU 10 Sep; 4 SW 5 Oct; last TCAH 8 Oct, late.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 26 StP 7 Oct; last So 28 Nov, late.
Black-throated Green Warbler: 7 HHP 19 Sep; last 2 PS 9 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 2 CU 10 Sep; last KH 2 Oct.
Pine Warbler: GM 18 Sep; max 5 NBR 19 Sep, high; 3 HHP 19 Sep; only reports.
Prairie Warbler: TCAH 25 Sep, late, only report.
Palm Warbler: arr KH 12 Sep; max 4 KH 10 Oct; last KH 13 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr CU 10 Sep; MNWR 18 Sep; KH; last CayH 7 Oct, late; only reports.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr CU 10 Sep; "several" JPd 3 Oct; last Dryden 17 Oct, late.
Black-and-white Warbler: max and last 2 So 9 Oct, high and late.
Am. Redstart: max 4 CU 15 Sep; last KH 21 Sep.
Ovenbird: last KH 30 Sep; 1 injured WERF 29 Nov (BiO !).
N. Waterthrush: CU 6 Sep; last StP 17 Sep; only reports.
KENTUCKY WARBLER: NBR 19 Sep (JOS!).
CONNECTICUT WARBLER: arr KH 9-10 Sep (J&SGr), early.
Mourning Warbler: CU 22 Sep; last KH 25 Sep; only reports.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 12 LoPd 19 Sep; last TCAH 19 Nov (BiO), very late.
Hooded Warbler: Dryden thru 23 Sep; WD 23 Sep; last KH 25 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: several reports of 1-2; last StP 7 Oct, late.
Canada Warbler: CU 10 Sep; MNWR 11 Sep; only reports.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 2 WD 26 Sep; last KH 27 Sep.
E. Towhee: max 8 GM 18 Sep; last 2 PS 9 Oct.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 50 KH 30 Sep, very early; max 100 SM 5 Nov.
Chipping Sparrow: max 50 CU 6 Sep; last 3 Caro 5 Nov.
Field Sparrow: max 15 GM 18 Sep; last KH 31 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: KH 20-21 Sep; last DH 26 Oct, late; only reports.
Savannah Sparrow: max 3 KH 15 Sep; last Cass P TOMP 9 Nov.
NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: MNWR 11 Sep (MoMu).
Fox Sparrow: arr 3 MTSP 16 Oct; max 6 KH 27 Oct; 6 Durland Bird Preserve TOMP 31 Oct; 6 Hope 14 Nov; last Dryden 27 Nov, late.
Song Sparrow: max 30 GM 18 Sep; 23 NeCr 3 Oct; 21 SM 5 Nov.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr MNWR 11 Sep; max 4 KH 23 Sep, high; last KH 31 Oct (J&SG), Regional late record.
Swamp Sparrow: max 25 LoPd 19 Sep, high; 17 TCAH 1 Oct; last MWC 22 Nov, late.
White-throated Sparrow: arr 5 GM 18 Sep; max 100 WD 18 Sep & 8 Oct, high.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr BF 19 Sep; max 50 SM 5 Nov, high; last Danby 25 Nov (BF), very late.
Dark-eyed Junco: 30 DH 18 Oct; 30 KH 27 Oct.
Lapland Longspur: arr Genoa 3 Nov; Caro 7 Nov; max 2 MWC 24 Nov; only reports.
Snow Bunting: arr MtP 27 Oct; max 200 SM 21 Nov; 85 MWC 24 Nov.
N. Cardinal: max 15 LoPd 19 Sep, high;

14 TCAH 29 Oct.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 10 BF 19 Sep; last KH 5 Oct, late.
Indigo Bunting: max 6 BF 19 Sep, high; last KH 30 Sep.
DICKCISSEL: SW 21 Oct (KR, JW); SW 23 Oct (GK).
Bobolink: KH thru 16 Sep, late, only report.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 706 TCAH 10 Sep; 600 Rt 17 Erwin 12 Sep; last 8 Horseheads 28 Nov.
E. Meadowlark: max 13 Mt Zoar CHEM 26 Sep; 8 BF 28 Sep; last EHI 25 Oct.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 7 LoPd 19 Sep; max 120 WD 17 Oct, high; last 5 Ulysses 24 Nov, late.
Com. Grackle: last Newf 27 Nov, late.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 7 EHI 27 Oct, low; last KH 1 Nov.
Baltimore Oriole: WD 4 Sep; last KH 2-7 Sep; only reports.
PINE GROSBEAK: Canandaigua 15 Nov (fide SSh !, mob).
Purple Finch: max 3 MNWR 11 Sep; 3 Dryden 29 Oct.
Red Crossbill: arr Catlin 31 Oct; max 4 Horseheads 14 Nov; several other reports.
White-winged Crossbill: arr & max 14 Horseheads Gravel Pits CHEM 22 Nov, high; 2 WE 25 Nov; Ulysses 24 Nov.
Com. Redpoll: arr 2 Caro 6 Nov; max 30 Danby 25 Nov; 21 MWC 22 Nov.
Pine Siskin: arr Dryden 25 Sep, early; max 30 Crng 24 Oct; 17 Dryden 22 Nov.
Am. Goldfinch: max 36 KH 15 Sep; 35 NeCr 3 Oct.
Evening Grosbeak: arr 2 MNWR 17 Oct; max 92 Sum 31 Oct; 35 Dryden 31 Oct.

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REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

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The pattern of bright, sunny days established during the summer continued into September and October, but only nine November days received over 50% of the available sunshine, according to weather data obtained from the National Weather Service at the Broome County Regional Airport.

September's average temperature was 62.3°F, 2.7° warmer than normal. The highest temperatures, in the mid-to-upper 80s, were recorded during the first week. By the end of the month, the average daily temperature had dropped 15°. Rain total for the month was 6.95", 3.63" above normal. North, northwest or west winds swept the area on 17 days. Two periods, 8-12 and 21-24 September, saw sustained winds from those directions.

The first days and the last days of October were the warmest; in fact the highest daytime temperature, 71°, was recorded on 30 October. Overall, October was slightly cooler than normal. The average daily temperature was 47°. October was also drier than usual. Only 1.15" of precipitation fell during the month, 1.74" lower than normal. On 21 days, winds blew from the north, northwest or west. Sustained winds from those directions were recorded on 1-7, 9-14 and 22-28 October.

The average temperature in November was 40.7°, slightly warmer (2.4°) than normal. The amount of rainfall the area received, 2.92", was slightly less than normal. The area was also dusted with a total of 4.0" of snow. The greatest accumulation, 1.8", fell on 16 November. North, northwest or west winds swept the area on 21 days, making November the windiest month of the season.

Two single reports of Common Loon in September and November from Broome County continue three years of Regionally low fall counts for this northern breeder. Red-throated Loon was not seen. Waterfowl species had an average to low showing this season. Only one or two reports each of Blue-winged Teal and American Wigeon and three reports of Ring-necked Duck, with only a few individuals seen, was disheartening. Less common species seen were: Northern Pintail, Northern

Shoveler and White-winged Scoter. A Common Goldeneye at Boland Pond, Chenango Bridge was a bit early on 26 November. Missed were Gadwall, Canvasback, Greater Scaup and Red-breasted Merganser.

Raptor migration was average. Good numbers of Ospreys and Bald Eagles were reported from the Region but were only seen in average numbers at Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch near Oneonta. Very low counts at the hawkwatch, about 50% of the average, were noted for Northern Goshawk and American Kestrel. Golden Eagles continued high counts, with 90 seen for the season and a high one-day count of 23 on 7 November.

Rare in our Region were two reports of **Black Vultures**. The first report, of a single bird, was from the Chenango County North American Migration Count on 18 September. The second, of two birds, came from Tom Salo's Wooley Hill Hawkwatch in West Burlington on 21 October.

Rails went unreported, continuing the absence noted last summer, while only two American Coots were seen. It may be early to conclude, but it would seem the summer drought may have taken its toll on these wetland species this year.

Sandpiper numbers were unimpressive. Less common species tallied were Semipalmated Plover, Pectoral Sandpiper and Dunlin. A **Stilt Sandpiper** was spotted by Marie Petuh at Greenwood Park, Town of Maine in Broome County. The water in the lake was drawn down at this park for maintenance, exposing extensive mudflats. Unfortunately, this is not routinely done in fall. Common Snipe was notably scarce, with only a single bird reported. None were reported from Cincinnatus Lake, where it has been very plentiful the two previous falls. No terns were reported.

Good numbers of owls were reported. An adult Snowy Owl was spotted by Don Windsor in Sidney on 28 October. It was "flying downstream in fog at 9:30 am about 20 feet above the Susquehanna River." It was the earliest date Don could remember seeing one in this Region. Tom Salo observed a Short-eared Owl at Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch "in a group of about 15 red-tails." Northern Saw-whet Owls were seen in Owego and Endicott. The one in Owego appeared 6 September and one was found dead in the same area in November, possibly the same bird. Long-eared Owl was missed.

Despite drought conditions, the fall season reports indicated a successful breeding season for both resident and migrant songbird populations. Blue Jay, American Crow, American Goldfinch and other resident birds were frequently mentioned in September reports as accompanied by young. Fox Sparrows were reported frequently. Vestal bander Gail

Kirch concluded that Black-capped Chickadees, in particular, had an extremely successful breeding season after her banding records showed that only 11 of the 92 birds she banded between June and October were adults. A comparison of this year's records with those from last year also showed that she banded twice as many Red-eyed Vireos and Nashville Warblers, four times as many Philadelphia Vireos and six times as many Yellow-bellied Flycatchers this year.

Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Northern Parula were not reported at all. Departure records indicate the average departure dates for these species fall in the middle of September, so they should have been spotted. However, a number of birds, including Indigo Bunting and Blue-winged Warbler, departed several weeks later than normal.

Irruptive passerines, such as Pine Siskin, Common Redpoll and Evening Grosbeak, which were not reported at all during the 1998 fall season, appeared throughout the Region as early as mid-October. A Red Crossbill was discovered visiting a backyard feeder in Johnson City on 8 November. The bird continued to visit the feeder for several days, considerately allowing a number of local birders to add another check to their year lists.

Other unusual sightings included White-eyed Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler and Lapland Longspur. Both the warbler and the longspur migrate through the Region, making it possible for lucky, alert birders to spot them. However, the White-eyed Vireo usually resides south of our Region and so is an uncommon visitor to the area.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BPd – Boland Pond BROO; BrPd – Brick Pond TIOG; BUNP – Binghamton University Nature Preserve BROO; CCNAMC – Chenango County North American Migration Count 18 Sep; CinL – Cincinnatus Lake CHEN/CORT; DOAS – Delaware-Otsego Audubon Sanctuary; FHNC – Finch Hollow Nature Center, Maine BROO; FMHW – Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch OTSE; GrP – Greenwood Park, Maine BROO; GyL – Goodyear Lake OTSE; Mar – Maryland, OTSE; REEC – Roger's Environmental Education Center, Sherburne CHEN; RRHW – Riley Road Hawkwatch CORT; RTP – Round Top Park, Endicott BROO; UL – Upper Lisle BROO; Ves – Vestal BROO; WeB – West Burlington OTSE; WHHW – Wooley Hill Hawkwatch, West Burlington OTSE; WPR – Whitney Point Reservoir and nearby areas BROO.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: Nanticoke L BROO 15 Sep; WPR 12 Nov; low count.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr 5 BPd 20 Sep; max 6 Long Pd CHEN 26 Oct; Kirkwood BROO 9 Nov; Endwell 14 Nov; average.

Horned Grebe: WPR 7 Nov; 2 there 16 Nov.

Double-crested Cormorant: 4 Rt. 17 TIOG 3 Oct; 2 River Rd Endwell 27 Oct; WPR 16 Nov; not seen at GyL or Oneonta summer or fall (IW, MB); scarce.

Great Blue Heron: 2 reports a month; max 3 Owego 28 Oct and Preston CHEN 19 Sep.

Great Egret: 2 Owego 8 Sep (TBC); scarce and early departure.

Green Heron: 5 Owego 2 Sep (MP); GyL 3 & 10 Sep; Portlandville OTSE 3 Sep (IW, MB); last Norwich 11 Sep (DW); TIOG Oct.

BLACK VULTURE: 2 CCNAMC 18 Sep; WHHW 21 Oct (TS).

Turkey Vulture: total 102 FMHW; max 18 on 17 Oct; lowest total since 1996, yet above average; widespread reports.

Mute Swan: 2 BPd Oct, Nov; 2 Struble P Union BROO 19 Nov, possibly same birds.

Snow Goose: CCFMC 18 Sep; REEC 27 Oct; 2 flocks BROO Nov (J&TS); TIOG

Nov; small flock WeB 7 Nov (TS); low. **Brant:** 380 FMHW 14 Oct; 400 WeB 24 Oct (TS), good numbers, though lower than 2 previous years.

Canada Goose: good numbers (200-300) at usual locations CinL, GrP, Mirror L, WPR, also Deposit; max 1000+ Norwich 23 Oct (DW).

Wood Duck: max 40 BrPd 2 Sep; 36 CCNAMC 18 Sep; 8 Long Pd 26 Oct; 2 WeB 9 Oct; 2 BROO reports Oct.

Green-winged Teal: 5 GrP 5-10 Oct; max 6 there 7 Nov; 2 BPd 5 Nov; 6 CinL 12 Nov; average.

Am. Black Duck: max 24 BPd 26 Oct; 24 CinL 12 Nov; 17 CinL 18 Nov.

N. Pintail: pair BPd 8 Nov (ES), not seen every fall.

Blue-winged Teal: BPd 20 Sep; 2 CinL 12 Nov (MP), very late; scarce.

N. Shoveler: 2 BPd 13 Oct (NCBC), uncommon in fall.

Am. Wigeon: 2 GrP 10 Oct (MP, EHw); CinL 12-18 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: pair Mirror L Owego 28 Oct; max 5 Long Pd 26 Oct; WPR 16 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: Dorchester P WPR 21 Oct (BT).

White-winged Scoter: WPR 7-16 Nov (ES); often missed.

Com. Goldeneye: arr BPd 26 Nov (DWT).
Bufflehead: arr 3 Hillcrest BROO 26 Oct (ES); max 11 WPR 7 Nov; 2 CinL 7 Nov; average.
Hooded Merganser: arr 8 CinL 26 Oct; 4 GrP 29 Oct; 10 WPR 7 Nov; max 28 CinL 7 Nov (ES); 22 there 18 Nov.
Com. Merganser: max 102 CinL 18 Nov; 30 Owego 28 Oct; 20 GyL 27 Nov; low.
Ruddy Duck: arr 12 WPR and 6 Lisle Pd 17 Oct (MP); max 19 WPR 7-16 Nov (ES); good numbers.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: total 65 FMHW; max 12 on 3 Oct; 2 Chenango R Chenango Forks 1 Sep; Owego 2 Sep, 23 Oct; Nanticoke L BROO 15 Sep; REEC 27 Oct; Binghamton 15 Nov.
Bald Eagle: total 22 FMHW; max 3 on 2 Oct; imm WeB 10 Sep (JS); imm CCNAMC 18 Sep; imm UL 19 & 26 Sep (MP), different birds; Hillcrest 11 Oct; Chenango Bridge 20 Oct (SM); Port Crane BROO 24 Oct (MD, BT); ad Crumhorn L Milford OTSE 7 Nov (IW, MB); ad. Westover 14 Nov (ES); 4 Deposit 18 Nov (CB, MP, SK); Hancock 26 Nov (ES); excellent numbers.
N. Harrier: total 40 FMHW, max 9 on 27 Oct, below average; few widespread reports.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 330 FMHW, max 46 on 2 Oct.
Cooper's Hawk: total 55 FMHW, max 9 on 3 Oct, above average; 5 reports BROO; Mar week of 11 Oct, "after baby chickens" (DK).
N. Goshawk: total 8 FMHW, low count; Ves 21 Nov (MP); T Candor TIOG 23 Nov (J&TS); 4 other widespread reports.
Red-shouldered Hawk: total 44 FMHW, max 11 on 15 Oct; no other reports.
Broad-winged Hawk: total 1041 FMHW, 2nd best year, peak days 257 on 17 Sep, 390 on 18 Sep, 248 on 19 Sep.
Red-tailed Hawk: total 1974 FMHW, max 280 on 27 Oct & 7 Nov, above average.
Rough-legged Hawk: total 14 FMHW, arr 2 on 29 Oct.; 3 CinL area 12 Nov(MP).

Golden Eagle: total 90 FMHW, arr 4 on 24 Oct; max 23 on 7 Nov, above average; total 3 WHHW, arr 21 Oct.

Am. Kestrel: total 55 FMHW, 50 between 17 Sep-15 Oct, below average; 7 Preston CHEN 25 Sep.

Merlin: total 10 FMHW, 7 between 1-10 Oct, average.

Peregrine Falcon: total 7 FMHW, average; pair downtown Binghamton 20 Sep (ES), last seen 1st week Oct (BC), same birds that were there all summer; T Preston 20 Sep (EH).

Ring-necked Pheasant: Sep, Oct TIOG; CCFMC 18 Sep; T Candor TIOG Nov (J&TS); Ves 25 Nov (SD); scarce in western part of Region.

Ruffed Grouse: 8 widespread reports, a little low.

Wild Turkey: 43 Port Crane BROO 20 Nov (MD); 30 Mar 16 Oct (DK); 10 other reports; smaller numbers overall.

Am. Coot: 2 Dorchester P on WPR 17 Oct-12 Nov, low.

Semipalmated Plover: GrP 2-5 Oct (MP), uncommon in fall.

Killdeer: max 34 GrP 29 Oct (MP); reported from only 2 other locations.

Greater Yellowlegs: Susquehanna R Owego 2 Sep; Norwich 5 Sep; CCNAMC; GrP 2-29 Oct, max 4 there 2 Oct.

Lesser Yellowlegs: CinL 29 Oct-7 Nov, max 3; BPd 5-8 Nov.

Solitary Sandpiper: 2 Chenango R Chenango Forks 1 Sep; TIOG Sep.

Spotted Sandpiper: 2 GyL 13 Sep; Nanticoke L 15 Sep; TIOG Sep; max 9 CinL 26 Oct.

Least Sandpiper: 3 Chenango R Chenango Forks 1 Sep; TIOG Sep.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 5 GrP 5-10 Oct (EHw, MP).

Dunlin: GrP 2 Oct (MP).

STILT SANDPIPER: 2 GrP 2 Oct (MP).

Com. Snipe: GrP 5 Oct; unusually scarce.

Am. Woodcock: Mar 24 Oct (DK); 2 Pittsley Rd Morris OTSE 7 Nov (JF).

