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Editor – S. S. Mitra

Regional Reports Editors –

Berna B. Lincoln & Robert G. Spahn

Cover – Andrew C. Vallely

Circulation Manager – Brenda Best

REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 2003

The Committee reviewed 142 reports from 2003, involving 82 separate sightings, and an additional 14 reports from 2002 or earlier. This high number of reports is typical of the past few years and marks the steady rise in reporting since inception of the Committee in 1977. As usual, the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) received reports from all over the state, with 29 of 62 counties represented. The three counties with the most reports submitted were Suffolk (22), Monroe (21), and Erie (15). The overall accepted rate remained relatively high at 84%. Interestingly, 35% of the reports involved multiple submissions, meaning more than one independent report pertaining to the same sighting. This is a welcome trend that generally provides a fuller account of the sighting and helps to corroborate important details of observation, especially subjective features such as size, flight style and so on. This is particularly important when birds are seen only briefly such as at hawk or lake watches. In the fleeting moments as the bird passes, observers will notice and recall subtly different features, which in combination may give a more complete picture. The same is true for vocalizations, which are notoriously difficult to transcribe. If you are lucky enough to encounter a rare bird, be sure to encourage additional observers to put their own notes and impressions on paper and, if possible, submit these as independent reports.

A total of 93 contributors provided reports and/or photographs and their names are listed alongside accepted reports as well as at the end of this document. The Committee genuinely appreciates the time and effort that goes into preparing these reports and we hope that the new online submission form available on the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) web site has made this task easier. Many submissions were of a high standard, not only in terms of the level of detail provided in the description but also in the careful analysis of the identification. All too often, observers omit an explanation of precisely how they arrived at their conclusions, perhaps assuming that this will be self-evident from the description or photographs. Unfortunately, this is not always true, and, without exception, a report is much stronger and more compelling when the authors take the time to explain what features convinced them that they were observing the species in question rather than other similar species, including plumage variants, exotics (cage birds), or other rare possibilities.

HOW TO SUBMIT REPORTS

Advice on how to prepare and submit a report is provided on the NYSARC pages within the NYSOA web site:

<<http://nybirds.org/NYSARC/NYSARC/home.htm>>

Here you will also find an on-line reporting form that allows observers to compose a written report and attach up to five digital image files. The site also includes a list of species reviewed by NYSARC, information on the composition of the Committee, a small gallery of rare or unusual birds photographed in the state, and copies of previous annual reports. NYSARC encourages observers to submit documentation for all species on the review list, as well as species previously unrecorded in New York State (NYS). We will also consider unusual breeding species and seasonal migrants that are four weeks or more beyond the usual dates of occurrence. NYSARC encourages observers to read the *Kingbird* article by former Committee member Willie D'Anna on the documentation and reporting process (D'Anna 2003). The Committee is grateful to Carena Pooth for regularly updating the NYSARC web site. Those who prefer not to use the online reporting form are encouraged to send us documentation (written and photographic) via email or regular mail. Such reports, as well as correspondence for the Committee, should be sent to:

Jeanne Skelly, Secretary for NYSARC
420 Chili-Scottsville Road, Churchville, NY 14428
nysarc1@nybirds.org

OTHER COMMITTEE NEWS

It is with deep regret that we note the passing of Dr. Paul DeBenedictis. At a meeting in 1975 of the Council of Delegates for what was then The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Paul first proposed the creation of a rare bird verification committee for the state, in line with committees that already existed in California, Britain, and elsewhere. After two more years of deliberation and planning, the formation of NYSARC was approved and Paul was selected as the first Chair. He served from 1977 to 1984, when he resigned from the Committee to devote himself to Editorship of *The Kingbird*. After almost thirty years, NYSARC remains an important and well-respected arm of the New York State Ornithological Association, a fitting legacy to Paul's many contributions to amateur ornithology in New York and beyond. In other Committee news, Gerard Phillips rotates off the Committee at the end of his five-year term as a voting member. We thank Gerard for his many insightful and sometimes passionate contributions to our deliberations. His knowledge and constant good humor made our work all the more pleasurable. He is replaced by Jeff Bolsinger of Canton, New York. Jeff is a field biologist with particular interest in the ecology of passerines, especially the wood warblers. He has recently taken on the role as Kingbird Editor for Region 6 and has played a major role in gathering data from the St. Lawrence River plain and Adirondack region for the Breeding Bird Atlas. We welcome Jeff as a voting member and will make good use of his knowledge of the birds and birders in northern New York.

The present report represents a collaborative effort by the current, undersigned, Committee members. We are also deeply indebted to Willie D'Anna, who helped to review many of the reports included here. On occasion we also requested assistance from experts outside the Committee, and we would like to express our gratitude to all who have graciously responded. We also wish to acknowledge Berna and Stan Lincoln for contributing information concerning Paul DeBenedictis and his role in the early years of the Committee and Patricia Lindsay for helping to proof-read this long and complex document.

HIGHLIGHTS

This report includes several notable rarities including three new additions to the New York State Checklist: Pacific Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*), Williamson's Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*), and Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*). The golden-plover is a long-distance migrant with a proven potential for global vagrancy and has seemed like a good possibility to reach NYS eventually. In contrast, the woodpecker was far beyond any prior vagrant record and truly unexpected. As discussed in the narrative, Cassin's Vireo may occur with regularity in eastern North America but its status as a vagrant is obscured by the difficulty of identification in the field. The Committee also accepted the first NYS occurrence of "Western Flycatcher," a complex formerly recognized as a single species but now regarded by the AOU as comprising two separate, although very similar, species: Cordilleran Flycatcher (*Empidonax occidentalis*) and Pacific-slope Flycatcher (*E. difficilis*). Neither has been recorded in NYS before, but the Committee was not convinced that these two possibilities could be distinguished from the details provided. Including "Western Flycatcher," these additions bring the state list to a total of 466. Other notables include the second accepted records of South Polar Skua (*Stercorarius maccormicki*), Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), and MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*) for NYS, three Black-capped Petrels (*Pterodroma hasitata*) on or near Lake Ontario, multiple inland Wilson's Storm-Petrels (*Oceanites oceanicus*), Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*), and Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*). The Committee also accepted the first NYS occurrences of two subspecies: a Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*) belonging to the western North American subspecies group *swainsonii* ("Western Warbling-Vireo"); and a Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) of the southwestern North American subspecies *chryseola* ("Sonora Yellowthroat"). Finally, the Committee accepted reports documenting the first NYS breeding records for Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) and Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*).

2003 REPORTS ACCEPTED

Unless otherwise stated, each report number (e.g., Ross's Goose #2003-77-A/C, below) refers to a single individual bird. The letters following the report

number indicate how many independent reports pertained to the bird in question (three in the example just given). County names appear in bold font, and a few standard abbreviations, consistent with those in Kingbird Regional Reports, are employed to save space.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

2003-2-A Fairhaven Beach SP, Fairhaven, **Oswego**, 6 Jan (Kevin McGann; ph K. McGann).

2003-38-A Town of Holland, **Niagara**, 22 Apr (William W. Watson).

2003-65-A Lake Ontario Parkway, East of Rt 98, Carleton, **Monroe**, 10 Apr (Robert Spahn).

2003-77-A/C Cayuga Pool, Iroquois NWR, Shelby, **Genesee**, 27 Dec (Gerald Lazarczyk, William W. Watson, Michael Morgante; ph Kurt Fox).

As we have seen in past years, the number of reports of Ross's Goose has steadily increased in line with the overall growth of the population and its spread eastwards. 2003 was no exception to this trend and justifies the Committee's decision to remove the species from the review list. Four reports were accepted. Two of these included photos, and all four provided acceptable descriptions, adequately addressing the Committee's concerns regarding small Snow Geese (*C. caerulescens*) and hybrid Ross's X Snow Geese, which can be identified by careful study of head and bill shape.

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*)

2003-57-A/D Two to fourteen, Ringneck Marsh, Iroquois NWR, Shelby, **Orleans**, 13 Oct to 9 Nov (Willie D'Anna, Michael Morgante, William W. Watson; ph W. D'Anna).

Western NY and especially the Iroquois NWR seem to be a regular wintering ground for small numbers of Cackling Geese, possibly the same individuals returning from one year to the next. The four reports described between 2 and 14 individuals that were seen over the period from 13 October to 9 November. The one photograph of a single individual was helpful in validating the identification, and combined with the descriptions, left little doubt that these were "Richardson's" Cackling Geese rather than nutritionally-stunted Canada Geese (*B. canadensis*).

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

2003-3-A Male, Port Kent Harbor, **Essex**, 11-13 Jan (Dana Rohleder).

2003-11-A/C Male, Oswego Harbor, **Oswego**, 2 Mar (Bill Purcell, Barbara Hergesell, Kevin McGann; ph K. McGann).

John Peterson and Robert Wei found a male Tufted Duck at Port Kent Harbor, **Essex** on 11 January, and David Wheeler later discovered a second male in Oswego Harbor, **Oswego** on 2 March. Since these locations are somewhat distant from each other, it is unclear whether these pertain to one bird or two. In both cases, the Tufted Duck was found with a flock of scaup and descriptions of the tuft, flank pattern, and back color argued against hybrid origin.

Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*)

2003-8-A Pt Vivian, St Lawrence River, Alexandria, **Jefferson**, 12 Jan (Nick Leone).

This female/immature male was observed with a telescope for 45 minutes at 150-250 yards. Some reviews voiced concern that the report did not explicitly

address separation from King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*), the more frequent eider within the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence system. However, several details (general size, head and bill shape plus “feathering of the loreal area extending down the bill and tapering to a narrow, blunt point slightly below the nostril”) were positive for Common Eider and ruled against King.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

2003-9-A/C Captree SP, Suffolk, 1-3 Mar (Thomas W. Burke, Dale Dyer, Angus Wilson; ph Ken Feustel, A. Wilson).

2003-15-A/B East River, Queens/Manhattan, 1 May (Angus Wilson, Anne Lazarus; ph A. Wilson).

The Captree loon was discovered by Dale Dyer and subsequently seen by hordes of local and visiting birders (Dyer 2003). Two observers submitted a total of eight digital photographs and these proved valuable in documenting the identification. Excellent descriptions also conclusively supported the identification as an adult winter-plumaged Pacific Loon. Anne Lazarus discovered the season’s second Pacific Loon two months later along the East River, a site that generally receives far less birding coverage than the outer coast. The two reports of this bird include seven digital photos and thorough descriptions to conclusively document this record. The bird appeared to be in active molt into summer plumage. It is possible that a “mini-invasion” of Pacific Loons to the east coast in 2003, like the widely documented invasion of Red-necked Grebes (*Podiceps grisegena*) around the same time, was related to the complete freeze-up of the western Great Lakes!

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

2003-19-A Riis Park, Queens, 23 Mar (Angus Wilson).

Angus Wilson and Andy Guthrie found this Western Grebe just beyond the surf line on the Atlantic Ocean side of Riis Park. The bird was first seen about noon and relocated at 4 PM. The description clearly indicates an *Aechmophorus* grebe, which was studied for some time from a long distance. The observers had noted several Red-necked Grebes (*Podiceps grisegena*) earlier in the day. The details of the head and neck, with the eye concealed within the cap, and the dark flanks confirmed the separation of Western from Clark’s Grebe (*Ae. clarkii*) and were sufficient to eliminate a possible hybrid. The previous winter, a Western Grebe was present for several months off the southern shore of Staten Island, only a few miles across the entrance of New York Harbor from Breezy Point and Riis Park.

Black-capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*)

2003-28-A/C Two, Lake Ontario, Fairhaven SP, Cayuga, 21 Sep (Kevin McGann, Gerard Phillips, Bill Purcell).

2003-82-A Euclid Ave near Syracuse Ave, Syracuse, Onondaga, 24 Sep (Pete Hosner; ph P. Hosner).

Despite having only distant views of the two birds that flew past Fairhaven State Park, the three reports helped eliminate other petrels, including the very similar Bermuda Petrel (*P. cahow*), by virtue of the bold white collar. Salient field marks and the well-described manner of flight further eliminated other

seabirds, including Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*), Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*), and Greater Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*)—the latter two species being unprecedented for inland NYS despite their abundance in our offshore waters. This was the first sighting in Region 5 involving seemingly healthy individuals. The report from Syracuse included three photographs and accompanying notes of an “emaciated” female specimen now at the Cornell University collection (CUM #50218). The bird was first discovered alive in a bush on Euclid Avenue in Syracuse, Oneida Co, three days after the passage of Hurricane Isabel on 22 Sep. An attempt was made to capture the struggling bird but it escaped and was unfortunately hit by a car. It eventually died at a local rehabilitator on 24 Sep. Although it is tempting to speculate that this might have been one of the two individuals seen on nearby Lake Ontario the afternoon of 21 Sep, there is no firm evidence either way. The Syracuse bird constitutes the fourth record for Region 5. Along with a number of storm-petrels (see below), it is almost certain that these three gadfly petrels were swept inland from the Gulf Stream by the passage of Hurricane Isabel.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*)

2003-32-A/C One to two individuals, south end of Cayuga Lake, Ithaca, **Tompkins**, 20-22 Sep (Wesley Hochachka, Pete Hosner, Curtis Marantz; ph P. Hosner).

2003-33-A/E Woodlawn Beach SP, Hamburg, **Erie**, 19-20 Sep (Mike Hamilton, Kurt Fox, William W. Watson, Willie D'Anna, Michael Morgante).

2003-49-A/C One to five, Fairhaven SP, Fairhaven, **Cayuga**, 21 Sep (Kevin McGann, Bill Purcell, Gerard Phillips; ph G. Phillips).

2003-56-A Two, possibly three, Pendergast Pt, **Chautauqua**, 20 Sep (Willie D'Anna).

Hurricane Isabel carried an unprecedented number of Wilson's Storm-Petrels to inland regions including upstate NYS, evidenced by the number of sightings documented and submitted to NYSARC. The Hamburg, **Erie**, bird was seen by a number of individuals, and the written descriptions of this bird, and of the two to three birds at Pendergast Point, **Chautauqua**, firmly establish the identification of Wilson's Storm-Petrel and sufficiently rule out other contenders, in particular Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*) and Leach's Storm-Petrel (*O. leucorhoa*). The Fairhaven, **Cayuga**, sightings were accompanied by both written descriptions and documentary photographs. One of these photographs captured the unpleasant prospects faced by many storm-driven seabirds, in this case being snatched and swallowed alive by a Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*). Cayuga Lake, **Tompkins**, hosted at least two storm-petrels. Extensive observation, written documentation and photographs establish that at least one of these birds could be safely identified as Wilson's Storm-Petrel (see discussion below regarding a candidate Band-rumped Storm-Petrel). Although an abundant summer visitor to the coast, there are only five previous inland records of Wilson's Storm-Petrel for the state (Askildsen 1998a).

White-faced Storm-Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*)

2003-30-A Hudson Canyon, 39° 33.02' N, 72° 20.09' W, 17 Aug (Jeanne Skelly).

In recent years, late summer boat trips to the submarine canyons and shelf-breaks off New England and south to the Carolinas have found White-
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faced Storm-Petrel to be a regular, albeit scarce, denizen of the warm water currents that move up with the Gulf Stream during the summer. This report is the fifth in the past five years from offshore NYS waters, and the third of these from organized pelagic trips out of Belmar, New Jersey, to the same section of the Hudson Canyon. This bird was found at 39° 33.02' N, 72° 20.09' W, which is 92 miles due south of Southampton, Suffolk, and seen very well off the bow of the *Suzie Girl*. It was seen long enough for everyone on board to have excellent views and was last seen at 39° 33.17' N, 72° 20.95' W. The Committee understands that several excellent photographs were taken, but unfortunately they were not submitted, and although a large number of trip participants (and Committee members!) observed the bird, this report was the only one received. This is the eleventh record for New York State.

Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*)

2003-67-A/B Niagara River below flood gates, Niagara, 6-7 Oct (William W. Watson, Willie D'Anna; ph W. D'Anna).

The two reports contained solid descriptions, eliminating similar species, and were bolstered by three digiscoped photos clearly showing the bird in juvenile (first year) plumage. Northern Gannet has become sufficiently regular on Lake Ontario as to not require NYSARC review, but this sighting on the Niagara River not far from its outflow from Lake Erie is much more unusual. The fate of the birds that find themselves on freshwater for extended periods is unknown.

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

2003-64-A Irondequoit Bay, Monroe, 8 Sep (Robert Spahn; ph R. Spahn).

This report inadvertently circulated without an accompanying digiscoped photo. However, the brief but adequate description of this highly distinctive species sufficed. Likely this was the same bird first reported from Braddock Bay on 7 Sep and seen again at Irondequoit on the 9th but no additional reports were received.

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

2003-46-A Deruyter Reservoir, Madison, 19 Sep (Dorothy Crumb; ph John Kennedy).

Barry Buyea reported a Brown Pelican on the east side of Deruyter Reservoir and his friend John Kennedy was able to obtain recognizable photos of the bird as it flew by. Although the Committee prefers to have some written description, the photos were sufficient to confirm the identification and location. Brown Pelicans remain very rare in NYS away from Long Island.

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*)

2003-44-A/C Female, Fire Island Hawkwatch, Robert Moses SP, Suffolk, 2 Oct (Robert Kurtz, John Gluth, Steven D'Amato; ph S. D'Amato), see Fig. 1 on page 59.

An exemplary set of reports provided superb documentation of this sighting. These included four well-taken photos of the bird in flight plus excellent sketches conveying all the salient features, supporting the identification as a female Magnificent Frigatebird. The thoughtful analyses eliminated other members of

the genus, including the two that have occurred previously as vagrants in North America: Great (*F. minor*) and Lesser (*F. ariel*) frigatebirds.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)

2003-76-A Monroe, 7 June (Kevin Griffith).

Documentation of this medium-sized heron comprised a detailed sketch with notations. A suite of characters, including the distinctive contrasting underwing pattern, was fully consistent with Tricolored Heron, a notable rarity away from marine habitat. The bird was discovered and sketched by Kevin Griffith.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)

2003-37-A/I Benning Marsh, Montezuma NWR, Seneca, 27 Sep-5 Oct (William W. Watson, Dorothy Crumb, Kurt Fox, Barbara Herrgesell, Pete Hosner, Kevin McGann, Robert Spahn, Curtis Marantz, Jay McGowan; ph Cheri Sassman, P. Hosner, K. McGann, J. McGowan).

Any *Plegadis* ibis is noteworthy away from the coast in NYS. The identification of individual birds can be difficult, particularly for immatures or non-breeding adults, when White-faced Ibis lacks the distinctive white facial feathering that lends the species its common name. This record was extraordinarily well documented, due in various measure to the bird's lengthy stay at an actively birded hotspot, the highly efficient distribution of timely reports over birding listserves, the increased use of 'digiscoping' to capture detailed documentary images, and not least the detailed written reports submitted by multiple observers. This is the seventh record accepted by NYSARC since 1979 (there are four additional sightings of 1-2 birds each listed in Burke 1998), and the first record away from Region 10 since 1908.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

2003-20-A Sub-ad, Ripley Hawkwatch, Site #2, Chautauqua, 20 May (Leonard DeFrancisco).

2003-22-A Sub-ad, Ripley Hawkwatch, Site #3, Chautauqua, 30 May (Leonard DeFrancisco).

Mississippi Kite is an annual but rare migrant in western NY and two sub-adults seen ten days apart is extremely unusual. All of the salient features were noted by the observer, including an incomplete white subterminal tail band, which added a certain authenticity. The observer had good light and saw both birds reasonably closely. Although he does not provide an estimate of size with respect to the Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo platypterus*) accompanying these birds, he does provide a very detailed description of the plumage and an excellent sketch. His description and drawing of body, underwing pattern, and barred tail all seem to rule out the falcons and Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), the most likely alternatives.

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*)

2003-26-A Two ads, one chick, Carncross Rd, Savannah, Wayne, 5 June (John Van Neil, John Foust; ph J. Van Neil).

John Van Neil and John Foust kept birders aware of the progress of a Sandhill Crane colt that was discovered in the Montezuma wetlands complex just north

of the main wildlife refuge. The trio was watched anxiously all summer as the immature progressed. Sandhill Cranes have been found in previous years in this area but this is the first confirmed nesting record for NYS.

Pacific Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*)

2003-70-A Mecox Bay, Suffolk, 28 Sep (Hugh McGuinness; ph A. Baldelli), see Fig. 2 on page 59.

Jim Ash, Andy Baldelli, and Hugh McGuinness discovered and provided excellent photographs of an adult Pacific Golden-Plover in rather faded breeding plumage. See McGuinness (2003) for a full account. The long tertials revealing only two exposed primaries and the long tibia were among the field marks separating this species from American Golden-Plover (*P. dominica*). Pacific Golden-Plovers breed on arctic tundra from central Siberia across to western Alaska. The majority of the population winters in coastal areas across southeast Asia, Australia and especially the thousands of islands scattered across the Pacific (Oceania). Small numbers are seen along the Pacific coast of North America and regular vagrancy to Western Europe is well documented. There are surprisingly few definitive reports of Pacific Golden-Plover in eastern North America, perhaps a reflection of the similarity to American Golden-Plover. Pacific Golden-Plover has been recorded in Bermuda, Barbados, the Cape Verde Islands, Europe, and both coasts of Africa (Johnson and Connors 1996, AOU 1998, McGuinness 2003). Prior accepted records from the eastern USA include birds in Maine (11 Sep 1911), New Jersey (4-16 Sep 2001) and Massachusetts (21 Apr-5 May 2002). This is the first accepted record for NYS.

Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*)

2003-21-A/B Mecox Bay, Suffolk, 7-8 June (Angus Wilson, S. S. Mitra, Patricia Lindsay).

The history of this species in NYS has been complex. It probably occurred regularly on Long Island in the early to mid 19th Century (Giraud 1844, Griscom 1923), when it bred commonly in southern New Jersey (Walsh et al. 1999). Extirpated as a breeder from New Jersey in the late 19th Century, records from Long Island lapsed for several decades. By 1942, however, Cruickshank noted a resurgence and was able to list 13 well authenticated Long Island records for the period 1915-1941. Thereafter, the species was noted here only irregularly for half a century. Patricia Lindsay's and Tom Vezo's record (NYSARC #1993-34-A) from 28 May 1993 at Napeague, the site of at least one historical record, might be taken as the harbinger of another, ongoing, period of more regular occurrence, leading up to the present record: Lindsay's discovery, with Shai Mitra, of a male at Mecox Bay, another site that has hosted the species before. See also NYSARC #1999-82-A, discussed below.

Willet (*Catoprophorus semipalmatus*)

2003-83-A/B Bird Island Pier, La Salle Park, Buffalo, Erie, 12 Dec -3 Jan (William W. Watson, Willie D'Anna; ph W. D'Anna).

Per these reports, a Willet was observed at LaSalle Park, Buffalo from August 2003 until 1 January 2004. The descriptions of the distinctive wing pattern,

leg color and plumage were certainly indicative of Willet, and the photograph provided by Willie D'Anna confirmed the identification. Willets are rare in winter anywhere in NYS, and winter birds generally show characters consistent with the prairie nesting "Western Willet" (*C. s. inornatus*).

Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*)

2003-48-A Onondaga Lake, Geddes, Onondaga, 8 Sep (Kevin McGann).

Viewed at a great distance through a spotting scope, the less than favorable conditions, including heat shimmer, hindered a straightforward evaluation. Some concerns were raised that other godwits were not considered and that details of the head were described quite well yet the bill was not perceived as being bi-colored. However, in the second round, the considerably larger size compared with Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) and Blue-winged teal (*Anas discors*), extremely long "pale" bill and overall buff coloration of the plumage were enough to convince the Committee.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)

2003-35-A Juv, Hamlin Beach SP, Monroe, 30 Aug (Dominic Sherony; ph D. Sherony).

Dunlin in full juvenal plumage are rather rare in NYS, even on the coast where the species occurs in huge numbers. Unlike most shorebirds, in which southbound adults arrive in NYS dramatically earlier than juveniles, a few juvenile Dunlin are often among the vanguard of Dunlin arriving on Long Island during September, but even these are usually already molting into first basic plumage. The present individual was carefully studied and photographed and is notable both for the relatively early date and for the fact that it appeared to be in full juvenal plumage.

Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*)

2003-62-A Massapequa Preserve, Nassau, 27 Nov (Seth Ausubel; ph S. Ausubel).

This species is unusual on Long Island even during its expected periods of occurrence, and it is extremely rare anywhere in the state after September. The present record, which consists of a well-described bird in winter plumage that was also nicely photographed, comes from a notable late-season shorebird hotspot that is often used by wintering Long-billed Dowitchers (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) and Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*). This exceeds the previous late date of 20 Nov (Able 1998).

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

2003-78-A/B Ad winter, Robert Moses Power Plant, Niagara River, Niagara, 6 & 16 Dec (William W. Watson, Willie D'Anna; ph W. D'Anna).

California Gulls continue to be reported annually from the Niagara River, where they are consistently found at the Adam Beck Power Station overlook. In years when one or more turn up, they can usually be located sitting on the rocks just down river from the Robert Moses Power Station on the American side of the river. Willie D'Anna was able to photograph this adult California Gull from the dam overlook. The description and photograph were sufficient for acceptance.

Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*)

2003-1-A/F First winter, Irondequoit Bay, Penfield, **Monroe**, 9-13 Jan (Sharon Skelly, Jeanne Skelly, Jeff Gerbracht, Dominic Sherony, Robert Spahn, William W. Watson), see Fig. 3 on page 60.

Bob Spahn discovered this first-winter Ross's Gull at the south end of Irondequoit Bay on 9 January and to the delight of many birders, this winter jewel remained in the same area until it was last seen on 13 Jan (Spahn 2003). The following day, the entire bay was frozen over and presumably the gull was forced to look for food elsewhere. Dozens of people from all over the state and beyond came to view this spectacular rarity and six reports were submitted, two supplemented with sketches. Matt Victoria's excellent photo of this bird appeared in the cited *Kingbird* article. In these reports, the similarly sized and patterned Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) was adequately eliminated. This is the sixth record for NYS.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

2003-42-A/B Cayuga Lake, Ithaca, **Tompkins**, 19 Sep (Pete Hosner, Curtis Marantz).

The occurrence of Arctic Tern in NYS has been historically difficult to document due to the difficulty of field identification, particularly separation from Common Tern (*S. hirundo*), and the often problematic conditions (e.g., distant and fleeting views) under which most sightings occur. The Common and Arctic Tern species pair has been popularly dubbed 'Commic' Tern, reflecting the reality that many sight records are best left unidentified. As a result, although Arctic Tern no doubt occurs annually as an offshore migrant within NYS waters, Cooper (1998) listed only six fully documented records for the state. These include three old specimens (**Suffolk** 7/18/1884, Long Island 10/7/1897, and Cayuga Lake 5/20/16), and two more recent records accepted by NYSARC (**pelagic** 8/13/1980 and **Erie** 11/12/1989). Cooper (1998) also mentions an "additional half dozen or so records . . . seen by observers intimately familiar with the species and . . . undoubtedly correct." Since Cooper's summary was published, four more records have been accepted by NYSARC: **Suffolk** 6/16/1996 (#1996-48-A); **Clinton** 5/10/1999 (#1999-14-A); **Monroe** 10/5/1999 (#1999-69-A); and **Suffolk** 6/13/2000 (#2000-64-A).

It is interesting to note that few of these documented NYS records accord with the species' regular migratory periods in nearby Massachusetts, northbound from mid to late May and southbound (really eastbound, toward the central Atlantic) from early to mid August (Veit and Petersen 1993). Most NYS records are more easily assigned to two other categories: non-breeders at coastal inlets during June and July (see #1999-80-A, below); or, as in the case of the present record, fall occurrences, sometimes associated with storms.

The present record involves an adult, apparently deposited on Cayuga Lake by Hurricane Isabel, although it's not clear whether it would have been brought in from the ocean or forced down while migrating overland. Two of the four observers submitted reports to NYSARC. The Committee felt that the detailed reports submitted satisfactorily established the identification as Arctic Tern, based on careful descriptions of the critical underwing and upperwing patterns and other supporting marks, as well as direct comparisons of shape and flight

style with nearby Common Terns. Including the specimens cited by Cooper and #1999-80-A (below), this represents the eleventh documented record for the state, and the fifth inland record.

Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*)

2003-51-A/C Juv, Oswego Harbor, Oswego, 20 Sep (Kevin McGann, Bill Purcell, Gerard Phillips; ph K. McGann).

Another storm-blown vagrant deposited upstate by Hurricane Isabel. Four written reports were received, accompanied by documentary photographs which clearly show a juvenile Black Skimmer. This is the second record for Region 5 and the seventh record away from the immediate coast. It is preceded by a 1987 record (NYSARC #1987-25-A) of a juvenile on the tidal section of the Hudson River at Croton Point, **Westchester**, which is much closer to the species' normal haunts.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

2003-58-A/C Pine Island, Orange, 1-2 Dec (Warren Cairo, Mary Ann Cairo, John Tramontano; ph W. Cairo).

Three reports were received for this sighting of a species that is only slowly expanding into the Northeast from more established populations to the south. The observers are familiar with this species and its primary confusion species, Ringed Turtle-Dove (*S. risoria*), from the populations in Florida. In addition to the written descriptions, the accompanying photographs showed the contrasting dark primaries, an important feature of the identification. Although the observers did not hear the dove vocalize, a local resident provided a description of the song. This is the first record for **Orange** and Region 9 and the second accepted record of the species in NYS following a bird (NYSARC #2002-26-A/F) that spent several months near Hamlin, **Monroe**.

Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*)

2003-5-A/D Corbin Hill Rd, Root, **Montgomery**, 26 Jan to 12 Apr (Tom Salo, Joanne Shultz, Rex Stanford, Curtis Marantz; ph J. Shultz, R. Stanford, Peter Doherty), see Fig. 4 on page 60.

This accommodating and popular owl was present for at least three months, in the process establishing a record late spring date for NYS. A diurnal hunter with a predilection for exposed perches, Northern Hawk Owl is more likely to be discovered as a vagrant than the similarly irruptive but more secretive and nocturnal Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*). Many of NYS's Northern Hawk Owl records have occurred during years in which large numbers of northern owls move southward from their normal year-round ranges. Some years have resulted in multiple individuals being found across NYS and in neighboring states. The winter of 2002-2003 was a poor year in this regard, with very few Northern Hawk Owls found in southern Canada and central and eastern US, making it even more unusual that this bird lingered so far south for as long as it did. This well described and photographed individual represents the 16th documented record for NYS and the second record for Region 8.

Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*)

2003-18-A/C County Rt 10, Pennellville, Oswego, 20 & 24 May (Dorothy Crumb, Robert & Kayla Fisk, Gerard Phillips, sound recording by G. Phillips).

This was the first record of the species for Region 5. Credit goes to Mr. Fisk's young daughter Kayla, who initially heard the bird, then went on the internet and identified it to species! During its stay from 20 May to 2 June, it was heard by as many as 72 birders and was seen only once (28 May). Written descriptions of the vocalizations were submitted along with an audio sample taken from a sound recording made on 24 May.

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

2003-29-A/B Ad male, Washingtonville, Orange, 31 Jul-2 Aug (Rick Horn, Lloyd Spitalnik, video by L. Spitalnik).

2003-47-A Ad male, Route 4, Oxford, Chenango, 4 Nov (Fred von Mechow).

Over the past 20 years or so, *Selasphorus* hummingbirds have occurred with increasing frequency in eastern North America, including NYS (Mitra and Bochnik 2001). Growing awareness of the tendency of these vagrants to appear in late fall and winter has prompted birders to scrutinize late season ornamental plantings, and hummingbird feeders are often left hanging well into November on the chance that a western stray might appear. Bucking this trend slightly, an "early" adult male Rufous Hummingbird was observed by Rick Horn in Washingtonville over a three-day period at a sugar feeder and video taped by Lloyd Spitalnik. The tape showed an all rufous-colored hummingbird with red gorget and a cap of the same rufous tone as the body. This combination is fully consistent with the identification and excludes other species, notably Allen's Hummingbird (*S. sasin*), which has been recorded in Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Virginia.

The Oxford hummingbird was present for a short while into early November, more in line with the recent pattern. The color description in the report initially left the Committee divided on this record, but follow-up clarification resolved the Committee's concerns and also ruled out Allen's. These two occurrences, however, do point out that any records of *Selasphorus* hummingbirds must be carefully scrutinized to establish the identification and that it is not safe to assume these are Rufous Hummingbirds. Written reports should endeavor to explain the basis of the identification. Females and immatures present a particular challenge and of the ten accepted records of *Selasphorus* hummingbirds, half have been accepted as "*Selasphorus* species" only, rather than assigned to either Rufous or Allen's. In these cases, it is imperative to photographically document the shapes of the tail feathers, a difficult and challenging task.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)

2003-59-A Ad, Fresh Kills Landfill, Staten Island, Richmond, 24 Nov (Phillip A. Brown).

Three photos support the identification of Ash-throated Flycatcher. This bird's dark tail tip, pale belly, and overall appearance were typical of Ash-throated Flycatcher and inconsistent with the other *Myiarchus* flycatchers. The lack of a large bill and large crest further rule out Great Crested (*M. crinitus*) and Brown-crested (*M. tyrannulus*) flycatchers.

Few vagrants have increased in frequency in NYS as dramatically as has Ash-throated Flycatcher. Fritz and Quinlan (1998) cited only nine acceptable records prior to 1996, of which only one was reviewed and accepted by NYSARC (11/2/1993, Nassau, #1993-62-A). Then, on 10 Nov 1996, three Ash-throated Flycatchers were reliably reported from two widely spaced sites in Suffolk and one in Nassau, along Long Island's ocean shore! Since the publication of their review, no fewer than six additional records have been accepted by the Committee for the four years 1999-2002: 11/20/1999 Queens (#1999-44-A), 9/5/2000 Queens (#200037-A), 12/6/2000 Queens (#2000-49-A), 11/27/2000 Kings (#2000-75-A), 11/25/2002 Queens (#2002-54-A), 11/21/2002 Nassau (#2002-59-A). The present record's November date and coastal setting conform closely to the pattern emerging from these records.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*)

2003-45-A SE edge of Brocton, Portland Township, Chautauqua, 28 Jun (Terry Mosher).

