

The

KINGBIRD

Federation of
New York State
Bird Clubs, Inc.

Vol. 51 No. 1

March 2001



THE KINGBIRD (ISSN 0023-1606), published quarterly (March, June, September, December), is a publication of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., which has been organized to further the study of bird life and to disseminate knowledge thereof, to educate the public in the need for conserving natural resources, and to document the ornithology of the State and maintain the official Checklist of the Birds of New York State.

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continued on inside back cover



The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC

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**FIRST RECORD OF CASSIN'S SPARROW (*Aimophila cassinii*)
FOR NEW YORK STATE**

Jones Beach State Park, Nassau County, NY Oct 7-11, 2000

Thomas W. Burke

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On Saturday 7 Oct, Gail Benson and I were preparing to leave Zachs Bay. After a moderately successful morning of birding at Jones Beach West End (Black-billed Cuckoo and Yellow-breasted Chat as highlights), Zachs had proven much more productive: a huge shorebird flock containing an American Golden-Plover, two Marbled Godwits and a few Western Sandpipers, all chased off by two hunting Peregrine Falcons, nice views of an adult "Black" Brant found by Nick Laviola, three Caspian Terns, and an Orange-crowned Warbler all made it difficult to leave, but it was already well past lunch time. As we approached our car at the western end of Parking Field 6, two Savannah Sparrows hopped up on a snow fence that ran the length of a 20-foot wide divider between Field 6 and a small adjacent parking lot to the west. This sandy strip, containing some sparse grass, goldenrod and other small plants, looked like it might still be sheltering some birds, so I suggested we put lunch off for another minute to check it out.

Halfway down the strip a sparrow jumped up on the fence about 20 feet away and slightly closer than three Savannahs similarly perched. With a good side view of two thirds of the bird (the rear concealed by a protruding fence post), I noted the sparrow's finely streaked crown, noticeable white eye-ring, bland face pattern and larger-than-Savannah size and figured we were viewing a Vesper Sparrow, which is what I called out to Gail, who was walking the other side of the strip. I then moved out to get a view of the front of the bird, and, noticing it was totally devoid of streaks on its grayish breast, retracted Vesper and muttered something like "What the heck is this?" At this point I was also struck by the notable white edgings to the tertials, but then the sparrow proceeded to drop down to the ground on my side of the fence and began running through the grass clumps. I could follow it for a while, though the views were not at all illuminating, and it finally disappeared into thick cover, from which it either could not be flushed or escaped undetected.

Returning to the car and while looking at the National Geographic field guide, I called Tony Lauro to say I'd just seen a bird fairly well that I could not identify. The Geo guide indicated that the only real possibility was an *Aimophila* sparrow. So, after a very late lunch, Gail, Tony, John and Gerta Fritz and I gathered at Field 6 and walked the area thoroughly, but to no avail. After arriving

home, I looked at as many photos and references as I could find, called Guy Tudor for his input, and then called Tony to let him know that I did think the bird was an *Aimophila* sparrow, and probably a Cassin's. We then alerted other birders to the possibility.

Still quite uncertain, Gail and I went back out to Jones Beach West End again Sunday morning. Calls coming in and birders arriving from Zachs Bay all indicated that, unfortunately, the sparrow had probably departed, as many had walked the divider strip with no luck.

As a believer in letting a bird settle into its routine, if it has one, before looking for it, we held off visiting Zachs Bay until midday – this doesn't always work, but sometimes.... About 20 feet down the fence line, the sparrow popped up on a plant below me on the other side of the fence. Recognizing the head pattern as that of the same bird, I immediately concentrated on the fully visible tail; the brown and blackish ladder effect on the central tail feathers was obvious – Cassin's Sparrow (*A. cassinii*)!! I backed away slowly but the bird flushed into the heavy brush anyway.

Some quick calls got a number of birders to Zachs in a hurry – Tony Lauro arrived with Andy Guthrie and Angus Wilson, John and Gerta Fritz, Doug Futuyma, Nick Laviola, Peter Murphy and others all gathering shortly thereafter. In a semi-organized manner we approached the spot where the sparrow had disappeared, but it turned out that it took quite a bit of patience before we were able to view this elusive bird. Finally it flushed into a dead pine at the south end of the strip, where the dusky streaks along the rear flanks were first seen. Some brief views as it fed under a stunted pine were followed by a merry chase back north along the vegetated strip, the paler grayness of the sparrow evident each time it flushed, until it finally perched for a few minutes about four feet high in a bare tree. Here photos and video of varying quality were taken, and most confirming field marks could be seen.

A sparrow with classy field marks a Cassin's is not! However, when enjoying a first New York State record (pending acceptance by NYSARC), even the most subtle of characters are very intriguing. Key for identification purposes were: a reasonably sized grayish bill, darker on the ridge of the upper mandible; a white eye-ring on a fairly bland gray face, with a darker brown line noticeable through the eye, a brownish semicircular border to the ear coverts, and a rather faint darker malar stripe; a whitish throat blending into unmarked pale grayish underparts that exhibited a few smudgy dark streaks along the lower flanks; a flattish crown finely streaked with dark lines; a back pattern looking scalloped, with each dark brownish feather pale edged in gray; and a fairly long, rounded tail, the brown central tail feathers with darker blackish barring throughout seen very well once. The light grayish tail tips, most evident in fresh plumage, were not detected, though the bird did not present its tail optimally for us to determine whether this feature was present.

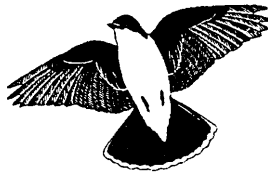
The main marks for eliminating this overall fairly grayish sparrow from other *Aimophila* species were the combination of laddered central tail feathers, dusky streaks along the lower flanks, lack of buffy tones to the underparts, and lack of rusty on the crown.

Cassin's Sparrows breed in arid grasslands generally from northeastern Mexico west to southeastern Arizona and north through eastern New Mexico, central Texas, and western Oklahoma to eastern Colorado and western Kansas, barely reaching into southeastern Wyoming and southwestern Nebraska. The normal wintering range extends from southeastern Arizona through southern Texas down to central Mexico. Previous accidentals in the northeast have occurred at Island Beach in New Jersey on 22 Sep 1961, at Mount Desert Rock off Maine from 16-25 Sep 1986, and even farther north on Seal Island, Nova Scotia from 18-20 May 1974.

The Cassin's continued its skulking activities along the divider strip through Monday and Tuesday, with most birders eventually getting satisfying views. It was last seen running through the grasses early on Wednesday the 11th by Paul Lehman, after which time it entirely eluded further observation. Nonetheless, this was a much better outcome than if it had disappeared Saturday night – I hate lifelong mysteries!

Editor's Note: Unfortunately, the quality of the photographs will not lend themselves to publication here. However readers are urged to see them on the following web site:

www.oceanwanderers.com/nycasspa.html



PRELIMINARY CHECKLIST OF BREEDING BIRDS ON SCHODACK ISLAND STATE PARK

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ABSTRACT

We present data on breeding birds of Schodack Island State Park (SISP) (Rensselaer, Greene, and Columbia counties). Quantitative data on breeding birds were collected using 5-minute point counts of birds in a 50-meter radius circle. The park is located on a peninsula in the upper Hudson River estuary. The peninsula resulted from the placement of dredge spoils from Hudson River navigation projects on original islands in the river. Over time, the dredge spoil areas have revegetated and the peninsula is largely forested. The forested communities show a relatively high bird species richness and species diversity.

INTRODUCTION

Schodack Island State Park consists of a major portion of a 7-mile-long peninsula of land, located near Castleton-on-Hudson, New York, formed by the deposition of dredge spoil from the Hudson River. Prior to the deposition of dredge spoil, there were three major islands and several smaller islands at this location. Bulkheads began to be installed on the island in the 1800's, and maintenance dredging added material to SISP through the early 1960's. The extreme portion of the peninsula, which is under control of the Corps of Engineers, continues to be used for dredge spoils and contains large open areas of bare sand. SISP covers 1,052 acres of land, of which a small proportion is proposed for park development. Primarily forested, but including expanses of freshwater tidal marsh, the park affords a relatively undisturbed and unstudied parcel of state land.

Previously relatively inaccessible, SISP is being developed with an access road, boat launch, day-use area and campground. Increased accessibility will afford the birdwatching public the opportunity to study, in all seasons, the assemblage of birds that use the parkland. This paper, therefore, constitutes a

preliminary checklist of breeding birds that occurred within a limited study area on SISP. English and scientific names of birds follow *The AOU Check-List of North American Birds* (AOU 1998).

METHODS

Breeding birds were surveyed on 27 May to 29 May and 23 Jun to 25 Jun, 1997 using 5-minute point counts of all birds seen or heard within a 50-meter-radius circle (Ralph et al. 1995) in a variety of vegetation communities. The communities were not sampled equally.

Limited accessibility and time constraints did not allow for study of nocturnal species such as owls, or in-depth study of freshwater tidal marsh species such as bitterns and rails.

COMMUNITY PROFILE DESCRIPTIONS

Community descriptions of vegetation cover types follow the *Ecological Communities of New York State* (Reschke 1990). Six communities were surveyed on park property and included successional old field, successional shrubland, dredge spoil forest, freshwater tidal marsh, freshwater tidal swamp, and floodplain forest.

Successional old field areas occur within a transmission line corridor that crosses the peninsula. This community is very limited in acreage on SISP property. Herbaceous species dominated in this area.

Successional shrubland areas are areas that were abandoned from agricultural use in the early 1970's. This community consisted of shrubs and a dense sapling layer.

The dredge spoil forest community consisted of deciduous forest that has developed on dredge spoil deposits. This community occupies the largest area of any community on SISP. Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), and eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) were the most common tree species. The shrub layer was dominated by dense honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*, *Lonicera sp.*).

Freshwater tidal marsh areas are located on the eastern edge of the peninsula along Schodack Creek. These areas contained broad-leaf emergents and tall graminoids. Representative species included pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*), narrow-leaf cattail (*Typha angustifolia*), arrow arum (*Peltandra virginica*), and wild rice (*Zizania aquatica*).

Freshwater tidal swamp is a forested community that floods twice a day. This community contained silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), willow (*Salix spp.*), ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, *F. nigra*), swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*), and eastern cottonwood.

Floodplain forest describes forested communities that are low-lying and occur next to the Hudson River. Eastern cottonwood, silver maple, green ash, and eastern sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) were common trees in the community. These forests appeared to be older than other forested communities, and contained the largest diameter trees on the peninsula.

RESULTS/OBSERVATIONS

The table presents the list of species observed during quantitative sampling of birds in May and June. With the exception of Blackpoll Warbler, we feel that these species represent breeding species in the park. The one Blackpoll Warbler, observed on May 27, 1998, was probably a late migrant. As might be expected, the forested vegetation communities supported a larger number of breeding species and a higher diversity of species than the less structurally complex vegetation communities.

DISCUSSION

With the exception of the Blackpoll Warbler (discussed above) and the Red-bellied Woodpecker, all of the species we observed had been recorded in the Atlas block in which the park is found (NYS Breeding Bird Atlas 1980-1985, data provided by the New York State DEC Natural Heritage Program). In our survey, Red-bellied Woodpeckers were observed in two forested communities, and based on these and observations made during other field work in the park, this species was fairly common.

Other species which are known breeders or probable breeders in the park were observed during other field work in May and June, but were not encountered during quantitative sampling. These include Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck, Virginia Rail, Spotted Sandpiper, Tree Swallow, Tufted Titmouse, and Black-and-white Warbler.

The successional old field areas are too small and contain too many shrubs to support grassland species. Most of the species recorded in this habitat are edge or shrub species such as the Yellow Warbler and Common Yellowthroat.

The successional shrubland community has a moderate species richness. Gray Catbird, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Cardinal, and Song Sparrow are representative species in this community.

The freshwater tidal marsh contains marsh nesting species and species that utilized the edge of this community. Willow Flycatcher, Marsh Wren, Swamp Sparrow and Red-winged Blackbird were representative species. Taped playback methods were not used in sampling this community, however, we would expect that several bitterns and rails would be recorded if these methods were used (Swift 1989, Gibbs and Melvin 1993).

The forested communities on SISP contain the highest species diversity. These habitats are characterized by a mixture of large diameter trees with a canopy height of 75 to 100 feet. These communities are crossed by numerous trails and paths which provide more edge than unbroken forest. Canopy nesters such as Cerulean Warbler and Baltimore Oriole, mid-canopy nesters such as American Redstart and Rose-breasted Grosbeak and ground nesters such as Wild Turkey and Ovenbird were recorded in these forests. It should be noted that an additional informal census by TES of Cerulean Warblers found 13 singing males in different locations on the island, and this species appears to be common in appropriate habitat. This species was added to the NYS List of Species of Special Concern on December 4, 1999.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study was funded by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation by contract through C&S Engineers, Inc., North Syracuse, New York. We would especially like to thank Steve McCorkell of the OPRHP and Bob Palladine and Tony Longo of C&S Engineers for their support during this study.

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**Birds Observed Per 5-Minute Point Count within a 50-meter radius
Schodack Island State Park**

	SOF	SS	DSF	FTM	FTS	FPF
Wild Turkey						
<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	0.25					
American Woodcock						
<i>Scolopax minor</i>						0.08
Mourning Dove						
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>				0.33		
Red-bellied Woodpecker						
<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>			0.22			0.15
Downy Woodpecker						
<i>Picoides pubescens</i>						0.08
Northern Flicker						
<i>Colaptes auratus</i>					0.33	0.15
Eastern Wood-Pewee						
<i>Contopus virens</i>			0.22		0.33	0.08
Willow Flycatcher						
<i>Empidonax traillii</i>				0.83	0.33	
Least Flycatcher						
<i>Empidonax minimus</i>		0.20	0.11		0.33	
Great Crested Flycatcher						
<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>			0.22			
Yellow-throated Vireo						
<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>			0.11			
Warbling Vireo						
<i>Vireo gilvus</i>			0.33			
Red-eyed Vireo						
<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>		0.20	0.11			0.15
Blue Jay						
<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>					0.33	0.08
American Crow						
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>				0.17		
Barn Swallow						
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>				0.17		
Black-capped Chickadee						
<i>Parus atricapillus</i>					0.67	0.46
White-breasted Nuthatch						
<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>					0.33	0.08

**Birds Observed Per 5-Minute Point Count within a 50-meter radius
Schodack Island State Park**

	SOF	SS	DSF	FTM	FTS	FPF
House Wren						
<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	0.25		0.11			
Marsh Wren						
<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>				1.33		
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher						
<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>					0.33	
Veery						
<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>			0.22		1.00	
Wood Thrush						
<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	0.25		0.11		0.33	0.23
American Robin						
<i>Turdus migratorius</i>		0.60	0.22	0.17		0.54
Gray Catbird						
<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	0.75	1.00	0.67		0.67	0.54
European Starling						
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		0.20				0.08
Cedar Waxwing						
<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>		0.40				0.08
Blue-winged Warbler						
<i>Yermivora pinus</i>						0.15
Yellow Warbler						
<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	1.50	1.00	0.89	0.83	0.67	0.62
Chestnut-sided Warbler						
<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>		0.20	0.11		0.33	0.08
Blackpoll Warbler						
<i>Dendroica striata</i>						0.08
Cerulean Warbler						
<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>			0.44			0.08
American Redstart						
<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>			1.11		1.67	0.46
Ovenbird						
<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>			0.22			0.08
Common Yellowthroat						
<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	0.75	0.40	0.11	0.50	0.33	0.54
Scarlet Tanager						
<i>Piranga olivacea</i>			0.22			0.08

**Birds Observed Per 5-Minute Point Count within a 50-meter radius
Schodack Island State Park**

	SOF	SS	DSF	FTM	FIS	FPF
Eastern Towhee						
<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>			0.11			
Song Sparrow						
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	0.25	0.40	0.67	0.33	1.33	1.38
Swamp Sparrow						
<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>				0.67	0.33	
Northern Cardinal						
<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	0.25	0.40	0.22		0.33	0.08
Rose-breasted Grosbeak						
<i>Phoebastria ludovicianus</i>		0.20	0.22		0.67	
Indigo Bunting						
<i>Passerina cyanea</i>						0.08
Red-winged Blackbird						
<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>		0.80		1.33	0.33	
Common Grackle						
<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>						0.08
Brown-headed Cowbird						
<i>Molothrus ater</i>		0.20	0.11			0.08
Baltimore Oriole						
<i>Icterus galbula</i>			0.44		0.67	0.31
House Finch						
<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>						0.23
American Goldfinch						
<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	0.25	0.20	0.11			0.46
Total Number of Species:	9	15	26	11	21	31
Average Number of Birds per 5-Minute Count:	4.50	6.40	7.67	6.67	11.67	7.62
Number of 5-Minute Samples:	4	5	9	6	3	13
Diversity Index						
$H' = -\sum (Ni/N) \text{ LOGe } (Ni/N)$	1.92	2.51	2.95	2.16	2.87	2.98
Vegetation Communities						
SOF – Successional Old Field						
SS – Successional Shrubland						
DSF – Dredge Spoil Forest						
FTM – Freshwater Tidal Marsh						
FIS – Freshwater Tidal Swamp						
FPF – Floodplain Forest						

STATUS AND ORIGINS OF CURLEW SANDPIPERS IN NEW YORK STATE

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ABSTRACT

The Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) is an elegant and much sought after Old World shorebird that occurs almost annually in New York State. Most records are from Long Island during spring and fall migration, with only a handful of documented sightings from upstate New York. Remarkably, juveniles are extremely rare in the state, a puzzling phenomenon observed throughout North America except for the Pacific Coast. This article reviews the status of Curlew Sandpiper in New York State, discussing the identification and probable origins of these birds, and ends with a few tips on finding this very appealing shorebird in our region.

IDENTIFICATION

The Curlew Sandpiper is an attractive long-winged sandpiper about the size of a Dunlin (*C. alpina*) but with a longer, more decurved bill and long dark legs. As with most shorebirds, the plumage varies with time of year and with age (reviewed in Paulson 1993). Adults molt into alternate (breeding) plumage during March to April, developing a distinctive dark chestnut-red head and underparts that contrast with a richly patterned dark back, pale gray wing coverts and a variable white to brick-red vent area. Breeding adults can be mistaken for Red Knot (*C. canutus*), although the latter is noticeably larger, with a stockier build and shorter, stouter bill. Alternate-plumaged Red Knots are also paler orange-red. During fall migration (July to September), adults begin to molt into basic (winter) plumage producing a blotchy mixture of red and gray or white feathering. In some individuals, molt is suspended during migration producing a curious mixture of alternate and basic features.

Juveniles and basic-plumaged adult Curlew Sandpipers are also similar to Dunlin of comparable age and can again pose a serious identification challenge. Many observers fail to appreciate that Dunlin occurring in our area are predominantly of the subspecies *C. a. hudsonia*, which is much closer in size and bill length to Curlew Sandpiper than the three subspecies *alpina*, *schinzii* and *arctica* illustrated in European field guides. Adult Curlew Sandpipers in basic

plumage have uniformly gray upperparts, a bold white supercilium and silky white underparts, whereas juveniles have obvious buff edges to the scapulars and mantle feathers, producing a neatly scalloped appearance, and a beautiful but transient peachy-orange tint to the breast and neck. A very useful feature of juvenile Curlew Sandpipers are the dark anchor-shaped centers to the wing coverts and scapulars, a pattern shared only with Red Knot and the much smaller Temminck's Stint (*C. temminckii*). Although uncommon in North America, the first basic-plumaged Curlew Sandpiper is similar to adult basic, except for the inner median coverts which retain rich buff fringes (Prater et al. 1977).

At all ages, Curlew Sandpipers show a more distinct white supercilium that extends farther behind the eye than Dunlin and have whiter underparts. In flight, Curlew Sandpipers of all ages show a prominent white wing bar and broad white rump patch. Although Dunlin also show a prominent wing bar, there is a dark stripe down the center of the rump patch. Keep in mind, however, that the dark stripe can be difficult to see, especially if the bird has just been preening and has fluffed up the uppertail coverts creating the impression of an extensive white patch. When seen together, Curlew Sandpipers generally appear longer-necked and more upright than Dunlin, especially when feeding.

During the fall and winter, juvenile Stilt Sandpipers (*C. himantopus*) are regularly mistaken for Curlew Sandpipers, and in many respects pose more of a problem than Dunlin. Both Curlew and Stilt sandpipers have a relatively long, decurved bill, a white rump and preference for feeding by wading in deeper water. Stilt Sandpipers are slightly larger than Curlew Sandpipers with greenish rather than black legs. Although diagnostic, leg color should be used with care because of variation between individuals and the simple fact that the color is often obscured by mud. Stilt Sandpipers are longer-legged, especially below the 'knee' and have a subtly different bill shape that droops more noticeably towards the tip. Familiarity with the shape and proportions comes with experience and it is always a good idea to look carefully at any Stilt Sandpiper that you come across.

Finally, care must always be taken to eliminate other white-rumped species such as White-rumped Sandpiper (*C. fuscicollis*) and Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*). Although sharing the long-winged appearance and of course the white rump, the White-rumped Sandpiper is smaller with shorter legs and a less decurved bill. Wilson's Phalarope is larger than Curlew Sandpiper with greenish-yellow legs but again the color can be obscured by mud. Roberson (1980) cites a reported Curlew Sandpiper that turned out to be a Wilson's Phalarope with an abnormal bill. As with any shorebird, a full suite of characters should be noted before a safe identification can be made. For further details on identification see Hayman et al., (1986), Kaufman (1990) and Paulson (1993).

Curlew Sandpipers are sexually dimorphic, and some birds can be tentatively sexed in the field, especially if multiple individuals are present for direct comparison. Alternate-plumaged females are less deeply rufous than males and in all plumages have a longer bill and legs (Thomas and Dartnall 1980, Engelmoer and Roselaar 1998). The longer bill of females is most apparent for birds from the western part of the breeding range, averaging 12.1% longer than males compared to 9.3% for birds from the east (Engelmoer and Roselaar 1998). Observers lucky enough to come upon multiple individuals should try to document any individual differences.

STATUS IN NORTH AMERICA AND NEW YORK

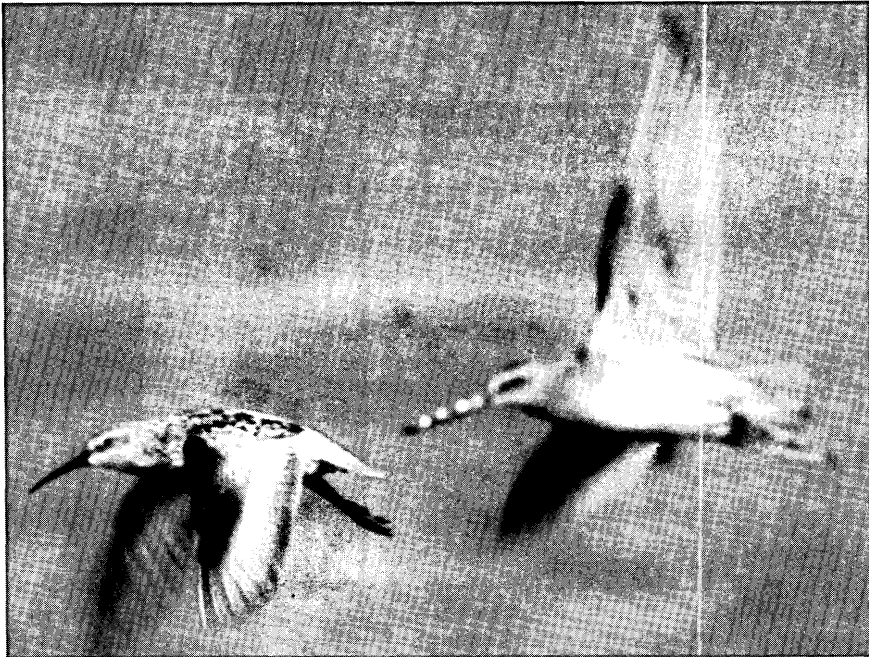
There are records of Curlew Sandpipers from almost every state and province in North America, but most are from the Atlantic Coast (Nova Scotia to Florida), especially at coastal sites in North Carolina, Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Massachusetts. Smaller numbers occur along the Pacific Coast (Alaska to California) and on the Gulf Coasts of Louisiana and Texas. Curlew Sandpipers are casual inland and in the West Indies (Raffaele 1998). There are also records from Central America and South America including Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru and Argentina (Graves and Pleuge 1978, AOU 1998).

Curlew Sandpipers breed along the northern coasts of Siberia, from the Taimyr Peninsula in central Siberia to the Kolyma River delta in northeastern Siberia and winter close to or below the equator in a broad arc from West Africa to Australia and New Zealand. Very occasionally a few individuals make the short hop across the Bering Straits and breed on the north slope of Alaska, notably the Point Barrow area (Kessel and Gibson 1978). Given the eastern breeding distribution, it is striking that Atlantic Coast records outnumber those from the Pacific Coast by seventeen to one (Mlodinow and O'Brien 1996).

The species has a long history in New York State which has been reviewed by Eaton (1910), Griscom (1923), Cruickshank (1942), Bull (1964, 1974) and most recently by Cooper (1998). In his "*Birds of North America*" (1840), Audubon mentions collecting three examples of the "Cape Sandpiper or Pigmy Curlew", two of which were shot at Great Egg Harbour in New Jersey, in the spring of 1829, the other on Long Island ("near Sandy Hook" - perhaps meaning Breezy Point or Far Rockaway?). He writes: "No other birds were near them, and I approached them without much difficulty. They were wading along the shores up to the knees, picking up floating garbage and sand-worms. In their stomachs I found fragments of minute shells, slender red worms, and bits of marine plants. The one killed on Long Island was a fine male in full plumage, and from it I made the figure that has been engraved in the plate." Giraud (1844) refers to nine or ten specimens discovered for sale in the New York City's Fulton Market and presumably procured on Long Island or neighboring New Jersey.

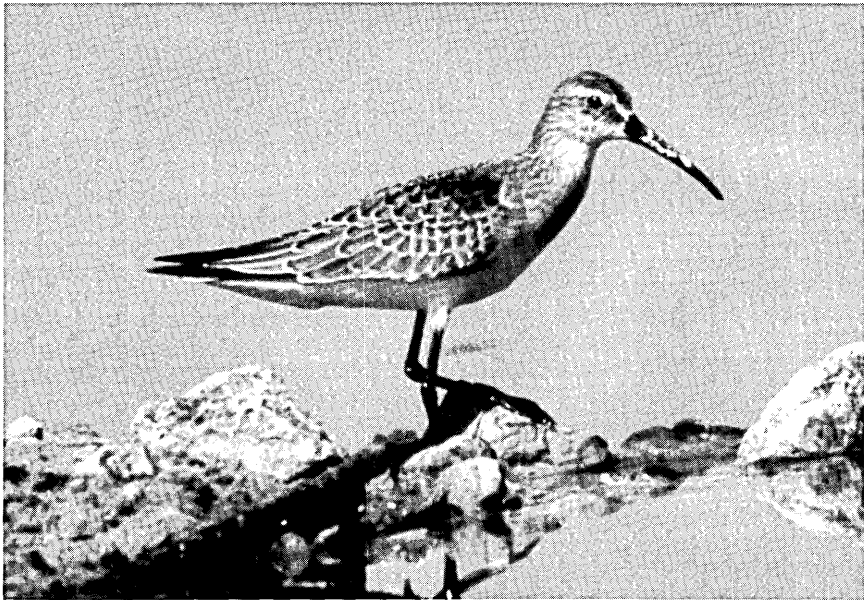
from time to time. For example, between 1937 and 1941, the salt marshes and ephemeral pools of the Jones Beach strip (West End to Cedar Beach) on Long Island proved particularly reliable, but from 1947 onwards this preference switched to the extensive intertidal mudflats and brackish pools of Jamaica Bay (Bull 1964). Since then, Jamaica Bay, especially the artificial ponds of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, has dominated the record books accounting for almost 45% of sightings in the state.

As shown in Figure 1, most Curlew Sandpiper records occur during the peaks of spring and fall migration. As is typical for most arctic-nesting shorebirds, spring passage (phase I, first week of May to first week of June) is relatively compressed compared to fall migration, as birds hurry northwards to secure breeding territories on the newly thawed tundra. Records from midsummer (late June to mid-July) represent early fall migrants or possibly nonbreeding individuals that spend the summer in our area, as is the case with Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*). Fall migration (phase II and III) begins in early July with a prominent push of southbound adults (phase II), but shows an interesting bimodal distribution with a second wave of adults arriving in late



An adult Curlew Sandpiper (leading bird) in flight with a dowitcher. Although the diagnostic white rump is difficult to see from this angle, the slender, decurved bill, dark-centered mantle feathers, prominent supercilium, reddish breast, and obvious wing bar indicate a Curlew Sandpiper in molt from alternate to basic plumage. Photographed in New York by Tom H. Davis/VIREO

August through to the second week of October (phase III). The first wave parallels migration through southern Europe (similar latitude to New York) in which the adults arrive in mid to late July building to a peak in August (Wilson et al. 1980). Although one might assume that phase III reflects the arrival of juveniles, as observed for example with Semipalmated Sandpipers, this is not the case. There are only two records of juveniles for New York State, both from Jamaica Bay NWR, one on 11 Sep 1979 and the other from 25 Sep-1 Oct 1985 (*American Birds* 40: 89, *Kingbird* 30:62, 36: 62). A similar phenomenon is observed in New Jersey, Massachusetts and Delaware, with only one or two documented records of juveniles in each state (Hanson 1999, Veit and Petersen 1993, B. Peterjohn and C. Campbell pers. comm.). In sharp contrast, juveniles account for about 45% of all California records. It seems unlikely that identification difficulties alone are responsible for this remarkable bias and there is no evidence that juveniles exploit a different habitat from adults. As described above, juveniles are relatively distinctive and are less likely to be mistaken for Dunlin than are basic-plumaged adults, which are recorded with greater regularity. The significance of the second wave of adults is unclear and will be discussed below in reference to the possible Asiatic origins of some birds.



Juvenile Curlew Sandpipers closely resemble Dunlin but have longer legs and a more elongated appearance. At close range, the anchor-like markings of the scapulars eliminates Juvenile Dunlin, which have solid centers. Photographed by H. & J. Eriksen/VIREO

Lastly, there are a handful of records from late fall and midwinter, including a specimen collected by Fuyentes on Fisher's Island, Suffolk Co., 19 Dec 1923 (AMNH 752387, Bull, 1974) and sight records from Jones Beach-Oak Island, 28 Jan 1940 (Cruickshank, 1942) and Jamaica Bay, 23-27 Jan 1955 (Bull, 1974). Winter records become more common in the southern United States, especially in Florida, and again mimic the pattern of occurrence in Europe.

As illustrated by Figure 1B, annual occurrence is subject to variation, with alternating periods of regularity and scarcity. The 'boom' periods 1979-85 (31 records) and 1990-92 (12 records) are notable in this respect. This periodicity is reminiscent of the three to four year cycles observed for migrants passing through northwestern Europe and for wintering birds in Africa, regular fluctuations that are attributed to the rise and fall of lemming populations on the breeding grounds. In poor lemming years, Arctic Foxes and other predators such as jaegers and Snowy Owls turn to the eggs and young of shorebirds as a food source resulting in fewer fledglings (Underhill 1987, 1989). How the cycles in New York correlate with those in Africa and Asia remains to be determined. The low numbers recorded in New York during the 1990's are mirrored in neighboring states (Hanson 1999, P. Lehman and S. Finnegan, pers. comm.), and it is unclear whether this reflects a general decline or the low point of a particular cycle. Only time will tell!

There are only three, or possibly four, accepted records for Curlew Sandpiper away from coastal New York (defined as Long Island, Staten Island and Fisher's Island). The first was an adult studied for five to seven minutes by Daniel R. Gray III, Robert Rybsynski and John Confer on a partly drained fish pond at the Morehouse Fish Hatchery in Seneca Falls, Seneca Co., 15 May 1982 (NYSARC 17A/B-82). Curiously, given the date, the bird was identified as a basic-plumaged adult, based on its light gray neck and gray wash to the faintly streaked breast. As mentioned above, adults molt into alternate plumage in March and April prior to northward migration from the wintering grounds. The appearance of a basic-plumaged adult in mid-May is unprecedented in North America. Three days later, Walter E. Benning located another adult at the same location. This bird was more confiding, allowing Benning to examine the plumage carefully. His description is consistent with an adult in pre-alternate molt with a light reddish brown color to the neck and breast (KB 32: 195, NYSARC 18A-82). Unfortunately, no photographs were taken of either sighting. Given the strange date for a basic-plumaged adult and the limited probability that two individuals should occur at this small site, it seems possible that in fact only one bird was involved. Perhaps the broad white edges to the newly acquired head and breast feathers gave the first set of observers the slightly misleading impression of a gray wash, an effect that can be seen in video footage of Curlew Sandpipers photographed in Asia during April (Butler 1995). Another alternative is that the first individual was in first alternate plumage, which

resembles adult basic. This plumage has been observed in North America, although relatively rarely. There is a well-documented record of this age from Mountain View, California, 1-5 May 1996 (CBRC 1996-081; *Western Birds* 30: 63) and basic-plumaged birds presumed to be in their second calendar year have been observed in Delaware, at Bombay Hook NWR, 11 May 1991 and Little Creek WMA during June, 1992 (B. Peterjohn pers. comm.) and Chicago, Illinois, 22 May 1978 (S. Mlodinow pers. comm.) Studies in Mauritania and South Africa indicate that the majority of first year birds remain on the winter grounds and do not attain full alternate plumage. Although such birds generally remain south of the equator, substantial numbers of first years (16,000 in 1988) can be found on the Banc d'Arguin (at 19°20'-20° 30'N) in June (Van Dijk et al. 1990), suggesting that a few subadults might summer at similar latitudes in the US.

Eight years after the sightings at Seneca Falls, an alternate-plumaged adult was discovered by Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter at Iroquois NWR, Genesee Co., 30-31 July 1990 (KB 48(4): 333, NYSARC 1990-16-A/D). After yet another eight year hiatus, a molting adult was found by Gerard Phillips at Montezuma NWR on 12 Aug 1998 (KB 48(4): 333, NYSARC review in progress). These records, though few, clearly indicate that this species could occur in suitable habitat anywhere in the state, especially during fall migration.

WHERE DO THESE BIRDS COME FROM ?

The pattern of North American records and the normal migration routes across Eurasia and Africa suggest that Curlew Sandpipers reach New York via two main routes as illustrated in Figure 2. Most Curlew Sandpipers probably cross the Atlantic Ocean from southern Europe or western Africa reaching South America, rather than North America as might be imagined, and then migrate northwards into North America the following spring (Path 1-3). Others may originate in the Russian far east, crossing the Bering Sea to Alaska during the fall and then crossing the North American interior to the eastern seaboard (Path 4). Lastly, it has been suggested that Curlew Sandpipers follow a polar route leaving the breeding grounds in central Siberia and traveling 'over the top' to north-eastern North America via Greenland (Path 5). There seems little evidence to support this latter possibility

(Path 1-3) **Trans-Atlantic route:** Curlew Sandpipers are powerful migrants that undertake long continuous flights as part of their normal migration strategies. Banding studies have shown that southbound adults and juveniles from the western part of the breeding range follow a long arc through southern Scandinavia and western Europe and then pass down the Atlantic Coast to West Africa, where large numbers spend the winter (Elliott et al. 1976; Wilson et al. 1980; Wymenga et al. 1990). Some 436,000 Curlew Sandpipers use the eastern

Atlantic flyway, with as many as 170,000 birds staging on the Banc d'Arguin in Mauritania before moving farther south along the West African coast (Van Dijk et al. 1990; Wymenga et al. 1990). Occasionally, easterly winds force southbound migrants to deviate from the normal migration routes resulting in periodic influxes into northwestern Europe. In 1969, for example a persistent low pressure system over northern Europe coincided with the main departure of juveniles from the breeding grounds, forcing several thousand juveniles into the British Isles, the Netherlands and northern Germany (Stanley and Minton 1972). As suggested by Eisenmann (1960), southbound migrants may be caught in cyclonic storms - or perhaps the northeast trade winds, a continuous band of winds originating off the coast of northwest Africa near the Canary Islands - and rapidly transported across the Atlantic. The distance between Africa and South America is on the order of 1500-2800 miles depending on launch point. Calculations based on body fat measurements suggest that fully refueled birds might be capable of continuous flights of 1800-3000 miles (Stanley and Minton 1972). Consistent with this proposal, a bird banded in Belgium was recovered fourteen days later in Barbados (Raffaele et al. 1998). These immense journeys are probably part of the normal migration capability of the species. For example in the spring, a significant fraction of the birds wintering in West Africa are thought to return to the Siberian breeding grounds by directly crossing the Sahara Desert and Mediterranean Sea, possibly in a single flight that takes them from coastal Africa to the Black Sea (Wymenga et al. 1990).

