

The  
**KINGBIRD**

New York State  
Ornithological  
Association, Inc.

Vol. 55 No. 1  
March 2005



THE KINGBIRD (ISSN 0023-1606), published quarterly (March, June, September, December), is a publication of the New York State Ornithological Association, 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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# The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Volume 55 No. 1

March 2005

pp. 1 – 100

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# AN ARTIFICIAL NEST STRUCTURE FOR BLACK TERNS (*Chlidonias niger*): DESIGN AND USE

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*Abstract*—A simple, affordable Black Tern artificial nest platform was designed and tested during the spring of 2002. Goals were (1) to test the basic efficacy of the platform design; (2) to supplement nest sites at an historic breeding area experiencing drastic population declines in recent years; (3) to attract terns into a recently re-flooded marsh, where natural nesting sites would ordinarily be absent; and (4) to test whether birds would select artificial structures over natural substrates at a site where both breeding birds and natural substrates were numerous. Five of 48 platforms were used by Black Terns to some degree, and the basic platform design appeared to work well. None of the platforms deployed at the historic site (Braddock Bay) were used, and this site appears to have been abandoned by breeding Black Terns. In contrast, nesting terns were attracted to four platforms at a recently drawn-down site in Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area. This success suggests that artificial platforms might offer a significant benefit in areas, like New York State, where breeding areas are both limited and intensively managed. Finally, Black Terns were attracted to and nested successfully on a platform at a site (Ruddy Marsh, TWMA) where many ideal natural nest sites were available.

## Introduction

Breeding Bird Surveys have demonstrated a declining trend since 1967 in the number of Black Terns (*Chlidonias niger*) breeding in the state (Novak 1998). The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation conducted its first statewide survey for Black Terns in 1989 and estimated 235 pairs (Novak 1990). Numerous surveys since, some using more detailed methods of actual nest counts as opposed to scan surveys, have concluded that the population is relatively stable, but drastically below historical numbers (Mazzocchi and Muller 1995). However, in 2001, breeding pairs were estimated at 155 statewide, the lowest since the NYSDEC surveys began. Several factors are involved in the decline of the species. These include habitat loss, human disturbance, predation, weather, and habitat degradation caused by purple loosestrife, *Lythra salicaria* (Mazzocchi and Muller 1995). The present study tested several potential benefits of artificial structures for Black Terns breeding in New York State.

Platforms were placed in several different settings. For instance, Braddock Bay Wildlife Management Area, along Lake Ontario in the town of Greece was historically an important breeding site for Black Terns, but breeding has been severely reduced there in recent years. Artificial structures were placed here with the hope of reversing this trend. Another site (the North Feeder Marsh of Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area (TWMA), in the township of Alabama) was selected to test whether Black Terns could be attracted to a marsh the first

season following a marsh draw-down. Normally marshes do not offer suitable nesting substrates until the second or third year following a draw-down (Seyler 1991, 1993, Hickey 1997), and successful deployment of artificial structures in this setting would be a great boon to wildlife managers. Platforms were also deployed at a site (Ruddy Marsh, TWMA) featuring abundant natural nest sites. The goal in this instance was to determine if the terns might prefer artificial platforms over some natural sites. Thus, structures were placed in and around cattail areas that also contained decayed and flattened muskrat houses and areas of accumulated dead cattail stalks.

In 1992 artificial Black Tern nest structures designed by D. Seyler were used during a nesting study by J. Hickey (Hickey 1992). Although some were utilized by the birds, the styrofoam design was far less durable and attracted muskrats, that eventually chewed up several of the structures. The author also deployed about half a dozen structures in Ruddy Marsh and Paddy II (TWMA) in 2001. Again, these earlier structures differed in various respects from the ones described in the present paper.

## **Platform Design and Placement**

The artificial structures used in 1992 consisted of one-inch thick polystyrene sheets cut into 16.5-inch squares. All edges were taped with duct tape to prevent crumbling. An anchor was attached to the center with twine to keep the structures in place. During that study, it was observed that chicks were sometimes unable to climb back onto platforms. The polystyrene floated completely on top of the water effectively creating an inch high wall to a small chick trying to make its way back to the nest. This problem was remedied in the present study by draping long strands of vegetation over the sides of the structure.

Polystyrene was not used on the structures deployed in 2002. Rather, these platforms were constructed using half-inch hardware cloth cut into 14-inch squares. This was attached to a twelve-inch wooden frame roughly made of 1 inch x 1 1/2 inch pine (Fig. 1). The hardware cloth was centered on the wood frame so that a two-inch lip extended beyond the frame on all sides. The lip was bent downward about thirty degrees, effectively creating a ramp into the water once the platform was floated. This was designed so that young terns could easily climb back onto the platform should they leave for any reason. Empty plastic beverage bottles provided floatation. Two bottles from twelve to twenty ounces were evenly spaced on the underside of the platform inside the wooden frame. Some were attached to the hardware cloth with thin copper wire, but a better means was large plastic cable ties. Cable ties were cheap, fast, strong and would not corrode.

Completed platforms required an anchor to prevent wind or other forces from moving them. Anchors were tied to the center of the underside of the platforms. Anything could be used for the weight. We used pieces of 1-inch pipe cut into six-inch lengths. Two small holes were drilled into the pipe and a cable tie was passed through and closed forming a loop. Twine was tied to this loop, which prevented sharp edges of the pipe from wearing on the twine and eventually cutting it. Two pieces of pipe were necessary for sufficient weight. Enough twine was used to allow for water level fluctuations. In the past clay drainage tiles were used as

weights (Hickey 1992). Wooden stakes ten feet long and roughly 3/4 inch square were placed adjacent to the platforms for ease of locating. Pink plastic flagging was tied to the top of the stakes. Platforms could also be anchored to the stakes as opposed to using weights.

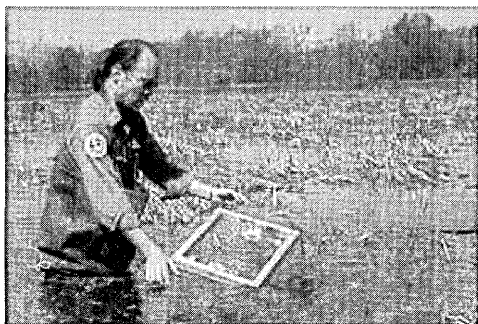


Figure 1  
An artificial nest  
platform for  
Black Terns.

Figure 2  
Final placement of an  
artificial nest platform  
for Black Terns.



Once anchored in place, platforms were covered with vegetation (Fig. 2). Partially decayed emergent vegetation is the best material. In early May, the remains of the previous season's vegetation is usually readily available floating within the standing dead stalks. Otherwise a garden rake can be used to pull up material from the bottom. Wet, heavy material works best and the platform can instantly look like a natural nesting site. The structures need to be checked a day or so after placement to confirm that they are not floating too high. Sometimes the material placed on the structure dries and changes how the platform sits in the water. Six days after deployment, the platforms at North Feeder looked good, except that the vegetation originally placed on them appeared insufficient. Only one was completely barren of material. It was on the windward side of a cattail clump toward the edge of the marsh and thus took the brunt of the winds. All structures were refreshed with brown, semi-decayed cattail brought in from an adjacent marsh. Twine was used to lace down the new material on most of the structures. The vegetation used was long enough to drape across the structure and so two simple lashings at opposite ends were adequate to hold the material in place.

- Twenty platforms were placed at Braddock Bay Wildlife Management Area on 1 May.
- Twenty platforms were placed in North Feeder Marsh (TWMA) on 1 May.
- Five structures were placed in Ruddy Marsh on 8 May.
- Three structures were placed in Paddy II on 15 May.

## Platform Use

The structures at Braddock Bay were not revisited after the initial placement. Birdwatchers had reported that only a tern or two had passed through the area, and that the site was not being used for nesting. Fifteen of the twenty structures were retrieved 23 July. All were floating and all lacked vegetation (F. Knowlton per com).

Terns were first observed using platforms at TWMA on 7 May when terns were seen to land on two of the structures in North Feeder. Prior to alighting on the structures, the four terns were observed attacking a coot that was close to the platform. They were very agitated and vocal and repeatedly dove at the coot until it retreated, an indication of their attachment to the site. Examination of the platforms found no evidence of nest construction.

May 2002 was a month of very unusual weather. It was very windy and unseasonably cold. Friday 10 May brought tremendously strong winds. Observations from the dike revealed that flagged stakes had been blown down in both North Feeder marsh and Ruddy Marsh. Inspection of the platforms Monday 13 May in North Feeder revealed that the ones on which vegetation had been tied down held up very well. Black terns were now utilizing four structures.

Strong winds again plagued the area on 14 May combined with rain and temperatures 20° below normal. Winds were so strong and persistent that the open water areas had turned brown from turnover. At least four dead grebe chicks were found from two different nests and an adult Black Tern was also found dead in the water. Paddy II, TWMA the site of a very active colony site in 2001 was inspected on 14 May, but the area was devoid of natural nest sites. A single nest was located on an artificial platform that had been placed the year before and left out all winter. The nest was very poor and contained a single egg. Very little material had been brought to the structure. Four terns were repeatedly sweeping the narrow area and immediate plans were made to place more structures. Three platforms were placed in Paddy II on 15 May, but the nest located the day before was now gone and even the structure could not be found. High winds again swept the area 16 May, but the temperature was a much improved 70 degrees. In summary, a total of five nesting attempts were made on the artificial platforms: four in North Feeder and one in Ruddy (the only successful nest on an artificial platform). In addition, a nest in Paddy II was built on a platform of a different design deployed in 2001.

## Discussion

The design of the structures and their durability appears sufficient for a single season, although floating platforms might be vulnerable to exceptional winds. None of the platforms deployed in 2002 were found to float too low, and those that floated too high could be adjusted by partially filling the plastic bottles with water. The stability of the platforms is generally good. Muskrats were able to repeatedly climb on and off without toppling or sinking the units. On the other hand, two structures deployed in 2001 were found upside down, floating against a very dense stand of cattail. One bottle had developed a very small hole where it was in contact with the steel wire used to lash it to the hardware cloth. The corrosion of the wire appears to be what caused the hole. Both had broken loose from their anchors.

Although Black Terns historically nested at Braddock Bay, in recent years they appear to have abandoned the area. The artificial platforms deployed there in 2002 did not succeed in reversing this trend.

Of the six nesting attempts observed on platforms at the other sites, it is likely that one failure was a result of muskrat activity. The other four failures were attributed to weather. Winds were excessive in May. Wind speeds exceeded 20 mph on 19 of 31 days and exceeded 30 mph on 6 days (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge weather station). The strongest winds were recorded 10 May when speeds exceeded 30 mph for 8 hours and peaked at 41.8 mph at 10 am. Black Terns had been landing on the structures for several days by then, but it is highly unlikely that a nest was already established. The worst weather coincided with the very early stages of nest site selection and nest construction, and I believe that it effectively put a brief hold on nesting activity. In the same manner that birds will move from a site after an unsuccessful nesting, I believe that the terns moved to other sites because of the weather. Even so, the simple fact that nesting terns were attracted to artificial platforms at North Feeder, where natural nest sites were completely absent, is an important result.

Hatching was observed in the successful Ruddy Marsh nest on 28 June. At this time, the structure was so well concealed that it was impossible to tell that it was an artificial platform. Nest height was perfect and duckweed and other aquatic vegetation had grown around the nest and completely obliterated any sign that it was manmade. The success of this platform nest is especially significant because Ruddy Marsh features perfect Black Tern nesting habitat. Interspersion of vegetation to open water was ideal. Decayed muskrat structures were everywhere. Large flat mats, some about two meters across, were very abundant. These mats were decomposed remains of old muskrat lodges. Natural structures from old lodges to feeding sites to areas where cattail stalks from winter feeding muskrats had blown into mini stalk jams were everywhere. The use of an artificial platform among many natural sites is particularly encouraging.

## Acknowledgments

I thank Charlie Green for helping construct the platforms and D. Appleby and F. Knowlton for help in constructing, placing and retrieving the structures. I also



thank D. Carroll for assistance in placing platforms at Braddock Bay. Comments of an anonymous reviewer helped to improve the manuscript.

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## A BRIEF REVIEW OF MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS IN NEW YORK STATE

**Will Yandik**

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In November of last year, I received word that a duck hunter shot a King Eider on the Hudson River not far from my home in Columbia County (R.Guthrie, personal communication). Only the 5th record for Region 8, I was naturally disappointed that the rarity had been lost before I had a chance to enjoy it. As I wrote down this sighting for my region's long-term records and reflected on my personal reaction to its circumstances, several questions emerged: Was it illegal to shoot rare waterfowl in New York State? What are the bag limits for uncommon ducks and other game birds? How have we historically come to decide which species are game species?

Some of these questions are easy to answer. New York State's Code of Rules and Regulations, Volume 6, Chapter 1, Part 2, clearly states the specific numbers, conditions, and seasons by which licensed hunters can shoot waterfowl. King Eiders, it appears, are indeed fair game, despite their general scarcity in the state and real rarity in my region. Perhaps no one ever questioned whether game species rare or unusual within our state's borders are worthy of special consideration. Or perhaps this question was considered, but locally rare winter visitors (e.g., King Eider) were deliberately accorded less protection than locally rare breeding species (e.g., Spruce Grouse) and globally rare winter visitors (e.g., Harlequin Duck). In either case, I doubt whether many birders and hunters, or citizens in general, are aware of and endorse the rationale underlying the current law.

In general, I support the concept of hunting. Birds have evolved under the pressures of a variety of predators—death by wolf or shotgun is roughly equivalent provided the birds are not wantonly abused. Several aspects of our current hunting regulations, however, seem to me to violate a basic sense of fairness in respect to ethical and economic considerations.

The relationship between the preservation and harvest of game birds has never been an easy one. Even the most militant preservationists owe some reluctant gratitude to the sporting community who worked to enact our nation's early conservation laws. Make no mistake, few naturalists at the turn of the last century argued for the protection of birds out of ethical or aesthetic considerations. Gun and ammunition manufacturers worried at the real prospect of an America with no game left to shoot. Many gun manufacturers underwrote or lobbied on behalf of the Lacey Act, The Migratory Bird Treaty of 1918, and the Migratory Bird Stamp Act. These laws not only fixed closed hunting seasons, but also established a tradition of obtaining federal lands where ducks, and many other wild species, could seek refuge among expanding commercial demands (Smith 1976).

Decades before the concept of ecology emerged, wealthy hobbyist sportsmen succeeding in slowing the unsanctioned filling of wetlands, the abuses of the millinery trade, and the senseless harvests of market hunters. Under the Migratory

Bird Treaty, of a total of 768 species then recognized by the AOU, 537 species were protected. As early as the twenties, however, several conservationists argued that the legislation didn't do enough to protect uncommon game species, such as woodcock, snipe, and grouse. Tremendous pressure existed to limit the protection of species that were still profitable as market species, such as turkey and ducks. Some labeled the conservation movement as a class struggle between the rich and poor, and accused the new legislation of hoarding game for the enjoyment of "snobbish hunting clubs" (Everman 1922). Our current roster of game species originates, at least in part, from decades of contentious political bickering.

Although the separation of the class Aves into game species and non-game species now confers a very specific legal designation, the history of this distinction is not so neat and simple. According to David Steadman (1998), excavations at prehistoric sites in New York reveal that our state's ancestors killed and likely ate grebes, owls, and woodpeckers as well as turkeys, ducks, and geese. This indiscriminating palette is not limited to the prehistoric, however. Manuscripts from Tudor England show that thrushes, buntings, and many other songbirds appeared on menus (as well as such unusual foods as seal, cranes, and even narwhale). In our own country, early backwoodsman hunters shot all manner of species, including passerines, and sold them in town markets for consumption. Audubon wrote in his journal that he checked such markets frequently to obtain models for his illustrations. Americans likely inherited our basic conception of game birds from the hunting traditions of the 19th-century British and European aristocracy, which heavily favored the shooting of the shorebirds, ducks, geese, and gallinaceous birds.

These 19th-century traditions may help explain why "snipe, rails, and gallinules" are currently on the roster of game birds in New York, despite the fact that many of these species are now uncommon. It is legal to hunt up to 16 Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, and Wilson's Snipe in all areas north of New York City. Licensed sportsmen can also shoot up to 30 American Coot as well as 3 American Woodcock per day in season. Hunters in our state, as well as all other states beginning in 1998, participate in a national Harvest Information Program (HIP), an attempt to determine the general number of game birds shot each hunting season. From this study, we know the majority of New York State game bird hunters purchase licenses with the intention to hunt ducks and geese (G. Batcheller, personal communication). Of 33,561 hunters randomly interviewed in 2002-03, less than 3% (810 individuals) reported hunting "coots or snipe." Less than 2% (391 individuals) hunted "rails or gallinules." Similarly, only 26 individuals reported hunting more than 31 woodcock. Clearly, rails and shorebirds are no longer pursued with the same enthusiasm as other game species. Some have even argued that since these birds are no longer intensively hunted, they enjoy a kind of de facto protection, yet this is a weak argument. We should extend legal protection to all species that warrant protection. Current bag limits on shorebirds and rails are a nostalgic leftover from the Edwardian Age—in short, they should be eliminated.

Moreover, several species of ducks that we more readily consider game species may no longer deserve bag limits. Data gathered from all seasons, including but not limited to Breeding Bird Surveys, Christmas Bird Counts, winter waterfowl counts, and spring and fall data compiled through such sources

as this publication, all suggest that many species of ducks are never abundant, particularly in the Hudson Valley. It is questionable whether current numbers of teal, canvasback, eider, pintail, or scoter warrant upstate hunting at all.

Clearly, it is difficult to reach universally approved bag limits for game species because our idea of what constitutes a healthy or 'good' population is variable. Despite increasingly efficient population studies, our final judgment of how many birds should exist is entirely subjective. Canada Geese have now, due to increasing golf courses and suburban greens, multiplied to the point that many consider them a nuisance. No one could seriously argue for a moratorium on goose hunting these days, if only because too many of us often swear at having to scrape goose dropping from our shoes. We sanction the abundance of birds only when a particular species does not conflict with us. Eastern Bluebirds, for example, place no burdens on our lives, so we continue to wish them into hyperabundance, much like Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Northern Cardinals, or even Mute Swans (at least so long as they don't attack children). Even when scientific evidence is available, our assessment of bird populations is always warped by our cultural prejudices.

Until recently, the only language available to discuss the value of game species, or any wild species for that matter, involved some form of economic consumption. Indeed, even the language used to justify the Migratory Bird Treaty argued that songbirds provided an indirect benefit to agriculture by devouring large quantities of "loathsome insects" (Forbush 1907). For more than a century, much of our management practices have rested on the assumption that it is best to have some economic incentive to protect birds and their habitats (Rasker 1992). Hunting, according to this belief, is good for the birds, because it motivates a section of the population (those who harvest birds) to actively campaign for preservation (Leopold 1933). Organisms that do not carry this economic incentive, say, New York's unique and diverse array of freshwater mussels, have a smaller chance at survival. Anecdotal evidence supports this theory, at least initially. I would argue that there are a great many more in our state who are concerned about preserving black ducks than saving the shrinking population of Tidewater Muckets.

The free-market model for conserving species fails to consider a real shift in our perception of wildlife that began in earnest a half-century ago, one that values wildlife independent of its commercial potential. Specifically, in reference to New York's bag limits, it is the duty of the state not only to preserve game species for the enjoyment of hunters, but also for those of us who derive our primary recreation from simply observing them. Aesthetic consideration should be evaluated equally with traditional hunting and commercial values. While it is true that birding contributes significantly to the economy of our state, I argue that my right to observe a bird is independent of my economic contribution. Despite the fact that most habitats occur on private land, the public legally owns all game birds. Before that King Eider dropped out of some Labrador's mouth into the boat of its master, it was common property—mine as well as the hunter's.

My suggestion is not to eliminate hunting. I do, however, believe we should reevaluate the list of game species in our state, creating a set of bag limits that considers more than a century of freshwater habitat destruction and other environmental pressures. We can no longer sanction outdated regulations simply

because it is cheap and politically expedient to do so. My greatest hope is that the practice of simply watching eiders develops a body of legal right and priority as rich as the ancient privilege to shoot them from the sky.

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# CEDAR WAXWING, SCARLET TANAGER, AND BALTIMORE ORIOLE IN GENESEE COUNTY IN 1833

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When the first settlers moved into upstate New York in the late 1700s, they trashed the place. They destroyed the existing ecosystems and replaced them with farmland (Hedrick 1933). Now, with the state lands maturing and small family farms being abandoned, forests are returning. The question is whether what is growing back is at all similar to what was originally here and if not, what are the differences? To answer this question, some of us are trying to document what was originally here by examining the earliest writings and taking inventories of animal and plant species (Windsor & Storms 2002). Knowing what species of birds were here would give us a good indication of the type of habitats.

However, the biggest disappointment has been the paucity of recorded bird sightings. It baffles me how the earliest settlers could have been so oblivious to birds. Their diaries are full of vivid descriptions of their aches and pains, family and neighborhood squabbles, and routine chores, but virtually nothing about nature. The closest we have found are bounty records.

Consequently, I was pleasantly surprised when I stumbled upon a short article in *The Genesee Farmer and Gardener* (Anon 1833). It is just a single paragraph which is quoted here verbatim.

## VORACIOUS BIRDS

Many of our apricots and early pears have been destroyed by the red tanager, the Baltimore Oriole, and the cedar bird. Of the latter we expected nothing better; but the tanager and oriole are new enemies, and are even worse than their associate. Very few pears would be suffered to ripen if we had not taken measures to lessen their flocks. Hereafter we shall consider all these entitled to the same treatment.

The exact measures in this treatment are not specified, but I suppose death by gunshot. How many beautiful birds does it take to incur the avicidal wrath of fruit farmers? Can you imagine so many waxwings, tanagers, and orioles that they are a problem? Are they still a problem? Nevertheless, this short article documents the presence of the Cedar Waxwing, "red tanager", and Baltimore Oriole in Genesee County in 1833.

Exactly which tanager is documented is not clear. The name "red tanager" could apply to either the Scarlet Tanager or the Summer Tanager. The closest synonyms I could find were "crimson tanager, redbird, rose tanager, and summer redbird" (Terres 1980). "Summer redbird" would indicate Summer Tanager. However, the Summer Tanager is not listed in the breeding bird atlas (Andrle & Carroll 1988) and is so uncommon today as to be NYSARC reportable. This begs the question of whether the Summer Tanager was so abundant here in 1833 that it was a pest? Or was the name, "red tanager" just a colloquial way of referring to

the Scarlet Tanager? Until compelling evidence to the contrary comes forth, it seems prudent to assume it was the Scarlet Tanager.

The exact location is also unclear, because in 1833 Genesee County included land which became Wyoming County in 1841 (McCulley 1985).

One of the many benefits of documenting our earliest birds is a better understanding of how our current populations came to be. It is easy to shrug this off as being inconsequential, but I oppose that view because it is certainly not based on much evidence. Before drawing any conclusions we really need more historical documentation. The article by Levine (2000) listed 133 species during the winter of 1871-72 and was an important discovery. We need more of these. The first Europeans appeared in New York State in 1524 when Giovanni de Verrazano discovered New York harbor and the Hudson River (Wright 2002), so we have four centuries to search for birds prior to the 1900s. One of the reasons that the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, now the New York State Ornithological Association, was organized is to document the ornithology of the State. This mission is printed on the inside front cover of every issue of *The Kingbird* and is not limited to current ornithology. Most birders prefer birding in the field rather than birding in the library. However, we need both. I propose that we try to document the earliest report of every species in New York State, and then strive to find even earlier reports.

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# THE JANUARY WATERFOWL COUNT, 2004

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*Abstract*—The New York State Ornithological Association (formerly Federation of New York State Bird Clubs) annual January Waterfowl Count (JWC), was held during January 10-19, 2004 with approximately 230 participants. Harsh winter weather prior to and during the count resulted in many areas being frozen over and difficult viewing conditions. Nonetheless, a total of 347,661 birds (47 species) were observed, 8% more than in 2003 and 24% above the long-term (1973-2003) average. Total counts of ducks and other water birds (loons, grebes, cormorants and coot) were slightly below average, while total numbers of geese and swans were well above average. The top 10 species, accounting for 88% of the total, were: Canada Goose, Mallard, Greater Scaup, Redhead, Surf Scoter, American Black Duck, Brant, Common Merganser, Common Goldeneye, and Bufflehead. Several notable regional highlights were reported.

The New York State Ornithological Association (formerly Federation of New York State Bird Clubs) has conducted an annual midwinter waterfowl count (FWC) almost every year since 1955 (Rising 1955), except for a brief hiatus in 1968-1972 (Jones 1980). Each January, participants visit lakes, rivers and shorelines throughout New York State to count waterfowl (ducks, geese and swans) and associated water birds (e.g., loons, grebes, cormorants and coot). Whenever possible, counts are conducted during a 9-day count period beginning on the second Saturday after New Year's Day, with a target date of the first Sunday in that period. Most counts are conducted during the first 3 days of the period, but in some cases additional time is needed to complete the counts.

Official weather data for January 2004 were not obtained, but regional compilers reported severe winter weather conditions just prior to and during the count all across the state. As reported by Guthrie (2004): "There was no doubt that the weather during 2003-04 winter season had an impact on birds and birders. Many areas across the state experienced heavy snow in December, followed by severe cold in January, when average temperatures were in the range of 5-10 degrees below normal. The severe cold in January resulted in little open water in most of the state, and, subsequently, lower than normal waterfowl totals..." (except for geese and swans).

Regional compilers all reported that such conditions prevailed during the count period, with temperatures well below freezing, occasional snow fall, strong winds on many days, and extensive ice cover, making waterfowl viewing difficult. As a result of this weather pattern, most small inland waters and



some larger bays and lakes were completely frozen. Many larger lakes, rivers, and coastal bays had significant shoreline ice that limited waterfowl use.

## Results

A total of 347,661, comprising 47 species, were counted in 2004 (Table 1). The 2003 total was 8% above 2003 and 24% above the long-term (1973-2003) average of 280,376 birds (Table 2). Unfortunately, several important areas on Long Island, accounting for approximately 13% of the total count, were surveyed after the scheduled survey period, due to difficulties finding volunteers to replace past observers who were unable to do the counts this year.

Comparison of the 2004 counts with long-term (1973-2003) averages shows 10 of 21 major species or taxa at least 10% above average, and nine species or taxa more than 10% below average (Table 2). Canada Geese (156,960) climbed to the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest count ever, while most ducks, except Common Eider and scoters, declined from a year ago. Counts of most other water birds declined also, except for Double-crested Cormorant. A new high count was established for Black Scoter (3,185).

Total waterfowl numbers in the Atlantic Flyway (Maine to Florida) were up 2% from 2003, but were 7% below the 10-year (1994-2003) average (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, unpublished data). Flyway counts of dabbling ducks were up 9% from a year ago, diving ducks increased 22%, and sea ducks decreased 21%. Flyway counts of Canada Geese and Brant declined 18% and 21%, respectively, whereas Snow Geese and Brant were up 37% from a year ago. It appears that some of the decline in duck numbers in New York were compensated for by increases in more southern states. Annual changes in relative abundance in New York often do not mirror flyway trends because state counts reflect effects of weather as well as population changes.

Highlights of regional reports included a Northern Shoveler on the Niagara River and a record number of Tundra Swans in Region 1, a Tufted Duck on Lake Ontario (Region 2), two Barrow's Goldeneye on Lake Champlain (Region 7), White-fronted Geese in Dutchess County (Region 9), a Tundra Swan on the lower Hudson River (Region 9), and a King Eider and 11 Harlequin Ducks at Long Beach Island, contributing to a new high of 14 Harlequins in Region 10 (Table 1). Numbers of Long-tailed Ducks in Region 1 increased slightly from 2003 but were still below the numbers seen in recent years. This decline may be due to the recent outbreak of Type E botulism in that region, which has killed thousands of this species every fall since 2001.

## Future Counts

The FWC is a valuable long-term population monitoring program for waterfowl and other water birds wintering in New York State. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has discontinued aerial surveys of waterfowl wintering in New York, so they now rely on the FWC as the standard survey. It is

**Table 1. Regional totals for 2004 January Waterfowl Count.**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Goose, Gr. White-fr.									2	2	4
Snow			16				9	1	6	112	144
Canada	4,228	2,087	43,234	869	15,459	3,224	1	7,961	21,925	57,972	156,960
Brant									32	10,521	10,553
Swan, Mute	1	156	16	1	7			1	415	1,070	1,667
Trumpeter		2	1		1						4
Tundra	402		245		13				1		661
Wood Duck	6	3		1	2				5	6	23
Gadwall	12	26	61		9				65	1,214	1,387
Wigeon, Eurasian										3	3
American	24		4	9					78	845	960
Am. Black Duck	287	299	1,561	42	209	131	145	320	1,132	7,638	11,764
Mallard	8,558	4,294	6,543	532	2,928	557	1,891	1,815	3,534	9,396	40,048
Mallard X Black	3	5	4		2		1		5	40	60
Blue-winged Teal										2	2
Northern Shoveler	3									451	454
Northern Pintail	5		2						4	61	72
Green-winged Teal	2		1						6	186	195
Canvasback	5,917		183		4				3	804	6,911
Redhead	229	191	13,299	5	14				2	18	13,758
Ring-necked Duck	41	6	241		53	1			171	437	950
Tufted Duck		1									1
Scaup, Greater	8,066	317	158		624	10	2		941	21,755	31,873
Lesser	8	108	359		10		2		2	112	601
not to species		175	154					3	5	56	393

Table 1. Regional totals for 2004 January Waterfowl Count. (cont.)

Eider, King										1	1
Common										1,504	1,504
Harlequin Duck										14	14
Scoter, Surf										12,622	12,622
White-winged	338	58	1							3,139	3,536
Black			1							3,184	3,185
not to species							1			3,874	3,875
Long-tailed Duck	868	842	1	190	86				38	741	2,766
Bufflehead	4,304	192	285	173	36	85			320	3,083	8,478
Goldeneye, Common	1,683	1,986	1,275	2	951	1,265	840	193	98	1,269	9,562
Barrow's										2	2
Merganser, Hooded	98	10	41	14	23	4	22	10	102	766	1,090
Common	3,784	757	660	282	2,141	1,448	629	223	473	11	10,408
Red-breasted	200	202	298	1	19	3	1		136	3,840	4,700
Ruddy Duck	1	3							57	1,529	1,590
Loon, Red-throated	1	1								41	43
Common	2	2	10							62	76
Grebe, Pied-billed	9		13		4					5	31
Horned	1	8	10		2			4	1	171	197
Red-necked	1		4								5
Eared			1							2	3
Cormorant, D.-crested	72	2	19		6				1	173	273
Great									21	68	89
American Coot	37	101	961	30	5				41	201	1,376
Unidentified		56						30		2,701	2,787
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE</b>	<b>39,191</b>	<b>11,890</b>	<b>69,663</b>	<b>1,787</b>	<b>22,849</b>	<b>6,765</b>	<b>3,635</b>	<b>10,557</b>	<b>29,622</b>	<b>151,702</b>	<b>347,661</b>

important that member clubs and individuals maintain complete and consistent coverage of areas surveyed in the past to ensure that results are comparable from year-to-year and over the long-term.