Herring Gull: max 6 WPR 17 Oct & CinL 29 Oct.

Great Black-backed Gull: Dorchester P WPR 26 Oct (MD, BT), last seen 29 Oct.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: max 40 Choconut Center BROO 4 Sep.
E. Screech-Owl: Chenango Valley SP 9 Oct (RG); T Greene 26 Oct (BB); WeB thru mid-Oct (TS); TIOG thru; REEC 23 Nov (DM); good numbers.
Great Horned Owl: Mar 16 & 17 Oct (DK); Ves 21 Nov (MP); Ves Center 23 Nov (SD); pair hooting Candor 11 Nov (J&TS); TIOG thru; T Morris 22 Nov (JF).
Snowy Owl: Sidney DELA 28 Oct (DW), early.
Barred Owl: Long Pd CHEN 3 Oct; 2 GrP 5 Nov; T Morris OTSE 9 Nov; T Preston CHEN thru 24 Nov, max 2.
Short-eared Owl: FMHW 27 Oct (TS), "in a group of about 15 red-tails"; Lathrop Rd Conklin 17 Nov (EHw), same area as last winter.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Day Hollow Rd Owego 6 Sep (C&JB); 1 found dead there late Nov (C&JB, RP); Twist Run Rd Endicott early Oct (ESh).
Com. Nighthawk: 2 reports Binghamton, last 2 on 7 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Norwich 30 Sep.
Belted Kingfisher: good numbers thru.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 8 reports; CCNAMC; Chenango Forks all Nov; TIOG thru; Otsego Golf Course 9 Nov, possibly new location; REEC 24 Nov; good widespread reports
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 5 reports; last TIOG Oct.
N. Flicker: last 23 Nov.
Pileated Woodpecker: 7 reports BROO; several TIOG; 2 reports OTSE; 1 report CHEN.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

E. Wood Pewee: CHEN 18 Sep, last.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: banded Ves 27 Sep; max 6 banded Ves thru Sep (GK).
Willow Flycatcher: TIOG Sep.
"Traill's Flycatcher": Ves 5 Sep, banded (GK).
Least Flycatcher: BROO 15 Sep.
E. Phoebe: max 8 CCNAMC 18 Sep; last Mar 24 Oct.

N. Shrike: arr WeB 29 Oct; several reports Nov.
WHITE-EYED VIREO: TIOG Oct (PBe), uncommon.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last 2 BROO 1 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: last Ves 10 Oct, banded (GK, HM).
Warbling Vireo: 2 BROO 4 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: last Ves 2 Oct, banded (GK, HM); max 4 in Sep (GK), banded.
Red-eyed Vireo: GrP 11 Oct; max 60 Ves thru Sep (GK), banded.
Blue Jay: good numbers thru; max 97 CCNAMC 18 Sep.
Am. Crow: good numbers thru; max 148 CCNAMC 18 Sep.
Fish Crow: TIOG Nov.
Com. Raven: Ves 6 Oct (GK); 2 DELA 14 Nov; pair TIOG Nov (J&TS).
Tree Swallow: WPR 9 Oct.
Barn Swallow: TIOG Sep.
Black-capped Chickadee: max 57 CCNAMC 18 Sep.
Tufted Titmouse: max 7 CCNAMC 18 Sep.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: several reports thru.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 8 CHEN 18 Sep.
Brown Creeper: max 4 CCNAMC 18 Sep.
Carolina Wren: BROO 10 Nov.
House Wren: last Ves 26 Sep, banded (GK).
Winter Wren: Ves 24 Oct; several TIOG Nov.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 3 CHEN 18 Sep; 11 Ves Oct, banded.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 4 CHEN 19 Sep; 19 Ves Oct, banded.
E. Bluebird: many reports thru; max 20 Mar 20 Oct.
Veery: last Ves 13 Sep (GK), banded.
Swainson's Thrush: Ves 13 Sep (GK), banded.
Hermit Thrush: last BROO 24 Nov; 5 banded Oct (GK, HM).
Wood Thrush: last Ves 9 Sep (GK), banded.
Am. Robin: max 30+ BROO 6 Oct.
Gray Catbird: last BROO 19 Oct; 34 Ves

thru Sep, banded (GK).
N. Mockingbird: 2 BROO 6 Oct; last BROO 9 Oct.
Brown Thrasher: last BROO 25 Sep.
European Starling: max 259 CCNAMC 18 Sep.
Cedar Waxwing: max 74 CHEN 18 Sep.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: last TIOG Oct, late.
Tennessee Warbler: Ves 3 Oct, banded (GK, HM).
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: CHEN 19 Sep (EH).
Nashville Warbler: last Ves 10 Oct, banded (GK, HM); max 6 Ves 20 Sep, banded (GK).
Yellow Warbler: TIOG Sep, only report.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last CHEN 20 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: last 2 Ves 3 Oct (GK&HM); total 17 banded Sep.
Cape May Warbler: last CHEN 6 Sep.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last Ves 3 Oct, banded (GK, HM).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: last WeB 30 Oct; max 25 CCNAMC 18 Sep.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last 2 CCNAMC 18 Sep.
Blackburnian Warbler: last 3 CHEN 20 Sep.
Pine Warbler: RTP 24 Sep, only report.
Palm Warbler: last BPd 13 Oct.
Blackpoll Warbler: last Ves 11 Oct, banded (GK, HM).
Black-and-white Warbler: last Ves 25 Sep.
Am. Redstart: last 2 Ves 15 Sep (GK), banded.
Ovenbird: 7 banded Ves Sep; last 27 Sep (GK).
N. Waterthrush: last Ves 28 Sep.
Com. Yellowthroat: last Ves 5 Oct (GK, HM), banded; max 16 CCNAMC 18 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: last Ves 1 Sep (GK), banded.
Canada Warbler: last CHEN 7 Sep.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: last 2 CHEN 18 Sep.

The Kingbird 2000 March; 50(1)

E. Towhee: last BROO 12 Oct.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr CHEN 31 Oct; max 12 WeB 17 Nov.
Chipping Sparrow: last Mar 23 Oct; max 30 BROO 7 Oct.
Field Sparrow: 2 BROO 19 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: BROO 25 Sep.
Savannah Sparrow: 2 BROO 15 Sep.
Fox Sparrow: good numbers thru; last Ves 30 Nov; max 7 Ves Oct.
Lincoln's Sparrow: last Ves 10 Oct, banded (GK, HM).
Song Sparrow: FHNC 23 Nov; max 45 CHEN 18 Sep.
Swamp Sparrow: last FHNC 22 Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: last BROO 16 Nov; 46 Ves, banded.
White-crowned Sparrow: last BROO 10 Nov.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 21 CHEN 18 Sep.
Lapland Longspur: REEC 17-18 Nov (FvM, LC).
Snow Bunting: arr OTSE 9 Nov; max 12 DELA 18 Nov.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last BROO 14 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: last CHEN 1 Nov (EH), late.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 1000+ BROO 6 Oct (MP).
E. Meadowlark: last WeB 30 Oct; max 7 WeB 10 Oct.
Com. Grackle: last WeB 19 Nov; max 19 CHEN 18 Sep.
Baltimore Oriole: last BROO 1 Sep.
Purple Finch: good numbers thru.
Red Crossbill: Johnson City BROO 8 Nov (MP, BL), left 10 Nov.
Com. Redpoll: arr several REEC 14 Nov; max 40+ OTSE 23 Nov.
Pine Siskin: arr 5 CHEN 13 Oct; max 30 Edmeston OTSE Oct.
Am. Goldfinch: max 49 CHEN 18 Sep.
Evening Grosbeak: small flock DELA 23 Oct; max 25+ CHEN 4 Nov.

CORRIGENDUM

Golden Eagle: the fall 1998 FMHW season total should be 81, not 35.

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REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The fall season was warmer than average with a bit more precipitation than usual, but that was enough to alleviate the summer drought. September had an average temperature of 64.6°F, 3.1° above normal, with 5.35" of rain, 1.56" more than usual. There was 2.3" of rain on the 16th, but for most of the month there were no fronts to bring waves of migrants. A strong front on the 30th did bring Parasitic Jaegers and a Sabine's Gull to Derby Hill.

October was cooler, with an average temp of 49.5°, 2° below average, with 2.77" of rain, 0.47" below normal. There were several strong systems which brought northwest winds and jaegers, but the warblers and most of the sparrows had already passed through.

November was warm with an average of 44.3°, 3.8° above normal, and 3.17" of precipitation, 0.55" below the average. There was 3.8" of snow for the month. Finches were on the move throughout November, but the warm weather did seem to delay the arrival of waterfowl and gulls.

Pied-billed Grebe numbers were up with very good counts at three locations, while Horned Grebe numbers were down. For the third year, an adult Great Cormorant showed up in Oswego Harbor. Two Black-crowned Night-Herons favored a small creek at the edge of Onondaga Lake for most of the season and a Least Bittern remained in Utica Marsh into early September. A Black Vulture roosting with Turkey Vultures in Cayuga County was thought to be another sign of their slow advance northward.

Two Greater White-fronted Geese on Little Sodus Bay were the chief highlight of an, at best, ordinary waterfowl flight. There were the usual American Wigeons and Gadwalls at Fair Haven and the teal species at Delta Lake. The Wood Ducks at Toad Harbor were not reported this season. The scoter flight was poor with only handfuls of Surfs and Blacks reported and the *Aythya* species were scarce until the end of November. Mergansers were poorly noted, although few Hooded Mergansers were present until late November. A quarry pond in Manlius attracted a variety of waterfowl, with most remaining for a day or two except for Ruddy Ducks, which numbered over 150 at times and remained for weeks. A Glossy Ibis was a good find during a warm spell in October.

Strong south winds on 16 October produced a good hawk flight at Derby Hill in the typical west to east spring flight pattern. Highlights were 180 Red-tailed Hawks and 7 immature Northern Goshawks. This "wrong-way" flight had not been observed for a number of years. Two days later, on the 18th, the best hawk flight of the season took place at the Bishop Road location west of Pulaski. Highlights were 224 redtails, five Bald Eagles and two Golden Eagles. The season's total of five Golden Eagles was two more than any previous fall, partly due to people particularly looking for hawks this fall. Northern Harrier and accipiter numbers were good. Several reports of Peregrine Falcons in downtown Syracuse gave rise to the hope that a pair might be looking for a suitable place to breed.

The fall shorebird season at Delta Lake was at its best through 23 September, but by then the water level had gotten so low that shorebirds were on distant mudflats and difficult to identify without boat access. Fortunately, the lone Hudsonian Godwit for the season was large enough to see at great distances. Two Western Sandpipers were seen, Purple Sandpipers put in only brief appearances at the traditional Little Sodus Bay location, but were more dependable at Sandy Pond, and Red Knot was missed for the second year.

The fall gull flight at Derby Hill was one of the best of the decade, with a **Sabine's Gull** and at least 24 jaegers, along with the usual Black-legged Kittiwakes and Little Gulls. Nearly all of the jaegers and unusual gulls were seen in the afternoon, suggesting that patience and/or good timing is required to see these birds. No Iceland or Glaucous gulls were reported and there was no large concentration of Herring or Great Black-backed gulls by the end of the season. Several Forster's Terns appeared along Lake Ontario after mid-October as they do most years.

Snowy Owl was another species not reported, while several reports of road-killed Northern Saw-whet Owls in November were the only evidence of their migration. Mourning Doves remained in the Region in large numbers and a Black-backed Woodpecker was the only Adirondack specialty reported.

The passerine flight was generally poor. September migrants had too much good flight weather and barely stopped. Flycatchers were not numerous and swallows were very scarce. Northern Rough-winged Swallow and Purple Martin were not recorded, but this may be due to few reports from traditional staging grounds along Lake Ontario in early September. Thrush numbers were low, even for Eastern Bluebird and American Robin. Fish Crow may be starting to be old news by now after five years in Syracuse, but it was not reported for the season.

Red-breasted Nuthatches were showing up in settings where they don't nest, but many remained in breeding areas at the end of November. Black-capped Chickadees seemed to be on the move as well. Two early Bohemian Waxwings seen at the beginning of October were thought to be a preview to a good flight, but none were found afterwards. A Sedge Wren was seen in Utica Marsh by Matt Perry. Hard to find as a breeder, this species is rarely seen in fall migration.

Warblers numbers were generally unremarkable, but five Orange-crowned Warblers were the most in 14 years, while Blackpoll and Wilson's were well reported. Palm Warblers were again exceedingly hard to find. A Yellow-throated Warbler was described by Ken Zoller in late November as it was seen briefly foraging on outdoor cedar furniture and along the edge of a cedar roof. Fox Sparrows were plentiful, but numbers and sightings were low for other sparrows.

There was an invasion of finches, but Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins did not persist at most locations. Common Redpolls were showing up in large numbers, even coming to feeders on the outskirts of Syracuse. Gary Lee told of reports of redpolls and siskins coming to feeders in the Adirondacks, but with the lack of wild food due to the dry summer these species did not persist.

A total of 235 species was seen for the season, a good season, which included: Red Knot, Iceland Gull, Glaucous Gull, Black Tern, cuckoos, Snowy Owl, Fish Crow, Purple Martin, N. Rough-winged Swallow and Pine Grosbeak. Highlights were: Least Bittern, **Glossy Ibis**, **Black Vulture**, Greater White-fronted Goose, Golden Eagles, jaegers, **Sabine's Gull**, Black-backed Woodpecker, Sedge Wren and **Yellow-throated Warbler**.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BRH – Bishop Road Hawk Lookout, Pulaski; CM – Clay Marsh; DH – Derby Hill; DL – Delta Lake; EIC – Niagara Mohawk Energy Information Center at Nine Mile Point; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; GSC – Great Swamp Conservancy lands, T Lenox; HIWMA – Howland Island WMA; LOL – Lake Ontario littoral; RCFS – Rice Creek Field Station, Oswego; SPd – Sandy Pond; SSSP – Selkirk Shores State Park; SVB – Sylvan and Verona Beach; Syr – Syracuse; TRWMA – Three Rivers WMA; UM – Utica Marsh; WPd – Woodman Pond, T Eaton.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr DH 25 Oct; max 10 DH 4 Nov.

Com. Loon: max 100 DH 4 Nov.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 25 FH 8 Oct; other highs, 13 SPd 24 Sep and 11 UM 29 Sep, a good showing.

Horned Grebe: arr DH 24 Oct; max 28 DH 1 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: max 3 DH 14 Nov; about 6 other reports LOL 24 Oct thru.

GREAT CORMORANT: ad Oswego 9 Nov thru (GP, mob); 1 large cormorant in a small flock DH 24 Oct thought to be this species.

Am. Bittern: Tully 2 Sep; HIWMA 11 Sep.

Least Bittern: UM 2 Sep (MP), rare in fall.

Great Blue Heron: max 20 DL 1 Oct.

Great Egret: max 4 DL 5 Sep; last 3 Fair Haven 24 Sep.

Green Heron: max 8 UM 2 Sep; last UM 29 Sep.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 1-2 Liverpool 13 Sep-21 Nov.

GLOSSY IBIS: Biddlecum Pd 16-18 Oct (Ruth Knight, mob).

BLACK VULTURE: T Sterling 14 Sep (GP), 2nd fall record.

Turkey Vulture: max 78 BRH 18 Oct.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: 2 FH 8 Nov (MAK).

Snow Goose: max 300 W Winfield 19 Nov; other max of 30-90 all late Nov.

Canada Goose: max 3000 WPd 28 Nov.

Brant: 3060 DH 14 Oct; max 4310 DH 24

Oct; early flight.

Mute Swan: usual pair WPd thru; 1 SVB 26 Oct; 1 SPd thru.

Tundra Swan: arr 3 FH 30 Oct; max 4 DH 4 Nov & FH 8 Nov.

Wood Duck: max 90 UM 8 Oct.

Gadwall: arr UM 21 Sep; max 50 FH 24 Oct.

Am. Wigeon: max 250 FH 25 Oct.

Am. Black Duck: max 120 DH 24 Oct.

Blue-winged Teal: max 75 DL 8 Sep; last DL 25 Oct.

N. Shoveler: max 8 FH 14 Nov.

N. Pintail: arr 2 DL 5 Sep; max 55 DH 24 Oct.

Green-winged Teal: max 200 DL 26 Sep-1 Oct.

Canvasback: FH 25-28 Oct, only report.

Redhead: 2 FH 8 Oct, only report.

Ring-necked Duck: max 175 WPd 28 Nov.

Greater Scaup: arr 7 DH 6 Oct; 1800 scaup SVB 21 Nov were mainly this species.

Lesser Scaup: arr 8 DH 6 Oct; max 80 Toad Harbor 31 Oct.

Surf Scoter: arr and max 11 DH 6 Oct.

White-winged Scoter: max 160 DH 10 Oct.

Black Scoter: arr 4 DH 6 Oct; max 10 SPd 5 Nov; 6 Big Moose L early Nov, unusual site.

Oldsquaw: max 670 DH 24 Oct; flights to 500/day Nov.

Bufflehead: arr DH 14 Oct; max 74 SPd 5 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: 9 Third L HERK 12

Oct, probably local breeders; max 1600
Toad Harbor 31 Oct.
Hooded Merganser: max 13 GSC 13 Nov.
Com. Merganser: max 50 DL 15 Sept.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 100 SVB 9
Nov; L Ontario birds not recorded?
Ruddy Duck: arr Minoa 4 Oct; max 186
Minoa 15 Nov.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: max 2 BRH 18 Oct; 5 other sin-
gles reported.
Bald Eagle: max 5 BRH 18 Oct; 1-2 DL
thru Sep; repeated sightings of at least
several birds LOL Oct-Nov.
N. Harrier: max 4 BRH 18, 27 Oct and
Oneida Lookout 18 Oct; 20+ other reports.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 8 DH 16 Oct;
over 30 other reports.
Cooper's Hawk: max 5 T Van Buren 2
Oct; 16 other reports.
N. Goshawk: max 7 DH 16 Oct, record
seasonal one-day count; Big Moose 10
Nov; FH 27 Nov.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 4 Oneida
Lookout 18 Oct; Beaver L 21 Oct, only
reports.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 8 W Winfield
17 Sep; only 2 other reports.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 224 BRH 18 Oct;
180 DH 16 Oct, on south winds.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr Paris 15 Oct;
max 5 BRH 11 Nov.
Golden Eagle: 2 BRH 18 Oct; 1 BRH 27
Oct; 1 Altmar 28 Oct; 1 SSSP 7 Nov; 5 for
season is record high.
Am. Kestrel: max 8 T Lee 6 Sep; other
counts of 5-6 per day thru Sep; last
migrants 5 BRH 18 Oct.
Merlin: max 3 SPd 1 Sep; singles Verona
24 Sep, Fabius 25 Sep, FH 28 Sep.
Peregrine Falcon: imm DL 5 Sep; DL 18
Sep; FH 23 Sep; 2 Oneida Lookout 18 Oct;
Syr 20-23 Oct; 2 Syr 23 Nov.
Ring-necked Pheasant: max 5 Paris 27
Nov.
Ruffed Grouse: low, observers reporting
them only had 1-2 for season.
Wild Turkey: max 40 Mexico 20 Nov;
small flocks Region-wide thru.
Virginia Rail: last UM 21 Sep.