The paucity of juveniles in the fall anywhere along the East Coast supports the notion that most birds do not make landfall here but instead cross the Atlantic farther south at its narrowest point (a crossing of less than 1800 miles), reaching the coasts of Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana and Brazil in northeastern South America. Birds probably winter in the tropics or continue south to richer feeding grounds in southern Brazil and Argentina. During the following spring, displaced adults (or juveniles that have spent 18 months or so in South America before reaching adulthood) may move northwards into North America in the company of Nearctic species such as Semipalmated Sandpiper (*C. pusilla*) and Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*). This would account for the relatively strong showing of Curlew Sandpipers in New York during the spring (approximately 30% of records are from May). Presumably the majority of first year birds remain on the wintering grounds, as is the case in Africa and Australasia. A similar mechanism may also explain the frequent occurrence of Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) in eastern North America during the spring. Extensive banding studies have shown that Ruffs from central and eastern Siberia follow a similar great circle route across the entire Eurasian landmass to staging grounds in western Europe before proceeding to Sub-Saharan Africa. Again, simple extension of this route would place fall migrants in South America. Ruff and Curlew Sandpiper differ, however, in that the former species also occurs regu-

larly at inland localities within the state and continent as a whole (Robben 1965).

(Path 4) **Trans-Bering route:** An impressive variety of Asiatic shorebirds have been recorded in eastern North America. In New York, for example, there are two records for Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*C. acuminata*)¹ and four records of Red-necked Stint (*C. ruficollis*), both of which are extremely rare in Europe and do not routinely winter in western and southern Africa. It seems most likely that these and other Eurasian shorebirds such as Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Limicola falcinellus*) and Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*) originate in eastern Siberia, having migrated eastwards across the Bering Straits and then across the North American continent (Mlodinow 1999, 2000). In California, Oregon and Washington, the predominance of fall records for Curlew Sandpiper is consistent with an eastern movement out of Siberia, although it is possible some may have bred in northern Alaska. Birds seen in New York from July onwards may therefore have come directly from Siberia via Alaska.

The paucity of juvenile Curlew Sandpipers during fall migration presents an interesting paradox. In general, juveniles tend to be over-represented in long-distance vagrants presumably due to migrational inexperience. As with many long-distance migrants, adult Curlew Sandpipers leave the high arctic breeding grounds several weeks ahead of their offspring and perhaps this early departure coincides with weather conditions that are more compatible with vagrants reaching the East Coast of North America? Alternatively, adults may be more likely to perform long-haul flights that transport them rapidly across the continent while juveniles prefer to pause in Alaska or British Columbia where they become caught up with the millions of shorebirds that follow the eastern Pacific flyway. Differences in the migration routes of juvenile and adult shorebirds are not unprecedented. Most juvenile American Golden-Plovers (*Pluvialis dominica*) for example, follow a more central flight path down the Mississippi River flyway, whereas adults gather in the northeast before making a long oceanic flight directly to South America (Byrkjedal and Thompson 1998). Similar age related mechanisms may be at work with vagrant Curlew Sandpipers.

Discovery of banded (or otherwise marked) Curlew Sandpipers on the East Coast could would doubtless shed useful light on this interesting question, and it is always a good idea to check shorebirds for bands or color flags. Unfortunately, the Curlew Sandpiper is monophyletic species and thus has no recognized subspecies that might provide clues to origins (Holmes and Pitelka

¹ To date, NYSARC has accepted only one record of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, an adult on the East Pond at the Jamaica Bay NWR , 18-24 Jul 1981 (KB 31:198-201). A second adult was found at the same location by Tom Davis and others on 16 Jul 1983, almost exactly two years later (KB 33:298). The congruence of date, place and the age suggested to the observers that these two sightings involved the same returning individual. Perhaps for this reason, insufficient details of the 1983 bird were submitted to NYSARC and the report could not be accepted into the permanent record.

1964; Engelmoer and Roselaar 1998). The lack of multiple subspecies has been attributed to the relatively small and essentially continuous breeding range, as well as to low breeding site fidelity (Underhill et al. 1993; Engelmoer and Roselaar 1998). Presumably, the Curlew Sandpipers seen on the East Coast in spring attempt to breed somewhere in the Canadian Arctic although again the lack of juveniles suggests they are generally unsuccessful. For any vagrant shorebird, finding a mate on the expanses of the tundra must present quite a challenge!

(Path 5) **Trans-polar route:** Both Nisbet (1959) and Hall (1960) suggested that Curlew Sandpipers reach the East Coast following a more northerly (over the pole) route. Evidence for this proposal is limited and this is unlikely to represent a major source of birds occurring on the East Coast. First of all, there are relatively few records from Iceland, an average of approximately two records per year, with twice as many in fall than in spring (G. Pétursson pers. comm.). Secondly, juveniles are much more frequent in Iceland than in eastern North America, a pattern that is also mirrored in western Scotland (A. Hogg *vide* C. Campbell). It is possible that some individuals continue westward from Iceland to North America and move down the Atlantic coast, perhaps contributing to the second wave of New York fall records. There is a single published record for Greenland, an adult in Jørgen Brønlund Fjord, Peary Land, North Greenland on 12 June 1966 (G. Pétursson and K. Thorup pers. comm.). Whether the lack of records reflects true scarcity or a shortage of observers is open to debate.

FINDING CURLEW SANDPIPERS IN NEW YORK

Other than by phoning the rare bird alerts during migration, your best chance of seeing a Curlew Sandpiper is to search carefully through shorebird flocks feeding on intertidal mudflats or in brackish pools. The East and West ponds of Jamaica Bay NWR remain the state's hotspot, although brackish coastal ponds, such as Mecox Bay in the Hamptons, if drained at the appropriate time of year, are worth searching. Alternatively, the extensive mudflats and tidal marshes of Shinnecock Bay (viewed from along Dune Road from Cupsogue County Park eastwards) provide opportunities to scan through good numbers of shorebirds and have produced multiple records of this species in the past two decades. It is unclear why Jamaica Bay dominates the list of recent sightings so dramatically, but this may reflect ease of access by a great number of observers, the abundance of suitable intertidal wet mud habitat surrounding the refuge or a few individuals returning to the same locality in successive years. Curlew Sandpipers roost communally with other calidrids and many Jamaica Bay NWR records come from the 'Raunt', the partly submerged remains of some fishermen's huts near the center of the East Pond, that is used as a high tide roost by a variety of species.

With their relatively long legs, Curlew Sandpipers are adapted for feeding in shallow water, often wading belly deep and probing the mud for small invertebrates (Lifjeld 1984). During migration and on the wintering grounds, Curlew Sandpipers feed extensively on polychaete worms, fly larvae, snails and plant materials, consuming smaller amounts of crustaceans (ostracods and amphipods). Studies in South Africa indicate that Curlew Sandpiper and Black-bellied Plover feed on the same polychaete worms, although the two species use different techniques and prefer different substrates (Kalejta and Hocky 1994). Typically, the prey is captured using a series of closely spaced probes, known as 'stitching', made as the bird walks forward but occasionally while standing still. Often the birds wade belly deep and partially submerge their heads. Because of this tactile feeding method, Curlew Sandpipers prefer soft, wet, mud with few plant roots and a high prey density (Kalejta and Hocky 1994).

Although Semipalmated and Western (*C. mauri*) sandpipers routinely wade in shallow water, special attention should be given to birds feeding in deeper water, although of course this behavior is also typical for Stilt Sandpipers. Some Curlew Sandpipers may go undetected if they associate with large flocks of Dunlins in late September onwards. Few observers have the patience to comb through distant flocks of hundred or sometimes thousands of Dunlins. However, as Colin Campbell points out (pers. comm.) Curlew Sandpipers can be relatively easy to spot because their longer legs makes the 'rear-end' tilt up more showing the white ventral area to advantage even from a distance. It should also be noted that Curlew Sandpipers are not only found with their smaller relatives. The adult that graced Iroquois NWR in 1990, associated with Stilt Sandpipers and Lesser Yellowlegs (W. D'Anna pers. comm.), two longer-legged species with a similar tendency to wade in relatively deep water.

In conclusion, Curlew Sandpipers present an exciting possibility for shorebird watchers anywhere in New York State. Although records go back for more than 160 years, many fascinating questions remain unanswered. Why are there so few juveniles on the East Coast? Are the cycles of 'boom' and 'bust' years somehow related to the abundance of lemmings in central Siberia? Do the poor numbers reported during 1990's in New York and along the East Coast in general, reflect a true decline or just another low cycle?

Curlew Sandpiper is one of the few Eurasian shorebirds that occurs on the East Coast with any regularity during the spring and provides a true incentive for those who habitually scan shorebird flocks throughout the year.

Sightings of Curlew Sandpiper should be documented in detail, and the record submitted to NYSARC (if away from traditional locations of Long Island) as well as to the Regional editors of "*The Kingbird*" and "*North American Birds*". As with any rare bird, special effort should be made to obtain photographs or videotape. Even a simple 'snap', with a regular camera held to the eyepiece of telescope is valuable and can produce quite respectable results. Information on

the age and molt status is extremely valuable to researchers and should be included in any report. With more detailed information of this sort, we may eventually unravel the mysterious origins of these beautiful and elusive long-distance travelers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Willie D'Anna, Colin Campbell, Mike Cooper, Shawneen Finnegan, Andy Guthrie, Jennifer Hanson, Mary Alice Koeneke, Jim Lowe, Alf Tore Mjøs, Bruce Peterjohn, Gunnlaugur Pétursson, Gerard Phillips, and Kasper Thorup provided many insightful discussions or help in tracking down records. The manuscript was greatly improved by the ornithological wisdom and editorial skills of Paul Lehman, Steven Mlodinow and Don Roberson. Sincere thanks to you all.

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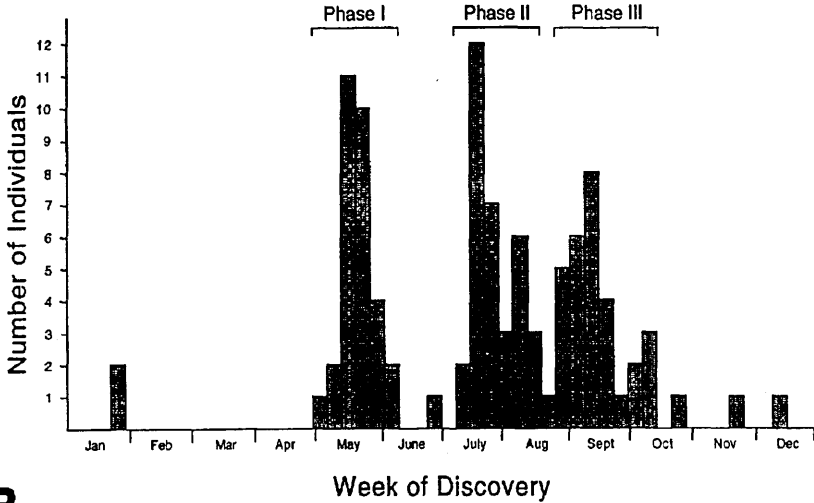
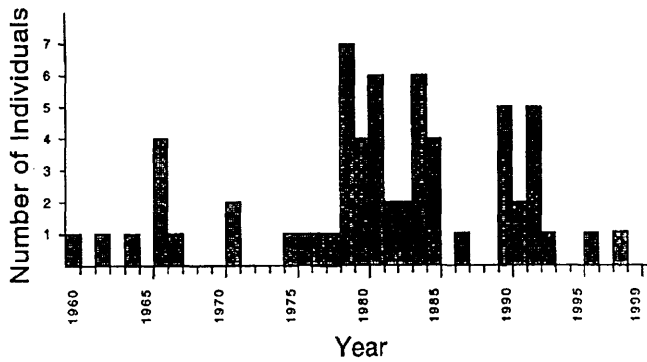
A.**B.**

Figure 1. Occurrence of Curlew Sandpiper in New York. (A) Initial dates of discovery plotted in seven-day periods to eliminate the effects of weekend bias. Data compiled from all available records of known date (period 1883-1999) (B) Number of separate individuals recorded in the state for each year between 1960 and 1999.

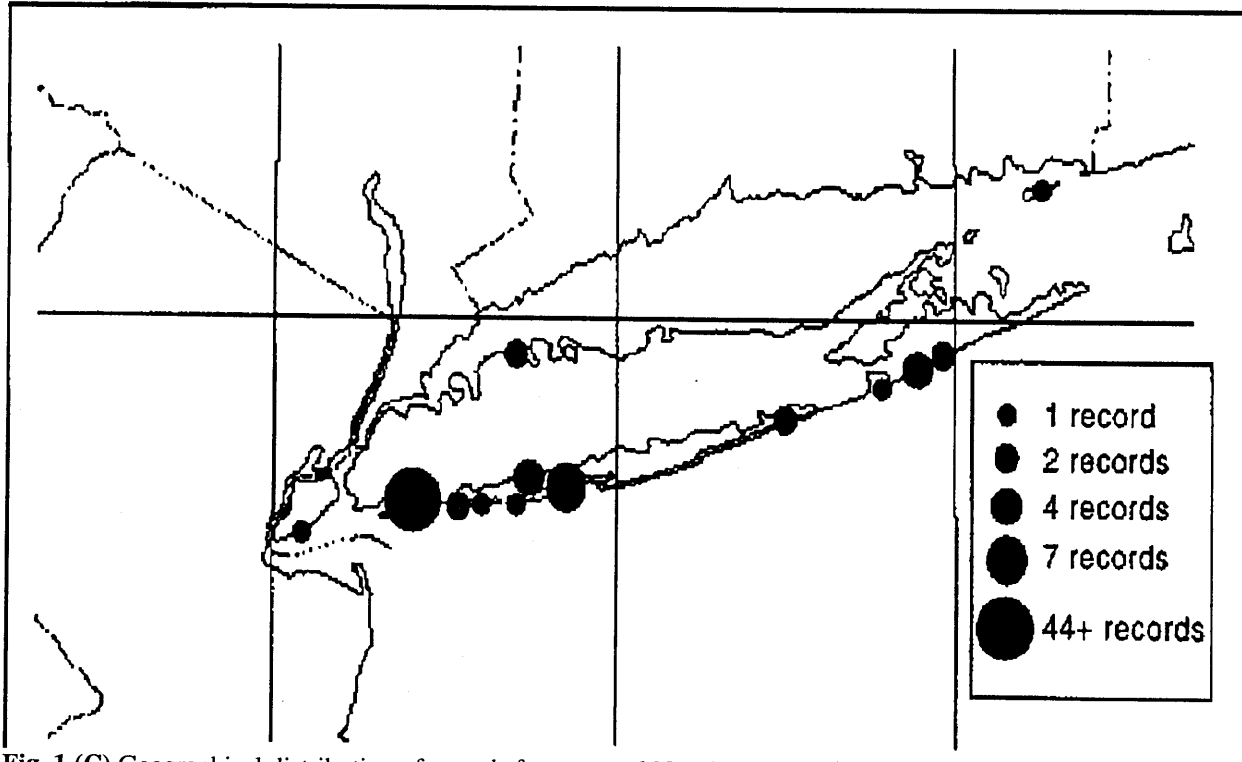


Fig. 1 (C) Geographical distribution of records from coastal New York. The size of the filled circle reflects the number of individuals recorded. In some case, the circle represents a general area (e.g. the Jones Beach to Oak Beach strip).

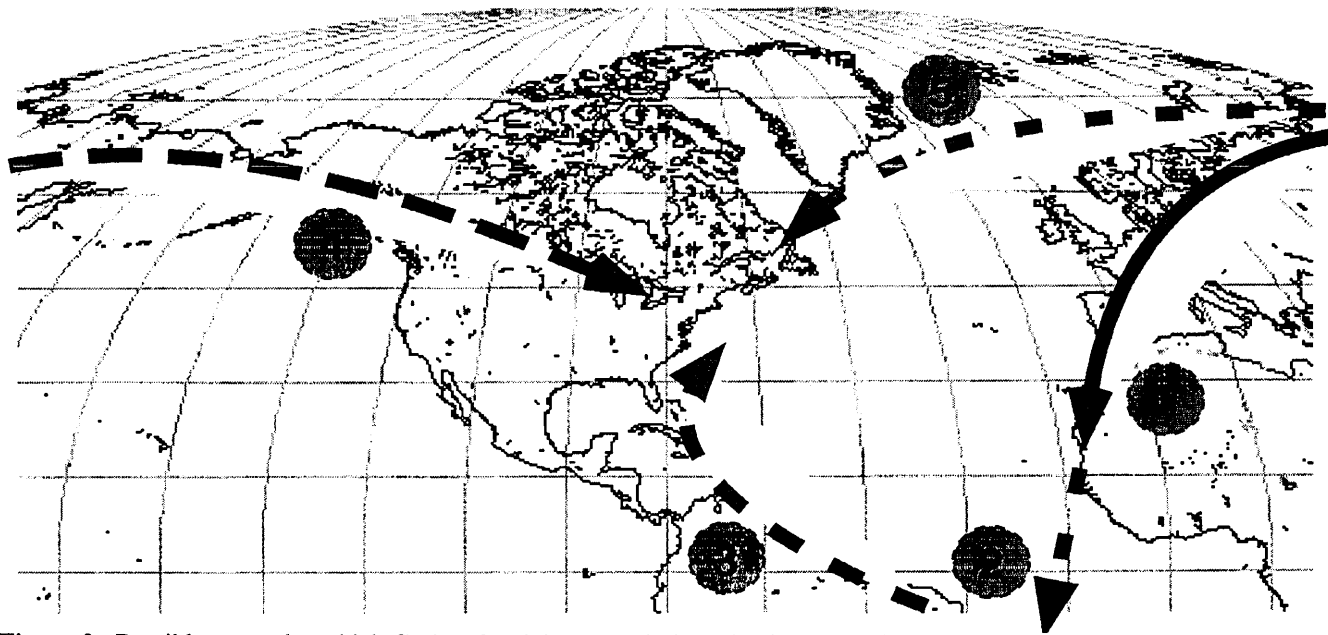


Figure 2. Possible routes by which Curlew Sandpipers reach the Atlantic Coast of North America and New York State. (1) Birds from the western part of the breeding range pass through western Europe to reach wintering grounds in West Africa. (2) Some birds may be carried rapidly across the Atlantic by the relatively constant northeast trade winds reaching the Caribbean or coast of South America, where they may overwinter or resume their southward migration. (3) After wintering in South America, adults would move northwards with other Nearctic shorebirds following traditional shorebird flyways. (4) A 45-90 degree navigational error would cause adults and juveniles to migrate across the Bering Sea to Alaska and eastern North America rather than to the Middle East, Indian subcontinent and southeast Asia. (5) Lastly, some birds may overshoot Europe reaching Greenland and northeastern North America by a more direct route. The paucity of juveniles in the east, however, suggests this route makes a minor contribution to the total.

REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 1998

The New York State Avian Records Committee (hereafter NYSARC or the Committee) has reviewed a total of one hundred and twenty-six reports involving claims of forty-eight species or reviewable subspecies. These included one hundred and eleven reports from 1998, eight second-round reports from 1997, six reports from 1996 and one from 1995. Of these reports, nineteen reports will be retained for a second, or in some cases third, round of review and the outcomes will be announced at a future date. A consensus (to accept or not accept) was reached for one hundred and seven reports, of which ninety-two (86% of the total) were accepted. Thus only fifteen submissions were not accepted, in all cases because of insufficient documentation or because the descriptions were inconsistent with known identification criteria for the species claimed. This high degree of acceptance provides a fine testament to the quality of many of the submissions the committee received. Furthermore, the proportion of acceptances compares very favorably with other states or provinces.

Unfortunately, only sixteen sightings (i.e. individual birds) received multiple reports. A much larger number of submissions mentioned the presence of co-observers who could potentially validate the description. It is a common misconception that only the initial discoverer of a bird may submit a report. In actuality, all observers of a rarity (even if the bird is seen by hundreds of people) should submit written descriptions or other forms of documentation (e.g. photos, video or sketches) for inclusion in the official record. A good rule of thumb is to never assume that others will submit anything to the Committee! Likewise, observers cannot rely on Regional editors or local records committees to forward reports to NYSARC. Observers should also not worry about overwhelming the Committee. In general it is actually much easier to review multiple independent reports as these can provide a more compelling and detailed account of the sighting.

The Committee reviewed reports from 30 out of the 61 counties in New York State and these were scattered evenly across the state. In terms of submissions from individual counties, Monroe County led the way with a total of 34 separate reports, followed by Suffolk County (16 reports) and Genesee County (10 reports). Well recognized 'hot-spots' such as the Niagara River, Irondequoit Bay, Fire Island and Jamaica Bay NWR figured strongly in the reports but many also involved private yards or less frequently visited spots. All records are sight records unless otherwise indicated. For accepted reports, the names of observers submitting documentation are given in parenthesis and the names of all contributors are listed in full at the end of the report. Occasionally, the names of the

original finders or co-observers (when known) are given in the narrative. The Committee does not formally decide the age, sex or subspecies of a given bird. However, Committee members often remark on age, sex or subspecies issues when reviewing a record and this may be incorporated into the record as summarized in the annual report.

Since the last annual report, the Committee has undergone several important changes in membership and procedures (see KB 49: 199). The Committee was expanded from five to seven voting members with the addition of Kevin McGowan of Ithaca and Angus Wilson of New York City. The voting guidelines have been modified to incorporate the increased membership (McGowan and Burke, 2000). After more than a decade at the helm, Bob Andrie stepped down as NYSARC chair and was replaced by Angus Wilson. Charles Smith's term expired at the end of 1999 and was replaced by Willie D'Anna of Niagara Falls, NY. We thank Dr. Smith for his service to the Committee.

Willie D'Anna is a leading figure in the birding community of Region 1 and has been a regular contributor to NYSARC. Willie is well-known throughout the state, and is the current compiler of *The Kingbird* Seasonal Highlights. While this report was in preparation, Ken Able's term on the Committee expired. Ken is a long-standing member of the Committee and we will miss his experience and depth of knowledge. Dr. Able is replaced by Gerard Phillips of Cato, NY. For the past three seasons, Gerard has been the official hawkwatcher at Derby Hill and is well-known in local birding circles. Lastly, after six years of dedicated service, Jim Lowe has decided to step down as Secretary and was replaced by Jeanne Skelly of Churchville, NY. We very much appreciate Jim's sterling service to the Committee over the years and wish him well.

Among the highlights of 1998, are three species new to the New York State Checklist: Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Limicola falcinellus*), Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) and Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*). With these inclusions, the state list stands at 454 species. Other notable highlights include the second occurrences of Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*) and Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*), and the first Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) since 1975. The list of species to be reviewed by NYSARC is posted on the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs World Wide Web Site:

<http://birds.cornell.edu/fnysbc/NYSARCHome.htm>

This site also includes information about the composition and functioning of the Committee as well as an extensive photo gallery of rarities observed in New York State including several records described in this report. NYSARC solicits and encourages observers to submit documentation for all species on the review list, as well as any species unrecorded in New York. Questions regarding this list or the review of rare or uncommon forms or subspecies should be directed to Committee Chair at the address given below.

Written documentation supported where possible by photographs, video, field sketches or audio recordings should be sent to: Jeanne Skelly, Secretary for NYSARC, 420 Chili Scottsville Road, Churchville, NY 14428.

1998 ACCEPTED REPORTS

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

1998-58-A, One in first-basic plumage on the Tomhannock Reservoir, Towns of Schaghticoke and Pittstown, Rensselaer Co., on 17 Oct 1998 (Walter Ellison, Nancy Martin). This Pacific Loon came within 200 meters of the observers Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, allowing critical examination of the head markings, including a narrow dark line between chin and throat. This so-called "chin strap" is diagnostic, a conclusion supported by the absence of a white flank patch. A detailed review of Pacific Loon and Arctic Loon identification can be found in Birch and Lee (1997).

Pacific/Arctic Loon (*Gavia pacifica/arctica*)

1998-60-A, One adult in basic plumage on ocean off Dune Road west of the Shinnecock Inlet, Suffolk Co., on 13 Dec 1998 (Angus C. Wilson). Seen in the late afternoon swimming a short distance offshore alongside a Red-throated Loon (*G. stellata*). The observers Angus Wilson and Andrew Guthrie noted the slightly larger size, sharp contrast between the dark upperparts and white underparts, lack of patterning on lower neck, well-defined white auricular patch and smoothly rounded crown. Separation of Pacific and Arctic Loons can be extremely challenging and many birds are best left undifferentiated. In the fading light, the presence or absence of a narrow dark chinstrap could not be safely determined preventing identification to species. The lack of white flank patch, however, was suggestive of Pacific Loon.

Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*)

1998-61-A, One subadult (1st or possibly 2nd year) on Lake Champlain, between Isle La Motte and Point au Fer, Town of Champlain, Clinton Co., on 19 Oct 1998 (William Kreuger); 1998-74-A, One on Lake Ontario, Four Mile Creek SP, Town of Porter, Niagara Co., on 27 Dec 1998 (Willie D'Anna). For much of the year, Northern Gannet is a common species along the Atlantic Coast of New York and is frequently seen within Long Island Sound. Occasionally individuals wander along the St Lawrence River and into the Great Lakes, particularly Lake Ontario. The immature that wandered into Lake Champlain is interesting and provides evidence that this species will travel moderate distances overland.

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

1998-25-A/B, One on the Cayuga Pool, Iroquois NWR, Genesee Co., from 1 to 18 Apr 1998 (William W. Watson, Robert Spahn); 1998-39-A, One off Rt. 17 west of Owego, Tioga Co., on 25 May 1998 (Dave Russell); 1998-41-A/B, One on Mud Lake, Town of Depeyster, St. Lawrence Co., on 31 May 1998 (Nick Leone, Greg Jackson). Any large white pelican discovered in New York needs to be critically examined, particularly the pattern of black on the flight feathers, to make a correct species identification. There are six species of large white pelicans with varying degrees of black on the primaries and secondaries and all should be kept in mind when encountering a white pelican in New York. At least one of these species, the Pink-backed Pelican (*P. rufescens*), has occurred in Maryland as a zoo escape (Southworth and Southworth 1992) and other escapes are possible. Harrison (1983) provides good criteria for separating the white pelicans.

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

1998-2-A/B/C, One immature, Irondequoit Bay, Monroe Co., on 24-26 Jan 1998 and on 7 Feb 1998 (Donna Traver, Don Traver, Brett M. Ewald, Robert Spahn, Bob Marcotte); 1998-9-A, One immature on Lake Ontario west of Charlotte Pier in Rochester, Monroe Co., on 22 Feb 1998 (Willie D'Anna); 1998-66-A/B, An adult and first-winter in Oswego Harbor, Oswego Co., on 25 Nov to 5 Dec 1998 (Gerard Phillips, Dorothy Crumb). These records received near unanimous approval on the basis of detailed descriptions, in some case with direct comparison to Double-crested Cormorant (*P. auritus*). Bob Marcotte's report included a helpful sketch of the immature at Irondequoit Bay. Great Cormorant is a common wintering species in coastal New York (Westchester, Richmond, New York, Kings, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk counties) and has become more frequent along the Hudson River. The species is now annual but rare along the shore of Lake Ontario. Oswego Harbor is a regularly favored spot. Given this steady change in status, NYSARC no longer requires reports of Great Cormorant from upstate New York, although detailed reports should still be submitted to Regional records committees. (NYSARC 2000)

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)

1998-30-A/B, One on Round Pond, Monroe Co., on 2-5 May 1998 (Dominic Sherony, Robert Spahn); 1998-31-A, One from Island Cottage Road, Monroe Co., on 3 Jun 1998 (Kevin Griffith). It is possible that all three reports pertain to the same individual. A generally coastal species, Tricolored Herons are a common summer visitor to Long Island, but very rare in upstate New York.

Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*)

1998-48-A/B, A dark morph adult seen on two occasions flying over the East Pond at Jamaica Bay NWR, Queens Co., on 5 Sep 1998 (Julian Hough, Paul

Fusco). Seen briefly by two birders visiting from Connecticut searching for the Broad-billed Sandpiper, this is the second record for the state. Julian Hough supplemented his written description with a detailed sketch. The prior record, another dark morph adult, was seen intermittently at Jamaica Bay NWR, Queens Co., between 18 and 26 May 1991. A characteristic species of southern Florida and the Gulf of Mexico, Reddish Egrets are very rare along the Atlantic seaboard north of the Carolinas. Interestingly, a Reddish Egret was observed at Edwin Forsythe NWR Brigantine in NJ the week before, and is possibly the same wandering individual.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

1998-29-A, One flying over the Derby Hill Hawkwatch, Town of Mexico, Oswego Co., on 27 Apr 1998 (Gerard Phillips). During the last decade or more, Black Vulture has undergone a major range expansion, particularly in southern parts of the state along the Hudson River Valley. Because of this sustained change in status, NYSARC no longer requires documentation for this species. The species remains very rare in western New York, however, and full documentation should be submitted to appropriate local records committees.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

1998-10-A, One at Point Au Roche, Clinton Co., on 25 Mar 1998 (David Hoag); 1998-62-A/B, One adult (blue morph) on Lake Champlain off Stafford Road near Point Au Roche, Clinton Co., on 2 Nov 1998 (Bill Krueger, Gary Worthington); 1998-68-A, One adult (white morph) on Savannah Mucklands, Cayuga Co., on 15 Dec 1998 (Gerard Phillips). During the last two decades, reports of this primarily western species have increased dramatically in eastern North America (Ryder and Alisauskas 1995). The first record for NY was in Mar 1983 (Treacy, 1983) and since then the species has become almost annual. Readily separable from Snow Goose with good views, the primary identification challenge is that of Ross's x Snow Goose hybrids. We urge that potential Ross's Geese be carefully documented with an emphasis on bill and head characteristics which are needed to eliminate the possibility of hybrids (Trauger et al., 1971, Roberson, 1993).

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis hutchinsii*)

1998-33-A, Two on Washington Island, Clayton, Jefferson Co., on 12 Nov 1998 (Nick Leone) Photographs supplemented with written notes. Various known as Hutchins's or Richardson's Goose, the northern subspecies *B. c. hutchinsii* has at times been treated as a distinct species known as Tundra Goose (Aldrich, 1946). The committee is interested in receiving carefully documented reports of this taxon and other small Canada Geese so that we can more accurately ascertain the frequency of occurrence in NY.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

1998-64-A, One adult male on Saratoga Lake, Saratoga Co., on 14 Nov 1998 (Walter G. Ellison, Nancy L. Martin). Description supplemented by a field sketch. The Tufted Duck population has expanded greatly in western Europe, and migrants, probably from Iceland, are beginning to winter in eastern North America. Tufted Duck has become regular but rare winter visitor to NY and now occurs almost annually on Long Island and in the New York City area where it is no longer a NYSARC review species. The species remains significantly rarer in upstate areas, with only a handful of records. Identification of males is relatively straightforward but still requires care. In particular, hybrids between Tufted Duck and another species of *Aythya* are known and should always be considered. Harris et al. (1989) and Madge and Burn (1988) should be consulted for a thorough review of the characteristics of Tufted Duck and its potential pairings with other waterfowl species. For males, close attention must be given to bill-tip pattern, bill-and-head shape, tuft shape and length, overall size and structure, eye color, back and flank color, and wing stripe (Harris et al. 1989). This well-described individual from Saratoga Lake was fully consistent with a pure Tufted Duck and was accepted unanimously.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

1998-50-A, A dark morph juvenile on Great Gull Island, Suffolk Co., on 18 Sep to 4 Oct 1998 (Joe DiCostanzo, Helen Hays, Lisa Neild). This confiding individual was still present at the end of the field season when the researchers returned to the mainland. Records of Swainson's Hawk are becoming increasingly frequent in New York and eastern North America as a whole (Dodge and Nicoletti, 1998; England et al. 1997). Whether the increase in reports is due to a range expansion, increased vigilance (such as more hawkwatches) or improved knowledge on the part of field observers is unclear. Although there are now more than fifty records for NY, this is the first for Long Island. For a detailed account including photographs see DiCostanzo and Hays 1999. A color photograph was reproduced in *North American Birds* 53(1): p120.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

1998-56-A, One dark morph immature off Hoag Road, Rome, Oneida Co., on 11 Oct 1998 (David J. Cesari). Identification of large falcons can be quite problematic (Gantlett and Millington 1992). Males and female falcons can differ substantially in size and there is a broad range of individual variation in coloration. Importantly, many reports fail to consider the possibility of falconry birds (including Gyr Falcon) which occasionally escape and/or are seen while being flown by their owner. Eurasian falcons such as Saker (*F. cherrug*) and Lanner Falcon (*F. biarmicus*), or hybrids of these and other species are popular with fal-

coners and are often used for public displays or bird control at commercial airports. The focus on providing large falcons through captive-breeding programs has resulted in many different combinations, of which field identification would prove to be quite a challenge. Escaped exotics are frequently reported in the Northeast.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyryla martinica*)

1998-55-A, One immature on Irondequoit Bay, City of Rochester, Monroe Co., on 11 Oct 1998 (Jerry Sullivan). There are more than 35 records of this southern species for New York, involving both adults and immatures. All but six or so previous records are from downstate. Although most frequent in April and May, this species can occur in almost any month of year.

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*)

1998-14-A, One on the Lakeshore Marshes, near Wolcott, Wayne Co., on 28 Mar 1998 (Glen Wolford); 1998-27-A, One off Route 18, Somerset, Niagara Co., on 18 Apr 1998 (Willie D'Anna); 1998-63-A, One adult on the Six Mile Creek Wetlands, Town of Schroepel, Oswego County on 14 Nov 1998 (Bill Purcell). Reports of Sandhill Cranes have become increasingly common during the past decade or so, especially from western parts of the state and along the southern shore of Lake Ontario. Because of this sustained increase in occurrence, the species was removed from the NYSARC review list at the end of 1999.

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*)

1998-46-A, One near the mouth of Rush Creek at Woodlawn Beach State Park, Town of Hamburg, Erie Co., on 20 Aug 1998 (William Watson). The inland breeding population of Piping Plover nests on inland beaches from eastern Alberta to the shores of Lake Ontario and is designated as an endangered species by the Federal Government. Because Piping Plovers occur more frequently on Lake Erie than Lake Ontario, it is generally assumed, but not proven, that these records involve birds from the inland rather than coastal population. The most recent breeding record for upstate NY is from 1984.

American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*)

1998-49-A/B/C, One molting into basic plumage on the shore of Lake Champlain near Champlain, Clinton Co., on 14-21 Sep 1998 (William Krueger, Charlie Mitchell, Gary Worthington); 1998-82-A, Two flying over Lake Ontario past the mouth of Braddock Bay, Monroe Co., on 10 Aug 1998 (Mark Romanofsky). A regular wanderer to the state, especially during late summer and early fall, this species is annual in small numbers to coastal NY, especially Long Island where it is not subject to NYSARC review.

Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*)

1998-52-A, One at Oak Beach, Suffolk Co., on 23 Sep 1998 (John Fritz). Long-billed Curlews are very rare visitors to the Atlantic Coast north of North Carolina, with most recent records pertaining to fall migrants. Long-billed Curlews were a regular migrant to Long Island before the middle of the 19th Century, but have since undergone a dramatic decline in the east. This is only the second accepted record for the state since 1938, the first occurring from 4-30 Jul 1975 on the North Line Islands, Nassau Co., only a few miles from the present location.

Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*)

1998-44-A, One on the Klossen Marsh, Tonawanda WMA, Genesee Co., on 9 Aug 1998, (William Watson); 1998-81-A/B, One on Charlotte Beach, City of Rochester, Monroe Co., on 10 Aug 1998, (Katheleen Dalton and Frank Dobson). Although annual in small numbers on Long Island, Marbled Godwit remains rare elsewhere in the state. It is possible these two records refer to the same restless individual. The Charlotte Beach bird was studied for a few minutes before taking flight and heading northwest.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

1998-45-A/B, One adult at Montezuma NWR, Town of Tyre, Seneca Co., on 12 Aug 1998 (Gerard Phillips, Karl David). Although not photographed, the detailed descriptions (supported by an informative sketch by Gerard Phillips) indicate an adult in molt from alternate to basic plumage. The vast majority of New York State's Curlew Sandpiper records (in excess of 100) are from Long Island where the species is close to annual. As a whole, Curlew Sandpipers appear to have been less common along the East Coast during the 1990's compared to the 1970-80's. The Montezuma record is only the third for upstate New York. Prior records are from Seneca Falls on 15 May 1982 and Iroquois NWR in 30-31 July 1990.

Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Limicola falcinellus*)

1998-7-A/B/C, One on West Pond Jamaica Bay NWR, Queens Co., on 29 Aug 1998 (William Benner, Rex Stanford, Angus C. Wilson). The first record for New York State and also first for the lower 48 states. This unique and little-known Eurasian sandpiper was first discovered by Bill Benner, and subsequently enjoyed by hundreds of observers from all over North America. It was even featured in several national newspapers (e.g. Hampson, 1998). The sandpiper remained on the West Pond until 4 Sep 1998 where it was seen to occupy and defend small feeding territories. In spite of detailed study it is unclear whether the Jamaica Bay individual belonged to the very similar European (*L. falcinellus*).

lus) or the Asiatic (*L. f. sibirica*) subspecies. For detailed accounts of this astounding record see Benner (1998a, b).

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

1998-4-A, One at Chemung River Dam, Elmira, Chemung Co., on 21 Feb 1998 (Dave Russell); 1998-65-A, One adult in basic plumage on the Niagara River in the Town of Lewiston, Niagara Co., on 15 Nov 1998 (Willie D'Anna). The comparatively pale mantle of the Niagara River individual suggests the subspecies *L. c. albertensis*, which breeds in the northern Great Plains.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*)

1998-13-A, One in definitive basic plumage on the Niagara River near Goat Island, Niagara Falls, Niagara Co., on 15 Mar 1998 (Willie D'Anna). In New York, Thayer's Gulls are regular along the Niagara River during the winter, where adults or near-adults predominate. From a practical standpoint, the Committee accepts reports that document the full suite of all appropriate field characters. The identification and taxonomy of Thayer's Gull is one of the thorniest topics in North American birding. The reasons are twofold. First, there is intense debate among taxonomists as to whether Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) and Kumlien's Iceland Gull (*L. glaucoides kumlieni*) belong to separate species or represent two points on a complex cline (gradient) with nominate Iceland Gull (*L. g. glaucoides*). Second, like all large gull species, both Thayer's and Iceland exhibit a high degree of individual variation and this greatly complicates the identification of out-of-range birds. For example, Garner and McGeehan (1998) have suggested that the phenomenal extent of variation in the wingtip pattern of Kumlien's Gull ("almost no two individuals look the same") compared to the less variable patterns of Thayer's and nominate Iceland, indicates that Kumlien's might be a product of hybridization between Thayer's and nominate Iceland. It is unlikely that this debate will be resolved without extensive analysis of genetic markers in birds studied on the breeding and wintering grounds.

Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*)

1998-8-A/B/C/D/E, One adult male visiting a sugar-water feeder in a private residence in Binghamton, Broome Co., on 18-22 Nov 1998 (Kevin J. McGowan, Dorothy Crumb, Gerry Rising, Robert Grosek, Yolanda Garcia). This is the first record for New York. Harriet Marsi first observed a hummingbird using a nectar feeder at the home of Bernice Greenmun and brought it to the attention of local birders, including Bob Grosek. An estimated two hundred or more birders came to see the hummingbird which remained until 11 Dec 1998 when it was captured and taken into captivity by a licensed rehabilitator. The ethics of this intervention was hotly debated and provided a controversial twist to a fascinating record. For detailed accounts and photographs see Grosek (1998) and Pantle (1998).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

1998-57-A, One adult female at the junction of Rt 51A and Rt 29 south, Oswego Co., on 12 Oct 1998 (Tony Shrimpton) Written description supported by a sketch. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers regularly wander to the northeast from their established breeding range in the central and southern US. Most are discovered during late spring and early summer (May-July) or during the fall (Sept-Nov), and the well-described Oswego bird falls neatly into the latter peak of occurrence. The Committee felt the tail length and salmon-pink flanks were more indicative of an adult female than an immature as suggested by the observer.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

1998-59-A, Two on the boundary of Riis Park and Fort Tilden, Queens Co., on 28 Nov 1998 (Angus C. Wilson). This is the second record for New York and first to be documented with photographs (published in *The Kingbird*, *North American Birds* and even *Birding World*, a UK publication). The only prior record was a single individual observed a couple of miles from Riis Park at Jamaica Bay NWR in May 1990. The species has become regular at Cape May, New Jersey in the late fall and the Riis Park record may involve the same wandering individuals. Two subspecies of Cave Swallow occur in North America, the southwestern form *P. p. pallida* which breeds in southern Texas and northern Mexico and the nominate Caribbean race, *P.p. fulva*. Some authorities suggest these should be treated as discrete forms. Although NYSARC did not vote on the subspecific identification, the detailed plumage descriptions and photographs of the Riis Park birds appear consistent with the southwestern subspecies. For a detailed account of this record, see Guthrie and Wilson (2000).

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)

1998-71-A/B, One off Onion Avenue, Town of Wawayanda, Orange Co., on 20 Dec 1998 (John P. Tramontano, Mary Ann Cairo); 1998-72-A, One at an uncertain location, Dutchess Co., 28 Dec 1998 (Peggy Fasciani); 1998-73-A, One on SUNY Purchase Campus, Westchester Co., 30 Dec 1998, with color sketch (Yolanda Garcia). An interesting cluster of reports from a radius of 30 or so miles. The discovery of each of these bluebirds was associated with local Christmas Bird Counts and it is possible had been present prior to their discovery. Although only one report was received for review, the SUNY Purchase bird was seen by many birders from New York and neighboring Connecticut and remained well into Jan 1999.

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*)

1998-76-A, One adult in the Glenview Court area near Town of Webster, Monroe Co., on 16 May 1998 (Donna Traver, Don Traver). Although a regular spring

overshoot to NY State, most frequently western New York, the Delaware River Valley and urban parks in the New York City area, this well-described individual from the Lake Ontario shore is notable.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)

1998-38-A, One, Point Gratiot Nature Walk, Dunkirk, Chautauqua Co., on 26 May 1998 (William W. Watson). A frequent spring overshoot into New York State, this species occurs annually in small numbers on Long Island and the NYC metropolitan area but is decidedly less common in more northerly parts of the state. This well-described individual was studied alongside Scarlet Tanagers (*P. olivacea*).

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

1998-67-A, An adult or possibly first-winter male in Jamesport, Town of Riverhead, Suffolk Co., on 27 Nov 1998 (Beverly Prentice, Anthony Prentice); 1998-70-A, One in the Village of McGraw, Cortland Co., on 24 Dec 1998 to 4 Jan 1999 (Bill Toner). As its name suggests, a western species that occurs as a vagrant to the northeast, predominantly in late fall and early winter. Nov and Dec are the peak months of occurrence in NY. Identification of Western Tanagers in basic plumage must be accomplished using multiple characteristics. Some Scarlet Tanagers (*P. olivacea*) show relatively prominent wing bars, so this character is not a sufficient field mark for species identification. Any claimed sighting of this species should include a description of the wings, head, back, rump and if possible, underwing coverts. Pyle (1997) discusses the identification of *Piranga* species in detail.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

1998-78-A, One at Island Cottage Woods, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., on 17 May 1998, (Marty DeHart). The precise status of each of the three subspecies of Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow in New York remains poorly understood and NYSARC strongly encourages detailed documentation of this species, especially when recorded away from Long Island and the metropolitan area.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*)

1998-35-A, One adult male in Galway, Saratoga Co., on 3 May 1998. Brief written description supported by photographs. Responded to a tape by breaking into song. (Alison Van Keuren, Jane Graves). A distinctive arctic breeder that migrates through the central plains to winter in the midwest as far south as Texas and Louisiana. Harris's Sparrow is a rare wintering species throughout the eastern United States (Norment and Shackleton 1993). In New York, there are more than fifty prior records, most from the winter months. Some have remained through the winter and molted into alternate plumage in the spring.

Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*)

1998-36-A, One subadult male in village of Canastota, Madison Co., on 13 May 1998, (Carolyn J. Keefe). This well-described individual visited a seed feeder in the observer's yard for a single day only. The date is fully consistent with a spring overshoot of this more southerly species and the report was accepted unanimously.

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*)

1998-6-A/B/C/D/E/F/G, One immature male coming to a private feeder on Silver Road, Town of Bethany, Genesee Co., on 23 Mar 1998 (Dorothy Crumb, Gerry Rising, Steve Kelling, Kurt Fox, Robert Spahn, Willie D'Anna, Betsy Potter, William Watson). The written documentation was supported by video submitted by Betsy Potter. This is the first record for New York and one of very few confirmed records of Lazuli Bunting from eastern North America. The bird was first seen by homeowners Don and Virginia Tiede on 16 Mar and was identified by Gail Seamans on 21 Mar. The bird remained into the first week of April and was seen by hundreds of local birders. The western counterpart of the Indigo Bunting (*P. cyanea*), the two species will hybridize where their ranges overlap on the Great Plains (Sibley and Short, 1959), and claims of extralimital Lazuli Buntings require sufficient documentation to eliminate these hybrids from consideration.

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*)

1998-5-A, Two at a feeder on Baum Road, Hastings, Oswego Co., on 3 Mar 1998 (Bill Purcell); 1998-12-A, One near Krull County Park, Village of Olcott, Town of Newfane, Niagara Co., on 1 Feb 1998 (Willie D'Anna). A more northerly counterpart of the Common Redpoll (*C. flammea*), Hoary Redpolls of the subspecies *exilipes* are subject to periodic irruptions into New York and surrounding states (reviewed in Brinkley, 1998). The two Hastings individuals were with a flock of fifty or so Common Redpolls at the observer's feeder. In his very careful description of both individuals Bill Purcell makes a convincing case for subspecific identification as *exilipes* rather than *hornemanni*.

1998 REPORTS ACCEPTED BUT ORIGINS UNCERTAIN

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*)

1998-21-A/B, Three at Salmon Creek, Braddock Bay, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., on 3 Jan 1998 (Bob Marcotte) and almost certainly the same individuals at the Irondequoit Bay Outlet, Monroe Co., on 18 Jan 1998 to 14 Feb 1998 (Robert Spahn); 1998-22-A, four individuals, including a marked bird, near Sodus Bay, Monroe Co., on 12 Jan 1998 (Donna Traver, Don Traver). Although breeding has occurred in NY since 1996, Trumpeter Swan has not been added to New York

State Checklist. While identification is not an issue, the wild origins of these birds remain open to question due to occasional escapes of captive birds from private waterfowl collections and a major reintroduction program in neighboring Ontario. All of the 1998 records are thought to arise from these sources. The Sodus Bay group included a color banded individual (#308) indicating that it comes from the Canadian reintroduction program. The New York breeding population is expanding and reports are likely to become more frequent. For a detailed account see Carroll and Swift, 2000.

REGARDING REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

A number of factors may contribute to a record being denied acceptance. The most common is that the material submitted was judged as insufficient or simply too vague to properly document the reported occurrence and eliminate all other similar species. It is worth pointing out that written documentation or descriptions prepared entirely from memory weeks, months, or years after a sighting are seldom voted on favorably and the Committee cannot overstate the importance of taking field notes. These should be written while the bird is under study or if not possible, immediately afterwards. The fact that NYSARC does not accept a particular record does not mean the Committee, or any of its members, feels the record did not occur as reported. The non-acceptance of any record simply reflects the opinion of NYSARC that the documentation did not meet the rigorous standards appropriate for inclusion in the formal historical record. We make every effort to be as fair and objective as possible. If the Committee is unsure about any particular submission it tends to err on the conservative side, preferring not to accept a good record rather than validate a bad one. It is quite uncommon for records to be rejected because the bird was obviously misidentified. All records, whether accepted or not, remain on file and can be re-submitted to the Committee if additional substantive material is presented. This reinforces the need for as many observers as possible to submit reports.

1998 REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

1998-40-A, One, Coxsackie Harbor, Greene Co., on 27 May 1998. This brief report provided almost no description of the bird and received no positive votes.

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*)

1998-51-A/B, One near the Town of Champlain, Clinton Co., on 20 Sep 1998. Aspects of the description seemed incompatible with Cinnamon Teal in any plumage. Both reports referred to a horizontal white bar visible on the wing

coverts when the bird was at rest. This is not typical of Cinnamon Teal and suggests other duck species such as Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*) or Cape Shelduck (*T. cana*). For this reason, the Committee voted by six to one against accepting these reports.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

1998-26-A, One at Frisbee Hill, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., on 14 Apr 1998. The Committee voted unanimously against accepting this report. The brief description of a dark raptor seen soaring with Red-tailed Hawks did not satisfactorily eliminate other species such as Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*).

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)

1998-28-A, One at Lowes Pond Wetland-Big Flats, Chemung Co., on 22 Apr 1998. Identified on the basis of a single call and not seen. The committee was concerned by the brevity and nature of this encounter. Although the 'kik-e-do' call is distinctive, other rails species will produce similar vocalizations on occasion.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*)

1998-23-A, One at Long Pond, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., on 10 Mar 1998; 1998-77-A, One at Braddock Bay, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., on 17 May 1998. Both reports involved first-year birds and unfortunately the descriptions lacked sufficient detail to be acceptable for the permanent record. It should be stressed that immature gulls are highly variable (even more so than adults) and reports of uncommon species require very careful descriptions of feather markings and coloration. With potential first or second year Thayer's Gulls, it is important to describe in some detail the exact patterning and relative intensities of brown coloration of the tail band and the tertial, secondary, and primary feathers. Given these difficulties, every effort should be made to photo document candidates – if possible showing the upper surfaces of the spread wings and tail. Several committee members felt the description of the Braddock Bay individual was more consistent with a darkish Kumlien's Gull in transition between first-basic and first-alternate plumage. Darker than average Kumlien's Gulls are not uncommon and present a very significant complication in the identification of Thayer's Gulls. This possibility needs to be addressed carefully in any report (see examples in Zimmer, 1991 and Garner and McGeehan, 1998).

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

1998-18-A, One on the east side of Genesee River at its mouth in Charlotte, City of Rochester, Monroe Co., on 10 Jan 1998. The committee voted by five to two against accepting this brief report. Several members commented that the size, mantle shade and leg color were more consistent with Lesser Black-backed Gull (*L. fuscus*) than California Gull.

Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)

1998-69-A/B, One on Lake Ontario, Town of Webster, Monroe Co., on 20 Dec 1998. A small alcid-like bird was observed flying eastwards along the Lake Ontario shoreline during a Christmas Bird Count. Given the brevity of the sighting and several inconsistencies in the description, the committee voted by six to one against accepting this record even at the level of murrelet species.

Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*)

1998-32-A, One suspected to be of the western subspecies *C. f. salicolus* Braddock Bay, Monroe Co., on 7 May 1998. Trapped as part of a banding project, this individual was initially identified as a Swainson's Thrush (*C. ustulatus*) due to the near absence of rufous coloring and faint eye ring. Unfortunately, the bird was not photographed and supportive descriptions (including measurement data) were not provided by the banders. In a recent review of *Catharus* identification, Lane and Jaramillo urge caution in the identification of Veery subspecies as the differences are poorly known (Lane and Jaramillo, 2000). Although the record was not substantial enough to be accepted, this western subspecies could occur in NY and NYSARC commends the observer for bringing this interesting observation to the Committee's attention.

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*)

1998-15-A, One in a weedy field on North Hamlin Road, Hamlin, Monroe Co., on 3 Jan. 1998; 1998-19-A, One on Grandview Lane, Greece, Monroe Co., on 28 Mar 1998; 1998-20-A, One on North Hamlin Road, Hamlin, Monroe Co., on 7 Mar. 1998. Separation of Hoary and Common redpolls (*C. flammea*) can be difficult and while the committee feels these reports are probably of Hoary Redpolls, the documentation provided does not supply sufficient detail for acceptance into the permanent record. Common Redpolls show more variation in size and color than is generally appreciated and with any suspected Hoary Redpoll, observers should carefully examine and record the patterning on the undertail coverts as well as the size and shape of the bill; preferably in direct comparison to Common Redpolls. For further discussion of this identification challenge and its potential pitfalls, observers are encouraged to consult the text and photographs in David Czaplak's excellent review articles (Czaplak, 1995).



1997 ACCEPTED REPORTS

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*)

1997-52-A/B, One adult over the hawkwatch at Robert Moses State Park, Fire Island, Suffolk Co., on 4 Nov 1997 (Herbert Roth, Lore J. Schore). This report of a Brown Booby seen feeding close to shore and then flying over the hawkwatch, was accepted by six votes to one on the second round of review. The Committee was initially concerned by the absence of discussion of how this bird differed from Northern Gannet (*S. bassanus*). However, both submissions make reference to a yellow bill and dark upper breast separated from the white underbody by a sharp division which firmly eliminate immature Northern Gannet and Masked Booby (*S. dactylatra*). Together with other minor details, these reports provided a convincing picture of an adult Brown Booby. More typical of late summer and early to mid-fall, this represents one of the latest dates for New York.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

1997-58-A, One light-morph adult over the Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve, Town of Danby, Tompkins Co., on 18 Oct 1997 (George Kloppel). The observer provided an excellent description of an adult light morph Swainson's Hawk but was reticent to identify it to species. NYSARC debated the consequences of accepting a record that had not been formally identified to species by the contributor. In the end, the committee voted unanimously in favor of acceptance.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*)

1997-64-A, One in first-basic plumage of the western subspecies *brachyrhynchus* on the Chadakoin River in Jamestown, Chautauqua Co., on 21 Dec 1997 (Robert A. Sundell). The observer provided a detailed and generally convincing description of the North American subspecies *L. c. brachyrhynchus*. Pertinent details included the small size relative to Ring-billed Gull (*L. delawarensis*), brownish underparts, darker mantle, dusky tail and heavily barred upper tail coverts. Several committee members were troubled by the description of 'very long and spindly legs'. After two rounds of voting, the record was accepted by six votes to one. Difficult records such as this underscore the importance and utility of obtaining supportive photographs. Often interesting gulls can be attracted by the promise of food and it is possible to obtain extremely useful pictures using a standard camera.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

1997-2-A, One adult in basic plumage on the Niagara River above the Horseshoe

Falls, Niagara Co., on 9 Jan 1997 (Dean DiTommaso). This record was accepted by six votes to one on the second round of review. The bird was viewed in flight as it coursed over the churning water off Goat Island, Niagara Falls. Committee members were troubled by the lack of critical details such as the leg and eye color, however, it was felt that the weight of supportive detail on wing tip and bill patterning was sufficient to accept this record.

1997 REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

1997-18-A, One on Lake Ontario off Durand Eastman Park, City of Rochester, Monroe Co., on 27 Apr 1997. A number of details in this report seemed inconsistent for Pacific, or for that matter the very similar Arctic Loon. The crown and nape were described as slightly darker than the rest of the dark parts of the head and hindneck, If anything, Pacific Loons should show a paler crown and nape. On a second round of review, this record received only one positive vote.

1996 ACCEPTED REPORTS

Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*)

1996-92-A, One flying east seen from Democrat Point, Robert Moses State Park, Suffolk Co., on 7 Sep 1996, Written documentation supported by sketch (Angus C. Wilson). Seen during a dawn seawatch following the passage of Hurricane Fran. This warm water shearwater probably occurs regularly off New York during the summer months but is rarely encountered from land. The observers Angus Wilson, Andrew Guthrie and Shai Mitra noted the dark undertail coverts, and diffuse rather than crisp boundary between dark upperparts and light underparts.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

1996-88-A, Three (adult and two subadults) in Fire Island Inlet off Robert Moses State Park, Suffolk Co., 30 May 1996 (Angus C. Wilson); 1996-89-A One subadult off Robert Moses State Park, Suffolk Co., on 7 Sep 1996 (Angus C. Wilson). Jaeger identification is notoriously difficult and many individuals, especially in fall or winter cannot be identified with certainty. The spring record involved two subadults and a breeding-plumaged adult flying east through Fire Island Inlet towards the Robert Moses Causeway Bridge. The fall record involved a subadult (probably first-year) associated with oceanic disturbances due to the passage of Hurricane Fran. The observers Angus Wilson, Andrew Guthrie and Shai Mitra based their identification on the absence of a white primary flash on the upper surface of the wing, strong horizontal barring on the

uppertail coverts, washed out brownish coloration, elongated body shape and light bouncy flight style.

Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*)

1996-93-A, One at Montauk Point, Suffolk Co., on 8 Sep 1996 (Angus C. Wilson). The written documentation was supported by color photographs by Angus Wilson. First spotted by Tony Lauro in a large tern flock feeding in the rips off Montauk Point, the tern was relocated as it roosted with Common Terns (*S.hirundo*) and Roseate Terns (*S. dougallii*) along the beach. The presence of a dark subterminal bar across the central secondaries and reduced tail fork suggest a first-summer subadult (Olsen and Larsson 1995).

Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*)

1996-90-A, One in Fire Island Inlet off Robert Moses State Park, Suffolk Co., 7 Sep 1996 (Angus C. Wilson); 1996-91-A, One juvenile off Montauk Point, Suffolk Co., 2 Sep 1996 (Angus C. Wilson). Both Sooty Terns were a casualty of hurricanes. The Fire Island Inlet bird, first spotted by Paul Buckley, was coursing up and down the north side of Democrat Point. Later in the day it was seen to land on the sandy point (very unusual for this aerial species) and could be easily approached and photographed. The half-eaten remains were discovered at this location the following morning by Shai Mitra (pers. comm).

1995 ACCEPTED REPORTS

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

1995-66-A, One subadult at Mill Pond, Town of Centerport, Suffolk Co., on 25 Dec 1995 (Angus C. Wilson). Discovered by Dan Brady as he stepped out to collect his morning newspaper, this immature Gyr Falcon seen by a handful of local birders during its two-day stay. On the first day it was seen to kill a male Mallard which it later consumed. Detailed description and a series of color photographs eliminate other similar species, including Saker Falcon or hybrids.

REPORTS WITHHELD FOR ADDITIONAL REVIEW

The following reports received a split vote and are being recirculated for second, or in two cases a third, round of review.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

1998-75-A, One, Black River Bay, Township of Hounsfield, Jefferson Co., 29 Dec 1998.

Yellow-nosed Albatross (*Thalassarche chlororhynchos*)

1998-43-A, One, 21 miles SE of Fire Island Inlet, Suffolk Co., 12 Jul 1998.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

1998-24-A, One, Braddock Bay, Monroe Co., 27 Mar 1998.

1997-19-A, One Braddock Bay, Monroe Co., 5 May 1997.

Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*)

1998-34-A, One, Route 78 between N. Java and Stryersville, Monroe Co.,
10 July 1998.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

1998-54-A, One, East Quogue, Suffolk Co., 5 Oct 1998.

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*)

1998-79-A, One, Mendon Ponds Park, Mendon, Monroe Co., 17 May 1998.

1998-80-A, One, Brockport, Monroe Co., 23 May 1998.

American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*)

1998-47-A, Two, Myers Point, Tompkins Co., 24 Aug 1998

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*)

1998-1-A, One, Oswego, Oswego Co., 25 Jan 1998.

1998-11-A, One, Seneca River, Baldwinsville, Onondaga Co., 28 Jan 1998.

1998-23-A, One, Long Pond, Greece, Monroe Co., 10 Mar 1998.

1998-42-A, One, Shinnecock Inlet, Suffolk Co., 6 Jun 1998.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

1998-3-A, One Seneca Lake, Schuyler Co., 11 Feb 1998.

Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*)

1998-53-A, One, Cape Vincent, Jefferson Co., 3 Oct 1998.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)

1998-37-A, One, Cape Vincent, Jefferson Co., 15 May 1998.

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)

1997-16-A, Mecklenburg, Schuyler Co., 7-10 Apr 1997.

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*)

1998-16-A, One, Livonia, Livingston Co., 10 Jan 1998.

1998-17-A, One, North Hamlin Road, Monroe Co., 22 Jan 1998.

Submitted on behalf of the members of New York State Avian Records Committee.

Current members of the Committee:

Robert F. Andrie
Thomas W. Burke
Willie D'Anna
Kevin McGowan
Robert O. Paxton
Gerard Phillips
Jeanne Skelly (Secretary)
Angus Wilson (Chair)

Former Committee members involved in the review of submissions described in this annual report:

Kenneth P. Able
Jim Lowe (Secretary)
Charles R. Smith

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NYSARC gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following observers who submitted written or photographic documentation: Mary Ann Cairo, David J. Cesari, Dorothy Crumb, Willie D'Anna, Karl David, Kathleen Dalton, Joe DiCostanzo, Dean DiTommaso, Frank Dobson, Walter Ellison, Peggy Fasciani, Kurt Fox, John Fritz, Paul Fusco, Yolanda Garcia, Jane Graves, John A. Gregoire, Sue Gregoire, Kevin C. Griffith, Robert Grosek, Helen Hays, Julian Hough, Greg Jackson, Carolyn J. Keefe, Steve Kelling, George Kloppel, William Kreuger, Nick Leone, Nancy Martin, Kevin J. McGowan, Charlie Mitchell, Lisa Neild, Gerard Phillips, Betsy Potter, Anthony Prentice, Beverly Prentice, Bill Purcell, Gerry Rising, Herbert Roth, Mark Romanofsky, Dave Russell, Eric Salzman, Joan Scrocarelli, Dominic Sherony, Lore J. Schore, Tony Shrimpton, Robert Spahn, Larry Springsteen, Jerry Sullivan, Robert A. Sundell, Bill Toner, John P. Tramontano, Don Traver, Donna Traver, Alison Van Keuren, William Watson, Angus C. Wilson, Mary Wood, Gary Worthington.

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NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Dark-eyed Junco Nests in a Hanging Flowerpot

On 19 Jul 2000, I received a phone call from Manlius, Onandaga County, advising that there was a pair of Dark-eyed Juncos nesting in a hanging flowerpot on the patio of Mr. Steven Huse. As this seemed quite unusual, I visited there to make certain it was a junco and not some other finch.

No sooner than I walked into the yard, I heard the sharp chips of an agitated junco!

Checking further, I found the pair of juncos nesting in a flowerpot five feet above the ground, a fact unusual in itself, but made more so in that this was a development of town houses arrayed in a circle surrounding about an acre of mowed lawn. There were a few small ornamental trees such as flowering crabapple, some deciduous shrubs and evergreens on the far side of the circle.

Each town house had an enclosed patio, and Mr. Huse's had a hanging bird feeder containing black oil sunflower seed, and three hanging plants, one of them being New Guinea impatiens, in which the nest had been built. One could sit in a chair about ten feet away and watch the adults come and go feeding the four young that were in the nest. Mr. Huse advised that he often sat there and read while the nest was being built and later when feeding was taking place. The adults would hop across an area of bark mulch, then up on a picnic table and then to the nest.

One nesting had already been successful and that nest was still there intact. After raising two young in the original nest, they moved to a different plant and built the nest now under observation.

Bent (1968) mentions four other unusual nesting sites for the species, such as beneath the gable of a house, in a trellis overgrown with woodbine, in a half-pound tobacco can on the ground and in a triangular bird feeder mounted on an eight foot pipe.

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GREAT HORNED OWLS NEST ON BRIDGE

On Monday, 1 May 2000, Richard Kotecki and Paul Leavens were inspecting the Route 5 bridge over Eighteen Mile Creek between the Towns of Evans and Hamburg in Erie County, New York, when they flushed a large bird from the top of the concrete arch beneath the deck. They noticed that another bird still remained on top of the arch and believed it to be a baby owl. Knowing of my interest in birds, they snapped a photograph. The photograph, accompanying this note, clearly shows a young Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) with wings still not developed enough for flight.

Since I could not recall ever having seen or heard about this species nesting on man-made structures, I did a search of the literature. The sources reviewed (Bull 1974, Eaton 1988, Kaufman 1996) stated that Great Horned Owls typically use the nests of other species, such as hawks, eagles, crows, ravens, or herons. They may also use an old squirrel's nest, a natural tree cavity, a broken-off tree stump, a cliff ledge, a cave, or they may nest in logs or among rocks on the ground.

Other references revealed numerous instances of Great Horned Owls nesting on man-made structures. These included artificial nest platforms built for them in trees (Scott 1970), nest baskets and nest tires placed on poles or in trees (Houston et al, 1998), farm and mine buildings (Peck and James 1983), and hay barracks (Bent 1961). Two of the most unusual nest sites recorded include



Fledgling Great Horned Owl on Bridge Nest.
Kotecki & Leavens

for them in trees (Scott 1970), nest baskets and nest tires placed on poles or in trees (Houston et al, 1998), farm and mine buildings (Peck and James 1983), and hay barracks (Bent 1961). Two of the most unusual nest sites recorded include prehistoric ruins and a large flowerpot on the floor of the deck of a third story city apartment house in Lawrence, Kansas (Houston et al, 1998). Lastly, Houston also cites one record of this species nesting on a beam beneath a railroad bridge (original reference: Bendire 1892).

The type of bridge where the Erie County Great Horned Owl was found is known as a concrete open-spandrel arch and it spans the steep gorge of Eighteen Mile Creek. The specific site chosen by the owls was near the crown of the arch, the only area where it is nearly flat. The arch is about five feet wide with the length between columns where the nest was located being about five and a-half feet. The site rather simulates a cave except there is no rear wall and thus it is more precarious. It is quite remote, high above the creek below and inaccessible to all but flying creatures. The bridge inspectors were using the "Under Bridge Inspection Unit", a special truck with a bucket and long arms for extending out from the top of the bridge, down, then back underneath the bridge.

In summary, Great Horned Owls utilize an extraordinarily wide range of nest sites. However, I could find only one previous record of the species using a bridge.

The Erie County nest site seems like a fine choice for the owls and it is surprising to me that bridges have not been recorded as nest sites more often.

I wish to thank my co-workers, Richard Kotecki and Paul Leavens, for relating their experience to me and for alertly taking the photograph. A special thanks to Audrey Horbett, Ron Tozer, and Ron Pittaway for researching their libraries on my behalf.

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ABOUT THE NEW COLOR COVER

There seem to be two schools of thought on whether the new millennium started in the year 2000, or the year 2001. For the purposes of *The Kingbird*, I am arbitrarily choosing the year 2001, as the first issue of this year brings with it a sensational color cover to celebrate the new millennium.

The first fifty years have been served well by Douglas Howland's black-and-white portrait of this perky flycatcher as the immediately recognizable logo of The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. Doug passed away recently and a short article about him will appear in the next issue. But progress and competition demand color.

The new cover is the creation of our staff artist, Andrew C. Vallely, whose sketches have appeared in these pages for the last two years. Andrew is an artist and naturalist and active birder who lives in the Hudson Valley. The layout of the cover is the work of Lester Feldman, graphic designer and retired Art Director of a major agency, and a life-long birder, who resides on Long Island.

While both gentlemen donated their services, the cover comes with increased production costs which can only be offset by additional Federation memberships.

The next step would be the use of color photographs within, instead of the black-and-whites we now use. Whether or not we can get to that point is moot. May I suggest, nay not suggest, but implore that you show this issue to your fellow birders, encourage their joining, and perhaps, in time, we can move on to the glossy color publication that everybody seems to want.

The Editor



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON 2000

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Weather Effects

With one notable exception, the weather of Fall 2000 was uneventful. There were none of the usual tropical storms. The average temperature and precipitation were not far from the norms in any of the three months. November was slightly cooler and both October and November slightly drier but deviations from the norm tend to be much more pronounced than those of this season. Thus, one could say, the weather was abnormally normal. Most Regions received just a little more snow than usual but Region 1 was pummeled by the greatest 24-hour November snowstorm in Buffalo's history with, a narrow lake-effect snow band off of Lake Erie dumping 25 inches on 20 Nov. In reality such a storm is not that unusual for the Region but they normally hit the snow belt areas south of Buffalo. As Region 1 editor Mike Morgante noted, as paralyzing as the storm was for automobiles and people, its impact upon birds was quite localized. While many cold fronts were noted in Region 3 this season, only Region 1 mentioned unusual concentrations of birds associated with them. It is of interest that the warbler migration peaked in both Regions 1 & 10 on 24-25 Sep. This is somewhat late for Region 1 but I suspect more on time for coastal areas.

It was the weather of the previous seasons that had an impact in Region 5. There, the wet spring/early summer rains kept the barge canal full enough so that there was little need to draw down Delta Lake. This normally annual occurrence is highly anticipated by birders as the shallows and mudflats thus exposed can attract large numbers of shorebirds, waterfowl, and raptors seeking prey.

Regions 7 & 8 noted a bumper crop of wild foods. While some birders thought that the snowy November would encourage half-hardies to leave, an abundance of food could mean just the opposite. From the winter reports I have seen so far, it appears the latter has held force. More about that will appear in next season's reports.

Waterfowl

There was another impressive Brant migration this fall. The flight was widespread, early, and prolonged, as well as strong with counts of 200 or more from six of the nine reporting Regions. Snow Geese still appear to be on

the increase. A mammoth 35,000 were reported in Region 7. Its smaller cousin, Ross's Goose, totaled eight individuals in Regions 3, 7, & 10. Because of these increasing reports, NYSARC is concerned that some sightings may represent hybrids with Snow Geese and thus still requests documentation for this species. Birders are urged to carefully study any possible Ross's Goose for hybrid indicators.

Bull's Birds of New York State mentions only two specimens in the state of the small form of Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis hutchinsii*). Last fall, there was an unprecedented report of 32 at Iroquois NWR in Region 1. This season there were 25 reported in Region 1, plus two in Region 5 and one in Region 7. Is this subspecies on the increase? Morgante suggests that birders are simply paying more attention to this race. Even though I often hear and read that birders are interested only in their lists, which includes only full species, I think he may be right. According to the web site of the Canadian Wildlife Service (www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/canbird/goose/cgtgp.htm), this subspecies' population (referred to as the Tall Grass Prairie population on the web site) has remained stable over the decade from 1986 to 1996, so increased observer awareness makes a lot of sense. Due to different migration corridors, it is more likely to be seen in fall than spring, as backed up by the recent sightings. As an advocate for reporting recognizable forms, it is good to see the increasing number of reports of this small Canada Goose.

In previous Highlights I have remarked upon the higher numbers of Green-winged Teals being reported in the state. That trend continued with a very high count of 680 in Region 1. I note, however, that a former stronghold for the species, Montezuma NWR, had a maximum of only 81 reported this season. There were a few high scoter counts with 1213 Black in Region 2 and a Regional record 1600 White-winged in Region 5, both from Lake Ontario. 200 Black on Cayuga Lake in Region 3 and 200 Surf flying over the Hudson River in Region 9 were high counts for inland areas. Likewise, Region 7's record counts of Black and White-winged scoters on Lake Champlain were particularly noteworthy.

Other Waterbirds

Despite continued population control measures on Little Galloo Island in Region 6, Double-crested Cormorants were found in record numbers in Regions 1 & 3. They were considered down slightly in Region 2. Good counts of Common Loons were noted on Lake Ontario in Regions 2 & 5 and over 1000 were counted in one day at Cayuga Lake in Region 3. Though fewer in number than at the established sites, the counts of Common and Red-throated loons and of Horned Grebes on Lake Champlain this season were outstanding for that location.

It was another good year for jaegers on Lake Ontario, where they are expected. However, an unidentified jaeger on Cayuga Lake in Region 3 was a big surprise. Exceptionally difficult to identify, today's birders are more prepared than ever to tackle the jaegers, but there will always be some that must be called "jaeger species". A very rare Long-tailed Jaeger in Region 5 and another on Lake Erie in Region 1 were highlights in that group.

The first North American Gull Conference was held in Niagara Falls, Ontario on the last weekend in November. The now annual California Gull on the river has become almost ho-hum for the local birders. Just do not say that to the gull conference attendees who scoured the area in vain that weekend. A Black-headed Gull on Lake Ontario was the first ever documented from that water body in Region 1. However, the species is relatively frequent on the lake in Region 2 where the persistent Hamlin Beach Lakewatch found two immatures this season. Interestingly, the vast majority of Region 1 reports, which are from the Niagara River, are of adults. It was a good year for Sabine's Gull with sightings from Regions 1, 2, and even inland Region 3. Two Franklin's Gulls in Region 2 were the only ones found in New York this fall. The species was annual on the Niagara River until recent years.

Miscellaneous

Bald Eagles set seasonal records at two Region 9 hawkwatches. Franklin Mountain in Region 4 set records for Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons and tied the record for Merlins. Bucking the trend of recent years, Golden Eagle was cited for low numbers at that site but still elicited positive comments in Regions 5 & 9. Owls staged a significant movement this fall. Statewide, there were 20 Snowys reported, 7 Long-eareds, 41 Short-eareds, and 20 No. Saw-whets. Thirteen saw-whets netted in one night by a Region 1 bander may not seem to be many but it could well be the most ever in fall away from Long Island. As with some other secretive species, banding is the best way to measure their status in New York.