Future counts are scheduled as follows:

2006 - January 14-22 (target date - Sunday, January 15)

2007 - January 13-21 (target date - Sunday, January 14)

For more information about the JWC, visit the NYSOA web site at:

<http://www.nybirds.org/ProjWaterfowl.htm>

### **Acknowledgments**

I wish to thank all of the observers who participated this year, especially for enduring cold winter weather to conduct these counts. A special thanks to the following Regional Compilers who coordinated the efforts of all those volunteers: Ronald & Jean Bourque (R10), William Burch (R1), Eric Donohue (R3), Greg Hartenstein (R2), Gail Kirch (R4), Gerard C. LeTendre (R6), John M. C. Peterson (R7), Marge Rusk (R5), Bryan Swift (R8), Michael Usai (R9). Thanks also to Elizabeth Renar of DEC for helping to compile the regional counts for this report.

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Table 2. Comparison of January 2004 waterfowl counts with 2003, long-term (1973-2003, "LT") and most recent 10-year (1994-2003) averages for all species averaging over 1,000 individuals during either period.

Species	2004	2003	10-yr Avg	LT Avg	% Change vz 2003	% Change vs 10-yr	% Change vs LT
Canada Goose	156,960	111,988	120,960	77,105	40%	30%	104%
Brant	10,553	15,304	16,962	14,984	-31%	-38%	-30%
Mute Swan	1,667	1,749	1,647	1,276	-5%	1%	31%
Gadwall	1,387	1,113	1,508	995	25%	-8%	39%
American Wigeon	960	1,719	1,534	1,666	-44%	-37%	-42%
American Black Duck	11,764	12,415	17,871	19,456	-5%	-34%	-40%
Mallard	40,048	42,825	44,897	33,680	-6%	-11%	19%
Canvasback	6,911	11,862	11,899	11,131	-42%	-42%	-38%
Redhead	13,758	20,615	12,554	8,490	-33%	10%	62%
Ring-necked Duck	950	1,415	1,042	522	-33%	-9%	82%
scaup (both species)	32,867	39,003	37,176	49,374	-16%	-12%	-33%
Common Eider	1,504	236	2,868	979	537%	-48%	54%
scoters (all species)	23,218	6,191	13,960	13,367	275%	66%	74%
Long-tailed Duck	2,766	2,033	5,103	4,469	36%	-46%	-38%
Bufflehead	8,478	9,179	8,367	6,400	-8%	1%	32%
Common Goldeneye	9,562	14,214	13,637	12,579	-33%	-30%	-24%
Hooded Merganser	1,090	1,845	1,300	677	-41%	-16%	61%
Common Merganser	10,408	10,118	8,407	11,262	3%	24%	-8%
Red-breasted Merganser	4,700	5,707	5,529	4,460	-18%	-15%	5%
Ruddy Duck	1,590	4,999	4,496	2,082	-68%	-65%	-24%
American Coot	1,376	1,961	3,066	2,047	-30%	-55%	-33%
Total DUCKS	172,788	186,838	193,190	182,453	-8%	-11%	-5%
Total GEESE and SWANS	169,993	129,330	140,425	93,751	31%	21%	81%
Total OTHER WATER BIRDS	2,093	2,965	4,378	3,057	-29%	-52%	-32%
TOTAL of ALL SPECIES	347,661	320,665	339,380	280,376	8%	2%	24%

**NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOC., INC.  
57TH ANNUAL MEETING  
Clarion Hotel, Ithaca, NY  
September 18, 2004**

The 57th Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA), hosted by the Cayuga Bird Club, was called to order at 9:25 a.m. Roll call of member clubs revealed there were 68 delegates and proxies from 32 clubs, and a quorum was present. Dorothy Crumb made a motion to approve the minutes from the 2003 Annual Meeting and Ellie Long seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**President's Report by Kevin McGowan**

We currently have 50 member clubs since the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Lake Erie Bird Club did not renew. Three life members, including former president Stephen B. Dempsey, have passed away. Our total membership currently stands at 700. Kevin enumerated our activities for the past year, including the finalization of the name change, the end of Atlas fieldwork, our domain name change, appointment of Steve Kelling to NYSARC, sponsoring a team for the Montezuma Muckrace, and working with other groups on Important Bird Areas and the use of the State Wildlife Grants. We also received a donation of \$317 from the Alan Devoe Bird Club.

**Reports and Elections**

Bryan Swift, from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), reported that they have an excellent working relationship with NYSOA and that there is more work to do as new projects develop for us to collaborate on. Staffing continues to be a problem at NYSDEC. Bryan mentioned that they continue to monitor Type E botulism in Lakes Erie and Ontario and that they are beginning to assess migration of birds and bats with regards to wind power projects.

The Treasurer's Report dated December 31, 2003, was issued and Bill Reeves reported on some of the highlights. The Auditing Committee Report was presented and indicates that our statements fairly represent our financial condition.

Valerie Freer reports that Annual Summary Forms are still coming in. The Records Review Committee has started checking dates, records and codes; the Steering Committee hopes to hire the second editor by the end of the year; the artists are working; and the goal is to have the publication done by Fall 2007.

Manny Levine has stepped down as editor of *The Kingbird* and Shaibal Mitra has been appointed as the new editor. Shai spoke about maintaining continuity and also has some new ideas. He also said he needs to become familiar with the

financial side of the publication. Tim Baird has asked for Atlas anecdotes for publication in New York Birders.

Carena Pooth reported that the name change was the biggest item affecting our web site this year because it appeared on every page. She is expanding the usefulness of the site by adding an index to Kingbird articles and older NYSARC reports. She asks that CBC compilers send their contact information as early as possible.

Andy Mason reports that the proposed establishment of ATV trails in state parks at the NYSDEC Commissioner's discretion did not appear in the final budget. Tom Lyons of the Office of Parks updated us on the implementation of the feral cat policy they have developed. The Conservation Committee continues to monitor wind power proposals in New York State. Andy asks that clubs with local issues contact NYSOA so we can provide assistance.

Shai Mitra reports NYSARC has completed their work on 2002 reports and their findings will be published in the December 2004 issue of *The Kingbird*. They are currently working on reports from 2003. They are looking for ways to increase the number of reports and will be reviewing the list of reportable species. Tim Baird presented the report from the Nominating Committee. Nominated for 2004/05 officers are President – Kevin J. McGowan; Vice President – Andrew Mason; Corresponding Secretary – Timothy H. Baird; Recording Secretary – Brenda Best; and Treasurer – William B. Reeves. Nominated for two-year terms as Directors for the 2006 class are Robert G. Spahn, Carena Pooth, and Gail Kirch. There were no nominations from the floor. Valerie Freer made a motion to accept the Nominating Committee Report as read, and Bob Mauceli seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Bill Lee reported on the 2004 field trips, which had mixed results, and is open to suggestions for future field trips. There were problems with scheduling and advertising this year. Bill welcomes assistance with the field trip committee. Kevin McGowan reports that Phyllis Jones continues to collect and index material for the archive. Berna Lincoln reports that there are about 90 people who participate in the County Listing program. Tim Baird continues to enlist speakers for the Speakers Bureau.

Our next Annual Meeting is scheduled for September 23-25, 2005, in Albany, hosted by the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club. The banquet speaker will be David Bird. Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society will be hosting the 2006 Annual Meeting.

There were no resolutions presented.

With a motion by Barb Butler seconded by Joan Collins, a Nominating Committee for 2005 consisting of Bill Ostrander, Tim Baird, and Bill Lee was elected unanimously. With a motion by Andy Mason seconded by Berna Lincoln, the Auditing Committee for 2005 consisting of Irving Cantor, Peter Capainolo, and Emanuel Levine was re-elected unanimously.

## **Old Business**

Bob Mauceli again asked about the voice of individual members in the governance of NYSOA and if we could amend the by-laws to allow them a vote.

Bob Budliger suggested an Ad Hoc Committee be appointed to look into this issue. Bob Mauceli is willing to chair this committee and was appointed along with Bob Budliger, Andy Mason, and Kathy Schneider.

### **New Business**

Bob Mauceli reported that his club heard a presentation on eBird and suggests NYSOA fund a New York eBird project. Kevin McGowan explained eBird and will invite a presentation to the next Board Meeting.

Motion to adjourn was made by Bob McKinney, seconded, and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

### **Awards presented during the Saturday evening banquet**

- Certificate of Appreciation was presented to the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant employees for their cooperation with visiting birders.
- Elon Howard Eaton Memorial Award was presented to Anne Terninko for her work with Red-tailed Hawks.
- Lillian C. Stoner Award, which provides financial help to one or more high school seniors or college students so they may attend the Annual Meeting, was awarded to Jay McGowan, who was nominated by Cayuga Bird Club.
- John J. Elliott Award, given for the best article contributed to *The Kingbird* each year, was awarded to Kathryn J. Schneider for her article entitled, "The Status and Ecology of The Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) in New York State" which appeared in *The Kingbird* Vol. 53 No. 4.
- Gordon M. Meade Distinguished Service Award, given to individuals for outstanding service to the New York State Ornithological Association, was awarded to two people, Emanuel Levine and Irving Cantor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Best





# KINGBIRD INDEX

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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

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Birders tend to spend a lot of time comparing past with present. The care with which we preserve records of our observations, and our ongoing interest in the records collected by others, are illustrated in every issue of *The Kingbird*. This diligence is proof of our interest in history. The articles in the present issue treat disparate subjects, but they share an unmistakable sense of historical curiosity.

David Seyler has seen Black Terns diminish as breeders in New York State, but he raises the possibility that this trend is neither inevitable nor irreversible. Will Yandik explores the fascinating topic of how our attitudes toward wild organisms have changed over the last century—and also whether our laws and regulations have remained consistent with our changing attitudes. In contrast to these articles, which are built upon a confident understanding of past events, Don Windsor's contribution underscores just how rapidly our knowledge of even the simplest ornithological facts diminishes as one pushes the inquiry much beyond the recent past.

We live in an age of rapid environmental change, but it is helpful to be reminded (as I was by all three of the articles mentioned above) of the changes that our region has already experienced. Whereas we know so frustratingly little about New York's birds even a century and a half ago, future students will know a lot about the birds we are seeing today. Consider that NYSOA's annual waterfowl count, presented in this issue by Bryan Swift, has now completed half a century of historical documentation. Fifty years of duck counting has produced a lot of columns of numbers, but there are stories here as well. One of the numbers tabulated in 2004 (1,214 Gadwalls in Region 10) caught my eye because I read it around the time I also read J. P. Giraud's vivid account of what was for him then a great novelty on Long Island's Great South Bay:

In this vicinity, the Gadwall is quite rare. My first acquaintance with this bird was in 1834, while pursuing my favorite amusement of water fowl shooting in the celebrated South Bay. It was flying alone, seemingly wandering about as if in search of companions. It passed and repassed several times outside of my decoys, without approaching within gunshot, but sufficiently near to excite in me a desire for having a better opportunity to examine it. I concealed myself with great care, hoping that it would approach within shooting distance, as I was induced to believe that it would, from the desire it exhibited to join the motley flock which my 'decoys' represented; but as it advanced, it appeared to see that all was not right, and at the moment when my hopes were the brightest, it quickly changed its course, and alighted on a marsh about a half mile from me. I gave quick pursuit, and after wading through the



tall grass and mud, discovered it sitting on a bog, pluming and dressing its feathers, unconscious of its impending fate. Its perfectly neat appearance so engaged my attention, that I forgot that a gun was in my possession, until it took to wing, when the desire to obtain it returned, and I brought it down. On taking it up, although proud of this valuable acquisition to my collection, I could not forbear feeling that Nature had been robbed of one of her greatest ornaments. I have since killed a few along the south shore of Long Island.

—*Birds of Long Island* (1844)

One of Giraud's great virtues is his ornithological accuracy. His expressiveness in conveying the attitudes of his day is no less remarkable. Although his diction tends to denote birds as commodities, the broader spirit of his prose betrays a recognition of birds as worthy ends in themselves. Thus, among the many things that have changed during the history of New York ornithology, at least this poignant, conflicted sense of what birds mean to us remains hauntingly constant.



## CORRIGENDUM

The text of the first paragraph of Mark Gretch's article, "Northbound migratory phenology of Northern Flickers in the Adirondacks," was misprinted. The first paragraph of this article (*Kingbird* 54: 317) should read as follows:

Spring arrival of the Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) in New York's Adirondack region is synchronous with the emergence of ants from their subterranean winter dormancy, typically during the middle of April. The dates at which ants emerge from their winter chambers, and at which flickers migrate north in spring, correspond to the 42° F isotherm. Data from future years may indicate whether temperature or date per se best predicts these events.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON – FALL 2004

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### The Weather

There was widespread consensus across the state that fall 2004 was warmer, and generally drier, than normal. September was particularly warm, with all regions reporting above average temperatures; western regions were especially balmy, relatively speaking, with several recording average temperatures more than three degrees above normal. The remnants of three major hurricanes – Frances, Ivan and Jeanne – resulted in heavy rainfalls in various parts of the state. Region 9 suffered the most as all three storm paths crossed the region, resulting in an amazing 14.1” of rain recorded during the month. Other regions felt the storms’ impacts to varying degrees. October and November were for the most part slightly warmer and drier than normal. Several regional editors commented that conditions were generally not favorable for observing migrants, especially passerines, and often placid conditions may have resulted in a somewhat faster than normal departure of migrants from the state.

### Waterfowl/Waterbirds

One of the most interesting aspects of the season’s birding was that it provided New York’s birders with the first opportunity to seek out, as such, Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*), recently elevated to species status. The American Ornithologists’ Union announced this summer that Canada Goose had been divided into two species, with the large forms remaining Canada Goose and the small forms designated Cackling Goose (see *The Kingbird* 54:3, p. 205). Even prior to this taxonomic change, there had been increased interest in recent years in the identification of the various subspecies of “white-cheeked” geese, with many New York birders attempting to sort out what large and small forms may occur in the state. It’s important to note that this scrutiny has already produced a number of records of the now-nominate *hutchinsii* subspecies in the state.

The exercise is complicated by, among other things, the presence of feral geese of uncertain provenance (“local park geese”), remaining questions on the amount of variability within forms and how the various forms and subspecies can be distinguished from each other, and the fact that lack of food on the breeding grounds can result in “runting” of any of the forms. This is in many ways a cutting-edge identification exercise and many of the criteria are not yet firmly established. Complicating issues is the somewhat unfortunate choice of common name for the new species, as “Cackling” Goose had previously been popularly used for one of the subspecies (now *B. h. minima*) included in the newly split

species, but *not* the one most likely to occur in New York. This has caused some confusion as *minima*, the smallest and darkest of the small forms, looks substantially different than the nominate form of Cackling Goose (*B. h. hutchinsii*, or “Richardson’s” Goose) which is the form most likely to appear in the state.

If this fall is any indication, the possibility of finding another species of goose will spur even more observers to spend time scrutinizing superficially uniform flocks of Canadas. Region 1 has historically been the stronghold of *hutchinsii*, particularly at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, where they were found again this year for the sixth straight fall, although in smaller numbers than in prior years. Perhaps reflective of increased scrutiny there were reports from three other locations in Region 1 as well as from Regions 2, 3, 5 and 7 (see especially the discussion in the Region 7 report).

On a less positive note, for the fifth straight year Region 1 experienced a botulism outbreak on Lake Erie and Lake Ontario; NYS DEC estimated over 5,100 birds were killed on Lake Erie as a result. Notable waterfowl counts in Region 1 this fall were 915 Common Loons on Lake Ontario 15 Oct; impressive waterfowl totals at Chautauqua Lake in late November, including 550 Hooded Mergansers and 2,500 American Coots; and good numbers of Ruddy Ducks and Northern Shovelers at Batavia WWTP, which also hosted its regular contingent of 2-3 Eared Grebes through at least 27 November. Good numbers of Common Loons were also reported in Regions 2, 5 and 8. Red-throated Loons on the Great Lakes were mixed as Region 2 reported lower than numbers than recent years while counts were up in Region 5. Region 2 noted early arrivals of several species including Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, and Surf and Black Scoters. Ducks in general were down there, however, particularly both Scaup and Redhead. Blue-winged Teal, though declining as a local nester, was up in numbers, and King Eider was a welcome sight at Hamlin Beach. Region 3 noted generally higher numbers of waterfowl than last year, and hosted Greater White-fronted and Ross’s Geese and Eurasian Wigeon. Regions 4, 5 and 6 noted generally low numbers of waterfowl overall. Good variety in Region 4 included Red-throated Loon, Tundra Swan and Long-tailed Duck. A large flock of 350 Wood Duck in Chenango County there was notable, and Regions 4 and 5 shared in a fairly widespread Black Scoter movement in late October. Region 5 hosted several rarities including three Greater White-fronted Geese, Ross’s Goose and Eurasian Wigeon. A surprising observation in Region 6 was a family of Trumpeter Swans, possibly the first regional nesting record away from the species familiar Perch River WMA location; whether these birds dispersed from Perch River or from releases elsewhere is unknown. Contrary to reports of low numbers to the west, several species were reported in good numbers in Region 8, although here too Canvasback and Redhead were conspicuously absent. All three scoters made inland appearances in Region 9, where three reports of Greater White-fronted Goose included two separate single birds and a pair in Westchester that remained through the end of the period. The most notable reports in Region 10 were unusually high numbers of Surf and Black Scoters, with flocks numbering tens of thousands of each noted in eastern Long Island during November.

As typical, the Niagara River in Region 1 was the focal point for gull activity. California Gull was found on the river for the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year; additional gulls reported there included several Thayer's Gulls, three reports of Sabine's Gull, and a good showing of Black-legged Kittiwakes, including a rare regional adult bird. Just to the east in Region 2, low numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls were offset by another good showing of Kittiwakes, as well as a Black-headed and two Sabine's Gulls. Little Gulls were reported in relatively low numbers; reports came from Regions 1, 2, 5, and 7. Region 5 also had good numbers of Kittiwakes. Notable gulls in Region 10 included an unusual on-shore Black-legged Kittiwake on Staten Island's Wolfe's Pond and a very early juvenile Iceland Gull on 23 October at Democrat Point, Fire Island. Terns were somewhat lackluster – Black Tern was not noted in any of the regional reports. Region 10 reports included four Sandwich Terns at Pike's Beach, Suffolk County, and good numbers of Royal Terns, with a high count of 65 at Shinnecock on 23 October and as many as 12 at Georgica Pond, Suffolk, on 2 November.

Parasitic Jaegers were noted in good numbers upstate, with several good days in Region 5, a single day count of 8 in Region 2, one on Cayuga Lake in Region 3, and a regional high count of 15 in Region 1 on 31 October. Two Parasitics were also seen in Long Island Sound in Region 9 and there were several reports from Region 10. Much rarer, single Long-tailed Jaegers were found in Regions 1 and 7 inland, and offshore in Region 10. Only two Pomarine Jaegers were reported, one each from Oswego Harbor in Region 5 and offshore Region 10.

Highlight waterbirds during the season included a possible returning bird and two regional firsts. In Region 10, a Western Grebe found on 14 November on Staten Island continues a recent string of records from that general vicinity, although the date was a change from the early spring timing of previous sightings; a series of Western Grebe sightings from nearby New Jersey waters were perhaps an indication that the bird had relocated there for the winter. A regional first Northern Fulmar was spotted independently by two observers in Region 2. Region 2 also had a good year for Northern Gannet with three reports. Cayuga Lake in Region 3 hosted a remarkable vagrant, a Black Guillemot that was seen sporadically over the course of a month from late October to late November. Not surprisingly, this was a Regional first. Northern Fulmars offshore in Region 10 were more expected. Other tubenoses reported in Region 10 were Manx Shearwater, Greater Shearwater, and late Sooty Shearwater and Wilson's Storm-Petrel on 29 October.

A number of regions noted Sandhill Cranes during the fall season, indicative of their expansion across the state. This fall sightings away from the species stronghold western and central regions included sightings in both Regions 7 and 8. Four Glossy Ibis at Hamlin Beach in Region 2 were a good number upstate, and another was in Region 5. Several regions commented on higher than usual Great Egret numbers, and single Cattle Egrets were reported in Regions 3, 8 and 10.

## Raptors

Fall hawk migration was a bit of a mixed bag, with somewhat better than average results in western and central regions and lackluster totals in the east. Unusual reports included two different western subspecies of Red-tailed Hawk, with the dark subspecies *calarus* represented by one report in Region 1 and two in Region 2, and a single *kriderii* also reported from Region 2. Numbers of most species were up in Region 3, including a second straight year of increased Broad-winged Hawk numbers. Golden Eagles were highlights at opposite ends of the states with three in Region 1 and one in Region 10, but as usual the best numbers were at Franklin Mountain in Region 4, where daily counts of 19, 27 and 45 contributed to a new seasonal high count of 229. Other species fared well at Franklin Mountain, too, as all species were at or above their 16-year averages and Broad-winged Hawk reached a new seasonal total as well. The story was different in Region 8 and Region 9, where most species were reported in lower than normal totals. Region 9 editor Michael Bochnik speculates that the hurricanes which affected the region's weather in September may have forced southbound raptors further west than usual. Several species were noted in increased numbers in multiple regions, including Merlin, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Cooper's Hawk. Additional interesting observations from Region 1 were a regional late date for Osprey which lingered through 30 November, and a banded Bald Eagle which was determined to have been hacked in Manhattan in June.

## Shorebirds

Although Hurricane Frances failed to deliver any pelagic birds to upstate New York, as Hurricane Isabel did in 2003, Frances produced significant shorebird fallouts in Regions 2 and 5. In Region 2, good numbers of American Golden-Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Baird's Sandpiper and Buff-breasted Sandpiper were reported, but the most remarkable counts were for White-rumped Sandpiper, with a high of 484 on 10 September, a record inland count for the state. The same weather produced similar fallouts, with smaller totals, to the east in Region 5. Region 2 also hosted an October Ruff. To the west, Region 1 didn't share in the hurricane phenomenon; the lackluster season there was highlighted by two reports of Whimbrel and a probable Long-billed Dowitcher. Region 3 highlights included a flock of 70 American Golden-Plovers, Western Sandpipers and Red Knots. Purple Sandpipers were notable in Region 4, on boat docks at the south end of Otsego Lake, and in Region 6. Region 8 hosted several locally rare shorebirds including Hudsonian Godwit and Western and White-rumped Sandpipers. Region 9 again benefited from the new wetlands in the New York section of the Wallkill NWR; observations from this location and nearby turf farms included Baird's and Buff-breasted Sandpipers and Long-billed Dowitcher. In Region 10, a late Curlew Sandpiper at Orient Point was difficult to relocate after the initial report; a single, similarly plumaged Dunlin at the same location created confusion. A September Ruff in Montauk was especially notable as one of only a few juveniles ever reported in Region 10, a remarkable fact given that the species occurs annually on

Long Island. Also on Long Island, birders continued to scrutinize Willets in an attempt to clarify the status of the eastern subspecies, *semipalmatus*, and the western subspecies, *inornatus*. Conventional wisdom holds that *inornatus* is more common in the fall, and several observations during the season follow this pattern, although *semipalmatus* apparently occurs later in the year than previously thought. More study, including a focus on ageing, would be useful in further clarifying the issue.

## Landbird Migration

There seemed to be a widespread consensus that the fall migration was lackluster overall. There were few major migration events mentioned for the season, and Region 6 editor Jeffrey Bolsinger's description of the migration as a "steady trickle" seemed emblematic of the general tone of the commentary. Beyond the general commentary, species that were reported in lower than usual numbers included Common Nighthawk and Chimney Swift, and several regions referred to lower than usual numbers of warblers and vireos. Some regions also noted either early peaks and earlier than usual departures of common migrants, or both. Perhaps also symptomatic of the poor season was that there was little consensus from region to region on which species occurred in above-average numbers. As usual, however, the flow of commoner migrants was spiced with a number of highlights. One migrant that was reported in good numbers from multiple regions was Red-headed Woodpecker; their numbers were particularly notable in Region 10, where the species staged the largest coastal flight since 1998. Region 10 also hosted good numbers of other uncommon September migrants such as Western Kingbird, Clay-colored and Lark Sparrows, and Dickcissel; Regional editor Shaibal Mitra postulates that the generally low overall volume of passerines made it somewhat easier for birders to find these, without having to sift through hordes of commoner species. Region 1 highlights included two White-eyed Vireos and a Regional-late Eastern Kingbird on 18 September. Region 2 also hosted White-eyed Vireo; this species has become expected in the Region, as has Bicknell's Thrush, particularly at the Kaiser-Manitou Banding Station. The identification of the latter species is facilitated by in-hand measurement, although even with this aid many thrushes are classified as "Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's" since they fall into the overlap zone, highlighting how difficult the field separation of the two species can be, particularly on non-singing birds.

## Winter Visitors

Saw-whet Owl migration was evidenced by a total of 57 birds captured in two banding operations in Region 1, including four "retraps" of birds banded earlier in the month in Ontario, Canada. Snowy Owls were reported from seven regions, some fairly early; these, coupled with a widely discussed invasion of northern owls in Minnesota, led to speculation that more northerly owls would also be found. As of the end of the reporting season, however, such an invasion had not

occurred, and even Snowy Owl numbers dwindled. Good early reports of Northern Shrikes also raised hopes that it would be an invasion year for the species, but there was little evidence that this was the case as the season progressed.

The only winter finch reported in good numbers was Pine Siskin, which was reported from multiple regions. There were only scattered reports of other species, including White-winged Crossbill in Region 1, Red Crossbill in Region 4, and both species in Region 7; low numbers of Common Redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks were reported in a few regions. The only Pine Grosbeaks were in Region 7. After last winter's widespread invasion, Bohemian Waxwings were only reported in low numbers in Regions 1, 2 and 7; only one of the two Region 7 reports, a flock of 50, broke into double digits.

## Rarities

Although the migration was described in less than glowing terms, especially for numbers of passerine migrants, there were a number of highlight species across the state not mentioned previously. Region 1 did not produce any extreme rarities, but good sightings included a still-rare-in-fall Black Vulture, Greater White-fronted Goose, Bohemian Waxwing and Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco. Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were observed in the Region for the fourth straight year, in the same locations as previous sightings. Expectations are that local birders, with experience gained in the species' habitat preferences and migration timing, will turn in annual or near-annual sightings.

Cave Swallow has become more expected in the state; this year's invasion of the Northeast by the species included reports in Regions 2 and 10, which have hosted them before, and a Regional first occurrence in Region 3. One of the Region 2 reports, on October 31, was outside the emerging window of occurrence in New York State. The rest of the reports were during the more expected time frame in late November, including two separate sightings of one and four individuals in Region 2, three on Cayuga Lake on 24-25 November in Region 2, and multiple sightings during 25-27 November of one to five birds along the Jones Beach-Fire Island strip in Region 10.

Among good numbers of Lapland Longspurs in Region 2 was a regional first Smith's Longspur on 22-23 October. This, which would be a second state record pending acceptance by NYSARC, was unfortunately difficult for follow-up observers to relocate. Additional highlights in Region 3 included Clay-colored and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows and Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco. Good sightings in Region 4 included uncommon migrants such as Olive-sided Flycatcher and several scarce warblers. Yellow-breasted Chat was the highlight passerine in Region 5. Region 6 hosted no truly unusual passerines but reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeak on 4 and 25 November came on late dates. Region 8 briefly hosted its third ever Say's Phoebe; unfortunately, this bird, found in Florida, Montgomery Co. during a hawk banding operation, was only seen on the day of its discovery. In Region 9, a dead Clapper Rail found in Dutchess County on 30 August was at a highly unusual location for this coastal species. The highlight rarity of the season in Region 9 was another Regional first, a Calliope

Hummingbird that frequented a feeder in Larchmont for a few days in early November. A third state record pending acceptance by NYSARC, it was unfortunately not brought to the attention of local birders until after its last feeding on the day it departed, and was identified subsequently by digital photographs taken by the homeowners. In addition to the spate of uncommon western migrants found in Region 10, there were a number of notable late records this fall. A Broad-winged Hawk and a Wood Thrush, unexpected after mid-October in New York, lingered in Central Park through the end of the season. Also in Central Park, a Mourning Warbler on 24-27 October established a new state late date; the observers are commended by Regional editor Shaibal Mitra for recognizing the need to carefully document the record and rule out the possible late fall vagrant MacGillivray's Warbler. An Acadian Flycatcher on 10 September was also late for that species, and highlights the difficulty of sight identifications of silent *Empidonax* flycatchers and the need to copiously document any such unusual records. Two notable rallids in the region were both discovered on 13 October. The first, a Yellow Rail flushed by a lucky observer at Mount Loretto Park, Staten Island, was not surprisingly seen just that once, while the second was a long-staying and crowd-pleasing juvenile Purple Gallinule that lingered in Prospect Park through 22 October. A *Selasphorus* hummingbird was found in Central Park on 30 November; subsequent careful study and photographs enabled the bird to be identified as a Rufous Hummingbird. The season's only Ash-throated Flycatcher remained in Prospect Park from its discovery on 23 November into December. Another highlight rarity from Fire Island was a Mountain Bluebird at Robert Moses State Park from 20-30 November.

### Miscellaneous

Possible hybrids reported during the season were an odd duck from Region 7 and a *Pheucticus* grosbeak from Region 10. Observers of the apparent hybrid duck felt it may have been a Mallard x Northern Pintail hybrid. Although some hybrid waterfowl combinations pose real challenges in eliminating look-alike rarities, the grosbeak in Region 10 posed a greater challenge in this regard. Already notable for the late November date of the sighting, interest was piqued by several characters suggestive of Black-headed Grosbeak, including underparts and bill color. The extensive coarse streaking on the underparts was deemed more consistent with Rose-breasted Grosbeak, but whether the apparent mix of features represents an extreme in variation of that species or was evidence of mixed parentage is unknown.

Two coveys of Gray Partridge found in the Massena area in Region 6 were of questionable origin. This is at least the third consecutive year Gray Partridge have been found in this area after an absence of reports for nearly 20 years. With the dramatic apparent decline in the species in Cape Vincent it is possible that the species is in danger of extirpation from New York State.



## Bird of the Season

A number of rarities are good candidates for the Bird of the Season, including the occurrence of five Regional first records. All of these – Northern Fulmar and Smith’s Longspur in Region 2; Black Guillemot and Cave Swallow in Region 3; and Calliope Hummingbird in Region 9 are notable, as are highlight finds such as Purple Gallinule, Yellow Rail and Mountain Bluebird in Region 10. My choice for the BOTS is the Black Guillemot in Region 2. The species is hard enough to come by even on the coast, and this bird, only the second inland record for New York State, was typically hit-or-miss during its stay on Cayuga Lake; it did manage to stick around long enough that a number of birders were able to eventually see it.



## REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

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September was warm, dry and sunny, as usual. The average temperature for the month was 65.2° F, which was 3.7° above normal. Monthly precipitation at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport was 4.07", 0.23" above normal, with nearly all of it occurring with the remnants of Hurricane Frances on 8 and 9 September. The first half of October was fairly warm, and then cooler air moved in for the second half of the month. The average temperature was 51.6°, 0.9° above normal, and the monthly precipitation was 2.98", 0.21" below normal. Strong and gusty winds on 17 and 31 October made for excellent 'wind-birding' along Lake Erie. November was mild and dry. The average temperature was 42.5°, 2.3° above normal. The monthly precipitation was 2.91", 1.01" below normal. Only 0.2" of snow fell, 11.1" below normal. It was the third lowest November snow total in the 62-year record at Buffalo airport.

With its new status as a species, no longer "just a subspecies," birders seemed more eager to look for **Cackling Goose**. This species was found at four locations, including three dates at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, where recorded for the sixth straight fall season but not in the flock sizes associated with the previous years. Extreme care is urged in identifying this species, and verification reports are encouraged for NYSARC. I advise that if you find yourself trying to decide if the geese in question are small enough, then you are likely not looking at Cacklings.