This bird was studied by Terry Mosher and Dick Miga, and the very detailed description of the bill, head and body plumage, and tail convinced the Committee of the identification as a Western Kingbird. The description of the shape and coloration of the tail feathers was particularly important in ruling out other yellow-bellied *Tyrannus* and hybrids. This species is very rare away from the coast in NYS, and this record's June date is also unusual. Most coastal sightings occur during the fall (September-November), but there have been two additional recent records from late May and June (25 May 2001, NYSARC #2001-77-A and 19 Jun 1998, NYSARC #1998-90-A). Most unusual and intriguing in the present instance were very detailed second-hand descriptions of breeding activities attributed to this Western Kingbird, presented and analyzed in commendable detail by Mosher (2004). Mosher concluded that the available evidence fell short of confirming actual breeding, and the Committee did not review the report in this context. Nevertheless, even the possibility of extralimital breeding raises many fascinating issues, including the possibility that a vagrant breeder might not find a conspecific mate, but instead hybridize with a related species that is locally prevalent. For instance, Western Kingbird has been known to pair with Eastern Kingbird (*T. tyrannus*) where one or the other is scarce (Gamble and Bergin 1996), and pioneering Clay-colored Sparrows (*Spizella pallida*) have been known to hybridize with both Field (*S. pusilla*) and Chipping Sparrow (*S. passerina*) in the Northeast (Hoag 1999). In view of these issues, and considering New York birders' recent experience with a presumed hybrid Scissor-tailed Flycatcher X Couch's Kingbird (see NYSARC report #2003-60-A, below), extra care should be applied in identifying suspected vagrants in the genus *Tyrannus*.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

2003-31-A Imm, Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Westchester, 5 July (Thomas W. Burke; ph Gail Benson).

The written report and color photographs firmly establish the identification as an immature Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher has been known to hybridize with Western Kingbird (Tyler and Parkes 1992, Regosin 1998), and

New York birders have recent experience with a presumed hybrid Scissor-tailed Flycatcher X Couch's Kingbird (see NYSARC report #2003-60-A, below). In light of these considerations, the Committee considered hybrid origins as well as the standard identification criteria in reviewing this report, but there was no evidence of hybridization. Whereas 30 of the first 40 NYS records came from Long Island (Koeneke 1998), nine of the last ten accepted records have come from elsewhere in the state. This record is the second for Westchester County, 58 years after the county's first was found by Helen Cruickshank in Rye on 7 May, 1945.

***Tyrannus* flycatcher**

2003-60-A River Rd, Town of Leicester, Livingston, (Robert Spahn) 17-25 Nov.

Gary Chapin discovered this *Tyrannus* flycatcher hawking insects from the fence running along Chandler Road near Geneseo. The bird remained in the area until 2 Dec and was viewed and/or photographed by many people. Only one report was received and this is extremely unfortunate because the identification proved controversial and ultimately very interesting. In his initial internet posting, Chapin identified the bird as a Western Kingbird (*T. verticalis*), citing the yellow underparts and white outer feathers seen when the bird landed. A week later, Willie D'Anna saw and digiscoped the kingbird at this same locality but after studying his photos, D'Anna raised some questions about the identification. In particular, the relatively heavy bill, extensively yellow upper breast and green hints on the mantle pointed away from Western Kingbird. The arrangement of feathers in the tail was also unusual and initially interpreted as active molt. The vocalizations D'Anna heard corresponded to a very loud sharp single-syllabled call and in an internet posting, Matt Victoria stated that he heard the bird give a distinct "WICK!" call several times. This is consistent with Western or perhaps Couch's Kingbird (*T. couchii*) but seemed to exclude Tropical Kingbird (*T. melancholicus*). The photos were posted on Angus Wilson's web site (www.oceanwanderers.com) and discussed extensively on ID-Frontiers. Whilst many expert commentators felt the bird more closely resembled a Couch's or Tropical rather than Western, others felt that these species were not quite right either. A short way into the debate, Bruce Anderson of Winter Park, Florida made the insightful observation that this might in fact be a hybrid between Western Kingbird and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*T. forficatus*), a known hybrid combination (Tyler and Parkes 1992, Regosin 1998). This idea gained favor, and Kevin McGowan and Bob Spahn, both of whom studied the bird in life, developed a robust argument in support of a somewhat different hybrid hypothesis. These authors concluded that the most likely parentage was in fact a hybrid between Couch's Kingbird and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher—potentially the first example of this combination (McGowan and Spahn 2004). Their thoughtful and informative analysis of the plumage and structural details is highly recommended. The breeding range of the two species overlaps narrowly in southern Texas and northern Mexico and the two species are known to form mixed flocks at times. An important lesson from this fascinating bird is that identification of scarce or rare species needs to be made with great care. Not only is it important to use a suite of positive characters but also to heed aspects that don't quite fit.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

2003-13-A Rt 63 and E Lakeshore Rd, Shadigee, Orleans, 15 Apr (Kurt Fox).

Loggerhead Shrike formerly bred in western NY but is now only found as a rare migrant. Kurt Fox found this Loggerhead Shrike on the Lake Ontario plain in mid April, an early date for this species. The field marks provided, especially the black feathers going over the bill, are a clear and diagnostic indication of Loggerhead Shrike rather than the much commoner Northern Shrike (*L. excubitor*). The lack of barring on the breast and the location of the black mask with respect to the eye are also appropriate for Loggerhead Shrike. The date of this occurrence falls among the latest dates for Northern Shrike, emphasizing the importance of careful study when reporting either species during periods, such as April and November, when either might occur.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

2003-72-A Five, Hamlin Beach SP, Monroe, 24 Nov (Robert Spahn).

The sighting of five swallows on Lake Ontario in late November is unusual in itself. Past records indicate that late swallows often turn out to be wandering Cave Swallows, an essentially central American species. Following a spectacular population increase in the late 20th Century, during which Cave Swallows began nesting under bridges and culverts and greatly expanded their breeding distribution north of Mexico (West 1995), Cave Swallows have begun to make regular incursions into the northeastern United States and southeastern Canada during late fall, especially in November (McNair and Post 2001). David Tetlow discovered these birds and he and Bob Spahn identified them by their buffy throats, square tails and overall appearance.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)

2003-27-A/B Hempstead Lake SP, Nassau, 15-20 Mar (Alvin Wollin, Angus Wilson; ph A. Wilson).

Discovered by Alvin Wollin, this interesting but at times elusive bird was seen by many observers, photographed and well described in the reports. The bird was very unusual in that it behaved like a male (heard singing on three occasions) but lacked a strong breast band, which is at odds with plumages of either sex. Geographic variation apparently is weak, clinal and based almost entirely on plumages of females (general color of underparts/upperparts). Hybridization has not been recorded in this species. For more discussion of this unusual Varied Thrush see Wilson 2003.

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*)

2003-61-A/B Male, Riverfront Park, East Water Street, Elmira, Chemung, 3 Dec (Anne Thurber, Bill Ostrander; ph Mike Powers).

Both the descriptions and the photographs were convincing concerning the identification of this species. This bird was observed in Elmira over a four-day period and, at one time, was seen in an abandoned Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) nest, which it presumably used as a roost site. The occurrence in early winter is not atypical of this species.

MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*)

2003-24-A Male, Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, Monroe, 4 June (Cindy Marino; ph Laurie Zagmester), see Fig. 5 and 6 on page 61.

This MacGillivray's Warbler was banded on 4 June 2003 by Cindy Marino, providing NYS with its second record (Marino 2003). Ten photographs were provided, including one with side-by-side comparisons with a Mourning Warbler (*O. philadelphia*). All of the field marks of this bird are those of a breeding-plumaged male MacGillivray's Warbler. In particular, the bold, white eye crescents and black lores extending over the bill are not expected in Mourning Warbler. Furthermore, the broken black mottling on the lower portion of the hood above the breast and the extensively olive flanks are more characteristic of MacGillivray's than of Mourning. When examining the photographs at high digital magnification, it is also clear in several of the photos that this bird has a very small area of white feathers on the chin just under the center of the lower mandible. This feature is referred to in Dunn and Garrett 1997 (p. 494) as "a tiny spot of white feathering on the extreme upper chin on spring male" MacGillivray's Warblers. The same authors describe this feature as "deep gray" in Mourning Warbler.

Two concerns raised regarding the identification involve the crescent above the left eye, which seems less pronounced than expected for this species, and the relatively short tail length (49 mm) associated with a relatively large value of flattened wing minus tail (13 mm)—both somewhat unusual values for MacGillivray's and within the ranges shown by Mourning. It should be noted that the upper crescent on this bird's right side appears entirely normal, and that the upper eye crescents are often finer than the lower eye crescents in MacGillivray's Warblers—as is the case for this bird. Therefore, it appears that this somewhat anomalous feature is most likely a part of the normal variation that can occur in any bird of any species, rather than an indication of hybridization. This bird's structural intermediacy is worth noting, but does not place it outside the range of variation observed in MacGillivray's Warbler. Most importantly, there are no other marks indicating possible hybridization with Mourning Warbler or any other species.

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

2003-40-A/F Two, Amherst Bike Path, Amherst, Erie, 6 Oct (William W. Watson, Gerald S. Lazarczyk, Gerry Rising, James Pawlicki, Willie D'Anna, Michael Morgante).

Six commendable reports conclusively documented what eventually turned out to be two individuals together in a small swale, the first discovered by James Pawlicki on 6 October. The reports described the species in detail, with due consideration given to potentially confusing species such as Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed (*A. caudacutus*), Le Conte's (*A. leconteii*), Henslow's (*A. henslowii*), and Grasshopper (*A. savannarum*) sparrows. Key field marks covered were "striking orange-buff upper breast and face...fine brown streaks on the orange-buff upper breast and along the breast sides." The gray median crown stripe flanked by two brown lateral crown stripes was also noted.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

2003-17-A Poughkeepsie, Dutchess, 4 May (Pat Gabel).

Even though this report provided few details, the combination of an all blue bird about the size of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) and with decidedly brown wingbars seemed adequate to specify Blue Grosbeak. The observer took particular care to rule out Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) and Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), the most likely confusable species.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*)

2003-73-A Male, feeder on River Rd, Cuylerville, Livingston, 4 Dec (Robert Spahn).

Diane Henderson and Lucretia Grosshans found this male Indigo Bunting in basic plumage at a feeder in Cuylerville, NY on 30 Nov. The bird was seen by a number of observers over the following days and was reported and photographed by Bob Spahn on 4 Dec. This species is rare in NYS after October, even on the coast, and Lindsay (1998) lists just four winter records later than early December.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

2003-85-A Ad male, Derby Hill Bird Observatory, Oswego, 26 Apr (Gerard Phillips; ph G. Phillips).

The report included a diagnostic digiscoped photo of this adult male. The bird was first heard singing among a small chorus of blackbirds at the top of a tall maple beside the observatory cottage. With the prospect of a poor hawk watching day due to no wind and drizzle, the bird was enjoyed by a handful of lucky observers visiting the observatory.

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*)

2003-10-A DeRuyter, Madison, 16 Jan (Charles C. Spagnoli).

One of the most important field marks separating Hoary from Common Redpoll (*C. flammea*), the lack of streaks on the undertail coverts, was noted in this report. The remaining field marks provided were observed in comparison to the Common Redpolls present and were also good indications of this species. With improved understanding of the important field marks and better photo documentation, NYS has seen a sustained increase in acceptable reports of this species, and NYSARC will no longer require documentation for reports from northern and central parts of the state. Hoary Redpoll remains exceedingly rare in coastal NYS, and sightings there should still be carefully documented and submitted for review.

2003 REPORTS ACCEPTED BUT ORIGINS UNCERTAIN

As its name suggests, this category involves records where the identification to species is clearly established but the provenance (wild origins or otherwise) of the birds in question is uncertain. Most often this involves waterfowl which are commonly kept in captivity, exotic gamebirds that are frequently released for hunting, and popular cagebirds such as parrots.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

2003-7-A Baiting Hollow, Suffolk, 2 Feb (Angus Wilson; ph A. Wilson).

2003-53-A/C Four, Mountain Rd, La Grange, Dutchess, 27-31 Oct (Chester Vincent, William Case, Binnie Chase; ph W. Case).

The first report above is that of a single bird discovered by Andy Guthrie, Tom Burke, and Gail Benson in Suffolk on 18 Jan and later photographed by Angus Wilson. The second report is of four Barnacle Geese seen together in Dutchess. The descriptions and photographs leave no doubt about the identification of these Barnacle Geese. The observer in the first report correctly points out that the origin is the issue. Breeders do not necessarily band their birds, so these could be escapes. There is a large breeding population of Barnacle Geese in eastern Greenland, but little consensus exists concerning the interpretation of records of this species in northeastern North America. For example, Szantyr (1988) proposed that many occurrences represent wild birds, but Ryff (1984) concluded that most or all Barnacle Geese reported in the US are escapes. Although some North American records of Barnacle Geese are undoubtedly authentic (individuals banded in the Old World have been shot in Newfoundland and Ontario), NYSARC continues to apply a conservative standard to individual reports while awaiting stronger evidence of a regular pattern of natural vagrancy to our region.

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*)

2003-12-A Three, Little Sodus Bay, Fairhaven, Cayuga, 2 Mar (Bill Purcell).

2003-39-A Dunkirk Harbor, Erie, 5 Jan (William W. Watson).

Trumpeter Swan is not a straightforward identification but the details provided in these two reports of the bill shape and the eye and bill pattern confirmed the identifications. In the first report above, the swan was also calling, further establishing the identity. Many of the Trumpeter Swans in NYS are known to have come from the introduction program in Ontario (often marked with collars or wing tags) and from captive birds known to have escaped in Wayne. They have continued to breed in NYS and wander widely across central and western NYS during the winter months. NYSARC is following the progress of this feral population closely but does not yet accept unmarked individuals as established.

Chukar (*Alectoris chukar*)

2003-14-A Bristol, Ontario, 26 Apr (Gail Wiechmann; ph K. Wiechmann)

This submission and accompanying photographs indicate an Old World partridge of the genus *Alectoris*. Various species, in particular Chukar and Red-legged Partridge (*A. rufa*), are commonly raised on game farms and accidentally or intentionally released into the wild. These species share a similar overall appearance and can, at times, be difficult to identify with certainty, particularly since hybrids are common. The description and photographs provided strong support for the identification as Chukar, excluding even the extremely similar and considerably less familiar Rock Partridge (*A. graeca*).

Although Chukar is occasionally reported from NYS, there is no evidence that a sustainable breeding population exists in the state or nearby. It therefore seems most likely this individual represents an intentional or accidental release, presumably for hunting.

Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*)

2003-23-A Two, Lakeshore Rd, Hamburg, Erie, 4 May (Stephen McCabe; ph S. McCabe).

The description and photograph provided clearly show two Monk Parakeets, a South American species that is locally well-established in the New York City area (especially Brooklyn), suburban sections of coastal Connecticut (Bull 1971), and upper Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island. Another established population exists well to the west in Chicago, Illinois (Moskoff 2003). Although vagrancy from known populations is theoretically possible, the Committee felt this was unlikely in this case, given the distance of the sighting from known populations and the fact that the species appears to be non-migratory in North America. For instance, this species is very unusual even short distances from established stations in the New York City area. The fact that the species remains a popular cage bird leaves room for spontaneous appearances (i.e. escapees) away from established feral populations.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

2003-41-A Two, feeder in Harrisville, Jefferson, May (Kathy Luther).

Two individuals were observed visiting a feeder in May (exact date unknown) and one was photographed. They were not seen subsequently. The color photograph clearly showed the plain chestnut cap and prominent dark spot on the ear coverts that distinguish this species from House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and other Old World Sparrows. Eurasian Tree Sparrows were introduced to North America in 1870 when birds of German origin were released in St. Louis, Missouri. That population has persisted to this day but remains localized to eastern Missouri, west-central Illinois, and southeastern Iowa (reviewed in Barlow and Leckie 2000). The species is essentially non-migratory both in North America and its natural range across Europe and temperate Asia. Some individuals may wander, especially in winter, although these movements tend to be over relatively short distances. There are a scattering of reports from other parts of North America which might involve escaped cage birds imported from Asia. The Committee accepts the identification but could not determine if these birds had wandered from their rather localized mid-western range or were more recent escapes. These uncertainties aside, the Committee strongly encourages the reporting of so-called "exotics," especially if they are carefully documented and photographed. Only by collecting this type of valuable information can we hope to establish patterns of colonization by introduced species or, in some cases, previously unsuspected occurrences of true vagrancy.

2001 REPORTS ACCEPTED

South Polar Skua (*Stercorarius maccormicki*)

2001-82-A Democrat Pt, Suffolk, 23 June (S. S. Mitra, Patricia Lindsay)

This skua was studied carefully from shore and gave sufficiently good views for it to be identified with confidence as a South Polar Skua (Mitra and Lindsay 2001). It was identified as a large skua ("*Catharacta*") by the combination of its size compared to some Greater Shearwaters, conspicuous upperwing flashes, wedge-shaped tail, gray-brown plumage without barring on the wing and tail coverts, and pale yellowish nape. It was separated from immature Great Skua (*S. skua*) by a detailed analysis of its plumage. Although South Polar Skua probably occurs fairly regularly in NYS's pelagic waters during late spring and summer, the present record is just the second documented occurrence in NYS, and one of very few shore-based records from northeastern North America. Observers are strongly encouraged to publish or submit documentation for all observations, including past ones, so that the status of this species, and also of Great Skua, might be understood more clearly.

Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*)

2001-83-A Hatching year, Fire Island Lighthouse, Suffolk, 19 Oct (P. A. Buckley, S. S. Mitra; ph Patrick Doyle).

Banded by Shai Mitra, this bird represents the first accepted record for NYS of this cryptic western relative of the familiar Blue-headed Vireo (*V. solitarius*). Prior to 1997, Cassin's, Blue-headed (*V. solitarius*), and Plumbeous (*V. plumbeus*) vireos were considered a single species, termed Solitary Vireo. They were subsequently split into three species based on a variety of criteria (AOU 1997). The individual in question was carefully studied in the hand, measured and photographed (see Buckley and Mitra 2003). In its deliberations, members of the Committee reviewed the specimen collections at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City and collectively agreed that the Fire Island bird showed plumage features outside the range of variation expected among Blue-headed Vireos. It is conceivable that as the identification criteria become better understood, Cassin's Vireo will join the ranks of the more regular strays to New York from western North America. However, until such a pattern has been firmly established, submission of exhaustive documentation, preferably with color photographs, will be necessary for acceptance of future reports.

2000 REPORT ACCEPTED

***Selasphorus* hummingbird**

2000-85-A Port Byron, Cayuga, last two weeks of Sep (Donna Jeanne Trumble)

Originally submitted as a video recording to a Committee member and subsequently presented to the committee for review. The bird visited a private

hummingbird feeder for at least two weeks in late September 2000 along with Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*). The Committee was able to assemble a crude description after study of twenty still images prepared from the video by Kevin McGowan. Evidently, a female or immature male *Selasphorus* hummingbird, the detail was unfortunately insufficient to identify the bird to species.

1999 REPORTS ACCEPTED

Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*)

1999-82-A Male, Pike's Beach, east of Moriches Inlet, Suffolk, 4 May (S. S. Mitra)

As noted above for NYSARC #2003-21-A/B, Wilson's Plovers have been reported from NYS more frequently in recent years. In the present report, Shai Mitra provided belated documentation for a bird originally discovered by biologists engaged in Piping Plover (*C. melodus*) research and conservation. It is worth noting that these biologists also reported a Wilson's Plover at the same site two years earlier, in spring 1997, but that documentation submitted to NYSARC in that instance was not considered adequate (#1997-24-A, not accepted). The vicinity of Moriches Inlet, like Napeague and Mecox Bay, has proven attractive to this species in the past.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

1999-80-A Second year, Democrat Pt, Suffolk, 13 Jun (S. S. Mitra, Patricia Lindsay).

Whilst studying a flock of terns feeding in the Fire Island Inlet, Shai Mitra noticed one individual with a noticeably buoyant flight compared to the Common Terns (*S. hirundo*) around it. The bird was relocated with a group of Common and Roseate Terns resting on the edge of a lagoon at Democrat Point and scrutinized carefully. Soft parts colors and the presence of a strong carpal bar suggested a one year-old bird (= first summer). The convincing description noted a suite of features including extremely short blackish legs, small bill, narrow black trailing edge to the underwing, lack of a dark secondary bar on outstretched wing, and uniformly gray uppersides to the folded primaries. In eastern North America, Arctic Terns breed as far south as the Gulf of Maine (abundantly) and southeastern Massachusetts (a few pairs), where they arrive in mid to late May and depart in early August. Although the majority of one and two year-old Arctic Terns are believed to remain in the Southern Hemisphere during the boreal summer, observations from Cape Cod suggest that some immature Arctic Terns migrate north and summer at favorable coastal sites not necessarily associated with breeding colonies (Veit and Petersen 1993). Careful scrutiny of terns in late spring and summer along the ocean shore of Long Island suggests that this phenomenon might occur regularly, though rarely, here as well. See NYSARC #2003-42-A/B above.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

1999-81-A/B Cornell Biological Field Station, Bridgeport, Madison,

5 Nov (Pete Hosner, Scott Haber)

This swallow was found dead by Connie Adams and donated to the Cornell

University collection (CUM # 50066), where it was identified as a Cave Swallow by Pete Hosner. Three color photographs of the prepared specimen were submitted. The bird had an empty stomach and was in an emaciated condition. Although submitted as belonging to the Caribbean subspecies *P. f. fulva*, wing cord measurements by Scott Haber were more consistent with the southwest race *P. f. pallida*, in keeping with other specimens from late fall incursions into the northeast (McNair and Post 2001). See NYSARC #2003-72-A above.

1998 REPORT ACCEPTED

“Western” Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus swainsonii*)

1998-91-A Hatching year, Fire Island Lighthouse, Suffolk, 29 Sep (P. A. Buckley, S. S. Mitra; ph S. S. Mitra).

Warbling Vireos are very scarce during migration on Long Island’s barrier beaches, and all examples are worthy of close inspection. Thus, when this individual was captured near Fire Island Lighthouse, its tiny bill and buffy wingbars were carefully noted (Buckley and Mitra 2003). The bander, Shai Mitra, was aware of on-going research concerning molt and vocal differences between eastern and western subspecies groups (Voelker and Rohwer 1998), specifically that hatching-year birds from western North America retain juvenal greater coverts during their first south-bound migration, whereas eastern birds typically do not. The combination of these retained feathers, a strikingly small bill, and, to a lesser extent, several features of the dorsal coloration, were all consistent with the western subspecies group *swainsonii*. This is the first accepted record of this taxon for NYS and possibly only the fourth for eastern North America (Buckley and Mitra 2003).

1997 REPORT ACCEPTED

Common “Sonora” Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas chryseola*)

1997-73-A Second year male, Fire Island Lighthouse, Suffolk, 18 May (P. A. Buckley, S. S. Mitra; ph S. S. Mitra)

This large and strikingly patterned Common Yellowthroat was mist-netted by Shai Mitra at the Fire Island Lighthouse banding station and identified as belonging to the southwestern subspecies *chryseola*, known colloquially as “Sonora Yellowthroat” (Buckley and Mitra 2003). The report consisted of the description, measurements, photographs, and analysis provided in the above publication. In considering such an unusual report, the Committee focused on the degree of confidence with which other North American subspecies could be excluded—and this confidence was necessarily held to a very high standard given the improbability of long-distance vagrancy in a partially resident taxon from the southwestern corner of the continent. Examination of specimens at the American Museum of Natural History, conducted independently by Buckley and Mitra, and then again by members of this Committee, confirmed that

the combination of plumage characters and measurements shown by the Fire Island bird closely matched the distinctive taxon *chryseola*. Furthermore, its completely yellow underparts and very broad forehead band (white with a trace of yellow) was not approached by any of the specimens of other yellowthroat taxa. Finally, the Fire Island bird's wing length and tail length were typical for *chryseola* and significantly longer than those of male *trichas* measured by the same bander (male spring migrants at Fire Island and male breeders in Rhode Island). Although the improbability of such an exceptional occurrence was considered very seriously by all reviewers, and although one reviewer voted against acceptance in the final round of review, other reviewers were impressed by the distinctiveness of *chryseola* relative to other yellowthroat taxa, the close resemblance of the Fire Island bird to the typical appearance of this taxon, documented vagrancy by *chryseola* to northwestern and eastern Texas, and precedents among other partially resident southwestern North American species, such as Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*), Painted Redstart (*Myioborus pictus*), and Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*), as vagrants to the Northeast.

1996 REPORT ACCEPTED

Williamson's Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*)

2003-86-A After hatching year female, Fire Island Lighthouse, Suffolk, 22 Jun (P. A. Buckley, S. S. Mitra; ph S. S. Mitra), see Fig. 7 and 8 on page 62.

Mist-netted by Shai Mitra at the Fire Island banding station and photographed by him in the hand, this female woodpecker's identity was never in question (Paxton et al. 1996a). In reviewing the photographs and other documentation presented by Buckley and Mitra (2003), the Committee focused on the extraordinary nature of the record. In addition to being the first occurrence in NYS, this remains by far the most easterly record of the species anywhere. Williamson's Sapsucker breeds in mid- to high-elevation evergreen forests in western North America, primarily in the Rocky Mountains, Cascades, Sierra Nevada, and scattered ranges in the Great Basin, southwestern California, and northern Baja California. It winters, generally at lower elevations, from the southern portions of the breeding range (northern California, northern Arizona, and northern New Mexico) south to Jalisco and Michoacán in central Mexico (Dobbs et al. 1997). Northern breeders (e.g., from British Columbia, Idaho, and Montana) migrate fairly long distances, and females migrate farther than males (Howell 1953, Davis 1962). There are a scattering of records away from the normal range, including Minnesota, Illinois, eastern Texas, and Louisiana (Remsen 1991), and Buckley and Mitra (2003) cite recent records from Kansas and Oklahoma. Although the June date of the present record falls outside of the conventional late fall/early winter window for western vagrants in NYS, it is nevertheless matched by a surprisingly long list of vagrant landbirds of western origin observed in NYS between mid-May and mid-July, including Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*), Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*), Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*), Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*), Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica*

townsendi), and Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*). The Committee duly considered the possibility of assisted origins (this species winters widely in Mexico, where there is an extensive bird trade), but this was deemed unlikely.

1995 REPORT ACCEPTED IN REVISED FORM

Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher

(*Empidonax difcilis/occidentalis*)

2003-54-A/B Fire Island Lighthouse, Suffolk, 14-16 Sep (P. A. Buckley, S. S. Mitra; ph P. A. Buckley and Angus Wilson).

This report was published as Cordilleran Flycatcher. Although the Committee agreed the bird in question was referable to the “Western Flycatcher” complex (e.g., that it was either a Pacific-slope Flycatcher (*E. difcilis*) or a Cordilleran Flycatcher), we concluded that it could not be safely identified further. The flycatcher genus *Empidonax* contains a number of exceptionally difficult identification challenges. In many instances, silent birds in the field are best left unidentified. Even in the hand, distinguishing between cryptic sibling species, not only Pacific-slope and Cordilleran, but also Willow (*E. traillii*) and Alder (*E. alnorum*), is frequently impossible. In recent years, the number of western North American *Empidonax* documented in the East has increased dramatically, including records of Pacific-slope, Hammond’s (*E. hamondi*), Dusky (*E. oberholseri*), and Gray (*E. wrightii*), mainly in late fall and early winter. These species, plus the regular eastern *Empidonax*, must be carefully considered before arriving at a firm identification. In particular, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*E. flaviventris*), closest in appearance to the “Western Flycatcher” complex, presents a significant identification challenge (Heindel and Pyle 1999).

Somewhat earlier than the now-expected date range for such vagrants, this individual was first captured by Randy Moore, then recaptured several times by Moore and P. A. Buckley over the next two days. This report was reviewed primarily based upon an article summarizing vagrants encountered at the Fire Island Lighthouse banding operation (Buckley and Mitra 2003). Other resources included a black-and-white photograph by Angus Wilson that was published in *Field Notes* (Paxton et al. 1996b) and a series of color slides, again by Angus Wilson, which were available during the later stages of review. In addition to consulting a number of reference materials (notably Whitney and Kaufman 1986 and Heindel and Pyle 1999) and Ned Johnson’s analysis of the bird (summarized in the original article), the Committee solicited the opinions of several outside experts. Pyle’s (1997) authoritative banding manual, published subsequent to this record, contains a complex series of criteria for the separation of *Empidonax* in the hand. Unfortunately, the measurements taken in 1995 were insufficient to fully apply these criteria. One of the criteria available for review, wing length minus tail length, was actually more indicative of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher than either member of the “Western Flycatcher” complex. Despite this wrinkle, the Committee was convinced that the weight of the descriptive and photographic evidence—including the slightly tear-drop shaped eye-ring, the distinct crest, the brownish wing coverts and flight feathers, and the overall color—was sufficient to indicate either

Pacific-slope or Cordilleran Flycatcher, but not adequate to further narrow the identification to either of these two species.

Currently accepted in-hand identification criteria incorporate multiple wing measurements which were not available for this record. Cordilleran Flycatcher is typically longer-winged than Pacific-Slope Flycatcher, and the proposed identification was based on the measurement of the longest primary of the banded bird, 70 mm. This measurement, however, was just within the range of measures provided in Pyle (1997) for Pacific-slope (59-70 mm). Given uncertainties concerning the exact age of the bird and the methods of measurement employed, the Committee felt that the wing measurement alone was insufficient to establish an identification of Cordilleran Flycatcher.

As summarized by Lowther (2000) and Buckley and Mitra (2003), Pacific-slope Flycatcher has been recorded in eastern North America on several occasions: three Louisiana specimens; two Pennsylvania records from Dec 1990 and Dec 1991 (which may represent a single returning individual); and one North Carolina record from 15 Jan 2000. The latter three were identified by call notes (and in the case of the North Carolina bird, its responses to recordings of both species), and Lowther (2000) cautions that call notes given outside the breeding season may not be diagnostic for Pacific-Slope. Cordilleran Flycatcher has been recorded only twice in eastern North America, two specimens from Louisiana. Through 2003 there were six additional reports of "Western" Flycatchers in the East, not identified to species. The Fire Island bird represents the first record of this species pair in New York State.

1990 REPORT ACCEPTED

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)

1990-31-A Two ads and one juv, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Suffolk, 6, 21, and 25-27 Jun (James Clinton).

This report concerns the first documented breeding record for NYS. The original version of this report was not accepted (see NYSARC 1990 Annual Report, #1990-31-A) because the materials provided focused on breeding evidence and neglected to document the identification of the adults. Fortunately, this critical information has now been provided and the report accepted after re-review.

REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

A number of factors may contribute to a report being denied acceptance. By far the most common is that the material submitted was considered insufficient or too vague to properly document the occurrence and/or eliminate similar species. For example, written documentation or descriptions prepared entirely from memory (sometimes weeks, months, or years) after a sighting are seldom voted on favorably and the Committee cannot overstate the importance of taking field notes of uncommon or rare birds. These notes should be taken while the bird is under study or, if this is not possible, immediately afterwards.

It is very helpful to include a photocopy of your notes with the formal typed or neatly written report. This helps the Committee to know what was seen at the time of the observation, before field guides or other sources of information were consulted. If you feel your handwriting is illegible, especially with the excitement of finding a good bird, it is a good idea to add a key that explains or decodes your notes. Crude field sketches are often very useful in illustrating what you saw and should always be submitted as part of the report, even if they are drawn on a napkin!

Advice on report preparation is available on our web site (see above), and in several published articles. We recommend the article by Willie D'Anna (2003), as well as the benchmark article by Dittmann and Lasley (1992). The key elements to a good report are (i) the description of the bird with as much detail as possible, (ii) the names and contact details of the observers, (iii) location and date of the sighting, and lastly (iv) an explanation of how the identification was made. This last category is frequently omitted but is extremely important. Ask yourself the following questions: What features led you to this conclusion as to the species involved? What other species might this bird be confused with and how were these possibilities ruled out? By providing this information, you invariably build upon the basic description and present a much more compelling case. By necessity, the preparation of a good report takes time and effort. It is not enough to scribble a few disjointed lines of description and leave it at that. Once the description of what you saw has gone down on paper, it is a good idea to consult reference books, audiotapes and so on. From the details you recorded, can you determine the age and sex of the bird? Are there identifiable subspecies that might tell us where the bird came from? What similar species are there and how can these be ruled out from the details you recorded? The latter is especially important. Sometimes it is worth considering and discussing exotic possibilities. Escaped waterfowl, birds of prey, parrots and finches are relatively common and can resemble North American species.

We do not reject records because the observer is unfamiliar to us or has had records rejected in the past. Likewise, it is relatively uncommon for records to be rejected because the bird was clearly misidentified. We make every effort to be as fair and objective as possible, but if the Committee is unsure about any particular submission it tends to err on the conservative side, preferring not to accept a good record rather than validate a bad one. All records, whether accepted or not, remain on file and can be re-submitted to the Committee if additional substantive material is presented. In such cases, please contact the Secretary at the address given above.

2003 REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*)

2003-4-A Corona Park, Queens, 19 Jan.

This report predates the recent split of Cackling Goose from Canada Goose (*B. canadensis*; see NYSARC #2003-57-A/D, above) and was submitted as *B. c. hutchinsii* (alternately called, then and now, "Richardson's Goose"). With the increase in interest in 'white-cheeked' geese since the split, the

identification criteria, and potential pitfalls, have become somewhat clearer. This bird, while appreciably smaller than the Canada Geese it was associated with, differed from typical "Richardson's" Cackling Goose in that the bill and head proportions were not as small as expected. In addition, the upperparts color was closer to that of Canada Goose than the silvery-gray color of "Richardson's." The Committee felt that these problems with critical identification points precluded the proposed identification. Although a detailed written description and excellent photographs were provided, the uncertainty in assigning individual birds within the "white-cheeked" goose complex is such that the Committee felt this bird could not be confidently assigned to any of the forms.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

2003-63-A Hamlin Beach SP, Monroe, 14 Apr.

This loon was studied briefly as it flew past the lakewatch and was already heading away from this experienced observer when first spotted. A number of details including fast wing beats and two relatively narrow checkered stripes along the back were suggestive of the closely related Pacific and Arctic (*G. arctica*) loons. However, in mid-April many loons are in odd, transitional plumage and the Committee was not convinced that one of the commoner species could be adequately ruled out.

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*)

2003-36-A/B Cayuga Lake, Ithaca, Tompkins, 21-22 Sep.