A count of 52 House Wrens in Region 5 was a notable concentration and especially in the fall when they are not singing. One of the declining spruce-budworm warblers, the Bay-breasted was noted in only low numbers through most of the state. One exception was in Region 1, where a remarkable 46 were counted in a single tree.

Rarities

Due to the persistent coverage at the Hamlin Beach Lakewatch in Region 2, Northern Gannets are recorded almost annually. This year they had at least two but the two in Region 5 were the first there since 1983 and the one in

Region 7 was only their second ever. Lesser Black-backed Gulls are no longer exciting in much of the state but sightings in Regions 4 & 7 are still of interest. Birders have been discussing the possibility that Dickcissel might be regular inland as well as near the coast. Lending evidence to this were sightings in Regions 2, 3, & 5. Cattle Egret, Barn Owl, Summer Tanager, and three "Oregon" Juncos complemented the Niagara River gulls in Region 1. Another Arctic Tern showed in Region 2 as did a pair of Western Kingbirds, a Bicknell's Thrush(banded), and a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Again in Region 2, a briefly seen Townsend's Solitaire was the Region's first and would be only about the seventh for New York if accepted by NYSARC (per Brock in *Bulls Birds of New York State*). Region 3 also had a Western Kingbird as well as a Connecticut Warbler and a White-eyed Vireo. A Purple Sandpiper in Region 4 was the first in at least 20 years if not a Regional first and a Golden-winged Warbler was only the second since 1984. Three Greater White-fronted Geese were reported this season, one each in Regions 5, 8, & 10. Region 5 was also graced by a Barn Owl, a first Regional *selasphorus* hummingbird species, Loggerhead Shrike, White-eyed Vireo, and "Oregon" Junco". Little Gull and Stilt Sandpiper were two of the highlights in Region 7 while a Black-legged Kittiwake provided their first record. In Region 8 a Sandhill Crane was their first in ten years and they also had a possible Boreal Owl. The latter was heard only but the report seems credible and I commend the observer for his caution in not pasting a stronger adjective on his identification. A Sedge Wren and two Clay-colored Sparrows were the highlights in Region 9. Region 10 produced three Sandwich Terns, remarkably none of which were associated with tropical storms. In addition they had another "Black" Brant report. Birders should also keep in mind the possibility of "Dark-bellied" Brant", which was recently documented in Virginia for a first North American record (Illiff in *North American Birds* 54(3):269). Other birds of note in Region 10 were a *selasphorus* hummingbird species, four Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows, LeConte's Sparrow, and three(!) Ash-throated Flycatchers. With the rapidly increasing number of sightings for the latter species, hopefully the 29 November report of a Great Crested Flycatcher there was considered very carefully.

Two birds stood out above the rest this season. One was an Atlantic Puffin that was picked up in Region 7 and taken in for rehabilitation but later died. According to Lolya in *Bulls Birds of New York State*, there is only one other inland record in the state (Dutchess County 27 Sep 1963) and he considered that one to be suspect. My choice for Bird of the Season (BOTS) goes to a potential first state record (if accepted by NYSARC) and one of very few ever found in the east – the Cassin's Sparrow at Jones Beach, Long Island, 7-11 Oct.

REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

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September 2000 was represented by both warm summer days and cool autumn days. The warmest day of the summer was 1 September (88° F), while a low of 33° was exceptionally cold on the 29th. The average temperature for the month was 61.2°, about 0.7° below normal. The month was mostly rain free, but heavy rain between the 20th and 24th caused local flooding. Monthly precipitation at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport was 3.92", 0.43" above normal. October was a pleasant month, as it was the second sunniest in 26 years and the driest in 16 years. The average temperature was 52.3°, 1.2° above normal, and the monthly precipitation was 1.11", 1.98" below normal. Conditions were excellent for fall foliage, helped by an unseasonably cold air mass on 7-10 October. A trace of snow fell on 8 October, which dampened the Buffalo Ornithological Society's (BOS's) October count. Lake Erie temperatures were the warmest since 1984, which would be a factor in November.

November's weather was unforgettable. The month started out warmer than usual, but it will be remembered for record-breaking lake-effect snow and unseasonable chill. The average temperature was 38.8°, 1.7° below normal. The monthly precipitation was 5.82", 2" above normal. Snowfall totaled 45.6", which was four times the November norm. More than a foot of snow fell in Erie County during 18-19 November. Just over a day later, a landmark storm event occurred, as described by Steve McLaughlin of the National Weather Service in Buffalo, "A strong southwest flow of arctic air combined with a rather potent upper air disturbance to ignite an intense band of lake snow over Buffalo and its near north and east suburbs on the 20th. Snow fell at the rate of 3" per hour for 6-8 hours across a narrow strip from downtown to the airport. Over 20" fell within this band and the timing (afternoon and evening) created the worst traffic paralysis in the city since the blizzard of 1977. The 24.9" at the airport was the greatest 24 hour snowfall ever in November and the 3rd greatest ever at any time."

Other parts of the Region, such as along Lake Ontario, were mostly snow free during this same time period. Therefore, any impact on birds would be relatively localized.

Fall migration was rather typical for the Region and occasionally spectacular following the passage of some cold fronts with northerly winds. Such an event occurred 24-25 September, and numerous migrants were observed throughout the Region, including an impressive 20 warbler species, plus many thrushes and vireos, seen at Tiff Nature Preserve.

Waterfowl numbers seemed low compared to recent years on Lake Ontario. However, it was a very good fall for observing Brant. They arrived early, were frequently sighted along Lake Ontario, and appeared in some inland locations where

they are rare. "Richardson's" Canada Goose (*B. c. hutchinsii*) was observed on several occasions at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, similar to Fall 1999 reports. It may just be that some local birders are paying more attention to searching for this subspecies now. An immature Trumpeter Swan in Newstead, confirmed on 21 October, had been present for over a week at a farmhouse pond. The young swan was untagged and unbanded. Its origin was thought not to be from release programs at Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area or Ontario, and thus believed to be offspring from trumpeters breeding elsewhere in the state.

Waterfowl and gulls along Lake Erie were affected by a severe outbreak of botulism. The NYSDEC received calls about dead mergansers and gulls at Evangola State Park and Sturgeon Point on 16 November. Type E Botulism was confirmed quickly by a NYSDEC pathologist after the testing of blood serum from several carcasses. Ken Roblee of NYSDEC indicated that it appeared from field observations that most of the birds died during a short time period, as many were in fresh condition. The species most affected were Common Loon, Red-breasted Merganser and Ring-billed Gull. No sick waterfowl were observed on the shore, which indicates that almost all the birds died some distance out on the lake and were washed ashore. There were a few reports of sick Ring-billed Gulls along the shoreline and their illness was likely the result of secondary poisoning from consumption of carcasses on the shore. Some carcasses found were somewhat decomposed, indicating that there was earlier mortality, most likely in October. On 28-29 November, Roblee, with the assistance of Bob Andrie, conducted counts of dead birds at 65 100-meter transects along the Lake Erie shoreline in an attempt to document the number killed by species. The dead birds found included Common Loon (32), Horned Grebe (6), Mallard (1), Bufflehead (5), Red-breasted Merganser (136), Bonaparte's Gull (2), Ring-billed Gull (94), Herring Gull (13), Great Black-backed Gull (7) and American Crow (1).

Fall shorebirding was unspectacular, but all three phalarope species and Long-billed Dowitchers were impressive finds.

It was an above average gull season on the Niagara River. Twelve species were present, highlighted by California Gull, making its ninth consecutive fall appearance, and multiple Sabine's Gulls. For the second year in a row, no Franklin's Gulls were reported from the river. This species has occurred with less frequency in recent years. Attendees of the first North American Gull Conference in Niagara Falls, Ontario, 24-26 November were treated to a good showing, including several well-observed Thayer's Gulls. Gordon Bellerby's maximum Bonaparte's Gull counts topped 10,000 birds.

Fall owl migration is not regularly tracked in the Region, but Dave Junkin proved this year that the owls are indeed passing through. Junkin banded 15 Northern Saw-whet Owls in October, including 13 in one night! The previous Region high was four.

Pine Siskin was the most widespread northern finch this fall. There were only single reports of Common Redpoll, White-winged Crossbill and Evening Grosbeak.

The 65th annual BOS October Count was held on 8 October and compiled by Mike Hamilton. The 160 species recorded tied 1999 for the highest total in the last decade. There were two record high counts (since 1935) this year: 2671 Double-crested Cormorants (20 times the historical average) and 28 Great Egrets (14 times the average). These species were joined by the following with highest counts in the past decade: Ruddy Duck (598), Peregrine Falcon (2), Black-bellied Plover (71), American Golden-Plover (84), Brown Thrasher (7), Palm Warbler (39) and Common Yellowthroat (17). A total of only four Ring-necked Pheasants was a record low count (since 1935), while American Wigeon (141, lowest since 1973), Redhead (2), Great Horned Owl (1, but poor owling conditions), Pectoral Sandpiper (3), Common Tern (3), Rusty Blackbird (39) and House Finch (578) had decade-low counts.

There were some notable rarities recorded this fall. In September, Bill Watson found the Region's third documented Long-tailed Jaeger at Woodlawn Beach State Park. One of the previous records was also from that location. Watson had the other great find, a Summer Tanager at Tiff Nature Preserve in November. Several observers were able to see this mustard-yellow and green bird in the following days.

Other significant sightings not previously mentioned include: Eared Grebe, Cattle Egret, Golden Eagle, Western Sandpiper, Pomarine Jaeger, Barn Owl, Bohemian Waxwing and "Oregon" Juncos.

Special thanks go to Ken Roblee, Steve Kahl and Steve McLaughlin (weather) for their contributions to this article.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AmSP – Amherst State Park, ERIE; BOSOC – Buffalo Ornithological Society October Count, 8 Oct; BuSP – Buckhorn Island State Park, ERIE; BWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; DH – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; FMCSPP – Four Mile Creek State Park, NIAG; FNSP – Fort Niagara State Park, NIAG; GHSP – Golden Hill State Park, NIAG; GI – Goat Island, NIAG; INWR – Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, GENE/ORLE; JAS – Jamestown Audubon Sanctuary, CHAU; NF – Niagara Falls, NIAG; NPP – Niagara Power Project on Niagara River, Lewiston NIAG; NR – Niagara River; OOWMA – Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area, GENE; SPNS – Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary, East Aurora ERIE; TBNP – Times Beach Nature Preserve, Buffalo ERIE; Tiff NP –

Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo ERIE; WoBSP – Woodlawn Beach State Park, ERIE; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora State Park, NIAG.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr Yates ORLE BOSOC, early; 2 Somerset NIAG 9 Oct (BK!); max 40 Somerset NIAG 4 Nov.
Com. Loon: max 55 Somerset NIAG 9 Oct; *intro.*
Red-necked Grebe: arr 2 Somerset NIAG 9 Oct (BK!), early; max 5 GHSP 22 Oct (PY).
EARED GREBE: BWWTP 1 & 9 Sep (WW!, BK!), 15 Oct (BK!), likely holdover from summer.
Double-crested Cormorant: 1800 DH 20 Sep (DM); 1105 BuSP 1 Oct (WW); 2671 BOSOC, record high for count.
Am. Bittern: INWR BOSOC, only report.
Least Bittern: Jamestown CHAU 9 Oct (JB), only report.
Great Egret: 12 INWR 1 Oct; 28 BOSOC, record high for count; 2 INWR thru 5 Nov (FR!), late.
CATTLE EGRET: Frewsburg CHAU 20 Oct (RL).
Green Heron: last BWWTP 15 Oct.
Snow Goose: arr Yates ORLE 24 Sep (WW!), early; 6 other reports.
Canada Goose (*B. c. hutchinsii*): 5 INWR 15 Oct (BK!); 25 INWR 20 Oct (MM!); 10, 9 INWR 4, 17 Nov (BK!); present in same location in similar numbers to last fall.
Brant: arr 7 BOSOC, early; 45 Somerset NIAG 9 Oct (BK!); Concord ERIE 14 Oct; 30 Wethersfield WYOM 18 Oct; 100 Niagara Univ NIAG 18 Oct; 32 BWWTP 21 Oct; max 225 GHSP 5 Nov; common on L Ontario and more widespread elsewhere than usual.
Mute Swan: 3 GHSP 22 Oct; Stockton CHAU 11 Nov; N. Collins ERIE 11 Nov.
TRUMPETER SWAN: OOWMA 15 Oct, release location; imm Newstead ERIE 21 Oct (MM!), untagged,

unbanded, not part of local release program, believed to be reared in wild elsewhere in state.
Tundra Swan: max 24 OOWMA 17 Nov.
Gadwall: max 219 OOWMA 20 Oct.
Am. Wigeon: max 287 OOWMA 13 Oct.
Am. Black Duck: max 85 BWWTP 4 Nov.
Blue-winged Teal: last Tift NP 9 Nov.
N. Shoveler: max 155 OOWMA 4 Nov.
N. Pintail: max 327 OOWMA 20 Oct.
Green-winged Teal: max 680 OOWMA 13 Oct.
Canvasback: arr 250 NF 23 Oct; 11 BWWTP 4 Nov; 1000 NF 25 Nov.
Redhead: 7 BWWTP 23 Sep; 2 BOSOC, decade-low count.
Ring-necked Duck: arr 4 BWWTP 9 Sep; max 255 Lewiston Res NIAG 7 Nov.
Greater Scaup: BWWTP 1, 9 Sep (WW!), continued from summer; max 1060 NF 12 Nov.
HARLEQUIN DUCK: fem NF 23, 24, 26 Nov (WD).
Surf Scoter: arr Olcott NIAG 24 Sep (BK!), early.
White-winged Scoter: arr 51 Olcott NIAG 24 Sep.
Black Scoter: arr 5 Somerset NIAG 9 Oct.
Long-tailed Duck: arr 6 BOSOC.
Bufflehead: BWWTP 1, 9 Sep (BK! WW!), continued from summer; arr 4 BOSOC.
Com. Goldeneye: arr 4 BOSOC.
Hooded Merganser: max 97 INWR 17 Nov.
Ruddy Duck: max 1206 BWWTP 26 Oct; 200 Chautauqua L CHAU 11 Nov; 98 Oakfield GENE 17 Nov.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: juv OOWMA 17 Nov (BK!), record late.

Bald Eagle: reports from 8 locations.

N. Goshawk: Newfane NIAG BOSOC, rarely reported in fall.

Broad-winged Hawk: last 3 BOSOC.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr Porter NIAG 18 Oct.

GOLDEN EAGLE: Rushford CATT 28 Oct (RV), unverified; very rarely reported in fall.

Merlin: INWR 10 Sep; Sturgeon Pt ERIE 19 Oct; 3-4 NIAG 28 Oct (mob); Buffalo ERIE 25 Nov (PY!), at recent winter roost location.

Peregrine Falcon: Westfield CHAU 20 Sep; WoBSP 26 Sep; Alabama GENE 6 Oct; Kiantone CHAU 8 Oct; 2 BOSOC; plus several sightings in Buffalo and NF near nesting areas.

Ring-necked Pheasant: 4 BOSOC, record low since 1935.

Ruffed Grouse: Somerset 24 Sep, rare in NIAG along L Ontario.

Virginia Rail: Almond ALLE 14 Oct; SPNS 17 Oct; fall reports unusual.

Am. Coot: max 540 INWR 17 Nov.

Am. Golden-Plover: 71 Alabama GENE 6 Oct; 84 BOSOC.

Semipalmated Plover: max 36 TBNP 5 Sep.

Greater Yellowlegs: last INWR 17 Nov.

Lesser Yellowlegs: last 3 TBNP 26 Oct.

Ruddy Turnstone: GHSP 21 Sep, rarely reported along L Ontario.

Sanderling: GHSP 19 Oct, rarely reported along L Ontario.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 121 TBNP 6 Sep; last INWR 15 Oct.

WESTERN SANDPIPER: 3 BWWTP 1 Sep (WW!), good count.

Least Sandpiper: last INWR 15 Oct.

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 7 TBNP 7 Sep, good count.

Baird's Sandpiper: 3 TBNP 5 Sep; WoBSP 8, 10 Sep; BWWTP 9 Sep;

INWR 1 Oct.

Pectoral Sandpiper: last Chautauqua L CHAU 11 Nov.

Dunlin: max 31 INWR 21 Oct.

Stilt Sandpiper: 2 INWR 9 Sep; 2 JAS 11 Sep; only reports.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Clarence ERIE 2 Sep (DH); WoBSP 24, 25 Sep (RA! WW! BK!), slightly late.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: 2 INWR 23, 24 Sep (BK! WD!); 2 INWR 15 Oct (BK!), rarely reported in Region.

Wilson's Phalarope: BWWTP 1, 4 Sep (WW, DH), only report this year.

Red-necked Phalarope: BWWTP 4 Sep (DH); WoBSP 21 Sep (WW, PY); 2 OOWMA 6 Oct (BK); good showing.

Red Phalarope: 2 DH 11 Nov (BK, DH), reported less than annually.

POMARINE JAEGER: Porter NIAG 18 Oct (BK!), rarely documented in Region.

Parasitic Jaeger: Somerset NIAG 4 Nov (MM!); FNPS 26 Nov (BK!); coverage along L Ontario in late summer and early fall is poor, otherwise might have more jaeger reports.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: imm WoBSP 21 Sep (WW!); third Regional record.

jaeger sp: Somerset NIAG 9 Oct (BK!); FMCSF 21 Oct (WD!).

Little Gull: 5 Lewiston NIAG 19 Nov, max reported on NR; 3 reports on L Ontario away from NR.

BLACK-HEADED GULL: Somerset NIAG 22 Oct (BP!), first documented report from L Ontario in Region.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 10875 NR 20 Nov (GB), as counted at Niagara-on-the-Lake flypast.

CALIFORNIA GULL: ad NPP 12 Nov (WD! BK!); ad NF 30 Nov (MM!); ninth consecutive year on NR.

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

Iceland Gull: arr NPP 5 Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: NF 12, 22 Sep; Bourne Beach CHAU 14 Sep (BS); NF 14, 27 Oct; max 8 NF 30 Nov.

Glaucous Gull: arr NPP 12 Nov.

Black-legged Kittiwake: imm 2 FNSP 5 Nov (BP! WD!), early; imm Whirlpool NR 19 Nov (BK); imm NF 29, 30 Nov (BP, MM).

Sabine's Gull: 1-2 juv NF 18 Nov thru; juv Whirlpool NR 19-28 Nov; juv FNSP 19 Oct; good showing.

Common Tern: last NF 21 Nov.

Forster's Tern: DH 1 Sep; FNSP 9 Sep, good fall showing.

Black Tern: WoBSP 21 Sep, only report.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: BOSOC, Oct reports unusual.

BARN OWL: Holland ERIE 14 Oct (DH), very rarely reported.

Snowy Owl: arr NF Airport NIAG 23 Nov (WD, BP), only report.

Long-eared Owl: 1-2 Wethersfield WYOM 19-23 Oct (DJ); Chautauqua CHAU 21 Nov (GR).

N. Saw-whet Owl: 13 banded Wethersfield WYOM 21 Oct (DJ); exceptional number in one night; record Regional count.

Com. Nighthawk: last 6 Eggertsville ERIE 2 Oct.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 6 reports from traditional locations.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Evans ERIE 2 Oct (DH), only report.

N. Shrike: arr OOWMA 20 Oct.

Philadelphia Vireo: max 4 WTSP 24 Sep (WD, BP); well reported this fall.

Com. Raven: 2 Wethersfield WYOM 1 Oct (DJ); continued reports from ALLE.

Cliff Swallow: last BWWTP 9 Sep. swallow sp: Buffalo ERIE 9 Nov; late.

Carolina Wren: reported from 10

locations.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr AmSP 13 Sep.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: last WoBSP 22 Oct (MZ), late.

N. Mockingbird: 2 BWWTP 26 Oct; Pomfret CHAU 29 Oct; unusual locations.

Am. Pipit: arr 2 WoBSP 24 Sep.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: 2 FNSP 25 Nov (BB).

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr 2 GI 13 Sep; 7 other reports.

Nashville Warbler: last Alfred ALLE 28 Oct, banded, late (EB).

Yellow Warbler: last Tiffit NP 24 Sep (MM!), late.

Pine Warbler: arr GI 12 Sep; Pomfret CHAU 19-30 Nov, at same feeder as wintered last year (SH).

Palm Warbler: arr TBNP 6 Sep; 39 BOSOC, decade-high count.

Bay-breasted Warbler: max 46 GI 12 Sep (BK!), in one tree during morning fallout.

Connecticut Warbler: Somerset NIAG 24 Sep (BK, DH), only report.

Mourning Warbler: last Tiffit NP 24 Sep.

Hooded Warbler: last Tiffit NP 24 Sep.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

SUMMER TANAGER: Tiffit NP 8-12 Nov (WW! DS! BK! WD!), second fall record for Region.

E. Towhee: Darien GENE 30 Nov, lingering at feeder.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 2 GHSP 28 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: 10 BOSOC.

Fox Sparrow: max 3 INWR 19 Oct; 3 Tonawanda ERIE 27 Oct; 3 Portland CHAU 23 Nov.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 2 GHSP 24 Sep.

Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco (*J. h. oregonus*): 2 Colden ERIE 21 Nov

(K&JL!); Eden ERIE 21-24 Nov (RA!); reports coincide with others reported in northeast states.

Lapland Longspur: arr 3 BWWT 15 Oct; max 40 Oakfield GENE 4 Nov.

Snow Bunting: arr Alabama GENE BOSOC, early; max 52 BWWT 4 Nov.

Indigo Bunting: last BOSOC.

Rusty Blackbird: max 700 INWR 24 Oct.

Baltimore Oriole: last Eden ERIE 18 Sep.

White-winged Crossbill: 19 Somerset NLAG 29 Oct (BK, DH), only report.

Com. Redpoll: 19 Yates ORLE 5 Nov (BK); 15 GHSP 5 Nov (BK); only reports.

Pine Siskin: arr 20 BOSOC; small numbers reported thru OCT, NOV.

Evening Grosbeak: arr 7 Eden ERIE 24 Oct (DH), only report.

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REGION 2 – GENESEE

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Once again things seemed generally tranquil for migration. September's average monthly temperature was 60.9°F, which was only 0.8° below normal. Temperature swings were quite frequent, with a warm outset to the month and the arrival of a Canadian air mass toward the end that brought an autumn chill. Precipitation totaled 3.53", which was 0.56" above normal. October was dominated by high pressure, which brought good weather for much of the month. Mild, dry and sunny characterized the month. The average monthly temperature was 0.6° above normal at 51.7°. The month started out on the warm side, but rather abruptly turned chilly with a few flakes of snow reaching ground on the 8th. Mild weather returned soon after that and the bulk of the remaining days in the month were above normal. Rainfall was scarce, with a monthly total of 1.36", more than an inch below normal. One weather person described November as "fairly benign." Actually, things were somewhat varied. The first two weeks were mild and dry, while the middle of the month was wintry. The final week was pretty much normal for the area, with consistently cloudy conditions accompanied by rain or drizzle. The average temperature of 38.4° was 2.1° below normal. Precipitation was 0.73" below normal at 2.19". Nearly half of this, 0.86", fell between the 25th and 26th. Snowfall totaled 7.3", just over an inch above normal. We escaped the heavy snowfalls that occurred just west of our Region.

Braddock Bay Bird Observatory continued the banding stations at Kaiser-Manitou Beach and Yanty Creek. Both sites provided some interesting records. The Lakewatch at Hamlin Beach also functioned and produced noteworthy records and trend data.

Loons and grebes were pretty average. Eared Grebe at two locations was interesting. The number of Lakewatch Northern Gannet observations was quite good; all were immatures. Double-crested Cormorant was down slightly. Herons were highlighted by a few late Great Egret reports and a very late Green Heron.

Waterfowl reports were for the most part average. The Brant passage began a bit early, was relatively prolonged and included some good counts. Mute Swan continued its increase, with more than 100 found regularly at Irondequoit Bay. Highlights from the Lakewatch included King Eider. By season's end scaup totals remained way below average.

Bald Eagle numbers were very good while Northern Goshawks continued to be spotted only sporadically. Rough-legged Hawks returned on time and were seen consistently, but in relatively small numbers through the end of the season. Ringed-necked Pheasant continued to be only sparsely reported, and even Wild Turkey reports were down a bit. A September Sandhill Crane report was good for the Region.

Shorebird habitat was poor, as has been the case for many recent years. While the variety was about normal, numbers were only fair and Red Knot, Long-billed Dowitcher and Wilson's Phalarope went unreported. Only single Buff-breasted and Purple sandpipers were found.

Jaegers were fair at the Lakewatch, with gulls providing the only real pluses for the season. Franklin's, Black-headed and Sabine's gulls were all highlights. Lesser Black-backed Gull continued to be reported. The usual Iceland and Glaucous gulls were sighted. The tern highlights were represented by a single immature Arctic Tern, with generally few reports for the rest of this group.

Snowy Owl showed up on 1 November, which is a tad early. This heralded a generally good year for them. The Common Nighthawk picture again appeared bleak; the maximum was a paltry 29. The passerine migration as a whole was lackluster, but there were indeed some highlights. The two Western Kingbirds located in Hamlin by Bob McKinney and Richard O'Hara were a real highlight. Of note also was a record late Least Flycatcher on 9 Oct. A relatively large influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches occurred in late October. The season also experienced decent flights of Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned kinglets, but the flights were of very limited duration. A well-described, measured and photographed **Bicknell's Thrush** was banded at the Kaiser-Manitou banding station.

The warbler migration was best documented at the banding stations. Concentrations reported elsewhere were few. Pluses included particularly good numbers of Orange-crowned, Cape May and Palm warblers. Five Connecticut Warblers banded this fall were the major highlight for this group.

Sparrow numbers were good for only a short period in October, after which numbers dropped rapidly. American Tree Sparrows were especially scarce. Dickcissel was a highlight. The usual Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs were scattered across the Region. Winter finches were scarce, with only a lone Pine Grosbeak, a couple of scattered reports of Red Crossbill and a few Pine Siskins.

The Bird of the Season was the Region's first **Townsend's Solitaire**, discovered and described by Mike Davids and a handful of other observers at Hamlin Beach State Park on 29 October. This was a long-anticipated addition to the Region's list.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Braddock Bay; C – Charlotte (Ontario Beach); CH – Cobb's Hill; CU – Cuylerville; G – Greece; GE – Geneseo; H – Town of Hamlin; HB – Hamlin Beach State Park; HP – Hogan Point (Greece); IB – Irondequoit Bay; M – Manitou; NR – Nations Road (Avon)

LOONS – WATERFOWL

Red-throated Loon: arr 2 HB 7 Oct; max 626 HB 19 Nov.
Com. Loon: max 642 HB 14 Nov.
Red-necked Grebe: arr HB 17 Sep.
Eared Grebe: C 20 Nov (DT, MD); HB 4 Nov (WS).
Northern Gannet: HB 4 Nov (GC, JL); HB 11 Nov (DS, BE, RS); 2 HB 17 Nov (mob); HB 29 Nov (WS); all imm.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 706 HB 22 Oct.
Great Egret: BB 24-26 Oct.
Green Heron: last Durand-Eastman P 18 Nov (JG), very late.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: last 3 G 26 Oct.
Snow Goose: arr HB 23 Oct.
Brant: arr 438 HB 23 Oct; max 1755 HB 15 Oct; 1663 HB 24 Oct.
Tundra Swan: arr 2 HB 22 Oct; max

127 Conesus L 25 Nov.
Blue-winged Teal: last 3 G 31 Oct.
N. Pintail: max 390 HB 15 Oct.
Canvasback: arr 6 HB 7 Oct.
Redhead: arr 12 HB 7 Oct.
Ring-necked Duck: arr 22 HB 8 Oct.
King Eider: fem HB 31 Oct (WS).
Surf Scoter: arr 2 HB 24 Sep.
Black Scoter: arr 2 HB 31 Oct; max 1213 HB 15 Oct.
Long-tailed Duck: arr 31 HB 8 Oct.
Bufflehead: arr 2 HB 19 Oct.
Com. Goldeneye: arr HB 17 Oct.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: last 3 Sodus Bay 6 Oct.
N. Goshawk: BB 6 Sep; BB 12 Oct; Scottsville 25 Oct; HB 16 Nov.
Broad-winged Hawk: last Seneca P 13 Oct.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr Mendon 19

Oct.

Merlin: G 1 Nov (KG), only report.

Peregrine Falcon: Irondequoit 30 Nov (PS).

Sandhill Crane: 2 Butler WAYN 16 Sep.

Black-bellied Plover: max 19 West Lakeshore 16 Sep; last G 19 Nov.

Semipalmated Plover: last IB 5 Nov.

Greater Yellowlegs: last G 12 Nov.

Lesser Yellowlegs: last 3 CU 28 Oct.

Upland Sandpiper: last NR 4 Sep.

White-rumped Sandpiper: last 2 IB 5 Nov.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr HB 17 Sep.

Pectoral Sandpiper: last G 19 Nov.

Purple Sandpiper: IB 11-12 Nov (RS, SS), only report.

Dunlin: arr HB 19 Sep.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Clarendon 7-8 Oct (CD, KG), only report.

Red-necked Phalarope: 2 IB 17 Sep (DT), few reports.

Pomarine Jaeger: HB 30 Nov (DS, WS), only report.

Parasitic Jaeger: 2 HB 5 Sep (WS), HB 24 Sep (WS); 13 total Oct; HB 4 Nov; HB 11 Nov; HB 28 Nov.

Franklin's Gull: juv C 20 Sep (RS, SS).

Little Gull: G 15 Sep (KG), only report.

Black-headed Gull: 2 imm HB 22 Oct (WS, MD).

Iceland Gull: arr HB 7 Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: IB 18-19 Nov (DS, DT, MD).

Glaucous Gull: arr 2 HB 12 Nov.

Black-legged Kittiwake: 6 HB 8 Oct; 2 HB 5 Nov; 4 HB 12 Nov; all imm.

SABINE'S GULL: 1-3 imm HB 10 Oct (WS, GC, mob).

ARCTIC TERN: imm HB 17 & 19 Sep (MD, WS).

Forster's Tern: last C 16 Sep.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Snowy Owl: arr Clyde WAYN 12 Nov.

Short-eared Owl: max 10 West

Bloomfield 25 Nov.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Penfield 8 Sep.

Com. Nighthawk: last Brighton 27 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last M 25 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last M 15 Sep.

Least Flycatcher: last M 9 Oct, record late.

Great Crested Flycatcher: last Portage 17 Sep.

E. Kingbird: last HP 16-30 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: last M 30 Oct.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr M 10 Sep.

Red-eyed Vireo: last M 12 Oct.

Purple Martin: last 2 G 18 Sep.

Barn Swallow: last 2 Shore Acres 19 Oct.

swallow sp: H 11 Nov.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr M 9 Sep; max 95 G 9 Oct.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: G first half Oct.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: HB 29 Oct (MD, et al), 1st Regional record.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr M 13 Sep; last M 12 Oct.

BICKNELL'S THRUSH: M 22 Sep (EB), banded.

Swainson's Thrush: arr NR 3 Sep; last M 8 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: max 54 M 5 Oct.

Brown Thrasher: last G 7 Nov.

Am. Pipit: arr HB 17 Sep; last 2 HB 14 Nov.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: last M 2-3 Oct.

Tennessee Warbler: arr NR 3 Sep; last M 25 Sep.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr HB 26 Sep; last M 12 Oct.

Nashville Warbler: last M 10 Oct.

N. Parula: arr M 9 Sep, banded; last M 25 Sep.

Yellow Warbler: last M 18 Sep.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: last CH 26 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: last 6 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: arr M 15 Sep; last M 24 Sep.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last M 15 Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last Letchworth SP 1 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last G 24 Sep.
Pine Warbler: last Letchworth SP 1 Oct.
Palm Warbler: arr M 13 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr M 9 Sep; last M 30 Sep.
Black-and- white Warbler: last M 9 Oct.
Am. Redstart: last M 4 Oct.
Ovenbird: last M 4 Oct.
N. Waterthrush: last M 25 Sep.
Connecticut Warbler: M 11 & 13 Sep (EB); 3 HB 14 Sep (DB); M 3 Oct (EB).
Mourning Warbler: last M 13 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: last M 8 Oct.
Canada Warbler: last M 18 Sep.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 12 HP 15 Oct.
Chipping Sparrow: max 50 Mendon 2

Oct; last HP 3 Nov.
Savannah Sparrow: max 70 HP 15 Oct.
NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: HB 30 Sep ((DB), banded.
Fox Sparrow: arr CH 26 Sep (AW); max 4 HP 15 Oct.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr M 15 Sep; max 22 G 17 Oct.
Swamp Sparrow: max 40 HP 15 Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: max 500+ West Lakeshore 15 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr 2 M 19 Sep; max 160+ HP 15 Oct.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 60 HP 15 Oct.
Lapland Longspur: arr 18 GE 16 Oct; max 30+ GE 27 Oct.
Snow Bunting: arr HB 7 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: last NR 10 Oct.
DICKCISEL: BB 8 Sep (DT).
Rusty Blackbird: West Lakeshore 29 Sep.
Baltimore Oriole: last CH 26 Sep.
Pine Grosbeak: HB 16 Nov (DS), only report.
Red Crossbill: HB 4 Nov (DT), only report.

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REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES REGION

BILL OSTRANDER

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September temperatures and precipitation in the Region were normal. October precipitation was also very close to typical with the average temperature just 1.5°F above normal. November temperatures were 1.2° cooler than mean and precipitation was below. In Elmira, precipitation was well below the norm every month of the season. Many cold fronts passed through the Region to hurry migrants through. September featured at least seven cold fronts, October had four and November saw six.

The following account includes comparisons of bird populations in the Region between fall 2000 and fall 1999, with occasional reference to a species' status in fall 1998. Unless otherwise noted, the cited comparisons showed statistically significant changes ($\chi^2 > 3.84$; $P = 0.05$). A discussion of my methodology and its limitations can be found in the Region 3 report that appeared in the December 1999 Vol 49(4) issue of *The Kingbird*.

A report received from the Cayuga Lake Loon Watch announced the beginning of the migration through the Region on 29 October. The peak day at the Loon Watch was not posted on the internet, mistakenly giving the impression of a decrease in the number of Common Loons reported. Ken Rosenberg spotted the only two Red-throated Loons of the season flying over Dryden. Horned Grebe declined for the second consecutive year. A rare fall report of Red-necked Grebe came from John Ascher at Stewart Park 20 October. Double-crested Cormorant rebounded to its highest fall numbers since the initiation of cormorant control measures on Lake Ontario.

An increase in Great Egret was the only notable change among the herons. Turkey Vulture numbers were down.

Snow Goose and Brant numbers were both way up this fall. This was the second consecutive increase for Brant. Canada Geese were reported in lower numbers. A few reports of Ross's Geese all came from the Savannah Mucklands, now a part of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex. Mute Swan, Tundra Swan and most of the dabblers were up in numbers. Green-winged Teal and Mallard were down, however. Wood Duck and Blue-winged Teal showed no change. All *Aythya* species were up. Long-tailed Duck numbers were down, but Black Scoter was way up. Ken Rosenberg discovered and Kevin McGowan photographed a Surf Scoter on Dryden Lake. Hooded Merganser increased. Red-breasted Merganser decreased for the second consecutive year.

Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier and American Kestrel all showed increases. Red-shouldered and Red-tailed hawks were both reported in lower numbers. Joan Scrocarelli and Anne Thurber noted a migration of red-tails past Harris Hill in Big Flats on 19 October and Geo Kloppel noted one at West Danby the following day.

Both Ruffed Grouse and Wild Turkey showed declines this fall. A good mast crop, however, may aid the winter survival of the turkeys. American Coot numbers were way up, particularly in the Main Pool at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge.

Cayuga Basin birders did not organize shorebird counts at Montezuma this fall, which may account for the generally lower numbers reported. Semipalmated Plover, Least Sandpiper and Common Snipe reports declined for the second consecutive year. Also declining this fall were Killdeer, Greater and Lesser yellowlegs, Pectoral and Stilt sandpipers, Dunlin and Short-billed Dowitcher. No Hudsonian Godwits appeared. The one bright spot among the shorebirds was an increase in White-rumped Sandpiper. Five Western Sandpipers discovered by Dominic Sherony, Mike Tetlow and Matt Victoria at Montezuma, and two Red-necked Phalaropes found by Jay and Kevin McGowan at Stewart Park, Ithaca were the highlights of the shorebird migration.

Ring-billed Gull increased this year, but Herring and Great Black-backed gulls both declined for the second consecutive year. Meena Haribal discovered a first-year Sabine's Gull at Stewart Park and Ken Rosenberg spotted an unidentified jaeger while attempting to photograph the gull. Unusual for the Region in fall were several sightings of Forster's Tern, mostly at Stewart Park.