Piscivorous waterbirds along Lake Erie and Lake Ontario were affected by an outbreak of type E botulism again. This marks the fifth consecutive year on Lake Erie. NYSDEC again conducted counts of dead birds at thirteen 500-meter transects to document the number killed by species and to make mortality projections for the entire New York Lake Erie shoreline. Over 300 birds were found dead during the Lake Erie transect surveys conducted from mid-September through early January, while numerous others were found beyond transect boundaries. NYSDEC estimated that 5889 total birds were killed due to botulism on Lake Erie during this period. This mortality estimate only accounts for birds washed up on shore. Common Loon (154) and Long-tailed Duck (148) carcass counts were the most numerous, while others included Ring-billed Gull (11), Herring Gull (11), Great Black-backed Gull (2), unidentified gull (1), White-winged Scoter (1) and Great Horned Owl (1). Mortality counts from transects on the Lake Ontario shoreline of NYSDEC Region 9, Kingbird Region 1, included Ring-billed Gull (5), White-winged Scoter (3), Long-tailed Duck (22), Herring Gull (3), Double-crested Cormorant (6) and Common Loon (1).

On a more positive note, some high waterfowl counts were recorded this season. Brett Ewald counted 915 Common Loons sitting on Lake Ontario in Wilson during the late afternoon of 15 October. Large numbers of waterfowl usually accumulate on Chautauqua Lake in late November, and this year's

impressive counts included 550 Hooded Mergansers and 2500 American Coots. As usual, high numbers of Ruddy Ducks and Northern Shovelers were counted at Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant and 2-3 **Eared Grebes** were present through at least 27 November.

Due mostly to geography, raptor migration is extremely sparse in the Region during the fall season. However, a few still trickle through. Bob Andrie counted 150 raptors, mostly Red-tailed Hawks, at Times Beach Nature Preserve along Lake Erie over ten days with west or northwest winds in October and November. The highlight was a **Golden Eagle** on 26 October; two more were reported from Niagara County the next week, marking an excellent showing for this species in fall.

There were several other notable raptor reports for the season. Willie D'Anna submitted a report to NYSARC of a "**Western**" **Red-tailed Hawk** (*B. j. calurus*) that was observed at Devil's Hole State Park on 31 October. An early Rough-legged Hawk was documented in Bethany on 18 September. An Osprey lingered at Allegany State Park through 30 November, marking the latest documented occurrence of this species in the Region. A banded Bald Eagle observed for several weeks along Lake Erie in Wanakah was determined to be an individual hatched in Manhattan, New York City, in June. By the end of the fall season, seven Merlins were at the annual winter roosting grounds at the University of Buffalo, South Campus.

Fall shorebirding was average, at best. Unlike regions to the east, no significant shorebird fallout was found following the remnants of Hurricane Frances in early September. The season highlights were two reports of Whimbrel and a probable Long-billed Dowitcher. The dowitcher was observed on a Cattaraugus County Bird Club field trip to Conewango WMA on 23 October. There were several strong frontal passages with gusty winds that drew birders to the shorelines of Lakes Erie and Ontario in search of jaegers and gulls. A flock of **15 Parasitic Jaegers** was seen on Lake Erie from Athol Springs on 31 October by several observers. This marks the highest count of this species for the Region. There were several **Black-legged Kittiwakes** and **Sabine's Gulls** reported during these wind events as well. Kittiwakes observed in the Region are nearly always juveniles; therefore, an adult documented by Peter Yoerg at Athol Springs on 17 October was an exceptional find.

Large gull numbers were still building on the Niagara River in late November. Gordon Bellerby reported that Bonaparte's Gulls arrived about two weeks later than normal and the peak number for the season, 10,000, was around 8 November, which quickly dwindled to 2000 a few days later before starting to rise again late in the month. For the thirteenth consecutive year, **California Gull** was found on the Niagara River.

At his property in Wethersfield, Wyoming County, Dave Junkin banded 44 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** in October. Four of them were foreign retraps, including birds banded earlier in the month at Kingston and Ottawa, Ontario. Tom LeBlanc joined the action and banded 13 saw-whets at Allegany State Park this fall.

There were several days of notable passerine migrants in September, especially around the 17th to 20th. Nocturnal migrants were noted by several

birders to be numerous during the night/morning of 8/9, 16/17 and 23/24 September. Two reports of White-eyed Vireo and a record late Eastern Kingbird were the migrant highlights.

The fall season did not produce any extreme rarities. The most unexpected sighting was a **Black Vulture** over the New York State Thruway near Batavia on 10 October. While reports of this species have been increasing recently in spring, this was the Region's first fall record.

**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows** were observed for the fourth straight year and in the same areas, Iroquois NWR and the SUNY Buffalo bike path in Amherst, as previous sightings. Now that local birders have experience in finding this species, it is expected that there will be annual or near-annual fall sightings. Pine Siskins arrived in early October and were then widely reported. A male **White-winged Crossbill** attended a feeder in Wilson from 14 to 18 October. This early arrival had birders optimistic that it would be a good year for crossbill sightings, but it turned out to be the only report. Only one Common Redpoll was reported and there were no Evening Grosbeak reports.

The 69th annual BOS October Count was held on the 10th and compiled by Mike Hamilton. The weather featured moderate temperatures and cloudy skies. The count recorded 154 species with ten record high counts and no record low counts. Highest counts since inception in 1935 were recorded for: Mute Swan (29), mostly in the Ontario sections of the count area; White-winged Scoter (716); Common Merganser (267), second consecutive record high; Common Loon (379); Bald Eagle (11); Merlin (10); Sandhill Crane (3), all in Ontario; Common Raven (34); Tufted Titmouse (117); and Pine Warbler (5). Black Vulture and Black-legged Kittiwake were recorded on the count for the first time. House Finch numbers, at 398, were the lowest in a decade.

Other notable sightings not previously mentioned include: **Greater White-fronted Goose**, **Bohemian Waxwing** and "**Oregon**" **Junco**.

Special thanks go to Ken Roblee of NYSDEC for providing an update and data on the botulism outbreak. Weather information was obtained from National Weather Service monthly summaries at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP ERIE; BeSP – Beaver I SP ERIE; BMAC – Beaver Meadow Audubon Center WYOM; BOSOC – Buffalo Ornithological Society 10 Oct Count; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP ERIE; BWWT – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant GENE; ChauL – Chautauqua L CHAU; DH – Dunkirk Harbor CHAU; EvSP – Evangola SP ERIE; FN – Fort Niagara SP NIAG; GHSP – Golden Hill SP NIAG; GI – Goat I NIAG; INWR – Iroquois NWR GENE/ORLE; JDSP – Joseph Davis SP NIAG; LBSP – Lakeside Beach SP ORLE; LESP – L Erie SP CHAU; NF – Niagara Falls NIAG; NPP – Niagara Power Project on Niagara R, Lewiston NIAG; NR – Niagara R ERIE/NIAG; OOWMA – Oak Orchard WMA GENE/ORLE; SPNS – Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary ERIE; TBNP – Times Beach Nature Preserve, Buffalo ERIE; Tiff NP – Tiff Nature Preserve, Buffalo ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA GENE/NIAG; WBSP – Woodlawn Beach SP ERIE; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP NIAG.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS -VULTURES GREATER WHITE-FRONTED

**GOOSE:** 2 INWR 13, 16 Nov (BK, WW), rare but regular.

**Snow Goose:** arr Buffalo Harbor ERIE 23 Sep; 5 BOSOC; 2 SPNS 12 Oct; max 75 Alfred ALLE 16 Oct; 5 INWR 20 Oct; Somerset NIAG 20 Oct; 6 Porter NIAG 25 Oct; BWWT 14 Nov; 2 INWR 16 Nov.

**CACKLING GOOSE:** 2 INWR 30 Oct (GC); 5, 2 Oakfield GENE 14, 16 Nov (PY! WW! NYSARC); INWR 16 Nov (WW! NYSARC); max 6 BWWT 27 Nov (JL! JW NYSARC); GHSP 27 Nov (BCa).

**Brant:** arr 160 Wilson NIAG 15 Oct (BE); 9, 25 Athol Springs ERIE 16, 17 Oct (RA, PY); 3 Somerset NIAG 23 Oct; 20 LBSP 23 Oct; Wilson NIAG 31 Oct; 2 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 2 Nov.

**Mute Swan:** max 9 WTSP 26 Sep (WW); 2 Wilson NIAG 15 Oct; 3 Cassadaga L CHAU 19 Nov; 3 FN 26 Nov; Langford ERIE 27 Nov.

**Tundra Swan:** arr 2 INWR 30 Oct; 9 Athol Springs ERIE 31 Oct; max 32 OOWMA 13 Nov; 12 ChauL 17 Nov; 16 INWR 27 Nov; only reports.

**Am. Black Duck:** max 140 INWR 13 Nov (BK); 60 BWWT 20 Nov.

**Blue-winged Teal:** last 2, 2 INWR, OOWMA 27 Oct.

**N. Shoveler:** 279, 560 BWWT 27 Sep, 17 Oct; Somerset NIAG 23 Oct; max 638 BWWT 16 Nov (WW); Buffalo ERIE 21 Nov.

**N. Pintail:** max 105 Wilson NIAG 18 Sep (BE); 57 BWWT 16 Nov.

**Canvasback:** arr 3, 1 SPNS, BWWT 17 Oct.

**Redhead:** arr 2 Buffalo NR 2 Oct; 7 BOSOC; SPNS 19 Nov.

**Ring-necked Duck:** arr 11 BWWT 12 Sep.

**Greater Scaup:** arr Wilson NIAG 9 Sep (WW!); 700 NF 18 Oct; 23 BWWT 16 Nov.

**Lesser Scaup:** arr Wilson NIAG 10 Sep; max 200 NF 2 Nov.

**eider sp.:** Buffalo NR 7 Nov (WW, JP), rare on L Erie.

**Surf Scoter:** arr 12 Buffalo NR 3 Oct (WW); 32 NIAG/ORLE BOSOC; 3, 2 Wilson NIAG 17, 31 Oct; 2 NF 18 Oct; 4 Somerset NIAG 23 Oct; 18 Buffalo NR 7 Nov.

**White-winged Scoter:** 12 Wilson NIAG 10 Sep; 12 Buffalo NR 18 Oct, few reported away from L Ontario.

**Black Scoter:** arr Wilson NIAG 18 Sep (BE); 9 Buffalo NR 6 Oct; 2 Somerset NIAG 23 Oct; 10 Olcott NIAG 24 Oct; 4 Wilson NIAG 25 Oct; 3 Athol Springs ERIE 31 Oct; max 15 Buffalo NR 7 Nov.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** arr 14 Wilson NIAG 17 Oct; Hamburg ERIE 31 Oct; max 2013 Wilson NIAG 31 Oct (BE); 200 Buffalo NR 6 Nov; see intro.  
**Bufflehead:** arr 2, 1 BWWT 19 Sep, 3 Oct (KF, WW!), early; max 1000 Buffalo NR 20 Nov.  
**Com. Goldeneye:** arr 4 ALLE BOSOC.  
**Hooded Merganser:** 79 INWR 27 Oct; max 550 ChauL 19 Nov (RR); 52 TBNP 21 Nov.  
**Com. Merganser:** 37 BuSP 4 Sep, good count for date; 2 W Seneca ERIE 5 Oct; 789 Oakfield GENE 16 Nov, good count for location.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** arr Somerset NIAG 18 Sep; 18 Machias CATT 5 Oct; 2500 Wilson NIAG 11 Nov (WD), in one flock.  
**Ruddy Duck:** 259 BWWT 12 Sep; max 1233 BWWT 17 Oct (WW); 2 INWR 20 Oct; Buffalo NR 7 Nov; 11 Oakfield GENE 16 Nov; 3 Buffalo ERIE 21 Nov.  
**Red-throated Loon:** arr Wilson NIAG 15 Oct; Somerset NIAG 20 Oct; 6 Yates ORLE 23 Oct; max 47 Wilson NIAG 31 Oct.  
**Com. Loon:** 3, 12 Wilson NIAG 10, 18 Sep; max 915 Wilson NIAG 15 Oct (BE), record count for Reg, all counted on water in afternoon; 4 Hamburg ERIE 6 Nov; INWR 13 Nov; 4 ChauL 17 Nov; 3 NF 20 Nov; 2 Sturgeon Pt ERIE 27 Nov; see intro.  
**Horned Grebe:** arr 2 Wilson NIAG 3 Oct; BWWT 17 Oct; 15 Yates ORLE 20 Oct; 113 EvSP 27 Nov; 183 Sturgeon Pt ERIE 27 Nov.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** arr Wilson NIAG 15 Oct; Yates ORLE 20 Oct; 3 Somerset NIAG 23 Oct; GHSP 24 Oct; Wilson NIAG 13 Nov; AISP 15 Nov (TB).

**EARED GREBE:** 3, 2 BWWT 12, 27 Sep (WW!); 2 BWWT 17 Oct; 3, 1 BWWT 13, 27 Nov (BK! JL!); continued presence since late summer.  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** 500, 200 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 6 Sep, 7 Nov; 300 Somerset NIAG 14 Sep; max 923 BuSP 15 Sep; 2274 BOSOC; 200 DH 19 Nov.  
**Great Egret:** 7, 7 BWWT 2, 27 Sep; Machias CATT 16 Sep; 8 TBNP 1 Oct; Hinsdale CATT 17 Oct; max 16 INWR 27 Oct; DH 14 Nov (TM!), late.  
**Green Heron:** last BOSOC.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** last Buffalo ERIE 11 Nov.  
**BLACK VULTURE:** Batavia GENE 10 Oct (D&DS!), first fall report for Reg.  
**Turkey Vulture:** last 3 Lancaster ERIE 29 Oct.

#### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** last AISP 30 Nov (TB!), bird present thru Nov, latest record in Reg.  
**Bald Eagle:** 2 ad INWR thru; Wanakah ERIE thru Oct (SM), yearling hacked in Manhattan in June; Darien L SP GENE 6 Sep; TBNP 25 Sep; 1, 3 Grand I ERIE 15 Oct, 29 Nov; 2 Machias CATT 22-29 Oct; max 6 AISP 23 Oct; Farmersville CATT 23 Oct; 2 OOWMA 14 Nov.  
**N. Goshawk:** imm Wilson NIAG 31 Oct (BE), coming across Lake O.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 1-2 Bethany GENE 7-29 Oct (DB); 3 BOSOC; INWR 13 Oct (MT); TBNP 1 Nov (RA), migrant; few typically reported in fall.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** 2 Birdsall ALLE 1 Sep; Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 5 Sep; only reports.  
**Red-tailed Hawk (B.j. calurus):** Devil's Hole SP NIAG 31 Oct (WD! NYSARC), rare and rarely documented.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** arr 1, 2 Bethany GENE 18 Sep, 9 Oct (DB!), very early; max 13 Somerset NIAG 27 Nov (JL, JW); good numbers reported along L Ontario plain.

**GOLDEN EAGLE:** imm TBNP 26 Oct (RA!); Lockport NIAG 31 Oct (D&DS!); Porter NIAG 3 Nov (DS); good showing for Region, rarely reported in fall.

**Merlin:** 2-7 Buffalo ERIE 2 Sep thru (PY), traditional winter roost; Buffalo ERIE 14 Sep; AISP 21 Sep (MD, TB); Buffalo NR 2 Oct; 10 BOSOC; Somerset NIAG 20 Oct.

**Peregrine Falcon:** BWWT 25 Sep; 2 TBNP 29 Sep; Gasport NIAG 6 Oct; Wilson NIAG & Jamestown CHAU BOSOC; WBSP 20 Oct; Athol Springs ERIE 7 Nov; NF 26 Nov; NPP 28 Nov; 2 Grand I ERIE 29 Nov; 2 Buffalo ERIE 30 Nov; good showing.

**Virginia Rail:** TWMA 3 Oct; last OOWMA BOSOC.

**Sora:** Machias CATT 23 Oct (MD), few reported in fall.

**Com. Moorhen:** last INWR 3 Oct.

**Am. Coot:** 37 INWR 16 Nov; max 2500 Chaul 19 Nov (RR).

**Black-bellied Plover:** Buffalo NR 10 Sep; 2, 6 BWWT 13 Sep, 3 Oct; 3 Wilson NIAG 19 Sep; max 9 WBSP 26 Sep; Porter NIAG 3 Oct; last LBSP 23 Oct.

**Am. Golden-Plover:** BWWT 13 Sep, 3 Oct; 3 Porter NIAG 3 Oct; Somerset NIAG 6 Oct; last 3 NIAG BOSOC.

**Gr. Yellowlegs:** 19 INWR 20 Oct; max 20 BWWT 22 Oct; last INWR 14 Nov.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 19 BWWT 3 Oct; last 8 BWWT 17 Oct.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** Newfane NIAG 7 Oct (WD); last Jamestown CHAU BOSOC.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** last BWWT 3 Oct.

**Whimbrel:** Tift NP 11 Sep (RA); Wilson NIAG 19 Sep (WD, BP); rarely reported in fall.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** 5 Buffalo NR 10 Sep (KF), only report.

**Sanderling:** max 30 Buffalo NR 10 Sep (KF); BWWT 12 Sep; 5 Wilson NIAG 18 Sep; 6 Buffalo NR 6 Oct; 5 Athol Springs ERIE 17 Oct.

**Least Sandpiper:** last 4 BWWT 17 Oct.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** BWWT 3 Oct (JP); last Hamburg ERIE 17 Oct (PY).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 12 Newfane NIAG 3 Oct; max 20 GHSP 31 Oct (D&DS).

**Dunlin:** arr 4 Wilson NIAG 15 Oct; 19 BWWT 17 Oct; 21 INWR 20 Oct; 6 Yates ORLE 23 Oct; max 215 Wilson NIAG 31 Oct (BE); last Buffalo NR 14 Nov.

**dowitcher sp.:** Randolph CATT 23 Oct (MD, TB, SE), date suggests Long-billed.

**Wilson's Snipe:** 6 BMAC 17 Sep; TWMA 3 Oct; 5 Machias CATT 5 Oct; 2 BOSOC; 2, 3 Amherst ERIE 16, 30 Oct; only reports.

**Am. Woodcock:** last 6 BOSOC.

**Parasitic Jaeger:** 1, 3, 1 Wilson NIAG 9, 10, 17 Sep (BE); max 15 Athol Springs ERIE 31 Oct (RA! FR! PY!), max count for Reg, one flock.

**jaeger sp.:** Wilson NIAG 17 Sep (BE); 2 Wilson NIAG 17 Oct (WD!); 2 Athol Springs ERIE 17 Oct (PY!); Hamburg ERIE 6 Nov (MM!).

**Little Gull:** 3, 2 Lewiston NR 17 Oct, 11 Nov; Athol Springs ERIE 5 Nov (MT, DD); FNSP 25 Nov; only reports.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 2000 Buffalo NR 31 Oct (PY); max 10,000 NR 8 Nov (GB), Bellerby reports the gulls were two weeks later than usual.

**CALIFORNIA GULL:** NPP 31 Oct -28 Nov (CB WD! NYSARC); 13th consecutive year on NR.

**Thayer's Gull:** several reported NPP and NF in late Nov, undocumented.

**Iceland Gull:** arr 2 NPP 14 Nov (BP); max 6 NPP 28 Nov.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Cambria NIAG 24 Oct (PY); Athol Springs ERIE 31 Oct (PY); 4, 3 NF 31 Oct, 20 Nov; EvSP 27 Nov (MM); rarely reported on L Erie away from NR.

**Glaucois Gull:** arr NF 13 Nov.

**SABINE'S GULL:** arr NF 17 Oct (JB); WBSP 5 Nov (MT, WW); NF 7-14 Nov (BP).

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** 2, 1 imm Wilson

NIAG BOSOC, 31 Oct (BE!); ad Athol Springs ERIE 17 Oct (PY!), adults very rarely reported in Reg; 2 imm Athol Springs ERIE 5 Nov (MT!, DD); imm Wilson NIAG 11 Nov (BP, WD); imm FNSP 26 Nov (TiL); imm NPP 27 Nov (BP); excellent showing.  
**Caspian Tern:** last Wilson NIAG 28 Sep (BP).  
**Com. Tern:** 57 Buffalo NR & 60 Wilson NIAG 10 Sep; 5 Lewiston NR 17 Oct; WBSP 31 Oct; last NF 28 Nov (WD, BP).

#### PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**Snowy Owl:** arr FNSP 27 Nov (S&TO).  
**Short-eared Owl:** arr 2, 7 Porter NIAG 9, 12 Nov (DS); 3 Yates ORLE 27 Nov (S&TO).  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** Wethersfield WYOM 5 Oct (DJ), 44 banded Oct with max 9 on 26 Oct (DJ); GHSP BOSOC (DH); 13 banded AISP thru 7 Nov (ToL).  
**Com. Nighthawk:** max 16 Eggertsville ERIE 24 Sep, low max.; last Amherst ERIE 8 Oct; only 6 other reports.  
**Chimney Swift:** last Tift NP 2 Oct.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** last Alexander GENE 26 Sep.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Hamburg ERIE 1 Sep; Tift NP 26 Sep; only reports.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr AmSP 21 Sep; 5 BOSOC, low count.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** AmSP 11 Sep (RS), only report.  
**E. Wood-Pewee:** last TBNP 8 Oct (KF).  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Alfred ALLE 11 Sep (EB), only report.  
**Least Flycatcher:** last Wilson NIAG 18 Sep.  
**E. Phoebe:** last Bethany GENE 25 Oct.-5  
**E. Kingbird:** Bethany GENE 18 Sep; last Somerset NIAG BOSOC (AM!), latest record for Reg.

**N. Shrike:** arr imm Somerset NIAG 12 Oct; ad Lancaster ERIE 18 Oct; five Nov reports.  
**White-eyed Vireo:** Tift NP 30 Sep (DD!); Tift NP 23 Oct (RA!); fall reports rare.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** last Alfred ALLE 26 Oct.  
**Warbling Vireo:** last GI 8 Sep.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** last Tift NP 26 Sep; four other reports.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** last 2 BOSOC.  
**Com. Raven:** Darien GENE BOSOC (KF!), only report away from ALLE, CATT.  
**Horned Lark:** 18 Alabama GENE 2 Oct; max 60 Buffalo NR 7 Nov.  
**Purple Martin:** max 400 BuSP 4 Sep (WW).  
**Tree Swallow:** 200 BWWTP 3 Oct; last 20 BOSOC.  
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** last NF 25 Oct.  
**Barn Swallow:** last 6 BOSOC.  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 10 Wilson NIAG 18 Sep; max 14 Somerset NIAG 19 Sep.  
**Carolina Wren:** 20 BOSOC; reported from 5 locations thru.  
**House Wren:** last 3 BOSOC.  
**Winter Wren:** arr Wilson NIAG 18 Sep.  
**Marsh Wren:** Deveaux Woods SP NIAG 2 Oct, rarely reported in migration; last Amherst ERIE 15 Oct.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** arr 3 Wilson NIAG 19 Sep.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr Wilson NIAG 17 Sep; last Bethany GENE 25 Oct.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** last 2 Bethany GENE 25 Sep (DB).  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr Tonawanda ERIE 8 Sep; last 2 BOSOC; five other reports including nocturnal flyovers.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** last Bethany GENE 25 Oct (DB!), late.  
**Hermit Thrush:** arr Wilson NIAG 20 Sep.  
**Wood Thrush:** last 2 BOSOC.



**N. Mockingbird:** Bethany GENE 25 Sep; Hamburg ERIE 6 Nov; Buffalo ERIE 28 Nov; less common in these locations.  
**Brown Thrasher:** last 2 BOSOC.  
**Am. Pipit:** max 300 Porter NIAG 3 Oct.  
**BOHEMIAN WAXWING:** GHSP 10 Nov (DS), only report.

### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** last BeSP 4 Sep.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** AmSP 14-16 Sep (RS), only report, late.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** last Ellicottville CATT 25 Sep.  
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr Bethany GENE and Tift NP 17 Sep; INWR 3 Oct; 4 BOSOC; Blasdell ERIE 22 Oct; Salamanca CATT 9 Nov (TB!), late.  
**Nashville Warbler:** last Tift NP 26 Oct (BCh!), late.  
**Yellow Warbler:** last Wilson NIAG 17 Sep.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** last BOSOC.  
**Cape May Warbler:** Pomfret CHAU 10 Sep; SPNS 21 Sep; last BOSOC; only reports.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** last Wilson NIAG 24 Oct.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** last 8 BOSOC.  
**Pine Warbler:** last 5 BOSOC.  
**Palm Warbler:** arr AISP 21 Sep.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr AmSP 2 Sep.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr GI 4 Sep; last Williamsville ERIE 25 Oct (RS), late.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** last BOSOC.  
**Am. Redstart:** last Alfred ALLE 20 Oct.  
**Ovenbird:** last Lancaster ERIE BOSOC.  
**N. Waterthrush:** last AmSP 17 Sep.  
**Hooded Warbler:** Orchard P ERIE 2 Sep (LH), flew inside a Target store; SPNS 18 Sep; BMAC & Somerset NIAG 19 Sep, each of these birds reported singing repeatedly.

### TANAGERS – WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** last Wilson NIAG 18 Sep.

**E. Towhee:** last 2 Ashford CATT 6 Nov.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr GHSP 23 Oct.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** last Lancaster ERIE 29 Oct.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** last Somerset NIAG 20 Oct.  
**NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW:** Amherst ERIE 27 Sep, 29-30 Oct (JP! WW! NYSARC), same location as last fall; INWR 3 Oct (PY); fourth consecutive year in Region.  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr Somerset NIAG 20 Oct; max 8 Ashford CATT 6 Nov; last Lancaster ERIE 11 Nov.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr Wilson NIAG 20 Sep; Pomfret CHAU 29 Sep; 5 BOSOC; last INWR 17 Oct.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** arr Wilson NIAG 10 Sep.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr 4 JDSP 26 Sep.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** arr Wilson NIAG 18 Sep.  
**Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco** (J. h. oregonus): AISP 21, 30 Nov (TB!).  
**Lapland Longspur:** arr Somerset NIAG 6 Oct (MM); 8 NIAG BOSOC.  
**Snow Bunting:** arr 6 BWWTP 22 Oct; 50 Athol Springs ERIE 31 Oct; max 300 Porter NIAG 4 Nov.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** last AmSP 26 Sep.  
**Indigo Bunting:** last Wilson NIAG 19 Sep.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** arr 5 INWR 3 Oct; max 150 BuSP 24 Oct.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** last BuSP 4 Sep.  
**Purple Finch:** arr 3 Somerset NIAG 6 Oct; NF 8 Oct; Tift NP 9 Oct; 101 BOSOC.  
**White-winged Crossbill:** Wilson NIAG 14-18 Oct (BP, WD!), early, only report.  
**Com. Redpoll:** arr LESP 13 Nov.  
**Pine Siskin:** arr 2 Somerset NIAG 6 Oct; max 30 Wilson NIAG 11-31 Oct; well reported in Oct & Nov.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** no reports.

## REGION 2 – GENESEE

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September was more like summer than any of the traditional summer months. The average temperature was 30° F above normal at 64.2°. Eight days during the month saw temperatures over 80°. Rainfall was limited to only five days, but 3.5" fell on the 8th and 9th from the remnants of Hurricane Frances. Hurricane Ivan pretty much passed to the south of us and spared us the heavy rainfall. The total for the month was still only 0.85" above normal at 4.3". October was its usual self with much fluctuation. The first half was relatively warm and dry while the latter half was cool and wet, with the only temperature break on the 30th when it reached 70°. The average temperature of 50.2° was 0.2° below normal while the rainfall totaled 1.49", which was 1.11" below normal. November was relatively warm with a 1.2° above normal average of 41.1°. Total precipitation was 0.53" below normal at 2.31". Snowfall was a scant 1.9".

The lakewatch at Hamlin Beach was not manned on a daily basis, but William Symonds and other active birders counted on a significant number of days. The banding operations at Kaiser-Manitou Beach, under the auspices of Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, carried operations into October and provided us with some of the later departure dates. Jim Kimball monitored the Geneseo Airfield and provided Livingston County with some excellent birds.

The waterfowl picture was mixed. The split of Cackling Goose added a new species to the state and Region lists, notwithstanding the historical sightings of the then subspecies. Reports were received from Hamlin Beach and Geneseo. There were some decent Brant days, but nothing exceptional. The plus side included Blue-winged Teal, which has continued to decline locally as a nester. Record early arrivals occurred for Ring-necked Duck, Surf Scoter, Black Scoter and Bufflehead. King Eider is always a plus, even though it is expected at Hamlin Beach yearly. Ducks for the most part were down this year. This was particularly true of Redhead and both Scaup species. Red-throated Loons weren't up to recent standards, but Common Loon numbers were good. The Northern Fulmar, spotted independently by Dave Tetlow and William Symonds at separate times, was a Regional first. Northern Gannet reports were good. Wader highlights were limited to the four Glossy Ibis at Hamlin Beach on 7 September.

The November Red-shouldered Hawk was unusual, as were the variant forms of Red-tailed Hawk, two *calurus* and a Krider's, reported in November. The influx of Rough-legged Hawks was light. Observers noted a shortage of American Kestrels. This was particularly true along the lakeshore. Merlins seemed to be on the increase, and the downtown Rochester Peregrines were in evidence much of the early season. Common Moorhens continued their scarcity along the west lakeshore, with very few reports. Sandhill Crane continued the now expected sightings with two seen over Rochester and two more at Mendon Ponds.

The Hurricane Frances remnants produced some excellent shorebird groundings, with good totals for American Golden-Plover, Semipalmated Plover,

Baird's Sandpiper and Buff-breasted Sandpiper. The numbers of White-rumped Sandpipers easily surpassed previous highs, 95% of them adults. Reports of this species persisted into November. The Ruff found in Hamlin in October was a highlight. There were good Dunlin flights on some days. Late season shorebirds were few in spite of good habitat.

The jaeger picture was mixed. Parasitic was okay, with a single day high of eight in September; Pomarine went unreported; the single Long-tailed is typical of recent years, when observers have searched for it. Bonaparte's Gulls were low through the season. Highlights included a Black-headed Gull and two Sabine's Gulls. Black-legged Kittiwake was decent for a change. Things were pretty quiet for tern sightings this fall.

A few Snowy Owls were reported. The piers at the mouth of the Genesee River were the most consistent spot, but there were no guaranteed sightings anywhere. An early Northern Saw-whet Owl was heard calling in Webster in September. Common Nighthawk numbers were again very low. Jim Kimball's monitoring of the Chimney Swifts in York produced a 400+ maximum, somewhat lower than in other recent years.

The passerine migration experienced an early peak, with relatively quick departures. No significant trends were noted for the flycatchers. Observers felt that Warbling Vireo numbers were down. White-eyed Vireo has become an expected species. Northern Shrike was reported in typical numbers. Cave Swallow is another one of those species that has become almost expected after this year's reports represented the fourth year in the past five. However, swallow numbers in general were low this fall. Winter Wren totals were good and Ruby-crowned Kinglet numbers were also on the plus side. There were good banding days for Gray-cheeked, Swainson's and Hermit thrushes. Bicknell's Thrush has become an expected species at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station. With the ability to take measurements, positive identification can occur, although many banded thrushes still fall within an overlap range and can only be classed Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's. There were excellent concentrations of American Robins. A few Bohemian Waxwings were found with fairly large flocks of Cedar Waxwings later in the season.

Magnolia and Black-throated Blue warblers were noted in pretty decent numbers. This was not true for most species, and many observers commented on the poor warbler showing. Connecticut Warbler is always a good find; one was banded.