Sora: max 3 RCFS 25 Sep.
Com. Moorhen: DL 5 Sep, only report.
Am. Coot: arr FH 22 Sep; max 130 FH 23
Oct.
Black-bellied Plover: max 7 SPd 1 Oct;
last 5 FH 14 Nov.
Am. Golden-Plover: max 10 DL 5 Sep;
last DL 23 Sep.
Semipalmated Plover: max 30 DL 4 Sep.
Killdeer: max 108 Sangerfield 1 Sep; 100
DL to 5 Sep.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 30 DL 5 Sep.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 85 DL 15 Sept.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 6 WM 21 Sep;
last DL 23 Sep.
Spotted Sandpiper: only scattered singles
Sep; 1 Oct.
Hudsonian Godwit: DL 11-15 Sep.
Ruddy Turnstone: max 3 SPd 24 Sep; last
DH 4 Nov.
Sanderling: max 31 SPd 5 Nov.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 150 DL 4
Sep.
Western Sandpiper: DL 15 Sep (BP); FH
21-23 Sep (GP).
Least Sandpiper: max 30 DL 5 Sep.
White-rumped Sandpiper: max 13 DL 5
Sep; last DL 1 Oct, early departure.
Baird's Sandpiper: max 4 DL 4-5 Sep; last
2 DL 8 Sep.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 30 DL 1-15 Sep.
Purple Sandpiper: DH 4 Nov; 3 SPd 5
Nov; SPd 9 Nov, FH 11 Nov.
Dunlin: arr SVB 21 Sep; max 46 SPd 17
Oct.
Stilt Sandpiper: max and last 6 DL 15
Sep.
Short-billed Dowitcher: max 12 DL 5
Sep; last SVB 9 Sep.
Com. Snipe: max 8 SSSP 19 Oct; last
Scriba 1 Nov.
Am. Woodcock: total 8; last Saquoit 22
Oct.
Red-necked Phalarope: DL 4-5 Sep.
Red Phalarope: FH 21 Sep; FH 8 Oct; DH
8 Oct.
Pomarine Jaeger: 4 DH 4 Nov; DH 6
Nov; 2 DH 11 Nov.
Parasitic Jaeger: 8 DH 30 Sep; 5 DH 24
Oct; Oneida L 25-27 Oct, harassing gulls
(CA).

jaeger (sp): at least 3 at DH for season.
Little Gull: DH 24 Oct; 2 DH 4 Nov; 3 DH 6 Nov; FH 20 Nov.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 100 DH 7 Nov.
Black-legged Kittiwake: DH 6 Oct; 3 DH 24 Oct; 1 dead FH 24 Oct; 2 DH 4 Nov; 2 DH 14 Nov; all imm.
SABINE'S GULL: DH 30 Sep (GS).
Caspian Tern: max 35 SPd 1 Sep.
Com. Tern: max 30 SVB 5 Sep; singles DH 24 Oct, 11 Nov, late.
Forster's Tern: 2 SPd 17 Oct; FH 3 Nov.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: max 300 Durhamville 30 Nov; 40 Old Forge feeder end of Nov, high for Adirondacks.
E. Screech-Owl: 13 at 10 sites.
Great Horned Owl: 11 at 7 sites.
Barred Owl: 6 at 5 sites.
Long-eared Owl: Duck L CAYU 11 Sep (MSc).
Short-eared Owl: singles FH 22 Oct, 3 Nov.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Lost Brook HERK 6 Nov; 3 reports of road-killed birds after 17 Nov.
Com. Nighthawk: 2 W Winfield 2 Sep; 7 Dewitt 9 Sep; last NH 11 Sep.
Chimney Swift: max 100+ Syr 8 Sep, going into large chimney at dusk.
Red-headed Woodpecker: imm Pompey after 18 Nov.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 5 DL 11 Sep and NMP 4 Oct; most reports 20 Sep-4 Oct; last SSSP 1 Nov.
Black-backed Woodpecker: Old Forge 26 Sep.
N. Flicker: max 12 EIC 19 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 2 HIWMA 11 Sep; SVB 13 Sep.
E. Wood-Pewee: max 5 T Van Buren 6 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 4 reports of singles.
Alder Flycatcher: last WM 21 Sep.
E. Phoebe: max 7 DL 23 Sep.
Great Crested Flycatcher: only 3 reported.

E. Kingbird: max 2 Sangerfield 2 Sep.
N. Shrike: arr LOL 22 Oct; 10 reports, almost all imm.
Yellow-throated Vireo: max 3 HIWMA 11 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: max 3 DL 27 Sep & New Hartford 2 Oct; SPd 1 Oct, eating a Monarch butterfly.
Warbling Vireo: max 5 Hastings 5 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr DL 1 Sep; max 2 DL 4 & 15 Sep; last DL 19 Sep; 3 other reports.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 8 DL 15 Sep; feeding y SVB 5 Sep.
Blue Jay: max 220 Hastings 24 Sep in 90 minutes; 50 Parish same day.
Am. Crow: max 1900 BRH 27 Oct.
Com. Raven: 3 LJ 30 Sep; 2 DH 16 Oct; Rome 14 Nov; SVB 24 Oct.
Horned Lark: 30 Lakeport 18 Sep and 30 T Van Buren 10 Oct, probably local breeders; arr FH 16 Oct; max 40 BRH 11 Nov.
Tree Swallow: max 200 DL 1 Oct; last DH 27 Nov.
Bank Swallow: 2 Sangerfield 1 Sep, only report.
Cliff Swallow: 2 SPd 1 Sep, only report.
Barn Swallow: max 20 W Winfield 5 Sep.
Black-capped Chickadee: 40-60 per day east shore L Ontario Oct-Nov, most probably migrants.
Tufted Titmouse: continues to do well at known breeding locations; 3 reports of wanderers/migrants.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 14 TRWMA 1 Sep and 12 SSSP 20 Nov; singles at suburban feeders but many remained in breeding areas.
Brown Creeper: max 4 DL 23 Sep.
Carolina Wren: W Monroe 24 Sep & 25 Oct; Syr south 18-22 Oct; 2 Marcellus thru.
Winter Wren: max 6 SPd 24 Sep.
SEDGE WREN: UM 8 Oct (MP).
Marsh Wren: 3 Verona Beach 13 Sep, where not known to breed; max 5 UM 21 Sep; last 2 CM 16 Oct.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr LOL 24 Sep; max 25 Paris 5 Oct.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr LOL 19 Sep; max 45 Mexico 10 Oct; last Paris 3 Nov.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 4 reported.
E. Bluebird: max 18 T Western 27 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: singles CM 18 Sep, 2 Oct; 2 SSSP 10 Oct.
Swainson's Thrush: 3 reports 23 Sep-3 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: max 4 Nine Mile Pt 4 Oct; 2-3 per day 1-16 Oct.
Wood Thrush: max 7 HIWMA 11 Sep; CM 18 Oct, late.
Am. Robin: max 92 CM 30 Oct.
Gray Catbird: max 25 CM 12 Sep.
N. Mockingbird: 7 reports; Great Northern Mall in Clay 30 Oct, new site.
Brown Thrasher: max 3 DL 10 Sep.
European Starling: max 5000 BRH 19 Oct.
Am. Pipit: arr 19 Sep, late; max 250 Cato 17 Oct.
Bohemian Waxwing: Nine Mile Pt 1 Oct; Lafayette 2 Oct; early but none thereafter.
Cedar Waxwing: max 100 DL 14 Sep.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: last Paris 9 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: max 2 DL 14 & 19 Sep.
Orange-crowned Warbler: Pratt's Falls 20 Sep, FH 21 Sep; SSSP 16 Oct; FH 28 Oct; EIC 3 Nov; most since 1985.
Nashville Warbler: max 3 SVB; max 3 Pratt's Falls 20 Sep.
N. Parula: max 2 DL 14, 15, 27 Sep; TRWMA 19 Sep; EIC 24 Sep.
Yellow Warbler: 3 Sep reports.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 2 DL 4, 11, 19 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: max 5 Pompey 4 Sep; 2-3 per day at many sites to 26 Sep.
Cape May Warbler: Pratt's Falls 20 Sep; 2 EIC 24 Sep; Oswego 2 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 180 Kirkland 1 Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 20 DL 27 Sep.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 4 DL 11 Sep.
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: W Winfield 24 Nov (KZ !, NYSARC), 2nd fall record.
Pine Warbler: last W Monroe 25 Oct.
Palm Warbler: max 4 Paris 2, 10 Oct; last

16 Oct.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 25 FH 28 Sep.
N. Waterthrush: max and last 3 SPd 1 Sep.
Mourning Warbler: SVB 20 Sep; Whiskey Hollow 13 Oct, late.
Com. Yellowthroat: max 4 UM 2 Sep; 3 Tioughnioga WMA 25 Sep.
Hooded Warbler: last Kirkland 18 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: peak, total 8 at 6 locations 19-25 Sep.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 8 HIWMA 11 Sep.
E. Towhee: max 9 Split Rock T Onondaga 15 Sep; 6 there 5 Oct.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Paris 27 Oct; max 40 FH 27 Nov.
Chipping Sparrow: max 25 Nine Mile Pt 4 Oct; last 3 Pompey 23 Oct.
Field Sparrow: max 11 T Van Buren 10 Oct; last 4 there 16 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: max 3 Mexico 16 Oct.
Savannah Sparrow: 4 reports; last T Van Buren 10 Oct.
Fox Sparrow: arr SVB and DL 15 Oct; max 11 Whiskey Hollow 30 Oct; last Paris 16 Nov; total 34 reported.
Song Sparrow: max 20 SPd 17 Oct.
Lincoln's Sparrow: RCFS 25 Sep; EIC 26 Sep; 2 New Hartford 2 Oct; Mexico 10 Oct.
Swamp Sparrow: max 12 SVB 2 Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: 15 EIC 19 Sep; max 85 NH 2 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr W Winfield 17 Sep; max 30 EIC 4 Oct.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 50 EIC 4 Oct.
Lapland Longspur: FH 8 Oct; 4 Cato 17 Oct.
Snow Bunting: arr SPd 17 Oct; max 100 DL 1 & 14 Nov.
N. Cardinal: pair Old Forge 30 Nov, unusual site.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 14 HIWMA 11 Sep.
Indigo Bunting: max 3 HIWMA 11 Sep; last Kirkland 4 Oct.
Bobolink: Verona 3 Sep then no others until RCFS 23 Oct.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 4200 BRH

19 Oct.

E. Meadowlark: max 6 Biddlecum 19 Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: arr TRWMA 19 Sep; max 414 CM 30 Oct.

Com. Grackle: max 2500 DH 14 Oct.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 133 N Syr 23 Oct.

Baltimore Oriole: max and last 3 CM 12 Sep.

Purple Finch: 3-5 per day to 15 Oct; only one Nov report.

House Finch: max 28; numbers not returning to early 1990s level.

Red Crossbill: SSSP 1 Nov; FH 9 Nov;

Rome Sand Plains 14 Nov; 3 Nine Mile Pt 20 Nov, none persistent.

Com. Redpoll: arr W Winfield 6 Nov; max 100 SPd 24 Nov.

Pine Siskin: arr Cato 27 Sep; most after mid Oct; max 80 DH 1 Nov.

Am. Goldfinch: numbers peaked at 20-40 per day early Nov.

Evening Grosbeak: arr 2 FH 23 Sep; peak 25-50 at 4 locations 30 Oct; lesser numbers thru Nov.

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REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

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Fall of 1999 brought a mixed bag of weather. The dry conditions of summer continued and Lake Ontario water levels continued to decline through the reporting period. On 1 September the low temperature was 37°F in Henderson, with a high of 80° later that day, beaten on 4 September by a high of 86°. The official high for Watertown on 5 September was 90°. Overcast conditions with high humidity and rain followed. On 16 September Hurricane Floyd brought 2" of rain and strong NE winds as it moved up the Eastern Seaboard. This started numbers of warblers and other species moving. Sunny and cool weather followed, with a low of 39° at Henderson on 19 September. A large cold front moved through on the 20th, followed by cool overcast days. Light rain and snowflakes fell on Tug Hill at the higher elevations, such as Highmarket, on the 23rd, yet later that afternoon the high reached 71°. On 26 September a heavy frost at 6 am and a 28° low at Highmarket suggested an early winter might be at hand. The thought quickly evaporated when highs on 28 and 29 September reached 80° and 78°.

October started out cold, with a high of only 46° at Henderson on the 3rd. About 0.25" of rain fell in Watertown, with 0.5" of snow in the Adirondacks at Wanakena and white-outs, dropping 0.75" of snow, at

Potsdam. On 7 October a heavy frost and a low of 21° at Watertown indicated perhaps winter was again on the way. A thunderstorm with rain and wind occurred on 13 October, with 1.5" of rain overnight at Henderson and snow in Watertown the next day, followed by a very strong cold front. The high rose to 61° on the 15th, then headed back down to the 20s on the 19th. The 22nd of October brought rain, wind, lightning and hail. Temperatures seesawed about the 50° mark with windy, overcast days through the last two days of the month when day-time highs hovered about 64°.

November began rainy and windy, with another strong cold front on the 3rd. Rainfall on the Ontario Lake Plain from the cold front amounted to about 1", while at the same time 6" of snow fell at Montague on Tug Hill. On the 5th, the high spiked to 62°, to be followed by two sunny and rather windy days with snow flurries, then a plunge to 18° on the 8th. Rainfall for the month included 1" on the 11th, 1.75" on the 26th, and another 0.5" on the 27th. Light snow fell on the 30th, ending the reporting period. All the rain, and what little snow fell and melted, was not enough to make up for the summer precipitation deficit and Lake Ontario water levels continued to drop.

Observers for the period contributed some excellent field records. It was evident that being in the right place at the right time was very important. Waterbirds and waterfowl were well represented. Raptors made a good showing and a fair number of winter visitors might be at hand. With a large amount of shoreline exposed, shorebirds and gulls were well reported. Gerry Smith discovered both the elusive **Three-toed and Black-backed woodpeckers** near Monteola, Lewis County in the heart of Tug Hill. Northern Shrikes showed up in good numbers at many locations, mostly along Lake Ontario. The Blue Jay migration through the area was extensive and very interesting to observe. Common Raven continued widespread in the Region. Tree Swallow numbers were impressive but the birds impossible to count as they skimmed just above the water, feeding and gathering before leaving for warmer climes. Eastern Bluebird numbers were very impressive. Warblers in numbers hung around later than normal. Winter finches provided some early evidence of an influx, but counts for some species were less than desired.

Highlights included: good numbers of Red-necked Grebes, all scoter species observed, Ruddy Ducks in higher numbers than usual, a number of Northern Goshawk and Merlin sightings, a Golden Eagle, an American Golden-Plover, the **Marbled Godwit** lingering into fall, Purple Sandpipers seen at El Dorado after a long absence – evidently it was a Purple Sandpiper year, a **Parasitic Jaeger** along the barrier beach at

Lakeview WMA, a Little Gull and a **Black-Legged Kittiwake** on Lake Ontario, the **Three-toed and Black-backed woodpeckers** on Tug Hill, and the winter finches beginning to show up at feeders.

Negatives for the period were: no Snowy Owls reported, woodpecker numbers generally down, Horned Lark numbers below normal, Red-breasted Nuthatch in very low numbers, American Tree Sparrow in low numbers, Northern Cardinal missing from many previously known locations and Purple Finch numbers very low.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AA – Alder Acres, T Lorraine, Tug Hill JEFF; BRB – Black River Bay JEFF; CB – Chaumont Barrens Preserve TNC, T Clayton JEFF; CV – Cape Vincent (T or Village) JEFF; ED – El Dorado Shores Preserve, T Ellisburg JEFF; Hen – T Henderson JEFF; KC – Kelsey Creek, Watertown; Lou – T Louisville STLA; LWMA – Lakeview WMA JEFF; MPt – Montario Pt, T Ellisburg, L Ontario Littoral Zone JEFF; PRWMA – Perch River WMA; PtPen – Pt Peninsula, T Lyme JEFF; SLR – St. Lawrence River; TH – Tug Hill JEFF/LEWI; WBM – Wilson Bay Marsh, T Cape Vincent; WBSP – Wescott Beach SP, Twn Henderson JEFF; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA STLA; WPtRd – Wilson Pt Rd, T Cape Vincent.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: 2 BRB 29 Oct; Sackets Harbor 8 Nov; 3 BRB 13 Nov.
Com. Loon: 2 Oswegatchie River STLA 28 Sep; 4 WBSP 25 Oct; 10 BRB 29 Oct; max 48 PtPen 30 Oct; 5 MPt 30 Oct; 15 WBSP 13 Nov.
Pied-billed Grebe: 6 LWMA 20 Oct; PtPen 26 Oct; max 9 LWMA Colwell Pd 3 Nov.
Horned Grebe: 6 WBSP 25 Oct; max 54

The Kingbird 2000 March; 50(1)

WBSP & Sackets Harbor vicinity 29 Oct; 39 WBSP 8 Nov; 10 WBM 21 Nov.
Red-necked Grebe: BRB 29 Oct; PtPen 30 Oct; 2 Snowshoe Pt Twn Hen 30 Oct & 1 Nov; 2 LWMA barrier beach 1 Nov; Association I Twn Hen 5 Nov; WBSP 13 Nov.
Double-crested Cormorant: MPt 7 Nov.
Great Blue Heron: max 17 Pillar Pt JEFF 5 Oct; PtPen 18 Nov.
Green Heron: KC 29 Sep.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: WBM 12 Sep; 3 imm Wiseman Marsh Case Rd Twm Lyme JEFF 16 Oct, late.
Turkey Vulture: 16 ED 26 Sep; 10 KC 5 Oct; 2 Stony Pt Twm Hen 24 Oct; Mannsville 27 Oct, late.
Snow Goose: 6 WHWMA 3 Oct; 20 SLR CV 29 Oct; 9 Sackets Harbor 8 Nov.
Canada Goose: moving in large numbers 1 Oct.
Brant: 50 SLR CV 1 Oct; moving over Twm Hen 4 am 19 Oct; MPt 20 Oct; 13 MPt 30 Oct; 60+ LWMA barrier beach 1 Nov; 3 SLR CV 8 Nov.
Mute Swan: 26 BRB 30 Oct.
Tundra Swan: 2 ad, 3 imm PtPen 8 Nov; 7 PtPen 18 Nov; 7 PtPen 24 Nov.
Wood Duck: 16 WBM 5 Sep; Wellesley I SP 21 Oct; 8 Grass River Twm Lou STLA 10 Nov.
Gadwall: 27 ED 1 Sep; 2 ED 17 Sep; PtPen 8 Nov; 30+ PRWMA 12 Nov.
Am Wigeon: PtPen 26 Oct; 300 PRWMA 30 Oct; PtPen 8 Nov; max 500+ PRWMA 12 Nov.
Am. Black Duck: 400+ BRB 26 Oct; 140 BRB 8 Nov.
Blue-winged Teal: 8 ED 1 Sep; max 28 Twm Lou 4 Sep; 15 PtPen 4 Sep.
N. Pintail: 4 ED 17 Sep; 60+ PRWMA 12 Nov.
Green-winged Teal: 12 ED 26 Sep; max 90 WBM 26 Oct; 3 PtPen 8 Nov.
Canvasback: 6 WHWMA 9 Nov.
Redhead: 12 WHWMA 19 Sep; 10 WHWMA 12 Nov.
Ring-necked Duck: max 500 PRWMA 30 Oct; 30+ PRWMA 12 Nov; 224 Wilson Hill area 12 Nov.
Greater Scaup: arr 1 female Washington 1 Twm Clayton SLR 29 Sep; 300+ Perch L PRWMA 21 Oct; 400+ BRB 26 Oct; 900 BRB 8 Nov.
Lesser Scaup: 100 BRB 26 Oct.
Surf Scoter: arr 2 females Oak Pt Twm Hammond SLR STLA 22 Sept, early; 6 Stony Pt Twm Hen 26 Oct; 2 WBSP 8 Nov; 2 MPt 10 Nov; 1 female WBSP 13 Nov.
White-winged Scoter: 4 Snowshoe Pt Twm Hen 1 Nov; MPt 7 Nov.