Mourning Dove increased. Chimney Swift increased for the second consecutive year. Common Nighthawk decreased for the second straight year. Most of the migrants, however, passed through during the summer season. The only Whip-poor-will was one that landed in the road in front of Matt Young on Mt. Pleasant near Ithaca.

The only species of woodpecker to change was Downy, which increased. A Chemung Valley Audubon Society field trip turned up an immature Red-headed Woodpecker at Mark Twain State Park. The decline in Eastern Phoebe was the only change among flycatchers. A Western Kingbird was scrutinized well by most of the staff at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

Horned Lark decreased. Tree, Northern Rough-winged, Bank and Barn swallows were all reported in higher numbers this fall. Blue Jay, American Crow and Common Raven were all down this year, as were Black-capped Chickadee and Brown Creeper. House and Winter wrens and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher were up. Thrushes presented a mixed picture, with Eastern Bluebird and Swainson's Thrush both increasing for the second consecutive year, Wood Thrush increasing and Gray-cheeked Thrush and American Robin decreasing.

Gray Catbird increased for the second consecutive year. European Starling, American Pipit and Cedar Waxwing all decreased. There were relatively few changes among warbler species. Tennessee and Magnolia warblers and Common Yellowthroat all increased. Yellow-rumped Warbler increased for the second year in a row. Cape May, Black-throated Green and Blackpoll warblers all declined. American Redstart, which was down during the summer, was up during the fall. The most exciting warbler sighting was Bill Purcell's Connecticut Warbler, which showed up along the Esker Brook Trail for the Montezuma Muckrace.

Sparrows also presented a mixed scenario. Eastern Towhee increased. Song and Swamp sparrows increased for the second consecutive year. American Tree, Chipping, Fox and White-crowned sparrows and Dark-eyed Junco decreased. Lapland Longspurs arrived in increased numbers, but Snow Buntings were down. Ken Rosenberg found the only Vesper Sparrow of the season. Steve Kelling and Geo Kloppel each heard Dickcissels calling as the birds flew overhead.

Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark and Brown-headed Cowbird were all up. Common Grackle was down. Montezuma Muckracers, who usually count grackles by the hundred thousands in the Montezuma Wetlands Complex, were hard pressed to get the species on their lists this year. This phenomenon may have been due to the late ripening of corn, the planting of which was delayed by the wet spring.

All winter finches were down this year except the locally breeding Purple Finch and American Goldfinch, which showed increases for the second year in a row. In spite of several early reports of White-winged Crossbill in more northern regions, Dave Russell spotted the only flock to appear in the Finger Lakes Region. Ironically, this flock appeared in Big Flats in the southern part of the Region. Finally, House Sparrow was reported in higher numbers this fall.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CLSP – Cayuga Lake State Park; CorU – Cornell University; DryL – Dryden Lake; EIDa – Elmira Dam; ENPr – Etna Nature Preserve; GlMe – Gleason Meadows CHEM; HHP – Harris Hill Park CHEM; KH – Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory SCHU; Lan – Lansing; LoPd – Lowe Pond CHEM; MNWR – Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; MtPl – Mt. Pleasant TOMP; MuLo – Mud Lock CAYU; MWC – Montezuma Wetlands Complex SENE; MyPt – Myers Point TOMP; SaMu – Savannah Mucklands SENE; SaWo – Sapsucker Woods TOMP; StP – Stewart Park TOMP; SuSF – Summerhill State Forest CAYU; TCAH – The Center at Horseheads CHEM; TFSP – Taughannock Falls State Park; WDan – West Danby

LOONS – DUCKS

RED-THROATED LOON: 2 Dryden 15 Nov (KR), only report.

Com. Loon: arr TFSP 17 Oct; max 1075 TFSP 12 Nov; 810 Dryden 15 Nov.

Horned Grebe: arr MNWR 24 Oct, late; max 4 Aurora Bay, CAYU 29 Nov.

RED-NECKED GREBE: StP 20 Oct (JAs), only report.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 255 MNWR 10 Sep; 200 StP 6 Oct; last MNWR 24 Oct, early.

Am. Bittern: max 2 MNWR 24 Sep; DryL 19 Sep; last SaMu 6 Oct.

Least Bittern: max 2 DryL 20 Sep, high; last DryL 22 Sep (BPr), late.

Great Egret: max 55 MNWR 16 Sep; last MNWR 24 Oct.

Green Heron: max 6 MtPl 13 Sep; 4 DryL 20 Sep; last MNWR 7 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 20 MNWR 5 Sep; last 7 MNWR 22 Sep.

Turkey Vulture: max 52 Snyder Hill, TOMP 26 Sep; 21 Lan 11 Oct; last KH 24 Nov (J&SGr), late.

Snow Goose: arr MWC 22 Oct, late; max & last 1201 SaMu 29 Nov (MY), late.

ROSS'S GOOSE: arr & max 3 SaMu 19 Nov, high; last SaMu 29 Nov (MY), late.

Brant: arr StP 6 Oct; max 1000 Ithaca 8

Oct; last 200 StP 11 Nov.

Canada Goose: max 12001 SaMu 29 Nov, high; 6775 MNWR 1 Oct.

Mute Swan: arr 4 MuLo 16 Sep, late, max & high.

Tundra Swan: arr 2 MNWR 29 Oct; max 501 CLSP 29 Nov, high; 275 MNWR 18 Nov.

Wood Duck: max 20 TCAH 30 Sep, low; 18 MNWR 1 Oct; last KH 28 Nov (J&SGr), late.

Blue-winged Teal: max 28 MNWR 10 Sep; last MNWR 24 Oct.

N. Shoveler: max 37 MNWR 1 Oct; last 5 CLSP 29 Nov (MY), late.

N. Pintail: max 180 StP 24 Sep; 70 Route 5/20, Tyre 16 Sep; last 3 MNWR 19 Nov.

Green-winged Teal: max 81 MNWR 5 Nov; last 4 Union Springs Mill Pond 29 Nov.

Redhead: max 201 CLSP 29 Nov, high; 19 MNWR 5 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 2 MNWR 16 Sep; max 624 MNWR 5 Nov.

Greater Scaup: arr StP 7 Oct; max 3 CLSP 29 Nov; 3 MyPt 29 Oct.

Lesser Scaup: arr MNWR 16 Sep (Bfa,MH,GK,TN), early; max 67 CLSP 29 Nov; 52 MNWR 5 Nov.

scoter sp: max 400 StP 18 Oct, high.
SURF SCOTER: DryL 10 Oct (KR & KMc ph), only report.
White-winged Scoter: arr StP 13 Sep (BE), early; max 4 TFSP 29 Oct; 2 StP 10 Oct; last 2 MyPt 12 Nov.
Black Scoter: arr 6 TFSP 17 Oct; max & last 200 East Shore Sailing Club TOMP 18 Oct, high & early.
Long-tailed Duck: arr StP 17 Oct (BFo), early; last StP 18 Oct, early.
Bufflehead: arr 2 StP 10 Oct (AMJ), early; max 41 Ledyard 29 Nov; 26 Aurora Bay CAYU 29 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: arr 4 Cayuga L 13 Nov, late; max 26 Ledyard 29 Nov.
Com. Merganser: max 13 CorU 4 Sep, low; 12 EIDa 21 Oct.
Ruddy Duck: max 20 DryL 10 Oct; last MNWR 5 Nov, early.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: max 3 MNWR 10 Sep, low; 2 EIDa 4 Sep; last KH 28 Oct.
Bald Eagle: max 8 MNWR 3 Sep, high.
N. Harrier: max 11 Ledyard 27 Nov; 4 KH 28 Sep.
Red-shouldered Hawk: KH 29-30 Sep.
Broad-winged Hawk: SuSF 7 Sep; last MNWR 16 Sep, early.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 56 WDan 20 Oct; 45 HHP 19 Oct.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr Dryden 16 Oct (TG); max 2 Ledyard 27 Nov; 2 CorU 20 Oct.
Golden Eagle: arr & max 2 TFSP 28 Oct; last MNWR 27 Nov.
Peregrine Falcon: max 2 SaMu 6 Oct; MNWR 7 Oct; last MNWR 27 Nov (BFa), late.
Virginia Rail: LoPd 3 Sep; last MNWR 16 Sep, early.
Com. Moorhen: max 26 MNWR 10 Sep; last MNWR 29 Oct (NB,Bfo,MatW), late.
Black-bellied Plover: max 4 MNWR 16 Sep; last 2 MyPt 11 Nov, late.

Am. Golden-Plover: max & last 16 Genoa 9 Oct; 3 MNWR 7 Sep.
Semipalmated Plover: max 15 MNWR 10 Sep, low; last MNWR 22 Sep.
Killdeer: 16 CorU 1 Sep; max 35 HHP 4 Sep; last MyPt 11 Nov.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 16 MNWR 10 Sep; last 7 MNWR 29 Oct.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 10 MNWR 3 Sep, low; last 2 MNWR 29 Oct.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 2 CorU 1 Sep; MNWR 16 Sep; last LoPd 23 Sep.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 2 EIDa 2 Sep; last 2 KH 15 Oct.
Ruddy Turnstone: max 2 MNWR 13 Sep, high; last MNWR 16 Sep.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 6 EIDa 2 Sep; max & last 6 MNWR 16 Sep, low.
WESTERN SANDPIPER: max 5 MNWR 4 Sep (DSh,MT,MV), high, only report.
Least Sandpiper: max 50 MNWR 10 Sep; last 8 Fayette 8 Oct.
White-rumped Sandpiper: max 30 MNWR 7 Sep; last MNWR 24 Sep.
Baird's Sandpiper: MNWR 4 Sep; EIDa 7 Sep; last MNWR 24 Sep.
Pectoral Sandpiper: 3 Fayette 8 Oct; max & last 6 MNWR 24 Oct, low.
Dunlin: max 40 MNWR 8 Oct; last 2 MNWR 29 Oct.
Stilt Sandpiper: max 13 MNWR 4 Sep, low; last MNWR 22 Sep.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: max & last 2 MNWR 4 Sep, early.
Short-billed Dowitcher: max 9 MNWR 7 Sep; last MNWR 16 Sep.
Long-billed Dowitcher: max 13 MNWR 7 Oct; last MNWR 24 Oct.
Com. Snipe: max 2 MNWR 5 Sep; last MNWR 24 Oct.
Am. Woodcock: KH 1 Sep; last Dryden 17 Oct.
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: 2 StP 14 Sep (J&KMc), only report.
jaeger sp: StP 7 Oct (KR), only report.
Bonaparte's Gull: MNWR 6 Oct; last

StP 7 Oct, early.

Herring Gull: max 51 MNWR 5 Nov, low; 11 Elmira 12 Sep.

SABINE'S GULL: StP 7 Oct (MH!, mob).

Caspian Tern: max 5 MNWR 3 Sep; 5 StP 13 Sep; last EIDa 24 Sep.

Com. Tern: max 3 StP 13 Sep; last 2 MuLo 16 Sep.

FORSTER'S TERN: max 2 StP 14 Sep, high; last 2 StP 21 Sep, early.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: KH 1 Sep; last KH 4 Sep.

Snowy Owl: arr SaMu 17 Nov (GP), early; max 3 SaMu 30 Nov, high.

Short-eared Owl: arr 2 Ledyard 18 Nov; max 3 SaMu 24 Nov.

Com. Nighthawk: max 4 MNWR 6 Sep; last Dil Woods 18 Sep.

WHIP-POOR-WILL: MtPl 13 Sep (MY), only report.

Chimney Swift: max 84 Elmira 2 Sep; last 2 MNWR 16 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 5 KH 13 Sep; last KH 24 Sep.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: Mark Twain SP 14 Oct (CVAS), only report.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 3 MNWR 16 Sep, high; LoPd 23 Sep.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Slaterville Springs 19 Sep; HHP 29 Sep; last Dryden 19 Nov.

Downy Woodpecker: 8 Southport 30 Sep; max 12 KH 18 Nov, high.

Hairy Woodpecker: 2 SaWo 27 Sep; max 4 KH 18 Nov, high.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-pewee: max 10 CorU 21 Sep, high; last 15 Big Flats 29 Sep.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 2 KH 10 Sep, high; MNWR 16 Sep; last Caroline 20 Sep.

Least Flycatcher: MNWR 16 Sep; last

Tanglewood Forest CHEM 28 Sep.

E. Phoebe: max 3 GlME 4 Sep; 3 SaWo 27 Sep; last KH 4 Nov.

Great Crested Flycatcher: KH 3 Sep; last KH 8 Sep.

WESTERN KINGBIRD: SaWo 13 Sep (mob).

E. Kingbird: DryL 19 Sep; last Willseyville Valley Railroad TOMP 3 Oct (CCBC, MarW), Regional late record.

N. Shrike: arr MNWR 22 Sep (AMJ,MatW), early; last Dryden 26 Nov.

WHITE-EYED VIREO: MNWR 1 Oct (MOV), only report.

Yellow-throated Vireo: MNWR 16 Sep; last HHP 29 Sep, late.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 2 WDan 19 Sep, low; last Lan 16 Oct.

Warbling Vireo: max 3 MNWR 10 Sep; last SaWo 26 Sep.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr KH 5 Sep; max 2 CorU 24 Sep; last DryL 8 Oct, late.

Red-eyed Vireo: 8 HHP 4 Sep; max 10 CorU 24 Sep, high; last SaWo 28 Sep, early.

Am. Crow: max 1200 KH 22 Oct, high.

Purple Martin: MNWR 16 Sep; last MNWR 30 Sep.

Tree Swallow: max 2000 MNWR 16 Sep; last 6 DryL 6 Oct.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max & last 200 MNWR 1 Oct, high; 24 MWC 1 Oct.

Bank Swallow: max & last 100 MNWR 1 Oct, high.

Barn Swallow: 7 Lodi 8 Sep; max & last 400 MNWR 1 Oct, high.

Black-capped Chickadee: 20 CorU 19 Sep; max 21 SaWo 22 Sep, low.

Tufted Titmouse: max 6 SaWo 28 Sep, low; 6 KH 18 Nov.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 20 SuSF 7 Sep, high.

Carolina Wren: 4 StP 13 Sep; 4 Catharine Valley Trail SCHU 13 Oct, high.

House Wren: max 37 MWC 1 Oct, high;

last MWC 22 Oct.
Winter Wren: max 2 StP 24 Sep; 2 MNWR 7 Oct; last WDan 21 Oct.
Marsh Wren: TCAH 30 Sep; last MNWR 9 Oct.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr MNWR 16 Sep; max 20 MNWR 7 Oct; 20 Lan 16 Oct; last KH 4 Nov.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 7 MNWR 16 Sep, high; last MNWR 7 Oct.
E. Bluebird: max 48 HHP 14 Sep; 16 KH 17 Oct.
Veery: max 6 WDan Sep; 3 MNWR 16 Sep; last 2 Caroline 20 Sep.
Gray-checked Thrush: arr 2 MtPI 13 Sep; max 3 Tyre 16 Sep; last SaWo 23 Sep, early.
Swainson's Thrush: arr & max 51 MtPI 13 Sep, high; 10 MNWR 16 Sep; last 10 Ithaca College 3 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: max 2 KH 12 Oct; last Long Point SP 27 Nov (BFa), late.
Wood Thrush: max 8 MtPI 13 Sep, low; 3 MNWR 16 Sep; last Caroline 20 Sep, early.
Gray Catbird: max 35 ENPr 13 Sep, high; 17 SaWo 27 Sep; last KH 19 Oct.
N. Mockingbird: max 3 TCAH 30 Sep, low; 3 Ledyard 29 Nov.
Brown Thrasher: ENPr 13 Sep; max 2 Southport 16 Sep; last MWC 8 Oct.
Am. Pipit: arr 2 MNWR 16 Sep; max 34 MWC 22 Oct; last 30 MtPI 3 Nov.
Cedar Waxwing: max 60 SaWo 17 Oct, low; 60 KH 18 Nov.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: max 2 GI Me 4 Sep, high; last CorU 21 Sep late.
Tennessee Warbler: arr CorU 9 Sep; max 4 MWC 1 Oct, high; last 3 Lan 16 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr KH 20 Sep; max 2 MWC 7 Oct, high; last MWC 9 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: 5 KH 25 Sep; max 9 MWC 1 Oct, high; last KH 12 Oct.

N. Parula: arr 2 CorU 12 Sep; max 2 HHP 13 Sep; last CorU 24 Sep.
Yellow Warbler: KH 6 Sep; last MWC 7 Oct, Regional late record.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 5 CorU 24 Sep; last SaWo 26 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: max 6 Danby 23 Sep; 6 MWC 1 Oct; last WDan 3 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: arr CorU 24 Sep, late; last MWC 1 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 3 SaWo 26 Sep; 2 KH 25 Sep; last SaWo 18 Oct, late.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 47 MWC 1 Oct; max 101 MNWR 7 Oct, high; last 2 Ledyard 29 Nov.
Black-throated Green Warbler: 3 HHP 13 Sep; max & last 3 MWC 1 Oct, low.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 2 CorU 21 Sep; last Etna 23 Sep.
Pine Warbler: max 4 HHP 13 Sep; last SaWo 18 Oct.
Prairie Warbler: max 2 HHP 13 Sep, high; last LoPd 23 Sep.
Palm Warbler: arr Southport 16 Sep; max 12 MWC 9 Oct, high; last Lan 11 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: max 2 MNWR 10 Sep; last 2 CorU 24 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr & max 2 CorU 9 Sep; last Willseyville Valley Railroad TOMP 3 Oct.
Black-and-white Warbler: Newtown Battlefield Reservation 17 Sep; Danby 24 Sep; last WDan 27 Sep.
Am. Redstart: 2 MNWR 10 Sep; max 7 SuSF 13 Sep; last StP 24 Sep.
Ovenbird: max 4 ENPr 13 Sep; 2 KH 26 Sep; last KH 28 Sep.
CONNECTICUT WARBLER: MNWR 16 Sep (BPu), only report.
Mourning Warbler: ENPr 13 Sep; SaWo 25 Sep; last CorU 26 Sep (JGI), late.
Com. Yellowthroat: 15 ENPr 13 Sep; max 49 MWC 1 Oct; last KH 9 Oct.
Hooded Warbler: max 2 WDan 19 Sep;

last Dryden 3 Oct (KR), late.
Wilson's Warbler: SaWo 13 Sep; max 2 MNWR 16 Sep; last WDan 2 Oct.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: ENPr 13 Sep; Slaterville Springs 19 Sep; last MWC 1 Oct.
E. Towhee: max 14 GI Me 19 Sep; 10 Southport 24 Sep; last 4 GI Me 7 Oct, early.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr SaWo 17 Oct; max 26 Dryden 11 Nov.
Chipping Sparrow: max 23 HHP 29 Sep; 20 Dryden 6 Oct; last Ithaca 30 Nov (MatW), late.
Field Sparrow: max 15 GI Me 4 Sep; last MWC 22 Oct.
VESPER SPARROW: DryL 28 Oct (KR), only report.
Savannah Sparrow: max 4 MWC 1 Oct; last 2 MWC 22 Oct.
Fox Sparrow: arr Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 21 Oct; max 11 Park Station CHEM 11 Nov, high; last KH 30 Nov late.
Song Sparrow: max 236 MWC 1 Oct, high; 201 MNWR 7 Oct.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr KH 18 Sep; max 11 MWC 1 Oct, high; last 3 Lan 16 Oct.
Swamp Sparrow: 34 SaWo 28 Sep; max 41 MNWR 7 Oct, high; last TCAH 18 Nov.
White-throated Sparrow: max 97 MWC 1 Oct; 60 Lan 16 Oct; last Dryden 19 Nov.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr KH 16 Sep, early; 15 Lan 16 Oct; max 15 SaWo 17 Oct; last SuSF 25 Oct.
Lapland Longspur: arr & max 10 Marshall Rd YATE 14 Oct, high; StP 19

Oct.
Snow Bunting: arr MNWR 24 Oct; max 24 Long Point SP 5 Nov, low; 23 MyPt 24 Nov.
N. Cardinal: max 16 CorU 12 Sep, high; 9 MWC 1 Oct.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 8 ENPr 13 Sep; max 10 CorU 21 Sep; last 6 Ithaca College 3 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: 3 KH 18 Sep; last 3 MWC 1 Oct.
DICKCISEL: arr Caroline 15 Sep; last Genoa 22 Sep.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 100012 MNWR 1 Oct; 5000 MWC 19 Nov; last KH 25 Nov.
E. Meadowlark: max 50 Southport 9 Nov, high; last Rt 31 CAYU 18 Nov.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 3 TCAH 30 Sep; 26 SuSF 7 Oct; max 201 Neimi Rd Pd TOMP 27 Oct, high; last 13 TCAH 18 Nov.
Com. Grackle: 50 Elmira 6 Sep; max 2000 Tyre 16 Sep; last KH 30 Nov, late.
Brown-headed Cowbird: 90 Horseheads 11 Sep; max 2000 Tyre 16 Sep, high; last KH 30 Nov, late.
Baltimore Oriole: max 2 HHP 2 Sep, high; last KH 8 Sep.
Purple Finch: max 26 SuSF 3 Nov, high.
WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: max 5 Big Flats 3 Sep (DR), early, only report.
Pine Siskin: max 6 SuSF 3 Nov.
Evening Grosbeak: arr Dryden 13 Sep (KM), early; Hector 25 Oct.
House Sparrow: max 28 Seneca Falls 8 Sep, low.

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

ERIC SULLIVAN

42 Patricia Street, Binghamton NY 13905

September continued the cooler weather of the past summer, with an average monthly temperature of 57.7°F, about 2° cooler than normal. The high was 82° on 2 September and the low of 27° was on the 27th. Rainfall was about an inch less than the average, with a total of 2.4". The greatest amount, 1.28", fell over 12-13 September. October's average temperature of 49.8° was 1° above normal. The high of 73° occurred on the 14th and the low of 27° on the 29th. Four inches of rain fell this month, one inch above the monthly average. The heaviest amount, 1.69", fell over 5-6 October. The first snow flurries came on 8 October and the first measurable amount of 1.4" fell on 9-10 October. November brought colder than normal temperatures that averaged 35.6°, which was 2.7° colder than normal. The high temperature of 62° was reached on two days, the 3rd and the 8th. The lowest temperature of the month, 12°, was on the 24th. There were 18 days of below average temperatures; from 21-24 November the daily high did not get above freezing. The 2" of rainfall was about an inch below average, but more than 6" of snow made up for that. The biggest amount, 3", fell between 29-30 November.

Waterbirds generally had an average to below average showing, with single reports of Blue-winged Teal, American Wigeon, White-winged Scoter and Ruddy Duck. Highlights were Red-necked Grebe at Mirror Lake in Owego and two Black-crowned Night-Herons, one at Brick Pond in Owego in September and an immature at Upper Lisle 18 October. Missed species included Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Gadwall, both scaup and Red-breasted Merganser.

Very good numbers of Brant were reported from Dorchester Park on Whitney Point Reservoir, Broome Co., where many large flocks were seen throughout October. The largest one-day count was about 600 birds flying over in five flocks on the 17th, seen by Marie Petuh. On 19-20 October, there were about 200 stopping over at the park. Further east, 300 flew over Burlington, Otsego Co., on 15 October and 120 over West Burlington on the 16th.

The Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch near Oneonta reported very good counts for many species, including record highs for Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon and a tied high for Merlin. Low counts were noted for Northern Goshawk, Rough-legged Hawk and Golden Eagle.

The last date for the peregrines in downtown Binghamton was 6 October. An immature Peregrine Falcon was found "severely injured, very thin... by the side of the road near the [Broome Co.] airport" on 22 September. It was brought to a local veterinarian, then to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator who "cared for the bird overnight and then brought it to a veterinarian in Liverpool, NY who was authorized to treat endangered species." It was determined "that the bird had a compound fracture of the right wing and was so severe, it would never fly again,

and that the injury was about three days old.” Upon informing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it was “decided that euthanasia was appropriate.” It was suggested that this bird was the immature from the pair in Binghamton, which is highly possible but not conclusive. The preceding quotes are from the “Birder’s Watch” column by Peg Burnett in *Press and Sun-Bulletin*, Oct. 15, 2000, p. 7F.

Shorebirds were rather scarce. Many departed early or were not seen at all, possibly due to cooler weather and high water levels. No rails were seen and the last Spotted Sandpiper occurred on 6 September. A **Purple Sandpiper**, possibly a Regional first, was seen by Jon Weeks at Dorchester Park on Whitney Point Reservoir on 30 November. There are no previous fall records in at least 20 years for this species. Missed species included Lesser Yellowlegs, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper and American Woodcock. Two separate reports of **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, both at Whitney Point Reservoir, were noteworthy. At least one has been reported in three of the last four years, since the Regional first in 1997.

Few owls were reported. Three Short-eared Owls on 25 November in Candor, Tioga County were a good find. No Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported. Red-bellied Woodpecker had fewer reports than usual and a late Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at Margaretville, Delaware County, 28 November.

Twelve Fish Crows in Endicott continue a steady population rise in the southern Broome County area. Common Ravens continue to be seen in the Candor area of Tioga County, where breeding has been suspected, and another was in Maryland, Otsego County. American Pipits were in good numbers this fall, with a high of 200+ in the fields near the intersection of Edwards Hill and Smith Hill roads in the Town of Lisle, Broome County.

Other passerines made an average showing. Species diversity was generally good but the numbers were not there. One mixed flock reported by Jon Weeks at Upper Lisle consisted of eight warbler species, including Blue-winged and Chestnut-sided warblers and Ovenbird, plus 12 Red-eyed Vireos and Olive-sided Flycatcher. Only single reports were received for the following: Veery, Brown Thrasher, Black-and-white Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler and Blackpoll Warbler. Less common species seen were Gray-cheeked Thrush, Golden-winged Warbler, Mourning Warbler, and Hooded Warbler. Missed species included Yellow-throated Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Wood Thrush, Northern Parula, both waterthrushes, and Canada Warbler. Pine Siskins and other northern finches did not make any appearances this fall.

In September, birders noticed that some of the trees in the IBM Glen in the Town of Union, Broome County, were marked for harvesting. The IBM Corporation said that it wanted to do selective harvesting for the health of the forest. Those familiar with the site noticed that the largest pines and oak trees were marked, showing to many that the venture was mainly for profit. Local grade school and university students, as well as citizens and nature groups protested.

After a couple of months of letters and editorials, IBM consented to the public's wishes, and will not go through with its plans to log the trees on its privately owned lands. This site is known locally as a hotspot for resident and migrating songbirds such as Hermit and Wood thrushes, Blue-headed and Red-eyed vireos and warblers such as Blue-winged, Nashville, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Prairie, Black-and-white, Louisiana Waterthrush, Canada and even a rare Yellow-throated Warbler in May 1988. Thankfully, this area is safe again, for now.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

Bing – Binghamton BROO; BPd – Boland Pd, Chenango Bridge BROO; BrPd – Brick Pd, Owego TIOG; BUNP – Binghamton University Nature Preserve, Vestal BROO; CinL – Cincinnatus L CHEN/CORT; CVSP – Chenango Valley SP, Fenton BROO; DP – Dorchester P, Triangle BROO; FMHW – Franklin Mt Hawkwatch DELA; JC – Johnson City BROO; ML – Mirror L, Owego TIOG; RTP – Round Top P, Endicott BROO; UL – Upper Lisle P, Upper Lisle BROO; WeB – West Burlington OTSE; WPR – Whitney Point Res and nearby area BROO

LOONS – DUCKS

Pied-billed Grebe: Chenango R Bing 8 Oct; 2 BPd 20 Sep & 25 Oct; Crumhorn L OTSE 8 Oct.
Red-necked Grebe: ML 28 Oct (SK), often missed.
Double-crested Cormorant: imm on small pond Burlington OTSE 7-11 Sep (NW); 2 reports BROO Sep; max 20 JC 8 Oct, going south (MP); last 2 WPR 16 Oct.
Great Blue Heron: widespread reports; max 3 WPR 25 Sep and BUNP 14 Oct.

Great Egret: 3 Chenango R Bing 6 Sep and 2 there 30 Sep; WPR 25 Sep; TIOG Sep.

Green Heron: T Maine BROO and Chenango R Bing 6 Sep; BrPd 26 Sep; imm Norwich 7 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: BrPd Sep (CB, JB); imm UL 18 Oct (JW); first fall in 4 years.

Turkey Vulture: FMHW total 140, 3rd highest count; max 23 FMHW 28 Sep, last there 4 Nov; widespread reports mostly BROO, good numbers.

Mute Swan: BPd 20 Sep and 2 there 20 Nov; Struble Flood Control Dam T Union 7, 11 Oct; some speculation that the same birds frequent the two ponds.

Snow Goose: UL 10 Sep; 11 DP 16 Oct (MP); Owego 15 Oct; Harpursfield DELA 18 Oct (AM); ML 8 Nov; last few flocks FMHW 12 Nov (AM).

Brant: arr DP 8 Oct; max about 600 flying over DP 17 Oct (MP); 200 on ground DP 19-20 Oct (EHw, MP); 300+ Burlington 15 Oct (JS); 120 WeB 16 Oct (TS); UL 27 Oct (DWa); TIOG Nov; last DP 17 Nov; terrific numbers.

Canada Goose: max 1500 flying over JC 28 Sep (MP); numerous flocks stopping over at DP and GrP Oct, Nov; 500 DP 12 Oct and 20 Nov; about 600 GrP 20 Oct.; many over WeB thru.

Wood Duck: max 16 BPd 10-20 Sep; 2 WPR 16 Oct, unusual on deep water (MP); Norwich 15 Oct, last there; 8 CVSP 25 Oct; TIOG Oct.

Green-winged Teal: several BPd 30 Sep; ML 30 Oct; last Sherburne 27 Nov (FvM fide DW), very late.

Am. Black Duck: max 65 Allen P Morris OTSE 5 Nov (JF); 6 BPd 25 Oct; 11 Maryland OTSE 28 Oct; 6 Cin L 1 Nov; few reports.

N. Pintail: Allen P Morris OTSE 5 Nov (JF); scarce.

Blue-winged Teal: a few BPd 30 Sep (JW); scarce.

Am. Wigeon: Cin L 1-17 Nov.

Redhead: ML 28 Oct (SK); not seen every year.

Ring-necked Duck: arr BPd 20 Sep; 3 ML 28 Oct; 2 WPR 12-30 Nov; low numbers.

White-winged Scoter: WPR 16 Oct; scarce.

Bufflehead: arr. 25-30 WPR 5 Nov (JW); 4 Hillcrest BROO 6 Nov; Cin L 20 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: 18 Cin L 1 Nov; WPR 30 Nov; few reports.

Com. Merganser: max 200 WPR 30

Oct; 30 ML 30 Oct; 100 Cin L 20 Nov; smaller numbers elsewhere; average.

Ruddy Duck: 3 WPR 25-26 Oct (MM, JT); low.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: FMHW total 113, max 20 on 28 Sep, highest count in 7 yrs; Bing 6 Sep; UL 8 Oct; Norwich 11 Oct; last FMHW 20 Oct.

Bald Eagle: FMHW total 40, best count ever; max 7 FMHW 5 Sep; 4 BROO reports Sep.

N. Harrier: FMHW total 42, max 4 on 19, 22, 24 Oct, lower than average; Lisle BROO 20 Nov; 4 Candor TIOG 28 Nov.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: FMHW total 453, max 51 on 19 Oct, best count since 1993.

Cooper's Hawk: FMHW total 68, max 7 on 28 Sep, tied 2nd highest count and best since 1994.

N. Goshawk: FMHW total 7, well below average, lowest count in 10 yrs; arr FMHW 11 Oct, max 2 on 5 Nov; BROO Airport vicinity T Maine 9 Oct (BH, RG); Dimmock Hill Rd T Chenango 22 Nov (RG); nearby locations, local bird?

Red-shouldered Hawk: FMHW total 61, max 16 on 22 Oct, about average; GrP 20 Nov.

Broad-winged Hawk: FMHW total 900, max 151 on 14 Sep, 3rd highest count; TIOG Oct (TBC).

Red-tailed Hawk: FMHW total 1350, max 178 on 19 Oct, below average.

Rough-legged Hawk: FMHW total 4, arr 11 Oct, lowest count in 11 yrs; arr Triangle BROO 1 Nov; arr T Morris OTSE 5 Nov.

Golden Eagle: FMHW total 67, below average, lowest since 1995.

Am. Kestrel: FMHW total 71, max 11 on 8 & 19 Oct, average; several reports early in period; T Union 28 Nov.

Merlin: FMHW total 24, tied with 1997 for highest count; arr there 2 Sep, max 5 on 7 Oct, last 21 Oct; Witty Hill Rd Smithville Flats CHEN 6 Sep (TT);

TIOG 20 Sep (RP).

Peregrine Falcon: FMHW total 21, highest ever, previous high of 16 in 1993; arr 2 FMHW 16 Sep, last 30 Oct; pair Bing 6 Oct, last there; imm found injured T Maine BROO, *intro*.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Pitcher CHEN 6 Sep; 2 Guilford CHEN 19 Oct; Oxford 11 Nov (DW); TIOG thru.

Ruffed Grouse: 4 reports BROO Oct, Nov; one "heard drumming" GrP 20 Nov (MP); CHEN, TIOG thru; Morris OTSE 20 Nov.

Wild Turkey: 8 JC 10 Sep; CHEN many thru; 9 Lisle BROO 29 Nov.

Am. Coot: BPd 26-30 Sep; West Corners Marsh Endicott 8 Oct.

Black-bellied Plover: 2 GrP 15-17 Oct (MP); 2 DP 16 Oct; Cin L 12 Nov (DWa); missed some years.

Killdeer: max 16 GrP 15-20 Oct; 6 other reports BROO, CHEN.

Greater Yellowlegs: Cin L 15, 16 Nov (NCBC); scarce.

Spotted Sandpiper: Maine 6 Sep; only report; early departure.

PURPLE SANDPIPER: DP 30 Nov (JW); possible Regional first, *intro*.

Com. Snipe: Maine 7 Oct (JT); Cin L 1-17 Nov, max 10 on 16 Nov (NCBC); low.

Bonaparte's Gull: DP 5 Nov (RG).

Herring Gull: 3 reports BROO; TIOG Sep; 2 reports CHEN Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 DP 4 Nov (PB); ad WPR 29 Nov, possibly 2 imm with adult but not verified (NCBC).

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: max 48 Endicott 7 Sep.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Vestal 23 Sep, banded (GK).

E. Screech-Owl: Glen Aubrey BROO 9 Oct (JW); Roxbury DELA 3 Sep (AM); TIOG Sep, Oct (CB, JB, SH).

Great Horned Owl: TIOG Sep, Oct (TBC); T Morris OTSE 20 Nov (JF).

Short-eared Owl: Eiklor Rd Candor TIOG 18 Nov (JS); 3 there 25 Nov.

Chimney Swift: last UL 3 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last dates for locations: JC 6 Sep; WeB 13 Sep; Apalachin 22 Sep; TIOG 18 Oct.

Belted Kingfisher: good numbers BROO thru; CHEN thru; TIOG Sep.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: CVSP 25 Oct; west of Vestal Center BROO 29 Oct (MW), new location; Owego thru; fewer reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 3 BROO reports, last Glen Aubrey 27 Sep; TIOG Sep; Margaretville DELA 28 Nov (JD), late.

N. Flicker: several Sep reports; WeB 18 Nov; Morris 20 Nov; TIOG thru.

Pileated Woodpecker: 4 reports BROO; T Morris 20 Nov; TIOG thru.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: UL 3 Sep (JW).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: banded Candor TIOG 1 Sep; last Glen Aubrey 10 Sep.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: banded Vestal 20 Sep (GK); only report.

Least Flycatcher: banded Candor 11 Sep (RP); banded Vestal 23 Sep (GK).

E. Phoebe: max 5 JC 8 Sep; Maryland 15 Oct; last Vestal 16 Oct.

Great Crested Flycatcher: T Dickinson BROO 12 Oct (RG), very late.

E. Kingbird: max 2 JC 8 Sep & UL 10 Sep, last.

N. Shrike: arr UL 18 Oct (JW); Lisle 20, 27 Oct (MP, DWa); TIOG Nov.

Blue-headed Vireo: Chenango Forks BROO 22 Sep; banded Vestal 23, 26 Sep; last 2 banded Vestal 3 Oct.

Warbling Vireo: UL 10 Sep; TIOG Sep; last Chenango Forks 22 Sep.

Red-eyed Vireo: 6 reports BROO Sep, max 12 UL 3 Sep; 5 banded Vestal Sep; TIOG Sep, Oct (Biehl), no dates.