Chipping Sparrow numbers were good, as were the early totals for White-throated Sparrow. The latter, along with White-crowned, did not match last year's influx, and both seemed to experience a rapid departure. Observers noted that Fox Sparrow reports were down and the window of passage short. Lapland Longspur totals were good. Dave Tetlow's discovery of the Region's first Smith's Longspur was probably right there with the Northern Fulmar for the local bird of the season. [*Details? Report to NYSARC? There is but a single NYS record of Smith's Longspur, a 1974 specimen. B. Lincoln, copy editor*] Snow Bunting numbers were low this fall. The only significant flight of finches was the good numbers of Pine Siskins seen along the lake and at feeders. Common Redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks were reported late in the season in small numbers.

September's species total was above the ten-year average at 210. October 's total of 170 was significantly lower than the ten-year total but just about on par with last year's 174 species. The 131 species reported in November was only slightly below the ten-year average. The year-to-date total of 295 species was above the ten-year average of 287.7 and well above last year's 276 species.

## Observer

John Bounds, George Briggs, Elizabeth Brooks (Braddock Bay Bird Observatory), Brad Carlson, Carolyn Cass, Gary Chapin, Jerry Czech, Kathleen Dalton, Steve Daniel, Doug Daniels, Kurt Fox, Kenny Frisch, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith & Colleen Dox-Griffith, Lucretia Grosshans, Judith Gurley, Helen Haller, David & Vanna Harding, Jack Hartwig, Barbara Hergesell, Jim Kimball, John Lehr, Gerry Leubner, Cindy Marino, Robert Mauceli, Chita & Robert McKinney, Rudolfo Montez Jr., Dan Niven, Richard O'Hara, Betsy Potter, Betty & Bill Powell, Marty Robinson, Robert Salisbury, Ed Sheidlower, Dominic Sherony, Steve Soule, Robert & Susan Spahn, Jeff & Paul Spindler, Allan Strong, David & Grace Strong, William Symonds, David & Mike Tetlow, Don & Donna Traver, Chris Villone, Ann Watson, Kinsley Whittum.

## Abbreviations

B – banded; BB – Braddock Bay MONR; CH – Charlotte (Ontario Beach) MONR; CU –T Cuylerville LIVI; G –T Greece MONR; GE – T Genesee LIVI; H –T Hamlin MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP MONR; HP – Hogan Point MONR; IB – Irondequoit Bay MONR; K – T Kendall ORLE; M – Manitou MONR; MP – Mendon Ponds Park MONR; P – T Parma MONR; PE – T Perinton MONR; S – T Savannah WAYN; V – T Victor MONR; W – T Webster MONR.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** arr 1 imm white morph GE 12 Sep; 1 imm white morph HP 19 Sep; max 69 (65 blue, 3 white, 1 mixed) HB 2 Nov (RS,WS).

**ACKLING GOOSE:** 1 HB 26 Sep (WS); 1GE 1,3 Oct (JK); 1 HB 27 Nov (WS).

**Brant:** arr 230+ HB 11 Oct; max 799 HB 28 Oct.

**Tundra Swan:** arr 2 H 1 Nov; max 49 Conesus Lake 24 Nov.

**Blue-winged Teal:** max 15-20 CU 1 Sep.

**N. Pintail:** max 393 HB 28 Sep.

**Green-winged Teal:** max 108 HB 28 Sep.

**Canvasback:** arr 4 G 21 Oct.

**Redhead:** arr 6 G 21 Oct.

**Ring-necked Duck:** arr 1 fem BB 1 Sep, record early; 3 G 9 Oct.

**King Eider:** arr fem HB 31 Oct (WS); max 10 HB 9 Nov (WS). Regional record high; 4 HB 12 Nov (WS).

**Harlequin Duck:** arr 2 fem HB 28 Oct (DS, RS); 1 fem HB 6 Nov (RS).

**Surf Scoter:** arr HB 20 Sep.  
**Black Scoter:** arr HB 3 Sep, record early; max 550 HB 28 Oct.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** max 3157 HB 1 Nov.  
**Bufflehead:** arr G 9 Sep, early.  
**Com. Goldeneye:** arr HB 1 Oct.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 5000 HB 27 Nov.  
**Red-throated Loon:** arr 1 juv HB 10 Sep, early; 1 HB 12 Sep; max 1000+ HB 8 Nov.  
**Com. Loon:** max 3500 HB 7 Nov.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** max 21 HB 20 Nov, good count for fall.  
**NORTHERN FULMAR:** 1 intermediate morph HB 7 Nov (WS, DT), 1<sup>st</sup> Regional record.  
**N. Gannet:** arr 1 imm T 10 Sep (DT), early; 1 HB 22 Oct (WS, R&C Mc); 1 imm HB 8 Nov, (WS, DS, DT).  
**Great Egret:** last 2 IB 18 Oct.  
**Green Heron:** last HB 23 Oct.  
**Glossy Ibis:** 4 HB 7 Sep.

#### HAWKS – ALCIDS

**Osprey:** 1 G,P 6-30 Nov (DT).  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 1 Williamson, WAYN 23 Nov.  
**Red-tailed Hawk (*calurus*):** 1 K 11 Nov DT; 1 Pultneyville, WAYN 23 Nov (DD).  
**Red-tailed Hawk (Kriger's)** 1 H 15 Nov (DT).  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** arr 1 HP 20 Oct.  
**Merlin:** total 8 Oct; total 3 Nov.  
**Sandhill Crane:** 2 R 23 Sep (T&PS); 2 MP 23 Oct (MT).  
**Black-bellied Plover:** max 60 H 21 Oct (RS), high for inland; last 1 IB 5 Nov.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** 135 WL 9 Sep (DT; max 240 WL 10 Sep (DT), record high fall inland; 110 CU 20 Sep (JK).  
**Semipalmated Plover:** max 30 WL 9 Sep.  
**Killdeer:** max 140 WL 9 Sep.  
**Willet:** 1 T 9 Sep (DT).  
**Upland Sandpiper:** last GE 12 Sep.  
**Whimbrel:** 1-3 HB 5-12 Sep; total 6 HB 1-25 Sep.

**Hudsonian Godwit:** 2 HB 28 Sep (DT, WS, RS).  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** max 8 HB 12 Sep, juv.  
**Red Knot:** 1 H 10 Sep; 1 juv CH 11 Sep; 1 HB 12 Sep  
**Sanderling:** last HB 8 Nov.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 170 WL 9 Sep.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 175 WL 9 Sep; max 484 WL 10 Sep (DT), record high inland count, nearly all adult; 66 Elba 11 Sep (DT,KF), Genesee County high; 6 G 25-26 Oct (DT), juv; last 4 IB 20 Nov.  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** max 5 CU 29 Sep; total 17 sev 1-30 Sep:  
**Purple Sandpiper:** arr IB 18 Nov, only report.  
**Dunlin:** max 375 HB 19 Oct; last IB 20 Nov.  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** last 8 juv G 25-26 Oct.  
**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** max 9 CU 20 Sep (JK), Regional record high count; 1-9 CU 1-30 Sep (JK); 2 SA 29 Sep (DD); 1 CU 1 Oct (JK); 3 H 3 Oct (WS); last H 17 Oct (KG).  
**RUFF:** 1 m H 11 Oct (DT)  
**Long-billed Dowitcher:** 1 H 12 Sep (DT, WS), only report.  
**Red-necked Phalarope:** arr P 9 Sep (DS, JS).  
**phalarope species:** 1 HB 3 Oct.  
**Parasitic Jaeger:** total 18 HB Sep; max 8 HB, T 10 Sep (DT); total 18 HB Oct; 1 HB2,3,9 Nov.  
**LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** 1 imm HB 2 Sep (DT).  
**Little Gull:** total 6 HB 7-19 Nov.  
**BLACK-HEADED GULL:** arr 1 imm IB 12 Nov (DT).  
**Thayer's Gull:** 1 imm HB 21 Nov (DT, WS, CC, GC).  
**Iceland Gull:** arr HB 8 Nov.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 2 alt ad K 9 Sept; 1 IB 2 Oct; 1 ad IB 7 Nov.  
**Glaucous Gull:** arr HB 14 Nov.  
**Sabine's Gull:** arr HB 10 Nov (DT); 1 HB 19 Nov (WS).

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** 2 imm HB 9 Nov (WS, et al); 1 imm HB 12 Nov (WS); 2 imm HB 19 Nov (WS).  
**Caspian Tern:** last PA 20 Oct.  
**Com. Tern:** max 52 HB 22 Sep; last 1 HB 7 Nov.

#### DOVES – WOODPECKERS

**Snowy Owl:** 2 Summerville 21 Nov (KF), present for several days.  
**Short-eared Owl:** arr HB 8 Oct, early.  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** 1 Webster 23 Sep.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** max 25-30 3 Sep, very low maximum.  
**Whip-poor-will:** W 11 Sep (D&DT), rarely reported in fall.  
**Chimney Swift:** max 420 York 12 Sep; last 135 York 6 Oct.

#### FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** 1 Penfield 11 Sep; 1 Victor 18 Sep, only reports.  
**E. Wood-Pewee:** last HB 20 Sep.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** last 2B M 18 Sep.  
**Willow Flycatcher:** last H 1 Sep.  
**Trail's Flycatcher:** last 1B M 15 Sep.  
**Least Flycatcher:** last 1B M 28 Sep.  
**Great-crested Flycatcher:** last HB 20 Sep.  
**E. Kingbird:** last H 10 Oct, very late.  
**N. Shrike:** arr G 18 Oct; total 6 sev Nov.  
**White-eyed Vireo:** 1B M 15 Sep.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** last V 29 Oct.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** last 2 S 11 Sep.  
**Warbling Vireo:** last Fairport 20 Sep.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr G, M 11 Sep; last 1B M 25 Sep.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** last 1B M 29 Oct.  
**Com. Raven:** 1 Portage 9, 16 Oct (AW); 2 S. Bristol 26 Oct (P & JS).  
**Tree Swallow:** max 1500 CU 1 Oct, low maximum.  
**CAVE SWALLOW:** arr 3 HB 31 Oct (mob); 1 HP 21 Nov (DT); 4 WI 23 Nov (DT, RS!, NYSARC, RMc).

**House Wren:** last BB 14 Oct.  
**Winter Wren:** arr 2 HB 14 Sep.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** arr 1B M 17 Sep; max 80B M 5 Oct..  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr 1B M 10 Sep; 92B M thru Sep; max 124B M 5 Oct.  
**Veery:** last 1B M 12 Oct.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** max 44B M 27 Sep; total 194B M thru Sep; last HB 18 Oct.  
**Bicknell's Thrush:** 1B M 20 Sep; 1B M 24 Sep; 2B M 26 Sep  
**Swainson's Thrush:** arr 1B M 8 Sep; total 143B thru Sep; last HB 13 Oct.  
**Hermit Thrush:** arr 3 HB 20 Sep; max 68B M 13 Oct.  
**Wood Thrush:** last 1B M 30 Sep.  
**Am. Pipit:** arr H 10 Sep; max 200+ CU 23 Sep; K 25 Sep; last Elba 2 Nov.  
**Bohemian Waxwing:** 1 HP 10 Nov (DT); 1 H 19 Nov (DT); 2 G 21 Nov (KG).  
**Cedar Waxwing:** max 1000+ West Lakeshore 17 Nov.

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** last M 1 Sep.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** last 1B M 10 Oct.  
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr 1B M 10 Sep; last V 14 Oct.  
**Nashville Warbler:** last V 22 Oct.  
**N. Parula:** arr 1B M 11 Sep; last 1B M 28 Sep.  
**Yellow Warbler:** last 1B M 10 Sep.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr M 11 Sep.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** total 167B M thru Sep. b; last M 22 Oct, b.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr 2B M 27 Sep; last 3B M 30 Sep.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** last 1B M 13 Oct.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** last V 10 Oct.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** last 1B M 23 Sep.  
**Palm Warbler:** last PE 5 Oct.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr 1B M 3 Sep.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr 1B M 4 Sep; last M 8 Oct.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** last 1B M 23 Sep.  
**Am. Redstart:** last 1B M 12 Oct.  
**Ovenbird:** last Portage 28 Sep.  
**N. Waterthrush:** last 2B M 24 Sep.  
**Connecticut Warbler:** 1B M 13 Sep.  
**Mourning Warbler:** last 1B M 16 Sep.  
**Hooded Warbler:** last Naples 26 Sep.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** last 3B M 23 Sep.  
**Canada Warbler:** last 1B M 11 Sep.

**TANAGERS – WEAVERS**

**Scarlet Tanager:** last 1B M 6 Oct.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr 1B M 12 Oct.  
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** 1 imm G 18 Sep 18 (KG).

**Fox Sparrow:** arr 1B M 10 Oct.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr 1B M 5 Sep; last V 22 Oct.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** total 465B M thru Sep.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr 1B M 22 Sep.  
**Lapland Longspur:** arr HB 26 Sep; max 90 H 22 Oct.  
**SMITH'S LONGSPUR:** 1 H 22-23 Oct (DT), 1<sup>st</sup> Regional record.  
**Snow Bunting:** max 400+ H 10 Nov.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** last V 10 Oct.  
**Indigo Bunting:** last H 27 Sep.  
**Dickcissel:** 1 HP 9 Oct (DT).  
**Com. Redpoll:** arr 30 HB 4 Nov.  
**Pine Siskin:** max 251 HB 13 Oct; 130 G 23 Oct.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** arr HP 10 Nov.



## REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

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Each fall month was warmer than normal, and September was wetter than normal. In Ithaca, the departures from normal were 3.2° F in September, 0.3° in October and 0.8° in November. Precipitation in September was 134 percent of normal. October precipitation was 73 percent of normal but had two more days with measurable precipitation than normal. November precipitation was 82 percent of normal. The only significant snowfall was the one inch that fell 9 November.

Most species of waterfowl were present in higher numbers than last year. Members of many of the diving duck species appeared early. A single **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at Montezuma NWR 7 October. Many birders were on the lookout for their life **Cackling Goose**. Bob McGuire found two at the Montezuma Wetlands Complex 11 October. They cooperated with birders by remaining there through 7 November. On 30 October, a group of observers picked a **Ross's Goose** out of 2000 Snow Geese flying around Aurora Bay, Cayuga Lake. Mark Chao had a more leisurely look the following day at perhaps the same bird with a few dozen Snow Geese in a field near Kings Ferry. The same group of observers that found the Ross's Goose continued on to Montezuma NWR where they located a male **Eurasian Wigeon**.

Black-crowned Night-Herons seemed scarce and Least Bitterns were not even reported. Bob Guthrie discovered a **Cattle Egret** in the Town of Milo, south of Penn Yan, in early November.

Nearly all raptor numbers were up. Broad-winged Hawks were up for the second straight year. Many immature Bald Eagles were observed in the marshy portions of the Main Pool at Montezuma NWR, hunting from the tops of muskrat houses. Common Moorhens and American Coots both showed increased numbers from last year.

Comparison of this year's and last year's shorebird numbers yielded mixed results, some up and some down. Several species lingered longer than usual. A flock of 70 American Golden-Plovers winging past the Wells family at King Ferry Station was an unusually large flock for this Region. The other shorebird highlights of the season were multiple sightings of individual **Western Sandpipers** at Montezuma NWR and of five **Red Knots** in the Savannah Mucklands.

Gull-watching was unexciting this season. Herring Gulls had their second consecutive decline in fall numbers. As usual, there were a few Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Bonaparte's Gulls were few. To make up for the lack of interesting gulls, Ken Rosenberg reported a **Parasitic Jaeger** passing Stewart Park in Ithaca. Common Tern numbers, up for the second year in a row, were good news.

One of the Region's birds of the season was certainly the immature **Black Guillemot** discovered by Paul Hurtado, Marcus Collins and Erin Stephens. The



small, actively diving bird provided birders with a real challenge. Although it was present on Cayuga Lake for more than a month, it was able to evade birders for days at a time.

The number of chimneys accessible to Chimney Swifts is in decline, and so it seems are the swifts. A high count for the fall season of five is certainly discouraging. This is a species that needs attention.

Last year there were no reports of Olive-sided Flycatcher and only one report of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. There were several reports of each of these sought-after species this fall. Horned Larks declined last year. This year's numbers were only about 10 percent of last year's numbers. However, the species is so mobile that it would be difficult to draw any conclusions about its overall status. Nearly twice as many Northern Shrikes were reported this fall as last fall. Vireo numbers were stable or up.

Sixty Fish Crows passing my home in West Elmira as I prepared to go to work was by far the most ever reported in the Region. A week later, half of this flock was sitting on top of the Chemung Canal Bank in downtown Elmira as I took my lunch time walk through Riverfront Park.

Swallow species' numbers were down, except for Barn Swallow. Roger Sleeper noticed the Region's first three **Cave Swallows** flying around in the southeast corner of Cayuga Lake. At least one was still present the following day.

Thrushes, which the Region's birders report primarily by counting their nocturnal flight calls, presented a mixed picture. Most warbler numbers were up, though several species were not even reported. Several sparrow species showed increased numbers. Interesting sparrows included Mike Harvey's **Clay-colored Sparrow** in a flock of Chipping Sparrows in the Cornell Plantations and his **Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco** in a junco flock in Lansing. Ken Rosenberg, accompanied by Héctor Gómez de Silva, found a **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** at Hog Hole (Ithaca) again this year. Snow Buntings were still scarce as the season ended.

Eastern Meadowlarks were seen in better than usual numbers and Rusty Blackbirds improved on last year's showing. Common Grackles and Brown-headed Cowbirds were down in number. Winter finches didn't appear to be making a major move. A few Red Crossbills, however, were present at Summerhill State Forest.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

CayL – Cayuga L; CLB – Cayuga L Basin; CU – Cornell University; DLP – Dryden L P TOMP; DLT – Dryden L Trail TOMP; EH – Ecology House Cornell TOMP; EIRW – East Ithaca Recreation Way TOMP; ELCP – Edwards L Cliff Preserve TOMP; EID – Elmira Dam CHEM; ESP – East Shore P TOMP; FRF – Freese Rd fields TOMP; GFR – Game Farm Rd TOMP; GRFF – George Rd flooded field TOMP; HH – Hog Hole, Ithaca TOMP; KH – Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory SCHU; LPd – Lowe Pd CHEM; MNWR – Montezuma NWR; MtPl – Mt. Pleasant TOMP; MWC – Montezuma Wetlands Complex SENE; MyPt – Myers Pt TOMP; RP – Riverfront P CHEM; SM – Savannah Mucklands SENE; SSF – Summerhill State Forest CAYU; StP – Stewart P, Ithaca TOMP; SW – Sapsucker Woods TOMP; TFSP – Taughannock Falls SP; WCB – Wells College Boathouse, Aurora CAYU.

**WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES  
GREATER WHITE-FRONTED  
GOOSE:** MNWR 7 Oct (JL, JM!, CSa), only report.  
**Snow Goose:** MWC 6 Sep; max 12,000 MWC 13 Nov (MiH, TL), high; 6000 MNWR 27 Nov, +.  
**ROSS'S GOOSE:** arr WCB 30 Oct (JE, MiH, TL, NS); last Genoa 31 Oct (CM), early.

**Brant:** arr 4 StP 15 Oct, late; max 280 Lansing 19 Oct; last StP 21 Nov, +.  
**CACKLING GOOSE:** 2 MWC 11 Oct (BoMc); last 2 MWC 7 Nov (BoMc, AMit, CTH).  
**Canada Goose:** max 16,000 WCB 30 Oct, +.  
**Mute Swan:** MNWR 11 Sep (B&JO), early; max 5 MNWR 10 Oct, high; last MNWR 20 Nov, +.

**Trumpeter Swan:** MNWR 11 Sep-3 Nov.  
**Tundra Swan:** arr MNWR 12 Oct; max 200 MNWR 26 Nov.  
**Wood Duck:** max 21 MNWR 10 Oct, low; last MNWR 20 Nov.  
**Gadwall:** max 200 MNWR 6 Nov.  
**EURASIAN WIGEON:** MNWR 11 Sep (MMo); last MNWR 30 Oct (JE, MiH, TL, NS).  
**Am. Wigeon:** max 200 MNWR 6 Nov; last MNWR 27 Nov, +.  
**Am. Black Duck:** max 13 MNWR 16 Oct, low.  
**Mallard:** max 200 CLB 24 Oct.  
**Blue-winged Teal:** max 24 MNWR 11 Sep; last DLT 20 Nov.  
**N. Shoveler:** max 100 MNWR 23 Oct, high; last Summerhill 21 Nov, +.  
**N. Pintail:** max 100 MNWR 12 Oct; last 2 MNWR 26 Nov, early, +.  
**Green-winged Teal:** max 200 CLB 24 Oct; last 2 MNWR 26 Nov, +.  
**Canvasback:** arr 3 MNWR 19 Sep (B&JO), early; max 25 MNWR 13 Nov.  
**Redhead:** max 30 MNWR 6 Nov, +.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** arr 4 MNWR 11 Sep; max 6000 MNWR 6 Nov (J&KM), high, +.  
**Greater Scaup:** arr 2 MNWR 19 Sep (SH, MiH, NYSO), early; max 30 Clute Memorial P SCHU 24 Oct.  
**Lesser Scaup:** arr MNWR 11 Sep (SH, MiH, LSa, BWi), early; max 30 MNWR 6 Nov.  
**Surf Scoter:** arr MyPt 19 Sep (JE, SF, NYSO), early; max 3 ESP 23 Oct; last DLP 2 Nov.  
**White-winged Scoter:** arr CayL 4 Sep (CSa), early; max 10 Deans Cove State Marine P SENE 27 Oct; last 3 ESP 13 Nov, +.  
**Black Scoter:** arr 3 StP 13 Oct; max & last 75 TFSP 28 Oct, +.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** arr 2 ESP 6 Nov, late; max 5 MyPt 19 Nov; last MNWR 21 Nov, +.  
**Bufflehead:** arr 2 StP 17 Oct; max 10 StP 15 Nov, low.

**Com. Goldeneye:** arr MNWR 11 Sep (SH, MiH, LSa, BWi), early; max 20 MacKenzie-Childs Pottery CAYU 13 Nov, +.  
**Hooded Merganser:** max 12 MNWR 26 Nov, low.  
**Com. Merganser:** max 57 EID 13 Oct.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** arr StP 14 Oct; max 6 WCB 14 Nov.  
**Ruddy Duck:** max 50 MNWR 13 Nov; last 2 MNWR 26 Nov, +.  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** max 3 DLT 4 Sep.  
**Ruffed Grouse:** Gleason Meadows CHEM 9 Oct.  
**Wild Turkey:** max 33 Dryden 5 Nov.  
**Red-throated Loon:** arr StP 12 Oct; max 3 TFSP 8 Nov; last CayL 27 Nov.  
**Com. Loon:** max 721 TFSP 1 Nov.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 27 MNWR 11 Sep, +.  
**Horned Grebe:** arr Aurora Bay CAYU 12 Oct; max 10 Aurora Bay CAYU 19 Nov.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** arr StP 24 Oct; last ESP 10 Nov.  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 100 MNWR 25 Sep.  
**Am. Bittern:** max MNWR 11 Sep; last MNWR 24 Oct.  
**Great Blue Heron:** max 51 MNWR 19 Sep, +.  
**Great Egret:** max 44 MNWR 11 Sep; last 15 CLB 24 Oct, +.  
**CATTLE EGRET:** Milo 4-8 Nov (BGU).  
**Green Heron:** max 8 MNWR 2 Sep; last Horseheads CHEM 16 Oct.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** max 3 EID 8 Sep, low; last MNWR 18 Nov (A&BA!), late.  
**Turkey Vulture:** max 317 Ithaca 23 Oct (Me&NH), high; last Cayuga Heights 22 Nov, +.

#### HAWKS – ALCIDS

**Osprey:** max 10 KH 22 Oct (J&SGr), high; last Ithaca 27 Oct, +.

**Bald Eagle:** max 16 MNWR 11 Sep (B&JO), high, +.  
**N. Harrier:** max 10 CLB 24 Oct, +.  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 25 EH 19 Sep, +.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** max 10 KH 22 Oct (J&SGr), high, +.  
**N. Goshawk:** MyPt 1 Nov.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** max 4 SW 22 Oct; last SW 18 Nov, +.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** max 302 EH 19 Sep; last Lansing 26 Sep, +.  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 70 Ithaca 23 Oct, +.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** arr Lansing 17 Oct; max 3 MNWR 15 Nov.  
**Golden Eagle:** arr West Slaterville 25 Sep (JGe), early; max 2 EIRW 18 Oct; last Elmira 16 Nov, +.  
**Am. Kestrel:** max 11 EH 19 Sep.  
**Merlin:** max 2 StP 19 Sep, +.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** MNWR 5 Sep; last Elmira 5 Nov.  
**Virginia Rail:** HH 3 Oct (TB, JE, AI), only report.  
**Sora:** SW 7 Sep; last MNWR 11 Sep.  
**Com. Moorhen:** max 47 MNWR 11 Sep; last MNWR 3 Nov, +.  
**Am. Coot:** max 1000 CLB 24 Oct (RL), high, +.  
**Sandhill Crane:** max 3 Big Flats CHEM 2 Sep; last Big Flats 6 Oct, +.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** max 11 MNWR 29 Sep; last MyPt 26 Oct, +.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** max 70 King Ferry Station CAYU, high; 12 Sep (A&JW); last GRFF 29 Oct, +.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** max 15 MNWR 21 Sep, low; last MNWR 27 Oct (TL).  
**Killdeer:** max 40 GFR 18 Sep; last 2 MyPt 26 Oct, early.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** max 47 GRFF 19 Oct; last MNWR 6 Nov.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 25 MNWR 26 Sep; last GRFF 2 Nov.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** max 6 DLT 4 Sep; last DLP 23 Oct (SD, BoMc), late, +.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** max 5 StP 18 Sep

(KR), high; last StP 27 Oct.  
**Hudsonian Godwit:** arr MNWR 9 Sep; MNWR 24 Oct; last MNWR 7 Nov (BoMc, AMit, CTH), late.  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** max & last 2 GRFF 3 Oct (S&SF).  
**RED KNOT:** max 5 SM 9 Sep (J&KM, A&NV), high.  
**Sanderling:** max 6 MNWR 10 Sep (MCh), high; last MyPt 21 Nov (RyBu, CWi), late +.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 150 MNWR 21 Sep; last MNWR 6 Nov.  
**WESTERN SANDPIPER:** MNWR 11 Sep (SH, MiH, LSa, BWi); MNWR 21 Sep (JL, JM, CSa); last MNWR 23 Sep (SF, BoMc).  
**Least Sandpiper:** max 105 MNWR 11 Sep; last MNWR 27 Oct, +.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** max 100 MNWR 9 Sep (MV), high; last MNWR 6 Nov, +.  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** max 6 MNWR 21 Sep; last GRFF 19 Oct, +.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** max 100 MNWR 26 Sep; last GRFF 5 Nov.  
**Dunlin:** arr MNWR 11 Sep; max 527 MNWR 19 Oct (MV), high; last 4 MWC 13 Nov, +.  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** max 20 MNWR 26 Sep; last MNWR 7 Nov (BoMc, AMit, CTH), late, -.  
**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** arr SM 10 Sep; max 2 SM 25 Sep; last MNWR 10 Oct, +.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** MNWR 19 Sep; last MNWR 25 Sep, -.  
**Long-billed Dowitcher:** max 23 MNWR 19 Sep; last MNWR 24 Nov (JE), +.  
**Wilson's Snipe:** max 25 GRFF 19 Oct; last 2 MNWR 29 Oct.  
**Am. Woodcock:** Dryden 15 Oct (KM), only report.  
**Red-necked Phalarope:** 2 MNWR 9-11 Sep (SH, MiH, LSa, BWi), only report, -.  
**PARASITIC JAEGER:** StP 18 Sep (KR).  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** max & last 2 CayL 9 Nov.  
**Ring-billed Gull:** max 500 StP 18 Sep, +.

**Herring Gull:** max 40 RP 27 Nov, low, -.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** max 2  
MNWR 21 Sep.  
**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 20 CLB 6  
Nov.  
**Caspian Tern:** max 6 StP 8 Sep; last 3  
StP 18 Sep.  
**Com. Tern:** max 17 StP 8 Sep (KR), high;  
last 2 MyPt 18 Sep, +.  
**BLACK GUILLEMOT:** imm MyPt 23  
Oct (MCo, PH, ES); WCB 7 Nov (BoMc,  
AMit, CTH); last WCB 26 Nov (KBU!);  
all observations of same individual.

### PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**Rock Pigeon:** max 174 Corning  
25 Nov.  
**Mourning Dove:** max 27 Ovid 6 Sep, low.  
**Black-billed Cuckoo:** MNWR 11 Sep  
(DM, BGu, LL), only report.  
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** EIRW 26 Sep  
(MiH), only report.  
**E. Screech-Owl:** Union Springs CAYU 15  
Nov.  
**Great Horned Owl:** max 2 Covert 17  
Nov.  
**Snowy Owl:** arr & max 2 MNWR 13 Nov.  
**Barred Owl:** SSF 18 Sep (NYSOA, MY),  
only report.  
**Long-eared Owl:** SW 30 Nov (SH), only  
report.  
**Short-eared Owl:** arr Genoa 13 Nov;  
Union Springs 24 Nov.  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** Lansing 30 Oct, +.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** max 10 Ithaca 4 Sep,  
low; last GRFF 7 Sep, early, +.  
**Chimney Swift:** max & last 5 EID 9 Sep,  
early, -.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** max 10  
KH 8 Sep; last Big Flats 6 Oct, +.  
**Belted Kingfisher:** max 5 CLB 24 Oct.  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** max 2 ELCP  
25 Sep.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** max 4 Big  
Flats CHEM 25 Sep; last Covert 22 Nov.  
**Downy Woodpecker:** max 6 Caroline 20

Oct, low.  
**Hairy Woodpecker:** max 2 SW 23 Oct.  
**N. Flicker:** max 6 ELCP 25 Sep, low, -.  
**Pileated Woodpecker:** max 2 SW 2 Oct.

### FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** max 2 SW 3 Sep,  
high; last SW 8 Sep, +.  
**E. Wood-Pewee:** max 3 SW 7 Sep; last 2  
Southport 12 Sep, early.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** max 2 SW 7  
Sep; last Dodge Rd Spruce Plantation  
TOMP 18 Sep, +.  
**Least Flycatcher:** StP 15 Sep; last SW 20  
Sep.  
**E. Phoebe:** max 6 GFR 26 Sep; last RP 26  
Oct.  
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** SW 1 Sep  
(MeH, LSt), only report, early departure.  
**N. Shrike:** arr KH 20 Oct; max 2 MNWR  
26 Nov, +.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** StP 5 Sep; last  
DLT 19 Sep.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** max 6 Dryden 23  
Sep; last Caroline 20 Oct, +.  
**Warbling Vireo:** max 6 StP 5 Sep (KR),  
high; last SW 19 Sep.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr & max 2 StP 5  
Sep; last CU 29 Sep.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** max 20 CU 8 Sep (GS),  
high; last Ithaca 22 Oct (JE), late, +.  
**Blue Jay:** max 600 ELCP 25 Sep (MCh),  
high.  
**Am. Crow:** max 2000 Auburn 29 Oct, +.  
**Fish Crow:** max 60 Elmira 17 Oct (BO),  
record high inland count, +.  
**Com. Raven:** max 4 Hector 16 Oct.  
**Horned Lark:** max 12 MtPI 23 Oct, low, -  
.  
**Purple Martin:** max 2 Tyre 6 Sep; last  
MNWR 11 Sep, -.  
**Tree Swallow:** max 5000 MNWR 19 Sep;  
last MNWR 24 Oct, -.  
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** max 14  
MNWR 11 Sep; last 6 MWC 12 Oct, -.  
**Bank Swallow:** max & last 4 MNWR 19

Sep, -.