Hurricane Isabel transported a number of small, dark storm-petrels to upstate NYS. Most of these individuals were identified as Wilson's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*, see species account above), but the identification of some birds was less certain and Cayuga Lake became the unexpected focal point for discussing the intricacies of storm-petrel identification. Birders scouring the lake after passage of the hurricane turned up at least two storm-petrels. Debate over their identification lingered into a second day as the birds remained land-locked at the southern end of the lake and allowed extended viewing opportunities for a large number of birders. Several observers felt that two individuals could be distinguished in the field, and that one was larger and longer-winged than the other. In flight, the longer winged bird was perceived to spend more time gliding, and less time flapping. These marks would favor Band-rumped over Wilson's Storm-Petrel, and the observers are commended for their attention to these and other details listed in the extensive reports. Image captures from video made of the birds was also submitted, but the distance involved precluded a firm analysis. After reviewing the submissions, the Committee felt that in accordance with the typically distant views and the inherent difficulties in separating Band-rumped and Wilson's Storm-Petrels, the identification was not fully established. Although Leach's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*), historically the best candidate for hurricane transportation in our region (Askildsen 1998a,b), could be ruled out, the Committee felt there were no sightings that could be confidently assigned to Band-rumped. Factored into the decision was a concern that transported birds, perhaps weakened by the storm or

faced with difficulty feeding over unfamiliar fresh water, might exhibit different behavioral tendencies than typically encountered over open ocean. Indeed, at least one observer commented on the apparent weakening of the birds from one day to the next. It was also noted that some experienced observers at the site felt only Wilson's Storm-Petrels were present, highlighting the difficulties involved. Given these uncertainties, the Committee was unable to accept these reports as Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, a species that has not yet been accepted onto the NYS Checklist.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

2003-25-A East Quoque, Southampton, Suffolk, 4 May.

This rail was studied for a few seconds after being flushed from a stand of *Phragmites* on the edge of a saltwater marsh. The observer was immediately struck by the bright and well-patterned plumage that argued against Clapper Rail (*R. longirostris*), the common species in the marsh, and raised the possibility of King Rail. Some Committee members were concerned by the extent of detail provided in the description considering that the bird was seen under such fleeting circumstances and by the "contrasting gray on the face," a feature more consistent with Virginia Rail (*R. limicola*). Given strong similarities between King and Virginia Rails in appearance and the inconclusive description, with the identification hanging entirely on the observer's perception of this fleeing bird's size, the Committee after discussion declined to accept this report.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*)

2003-66-A First basic, Irondequoit Bay, Monroe, 3 Feb.

2003-75-A First basic, Irondequoit Bay, Monroe, 1 Jan.

Understanding the status and identification of Thayer's Gull in NYS remains a perplexing, and often frustrating, challenge to the Committee, regional editors, and serious field birders alike. The contributors of these two reports are to be commended for their valiant attempts to document these challenging birds and for doing so in this unfortunate climate of taxonomic confusion. As outlined in previous Annual Reports, there is great uncertainty among ornithologists about the relationship between Thayer's Gull and the two generally recognized subspecies of Iceland Gull (nominate *glaucoides* and "Kumlien's" Iceland Gull, *L. g. kumlieni*). Whereas many authorities, including the AOU (1998) regard Thayer's as a species distinct from Iceland, others contend that Thayer's and nominate Iceland are two ends of a west to east gradient, with *kumlieni* referring to birds that fall somewhere in the middle. There is a variety of evidence to suggest that the two extremes were isolated during the last Ice-age but have come together in recent times, allowing intergradation. Until expensive and time-consuming genetic and ecological studies are performed on the breeding grounds, it seems unlikely that these muddied waters will clear. With regard to field identification, the challenge is to agree on what distinguishes a nominal Thayer's Gull from a Kumlien's Gull. Based on careful studies in California and Newfoundland, a reasonable set of criteria has been developed which relies on the careful evaluation of multiple criteria (Howell et al. 1999, Howell and Corben 2000, Howell and Elliott 2001, and Howell and MacTavish 2003). In general

most of the reports received by NYSARC simply do not reach this high bar and thus defy unambiguous assignment to one form or the other. Many of the reports we receive, including these two from 2003, do sound like excellent candidates but simply lack the feather-by-feather descriptions necessary for acceptance. It cannot be overstated how important it is to photograph the candidate Thayer's Gulls as extensively as possible. With the power of digiscoping, this is not nearly as challenging as it once was and allows birds that are quite distant to be documented. Very detailed field sketches may substitute but should be made in the field and should strive to record the exact patterning and colors of all the major feather groups, in addition to the colors of the legs, bill, and iris.

Elegant Tern (*Sterna elegans*)

2003-43-A Woodlawn Beach SP, Erie, 16 Oct.

This moribund tern was discovered on a beach overlooking Lake Erie when it was accidentally flushed by the observer. It was studied briefly in flight before settling again behind some driftwood, where it was viewed for about 10 min at a distance of 20 feet or so. Unfortunately, no effort was made to photograph the bird. The detailed description is consistent with one of the crested terns (subgenus *Thalasseus*), a notoriously difficult group, represented in North America by Royal Tern (*S. maxima*), Elegant Tern, and Sandwich Tern (*S. sandvicensis*)—the last including the yellow-billed Cayenne Tern (*S. s. eurygnatha*), which is casual along the US Atlantic Coast. Elegant Tern is essentially confined to the Pacific Coast from southern California down to Chile. There are, however, a handful of accepted records away from the Pacific, notably singles from Massachusetts (Rines 2003) and Virginia (Wilds 1985) and several from western Europe (Lewington et al. 1991). The separation of Elegant from Royal Tern in the field relies on a suite of subjective features. The bill was described as long with a pronounced droop and with generally a red color with hint of orange. The black feathering on the head was restricted to the hind crown and nape. The observer felt the tern was larger than a Common (*S. hirundo*) or Forster's (*S. forsteri*) Tern and smaller than Caspian (*S. caspia*) or Royal. Although this intermediate size seems a favorable point, some reviewers were concerned that the unusual circumstances in which it was studied and absence of side-by-side comparison to other terns or gulls meant that accurate assessment of size would be inherently difficult. Overall, given the lack of photographic or specimen evidence and reliance on subjective impressions from a single observer, the Committee was unanimous in its view not to accept this as a first occurrence for the state and one of extremely few for eastern North America.

Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*)

2003-16-A Hamlin Beach SP, Monroe, 27 Apr.

Roseate Tern is uncommon and local along the coast in NYS and in spring is rarely seen away from breeding locations. Inland, it is an extraordinary rarity. Hays (1998) recounts Bull's (1974) summary of upstate records, none of which were documented with physical evidence at the time of Bull's writing. Only one of the six inland records he describes was supported by a specimen and even this had been lost. Thus Bull's characteristic skepticism of sight

records was heightened in his reviews of *Sterna* tern records, and he regarded the sight records listed as unreliable. Although improvements in optics and field identification techniques have mitigated some of the historical concerns with sight records, the separation of the mid-sized *Sterna* terns remains one area where caution is still very much the rule. The relevant field marks are subtle, and applying them can be made even more difficult by distance and lighting conditions. Documentation may also be hampered by the standard difficulties of sea or lake watching, where most sightings are fly-bys offering only limited opportunity for observation and documentation. Consequently, the Committee felt that given the extreme rarity of Roseate Tern anywhere away from the coast, more complete documentation of the relevant field marks would be required to accept a sight record. The date was also a concern as it would represent a record early date (by two days) for the species anywhere in the state, including Long Island. Since publication of Hays' summary in 1998, NYSARC has accepted only one sighting away from the coast (NYSARC #1996-42-A). Elsewhere, Roseate Tern remains a major rarity inland. Hays (1998) lists two records from Indiana, one a bird collected in August 1916 and deposited in the Field Museum in Chicago, and the second a record of an adult found in August 1957, which had been banded as a chick on Bird Island, Massachusetts. Oddly, the species account in *The Birds of North America* omits the first Indiana record entirely and considers the second unconfirmed (Gochfeld et al. 1998).

Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus*)

2003-34-A Hamlin Beach SP, Monroe, 20 Sep.

Two terns were studied carefully flying east along the shore of Lake Ontario two days after the passage of Hurricane Isabel. One was a Common Tern and the other was identified as a Bridled Tern by virtue of the dark primaries, brownish secondaries and back, distinct line through the eye and white forehead. The Committee agreed that Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) was ruled out but were not convinced that these brief details could properly exclude Sooty Tern (*S. fuscata*).

Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*)

2003-68-A Hamlin Beach SP, Monroe, 23 Sep.

This tern was observed shortly after the passage of Hurricane Isabel, a time when sightings of marine terns on inland bodies of water might not be entirely unexpected. Unfortunately, this bird was seen only very briefly and critical details such as the undersides of the wings and tail were not visible to the observer. Although several reviews were initially favorable to the identification, the Committee agreed that the unavoidable brevity of the sighting and difficult viewing conditions, combined with the limited details in the description, made it difficult to exclude other species with certainty.

White-throated Swift (*Aeronautes saxatalis*)

2003-55-A/B Mount Peter, Warwick, Orange, 7 Nov.

While conducting the hawkwatch at Mount Peter, Orange, two observers studied a distant “boomerang” shaped bird wheeling around in the sky. The bird gave the impression of being slightly larger than a Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*), a familiar sight at the hawkwatch, and had a white throat continuing as a vee-shape onto the chest and belly. The sides of the neck were white with a buffy area through the eye and across the forehead. One report described the back as very dark blue and that the underwings were not as dark as the upperwings. The bird was visible for an estimated five to ten minutes but remained distant at all times. Regrettably, it was not photographed. Two other watchers who were present at the time were unable to locate the bird against the sky, an indication of the distance involved. The Committee found this to be a highly intriguing report with some significant strong points but also some troubling flaws. Both observers were familiar with White-throated Swift from hawkwatching in the western US and are warmly commended for their open-minded approach to the identification. When considered together the descriptions were sufficiently compelling to gain some positive votes in the initial round of review. The Committee’s subsequent deliberations and ultimately its decision not to accept the identification hinged on a number of key discrepancies and omissions. Both descriptions referred to a “white rump,” which is not correct for White-throated Swift. Acknowledging this discrepancy, one observer made the valid point that the white feathering of the flank patches is separated by a rather narrow strip of dark feathers and can thus give the (mis)impression of a rump patch when viewed in the field. Several reviewers empathized with this assertion based on their own experiences. A more serious concern was that the broad white tips of the secondaries were not noted in either description nor was the relatively long tail, a useful distinction from partially leucistic Chimney and Vaux’s (*C. vauxi*) Swifts. Given the gaps listed above, the Committee was unable to accept this as an unequivocal White-throated Swift, a species so far unrecorded east of Michigan, Missouri, and Arkansas. In the southern portion of its range, White-throated Swift is essentially resident (barring localized movements to avoid extreme weather), but birds from the northern portions are genuine migrants, probably moving southwards into the range of resident birds. Described as casual to Kansas and Texas, there are a handful of records from as far east as Missouri and Arkansas with a specimen record from Michigan (AOU 1998).

Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*)

2003-81-A One male, one or two females, Chester, Orange, 25 Aug.

The report comprised two photographs of a female *Archilochus* hummingbird without further written description of this bird or the reported male. The Committee concluded that these were more likely to be Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*A. colubris*).

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*)

2003-69-A Hamlin Beach SP, Monroe, 20 Sep.

This kingbird was seen for 15 seconds as it flew along the lakeshore. The description noted the bright yellow underparts, dark and barely notched tail and darkish back. The Committee agreed that this was most likely one of the yellow-bellied *Tyrannus* flycatchers but felt there was not enough in the report to identify it to species.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*)

2003-71-A Near Sodus, Wayne, 28 Sep.

The observer spotted this unfamiliar bird perched on a roadside wire whilst he was driving and immediately turned the car around. By the time he had reached the spot, the bird had moved but he was able to see it briefly a couple of more times in the nearby field. After consulting references later that evening, he concluded that this must have been a Fork-tailed Flycatcher that was missing the long tail extensions. These distinctive feathers are often dropped or broken. The report described the pure white underparts and gray back contrasting with darker wings and tail. The observer also noted that the head shape was wrong for Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*), although this key point was not addressed in detail. Given the limitations of the sighting, the Committee felt that Eastern Kingbird could not be ruled out on the basis of the brief details provided.

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*)

2003-54-A/B Mariner's Marsh, Richmond, 4 Nov.

This greenish passerine was studied for a few minutes and identified after the fact. Bell's Vireo is considered by many as a particularly difficult bird to identify by virtue of its strikingly non-descript appearance and similarity to Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*) as well as several other vireos. The effects of wear, immaturity and continuous movement only serve to further compound the difficulties. In their reviews several Committee members highlighted the fact that the description of the eye-ring and the bright yellow fringing to the flight feathers were counter-indicative for Bell's Vireo and more consistent with other vireos, notably an immature White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*). Other important details such as the bill shape, body posture and so on were not described in sufficient detail. There was general agreement that the reports would have been strengthened by explicit discussion of the identification in reference to other more likely species, notably White-eyed Vireo.

Eurasian Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*)

2003-84-A Two, Bayard Cutting Arboretum, Oakdale, Suffolk, 11 Oct

This was a perplexing report involving two birds studied at a very close range ("started at two feet of distance"). Most Committee members agreed that the description and sketch were highly suggestive of Jackdaw, as was the description of the contact call. At the same time, the limited experience of the observer and curious circumstances left room for other possibilities, such as

Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*). For the reviewers comfortable with the corvid identification, it was agreed that wild origins were very unlikely.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

2003-80-A West Dryden, Tompkins, 22 Sep.

Female Western Tanagers can present a significant identification challenge because of their similarity to some female Scarlet Tanagers (*P. olivacea*). This individual was carefully studied and photographed. It showed fairly broad yellowish upper wingbars and whitish edges to the tertials, both suggestive of Western Tanager. The color of the breast and bill were also supportive. Although uncommon, some Scarlet Tanagers can show noticeable wingbars due to retained juvenal greater coverts. Unfortunately, the extent of contrast between the crown and back—a critical field mark—was difficult to evaluate in the photographs, which showed the bird perched on high branches. The fact that the pro-Western features were not particularly well developed and the date was on the early side, the Committee opted for caution in making a firm identification. These concerns were shared by the observers, who cautiously referred to this as no more than a “probable Western Tanager.”

“Slate-colored” Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca schistacea*)

2003-74-A Hamlin Beach SP, Monroe, 7 Dec.

The taxonomy of the Fox Sparrow complex is involved and unsettled. The AOU currently recognizes a single species (*Passerella iliaca*), and Pyle (1997) describes 17 subspecies allocated among four main groups. Some authorities consider each of these main groups to be separate species. The Hamlin Beach bird was thought to be either *P. i. schistacea* or *P. i. altivagans*. To add to the taxonomic confusion, *altivagans* has been placed by some authorities in the *schistacea* group (“Slate-colored” Fox Sparrow) and by others in the *iliaca* group (“Red” Fox Sparrow, which includes the birds which normally occur in NYS). Under either interpretation, *altivagans* appears to be an intermediate form between “Red” and “Slate-colored” Fox Sparrows. It should also be noted that “Red” Fox Sparrows vary clinally in color, with western birds (*P. i. zaboria*, which breeds into Alaska, and which occurs rarely in NYS) tending to have a grayer head and nape and browner ventral streaking than eastern birds. The Committee recognizes that the pattern and overall color of the bird described in the report suggest a Fox Sparrow unlike the typical “Red” Fox Sparrows that occur in eastern North America. But apart from the confusion engendered by taxonomic issues, the Committee was concerned that certain details of the head pattern and bill as reported were not correct for any subspecies of Fox Sparrow. Given these discrepancies, and the additional possibility that a hybrid combination or color aberration could be responsible for the unusual appearance of this bird, the Committee felt that this record could not be safely assigned to any subspecies of Fox Sparrow. There is one previous record of an *altivagans* Fox Sparrow for NYS, a bird captured and collected at a banding operation at Fire Island Lighthouse, Suffolk on 12 May 1971—the first, and perhaps still the only, record from the Northeast (United States National Museum #566277; Buckley 1974).

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)

2003-6-A Feeder in West Chazy, Clinton, 24 & 27 Jan.

The brief description lacked sufficient detail, concerning shape and posture in particular, to safely exclude Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*).

2000 REPORT NOT ACCEPTED

Pink-sided Junco (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*)

2000-84-A Fire Island Lighthouse, Suffolk, 19 Oct.

Captured by Shai Mitra at the Fire Island banding station, photographs and a description of this junco were published by Buckley and Mitra (2003). The juncos represent a notoriously difficult group in terms of assigning individuals to particular populations, subspecies or even species. The taxonomy is not fully understood and divisions are blurred by genetic mixing and individual variation. For an up-to-date discussion of these issues see Dunn (2002) and Neal (2003). After careful review and comparison to specimen collections, the Committee was not satisfied that this individual could be safely assigned to a named population. Notably, it lacked the characteristic blackish lores and extensively pink flanks expected of a Pink-sided Junco, and the demarcation of the gray breast leading to a very pale whitish belly is not typical of Pink-sided.

1995 REPORT NOT ACCEPTED

White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*)

1995-25-A Derby Hill Hawkwatch, Oswego, 24 Apr

This submission concerns a large eagle that was seen by an assemblage of observers as it passed over the hawkwatch at Derby Hill at the southeastern corner of Lake Ontario. The eagle was studied at relatively close range and for at least two minutes. Several of the observers were intimately familiar with both Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) and were immediately convinced they had something different. One of the observers contributing a report was also able to study the bird through a telescope. Initially, three reports were submitted to NYSARC: two regarded the bird as a White-tailed Eagle (#1993-25-A and B), whereas the third regarded the bird as a Steller's Sea-Eagle (*H. pelagicus*; #1993-24-A). In an unusual step, reports #1993-25-A and B were withdrawn by the observers prior to review, and only #1993-24-A was reviewed. This report was not accepted (see NYSARC 1994). The observers who withdrew their reports did so in reaction to conflicting responses from international experts in raptor identification whom they had approached, rather than a change of heart. After extensive correspondence and literature review, these two observers resubmitted their original field notes and descriptions, again concluding the bird was a White-tailed Eagle, and added the voluminous results of their research. Documentation of the eagle consists of written descriptions and drawings and a single photograph of very limited utility. All these materials were scrutinized carefully by the Committee, several of whom have field experience with all the species under consideration.

The Committee also consulted additional reference material that has become available in the interim.

The bird was described as huge, with long, broad, straight-edged wings, a massive yellow bill, yellow feet and tarsi, and a long, wedge-shaped tail. Unlike adult Bald Eagle, the head was described as mostly dark, and the rectrices as mostly dark, with white centers on at least some of the individual feathers. The body and wings were uniformly very dark, or blackish, with hints of brown tones on the underwings. Although the bird was seen and described very well, there was no indication of any white visible on the underwings, including the axillaries. Both observers described counting seven clearly-defined primary tips.

Though the Committee found the level of detail in these reports admirable, and despite considerable evidence that many details of plumage and structure were consistent with a White-tailed Eagle, the final combination of characters was difficult to reconcile with this identification. According to the most current literature on the identification of this species (e.g. Forsman 1999), essentially all non-adult White-tailed Eagles will show at least some prominent white markings on the axillaries. Although this trait is subject to much individual variation, as in Bald Eagle, the total absence of white markings on the underwings of the Derby Hill bird was of serious concern, especially as the tail and body plumage were not fully adult. In summary, the anomalous or unexpected combination of an adult-like bill color, adult-like uniformity of the underwings, non-adult tail, and non-adult dark body color does not correspond neatly with any typical, well documented plumage of White-tailed Eagle. Given these difficulties, the Committee decided that even better documentation, preferably involving high quality photographs, would be necessary to support such an exceptional record. White-tailed Eagles have occurred and sometimes bred in Alaska (principally the Outer Aleutians). There is also a significant resident population in Greenland (Boertmann 1998), presumably the source of three early to mid 20th Century records from Massachusetts, the most recent being from 1944 (Veit and Petersen 1993).

CONTRIBUTORS

Observers: Seth Ausubel, Jessie Barry, Edward S. Brinkley, Phillip A. Brown, P. A. Buckley, Thomas W. Burke, Adam Byrne, Mary Ann Cairo, Warren Cairo, William Case, Binnie Chase, Judy Cinquina, James Clinton, Dorothy W. Crumb, Steven J. D'Amato, Willie D'Anna, Leonard DeFrancisco, Peter Doherty, John Duffy, Dale Dyer, Bill Elrick, Kayla Fisk, Robert Fisk, John Foust, Kurt Fox, Pat Gabel, Jeff Gerbracht, John Gluth, Kevin Griffith, Scott Haber, Michael Hamilton, Judith Heintz, Roger Heintz, Barbara Herrgesell, Wesley Hochachka, Rick Horn, Pete Hosner, Robert Kurtz, Gerald Lazarczyk, Anne Lazarus, Nick Leone, Patricia Lindsay, Kathy Luther, Curtis Marantz, Cindy Marino, Stephen McCabe, Kevin McGann, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Hugh McGuinness, Shaibal S. Mitra, Michael Morgante, Terry Mosher, Bill Ostrander, James Pawlicki, Gerard Phillips, Bill Purcell, Gerry Rising, Dana Rohleder, Tom Salo, Eric Salzman, Joanne Schultz, Michael Shanley III, Dominic Sherony,

Jeanne Skelly, Sharon Skelly, Charles C. Spagnoli, Robert Spahn, Lloyd Spitalnik, Birgit Stanford, Rex Stanford, Herb Stein, William Symonds, Anne Thurber, John P. Tramontano, Donna Jeanne Trumble, John Van Neil, Chester Vincent, Fred von Mechow, William W. Watson, Gail W. Wiechmann, Angus Wilson, Alvin Wollin, Seth Wollney.

Photographers: Seth Ausubel, Andrew Baldelli, Gail Benson, P. A. Buckley, Warren Cairo, William Case, Steven J. D'Amato, Willie D'Anna, Peter Doherty, Patrick Doyle, Ken Feustel, Kurt Fox, Pete Hosner, John Kennedy, Stephen McCabe, Kevin McGann, Jay McGowan, Shaibal S. Mitra, Gerard Phillips, Mike Powers, Cheri Sassman, Joanne Schultz, Dominic Sherony, Lloyd Spitalnik, Donna Jeanne Trumble, John Van Neil, Kurt Wiechmann, Angus Wilson, Laurie Zagmester.

**SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF
THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE**

Angus Wilson (Chair) Jeanne Skelly (Secretary)
Thomas W. Burke, Andy Guthrie, Steve Kelling, Shaibal S. Mitra,
Gerard Phillips, Dominic Sherony

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DR. PAUL A. DEBENEDICTIS 1942-2006

“Quick. Lie down and pretend you are a pine cone.” A flock of Pine Grosbeaks had just flown over. Birding with Paul DeBenedictis was always productive and fun. I met him when he and his wife Virginia and two children, Tim and Lisa, moved to Syracuse in 1970. His intellect was incredible. He was knowledgeable in so many fields.

Paul grew up in Berkeley, California and started his college work at the University of California. Then on to Michigan for his Ph.D. in zoology and ecology. He met his wife, Virginia, at Ann Arbor. They came to Syracuse, where he was manager of Academic Computing Services at SUNY Upstate Medical University.

Birding was only a hobby with me, and Paul taught me that there was so much more to know about birds. He was very interested in gulls and few of us had paid much attention to them. He started discussing plumages and aging and made us really look at these birds.

Several of us traveled to Cornell on Monday nights to attend the seminars. I listened to Paul and Fritz Scheider discuss so many things that were way above my head. And we often visited the Spoffords and their many friends after the seminar. So much to absorb.

Paul worked on the birdathons in the spring and the annual Christmas counts. Then in the 1980s came the first New York State Breeding Bird Atlas. Paul would have liked to have been coordinator for Region 5, but with a full time job, it was easier to let me take the job and he would assist. He contributed so much, not only in the field, but with records on the computer. He served on a committee to review the artwork. He was sorely missed when the second Atlas project was started.

Paul was very active in the Onondaga Audubon Society, served on its Board of Directors, and led field trips. He was also interested in The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs (now the New York State Ornithological Association). He wrote eight Region 5 reports for the *Kingbird* between 1986 and 1989. He was instrumental in the formation of the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) in 1977 and served as its first Chairman for seven years. Paul subsequently served as Editor of the *Kingbird* from 1985 (Volume 35, Number 4) through 1995 (Volume 45, Number 4). Paul received the Gordon B. Meade Award in 1996 and the Elon Howard Eaton Memorial Award in 1997 for his contributions to the scientific study of birds and other assistance to the Federation.

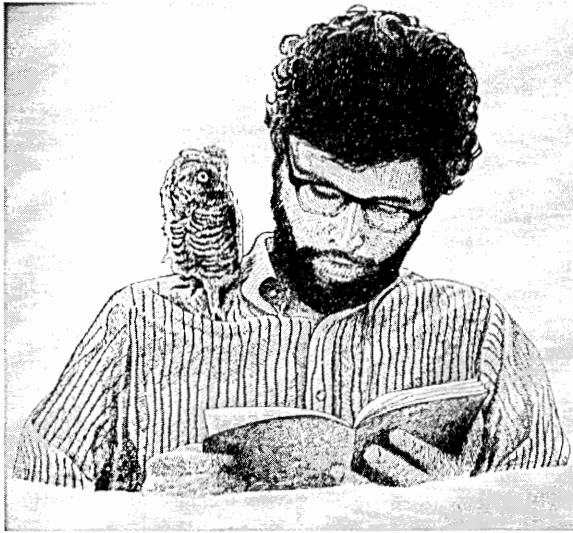
Working with local organizations was not enough. He also wrote a series of articles for *Birding*, the magazine of The American Birding Society. He was a member of their Avian Records Committee.

Paul became interested in studying the DNA of various species of birds and had become known nationally for this work. But it ended too soon. In 1996, Paul suffered cardiac arrest which resulted in brain injury that

rendered him disabled. Although he could answer questions and still identify birds if you asked him, he had lost his ability to communicate. Virginia saw to it that he kept up his interest in the natural world. They traveled to many places including Alaska, the Canadian Rockies and even Europe.

Those of us in Central New York who knew Paul are sorry to have lost him and his fabulous knowledge of all things around him. We will all remember him fondly and Pine Grosbeaks will always have special meaning for me. Goodbye Paul.

—Dorothy W. Crumb



*Illustration by Cynthia J. Page
from
Owls 'n Things
by Dorothy W. Crumb*

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON – FALL 2005

Andrew Guthrie

60 Gold Street, Greenwich, CT 06830
andyguthrie@verizon.net

THE WEATHER

Fall 2005 was the fifth warmest fall since 1895, continuing the trend from the summer season. Both September and November were over 3° above the 110-year average temperature. October's temperatures moderated across most of the state, but precipitation was well above average, fueled in part by the remains of Tropical Storm Tammy passing through early in the month. It was the wettest October since 1895, contributing to the second wettest fall season overall during the same period. 2005 ended as the most active season on record for Atlantic Ocean tropical storm activity, but there were no "direct hits" in New York and, as a result, few obviously storm-transported birds. October's weather seemed to have a concentrating effect on migrants, as many birds bottled up by wet weather took advantage of the handful of good migration days. A consistent theme later in the season was the late departure of southbound migrants, perhaps due to being blocked by the weather from moving south or being able to survive milder than normal conditions, or in some cases the apparent movement of birds back into the region on prevailing south-westerly winds or in the wake of passing tropical storms.

WATERFOWL/OTHER WATERBIRDS

General impressions of the season's waterfowl migration expressed some disappointment. Regions 2, 5, and 8 noted poor or unremarkable movements. Even Region 6, which experienced "decent numbers," noted few large concentrations. Scaup numbers were cited as particularly low in Region 2, where they were described as "virtually absent", and Region 5. On the plus side were new Regional high counts of 440 Wood Ducks coming to roost on 11 November (Region 1) and 10,000+ Red-breasted Mergansers counted off Irondequoit Bay (Region 2). Ninety Ruddy Ducks at Braddock Bay were a good count for Region 2, where any double-digit count is notable. Conversely, at the Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant in Region 1, counts of hundreds of Ruddy Ducks were still much lower than previous years. Region 3 experienced good numbers of dabbling ducks, with the single-site maxima for a variety of species at an eleven-year high. For Blue-winged Teal, widely declining across the state, it was the third consecutive year of "significant" increase. On the diving duck front, Region 5 tallied good numbers of White-winged and Black Scoters and Hooded and Red-breasted Mergansers.

Tundra Swans appeared in good numbers in Region 1 on 18-19 November, while arrivals in Region 2 a week later were record-early for the Region. Cackling Geese, continuing their post-speciation assault on the State's ornithological record books, were reported from 7 of the 10 Regions this season. Notable among the

reports were three at the traditional Region 1 location, Iroquois NWR, and a Regional first record photographed in Region 8. Additional waterfowl highlights included two separate Common Eiders in Region 2, including an extremely cooperative bird at Irondequoit Bay outlet which showed characters (primarily bill structure and color) differing from the subspecies which regularly occurs in coastal New York waters, *S. m. dresseri*. Preliminary research led observers to believe that it may have been *S. m. borealis*, which, as the scientific name implies, is a more northerly form, occurring in winter south to the Gulf of Saint Lawrence and coastal Maine. New York has at least one record of *borealis*, a specimen collected at Montauk in December, 1945. Identification of Common Eider subspecies is difficult, particularly for females, and female *borealis* is apparently very similar to female *S. m. v-nigra*, the Pacific Ocean subspecies, which has occurred very rarely in the western North Atlantic. Further review of pertinent literature and museum specimens may shed more conclusive light on this identification. In any event, this is a significant record – kudos to the careful observers who paid enough attention to notice the slight differences. Among “regular” rarities, there were only three Greater White-fronted Goose reported, two from Region 2 and one from Region 10, and two reports of Ross’s Goose, one from Region 3 and one from Region 7. Eurasian Wigeon appeared in one more region, but in greater overall numbers, with a single report from Region 1 and multiple reports from both Region 3 and Region 10.

Large numbers of Common Loon were reported in Region 2, where Hamlin Beach experienced several days with migration counts of over 1,000, and in Region 5, where migrating loons delayed by southerly winds amassed at Fair Haven and Oswego. Central New York experienced a fallout of Red-throated Loons on 23-25 November, most likely due to a quick-moving cold front which passed through the region. Several grounded birds were found and brought to rehabilitators in Region 4 and Region 5, and a number of similar reports were received during this period from non-birders. Pied-billed Grebes were found in notable numbers in Region 3 and Region 1, where 192 on Chautauqua Lake on 10 November established a new Regional high count. Also in Region 1, three Eared Grebes continued into November at the Batavia WWTP, a regular location for the species. Region 2 recorded good numbers of Red-necked Grebes, including four days with 20+ at Hamlin Beach.

Northern Gannet appeared in at least three upstate Regions with another possible sighting in a fourth. There was one sighting in Region 1, single birds sighted on three different dates in Region 5, and a record number of reports from Region 2 – 14 birds were recorded, with most deemed “definitely separable” by plumage characters. Following the Hurricane Wilma/Nor’easter event in late October, a possible Northern Gannet was found grounded and tentatively identified after its subsequent release at Otsego Lake.

Western New York experienced a late season incursion of Cattle Egrets, with one in Region 1 and five in Region 2 found during the third week of November. Region 10 had the only other reports, in mid-September from Jamaica Bay. Great Egrets were down in Region 5, with only a single report, and up in Region 1, where 87 at Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area in September established a new Regional maximum. Elsewhere reports seemed normal.

Glossy Ibis was found inland in Region 3, with up to two birds at Montezuma NWR in September, and along the Hudson River at Piermont Pier in Region 9.

The season's tropical weather appeared to have only a modest avian impact, primarily in Region 10. On 16 September, as Hurricane Ophelia passed well offshore, several Cory's Shearwaters and Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen from Long Island's south shore, and a handful of Lesser Black-backed Gulls appeared at scattered Long Island locations. The following day, a Manx Shearwater was discovered in Jones Inlet; during its week-plus stay this bird provided a good opportunity for birders to debate its identification and separation from Audubon's Shearwater (see *Kingbird* 55: 335-339). All of these birds could occur without the influence of tropical weather systems, but the passing storm may have concentrated them onshore. Almost certainly storm-influenced was a Magnificent Frigatebird at Bayport on November 6, about two weeks after the remnants of Hurricane Wilma passed offshore. This report continued the trend from the summer, when two Frigatebirds were reported from Long Island, and also mirrors reports of multiple birds from surrounding states. Unfortunately, the large Black Skimmer colony at Lido Beach was washed out in the high tides that accompanied Hurricane Ophelia.

Finally, for the sixth consecutive year, a type-E botulism outbreak affected piscivorous birds along Lake Erie. As in prior years, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation conducted transect counts of dead birds, and estimated total mortality on Lake Erie of 1,350 birds during the period early October to early December. The primary species affected were, as in prior years, Common Loon and Long-tailed Duck.

GULLS/TERNS

The Niagara River in Region 1 again held the most gull activity. Bonaparte's Gulls appeared in good numbers this year, with 7,000-10,000 present during the second half of November. Amongst them this fall were a Franklin's Gull, a juvenile present for most of November; a Black-headed Gull; and a juvenile Black-legged Kittiwake. More unusual for the Region was an adult Black-legged Kittiwake seen with a small group of Bonaparte's Gulls flying west on Lake Ontario on 5 November; juvenile Kittiwakes are seen far more frequently inland than adults. For the 14th consecutive year, a California Gull was found as large gulls began congregating in late November. To the east, Region 2 hosted a good variety of small gulls as well. Notable sightings included two Sabine's Gulls, 5 Black-headed Gulls, 12 Little Gulls, and a record early Black-legged Kittiwake. Only 5 kittiwakes were tallied for the season, however, a low total for the Region, particularly in contrast with the good numbers recorded at Derby Hill in Region 5, which produced a daily maximum of 12 on 16 November. Region 5 also tallied single Black-headed and Little Gulls. There was a minor Laughing Gull incursion inland, with one in Region 2, two in Region 3, and one in Region 8. Increased scrutiny may be part of the reason for more unusual gulls being reported in Region 7 recently. This season's reports included one or two juvenile Black-legged Kittiwakes (observed from Vermont) and a good total of 7 Little Gulls.

Several regions upstate noted Caspian Terns lingering later in the season than normal. Reports were received into October in Regions 1, 2, 3 and 5. Black Terns were noted in good numbers, for recent years at least; Regions 1 and 2 both recorded maxima of 8, and 19 reported from the south end of Cayuga Lake in Region 3 was an eleven-year high for the fall season. Conversely, only a single bird was found in Region 5 and coastal counts were lackluster. A Region 1 record-high 22 Forster's Terns were counted at Beaver Island S.P. in September. A maximum of 50+ Royal Terns were counted at Pike's Beach, Suffolk County in Region 10, and the season's only Sandwich Terns were found along nearby Dune Road.