Black Scoter: PtPen 30 Oct; 6 LWMA barrier beach I Nov; max 75+ MPt 7 Nov; 2 MPt 10 Nov.
Oldsquaw: arr 12 Stony Pt Twm Hen 26 Oct; 6 MPt 7 Nov; max 50+ MPt 27 Nov.
Bufflehead: arr 3 PtPen 8 Oct; 25 PtPen 24 Oct.
Com. Goldeneye: arr 1 male Stony Pt Twm Hen 26 Oct; max 200 MPt 11 Nov; 35 WBM 21 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: 7 KC 25 Nov.
Com Merganser: 60 LWMA 1 Nov; 60+ MPt 11 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: 6 Tibbets Pt Lighthouse CV SLR 29 Oct.
Ruddy Duck: 4 Sixtown Pd (Crystal L) Twm Hen 3 Nov; max 7 there 8 Nov; 5 there 9 Nov.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: ED 18 Sep; Moses-Saunders Power Dam Twm Massena 19 Nov.
Bald Eagle: 8 sightings (5 imm) along L Ontario shoreline.
N. Harrier: 6 PtPen 5 Oct; 7 MPt Rd 11 Oct; 8 PtPen 26 Oct.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: Watertown 7 Sep; PtPen 5 Oct; 2 MPtRd 11 Oct.
Cooper's Hawk: Twm Hen 18 Sep; ad Sackets Harbor 27 Nov.
N. Goshawk: imm PRWMA 10 Sep; imm PtPen 15 Sep; CB 7 Oct; Sackets Harbor 5 Nov; Highmarket Twm West Turin LEWI 19 Oct.
Red-shouldered Hawk: PtPen 5 Oct.
Broad-winged Hawk: small group moving south along Racquette River Twm Colton STLA 12 Sep.
Red-tailed Hawk: 10 PtPen 5 Oct; 8 PtPen 14 Oct.
Rough-legged Hawk: PtPen 14 Oct; 2 PtPen 16 Oct.
Golden Eagle: WBSP 8 Nov (LC, BH).
Am. Kestrel: PtPen 5 Oct; PtPen 14 Oct; 4 PtPen CV area 13 Nov.
Merlin: outer Massey St Rd Watertown 10 Sep; female PtPen 16 Sep (NL); 2 PtPen 14 Oct (LC, BH); Fox Cr Rd Twm CV 14 Oct.
Peregrine Falcon: ad PtPen 19 Sep (NL); Twm Watertown 27 Sep (NL); 2 imm

male, 1 ad female ED 9 Oct (GS);
 Pierrepont Manor 2 Nov (GPM).
Gray Partridge: 5 PtPen Isthmus Rd 25
 Sep (NL); several small coveys back
 roads Twn CV thru.
Ruffed Grouse: ED 26 Sep; Limerick
 Cedars 24 Oct; Hen backyard 6 Nov.
Wild Turkey: 35 Star School Rd Twn
 Brownville JEFF 7 Oct; 33 Merchant Rd
 Twn CV 15 Nov.
Com. Moorhen: WBM 5 Oct.
Am. Coot: LWMA 20 Oct.
Black-bellied Plover: ED 17 Sep; 8 ED 26
 Sep; 3 flybys MPt Rd 11 Oct; 7 Sackets
 Harbor vicinity 29 Oct; 2 ED 9 Nov; ED
 10 Nov.
AM. GOLDEN-POLOVER: PtPen 8 Oct
 (NL).
Semipalmated Plover: 15 ED 10 Sep; 20
 ED 17 Sep; 20 PtPen 23 Sep; 8 ED 26 Sep.
Killdeer: 10 PtPen 4 Sep; 3 Hen 26 Sep;
 100+ Favret to McKeever Rd Twn CV 15
 Oct; 30+ Fishers Landing SLR JEFF 21
 Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: PtPen 19 Sep; PtPen
 14 Oct; 7 Wiseman Marsh Case Rd Twn
 Lyme 16 Oct.
Lesser Yellowlegs: Wiseman Marsh Case
 Rd Twn Lyme 16 Oct; 3 Deer Lick Cr
 Twn Hen 10 Nov.
Spotted Sandpiper: ED 10 Sep.
Solitary Sandpiper: ED 1 Sep; 2 WBM 1,
 3 Sep; 2 WHWMA 1 Oct; 2 Williams Rd
 Twn Lorraine TH 9 Sep.
Upland Sandpiper: Williams Truck Trail
 Twn Rodman TH 9 Sep, late.
MARBLED GODWIT: PtPen at the Toad
 Hole shoal 1-8 Sep (NL, mob, NYSARC,
 ph), lingering from summer; last there 11
 Sep (B. Constance).
Ruddy Turnstone: PtPen 16-19 Sep; 2 ED
 17 Sep.
Red Knot: arr 6 PtPen 4 Sep.
Sanderling: 8 ED 10 Sep; 9 ED 26 Sep;
 max 40+ MPt 11 Nov.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 8 ED 26 Sep.
Least Sandpiper: 2 PtPen 4 Sep; ED 26
 Sep.
White-rumped Sandpiper: PtPen 8 Oct.
Baird's Sandpiper: ED 17 Sep; max 3
 PtPen 23 Sep.

Pectoral Sandpiper: PtPen 4 Sep; max 20
 PtPen 26 Sep; last Wiseman Marsh Case
 Rd Twn Lyme 16 Oct.
Purple Sandpiper: 2 MPt 5 Nov (NL); 2
 ED 9 Nov (LC, BH).
Dunlin: ED 17 Sep; 2 PtPen 23 Sep; ED
 26 Sep; 4 ED 9 Nov.
Stilt Sandpiper: PtPen 18-19 Sep; 2
 PtPen 23 Sep.
Short-billed Dowitcher: max 7 Pt Pen 4
 Sep; ED 10 Sep; 3 ED 17 Sep; 2 PtPen 18
 Sep.
Long-billed Dowitcher: 2 Pt Pen 4 Sep.
Com. Snipe: Twn Hen 15 Oct; 2 Twn Lou
 11 Nov.
Am. Woodcock: Greenwood State Forest
 Twn Pitcairn STLA 28 Sep.
Red-necked Phalarope: MPt 4 Nov (NL).
PARASITIC JAEGER: imm LWMA bar-
 rier beach 1 Nov (LC, BH).
Little Gull: 2nd winter PtPen village 13
 Nov (BP).
Bonaparte's Gull: 6 PtPen 4 Sep; 90
 LWMA 19 Sep; 25 PtPen 14 Oct; max 140
 PtPen village 13 Nov (BP); 100+ CV
 Breakwall SLR 14 Nov.
BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: imm
 MPt 4 Nov (NL); MPT 11 Nov (LC, BH).
Caspian Tern: 6 PtPen 4 Sep.
Com. Tern: 65 PtPen 4 Sep.
Black Tern: 2 PtPen 4 Sep.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: Twn Clayton JEFF
 1 Sep.
Great Horned Owl: CB 7 Oct; 2 calling
 Stony Pt Twn Hen 18 Oct; KC 19 Nov.
Snowy Owl: no reports.
Barred Owl: dead in road near Wellesley
 I Customs 11 Nov; 2 Patterson Rd Twn
 Lou 12 Nov.
Long-eared Owl: Twn Lou into Sep (LH
 fide GS).
Com. Nighthawk: max 8 KC 4 Sep; 2
 Watertown 8 Sep (RMB); Massena 13
 Sep.
Whip-poor-will: Twn Lou 17 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 3 Hen 21
 Sep; AA 23 Sep; CV 7 Oct.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: LWMA 11 Oct;
 near Rural Hill 17 Oct; male KC 22 Oct

thru; MPt 30 Oct; Clark Rd Twn Ellisburg JEFF 27 Nov.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: WPtRd 7 Oct.

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER:

Monteola, South Branch Mad River swamp Twn Osceola LEWI 12 Sep (GS).

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER: 3

Monteola, South Branch Mad River

swamp Twn Osceola LEWI 12 Sep (GS).

N. Flicker: Twn Hen 23 Oct; 2 W BSP 29

Oct; KC 5 Nov thru; 3 PtPen 8 Nov; 2

WISP 30 Nov.

Pileated Woodpecker; Blake Sanctuary

Twn Champion JEFF 2 Sep; Ayles Rd

Twn Hen 6 Sep; CB 7 Oct; Twn Hen 20

Oct; Sackets Harbor 7 Nov.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: 3 KC 29 Sep.

E. Phoebe: 2 LWMA 11 Oct; LWMA 24 Oct.

Great Crested Flycatcher: Watertown 2 Sep; CV 9 Sep.

E. Kingbird: Twn CV 21 Sep.

N. Shrike: Stony Pt Twn Hen 24 Oct;

max 4 PtPen 26 Oct; imm AA 7 Nov; 2

PtPen 21 Nov; Clark Rd Twn Ellisburg 27

Nov, observed bathing and preening

with extensive bill cleaning and wiping

on small branch.

Yellow-throated Vireo: CV village 28 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: CB 4 Sep; CV village 28 Sep; 3 LWMA 11 Oct.

Warbling Vireo: Twn Hen 2 Sep; MPtRd 12 Sep.

Red-eyed Vireo: CV village 28 Sep.

Blue Jay: migration CV most of Sep, small groups 30-50 crossing SLR from Canada, resting a few minutes in trees near river, then moving on, no feeding. On some days, 20-30 of these groups seen moving thru (MW); heavy movement Twn Hen 27 Sep.

Com. Raven: 3 TH State Forest Twn Rodman JEFF 10 Oct; Stony Pt 12 Oct; Lou 17 Oct; Highmarket Twn West Turin LEWI 19 Oct; near Grass (formerly Grasse) Pt SP SLR JEFF 11 Nov; 2 MPt 16 Nov.

Horned Lark: 40 LEWI 25 Sep; ED 26

Sep; 6 Merchant Rd Twn CV 5 Nov; low numbers.

Tree Swallow: est. 10,000 PtPen 12 Sep (NL); 8 Twn Hen 21 Sep; est. 4000 ED 26 Sep; 2 PtPen 14 Oct; 25 PRWMA 21 Oct; 12 PtPen 26 Oct.

Barn Swallow: 2 Sawyer's Bay Twn Hen 26 Sep.

Tufted Titmouse: CV village 3 Oct, then occasionally thru (MW); 2 Rt 56 Twn Lou 9 Nov (MB).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 4 CV yard 13 Oct; Hen village 16 Oct; Twn Hen 2 Nov.

Brown Creeper: 2 LWMA 19 Sep; 2 CV

yard 22 Sep; max 10 WBPT Rd Twn CV

24 Sep; 4 Wellesley I SP 21 Oct.

Carolina Wren: MPt Rd 12 Sep (LC, BH).

House Wren: 2 Massena 2 Sep.

Winter Wren: CV yard 28 Sep.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 30 WPt Rd

Twn CV 10 Oct; 4 KC 14 Oct.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 20 LWMA 11

Oct; 2 KC 12 Oct.

E. Bluebird: 4 S JEFF 23 Sep; 10 LWMA

11 Oct; 4 PtPen 14 Oct; 4 Twn Hen 20

Oct; 33 total in 3 flocks Twn Hen 28 Oct

(GPM); 6 Pierrepont Manor JEFF 27 Nov.

Veery: Rt 56 Twn Lou 1 Sep.

Hermit Thrush: 2 TH State Forest LEWI

10 Oct; 3 Stony Pt Twn Hen 12 Oct.

Wood Thrush: Twn CV 5 Oct; 3 Stony Pt

Twn Hen 12 Oct.

Am Robin; 100+ Stony Pt Twn Hen 18

Oct; 36 Highmarket Twn West Turin

LEWI TH 19 Oct.

Gray Catbird: ED 1 Sep; Watertown 8

Sep; TH 9 Sep.

Am. Pipit: 2 PtPen 12 Sep; 25 PtPen 18

Sep; 5 ED 26 Sep; 300+ near Woodville

JEFF 16 Oct.

Cedar Waxwing: 10 LWMA 19 Sep; 40+

mostly imm, 1 with orange tail feathers

LWMA 11 Oct; 30 PtPen 14 Oct; 20

Highmarket TH LEWI 19 Oct; 75-100

Twn CV 23 Nov.

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler: Twn Lou 17 Sep.

Nashville Warbler: TH 9 Sep; 6 ED 17

Sep; WBPT Rd Twn CV 22 Sep; Twn Hen

26 Sep.

N. Parula: 3 ED 17 Sep; WBPt Rd 24 Sep; CV village 28 Sep; 2 PtPen 5 Oct.
Yellow Warbler: CV village 4 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: ED 17 Sep; CV village 20 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: 12 ED 17 Sep; WBPt Rd 24 Sep.
Cape May Warbler: ED 26 Sep; TwN Lou 6 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: TwN Lou 15 Sep; 2 WBPt Rd 24 Sep.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: approx 1000 warblers, mostly this species, per hour across WPtRd near WBM 24 Sep (MW, FM); another big day 28 Sep (MW, FM); Highmarket TwN West Turin LEWI 19 Oct; Snowshoe Pt 1 Nov.
Black-throated Green Warbler: 2 WBPt Rd 24 Sep; TwN Hen 26 Sep.
Blackburnian Warbler: TH 9 Sep; 3 ED 17 Sep; ED 26 Sep.
Palm Warbler: ED 17 Sep; WPt Rd TwN CV 22 Sep; ED 26 Sep.
Bay-breasted Warbler: 8 ED 17 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: 3 LWMA 19 Sep.
Black-and-white Warbler: WBPt Rd 18 Sep.
Am. Redstart: LWMA 19 Sep; TwN Hen 26 Sep.
Ovenbird: TwN Lou 1 Sep.
Com. Yellowthroat: TH 9 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: ED 1 Sep.
Canada Warbler: 2 ED 17 Sep.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: 4 TwN Hen 18 Sep.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr LWMA 24 Oct; max 40 PtPen 7 Nov; 9 KC 29 Nov.
Chipping Sparrow: 4 Hen village 13 Oct; 2 KC 23 Oct; 2 Fishers Landing area SLR JEFF 24 Oct; 10 TwN Hen 24 Oct.
Field Sparrow: 2 Woods Rd TwN CV 28 Sep; WBM TwN CV 5 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: TH 9 Sep; Sixtown Pd TwN Hen 26 Sep; PtPen 24 Oct.
Savannah Sparrow: many PtPen 5 Oct.
Fox Sparrow: Blind Bay area TwN Clayton JEFF 24 Oct.
Song Sparrow: 2 TwN Lou 11 Nov.
White-throated Sparrow: 20 LWMA 19

Sep; 6 WBPt Rd TwN CV 9 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: 5 Sixtown Pd TwN Hen 26 Sep; 4 WBM Rd TwN CV 17-18 Oct.
Dark-eyed Junco: 100+ Pillar Pt 5 Oct; 40 CV yard 9 Oct; 75 CV yard 15 Oct.
Snow Bunting: 125 PtPen 21 Nov; 5 Lorraine Rd TH JEFF 26 Nov.
N. Cardinal: pair CV 6 Nov; 7 KC thru; hard to find at normal locations (LC).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: TwN Hen 5 Sep; 9 TH 9 Sep; TwN Lou feeder 16 Sep.
Red-winged Blackbird: 2 AA 13 Nov (DSL); 2 feeder Valley Rd TwN CV 18 Nov.
E. Meadowlark: 4 TwN CV 9 Oct; 2 PtPen 26 Oct; PtPen 24 Nov.
Rusty Blackbird: 100 CB 7 Oct; 3 LWMA 11 Oct; max 300+ Wellesley I SP 21 Oct; 40 PtPen 21 Oct; 58 KC 31 Oct; 100+ KC 4 Nov.
Com. Grackle: 15 WPtRd 9 Oct; Sears Pd TwN Montague TH LEWI 25 Oct; feeder CV village 21 Nov.
Brown-headed Cowbird: KC 18 Nov.
Baltimore Oriole: TwN Lou 1 Sep.
Purple Finch: CV feeder 9 Nov; low numbers.
House Finch: 6 CV feeder 28 Sep.
White-winged Crossbill: pair AA 13 Nov (DSL).
Com. Redpoll: TwN Hen 7 Nov; 35 PtPen 21 Nov.
Pine Siskin: 3 Watertown 6 Oct; max 50 CV feeder 15 Oct; 2 Beaver Falls LEWI 18 Oct; 11 Hen village 20 Oct; 5 Hen village 22 Oct; 28 AA 23 Oct; 20 Hen village 23 Oct; 2 KC 26 Oct; KC 28 Oct.
Am. Goldfinch: 12 KC thru; 1 leucistic bird in flock Potsdam 26 Nov (SC).
Evening Grosbeak: arr 11 Highmarket TwN West Turin TH LEWI 19 Oct; 5 AA 23 Oct; 5 Hen village 23 Oct; almost daily AA 28 Oct thru; male KC 28 Oct; male, 3 females KC 31 Oct; 50 Beaver Falls LEWI 31 Oct; CV village last 2 weeks of Oct, small groups moving south from Canada, stopping briefly at feeders, then moving on; 5 Greenwood State Forest TwN Pitcairn STLA.

REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Drought? Fire? Flood? Landslide? Windfall? Whatever one's preference, September provided them all. The season began with Hurricane Dennis off North Carolina and continued drought here. Plattsburgh tied the old high of 90°F on 2 September and broke the 1894 record high (of 91°) with 94° on 4 September. Forest fires began on the 2nd, the largest on 3556' Noonmark Mt. spotted by the summit steward on Mt. Marcy and assistant ranger on Giant. Five helicopters drew 250-600 gallon buckets from Lower Ausable Lake, a Blackhawk making water drops of 33,000 gallons in four hours. As the fire raced downhill, inmates from Moriah Shock Incarceration Unit worked beside forest rangers to dig a deep trench in the three-mile long fire line, so dynamite could blow a half-mile break. With temperatures still in the mid-80s, the remnants of Dennis brought 0.5" of rain 7 September to help control the 92-acre Noonmark burn and other fires at Desolate Brook, Lincoln Pond, Pinnacle Mountain and Split Rock. Even after Dennis arrived, annual rainfall was still 6" below normal, at just 16.84", and Lake Champlain had dropped to 94.00'. The sun returned, until a cold front from the west brought rain on 14 September. Then on the 16th, the remnants of Hurricane Floyd ended the severe Drought of '99, and the world came crashing down. Rain began that evening, with 1.5" at Plattsburgh by 10 pm and 25 mph wind gusts. By the next day, winds were a full 60 mph, and Tropical Storm Floyd drenched Plattsburgh with 4.41" and Lake Placid with 4.98" (versus 6.17" in all of June, July and August). In Essex County, 8000 residents were without power due to downed trees, the temporary Mill Pond dam in Lake Placid failed, and the landslides began: three on Mt. Colden, one 2500' long, plus 500' slides on Algonquin and Wright Peak and smaller slides on Armstrong, Basin, Gothics, Sawtooth and Saddleback. Trickle Falls at the height of land in Avalanche Pass no longer sends water to both the Hudson and St. Lawrence rivers, just to the Hudson. Crews took four days to reopen 200' of Avalanche Pass and nine days to go 4.8 miles through Indian Pass, with many High Peaks trails still unopened. Breeding Bird Atlas squares 5788 (Avalanche and Indian passes) and 5988 (Noonmark Mt.) promise to be extremely interesting. Champlain had risen to 95.40' by month's end, and with over 10" of rain, this was the

rainiest September on record and *second wettest month ever*. But the fires were out.

The first snowfall of up to 4" came on 4 October and Saranac Lake was down to 25° on the 7th, but this was followed by 10 days of Indian Summer. A half-inch of rain 14 October fell as 2" of snow at higher elevations, and Saranac Lake was again nippy with 18° by 19 October. But mild weather then returned, with Plattsburgh 63° at month's end.

November continued warm, sunny and dry. Monthly temperatures were 5.7° above normal, providing the third warmest November on record, with 49% possible sunshine versus the usual 30%. Monthly rainfall, normally over 3", was just 1.86". Mineville had 2" of snow 12 November, while a snowstorm across northern and higher areas on 16 November left a foot at Lyon Mountain, 9" at Whippleville and 6" at Lake Placid and Tupper Lake. Most melted by 24 November, when Plattsburgh tied the record high temperature of 55°, accompanied by winds to 45 mph. At season's end, Champlain stood at 96.06' and 44°, while the air temperature dropped to 1° in Saranac Lake the night of 30 November.

Our greatest debt this fall was to a group of Vermont observers who provided reports of **Glossy Ibis**, an interesting assortment of geese and pioneering work on **jaeger** flights on Lake Champlain. Ted Murin, in Vermont, noted two immature **Glossy Ibises** wearing left-leg bands on the Colchester side of the old RR crossing to South Hero 4-5 September, undoubtedly banded as nestlings on Four Brothers 23 July. On 6 October, Mike Peterson saw a **Glossy Ibis** flush with Ring-billed Gulls from a cornfield south of Rouses Point as the Amtrak "Adirondack" passed. This northward dispersal, similar to that of other Four Brothers waterbirds, may explain five single sightings of this ibis in the Montréal area between 1 August and 25 September.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** spotted at Cumberland Head by Jim McGraw was a good find, as were multiple sightings of **Ross's Geese** reported by Dave Hoag from Point au Roche. Hoag reported a variety of small forms of Canada Geese from the same state park, while Jan Trzeciak had another small race among the Canadas at Malone.

Perhaps 25 years ago, Jerry Rosenband proposed that a late fall lake-watch from Split Rock would discover a significant southbound jaeger flight through the historic narrows. Private ownership, however, precluded any action from the NYS side. This autumn, though, a watch was maintained opposite Split Rock, from Thompson's Point, VT. Rosenband's prescience was proven by sightings of all three jaeger species and, happily, many crossed into Essex County waters. On the NY

side, **Pomarine Jaegers** (new to Essex County) passed between 4-17 November, while **Parasitic Jaegers** were southbound from 24 October to 25 November. Best bird was a dark type juvenile **Long-tailed Jaeger** carefully identified by Dave Hoag, Ted Murin and Allan Strong on 4 November. A further 7 **jaeger (sp.)** flew into Essex County waters, while another was spotted by Hoag at Gravelly Point, Cumberland Head, on 27 November for the first Clinton County **jaeger (sp.)** record.

Among the 17 species of shorebirds reported, there were some good finds by Krueger and Mitchell: Western and Pectoral sandpipers at the Chazy riverlands and Baird's Sandpiper at King's Bay. Tufted Titmice produced a strong showing, with reports from seven locations. Northern birds appeared early and in good numbers, promising an interesting winter: Northern Shrike 30 October, Bohemian Waxwing 1 November, American Tree Sparrow 19 October, Snow Bunting 9 November, Pine Grosbeak 5 November and Common Redpoll 10 November. Fifty Pine Siskins were banded near Elizabethtown between 28 September and 27 October, but following this passage there was only a single November report from Tupper Lake. American Goldfinches also moved out, but Evening Grosbeaks began to appear at feeders once again. A respectable 171 species were reported, up from 154 in the warm and windy fall of 1998.

The Town of Willsboro has provided public access to an outstanding birding area with the opening of Noblewood Park on the south bank of the Boquet River delta. We invite observers to visit the black sand beaches, sandbars and neighboring mixed forest, which may still harbor the NY record Jack Pine (*Pinus banksiana*). Entrance is south of Willsboro on the east side of Rt. 22; in summer a \$5 non-resident day-use fee is charged, but foot access is free year-round if the gate is closed. The park has a launching area for canoes and kayaks, convenient for exploring the lower Boquet flatwater, which Carleton felt was suitable for Cerulean Warbler.

CONTRIBUTORS

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Murin (TGM), Nancy Olsen, John & Susan Peterson, William Peterson, Frederick Pratt, Peter Riley, Donald Roberson, Allan Strong, John & Patricia Thaxton, Jan Trzeciak, Margaret Tsuda, Susan Turner, Hollis White, Gary Worthington.

ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Point WMA; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CH – Cumberland Head; CR – Chazy Rivers; CRF – Cedar River Flow; FB – Ferd's Bog; JBL – John's Brook Lodge; KB – King's Bay; PtR – Point au Roche SP; SL – Saranac Lake; SLB – Silver Lake Bog; SR – Split Rock; TL – Tupper Lake.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: migrant SR 28 Nov (TGM).

Horned Grebe: arr 3 Coll Bay 23 Oct (JP, J&PT); max 20 AP 29 Nov (NO).

Red-necked Grebe: arr 3 Coll Bay 23 Oct (JP, J&PT); Westport 6 Nov (J&PT); Raquette Pd 8 Nov (CD); migrant SR 28 Nov (TB).

Double-crested Cormorant: CRF 5 Sep (C&RGM) and Utowana L 29 Oct (GL), unusual inland.

Am. Bittern: Westport 20 Nov (JG, TDM), record late ESSE.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: AP 8 Sep (BK, CM), last.

GLOSSY IBIS: 1 s. Rouses Pt 6 Oct (JP), flushed from cornfield with Ring-billed Gulls by Amtrak "Adirondack." See *intro* for VT and Québec sightings.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: CH 28 Nov (JM), in flock of Canadas.

Snow Goose: arr CR 19 Sep (Amtrak crew); 600 L Placid 5 Oct (AH), high for the interior, but flocks of 12-14 thousand could be found in the PtR, CR, and Rouses Pt areas Oct-late Nov; only 3 of 38 neck collars read 11 Nov matched the 65 seen 29 Oct (DH), suggesting considerable turnover in the "Greater" Snows marked on Canada's Bylot Island NWT.

ROSS'S GOOSE: PtR 8 Oct; 3 PtR 29

Oct, 1 classic Ross's, the others so stunningly different from surrounding Snows that they had little Snow bloodline; 1 pure, 1 hybrid PtR 11 Nov (DH).

Canada Goose: 1 small race Malone 3 Sep (JT); leucistic-necked Westport 23 Oct (JP, J&PT); 1 tiny *hutchinsii* PtR 28-29 Oct; larger and longer-necked *hutchinsii* / *minima*-type north of PtR 29 Oct; 2 small stubby-necked, stubby-billed *hutchinsii* / *minima*-type PtR 11 Nov (DH); max 1750 Westport 6 Nov (J&PT).

Gadwall: Westport 3 Oct (TB, JP), uncommon.

Blue-winged Teal: CRF 5 Sep (C&RGM); Westport 24 Sep (JT); NCCC pd 27 Sep (TD), uncommon transient.

N. Shoveler: 3 Willsboro 13 Nov (TDM, JP), rare fall transient ESSE.

N. Pintail: PtR 20 Nov (JG, TDM), only report.

Green-winged Teal: 4 CRF 5 Sep (RGM), uncommon HAMI; Westport Sep more expected.

Greater Scaup: arr SR 28 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: arr 20 TL 18 Oct.

Surf Scoter: 5th L first wk Nov (GL), uncommon HAMI transient according to Eaton.

White-winged Scoter: arr 8 Essex 1 Oct; Westport 13 Nov.

Bufflehead: 450 Willsboro 13 Nov (TDM,

JP), ESSE record.

Com. Goldeneye: 1350 Willsboro 13 Nov (TDM, JP), ESSE record.

Barrow's Goldeneye: arr Plattsburgh marina 17 Nov (CM).

Ruddy Duck: L Alice 16 Oct (BB), early CLIN by 9 days.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: ad Owls Head 5 Sep; 3 Willsboro 16 Nov.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr Champlain 23 Oct.

Golden Eagle: imm Sochia Pd, Saranac Inn 14 Oct (TD); Port Henry 25 Oct (MG).

Merlin: CR 4 Sep; 4 chasing Am. Crows NCCC pd 11 Sep (TD).

Peregrine Falcon: JBL 8 Sep (J&PT); migrant Catamount Pk 3 Oct (GA, TDM).

Ring-necked Pheasant: 4-5 Wawbeek Cnrs 14 Sep (TD), unexpected; cock Westport 3 Oct, a more usual stocking area.

Spruce Grouse: Uncas Rd by No Luck Bk, HAMI, 25 Sep (GL), always encouraging.

Ruffed Grouse: family 3700' Yard Mt Sep, high.

Wild Turkey: max 18 Inlet feeder 28 Nov, with other reports from Blue Ridge, Jay, Long L, Sabattis Rd, TL, and Westport indicative of continued spread prior to Atlas 2000.

Com. Moorhen: CR 2-6 Sep (BK, CM, GW), scarce here.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr 3 CR 4 Sep (NO), rare transient.

Greater Yellowlegs: 2 Malone 3 Sep; Mill Pd, L Placid 19 Sep, dam out due to Hurricane Floyd, unusual inland reports.

Western Sandpiper: CR 2-4 Sep (BK, CM), accidental CLIN.

Baird's Sandpiper: KB 9 Sep (BK, CM), accidental CLIN.

Pectoral Sandpiper: CR 2 Sep (BK, CM), only report.

Dunlin: Westport 19 Sep (J&TD), a good find.

Short-billed Dowitcher: CLIN 28 Sep (J&RH), where rare.

POMARINE JAEGER: juv SR 4 Nov (TGM); SR 7 Nov (DH, AS); juv SR 11 Nov (TGM, FP, PR); juv SR 17 Nov (TGM), first ESSE records. There is a previous FRAN record of an imm Oseetah L 5 Sep 1965 (*The Kingbird* 16:25).

PARASITIC JAEGER: 2 intermediate to dark-morphs SR 24 Oct (TGM); 1 on open lake headed to Westport later the same day (DH, TGM); dark morph SR 8 Nov (TGM); SR 25 Nov (TH, DH, TGM), brings the number of ESSE birds since 1970 to c. 8-10. Eaton reported an old HAMI record of 22 Aug 1886, without details.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: dark type juv SR 4 Nov (DH, TGM, AS), second Regional and ESSE record (Carleton 1999).

jaeger (sp.): 5 SR 24 Oct (TGM); SR 7 Nov (DH, AS); SR 25 Nov (TH, DH, TGM); Gravelly Pt, CH 27 Nov (DH), the last a first jaeger record for CLIN.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 200 Westport 24 Sep (JP, J&PT).

Glaucous Gull: SR 17 Nov (TGM), early ESSE record.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Com. Nighthawk: 2 CH 1 Sep, only report.

Black-backed Woodpecker: BB, Helldiver Pd, Raquette L, SLB, usual haunts.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: arr Keene 30 Oct (ST); subsequent sightings CH, Elizabethtown, Inlet, Wadhams, Westport, Whallonsburg.

Gray Jay: BB, Brown's Tract Pd & Stream, FB, Helldiver Pd, Marion R, Raquette L, Red R, usual sites.

Black-capped Chickadee: leucistic bird Westport 13 Nov (TDM, JP), white back and white on crown, primaries, and rectrices.

Boreal Chickadee: Brown's Tract Pd, Bushnell Falls, FB, Helldiver Pd, Phelps, Red R, Shorey Short Cut, Third Brother, Yard, known areas, but a strong showing.

Tufted Titmouse: max 4 Elizabethtown feeder, with other reports from Jay, Keene Valley, Plattsburgh, SL, TL, and Westport, a remarkable number.

Winter Wren: singing 3000' Wright 12 Sep (J&PT), late and relatively high.

Marsh Wren: AP 15 Sep (BK, CM), only report.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: banded Elizabethtown 27 Sep (JP).

N. Mockingbird: PtR 27 Nov (RH), only report.

Am. Pipit: FRAN sightings 26 Sep included SLHS (TD), Hoel Pd, summit St. Regis Mt; last CLIN 10 Oct.

Bohemian Waxwing: arr Keene Valley 1 Nov (RWM); Keene 7 Nov; max 100 Essex 13-14 Nov (RH, TDM, JP); SL 20 Nov; 7 L Alice 27 Nov, bodes well for winter.

Cedar Waxwing: 50 Essex 13 Nov, mixed with Bohemians, which is unusual here.

WARBLERS

Yellow Warbler: AP 15 Sep (BK), record late date for Region.

Pine Warbler: TL *sueta feeder* 14 Oct (CD), see *The Kingbird* 49:169-71.

Palm Warbler: BB 1 Sep (DR); BB 3 Oct (TDM); FB 20 Sep (GL); "Yellow" South Meadow 26 Sep (J&PT); SL 5 Oct; South Inlet 27 Oct (GL); Atlas observers should be alert in these and other boreal areas.

Mourning Warbler: Inlet 22 Sep (GL), provides late HAMI date.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr TL 19 Oct.

Fox Sparrow: TL 19 Oct-15 Nov; Inlet 4 Nov, fairly scarce

White-crowned Sparrow: max 20 TL 6 Oct.

Snow Bunting: arr 10 Lincoln Pd Rd 9-13 Nov; max 150 Boquet R delta 13 Nov.

Rusty Blackbird: Seventh L 8 Oct; TL 4-6 Nov (CD), under feeder.

Com. Grackle: max 125 TL 2-3 Oct (CD), provides FRAN maxima.

Pine Grosbeak: arr flocks Paul Smiths 5 Nov & 8 Nov (TDM), early FRAN; 10 Moody 16 Nov; 4 TL 16 Nov; 11 Rt 30, Blue Mt L/Indian L 17 Nov, could presage an invasion.

House Finch: Westport & TL had the only reports.

Red Crossbill: Raquette L 26 Sep (GL); Elizabethtown 25 Nov (JP), only reports.

White-winged Crossbill: Paul Smiths Nov (TDM), only report.

Com. Redpoll: arr 2 TL 10 Nov; max 80 PtR 27 Nov; others Elizabethtown & Inlet.

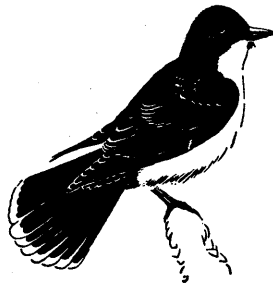
Pine Siskin: 50 banded Elizabethtown 28 Sep-27 Oct (JP); last TL 27 Nov.

Am. Goldfinch: 40 banded Elizabethtown 28 Sep-27 Oct; last TL 21 Nov.

Evening Grosbeak: max 32 TL 3 Nov; other reports from Elizabethtown, Inlet & Willsboro Oct-Nov.

ADDENDUM

Am. Pipit: CR 29 Aug (BK, GW), early CLIN by 16 days.



REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

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As reported from the Albany International Airport, September's mean temperature was 64.8°F, 3.5° above normal, with 51% possible sunshine. October averaged 48.9°, 1.2° below normal, with 51% possible sunshine. November was mild, averaging 44°, 4.3° above normal, with 44% possible sunshine. The drought conditions of the summer ended abruptly with the advent of Hurricane Floyd, which drenched the area with 6" of rain on the 16th and 17th of September. The month continued rainy and ended with 11.06" of precipitation, 8.11" above normal, making it the wettest September since records began to be kept in 1826 and the third wettest of any month on record. Things dried out some in October, with 2.42" of rain, 0.41" below normal. November continued dry, with 2.07" of precipitation, 1.16" below normal. The first frost occurred on 8 October. The first snow flurries occurred at the end of November, and the ground remained unfrozen through the period.