**CAVE SWALLOW:** 3 StP 24 Nov (TL, RS, J&KM, ph!, mob); last StP 25 Nov (PH), +.

**Barn Swallow:** max 5000 MNWR 19 Sep; last 4 FRF 16 Oct, +.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** max 24 Caroline 20 Oct, low.

**Tufted Titmouse:** max 10 Dryden 30 Sep (LSt), high.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max 6 Harris Hill P CHEM 25 Sep.

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** max 5 Waterloo 11 Oct, -.

**Brown Creeper:** max 4 CU 29 Sep.

**Carolina Wren:** max 3 CLB 6 Nov.

**House Wren:** max 2 MWC 6 Sep; last 2 Lansing 12 Oct.

**Winter Wren:** max 2 Dodge Rd Spruce Plantation TOMP 18 Sep.

**Marsh Wren:** max 2 MNWR 11 Sep; last MNWR 19 Sep.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 20 EIRW 20 Oct.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max 34 EIRW 20 Oct; last RP 26 Oct.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** CU 1 Sep (MiH), only report.

**E. Bluebird:** max 20 BH 7 Oct, +.

**Veery:** max & last 30 Dryden 26 Sep.

**Gray-checked Thrush:** arr MNWR 11 Sep; max 110 CU 23 Sep; last Lansing 30 Sep, +.

**Swainson's Thrush:** max 110 Ithaca 26 Sep; last CU 27 Sep.

**Hermit Thrush:** max 10 KH 13 Oct; last 2 EIRW 23 Oct, -.

**Wood Thrush:** max 3 SW 18 Sep; last Dryden 26 Sep, -.

**Am. Robin:** max 200 Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve TOMP 24 Oct, -.

**Gray Catbird:** max 15 SW 2 Sep; last 2 KH 1 Nov.

**N. Mockingbird:** max 3 Romulus 14 Oct.

**Brown Thrasher:** max 4 Dryden 7 Sep (NM); last BH 20 Oct, high, +.

**European Starling:** max 4400 CU 1 Sep.

**Am. Pipit:** arr 2 Ithaca 12 Sep; max 75 Genoa 9 Nov; last 2 Genoa 20 Nov, -.

**Cedar Waxwing:** max 39 Cayuga Trail TOMP 27 Nov, low.

## WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** last SW 13 Sep.

**“Brewster’s” Warbler:** SW 21 Sep; last SW 22 Sep.

**Tennessee Warbler:** MNWR 11 Sep; last Dryden 3 Oct.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr SW 5 Oct; max 3 BH 11 Oct (JM), high; last EIRW 18 Oct (MeH), late +.

**Nashville Warbler:** max 6 Lansing 30 Sep; last KH 27 Oct.

**N. Parula:** arr CU 1 Sep; max 3 CU 8 Sep; last 2 Dryden 30 Sep, +.

**Yellow Warbler:** max 6 StP 5 Sep (KR), high; last StP 25 Sep.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 6 Dryden 11 Sep; last CU 29 Sep, +.

**Magnolia Warbler:** max 20 CU 10 Sep; last 2 Watkins Glen SCHU 23 Oct, +.

**Cape May Warbler:** max 4 SW 1 Sep (MeH, LSt), high; last SW 19 Sep, +.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max 3 SW 26 Sep; last Dryden 30 Sep.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 30 CLB 24 Oct; last StP 1 Nov.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** max 8 CU 16 Sep; last Dryden 3 Oct.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** max 3 SW 8 Sep; last Dryden 27 Sep, +.

**Pine Warbler:** max 2 Harris Hill P CHEM 25 Sep; last Caroline 20 Oct, +.

**Prairie Warbler:** max 2 LPd 4 Sep; last Big Flats CHEM 25 Sep (DC, BO, DS), late, +.

**Palm Warbler:** arr Moravia 18 Sep; max 3 GFR 26 Sep; last MNWR 20 Oct.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** CU 9 Sep; last SW 19 Sep.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr Flat Rock TOMP

8 Sep; max 2 SW 21 Sep; last Southport 17 Oct.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** max & last 3 CU 18 Sep.  
**Am. Redstart:** max 6 StP 5 Sep; last Dryden 26 Sep, +.  
**Ovenbird:** max 3 SW Rd 3 Sep; last SW 18 Sep.  
**N. Waterthrush:** max 2 SW 7 Sep; last Southport 26 Sep, +.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** max 12 MNWR 11 Sep; last KH 31 Oct.  
**Hooded Warbler:** CU 8 Sep; last Dryden 27 Sep.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** max 2 MWC 6 Sep; last StP 21 Oct (KR), late, +.  
**Canada Warbler:** last MWC 11 Sep.

#### TANAGERS – WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** max 3 SW 20 Sep; last HH 2 Oct.  
**E. Towhee:** max 7 Mark Twain SP 16 Oct; last SW 12 Nov, +.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** max 100 SW 12 Nov (DB), high; +.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** max 40 CU 29 Sep; last SW 23 Nov.  
**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** CU 9 Oct (MiH); last CU 13 Oct (KR), late.  
**Field Sparrow:** max 20 DLP 16 Oct; last 6 BH 20 Oct, early, +.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** max 2 MtPl 23 Oct (J&KM), only report.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** max 48 FRF 5 Oct; last 2 Stevenson Rd compost piles TOMP 18 Oct, +.  
**NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW:** 2 HH 3 Oct (KR, HGS), high; last HH 4 Oct (MCh!).  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr Dryden 11 Oct; max 3 EIRW 26 Oct; last Dryden 16 Nov.  
**Song Sparrow:** max 72 FRF 9 Oct, +.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr LPd 4 Sep; max 2 KH 13 Oct; last SW 23 Oct, +.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** max 20 MWC 12 Oct; last 2 Hopkins Rd wetland TOMP 21 Nov.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** max 300

Dryden 11 Oct (JM), high, +.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr SW 22 Sep; max 20 EIRW 20 Oct; last KH 23 Oct.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 70 Shindagin Hollow SF TOMP 26 Sep.  
**Lapland Longspur:** arr & max 2 MtPl 24 Sep (KM), early.  
**Snow Bunting:** arr 2 MtPl 13 Oct (SH), early; max 3 MyPt 31 Oct, low, -.  
**N. Cardinal:** max 14 MNWR 11 Sep (B&JO), high.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 4 SW 20 Sep, low; last Enfield 15 Nov, late.  
**Indigo Bunting:** max 15 MWC 6 Sep (B&JO), high; last EIRW 20 Oct, late, +.  
**DICKCISSEL:** Lansing 11 Oct (MiH), only report.  
**Bobolink:** max 21 MWC 6 Sep; last MtPl 27 Sep, +.  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 1060 LPd 4 Sep; last MWC 20 Nov.  
**E. Meadowlark:** max 25 Tompkins Co Airport 3 Oct; last Lansing 31 Oct, +.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** arr & max 100 Pine City 24 Sep; last SW 22 Nov, +.  
**Com. Grackle:** max 2000 Pine City 24 Sep; last 2 CLB 6 Nov, early -.  
**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 30 Seneca Falls 6 Sep; last 3 McIlroy Preserve CAYU 13 Oct, early -.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** last CU 8 Sep.  
**Purple Finch:** max 6 Caroline 20 Oct.  
**House Finch:** max 10 Dryden 5 Nov, low, -.  
**Red Crossbill:** arr SSF 16 Nov; max & last 5 SSF 28 Nov, +.  
**Com. Redpoll:** arr Dryden 12 Nov; Dryden 15 Nov.  
**Pine Siskin:** arr 2 SW 9 Oct; max 15 Catlin 1 Nov.  
**Am. Goldfinch:** max 52 Dryden 4 Nov, -.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** arr 2 Ithaca 6 Nov; max 4 EIRW 13 Nov; 2 MacKenzie-Childs Pottery CAYU 22 Nov, -.  
**House Sparrow:** max 24 Elmira 17 Oct, -.

## REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

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Tropical storms typically create the biggest fall season weather news in the Region, and 2004 was no exception. Three hurricanes, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne, left their mark and the remnants of others were also felt locally. These three major storms in September doubled the average precipitation for the month at the Binghamton weather station. Over 4" of the month's 7.33" of rain came on the 17th and 18th as the remains of Hurricane Ivan interacted with a frontal boundary to create major flooding through the southern part of the Region. The high waters created problems for some downstaters attempting to reach the NYSOA Annual Meeting in Ithaca via Route 17. The storm was accompanied by wind gusts as high as 30 mph.

Precipitation dropped to below normal in October, but the middle of the month was damp and cool, with precipitation recorded on nine consecutive days from the 14th through the 22nd and most of those days falling a few degrees below normal temperatures.

November was warmer and slightly wetter than normal, with the first snowfall of the season, 1.7", appearing on the 8th. Northwest winds predominated during November, providing good migration conditions for raptors and waterfowl.

Bird-wise, the season was relatively uneventful. Waterbird variety was good, but numbers modest at best. Tundra Swan, Long-tailed Duck and Red-throated Loon, all unusual here, were reported, but Blue-winged Teal and Ruddy Duck were missed. A large flock of 350 Wood Ducks was spotted in Chenango County, and the Region did share the very good movement of Black Scoters that passed through central and eastern NY around 27 October.

Raptors made a good showing, with the Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch enjoying another excellent season. Although totals did not reach 2003's record levels, all species were at or above their 16-year averages and the total count was the second highest for the site. In addition, new seasonal highs were set for Broad-winged Hawk and Golden Eagle. Franklin Mt. highlights included 27 Golden Eagles on 26 October, followed by a great flight of 45 on 1 November and 19 on 14 November. Twenty-six Ospreys were tallied on 10 October and 24 Bald Eagles on 19 September. (Statistics below cover 19 August to 1 January 2005; averages reflect 1989-2004 data).

Elsewhere, raptor numbers were generally down, excepting Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Merlin and Peregrine Falcon, which continue to increase in the Region and beyond.

Tom Salo observed an interesting interaction between a juvenile Cooper's Hawk and a Belted Kingfisher at a beaver pond in New Lisbon, Otsego County, on 1 October. The hawk was almost hovering over the kingfisher, which was



flying just inches above the water. This behavior continued for about 30 seconds. Both birds then perched about 50 feet apart. The kingfisher again flew out over the water and the hawk followed again, hovering over the kingfisher. After another 30 seconds or so, the hawk gave up and went to a perch in a dead tree.

The lone shorebird rarity was a Purple Sandpiper spotted by Ted Buhl on the Cooperstown boat docks at the south end of Otsego lake.

A very unusual Long-eared Owl was reported from Otsego County. Two reports of juvenile Red-headed Woodpeckers are a positive sign for this declining species. Red-bellied Woodpeckers continued to spread and increase in the Region as elsewhere.

No notable trends among passerines could be drawn from this season's reports, although the Vestal Banding Station did have good counts of Red-eyed Vireos, Swainson's Thrushes and Nashville Warblers. Good sightings included Olive-sided Flycatcher, Winter Wren, Marsh Wren, Golden-winged, Pine, Prairie and Bay-breasted warblers and Northern Waterthrush. Continued low or missed were Yellow-throated Vireo, House Wren, Brown Thrasher, Blue-winged, Palm and Black-and-white warblers and most open country birds.

There was no apparent showing of an invasion of winter finches, with Snow Buntings, Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks appearing in small numbers. Matt Young's September sighting of a Red Crossbill in Chenango County's state forests may have been a lingering breeder.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

BHL – Buck Horn L OTSE; BUNP – Binghamton University Nature Preserve BROO; BPd – Boland Pd BROO; CVSP – Chenango Valley SP; DorP – Dorchester P BROO; FMHW – Franklin Mt Hawkwatch DELA; OtsL – Otsego L; UL – Upper Lisle BROO; VBS – Vestal banding station BROO.

## **WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES**

**Snow Goose:** max 5000 Summit L OTSE 27 Nov; several reports of smaller flocks across Reg.

**Brant:** 40 FMHW 5 Oct; 120 DorP 22 Oct.

**Canada Goose:** max 2500 Summit L OTSE 27 Nov.

**Tundra Swan:** BHL OTSE 1 Nov (KR); uncommon, 2nd consecutive fall report.

**Wood Duck:** max 350 Pitcher CHEN 15 Sep; 9 other reports, lower and less widespread than normal.

**Am. Wigeon:** 4 Allens L OTSE 27 Oct; Maine BROO 8 Nov; only reports.

**Am. Black Duck:** 19 reports; max 12 BPd 12 Nov; continued low.

**Green-winged Teal:** 3 reports small flocks Oct BROO, low.

**Ring-necked Duck:** 4 reports; max 20 Allens L OTSE 27 Nov.

**scap sp:** 3 reports of singles.

**Black Scoter:** 65-75 Allens L OTSE 27 Oct (TB); 100 Summit L OTSE 27 Oct (GC); 45 BHL 27 Oct (KR); DorP 2 Nov (DW).

**Long-tailed Duck:** Canadarago L OTSE 31 Oct; BHL OTSE 7, 14, 21 Nov; 2nd consecutive fall reported and 3rd year since 1997.

**Bufflehead:** 8 reports; max 37 Endwell BROO 12 Nov, good count.

**Com. Goldeneye:** BHL OTSE 12 Nov; only report, often missed.

**Hooded Merganser:** 7 reports; max 15 BHL OTSE 24 Nov.

**Com. Merganser:** numerous reports, particularly BROO; max 48 Mirror L TIOG 19 Oct.

**Red-throated Loon:** DorP 10 Nov; unusual, 2nd consecutive fall.

**Com. Loon:** 10 OtsL 6 Oct; DorP 20 Oct; 50+ FMHW 8 Nov; avg numbers.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** 2 BPd 18 Sep; BPd 30 Oct; BHL OTSE 11 Nov; 3 Silver L OTSE 25 Oct; 2 Silver L OTSE 26 Nov.

**Horned Grebe:** DorP 20 Oct; OtsL 21 Nov.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 12 reports, all BROO; max 30 DorP 20 Oct.

**Great Blue Heron:** fewer reports than avg; max 3 CVSP BROO 17 Oct.

**Great Egret:** 8 reports BROO, 1 DELA; last Mirror L CHEN 25 Oct.

**Green Heron:** UL 11 Sep; Chenago Plaza BROO 20 Sep; low.

**Black Vulture:** Sanitaria Springs BROO 9 Sep; still no significant numbers in Reg.

**Turkey Vulture:** common Sep & Oct; max 4 Vestal BROO 2 Oct; tot 263 FMHW, 87% above avg; last FMHW 11 Nov.

## **HAWKS – ALCIDS**

**Osprey:** tot 167 FMHW, 72% above avg; 4 other reports, low.

**Bald Eagle:** tot 154 FMHW, 227% above avg; max 4 East Branch to Hancock DELA 13 Nov; 18 other reports, widespread.

**N. Harrier:** tot 84 FMHW, 36% above avg; 7 other reports, continued scarce.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** tot 422 FMHW, 6% above avg.; 8 other reports, low.

**Cooper's Hawk:** tot 148 FMHW, 133% above avg; 18 other reports.

**N. Goshawk:** tot 30 FMHW, 30% above avg; 3 other reports.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** tot 56 FMHW, avg; only 2 other reports.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** tot 1487 FMHW, 104% above avg; max 512 FMHW 18 Sep; 5 other reports, low.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** tot 2022 FMHW, 16% above avg.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** tot 11 FMHW, avg; arr FMHW 13 Oct.; 3 Nov reports.

**Golden Eagle:** tot 229 FMHW, 113% above avg.

**Am. Kestrel:** tot 111 FMHW, 31% above avg, but lowest in 4 years; 11 other reports of singles, continued low.

**Merlin:** tot 29 FMHW, 113% above avg; 11 other reports mostly BROO, possibly post-nesting local birds.

**Peregrine Falcon:** tot 15 FMHW, 47% above avg; 2 Binghamton BROO 16 Nov, likely residents.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** Pitcher CHEN 11 Sep; 2 Otsego OTSE 20 Nov.

**Wild Turkey:** well reported BROO, max 33 Port Crane 11 Nov; only 1 report each DELA & CHEN.

**Am. Coot:** BHL 28 Sep; BPd 18 Nov.

**Semipalmated Plover:** Endicott BROO Sep 10; uncommon.

**Killdeer:** 4 reports; max 25 Chenango Bridge BROO 8 Sep.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** Endicott BROO 9 Sep; low.

**yellowlegs sp.:** 2 Otsego 6 Sep.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** Barker BROO 9 Sep; Pitcher BROO 11 Sep, present thru summer.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** 2 DorP 13 Sep, only report.

**Sanderling:** DorP 20 Sep.; 2 Otsego OTSE 6 Sep.

**Least Sandpiper:** 5 Sep reports Tri-cities Airport BROO, max 6 there 9 Sep.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 4 Sep reports BROO; max 13 Tri-cities Airport BROO 10 Sep.

**Purple Sandpiper:** OtsL 29 Nov (TB).

**Dunlin:** Cole P BROO 17 Oct; 3 DorP 20 Oct; uncommon.

**Am. Woodcock:** 2 Morris OTSE 13 Oct; "few" Burlington OTSE Oct; only reports.

**Herring Gull:** 8 reports BROO.

**Com. Tern:** OtsL 7 Nov (BD); uncommon.

#### PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** DorP 4 Sep.

**E. Screech-Owl:** OtsL 11 Sep; Barker BROO 15 Sep; Landers Corners Rd CORT 18 Sep; N. Norwich CHEN 6 Oct.

**Great-horned Owl:** Burlington OTSE 1 Oct; VBS 18 Oct; Port Crane BROO 7 Sep, 17 Sep, 15 Nov.

**Barred Owl:** Maine BROO mid Sep thru end of month, 16 Oct; BHL 1st week Sep;

Triangle BROO 22 Nov; avg count.

**Long-eared Owl:** Morris OTSE 12 Oct (AR), rare.

**Com. Nighthawk:** VBS 10 Sep; Whitney Pt Res BROO 18 Sep; continued scarce.

**Chimney Swift:** 2 BPd 4 Sep, only report.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 10 Sep reports; last Endicott BROO 20 Sep.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** juv DorP 17-18 Sep; juv Marathon CORT 27 Sep; rare to uncommon.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Port Crane BROO thru; 10 other reports; continuing increase.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** 23 reports throughout Reg; good count.

#### FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Plymouth CHEN 11 Sep (MY).

**E. Wood-Pewee:** Port Crane BROO 4 Sep, 17 Sep.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 6 VBS early Sep; BUNP 22 Oct; unusual other than VBS.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** DorP 13 Sep, only report, often missed.

**N. Shrike:** Morris OTSE 26 Oct; Otego OTSE 27 Nov.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** 9 VBS; 10 other reports BROO Sep-mid Oct; last 2 VBS 21 Oct.

**Warbling Vireo:** Barker BROO 7 Sep; low.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** tot 99 VBS, high count.

**Fish Crow:** 24 Johnson City BROO 30 Oct, only report, down from recent years.

**Com. Raven:** max 5 Nanticoke BROO; 16 other reports, widespread and regular; nearly daily FMHW.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 18 reports BROO, down from previous fall.

**Brown Creeper:** 13 reports, low.

**Carolina Wren:** 20 reports BROO; 1 report OTSE; lower than recent falls.

**House Wren:** 4 reports BROO; 5 VBS Sep; low.

**Winter Wren:** 3 VBS late Oct; Port Crane BROO 13 Oct, 31 Oct; CVSP 28 Oct, 14 Nov; good count, often missed.

**Marsh Wren:** juv BPd 4 Sep, uncommon.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 5 VBS; 15 other reports 18 Sep-29 Nov; good count.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 19 VBS; 12 other reports, arr 1 Sep, last 14 Nov.

**E. Bluebird:** well reported BROO thru; 5 FMHW 17 Oct; max 12 Maine BROO 16 Oct.

**Veery:** Port Crane BROO 1,2,7,8 Sep; Johnson City BROO 12 Sep; 2 VBS 11 Sep; Ely P BROO 5 Oct; continued low.

**Swainson's Thrush:** 8 reports VBS 15 Sep-7 Oct, good count.

**Wood Thrush:** Port Crane BROO 1-13 Sep; VBS 23 Sep; very low.

**Gray Catbird:** 56 VBS 2 Sep-23 Oct; 7 other reports BROO.

**Brown Thrasher:** Johnson City BROO 23 Sep; Whitney Pt Res 29 Sep; continued decline.

**Am. Pipit:** Glen Aubrey BROO 23-24 Sep; Hillcrest BROO 12 Oct; max 60 Pitcher CHEN 13 Oct, present 25 Sep-early Nov; Whitney Pt Res BROO 16 Oct; 2 BPd 27 Oct.

**Cedar Waxwing:** well reported BROO Oct thru; max 50-75 VBS 27 Oct.

#### WARBLERS

**Golden-winged Warbler:** CORT 18 Sep, uncommon.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** VBS 4 Oct.

**Nashville Warbler:** 3 Pitcher CHEN 11 Sep; 5 other reports BROO; 15 VBS 11 Sep-4 Oct; good count.

**N. Parula:** CORT 18 Sep; FMHW 29 Sep; Glendale P BROO 18 Oct; uncommon.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 5 VBS Sep; 4 other reports; last Ely P BROO 5 Oct, late.

**Magnolia Warbler:** 6 reports BROO Sep-early Oct, low; tot 23 VBS, large drop from last fall.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 3 VBS

12,16,25 Sep; UL 17 Sep.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 19 reports BROO; max 15 BUNP 22 Oct.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** 11 reports BROO Sep; Ely Pk BROO 5 Oct; 7 VBS 3 Sep-4 Oct.

**Pine Warbler:** 2 FMHW 13 Oct, only report.

**Prairie Warbler:** Port Crane BROO 3 Sep (JW); 2nd consecutive fall report and 2nd since 1995.

**Palm Warbler:** 7 reports 16 Sep-27 Oct, low.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** DorP 24 Sep, often missed.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** VBS 15 Sep; Port Crane BROO 18 Sep; 2 BUNP 2 Oct.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** UL 4 Sep; Chenango Valley SP BROO 22 Sep; continued low.

**Am. Redstart:** 5 reports BROO Sep; 4 VBS Sep.

**Ovenbird:** Port Crane BROO 4 Sep; 5 VBS 10 Sep, tot 22 VBS; last VBS 24 Sep; UL 17 Sep.

**N. Waterthrush:** 4 VBS Sep, often missed.

**Com. Yellowthroat:** 20 VBS 2 Sep-6 Oct; 10 reports BROO Sep-early Oct; UL 13 Nov, late.

**Hooded Warbler:** UL 14-15 Sep, uncommon.

**Wilson's Warbler:** VBS 3 Sep; Glen Aubrey BROO 3,7 Sep; 2 VBS 25 Sep.

**Canada Warbler:** VBS 7,10 Sep; CVSP 22 Sep; 2 VBS 25 Sep.

#### TANAGERS – WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** Glen Aubrey BROO 7 Sep; 2 DorP 13 Sep; 2 Chenango Forks BROO 16 Sep.

**E. Towhee:** regular BROO thru Sep, Oct; max 6 Johnson City BROO 23 Sep.

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr Triangle BROO 10 Nov thru.

**Chipping Sparrow:** common thru Oct;

last Sanitaria Springs BROO 29 Oct.  
**Field Sparrow:** max 5 Glen Aubrey 24 Sep; 10 other reports BROO Sep-Oct; good count.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** Pitcher CHEN 11 Sep; 2 DorP 13 Sep; 2 Chenango BROO 10 Oct; often missed.  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr VBS 18 Oct; tot 7 VBS Oct; Port Crane BROO 4 Nov; 3 Maine BROO 11 Nov; 3 FHNC 24 Nov.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** VBS 2 Oct; Aquaterra P BROO 6 Oct; Glendale P BROO 18 Oct; BUNP 22 Oct.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** 3 VBS late Sep-early Oct; UL 9, 29 Oct.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr VBS & Aquaterra P BROO 2 Oct; regular BROO thru Oct; Burlington OTSE 10 Oct; multiples FMHW 19 Oct.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** regular thru; max 100 UL 20 Oct.  
**Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco:** VBS 20 Oct.  
**Snow Bunting:** 5 Plymouth CHEN 3 Nov; 2 DorP 13 Nov; 2 Oneonta OTSE 14 Nov; 4 DorP 15 Nov; low.  
**N. Cardinal:** VBS tot 22, good count.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** VBS 2, 5 Sep; Port Crane BROO 4-23 Sep; 2 UL 15 Sep; 2 Chenango Forks BROO 16 Sep; last Chenango Forks BROO 22 Sep.  
**Indigo Bunting:** VBS 7 Sep; Glen Aubrey

BROO 11 Sep; Port Crane BROO 14 Sep; Whitney Pt Res BROO 29 Sep; slightly improved numbers.  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** large flocks reported Port Crane BROO 1, 7, 10, 11 Oct; last 4 Lisle BROO 26 Nov.  
**E. Meadowlark:** 5 Burlington OTSE 3 Oct, only report; continued low.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** "flock" UL 20 Oct, only report; drop from last fall.  
**Com. Grackle:** several large flocks reported; "thousands" Binghamton BROO 16 Sep; 700-1000 Binghamton BROO 2 Oct.  
**Purple Finch:** 12 reports; arr VBS 21 Sep; last Triangle BROO 22 Nov; continued increase in counts.  
**House Finch:** regularly reported, but no large flocks.  
**Red Crossbill:** Pharsalia WMA CHEN 11 Sep (MY), uncommon.  
**Pine Siskin:** VBS 29 Oct; 10 Otsego OTSE 30 Oct; 30-50 Otsego OTSE early Nov; 6 Afton CHEN 3 Nov; 2 Norwich CHEN 9 Nov; 2 Burlington OTSE 10 Nov.  
**Am. Goldfinch:** 50 Otsego OTSE 7 Nov; tot 56 VBS.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** 2 Middlefield OTSE 11 Nov; 2 Oneonta OTSE 11 Nov; Maine BROO 16 Nov; continued low.



## REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The season was warmer than usual and also dryer than average, but heavy rain events in September and October did put a lot of birds down. The water level at Delta Lake remained quite high through the season and few shorebirds were seen there. Lake Ontario also remained high, with less exposed shore at Sandy Pond. Adirondack lakes were still open at the end of November.

The average temperature in September was 65.0° F, 3.7° above the average, and there were 3.23" of rain, 0.92" below normal. For October, the average temperature was 51.4°, 1.3° warmer than normal, and there were 2.29" of rain, 0.91" below normal. The average temperature in November was 41.1°, 1.2° above normal, with 2.81" of precipitation, 0.96" below normal, and there was a relatively low 2.6" of snow for the month.

The waterfowl flight was fair at best. Brant, dabbling ducks and scoters migrate past Derby Hill on strong cold fronts in October but there were none for the month until the 31st; numbers for those species were low. That was also true for Snow Goose and many divers. Only a few Canvasbacks and Redheads were reported and Common Mergansers were scarcely reported, possibly due to the mild fall or simply observer indifference. Black Scoters were found at several inland sites. The rarities included three Greater White-fronted Geese, Ross's Goose and Eurasian Wigeon. Several Cackling Geese, recently split from Canada Goose, were reported and photographed, with reports submitted to NYSARC. There seems to be some uncertainty as to whether or not all small forms of Canada Goose constitute the new species. Observers are encouraged to submit details, and especially photographs, with all reports.

Red-throated Loon sightings were more frequent on Lake Ontario and Common Loon numbers were good at two inland sites. A Glossy Ibis was seen and Great Egrets continued the recent trend of lingering well into the season. A few more Red-shouldered Hawks were seen than in most recent years. There was one early Rough-legged Hawk. Few American Kestrels were seen while most other hawk numbers were unremarkable.

Shorebird numbers were very good in early September and low through the rest of the season, suggesting a poor breeding season. Over 2" of rain on 8-9 September put down a record number of White-rumped Sandpipers along with Hudsonian Godwit and Ruddy Turnstones. A sod farm and nearby flooded fields attracted Black-bellied Plover and American Golden-Plover, Baird's, White-rumped and Buff-breasted sandpipers. There were two Red Knots later in the season, with smaller than usual numbers of Black-bellied Plover, Dunlin and Sanderling. Purple Sandpiper was not found and no phalaropes were reported.

There were several days with good jaeger flights at Derby Hill, mostly Parasitics, as usual, and there was an additional Pomarine Jaeger flying past Oswego Harbor. Several Little Gulls and Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen, but

only one white-winged gull was seen by season's end. No Forster's or Black terns were seen.

The land bird migration might be called a steady trickle. There were several Snowy Owls in November but none lingered. Chimney Swift reports were few and numbers very low, probably due to no one checking likely roost sites in September. There was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, several Common Nighthawks, two Red-headed Woodpeckers, an Olive-sided Flycatcher and possibly the beginning of a good Northern Shrike year. Carolina Wren is doing well despite two severe winters. Swallow numbers were low, with Purple Martin, Northern Rough-winged, Bank and Cliff swallows not reported at all. Other species missed included Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Bohemian Waxwing and Lapland Longspur.

All of the warblers normally expected in fall were reported, but numbers were generally low. A Yellow-breasted Chat was the only unexpected passerine. An exception to the migration trickle occurred during wet weather on 20-21 October when large numbers of sparrows and Yellow-rumped Warblers were grounded.

If Red-breasted Nuthatches irrupted this season, they seemed to confine their movements to breeding areas since few were reported elsewhere. A few Pine Siskins that were present in the spring stayed into September and there was a limited movement of the species at the end of October. Small numbers of Common Redpolls arrived in November, but none lingered. There was only one sighting of Evening Grosbeaks. Pine Grosbeak and crossbills were not reported.

For the season, 223 species were reported, on the low side of average. The major rarities were Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross's Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Glossy Ibis and Yellow-breasted Chat. Other good sightings of species that are almost annual included Hudsonian Godwit, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Little Gull and Black-legged Kittiwake. Time will tell, but in the future, Cackling Goose may well fit the latter category.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

Adks – Adirondacks; Bville – Baldwinsville; BRH – Bishop Rd hawkwatch, Pulaski; CM – Clay Marsh; DH – Derby Hill; DL – Delta L; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; Geo – Georgetown; GSC – Great Swamp Conservancy MADI; HIWMA – Howland Island WMA; HVWMA – Happy Valley WMA, Rome; LOL – L Ontario Littoral; OF – Old Forge area; OneiL – Oneida L; OnonL – Onondaga L; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary,

Kirkland; SL – Sullivan-Lenox mucklands; SPd – Sandy Pd; Syr – Syracuse; TRWMA – Three Rivers WMA; WM – West Monroe; WPd – Woodman Pd, HAMI.

#### **WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES**

##### **Greater White-fronted Goose:**

Sangerfield 10 Oct (GH) and Sauquoit 15-18 Oct (JH), thought to be same bird; 2 Bville 17-28 Oct (JB, mob).