A good number of jaegers were found along Lake Ontario in Regions 1, 2 and 5. In Region 1, only one was identified to species, a Parasitic Jaeger, but 13 others were seen, including one considered a probable Pomarine. The season totals in Region 2 were deemed "respectable" after a slow start; the final counts reported were 12 Pomarine, 68 Parasitic and 1 Long-tailed [When? Not mentioned in report]. The totals in Region 5, mainly from Derby Hill, were 10 Pomarine and 19 Parasitic. In Region 3, a Pomarine Jaeger was found in a more unusual location when presumably the same individual was seen at two locations on Cayuga Lake on 30 October. The only other jaegers reported were two Parasitics harassing gulls on 5 September on Lake Champlain in Region 7.

RAPTORS

Fall hawk-watching presented a few notable highlights in the course of a generally underwhelming season. Among the continuing trends was increased Bald Eagle numbers in many regions. This season was also good for Golden Eagles, with reports from seven Regions. While numbers were high in general, most of the Regional tallies were dwarfed by the remarkable 252 Golden Eagles recorded at Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch in Region 4. Probably due in some part to this year's record coverage, this is the single-site seasonal record for the eastern flyway, and tops the 229 recorded there last fall. Included in the season's total was an also remarkable single day high count of 71 on 11 November, also a record high count for eastern North America, surpassing the previous high count of 51 which Franklin Mountain had shared with Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania. Peregrine Falcons also continued to be well reported this fall. A strong push occurred through the state in October. On 8 October, a new Region 1 high count was recorded when 9 were seen migrating along Lake Ontario at Wilson. On the same date, 7 Peregrines were observed moving along Cayuga Lake in Region 3. Region 2 recorded excellent numbers of migrating Peregrines, with a total of 26 in October, including 19 in a two-day stretch, and several other regions noted good counts. Region 3 also noted many Merlins in its westernmost regions. In Region 1, up to four Merlins were on site at the wintering roost at the University of Buffalo, and Region 2 tallied 18 migrants in October. Some Regions reported low hawk watch totals due to lack of coverage, likely due to the inclement weather during the peak migration periods. Conversely, the Lenoir Hawk Watch in Region 9 had a "banner day" on 16 October, when a cold front passed following a week of record rainfall, as hawks were funneled

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by the weather along a narrow corridor over the Hudson River. Broad-winged Hawk numbers were generally low to moderate. Peak counts were from Region 9, where various sites recorded 1000+ individuals on four days, topped by 1400 at Bear Mountain on 24 September. A rare dark-morph Broad-winged Hawk was sighted at Mount Peter on 20 September. Region 10 recorded two individuals into November, the last on the 21st. Also late for the season was an Osprey on 20 November in Region 5.

Snowy Owls made appearances in five Regions, raising hopes for good winter numbers. Otherwise, there was no indication that the “northern owl” invasion of last winter would repeat. Northern Saw-whet Owls were poorly reported, with only three Regions listing the species this fall. Region 1 noted an early arrival on 25 September. 51 Saw-whets banded at two sites in Region 1, and a road-killed recovery in Region 8 report, the only Regional report, are indications that this secretive species is likely more common than evident from the number of reports.

SHOREBIRDS

A common thread throughout the Regional reports was that the season’s shorebirding was generally mediocre. Comments included phrases such as “numbers unspectacular” (Region 2); “generally low” (Region 4); “few” reports (Regions 5 and 6), and “lackluster” (Region 8). In Region 3, low reports might have been a result of maintenance work at Montezuma NWR, the focal point for shorebird activity in the Region, which apparently forced birds into less accessible areas. In Region 8, high water levels throughout the season likely contributed to the dismal showing.

Highlights included American Avocet, Red-necked Phalarope, and Hudsonian Godwit in Region 1; a cooperative Red Phalarope in Region 2; Whimbrel, Western Sandpiper, and Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Region 3; good numbers of Baird’s Sandpiper in Region 4; good numbers of American Golden-Plover and Pectoral Sandpiper in Region 5; American Golden-Plover, Whimbrel, and Red Phalarope in Region 6; Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Willet, and Hudsonian Godwit in Region 9, the latter two both at Piermont Pier along the Hudson River in Rockland County; and Red-necked Phalarope in Region 10.

PASSERINE MIGRATION

Passerine migration on the whole was good. Many regions reported excellent overall counts of various species, and there were several notable migration events during the season. In Region 2, the passerine migration was described as “fabulous.” Maximum daily counts included 85 Winter Wrens, 160 Hermit Thrushes, 50+ Field Sparrows, 600+ Savannah Sparrows, 1,200+ White-crowned Sparrows, and 1,200 Rusty Blackbirds. The sparrow season was “the best in years”. In Region 3, on 11 October, nocturnal migrants appeared to be concentrated by a low cloud ceiling and lights at Cornell University’s football stadium. After word spread, a dozen birders converged on the site and tallied high counts and Regional late departure dates for a number of warbler species, as well as approximately 1,000 Savannah Sparrows, most foraging on the stadium’s

artificial turf. Four Dickcissels were also heard calling overhead during the night. See the Region 3 species accounts for further details. When the rainy weather cleared through Region 10 several days later, a major passerine flight moved through the Region, culminating with a large number of birds—mainly sparrows, kinglets, wrens, and thrushes—grounded on 21 October by a line of showers. An unfortunate consequence of the event was the demise of large numbers of passerines along Ocean Parkway, a busy commuter road which runs along the Jones Beach strip, where grounded birds concentrate. Region 10 authors Shai Mitra and Pat Lindsay witnessed a sample of the carnage on 20 October and describe their observations in the Regional report. On a happier note, Mitra and Lindsay also note that this fall was a good one in Region 10 for observing uncommon or rare migrants such as Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Philadelphia Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, and Dickcissel. Thrushes were well reported, spurred in part, no doubt, by more widespread attention on nocturnal migration. As an example, a listener in Region 1 tallied 5 thrush species on 22 September, including 181 Swainson's Thrushes, and "many" Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes were heard overhead in Region 5 on 15 September, although exact numbers weren't noted. Observers in Region 3 typically maintain the most regular and rigorous nocturnal flight monitoring. Thrush counts at Sapsucker Woods this season included 1,000 Gray-cheeked Thrushes and 1,500 Swainson's Thrushes on 24 September. Philadelphia Vireos were noted in high numbers in Regions 1, 3, 5, and 10, and were reported from eight of ten Regions. In addition to the Region 2 numbers mentioned above, sparrows were well-reported in Regions 1, 5, 6, and 10. A number of Regions reported good variety of warblers, many establishing late departure dates. Two uncommon species which were particularly well represented this fall were Orange-crowned Warbler, reported in 8 of 10 Regions, including 12 on the Buffalo Ornithological Society Count in Region 1, 10 in Region 3, and 14 in Region 10; and Connecticut Warbler, with reports from four Regions, including three banded at a single Greene County location in Region 8, and 16 reports, with some possible duplication, from Region 10. Rusty Blackbird, a declining species, garnered positive mentions in several Regions in addition to the good numbers in Region 2. Also in Region 2, another declining species, Chimney Swift, made a good showing, with a maximum of 1,300 counted at a traditional roost site. Chimney Swifts made news in Region 10 as well when exceptionally late birds were recorded into November. An impressive diurnal migration of Black-capped Chickadees was noted on 5 November at the Lenoir Nature Preserve, when over 1,000 were counted moving south in flocks of 25-80. Presumably a Boreal Chickadee seen a day earlier across the Hudson River at Sterling Forest was part of the same general movement.

There was little evidence of a winter finch invasion this fall, with only scattered reports of few individuals. Pine Siskin was reported from nine Regions but generally in small numbers; Region 1 reported a minor flight, with "much smaller numbers than last fall." Other exceptions to the general trend were good numbers from Region 3 and Region 8, where the species was "widespread." Evening Grosbeak was likewise widely distributed in small numbers, with

reports from nine Regions as well. Common Redpolls were only reported from four Regions, although five in Region 2 on 9 October were record-early for the region. White-winged Crossbills were scarce, with reports from only three Regions, with only single birds from two of those. Red Crossbills were somewhat more common with reports from five Regions. Pine Grosbeaks were reported from four Regions, all from late November apart from two birds in late October in Region 9. Another early arrival in Region 2 was Snow Bunting, which tied the Regional record early date of 28 September. Northern Shrikes appeared in all Regions except southernmost Region 10; despite some arrivals on the early side overall numbers were average. Bohemian Waxwings appeared in moderate numbers along the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River plains but had not appeared elsewhere by season's end.

SWALLOWS

The most notable aspect of the season's migration was the unprecedented incursion of late-season swallows into the state. The now-annual pulse of Cave Swallows occurred again this year, with birds seen along the Great Lakes and the coast. This year, inland birds vastly outnumbered birds downstate, where about 10 sightings on coastal Long Island, from Montauk Point to Point Lookout, comprised mostly single birds, with a maximum of three. Upstate the picture was very different! Regions 1 and 5, with one previous record each, recorded multiple Cave Swallows. In Region 5, at least 7 passed Derby Hill on 6 November, and three more were seen at Fair Haven to 17 November. Many were recorded flying westward along Lake Ontario in Region 1, with counts of 40+ on 5 November and 80+ on 6 November from various lakeside locations. Even these remarkable numbers paled beside the counts from Region 2. Beginning with 28 counted on 3 November, by 17 November diligent watchers counted nearly 800 birds in total, all moving west along Lake Ontario. For a detailed account of this phenomenon, please see the Region 2 report. An article summarizing this event is in preparation for an upcoming issue. This year, the late-season swallows included a number of additional species. A Purple Martin seen by swallow-searchers in Region 1 on 5 November established a late date for the state. Rough-winged Swallows were seen into November in Regions 1 and 2, with a late date of 13 November in Region 1. Barn Swallows were seen to late October in Regions 1 and 2, while in Region 10 there were at least seven reports in November, the last on the 21st. Region 10 editors Mitra and Lindsay discuss the larger context of these reports as part of an event, possibly caused by Hurricane Wilma, which led to large numbers of late-season aerial insectivores as far north as the Canadian Maritimes. Mitra and Lindsay also voice a note of caution regarding the identification of late-season *Petrochelidon* swallows—although Cave Swallows have become expected, the presence of dozens of Cliff Swallows this November in Nova Scotia is an indication that no assumptions should be made in these identifications.

RARITIES

A good number of rarities were seen throughout the state this fall. It was a down year for vagrant hummingbirds, but two *Selasphorus* were seen, one

each in Region 1 and Region 8. Despite extensive photographic documentation and expert review during its two-month stay, the Region 1 bird could only be identified to genus. The Region 8 bird was banded and identified in hand as a hatching year male Rufous Hummingbird, which remains the only species of the genus positively identified in the state.

In addition to the unusual warblers discussed previously, several additional finds made news across the state. The fourth fall record of Worm-eating Warbler, and the latest ever for Region 1, was found there on 6 October. Even rarer was one found in Region 7 on 13 September, only the fourth Regional record since 1979. A Yellow-throated Warbler was seen sporadically at a Region 5 feeder in November. The rarest warbler statewide was a cooperative Black-throated Gray Warbler which frequented Forest Park in Queens County, Region 10, for a week in mid November.

One American White Pelican lingered from the summer season at Montezuma NWR in Region 3, remaining until mid-October. In early November, Westchester County in Region 9 recorded its second and third county records of American White Pelican, first three soaring over Rye Town Park on 1 November, followed by a single bird at Croton Point Park on 4 November, and five were seen at Jamaica Bay in Region 10 on 27 October.

The only inland Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow this fall was found at the traditional Region 3 location at Hog Hole at the south end of Cayuga Lake. In nearby Dryden on 11 October, a single field held a LeConte's Sparrow, a rarity at any time in the state, and two Grasshopper Sparrows, which, while resident breeders in many areas, are rare anywhere in the state as migrants. Clay-colored Sparrow was found in four Regions, including 2 at Wilson in Region 1 representing the second Regional fall record, and at least 15 individual birds in Region 10. Lark Sparrow was found only in Region 10, where there were six reports.

A horde of interesting reports were generated from Region 7. Regional editor Mike Peterson comments that a number of species which have historically been considered especially noteworthy in the Region have now become regular, including Barrow's Goldeneye, Great Egret, Gyrfalcon, Western Sandpiper, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, and Carolina Wren, all recorded this fall. Barrow's Goldeneye matched the state early arrival date on 5 November at Noblewood Park in Essex County. More noteworthy sightings included a third Regional report of Great Cormorant, a first Clinton County and fifth Regional record of Red Phalarope, and two separate Western Grebes about a month apart at the same location in Clinton County, the first and second county records. Truly remarkable and deserving of detailed documentation was a report from Lake Champlain of a flock of 14 Black Guillemots. Any occurrence of this species in NYS away from the outer shore of eastern Long Island is very unusual. Even at Montauk single birds are the rule, and the present flock represents more than a third of the total previous reports from the state! Even this was not the most noteworthy report from the Region, as a lone observer identified a bird sighted on 13 September as a female Yellow Wagtail. The Yellow Wagtail complex was split in 2004 by the American Ornithologists' Union, with the North American breeding population reclassified as Eastern Yellow Wagtail. Outside the breeding

grounds, this species has only been recorded as a vagrant in California, plus one sight record each from Nevada and Alabama. The AOU did not further analyze the Yellow Wagtail complex, on the basis that only the newly-minted Eastern Yellow Wagtail has occurred in North America. Although not specified as such, presumably this report refers to the North American breeding Eastern Yellow Wagtail. Needless to say, if accepted by the NYS Avian Records Committee (NYSARC), this would be a first record for the state.

Another highlight rarity was a cooperative Gray Kingbird in Region 2, which was seen by many observers during its four-day stay in early October. According to the Regional report this is the second record of the species for Region 2, although there are no previous records listed in *Bull's Birds of New York State* or the NYSARC archives. It represents only the tenth for New York State, pending acceptance by NYSARC.

Additional rarities from around the state included Harlequin Duck and Sandhill Crane in Region 1; up to three Sandhill Cranes in Region 3; an October White-eyed Vireo in Region 5; a feeder-going White-winged Crossbill in Region 8; from Region 9, an immature Blue Grosbeak, Boreal Chickadee, Sedge Wren, Dickcissel and Townsend's Solitaire, the latter a first for Ulster County; and White-winged Dove, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Northern Wheatear, "Gambel's" White-crowned Sparrow, and Yellow-headed Blackbird in Region 10.

MISCELLANEOUS

Once again, the wayward Whooping Crane from the eastern reintroduction program was sighted in Region 6, this time in late October. It was only seen briefly, and was next sighted on 9 December in North Carolina, where it was captured and relocated to Florida to join the rest of the experimental flock.

Other "non-countable" species reported this season included a Monk Parakeet photographed in Region 5 and Ringed Turtle-Dove, Mitred Parakeet, and two Pin-tailed Wyahts in Region 10. As noted by Region 5 editor Bill Purcell, even in cases where a bird is likely to be an escape rather than a genuine vagrant, it is important that sightings be recorded to establish a full picture in the event that a population becomes established or pattern of occurrence develops. It can also be useful to understand the occurrence of exotic species which can be confused with "legitimate" vagrants, such as Ringed Turtle-Dove, which can be difficult to separate from Eurasian Collared Dove.

BIRD OF THE SEASON

There were a variety of potential choices for the BOTS this fall, from vagrants such as Western Grebe, LeConte's Sparrow, and Black-throated Gray Warbler; to unique events, such as the amazing influx of Cave Swallows, particularly the numbers tallied in Region 2; to potential first state records, such as the Region 7 Yellow Wagtail. My choice for the BOTS is a classic, crowd-pleasing vagrant, the Gray Kingbird seen for several days in the town of Greece in Region 2. This well-documented bird, seen by many during its stay, is the first occurrence of the species in the state since the fall of 1992, the tenth overall, and only the third record away from Long Island.

REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

Mike Morgante

59 Briar Hill Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127

The record warmth from summer continued in September. The average temperature for the month was 66.0° F, which was 4.5° F above normal. Monthly precipitation at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport was 4.89", 1.26" below normal, with nearly all of it occurring on the 16th and the 25th-26th. The first week of October was very warm, but it was cooler and cloudier than normal for the remainder of the month. The average temperature was 52.7° F, 2.0° F above normal, and the monthly precipitation was 2.64", 0.55" below normal. November was characterized by extreme temperature swings and storms. The average temperature was 43.3° F, 3.1° F above normal, making it the fifth warmest fall on record. The monthly precipitation was 5.70", 1.78" above normal, with 17.9" of snow, 6.9" above normal. Lake effect snow hit selected areas hard on the 16th and 25th.

It was an exciting season in the field, with mostly pleasant weather and good numbers of migrants and rarities. Record high gas prices in September kept some birders closer to home.

Three **Cackling Geese** were observed on two occasions at the now "traditional" location of Ring-neck Marsh at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. One was also observed on two occasions in Dayton, marking the first record for Cattaraugus County. A goose described as a probable **Greater White-fronted x Canada hybrid** was observed at the same location. First arrivals of Snow Goose and Brant have become earlier in recent years. There were numerous reports of Tundra Swans in Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties on 18-19 November.

There were some high waterfowl counts this season. Elaine Dart kept count of large numbers of Wood Ducks coming to roost at a marsh in the town of Alexander in early November. Her tally of 550 on the 11th is a Regional maximum. Likewise, David Neveu's frequent observations at Burtis Bay on Chautauqua Lake resulted in a Regional maximum count of 192 on 10 November. Similar to summer, counts of Ruddy Ducks at Batavia WWTP were much lower than recent years, although they were still present in the hundreds. Three **Eared Grebes** continued at Batavia WWTP into November.

Once again, piscivorous waterbirds along Lake Erie and Lake Ontario were affected by an outbreak of type E botulism. This marks the sixth 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. A total of 75 birds were found dead during the Lake Erie transect surveys conducted from early October through early December, a lower total than recent years. NYSDEC estimates that 1,350 total birds were killed due to botulism on Lake Erie during this period. This mortality estimate only accounts for birds washed up on shore. Consistent with the results from recent years, Common Loon (45)

and Long-tailed Duck (14) carcass counts were the most numerous. Only five birds were found during mortality transect counts from transects on the Lake Ontario shoreline (NYSDEC Region 9, Kingbird Region 1).

Raptor migration is extremely sparse in the Region during the fall season. However, falcons are occasionally found moving along the Great Lakes. A regional maximum of 9 Peregrine Falcons occurred along Lake Ontario in the Town of Wilson on 8 October. Six were observed flying south over the lake during a morning of lakewatching by Brett Ewald and Willie D'Anna. In the afternoon, Ewald had another 3 flying west along the lake. Another raptor highlight was a **Golden Eagle** on 29 October; this species has become an annual occurrence in fall in recent years. Bald Eagle sightings continue to increase and are too numerous to include mention of all reports. Tim Baird saw 10 at Allegheny Reservoir near the end of the season. Four Merlins were at the annual winter roosting grounds at the University of Buffalo, South Campus.

The highlights of the fall shorebirding season were both found on 9 September at separate locations. An **American Avocet**, photographed at Iroquois NWR, was the first for this location in more than a decade. A **Red-necked Phalarope** observed by Tom Simmons at the Jamestown Audubon Center was unusual for the location. A **Hudsonian Godwit** was another good find at Cayuga Pool on 8 October.

Bonaparte's Gulls were especially numerous on the Niagara River in Buffalo this year, with estimates of 7,000-10,000 during the second half of November. A juvenile **Franklin's Gull** was observed for most of November in this area, a **Black-headed Gull** was sighted a few times, and a juvenile **Black-legged Kittiwake** was seen there once. An adult kittiwake, very rare in the Region, was documented flying west with a small group Bonaparte's Gulls on 5 November along Lake Ontario. Large gulls were still building in numbers on the Niagara River in late November. For the 14th consecutive year, **California Gull** was found on the Niagara.

Until recent years, Caspian Terns were rarely found in October. The several reports this year add to the evidence that this species is lingering later. Debbie Sharon and Paul Hess documented a Regional record number of Forster's Terns, up to 22, at Beaver Island S.P. in September. Fall reports of Black Terns have become scarce, so a report of 8 at Iroquois NWR on 18 October was unusual.

The first **Northern Saw-whet Owl** arrival was found at the early date of 25 September. Banding efforts in Wethersfield, Wyoming County, and Allegany S.P. continued to show that this species migrates through the Region in larger numbers than most birders realize. There were single reports of Snowy and Long-eared Owls plus two reports of Short-eared Owls.

Passerine migrants were widespread in September, especially following a large flight on the night of the 15th. Numerous nocturnal flight calls were heard that night over Buffalo. The increased migration that night was likely a result of an impending frontal system. Kurt Fox made a concerted effort to count nocturnal migrant calls for 2.5 hours after sunset on the night of 22 September. From two locations in Middlebury, Wyoming County, he identified 5 thrush species, with Swainson's (181) far outnumbering the other species. He also heard several Green Herons and Black-crowned Night-Herons in flight.

A local nocturnal radar study documented the season's highest passage rate on the following night as well. Sparrows were numerous in early October, especially around the time of the BOS October Count on the 9th. There were two early reports of White-crowned Sparrows. Philadelphia Vireos were reported with much greater frequency than usual this fall.

A flight of Pine Siskins occurred but they were reported in much smaller numbers than last fall. American Goldfinches were present in good numbers, with a count of over 1000 along Lake Ontario in early November. Four fall reports of **Evening Grosbeak** were the most since 2001. There were single reports of **White-winged Crossbill**, **Common Redpolls**, and **Pine Grosbeaks**.

Fall of 2005 will long be remembered for the incursion of **Cave Swallows**. Following several days with predominantly southwesterly winds in late October and early November, including a very strong wind event on 3 November, there were reports from Region 2 of large numbers of Cave Swallows flying west along Lake Ontario. Region 1 birders flocked to the lake and found them at several locations with 40+ on 5 November and 80+ on 6 November, all flying west. There was only one previous record in the Region. During the swallow search, a **Purple Martin** was well observed at Golden Hill S.P. making it the latest on record in the state.

David Suggs received a report to Dial-a-bird, the local RBA hotline, of a hummingbird that remained at a feeder in Glenwood into November. The homeowners, Bob & Lorraine Sherman, sent photographs to Suggs and invited him to visit. He identified the bird as a female **Rufous or Allen's Hummingbird** and contacted Allen Chartier, a hummingbird expert in Michigan, for further help with identification. Despite over 200 photographs of the bird, no more definitive ID could be reached. This is the fourth record of a *selasphorus* hummingbird in the Region. The bird was present from the second week of October through 9 December.

Doug Beattie was very surprised to find a **Worm-eating Warbler** in Bethany, Genesee County, on 6 October. This is only the fourth fall record for this species and the latest ever.

The 70th annual BOS October Count was held on the 9th and compiled by Mike Hamilton. The weather featured moderate temperatures and cloudy skies. The count recorded 168 species, with 19 record high counts and no record low counts. Highest counts since inception in 1935 were recorded for: Great Blue Heron (237), Osprey (11), Bald Eagle (16), Cooper's Hawk (26), Merlin (11), Peregrine Falcon (3), Spotted Sandpiper (7), Hudsonian Godwit (4 – all in Ontario), Semipalmated Sandpiper (4), Baird's Sandpiper (2 – in Ontario), Buff-breasted Sandpiper (5 – in Ontario), Caspian Tern (6), Red-bellied Woodpecker (115), Downy Woodpecker (349), Pileated Woodpecker (27), Blue-headed Vireo (23), Northern Rough-winged Swallow (91), Tufted Titmouse (120), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1304), Mourning Warbler (1), Chipping Sparrow (1030), and Indigo Bunting (6).

Other notable sightings not previously mentioned include: **Eurasian Wigeon**, **Harlequin Duck**, **Northern Gannet**, **Cattle Egret**, **Sandhill Crane**, **Bohemian Waxwing**, **Clay-colored Sparrow**, and **Louisiana Waterthrush**.

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

Robert Andrle, Tim Baird, Bob & Lorraine Baxter (B&LB), Doug Beattie, Marion Bee, Bill Broderick (BBr), Elizabeth Brooks, Bill Burch (BBu), Willie D'Anna, Elaine Dart, Brett Ewald, Kurt Fox, Paul Fuhrmann, Paul Hess, Paul Hess – INWR (PHi), Linda Holmes, Dave & Sandy Junkin, Jim Landau, Tom LeBlanc, H Link, Ruth Lundin, David Mark, Mike Morgante, David Neveu, Susan & Tom O'Donnell, Jim Pawlicki, Betsy Potter, Jeff Reed, Richard Salembier, Debbie Sharon, Bob & Lorraine Sherman, Tom Simmons, Al & Di Stout, David & Debbie Suggs (D&DS), Steven Taylor, William Watson, Peter Yoerg

ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP ERIE; BeSP – Beaver I SP ERIE; BMAC – Beaver Meadow Audubon Center WYOM; BOSOC – Buffalo Ornithological Society 9 Oct Count; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP ERIE; BWWT – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant GENE; ChauL – Chautauqua L CHAU; DH – Dunkirk Harbor CHAU; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP NIAG; GHSP – Golden Hill SP NIAG; GI – Goat I NIAG; INWR – Iroquois NWR GENE/ORLE; 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 NP, Buffalo ERIE; Tift NP – Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo ERIE; Tillman WMA ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA GENE/NIAG; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP NIAG.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted

x **Canada Goose:** probable hybrid
Dayton CATT 30 Oct (MM!), did not resemble a domestic goose.

Snow Goose: arr Wilson NIAG 29 Sep (BE); 2 INWR 2 Oct; 16 BOSOC; max 66 Shadigee ORLE 6 Nov (WW, JP), good count for fall; INWR 11 Nov; 6,1 Dayton CATT 13, 20 Nov (TB, DN); SPNS 27 Nov.

CACKLING GOOSE: 3 INWR 29 Oct, 11 Nov (MM! WW! NYSARC); Dayton CATT 30 Oct (MM! NYSARC), first county record; Dayton CATT 18 Nov (DN).

Brant: arr 198 Wilson NIAG 8 Oct (WD!, BE); 14 NIAG BOSOC; 10 DH 12 Oct (DN); 21,1 Wilson NIAG 27 Oct, 9 Nov; 5 GHSP 5 Nov.

Mute Swan: Pt Breeze ORLE 2 Oct; 15 BOSOC; 2 Wilson NIAG 8, 29 Oct; Langford ERIE 30 Oct; 4 Cassadaga CHAU 10 Nov (DN); only reports.

Tundra Swan: arr 9 GHSP 5 Nov; 100 Findley L CHAU 18 Nov (ST); max 418 ChauL 18 Nov (DN); AISP 18-19 Nov (TL), several flocks heard at night flying west; 123 BeSP 24 Nov (DS); 25 OOWMA 27 Nov.

Wood Duck: 550 Alexander GENE 11 Nov (ED et al), Regional max.

Gadwall: max 70 INWR 11 Nov; 56 ChauL 18 Nov.
EURASIAN WIGEON: male INWR 29,30 Oct (MM! BBr), rarer in fall.
Am. Wigeon: max 104 INWR 11 Nov.
Am. Black Duck: max 66 BWWTP 11 Nov.
Blue-winged Teal: last 119 BOSOC.
N. Shoveler: max 447, 592 BWWTP 29 Oct, 11 Nov.
N. Pintail: 35 BWWTP 7 Oct; max 55 Wilson NIAG 8 Oct.
Green-winged Teal: max 50 BWWTP 3 Sep.
Canvasback: arr 10 BWWTP 29 Oct.
Redhead: arr 44 Wilson NIAG 16 Oct; max 120 ChauL 27 Oct (DN).
Ring-necked Duck: arr 4 Wilson NIAG 8 Oct; 104 Dayton CATT 8 Nov; 43 Buffalo ERIE 10 Nov.
Greater Scaup: arr 5 Wilson NIAG 8 Oct; 300 NF 2 Nov.
Lesser Scaup: BWWTP 17 Sep, continued from summer; arr 8 BWWTP 27 Sep; 101 Wilson NIAG 16 Oct; max 200 NF 2 Nov.
HARLEQUIN DUCK: arr ad male NF 26 Nov (BE, JP); fem DH 27-30 Nov (DN).
Surf Scoter: arr 22, 19 Wilson NIAG 8, 29 Oct; 12 GHSP 23 Oct; 8 Buffalo NR 3 Nov.
White-winged Scoter: arr 4 Wilson NIAG 3 Sep; 22 TBNP 25 Oct, few reported away from L Ontario.
Black Scoter: arr 3 BOSOC; Wilson NIAG 16 Oct; 6 Buffalo NR 3 Nov; 20 GHSP 5 Nov; max 50 Wilson NIAG 19 Nov (WD).
Long-tailed Duck: arr 7 BOSOC.
Bufflehead: arr CATT BOSOC; 109 Sheridan CHAU 19 Nov; max 1300 Buffalo NR 20 Nov (WW).
Com. Goldeneye: arr 9 Wilson NIAG 29 Oct.
Hooded Merganser: 106 INWR 11 Nov; 120 AISP 20 Nov; max 596 ChauL 23 Nov (DN); 256 Dayton CATT 29 Nov (DN).
Com. Merganser: 71 Sheridan CHAU 26 Sep, good count for date; 278 Silver Creek CHAU 6 Nov; max 465 Dayton

CATT 29 Nov (DN).
Ruddy Duck: 114 BWWTP 27 Sep; 105 Dayton CATT 1 Nov; max 445 BWWTP 11 Nov (WW), much lower max than previous years; 137 ChauL 18 Nov (DN).
N. Bobwhite: INWR 11 Sep (S&TO!), likely release.
Red-throated Loon: arr 3 Wilson NIAG 16 Oct (WD, BE); max 517 Wilson NIAG 12 Nov (WD); no reports away from L Ontario.
Com. Loon: arr 3 Wilson NIAG 3 Sep; max 300 Wilson NIAG 25 Oct (BE); 15 Silver Creek CHAU 26 Oct; see *intro* for information on botulism issues.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 192 ChauL 10 Nov (DN), record Regional count.
Horned Grebe: arr 10 BOSOC; Dayton CATT 28 Oct; 44 Hamburg ERIE 6 Nov; 31 Barcelona CHAU 18 Nov; max 49 DH 27 Nov.
Red-necked Grebe: arr 4, 9 Wilson NIAG 8, 27 Oct (WD! BE); 2, 3 GHSP 23 Oct, 5 Nov; 2 Shadigee ORLE 6 Nov; FNSP 20 Nov; 2 ChauL 23 Nov (DN).
EARED GREBE: 3 BWWTP 17 Sep, 7 Oct, 11 Nov (WW!), continued presence since late summer.
NORTHERN GANNET: juv GHSP 5 Nov (WD! MM! et al), rare but increasing reports.
Double-crested Cormorant: 65 TWMA 7 Sep; 748, 691 BuSP 20 Sep, 4 Oct; max 1100 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 3 Nov (WW).
Am. Bittern: INWR 17 Sep, 8 Oct (JP), only reports.
Great Egret: 2 TBNP 3 Sep; max 87 TWMA 7 Sep (BBu), Regional maximum; 3 Tift NP 15 Sep; last INWR 30 Oct.
CATTLE EGRET: Wilson NIAG 18, 19 Nov (B&LB), in field with cattle, rare.
Green Heron: 10 Middlebury WYOM 22 Sep (KF), nocturnal flyovers; last 8 BOSOC.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: OOWMA 17 Sep; 2 Middlebury WYOM 22 Sep (KF), nocturnal flyovers; 2 INWR 8 Oct; 2 Buffalo ERIE 6 Nov; only reports away from NR.

Turkey Vulture: 30 Barcelona Harbor CHAU 26 Oct; 2 Lancaster ERIE 1-7 Nov (MM); Alfred ALLE 6 Nov (EB); last 7 Elma ERIE 10 Nov (PF).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: last 11 BOSOC.

Bald Eagle: reported from more than 14 locations; 16 BOSOC; max 10 Allegheny Res CATT 29 Nov (TB).

Red-shouldered Hawk: BWWT 17 Sep, 8 Oct; 2 AISP 18 Sep; 4 BOSOC; few typically reported in fall.

Broad-winged Hawk: last 2 Orchard Park ERIE 4 Sep.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr Dayton CATT, Ellington CHAU, Cherry Creek CHAU 30 Oct.

GOLDEN EAGLE: im OOWMA 29 Oct (MM!), rare in fall.

Merlin: 3-4 Buffalo ERIE 3 Sep thru (PY), traditional winter roost; INWR 17 Sep, 8 Oct; BWWT 8 Oct; 11 BOSOC; Amherst ERIE 13 Oct.

Peregrine Falcon: INWR 2 Sep, 12 Oct (PHi); Buffalo NR 30 Sep (WD); im Wethersfield WYOM 6 Oct (DJ); max 9 Wilson NIAG 8 Oct (BE, WD), max Regional count; 2 Buffalo ERIE 7 Nov.

Virginia Rail: last SPNS 12 Oct.

Sora: Amherst ERIE 13 Oct, only report.

Com. Moorhen: last 3 BOSOC.

Am. Coot: max 800 Chaul. 10 Nov (DN).

SANDHILL CRANE: 3 OOWMA 11 Nov (JP, WW!); 4 Alexander GENE 29 Nov (ED); much rarer in fall than spring.

Black-bellied Plover: max 3 Somerset NIAG 4 Oct; last Somerset NIAG 6 Nov.

Am. Golden-Plover: DH 28 Sep (DN); 33 BOSOC; last Somerset NIAG 22 Oct.

Semipalmated Plover: last Somerset NIAG 22 Oct.

Killdeer: Alexander GENE 28 Nov (ED), on the late side.

AMERICAN AVOCET: INWR 9 Sep (PHi, photo), rare.

Gr. Yellowlegs: last 2 Buffalo NR 7 Nov.

Lesser Yellowlegs: last 4 INWR, 2 TBNP 13 Oct.

Spotted Sandpiper: last Buffalo NR 3,7

Nov (WW!), late.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT: INWR 8 Oct (JP), rare.

Ruddy Turnstone: DH 3 Sep (DN); BWWT 17 Sep (WW); only reports.

Red Knot: Sherman CHAU 20 Oct (DN), only report, on the late side.

Sanderling: max 9 DH 12 Oct; 3 Buffalo NR 7 Nov; last 4 DH 10 Nov.