The summer drought resulted in generally poor mast crops, although the hawthorn, bittersweet, wild cherry, honeysuckle, multiflora rose and grape crops looked fairly good. The cone crop was practically nonexistent. Weather systems were such during the passerine migration as to produce no fallout days. I received few reports indicative of any unusual sightings related to Hurricane Floyd, although it was hard to get to some of the area waterbodies because of flooded roads. Paul Connor reported seeing over 1000 Tree Swallows flying low and covering most of the surface of Nassau Lake immediately after the heavy rain. Waterbird reports were generally unimpressive, although an early sighting of over 1000 Snow Geese on Bell's Pond COLU on 28 September must have been eye-catching. There was a "you can't win" scenario with shorebird habitat, first because of the drought, and then, after the hurricane, because of high water. Shorebird reports were sparse, with few individuals of 12 species spotted. Reports of migrating thrushes were extremely low. I saw no thrushes at all for the first time in my 11 years of birding. Bobolinks remained in the Amsterdam area far later than usual, with eight still present on 5 November. There were early indications of an irruption of northern species. Northern Shrike was reported throughout the Region beginning in late October. Both Red and White-winged crossbills were seen and heard over the Camp Pinnacle Hawkwatch from late

October through November but were reported from few other locations. Common Redpolls were present in moderate numbers at area feeders.

One great rarity was noted during the period. An immature Western Kingbird was discovered by Larry Alden on Meadowdale Road near Black Creek Marsh on 11 October. The bird remained until at least the 18th, and several NYSARC reports were filed. This is only the fourth documented sighting of this species in the Region. Interestingly enough, the first sighting, which occurred in 1962, was also on Meadowdale Road. The others were in Ghent COLU in 1976 and in Scotia SCHE in 1983. Other unusual birds included Eurasian Wigeon, Bicknell's Thrush, Bohemian Waxwing, Orange-crowned Warbler and Connecticut Warbler. There were 199 species reported during the period, down from 207 in 1998 and significantly lower than the high of 221 in 1996. There were 26 species of waterfowl, 14 species of hawks, 12 species of shorebirds, 5 species of owls, 26 species of warblers, 11 species of sparrows and 9 species of finches.

CONTRIBUTORS

Ken Able; Sue Adair; Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC); Larry Alden; Brad Bidwell; Robert Budliger; Bill Cook; Walter Ellison; Jane Graves; Rich Guthrie; Denise Hilton; Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN); Ruth Lamb, William Lee; Andy Mason; Nancy Martin; Tom Palmer; Barbara Putnam; Scott Stoner; Craig Thompson; Alison Van Keuren; William Walton, Carol Whitby, Owen Whitby, Cris Winters, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

BCR – Basic Creek Res ALBA; CL – Collins L SCHE; CP – Carter Pd, WASH; CPHW – Camp Pinnacle hawk watch ALBA; FR – Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar ALBA; FtE – Fort Edward area WASH; FtM – Ft. Miller WASH; GI – Green I ALBA; GL – Galway L SARA; HR – Hudson River; JL – Jenny L SARA; L7 – Vischer Ferry Power Station/Lock 7 SCHE; LG – L George WARR; MR – Mohawk River; NB – New Baltimore GREE; NL – Nassau L RENS; NRP – Nott Rd P, Guilderland ALBA; NRRS – Niskayuna Railroad Station SCHE; PI – Peebles I SARA; SI – Simmons I, Cohoes ALBA; SkW – Skidmore College North Woods SARA; SL – Saratoga L SARA; SNHP – Saratoga

National Historic PSARA; SSP – Saratoga Spa SP SARA; StFl – Stillwater Flats (including Saratoga Sod Farm) SARA; SUNYA – State University of NY Albany; TP – Thacher P ALBA; TR – Tomhannock Res RENS; VF – Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve SARA; WR – Watervliet Res ALBA.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: SL 30 Oct; only report.

Com. Loon: max 4 SL 30 Oct; 3 LG 5 Nov; only small numbers reported.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 13 BCR 25 Sep; last WR 13 Nov.

Horned Grebe: 3 Roger's Rock Bay LG 29 Oct; TR 7 Nov; SL 14 Nov; Silver Bay LG 21 Nov; only reports.

Red-necked Grebe: SL 30 Oct; LG 13 Nov; LG 22 Nov; only reports.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 65 SI/GI 3 Oct; last SL 14 Nov.

Am. Bittern: NR 23 Sep; Kinderhook 4 Oct; only reports.

Great Blue Heron: max 12 lower MR Colonie 3 Oct; 10 CL 20 Nov.

Great Egret: max 7 MR SCHE 28 Sep.

Green Heron: max 5 CP 11 Sep; last Athens 10 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: FR 9 Sep; only report.

Turkey Vulture: max 20 NRP 12 Sep; last Taghkanic 26 Nov.

Snow Goose: arr 1000+ Bell's Pd COLU 28 Sep; max 1200 TR 21 Nov.

Canada Goose: max 4000 HR Stillwater 4 Nov; 3400 SL 14 Nov; 2600 TR 21 Nov.

Brant: max 70 over SUNYA 6 Nov.

Mute Swan: max 32 Nine Mile Pt GREE 31 Oct; NL 10, 22, 24 Nov, only report north of COLU.

Wood Duck: max 80 Half Moon 11 Sep; last 11 StFl 6 Nov.

Gadwall: max 5 BCR 23 Oct.

Eurasian Wigeon: BCR 3 Nov (AV).

Am. Wigeon: arr 74 BCR 25 Sep; max 200 BCR 23 Oct; last 12 GL 27 Nov.

Am. Black Duck: max 60 HR Stillwater 4 Nov.

Mallard: max 164 GL 23 Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: max 71 Cohoes 4 Sep; last 2 NRP 7 Oct.

N. Shoveler: arr 2 VF 24 Sep; near TR 7 Nov; 4 SL 14 Nov; only reports.

N. Pintail: max 7 NRRS 6 Nov; last 7 GL 27 Nov.

Green-winged Teal: arr 2 Ferry Dr 4 Sep; max 270 VF 24 Sep; last 19 GL 27 Nov.

Canvasback: no reports.

Redhead: HR Stillwater 4 Nov; SL 14 Nov; 2 GL 27 Nov; only reports.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 70 BCR 25 Sep; max 400 BCR 23 Oct; 220+ GL 27 Nov.

Greater Scaup: max 30 SL 14 Nov; last 7 L7 28 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: 10 BCR 23 Oct; 10 SL 14 Nov; 4 GL 27 Nov; only reports.

White-winged Scoter: max 14 SL 30 Oct.

Oldsquaw: 2 TR 24 Oct; 3 TR 11 Nov; only reports.

Bufflehead: arr NL 29 Oct.

Com. Goldeneye: arr 21 TR 31 Oct; 125 SL 14 Nov; max 162 TR 21 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: c 60 TR 7 Nov; max 100 GL 27 Nov.

Com. Merganser: max 276 CL 14 Nov; 200+ NL 22 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: 3 Powell Sanctuary COLU 24 Sep; SL 10 Oct; only reports.

Ruddy Duck: arr 2 SL 30 Oct; max 139 TR 31 Oct.

HAWKS - ALCIDS
Camp Pinnacle Hawk Migration Totals

<u>Species</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Peak Flight</u>	<u>Range of Dates</u>
Turkey Vulture	183	30 on 19 Oct	26 Aug-7 Nov
Osprey	73	11 on 2 Oct	29 Aug-29 Oct
Bald Eagle	16		21 Aug-28 Nov
Northern Harrier	49	5 on 19 Sep	29 Aug-8 Nov
Sharp-shinned Hawk	277	29 on 16 Sep	29 Aug-2 Dec
Cooper's Hawk	46		29 Aug-17 Nov
Northern Goshawk	13		3 Sep-3 Dec
Red-Shouldered Hawk	20	4 on 3 Oct, 7 Nov	4 Sep-27 Nov
Broad-winged Hawk	1315	316 on 19 Sep	29 Aug-16 Oct
Red-tailed Hawk	875	164 on 18 Oct	29 Aug-3 Dec
Rough-legged Hawk	6		8 Nov-2 Dec
Golden Eagle	12		23 Sep-2 Dec
American Kestrel	66	10 on 25 Sep	30 Aug-31 Oct
Merlin	8		9 Sep-1 Nov
Peregrine Falcon	9		9 Aug-19 Nov
Totals	3150	386 on 19 Sep	25 Aug-6 Dec

Osprey: 5 Sep; 8 Oct; 1 Nov; only reports.

Bald Eagle: 1 ad 2-3 imm NB 7, 16 Sep; imm Ferry Dr 11 Sep; 2 unspecified 7 Oct; East Berne 22 Oct; ad NB 30, 31 Oct; imm Stillwater 4 Nov; 2 imm TR 7 Nov; SL 14 Nov.

N. Harrier: max 10 FtE 28 Nov; 16 reports of singles.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 5 TP 25 Sep; 21 reports of singles.

Cooper's Hawk: 3 TP 25 Sep; 23 reports of singles.

N. Goshawk: Saratoga 10 Oct, only report.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Landis Arboretum SCHO 30 Oct, only report outside of CPHW.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr SNHP 3 Sep.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 9 FtE 7 Nov.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr FtE 4 Nov.

Am. Kestrel: max 19 FtE 25 Sep; 13 reports of singles.

Merlin: Greenport 8 Sep (BC); Gansevoort 19 Sep (BP); TP 25 Sep (WE); Rt I90 Schodack 26 Sep (WL); Albany 29 Oct (BEN).

Peregrine Falcon: ad female SI 10 Sep (WE); Castleton Bridge 3 Oct (RG); VF 3

Oct (M. Scilingo); imm *tundrius* SI 31 (WE); Waterford 3 Nov (BEN); Ghent 6 Nov; Waterford 8 Nov (BEN); Rts I90/I787 ALBA 20 Nov (WL).

Wild Turkey: max 31 NRP 12 Sep; 40 Amsterdam 19 Nov; continues in moderate numbers throughout.

Virginia Rail: calling VF 7 Sep, only report.

Sora: no reports.

Com. Moorhen: no reports.

Am. Coot: max 120 SL 14 Nov; last VF 24 Nov.

Black-bellied Plover: no reports.

Semipalmated Plover: Ferry Dr 4 Sep, only report.

Killdeer: max 42 SUNYA 6 Oct; 42 Meadowdale Rd 10 Oct.

Greater Yellowlegs: 3 Lock 4 Stillwater 10 Oct; only 2 reports of singles.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 7 SI 10 Sep.

Solitary Sandpiper: no reports.

Spotted Sandpiper: 2 SI 10 Sep; 2 WR 12 Sep; PI 3 Oct; Lock 4 10 Oct; only reports.

Sanderling: 3 juv SI 10 Sep (WE).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: no reports.

Least Sandpiper: 4 Ferry Dr 4 Sep; Cohoes Commons 4 Sep; 2 SI 10 Sep; only reports.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 10 WR 4 Oct; 46 Meadowdale Rd 10 Oct; only reports.
Dunlin: juv SI 3 Oct (WE).
Com. Snipe: max 4 Meadowdale Rd 10 Oct.
Am. Woodcock: last Amsterdam 22 Oct (TP).
Red-necked Phalarope: LG 24 Sep (Jack Howe *vide* JG), first in Region since 1995.
Ring-billed Gull: max 2000 lower MR 4 Sep (WE).
Herring Gull: max 360 lower MR 4 Sep; 300 SI 3 Oct (WE).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2nd basic plumage Crescent Dam 4 Sep (WE); 4 SI 3 Oct (WE); TR 17 Oct (WE).
Great Black-backed Gull: max 200 lower MR Colonie 4 Sep (NM).

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Chatham 3 Oct (CW).
E. Screech-Owl: 13 reports of singles.
Great Horned Owl: 2 Amsterdam 3 Oct; 13 reports of singles.
Barred Owl: only 5 reports of singles.
Short-eared Owl: arr and max 5 FtE 14 Nov; no reports from MONT.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Slingerlands 9 Sep (AV), only report.
Com. Nighthawk: 6 Saratoga 4 Sep; 2 VF 5 Sep; 8-9 VF 7 Sep; 14 Normanskill Farm 8 Sep; 6 Slingerlands 8 Sep; last 2 along Rt I890 9 Sep.
Chimney Swift: 200 Cohoes 11 Sep (WE, NM), descending into chimney at City Hall.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 2 NRP 5 Sep; 2 NB 16 Sep; 15 reports of singles.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 4 VF 19 Sep; 3 Mill Creek Marsh 27 Sep; 27 reports of singles.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 8 reports of singles; last 2 VF 3 Oct.
N. Flicker: max 10 WR 5 Oct.
Pileated Woodpecker: max 4 WR 5 Oct; 28 reports of singles.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: max 3 NRP 12 Sep; only 8 reports of singles.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: NB 18 Sep (RG); VF 23 Sep (WW); only reports.
Least Flycatcher: 9 reports of singles.
E. Phoebe: max 9 SNHP 11 Sep.
Great Crested Flycatcher: max 3 SNHP 11 Sep.
WESTERN KINGBIRD: imm Meadowdale Rd Guilderland 11-18 Oct (L. Alden, mob); NYSARC filed; first report since 1983, *intro*.
E. Kingbird: Coeymans 1 Sep; FR 2 Sep; only reports.
N. Shrike: arr FR 27 Oct; 17 reports of singles.
Yellow-throated Vireo: SSP 8 Sep; Greenport 6, 18 Sep; Jefferson 13 Sep; only reports.
Blue-headed Vireo: 5 Sep, 9 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: only 7 reports of singles.
Philadelphia Vireo: SNHP 2, 13, 18 Sep; 2 Ferry Dr 4 Sep; VF 23 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 7 SNHP 2 Sep; 31 reports of singles.
Blue Jay: max 75 migrating over TP 25 Sep (WE).
Am Crow: c 2000 in staging flocks GI, Troy 31 Oct (WE).
Fish Crow: 8 Crescent Dam 4 Sep (WE); 6 reports of singles.
Com. Raven: widely reported throughout.
Horned Lark: max 20 Swamp Rd FtE 28 Nov; generally low numbers reported.
Tree Swallow: 1000+ NL 16 Sep (PC), after hurricane.
Bank Swallow: no reports.
Cliff Swallow: 2 NRP 12 Sep, only report.
Barn Swallow: max 22 Chatham 24 Sep (CW, OW)
Black-capped Chickadee: max 38 WR 5 Oct; irruption yr JL.
Tufted Titmouse: max 11 PISP 3 Oct; 4 banded JL 4 Nov (RY).
Red-breasted Nuthatch: irruption yr JL.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 7 Amsterdam 9 Oct; well above average yr JL, 6 banded Oct.
Brown Creeper: 4 WR 5 Oct.
Carolina Wren: 7 reports of singles.

Winter Wren: max 8 NRP 5 Oct; 11 reports of singles.
Marsh Wren: max 3 VF 3 Oct.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr SNHP 18 Sep; max 5 CPHW 28 Sep; generally low numbers.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr NB 18 Sep; max 7 WR 5 Oct.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: VF 4 Sep, only report.
E. Bluebird: max 25 Amsterdam 12 Oct; generally good numbers.
Veery: NB 20 Sep, only report
Bicknell's Thrush: banded NB 12 Sep, only report.
Swainson's Thrush: NB 11 Sep, only report.
Hermit Thrush: only 9 reports of singles; last Chatham 10 Oct.
Wood Thrush: only 5 reports of singles.
Am. Robin: max 500 Ramshorn Creek GREE 23 Oct.
Gray Catbird: max 15 Amsterdam 11 Sep; 12 NRP 12 Sep.
N. Mockingbird: max 3 near L7 26 Nov; 7 reports of singles.
Brown Thrasher: VF 23 Sep; Amsterdam 26 Sep; only reports.
Am. Pipit: max 30 StFl 6 Nov; low numbers.
Bohemian Waxwing: 2 Glens Falls 18 Nov (BBI).
Cedar Waxwing: max 350+ Glens Falls 18 Nov (BBI).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: SNHP 1 Sep, only report.
Tennessee Warbler: PI 3 Oct, only report.
Orange-crowned Warbler: banded Amsterdam 5 Oct (TP, RY).
Nashville Warbler: 3 PI 3 Oct; 5 WR 5 Oct; 10 reports of singles.
N. Parula: 6 reports of singles.
Yellow Warbler: SI 10 Sep; Gansevoort 26 Sep; only reports.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: 3 VF 19 Sep; 8 reports of singles.
Magnolia Warbler: 5 SNHP 2 Sep; 8 SNHP 11 Sep; 8 Ferry Dr 19 Sep; 5 VF 19 Sep; 8 NB 20 Sep; 18 reports of singles.

Cape May Warbler: SNHP 6 Sep; FR 12 Sep.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 3 VF 23 Sep; 2 WR 5 Oct; 16 reports of singles.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 30+ VF 3 Oct; 25 WR 5 Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: 3 Ferry Dr 8 Sep; 8 SNHP 11 Sep; 5 SkW 11 Sep; 35 reports of singles.
Blackburnian Warbler: 2 VF 3 Sep; 7 reports of singles.
Pine Warbler: VF 15 Sep; SNHP 18 Sep; only reports.
Prairie Warbler: L Taghkanic SP 23 Sep, only report.
Palm Warbler: max 7 WR 5 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: 4 reports of singles.
Blackpoll Warbler: 4 SNHP 11 Sep; 5 banded Amsterdam 5 Oct; 12 reports of singles.
Black-and-white Warbler: 6 reports of singles.
Am. Redstart: 2 Ferry Dr 4 Sep; 3 SkW 24 Sep; 10 reports of singles.
Ovenbird: 3 banded JL 2-17 Sep, only report.
Connecticut Warbler: VF 23 Sep (WW).
Mourning Warbler: no reports.
Com. Yellowthroat: max 6 SNHP 2 Sep; 7 NRP 5 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: 2 VF 24 Sep; 3 reports of singles.
Canada Warbler: NB 8 Sep, only report.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: 3 SNHP 2 Sep; 2 SNHP 18 Sep; 2 Powell Sanctuary 25 Sep; 7 reports of singles.
E. Towhee: max 5 SNHP 2, 20 Sep; 5 reports of singles.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Amsterdam 29 Sep.
Chipping Sparrow: max 20 NB 9 Oct; last Ghent 23 Oct.
Field Sparrow: max 21 Hague 22 Oct; last SL 14 Nov.
Vesper Sparrow: Gansevoort 7 Oct; 2 NB 23 Oct; only reports.
Savannah Sparrow: last Gansevoort 26 Sep.