Fish Crow: 12 Grippen P Endicott 8 Nov; 4 RTP 17 Nov, nearby areas.

Com. Raven: FMHW max 5 on 28 Sep, 3 on 1 Nov; county pines Maryland 15 Oct; Vestal 21 Oct; Morris OTSE 20 Nov; TIOG Sep, Oct; 2 Eiklor Rd Candor 28 Nov; increasing reports.

Horned Lark: 18 Lisle 30 Nov (JW).

Tree Swallow: UL 3 Sep; last 2 Nanticoke L Lisle 13 Sep (NCBC).

Barn Swallow: UL 3 Sep; TIOG Sep. swallow sp: several WPR 9 Oct (JW).

Tufted Titmouse: scattered reports, mostly BROO.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: BROO, CHEN thru; TIOG Sep.

Carolina Wren: T Dickinson 10 Sep & T Union 11 Oct both BROO; TIOG Oct; Campville TIOG Nov.

House Wren: 3 reports BROO Sep; WeB 15 Sep, last there; Ely Park Bing. 1 Oct; last Vestal 3 Oct.

Winter Wren: Maryland 8 Oct; banded Vestal 11, 16 Oct; only reports.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 2 reports Bing area Oct; max 4 CVSP 25 Oct.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr JC 18 Sep, max 7 there 29 Sep; 8 banded Vestal Oct; 12 banded Candor Oct.

E. Bluebird: several reports BROO, TIOG thru; max 8 JC 16 Sep; 5 FHNC 6 Nov; FMHW 12 Nov; WeB 18 Nov.

Veery: banded Candor 1 Sep (RP); only report.

Gray-checked Thrush: banded Vestal 27 Sep (GK); Vestal 6 Oct (GK).

Swainson's Thrush: banded Vestal 23 Sep; banded Candor 30 Sep; only reports.

Hermit Thrush: 3 JC 8 Sep; Margaretville 26 Sep; banded Candor 7 Oct; 10 banded Vestal Oct, max 3 on 16 Oct, last 24 Oct.

Am. Robin: max 68 JC 28 Oct; Triangle 5 Nov.

Gray Catbird: max 14 JC 18 Sep; 22 banded Vestal Sep, Oct; CHEN thru; WeB 7 Oct, last there; TIOG Oct; WPR 4 Nov (PB).

N. Mockingbird: JC thru; TIOG Oct,

Nov; low.

Brown Thrasher: UL 3 Sep (J&JW).

Am. Pipit: arr 10 Lisle 20 Oct (MP); max 200- Edwards Hill Rd, Lisle 21 Oct (JW), 24 there 26 Oct.

Cedar Waxwing: max 80 BPd 30 Sep (JW); 36 JC 12 Oct.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: Candor 1 Sep; UL 3 Sep.

Golden-winged Warbler: banded Candor 1 Sep (RP), only second fall since 1984.

Nashville Warbler: max 4 banded Vestal 23 Sep; 5 banded Vestal Oct, last one 19 Oct (GK), only reports.

Yellow Warbler: UL 3 Sep.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Candor 1 Sep; JC 8 Sep; banded Vestal 20 Sep.

Magnolia Warbler: Candor 13 Sep; 9 banded Vestal Sep, last on 7 Oct, late.

Cape May Warbler: Glenwood Rd, T Dickinson 23 Sep (RG).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: 5 banded Vestal Sep, Oct, last 16 Oct.; Candor 29 Sep.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: several reports Sep, Oct; max 4 at 3 BROO sites Oct; WeB 15 Sep, last there; Candor 13 Oct; last 2 WPR 4 Nov.

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 5 Chenango Forks 22 Sep; last Vestal 26 Sep; only reports.

Blackburnian Warbler: Nanticoke L Lisle 13 Sep; only report.

Pine Warbler: BUNP 10 Sep.

Palm Warbler: JC 18 Sep (MP); banded Candor 3 Oct (RP).

Blackpoll Warbler: banded Vestal 2 Oct (GK).

Black-and-white Warbler: banded Candor 1 Sep (RP); early departure; continued low numbers.

Am. Redstart: T Union BROO 7 Sep.

Ovenbird: UL 3 Sep; 4 reports TIOG, last Candor 29 Sep.

Mourning Warbler: BUNP 10 Sep (RG); not seen every fall.
Com. Yellowthroat: 10 reports BROO, last Vestal 24 Oct.
Hooded Warbler: BUNP 10 Sep (RG); not seen every fall.
Wilson's Warbler: banded Vestal 21, 23 Sep, last 3 Oct.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: 3 Sep reports; last TIOG Oct, no date.
E. Towhee: 7 Sep reports, 5 Oct reports, last Vestal 16 Oct.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 5 T Union BROO 10 Oct (JT); other arrivals: FMHW 12 Nov; WeB 19 Nov.
Chipping Sparrow: max 6 JC 8 Sep; last Endwell BROO 8 Nov.
Field Sparrow: max 6 JC 29 Sep; WeB 24 Sep, last there; 2 reports Oct.
Fox Sparrow: Vestal 24 Oct; FMHW 25 Oct-12 Nov; Margaretville 22 Nov; few reports.
Lincoln's Sparrow: banded Candor 30 Sep (RP); banded Vestal 7 Oct (GK); last FHNC 3 Nov, late.
Swamp Sparrow: 5 reports Oct; last FHNC 3 Nov.
White-throated Sparrow: max 22

banded Vestal 16 Oct.; 54 banded Vestal Oct; widespread reports thru.

White-crowned Sparrow: 4 reports BROO Oct; several Norwich 15 Oct; Willet CORT 15 Oct; low to average.
Snow Bunting: arr 3 DP 25 Oct; max 35 DP 6 Nov (MD); 6 Candor 28 Nov.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: UL 3 Sep; Glen Aubrey 10 Sep; Candor 15 Sep.
Red-winged Blackbird: 24 West Corners Marsh Endicott 2 Oct; no large flocks reported.
E. Meadowlark: Plymouth CHEN 1 Sep (DW); TIOG Sep; Willet CORT 30 Nov (JW).
Rusty Blackbird: 3 Glen Aubrey 25 Nov (JW).
Com. Grackle: a few reports thru.
Brown-headed Cowbird: 4 Owego 23 Nov (CB, JB).
Purple Finch: max 7 T Morris 20 Nov (JF); 6 JC 27 Oct; Apalachin 10-20 Oct (CW); average.
House Finch: "at least 2 with eye disease" WeB late Nov (TS).

ADDENDUM

Golden Eagle: Cannonsville Res DELA 29 Jan 2000, uncommon in winter (DOAS Eagle Field Trip).

REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

BILL PURCELL

281 Baum Road, Hastings NY 13076

The Region had cooler temperatures and drier weather than typical. September's average temperature of 60.7°F was 0.8° below normal, and the 3.13" of rain was 0.66" below normal. October's averages were 50.9°, +0.2°, and 2.55" of rain, -0.99". November's average temperature was 2° below the norm at 38.5°, with only 2.68" of precipitation, 1.04" below the average. There were 20.2" of snow for November.

The fall may have been dry but birding in the Region was still influenced in part by the wet spring and early summer. There was little need to draw down Delta Lake to fill the Barge Canal and high water at Delta meant loss of habitat for dabbling ducks and shorebirds, as well as the falcons and Bald Eagles seeking prey.

Red-throated Loons, Common Loons and the three grebe species were all well-reported this season. There were two sightings of first year Northern Gannets moving past Derby Hill in November; the species had not been seen in the Region since 1983. For the fourth consecutive year, a Great Cormorant arrived in Oswego Harbor in November. Great Egrets were found in several locations and lingered into October. A Greater White-fronted Goose was found in Baldwinsville, commuting between two sites for a few days, and two Canada Geese described as the "Richardson's" race were reported, one of them videotaped, at Utica Marsh. There was a record migration of White-winged Scoters at Derby Hill in October, but Surf and Black scoter numbers were not high. Other waterfowl reported in low numbers were Snow Goose, both teal, American Wigeon, *Aythya* ducks and American Coot. The Wood Duck count at Toad Harbor has "suffered" due to a wealth of habitat so that the evening flight can no longer be seen from a single point.

Near Lake Ontario, there was a strong early September flight of Northern Harriers, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks and American Kestrels. Turkey Vultures and Red-tailed Hawks were moving in good numbers by the middle of October, Rough-legged Hawks arrived in mid October but were not concentrated in any areas by the end of the period. Golden Eagle sightings continue to increase in the fall. Five for the season may not seem very many, but compare that with only six sightings for the entire 38 year period from 1957 through 1994! Peregrine Falcon numbers were good, with a pair apparently establishing themselves in Syracuse.

Shorebirds were generally disappointing. Besides Delta Lake, numbers at both Fair Haven and Sylvan Beach were low while Sandy Pond sightings were about average. There was a brief American Golden-Plover migration, only two White-rumped Sandpipers, one Purple Sandpiper and no phalaropes. Good finds were Whimbrel, Western Sandpiper and Stilt Sandpipers at Sandy Pond and a good flight of American Woodcock at Thendara in late October. Jaegers were one of the high spots of the season, with several good days in September and October. A **Long-tailed Jaeger** on 11 October, in the company of several Parasitics and a Pomarine, was only the third Regional record of a live bird. Northern gulls had made only a little push into our area by the end of the season, with only one Glaucous reported. Several Black Terns, unreported in August, could be found at Sandy Pond well into September and stayed longer than Forster's Tern, which usually lingers into October.

Many observers noted calling Eastern Screech-Owls in September. A Barn Owl was found again in the Town of Victory, where it was seen and heard several times during the summer, and Snowy Owls made their first big push into our area since

1997. It appeared that the November snow pushed most Short-eared Owls out of the area. A *Selasphorus* hummingbird was videotaped by Donna Trumble at her feeder in Port Byron and was thought to be a Rufous, although positive identification has not yet been made. It is the first record of a *Selasphorus* species for the Region. In northern Herkimer County, Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay and Boreal Chickadee were all found.

Flycatcher reports were few; only single Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied and no Eastern Kingbirds were noted. Northern Shrike looked as if it would be plentiful over the winter, while a Loggerhead Shrike was very late on 21 October, especially considering its now rare status in the state. Swallows were nearly unreported for the season, with extremely early last dates for Tree and Barn swallows.

The Energy Information Center in Scriba is known as a spring hotspot and it proved to be good this fall as well. Rarities included White-eyed Vireo, Connecticut Warbler, several Gray-cheeked Thrushes and a Dickcissel. Many of the warbler and sparrow reports for the season also came from the EIC but fall warbler numbers were very low, especially away from Lake Ontario. Daily counts of most species other than Yellow-rumped seldom reached a handful and Cape May Warbler was not reported. The sparrow migration started well, with a good count of Lincoln's Sparrows at Lake Ontario and a rare fall Grasshopper Sparrow, but ended with very low numbers for American Tree and Fox sparrows.

Pine Siskins moved through in October in small numbers, White-winged Crossbills moved into the Adirondacks, but there were few elsewhere, and almost no Red Crossbills were found anywhere. Purple Finches were quite scarce for the season, and even American Goldfinches seemed to disappear for a time, probably the result of the breeding birds moving out and a lag until migrants arrived to fill the gap.

A total of 233 species was reported for the season. Rare species for the Region included **Northern Gannet**, Great Cormorant, Greater White-fronted Goose, **Long-tailed Jaeger**, **Barn Owl**, *Selasphorus* hummingbird, **Loggerhead Shrike**, White-eyed Vireo and Dickcissel. Other hard-to-find species were Whimbrel, Western and Purple sandpipers, Pomarine Jaeger, Forster's Tern, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Orange-crowned and Connecticut warblers and Grasshopper Sparrow.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

Adks – Adirondacks; BRH – Bishop Road Hawkwatch, Pulaski; Bvllc – Baldwinsville; 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 MADI; HIWMA – Howland Island WMA; LOL – Lake Ontario Littoral; OnonL – Onondaga Lake; SFWS – Spring Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, Kirkland; SPd – Sandy Pond; SSSP – Selkirk Shores State Park; StMC – Saint Mary's Cemetery, Dewitt; SVB – Sylvan and Verona Beach; Syr – Syracuse; UM – Utica Marsh; WPd – Woodman Pond

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr DH 8 Oct; max 15 FH 19 Nov; Dart's L 21 Nov, unusual Adks.

Com. Loon: arr SPd 10 Sep; max 300 Nine Mile Pt 26 Oct.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 11 UM 20 Oct.

Horned Grebe: arr 22 DH 11 Oct; max 53 Sterling 19 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: 3 DH 21 Oct; 2 SSSP 9 Nov; 2 Minoa 14-18 Nov; 3 Nine Mile Pt 29 Nov.

NORTHERN GANNET: single first winter birds DH 4 Nov (KM) and 11 Nov (BP), both to NYSARC, first Regional sightings since 1983.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 140 OnonL 13 Sep; Big Moose L 24 Nov, late for Adks.

GREAT CORMORANT: arr Oswego 16 Nov; max 2 Oswego 30 Nov.

Great Egret: max 5 GSC and DL 3 Sep; W Monroe to 7 Sep; Old Fly Marsh 19 Sep; 2 DL 2 Oct, late.

Green Heron: max 18 CM 7 Sep; last W Monroe 13 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 OnonL 2 Sep; SPd 3 Sep; UM 14 Sep.

Turkey Vulture: max 111 BRH 15 Oct; 53 in 15 minutes Bvllc 10 Oct, headed south.

Snow Goose: max 65 W Winfield 2 Oct.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Bvllc 11-14 Oct (JB, mob), unconfirmed reports of one same area to 3 Nov.

Canada Goose: big flights 28 Sep, 15 Oct; 10 Nov; max 4000 Sauquoit 10 Nov; single "Richardson's" UM 11 Oct (ph) and Bvllc 24 Oct.

Brant: arr DH 28 Sep; max 800 DH 11 Oct; 385 over Pompey 15 Nov; flight period earlier and more spread than many years.

Mute Swan: 2 FH 5 Sep; 2 GSC 21 Oct; 2 WPd thru.

Tundra Swan: arr 3 FH 6 Nov; max 8 FH 25 Nov.

Wood Duck: max 730 Toad Harbor 5 Sep; 80 UM 26 Oct, late for large numbers.

Gadwall: max 11 FH 1 Nov.

Am. Wigeon: arr 5 DH 21 Sep; max 80 FH 5 Nov.

Am. Black Duck: max 53 DH 28 Oct.

Blue-winged Teal: max 20 DL 25 Sep; last FH 5 Nov.

N. Shoveler: arr SVB 1 Sep; max 12 FH 8 Oct.

N. Pintail: HIWMA 16 Sep; max 20 FH 22 Oct..

Green-winged Teal: max 14 GSC 5 Nov.

Canvasback: max only 3 FH 10 Nov and WPd 16 Nov.

Redhead: max 5 FH 24 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: max 120 Clay 16 Nov.

Greater Scaup: max 40 DH 19 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: 3 FH 5 Nov.

Surf Scoter: max 11 DH 8 Oct.

White-winged Scoter: max 1600 DH 11 Oct (GP), record flight.

Black Scoter: arr and max 35 DH 28 Sep.

Long-tailed Duck: arr 2 DH 11 Oct; max 690 DH 11 Nov; UM 12-17 Nov, unusual.

Bufflehead: arr DH 29 Oct; max 50 Clay 16 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: arr DH 28 Oct.

Hooded Merganser: 9 Minoa 18 Nov; max 48 Brewerton 25 Nov.

Com. Merganser: max 800 OnonL 28 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 282 FH 8 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: max 65 Minoa 16 Oct.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: max 8 BRH 4 Sep; last FH 10 Nov.

Bald Eagle: max 8 BRH 4 Sep.

N. Harrier: max 18 BRH 4 Sep.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 41 BRH 4 Sep.

Cooper's Hawk: 11 for season.

N. Goshawk: BRH 2 Sep; Tassel Hill ONE1 7 Oct; Green Lakes SP 19 Nov.

Red-shouldered Hawk: singles SFWS 18 Sep and FH 27 Oct.

Broad-winged Hawk: max 576 BRH 4 Sep, early for a large flight; last 6 Oneida Hill T Augusta 26 Sep.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 88 BRH 15 Oct.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr and max 5 BRH 15 Oct.

Golden Eagle: singles BRH 15 Oct, T Sullivan 21 Oct, Durhamville 22 Oct, DH 28 Oct, L Julia 30 Oct; continues recent trend of increased fall reports.

Am. Kestrel: max 21 BRH 4 Sep.

Merlin: 7 reports for period; Oswego 30 Nov, may be trying to winter.

Peregrine Falcon: max 3 DL 3 Sep; T Sullivan 3 Sep; 2 Fabius 24 Sep; 2 LOL 6 Oct; 2 Syr after 10 Oct; DH 11 Nov.

Ring-necked Pheasant: only 8 reported.

Ruffed Grouse: max 5 SFWS 12 Nov.

Wild Turkey: expected; flocks of up to 15 common; 2 reports of early Sep FL.

Com. Moorhen: max and last 13 W Monroe 7 Sep.

Am. Coot: max 65 WPd 16 Nov; FH max only 20 on 6 Nov.

Black-bellied Plover: max 21 SPd 15 Oct; SPd 24 Oct.

Am. Golden-Plover: 2 DH 21 Sep; 9 Victory 25-27 Sep; 9 T Augusta 27 Sep; DL 28 Sep; a very brief migration.

Semipalmated Plover: max 18 SPd 10 Sep; last 3 FH 30 Sep.

Killdeer: max 190 Victory 25 Sep.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 6 DL 7 Sep; last FH 26 Oct.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 12 SPd 11 Sep; last 2 DL 2 Oct.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 2 DL 2-4 Sep; last Baltimore Woods 19 Sep.

Spotted Sandpiper: singles DL to 12 Sep; last OnonL 26 Sep.

Whimbrel: SPd 11 Sep (MR).

Ruddy Turnstone: 6 singles, last FH 30 Sep.

Red Knot: max 4 SPd 3 Sep; last SPd 4 Oct.

Sanderling: max 120 SPd 23 Sep; last 14 SPd 24 Oct..

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 35 SVB 4 Sep; last 3 SPd and 6 DL 23 Sep.

Western Sandpiper: SPd 17 Sep (BP, KM).

Least Sandpiper: max 24 DL 3 Sep; last SPd 18 Sep.

White-rumped Sandpiper: SVB 4 Sep; DL 28 Sep.

Baird's Sandpiper: OnonL 13 Sep; max 2 SPd 12 Sep.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 35 DL 28 Sep; last 2 SPd 15 Oct.

Purple Sandpiper: FH 11 Nov (JB).

Dunlin: arr 6 SPd 23 Sep; max 31 SPd 15 Oct; last 2 FH 24 Nov.

Stilt Sandpiper: 4 SPd 11 Sep (MR).

Short-billed Dowitcher: 2 SPd 3 Sep;

only report.

Com. Snipe: max 8 Bville 1 Oct.

Am. Woodcock: 18 Thendara 28 Oct, feeding on golf course; SVB 27 Sep; 2 Cicero 15 Oct.

Parasitic Jaeger: 3 DH 21 Sep; DH 8 Oct; 7 DH 11 Oct.

Pomarine Jaeger: 2 DH 11 Oct; DH 21 Oct.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: DH 11 Oct (report to NYSARC) (GP!, KM, JW). jaeger species: DH 21 Sep; 5 DH 11 Oct.

Little Gull: DH 28 Oct.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 105 SVB 4 Sep.

Glaucous Gull: arr FH 19 Nov.

Black-legged Kittiwake: singles DH 11 and 29 Oct.

Caspian Tern: max 46 SPd 3 Sep; last 7 SPd 23 Sep.

Com. Tern: max 85 SPd 12 Sep; last DH 19 Oct.

Forster's Tern: 1-2 SPd 11-18 Sep.

Black Tern: max 3 SPd 13 Sep; last SPd 23 Sep.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: HIWMA 16 Sep; EIC 23 Sep.

BARN OWL: Victory 26 Sep, same location as summer report (JD).

E. Screech Owl: reports of 13 calling in Sep, typical.

Great Horned Owl: pairs calling Scriba, Ava, Durhamville, CM.

Snowy Owl: arr Oswego, FH 5 Nov; at least 6 individuals for month.

Barred Owl: 2 Highland Forest 24 Sep; 2 SSSP 15 Oct.

Short-eared Owl: 3 Verona 19 Nov.

Com. Nighthawk: Otisco 25 Sep, only report.

Chimney Swift: max 3 several locations, low.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 5 SPd 17 Sep; last DH 21 Sep.

SELASPHORUS SP: imm male Port

Byron 30 Sep (ph) (Donna Trumble, *vide* DC, BP, Kevin McGowan); first Regional record.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 12 EIC 23 Sep; last StMC 11 Nov.

Black-backed Woodpecker: Lost Brook HERK 29 Oct.

N. Flicker: max 20 Durhamville 26 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: HIWMA 9 Sep, only report.

E. Wood-Pewee: 2 reports of early Sep FL; max 5 Whiskey Hollow 5 Sep; last 2 EIC 17 Oct.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: EIC 23 Sep, only report.

Least Flycatcher: last EIC 8 Oct.

E. Phoebe: max 7 DH 10 Oct; last 4 EIC 17 Oct.

Great Crested Flycatcher: 3 reports; last Split Rock 29 Sep.

N. Shrike: arr DL 20 Oct, W Winfield 24 Oct; about 8 others after 12 Nov.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: Bville 21 Oct (JB, report to NYSARC); late, especially considering now rare status.

WHITE-EYED VIREO: EIC 17 Oct (GP).

Yellow-throated Vireo: max and last 3 HIWMA 16 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 6 CM 11 Oct; last 2 EIC 17 Oct.

Warbling Vireo: 5 reports to 19 Sep.

Philadelphia Vireo: max 4 UM 22 Sep; 7 other singles 5 Sep-15 Oct.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 6 EIC 24 Sep; last 27 Sep.

Gray Jay: Thendara 27 Oct.

Blue Jay: max 100 SVB 27 Sep.

Am. Crow: max 2050 BRH 22 Oct.

Com. Raven: not reported outside Adks.

Horned Lark: max 20 Sullivan 3 Sep; widespread Oct-Nov, less than 10 per day.

Tree Swallow: max 350 Victory 24 Sep; last Victory 30 Sep.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max and last 11 SPd 10 Sep.
Bank Swallow: max and last 8 SPd 10 Sep.
Cliff Swallow: T Sullivan 3 Sep, only report.
Barn Swallow: max 90 SPd 10 Sep.
Boreal Chickadee: Lost Brook HERK 31 Oct (GL).
Tufted Titmouse: max 11 Whiskey Hollow 10 Sep.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 14 Pratts Falls 22 Sep; many in breeding areas thru.
Carolina Wren: Baltimore Woods 19 Sep; Syr 16 Nov.
House Wren: max 52 EIC 22 Sep (MV); last Van Buren 15 Oct.
Winter Wren: max 7 EIC 22 Sep.
Marsh Wren: max 9 CM 7 Sep; last CM 15 Nov.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 70 StMC 14 Oct.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 150 EIC 17 Oct; last DH 28 Oct.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 2 Whiskey Hollow 3 Sep; last HIWMA and Durhamville 16 Sep.
E. Bluebird: max 16 Pompey 3 Sep.
Veery: 2 SVB 4 Sep; HIWMA 16 Sep; last Oneida 17 Oct (BB), late.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: EIC 24 Sep; 2 EIC 8 Oct.
Swainson's Thrush: arr SPd 10 Sep; 5 other reports to 17 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: max 20 EIC 17 Oct.^f
Wood Thrush: last 1 SVB and 3 Nine Mile Pt 27 Sep.
Gray Catbird: max 9 W Monroe 7 Sep; last 3 EIC 17 Oct.
Brown Thrasher: EIC 23 Sep; Syr 27 Sep; DH 28 Sep.
Am. Pipit: max 50 per day 27 Sep-15 Oct various sites; last 3 Bville 10 Nov.
Cedar Waxwing: max 108 StMC 22 Nov.

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler: 10 reported to 28 Sep.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr SPd 16 Sep; Hastings 25 Sep; 2 EIC 17 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: max 6 DH 28 Sep; last EIC and SFWS 17 Oct.
N. Parula: few reports; last Pompey 30 Sep.
Yellow Warbler: max 3 SPd 10 Sep; last EIC 25 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: only 4 reported to 22 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: max 5 StMC 23 Sep; last 3 EIC 17 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 1-2 per day after 9 Sep; last Nine Mile Pt 18 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 30 EIC 17 Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 22 SFWS 13 Sep; last CM 11 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: only 1 per day to 27 Sep.
Pine Warbler: DH 26 Sep; only report.
Palm Warbler: 1-2 per day 13-24 Sep.
Bay-breasted Warbler: max 3 SFWS 15 Sep; last SVB 19 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: 1-2 per day to 30 Sep.
Black-and-white Warbler: max and last 3 EIC 24 Sep.
Am. Redstart: last 2 FH 30 Sep.
Ovenbird: 3 reports; last EIC 26 Sep.
N. Waterthrush: Bville 7 Sep; only report.
Connecticut Warbler: EIC 22 Sep (MV).
Mourning Warbler: Cicero 19 Sep; EIC 22 Sep.
Com. Yellowthroat: max 11 EIC 24 Sep; last SFWS 16 Nov.
Hooded Warbler: 3 Whiskey Hollow 3 Sep; only report.
Wilson's Warbler: max 6 EIC 13 Sep; last DH 8 Oct.
Canada Warbler: SVB 22 Sep.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 2 EIC 24 Sep; last DL 28 Sep.

E. Towhee: max 5 CM 11 Oct.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr W Winfield, SFWS 6 Nov; max 7 CM 15 Nov; scarce.

Chipping Sparrow: max 12 Scriba 8 Oct.

Field Sparrow: max 7 EIC 17 Oct; last DL 25 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: Oneida 17 Oct; 2 Van Buren 21 Oct.

Savannah Sparrow: max 9 Pompey 3 Sep; last Van Buren 21 Oct.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Hastings 28 Sep, rare in fall.

Fox Sparrow: arr EIC 9 Oct; last StMC 11 Nov; only 6 reports.

Song Sparrow: max 60 W Monroe 13 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr LOL 13 Sep; max 12 EIC 23 Sep; last LOL 17 Oct; 2 SFWS 25 Sep and 1 StMC 14 Oct, only inland reports.

Swamp Sparrow: max 40 W Monroe 13 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: max 90 W Monroe 13 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr EIC 27 Sep; max 18 SPd 18 Oct.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 24 Beaver L 26 Nov.

Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco: Parish 20 Nov thru.

Lapland Longspur: 3 FH 1 Oct; Verona 28 Oct; 2 Scriba 11 Nov.

Snow Bunting: arr FH 22 Oct; max 250

Scriba 11 Nov.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 6 EIC 23 Sep; last Syr 27 Sep.

Indigo Bunting: last Pompey 19 Sep.

DICKCISSEL: EIC 23 Sep (GP, MAK).

Bobolink: last 10 T Sullivan and 30 BRH 3 Sep.

E. Meadowlark: only 4 reports; last Bville 24 Nov.

Rusty Blackbird: arr CM 5 Oct; max 60 W Monroe 13 Oct.

Com. Grackle: max 18000 Hastings 26 Oct, 15 minutes of counting.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 400 W Winfield 25 Nov.

Baltimore Oriole: Green Lakes SP 3 Sep; only report.

Purple Finch: max 3 per day 15 Oct-10 Nov.

Red Crossbill: 2 Clark Reservation SP 27 Sep.

White-winged Crossbill: displaying throughout N HERK; 2 Boylston 9 Sep, only other report.

Com. Redpoll: arr Big Moose L 19 Nov.

Pine Siskin: arr 2 SVB 1 Oct; max 30 DH 19 Oct; small Oct flight.

Am. Goldfinch: max 80 Pompey 19 Sep.

Evening Grosbeak: 2 Clayville 11 Oct; only report outside Adks.

CORRIGENDUM

Vol 50(3): **Am. Redstart:** arr 3 May, not 3 Apr.

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REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

LEE HARPER

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The period was characterized by relatively warm temperatures and low precipitation during September and October, followed by a blast of record-setting cold during the last ten days of November. With no dramatic frontal movements, migrants drifted through and were hard to find. The number of birds at feeders was lower than usual during the period, likely due to an abundance of natural food available throughout the Region.

Highlights included a **Black Vulture** 25 September with several Turkey Vultures over I-81 5 miles south of Adams Center in the Town of Ellisburg, Jefferson County. This was the third report for Black Vulture in the Region over the past four years. An adult **Golden Eagle** was seen at Grass Pond near Low's Lake on 9 and 10 September, along with what appeared to be two immature Bald Eagles. **Great Black-backed Gulls** continue to increase in numbers during fall and winter, and this species now nests on the St. Lawrence River in New York.

Although weather may have contributed to fewer than normal birds in the Region, there seems to be fewer than normal reporting birders in the Region as well!

CONTRIBUTORS

Marilyn Badger (MB), Jeff Bolsinger (JBol), Jim Boyce, Marion Brouse, Richard Brouse, Lee Harper, Jeff Holbrook, Frank Mueller, Bill Purcell, Gerry Smith, Brian Wood, Mary Wood

ABBREVIATIONS

BR – Black River JEFF/LEWI; BRB – Black River Bay JEFF; CB – Chaumont Barrens Preserve, T Clayton JEFF; CV – Cape Vincent (T or Village) JEFF; ED – El Dorado Shores Preserve, T Ellisburg JEFF; FrCWMA – French Creek WMA, T Clayton JEFF; GR – Grass River; GRL – Grass River, T Louisville; GRM – Grass River, T Massena STLA; Hen – T Henderson JEFF; HenH – Henderson Harbor JEFF; KC – Kelsey Creek, Watertown; Lou – T Louisville STLA; LWMA – Lakeview WMA JEFF; Mas – T Massena STLA; PiPt – Pillar Pt, T Brownville JEFF; PRWMA – Perch River WMA JEFF; PtPen – Pt Peninsula, T Lyme JEFF; PtSa – Pt Salubrious JEFF; SH – Sackets Harbor JEFF; SLR – St. Lawrence River; TH – Tug Hill JEFF/LEWI; WB – Wilson Bay, T Cape Vincent JEFF; WBM – Wilson Bay Marsh; WBSP – Wescott Beach SP, T Henderson JEFF; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA STLA

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: 2 WHWMA 14 Sep, 15 Oct; SLR Mas 28 Oct; 17 PiPt. 9 Nov.

Horned Grebe: 7 PiPt 9 Nov; PtPen 15 Nov.

Double-crested Cormorant: WB 13 Sep; 2 WB 26 Sep; 4 HenH 2 Oct; 4 WHWMA 10 Oct; 2 PiPt 9 Nov.

Great Blue Heron: Lou 1 Sep; 1-2 CV daily Sep; Mas 22 Sep, 15 Oct, 28 Oct, 3 Nov; KC 25 Sep, 6 Nov; PiPt 9 Nov.

Great Egret: Mas Sep.

Green Heron: WBM 11 Sep; 2 KC 25 Sep, 29 Sep.

Turkey Vulture: 1-15 Watertown 1-28 Sep; 2 Mas 19 Sep, 11 Oct; 3 Harrisville 1 Oct; 7 ED 2 Oct; 4 KC 12 Oct.

BLACK VULTURE: T Ellisburg JEFF 25 Sep (JBol).

Canada Goose: 60-225 CV thru Sep; hundreds Mas late Sep; 82 KC 25 Sep; 75 WHWMA 15 Oct; 45 SH 2 Nov; 160 GRM 3 Nov; 92 KC 6 Nov; 3000+ PRWMA 15 Nov; 2000+ PtPen, PRWMA 15 Nov; 500 CV 18 Nov; 53 PtSa 20 Nov; 153 CV 24 Nov.

Wood Duck: FrCWMA 6 Sep; 5 KC 25 Sep; 8 Mas 14 Oct.

Gadwall: 4 SLR CV 26 Sep; 200+ PRWMA 15 Nov; 11 PtPen 15 Nov.

Am. Wigeon: 3 WHWMA 30 Sep; 200+ PRWMA 15 Nov.

Am. Black Duck: 6 WBM 6 Sep; 25 WBM 26 Sep; 2 Mas 14 Oct; 30 PiPt 9 Nov; 10 PtPen 15 Nov; 41 PiPt 20 Nov; 19 CV 24 Nov.

Mallard: 2 Lou 1 Sep; WBM 7 Sep; SLR 15 Sep; 3 WBM 24 Sep; 9 KC 25 Sep; 45 ED 2 Oct; 4 WHWMA 11 Oct; Lou 12 Oct; 6 Mas 3 Nov; 24 KC 6 Nov; 2 Mas 9 Nov; 99 PiPt 9 Nov; 90 PtPen 15 Nov; 99 PtSa 20 Nov; 41 PiPt 20 Nov; 2 PRWMA 24 Nov; 101 CV 24 Nov; 50 SLR CV Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: 24 Mas 19 Oct.

N. Shoveler: many WHWMA Oct.

N. Pintail: 25 PRWM 15 Nov.

24 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: 100 WHWMA 30 Sep.

Greater Scaup: 3000+ PiPt 9 Nov; 5000+ PtPen 15 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: 50 WHWMA 30 Sep.

White-winged Scoter: CV 24 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: SLR Mas 28 Oct.

Bufflehead: 22 PiPt 9 Nov; 2 Mas 13 Nov; PtPen 15 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: 9 GRM 30 Oct; GRM 3 Nov; 2 PiPt 20 Nov; 3 CV 24 Nov; 20 SLR CV 29 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: GRM 14 Oct; 2 GRM 30 Oct; 3 GRM 3 Nov; 15 KC 6 Nov.

Com. Merganser: 2 KC 25 Sep; 7 ED 2 Oct; 7 GRL 15 Oct; 11 PiPt 9 Nov; 3 PtPen 15 Nov; PiPt 20 Nov; CV 24 Nov.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 3 T Clifton STLA Sept 10; 2 PtSa 20 Nov.

N. Harrier: CV Sep-Nov; 2 SLR Mas 10 Oct; KC 20 Oct; Chaumont 15 Nov; PtSa 20 Nov.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 2 SLR Mas 18 Oct; KC 25 Oct; PRWMA 24 Nov.

Cooper's Hawk: Lou 10 Oct; Watertown 24 Oct; PRWMA 24 Nov.

Red-tailed Hawk: 3 CV 6 Sep; CV 13 Sep; 3 CV 20 Sep; 2 Lou Sep-Oct; 26 Watertown Sep-Nov; Mas 14 Oct.

Rough-legged Hawk: 2 Chaumont 28 Oct; Lou 30 Oct; Chaumont 5 Nov; PiPt 9 Nov; CV 24 Nov; PRWMA 24 Nov.

Golden Eagle: Low's L STLA 10 Sep; CV 14 Oct.

Am. Kestrel: 6-12 CV daily Sep; 2 Champion 27 Sep; Harrisville 2 Oct; Lou 24 Oct; 2 CV 24 Nov.

Gray Partridge: 2 CV 13 Sep; 5 SLR CV 23 Oct.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Lou 15 Oct; Champion 3 Nov.

Ruffed Grouse: 10 Lou 10 Sep; Harrisville 1 Oct; 3 WHWMA 15 Oct;

CB 31 Oct; Clayton 25 Nov.
Wild Turkey: 6 Lou 3 Sep; 11 CV 7 Sep; 3 CV 20 Sep; 2 WBM 20 Sep; Harrisville 1 Oct; 10 Watertown 4 Oct; 11 Lou 24 Oct; 21 Mas 3 Nov; 13 PtPen 5 Nov; 29 Burrville 20 Nov; 6 PRWMA 24 Nov; 6 CV 24 Nov.
Com. Moorhen: 4 WBM 14 Sep; 3 WBM 15 Sep; 2 WBM 24 Sep; 2 Mas 14 Oct.
Black-bellied Plover: SLR Mas 30 Sep.
Am. Golden-Plover: SLR 30 Sep.
Killdeer: 6 CV 27 Sep; 2-3 Mas Sep-Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: 2 PtSa 27 Sep; SLR Mas 28 Oct.
Lesser Yellowlegs: Sherwin's Bay 9 Oct.
Spotted Sandpiper: 3 SLR Mas 7 Sep.
Ruddy Turnstone: 5 SLR Mas 7 Sep.
Com. Snipe: 5 Sherwin's Bay 9 Nov.
Am. Woodcock: 6 Mas 14 Oct.
Bonaparte's Gull: 2 ED 2 Oct; 14 PtPen 15 Nov; PtSa 20 Nov; 2 PiPt 20 Nov.
Ring-billed Gull: 30 GRM 4 Sep; 12 ED 2 Oct; 32 GRM 3 Nov; 175 Watertown 15 Nov; 345 PtPen 15 Nov; 7 PtSa 20 Nov.
Herring Gull: 4 WHWMA 9 Sep; ED 2 Oct; 6 PtPen 15 Nov; 14 PtSa 20 Nov; 3 PiPt 20 Nov.
Great Black-backed Gull: WBM 2 Sep; WB 13 Sep; 3 CV 14 Sep; WB 25 Sep; 64 SLR Mas 1 Oct; ED 2 Oct; 10 WHWMA 12 Oct; 3 PiPt 9 Nov; 6 PtPen 15 Nov; 2 PtSa 20 Nov; PiPt 20 Nov, CV 24 Nov; 12 CV 29 Nov.
Caspian Tern: WB 2 Sep; WB 4 Sep; Chaumont 8 Sep; Three Mile Pt 24 Sep.
Com. Tern: 30 Lou 30 Sep.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: 22 Mas 20 Sep; 2 CV Sep-Nov; 2 Mas 10 Oct; 49 Lou 30 Oct; 10 PiPt 9 Nov; 7 PtPen 15 Nov; 8 Mas 23 Nov; 17 CV 24 Nov.
E. Screech-Owl: CV 11 Oct; CV 16 Oct; CV 25 Oct.