Least Sandpiper: last 5 BWWT BOSOC.

Baird's Sandpiper: last DH 1 Sep (DN).

Pectoral Sandpiper: 26 BOSOC; last 4 Somerset NIAG 22 Oct.

Dunlin: arr 5 Somerset NIAG 4 Oct; max 12 Wilson NIAG 8 Oct; last 3 Buffalo NR 7 Nov.

Stilt Sandpiper: TBNP 3 Sep (DM), only report.

Wilson's Snipe: 4 OOWMA 7 Oct; 10 BOSOC; Amherst ERIE 13 Oct; only reports.

Am. Woodcock: last 2 BOSOC.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: Jamestown CHAU 9 Sep (TS, RL), unusual location.

Parasitic Jaeger: GHSP 5 Nov (MM! WD!), only report.

jaeger sp.: 1, 2 Wilson NIAG 8, 9 Oct (BE, WD); 3, 7 Wilson NIAG 27, 29 Oct (WD!, WW!), included at least one probable Pomarine.

FRANKLIN'S GULL: juv Buffalo NR 6-20 Nov (MM, mob), reports have decreased in recent years.

Little Gull: 1, 2 Wilson NIAG 25 Oct, 4 Nov; GHSP 5 Nov; Barcelona CHAU 5 Nov (DN); 2 Buffalo NR 7 Nov; 2 Lewiston NR 13 Nov; max 6 Buffalo NR 20-26 Nov.

BLACK-HEADED GULL: Buffalo NR 19 Nov (WD!), rare.

Bonaparte's Gull: Dayton CATT BOSOC, unusual location; max 7,000 NR 19 Nov (WD), much higher than normal numbers at Buffalo NR in late Nov.

CALIFORNIA GULL: NPP 11-13 Nov (WD! WW! NYSARC), 14th consecutive year on NR.

— cont. p. 63

Figures for 2003 NYSARC Report



Figure 1. Magnificent Frigatebird, Robert Moses SP,
2 Oct 2003, S. D'Amato.

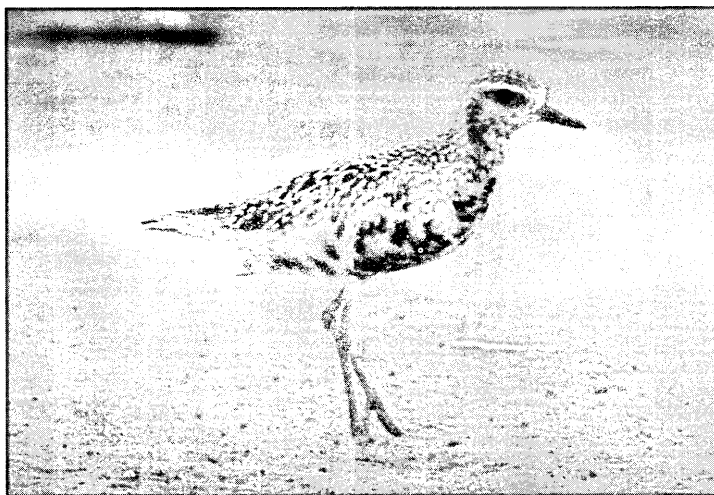


Figure 2. Pacific Golden-Plover, Mecox Bay, Suffolk,
28 Sep 2003, A. Baldelli.

Figures for 2003 NYSARC Report

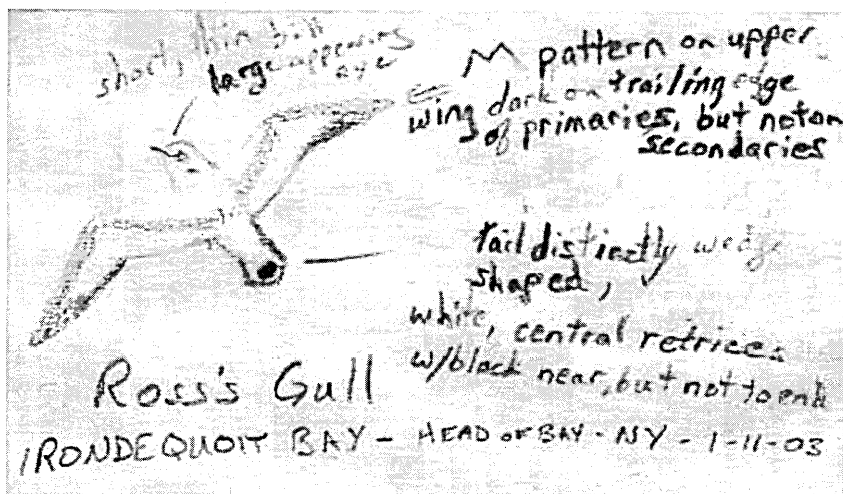
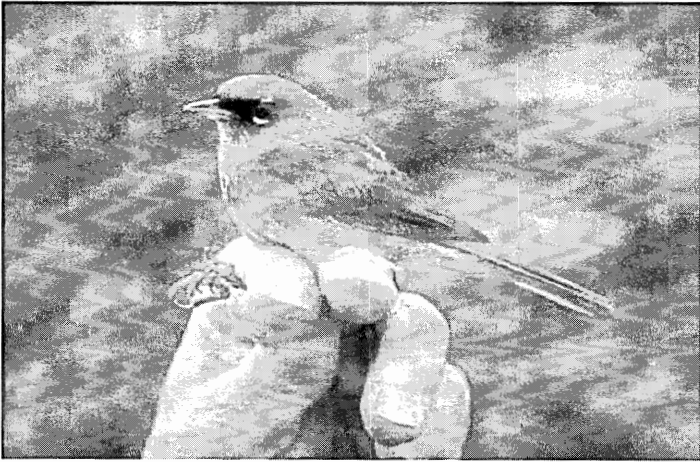


Figure 3. Ross's Gull; sketch by Jeff Gerbracht.

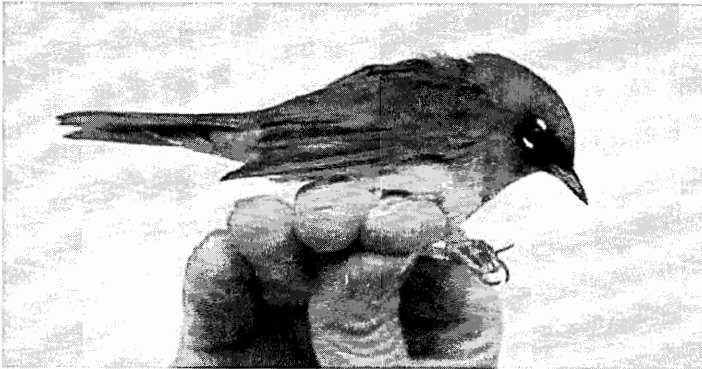


Figure 4. Northern Hawk Owl, Root, Montgomery,
8 Mar 2003, Rex Stanford.

Figures for 2003 NYSARC Report



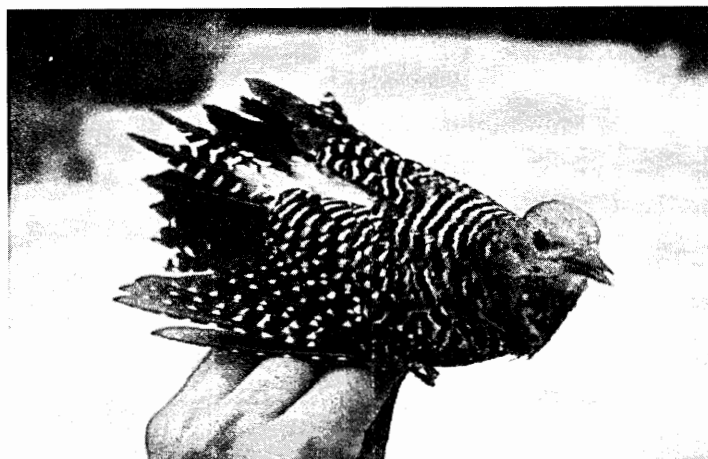
Figures 5, 6. MacGillivray's Warbler,
Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, Monroe,
4 Jun 2003, Laurie Zagmester.



Figures for 2003 NYSARC Report



Figures 7, 8. Williamson's Sapsucker,
Fire Island Lighthouse, Suffolk,
22 Jun 1996, S. S. Mitra.



Thayer's Gull: several reported NPP and NF in late Nov, undocumented.
Iceland Gull: arr NF 11 Nov (BP); max 5 NPP 20 Nov; BeSP 26 Nov.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: GI 10 Sep (DM); max 4 NF 11 Nov (WD, BP).
Glaucous Gull: arr Wilson NIAG 20 Nov.
Black-legged Kittiwake: ad GHSP 5 Nov (WD! MM!), adults very rare; juv Buffalo NR 21 Nov; only reports.
Caspian Tern: Wilson NIAG 8 Oct (WD!); 7 DH 9,12 Oct (DN); late.
Com. Tern: Buffalo NR 6 Nov; last Tifft NP 16 Nov.
Forster's Tern: 22 max BeSP 7-29 Sep (DS!, PH!), unexpected, max Regional count, only similar occurrence was September 1953.
Black Tern: INWR 17 Sep (JP); 8 INWR 18 Oct (BBu), fall reports increasingly rare.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Williamsville ERIE 24 Sep (RS), only report.
Snowy Owl: arr Porter NIAG 29-30 Nov (WD, BP), sick bird captured but died in rehabilitation.
Long-eared Owl: AmSP 23-27 Nov (RS), only report.
Short-eared Owl: arr 1, 2 Porter NIAG 16, 25 Nov (WD, DS); 3 Sheldon WYOM 28 Nov (D&SJ).
N. Saw-whet Owl: arr Wilson NIAG 25 Sep (WD!, JP), early; Wethersfield WYOM 2 Oct (DJ), 51 banded thru 12 Nov; 26 banded AISP Oct-Nov (TL).
Com. Nighthawk: last 4 Tonawanda ERIE 12 Sep; only 2 other reports.
Chimney Swift: last 286 BOSOC.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Wilson NIAG, Attica WYOM 5 Oct.
RUFIOUS or ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD: fem Glenwood ERIE ~10 Oct thru (B&LS, D&DS), fourth confirmed *selasphorus* for Region.
Red-headed Woodpecker: TBNP 3 Sep; only report.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr AmSP 14 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Tillman WMA 17 Sep (RS), rarely reported in fall.
E. Wood-Pewee: last 2 BOSOC.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: AmSP 4 Sep (JP); last Wilson NIAG 24 Sep (WD).
Least Flycatcher: last AmSP 13 Sep.
empidonax flycatcher: Pomfret CHAU 17 Sep (DN); AISP BOSOC (TB!), late.
E. Phoebe: Hanover CHAU 19 Nov (DN); Evans ERIE 20 Nov (RA); AmSP 23 Nov (RS), late.
Gr. Crested Flycatcher: last AmSP 19 Sep.
E. Kingbird: last Pomfret CHAU 17 Sep (DN).
N. Shrike: arr Olean CATT 16 Oct (JR); Franklinville CATT 30 Oct; twelve Nov reports.
White-eyed Vireo: Tifft NP 27 Sep (RA! BB), second consecutive fall at this location.
Yellow-throated Vireo: AmSP 7 Sep; AISP 11 Sep; last Amherst ERIE 16 Sep; infrequently observed in migration.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr GHSP 3 Sep.
Warbling Vireo: last BuSP 16 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: very well reported Sep; most reports in recent memory.
Red-eyed Vireo: last SPNS 12 Oct.
Com. Raven: 2 BMAC 27 Sep (LH), only report away from ALLE, CATT.
Horned Lark: max 115 Villenova CHAU 26 Nov (DN).
Purple Martin: 2 INWR 17 Sep; GHSP 5 Nov (WD! MM! NYSARC), latest record for State.
Tree Swallow: last 40 BWWTP 29 Oct (MM!), slightly late.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: last 4 NF 13 Nov (PY!).
Bank Swallow: last BWWTP 17 Sep.
Cliff Swallow: last INWR, BWWTP 17 Sep.
CAVE SWALLOW: 42 GHSP 5 Nov (WD! MM! BP et al NYSARC); 56 Wilson NIAG 6 Nov (WD! BP); 81 Carlton, Yates ORLE 6 Nov (WW! JP); 20 FNSP 6 Nov (PY!); 20 FMSCP 6 Nov (PY!); unprecedented, only one previous record for Region, see *intro*.
swallow species: 25 Wilson NIAG 4

Nov (BP, WD), likely Caves; Wilson NIAG 20 Nov (BE), observer indicated possibly a **Violet-Green**.
Barn Swallow: last BWWTP 29 Oct (MM!), late.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: arr Alden ERIE 4 Sep.
Carolina Wren: 21 BOSOC, numbers consistent with last fall.
House Wren: last 19 BOSOC.
Winter Wren: arr Wilson NIAG 8 Sep.
SEDGE WREN: Tillman WMA 19 Sep (RS), at breeding location, rare in fall.
Marsh Wren: AmSP 23-27 Sep (RS), rare in migration; last 6 BOSOC.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr 2 INWR 17 Sep.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr BeSP 12 Sep; last TBNP 8 Nov.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last Wilson NIAG 8 Sep.
Veery: 18 Middlebury WYOM 22 Sep (KF), nocturnal calls; last AmSP 27 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr AmSP 4 Sep; 20 Buffalo ERIE 16 Sep (PY), nocturnal calls; max 28 Middlebury WYOM 22 Sep (KF), nocturnal calls; last 2 BOSOC.
Swainson's Thrush: arr Wilson NIAG 2 Sep; 181 Middlebury WYOM 22 Sep (KF), nocturnal calls; last Tonawanda ERIE, Wilson NIAG 11 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: 10 Middlebury WYOM 22 Sep (KF), nocturnal calls; arr Wilson NIAG 23 Sep.
Wood Thrush: 9 Middlebury WYOM 22 Sep (KF), nocturnal calls; 5 BOSOC; last Wilson NIAG 11-13 Nov (WD! BP), record late.
Gray Catbird: last INWR 27 Nov; probable wintering bird.
N. Mockingbird: Hanover CHAU 8 Oct; Eden ERIE 19 Nov; Alexander GENE 30 Nov; less common in these locations.
Brown Thrasher: last Amherst ERIE 13 Oct.
Am. Pipit: max 50 Wilson NIAG 1 Oct; 42,1 Dayton CATT 18,26 Nov (DN); BeSP 26 Nov (DS), on the late side.
BOHEMIAN WAXWING: 16 Wilson NIAG 30 Oct (BE);

3 GHSP 5 Nov (MM! BP), only reports.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: Cold Spring CATT 8 Sep (TB); last Colden ERIE 19 Sep (JL).
Golden-winged Warbler: BeSP 9, 27 Sep (DS!), only report, late.
Tennessee Warbler: last BOSOC.
Orange-crowned Warbler: well reported; 12 BOSOC; last 3 Amherst ERIE 13 Oct (JP).
Nashville Warbler: last BeSP 17 Oct.
Yellow Warbler: last 2 Wilson NIAG 18 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: last BeSP 15 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: ten records 8-24 Sep; last BOSOC.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last 20 BOSOC.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last AISP 16 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last BOSOC.
Pine Warbler: arr GI 8 Sep; BOSOC; last AISP 16 Oct.
Palm Warbler: arr GI 4 Sep; last BeSP 17 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last BOSOC.
Blackpoll Warbler: last AISP 16 Oct.
Black-and-white Warbler: last BOSOC.
Am. Redstart: last BOSOC.
WORM-EATING WARBLER: Bethany GENE 6 Oct (DB!), 4th fall record.
Ovenbird: last 2 Tift NP 8 Oct.
Louisiana Waterthrush: last AISP 18 Sep (TB!), second latest record.
Mourning Warbler: last New Albion CATT BOSOC (JP!), late.
Com. Yellowthroat: last 2 Amherst ERIE 13 Oct.
Hooded Warbler: last Bethany GENE 19 Sep.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: last Tift NP 8 Oct.
E. Towhee: 54 BOSOC.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 8 BOSOC.
Chipping Sparrow: last TBNP

8 Nov.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: 2

Wilson NIAG 25 Sep (WD! WW!), well studied, only second fall record.

Vesper Sparrow: Wilson NIAG 1 Oct; last 5 BOSOC.

Fox Sparrow: arr 21 BOSOC; max 4 AISP 16 Oct; last S Wales ERIE 25-30 Nov (MB); well reported.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr BeSP 9 Sep; last 2 Amherst ERIE, TBNP, Wilson NIAG 13 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: arr Williamsville ERIE 3 Sep.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Pomfret CHAU 17 Sep (DN); Wilson NIAG 18 Sep (WD!); earliest fall arrivals on record.

Lapland Longspur: arr DH 28 Sep (DN), early; 16 Wilson NIAG 30 Oct (BE).

Snow Bunting: arr 4 BWWTP 20 Oct (A&DS); 9 Barcelona CHAU 24 Oct; 125 Somerset NIAG 5 Nov; max 180 FNSP 20 Nov.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last 2 BOSOC.

Indigo Bunting: 3, 2 Cassadaga CHAU 18 Sep, 1 Oct; Wilson NIAG 1 Oct; last 6 BOSOC.

Bobolink: 3 Orchard Park ERIE 3 Sep; last 3 BWWTP 4 Sep.

E. Meadowlark: Yates ORLE 6 Nov; BuSP 17 Nov (DS); only report beyond Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 25 Wilson NIAG 28 Sep; max 200 Tillman WMA ERIE 30 Oct; 150 BuSP 6 Nov; max 200 Alden 8 Nov.

Baltimore Oriole: last Wilson NIAG 21,25 Oct (BP!), very late.

Pine Grosbeak: 4 WTSP 27 Nov (BE), only report.

Purple Finch: arr 2 OOWMA 11 Sep; 111 BOSOC; few reports.

White-winged Crossbill: Wilson NIAG 18 Nov (BP, WD), only report.

Com. Redpoll: arr 11 Wilson NIAG 28 Oct (BE), only report.

Pine Siskin: arr 2 BOSOC; max 105 Wilson NIAG 30 Oct.

Am. Goldfinch: 1005 Wilson NIAG 5 Nov (BE), large movement along L Ontario.

Evening Grosbeak: arr ALLE BOSOC; Wilson NIAG 28 Oct (BE); 10 AISP 10 Nov (TL); Orchard Park ERIE 13 Nov (MM); Alma ALLE 15,16 Nov (HL).

REGION 2 – GENESEE

David W. Terlow

79 Hogan Point Rd., Hilton, NY 14468

September of 2005 was essentially a continuation of the summer weather conditions, hot and dry. Temperatures averaged 65.5° F, 4.3° above normal. Rainfall was misleading at 4.98", 1.53" above normal. Over 4 inches of this fell on just 4 days. October started out warm and dry, with a record 5 straight days exceeding 80°. Would summer ever end? Yes. During the second week of the month there was an abrupt shift to autumn. The weather became cooler, somewhat wetter than normal, and predictably cloudier. All said and done, the temperatures averaged 53.4° F, 3.0° above normal. November was typical. Windstorms, thunderstorms, record warmth, heavy rains, and lake effect snows all occurred. Could all that be called typical? Temperatures averaged 43.7° F, 3.8° above normal. Total precipitation was 3.18", 0.34" above normal. Snowfall was near normal at 7.8" (-0.3").

The southern branch of the jetstream was aligned perfectly from northern Mexico to southeastern Canada from approximately 29th of October through the 6th of November. This may have been responsible for the movement/displacement of Cave Swallows into the Northeastern United States. There were no low pressure systems originating out of the northern Mexico/southwestern United States region during this time period. In the past, these systems riding up and along the jetstream have been tied to other Cave Swallow events. It remains to be seen what weather pattern, if any, played a role in this event. Weather is almost always thought to be a major player in bird movements. Is it possible or even likely that there are some other triggers to these “events” and weather merely enhances them to a point that they are more easily detectable to humans? A lack of food is of course the most probable of all triggers. Hopefully we will have concrete answers in the near future.

Waterfowl numbers as a whole were poor this year. There were of course a few exceptions. Common Loon had several days of 1000 or more birds seen passing by Hamlin Beach. 10,000+ Red-breasted Mergansers off of Irondequoit Bay was an excellent count. Any double-digit count of Ruddy Duck is good but 90 on Braddock Bay was exceptional for our Region. There were four count days of 20 or more Red-necked Grebes at Hamlin Beach, certainly good totals by fall season standards. Both scaup species were virtually absent this fall. Tundra Swans appeared record early at two separate locations. The waterfowl highlight was had by two separate Common Eiders, one an incredibly cooperative bird found by Gary Chapin in the Irondequoit Bay Channel.

It was a record year for Northern Gannet, with 14 birds recorded. Most of these birds were definitively separable by plumage characteristics. Some observers have suggested the possibility of duplication. This is highly unlikely, though certainly possible in some cases. A late season incursion of Cattle Egrets totaled 5 individuals. Warm southerly winds brought these birds into our Region. One can't help but wonder what other species were brought in by these conditions but went undetected. A total of 18 Merlins for October was impressive, but not nearly as impressive as 19 Peregrine Falcons in two days time and a total of 26 reported for the month. Shorebird diversity was fine but numbers were unspectacular. A long-staying Red Phalarope found by Kim Hartquist at the south end of Irondequoit Bay was a nice find. Solitary, Least and Bairds sandpipers were record late. The jaeger season finished off with a pseudo-bang after a slow start. A total of 12 Pomarines, 68 Parasitics and 1 LONG-TAILED were reported, making for a very respectable season.

The gull picture also wasn't too shabby. The following rarities were seen: LAUGHING GULL, 2 SABINE'S GULLS, and 5 BLACK-HEADED GULLS. In addition to the aforementioned birds, there were 12 Little Gulls and a record early Black-legged Kittiwake. Unfortunately, a total of 5 kittiwakes made for an extremely poor season. An excellent, by recent standards, 8 Black Tern day was had at Hamlin Beach.

Three Snowy Owl reports in November gave hope for an invasion year, whereas only 2 Short-eared Owl reports for the season did not. A lone Whip-poor-will report was unusual for the fall. Chimney Swifts were again well represented at the Greigsville roost site with a maximum of 1300. Chimney

Swifts from this site tied a record late departure date. Mourning Doves nesting in mid-October? Improbable as it may seem, a pair was found sitting on eggs at Manitou. Not surprisingly, they did not succeed.

A GRAY KINGBIRD found by Dave Tetlow along Salmon Creek in Greece was a second Regional occurrence. Record late dates included Least Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, and Black-throated Blue Warbler banded by BBBO at Manitou and also a Blue-headed Vireo seen in Webster Park. A total of 33 Blue-headed Vireos were reported in October, making a late bird not surprising.

Swallows were the story of the season. A flight of 600 Tree Swallows was seen at Hamlin Beach. A flock of 108 Northern Rough-winged Swallows was seen at Point Breeze, and 5 of the same were nearly record late at Hamlin Beach. But of course, CAVE SWALLOWS made all the headlines. It all began with what would turn out to be a modest 28 birds on the 3rd of November. By November 17th the beyond comprehension total of 784 had been tallied. On November 6th, Dave Tetlow, with primary assistance from Mike Davids and Kim Hartquist, counted 579 of the aforementioned total. These birds were moving at first light and continued moving until a powerful cold front shut down the flight. All but 25 of the 784 birds during this fifteen day event were moving east to west, the 25 were obviously "leftovers" from the main flights. This is not the typical direction that this species has been detected moving here in the past. Obviously, nothing about this flight was typical.

Passerine numbers and diversity were fabulous. The following maximum counts speak for themselves: 85 Winter Wren, 30 Swainson's Thrush, 160 Hermit Thrush, 50+ Field Sparrow, 600+ Savannah Sparrow, 1200+ White-crowned Sparrow, and 1200 Rusty Blackbird. Wow! These were not all day out birding type counts. These were from single locations. It was certainly the best sparrow season in many years. Two Snow Buntings at Hamlin Beach and 7 in a field in the town of Hamlin tied a record early date. Most of the "winter finches" were reported but in small numbers. Five Common Redpoll at Hogan Point were record early.

It was definitely an entertaining fall season.

CONTRIBUTORS

Fred Arnold, Bob Beal, Jessie Barry, Jim Barlow, John Bounds, Elizabeth Brooks (Braddock Bay Bird Observatory), Carolyn Cass, Gary Chapin, Brad Carlson, Greg Coniglio, Kathleen Dalton, Steve Daniel, Mike Davids, P. Debes, Robert Dobson, Colleen Dox-Griffith, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Tim Guenther, Judy Gurley, John Hall, Helen Haller, David & Vanna Harding, Kim Hartquist, Jack Hartwig, Carolyn Jacobs, Jim Kimball, Greg Lawrence, John Lehr, David Lieber, Tom MacDonald, Cindy Marino, David Mark, Robert & Sandy Mauceli, Robert & Chita McKinney, Dan Niven, Charles O'Brien, Michael Peter, Gail Price, David Prill, E. Rehm, Helen Rice, Chuck Schleigh, Ed Scheidlower, Dominic Sherony, John Slowik, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Al & Di Stout, Allan Strong, David & Grace Strong, William

Symonds, Steve Taylor, David Tetlow, Kathy Tetlow, Michael Tetlow, Don & Donna Traver, Bill Watson, Kinsley Whittum, Charles Woolever, Peter Yoerg, Martha Zettel.

ABBREVIATIONS

BB - Braddock Bay, MONR; CA - T. Carlton, ORLE; CH - Charlotte, Ontario Beach, MONR; CHU - T. Churchville MONR; CU - T. Cuylerville, LIVI; DEP Durand-Eastman Park, MONR; G - Greece, MONR; GE - Geneseo, LIVI; H - T of Hamlin, MONR; HB - Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; He -T Henrietta, MONR; HP - Hogan Point, MONR; IB - Irondequoit Bay, MONR; K - T. Kendall, ORLE; M - Manitou, MONR; P - T of Parma, MONR; PB Point Breeze, ORLE; PE - Perinton, MONR; R - City of Rochester, MONR; RU - T. Rush, MONR; S- Savannah, WAYN; V - T. Victor, MONR; W - T of Webster, MONR; Y - T. York LIVI.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 47 HB 2 Nov.
Cackling Goose: arr 1 CA 21, 28 Nov.
Brant: max 1293 HB 25 Oct.
Tundra Swan: arr 4 HB 26 Nov (WS,DS); 10 HP 26 Nov (DT), record early.
Blue-winged Teal: last 1 G 15 Nov.
N. Pintail: max 500 HB 23 Sep; 475 HB 25 Oct, also good count.
Canvasback: arr 3 HB 16 Oct.
Redhead: arr 10 HB 16 Oct.
Ring-necked Duck: arr 32 G 22 Oct
COMMON EIDER: ♀ IB 13 - 30 Nov (GC); 1 ♀ G 21 Nov (DT).
Surf Scoter: arr 1 HB 27 Sep; max 42 HB 5 Nov.
Black Scoter: arr 1 HB 27 Sep; max 310 HB 9 Nov.
Long-tailed Duck: arr 1 HB 9 Oct; max 611 HB 26 Oct.
Bufflehead: arr 1 HB 6 Oct; max 177 HB 11 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: arr 3 HB 20 Oct.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 10,000+ IB 26 Nov.
Ruddy Duck: max 90 BB 13 Oct.
Red-throated Loon: arr 1 HB 16 Oct; max 381 HB 28 Nov, low max.
Com. Loon: max 1460 fly-by, 1200 on water HB 1 Nov.
Horned Grebe: arr 1 HB 1 Sep.
Red-necked Grebe: arr 1 HB 1 Sep; max 23 HB 8 Nov.

N. Gannet: arr 1 HB 17 Oct, 14 total for season.
Am. Bittern: last 1 DEP 2 Oct, 1 BB 2 Oct.
Great Egret: last 1 HP 1-15 Oct.
Cattle Egret: 5 total 16-22 Nov.
Green Heron: last 1 G 6 Oct.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 14 G 1 Oct.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: last 1 Roch 1 Nov; 10 total 1-30 Oct.
Bald Eagle: 11 total 1-31 Oct.
Broad-winged Hawk: last 1 HP 18 Oct.
Red-tailed Hawk: 1 calurus race He 11 Nov. Rough-legged Hawk: arr 1 K 5 Nov.
Merlin: 8 total 1-30 Sep; 18 total 1-31 Oct; 6 total 1-30 Nov.
Peregrine Falcon: max 11 BB 8 Oct; total 26 1-30 Oct.
Com. Moorhen: 3 BB 1 Sep, only report.
Am. Coot: max 130 BB 18 Oct.
Black-bellied Plover: last 1 IB 20-22 Nov.
Killdeer: max 288 H 12 Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: last 1 G 6-26 Nov.
Solitary Sandpiper: last 1 G 9-15 Nov (DT), record late.
Hudsonian Godwit: arr 1 SC 6 Oct; 1

HB 12 Nov.
Sanderling: last 1 HB 7 Nov.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 1 SC 6 Oct.
Least Sandpiper: last 4 IB 22 Nov (DS), record late.
Baird's Sandpiper: last 1 GE 6 Nov (JK), late.
Pectoral Sandpiper: last 1 IB 2 Nov.
Purple Sandpiper: arr 1 IB 15 Nov; 1 HB 15 Nov.
Dunlin: arr 1 IB 30 Sep.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 1 CU 18-21 Sep.
Long-billed Dowitcher: 4 ad SC 16 Sep; 1 SC 6-7 Oct; 1 IB 15-17 Oct.
Wilson's Snipe: max 42 SC 14 Oct.
Red-necked Phalarope: 1 GE 11 Oct; 1 HB 25 Oct.
Red Phalarope: arr 1 juv IB 15-26 Oct; 1 juv HB 24 Oct.
Pomarine Jaeger: arr 1 HB 28 Oct; 12 HB total for season.
Parasitic Jaeger: 68 HB total for season.
Laughing Gull: 1 juv HB 4 Sep (WS, DT).
Little Gull: 12 HB total for season.
Black-headed Gull: arr 1 imm HB 28 Oct; 1 imm IB 12 Nov; 1 ad 1 imm HB 8 Nov; 1 ad HB 18 Nov.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 858 HB 8 Nov.
Iceland Gull: arr 1 PE 25 Nov.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 6-9 total for season.
Glaucous Gull: arr 1 CA 28 Nov.
Black-legged Kittiwake: arr 1 imm HB 4 Sep (WS), record early; 5 total for season, low.
SABINE'S GULL: 2 imm HB 16 Oct (DT).
Caspian Tern: last 1 IB 6 Oct.
Com. Tern: max 112 HB 8 Sep; 1 IB/CH 22-27 Nov, late.
Black Tern: max 8 HB 8 Sep.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: 2 NE M 15 Oct (DT), record late nesting attempt.
Black-billed Cuckoo: last 1 P 27 Sep.
Snowy Owl: arr 2 CH 25-27 Nov; 1 BB 25 Nov.

Short-eared Owl: arr 2 GE 30 Oct.
Whip-poor-will: 1 W 9 Oct (D&DT), late.
Chimney Swift: max 1300 Y 24 Sep (JK, JG); last 26, 19 Oct (JK), record late.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last 1 CHU 24 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: last 1 V 10 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 1 M 28 Sep, banded.
Traill's Flycatcher: last 1 M 7 Sep, banded.
Least Flycatcher: last 1 M 9 Oct, banded BBBO record late.
E. Phoebe: 1 R 20 Nov; last 1 H 27-30 Nov.
Great Crested Flycatcher: last 1 M 11 Sep, banded.
E. Kingbird: last 1 G 18 Sep.
GRAY KINGBIRD: 1 SC 1-4 Oct (DT, mob) 2nd Reg. record.
N. Shrike: arr 1 HB 31 Oct.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last 1 DEP 25 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: total 33 Oct; last 1 W 10 Nov (R&SSp), record late.
Red-eyed Vireo: last 1 GE 18 Oct.
Philadelphia Vireo: last 1 M 23 Sep, banded.
Warbling Vireo: last 1 M 17 Oct, banded.
FISH CROW: 2 G 15 Oct (KG).
Tree Swallow: max 600 HB 8 Oct; last 1 G 14 Nov.
Bank Swallow: last 1 HB 19 Sep.
Cliff Swallow: last 1 H 1 Sep.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 108 PB 4 Oct (DT); last 2 HB 8 Nov (WS).
CAVE SWALLOW: 28 HB 3 Nov (JB, JG, DT); 112 HB 4 Nov (MD, DT); 42 HB 5 Nov (ST, DS, DT, et al); 579 HB 6 Nov (DT, mob); 2 HB 11 Nov (MD); 1 G 13 Nov (DT, video); 4 G 14 Nov (DT); 11 HP 14 Nov (DT); 7-1 SC 15-17 Nov (RS, DS, DT), photos, 1 specimen.
Barn Swallow: last 1 IB 24 Oct.
House Wren: last 1 GE 14 Oct.
Winter Wren: arr 1 HB 13 Sep; max 85 M 9 Oct.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max

125 M, banded.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 1 HB 7 Sep; max 135 M, banded.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 20+ S 11 Sep; max 195 Sep, banded.
Bicknell's Thrush: arr 1 M 22 Sep, banded.
Swainson's Thrush: max 30 HB 7 Sep; last 1 M 17 Oct, banded.
Hermit Thrush: max 160 M 9 Oct.
Wood Thrush: last 1 M 11 Oct.
Bohemian Waxwing: 15 total Nov.
Cedar Waxwing: max 500 W 26-27 Nov.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: last 1 V 14 Sep.
Orange-crowned Warbler: total 10 G 7-17 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: last 1 M 15 Oct, banded.
N. Parula Warbler: arr 1 P 9 Sep; last 1 M 5 Oct.
Yellow Warbler: last 1 G 17 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last 1 V 7 Oct.
Magnolia Warbler: last 1 M 15 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: last 1 M 3 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last 1 M 27 Oct (RMc), banded, record late; total 56 Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last 1 BB 14-18 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last 1 G 10 Sep.
Pine Warbler: last 1 HB 26 Nov.
Prairie Warbler: last 1 HB 1 Oct (R&SSp, et al).
Palm Warbler: last 1 V 27 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last 1 M 9 Oct, banded.
Blackpoll Warbler: last 1 M 12 Oct, banded.
Black-and-white Warbler: last 1 M 2 Oct, banded.
Am. Redstart: last 1 M 9 Oct.
Ovenbird: last 1 M 12 Oct, banded.
N. Waterthrush: last 2 M 20 Sep, banded.