**Snow Goose:** max 1500 Lakeport 24 Oct; many other reports under 200/day.

**ROSS'S GOOSE:** Sauquoit 23 Oct (JH, GH, NYSARC).

**Brant:** max 200 DH 4 Oct; night flight 27-28 Oct.

**CACKLING GOOSE:** Bville 23 Sep-2 Oct (JB, mob); Sauquoit 14-18 Oct (JH); 2 Sauquoit 23 Oct; 3 Verona 14 Nov.

**Canada Goose:** many Adks 28-29 Sep; 1448 over Syr 11-12 Oct

**Mute Swan:** max 4 FH 3 Nov thru.

**Tundra Swan:** max 14 FH 13 Nov.

**Wood Duck:** max 20 W Winfield 9 Oct; Stillwater Res 14 Nov, late Adks.

**Gadwall:** max 26 FH 7 Nov.

**EURASIAN WIGEON:** GSC 3-5 Sep (DW, mob).

**Am. Wigeon:** max 100 FH 31 Oct.

**Am. Black Duck:** max 107 DH 3 Nov.

**Blue-winged Teal:** max 20 DL 13 Sep; last DH 17 Oct.

**N. Shoveler:** GSC 5 Sep; max 8 FH 16 Oct.

**N. Pintail:** max 20 FH 14 Oct.

**Green-winged Teal:** Verona 4 Sep; max 30 FH 14 Oct.

**Canvasback:** 2 WPd 7 Nov; FH 26 Nov; only reports.

**Redhead:** FH 7 Nov, only report.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 253 S MADI lakes 7 Nov.

**Greater Scaup:** max 320 Lewis Pt OneiL 4 Nov.

**Lesser Scaup:** 4 DH 31 Oct.

**scaup sp:** 2500 N Bay OneiL 26 Nov.

**Surf Scoter:** 2 DH 31 Oct; 12 DH 7 Nov.

**White-winged Scoter:** max 156 DH 31 Oct.

**Black Scoter:** 26 Chitting L 27 Oct; 55 Tuscorara L 28 Oct; 9 W Winfield 28 Oct, high numbers away from LOL; 23 DH 31 Oct.

**Long-tailed Duck:** max 540 DH 31 Oct.

**Bufflehead:** 8 SPd 23 Oct; max 90 FH 21 Nov.

**Com. Goldeneye:** SPd 13 Sep, summer holdover; arr 5 DH 31 Oct; max 500 N Bay OneiL 26 Nov.

**Hooded Merganser:** max 25/day DL Nov.

**Com. Merganser:** max 95 SVB 26 Nov.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 500 FH 11 Nov.

**Ruddy Duck:** 5 Beaver L 14 Oct; max 13 WPd 16 Oct.

**Ruffed Grouse:** widespread Stillwater Res 13-15 Nov; 1-2/day elsewhere.

**Red-throated Loon:** 4-10/day LOL after 14 Oct; max 27 FH 11 Nov; better numbers than usual.

**Com. Loon:** 40 OneiL 21 Oct; max 139 DH 31 Oct; 100 Onon L 26 Nov; good numbers.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 7 FH 16 Oct.

**Horned Grebe:** arr 3 FH 14 Oct; max 28 DH 7 Nov.

**Red-necked Grebe:** 3 DH 1 Nov; 2 DH 20 Nov; WPd 27 Nov.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 1300 Oswego 24 Oct; <50/day end of Nov.

**Great Egret:** max 4 WM 9 Sep; last Ira 2 Nov.

**Green Heron:** max 4 WM 23 Sep.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** SPd 26 Sep, only report.

**GLOSSY IBIS:** SL 2-3 Sep (JM, KM, JC).

**Turkey Vulture:** 65 LOL 9 Oct, many feeding on salmon washed on shore; max 174 BRH 11 Oct.



## HAWKS – ALCIDS

**Osprey:** max 6 BRH 18 Sep; last Beaver L & W Winfield 31 Oct.  
**Bald Eagle:** max 5 Stillwater Res 14 Nov; 2-3/day LOL thru.  
**N. Harrier:** max 4 BRH 18 Sep.  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 4 BRH 18 Sep, 11 Oct.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** max 3 BRH 18 Sep.  
**N. Goshawk:** Syr 2 Sep; CM 20 Oct; SFNS 9 Nov; Geo 12 Nov.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** max 2 Hastings 22 Oct; 4 other singles to 20 Nov.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** max 119 BRH 18 Sep; last W Winfield 18 Oct.  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 68 Hastings 22 Oct.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** BRH 26 Sep, 3rd Sep record; max 5 SPd 23 Oct; 1/day many sites 24 Oct thru.  
**Golden Eagle:** Stillwater Res 13 Nov.  
**Merlin:** 7 reports to 15 Sep; 2 each Oct & Nov.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** SL 4-6 Sep; 2 DH 10 Oct; Utica 27 Oct; pr Syr thru.  
**Sora:** CM 20 Oct.  
**Com. Moorhen:** max 2 WM 23 Sep; last WM 11 Oct.  
**Am. Coot:** max 50 FH 14 Oct.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** 12 SL 10 Sep; max 19 SL 24 Oct; last 4 FH 3 Nov.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** max 60 SL 13 Sep; last 15 SL 17 Oct.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** max 30 SL 13 Sep.  
**Killdeer:** max 80 Verona 6 Sep.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** max 12 Verona 9 Sep; 5 SPd 23 Oct.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 30 SL 4, 13 Sep; last 2 Cicero 28 Sep.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** max 5 SL 10 Sep; last SFNS 28 Sep.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** 1-2 SL to 4 Sep; last SPd 26 Sep.  
**Hudsonian Godwit:** Verona 9 Sep (BB); 2 SPd 23 Oct (BP).  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** SPd 3 Sep; max 4 Verona 9 Sep.  
**Red Knot:** SL 10 Sep; 2 FH 24-31 Oct.

**Sanderling:** max 30 SPd 4 Sep; 2 SL 1 Sep and 3 Verona 9 Sep, unusual in fields.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 52 Sullivan 10 Sep; last 2 DL 4 Oct.  
**Least Sandpiper:** max 45 SL 10 Sep; last SL 25 Oct, late.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 15-40/day SL thru 8 Sep; 68 Verona 9 Sep (BB); max 70 SL 10 Sep (TS); unprecedented numbers.  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** SL 11 Sep; max & last 5 SL 18 Sep.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** max 24 SL 13 Sep; last 4 Lamson 28 Oct.  
**Dunlin:** max 94 DH 5 Nov.  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** singles SL 5 & 22 Sep.  
**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** 1-2 SL 5-19 Sep.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 2 SL 13 Sep, only report.  
**Wilson's Snipe:** max 12 SL 4 Sep; SFNS 20 Oct.  
**Am. Woodcock:** TRWMA 2 Oct; SFNS 1 Nov.  
**Pomarine Jaeger:** DH 19 Sep, 31 Oct, 5 Nov, 8 Nov; Oswego 21 Nov.  
**Parasitic Jaeger:** arr & max 8 DH 19 Sep; 23 for season with last 6 DH 5 Nov.  
**Little Gull:** ad SPd 13 Sep; imm DH 5 Nov; ad DH 8 Nov; ad FH 11 Nov.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** 10 SPd 13 Sep; 91 SVB 30 Oct; max 113 DH 5 Nov.  
**Iceland Gull:** arr DH 5 Nov.  
**Black-legged Kittiwake:** 3 DH 31 Oct; 4 DH 5 Nov.  
**Caspian Tern:** max 22 SPd 3 Sep; last 2 SPd 25 Sep.  
**Com. Tern:** max 206 Oneil 8 Sep; 100 SPd 13 Sep.

## PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** Pompey 5 Sep.  
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Bville 8 Sep.  
**Snowy Owl:** FH 9-11 Nov; Syr 12 Nov; Verona 15 Nov.  
**Short-eared Owl:** Verona 14 Nov.  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** DH 19 Sep.

**Com. Nighthawk:** max 3 Syr 3 Sep; last Syr 11 Sep.  
**Chimney Swift:** 5 Syr 3 Sep.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** last Geo 24 Sep.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Geo 2 Oct; Pennellville 2 Oct; OF 23 Oct (GL), rare Adks.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** max 4 Pompey 3 Oct; last Syr 27 Nov.  
**Black-backed Woodpecker:** Stillwater Res 14 Nov.  
**N. Flicker:** max 8 Syr 16 Oct.

#### FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** SVB 5 Sep.  
**E. Wood-Pewee:** last Fulton 8 Oct.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** SFNS 3 Sep.  
**Least Flycatcher:** last 1 Hastings & 2 SFNS 15 Sep.  
**E. Phoebe:** max 3 Geo 24 Sep; last Durhanville 25 Oct.  
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** last SFNS 15 Sep; 2 other reports.  
**N. Shrike:** arr TRWMA 18 Oct; reports from 7 other sites.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** last WM 23 Sep; 2 other reports.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** 3-4/day 23-30 Sep; last TRWMA & SFNS 20 Oct.  
**Warbling Vireo:** last 2 Clay 12 Sep; 2 other reports.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** Syr 11 Sep; Bville 12 Sep; Camillus 30 Sep; SFNS 20 Oct.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** max 3 Scriba 19 Sep; last SFNS 6 Oct.  
**Blue Jay:** max 348 Hastings 21 Sep in 90 minutes.  
**Fish Crow:** 2 ad & 1 yg Liverpool 2 Sep.  
**Com. Raven:** SVB 25 Sep; Rome 7 Oct; Cicero 25 Nov; low numbers Stillwater Res.  
**Horned Lark:** max 100 Bridgewater 10 Nov.  
**Tree Swallow:** last 4 Durhamville 9 Oct.  
**Barn Swallow:** last FH 7-11 Nov (GD,

KM, MAK), record late.  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max 11 HVWMA 1 Sep, likely local breeders; 1/day otherwise.  
**Carolina Wren:** reports from 5-6 sites Syr, Dewitt, Bville, Fulton, Hannibal.  
**House Wren:** max 5 SPd 26 Sep; last TRWMA 20 Oct.  
**Winter Wren:** max 5 Syr 16 Oct.  
**Marsh Wren:** WM 23 Sep; SVB 25 Sep; CM 3 Oct; 2 WPd 16 Oct.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 14 SPd 26 Sep.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr Western 5 Sep, early; max 40 SPd 26 Sep.  
**E. Bluebird:** migrants after 14 Oct; 12 Thendara 15 Oct; max 18 Sterling 24 Oct.  
**Veery:** 2 HIWMA 5 Sep, only report.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** 3 night migrants Geo 29 Sep; last CM 20 Oct.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** night flight 13 Sep; last 2 CM 20 Oct.  
**Hermit Thrush:** max 6 SFNS 20 Oct; last SFNS 8 Nov.  
**Wood Thrush:** max 4 HVWMA 1 Sep; last SVB 2 Oct.  
**Gray Catbird:** max 12 WM 23 Sep & 12 CM 26 Sep; last Cicero 22 Oct.  
**Brown Thrasher:** max 4 SFNS 15 Sep; last CM 26 Sep.  
**Am. Pipit:** max 50 SL 18 Sep & 50 Van Buren 16 Oct.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** max 90 Sterling 21 Nov.

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** SFNS 1 Sep.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** Wheeler Pd OF 2 Sep.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** 1/day to last SFNS 26 Sep.  
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** Camillus 17 Sep; Hastings 28 Sep; TRWMA 18 Oct.  
**Nashville Warbler:** max 5 SFNS 15 Sep; last TRWMA 18 Oct.

**N. Parula:** 3 singles 12-17 Sep; last 2 SPd 26 Sep.

**Yellow Warbler:** last 2 Scriba 19 Sep.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 3 singles to 11 Sep.

**Magnolia Warbler:** max 5 SFNS 18 Sep; last 4 SPd 26 Sep.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max 8 SPd 26 Sep; last SFNS 21 Oct.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 80 Hannibal 20 Oct; last Sterling 21 Nov.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** max 6 SFNS 27 Sep; last 2 Scriba 6 Oct.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** Hastings 15 Sep; Scriba 19 Sep.

**Pine Warbler:** HVWMA 1 Sep; TRWMA 25 Sep.

**Palm Warbler:** 7 singles reported; last WM 11 Oct.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** SFNS 18 Sep.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** SFNS 12 Sep; Scriba 19 Sep; Hastings 28 Sep.

**Cerulean Warbler:** HIWMA 5 Sep.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** 4 reports; last SFNS 13 Sep.

**Am. Redstart:** 1-2/day many sites; last SVB 25 Sep.

**Ovenbird:** last New Haven 6 Oct.

**N. Waterthrush:** Wheeler Pd OF 2 Sep; last Camillus 17 Sep.

**Mourning Warbler:** SFNS 1 Sep.

**Com. Yellowthroat:** max 6 SFNS 22, 27 Sep; last TRWMA 20 Oct.

**Hooded Warbler:** last 2 Nine Mile Pt 6 Oct, late.

**Wilson's Warbler:** 1-2/day to 26 Sep; last TRWMA 2 Oct.

**Canada Warbler:** Western 4 Sep.

**YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT:** CM 3 Oct (DN).

**Chipping Sparrow:** max 76 Clay 12 Sep; 24 Sterling 24 Oct.

**Field Sparrow:** max 10 TRWMA 18 Oct.

**Vesper Sparrow:** max 3 TRWMA 20 Oct & 3 Pompey 24 Oct.

**Savannah Sparrow:** max 50 Hannibal 20 Oct.

**Fox Sparrow:** arr SFNS 11 Oct; max 9 TRWMA 20 Oct; last SFNS 24 Nov.

**Song Sparrow:** max 300 Hannibal 20 Oct.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr Hastings 15 Sep; last 2 TRWMA 18 Oct; 4 other reports.

**Swamp Sparrow:** max 50 Hannibal 20 Oct.

**White-throated Sparrow:** max 200 Hannibal; 177 CM 20 Oct.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr Scriba 19 Sep; max 20 TRWMA 18 Oct & 20 Geo 21 Oct; low numbers most sites.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 200 Hannibal 20 Oct; 50 Western 20 Oct; 37 N Syr 20 Oct; 80 Geo 21 Oct; 40 Hastings 21 Oct.

**Snow Bunting:** arr 15 SVB 30 Oct; max 50 FH 21 Nov.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 3 SFNS 16 Sep; last Durhamville 26 Sep.

**Indigo Bunting:** last SFNS 3 Oct.

**Bobolink:** last SFNS 19 Sep.

**E. Meadowlark:** max 20 Mexico 17-22 Oct.

**Rusty Blackbird:** arr WM 23 Sep; max 92 CM 20 Oct.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 450 Sullivan 4 Sep.

**Baltimore Oriole:** last Liverpool 29 Sep.

**Purple Finch:** to 5/day, widespread..

**House Finch:** Stillwater Res 13 Nov, rare Adks.

**Com. Redpoll:** 3 CM 14 Nov; 20 DH 13 Nov.

**Pine Siskin:** still present Geo thru Sep; 1-5 many sites after 9 Oct; max 15 Western 4 Nov.

**Am. Goldfinch:** max 85 Durhamville 9 Oct.

**Evening Grosbeak:** 2 Geo 1 Nov.

#### TANAGERS – WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** last SFNS 26 Sep.

**E. Towhee:** max 5 TRWMA 18 Oct; last Durhamville 24 Oct.

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr TRWMA, Hannibal 20 Oct; max 8 Western 11 Nov.

## REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

**Jeffrey S. Bolsinger**

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Fall in northern New York was slightly warmer and drier than average. Mean monthly temperatures at Watertown International Airport were less than half a degree above normal each month, with precipitation totals 70-90 percent of normal. Mild temperatures were the rule throughout the period except for a cold snap that began on 8 November. On that date, the high temperature was 39° F in Watertown, one day after the mercury hit 60°. High temperatures were in the 30s four out of the next six days, for the only notably cool stretch of the entire fall. Unlike some years, when winter weather settles in well before Thanksgiving, mild conditions persisted throughout November, with most of the Region receiving no more than a dusting of snow by month's end.

The mild temperatures did not keep the winter birds from arriving, and some species, e.g. Rough-legged Hawk and American Tree Sparrow, appeared somewhat earlier than usual. By the last half of November wintering raptors were present in good numbers in the northern Jefferson county grasslands, but appeared to be less abundant than during the previous winter. A sizeable wave of Pine Siskins in October represented the only observed movement of winter finches, and at least in my yard, the arrival of the siskins coincided with the departure of the American Goldfinches that had been mobbing my feeder for weeks. Aside from siskins, there were few reports of northern finches, with only a single group of three Common Redpolls noted from Canton on 30 November. Rumors of an early invasion of northern owls in southern Canada and Minnesota had birders throughout the Region anticipating a similar phenomenon here, but the only hint of an owl incursion by season's end was a single report of two Snowy Owls along the Canadian border in Massena.

Several species with generally southerly distributions appeared in good numbers. Great Egrets also made a good showing, with sightings throughout the St. Lawrence Valley and Lake Ontario Plain. Red-bellied Woodpecker was reported from two locations and Carolina Wren and Tufted Titmouse were reported from backyards throughout the area. No migratory half-hardies, such as American Robin and Song Sparrow, were reported after late October, and most neotropical migrants had left by the beginning of November. Two reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeak on 4 and 25 November were an exception.

Perhaps the most surprising observation was of a Trumpeter Swan family Bob and Ellen Long found on Chippewa Creek near Black Lake in St. Lawrence County. Ellen briefly observed these swans in August, but their identity was not confirmed until later in the fall. This sighting represents the only presumed nesting record in the Region away from Perch River Wildlife Management Area, where breeding was first documented in 1995. It is unclear whether the Chippewa Creek swans represent dispersal from Perch River or if these birds were released in Ontario or elsewhere. Also of questionable origin were two coveys of Gray

Partridge found in Massena for at least the third consecutive year in an area where no partridge were reported for nearly 20 years.

Other highlights from the fall included: larger numbers of shorebirds than in most recent years, especially Dunlin and Sanderling and including a rare sighting of Purple Sandpiper at Eldorado Shores; observations of both Whip-poor-will and Northern Saw-whet Owl in northern St. Lawrence County; Red-headed Woodpecker from one of the last strongholds for this species in the Region at Cape Vincent; and impressive movements of sparrows during late September and early October. Disappointments included the continued low numbers of scaup in Black River Bay compared to historic numbers; the generally low number of ducks reported; and the paucity of passerines in general and rarities in particular among observer reports. This latter point probably reflects low observer effort and is not necessarily indicative of a poor fall flight.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Marilyn Badger, Jeff Bolsinger, Dick & Marion Brouse, Carol Cady, Michael Greenwald, Anne Johnson, Jerry & Judi LeTendre, Ellen & Robert Long, Mark Manske, Chris Reidy, Mike Sheard, Gerry Smith, Eve Sweatman, Bob & June Walker, David Wheeler.

## ABBREVIATIONS

Can – T Canton STLA; CV – T Cape Vincent JEFF; ED – El Dorado Shores Preserve, T Ellisburg JEFF; FD – Fort Drum Military Reservation; HP – Holmes Pt T Morristown STLA; KC – Kelsey Creek T Watertown JEFF; KPSP – Kring Pt SP T Alexandria JEFF; Lou – T Louisville STLA; Mas – T Massena STLA; Mor – T Morristown STLA; PiPt – Pillar Pt T Brownville JEFF; PRGC – Partridge Run golf course T Canton STLA; PRWMA – Perch River WMA; PtPen – Pt Peninsula T Lyme JEFF; PtSa – Pt Salubrious JEFF; RMSP – Robert Moses SP T Massena STLA; SLR – St. Lawrence R; StPt – Stony Pt T Henderson JEFF; TMPT – Three Mile Pt T Chaumont JEFF; ULLWMA – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton STLA; WATN – T Watertown JEFF; WH – Wilson Hill WMA; WS – Winthrop Swamp north of Winthrop Rt 420 Stockholm STLA.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS — VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** 6 CV 20 Oct.

**Canada Goose:** 500-1000+/day thru.

**Brant:** 54 ED 20 Oct.

**Mute Swan:** max 43 PRWMA 23 Nov.

**Tundra Swan:** 31 PtPen 15 Nov.

**TRUMPETER SWAN:** 2 ad with 6 yng on Chippewa Creek near Rt 58 bridge Mor 10-18 Oct, group first observed mid

Aug (EL, BL, photos!, NYSARC); 2 ad with 6 yng flying along SLR past HP Mor 11 Nov (BL).

**Wood Duck:** max 30 Can 1 Oct.

**Gadwall:** 4 WS 15 Oct.

**Am. Black Duck:** 3 ULLWMA 19 Sep; 4 ED 16 Oct; 4 WS 20 Nov.

**Mallard:** 50+ ULLWMA 20 Sep; 36 PtSa 4 Nov; 30 PiPt 9 Nov; 55 PtPen

15 Nov; 26 KPSP 23 Nov.  
**Blue-winged Teal:** 2 1 Sep Mas.  
**N. Pintail:** 4 PtSa 4 Nov.  
**Green-winged Teal:** 8 ULLWMA 20 Sep.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** 6 WS 15 Oct.  
**Greater Scaup:** 2000 PiPt 9 Nov.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** 3 PtPen 4 Nov, low.  
**Bufflehead:** 122 PtPen 4 Nov; 62 PiPt 13 Nov.  
**Com. Goldeneye:** 26 PtPen 15 Nov.  
**Hooded Merganser:** 5 Mas 27 Oct; 10 WS 22 Nov; 1 m KC 5 Nov.  
**Com. Merganser:** 42 PtSa 4 Oct; 8 Red Lake T Theresa JEFF 23 Nov.  
**Gray Partridge:** 2 coveys (total 15 birds) Mas 12 Nov, present in this area for three years after absence of nearly 20 years, perhaps recently released.  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** T Henderson JEFF 24 Sep; 1 Mas 10 Oct.  
**Ruffed Grouse:** 1 drumming ULLWMA 10 Oct.  
**Wild Turkey:** 100 n JEFF 25 Sep thru.  
**Com. Loon:** max 36 PtPen 4 Nov.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** 3 ad, 5 imm ULLWMA 20 Sept.  
**Horned Grebe:** 2 PtPen 4 Nov; 2 PiPt 13 Nov; 2 TMPt 16-18 Nov (low).  
**Am. Bittern:** 1 T Brasher Falls STLA 1 Sep; 2 ULLWMA 20 Sep.  
**Great Blue Heron:** last 20 Nov.  
**Great Egret:** T Dekalb STLA 13 Sep; 3 T Potsdam STLA 22 Sep; StPt early Oct; Mas 15 Oct.  
**Turkey Vulture:** max 17 PtPen 5 Oct; 3 ED 20 Oct.

#### HAWKS—ALCIDS

**Osprey:** last Lou 15 Nov.  
**Bald Eagle:** ad T Chaumont JEFF 7 Sep; 2 ad ULLWMA 20 Sep; ad KC 19 Oct; imm WH 1 Nov.  
**N. Harrier:** 5-10/day n JEFF late Oct thru.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 6 reports of singles.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** 1 near Can feeder several dates Sep and Oct; 1 WATN 19 Nov.  
**N. Goshawk:** WATN 3 Nov.  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** influx late Oct; 10-15/day late Oct thru.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** arr CV 29 Sep, early; 15-25/day n JEFF late Oct thru.  
**Golden Eagle:** ad T of Lawrence STLA 19 Sep (MM), feeding on deer carcass.  
**Merlin:** CV 29 Sep.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** 13 ED 20 Oct; 1 PtSa 4 Nov.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** 2 Lou 11 Sep; 3 PtSa 4 Nov.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 1 PtSa 4 Nov.  
**Sanderling:** 100 ED 16 Oct; 58 ED 3 Nov.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** ED 16 Oct.  
**Purple Sandpiper:** 1 ED 16 Oct (BW).  
**Dunlin:** 100 ED 16 Oct; 288 ED 3 Nov; 19 PiPt 13 Nov.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** RMSP 11 Oct; 50 PtSa 4 Nov; 25 PiPt 13 Nov; 6 TMPt 26 Nov.  
**Caspian Tern:** 2 CV 7 Sep.  
**Com. Tern:** 4 RMSP 4 Sep.

#### PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS

**E. Screech Owl:** CV 14 Sep; Lou 18 Nov.  
**Snowy Owl:** 2 RMSP late Nov.  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** Lou 11 Sep.  
**Whip-poor-will:** T Brasher Falls STLA 17 Sep.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 2 CV 14 Sep.  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Lou 16 Oct - 20 Nov; KPSP 23 Nov.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 2 CV 7 Oct.  
**N. Flicker:** 2 Mas 30 Nov.  
**Pileated Woodpecker:** 2 T Brasher Falls STLA thru.

## FLYCATCHERS—WAXWINGS

**E. Phoebe:** 5 KC 11 Oct; 1 ED 20 Oct; Mas 27 Oct.  
**N. Shrike:** arr 22 Oct Lou; 6 other reports.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** Lou 12 Oct.  
**Blue Jay:** max 22 KC 24 Sep.  
**Com. Raven:** 6 T Theresa JEFF 23 Nov; 2 Can 1 Oct.  
**Tree Swallow:** 136 PtPen 5 Oct.  
**Tufted Titmouse:** 3 CV feeder 20 Oct thru; 3 two loc Mas 23 Oct thru; 1 Lou 23 Oct thru; 2 KC feeder 2 Nov thru.  
**Brown Creeper:** 2 Lou 15 Oct.  
**Carolina Wren:** 1 T Lisbon STLA thru; 1 Can 7 Sep thru; 1 HP 2 Oct to 11 Nov.  
**House Wren:** 1 ED 19 Oct.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 10+ FD 23 Sep, with migrating warblers.  
**Hermit Thrush:** Lou 12 Oct; KC 16 Oct.  
**Gray Catbird:** last Lou 10 Oct.  
**N. Mockingbird:** RMSP 10 Oct.  
**Brown Thrasher:** CV 7 Oct; Lou 10 Oct.  
**Am. Pipit:** CV 12 Oct; 35 ED 16 Oct; 25 T Madrid STLA 26 Oct.

## WARBLERS

**Nashville Warbler:** 2 FD 23 Sep; Lou 27 Sep.  
**N. Parula:** 5 FD 23 Sep.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** FD 23 Sep; 3 Lou 3 Oct.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** FD 23 Sep.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** FD 23 Sep.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** 6 FD 23 Sep; Lou 12 Oct.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** Lou 17 Oct.  
**Pine Warbler:** FD 23 Sep; Lou 26 Sep.  
**Palm Warbler:** FD 16 Sep; 6 T Brownville JEFF 26 Sep; Lou 26 Sep.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** FD 23 Sep.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** FD 23 Sep.  
**Am. Redstart:** Lou 24 Sep.  
**Ovenbird:** FD 23 Sep.  
**N. Waterthrush:** Lou 3 Sep.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** 8 Can 1 Oct.

## TANAGERS—WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** Lou 3 Oct.  
**E. Towhee:** 1 KC 18 Oct.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr KC 10 Oct, early; 15 PRGC 11 Nov.  
**Field Sparrow:** 50+ FD Sep 28.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** 25-75+/day FD Sep, early Oct.  
**Song Sparrow:** large numbers moving FD late Sep, early Oct.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** 40+ ULLWMA 10 Oct, including several singing.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** 4 Lou 13 Sep; sev CV 7 Oct.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** 7 CV 29 Sep; 2 Lou 11 Oct.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** 20 PtPen 28 Sep.  
**Lapland Longspur:** 1 ED 20 Oct; 1-3/day n JEFF early Nov thru.  
**Snow Bunting:** 24 PRWMA 9 Nov.  
**N. Cardinal:** 4 Can feeder thru.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** PRWMA 4 Nov; 2 HP 25 Nov, late.  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 600+ ULLWMA 20 Sept.  
**E. Meadowlark:** CV 11 Oct.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** Can 1 Oct; 8 PRGC 16 Oct; 43 KC 8 Nov.  
**Com. Redpoll:** 3 PRGC 30 Nov, only report.  
**Pine Siskin:** arr 8 HP 4 October; 2 ULLWMA 10 Oct; common FD 10-20 Oct; 3 KC 18 Oct - 3 Nov, at feeder; 6 CV 7 Nov, at feeder.  
**Am. Goldfinch:** 25-30/day at feeders Can Sep & early Oct, few afterward; 35 KC 5 Nov.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** pr T Barnes Corners LEWI Oct.

## ADDENDUM

*The Kingbird* 54 (3) **WHITE-EYED VIREO:** T Russel STLA 19 May (JB), at least third record for Region 6.

## REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Autumn weather, commencing in September, was largely uneventful. The first frost hit Inlet on the 2nd. By early October, Lake Champlain stood at 97.02'. The coldest day in five months, since 28 April, finally arrived on 5 October. Many enjoyed a lunar eclipse on 27 October. Inlet experienced the first snowfall on 3 November, a day of 20 mph wind gusts across parts of the Region. Snow began to fall at Elizabethtown and lower elevations by 5 November, and Inlet received 2" on the 8th. The coldest morning at Inlet was 13 November, when thermometers dipped to 8° F, before a three-day warm stretch, with temperatures reaching 49° at Plattsburgh on 15 November, 48° on the 16th and 47° on the 17th. The season ended with high winds on the weekend of 27-28 November that downed trees over a wide area of the North Country.

Thanks to careful past attention to what were previously accepted as small races or subspecies of Canada Goose, a number of local observers were able to add Cackling Goose to their county and Region 7 lists as soon as the split was announced by the AOU (see *The Kingbird* 54 (3), p. 205). This fall the 7th through 9th records for Clinton County were located by Bill Krueger and Charlie Mitchell. The first Cackling Goose at Point au Roche on 14 October was smaller than the Snow Geese with which it associated, but larger than a Mallard. This "Richardson's" was shorter-necked than a Canada and had a tiny, stubby bill, its beige chest and flanks, lighter than those of a Canada, showing little contrast. One of two at Monty Bay 15 November had a white half-neck ring separating the black neck from beige chest, features of *B.h. hutchinsii*.

An earlier goose on Laurin's Farm near Chazy Rivers on 22 September was judged a "Lesser" Canada Goose, rather than a Cackling Goose. A noticeably small Canada Goose by pattern, this bird had a proportionately shorter neck and stubbier bill than any of the three Canadas with it, but was proportionately larger (especially the bill) than the "Richardson's" race described above. Krueger concluded, "I don't know whether this is *B.h. taverneri* or *B.c. parvipes*, so I have to be content with the old designation of 'Lesser' Canada Goose."

An equal challenge was posed to the same observers by an apparent hybrid Mallard at Chazy Rivers on 24 September. An all dark, nearly black dabbling duck, its head was darker than the rest, with a subtly lighter area in its cheek and a quite dark bill. There was a white patch, shaped like a rounded triangle, from the base of the foreneck to the upper chest about 3" on a side. The chest below the patch was very dark, tinged with chestnut, and showed hints of mottling. Dark scapulars gave the area usually purple in Mallard a delicately streaked look. Feet were blotchy orange and black, vocalizations those of a Mallard. Krueger concluded, "All in all, a very handsome bird. How about Northern Pintail for the other half?" Aren't waterfowl fun?



For the first time since a cleanup of PCBs 4-5 years ago, shorebirds returned to the Wilcox Dock area of Plattsburgh, and waterfowl were also present there in good numbers. As usual, other productive sites included the Chazy Rivers and Noblewood Park.

Meanwhile, the Vermont lakewatch provided new maxima for all three scoters and Long-tailed Duck in Essex County waters at Split Rock plus sightings of Parasitic Jaeger and **Long-tailed Jaeger** south of the Four Brothers in the same county.

Other rarities included a **Greater White-fronted Goose** at Point au Roche, an adult **Ross's Goose** at Monty Bay, **Sandhill Cranes** in both Clinton and Essex counties, and a male **Red-bellied Woodpecker** at Noblewood Park. A total of 175 species was reported, breaking the fall record of 172 set just last autumn. Looking ahead, the Great Adirondack Birding Festival is scheduled for 2-5 June 2005, followed by the Hamilton County Birding Festival 17-19 June. Contact the Paul Smiths VIC [518-327-3000] or Hamilton County Tourism [800-648-5239] for information.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Pt WMA; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CB – Cumberland Bay SP; CR – Chazy Rivers; FB – Ferds Bog; IL – Indian L FRAN; LL – Long L; LP – L Placid; MB – Monty Bay; NP – Noblewood P; PtK – Port Kent; PtR – Pt au Roche SP; SRP – Split Rock Pt; TL – Tupper L; WD – Wilcox Dock; WM – Wickham Marsh.

**WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES  
GREATER WHITE-FRONTED  
GOOSE:** PtR12 Nov (BK,CM), very orange bill, probably Greenland *A.a. flavirostris*.

**Snow Goose:** arr 17 CR 11 Sep (BK,CM); max 10,000 MB 21 Nov (JH,MM); numerous reports.  
**“Blue” Goose:** reports from CH, Jay, Malone rec park..

**ROSS'S GOOSE:** ad MB13 Nov (BK), always a good find.

**Cackling Goose:** PtR 14 Oct; PtR 12 Nov; 2 MB 15 Nov (BK,CM), 1 of latter apparent *B.h. hutchinsii*.

**Canada Goose:** thousands over Jay & LL late Sep-mid Oct, numerous reports.

**"Lesser" Canada Goose:** a smaller goose with 3 Canadas CR 22 Sep (BK,CM) could have been either a Cackling (*B.h. taverneri*) or Canada (*B.c. parvipes*) goose.

**Mallard hybrid:** CR 24 Sep (BK,CM), possible Mallard x N. Pintail.

**Green-winged Teal:** Mt. Van Hoevenburg 1 Oct (LM), only report.

**Redhead:** WD 8 Nov (BK), at site of previous PCB contamination & cleanup.

**Ring-necked Duck:** hundreds Miner Inst 28 Oct (NO,MS).

**Greater Scaup:** Plattsburgh 1 Sep (DW), early CLIN.

**Lesser Scaup:** sev Plattsburgh 18 Oct (J&RH).

**Surf Scoter:** arr 25 IL 11 Oct (JT); max 280 SRP 27 Oct (RL,TM,PR), exceptional.

**White-winged Scoter:** 966 SRP 27 Oct (RL,TM,PR), extraordinary.

**Black Scoter:** arr 3 IL 11 Oct (JT); max 4650 SRP 27 Oct (RL,TM,PR), unprecedented.

**Long-tailed Duck:** arr Plattsburgh 1 Sep (DW), early CLIN; max 478 SRP 1 Nov (RL,TM,PR); drake NP 7 Nov (JH,MM); 23 WD 8 Nov (BK,CM); WM 21 Nov (JH,MM); drake WD 26 Nov (NO); a superb showing.

**Bufflehead:** arr 33 PtK 31 Oct (DR); max 200 NP 7 Nov (MM).

**Com. Goldeneye:** arr 5 NP 16 Oct; max 1000 NP 21 Nov (JH,MM).

**Hooded Merganser:** max 152 IL-Mt View L 25 Oct (JT).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** arr 3 NP 7 Nov (MM); max 4 Mooney Bay 13 Nov (NO); 2 AP 18 Nov (BK,CM); a good showing.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** Jay Oct (PO), riding ATV on lap & arm of driver; 2 TL

village 27 Oct (CD), crossing busy Park St.

**Spruce Grouse:** Vanderwacker Mt trailhead no date (BS).

**Red-throated Loon:** IL 11 Oct (JT), with 3 Com. Loons.

**Com. Loon:** max 25 WM 21 Nov (JH,MM).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** ad, 2 imm CR 11 Sep (BK,CM).

**Horned Grebe:** arr West L 13 Sep (GD); 4 PtK 31 Oct (DR); 8 NP 7 Nov (MM); NP 11 Nov (EF); Essex 14 Nov (NO); 59 WM, 17 AP 21 Nov (JH), total of 80 seen in CLIN & ESSE that day, a strong showing.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** Limekiln L 5 Sep (GL); Mt View L 11 Oct (JT), stayed several days, still unusual on inland lakes.

**Great Egret:** 2 CR 11-15 Sep (BK,CM), always welcome.

#### HAWKS – ALCIDS

**Osprey:** Redford 21 Nov (DF), late CLIN.

**Bald Eagle:** Eighth L, Jay, Newcomb, NP, PtK, Raquette Pd, Sagamore, TL Marsh.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** 41 Moose Ri Plains 10 Sep (GD), record max HAMI.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 47 Jay Oct (PO).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** arr Westport 13 Nov (WR).

**Golden Eagle:** imm Little Indian L mid-Oct (B&IK); ad Split Rock Mt 1 Nov (DR), dived on by Sharp-shinned Hawk & Merlin; subad Jay 1 Nov; 5 (3 ad, subad, unk) Jay 3 Nov (PO).

**Peregrine Falcon:** AP 27 Sep (DR); Crown Pt 3 Oct (MM), carrying avian prey; ad Willsboro Bay eyrie 15 Nov (JP); tiercel Beekmantown 17 Nov (BK,CM).

**Com. Moorhen:** CR 20 Sep (BK,CM), rarely reported.

**Am. Coot:** CR 20 Sep (BK,CM), a nice find.

**SANDHILL CRANE:** 2 PtR 6 Sep (BT), 2nd CLIN record; Champlain narrows s. of Ft. Ticonderoga 20 Nov (JP), flushed by Amtrak *Adirondack*, 1st ESSE & 5th Reg record and now reported from all 4 counties.

**Black-bellied Plover:** 2-3 MB 6-13 Oct (BK,CM); 4 PtR 18 Oct (P&LO); WD 22 Oct (BK,CM); 2 Plattsburgh 23 Oct (NO), a strong showing.

**Am. Golden-Plover:** 2 CR 6 Oct (BK,CM), only report.

**Semipalmated Plover:** WD 21 Oct (BK), 1st shorebird since PCB cleanup; Plattsburgh 22 Oct (NO).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** NP 8 Sep (MM); 4 CR 15 Sep (BK); Jay 30 Sep (L&PO); NP 16 Oct (JH,MM); WD 7 Nov (BK,CM).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** CR 20 Sep (BK,CM), only report.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** 3 Jay 30 Sep (L&PO), only report.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 4 Monty Bay 15 Sep (BK); Plattsburgh 22 Oct (NO).

**Western Sandpiper:** Plattsburgh 7 Oct (BK), always an excellent find.

**Least Sandpiper:** max 21 MB 15 Sep (BK).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** CR 22 Sep (BK), excellent bird.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** 2 CR 29 Sep (BK), late CLIN.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 4 CR 22 Sep; max 14 CR 21 Oct (BK).

**Dunlin:** 2 CR 22 Sep (BK,CM); 2-3 CB 18-21 Oct (J&RH,NO); max 46 CR 21 Oct (BK,CM); WD 9 Nov (BK); a great showing.

**Wilson's Snipe:** WD 23 Nov (BK,CM), late.

**Parasitic Jaeger:** 2 juv 6 mi. s Four Brothers 17 Sep (LH,RL,TM,JO), seen from VT.

**LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** 5 mi. s Four Brothers 1 Sep (DH,TM), an excellent observation.

**Little Gull:** ad MB 7 Oct (BM), another good Champlain find.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 200 NP 24 Oct (L&PO), numerous sightings there & Westport.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** IL 11 Oct (JT), highly unusual inland.

**Com. Tern:** AP 25 Oct (BK,CM), only report.

#### PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**E. Screech-Owl:** gray phase CH 26 Sep (SJ,BK); CH 14 Nov (SJ).

**Snowy Owl:** arr Malone airport c. 6 Nov (MH); Peru 26 Nov (D&RW), may bode well for winter.

**Com. Nighthawk:** Peru 6 Sep (EF), only report.

**RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER:** m NP 16 Oct (JH,MM), 8th ESSE report.

**Am. Three-toed Woodpecker:** FB 18 Sep (GL); 3 [m, 2 f] FB 3 Oct (WL), family group?

**Black-backed Woodpecker:** BB, FB, Newcomb L, all usual locales.

#### FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

**Least Flycatcher:** Keene 30 Sep (J&PT), late ESSE by 2 wks.

**E. Kingbird:** LL 3 Oct (J&PT), late HAMI; TL 3 Oct (CD), late FRAN.

**N. Shrike:** arr Jay 19 Oct (PO); other reports BB, Inlet, Leggett Rd CLIN.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** LL 17 Oct (JC), late HAMI; Plattsburgh 17 Oct (BK).

**Gray Jay:** BB, FB, Sagamore, Vermontville feeder, all known locations.

**Com. Raven:** max 40 Indian L to LL 24 Sep (JC); 22 Jay Range 1 Nov (PO), in display flights.

**Horned Lark:** arr L Pleasant 20 Oct (JC); Jay 22 Oct (PO); Essex 21 Nov (JH,MM).

**Barn Swallow:** West L 14 Sep (GD), late HAMI.

**Boreal Chickadee:** BB, Bigelow Rd, Blue Mt, Boreas R, FB, LL, Madawaska, Mt Van Hoevenburg, Sagamore, Wilson Pd.

**Tufted Titmouse:** BB, Keeseville, Newcomb, Osetah L, Peru, Plattsburgh,

PtK, Sagamore-Uncas, TL, WD, with at least 29 individuals reported, a strong showing.

**Carolina Wren:** 2 Plattsburgh 18 Oct (BK); 2 CH 20 Oct-29 Nov (NO); PtK 10 Nov (DR); inside attic New Russia late Nov (ET); an outstanding season.

**Marsh Wren:** 2 imm CR 22 Sep (BK,CM), only report.

**Veery:** TL 17 Oct (CD), late FRAN.

**Bicknell's Thrush:** Blue Mt 10 Sep (JC).

**Am. Pipit:** 2 Helldiver Pd 19 Sep (WR); 10 CR 20 Sep (BK,CM); L Abanakee 21 Sep (DS); Jay 30 Sep (L&PO); more than average.

**Bohemian Waxwing:** arr 50 Essex 27 Oct (CS); 7 Jay 18 Nov (L&PO); welcome finds.

**Cedar Waxwing:** Essex 27 Oct (CS), with Bohemians; Inlet 25-27 Nov (GL).

#### WARBLERS

**Tennessee Warbler:** Cedar L 14 Sep (GD), late HAMI.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** Sagamore 16 Sep (GL), 1st HAMI report.

**Nashville Warbler:** Wakely Mt 17 Sep (GD), late HAMI.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** West L 12 Sep (GD), late HAMI.

**Palm Warbler:** Madawaska 6 Sep (MM); NP 8 Sep (MM); BB 18 Sep (MB).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** Cedar R Flow 17 Sep (GD), late HAMI.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** West L 15 Sep (GD), late HAMI.

**Ovenbird:** West L trail 12 Sep (GD), late HAMI.

#### TANAGERS – WEAVERS

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr L Placid 10 Oct (LM), early ESSE.

**Field Sparrow:** max 10 Dannemora 16 Sep (J&RH).

**Vesper Sparrow:** Jay 18 Oct (PO), only report.

**Fox Sparrow:** arr Jay 18 Oct (L&PO); TL 28 Oct (CD); Hurricane Mt at 2500' 29 Oct (J&PT).

**Song Sparrow:** Inlet feeder 30 Nov (GL), late.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** Jay Oct (PO); Peru 11-13 Oct (EF).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 50 NP 16 Oct (JH,MM).

**Snow Bunting:** 4 summit 3694' Hurricane Mt 29 Oct (J&PT); Essex 21 Nov (JH,MM); 20-30 TL mun pk 27-29 Nov (CD).

**N. Cardinal:** Blue Mt L & Limekiln L 22 Oct (GL).

**Red-winged Blackbird:** 2 Inlet 21 Nov (GL), late.

**Rusty Blackbird:** West Canada Lks Sep (GD); Jay 30 Sep; Essex 24 Oct (L&PO); nice finds.

**Pine Grosbeak:** arr Inlet 25 Nov (GL).

**Purple Finch:** max 20 LL 3 Nov (JC); others Inlet, Keene, LP.

**Red Crossbill:** 8-10 Little Tupper L 27 Sep (BM), feeding on white pine.

**White-winged Crossbill:** BB 27 Nov (BM), only report.

**Com. Redpoll:** 50 LP 25 Nov (PO), only report.

**Pine Siskin:** max 150-200 LP feeder disappeared late Sep (LM), but 4 flocks flying SSE over LL 19-20 Oct (JC); 6 at 3000' Hurricane Mt 29 Oct (J&PT); 20 Jay 29 Oct (PO).

**Am. Goldfinch:** 50 LP Sep had declined to 20 by 1 Oct (LM); 20 LL 3 Nov (JC).

**Evening Grosbeak:** LL 11 Oct (JC) thru; max 70 Vermontville Nov (JK); others Chateaugay, Inlet, NP, Peru during Nov.

## REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Fall 2004 was warmer than average and generally free of precipitation. At Albany International Airport the monthly average temperature in September was 2.6° F above normal. After a two-day downpour on 17-18 September, the Region experienced below-average rainfall and snowfall. While temperatures flirted with below freezing in mid-October, the Region did not see its first significant frost until 4 November. As many November evening temperatures were above freezing, the ground remained soft throughout the period, immediately melting any snow from the few flurries. Major rivers and streams, as well as calmer bodies of water, remained unfrozen. Early fall exhibited mostly clear and calm evening conditions, ferrying fall migrants out of the area slightly earlier than usual.

Perhaps due to the abundance of open water, waterfowl were numerous and widespread. Region 8 typically sees a handful of Common Loons lingering on reservoirs and small lakes between migration flights, but this fall showed a significant increase. There were no unusual maxima, but dozens of reports of small groupings represented at least a five-fold increase from last fall. Numerous as well, with too many sightings to explicitly detail, were American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck and Ruddy Duck. Both Canvasback and Redhead, however, were conspicuously absent.

One of the exciting ornithological changes that this publication has recently documented is the expansion of Sandhill Cranes into eastern New York. Our Region added one to its list when Ken Hamm spotted an adult **Sandhill Crane** in Bethlehem, Albany County. Our local record of crane sightings contains fewer than 10 reliable observations, most occurring in the early 1990s. The crane seen by Hamm was periodically harassed by a Red-tailed Hawk as it foraged in a small cornfield. Region 7 editor Mike Peterson reported a second Sandhill Crane near the border between our two Regions just north of the small town of Wright in Essex County on Lake Champlain. As he observed the bird from the window of a northbound train, the bird was “headed toward Vermont waters.”

Another species that seems to be expanding its range in New York, an adult Cattle Egret was observed in Washington County in the Town of Easton. The overwhelming majority of sightings of this species occur in spring in our area, but we have recorded other birds less frequently into late November. Sightings of Great Egrets continued into October after a particularly heavy late-summer dispersal.

A small but dedicated troupe of volunteers staffed this fall's Camp Pinnacle Hawkwatch. The Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club now posts each day's reports, as well as seasonal accumulations, on their Web site. Even a quick glance at the data reveals that numbers are down, in some cases 50 percent below last fall's low numbers. Nearly every species of raptor showed a decline, except for Cooper's

Hawk, which continued a three-year increasing trend. If one had to hazard a guess for the low numbers, it's likely related to mid-autumn's consistent and mild weather, preventing the build-up of any strong deliberate migration movements. Some uncommon shorebirds turned up at the regular haunts. New Street in Cohoes, a popular and accessible site among local birders, produced a Ruddy Turnstone, as well as respectable numbers of plovers, yellowlegs and the usual peeps. At Wright's Loop near Stillwater, Saratoga County, Mona Bearor reported a single **Hudsonian Godwit**, as well as Dunlin and White-rumped Sandpiper. In New Baltimore, Greene County, Rich Guthrie discovered a second White-rumped Sandpiper as well as the much rarer **Western Sandpiper**.

Few neo-tropical migrants lingered into late fall, and there are no unusual late dates this year with the exception of Common Nighthawk in Hillsdale, Columbia County, on 19 October. Most warblers departed before the first week of October, and few other than Tree Swallows and Eastern Phoebes tarried into November. Our Region saw two species of phoebe this fall, an event that has happened only twice previously. While trapping roadside hawks during a routine banding outing, Bob Yunick, Tom Palmer and Roger Miller discovered a **Say's Phoebe** foraging in the suburban yards of Florida, Montgomery County. As the bird actively flit from road to rooftop, the banding party tracked it down and successfully identified it before it flew into thicker cover. Previous Regional sightings of Say's Phoebe have occurred rather recently in 1987 and 1995, both in Albany County.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports, Mona Bearor, Bill Cook, Jane Graves, Rich Guthrie, Ken Hamm, Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York, Bob Kirker, Andrew Mason, Roger Miller, Gail & Rich Nord, Tom Palmer, John Peterson, Barbara Putnam, Kathryn Schneider, Alison Van Keuren, Carol & Owen Whitby, Phil Whitney, Robert Yunick.

## ABBREVIATIONS

AUS – T Austerlitz COLU; CHA – T Chatham COLU; CLA – T Claverack COLU; COH – New St T Cohoes ALBA; CPHW – Camp Pinnacle Hawk Watch ALBA; EGR – T E. Greenbush RENS; FLO – T Florida MONT; HR – Hudson Ri; HP – Hannacroix Preserve ALBA; MEA – T Meadowdale ALBA; MR – Mohawk Ri; VF – Vischer Ferry T Saratoga SARA; WL – Wright's Loop near Rt 4 T Stillwater SARA.

## **WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES**

**Snow Goose:** arr ALBA 25 Sep; 26 EGR 20 Oct; 1000 Hoosic Ri RENS 28 Oct; 500 Scotia SCHE 1 Nov; 250 Great Sacandaga L FULT 27 Nov; 500+ FLO 30 Nov.

**Gadwall:** arr Stanton Pd RENS 3 Nov.

**Blue-winged Teal:** AUS 8 Sep; VF 20 Sep.

**N. Shoveler:** 3 Halfmoon SARA 6 Nov.

**Ring-necked Duck:** arr 10 ALBA 12 Sep.

**Surf Scoter:** MR SCHE 27-28 Oct; HR Stillwater 28 Oct.

**White-winged Scoter:** RENS 27 Oct; Saratoga L SARA 18 Nov.

**Black Scoter:** 32 Rensselaerville RENS 27 Oct; 3 Triangle L RENS 27 Oct; 30 Stillwater SARA 28 Oct.

**Long-tailed Duck:** 11 Great Sacandaga L FULT 27 Nov, only report.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** CHA 7 Nov.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** Jefferson SCHO 16 Sep; 2 Shaker Mill Inn COLU 11 Oct; only reports.

**Horned Grebe:** Copake COLU 7 Nov; Galway L SARA 17 Nov; 2 Saratoga L SARA 18 Nov.

**Red-necked Grebe:** Saratoga L SARA 18 Nov.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** last HR 6 Nov.

**Great Egret:** 2 HP GREE 4 Sep; 5 Colonie ALBA 6 Sep; Northway SARA 6 Sep; Clifton Park SARA 12 Sep; Albany Airport 12 Sep; Delmar ALBA 26 Sep; last Troy RENS 20 Oct.

**Cattle Egret:** Easton WASH 28 Oct.

**Green Heron:** last AUS 2 Oct.

**Turkey Vulture:** last CHA 9 Nov.

## **HAWKS – ALCIDS**

**Osprey:** last HR GREE 10 Oct; total 21 CPHW 3 Sep-3 Nov.

**Bald Eagle:** numbers consistent with previous fall; total 6 CPHW 3 Sep-3 Nov.

**N. Harrier:** total 16 CPHW 3 Sep-3 Nov.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** total 91 CPHW 3 Sep-3 Nov.

**Cooper's Hawk:** total 41 CPHW 3 Sep-3 Nov, slight increase.

**N. Goshawk:** imm Helderbergs ALBA Oct thru; total 9 CPHW 3 Sep-3 Nov.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** CLA 6 Sep; Rensselaerville RENS 29 Sep-11 Oct; VF 24 Oct; total 4 CPHW 3 Sep-3 Nov.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** total 601 CPHW 3 Sep-3 Nov.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** total 230 CPHW 3 Sep-3 Nov.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** arr AUS 3 Sep; CHA 3 Nov; Thruway ALBA 6 Nov; FLO 30 Nov; none at CPHW.

**Golden Eagle:** none.

**Merlin:** WL 10 Sep; FLO 29 Oct; Peebles I SARA 19 Nov; total 4 CPHW 3 Sep-3 Nov.

**SANDHILL CRANE:** Bethlehem ALBA 8 Sep (KH), harassed by Red-tailed Hawk.

**Black-bellied Plover:** WL 9 Sep.

**Semipalmated Plover:** WL 9 Sep; 8 COH 10 Sep.

**Killdeer:** last Gallatin COLU 7 Nov.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** last HR Stillwater 28 Oct.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** last 2 COH 10 Sep.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** last Huyck Preserve RENS 4 Oct.

**HUDSONIAN GODWIT:** WL 9 Sep (MB).

**Rudy Turnstone:** COH 10 Sep.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** WL 9 Sep; COH 10 Sep.

**WESTERN SANDPIPER:** NB 9 Sep (RG).

**Least Sandpiper:** 8 COH 10 Sep; scarce.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** NB 9 Sep (RG); WL 9 Sep (MB).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** WL 9 Sep.

**Dunlin:** WL 9 Sep.

**Wilson's Snipe:** last CLA 28 Oct.

**Am. Woodcock:** last Rensselaerville RENS 7 Nov.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** MR at Colonie 7 Nov, only report.

## PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** last HP 1 Sep.

**Snowy Owl:** Union College campus  
SCHE 17 Nov, dead; Carlisle SCHO  
25 Nov.

**Com. Nighthawk:** 3 MEA 4 Sep; max  
15 Slingerlands ALBA 5 Sep; 2 E  
Glenville SCHE 6 Sep; Hillsdale  
COLU 19 Oct, late.

**Chimney Swift:** last AUS 16 Sep.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** last  
Albany 29 Sep.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** imm  
Gansevoort SARA 19 Oct; Saratoga  
Battlefield SARA 23 Oct.

## FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

**E. Wood-Pewee:** last FLO 21 Sep.

**E. Phoebe:** last New Salem ALBA 18  
Nov.

**SAY'S PHOEBE:** Bullshead Rd FLO 30  
Nov (RM, TP, RY), 3rd Reg report.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** last  
Livingston COLU 11 Sep.

**N. Shrike:** Brunswick RENS 1 Oct; Ft  
Edwards WASH 13 Nov; Galway SARA  
27 Nov; Glen MONT 30 Nov.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** last Loudonville  
ALBA 15 Oct.

**Warbling Vireo:** last CLA 6 Sep.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** EGR 2 Sep, only  
report.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** last Gallatin COLU 8  
Oct.

**Fish Crow:** last Greenport COLU 22 Sep.

**Horned Lark:** 12 Northumberland SARA  
31 Oct; 20 New Scotland ALBA 29 Nov.

**Purple Martin:** CHA 9 Sep, only report.

**Tree Swallow:** last Saratoga 23 Oct.

**Barn Swallow:** last Kinderhook COLU 16  
Sep.

**Swainson's Thrush:** last Knickerbocker  
Rd RENS 28 Oct.

**Wood Thrush:** last HP 4 Sep.

**Gray Catbird:** last VF 26 Nov.

**Am. Pipit:** COH 10 Sep; 100 Stuyvesant  
COLU 16 Oct.

## WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** last HP 1 Sep.

**Nashville Warbler:** last CLA 6 Sep.

**N. Parula:** last Helderbergs ALBA 7 Oct.

**Magnolia Warbler:** last AUS 28 Sep.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** last AUS  
30 Sep.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** last EGR  
7 Oct.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** last 3 HP 4 Sep.

**Palm Warbler:** last Loudonville ALBA 15  
Oct.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** last MEA 15 Sep.

**Am. Redstart:** last EGR 15 Sep.

**Worm-eating Warbler:** last HP 4 Sep.

**Ovenbird:** last Copake COLU 10 Oct.

**Connecticut Warbler:** AUS 11 Oct.

**Com. Yellowthroat:** last EGR 1 Oct.

**Wilson's Warbler:** 3 FLO 21 Sep; New  
Baltimore GREE 24 Nov-1 Dec.

**Canada Warbler:** 2 HP 2 Sep.

## TANAGERS – WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** last EGR 24 Sep.

**E. Towhee:** last AUS 7 Oct.

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr in flocks of 10-30  
by 19 Oct.

**Chipping Sparrow:** last AUS 10 Nov.

**Field Sparrow:** last FLO 13 Oct.

**Savannah Sparrow:** max Coxsackie flats  
GREE 4 Sep.

**Fox Sparrow:** 3 Saratoga SARA 23 Oct;  
VF 24 Oct. Coeymans GREE 7 Nov; 4  
Niskayuna SCHE 7 Nov.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** EGR 23 Sep; MEA  
27 Sep; max 7 FLO 5 Oct.

**Swamp Sparrow:** last Germantown  
COLU 12 Nov.

**White-throated Sparrow:** commonly seen  
at elevations below 1000' by 24 Sep.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** Western Taiga



race banded FLO 13 Oct (RY); last Gansevoort SARA 4 Nov.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** commonly seen at elevations below 1000' by 3 Oct.

**Snow Bunting:** arr Amsterdam MONT 1 Nov; Helderbergs ALBA 3 Nov; 20 MONT 23 Nov.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** last Hoosic Ri RENS 16 Oct.

**Indigo Bunting:** last Gansevoort SARA 25 Sep.

**E. Meadowlark:** last 11 Saratoga Battlefield SARA 23 Oct.

**Rusty Blackbird:** VF 24 Oct; 35 WASH 4 Nov; 6 GREE 13 Nov.

**Pine Siskin:** 12 Loudonville ALBA 14 Oct; 5 EGR 6 Nov; 12 Jefferson SCHO 7 Nov; Taghkanic COLU 5-13 Nov.

**Evening Grosbeak:** max 25 Jenny L SARA 4 Sep; 2 Jefferson SCHO 21 Nov; AUS 23 Nov.

## REGION 9 – HUDSON-DELAWARE

**Michael Bochnik**

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Remnants of three hurricanes soaked the area in September. Hurricane Frances dumped 5.9" of rain on White Plains on 8 September. Ivan dumped more rain inland, with Liberty deluged with 4.3" on 18 September. Hurricane Jeanne brought 3-5" of rain throughout the area at the end of the month, 28-29 September. This brought rainfall totals for the month two-and-a-half to three times average. For instance, White Plains had 14.1" of rain for the month, compared with 4.7" in an average September. Temperatures were also well above normal, with averages 2° to 3.2°F above normal. October was mild and very dry. The month's temperature averaged 0.4° to 1.6° warmer than normal. Westchester County did not go below freezing the entire month. White Plains and Poughkeepsie had less than 2" of rain, less than half of normal.

November continued to be dry with above average temperatures, except for a brief cold snap on 9 and 10 November with Liberty falling down to 18°. An early snowfall of 3" followed on 12-13 November in the northern part of the Region. The rest of the month was well above average. Poughkeepsie and White Plains reached a high of 65° on 25 November.

There were three reports of Greater White-fronted Goose, with single birds found in Dutchess and Sullivan Counties and a pair found in North White Plains that stayed through the end of the period. All three species of scoter made appearances inland. Three flocks of White-winged Scoters, totaling 90 birds, were seen flying down the Hudson River from Lenoir Nature Preserve in Yonkers on 27 October.

Hawk watchers were again disappointed by low numbers for most species. The three hurricanes in September may have again pushed many migrant hawks west of our Region. On the plus side, Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk numbers were generally up.

Jude Holdsworth found a dead rail at James Baird State Park in Dutchess County on 30 August. The specimen was eventually sent to Kevin McGowan at Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. The identification was **Clapper Rail**, a new species for Dutchess County.

The pond in the New York section of the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge and nearby turf farms in Pine Island, Orange County, continued to produce great shorebird sightings. Baird's Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Long-billed Dowitcher were reported from the area.

Two immature Parasitic Jaegers were found harassing Common Terns off Edith G. Read Sanctuary in Rye, Westchester County, on 6 September.

The bird of the season for the Region was a **CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD** found at a Larchmont feeder by Andrew and Robbie Towle on 4 November. Photographs sent by Internet confirmed the identification. Unfortunately, the bird stayed only until 7 November. If accepted by NYSARC, it will be only the third state record after the first accepted records in Manhattan in 2001, and the first record for Region 9 and Westchester County.

Red-headed Woodpeckers made a good fall showing, with more reports compared with the last few years. Early Northern Shrikes reports, all from the northern part of the Region, suggested a promising winter season for them.

Other notable species included: Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull and Orange-crowned Warbler.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Beth Barker, Andrew Block, Michael Bochnik, Arlene Borko, Mike Britt, Thomas Burke, Barbara Butler, Drew Ciganik, Judith Cinquina, Jim Clinton, Edna Davis, Renee Davis, Ed DeBellevue, Flip DeRea, Tom Fiore, Carol & Ken Fredericks, Valerie Freer, Dick Gershon, Steve Golladay, Marge Gorton, Roy Gorton, Scott Graber, John Haas, Rick Hansen, Fran Henry, Rodney Johnson, Steven Kahl, Bob Kendall, Robert Lewis, Berna & Stan Lincoln, Barbara Mansell, Liz Martens, Hugh Martin, Ken McDermott, Allan & Barbara Michelin, Dennis Murphy, Ellen & Joe O'Connell, Stephanie Paradise, Mona Payton, Carena Pooth, Charlie Roberto, Dick Rogers, Ruth Shursky, Selden Spencer, Lloyd Spitalnik, Birgit & Rex Stanford, Herb Stein, Andrew & Robbie Towle, Chet Vincent, Joe Weise, Carol Weiss, Ken Witkowski, John Yrizzary.

## ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Pt P; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; HM – Hook Mountain; LNP – Lenoir Nature Preserve, Yonkers; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; PI – Pine Island ORAN; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR; WRNWF – Wallkill River NWR.

## WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

### Greater White-fronted Goose: T

LaGrange 22 Oct (CV); 2 Silver L P, N.White Plains 6 Nov thru (NYRBA, MB); Warwick 14 Nov (DM,KM).

**Snow Goose:** Summitville 22 Sep; 40 LNP 11 Oct; 300 Mt Peter 11 Oct; 600 Vanderbilt 11 Oct.

**Canada Goose:** 1200 Mt Peter 11 Oct.

**Wood Duck:** 1542 Bashakill 7 Oct (RD,RS,ABO, BBa).

**N. Pintail:** Wurtsboro 9 Sep; LNP 17 Oct.

**Green-winged Teal:** 200 WRNWF 17 Oct.

**Canvasback:** first Southlands 10 Oct.

**Ring-necked Duck:** 170 Pine Plains 11 Nov; 300 Abel's Pd 21 Nov; 150 Sylvan L 24 Nov.

**Greater Scaup:** 6 Neversink Res 18 Oct; 300 EGR 30 Nov.

**Lesser Scaup:** arr 3 EGR 30 Oct; 100 EGR 30 Nov.

**Surf Scoter:** 5 EGR 11 Oct; 4 Neversink Res 27 Oct (EDE,RD)

**White-winged Scoter:** 5 Neversink Res 29 Sep (EDE); 90 in 3 flocks LNP 27 Oct (MB); Beekman 21-30 Nov (SG, CP, B&SL); EGR 18,22,25 Nov.