Great Horned Owl: CV Sep; Lou 23 Sep; CV 25 Oct.
Snowy Owl: SLR CV 29 Nov.
Barred Owl: 2 Lou 15 Sep.
Short-eared Owl: 5 CV 25 Oct.
Chimney Swift: 2 Mas 1 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 2 Mas 1 Sep; 2 WBM 3 Sep; Lou 13 Sep; 2 CV 15 Sep; CV 23 Sep; CV 25 Sep; CV 26 Sep; CV 11 Oct.
Belted Kingfisher: WBM daily Sep; GRM 1 Sep; KC 25 Sep; SH 2 Oct; WHWMA 16 Oct; Raymondville 29 Oct; KC 8 Nov.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Mas 27 Sep (MB); now very rare in Region.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 3 CV 24 Sep; 3 KC 25 Sep; WBM 26 Sep; 2 CV 27 Sep; 4 CV 29 Sep; CV 13 Oct.
Downy Woodpecker: 6 CV Sep-Nov; 3 Mas 22 Nov.
Hairy Woodpecker: CV 7 Oct, 13-14 Oct, 24 Nov; 25 Mas and Lou 22 Nov.
N. Flicker: CV 3 Sep; Mas 9 and 21 Sep; CV 13-26 Sep, 11 Oct; 4 KC 26 Sep; KC 21 Nov.
Pileated Woodpecker: CV 22 Sep; Lou 23 Sep; KC 26 Sep; 2 Lou 8 Oct, 28 Oct, 9 Nov

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: CV 19 Sep.
E. Wood-Pewee: CV 13 Sep, 19 Sep.
E. Phoebe: CV 6-26 Sep; KC 25 Sep; Harrisville 1 Oct.
Great Crested Flycatcher: Lou 8 Sep.
E. Kingbird: 4 La Fargeville 25 Sep.
N. Shrike: Limerick 15 Nov; PtPen 15 Nov; CV 24 Nov; Clayton 26 Nov.
Blue-headed Vireo: 2 Lou 2 Oct.
Red-eyed Vireo: Lou 23 Sep.
Blue Jay: many CV 24 Sep; 2 CV 13 Oct; 3 CV 23 Nov; 32 Watertown Oct-Nov.
Am. Crow: 2 CV Sep-Nov; 3 CV 1 Sep; 10 WBM 7 Sep; 18 Mas 25 Sep; 12 Mas 30 Oct; 116 Watertown 15 Nov thru.

Com. Raven: 2 Mas 15 Sep.
Horned Lark: 13 PiPt 20 Nov; 15 PRWMA 24 Nov; 7 CV 24 Nov.
Tree Swallow: 36 WBM 14 Sep; many CV 14 Sep; few CV 19 Sep; WBM 26 Sep.
Black-capped Chickadee: 4 CV Sep-Nov; 2 WBM Sep-Nov; 5 KC 25 Sep; 6 KC 17 Oct; 6 ED 2 Oct; PtPen 15 Nov.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: CV 1 Sep, 19 Sep; 3 CV 22 Sep; CV 23 Nov; 2 Lou Sep-Nov.
White-breasted Nuthatch: 2 CV 3 Sep; 2 CV 22 Sep-Nov; 3 KC 25 Sep; 10 Lou Sep-Oct.
Brown Creeper: CV 12 and 18 Oct, 16, 22 and 24 Nov; 2 CV 23 Nov; 4 Lou Sep-Nov.
House Wren: KC 30 Sep; 2 ED 2 Oct; 2 KC 17 Oct.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 6 ED 2 Oct; 6 Mas 5 Oct; 21 Mas 16 Oct; 2 KC 19 Oct; Mas 2 Nov; Lou 2 Nov.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: KC 4 Oct; 15 Lou 5 Oct; 11 KC 8 Oct; 30 Lou 9 Oct; 5 Lou 14 Oct; 12 KC 17 Oct; 8 KC 19 Oct.
E. Bluebird: 5 BR 26 Sep; 6 Harrisville 1 Oct; 2 Lou 12 Oct.
Veery: Mas 4 Sep.
Wood Thrush: 2 Lou 3, 6, 7, 22 Sep.
Am. Robin: 6 CV 3 Sep; 12 Mas 4 Sep; CV 15, 22, 27 Sep; 10 Mas 21 Sep; 100+ WBM 30 Sep; 100+ KC 4, 17 Oct; 12 CV 11 Oct; 10 Lou 14 Oct; 4 Lou 20 Oct; 9 Lou 28 Oct; 28 Lou 1 Nov; 8 Lou 15 Nov; 12 PRWMA 15 Nov.
Gray Catbird: 2 Lou 3 Sep; KC 18 Sep; 4 Lou 21 Sep; CV 22 Sep; 5 FrCWMA 22 Sep; 2 Mas 23 Sep; 2 KC 24 Sep; 6 KC 25 Sep; CV 26 Sep; KC 30 Sep; KC 4 Oct; KC 17 Oct.
N. Mockingbird: CV Sep-Oct; Lou 4 Sep.
Brown Thrasher: KC 25 Sep; ED 2 Oct.
Am. Pipit: PiPt 20 Nov.
Cedar Waxwing: 20 Mas 1 Sep; CV 4 Sep; 8 Lou 7 Sep; 12 CV 15 Sep; 4 Mas

21 Sep; 6 WHWMA 15 Oct; 20 KC 17 Oct; 5 KC 18 Oct; 20 KC 1 Nov; 4 Lou 3 Nov; 4 Lou 21 Nov.

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler: Lou 5 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: CV 22-24 Sep; Lou 27 Sep.
N. Parula: Mas 21 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: 2 Mas 5 Oct.
Magnolia Warbler: CV 15 Sep; 3 CV 20 Sep; KC 24 Sep.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: Mas 2, 5 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: CV 24 Sep; 15 WBM 24 Sep; 20 WBM 26 Sep; 3 Lou 29 Sep; 2 WBM 30 Sep; 10 Harrisville 1 Oct; ED 2 Oct; KC 17 Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: 15 CV 15 Sep; Lou 2 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: Lou 2 Oct.
Pine Warbler: CV 15 Sep; 2 CV 22 Sep; Mas 2 Oct.
Blackpoll Warbler: Lou 5 Oct.
Black-and-white Warbler: Lou 1 Sep.
Ovenbird: Lou 21 Sep.
Com. Yellowthroat: 3 KC 18 Sep; 2 Lou 29 Sep; 2 KC 17 Oct.
Wilson's Warbler: CV 12-15 Sep.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: 2 Mas 21 Sep.
E. Towhee: KC 4 Oct.
Am. Tree Sparrow: 5 Mas 14 Nov; 4 KC 24 Nov; 6 PRWMA 24 Nov; 6 Depauville 24 Nov.
Chipping Sparrow: 15 Mas 1 Sep; 18 Mas 11-13 Sep; 25 CV 13 Sep; 6 Mas 21 Sep; 36 CV 12 Oct.
Field Sparrow: 3 ED 2 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: 2 Mas 11 Sep; 6 Lou 12 Sep; CV 19 Sep; 2 Lou 14 Oct.
Fox Sparrow: 2 KC 24 Sep; KC 2 Oct.
Song Sparrow: Mas 7 Sep; 6 Mas 12 Sep; 1-3 CV 14-19 Sep; 2 Mas 14 Oct.
Swamp Sparrow: Lou 1 Sep.
White-throated Sparrow: 4 Lou 12-13

Sep; 25 CV 15 Sep; 6 Lou 22 Sep; 12 CV 24 Sep; 20 Harrisville 1 Oct; 21 Mas 5 Oct; 6 Mas 14 Oct; 5 CV 14 Oct; 5 KC 12 Nov; KC 24 Nov.

White-crowned Sparrow: Mas 5 Oct.

Dark-eyed Junco: Lou 14 Oct; 5 CV 14 Oct; 15 Mas 15 Oct; 6 KC 5 Nov; 7 KC 8 Nov; 5 KC 15 Nov; CV 23 Nov; 7 KC 24 Nov.

Snow Bunting: 8 CB 21 Oct; 25 Mas 2 Nov; 50 Three Mile Pt 3 Nov; Limerick 15 Nov; 45 PtPen 15 Nov.

N. Cardinal: 3 CV daily Sep; 6 Mas 4 Sep; 6 Lou 14 Nov; 8 Mas 14 Nov; 2 CV 23 Nov; 3 Lou 23 Nov; 8 Mas 24 Nov.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Mas 8 Sep.

Red-winged Blackbird: 5 Mas 20 Sep; WBM 24 Sep; CV 15 Oct; Mas 20 Oct; 6 Lou 31 Oct; Lou 3 Nov; KC 20 Nov; CV

23 Nov.

E. Meadowlark: 2 CV 14 Sep; 30 CV 27 Sep; 4 CV 28 Sep; Brownville 4 Oct. **Rusty Blackbird:** 9 Lou 24 Sep; 3 KC 26 Oct.

Com. Grackle: 6 CV 1 Sep; 29 CV 3 Sep; 85 CV 4 Sep; CV 14 Sep.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 20 Rutland 8 Oct; 5 Mas 15 Oct.

Purple Finch: 4 Mas 1 Sep; Mas 2, 29 Nov; 10 Lou 29 Nov.

House Finch: 2 CV 19 Sep; 5 Lou 15 Oct; 5 Lou 14 Nov; 22 Mas 22 Nov; 10 CV 23 Nov; 10 Lou 29 Nov.

Am. Goldfinch: 5-10 CV Sep; 4 Mas 1 Sep; 15 Mas 15 Sep; 50 CV 24 Sep; 4 KC 25 Sep; 6 WHWMA 1 Oct; 5 Rutland 8 Oct; CV 23 Nov.

REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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The season commenced with Lake Champlain at 95.44', the level reached the previous fall only after the passage of Hurricanes Dennis and Floyd, and Inlet saw the first frost on 2 September. Saranac Lake experienced September lows of 27°F on the 5th, 26° on the 6th, 24° on the 25th and a nippy 19° on the 29th. By month's end, the lake had dropped nearly a foot to 94.70'. Inlet had the first snows 8-10 October, while at lower elevations Ellenburg Depot received a 2" snowfall on the 30th and Malone saw an inch on the same day. More snow fell at Inlet and Lake Placid on 14 November, covering the ground by the following day. The first major storm covered Inlet with 8" on 22 November. Inlet recorded the seasonal low of -10° on 24 November. Overall, there were many cloudy days, but not that much precipitation, and although it was warmest at the start of the period, thermometers managed to reach 65° even in the central Adirondacks during mid-October, when black flies briefly hatched out again at Shallow Lake. Only 143 species were reported, well down from 171 in the Fall 1999 seasonal report, but the decline may reflect a certain amount of Atlas 2000 fatigue.

Once again, the most significant fall records came from Vermonters stationed at their lakewatch on Thompson's Point, VT, who witnessed a number of notable

birds crossing into Essex County waters during their passage through the Split Rock narrows. In addition to large numbers of loons of two species during November, highlights included a first-year **Northern Gannet** and record flocks of two scoters in October, and an immature **Black-legged Kittiwake** in early November. Marine species weren't confined to Lake Champlain. A wayward **Atlantic Puffin** that turned up on Sherman Lake, Crown Point, in early November was taken in for rehabilitation 6 November, but died on the 11th. Interesting Champlain larids included an adult Little Gull at Westport on 21 October and a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** on the Plattsburgh mudflats 17 September that provided the second Clinton County record.

Record numbers of grebes and diving ducks gathered off the Boquet River delta at Noblewood Park, south of Willsboro, where 70 Horned Grebes were tallied on 21 October for a new Regional and Essex County record. By 11 November, rafts of 1000+ Buffleheads and Common Goldeneyes had gathered off the mouth of the river. Observers are urged to visit this lovely area, which promises to provide more interesting sightings in future years. For directions, see *The Kingbird* March 2000; 50(1), p. 86.

Winter arrivals included Rough-legged Hawk 24 November, Snowy Owl in early November, Northern Shrike and Bohemian Waxwing 11 November, American Tree Sparrow 12 November, Snow Bunting 29 October and Common Redpoll 24 November, none particularly early. However, the bumper crop of wild foods promised a bountiful winter. Ruffed Grouse were feeding on highbush cranberries at Tupper Lake. As white pine ripened and opened at Westport 11 November, Black-capped Chickadees clung beneath clumps of cones. American Robins were gorging on silky dogwood berries at Tupper Lake 18 October, stripping mountain ash berries on Jay Mt. 22 October and feasting on buckthorn near the Webb Royce Swamp 11 November. Purple Finches at Keene fed on spruce, also favored by Pine Siskins on Jay Mt. 22 October, before switching to hemlock 3-4 November. The crossbill invasion continued, with six singing male White-winged Crossbills in the High Peaks between Bushnell Falls and Slant Rock 5-7 September and some with recently fledged young in Hamilton County, where they had switched to black and red spruce from their summer diet of tamarack and white spruce. American Goldfinches favored deciduous catkins near Westport on 11 November. A flock of 20 Evening Grosbeaks at Keene 21 October were in eastern hemlock. Given such a wide variety of berries, seeds and cones, the winter was expected to be good for bluebirds, robins and waxwings at lower elevations, and a variety of winter finches in Adirondack conifers. Needless to add, there were the usual complaints and laments of "Where are all the birds?" from feeder-watchers.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Point WMA; CR – Chazy Rivers; FB – Ferd’s Bog; FBI – Four Brothers islands; KB – King’s Bay; MRRRA – Moose River Recreation Area; NP – Noblewood Park; PCB – Plattsburgh city beach; PtF – Point au Fer; PtR – Point au Roche; SR – Split Rock; TL – Tupper Lake; WRS – Webb Royce Swamp

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: 46 midlake SR 6 Nov (TM, PR); 2 Westport 11 Nov (JP, RW); ~ *half of 61* SR 12 Nov in NYS waters (TM, JO, FP, CP, AS).
Com. Loon: 20 FBI 10 Sep (LB); ~ *half of 379* SR 6 Nov in NY (TM, PR).
Horned Grebe: max 70 NP 21 Oct (J&SP, J&PT), new Region 7 & ESSE record.
Red-necked Grebe: arr KB 8 Oct (J&RH); 3 NP 21 Oct (J&SP, J&PT); max 23 Westport 11 Nov (JP, RW), new fall max Region 7 & ESSE.
N. GANNET: 1st yr SR 16 Oct (SM, TM), **first Regional record.**
Double-crested Cormorant: TL 2 Sep (CD), uncommon FRAN; max 200+ FBI 10 Sep (LB).
Great Blue Heron: TL 12 Nov (CD), late inland.
Great Egret: Plattsburgh 17 Sep (J&RH).
Snow Goose: arr CR 8 Sep (BK, CM), early CLIN by 4 days; some “Blues” among 200+ L Alice 9 Oct (NO); max 35000 PtR and 10000 PtF 1 Nov (DH).
Ross’s Goose: 3 ads PtR 18 Nov (L&PO), now an almost annual discovery.
Canada “Richardson’s” Goose: *B. c. hutchinsii* PtR 12 Oct (DH!).
Brant: 2 Raquette L 31 Oct (GL),

uncommon in HAMI.

Mute Swan: L Alice 19 Sep (NO), origin unknown.

Gadwall: PtF 7 Nov (DH), only report.

Am. Wigeon: PtF 7 Nov (DH), only report.

Blue-winged Teal: 2 Beaver L 1-2 Nov (GL), late HAMI.

N. Pintail: 20 AP 7 Nov (DR), only report.

Canvasback: 3 PtF 7 Nov (DH); 10 KB 18 Nov (J&RH), now uncommon.

Redhead: 12 Trombley Bay 18 Nov (J&RH), a good find.

Ring-necked Duck: 10 TL 23 Sep (CD); 2 hens L Alice 9 Oct (NO); KB 7 Nov (DR).

Greater Scaup: max 1000 PtF 7 Nov (DH) and scaup (sp.) nearby KB same day (DR).

Lesser Scaup: 43 AP 20 Oct (NO).

White-winged Scoter: ~ *half of 488* SR narrows 15 Oct in NY (SM, TM), new max ESSE.

Black Scoter: ~ *half of 940* SR narrows 15 Oct in NY (SM, TM), new Regional & ESSE max; another 280 in ESSE waters at SR 31 Oct (TM, PR); 5 Whallon’s Bay 11 Nov (JP, RW).

Bufflehead: arr 100 NP 21 Oct (J&SP, J&PT); mixed flock 1000 NP 11 Nov (JP, RW) included this species and Com. Goldeneye.

Hooded Merganser: 5 NP 11 Nov (JP, RW); 2 TL 22 Nov (CD).

Red-breasted Merganser: AP 1 Nov (J&RH), another nice find.

Ruddy Duck: hen Port Kent 7 Nov (DR), rare ESSE where there are now 8 records, including a specimen hen collected Port Kent 3 Nov 1955 in the SUNY Plattsburgh collection.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: imm TL 4 Nov; 6 (1 ad, 5 imm) TL 23 Nov (CD), on offal dump at hunting camp.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr Crown Pt 24 Nov (MW).

Golden Eagle: over Keene 5 Sep (J&PT).

Merlin: transient AP 7 Nov (DR).

Peregrine Falcon: ad Wadhams 1 Nov (JP, RW).

Ring-necked Pheasant: TL feeder 30 Sep-12 Oct (CD), "harvested" by hunter.

Wild Turkey: 2 Speculator 23 Oct (PK); 13 (11 poults) TL 20 Sep-23 Oct; 19 daily TL from 24 Oct (CD); only suggest HAMI & FRAN increase being detected by Atlas 2000.

Black-bellied Plover: PCB 18-22 Sep (BK, CM).

Semipalmated Plover: 2 NP 2 Sep (MM); PCB 22 Sep (BK).

Greater Yellowlegs: PCB 2 Sep (BK, CM).

Solitary Sandpiper: KB 25 Sep (BK, CM), only report.

Sanderling: 2 CR 5 Sep; 4 PCB 22 Sep (BK, CM).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 4 NP 2 Sep (MM).

Least Sandpiper: 4 NP 2 Sep (MM); TL 17 Sep (CD).

Dunlin: KB 25 Sep (BK, CM); max 12 KB 8 Oct (J&RH); 2 NP 21 Oct (J&SP, J&PT), a good showing.

STILT SANDPIPER: CR 5 Sep (BK, CM), accidental CLIN and only 5th

Regional record.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 10 CR 13 Sep (BK, CM).

Long-billed Dowitcher: CR 19 Sep (BK).

LITTLE GULL: 3rd yr Westport 21 Oct (J&SP, J&PT), rare transient ESSE.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: Plattsburgh mudflats 17 Sep (J&RH), 2nd CLIN record.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: juv SR 12 Nov (TM, JO, FP, CP, AS), first Regional record, although among the 10 species expected in ESSE by Geoffrey Carleton in Apr 1980.

ATLANTIC PUFFIN: Sherman L, Crown Pt, ESSE, early Nov, taken in for rehabilitation 6 Nov (JH), but died 11 Nov, first Regional record.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Snowy Owl: midpoint Rouses Pt Bridge and between Rouses Pt & Champlain border crossing early Nov (DP), only indications of invasion.

Short-eared Owl: Crown Pt 22 Nov (MW); Red R 19 Oct (GL), apparently 1st HAMI record.

Black-backed Woodpecker: Beaver Bk & L; FB, Raquette L; Sumner Stillwater (GL).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Alder Flycatcher: Slide Bk 1 Oct (RM), record late ESSE.

N. Shrike: arr Essex 11 Nov (JP, RW).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Adirondak Loj trail 2 Sep (J&PT), unexpected.

Gray Jay: Brown's Tract Inlet; FB; Helldiver & Lost Pds; Marion R; West Mt trail (GL).

Com. Raven: max 15 TL offal dump 23 Nov (CD).

Boreal Chickadee: The Brothers; Bushnell Falls-Slant Rock; Phelps; HAMI Gray Jay sites (GL).

Carolina Wren: Peru 9 Sep (E&SJ), where present all summer.

Am. Robin: 30 TL 18 Oct, eating silky dogwood berries; 6 Jay Mt 22 Oct, eating mountain ash;

Inlet 2 Nov; hundreds WRS 11 Nov, eating buckthorn, only suggestive of numbers.

Gray Catbird: Marion R 6 Oct (GL), late HAMI.

N. Mockingbird: pr Plattsburgh 18 Sep (JP), wing-flashing passing Amtrak "Adirondack."

European Starling: number of leucistic birds Plattsburgh, "one almost entirely white" (J&RH).

Am. Pipit: 6 summit Mt. Marcy 22 Sep (NM), now the 6th ESSE peak with Sep-Oct sightings.

Bohemian Waxwing: Westport 11 Nov (JP, RW), only report.

Cedar Waxwing: 100 Westport 11 Nov (JP, RW).

WARBLERS

Palm Warbler: max 20 FB 23 Sep (BC, TS), HAMI and Regional max; Inlet 6 Oct (GL), subspecies not noted.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Raquette L 11 Oct (GL); PtR 1 Nov (DH), scarce here.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 4 TL 12 Nov (CD).

Fox Sparrow: Lost Pds trail 25 Oct (GL), only report.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr CLIN 1 Oct (J&RH); TL 8-19 Oct (CD); Limekiln L 10 Oct (GL); only reports.

Dark-eyed Junco: many from early Sep.

Snow Bunting: arr MRRA 29 Oct (GL); Rouses Pt feeder 12 Nov (DP).

Red-winged Blackbird: Inlet feeder 22 Nov (GL); imm TL feeder 25 Nov (CD), late.

Rusty Blackbird: Raquette L 14 Oct (GL); TL feeder 18 Oct (CD).

Brown-headed Cowbird: TL feeder 23-30 Nov (CD); Speculator feeder 24 Nov (MW), late.

Purple Finch: The Brothers; Elizabethtown; Keene; Inlet; TL; Westport; scattered reports, but nowhere abundant.

Red Crossbill: Rugar Woods, Plattsburgh 1 Sep (BK); The Brothers 1 Oct (RM); only reports.

White-winged Crossbill: ~6 singing males Bushnell Falls-Slant Rock 5-7 Sep; female First Brother 20 Oct (J&PT); several HAMI sites, some with newly-fledged y (GL).

Com. Redpoll: heard overhead Inlet 24 Nov (GL), only report.

Pine Siskin: 6 Jay Mt 22 Oct (J&PT), feeding on spruce; Red R 2 Nov (GL); 12 Keene 3-4 Nov (J&PT), feeding on hemlock; only reports.

Am. Goldfinch: L Alice 9 Oct; 90 Westport 11 Nov; abundant Inlet feeder from 20 Nov; 7 TL 29 Nov; only reports after departure of breeding birds in early fall.

Evening Grosbeak: 20 Keene 21 Oct (J&PT), in hemlock; flying overhead Inlet 19 Nov (GL); only reports.

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REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

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As reported from the Albany International Airport, September's mean temperature was 59.4°F, 1.9° below normal, with 50% possible sunshine. October averaged a nearly normal 50°, 1.2° below normal, with 50% possible sunshine. November was a dark and chilly month, averaging 38°, 1.7° below normal, with only 32% possible sunshine. After the extremely rainy summer, things were much drier during the fall, with 3.04" of rain in September, 0.9" above normal, 2.48" of rain in October, 0.35" below normal, and 1.90" of precipitation in November, 1.38" below normal. The first frost occurred on 9 October and the first snow flurries occurred in late October. The ground and many water bodies were frozen by the end of November.

The summer rains resulted in excellent wild food crops. Birds remained dispersed through the period, and there were few reports either of migrants or of feeder birds. There were several days during the period of passerine migration that should have produced a good variety of migrants, but such was not the case. The numbers of thrushes and warblers reported were at an all-time low. Waterbird reports were also significantly down, with a maximum of only 30 Ring-necked Ducks reported when the maxima are usually in the 800-1000 range. There was virtually no shorebird habitat because of the high water, although a sporadically exposed mud flat on the Mohawk River attracted good numbers of Pectoral Sandpipers, with 24 reported on 9 October. A sighting of 22 American Golden-Plovers by Ray Perry on 25 September represents a high count for inland sightings of this species. Few winter finches were reported, although with the exceptionally heavy cone crop, winter visitors of these species can be expected.

There was an intriguing report from Paul Connor of a possible Boreal Owl heard late in the evening of 17 November through an open window facing dense deciduous/coniferous woods behind his backyard. Paul stated that the voice was distinctive, very reminiscent of the winnowing of Common Snipe (as described in the "Handbook of the Birds of the World," vol 5, p. 228). He heard the song several times, a rapid series of whistled toots lasting about two seconds, and getting a little louder or rising at the end. Unfortunately, the bird was not heard again on subsequent nights nor was it seen.

Two interesting rarities were reported during the period. A **Sandhill Crane** was present south of Albany for nearly ten days in early October. Although this species is seen regularly in central and western New York, it is extremely unusual in Region 8, seeming to show up about once every ten years. On 11 November, Larry Federman reported seeing two **Black Vultures** near Catskill. This is the same area where he saw the same species three years ago. Atlasers should pay particular attention to these blocks next breeding season.

Other unusual birds included Great Cormorant, Greater White-fronted Goose and Long-eared Owl. There were 188 species reported during the period, down from 197 in 1998, and significantly lower than the high of 221 in 1996. There were 27 species of waterfowl, 14 species of hawks, 14 species of shorebirds, 7 species of gulls, 5 species of owls, 20 species of warblers, 12 species of sparrows and 5 species of finches.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BCR – Basic Creek Res ALBA; CL – Collins L SCHE; CPHW – Camp Pinnacle Hawkwatch ALBA; FR – Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar ALBA; FSF – Featherstonhaugh State Forest SCHE; FtE – Ft Edward area WASH; FtM – Ft Miller WASH; GI – Green I ALBA; JL – Jenny L SARA; L7 – Vischer Ferry Power Station/Lock 7 SCHE; MR – Mohawk River; NB – New Baltimore GREE; NL – Nassau L RENS; NRP – Nott Rd Park, Guilderland ALBA; NRRS – Niskayuna Railroad Station SCHE; PI – Peebles I SARA; RL – Round L SARA; SCA – Schenectady County Airport; SI – Simmons I, Cohoes ALBA; SL – Saratoga L SARA; SNHP – Saratoga National Historic Park SARA; StFl – Stillwater Flats (including Saratoga Sod Farm) SARA; TR – Tomhannock Res RENS; VF – Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve SARA; WR – Watervliet Res ALBA

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: TR 3 Nov; only report.

Com. Loon: max 9 Sacandaga L 29 Sep; 8 SL 26 Oct.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 5 SL 12 Oct; last RL 16 Nov.

Horned Grebe: 2 SL 12 Oct; HR 4 Nov; only reports.

Red-necked Grebe: TR 9 Oct; SL 20 Oct; 3 TR 3 Nov; 2 TR 20 Nov; only reports.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 34

Greenport COLU 4 Sep; 12 TR 29 Oct.

Great Cormorant: imm MR Crescent 29 Oct (WE).

Great Blue Heron: max 20 lower MR Colonie 12 Sep.

Great Egret: max 6 Colonie Town P 6 Sep.

Green Heron: max 5 FR 6 Sep; last L7 27 Sep.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Colonie Town P 6 Sep, only report.

BLACK VULTURE: 2 Rt 9W 3 mi n of Catskill GREE 11 Nov (LFe); NYSARC

verification requested.

Turkey Vulture: max 30 Westmere 17 Sep; last Latham 19 Oct.

Greater White-fronted Goose: StFl 21 Nov (WL, RY).

Snow Goose: arr 800-1000 HR FtM 19 Oct; 500 TR 23 Nov.

Canada Goose: ~2000 TR 5 Nov; max ~4000 SL 21 Nov.

Brant: max 25 over NB 11 Oct.

Mute Swan: max 35 Stockport Sta 4 Nov.; 5 NL 9 Nov, only report n of COLU.

Wood Duck: max 38 Rt 85 T Westerlo 21 Oct; last 2 Ann Lee Pd 13 Nov.

Gadwall: 3 Bells Pd 17 Oct; 2 SL 26 Oct; only reports.

Am. Wigeon: max 20 TR 5 Nov; very low numbers.

Mallard: max 60-70 NL thru 6 Dec.

Blue-winged Teal: max 18+ lower MR 12 Sep.

N. Shoveler: 3 TR 29 Oct; 3

Hammerhead Pd RENS 5 Nov; 6 TR 5 Nov; only reports.

N. Pintail: arr Niska Isle 11 Sep.

Green-winged Teal: arr and max ~ 50 Ferry Dr 12 Sep; last 30 Niska Isle 19 Nov.

Canvasback: no reports.

Redhead: SL 22 Nov, only report.

Ring-necked Duck: 25 JL 25 Oct; 30 TR 29 Oct; very low numbers.

Greater Scaup: max 15 SL 26 Oct; last 2 NB 12 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: TR 9 Oct; 2 NL 20 Oct, 3 Nov; only reports.

White-winged Scoter: 3 WR 18 Oct; 8 SL 20 Oct; Coxsackie 20 Oct; only reports.

Black Scoter: 16 Featherstonhaugh L SCHE 15 Oct; 10 WR 18 Oct; 2 MR Colonie 19 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: BCR 22 Oct; NB 12 Nov; L7 12 Nov; CL 20 Nov; only reports.

Bufflehead: arr SL 26 Oct; max 150 TR 16 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: arr 8 SL 12 Oct; max 228 TR 19 Nov; 100-150 SL 23 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: max 101 TR 19 Nov.

Com. Merganser: max 140 NL 13 Nov; 140 WR 30 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: 3 SL 21 Oct; NL 13 Nov; WR 30 Nov; only reports.

Ruddy Duck: arr 15 SL 12 Oct; 101 TR 29 Oct; max 130 NL 13 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

CAMP PINNACLE HAWK MIGRATION

Species	Total	Peak Flight	Range of Occurrence
Turkey Vulture	243	32 on 20 Oct	28 Aug-22 Oct
Osprey	44	19 on 25 Sep	5 Sep-19 Oct
Bald Eagle	23	4 on 21 Sep	7 Sep-17 Nov
No. Harrier	42	7 on 27 Sep	13 Sep-2 Dec
Sharp-shinned Hawk	248	26 on 8 Oct	5 Sep-20 Nov
Cooper's Hawk	44	6 on 25 Sep	28 Aug-6 Nov
No. Goshawk	28	5 on 6 Nov	18 Sep-2 Dec
Red-shouldered Hawk	26	7 on 22 Oct	7 Sep-24 Nov
Broad-winged Hawk	703	229 on 13 Sep	26 Aug-26 Sep
Red-tailed Hawk	646	101 on 22 Oct	28 Aug-2 Dec
Rough-legged Hawk	8	---	3 Nov-6 Dec
Golden Eagle	4	---	13 Oct-23 Nov
American Kestrel	60	9 on 25 Sep	4 Sep-31 Oct
Merlin	7	4 on 15 Oct	10 Sep-15 Oct
Peregrine Falcon	3	---	27 Sep-30 Oct
Totals	2129	262 on 13 Sep	26 Aug-6 Dec

Osprey: 16 reports Sep, 6 in Oct, 1 in Nov.
Bald Eagle: imm Cohoes 28 Sep; 2 ad Sacandaga L 15 Oct; imm PI 28 Oct; imm TR 3 Nov; unspecified Stockport Sta 4 Nov; imm SI 12 Nov; ad TR 19, 23 Nov.
N. Harrier: max 17 FtE 19 Oct; 12 reports of singles.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 5 Gallupville 7 Oct; 25 reports of singles.
Cooper's Hawk: 17 reports of singles.
N. Goshawk: Feller Rd COLU 17 Oct, only report.
Red-shouldered Hawk: FSF 25 Sep; VF 22 Oct; only reports outside of CPHW.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 11 FtE 21 Nov.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr 4 FtE 19 Oct; max 8 FtE 19 Nov.
Golden Eagle: FR 15 Nov (RP).
Am. Kestrel: max 4 Cary Rd FtE 12 Oct; 17 reports of singles.
Merlin: FtE 23 Sep (P&C Saffold); Colonie 28 Sep (WL); 3 Gallupville 7 Oct (BB, KB); New St Cohoes 19 Oct (WL); Rt 30 near Breakabeen T Fulton SCHO 21 Oct (JG, AV).
Peregrine Falcon: Glens Falls 12 Sep (P&C Saffold); Green I Bridge ALBA 5 Oct; Gallupville 7 Oct (BB, KB); Scotia 27 Oct (WL).
Wild Turkey: max 30 StFl 21 Nov; continues in moderate numbers throughout.
Virginia Rail: VF 9 Sep, only report.
Sora: NRRS 25 Sep.
Am. Coot: max 20 SL 12, 26 Oct; low numbers.
SANDHILL CRANE: 3 Wemple Rd T Glenmont ALBA until at least 11 Oct (RB, mob); first since 1991.
Black-bellied Plover: New St Cohoes 2 Sep; 2 StFl 3 Sep.
Am. Golden-Plover: 2 StFl 24 Sep; 22 SCA 26 Sep.
Semipalmated Plover: 4 County Fairgrounds T Easton WASH 3 Sep, only

report.
Killdeer: max 200+ StFl 24 Sep.
Greater Yellowlegs: 4 WASH Fairgrounds 3 Sep; only 5 reports of singles.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 WASH Fairgrounds 3 Sep; 4 Ferry Dr 12 Sep; only reports.
Solitary Sandpiper: 2 T Glenmont 8 Oct, only report.
Spotted Sandpiper: Ferry Dr 12 Sep; Ann Lee Pd 22 Sep; only reports.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: NRRS 5 Nov (RY), late.
Least Sandpiper: 6 Ferry Dr 12 Sep, only report.
Pectoral Sandpiper: New St Cohoes 2 Sep; 18 NRRS 4 Oct; 24 NRRS 9 Oct; 3 NRRS 15 Oct; 3 NRRS 5 Nov (RY).
Dunlin: 2 Hammerhead Pd RENS 3 Nov (WL); 2 TR 5 Nov (BC).
Am. Woodcock: T Mayfield FULT at least thru 20 Nov (LFr).
Bonaparte's Gull: 1-2 NL 13 Nov (PC); NB 12 Nov (RG).
Ring-billed Gull: 320 Cohoes Falls 25 Sep; max 340 MR Colonie 19 Nov.
Herring Gull: max 516 MR Niskayuna/Colonie 3 Nov.
Iceland Gull: 2 Coxsackie Boat Landing 25 Nov (RG).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: ad SI 29 Oct, 4 Nov (WE, WL).
Glaucous Gull: Coxsackie Boat Landing 25 Nov (RG).
Great Black-backed Gull: max 115 MR Niskayuna/Colonie 3 Nov.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: FR 1 Oct (JG, AV), only report.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Greenport 28 Oct (BC), only report.
E. Screech-Owl: only 5 reports of singles.
Great Horned Owl: 3 Amsterdam 1, 17, 24 Oct; 4 Amsterdam 30 Nov; only 3

reports of singles.

Barred Owl: only 3 reports of singles.

Long-eared Owl: Gallupville 20 Oct (BB, KB).

Short-eared Owl: arr NB 12 Nov; max 6 FtE 19 Nov; no reports from MONT.

BOREAL OWL: possibly heard night of 17 Nov (PC); see intro.

Com. Nighthawk: 27 Glens Falls 11 Sep; 9 Glens Falls 12 Sep.

Chimney Swift: 100 Cohoes 12 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 5 T Hague 9 Sep; 13 reports of singles.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 16 reports of singles.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 8 reports of singles; last Feller Rd COLU 4 Nov.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 5 NRP 1 Oct.