Connecticut Warbler: 3 total Sep.
Mourning Warbler: last 1 M 11 Sep.
Hooded Warbler: last 1 M 19 Sep, banded.
Canada Warbler: last 1 M 17 Sep, banded.
Yellow-breasted Chat: last 1 M 6 Oct, banded.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: last 1 HB 27 Sep.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 1 HP 9 Oct.
Clay-colored Sparrow: 3 HB 9 Oct (DT).
Field Sparrow: max 50+ RU 14 Oct (MZ).
Vesper Sparrow: max 10+ H/K 1-9 Oct.
Savannah Sparrow: max 600+ H 2 Oct (MD, DT).
Grasshopper Sparrow: last 1 DEP 2 Oct (GC, DS).
Fox Sparrow: arr 2 M 9 Oct.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 1 M 4 Sep, banded.
White-throated Sparrow: arr 1 M 4 Sep, banded.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr 8 HP 23 Sep; max 1200+ HP 28 Sep (MD, DT).
Lapland Longspur: arr 2 HB 30 Sep.
Snow Bunting: arr 2 HB 28 Sep; 7 H 28 Sep (RS, DT), record early.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last 1 M 17 Oct, banded.
Indigo Bunting: last 1 H 27 Sep.
Bobolink: last 1 HB 2 Oct.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 4 HP 26 Sep; max 1200 SC(P) 18 Oct (DT).
Baltimore Oriole: last 1 S 10 Sep.
Pine Grosbeak: arr 1 W 26 Nov.
Red Crossbill: arr 5 HB 12 Nov.
White-winged Crossbill: arr 1 HP 16 Nov.
Com. Redpoll: arr 5 HP 9 Oct (DT), record early.
Am. Goldfinch: max 176 M 4 Nov, banded.
Evening Grosbeak: arr 1 M 7 Oct; total 8 Nov.

REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

Bill Ostrander

80 Westmont Avenue, Elmira, NY 14905

brown_creeper@sg23.com

At Ithaca, every month in fall 2005 was warmer than normal; +3.5° F in September, +1.6° F in October, and +4.4° F in November. September saw only half of its normal precipitation, but October more than doubled its norm and November above normal as well. Only a couple of inches of snow managed to accumulate on the ground in the last week of November to account for the season's snowfall. Several days and nights of low cloud ceilings and precipitation, 9-15 October, was the main weather event and produced some remarkable birding in terms of numbers and conditions.

Although they have become regular fall visitors to the Region, **Greater White-fronted Goose**, **Ross's Goose**, and **Eurasian Wigeon** were the birding highlights among the waterfowl. Perhaps more interesting was that the maximum single site count for every dabbling duck species, except Mallard and American Black Duck, was an eleven-year high. This, however, only translated into significant region-wide increases in numbers for four of the species. For the Blue-winged Teal, it was the third consecutive year of significant increases.

One **American White Pelican** continued to grace Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge through mid-October. Two **Glossy Ibises** were also there in early September. Pied-billed Grebes were very numerous, both at Montezuma NWR and at Stewart Park. It was the second consecutive year of significant increases for that species. The rainy period of mid-October concentrated hundreds of Double-crested Cormorants and Great Blue Herons at the south end of Cayuga Lake, producing some spectacular scenes in that area.

The one highlight among the raptor observations was the movement of Peregrine Falcons through the Region on 8 October, including seven observed passing the bluffs at the north end of Aurora Bay, Cayuga Lake. This movement occurred just one day ahead of the prolonged period of rainy weather that was the season's main weather event.

Shorebirds were generally down in numbers. May's Point Pool at Montezuma NWR was undergoing a planned mid-summer drawdown, which left it choked with vegetation for the fall. The newer impoundment, dubbed "Puddler's Marsh" along Towpath Road in the Montezuma Wetlands Complex became the focus of attention for shorebirds. It is likely that the decrease in shorebird numbers was due to the greater difficulty in counting the birds at this site where many of the birds were quite far away from the observers. The highlights of the season were **Whimbrel**, **Western Sandpiper**, and **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**.

The rainy weather event of mid-October grounded **Laughing Gulls** at Ithaca and Elmira. At the end of October, a group of birders from Ithaca spotted a **Pomarine Jaeger** passing the north bluffs overlooking Aurora Bay. Ryan Douglas provided an excellent description. Undoubtedly the same bird was seen later that day at the south end of Cayuga Lake by Viviana Ruiz-Gutiérrez.

The 19 Black Terns reported from the north end of Cayuga Lake was an eleven-year high count for the fall season.

Visitors to Summerhill State Forest were surprised to hear multiple Northern Saw-whet Owls calling. John and Sue Gregoire pulled 34 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds out of the nets at their banding operation in one day in early September and also banded an Acadian Flycatcher.

Mike Harvey and Tim Lenz, returning home from a late night of work on 11 October at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, heard a very large number of nocturnal migrant calls from overhead and speculated that the low cloud ceiling and the bright lights at Cornell University's football stadium might be concentrating migrants. Upon investigation, they found that they could not only hear migrants, but that large numbers of them could be seen in and around the stadium. Mike and Tim alerted the Ithaca birding community and soon, a dozen birders were spending a long night of surreal night birding. The result was high counts and late departure dates being recorded for many species of warblers and other neotropical migrants. The other warbler record of note was a late **Louisiana Waterthrush**, observed by Dick Clements while he was golfing in Big Flats.

In addition to the warblers, the night at the stadium also produced four Dickcissel calls from overhead and a thousand Savannah Sparrows, most of them foraging on the artificial turf in the football stadium. Mike Harvey had already had quite a day, even before the fallout at the stadium. Earlier in the day he had discovered a **LeConte's Sparrow** in a field in Dryden. Others, seeking the LeConte's found two **Grasshopper Sparrows** in the same field. Fall reports of this summer resident species are rare in the Region. Birders again found a **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** in the marsh at Hog Hole at the south end of Cayuga Lake. A few winter finches did appear in the Region including a Pine Grosbeak, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks.

The following species listing includes comparisons of observed bird populations in the Region between fall 2004 and fall 2005. A "+" at the end of the species account indicates an increase; a "-" indicates a decrease. Species accounts with neither symbol indicate that the species did not demonstrate a significant change in reported numbers in 2005. Unless otherwise noted, the cited comparisons showed statistically significant changes ($\chi^2 > 3.84$; $P = 0.05$). A discussion of my methodology and its limitations can be found in the Region 3 report that appeared in the December 1999 issue of *The Kingbird*.

CONTRIBUTORS

Bob Abraham, Maryanne Adams, Mike Andersen, Alan Anderson, Carol Anne Anderson, Bill Baker, Steve Ballentine, Eric Banford, Jake Barnett, Bob Beal, Linda & Steve Benedict, Brenda Best, Shawn Billerman, Ken & Lisa Blackman, Fritzie & John Blizzard, Kim Bostwick, Joseph Brin, Michele Brown, Jean Bub, Ken & Rose Burdick, Jerry Case, Jared Caster, Cayuga Bird Club, Mark Chao, Gary Chapin, Lois Chaplin, Dick Clements, Kathy Clements, Linda Clougherty, John & Karen Confer, Tom Connare, Steve Cooper, Candace Cornell, Kevin Cummings, Nancy Cusumano, Mark Dettling, Sandy DiCinti,

Nancy Dickinson, Ryan Douglas, Susan Earle, eBird, Jesse Ellis, Bill Evans, Steve & Susan Fast, Jeff Gerbracht, Mary Graham, John Greenly, John & Sue Gregoire, Kevin Griffith, Scott Haber, Meena Haribal, Mike Harvey, Anne Havelin, Barbara Herrgesell, Wesley Hochachka, Asher Hockett, Jeff Holbrook, Julie Horton, Paul Hurtado, Larry & Sara Jane Hymes, Lyn Jacobs, Anne Marie Johnson, Elizabeth King, Gary Kohlenberg, Leona Lauster, Pauline Layton, Dan Lebbin, Tim Lenz, Susanne Lorbeer, Marianne Ludwigsen, Curtis Marantz, Bill McAneny, Elaina McCartney, Dave McDermitt, Jay & Kevin McGowan, Cathy McGrath, Lisa McGraw, Bob McGuire, Bob Meade, Andrew Miller, Ann Mitchell, Gin & Nari Mistry, Dave Nutter, Jim Ochterski, Dan O'Connell, Linda Orkin, Nancy Ostman, Bill & Joan Ostrander, Mary Passage, Sandy Podulka, Bard Prentiss, Marie Read, Ken Rosenberg, Charles Rouse, David Ruppert, Dave Russell, Lena Samsonenko, Marty Schlabach, Carol Schmitt, Joan Scrocarelli, Glenn Seeholzer, Carol & Joe Slattery, Nick Sly, Dave Smith, Richard Solvay, Don Sommers, Laura Stenzler, George Strothman, David Suggs, Brian Sullivan, Chris Tessaglia-Hymes, Mary Jane Thomas, Colin Thoreen, Chris Valligny, John VanNiel, Gerrit Vyn, Randy Weidner, Allison & Evan & Jeff Wells, David Wheeler, Chris White, Caissa Willmer, Ben Winger, Chris Wood, Matt Young, Ray Zimmerman,

ABBREVIATIONS

ABNB - Aurora Bay North Bluffs CAYU, CGP - Cornell Garden Plots TOMP, CU - Cornell University, DLP - Dryden L P TOMP, DLT - Dryden L Trail TOMP, EIRW - East Ithaca Recreatin Way TOMP, GM - Gleason Meadows CHEM, HH - Hog Hole, KH - Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory SCHU, MNWR - Montezuma NWR, MtP - Mt. Pleasant, MWC - Montezuma Wetlands Complex, MyPt - Myers Point TOMP, PrH - Prospect Hill CHEM, SaM - Savannah Mucklands, ST - Steele Topsoil CHEM, StP - Stewart Park TOMP, SW - Sapsucker Woods TOMP, TCAH - The Center At Horseheads CHEM, TFSP - Taughannock Falls SP

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose:

Fayette 22 Oct (BSu, CWo); MWC 27 Nov (TL).

Snow Goose: arr 5 MWC 24 Sep; max 3200 MNWR 30 Oct, -.

Ross's Goose: arr MWC 22 Oct (BoMc, DN); last MNWR 12 Nov (TL), late.

Canada Goose: max 10,000 MWC 23 Nov, -.

Brant: arr 40 MyPt 8 Oct; max 300 ABNB 8 Oct; last 3 SW 22 Nov, -.

Mute Swan: max 7 MNWR 22 Oct (AMil), high.

Tundra Swan: arr 6 MNWR 5 Nov; max 458 MNWR 18 Nov.

Trumpeter Swan: max 15 MWC 23

Nov (TL), only report, high, +.

Wood Duck: max 60 MNWR 4 Sep (TL, CWo), high.

Gadwall: max 25,0250 MNWR 18 Nov (BA, LJ), high.

Eurasian Wigeon: arr MNWR 17 Sep (GC); max 2 MNWR 28 Oct (JBU, LJ); MNWR 13 Nov (BH), late.

Am. Wigeon: max 3500 MNWR 28 Oct (JBU, LJ), high, +.

Am. Black Duck: max 75 MNWR 8 Oct (MAn, MiHa, TL), low, +.

Blue-winged Teal: max 400 StP 10 Oct (BBa), high, late, +.

N. Shoveler: max 200 MNWR 22 Oct (AMil), high.

N. Pintail: max 200 MNWR 28 Oct (JBU, LJ), high.
Green-winged Teal: max 1590 MWC 1 Oct (JE, MiHa, GSe), high, +.
Canvasback: arr & max 20 MNWR 28 Oct.
Redhead: arr 2 MNWR 4 Sep; max 53 StP 26 Nov.
Ring-necked Duck: max 5000 MNWR 30 Oct, -.
Greater Scaup: arr MyPt 19 Oct; max 6 StP 17 Nov, -.
Surf Scoter: arr StP 30 Oct; last ABNB 11 Nov.
White-winged Scoter: arr & max 18 ABNB 8 Oct; last Aurora Post Office CAYU 19 Nov.
Black Scoter: arr StP 30 Oct, late; last Owasco North CAYU 19 Nov, -.
Long-tailed Duck: arr MyPt 6 Nov; max & last 2 DLP 23 Nov, -.
Bufflehead: arr MyPt 9 Oct; max 100 StP 11 Nov, +.
Com. Goldeneye: arr StP 30 Oct; max 60 ABNB 11 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: max 100 MNWR 20 Nov, +.
Red-breasted Merganser: arr StP 14 Oct; max 10 Cayuga L Basin 30 Oct.
Ruddy Duck: arr MNWR 12 Sep; max 33 Cayuga L SP 27 Nov.
Wild Turkey: max 36 MWC 22 Oct, +.
Red-throated Loon: arr TFSP 16 Oct; max 23 TFSP 11 Nov.
Com. Loon: arr Portland Pt TOMP 2 Oct; max 1992 TFSP 11 Nov.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 224 MNWR 30 Oct (L&SBe, K&LBI, JBU, JuHo, LJ, CMc, CR), high, +.
Horned Grebe: arr StP 5 Oct (TL), early; max 11 Seneca L SP 28 Oct.
Red-necked Grebe: arr & max 2 Long Pt SP 30 Oct.
Am. White Pelican: MNWR 3 Sep (CBC, MC, AHo, LSa); MWC 23 Sep (CC NO); MNWR 17 Oct (DN).
Double-crested Cormorant: max 600 StP 9 Oct, +.
Am. Bittern: max 2 MNWR 1 Sep; last SW 17 Oct.
Least Bittern: max & last 2 MWC 12 Sep.

Great Blue Heron: max 130 HH 9 Oct, +.
Great Egret: max 36 MNWR 17 Sep; last 4 MWC 23 Oct.
Green Heron: max & last 15 CU 12 Oct.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 10 MWC 9 Sep; last Ithaca 13 Oct.
Glossy Ibis: arr MNWR 5 Sep (ML); max 2 MNWR 9 Sep (AHA); Montezuma 19 Sep (eB), late.
Turkey Vulture: max 150 Ithaca 14 Oct, -.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: max 6 HH 10 Oct; last 2 SW 22 Nov (eB), late.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 19 MtP 15 Oct, -.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 11 Big Flats Trail CHEM 10 Sep; last Trumansburg 6 Oct, -.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr SW 19 Oct; max 11 MtP 6 Nov.
Golden Eagle: arr 2 KH 23 Oct; max & last 2 SW 22 Nov.
Peregrine Falcon: max 7 ABNB 8 Oct (MAN, MiHa, TL), high.
Virginia Rail: HH 30 Sep; last TCAH 19 Nov (BO), late.
Sora: Montezuma 3 Sep; last DLT 15 Oct.
Com. Moorhen: max 45 MNWR 4 Sep; last SW 22 Nov (eB), late.
Am. Coot: max 2300 MNWR 28 Oct (JBU, LJ), high.
Sandhill Crane: 3 MWC 4 Sep; max & last 3 MNWR 12 Nov (BoMc, DN), high.
Black-bellied Plover: max 7 MNWR 8 Oct; last MNWR 2 Nov.
Am. Golden-Plover: max 10 MWC 5 Sep; last MtP 8 Oct, -.
Sempalmated Plover: max 25 MNWR 4 Sep; last CU 12 Oct.
Killdeer: max 26 MyPt 29 Oct, late.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 24 MWC 8 Oct; last 2 SW 22 Nov.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 40 MWC 20 Sep; last MWC 5 Nov.
Solitary Sandpiper: SW 7 Sep; last SW 8 Oct (MC), -.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 2 StP 7 Sep; last HH 15 Oct.
Whimbrel: MyPt 13 Sep (JGrn).
Ruddy Turnstone: last MyPt 19 Sep.
Sanderling: max 8 MNWR 7 Sep (C&JSI), high; last MNWR 22 Oct.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 30 MWC 20 Sep; last 7 StP 1 Nov, -.
Western Sandpiper: MNWR 4 Sep (TL, CWo); last MNWR 23 Sep (CC, NO).
Least Sandpiper: max 40 MWC 20 Sep; last MNWR 2 Nov, -.
White-rumped Sandpiper: max & last 3 MWC 20 Sep, low, -.
Baird's Sandpiper: max 5 MNWR 20 Sep; last MNWR 1 Oct.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 180 MWC 20 Sep; last 2 SW 22 Nov (eB), late.
Dunlin: max 50 StP 1 Nov; last MyPt 27 Nov, -.
Stilt Sandpiper: max 5 MWC 20 Sep; last MWC 8 Oct, -.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: last MNWR 17 Sep (MiHa, TL, JMc, GSe).
Short-billed Dowitcher: last MNWR 17 Oct (DN), late.
Long-billed Dowitcher: max 11 MNWR 19 Oct; last 2 MNWR 22 Nov.
Wilson's Snipe: max 19 MNWR 23 Sep; last 3 MNWR 22 Nov (JE), late.
Am. Woodcock: max 3 Caroline 26 Oct; last SW 22 Nov.
Pomarine Jaeger: ABNB 30 Oct (RD!, MiHa, TL, CMA, LSa), early; StP 30 Oct (VRG!).
Laughing Gull: Ithaca 26 Sep (eB), late; max 3 StP 14 Oct (GK, DL, JMc!, BoMc, DN); last Ithaca 16 Oct (eB), +.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 2 Elmira 12 Oct; last 2 SW 22 Nov.
Herring Gull: max 244 Ithaca 17 Oct, +.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: arr MNWR 17 Sep; max 2 MNWR 18 Sep.
Caspian Tern: max 10 MNWR 4 Sep; last 2 StP 12 Oct (KR), late.
Com. Tern: 2 Lansing Rd 25 Sep (MAn, TL, CWo!), only report.
Forster's Tern: arr MyPt 17 Sep; max & last 2 StP 7 Oct (TL!), late.
Black Tern: 19 Cayuga L WMA SENE

4 Sep (TL, CWo), only report, high, +.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Rock Pigeon: max 300 TCAH 15 Oct (BO), high.
Mourning Dove: max 100 KH 13 Sep, +.
Black-billed Cuckoo: last Cascadilla Creek 8 Oct (JE), late.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: DLP 11 Oct; last HH 16 Oct.
E. Screech-Owl: max 4 Ithaca 13 Nov (eB), high.
Short-eared Owl: arr MtP 15 Oct; max 4 Benton 26 Nov (Cheng, JuHo), high.
N. Saw-whet Owl: max 4 Summerhill State Forest CAYU 21 Nov (RD), high.
Com. Nighthawk: max 8 Pirozzolo P CHEM 2 Sep; last Finger Lakes Mall CAYU 21 Sep.
Chimney Swift: max 25 Cohocton R 7 Sep; last SW 23 Sep (TL), +.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 34 KH 3 Sep (J&SGrg), high; last Ithaca 11 Oct.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 4 Ithaca 11 Nov (eB), high.
Downy Woodpecker: max 10 SW 4 Oct, +.
Hairy Woodpecker: max 6 Caroline 2 Nov (KCo), high, +.
N. Flicker: max 17 ST 9 Sep, +.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: max 4 SW 17 Sep; last Dryden 4 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 5 KH 2 Sep (J&SGrg), high; last 2 Ithaca 1 Oct.
Acadian Flycatcher: KH 2 Sep (J&SGrg).
Least Flycatcher: max 5 KH 2 Sep (J&SGrg), high; last SW 20 Sep.
E. Phoebe: max 20 DLT 21 Sep (KMc), high; last E Shore Sailing Club TOMP 21 Nov (TL, CWo), late.
Great Crested Flycatcher: Dryden 2 Sep; last PrH 19 Sep.
E. Kingbird: max & last 2 Trumansburg 21 Sep.
N. Shrike: arr CAYU 31 Oct.
Blue-headed Vireo: max 6 SW 24 Sep; last HH 16 Oct.

Warbling Vireo: max 6 StP 1 Sep (DN), high; last SW 21 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: max 3 SW 10 Sep (MC, SE, DO), high; last EIRW 12 Oct (LH), late.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 15 SW 9 Sep; last SW 17 Oct.
Blue Jay: max 180 Lansing 2 Oct, -.
Fish Crow: max 30 Riverfront P CHEM 14 Oct, -.
Com. Raven: max 27 MtP 21 Oct (BSu), high.
Horned Lark: max 200 SaM 5 Nov, +.
Purple Martin: max & last 4 StP 1 Sep (eB), only report, early departure.
Tree Swallow: max 200 MNWR 2 Oct; last 4 ST 18 Nov (eB), late, -.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: last 2 TCAH 9 Sep (eB), only report, -.
Bank Swallow: max 10 StP 5 Sep; last Ithaca 29 Sep (eB).
Cliff Swallow: last 2 StP 5 Sep (MeHa), only report.
Barn Swallow: max 65 StP 1 Sep; last Ithaca 29 Sep (eB), early, -.
Tufted Titmouse: max 12 SW 17 Sep (eB), high.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 9 Spencer Crest Nature Center STEU 25 Sep, +.
Carolina Wren: max 6 Pine City 15 Oct (DC), high.
House Wren: max 10 GM 10 Sep; last ST 20 Oct.
Winter Wren: max 8 Catlin 15 Oct (eB), high.
Marsh Wren: max 2 SW 11 Oct; last MNWR 5 Nov (JaCa), late.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 2 KH 19 Sep; max 40 Dryden 10 Oct; last Dryden 27 Oct.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: StP 16 Sep; last DLT 20 Sep.
Veery: max 14 Caroline 19 Sep; last 3 Dryden 10 Oct.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Harris Hill P CHEM 10 Sep; max 1000 SW 24 Sep (MAN, DL, BoMc, CTH), high; last CU 13 Oct (SBi), +.
Swainson's Thrush: arr 2 Dryden 1 Sep; max 1500 SW 24 Sep (MAN, DL, BoMc, CTH), high; last Dryden 19 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: max 7 EIRW 12 Oct; last Dryden 29 Oct.
Wood Thrush: max 35 Northeast Ithaca 11 Oct; last CU 12 Oct (MiHa), +.
Am. Robin: max 600 Dryden 2 Nov (TL), high, +.
Gray Catbird: max 50 SW 15 Sep (CTH), high; last Dryden 19 Nov (eB), +.
Brown Thrasher: max 10 GM 5 Sep (B&JO), high; last Caroline 22 Oct (J&KCo), late.
Am. Pipit: arr StP 21 Sep; max 75 MtP 15 Oct; last 2 MyPt 27 Nov.
Cedar Waxwing: max 125 ST 21 Oct, +.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: GM 5 Sep; last SW 11 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: max & last 2 CU 12 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr SW 4 Sep; max 2 Dryden 8 Oct; last Dryden 12 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: max 3 Dryden 8 Oct; last Reynolds State Game Farm TOMP 21 Oct.
N. Parula: arr Dryden 5 Sep; max 5 CU 17 Sep (MeHa), high; last 4 CU 12 Oct.
Yellow Warbler: max 15 StP 7 Sep (KR), high; last Dryden 12 Oct (TL), late.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 8 CU 17 Sep; last 3 CU 12 Oct (RD), late.
Magnolia Warbler: max 10 CU 17 Sep; last CU 12 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: arr CU 16 Sep; last Northeast Ithaca 17 Sep.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 18 Dryden 10 Oct (JMc), high; last SW 19 Oct (MC), late, +.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 450 CU 12 Oct (JE, MiHa, DL, mob), high; last Caroline 5 Nov, +.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 9 CU 12 Oct; last CU 15 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 4 SW 17 Sep; last PrH 12 Oct (eB), late.
Pine Warbler: max 11 Harris Hill P CHEM 10 Sep (B&JO), high; last 2 Newtown Battlefield Reservation

CHEM 1 Oct.

Prairie Warbler: max 5 GM 10 Sep (B&JO), high; last Dryden 27 Sep (DL, BoMc, VRG, CTH), late.

Palm Warbler: arr SaM 4 Sep (TL, CWo), early; max 21 CU 12 Oct (JE, MiHa, DL, mob), high; last Reynolds State Game Farm TOMP 16 Oct, +.

Bay-breasted Warbler: max 2 SW 17 Sep; last 2 PrH 12 Oct (eB), late.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr SW 1 Sep; max 3 Catlin 24 Sep; last HH 15 Oct.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 10 SW 17 Sep (eB), high; last CU 12 Oct.

Am. Redstart: max 9 SW 17 Sep; last CU 12 Oct (MiHa), late.

Ovenbird: max 6 CU 12 Oct (NS), high; last Southwoods Development TOMP 14 Oct.

N. Waterthrush: SW 3 Sep; last SW 27 Sep.

Louisiana Waterthrush: Willow Creek Golf Course CHEM 19 Sep (DC!), only report, late, -.

Mourning Warbler: SW 17 Sep (RD); last CU 12 Oct (NS), late.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 50 CU 11 Oct (eB), high; last SW 19 Oct, +.

Hooded Warbler: SW 16 Sep; last CU 12 Oct (TL), late.

Wilson's Warbler: max 5 SW 11 Sep (MC, MG), high; last EIRW 12 Oct (LH), late.

Canada Warbler: max 2 SW 17 Sep; last SW 24 Sep (MAn, DL, BoMc, CTH), late.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 6 Northeast Ithaca 11 Oct (KR), high; last CU 14 Oct (NS), late.

E. Towhee: max 22 GM 5 Sep (B&JO), high; last Dryden 3 Nov.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr KH 31 Oct; max 24 Groton 14 Nov, -.

Chipping Sparrow: max 80 Cayuga Heights 19 Sep; last Catlin 9 Nov, +.

Field Sparrow: max 12 DLT 21 Sep; last Ithaca 14 Nov (DN), late.

Vesper Sparrow: max & last 2 Dryden 15 Oct.

Savannah Sparrow: max 1000 CU 11

Oct (MAn, JBa, RD, JE, DL, JE, Scott Haber, MiHa, TL, CMA, LSa, GSe, BSu, Colin Thoreen), high; last Hector 23 Oct, +.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max & last 2 Dryden 11 Oct (KMc, mob), late.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW: Dryden 11 Oct (MiHa!).

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED

SPARROW: arr HH 30 Sep (TL!, GSe); HH 15 Oct (MiHa, TL, GSe, BW).

Fox Sparrow: arr Hector 2 Oct; max 21 Dryden 31 Oct (eB), high; last Dryden 20 Nov.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 2 KH 5 Sep; max 4 Dryden 15 Oct; last Ithaca 16 Oct.

Swamp Sparrow: max 50 DLP 9 Oct (LSt), high; last TCAH 19 Nov.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr SW 24 Sep; max 9 Dryden 10 Oct; last Caton 17 Nov.

Lapland Longspur: arr 4 SaM 5 Nov; max 8 SaM 6 Nov.

Snow Bunting: arr MyPt 20 Oct; max 200 SaM 6 Nov, +.

N. Cardinal: max 20 Ithaca 13 Nov (eB), high.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 25 Dryden 21 Sep; last 2 Ithaca 15 Oct, +.

Indigo Bunting: max 20 CU 11 Oct (eB), high; last CGP 15 Oct.

DICKCISSEL: Caroline 19 Sep (eB); max 4 CU 12 Oct (JE, MiHa, mob), high; CGP 16 Oct (MC!), +.

Bobolink: max & last 7 CGP 15 Oct; TOMP 15 Oct.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 2500 TCAH 30 Sep; last 550 Fayette 27 Nov, +.

E. Meadowlark: max 17 Dryden 14 Oct; last Big Flats Trail CHEM 5 Nov, -.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 2 MNWR 24 Sep; max 250 SW 8 Oct; last 75 Lansing 6 Nov, early.

Com. Grackle: max 2000 Cohocton R7 Sep; last 550 Fayette 27 Nov.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 100 Big Flats 3 Sep; last 4 Lansing 26 Nov.

Baltimore Oriole: max 3 Dryden 6 Sep (eB), high; last Dryden 21 Sep (CTH), late.

Pine Grosbeak: Beam Hill TOMP 19-20 Nov (KCu), early.

Purple Finch: max 50 Caroline 21 Oct (J&KCo), high, +.

House Finch: max 25 SW 25 Nov, +.

Red Crossbill: Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 17 Sep (GV).

Pine Siskin: arr Dryden 5 Oct; max 40 SW 29 Oct (Fide KR), high.

Evening Grosbeak: arr Summerhill 23 Oct; max 12 Dryden 27 Oct.

REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

Andrew Mason

1039 Peck St., Jefferson, NY 12093

AndyMason@earthling.net

The 2005 Atlantic hurricane season, the most active on record, affected Region 4 as it did the rest of the eastern U.S. Three hurricanes left their mark, and a fourth, Katrina, just missed the period, passing by on the last two days of August. Ophelia's passage along the Atlantic coast on 16-17 September brought moderate rain and gusty NE winds. Rita tracked up the Mississippi Valley and brought over an inch of rain and strong southerly winds to the Binghamton weather station on 26 September. Wilma also traveled off the eastern coast and combined with a Nor'easter storm off New England on 25-26 October. Low barometric pressure, rain, NE winds shifting to NW, and the first snow of the season accompanied this event.

At the Binghamton station, September precipitation was below normal and temperatures above normal. In October, temperatures were slightly above normal, but precipitation was over double the average. November continued wet, 50% above normal, and slightly warmer than average.

It was a modest bird season in the Region, with a handful of notable reports and events. The fallout of Red-throated Loons that occurred through central NY on 23 November found several grounded birds in Region 4. Sue Gaynor discovered one in Meredith DELA and released it on nearby Pine L. Tom Fernades rescued a loon in the city of Cortland and successfully let it go on Casterline Pond. He also reported another successful release SW of Cortland and commented on reports from deer hunters of “. . . flopping duck-like birds with long beaks . . .” Passage of a cold front, bringing dropping temperatures, shifting winds, and lake-effect snow, coinciding with the peak movement of this species may have combined to bring about the groundings.

Another grounding incident involved a tantalizing, but third-hand report of a N. Gannet found in a yard in Sidney DELA. The next morning the bird was “. . . hanging out . . .” in the homeowner's garage. He brought it to the State University at Oneonta's Biological Field Station on Otsego Lake where he was

engaged in construction work. Unable to find assistance, he released the bird into the lake. His after-the-fact detailed description, particularly eye color, "certainly suggested it was a N. Gannet," according to biologist Matt Albright. Date of the report is uncertain, but it followed passage of the Hurricane Wilma/ Atlantic nor'easter confluence in late October.

Other good waterfowl sightings included both White-winged Scoter and a very unusual Surf Scoter reports from Buckhorn LOTSE by Katie Ray. Northern Pintail, Redhead, and Long-tailed Duck also showed this season. Single reports of Horned Grebe and Red-necked Grebe in BROO and Snowy Egret in CHEN were notable.

Raptors were a mixed bag, with Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Cooper's Hawk as plusses, and other species either holding even or low. The Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch near Oneonta set seasonal records for two species, Golden Eagle and Merlin, and most others were above the 17-year average at the site. Coverage was outstanding, with the 129 days of coverage a new high. Without a doubt, the highlight of Franklin Mt.'s season came on 11 November, when long-time counters Steve Hall and Ron Milliken tallied 71 Golden Eagles passing the lookout. This now stands as a record high daily count for eastern North America for this species, surpassing the previous high of 51 Golden Eagles held jointly by FMHW and Pennsylvania's Allegheny Front Hawkwatch. This outstanding count in turn contributed to the season's total of 252 Golden Eagles, also a record for the eastern flyway. 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.

Shorebirds were generally low, although reports of the regionally rare Baird's Sandpiper were a bright spot. Bonaparte's Gull was again sighted; this species is becoming more regular in fall.

The three regular owl species made decent showings, but no others appeared. Three reports of Common Nighthawk unfortunately have to be considered positive these days. Good numbers of Pileated Woodpeckers were noted.

Among passerines, Purple Martin, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Magnolia Warbler, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird, and Purple Finch all did well. Ted Buhl covered the Richfield OTSE area during fall migration and turned up good counts of vireos, kinglets, and White-throated and Lincoln's sparrows. Spotted-breast thrushes were mixed, with Veery and Wood Thrush down and Swainson's and Hermit Thrush on the plus side. A number of regionally uncommon warblers were reported, including: Orange-crowned, Tennessee, Northern Parula, Pine, Prairie, Bay-breasted, Worm-eating, Northern Waterthrush, Mourning, and Hooded. Gail Kirch's Vestal Banding Station did well, with Red-eyed Vireo, Gray Catbird, Nashville Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, and an extremely high count of American Goldfinch.

Low or missed were both species of teal, both yellowlegs, American Woodcock, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-throated Vireo, House Wren,
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Brown Thrasher, Black-and-white Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Eastern Meadowlark.

Early winter birds did not make much of a showing. Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Shrike, Horned Lark, Snow Bunting, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak all were reported but not in promising numbers. There was no apparent invasion of winter finches, with Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks appearing in small numbers. Two reports of Red Crossbill most likely involved scattered breeders.

CONTRIBUTORS

Matt Albright, Anne Altshuler, Dick Andrus, Jeff Balmer, Dianne Benko, Fred Bertram, Dennis Bock, Sue Bock, Bruce Bozdos, Ted Buhl, Gerianne Carillo, Eleanor Carson, Kay Crane, Larry Dake, John Davis, Delaware-Otsego Audubon Soc., Ailsa Donnelly, Bob Donnelly, Nick Donnelly, Sadie Dorber, Jean Dorman, Dolores Elliot, Suzanne Etherington, Tom Fernandes, Margaret Ferranti, Steve Ferranti, Sue Gaynor, Bob Grajewski, Dave Green, Bob Grosek, Steve Hall, Dylan Horvath, Jim Hoteling, Bill Howard, Merwin & Sally Howard, Dorian Huneke, Spencer Hunt, Michael Jordan, Don Kinch, Sara Kinch, Gail Kirch, Diana Krein, Sharon Krotzer, Bill Kuk, Victor Lamoureaux, Tom Laskowski, Art Levy, Cynthia Lockrow, Andy Mason, Angela Mattucci, David McCartt, Bill Miller, Eleanor Moriarty, John Mueger, Naturalists' Club of Broome County, Sandy Perry, Bob Pantle, Marie Petuh, Nick Plavac, Jessie Ravage, Katie Ray, Tom Salo, Charlie Scheim, Helga Stein, Kathy Swantak, Tioga Bird Club, Bill Toner, Fred von Mechow, Dan Watkins, Don Weber, Joel Weeks, Jon Weeks, Michele Weeks, Sue & Tom Whitney, Don Windsor, Colleen Wolpert, an Matt Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

AqPk - Aquaterra Park BROO; BHL - Buck Horn L OTSE; BUNP - Binghamton University Nature Preserve BROO; BPd - Boland Pd BROO; CVSP - Chenango Valley State P BROO; DorP - Dorchester P BROO; FMHW - Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch DELA; Ots - Otsego L OTSE; UL - Upper Lisle BROO; VBS - Vestal banding station BROO.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: BROO 28 Sep; 50+ UL 16 Oct; flock FMHW 24 Nov; max 450 Burlington OTSE 27 Nov.