**Black Scoter:** 9 White L 27 Oct (SGr); 51 Swan L 27 Oct (SGr); Neversink Res 28 Oct (EDE).

**Long-tailed Duck:** 9 EGR 22 Nov.

**Bufflehead:** 130 EGR 13 Nov.

**Com. Goldeneye:** WRNWF 28 Sep thru.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 120 EGR 18 Nov.

**Red-throated Loon:** 15 EGR 22 Nov.

**Com. Loon:** 10 Rondout Res 10 Sep.

**Horned Grebe:** 4 Neversink Res 20 Oct (EDE).

**N. Gannet:** 3-9 EGR 19,20,22,24,25 Nov.

**Great Cormorant:** arr 6 EGR 13 Nov.

**Snowy Egret:** 9 EGR 6 Sep.

**Little Blue Heron:** EGR 6 Sep; imm CPP 19 Nov thru (B&SL), extremely late..

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 16 MC 15 Sep.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** MC 15 Sep.

## HAWKS – ALCIDS

**Osprey:** 17 HM 11 Sep; 14 Mt Peter 14 Sep.

**Bald Eagle:** 5 HM 6 Sep.

**N. Harrier:** 8 HM 13 Oct; 12 WNWR 17 Oct.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 170 HM 20 Sep; 48 Mt Peter 24 Sep.

**Cooper's Hawk:** 17 HM 23 Sep; 10 Mt Peter 16 Oct.

**N. Goshawk:** HM 23 Sep, 20 Oct; 2 Summitville 26 Sep; Mt Peter 12 Oct.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 28 HM 10 Nov.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** 503 Mt Peter 14 Sep; 639 Summitville 15 Sep; 1377 HM 19 Sep.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** 51 Mt Peter 9 Nov; 68 HM 10 Nov.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** Mt Peter 26 Oct; Piermont Marsh 28 Nov.

**Golden Eagle:** HM 22 Oct, 1 Nov; Summitville 23 Oct; Hopewell 29 Oct; 2 HM 9 Nov; Stissing Mt 14 Nov; Mt Peter 15 Nov; Thompson Pd 27 Nov.

**Am. Kestrel:** 10 Mt Peter 24 Sep; 20 HM 2 Oct.

**Merlin:** 5 HM 6 Oct.

**Peregrine Falcon:** 5 HM 6 Oct.

**CLAPPER RAIL:** James Baird SP DUTC 30 August (Jude Holdsworth), found dead, later identified by Kevin McGowan at Cornell Lab, 1st DUTC record.

**Am. Coot:** 60 Sylvan L 24 Oct.

**Black-bellied Plover:** 6 PI 9 Sep.

**Am. Golden-Plover:** 23 PI 3 Sep; 15 PI 9 Sep; 18 PI 19 Sep; 70 PI 20 Sep; 150 PI 21 Sep; 95 PI 22 Sep; 32 PI 30 Sep; 10 PI 27 Oct.

**Semipalmated Plover:** 7 PI 9 Sep.

**Killdeer:** 150 PI 3,9 Sep; 50 PI 30 Sep.

**Am. Oystercatcher:** 9 EGR 6 Sep.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** 15 PI 21 Sep.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** PI 9 Sep; 12 PI 21 Sep.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** PI 19 Sep.  
**Hudsonian Godwit:** PI 20, 22, 24 Sep  
 (LS, JH, KM, R&BS).  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 150 PI 9 Sep.  
**Western Sandpiper:** 5 MC 1 Sep; PI 23  
 Sep (KM).  
**Least Sandpiper:** 50 PI 9 Sep.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 10  
 Morningside 9 Sep; 22 PI 9 Sep.  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** PI 3 Sep (JH); PI 21  
 Sep (JH, KM).  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 10 PI 9 Sep; 2 PI 19  
 Sep; 19 PI 20 Sep; 36 PI 21 Sep; 52 PI 22  
 Sep; 60 PI 1 Oct.  
**Purple Sandpiper:** 3 EGR 16 Nov; 8  
 EGR 20 Nov.  
**Dunlin:** 2 PI 9 Sep; 2 PI 30 Sep; 3  
 Morningside 18 Oct; 2 Pleasant Valley 24  
 Oct; low numbers along LI Sound.  
**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** 2 PI 30 Sep, 1  
 Oct (JH, ABo, EDe).  
**Long-billed Dowitcher:** PI 17, 18, 20 Sep  
 (MBr, JY, SK, LS).  
**Parasitic Jaeger:** 2 imm Rye 6 Sep (TB).  
**Laughing Gull:** 150 EGR 6 Sep; 50 MC  
 22 Nov.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** 15 EGR 25 Nov.  
**Iceland Gull:** EGR 22 Nov.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Piermont Pier  
 22 Nov (CW).  
**Com. Tern:** 200 EGR 6 Sep.  
**Forster's Tern:** 70 MC 1 Oct; 90 EGR 13  
 Oct.

#### PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**Long-eared Owl:** LNP 10 Oct; Beekman  
 18-21 Oct; MC 13 Nov.  
**Short-eared Owl:** arr PI 13 Nov; 10  
 SGNWR 13 Nov.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** 20 Rye 4 Sep.  
**CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD:**  
 Larchmont 4-7 Nov (A&RT, ph) 3rd State  
 and 1st Reg and WEST record if accepted  
 by NYSARC.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** ad LNP 27

Sep; Neversink 29 Sep; Youngsville 1-2  
 Oct; HM 2 Oct; LNP 27-28 Sep; 2 imm  
 LNP 17 Oct; Poughquag 23-24 Oct; ad  
 LNP 7 Nov.

#### FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Mt Peter 11-12  
 Sep.  
**N. Shrike:** SGNWR 26 Oct; Monticello  
 26 Oct; Pleasant Valley 10, 17-18 Nov.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** Vassar College 24  
 Nov.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** Wurtsboro 2 Sep;  
 LNP 16 Sep.  
**Blue Jay:** 1000 Mt Peter 21 Sep; 1483 Mt  
 Peter 26 Sep.  
**Horned Lark:** 50 Rhinebeck 26 Sep.  
**Marsh Wren:** 5 MC 1 Sep.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** Norrie Pt 20 Nov.  
**Am. Robin:** 6000 MC 1 Nov.  
**Am. Pipit:** 4 MC 27 Sep; 1-4 MC 4, 15  
 Oct, 9, 16 Nov; 7-9 Neversink Res 9,  
 18 Oct.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** 200 MC 1 Nov.

#### WARBLERS

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** MC 10 Nov.  
**Palm Warbler:** 14 CPP 1 Oct.  
**Yellow-breasted Chat:** MC 23-24 Sep.

#### TANAGERS – WEAVERS

**Vesper Sparrow:** Vassar Farm 12 Oct;  
 EGR 20 Oct; Piermont 24 Oct.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** 50 CPP 2 Oct.  
**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** MC 4  
 Oct.  
**Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** 1-2  
 MC 1, 15, 21, 27 Sep; 4 MC 4 Oct.  
**Song Sparrow:** 100 CPP 1 Oct.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** Fahnestock SP 20  
 Sep; MC 22, 23, 25, 30 Sep; Beekman 23,  
 27 Sep; CPP 1, 6 Oct; MC 5, 11,  
 25 Oct; EGR 8, 26 Oct; 3 CPP  
 10 Oct; LNP 10 Oct; Vassar Farm  
 12 Oct.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** 5 CPP  
10 Oct.  
**Snow Bunting:** 6 CPP 6 Oct; Piermont  
Pier 25 Oct; White Sulphur Spring  
28 Oct; 25 Piermont Pier 7 Nov; 3 MC  
16 Nov; 3-5 EGR 20, 22 Nov.  
**Bobolink:** 200 Rhinebeck 12 Sep.

**Rusty Blackbird:** 5 Thompson Pd 21 Oct;  
Rhinebeck 29 Oct; 8 MC 1 Nov; Tivoli  
Bay 6 Nov.  
**Pine Siskin:** many reports 1-5 birds 13  
Oct thru.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** Horseshoe L 24 Oct;  
3 DUTC 4 Nov.

## REGION 10 – MARINE

**S. S. Mitra**

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September was very warm and wet, with temperatures exceeding the average by 1.3°F and rainfall 3.03” above average. Temperatures in October and November were closer to average, though still slightly above, but both months were decidedly dry. Their rainfall totals fell 2.47” and 0.95” below their respective averages. A peculiar feature of the weather this fall, which was noted by virtually all the active observers in the Region, was the scarcity of northwesterly winds. The prevailing orientation of weather systems moving through the Region was such that, even following the passage of cold fronts, we experienced mostly northeasterly winds and a dearth of heavy landbird flights along the outer coast, particularly in eastern LI. An outstanding exception to this rule was a classic Columbus Day flight on 11 October, during which I estimated more than 10,000 “Myrtle” Warblers arriving on and sweeping along the barrier beach at Fire Island just after sunrise.

The scope of nesting failure among arctic-breeding geese and shorebirds, alluded to in the summer report, is still being assessed. In our Region, the extreme scarcity of juvenile shorebirds perceived in August was somewhat ameliorated in September. Baird’s and Buff-breasted sandpipers, represented in Region 10 almost exclusively by juveniles, were not particularly scarce this fall, and flocks of juvenile Sanderlings and Red Knots ultimately appeared. All of these impressions, however, are necessarily imprecise and anecdotal because I did not receive any systematic data documenting age ratios for particular species throughout the southbound migratory season. If any of our readers have such information, it would form the basis of a valuable note or article in *The Kingbird*. Observers on the South Shore gave some attention to Willets, with an eye toward clarifying the status of the two subspecies. By early September, the overall

numbers of Willets in our Region are much reduced compared to the very large numbers often present in July and early August, and conventional wisdom holds that western *inornatus* predominates among the sparse late-season birds. My observations at Fire Island Inlet in early September were consistent with this view. Of 13 Willets present on 3 September, eight were judged to be clearly referable to *inornatus* and just two to the locally breeding form, *semipalmatus*, while three were deemed indeterminate. All six present there on 11 September appeared to be *inornatus*.

A flock of 27 Hudsonian Godwits seen by Al Wollin and Sy Schiff at Jones Beach West End on 9 September was among the highest counts ever recorded on LI. Although the coastal maximum cited in *Bull's Birds of New York State* is just 17, I am aware of records of 26 around North Line Island 4 August 1990 (NYRBA), 26 at Cedar Beach on 19 August 1990 (A. J. Lauro and Tom Burke) and 41 at Montauk Point, in the eye of Hurricane Bob, on 19 August 1991 (A. J. Lauro, P.A. Buckley, et al., KB 41: 287). Note also that the two records from 1990 were apparently conflated when originally published (KB 40: 279), as confirmed by A. J. Lauro and Tom Burke.

Veteran observers have long opined that vagrant landbirds are either difficult to discern during heavy fall flights or actually arrive under different circumstances than those producing such flights. This season, with its paucity of high volume events, provided some insights into this perception. The general consensus was that numbers and variety of vagrants and scarce migrants were not, in fact, depressed over most of the Region – especially in comparison to the markedly depressed numbers observed for many staple species. At least five western or midwestern species that Region 10 birders typically seek in September – Red-headed Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Clay-colored Sparrow, Lark Sparrow and Dickcissel – appeared in average to excellent numbers this year and were often encountered on days when total numbers of commoner migrants were conspicuously low. In particular, Red-headed Woodpeckers staged their biggest coastal flight since 1998. In contrast, no large counts were reported for many of our most numerous long distance migrants, such as Red-eyed Vireo, Swainson's Thrush, Blackpoll Warbler, American Redstart, Northern Waterthrush and Common Yellowthroat.

Red-breasted Nuthatches staged a minor coastal flight and were joined by a smattering of other woodland irruptives, such as Downy, Hairy and Red-bellied woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatch and Black-capped Chickadee, all of which were somewhat more numerous than usual along the outer beaches. This year's flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches, which followed last year's even less impressive flight, might indicate a shift away from the recent biannual trend in which irruptions have occurred during the autumns of odd-numbered years. Pine Siskins staged a minor coastal flight, but Purple Finch numbers were unimpressive and other irruptive finches were completely absent.

This fall Region 10 hosted several seasonally unusual birds. A Broad-winged Hawk and a Wood Thrush, Neotropical migrants unexpected in NYS after mid October, lingered through the end of November at Central Park. An Acadian Flycatcher observed by John Sep at Dam Pond 10 September was apparently described well. Documentation is extremely important for non-singing

*Empidonax* in general and for fall records of this species in particular. Silent Acadian Flycatchers are easily confused with the Regionally more numerous Willow and Alder flycatchers, among others, and I am not aware of any fully documented fall sight records of this species from our Region. Note that the species account in *Bull's Birds of New York State* incorrectly states that 11 Acadian Flycatchers banded at Fire Island Lighthouse in 1970 were captured during the fall. In fact, all of these, and all but a very few Acadian Flycatchers ever banded at this site, were captured in spring.

A Mourning Warbler reported from Central Park 24-27 October constitutes the latest date for the species in NY State. Deserving commendation is Lloyd Spitalnik for recognizing not only the unusual nature of the record but also the particular need to collect documentation to rule out MacGillivray's Warbler, a very similar species that has actually accrued more late fall records in the Northeast than has Mourning. A *Pheucticus* grosbeak present at Central Park in late November showed several characters suggestive of Black-headed Grosbeak, including richly and extensively colored underparts, yellow underwings coverts and a rather dark bill. The bird's coarsely and heavily streaked breast, however, was more consistent with Rose-breasted Grosbeak and this individual was generally referred to under that moniker.

On 14 November, Peter Dorosh observed a Western Grebe at Wolfe's Pond Park, Staten Island, a site frequented by an individual of this species in recent winters. Subsequent efforts to relocate the bird were generally unsuccessful, and judging from later reports on the New Jersey RBA, the bird evidently shifted its activities to the other side of Raritan Bay. The juvenile Golden Eagle found on 29 November by Nick Hamblet and Holly Cronin at Scallop Pond Preserve in North Sea, Town of Southampton, represents one of just a dozen or so documented records of this species from LI. The genuine rarity of Golden Eagles on LI is especially remarkable given that this is a highly migratory species that is widespread and even locally numerous elsewhere in NYS during migration.

On 13 October at Mount Loretto Park, SI, Dick Veit flushed a Yellow Rail from the grass at his feet. This sort of event, which John Bull once described as being a reasonable once-in-a-lifetime expectation for any active observer, was in fact a first for Dr. Veit. Another noteworthy rallid discovered that day was the juvenile Purple Gallinule found by Shane Blodgett at Prospect Park, which was seen by many birders through 22 October.

A basic-plumaged Curlew Sandpiper found by Mary Laura Lamont at Orient Beach State Park on 9 October was noteworthy, as this species has been quite rare in our Region for a number of years, following decades of more frequent occurrence. Although Ruffs are generally regarded as scarce but expected visitors to Region 10, the juvenile discovered 5 September at Rita's Horse Farm in Montauk by Brian Kane and Patrick Santinello represents one of exceedingly few juveniles ever reported from LI. Mike Cooper's species account in *Bull's Birds of New York State* (1998) stated that juveniles have been recorded just twice at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, 25 September 1985 and 28 September 1986, despite the dozens of Ruffs that have been observed there over the years.

The *Selasphorus* hummingbird found on 30 November in Central Park by Lloyd Spitalnik et al. continued into December, when careful study and photography allowed its identification as Rufous. The Ash-throated Flycatcher

discovered by Bob Baines in Prospect Park on 23 November remained into December.

Once again, LI's barrier beaches hosted Cave Swallows during November. Although this species appeared as usual in early November at Cape May, very few were recorded elsewhere in the Northeast until Thanksgiving. During the period 25-27 November, LI logged several records of one-five Cave Swallows from the small area comprising the Fire Island Lighthouse, Robert Moses State Park and Captree State Park. These likely involved some duplication of individuals. One bird was also seen slightly farther west at Jones Beach West End on 26 November. Sedge Wrens are very rarely reported from our Region, so one observed at Prospect Park on 13 September by Peter Dorosh is noteworthy. Mickey Cashman's discovery of a Mountain Bluebird at Robert Moses State Park on 20 November precipitated a spectacular incursion of birders to Fire Island. This cooperative bird was the first on LI since 1990.

**Note to contributors:**

Despite the convenience of retrieving bird data from the Internet, there really is no substitute for dedicated reports, distilling each observer's data and impressions for a given season or area. I wish to offer my sincere thanks to Deborah Allen, Mike Bochnik, Tom Burke, John Collins, Tom Fiore, John Fritz, Hugh McGuinness, Drew Panko, Joan Quinlan, Dick Veit and the Queens County Bird Club for taking pains to contribute detailed reports on the fall season. Your assistance is deeply appreciated. Please note that in the summary of specific reports below, the following conventions differ slightly from earlier issues: capitalized species names represent those on the NYSARC review list at the time of publication; italicized species names, localities, dates, high counts, or plumages represent other kinds of occurrences that are very unusual in Region 10, for which I would appreciate documentation.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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Lore J. Schore, John Sep, John Shemitt, Peter Shen, Marty Sohmer, Lloyd Spitalnik, Birgit & Rex Stanford, Richard Stavdal, Larry Sturm, Elyse Taylor, Dick Veit, Steve Walter, Mike Wasilco, David Wheeler, Angus Wilson (AnW), Alvin Wollin (AIW).

## ABBREVIATIONS

BP – Breezy Pt; CB – Cedar Beach; CHP – Conference House P SI; CP – Central P; CSP – Captree SP; DP – Democrat Pt FI; FI – Fire I; FINS – Fire I National Seashore; FT – Fort Tilden QUEE; GBP – Goethels Bridge Pd SI; GKP – Great Kills P SI; HP – Hook Pd Southampton; In – Inlet; JBSP – Jones Beach SP; JBWE – Jones Beach West End; JBWR – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; LI – Long Island; MEB – Mecox Bay; ML – Marratooka L; MOR – Moriches Inlet; MP – Montauk Pt; MTL – Mount Loretto SI; NYRBA – New York Rare Bird Alert; PB – Pikes Beach Westhampton; PP – Prospect P; RMSP – Robert Moses SP; RSF – Riverhead sod fields; SGP – Sagg Pd Bridgehampton; SHIN – Shinnecock Inlet; SI – Staten Island; WPP – Wolfes Pd P SI.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** ad HP 26 Nov (BK, HM).

**Snow Goose:** 18 JBWR 26 Sep; 20 JBSP 30 Sep.

**Brant:** arr e LI 16 Oct.

**Tundra Swan:** 6 ML 6 Nov; 2 HP 7 Nov.

**Wood Duck:** 11 Aquebogue 5 Sep (AM); many.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** ML 11 Nov.

**Am. Wigeon:** arr e LI 1 Oct.

**King Eider:** MP 13 Nov thru.

**Com. Eider:** MP 9 Oct thru.

**Harlequin Duck:** 2 Hortons Pt Southold 21 Nov (J&EP).

**Surf Scoter:** arr e LI 7 Oct; unusually large numbers (tens of thousands) during Nov (fide HM).

**Black Scoter:** arr e LI late Sep; unusually large numbers (tens of thousands) during Nov (fide HM).

**Red-throated Loon:** arr early Oct.

**Horned Grebe:** arr 24 Oct Shelter I (fide NH).

**Eared Grebe:** no reports.

**WESTERN GREBE:** WPP 14 Nov (PD).

**N. Fulmar:** seven 30-70 mi s SHIN 9 Oct (JSh); “numerous” 87 mi s SHIN 29 Oct

(AGr).

**Greater Shearwater:** 30 mi s SHIN 25 Sep (JSh); “numerous” 87 mi s SHIN 29 Oct (AGr).

**Sooty Shearwater:** 87 mi s SHIN 29 Oct (AGr).

**Manx Shearwater:** s SHIN 9 Oct (JSh).

**Wilson’s Storm-Petrel:** 87 mi s SHIN 29 Oct (AGr).

**Snowy Egret:** max 50 GBP 11 Sep (RV); a few thru.

**Cattle Egret:** Drake P BRON 7-27 Oct, unusual location.

**Black Vulture:** 4 CP 1 Nov.

**Turkey Vulture:** numerous migrants extreme w end of Reg (e.g., 50 CP 1 Nov); LI records incl: Calverton 14 Sep; Westhampton 19 Sep; 2 Manorville 22 Sep; Montauk 23 Sep; w of Riverhead 3 Oct.

### HAWKS – ALCIDS

**Osprey:** 36 FINS Hawkwatch 19 Sep.

**Bald Eagle:** many reports throughout Reg; singles FINS Hawkwatch 6 dates 19 Sep-8 Nov, seasonal max 1982-present.

**N. Harrier:** 19 FINS Hawkwatch 12 Oct; 17 FINS Hawkwatch 21 Nov; high counts.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Northville 2 Sep (MLL); 33 FINS Hawkwatch 5 Oct; 20 FINS Hawkwatch 8 Nov.

**Cooper's Hawk:** 4 FINS Hawkwatch 5 Oct.

**N. Goshawk:** CP 1 Nov; PP 2 Nov; 4 FINS Hawkwatch 8 Nov; Riverhead 27 Oct (JGa, BA).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** many reports extreme w end of Reg; Orient 11 Oct (BA); ad CHP 14 Nov (RV); none for season FINS Hawkwatch.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** "decent" flight CP 19 Sep (fide NYRBA); FINS Hawkwatch 12 Oct, only one recorded.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** FINS Hawkwatch 3 Oct, only one recorded.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** FT 5 Oct (SW); Amagansett 3 Nov; none for season FINS Hawkwatch.

**Golden Eagle:** juv Scallop Pd, North Sea 29-30 Nov (NH, HC); *intro*.

**Am. Kestrel:** 289 FINS Hawkwatch 19 Sep.

**Merlin:** 155 FINS Hawkwatch 11 Oct.

**Peregrine Falcon:** undoubted migrants arr ca 20 Sep; 11 FINS Hawkwatch 26 Sep & 12 Oct.

**YELLOW RAIL:** MTL 13 Oct (RV); *intro*.

**Sora:** a few JBWR.

**PURPLE GALLINULE:** juv PP 13-22 Oct (SBI et al.).

**Com. Moorhen:** Quogue Preserve 11 Sep (BR, DiF); Aquebogue 27 Nov (AB); only reports.

**Am. Golden-Plover:** many counts of 16-37 RSF thru Sep; 16 Cutchogue 9 Sep (PG).

**Am. Avocet:** MEB thru 5 Sep; Cupsogue 22-26 Sep (JF, DW).

**Willet:** 13 FI In 3 Sep (8 *inornatus*, 2 *semipalmatus*, 3 indet.); 6 FI In 11 Sep (all *inornatus*); *intro*.

**Whimbrel:** 5 Old In FINS 24 Sep (RS).

**Hudsonian Godwit:** 27 JBWE 9 Sep

(AIW, SS), very high count.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 9 MEB 9 Oct; Georgica Pd 2 Nov, late.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** RSF 3-12 Sep; 2 Montauk 19 Sep; 3 SGP 9 Oct.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** max 21 RSF 29 Sep.

**Curlew Sandpiper:** 1 basic Orient Pt. 9 Oct (MLL) and 13 Oct (BA, LS).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** many counts of 1-4 RSF thru Sep.

**Ruff:** *juv* m Montauk 5 Sep (BK,PS), *intro*.

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** E Moriches 19 Sep (AJL).

**Wilson's Snipe:** arr e LI 9 Oct.

**Am. Woodcock:** marked influx of migrants 27-28 Oct.

**Red-necked Phalarope:** juv JBSP 9 Sep (SM et al.); juv JBWR 11-12 Sep (TWB, GB, AG).

**Pomarine Jaeger:** 70 mi s SHIN 9 Oct (JSh).

**Parasitic Jaeger:** 2 MP 9 Oct (PL, SM); 70 mi s SHIN 9 Oct (JSh); 6? mi s MP 22 Oct; JBWE 24 Oct.

**LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** 70 mi s SHIN 9 Oct (JSh).

**Black-headed Gull:** ad JBWE 24 Oct (fide NYRBA); ad FI In 24 Oct (TWB et al.).

**Iceland Gull:** juv DP 23 Oct (PL, SM), very early.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** marked influx juvs and ads 28 Sep-9 Oct throughout South Shore.

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** *imm WPP*, 2 Oct (J&RB, ET), very unusual location; 2 MP 24 Oct, others there later.

**Caspian Tern:** 3 DP 2 Oct; 2-4 MEB 5-9 Oct.

**Royal Tern:** 40 PB 9 Oct; 25 MOR & 65 SHIN 23 Oct; 35 MEB & 10 Georgica Pd 24 Oct; 4 GKP 25 Oct (RV), unusual location; 12 Georgica Pd 2 Nov, late for so many.

**SANDWICH TERN:** 4 PB 3-4 Sep (BK, BP, HM).

**Black Skimmer:** 93 Center Moriches 3 Oct (JRo), very high count for e LI.

#### PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**Great Horned Owl:** CP 24 Oct.

**Snowy Owl:** Old In (FINS) 7 Nov; Napeague 10 Nov.

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** a few late Oct thru.

**Com. Nighthawk:** counts of migrants at Wading River, total 134 and last on 7 Oct, very low, probably due to lack of nw winds (JaC).

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD:** ad fem CP 30 Nov (LS et al.).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 5 RMSP 26 Sep; 3 RMSP/FINS 2 Oct; 5 CHP 5 Oct; 3 JBWE 5 Oct; 10 Barcelona Neck 10 Oct, attracted to combination of dead trees and acorn-rich oaks; many others at these and other sites throughout Reg.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** unusually numerous Sep-Oct FINS, RMSP, Jones Strip; max 12 CHP 17 Oct (RV).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr e LI 20 Sep; max 10 Montauk 5 Oct (VB).

#### FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

**Acadian Flycatcher:** Dam Pd 10 Sep (JS).

**ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER:** PP 23 Nov thru (BB et al.).

**Western Kingbird:** Gilgo 11 Sep (PL, SM); JBWR 12 Sep (JH); FINS Hawkwatch 23 Sep (SD'A et al.).

**N. Shrike:** Cedar Beach 30 Oct (DoF).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** CHP 5 Oct (RV).

**Warbling Vireo:** CSP 11 Sep (TWB et al.), unusual on barrier beach.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** widespread reports with definite peak 19-20 Sep; very scarce e LI.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** PP 1 Nov, late.

**Blue Jay:** 500 CHP 21 Sep (TBr); 100 CHP 5, 18 Oct (RV); high counts, all passing migrants headed west.

**Purple Martin:** last 2 Shelter I 21 Sep (NH).

**Tree Swallow:** max ca 10,000 LI South Shore late Sep-mid Oct; many small flocks thru.

**CAVE SWALLOW:** RMSP 25 Nov (AnW); 5 FINS Lighthouse Tract 26 Nov (SF, JS), highest count to date for LI; JBSP 26 Nov (SJ, EM, SS); CSP 26 Nov (PL, SM); 2-3 RMSP 27 Nov (JA, PAB, KF, DoF, AG, mob).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** *intro*.

**Winter Wren:** max 20 CHP 13 Oct (RV).

**Sedge Wren:** PP 13 Sep (PD).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** arr 19 Sep.

**MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD:** RMSP 20-30 Nov (MC, mob).

**Hermit Thrush:** arr 1 Oct.

**Wood Thrush:** CP late Oct thru, very late.

#### WARBLERS

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** very few; singles CHP 22 Oct (RV); CP 21 Nov (TF, MF).

**Yellow Warbler:** thru 17 Oct.

**Cape May Warbler:** thru 29 Oct.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** CP 1 Nov, late.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** few really big flights, *intro*; max >10,000 RMSP/FINS 11 Oct (SM).

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** *albilora* JBSP 17-24 Oct (mob); Pt Lookout 19 Oct (JF).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** thru 13 Oct.

**Connecticut Warbler:** CHP 13, 21 Sep (RV).

**Mourning Warbler:** CP 24-27 Oct (LS et al.), very late.

**Wilson's Warbler:** PP 30 Oct.

#### TANAGERS – WEAVERS

**Summer Tanager:** JBWE 13 Oct.

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr 26 Oct.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** CCP 23 Sep;  
2-3 JBWE 2-13 Oct; BP 7 Oct; MP 11  
Oct; RMSP 13 Oct; Hither Hills SP 22  
Oct; JBWE 30 Oct.

**Vesper Sparrow:** Riverhead 11 Sep,  
near breeding sites; coastal migrants  
arr RMSP 1 Oct; BP 7 Oct; Caumsett  
SP 9 Oct; JBWE 13 Oct; 2 MTL 22 Oct;  
3 Kissena P 27 Oct; 2 RMSP 28 Oct;  
CP 1 Nov.

**Lark Sparrow:** MTL 17 Sep (RV);  
Montauk 19 Sep (PS); 1-2 RMSP  
4-6 Oct; FT 13 Oct; RMSP  
23-25 Oct.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** MP 11 Oct  
(HM, AB, PS); RMSP 16-17 Oct (PL,  
SM); rarely reported away from  
breeding sites.

**NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED  
SPARROW:** *subvirgatus* 9 Oct  
(TWB, GB, AG); *nelsoni/alterus* GKP  
25 Oct (RV); max 8 *subvirgatus* CB  
marshes 27 Oct (JF, DK).

**Fox Sparrow:** arr 4 Oct East Lake Dr  
Montauk & CP 5 Oct, exceptionally  
early; others 17 Oct e LI; SI Nov thru,  
incl ca 5/day s shore SI thru Nov.

**Song Sparrow:** max 300 CHP & MTL 13  
Oct; 100 Jones Strip 11 Oct.

**White-throated Sparrow:** max 1000 CHP  
& MTL 13 Oct; 150 Jones Strip  
11 Oct.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** Oregon/Pink-sided  
type CHP 10-20 Nov (RV).

**Lapland Longspur:** arr 23 Oct.

**Snow Bunting:** arr 24 Oct.

**N. Cardinal:** unusually large numbers  
barrier beaches late Oct thru.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** CP late Nov  
(dates?), late, *intro*.

**Blue Grosbeak:** CSP 11 Sep (PL, SM);  
RMSP 24 Sep (SM); Shelter I 24 Sep  
(NH); CHP 25 Sep (fide NYRBA); 2  
Kissena P 28 Oct, unusual location.

**Dickcissel:** JBWE 5 Oct; PP 5 Oct,  
unusual location; Montauk Dump  
9 Oct; RMSP 13 Oct.

**Bobolink:** southbound flight very scanty,  
almost no high counts; max 8 CP 4 Oct,  
low max.

#### EXOTICS

**Pin-tailed Whydah:** imm m CHP 20-22  
Nov (RV).

#### ADDENDUM

*The Kingbird 54 (4):*

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** BP 15 Aug  
(JoC, GD).



## STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in BOLD; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! - details seen by Regional Editor; ad - adult; Alt - Alternate plumage; Am. - American; arr - arrival or first of season; BBS - Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS - bird of the season; CBC - Christmas Bird Count; CO - confirmed nesting; Com. - Common; E. - Eastern; FL - fledgling; FY -adult feeding young; I - Island; imm - immature; intro - see introduction to report; juv - juvenile; L - Lake; max - maximum; mob - multiple observers; N. - Northern; NYSDEC - New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC - report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P -park; Pd- Pond; ph - photographed; Pt -Point; Res - Reservoir;Ri - River; SP - State Park; spm - specimen; subad -subadult; T - Town of; thru - throughout period; Twn - township; W. - Western; WMA - Wildlife Management Area; y - young.

## REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

**Region 1-Region 2** in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;  
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19  
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

**Region 2-Region 3** in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64  
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21  
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

**Region 3-Region 5** in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.

## REPORTING DEADLINES

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

Deadline is 7 March

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

Deadline is 7 June

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

Deadline is 7 September

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

Deadline is 7 December



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***The Kingbird***

**Publication of NYS Ornithological Assoc., Inc.**

**P.O. Box 95**

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