Fox Sparrow: max 6 T Chatham 9 Nov; 19 reports of singles; good numbers.
Song Sparrow: max 24 Meadowdale Rd 10 Oct; generally scarce.
Lincoln's Sparrow: NRP 12 Sep; Gansevoort 25 Sep; Scotia 5 Oct; only reports.
Swamp Sparrow: max 7 VF 11 Sep; 9 WR 5 Oct; last VF 18 Nov.
White-throated Sparrow: arr 6 SkW 3 Sep; 32 WR 5 Oct; max 45 Austerlitz 23 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr Gansevoort 19 Sep; 3 Meadowdale Rd 10 Oct; 4 Amsterdam 14 Oct; last Amsterdam 5 Nov.
Dark-eyed Junco: arr JL 24 Sep; max 51 Amsterdam 23 Oct; 86 banded JL Sep-Oct, 17 banded Nov (RY).
Lapland Longspur: FtE 28 Nov (WE), only report.
Snow Bunting: arr Amsterdam 29 Oct; max 30 SNHP 30 Oct; 28 SUNYA 12 Nov.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 5 NRP 12 Sep; 18 reports of singles.
Indigo Bunting: Gansevoort 2 Oct, only report.
Bobolink: max and last 8 Amsterdam 5 Nov.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 350 StFl 6 Nov.
E. Meadowlark: max 11 FtE 17 Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: arr Guilderland 28 Sep; max 50 Ramshorn Creek GREE 23 Oct; last FR 29 Oct.
Com. Grackle: max 1500 Guilderland 26 Oct.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 100 Guilderland 26 Oct.
Baltimore Oriole: no reports.
Pine Grosbeak: 3 Wardsboro Rd T Hague 24-25 Nov (RL).
Purple Finch: in low numbers JL; max 10 Ramshorn Creek 23 Oct.
House Finch: 27 Guilderland 16 Nov; 38 Amsterdam 19 Nov.
Red Crossbill: 14-16 CPHW 28 Oct; 2 CPHW 29 Oct; 2 flocks of 6 & 15 CPHW 23 Nov (all WL).
White-winged Crossbill: imm CPHW 28 Oct; Spring Creek Rd WARR 30 Oct; Hague 20 Nov; near VF 24 Nov.
Com. Redpoll: arr Amsterdam 29 Oct; max 50 Scotia 28 Nov.
Pine Siskin: 20 Amsterdam 13 Oct; max 30 Charlton 28 Nov.
Am. Goldfinch: max 45 Amsterdam 22 Nov.
Evening Grosbeak: 12-14 CPHW 9 Nov; 20 T Hague 20 Nov.

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REGION 9 – HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The demise of the Hudson Valley Bird Line has made my job more difficult. Hopefully another volunteer can be found to be the voice of this much needed RBA.

Hurricane Floyd hit our Region on 16 September. The storm doused us with 8-14" of rain and caused extensive flooding, but there were no related bird sightings.

The first frost didn't occur in the northern part of the Region until late

October. Rainfall, minus Floyd, was about average. There was no snowfall except for a dusting on the Catskill peaks in late November.

For the most part, migration was below par. There were only a few notable species. Carol Weiss found a Franklin's Gull on Piermont Pier, Rockland County, 17 October. It was seen on subsequent days by others. A Boreal Chickadee at Marshlands Conservancy on 7 November was reported by Andrew Guthrie. The last time the species was seen in Westchester County was during the irruption year in the fall of 1981.

The six "Operation Migration" Sandhill Cranes stayed through September north of Parksville in Sullivan County.

Other notable species included: Eurasian Wigeon, Long-billed Dowitcher, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Prothonotary Warbler and Clay-colored Sparrow.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Point Park WEST; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary WEST; EM – Esopus Meadows ULST; GA – Galeville Airport ULST; JBNHS – John Burroughs Natural History Society; LP – Lenoir Preserve WEST; MC – Marshlands Conservancy WEST; MPHWH – Mount Peter Hawk Watch ORAN; PP – Piermont Pier ROCK; RNC – Rye Nature Center WEST; RTWBC – Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club DUTC.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: Haverstraw Bay 5 Nov.

Com. Loon: arr EGR 25 Sep.

Horned Grebe: arr 30 Oct; CPP 13 Nov.

N. Gannet: EGR 30 Oct; 14 EGR 25 Nov.

Great Cormorant: Rockland Landing 7 Nov.

Great Blue Heron: max 12 MC 14 Sep.

The Kingbird 2000 March; 50(1)

Great Egret: max 22 MC 16 Sep; EGR 13 Nov.

Snowy Egret: Wappingers Creek 16, 21 Oct; max 20 MC 16 Sep.

Black Vulture: 17 MPHWH 25 Oct.

Wood Duck: max 1633 Bashakill 6 Oct.

Eurasian Wigeon: Georges I P WEST 12 Nov (LB).

Ring-necked Duck: 200 Abels Pd DUTC mid Oct.
Greater Scaup: 2000 EGR 17 Nov.
Lesser Scaup: 400 EGR 17 Nov.
Surf Scoter: 6 EGR 9 Oct; EGR 12 Nov.
White-winged Scoter: EGR 11 Sep; EGR 8 Nov.
Black Scoter: 2 EGR 9 Oct; EGR 12 Nov.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: 48 MPHW 19 Sep.
Bald Eagle: 6 MPHW 19 Sep.
N. Harrier: 14 MPHW 19 Sep.
N. Goshawk: higher than average numbers at area hawkwatches.
Broad-winged Hawk: 3677 MPHW 19 Sep.
Rough-legged Hawk: Georges I P WEST 12 Nov (LB); MC 18 Nov.
Golden Eagle: 2 LP 24 Oct; max 3 MPHW 26 Oct.
Peregrine Falcon: 7 LP 24 Oct; 8 there 7 Nov.
N. Bobwhite: 5 DUTC 1 Sep.
Clapper Rail: PP 13 Oct.
Sora: MC 15, 25 Oct; 2 CPP 17 Oct.
Com. Moorhen: New Hamburg DUTC 6 Sep.
Sandhill Crane: 6 Parksville SULL thru Sep, part of "Operation Migration."
Am. Oystercatcher: 3 EGR 17 Sep, 9 Oct
Greater Yellowlegs: max 17 EGR 30 Oct.
Ruddy Turnstone: PP 12 Oct.
White-rumped Sandpiper: 2 EM 26 Sep.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 30 EM 26 Sep; 9 CPP 11 Oct; PP 12 Oct; MC 4, 12 Oct.
Dunlin: 5 EM 26 Sep.
Long-billed Dowitcher: calling MC 14 Sep (TB).
Laughing Gull: 40 EGR 9 Oct; last 6 Rye 25 Nov.
Franklin's Gull: PP 17 Oct (CW).
Bonaparte's Gull: arr Oct.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: PP 30 Oct.
Com. Tern: last 2 MC 1 Oct.
Forster's Tern: last 5 MC 3 Oct.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last 20 Sep.
Short-eared Owl: PP 27 Oct.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Swan L SULL 17 Sep.

Chimney Swift: last 13 Oct.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: DUTC 1 Oct; MC 3 Oct; late.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: MC 1 Sep.
N. Shrike: CPP 1 Nov; Somers WEST 19 Nov; Kakiat P ROCK 28, 30 Nov.
Philadelphia Vireo: Sprain Ridge WEST 25 Sep.
Blue Jay: 2650 LP 2 Oct; max 2789 LP 3 Oct.
Com. Raven: Rockland Landing 28 Oct.
Tree Swallow: last 17 Oct.
Black-capped Chickadee: heavy migration on 12 & 21 Oct.
Boreal Chickadee: MC 7 Nov (AG).
Red-breasted Nuthatch: very common thru.
Marsh Wren: 3 MC Sep-Oct; MC 8 Nov.
Am. Robin: 3000 MC 5 Oct; 1177 LP 30 Oct.
Am. Pipit: 10-26 CPP thru Oct & Nov; 25 PP 12 Oct; 15 MC 25 Oct; 12 EGR 10 Oct.
Cedar Waxwing: 340 LP 30 Oct; 500 MC 5 Nov.

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler: last CPP 17 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: CPP 11 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: last MC 8 Nov.
N. Parula: last 27 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last 23 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: last CPP 17 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: last CPP 31 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last 11 Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last CPP 5 Nov.
Blackburnian Warbler: last 11 Sep.
Prairie Warbler: last MC 24 Oct.
Palm Warbler: max 30 CPP 9 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last 12 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: CPP 5 Nov; Pearl River ROCK 7-8 Nov; EGR 13 Nov.
Am. Redstart: last 27 Sep.
Prothonotary Warbler: CPP 28 Sep (LB).
Yellow-breasted Chat: Sprain Ridge WEST 25 Sep; PP 14 Oct; MC 19-31 Oct, 18 Nov.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: Swan L SULL 7 Oct (KC); CPP 9 Sep (TB).
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: MC 20 Sep; 5 MC 3 Oct; last MC 31 Oct.
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: MC 27 Sep.
Snow Bunting: PP 28 Oct.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last 23 Sep.
Indigo Bunting: last Oct.
Bobolink: last 12 Oct.
Rusty Blackbird: 4 MC 12 Sep; Andrews Farm DUTC 6 Oct; 14 Thompson Pd DUTC 24 Oct; 70 MC 5 Nov.
Com. Grackle: 20,000 MC 11 Nov.
Baltimore Oriole: last 4 Sep.
Purple Finch: common migrant in Nov.

White-winged Crossbill: Liberty SULL 10 Oct & 2 Nov; Monticello SULL 16 Nov.

Com. Redpoll: MC 7 Nov; 7 MC 18 Nov.
Pine Siskin: common migrant late Oct & Nov but not stopping at feeders in any large numbers.

Evening Grosbeak: occasional reports ULST; Poughkeepsie DUTC 28 Oct; 18 LP 30 Oct; few Cortlandt Manor WEST 12 Nov.

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REGION 10 – MARINE

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The fall season's weather continued both dry and mild. The 5.02" of torrential rain associated with Hurricane Floyd, which fell in one day on 16 September, has been subtracted from the comments. The fall was not all that wet and most rain arrived during the week, to the benefit of the birders who work and can only get out on weekends. Still, this year's tropical storm made September the eighth wettest on record. November was the seventh warmest. This warm weather resulted in many late lingering warblers. The departure dates were not records, but the large number of November birds was significant. There were 13 species of warblers reported in November, including typical wintering species such as Yellow-breasted Chat and Yellow-rumped.

The first significant movement of the fall migration was on 11 September. Birders at Jones Beach reported 22 species of warblers, mixed flocks of blackbirds, a Dickcissel and a **Yellow-headed Blackbird**. In Central Park and Prospect Park, 23 species of warblers were reported.

This auspicious start to the season was followed by Hurricane Floyd and then a significant movement of northern specialties.

But first, Tropical Storm Dennis, on 6 September, churned the North Atlantic far to our east, creating wind-driven waves and a movement of pelagics to the shore. Summarizing, these included: (1) at Jones Beach State Park Field #6, a light morph adult Parasitic Jaeger; (2) at Fire Island/Robert Moses State Park Field #2, in the morning, 1 light morph adult and 3 intermediate/light morph juvenile Parasitic Jaegers, 22 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, 2 Cory's Shearwaters and 3 Black Terns; (3) in the late afternoon, 1 light/intermediate juvenile Parasitic Jaeger, 25 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, 8 Red-necked Phalaropes, 1 first-year Black-legged Kittiwake; (4) at Shinnecock Inlet, 1 intermediate/light morph juvenile Parasitic Jaeger, 35+ Wilson's Storm-Petrels, 3 Cory's Shearwaters and 1 Greater Shearwater.

Two days later, on 8 September, at Shinnecock, one Manx Shearwater was seen in the inlet and two Cory's Shearwaters were found feeding in the surf along the beach; at Democrat Point on Fire Island, a Pomarine Jaeger was seen harassing terns; and a Cory's Shearwater was seen from a fishing boat a mile southeast of Shinnecock Inlet.

On 9 September, a fisherman located 20.9 miles south of Montauk Point watched a **White-faced Storm-Petrel** for over an hour as the bird worked a slick surrounding his boat (*vide* NYRBA, no details; bird photographed, not yet evaluated by NYSARC.)

A week later, Hurricane Floyd passed through our area on Thursday 16 September. On Friday 17 September, Paul Buckley and his party found **nine Sooty Terns**, three juveniles and six adults, flying west at Shinnecock Inlet.

At mid-day 17 September, the day after Hurricane Floyd, three **Sandwich Terns** were found flying up Shinnecock inlet. Also present was a flock of 60 immature Black Skimmers. Other **Sandwich Tern** sightings that day included: two in front of Jones Beach West End #2, one at Robert Moses State Park Field #5 and two at Montauk Point. One remained at Jones Beach West End on 18 September, with one at Zachs Bay and four at Shinnecock Inlet. Five were at Mecox on 20 September and one was near the base of the Breezy Point jetty the same day. The last **Sandwich Tern** left over from the storm was seen at Mecox 25 September.

The total number of hawks seen at the Fire Island Hawkwatch was not statistically different from the 17 year average since the watch has been in existence. However, there has been a change in distribution. American Kestrel and Sharp-shinned Hawk are down. Numbers of American Kestrels and Merlins are about even, where American Kestrel/Merlin

ratios were formerly 1.5 to 1. Still, on 7 October, 754 American Kestrels were counted, over half the total of that species for the season.

The big story at the Fire Island Hawkwatch is the increase in Peregrine Falcons, which hit a new yearly high. Bald Eagles totaled five, down from last year's six, but still a significant improvement from the zero of the recent past. Cooper's Hawks have also increased substantially over the years, increasing from one to this year's several dozen. The peak for the season appeared to be 8 October, with 1100 hawks seen, including three Bald Eagles.

The Central Park Hawkwatch to the west has a different mix. There, on light to moderate northwest winds on 18 September, they counted six Bald Eagles and 313 Broad-winged Hawks; on 25 September three Bald Eagles (two adults, one immature).

On 14 November, two (possibly three) **Greater White-fronted Geese** were found: one on Marratooka Lake, Mattituck, and a second on Short's Pond, north side of Scuttlehole Road, Bridgehampton. There possibly was a third bird in the area. Andy Guthrie and Angus Wilson reported a **Ross's Goose** in a flock of 150 Snow Geese that flew by at Riis Park on 10 October.

Rallidae oddities of the season came from the concrete and steel of New York City! First, Andrew Gershon reported that a Virginia Rail spent the day of 7 October huddled on a window sill on the 26th floor of 120 Broadway in Manhattan. Another one was seen foraging in City Hall Park along Center Street in lower Manhattan on 11 October. Then a third was found huddled against the side of the public library on Flatbush Avenue, at the intersection of Avenue P in Brooklyn. It fled into the Raleigh Camera store where it was captured. It was released in Gerritsen Creek. Finally, on 12 October, a slightly injured bird, running down a street in Long Island City, Queens, was captured and taken to a rehabilitator where the bird was determined to be an immature **Purple Gallinule**.

On 17 September an adult Franklin's Gull was found on a sandbar near the outflow to recently opened Mecox Bay. It stayed the next day, but was not seen thereafter. A bird similar to it, possibly the same one, was at the foot of Road I, East Hampton on 26 September.

A first fall Lesser Black-backed Gull was found at Jones Beach Field #6 on 1 September, the first day of the reporting season. This species, in all plumages up to and including adult, is widespread along the ocean shore areas of the Region everywhere gulls gather. It is no longer "rare" and will be considered "uncommon" in the future.

Rob Jett sent a note: "I spoke with a woman today who gave a pretty convincing description of a **Barred Owl** that she and one other person saw in the park yesterday (Prospect Park, Brooklyn, 26 November.)" Follow-up failed to turn up the bird until the last day of the millennium. The original description by a non-birder described a bird then seen by at least a dozen birders. This November and December sighting is probably the first published record in the New York City area for half a century. (Barred Owls were present during the early 1990s in the northern reaches of the city, but probably not reported.)

This was another Northern Shrike year, with the first sighting in Bayville on the North Shore on 30 October, followed by reports from Great Kills Park, Staten Island, to the Montauk area all through November. At least a dozen widely scattered birds were involved. Other rarities noted were: **Ash-Throated Flycatcher**, **Cave Swallow**, a singing **Sedge Wren**, **Mountain Bluebird** and a **Bohemian Waxwing**.

Two events signaled a possible winter finch year: reports of a low pine cone crop in the north and an early and large influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches. The first real hints of the finches were a huge movement of American Goldfinches, a steady stream of large numbers of Pine Siskins, beginning in early October, and numbers of Purple Finches. Finally, Red Crossbills arrived at the end of October and White-winged Crossbills, in lesser numbers, starting in early November. Both crossbills continued into late November. Other than the goldfinches, almost none of these birds paused for more than short periods. By the end of the season they were mostly gone.

As a final observation, the following formerly uncommon birds in our Region now appear to be widely distributed and routinely seen, a trend we hope will continue: Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Hudsonian Godwit, Marbled Godwit, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Caspian Tern, Royal Tern, Orange-crowned Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow and Blue Grosbeak.

A note to those observing Eastern Screech-Owls in Central Park during the past year: Per Robert DeCandido, a collaborative effort of New York City with the Raptor Trust (with assistance of Dr. Len Soucy) resulted in six Eastern Screech-Owls being released into Central Park on 20 August 1998. This is an attempt to reintroduce the species to an area where it bred until the 1960s. At least three were still present in the park more than one year later.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BP – Breezy Pt QUEE; CB – Cedar Beach; CLP – Clove L P SI; CP – Central P; CUB – Cupsogue Beach County P; DP – Democrat Pt FI; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field; FI – Fire I; FIHW – Fire I Hawkwatch; FP – Forest P QUEE; FTP – Fort Pd, Montauk; FTT – Fort Tilden QUEE; GKP – Great Kills P SI; HI – Hunters I in PBP BRON; HP – Hook Pd, Southampton; JBCH – Jones Beach; JBWE – Jones Beach West End; JBWR – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JFKWS – John F Kennedy Wildlife Sanctuary (Tobay) SUFF; LI – Long I; MEB – Mecox Bay; ML – Marratooka L, Mattituck SUFF; MOR – Moriches SUFF; MP – Montauk Pt; MPM – Morningside P Manhattan; MWD – Montauk Waste Disposal (dump); NYRBA – New York Rare Bird Alert; PBP – Pelham Bay P BRON; PL – Pt Lookout side Jones Inlet; PP – Prospect P, Brooklyn; RMSP – Robert Moses SP SUFF; RP – Riis P QUEE; SG – Sagaponack SUFF; SGP – Sagg Pd, Bridgehampton SUFF; SHIN – Shinnecock Inlet; SI – Staten I; VCP – Van Cortlandt P BRON; ZB – Zachs Bay JBCH.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-necked Grebe: HI 5 Nov; PBP 5 Nov; MP 14 Nov; SI 25 Nov.
N. Fulmar: light morph MP 27 Nov (HM et al).
Cory's Shearwater: 2 RMSP 6 Sep; 3 SHIN 6 Sep; 2 in surf by the beach SHIN 8 Sep; off SHIN 8 Sep.
Greater Shearwater: SHIN 6 Sep.
Manx Shearwater: off SHIN 8 Sep; off MP 13 Sep.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: associated with offshore Hurricane Dennis, 22 RMSP a.m., 25 p.m., 35+ SHIN 6 Sep.