Brant: 20-30 FMHW 9 Oct; 150 Burlington OTSE 20 Oct; max 370 FMHW 26 Oct; good numbers now reported regularly as migrants throughout Region.

Mute Swan: BPd thru Nov; 2 Chenango BROO 12, 18 Nov; OtsL 23 Nov; no apparent expansion in Region.

Wood Duck: 15 reports; no large flocks.

Am. Wigeon: CVSP 9 Oct; only report.

Am. Black Duck: 20+ reports; max 13+ BPd 20 Nov.

Green-winged Teal: 2 BPd 8 Oct, only report.

N. Pintail: 2 BPd 25 Oct; BPd 2 Nov, 14 Nov; often missed.

Blue-winged Teal: 6 Burlington OTSE 10 Oct, continued scarce.

Redhead: 3 Young's L OTSE 23 Nov, uncommon.

Ring-necked Duck: Burlington OTSE 10 Oct; 2 BHL 23 Nov; 100 Allen's Lake OTSE 23 Nov; max 200 Young's L OTSE 23 Nov, good count.

Lesser Scaup: 2 DorP 28 Oct, only report.

SURF SCOTER: BHL 29 Oct (KR!), rare.

White-winged Scoter: 2 BHL 9 Oct, often missed.

Long-tailed Duck: 5 BHL 26 Oct; 3 BHL 30, third consecutive fall reported and fourth year since 1997.

Bufflehead: 8 reports; all singles or small flocks.

Hooded Merganser: 8 reports; max 250 Allen's L OTSE 23 Nov, good count.

Com. Merganser: numerous reports, particularly BROO; max 75+ DorP 29 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: BHL 18 Oct, 27-29 Oct, continued low.

Ring-necked Pheasant: 4 reports; max 3 UL 18 Nov.

Ruffed Grouse: more than most recent years Burlington OTSE; 7 other reports.

Wild Turkey: 14 reports, low; max 30 BROO 16 Nov.

Red-throated Loon: Meredith DELA 23 Nov; Cortland CORT 23 Nov; Hillcrest Pits BROO 29 Nov; DorP 30 Nov.

Com. Loon: FMHW 10 Oct; DorP 30 Nov; low.

Pied-billed Grebe: 14 reports; max 5 Endwell BROO 26 Oct, good count.

Horned Grebe: DorP 11 Nov, often missed.

Red-necked Grebe: DorP 11 Nov, uncommon.

Double-crested Cormorant: 40+ OtsL 10 Oct; 13 reports, BROO; max 47 Union BROO 12 Oct.

Am. Bittern: BPd 30 Sep, often missed.

Great Blue Heron: well reported BROO; max 18+ Susquehanna R, Vestal BROO 8 Sep.

Great Egret: 6 reports, all BROO; max 6 Endwell BROO 15 Sep.

Snowy Egret: Sherburne CHEN 1 Nov, uncommon.

Green Heron: 3 reports, low.

Turkey Vulture: widespread thru early Nov; max 68 FMHW 27 Oct; last 30-50 in roost McGraw CORT mid-Sept; BPd 14 Nov; total 477 FMHW, 200% above avg.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

(FMHW totals below cover 20 Aug to 1 Jan, 2006; averages reflect 1989-2005 data).

Osprey: total 132 FMHW, 33% above avg; 27 other reports, good count; TIOG 10 Nov, late.

Bald Eagle: total 87 FMHW, 76% above avg; 26 other reports, widespread.

N. Harrier: total 51 FMHW, 17% below avg; 14 other reports, fair count.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 515 FMHW, 27% above avg; 27 other reports, good count.

Cooper's Hawk: total 113 FMHW, 70% above avg; 17 other reports, mostly BROO.

N. Goshawk: total 25 FMHW, 8% above avg; no other reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: total 52 FMHW, 6% below avg; only 3 other reports.

Broad-winged Hawk: total 867 FMHW, 18% above avg; 238 FMHW 11 Sep, max; 7 other reports, low.

Red-tailed Hawk: total 2205 FMHW, 24% above avg.

Rough-legged Hawk: total 20 FMHW, 74% above avg; 4 Burlington OTSE 20 Oct, early; 7 reports first 2 weeks Nov.

Golden Eagle: total 252 FMHW, 117% above avg; max 71 FMHW 11 Nov (SH, RM), NA record high day's tally; Cortlandville CORT 14 Nov; Vestal BROO 18, 19 Nov, feeding on road kill.

Am. Kestrel: total 150 FMHW, 70% above avg; 9 Greenwood Pk BROO 14 Sep; "small group" Harpersfield DELA 11 Oct; 15 other reports, still low.

Merlin: total 36 FMHW, 141% above avg; 5 other reports, low considering

increasing breeding population.

Peregrine Falcon: total 10 FMHW, avg; Hillcrest Pits BROO 14 Nov; downtown Binghamton BROO 19 Nov.

Sora: Grippen Pk, Endicott BROO 6 Sep (DW), often missed.

Am. Coot: BHL small numbers after late Sep; numerous OtsL 23 Nov.

Semipalmated Plover: DorP 8 Oct (BK), uncommon in Reg.

Killdeer: 22 reports BROO, TIOG; max 35 Chenango Forks BROO 3 Sep; last TIOG 19 Oct.

Greater Yellowlegs: DorP 28 Oct, only report.

Lesser Yellowlegs: Endwell BROO 1 Sep, only report.

Spotted Sandpiper: Norwich CHEN 5 Sep; 5 reports BROO Sep, Oct.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Endwell BROO 1 Sep; DorP 8 Oct.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: Susquehanna R, Vestal BROO 2 Sep (VL); Tri-cities Airport, Endicott BROO 6 Sep, 2 Tri-cities Airport, Endicott BROO 8 Sep (DW); rare.

Dunlin: 4 reports DorP late Oct, early Nov; Whitney Point Res BROO 29 Oct; uncommon.

Wilson's Snipe: Vestal BROO 3 Sep; Binghamton BROO 16 Sep; Hillcrest Pits BROO 30 Oct, often missed.

Am. Woodcock: TIOG 16, only report, low.

Bonaparte's Gull: Endwell BROO 15 Nov; DorP 29, 30 Nov; uncommon, but increasing in regularity.

Ring-billed Gull: numerous BROO thru; max 71 Chenango BROO 13 Oct.

Herring Gull: regular BROO, TIOG Oct, Nov; max 50+ Hillcrest Pits BROO 20 Nov.

Com. Tern: 2 DorP 8 Oct (BK), uncommon.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: AqPk 22 Sep, only report.

E. Screech-Owl: 11 widespread reports, good count.

Great-horned Owl: 7 widespread reports, good count.

Barred Owl: 6 widespread reports, good count.

Com. Nighthawk: Binghamton BROO 7 Sep; multiples Delhi DELA 12 Sep; TIOG 30 Sep; continued scarce.

Chimney Swift: 1 BPd 7 Sep; FMHW 19 Sep; one report TIOG.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 25 Sep reports; last Milford OTSE 4 Oct.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 9 reports; steady.

Pileated Woodpecker: 53 reports whole Region, evidently a very good year.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Vestal BROO 5 Oct, uncommon.

E. Wood-Pewee: FMHW 2 Sep; Greenwood Pk BROO 14 Sep; Oxford CHEN 17 Sep; Chenango Forks BROO 21 Sep.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 4 VBS mid Sep.

Least Flycatcher: AqPk 1 Sep; TIOG 2 Sep; 5 VBS early Sep; Chenango Forks BROO 21 Sep.

E. Phoebe: 38 reports; last VBS 30 Oct.
Great Crested Flycatcher: 2 BROO 18 Sep, only report; often missed.

E. Kingbird: Vestal BROO 2 Sep; Greenwood Pk BROO 14 Sep; TIOG Sep.

N. Shrike: Johnson City BROO 13 Nov; Lisle BROO 27 Nov.

Blue-headed Vireo: 10 VBS; 14 other reports BROO; 2 Richfield OTSE 3 Oct; TIOG 11 Oct; last Union BROO 30 Oct.

Yellow-throated Vireo: Greenwood Pk BROO 14 Sep, only report.

Warbling Vireo: VBS 2 Sep; TIOG Sep.

Philadelphia Vireo: 2 VBS mid Sep; Richfield OTSE 2 Oct.

Red-eyed Vireo: total 58 VBS; 200+ Richfield mid Sep.

Blue Jay: high numbers noted by two observers.

Am. Crow: max 400+ FMHW 26 Oct, "moving south".

Fish Crow: TIOG Sep, Oct; no recent sign of expansion.

Com. Raven: 20 widespread reports;

“seen all month” TIOG Nov; nearly daily FMHW; max 18 FMHW 7 Nov, including 14 in one flock.

Horned Lark: 40 Sherburne CHEN 23 Oct; TIOG Nov; 30+ Lisle BROO 5 Nov; Lisle BROO 27 Nov; DorP 15 Nov.

Purple Martin: 15-20 AqPk 15 Sep, rarely reported in recent years.

Tree Swallow: 11 reports BROO; 300+ BPd 9 Oct, max; FMHW 2 Nov; 2 FMHW 7 Nov, late.

Bank Swallow: BPd 7 Sep, uncommon.

Barn Swallow: 4 reports BROO thru mid Sep.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 3 VBS; FMHW 19 Sep; Walton DELA 23 Sep; Richford TIOG 25 Oct; FMHW 5-6 Oct; Davenport DELA first week Nov; 2-3 Scott CORT 11 Nov; FMHW 13 Nov; McGraw CORT 14 Nov; TIOG Oct, Nov; 28 reports BROO; good count.

Brown Creeper: 15 reports thru.

Carolina Wren: 4 VBS; 52 other reports BROO; TIOG Nov; 2 Scott CORT 15 Oct, 11 Nov; continues well in southern portion of Region.

House Wren: 9 reports BROO thru mid Oct; 3 VBS Sep; remains low.

Winter Wren: Burlington OTSE 17 Sep; TIOG 1 Oct; VBS 23 Sep, 15 Oct; Cole Pk BROO 16 Oct; BUNP 22 Oct; often missed.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: well reported; 4 Sep-20 Nov; max 40-60 Richfield 6 Oct.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: well reported; 34 VBS Oct; max 30 Richfield OTSE 6 Oct; 30 other reports, 18 Sep- 6 Nov.

E. Bluebird: well reported thru; no large flocks.

Veery: Chenango BROO 10 Sep; 4 VBS Sep; continued low.

Swainson’s Thrush: 10 VBS Sep-Oct, good count.

Hermit Thrush: 2 AqPk 1 Sep; FMHW 24 Sep; Johnson City BROO 2 Oct; Vestal BROO 5 Oct; Burlington OTSE 20 Oct; TIOG 22 Oct; 9 VBS Oct-Nov.

Wood Thrush: TIOG 18 Sep; 5 VBS Sep; continued very low.

Gray Catbird: TIOG 1 Oct, 21 Nov, late; 64 VBS Sep-Oct; well reported BROO thru mid Oct.

Brown Thrasher: 2 Lisle BROO 25 Sep; TIOG Sep; Freetown CORT 8-11 Nov, late; continued low.

N. Mockingbird: 15 reports BROO; 2 reports TIOG.

Am. Pipit: 2 Chenango BROO 28 Oct; DorP 5 Nov.

Cedar Waxwing: well-reported thru; max 100+ Milford OTSE 27 Oct; 60 banded VBS Oct.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: FMHW 21 Sep, only report; late. Orange-crowned Warbler: 3 VBS 15-17 Oct, uncommon.

Tennessee Warbler: Richfield OTSE 18 Sep, often missed.

Nashville Warbler: Vestal BROO 8 Sep; Johnson City BROO 18 Sep; 10+ Richfield OTSE 3 Oct; 2 BUNP 9 Oct; FMHW 14 Oct; 14 VBS Sep-Oct. good count.

N. Parula: VBS 16 Sep, uncommon.

Yellow Warbler: AqPk 1 Sep; Vestal BROO 8 Sep; TIOG 18 Sep.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: AqPk 1 Sep; several juv CVSP 3 Sep; Chenango BROO 4 Sep; TIOG 15 Sep; Chenango BROO 30 Sep; Norwich CHEN 1 Oct; total 4 VBS.

Magnolia Warbler: Cole Pk BROO 7 Sep; Greenwood Pk BROO 14 Sep; TIOG Sep; Glen Aubrey BROO 5 Oct; Johnson City BROO 10 Oct; total 32 VBS, very good count.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: N Norwich CHEN 5 Sep; TIOG 5 Sep; TIOG 3 Oct; 2 BROO 4 Oct; 4 VBS 11 Oct, tot 6.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: widespread, well reported; 22 VBS; max 70+ Richfield OTSE 6 Oct.

Black-throated Green Warbler: 18 reports, 1 Sep-12 Oct.

Pine Warbler: Roundtop Pk BROO 8 Sep; Cortland CORT 12 Nov; only reports.

Prairie Warbler: Chenango BROO 9 Sep; TIOG Sep; third consecutive fall

reported and third since 1995.

Palm Warbler: 2 VBS Sep; UL 11, 25 Sep; CVSP 11 Sep; Greenwood Pk BROO 14 Sep; 2 Richfield OTSE 18 Sep; Glen Aubrey BROO 26 Sep; 2 Richfield OTSE 6 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: CVSP 11 Sep, often missed.

Blackpoll Warbler: Vestal BROO 8 Sep; VBS 15 Sep; UL 15 Oct; average.

Black-and-white Warbler: TIOG 2 Sep; 2 VBS Sep; continued low.

Am. Redstart: 2 AqPk 1 Sep; Chenango BROO 1 Sep; TIOG 2 Sep; 6 VBS Sep; second consecutive good year.

Worm-eating Warbler: Vestal BROO 8 Sep (DW), uncommon.

Ovenbird: TIOG 2 Sep; Chenango BROO 5 Sep; 5 VBS 6 Sep, total 16, last 4 Oct; 2 Chenango BROO 9 Sep; Chenango BROO 11 Sep.

N. Waterthrush: 1 VBS 2 Sep, often missed.

Connecticut Warbler: VBS 6, 12 Sep; Vestal BROO 23 Sep; FMHW 27 Sep; rare to uncommon in Region.

Mourning Warbler: VBS 10 Oct, uncommon.

Com. Yellowthroat: Pharsalia CHEN 22 Sep; Norwich CHEN 1 Oct; 20 VBS 1 Sep thru 18 Oct; well reported BROO mid Sep - early Oct.

Hooded Warbler: CVSP 3 Sep; Vestal BROO 8 Sep; uncommon.

Wilson's Warbler: Vestal BROO 8 Sep; UL 11 Sep; 2 Richfield OTSE 18 Sep; VBS 3, 21 Sep; average.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: 9 reports VBS, last 11 Oct; 3 FMHW 16 Sep; 6 reports singles BROO 7-21 Sep.

E. Towhee: 12 reports VBS, last 13 Nov; modest numbers BROO thru Sep & Oct.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Richford TIOG 25 Oct; regular thru.

Chipping Sparrow: VBS 8 reports; max 25 CVSP 9 Oct; common thru Sep and Oct.

Field Sparrow: VBS 7 reports; 16 other

reports thru late Oct; good count.

Savannah Sparrow: TIOG Sep; 5 Triangle BROO 10 Sep; Greenwood Pk BROO 14 Sep; 2 Lisle BRO 25 Sep; 2 Maine BROO 25 Sep; good count, often missed.

Fox Sparrow: arr UL 15 Oct; 15 other widespread reports thru.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Lisle BROO 25 Sep; 20+ Richfield OTSE 3 Oct; Finch Hollow Nature Center BROO 3 Oct; VBS 10 Oct; Mirror Lk TIOG 2 Nov.

Swamp Sparrow: 8 VBS late Sep - mid Oct; 13 reports BROO 11 Sep-4 Nov.

White-throated Sparrow: abundant thru; max 350+ Richfield OTSE 3 Oct; 100+ Richfield OTSE 6 Oct; 97 VBS, 14 max 15 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: 14 reports 25 Sep-22 Oct.

Dark-eyed Junco: common thru; 100 Richford TIOG 25 Oct; VBS total 132; max 16 VBS 27, 28 Oct.

Snow Bunting: DorP 29 Oct, 15 Nov; 4 DorP 16 Nov; 5-6 Middlefield OTSE 27 Nov; TIOG Nov; low.

N. Cardinal: 20 VBS, good count.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 15 Sep reports; 10 VBS 10 Sep-11 Oct.

Indigo Bunting: 8 Sep reports; 2 BPd 4 Oct; VBS 17 Sep-Oct 9.

Bobolink: TIOG Sep, only report, late.

E. Meadowlark: Greenwood Pk BROO 14 Sep; 4 Long Pd SF Smithville CHEN 18 Sep; 2 UL 15 Oct; Hillcrest Pits BROO 15 Oct; remains low.

Rusty Blackbird: W Corners Swamp BROO 25 Sep; small numbers regular UL mid Oct - mid Nov; 5 BPd 26 Oct; Johnson City BROO 13 Nov; Vestal BROO 23 Nov; good count.

Baltimore Oriole: BPd 21 Nov (JW), late.

Purple Finch: 33 widespread reports; 58 VBS mostly Oct; continued increase in counts.

House Finch: regularly reported, but no large flocks.

Red Crossbill: CHEN 15 Sep; Scott CORT 15 Oct; uncommon.

Pine Siskin: Milford OTSE 27 Oct; max 23 CVSP 28 Oct; McGraw CORT

23-29 Oct; Norwich CHEN 24 Oct;
Burlington OTSE 30 Oct; multiples
FMHW 2 Nov; Scott CORT 6 Nov;
Freetown CORT 11 Nov; TIOG 9-12
Nov; Norwich CHEN 20 Nov;
6 Walton DELA 23 Nov; 3 Richford
TIOG 26 Nov.
Am. Goldfinch: 12 Chenango BROO 8
Oct; 50+ Scott CORT 6 Nov; 26 TIOG

Nov; total 404 VBS, very high; max 71
VBS 5 Nov.
Evening Grosbeak: 3 Greene CHEN
21 Oct; Chenango BROO 7 Nov; 8
Richford TIOG 12 Nov; 25-30 Otselic
CHEN; 12 Burlington OTSE 19 Nov;
Maine BROO 21 Nov; 24 Davenport
DELA 27 Nov.

REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Bill Purcell

281 Baum Road, Hastings, New York, 13076
wpurcell@twcny.rr.com

The season was much warmer and slightly wetter than the long-term average. The September temperature averaged 65.4° F, 4.1° above normal, with 1.75 inches of precipitation, 2.4 inches below normal. The temperature in October averaged 52.4° F, 2.3° above normal, with 6.41" of rain, 3.21" above normal. The first seven days of October averaged 12° above normal, with southerly winds most of the time. This may have contributed to some late sightings. In November, the average temperature was 44.0°, 4.3° above normal, with 4.66" of precipitation, which was 0.89" over the average. There was 8.4" of snow for the month. Cold weather from November 22-27 froze most small ponds in the Region. It was wet in the Adirondacks, with some precipitation on 37 days in October and November.

The waterfowl flight was mostly unimpressive, even on the cold fronts, which often produce a good many birds. Flocks of Snow Geese rarely topped 150, the Wood Duck flight at Toad Harbor seems to have dispersed, and numbers of teal, Gadwall and N. Pintail were low. Divers present in good numbers included White-winged Scoter, Black Scoter, Hooded Merganser, and Red-breasted Merganser, while numbers of Greater Scaup, Surf Scoter, Bufflehead, and Common Merganser were particularly low. There were two Cackling Goose sightings, one photographed and the other well described, as well as other "small Canada Geese" that could not be viewed closely.

Large numbers of Common Loons staged at Fair Haven and Oswego in early November, as south winds stopped them from moving south over the rivers and lakes they use as migration routes. There were many reports of loons, mostly Red-throated, grounded on roads from 24-25 November, that were picked up and turned into rehabilitators. The birds were quickly released on nearby waterways, but there must have been many that perished before being found. The cause was a quick moving cold front, and the loons landed on silvery waterways that turned out to be roads. Great Egret was very scarce, with only a single bird reported.

The hawk migration was not monitored very much this season resulting in very low numbers for most species. The pluses included a late Osprey, 5 Golden Eagles, Merlins well into the season, and several Peregrine Falcons. By the end of the season there seemed to be few Northern Harriers and American Kestrels still present, but Rough-legged Hawk reports did not indicate any concentrations of that irruptive species.

Observers seemed to tire of shorebirds after the good summer season at Delta Lake, because there were few autumn reports. Common species such as Sanderling, Semipalmated and Least sandpipers, and Dunlin were reported in very low numbers, while Red Knot, Baird's Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, and the dowitchers were not reported. There was a single Stilt Sandpiper and never more than one Purple Sandpiper at Fair Haven. There were some nice numbers for Am. Golden-Plover and Pectoral Sandpiper

It was a good season for Parasitic and Pomarine jaegers at Derby Hill, including birds on 1 September moving in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. A Black-headed Gull was seen at Fair Haven, while at Derby Hill there were numerous Black-legged Kittiwakes, Northern Gannet on several dates, and the only Little Gull for the season. Single Iceland and Glaucous gulls were found, but Forster's Tern was missed.

There were several Snowy Owls in late November, and Short-eared Owls returned to a traditional site. Long-eared and N. Saw-whet owls were not reported. A Monk Parakeet was photographed in Syracuse. The bird was likely an escapee, but on the chance that it is a colonizer it is included in the report. It is unlikely that the species could prosper given the rigorous winter in these parts.

The observers who spent little time with shorebirds were sighting a wealth of land birds. There were many sightings of species such as Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Yellow-throated Vireo, Veery, and Wood Thrush, which sometimes are not reported in the fall. Species such as Olive-sided Flycatcher, Purple Martin, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Mourning Warbler were found in October; all established or tied record late dates. The birds may have lingered during the mild weather or they have been reverse migrants on south winds early in the month.

Birders finally managed to find **Cave Swallow** in the Region. The species has recently become a regular late fall migrant to the Great Lakes, and there is a previously unpublished record for Cave Swallow found near Oneida Lake on 5 November 1999. At least seven flew past Derby Hill on 6 November, and later in the month three more lingered at Fair Haven before they either left or perished following the passage of a cold front. A White-eyed Vireo was found in October, Northern Shrike arrived in about average numbers, and Red-breasted Nuthatch was on the move although most reports did come from breeding areas. There were a few Bohemian Waxwings and many reports of both Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. At least 14 Philadelphia Vireos were reported this season. Without making any judgments, the Regional Editor hopes that everyone is aware of the similarities in plumage of fall Warbling and Philadelphia vireos.

A large night flight on 15 September included many Swainson's and Gray-

cheeked thrushes although no numbers were recorded. Tufted Titmouse and Northern Cardinal at feeders in Old Forge in early November were pushing their range boundaries. There were few, if any, outstanding maxima for warblers this season, but there were many reports of species lingering far into the season. A Yellow-throated Warbler was seen sporadically at a feeder in November; Orange-crowned, Cerulean and Cape May warblers were all reported; and 17 species were found in October.

After the warm start of October, sparrows arrived in large numbers by 9 October, with good counts through the end of the month. The blackbird migration peaked on 22 October, with thousands of birds moving down the eastern shore of Lake Ontario. The only Red Crossbill for the season was recorded that day. Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins started moving through in the middle of October and some persisted at higher elevations. There were no Pine Grosbeaks, White-winged Crossbills, or Common Redpolls reported.

For the season, 230 species plus a probable escape were reported; an average year. The big rarities for the season included N. Gannet, Black-headed Gull, White-eyed Vireo, **Cave Swallow**, and Yellow-throated Warbler. Other less common species were Cackling Goose, Golden Eagle, Buff-breasted sandpiper, Little Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and Cape May Warbler.

CONTRIBUTORS

Betty Armbruster, Faith Baker, Brenda Best, Sue Boettger, Joseph Brin, Bernie Carr, Jared Caster, Dorothy Crumb, Greg Dashnau, Bill Gruenbaum, Estelle Hahn, Barbara Herrgesell, Jody Hildreth, Gene Huggins, John Kapshaw, David Nash, David Mark, Kevin McGann, Matt Perry, Bill Purcell, Marge Rusk, Tom Salo, Mickey Scilingo, Gerald Smith, Greg Smith, Maureen Staloff, Andrew Van Norstrand, Noah Van Norstrand, David Wheeler, Mike Winslow, Judy Wright, Matt Victoria, Matt Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

Bvllle – Baldwinsville; BRH – Bishop Road Hawkwatch, Pulaski; CM - Clay Marsh; DH - Derby Hill; DL – Delta Lake; Dvl – Durhamville; FH - Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; Geo – Georgetown; HIWMA – Howland Island WMA; NS - Noyes Sanctuary, New Haven; OneiL - Oneida Lake; SCH – T Schroepel; SHF - Sky High Sod Farms, T Sullivan; SFNS - Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; SPd – Sandy Pond; SSSP - Selkirk Shores State Park; StMC – St Mary’s Cemetery, Dewitt; Syr – Syracuse; TRWMA - Three Rivers WMA; UM - Utica Marsh; WM – West Monroe; WPd – Woodman Pond, Hamilton.

WHISTLING DUCKS-VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 210 DH 6 Nov; 80-150 per day many locations after 10 Oct.

Canada Goose: max 18,000 s MADI 20 Nov.

Cackling Goose: 1 Sauquoit 3 Oct (JH); 1 Fulton 26-27 Oct (AVN, JC).

Brant: max 803 DH 26 Oct; 300 Dvl 8 Oct, good inland number.

Mute Swan: max 6 FH after 2 Nov.

Trumpeter Swan: 1 Pulaski 13 Nov, with wing tag 807.

Tundra Swan: max 53 Oneil 25 Nov.

Wood Duck: max 355 WM 11 Sep, low numbers

Gadwall: max 16 FH 19 Oct.

Am. Wigeon: max 100 FH 7 Oct.

Am. Black Duck: max 108 Orwell 27 Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: max 20 DH 29 Sep; last 1 Sangerfield 10 Oct.

N. Shoveler: 2 DL 29 Sep; max 9 UM 24 Nov.

N. Pintail: 12 DH 1 Sep, early; max 40 DH 29 Sep & 16 Oct.

Green-winged Teal: max 65 DL 24 Sep.

Canvasback: FH 2 Nov; Bridgeport 25 Nov.

Redhead: max 29 FH 23 Oct.

Ring-necked Duck: max 182 Wpd 20 Nov.

Greater Scaup: arr 2 DH 29 Sep; max 56 DH 16 Oct.

Lesser Scaup: max 120 Bridgeport 25 Nov.

Surf Scoter: max 16 DH 8 Nov.

White-winged Scoter: 1 DH 1 Sep, early; max 406 DH 26 Oct.

Black Scoter: max 213 DH 26 Oct.

Long-tailed Duck: arr 30 DH 18 Oct; max 114 DH 14 Nov.

Bufflehead: max 26 FH 8 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: arr DH 9 Oct; max 380 Sterling 5 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: 228 Oneil 26 Nov; 40 Skaneateles L 27 Nov; 286 Otisco L 27 Nov; 201 SPd 27 Nov, large late-Nov flight.

Com. Merganser: max 120 Oneil 18 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 1450 Sterling 5 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: 1 FH 7 Oct; max 48 Skaneateles L; 30 Wpd 20 Nov.

Red-throated Loon: arr DH 16 Oct; max 23 FH 4 Nov.

Com. Loon: max 928 FH & Oswego 5 Nov.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 12 FH 23 Oct.

Horned Grebe: max 70 Sterling 5 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: 1 DH 1 Sep, early; max 17 Rainbow Shores 6 Nov.

NORTHERN GANNET: 1 imm DH 7, 10, 14 Nov (GD, DW, BP), all days with strong W-NW winds.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 1400 Oswego 23 Oct.

Am. Bittern: 1 WM 4, 11 Sep.

Great Egret: 1 Great Swamp Conservancy thr 3 Nov.

Green Heron: 1 CM 11 Sep; max 3 per day to last DL 14 Sep.

Turkey Vulture: max 570 BRH 9 Oct.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: max 4 Dvl 8 Oct; last Wpd 20 Nov.

Bald Eagle: 3 ad Stillwater Res 12 Nov; 1-2 per day major lakes and rivers now expected.

N. Harrier: many reports of 1-2 per day thru.

N. Goshawk: 4 reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Hastings 21 Oct, only report.

Broad-winged Hawk: max 9 Hastings 18 Sep; last 2 Hastings 23 Sep.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 25 BRH 9 Oct.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr Mexico 15 Oct; scattered singles thru.

Golden Eagle: 1 DH 18 Oct; 2 Sterling 21 Oct; 1 SSSP 23 Oct; 1 Camillus 13 Nov.

Am. Kestrel: max 8 Camillus 23 Sep; 7 Dvl 8 Oct.

Merlin: 11 reports, all after 5 Oct.

Peregrine Falcon: 4 reports plus the Syr resident pair.

Virginia Rail: WM 4 Sep; HIWMA 10 Sep.

Sora: 3 reports to last UM 13 Sep.

Com. Moorhen: max and last 4 UM 10 Oct.
Am. Coot: max 60 FH 7 Oct.
Black-bellied Plover: max 10 SHF 1 Sep.
Am. Golden-Plover: max 49 SHF 1 Sep; 20 Sauquoit 4 Oct.
Semipalmated Plover: max 14 DL 24 Sep; last 1 FH 7 Oct.
Killdeer: max 30 per day thru Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 14 DL 24 Sep; 1 FH 7 Oct.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 15 Sullivan 1 Sep; last SSSP 22 Oct.
Solitary Sandpiper: last 2 CM 11 Sep.
Spotted Sandpiper: last FH 21-27 Oct, late.
Ruddy Turnstone: max 5 SHF 1 Sep.
Sanderling: max 6 per day; last SPd 6 Nov.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2 reports of 6 total; last 4 Sep.
Least Sandpiper: last 4 DL 24 Sep.
White-rumped Sandpiper: max 8 Sullivan 1 Sep; last FH 21 Oct.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 56 DL 24 Sep; 1 Sangerfield 10 Oct.
Purple Sandpiper: arr FH 27 Oct; sporadic 1 per day after.
Dunlin: 3 FH 7 Oct; max 6 SPd 12 Nov; last 2 FH 27 Nov.
Stilt Sandpiper: 1 DL 11 Sep.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: max 4 SHF 1-2 Sep.
Wilson's Snipe: max 9 SVB 22 Nov.
Am. Woodcock: last Hastings 12 Nov.
Red-necked Phalarope: 1 DH 29 Sep.
Pomarine Jaeger: 1 DH 1 Sep; 1 DH 29 Sep; 1 Oswego 1-2 Nov, chasing gulls in harbor; 1 FH 5 Nov; 6 DH 7 Nov.
Parasitic Jaeger: 8 DH 1 Sep; 6 DH 29 Sep; 3 DH 18 Oct; 1 DH 7 Nov; 1 DH 10 Nov.
Little Gull: 1 DH 7 Nov.
BLACK-HEADED GULL: 1 FH 6 Nov (DW).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 200 SVB 5 Sep; 125 DH 7 Nov.
Iceland Gull: 1 DH 14 Nov.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 SVB 4 Sep (BB).
Glaucous Gull: 1 SVB 13 Nov.

Black-legged Kittiwake: max 12 DH 16 Nov; 7 DH 26 Oct; 1 DH 7, 14 Nov; 1 FH 19 Nov.
Caspian Tern: last 2 FH 7 Oct.
Com. Tern: 12 DH 1 Sep; last FH 21 Oct.
Black Tern: 1 DH 1 Sep, only report.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

MONK PARAKEET: 1 Syr thru Oct 31 (*vide* MS), probable escape.
Snowy Owl: arr FH 18 Nov; 1 Oswego after 26 Nov.
Short-eared Owl: arr Verona 16 Oct; 1 FH 4 Nov; max 4 Verona 18 Nov.
Com. Nighthawk: max 5 Camillus 1 Sep; last Hannibal 13 Sep.
Chimney Swift: last Hannibal 23 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 5 DH 3 Sep; last Dewitt 3 Oct.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 1 Albion 27 Nov, Tug Hill expansion progressing slowly.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 4 per day 1-10 Oct.
Black-backed Woodpecker: 1 Stink L HERK 5 Nov.
N. Flicker: max 15 CM 2 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 Lysander 15 Oct (GrS), ties record late.
E. Wood-Pewee: max 5 Mexico 5 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 4 reports, last Geo 16 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: 9 reports, last NS 17 Sep.
E. Phoebe: max; 5 FH 12 Oct; last StMC 29 Oct.
Great Crested Flycatcher: 11 reports; last TRWMA 18 Sep.
E. Kingbird: 12 reports; last Hastings 21 Sep.
N. Shrike: arr Oswego 23 Oct; reports at other locations.
WHITE-EYED VIREO: 1 CM 2 Oct (DN).
Blue-headed Vireo: max 5 Dvl 5 Oct.
Yellow-throated Vireo: 4 reports to last Van Buren 25 Sep.
Warbling Vireo: max 3 per day to 15 Sep; last 23 Sep.