N. Flicker: max 6 Ann Lee Pd 22 Sep.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 4 NRP 10 Oct; 18 reports of singles.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: only 4 reports of singles.

Least Flycatcher: only 2 reports of singles.

E. Phoebe: max 6 NRP 10 Sep.

Great Crested Flycatcher: Greenport 4 Sep; SNHP 13 Sep; only reports.

E. Kingbird: no reports.

N. Shrike: arr imm Amsterdam 31 Oct; Amsterdam 13 Nov; Meadowdale Rd T Guilderland 24 Nov; only reports.

Blue-headed Vireo: 7 reports Sep, 3 in Oct.

Warbling Vireo: no reports.

Philadelphia Vireo: Berlin Mt RENS 10 Sep (FM); Schodack Ctr 10 Sep (PC); Bog Meadow Trail SARA 22 Sep (JG).

Red-eyed Vireo: only 5 reports of singles.

Blue Jay: max 51 CPHW 8 Nov.

Am Crow: ~ 1000 in staging flocks VA Hospital Albany 1 Nov (AV).

Fish Crow: "several" Schodack Plaza RENS 6 Sep, only report.

Com. Raven: CPHW 10 Oct.

Horned Lark: very low numbers reported.

Tree Swallow: max 30 TR 9 Oct.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 20+ JL 28 Nov.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: scarce JL.

Carolina Wren: 9 reports of singles.

Winter Wren: max 3 SNHP 24 Sep; only 5 reports of singles.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr 10 Amsterdam 26 Sep; max 16 Limestone Rise Preserve T Knox 16 Oct.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Berlin Mt RENS 10 Sep; max 11 CPHW 19 Oct.

E. Bluebird: max 20 NB 12 Nov; generally good numbers.

Veery: Ann Lee Pd ALBA 21 Sep, only report.

Swainson's Thrush: heard in flight over Schodack Ctr 12 Sep (PC); SNHP 17 Sep; only reports.

Hermit Thrush: last 2 VF 27 Oct.

Wood Thrush: FSF 25 Sep, only report.

Am. Robin: max 120 Guilderland 10 Nov.

Gray Catbird: max 3 Amsterdam 14 Sep; very low numbers.

N. Mockingbird: max 4 near NRRS 4 Oct; 11 reports of singles.

Brown Thrasher: 2 Rotterdam Flats 8 Sep, only report.

Am. Pipit: max ~60 StFI 19 Oct; 100 T Glenmont 8 Oct; good numbers.

Cedar Waxwing: 100 StFI 10 Oct; max 130 Guilderland 10 Nov.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: SNHP 4 Sep, only report.

Tennessee Warbler: 2 Schodack Ctr 12 Sep, only report.

Nashville Warbler: only 6 reports of singles.

N. Parula: 6 reports of singles.

Yellow Warbler: Greenport 4 Sep, only report.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: only 1 report.
Magnolia Warbler: max 4 NRP 10 Sep;
 11 reports of singles.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: only 8
 reports of singles.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 30
 Amsterdam 25 Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: 18
 reports of singles.
Blackburnian Warbler: 2 NRP 10 Sep;
 only 3 reports of singles.
Pine Warbler: JL 7 Oct; NRP 1 Oct;
 Niskayuna 22 Nov (RY); only reports.
Palm Warbler: only 4 reports.
Bay-breasted Warbler: FSF 25 Sep,
 only report.
Blackpoll Warbler: only 4 reports of
 singles.
Black-and-white Warbler: only 2
 reports of singles.
Am. Redstart: only 2 reports of singles.
Ovenbird: 2 SkW 14 Sep; 2 reports of
 singles.
Com. Yellowthroat: only 5 reports of
 singles.
Wilson's Warbler: 4 reports of singles.
Canada Warbler: no reports.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: only 4 reports of
 singles.
E. Towhee: max 6 SNHP 13 Sep.
Am. Tree-Sparrow: arr 4 L7 5 Nov;
 max 12 FtE 10 Nov.
Chipping Sparrow: max 50 Columbia-
 Greene Community College 23 Sep; last
 Ghent 10 Nov.
Field Sparrow: max 5 SNHP 16 Sep.

Vesper Sparrow: Gansevoort 1 Oct; NB
 22 Oct; only reports.
Savannah Sparrow: last 8-10 Wemple
 Rd T Glenmont 8 Oct.
Grasshopper Sparrow: Taghkanic 7 Sep
 (BC).
Fox Sparrow: only 5 reports of singles.
Song Sparrow: max 23 NRP 1 Oct;
 generally scarce.
Lincoln's Sparrow: 3 NRP 1 Oct; 4 FR
 10 Oct; 7 reports of singles.
Swamp Sparrow: max 4 NRP 1 Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: arr SNHP 24
 Sep; 15 Amsterdam 27 Oct; 20 L7 5 Nov.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr 3 NRP 30
 Sep; very low numbers.
Snow Bunting: arr NB 22 Oct.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: only 2 reports
 of singles.
Indigo Bunting: Athens 11 Oct, only
 report, late.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 500+
 Tomhannock Creek T Brunswick RENS
 22 Oct.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 4 FR 22 Oct; max
 and last 40 Malta SARA 22 Oct.
Com. Grackle: max 1000 Columbia-
 Greene Community College 16 Oct.
Purple Finch: max 19 CPHW 8 Nov.
House Finch: max 50-60 PI 28 Sep.
Pine Siskin: max 8 JL 7 Oct; low
 numbers throughout Region.
Am. Goldfinch: max 81 CPHW 8 Nov.
Evening Grosbeak: max 4 CPHW 30
 Oct.

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REGION 9 – HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The fall season started out normal with average temperature and rainfall for September. October temperatures were also near normal, but the month was very dry. Less than an inch of rain fell over the Region. Westchester Airport recorded 0.55" for the month. The normal average amount is 3.0". The first significant rain didn't arrive until 9 November, with that month being cooler than average.

Steve Golladay found an exotic crane, believed to be a Demoiselle Crane at Stormville Airport on 1 October. It was a banded bird and certainly an escape, but it did provide some excitement for local birders to view this striking bird.

Otherwise, the fall had very few notable species and few reports. Exceptions were: a possible Gyrfalcon at Hook Mountain on 22 October, a Sedge Wren found in Larchmont 13 October and two Clay-colored Sparrows, one in Pearl River 18 September and one in Kingston Point Park 11 October.

There was an Iceland Gull at Kingston Point Beach on 11 November.

A Red-headed Woodpecker was reported at Croton Point Park 23 November.

Numbers at the area hawkwatches were generally disappointing. But on the bright side, both Mount Peter and Hook Mountain set season's records for Bald Eagle. Hook Mountain reached 50 on 23 October, bypassing the previous record of 48 in 1995. Mount Peter had 24 Bald Eagles for the season. Hook Mountain also had five Golden Eagles in a week, with the fifth appearing 23 October.

An unusual sighting for a hawkwatch came from Lenoir Preserve in Yonkers. Two flocks of Surf Scoters, totaling 200 birds, were seen flying down the Hudson on 15 October.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Point Park; CRHW – Chestnut Ridge Hawk Watch, Bedford; HM – Hook Mountain; MPH – Mount Peter Hawk Watch; NYRBA – New York Rare Bird Alert; RTWFT – Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club Field Trip.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: Roundout Res 19 Oct.
Am. Bittern: Bashakill 4 Oct.
Snowy Egret: Wappingers Creek 16, 21 Oct, inland reports.
Little Blue Heron: Clinton Corners DUTC 6 Oct (JC).
Black Vulture: 4 CRHW 13 Oct (NYRBA); 4 DUTC 11 Oct.
Snow Goose: 100 DUTC 28 Sep; 28 ad, 22 imm Napanoch 16 Oct; 100 Webatuck DUTC 28 Oct.
Brant: 59 Bashakill 18 Oct; 200 Chelsea 11 Oct.
Canada Goose: 500 Hillside L DUTC 11, 23 Oct; 500 Napanoch flats 18 Oct.
Wood Duck: 1131 Bashakill 28 Sep; 1132 Bashakill 7 Oct (VF, BB).
Blue-winged Teal: Bashakill 28 Sep; Norrie Point 11 Nov (AM, BM).
Ring-necked Duck: 100 Abel's Pond DUTC 9 Oct thru; 67 L Walton 2 Nov.
Surf Scoter: 200 flying down Hudson River, Lenoir Nature Preserve 15 Oct (MB).
Com. Merganser: 200 Swan L 17 Oct.
Ruddy Duck: 35 Kiamesha L SULL 19 Oct; 100 Sylvan L DUTC 23 Oct.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 50+ for season at HM.
N. Harrier: 7 Shawangunk Grasslands NWR 24 Nov.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: chasing hummingbird Hilldale Rd SULL 2 Sep; 111 HM 14 Sep.
N. Goshawk: arr HM 27 Sep.
Broad-winged Hawk: 838 HM 14 Sep (FB); 2058 MPHW 17 Sep; 1413 HM 22 Sep (FB); Pleasant Valley 24, 26 Oct (MV).
Red-shouldered Hawk: 48 HM 23 Oct.
Golden Eagle: 2 CRHW 17 Oct (NYRBA); DUTC 20 Oct (CV).
Am. Kestrel: 74 HM 14 Sep.
Gyr Falcon: possible bird HM 22 Oct (CW).

Wild Turkey: 26 Stormville 2, 3 Oct.
N. Bobwhite: 15 Millwood 12, 14 Oct, released or escaped birds; 8 Old Camby Rd DUTC 17 Nov, also probably released.
Am. Coot: 96 Sylvan L DUTC Oct- Nov
Killdeer: 60 Stormville Airport 3 Oct.
Lesser Yellowlegs: Stormville Airport 2 Oct; Pine Plains 8 Oct.
Pectoral Sandpiper: 7 Stormville Airport 2, 6 Oct.
Com. Snipe: Bashakill 28 Sep.
Iceland Gull: Kingston Pt Beach 11-13 Nov (JT, MD).

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Bashakill 16 Sep; Horseshoe L Rd SULL 1-20 Sep.
Short-eared Owl: 9 Shawangunk Grasslands NWR 24 Nov (AS).
N. Saw-whet Owl: Horseshoe L Rd 13 Sep (KC).
Com. Nighthawk: 20 Cape Pd SULL 2 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last in SULL 30 Sep (MC, VF).
Red-headed Woodpecker: CPP 23 Nov (JV).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: many reports.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Bashakill 2 Sep Lenoir Preserve 10 Sep; MPHW 18 Sep; Lenoir Preserve 22 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: 2 Fort Ogden Mills DUTC 25 Oct; 4 Norrie Pt 1 Nov, late.
Red-eyed Vireo: last DUTC 2 Nov.
Com. Raven: many reports.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: DUTC 17, 20, 29, 30 Sep, 1 Oct; 8 Cape Pd SULL 23 Oct; CPP 23 Nov.
House Wren: Pleasant Valley 6 Oct (MV).
Sedge Wren: Larchmont 13 Oct (PL).
Gray-cheeked Thrush: banded Cape Pd SULL 13 Oct.

Gray Catbird: last for SULL 11 Oct.
Brown Thrasher: last for SULL 20 Sep.
Am. Pipit: 30 Domin Farm DUTC 20 Oct.
Cedar Waxwing: very common this fall.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: HM 22 Sep (FB).
Tennessee Warbler: 2 Cape Pd 19 Sep; Fort Ogden Mills DUTC 25 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: Lenoir Preserve 25 Sep (MB); Kingston Pt P 11 Oct (MD).
Wilson's Warbler: Bashakill 16 Sep; Pearl River 5 Oct (AP).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Chipping Sparrow: DUTC 29 Nov, late.
Clay-colored Sparrow: Pearl River 18 Sep (AP); Kingston Pt P 11 Oct (MD).
Vesper Sparrow: Millertown 13 Oct; CPP 14 Oct.
Grasshopper Sparrow: CPP 7 Oct (GD).

Fox Sparrow: arr 2 Wappingers 24 Oct.
Lincoln's Sparrow: 1-5 Horseshoe L Rd SULL 23-28 Sep (KC); Pearl River 27 Sep (AP); Rombout Rd DUTC 29 Sep; CPP 7, 14 Oct (GD); 3 DUTC 5, 15 Oct (CV).
White-throated Sparrow: arr 27 Sep; many Nov reports.
White-crowned Sparrow: 15 Horseshoe L Rd 1 Oct (KC); 4 CPP 7 Oct (GD); 25 DUTC 13 Oct (CV); 20 CPP 14 Oct (GD).
Dark-eyed Junco: arr 27 Sep.
Snow Bunting: Poughkeepsie 9 Nov (DL).
Rusty Blackbird: Kingston Pt P 11 Oct (MD); 6 Poughquag 13 Oct; 80 Bashakill 22 Oct (RD, VF).

EXOTICS

Demoiselle Crane: Stormville Airport 30 Sep, 1 Oct (SG).

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REGION 10 – MARINE

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The season's temperatures appeared depressingly normal, because no record high or low appeared throughout. However, all three months were decidedly on the cool side. It was 2°F below normal in September and November and slightly below in October. September was wet at 5.82" vs. a 3.89" norm. October was very dry, with almost no rain: 0.68" vs. a 3.56" norm. November was more normal at 3.63", only 0.10" below the norm. However, this was not the whole story. Adverse winds, due to the jet stream position, seriously affected the usual weather patterns and thus migration patterns and the hawk flights. The Region saw an unusual influx of birds. These included Ross's Geese, Sandwich Terns, Bridled Terns, *Selasphorus sp.* hummingbirds, a number of western flycatchers and a super sparrow.

On 7 October, Tom Burke and Gail Benson found an unfamiliar sparrow along the fence on the west side of Jones Beach Parking Lot 6. The bird was identified as a member of the *Aimophila* genus. Determining the exact species in this group of skulkers is a daunting task. It wasn't until the next day that a positive identification of **Cassin's Sparrow** (*Aimophila cassinii*) was made by Burke. This rare vagrant to the east stayed until 11 October, affording fleeting, cursory looks and adequate, if not fully satisfactory, photos. Pending NYSARC review, this would become an addition to the NYS Checklist.

The West Pond at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge harbored one and then two Eared Grebes starting on 16 September. At least one was seen to 29 November. An immature **Ross's Goose** was found at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge 8 October in a flock of 40-50 Snow Geese. At various times during this period, two immatures of this species were seen. On 20 October, Bob Kurtz counted 400+ Snow Geese in the Jamaica Bay area.

On 7 October, an adult "Black" Brant was found by Nick Laviola and others in Zachs Bay in a flock of 50 Brant. It was seen until the 10th.

On 28 September, the busiest single hawk day of the season occurred at both the Central Park and Fire Island hawkwatches. The former counted 1877 on that day, 41% of the season's total of 4536. Fire Island on the same day counted 635 hawks, 20% their season's total of 3046. At both watches, all common species were down substantially this year. An anomaly was a very large kettle of Broad-winged Hawks seen on 28 September this year in Central Park. Without this Broad-winged tally, the day's total was still 36% of the season's count at the Central Park watch.

The following table of comparisons is of interest:

Species	Central Park		Fire Island	
	1999	2000	1999	2000
TV	237	278	0	0
OS	433	350	389	327
BE	29	30	5	4
NH	53	34	228	183
SS	700	643	496	257
CH	68	86	25	7
NG	1	1	1	2
RS	50	50	0	1
BW	478	2342	0	0
RT	461	184	1	1
RL	1	0	3	1
GE	0	1	0	0
AK	385	365	1500	1212
ML	34	28	2570	875
PG	24	12	253	148
Unid	174	32	33	28
Totals	3128	4436	5504	3046

On 24 November, Steve Walter observed a **Sandhill Crane** soaring overhead on the Point Lookout side of Jones Inlet. It flew off to the west and out of sight.

On 2 September, Andy Baldelli found an American Avocet at Mecox. It stayed only one day. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were numerous this fall, but mostly confined to the sod fields on eastern Long Island. The peak was 48 in three locations on 4 September. Up to 20 occurred in late September, the last being a single bird on 1 October.

This season there were reports from two pelagic trips and several fishing trips. On 2 September, a trip (PT#1) from Brielle, NJ to the Hudson Canyon produced reports in NY waters of 7 Cory's, 25 Greater and 7 Audubon's shearwaters, 500 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, 12 Red-necked Phalaropes, 4 Pomarine Jaegers, **5 Bridled Terns**, including 2 sitting on floating debris, and 1 Black Tern.

On 10 September, a trip (PT#2) to the continental shelf south of Shinnecock (to The Dip and eastward to The Fishtail) was listed as "uneventful," but produced 32 Cory's, 21 Greater and 1 Manx shearwaters, 386 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, 3 Red-necked Phalaropes, 3 Parasitic, 7 Pomarine and 1 unidentified (possibly Long-tailed) jaegers.

On 7 October, a fishing boat 35 miles south of Shinnecock (PT#3) encountered **2 Northern Fulmars** and 3 Greater Shearwaters. At Montauk Point, on the same day, 2 Parasitic Jaegers were seen offshore charging through a large tern flock. On 13-14 October, Orhan Birol, on a fishing trip (PT#4) south of Shinnecock, found 100+ Greater Shearwaters and a Wilson's Storm-Petrel, a very late date for the latter.

On 8 September, Andrew Bernick and Jarrod Santora were doing bird counts for the National Park Service in Jamaica Bay when they spotted a **Sandwich Tern** in a large mass of gulls and terns (1500 Laughing Gulls, 350+ Common Terns and 24 Forster's Terns) on some expansive flats east of Cross Bay Boulevard in a restricted area adjacent to JFK Airport. Another **Sandwich Tern** was seen along with five Royal Terns by Mike Cooper at Pike's Beach in Westhampton on 10 September. On 6 October, another was found at Democrat Point, Fire Island. None of these were associated with the type of storms that usually bring these southern terns to our area.

Two possible *Selasphorus* hummingbirds appeared late in the season during the same week. One bird, in Water Mill, was seen on 28 November and appeared to be an adult female. It was captured and subsequently died. The specimen is being forwarded to the American Museum of Natural History for positive identification. A second bird appeared in East Hampton on 25 November, was present through the 28th, and appeared to be an immature female **Rufous Hummingbird**. Both of the birds were on private property and access was not available for birders.

On 5 September, Michael Duffy found a pale-throated *Myiarchus* flycatcher on the West Pond path at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Subsequently identified as an **Ash-throated Flycatcher**, it remained until the 12th. Then, at the end of the season, three *Myiarchus* flycatchers appeared in one week. Two were additional **Ash-throated Flycatchers**, one at Prospect Park, Brooklyn from 27 November on and the other at Alley Pond Park, Queens from 29 November on. Both were photographed and studied to confirm the identification. The third bird was found by Robert DeCandido and Randy Schutz at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on 24 November and was identified as a very late **Great Crested Flycatcher**. It remained until the 29th. A number of Western Kingbirds moved through the Region, starting with one at Accabonac on the South Fork 22 September, one in a backyard in Hither Hills 5 October and one at Robert Moses State Park 4-5 November. Another bird that arrived at Ft. Tilden on 11 November was still present at the end of the season.

The warbler migration peaked on 25 September when 25 species were seen in Central Park and 19 in Prospect Park. In addition, 21 were along the Jones Beach strip on 23 September. This fall saw an explosive increase in Golden-winged Warbler sightings. There have been few reports in the period 1988-1999. In 1992, there were four in August and three in September; in 1996 there were two in August and four in September; a third of these years had none. All occurred from mid August to late September, with a mean of mid September. This year's reports were eight for August, nine for September and five for October. The last date was an unprecedented **23 October**. The previous latest dates for the state were 10 and 17 October. Reports came from Staten Island to Montauk and all 22 of the late summer/fall sightings are listed in the species account so the full picture of this year's movement can be seen in one place.

On 14 October, Andy Baldelli, Hugh McGuinness and Bob Wilson found Long Island's third (or fourth) **Le Conte's Sparrow** at Montauk Point. It stayed until the

next day.

As highlights, the season brought us **Ross's Geese** from the north, **Bridled Tern** and **Sandwich Tern** from the south, ***Selasphorus* hummingbirds**, **Ash-throated Flycatchers** and **Le Conte's Sparrow** from the west, and best of all, a **Cassin's Sparrow** from the southwest.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

APP – Alley Pond Park; CB – Cedar Beach; CCP – Cupsogue County Park; CLP – Clove Lake Park RICH; CP – Central Park; CSP – Caumsett SP; DP – Democrat Pt, FI; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field; FI – Fire Island; FP – Forest Park; FT – Fort Tilden QUEE; HP – Hook Pond, Southampton; JBCH – Jones Beach; JBWE – Jones Beach West End; JBWR – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; LI – Long Island; MEB – Mecox Bay; MOR – Moriches; MP – Montauk Pt; NYRBA – NY Rare Bird Alert; PB – Pike's Beach, Westhampton; PBP – Pelham Bay Park; PL – Pt Lookout side Jones Inlet; PP – Prospect Park; PT#1 – 2 September pelagic trip to Hudson Canyon (NY waters only); PT#2 – 10 September pelagic trip to continental shelf south of Shinnecock; PT#3 – 7 October fishing trip 35 miles s of Shinnecock; PT#4 – 13-14 October fishing trip s of Shinnecock; RMSP – Robert Moses SP; RP – Riis Park; SHIN – Shinnecock Inlet; SI – Staten Island; VCP – Van Cortlandt Park BRON; ZB – Zachs Bay

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-necked Grebe: Spring Creek 29 Oct; 3 MP 25 Nov; Little Neck Bay QUEE 26 Nov.
Eared Grebe: JBWR 16-29 Sep; 2

JBWR 30 Sep-15 Oct; JBWR 15 Oct-29 Nov.

NORTHERN FULMAR: 2 PT#3.

Cory's Shearwater: 7 PT#1; 32 PT#2.

Greater Shearwater: 25 PT#1; 21

PT#2; PT#3; 100- PT#4.
Manx Shearwater: PT#2.
Audubon's Shearwater: 7 PT#1.
Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 500 PT#1; 386 PT#2; PT#4, a very late date.
Least Bittern: VCP 4-6 Sep.
Tricolored Heron: JBWR to 29 Nov.
Cattle Egret: JBWR 30 Sep-1 Oct; Buffalo Farm in Riverhead 10-13, 19 Oct.
Turkey Vulture: 278 season total CP Hawkwatch; 19 CP 28 Sep; PP 13 Oct; 34 CP 22 Oct; others on eastern LI.
Greater White-fronted Goose: ad Greenlawn 19-20 Nov.
Snow Goose: up to 1000 JBWR at season's end; others.
ROSS'S GOOSE: JBWR 16-29 Sep (MD); 2 JBWR 30 Sep- 15 Oct, then 1 there to 29 Nov.
"Black" Brant: ZB 7-10 Oct (NL *et al*).
Tundra Swan: 7 Hook Pd, Easthampton 19 Nov thru.
Wood Duck: 18 PP 25 Sep; CP thru 27 Nov.
Eurasian Wigeon: JBWR 17 Sep thru; Centerport 26 Oct, 16 Nov; FBF 19 Nov; Marratooka L, Mattituck 28 Nov.
King Eider: MP 15 Oct; others.
Com. Eider: MP in lower numbers this year.
Harlequin Duck: 3 Horton Pt lighthouse, Southhold 13 Nov thru; Ditch Plains 9 Nov; 6 PL 26 Nov; MP 25 Nov thru.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: 101 FI Hawkwatch 28 Sep.
Bald Eagle: imm JBWR 3-4, 9-10 Sep; imm Riverhead 10 Sep; 30 CP Hawkwatch 13 Sep-19 Oct including 4 imm, 1 ad 28 Sep; Quogue 16 Sep; Riverhead 22 Sep; JBWR 8 Oct; imm Bridgehampton 19 Oct.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 50 season total CP Hawkwatch.
Broad-winged Hawk: 1615 CP 28 Sep;

2342 season total; last 22 Oct.
Red-tailed Hawk: 42 CP 22 Oct.
Rough-legged Hawk: Spring Creek 23 Oct; VCP 21 Nov.
Golden Eagle: imm CP 15 Oct; JBWR 29 Oct.
Am. Kestrel: 367 FI Hawkwatch 28 Sep.
Wild Turkey: 12 Culloden Woods, Montauk 3 Nov; PBP 17 Nov.
Com. Moorhen: JBWR 30 Sep, rarely seen now in a location where they formerly bred abundantly.
SANDHILL CRANE: PL 24 Nov (SW).
Am. Golden-Plover: max 65 fields at Riverhead 23 Sep; 48 there 3 Oct; last there 24 Oct; JBWR mid-late Sep; JBWE 14 Oct; others.
Piping Plover: 2 PB 21 Oct; Goff Pt, Napeague 11 Nov (AB, BB), late date.
Am. Oystercatcher: 100+ JBWR mid Oct; large numbers in bay at JBCH thru.
Am. Avocet: MEB 2 Sep (AB).
Lesser Yellowlegs: last 1 Oct.
Willet: last 1 Oct.
Spotted Sandpiper: PP 23 Nov (RJ).
Upland Sandpiper: Gabreski Airport and Riverhead fields early Sep.
Whimbrel: JBWR 2 Sep; SHIN 23 Sep; JBWE 8, 14 Oct; Dune Rd 25 Nov thru.
Hudsonian Godwit: 1-2 JBWR thru 4 Oct.
Marbled Godwit: PB 1-4, 9 Sep; MEB 4-5 Sep; JBWR 9 Sep; 2 ZB 7 Oct.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 1 Oct.
White-rumped Sandpiper: JBWR thru 4 Nov.
Baird's Sandpiper: JBWR 4-10 Sep; JBCH 9-10 Sep; MEB 17 Sep; 2 Riverhead 23 Sep; others.
Pectoral Sandpiper: last 8 Oct.
Purple Sandpiper: arr mid-Nov.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: numerous this fall, but mostly confined to the Riverhead sod farms on eastern LI as follows: 15 on 1 Sep, 22 on 2 Sep; 22 on 3 Sep; 48 over 3 different locations (34 in one of them) 4 Sep, 20 on 7 Sep, 16 on 8 Sep, 20 on

16 Sep; 7 on 21 Sep, 19 on Sep 24, 1 on 1 Oct.

Wilson's Phalarope: 2 MEB 2 Sep; JBWR 2-3, 9, 30 Sep, 1 Oct; MEB 19 Sep.

Red-necked Phalarope: 12 PT#1; 3 PT#2.

Pomarine Jaeger: 4 PT#1; 7 PT#2.

Parasitic Jaeger: 6-3 PT#2; MP 7 Oct; 2 MP 14, 22, 28 Oct; CCP 16 Oct; JBCH 29 Oct.

Laughing Gull: Fort Pd 25 Nov.

Little Gull: L Montauk 25 Nov thru.

Black-headed Gull: Agawam 11 Nov.

Iceland Gull: MP 2 Oct; SHIN 18 Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: now nesting in large numbers in Iceland, they are wintering throughout the eastern US including our Region.

Glaucous Gull: JBWE 29 Oct (DF).

Black-legged Kittiwake: MP mid-Nov thru.

Gull-billed Tern: 2 JBWR 4 Sep.

Caspian Tern: JBWR 4 Sep; DP 5 Sep; SI 9-10 Sep; MEB 19-20; 2 JBCH 21 Sep; 2 Tobay 27 Nov; others to 8 Oct.

Royal Tern: 142 CCP, most sitting on the sand bar inside the inlet 16 Oct (AL); MOR 11 Nov.

SANDWICH TERN: JBWR 8 Sep (ABe, JS); PB 10 Sep (MC); DP 6 Oct (JF); none associated with any storms.

Forster's Tern: 170 MEB 19 Sep.

Least Tern: last 20 Sep.

BRIDLED TERN: 5 PT#1 (MB, MV).

Dovekie: Ditch Plains 4 Nov (JP); MP 4 Nov; sea watch at Tobay 9 Nov (AW); MP 11 Nov (AB, BB, RP); MP 25 Nov.

Razorbill: SHIN 5 Nov; MP 11 Nov; 2 MP 26 Nov.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: roost in Bensonhurst and other Brooklyn locations.

Snowy Owl: on a building, West 14th St, Manhattan 2 Nov; Breezy Pt QUEE 5, 18 Nov; Napeague 8 Nov; JBWE 12 Nov

thru; SHIN 18 Nov thru; CCP 19-20 Nov.

Long-eared Owl: CP 23 Oct thru; lower Manhattan 1 Nov; 2 JBCH 7 Nov.

Short-eared Owl: RMSP 5 Nov.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Tobay 8 Nov; PBP 24 Nov; East Hampton 18 Nov.

Chimney Swift: 200+ flock PP 20 Sep, unusual but not near fall max of 1500; 4 PP 13 Oct.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last 15 Oct.

HUMMINGBIRD, possible

Selasphorus sp: Water Mill 28 Nov, died, specimen to AMNH for positive id; East Hampton 25-28 Nov, appeared to be imm Rufous.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Middle I 3 Sep; PP 29 Sep; RMSP 7 Oct; MP 14 Oct.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: now regular along the barrier beach in migration where formerly absent and later rare.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: JBWR 1 Oct (GT), 5 Oct, both very late dates.

E. Wood-Pewee: Dude Ranch 14 Oct (SM, PL).

E. Phoebe: last 29 Oct.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: JBWR 5-12 Sep (MD); PP 27 Nov thru; APP 29 Nov thru.

Great Crested Flycatcher: 24-29 Nov (RD, RS).

Western Kingbird: Accabonac 22 Sep; Hither Hills 5 Oct; RMSP 4-5 Nov; FT 11 Nov.

E. Kingbird: last 14 Oct.

N. Shrike: RMSP 28 Oct, 2 Nov.

White-eyed Vireo: Morton NWR 25 Nov (HT *vide* HMG).

Yellow-throated Vireo: last 27 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: last 29 Nov.

Warbling Vireo: last 22 Sep.

Philadelphia Vireo: good numbers to 8 Oct.

Red-eyed Vireo: last 23 Oct.
Purple Martin: last 17 Sep.
Cliff Swallow: MP 14 Sep (JA), 17 Sep (AB).
Barn Swallow: last 9 Sep.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: very few in migration and virtually absent thereafter.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last 7 Oct.
Am. Pipit: 100+ fields at Riverhead 24 Nov.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: last 26 Sep.
Golden-winged Warbler: 22 reports, although some may be repeat sightings of an individual bird, an unusually large number (max 7 days/yr in last 13 yrs) and latest date for the state (previous 10 and 17 Oct); listing from west to east: CLP 21 Aug; CP 3, 5 Sep; PP 19, 20, 25 Aug, 17, 20, 21 Sep, 6, 22, 23 Oct; FP 9 Sep; APP 20, 28, 29, 30 Aug, 5, 28 Sep, 2 Oct; East Hampton 9 Sep; MP 17 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: last 7 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: CP 1 Oct; numerous scattered on south shore east to MP to 11 Nov.
Nashville Warbler: last 9 Oct.
N. Parula: last 15 Oct.
Yellow Warbler: last 1 Oct.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last 4 Oct.
Magnolia Warbler: last 15 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: last 17 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last VCP 21 Nov.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last 15 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last 7 Oct.
Pine Warbler: CP 13-14 Nov.
Prairie Warbler: last mid-Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last 30 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: last 19 Nov.
Black-and-white Warbler: last 7 Oct.
Am. Redstart: MP 9 Nov (JA).
Worm-eating Warbler: Noyac 4-5 Sep; Hunter's Garden on Rt 51 sw of Riverhead 5 Sep; Forest P 14 Sep; PP

late Sep.
Ovenbird: Manhattan's West Side 13 Nov (WP).
Kentucky Warbler: JBWR 24 Sep; SHIN 30 Sep.
Connecticut Warbler: APP 16 Sep; Sag Harbor 18 Sep; Rocky Pt Management Area 18 Sep; Makamah Nature Preserve, Northport 22 Sep; JBCH 23 Sep; CP 25 Sep.
Mourning Warbler: last 29 Sep.
Com. Yellowthroat: last 24 Oct.
Hooded Warbler: PP 9 Sep; Caleb Smith SP 9 Sep; CP 24 Sep, 3 Oct; 2 CP 25 Sep-7 Oct; APP 7 Oct.
Wilson's Warbler: last 22 Oct.
Canada Warbler: last 25 Sep.
Yellow-breasted Chat: scattered singles thru.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: PP 29 Sep.
CASSIN'S SPARROW: Field 6 JBCH 7-11 Oct (TB, *et al*, report to NYSARC); only a half dozen prior records for the Northeast; first NYS record if accepted.
Clay-colored Sparrow: FT 17 Sep; MP 23 Sep; 1-2 RMSP 24 Sep, 8, 9 Oct; FT 30 Sep; MP 7 Oct; 1-2 JBWE 14-15 Oct; MP 14-15 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: mid-Oct.
Lark Sparrow: JBWE 7 Sep; FT 20 Sep; Easthampton 27-28 Sep; MP 7 Oct; JBCH 11-12 Oct; Tobay 15 Oct; RMSP 22 Oct.
LE CONTE'S SPARROW: MP 14-15 Oct! (AB, HMG, BW).
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 2 Gilgo 1 Oct; 2 CCP 21 Oct.
Lincoln's Sparrow: 2 FBF 16 Sep; 2 Aquebogue 20 Sep; PP 22 Sep; CSP 1 Oct; MP 23 Sep, 2 CP 25 Sep; CP 27 Sep; PP 29-30 Sep; FT 7, 9 Oct; JBWE 7 Oct; JBCH 11, 15 Oct; PP 27 Oct; RP 29 Oct; last CP 14 Nov.
White-crowned Sparrow: *Gambel's* race 15 Oct (RK).

Lapland Longspur: FT 22-24, 29 Oct, 19 Nov; SI 12 Nov; 3 Hook Pd 20 Nov; 2 Tiana Beach 25 Nov.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last 5 Oct.

Blue Grosbeak: JBWE 18 Sep; APP 21 Sep; 2 JBWE 23 Sep; MP 23 Sep; 2 Bridgehampton 23 Sep; Aquebogue 30 Sep.

Indigo Bunting: Cupsogue 18 Nov (DF, NL).

Dickcissel: ZB 7 Sep; JBWE 18 Sep; 2 JBWE 23 Sep; FI Hawkwatch 23-24 Sep; CSP 1 Oct; 2 JBWE 8 Oct; JBCH 11-12 Oct; Tobay 12 Oct; ZB 13 Oct; 3 JBWE 14 Oct, 1 on 15 Oct; 2 MP 15 Oct, 1 on 21, 29 Oct; others.

Boat-tailed Grackle: increasing in

Region; 350 JBWR; increased to 14 in Ponquogue Bridge area.

Orchard Oriole: CP 3 Oct.

Pine Siskin: 2 JBWE 14 Oct.

Evening Grosbeak: PP 24 Sep; CP 25 Sep; FT 25 Sep.

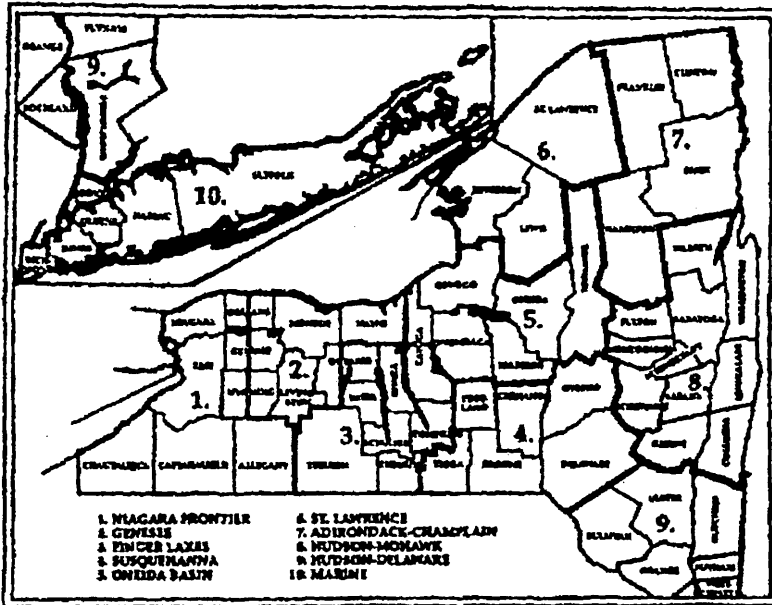
CORRIGENDUM

Vol 50(3): **YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS:** on the FI beach in a flock of Herring Gulls 9 May 2000. A bird in Massachusetts cited in the commentary as early May should also have been noted as 9 May (PB).

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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 Allegany County Line.

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

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

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December

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Publication of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc.

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