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL: a fisherman 20.9 miles south of MP watched a bird for over an hour in the slick surrounding his boat 9 Sep (*vide* NYRBA, no details; ph, not yet evaluated).

Least Bittern: Bronx Zoo 9 Sep; flying along Ocean Parkway at Tobay 17 Sep.

Tricolored Heron: JBWE 20 Nov.
Glossy Ibis: 2 Gilgo 21 Oct.
Black Vulture: CP 7 Oct (*vide* NYRBA, no details).
Turkey Vulture: 2 CP 11 Sep; 12 SI 13 Sep; CP 18 Sep; PP 11, 19 Sep; 2 CP 11 Nov; SI 16 Oct; 2 Gilgo 22 Oct; 4 CP 25 Oct; 6 VCP 7 Nov; 2 CP 11 Nov; a few others.
GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: ML 14 Nov thru; another Short's Pd, north side of Scuttlehole Rd, Bridgehampton 14 Nov thru; possibly a third in area.
Snow Goose: blue morph Short's Pd, Bridgehampton 26 Nov thru; 150 + inc 2 blue JBWR 8 Oct; several blue JBWR 20 Nov thru.
ROSS'S GOOSE: RP 10 Oct, flyby with 150 Snow Geese (AG, AnW).
Tundra Swan: up to 5 HP early Nov thru.
Eurasian Wigeon: JBWR 5 Sep-late Nov; Mill Pd, Oyster Bay and another on Mill Pd, Centerport mid-Oct; ML 13 Nov; PP 27-28 Nov.
Green-winged Teal: 1 *A.c. crecca* FTT 12 Nov; JBWR 27-28 Nov.
King Eider: the summering bird at JBCH fishing piers thru late Sep; MP 23 Oct thru, with 150 Common Eider
Com. Eider: female Sore Thumb thru 6 Sep; 3 between Hart and Huckleberry Is near PBP 29 Sep; 150 MP 23 Oct thru.
Harlequin Duck: 3 flying over HP 7 Nov; MP 13 Nov thru; 3 PL 18 Nov thru; female Ft Pd Bay MP 26-27 Nov.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: 25 PBP 2 Sep, perching together and eating fish; others thru 3 Nov.
Bald Eagle: imm MEB 17 Sep; SGP 18 Sep; 6 CP 18 Sep; JFKWS 19 Sep; Inwood Hill P NEWY 25 Sep; 3 CP 25 Sep; Bayside QUEE 4 Oct; PP 3 Oct; CP 3 Oct; 5 CP 7 Oct; 3 FIHW 8 Oct; mid Manhattan 13 Oct; CP 16, 28 Oct; RP 18 Oct; Peconic 22 Oct; 2 CP 22 Oct; SHIN 27 Oct.
N. Goshawk: VCP 25 Sep (CJ, DK), early; others from 12 Oct; more wide-

spread this year.
Red-shouldered Hawk: a few.
Broad-winged Hawk: CP 10 Sep; PP 17 Sep; 313 CP 18 Sep; SI 18 Sep; others to 3 Oct.
Red-tailed Hawk: 65+ CP hawk watch 24 Oct.
Rough-legged Hawk: a few.
Golden Eagle: SI dump 25 Oct (HF).
Am. Kestrel: 754 FIHW 7 Oct; overall numbers continue down.
Peregrine Falcon: 61 FIHW 10 Oct, record one day total; also a record season high of 260+.
Wild Turkey: 9 PBP late Nov, being fed.
Virginia Rail: see *intro* for big city reports; others.
Sora: PP early Sep; CP late Sep.
PURPLE GALLINULE: injured bird captured QUEE 12 Oct, taken to a rehabilitator.
Com. Moorhen: PP early Sep; Blydenburgh P, Smithtown SUFF14-15 Oct.
Am. Golden-Plover: JBWR 11 Sep; 4 Cutchogue 13 Sep; MEB 17 Sep; 11 SHIN 17 Sep; JBWE 17 Sep; ZB 18 Sep; JBCH 26 Sep; 56 Riverhead sod fields 29 Sep; SG 5 Oct; JBCH 3 Nov; Napeague Bay 20 Nov; others.
Semipalmated Plover: to 26 Sep.
Piping Plover: to 5 Sep.
Am. Oystercatcher: 250 North Line I 2 Sep (JF); 184 JBWE 26 Sep; good numbers JBCH thru.
Am. Avocet: JBWR 1-15 Sep
Lesser Yellowlegs: to 23 Oct.
Willet: JBWR 16 Oct, last.
Spotted Sandpiper: to 20 Oct.
Upland Sandpiper: Montauk dude ranch 12 Sep; fewer birds each year.
Whimbrel: early Sep-8 Oct; 12 SHIN 17 Sep.
Hudsonian Godwit: 2 JBWR 6 Sep; DP 8 Sep, CUP mid Sep; BP 17 Sep.
Marbled Godwit: JBWR Sep; 2 DP and Oak Beach Inn mudflats; MEB 18 Sep; SHIN 17 Sep-30 Oct.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: to 5 Oct.
Baird's Sandpiper: JBWR 4 Sep; Plumb Beach 5 Sep; BP 17 Sep; DP 22 Sep.

Pectoral Sandpiper: to 16 Oct.
Purple Sandpiper: BP jetty 15-20 Nov; 2 Orient Pt 21 Nov; PL/JBCH mid Nov thru.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: MEB 11, 18 Sep; DP 18 Sep; 6 Riverhead sod fields 25 Sep.
Wilson's Phalarope: JBWR 4-11 Sep
Red-necked Phalarope: 8 RMSP 6 Sep.
Pomarine Jaeger: DP 8 Sep.
Parasitic Jaeger: light morph ad JBCH Field #6; light morph ad and 3 intermediate/light morph juv RMSP 6 Sep; light/intermediate morph SHIN 6 Sep; off MEB 13 Sep, 10 Oct; off JBCH Field #6 23 Oct, 20 Nov; DP 22 Oct.
Franklin's Gull: 1st winter SHIN 5 Sep (MC); ad MEB 17-18 Sep (HM); possibly same bird, foot of Road I, East Hampton 26 Sep (LS).
Little Gull: Montauk Harbor jetty 13 Nov.
Black-headed Gull: SG 2 Oct thru.
Bonaparte's Gull: several hundred MP area mid Nov thru; otherwise scattered individuals, no arrivals in Jones or FI inlets at season's end.
Iceland Gull: MP area sporadically 31 Oct thru.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1st yr to ad, widespread thru along all ocean beaches; has become most abundant of our "uncommon" gulls.
Glaucous Gull: 1st winter JBWE 14, 23 Nov; imm MEB 18 Nov; 1st winter JBCH Field #6 28 Nov thru.
Black-legged Kittiwake: RMSP 6 Sep; MEB 19 Sep, 31 Oct; off JBCH Field #6 23 Oct; MP 13 Nov thru; 3 MP 27 Nov.
Gull-billed Tern: CUB 15 Sep; MEB 18 Sep; CB 4 Oct.
Caspian Tern: regular along South Shore of LI 17 Sep-5 Oct.
Royal Tern: 24 SHIN 4 Sep; 18 SHIN 18 Sep; 40 Robins I mid Sep; others along South Shore of LI thru 20 Nov.
Sandwich Tern: all associated with Hurricane Floyd; 2 MP, SHIN, ZB, 2 JBWE 17 Sep; 4 SHIN, ZB, JBWE 18 Sep; 5 MEB, BP 20 Sep; MEB 25 Sep.
Com. Tern: last MP 13 Nov.

Forster's Tern: 150+ SHIN 6 Sep; 100+ MEB 13 Sep; 170 MEB 16 Sep; others thru early Nov.
Least Tern: to 19 Sep.
Sooty Tern: 6 ad & 3 juv SHIN Sep 17 (PB et al), day after Hurricane Floyd.
Black Tern: 200 SHIN, 100 MP 5 Sep; 40 SHIN 18 Sep.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: Whitestone QUEE feeder 21 Nov.
E. Screech-Owl: 6 released into CP 20 Aug 1998. An attempt to reintroduce the species to a 1960s breeding locale. At least 3 were still present one year later.
Great Horned Owl: FBF 13 Nov, unusual location.
Snowy Owl: BP 9 Nov; imm picked up on Wards 1 by Urban Park Ranger Linda Rurak on about 15 Nov, brought to Bronx Zoo; CB 19-21 Nov, harassed by a photographer and apparently moved across inlet to RMSP and DP.
BARRED OWL: PP 26 Nov (*vide* RJ), 1st published NYC record in 50 yrs.
Long-eared Owl: CP 9 Nov on; HI 5 Nov; JBWE 17-18 Nov; PBP 28 Nov.
Short-eared Owl: RMSP 25 Sep; SG 23 Oct; Gilgo 7 Nov; 2 FTT 17 Nov; JBWE 18 Nov; BP 20 Nov.
N. Saw-whet Owl: PP 8 Oct; 70 mi off MP landed on boat 12 Oct; JFKWS 24, 31 Oct; JBWE 7, 17 Nov; a few others.
Chimney Swift: to 16 Oct.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: to 3 Nov.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Kissena P QUEE mid Sep.
E. Wood-Pewee: to 28 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: SI banded 18 Sep.
E. Phoebe: to 6 Nov.
ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: FTT 20 Nov (DD, mob)!
Great Crested Flycatcher: to 22 Sep.
Western Kingbird: FTT 4 Sep; JBWE 22-26 Oct; FIHW 29 Oct;
E. Kingbird: to 6 Sep.
N. Shrike: Bayville 30 Oct-1 Nov; FTT

28-31 Oct; RMSP 2 Nov; CP 4 Nov; HP 7 Nov; Indian Wells Beach 7 Nov; JFKWS 7 Nov; FI 7 Nov; JBWE 18 Nov; GKP 18 Nov; MP 21 Nov; JFKWS 27 Nov; SI 29 Nov.

Yellow-throated Vireo: to 17 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: RP 20 Nov (RJ), late.

Warbling Vireo: to 4 Sep.

Philadelphia Vireo: many reports; peak half-dozen sightings across Region 18 Sep.

Red-eyed Vireo: to 6 Oct.

Cliff Swallow: PP 16 Sep; 8 MP & MWD 19 Sep.

CAVE SWALLOW: HP 8 Nov (HM !).

Barn Swallow: last MP 14 Nov.

House Wren: to 21 Nov.

SEDGE WREN: PP 9 Oct (DD et al !), singing.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: to 16 Sep.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD: Rocky Pt Natural Resources Management Area 27 Oct (JH !).

Veery: thru 6 Oct.

Swainson's Thrush: thru 8 Oct.

Wood Thrush: thru 24 Oct.

Brown Thrasher: thru 16 Oct.

Am. Pipit: 40 MPM 11 Nov.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: East Hampton 28 Nov (HM).

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler: thru 11 Oct.

Orange-crowned Warbler: PP 3 Sep, sporadically thru 27 Nov; MWD 3 Oct; Gilgo 4 Oct; Riverhead, 30 Oct; Quogue 19 Oct; MP 3 Nov; JBWR 27 Nov.

Nashville Warbler: thru 13 Nov.

N. Parula: thru.

Yellow Warbler: thru 6 Oct.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: thru 6 Oct.

Magnolia Warbler: thru 24 Oct.

Cape May Warbler: thru 4 Nov.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: thru 24 Oct.

Black-throated Green Warbler: thru 13 Nov.

Blackburnian Warbler: thru 6 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: thru 29 Sep.

Blackpoll Warbler: thru 28 Nov, late.

Black-and-white Warbler: thru 13 Nov.

Am. Redstart: thru 7 Nov.

Prothonotary Warbler: PP 4-11 Sep; ZB 18 Sep-2 Oct; JBCH Field #10 18 Sep; Wagner P southern tip of Manhattan 23-28 Sep; PP 28 Sep.

Worm-eating Warbler: Riverside P Manhattan 1 Sep; PP 4, 11, 19 Sep.

Ovenbird: thru 16 Oct.

N. Waterthrush: thru 1 Oct.

Connecticut Warbler: PP 4, 15 Sep; MWD 18 Sep, 2-3 Oct; SI 19 Sep, banded; 2 RP 20 Sep; Quogue 3 Oct

Mourning Warbler: scattered reports thru 26 Sep.

Com. Yellowthroat: thru 28 Nov, may overwinter.

Hooded Warbler: PP 4, 15-19 Sep; SI 11 Sep, banded; CP 26 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: PP 21 Nov.

Canada Warbler: thru 6 Oct.

Yellow-breasted Chat: usual numbers.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: CP 13 Sep.

Scarlet Tanager: thru 9 Oct.

Clay-colored Sparrow: JBWE 25 Sep; RMSP 25 Sep; ZB 26 Sep; PP 3 Oct; MWD 4, 9-10 Oct, 20-29 Nov; JBWE 9 Oct; 2 JBWE 16 Oct; Gilgo 31 Oct; 2 FTT 31 Oct-1 Nov; CP 2-3 Nov; JBCH 7 Nov.

Lark Sparrow: JBWE 1 Sep; RP 4 Sep; 2 RP 5 Sep; PP 26-28 Sep; JBWE 24-26 Sep; BP 11 Oct; Hither Hills SP 7-9 Nov.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 2 Nelson's, 4 Saltmarsh, 9 undetermined sp Oak Beach Marsh, Babylon 16 Oct (JF).

Lincoln's Sparrow: mid Sep-21 Nov.

Lapland Longspur: Gilgo 12 Oct; FIHW 29 Oct; 2 SHIN 4 Nov; 1-2 with Snow Bunting flock JBWE early Nov thru; Smith Point P SUFF 10 Nov.

Snow Bunting: arr ocean beaches mid Oct; 20 MPM 11 Nov.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: thru 19 Sep.

Blue Grosbeak: 2 Amagansett 17 Sep; JFKWS 1 Oct; PBP 2 Oct (CJ), Wagner P, southern Manhattan 3 Oct; PP 6 Oct; JBCH 7 Oct; East Hampton Dump 9 Oct; CP 16 Oct.

Dickcissel: JBWE 11 Sep; RP 20 Sep; ZB 26 Sep; 2 FIHW 1 Oct; 2 JBCH 1 Oct;

RMSP 2 Oct; GKP 7 Oct; Smiths Pt SUFF 11 Oct; FIHW 19 Oct; RMSP 24 Oct; MWD 13-14 Nov; others.

Bobolink: thru 18 Sep.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:

female JBWE 11 Sep (RK).

Boat-tailed Grackle: 30 SHIN east of bridge 4 Sep, in addition to colony at JBWR; GKP 16 Oct.

Baltimore Oriole: near Pier 25 Manhattan 27 Nov.

Purple Finch: small numbers migrating throughout the season.

Red Crossbill: 2 FTT 25 Sep, 29 Oct thru; peak counts at FIHW 48 on 29 Oct, 69 on 5 Nov; peak counts at JBWE 132 on 6 Nov, 200 on 17-18 Nov.

White-winged Crossbill: small numbers along southern beaches 7 Nov thru; max 40 17-18 Nov.

Com. Redpoll: scattered flights 27 Oct thru; max 30+ JBWE 28 Nov.

Pine Siskin: scattered flights along southern beaches 6 Oct thru; peak num-

bers at FIHW 155 on 15 Oct, 600 on 27 Oct, 400 on 29 Oct, 770 on 5 Nov; peak numbers at JBWE 1050 on 24 Oct, 300 on 6 Nov; 250 CUB 26 Oct; 100 SHIN 27 Oct.

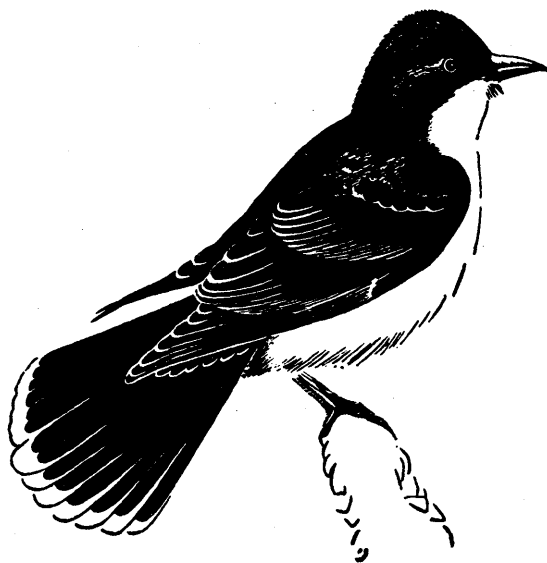
Am. Goldfinch: scattered flights along southern beaches late Oct thru; 1200 in 2fi hrs JBWE 8 Oct; accompanied by Pine Siskins most days.

Evening Grosbeak: 2 CP 19 Sep, 13 Oct; Wading River 31 Oct; SI 12 Nov; 2 JBWE 28 Nov.

CORRIGENDUM

Red-headed Woodpecker: It was stated in the Summer 1999 Report that this species nested in Central Park. No nesting was confirmed; the wintering birds dispersed late May.

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INVITING NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Readers are urged to submit short pieces of interesting sightings, observations, incidents, etc., that do not require full-blown article treatment. Note the items on pgs 17 and 18 of this issue. This is the type of thing being sought. Most birders have had some unique experience, amusing, puzzling or informative. Why not share that experience with the rest of us?

If there is a photograph involved, all we need is a slide or a print.

If the Editor believes the item should be expanded to a full article, you will be invited to do so.

FEEDBACK

The Editor would very much like to hear from the readers of *The Kingbird*. There is an enormous amount of work involving a number of people, all of whom are volunteers, that goes into the production of this quarterly. The actual printing and distribution of the four issues per year consumes the greatest part of the FNYSSBC annual budget.

With all of this effort and expense, I would like to be certain that you, the reader is getting what he wants. I cannot know that unless you tell me. Is there some aspect of birding that we are missing that you would like to see included?

All suggestions will be acknowledged and seriously entertained.

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