Philadelphia Vireo: at least 14 individuals; last 4 Oct.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 22 NS 17 Sep; last TRWMA 14 Oct.
Blue Jay: max 667 Hastings 20 Sep; 534 Hastings 21 Sep.
Fish Crow: 1 Bville 14 Sep, new location.
Com. Raven: max 7 BRH 9 Oct; several Stillwater Res 12 Nov.
Horned Lark: max 120 Mexico 22 Oct.
Purple Martin: max 15 Camillus 1 Sep; 1 Dvl 8 Oct (BB), record late.
Tree Swallow: 12 DH 6 Nov, late.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: last HIWMA 10 Sep.
Bank Swallow: last HIWMA 10 Sep.
Cliff Swallow: last 2 SHF 3 Sep.
CAVE SWALLOW: 4 DH 6 Nov (BP); 3 more later in the day DH 6 Nov (DW, GeS), first live Regional sightings; 3 FH 16-17 Nov (GD (ph, mob)).
Barn Swallow: max 15 SHF 3 Sep; last 2 Pompey 18 Sep.
Black-capped Chickadee: max 55 Nine Mile Pt 5 Oct.
Tufted Titmouse: 1 Old Forge 6 Nov, unusual.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 9 SVB 4 Sep; few sightings away from breeding areas.
Carolina Wren: mostly singles at expected sites.
House Wren: max 5 SPd 15 Sep; last 2 StMC 8 Oct.
Winter Wren: max 5 CM 2 Oct.
Marsh Wren: 1 CM 2 Oct.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 80 NS 2 Oct.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr NS 17 Sep; max 80 SFNS 15 Oct.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 2 Liverpool 9 Sep; 1 SSSP 9 Oct (DW), record late.
E. Bluebird: max 50 Maple View 26 Oct.
Veery: max & last 4 NS 17 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: 5 reports 10-25 Sep; nocturnal flight 15 Sep.
Swainson's Thrush: nocturnal flight 15 Sep; max 4 NS 17 Sep; last Van

Buren 17 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: max 8 NS 2 Oct.
Wood Thrush: max 4 TRWMA 9 Sep; 4 NS 17 Sep; last 1 NS 5 Oct.
Gray Catbird: max 21 SPd 15 Sep; last UM 24 Nov.
Brown Thrasher: 7 reports of 11 birds; last TRWMA 9 Oct.
Am. Pipit: max 110 DL 24 Sep.
Bohemian Waxwing: 1 DH 30 Oct; max 5 DH 19 Nov.
Cedar Waxwing: max 85 DH 23 Oct.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: 1 Bville 9 Sep; 1 HIWMA 10 Sep.
Golden-winged Warbler: Nick's L 1 Sep; SFNS 4 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: 6 Sep reports; last SFNS 3 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: TRWMA 9-10, 19 Oct; Geo 15 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: max 7 SFNS 1 Oct; widespread; last TRWMA 19 Oct.
N. Parula: max 4 HIWMA 10 Sep; last SFNS 17 Oct.
Yellow Warbler: 1 Camillus 4 Sep; 2 Mexico 5 Sep; 1 Camillus 9 Sep; last FH 21 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: 1-2 per day to last Camillus 21 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: max 20 NS 17 Sep; widespread; last CM 16 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: 2 Hastings 10 Sep; 1 WM 18 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 2-3 per day to last SFNS 16 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 60-75 per day 9-18 Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 10 SFNS 27 Sep; widespread; last SFNS 17 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: 8 reports to last TRWMA 14 Oct;
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: 1 Jamesville 3-4, 14 Nov (DC, BB, NYSARC), at private residence.
Pine Warbler: max 3 Durhamville 15 Oct; last SFNS 17 Oct.
Palm Warbler: 1 SVB 4 Sep;

max 6 Geo 15 Oct; last TRWMA 19 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: 7 reports to last NS 5 Oct.
Blackpoll Warbler: 9 singles to last SFNS 15 Oct.
Cerulean Warbler: 1 Dvl 6 Sep.
Black-and-white Warbler: max 3 NS 17 Sep; last SFNS 21 Sep.
Am. Redstart: 10 reports to last SFNS 30 Sep.
Ovenbird: 9 reports; last NS 2 Oct;
N. Waterthrush: last HIWMA 10 Sep.
Mourning Warbler: 1 SFNS 14, 22 Sep; 1 Van Buren 27 Sep; 1 CM 16 Oct (DN), record late.
Com. Yellowthroat: max 4 per day; last SFNS 16 Oct.
Hooded Warbler: 1 Camillus 10 Sep. only report
Wilson's Warbler: 1-2 per day to 21 Sep; last Camillus 30 Sep.
Canada Warbler: 1 HIWMA 4 Sep. only report

TANAGER - WEAVER

Scarlet Tanager: max 5 NS 17 Sep; last 4 Camillus 30 Sep.
E. Towhee: max 10 TRWMA 10 Oct; last SFNS 28 Oct.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Hannibal 18 Oct; max 6-7 per day.
Chipping Sparrow: max 60 Hastings 15 Sep.
Field Sparrow: max 150 TRWMA 9 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: max 3 Van Buren 28 Oct; singles at three other sites.
Savannah Sparrow: 2 Pompey 4 Sep; 2 Van Buren 9 Oct.
Fox Sparrow: arr SFNS 9 Oct; max 3-4 per day; last SFNS 26 Nov.
Song Sparrow: max 150 TRWMA 9 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 1 SPd 15 Sep; max 4 TRWMA 9 Oct; last Van Buren 24 Oct.
Swamp Sparrow: max 24 WM 27 Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: 27 SPd 15 Sep, first large influx; max 1000 TRWMA 10 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr SPd 17 Sep; max 200 TRWMA 9 Oct.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 127 WM 27 Oct.
Lapland Longspur: max 3 Lysander 26 Nov.
Snow Bunting: arr 3 FH 19 Oct; max 78 FH 8 Nov.
N. Cardinal: 1 Old Forge 6 Nov.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 9 SFNS 9 Sep; last TRWMA 14 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: 5 Sep reports; last FH 12 Oct.
Bobolink: max 20 Van Buren 1 Sep; 4 SFNS 5 Sep; last SFNS 13 Sep.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 10,500 Richland 22 Oct.
E. Meadowlark: max 50 Mexico 9 Oct.
Rusty Blackbird: max 800 Richland 22 Oct.
Com. Grackle: max 3600 Richland 22 Oct.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 166 N Syr 29 Sep.
Baltimore Oriole: 2 WM 4 Sep. only report.
Purple Finch: max 11 Geo 23 Oct; widespread 4-8 per day thru Oct; sharp decrease in Nov.
Red Crossbill: 1 Richland 22 Oct. only report.
Pine Siskin: max 25 W Winfield 5 Nov; most reports 15 Oct-25 Nov.
Evening Grosbeak: arr 2 Hastings 21 Oct; max 18 DeRuyter 2 Nov; low numbers across Region.

REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

Jeffrey S. Bolsinger

98 State Street, Canton NY 13617

jsbolsinger@yahoo.com

September began the day after Hurricane Katrina dumped several inches of rain on northern New York. In many ways this weather was typical of the entire fall, which was warmer and wetter than normal. In Watertown, the departure from mean temperatures ranged from +2.5° F in October to +4° F in both September and November. Unusually warm days were liberally sprinkled throughout the fall, including seven consecutive days of temperatures in the 70s to begin October and highs in the upper 60s as late as 29 November. Not surprisingly, the first killing frost of the season at the lower elevations came three weeks later than average on October 21. The first real snowfall of the season fell on 17 November, when a strong band of lake effect snow dropped up to 12 inches of snow on the Tug Hill and lower amounts in Watertown and elsewhere. Temperatures fluctuated wildly during the final week of November. The coldest temperature of the fall, 12° F in Watertown, was on 27 November at the tail end of a four-day cold snap but was immediately followed by two days above 60°.

Waterfowl were generally seen in decent numbers, although few large concentrations were noted aside from several substantial waves of Canada Geese. Dabbling ducks were scattered throughout interior wetlands until the late November cold snap froze over many of the smaller bodies of water, forcing many ducks into the larger lakes and rivers. This cold spell also pushed out a large flock of Ring-necked Ducks that had been at Upper and Lower Lakes Wildlife Management Area for most of the fall. Among the highlights of the season were two **Cackling Geese** at Upper and Lower Lakes found just before the lake iced over.

A modest raptor migration during October was followed by generally disappointing numbers of hawks in November. Small numbers of Northern Harriers and Red-tailed Hawks were present throughout the season, but after a push in October Rough-legged Hawks were scarce for the remainder of the fall. Three Golden Eagles, two Peregrine Falcons, and two Short-eared Owls were the highlights of the raptor migration. The Peregrines were observed within 2 miles of each other in Canton.

The lost Whooping Crane from the reintroduced Eastern flock, last seen on 12 August in Lowville, was relocated along the Black River in Castorland late in October. The crane was seen only briefly and could not be relocated the following day. It was next seen on 9 December in Beaufort, North Carolina, where she was captured and returned to Florida. Although not countable in the listing games, the few people who saw the Whooping Crane in Lewis County were thrilled by the sighting.

I received very few shorebird reports, but they included several species that have been reported infrequently in Region 6 during recent years. These species include 6 American Golden-Plovers in a farm field, a Whimbrel on an airfield lawn at Fort Drum, and a Red Phalarope along the Lake Ontario shoreline.

Conspicuously absent were reports from El Dorado Shores, a site that formerly dominated Regional shorebird accounts. It seems that local birders have lost their enthusiasm for El Dorado because of declining shorebird numbers, and the few reports I received from this site were mostly statements about the poor numbers of birds seen.

The Red-headed Woodpeckers in Cape Vincent were present into October but appeared not to raise young this year because of constant harassment from starlings. Several Northern Shrikes were reported in October, seeming to indicate a good winter for this species. Among the large wave of American Robins and Cedar Waxwings was a single Bohemian Waxing on 30 October, which was early but hardly surprising. This species is virtually annual in Region 6 now.

Wood warblers and other early fall migrants were absent from most reports that I received, but several people noted a heavy passerine migration during October. American Tree, Fox, and White-throated sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos were conspicuous throughout much of the month. Perhaps most impressive was a large flight of Rusty Blackbirds, with flocks in the low hundreds reported throughout the Region.

Snow Buntings and Horned Larks were common by the end of November, with a few Lapland Longspurs mixed in. Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks were widely reported at feeders, although generally in small numbers. Common Redpolls arrived during November, with flocks of up to 100 individuals observed by the end of the month.

Excluding the Whooping Crane, I received reports of 162 species. No doubt a major reason for this low total was the apparent lack of observers in the field during September. Other disappointments include the modest raptor numbers late in the season, the paucity of warbler reports, poor shorebird numbers, and the failure of anybody to find a Cave Swallow in Region 6 during the unprecedented invasion elsewhere in the state. Among the highlights were Cackling Goose, three Golden Eagles, American Golden-Plover, Whimbrel, and Red Phalarope.

CONTRIBUTORS

Jeff Bolsinger, Dick & Marion Brouse, Carol Cady, Joan Collins, Molly Crawford-Reidy, Michael Greenwald, Jerry & Judi LeTendre, Bob & Ellie Long, Chris Reidy, Gerry Smith, Eve Sweatman, Bob & June Walker, Mary Beth Warburton, Tom Wheeler.

ABBREVIATIONS

CV – Cape Vincent JEFF; ED—El Dorado Shores Preserve, T Ellisburg JEFF; FD—Fort Drum Military Reservation; ICNC—Indian Creek Nature Center T Canton STLA; KC – Kelsey Creek T Watertown JEFF; PiPt—Pillar Pt T Brownville JEFF; PRWMA—Perch River WMA; PtPen—Pt Peninsula T Lyme; RMSP—Robert Moses State Park T Massena STLA; ULLWMA—Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton STLA; WHWMA—Wilson Hill WMA T Louisville STLA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr Rutland 11 Oct; 335 ULLWMA 29 Oct.

CAACKLING GOOSE: 2

"Richardson's" ULLWMA 23 Nov (JB).

Canada Goose: migrating flocks of 10,000 PRWMA 10 Oct & PiPt 25 Nov.

Mute Swan: max 40 PRWMA 5 Nov.

Tundra Swan: 6 PtPen 2 Nov.

Am. Wigeon: 40 ULLWMA 30 Oct.

Am. Black Duck: max 209 Pil Pt 19 Nov, 150 ULLWMA 23 Nov.

Mallard: max 700 ULLWMA 23 Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: max 35 ULLWMA 6 Oct.

N. Shoveler: 2 PiPt 19 Nov, only report.

N. Pintail: 12 FD 28 Oct.

Green-winged Teal: 18 ULLWMA 2 Oct; 20 ED 4 Nov.

Canvasback: WHWMA 13 Oct.

Redhead: WHWMA 13 Oct.

Ring-necked Duck: max 760 ULLWMA 11 Nov, where 450+ present from at least 1 Oct until Lower Lake froze 24 Nov.

Greater Scaup: 258 PiPt 19 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: 7-10/day ULLWMA mid Oct - mid Nov.

White-winged Scoter: 4 ULLWMA 26 Oct.

Long-tailed Duck: ULLWMA 26 Oct.

Bufflehead: arr CV 28 Oct; max 30 PtPen 30 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: arr ULLWMA 11 Nov, few reported.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 20+ CV 20 Nov.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 20 ULLWMA 5 Nov.

Horned Grebe: several reports of 2-3 per day from L Ontario shoreline JEFF 2-5 Nov.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 400 Morristown 10 Oct.

Great Egret: 2 Oswegatchie Oct, only report.

Turkey Vulture: max 75+ in one group Canton, 27 Sep.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: FD 14 Oct.

N. Harrier: 1-5 per day JEFF Oct and Nov.

N. Goshawk: ULLWMA 11 Nov.

Red-tailed Hawk: 5-10 per day JEFF Oct and Nov.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr Watertown 7 Oct; max 5 FD 19 Oct; few reported after 1 Nov.

Golden Eagle: Potsdam 17 Oct; imm Lake View WMA & Westcott Beach SP early Nov.

Peregrine Falcon: 2 Canton 9 Oct.

Com. Moorhen: last ICNC 6 Oct.

WHOOPING CRANE: lost bird from reintroduced Eastern flock relocated in Castorland 27 Oct, not seen in area again (MCR, CR).

Black-bellied Plover: max 17 PtPen 2 Nov.

AM. GOLDEN-PLOVER: 6 Copenhagen 17 Oct (CR), only report.

Greater Yellowlegs: last CV 5 Nov.

WHIMBREL: FD 1 Sep (JB).

Sanderling: 15 ED 5 Nov.

White-rumped Sandpiper:

Copenhagen 17 Oct.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Copenhagen 17 Oct.

Dunlin: 32 ED 4 Nov.

RED PHALAROPE: Wilson's Bay 2 Nov (DB, ES).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 142 PtPen 7 Nov.

Com. Tern: max 80 RMPD 1 Sep.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: 30-40 per day at KC feeder thru.

Black-billed Cuckoo: 2 Louisville 10 Sep.

Short-eared Owl: 2 Philadelphia late Nov.

Com. Nighthawk: max 3 Dekalb 12 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last CV 2 Oct.

Red-headed Woodpecker: last CV 4 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: arr Potsdam 12 Oct.

Blue-headed Vireo: last KC 14 Oct.

Gray Jay: 2 along Jordan R Hopkinton 1 Oct.

Horned Lark: max 200 CV 28 Nov.
Boreal Chickadee: 5 Massawepie Mire 29 Oct; "many" along Jordan R Hopkinton 1 Oct.
Tufted Titmouse: at feeders in Canton, CV, and Massena.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr CV 22 Sep.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: several reports of large movement 22-30 Sep.
Veery: last FD 14 Oct, late.
Am. Robin: max 200+ ICNC 30 Oct.
Am. Pipit: max 100+ FD 4 Nov; 2-10+ per day 20 Oct - 20 Nov.
Bohemian Waxwing: 1 ICNC 30 Oct, early, in flock of Cedar Waxwings.

WARBLERS

Nashville Warbler: max 5 FD 1 Sep.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 4 FD 1 Sep.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 7-20+ per day thru 15 Oct; 0-5 per day after 15 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: 3 FD 1 Sep, only report.
Palm Warbler: CV 26 Sep; Potsdam 28 Sep, *palmarum* ssp.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr KC 5 Oct.
Clay-colored Sparrow: 4 FD 24 Oct, only report.
Vesper Sparrow: max 15 FD 6 Sept.
Fox Sparrow: arr Potsdam 19 Oct.
Lincoln's Sparrow: FD 19 Oct, only report.
White-throated Sparrow: 50-100+ per day Oct; scarce after 1 Nov.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr FD 20 Sep.
Dark-eyed Junco: arr FD 19 Sep; several reports of 100-200+ per day thru Oct; scarce after 1 Nov.
Lapland Longspur: arr CV 6 Nov.
Snow Bunting: arr CV 26 Oct.
E. Meadowlark: last CV 20 Nov.
Rusty Blackbird: heavy movement 2 Oct - 10 Nov; max 400 ICNC 2 Oct; 60+ Potsdam 13 Oct; 150 PRGC 15 Oct; 175+ KC 5 Nov.
Com. Redpoll: arr KC 19 Nov; max 100 ULLWMA 23 Nov.
Pine Siskin: several reports of 1-4 at feeders 29 Oct thru.
Evening Grosbeak: widespread reports of 2-3 at feeders; max outside Adirondacks 8 CV 18 Nov.

REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

John M.C. Peterson

477 County Rte 8, Elizabethtown, NY 12932
 jmc7@juno.com

Following the passage of the last of Hurricane Katrina on 31 August, most of September was sunny and warm, reaching 86°F at Plattsburgh on the 13th, and Lake Champlain remained just above the 95-ft. level throughout the month. The remnants of Hurricane Ophelia brought much-needed rain on the weekend of 16-18 September, and a strong wind warning was issued for the Adirondacks and Champlain on 29 September. Winds reached 54 mph on the lake and were even stronger at higher elevations; the worst winds to hit the Region since Hurricane Floyd in 1999. This was the 7th warmest September on record, with the average temperature a degree or two above normal. But precipitation fell on only four days at Inlet and was 1/3 below normal along the lake. October

began sunny and hot, with Plattsburgh 80° on the 5th, but the arrival of Tropical Storm Tony on the 7th began 13 straight days of rain that only ended on the 20th. Saranac Lake dropped to 23° by the 21st, followed by 6" of snow at Keene Valley and elsewhere on the 23rd. This was just a prelude to a major Nor'easter on 26 September that left 10" of snow at Ellenburg Depot and two feet on Whiteface Mountain and other High Peaks, downing still-leafy trees and cutting power to 3,300 NYSEG customers. Inlet saw 16 wet days, and all of this precipitation raised Champlain three feet during the month, from 95.22' on the 3rd to 98.54' by the 28th. Rain on 10 November fell as snow at higher elevations. More rain 16-17 November turned to snow at Saranac Lake and Ray Brook, with gusts to 41 mph at Saranac Lake on the 16th. Another Nor'easter on 22 November brought yet more precipitation, with winds to 35 mph, and Champlain stood at an even 99.00" for a gain of almost 4-ft. in little more than a month. Flood stage is the even 100-ft. level. Looking ahead to spring, even a normal runoff from the winter snow pack and expected April showers could easily bring Champlain to flood stage or higher. Although Inlet saw a low of 6° on the 25th, the season ended at a record balmy 68° in the Champlain Valley on the 29th, but with power out in the Lake Placid region due to high winds.

Clinton County enjoyed what one observer there called an embarrassment of riches, and that may have been an understatement. A winter adult **Western Grebe** at Gravelly Point of Cumberland Head on 2 November was followed by a 1st-winter juvenile at the same locale on 28 November, the second differing in its dusky foreneck, which separated the white chin and throat from the white breast, the back and sides a lighter gray. A **Great Cormorant** was spotted from a boat on Cumberland Bay on 5 September, for only the third Regional report, all from Clinton County waters. A juvenile **Red Phalarope** resting on a sandbar at the mouth of the Ausable River on 21 September provided a first county record. On 10 October, a Vermont observer watched a juvenile **Black-legged Kittiwake** fly north between Cumberland Head and Grand Isle, then veer toward Treadwell Bay. The next day, two other Vermont observers saw what may have been the same juvenile or 1st-winter **Black-legged Kittiwake** some 30 mi. to the south off Split Rock Point for a 3rd Essex County record. The following month, on 8 November, the original VT lake-watcher spotted a southbound flock of about 14 **Black Guillemot** (including roughly four immatures) veer west from mid-lake to NY State for quite a while, then fly back into the face of the wind out of the north. Both the kittiwake and guillemots were firsts for Clinton County.

On 13 September, a lone observer visiting the Laurin farm, between the two Chazy rivers, spotted a pipit-sized and shaped bird perched on a fencepost of the pasture. The bird was believed to be an American Pipit until viewed from 75 ft. through a 40x scope. "Its bright yellow undertail coverts guillotined that thought," according to the experienced birder. The crown was darker than its olive-gray back, and the bird had an off-white superciliary stripe that extended well back on the head. The cheek patch below was dark and bordered beneath by the same off-white, a faint malar stripe giving this the appearance of another stripe. Wings were dark with whitish streaks and without prominent wingbars. The rump was slightly lighter olive-gray than the back, the tail dark.

Most prominent feature was the bright yellow undertail coverts, shading gradually lighter until becoming a dull wash at the breast with brownish speckles, giving the appearance of a band of discontinuous streaks across the breast. Flight was undulating. NYSARC has been left the unenviable task of deciding whether to accept this as a first record of **Yellow Wagtail**, a female, for New York State. The observer, who has birded Attu, felt that once all other possibilities were exhausted, this was the only conclusion that could be made.

Birds that would have been especially noteworthy only a few years ago, in some cases only a season or so back, have now become so regular that they're almost expected here: Barrow's Goldeneye, Great Egret, Gyrfalcon, Western Sandpiper, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, and Carolina Wren, to provide but a few examples. Local rarities, like those in Clinton County this season, help continue to keep observers afield and thus sending in reports for a wide variety of species. Other rarities included a **Ross's Goose** at Malone on 18 November, associating not with Snow Geese, but with Canadas. And surprising finds can be made even in the interior of the Adirondacks, as proven by the **Worm-eating Warbler** well-studied at Long Lake on 13 September, only the fourth Regional record since 1979. A total of 172 species were reported, short of last year's record 175, but tying the previous Fall record set just two years ago.

CONTRIBUTORS

Thomas Barber, Helen Booth, Warren Cairo, Nancy Carter, Charlcie Delehanty, Thomas Dudones, James Elliot, Don Fasking, Elizabeth & Holland Fitts, Donna Fletcher, Heather Forcier, Sarah Frey, Peter Galvani, Beedy Gray, Julie Hart, Judy & Roger Heintz, Candace & John Hess, Judy Hildreth, David Hoag, Audrey Hyson, Ben Jaffe, Suzy Johnson, Robert Keough, Harold Klein, Bill Krueger, William Labes, Dayna Lalonde, Linda LaPan, Julie Lattrell, Richard Lavalley, Theodore G. Murin, Gary Lee, Kathy Linker, Theodore D. Mack, Mark A. Manske, Larry Master, Brian McAllister, Kent McFarland, Matthew Medler, Charles Mitchell, Charles Mitchell, Jr., Michael & Wanda Moccio, Theodore Murin, Megan A. Murphy Jeff Nadler, Nancy Olsen, Rodney Olsen, Lydia & Paul Osenbaugh, John & Susan Peterson, Peter Riley, Chris Rimmer, Dana Rohleder, Scott Schwenk, Terry Smith, Allan Strong, Eric Teed, John & Patricia Thaxton, Yvette Tillema, Margaret Tsuda, Jan Trzeciak, Hollis White.

ABBREVIATIONS

AMR - Akwesasne Mohawk Reserve; AP - Ausable Pt WMA; BB - Bloomingdale Bog; CH - Cumberland Head; CP - Crown Pt SHS; CR - Chazy Rivers; GP - Gravelly Pt; LL - Long L; LP - L Placid; MB - Monty's Bay; MRP - Malone Memorial Recreational Pk; NP - Noblewood Pk; PtR Pt au Roche SP; SR - Split Rock Pt; TL - Tupper L; WD - Wilcox Dock; WM - Wickham Marsh; WRS - Webb Royce Swamp.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr 2 Plattsburgh 23 Sep (EF); 10,000 PtR 29 Oct (JH,BK,CM,MM); max 20,000 CR 7 Nov (DR); 2,000 over LL 25 Nov (WL), record max HAMI; 1000s MRP Sep - 21 Nov draw down; 3 "Blues" MRP 5 Nov; 2 "Blues" MRP 18 Nov (JT); some "Blues" among 4,000 PtR 30 Nov (NO).

ROSS'S GOOSE: MRP 18 Nov (JT); among Canada Geese, but separate from 100s of Snow Geese, 1st FRAN record.

Cackling Goose: 2 "Richardson's" PtR 29 Oct (JH,BK,CM,MM).

Canada Goose: 500-1000 NP 16-23 Sep (MM, J&PT); 1000s MRP thru.

Brant: 30 CR 20 Oct (MM); Pt Kent 6-8 Nov (JN,DR), scarce here.

Am. Black Duck: one with teal/turquoise speculum, lighter head WD 9 Sep (J&RH).

Blue-winged Teal: Inlet golf course 14 Oct (GL), shot.

N. Pintail: max 10 SR 20 Oct; drake CR 5 Nov (MM).

Green-winged Teal: 1-3 NP 6 Sep & 29 Oct (JH,MM); 4 AP 14 Oct (EF); max 6 WM 8 Nov (L&PO), good finds.

Redhead: arr 3 WD 10 Oct (BK); max 7 AP 24 Oct (DR).

Ring-necked Duck: max 72 Moody Pd 10-12 Nov (TM).

Greater Scaup: max 60 AP 24 Oct (DR).

Lesser Scaup: max 500 AP 24 Oct (DR).

Surf Scoter: arr 9 Mirror L 9 Oct (LM); ad drake SR 20 Oct (MM); 2-3 NP 20-29 Oct (JH,MM), good finds.

White-winged Scoter: arr 24 Mirror L 9 Oct (LM); max 20 SR 20 Oct (MM); 1-11 NP 20 Oct-28 Nov (JH,MM,PO); 7 GP 4 Nov (DH,BK), also good.

Black Scoter: arr 16 Mirror L 9 Oct (LM); max 25 NP 9 Oct (MM); NP 29 Oct-28 Nov (JH,MM,PO), completes the sweep.

Long-tailed Duck: arr 4 GP 4 Nov (BK); max 8 NP 5 Nov (JH,MM);

NP 8 & 28 Nov (L&PO); 2 AP-Pt Kent 14 Nov (DR), uncommon here.

Barrow's Goldeneye: drake arr NP 5 Nov (JH,MM), early ESSE & ties early NYS arrival set in CLIN; remained NP to 13 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: 3 CH 7 Nov (BK), only report.

Wild Turkey: max 32 Inlet feeder (GL); 23 Owls Head 12 Nov (JT), FRAN record high.

Red-throated Loon: GP 17 Oct-28 Nov (BK,CM); NP 29 Oct-5 Nov (JH,MM), always welcome.

Com. Loon: ad feeding chick Lower Sister L 14 Oct (GL), late; Adk Coop Loon Proj transmitter on loon L Colby 12 Nov (TD); max ~295 southbound SR 23 Nov (TGM,PR), ESSE record high; 65 Mt View L 8 Nov (MT); 12 adjoining Indian L same day (JT), FRAN record high.

Pied-billed Grebe: downy chick CR 3 Sep (NO); last 3 AP-Pt Kent 14 Nov (DR).

Horned Grebe: arr NP 9 Oct; max 70 NP 5 Nov (JH,MM), ties ESSE record high.

Red-necked Grebe: basic ad LP 3-10 Sep (AH,LM); CH 13 Oct (BK,CM); LP 15 Oct (LM); 7 Coll Bay 29 Oct (JP,J&PT,YT); Indian L 8 Nov (JT); max 11 Coll Bay 13 Nov (JH,MM); Whallon's Bay 28 Nov (PO), a strong showing.

WESTERN GREBE: basic ad GP 2 Nov (BK,CM), 1st CLIN record; GP 28 Nov (J&RH,BK,CM), 2nd CLIN record.

GREAT CORMORANT: ad Cumberland Bay 5 Sep (HK), viewed from boat, headed toward VT, 3rd Reg & CLIN record.

Double-crested Cormorant: ad Owls Head 1 Sep (JT); L Colby 12 Nov (TM), unusual inland, with only 28 records FRAN since 1879; last MB 13 Nov (BK,CM).

Great Egret: Bulwagga Bay 19 Sep (BJ); 2 Bulwagga Bay 26 Sep (J&SP); Paradox L 2 Oct (C&JH), 2 AMR 18 Oct (HW), a strong fall showing.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Red-tailed Hawk: max 50 migrants Jay 17, 20 Oct (PO); 30 migrants Crow Hill, Indian L 21 Oct (JE,M&WM), new max HAMI.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr Jay 10 Oct (PO).

Golden Eagle: Phelps Mt summ 30 Sep (J&PT); 6 migrants Jay 10 Oct-26 Nov (PO); subad Westport 29 Oct (JP,J&PT,YT), a strong showing.

Merlin: BB 10 Oct (MAM); also 1-2 Jay Oct (PO).

Peregrine Falcon: AMR 5 Sep (BG); Cascade Mt Sep (LM); injured imm eating Ring-billed Gull Skyway Plaza, Plattsburgh early Sep (NO), taken in for rehab 22 Sep (DF,CM), transported to Cornell for surgery; 2 Phelps Mt 30 Sep (J&PT); transient Jay Oct (PO).

Gyr Falcon: arr gray-phase Phelps Mt 30 Sep (J&PT), close, right over the summit, early & 12th ESSE record.

Sora: juv CR 3 Sep (NO), excellent sighting.

Com. Moorhen: 1-2 CR 13, 23 Sep (BK,CM), only site.

Am. Coot: WD 13 Nov (TM,JP), only report.

Black-bellied Plover: arr NP 16 Sep (MM); NP 8-22 Oct (JH,MM,DR).

Semipalmated Plover: MB 1 Sep (BK,CM); NP 3-24 Sep (MM); PtR 12 Oct (BK,CM).

Greater Yellowlegs: 2 NP 6 Sep (MM); CR 23 Sep (BK,CM); AP 29 Oct (JH,MM); CR 1 Nov (BK), fairly late.

Lesser Yellowlegs: CR 1-3 Sep (BK,NO,CM), only site.

Sanderling: AP 6 Sep (J&RH); NP 3-11 Sep (MM).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 4 MB 1 Sep (BK,CM).

Western Sandpiper: MB 1 Sep (BK,CM), a nice find.

Least Sandpiper: 18 MB 1 Sep (BK,CM), good number.

Pectoral Sandpiper: CR 14 Sep (SJ,BK), only report.

Dunlin: NP 8, 22 Oct (JH,MM).

Am. Woodcock: Lewis 25 Oct (KL), in snowstorm; Peru 30 Nov (EF),

in wet field.

RED PHALAROPE: imm AP 21 Sep (BK,CM), on sandbar at mouth of Ausable R, 1st CLIN & 5th Reg record.

Parasitic Jaeger: 2 off Schuyler I, ESSE 5 Sep (DR), harassing gulls.

Little Gull: basic ad NP 3 Sep; basic ad & 2nd winter NP 24 Sep; molting ad NP 25 Sep (MM); ad CH 31 Oct (BK,CM); ad Essex 9 Nov (WC); ad AP 11 Nov (BK,CM), unprecedented here.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 1,500+ off Coll Bay 12 Nov (J&PT), Reg & ESSE record; others AP, NP, Pt Kent, Westport, WM.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: juv mid-L Champlain, VT 9 Oct (DH), on 10 Oct flew n between CH & Grand Isle, then veered to Treadwell Bay at 7:50 am, 1st CLIN record; juv or 1st winter SR 11 Oct (RL,TGM), perhaps same bird, 3rd ESSE & 4th Reg record.

Caspian Tern: 12 NP 2 Sep (J&PT); max 17 ads NP 3 Sep to 2 NP 16 Sep (MM), late ESSE.

Com. Tern: MB 1 Sep (BK,CM); 15 ads & imm NP 3 Sep, 2 with metal bands; max 46 NP 16 Sep; 2 NP 26 Sep (MM), 1st yr SR 28 Oct (JH,RL,TGM, *et al*), record late Reg & ESSE.

BLACK GUILLEMOT: ~14 (~10 ad, 4 imm) CH 8 Nov (DH), flying s midlake past Grand Isle on n wind, then turned w and flew to NY, apparently to avoid L Champlain ferry, 1st CLIN & 3rd Reg record, good details to NYSARC.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Snowy Owl: CR 18 Nov (DL); Norman Ridge, St. Armand 19 Nov (MA), may bode well.

Short-eared Owl: CH 25 Nov (NO), twice flew 3' over obs at dusk.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: LL 7 Oct (*vide* JC), feeding on impatiens before snowstorm, late HAMI; Plattsburgh 25 Oct (HB), late Reg & CLIN.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: imm NP 3 Sep (MM), 11th ESSE record.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: LL

5 Nov (RK), late HAMI.

Black-backed Woodpecker: Cascade Mt, FB, Madawaska, Whiteface Mt.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: arr AP 11 Oct (E&HF), early CLIN; later at BB, Jay, Inlet, Peru, Stetson Rd.

Gray Jay: BB, FB, LL, Madawaska.

Com. Raven: max ~100 Jay Range 29 Oct (PO), in display flights.

Horned Lark: "Northern" arr 6 Rt 37 Malone 18 Nov (JT); Inlet 21 Nov (GL); 7 Essex 28 Nov (PO); 12 PtR 20 Nov (MAM,ET), all 4 counties.

Tree Swallow: 2 CR 13 Nov - CR 30 Nov (BK,CM), late CLIN.

swallow (sp.): 2 PtR 8 Nov (L&PO), plump-bodied with blunt wings & tails, also late.

Boreal Chickadee: BB, Cascade-Porter col, Henderson L, Hurricane Mt, LL, McNaughton Mt, Nundagao Ridge, Phelps Mt.

Tufted Titmouse: Elizabethtown, Jay, NP, Peru, TL, & Ticonderoga now expected; but Henderson L, Newcomb 2 Oct (JN) noteworthy.

Carolina Wren: ad banded Elizabethtown 1 Sep (JP), returned 29 Oct & 16 Nov; L Placid 22 Nov (LL); Moriah Center 24 Nov (TS), outstanding.

Sedge Wren: FL CR 9 Sep (BK,CM), excellent Atlas record.

European Starling: max 21,000 Plattsburgh 3 Sep (DR), on Rt 9 TV towers & guy wires, Reg & CLIN record high.

YELLOW WAGTAIL: f CR 13 Sep (BK), the obs. leaving what he believes he saw to the judicious minds at NYSARC.

Am. Pipit: arr CR 3 Sep (NO); max 10 CR 23 Sep (BK,CM); NP 24 Sep & 8 Oct (MM), all pipits and not wagtails.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: CH 15 Sep (SJ,BK), late CLIN & still a rare find here.

Palm Warbler: "Yellow" Mt Adams

trail 30 Sep (TB); presumed "Yellow" BB 8 Oct (BM); "Western" LL 10 Oct (JC).

WORM-EATING WARBLER: LL 13 Sep (PG), observed carefully for 1.5 hr, 1st HAMI & 4th Reg record.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Plattsburgh feeder 15 Nov (TS), late.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Inlet 12 Oct (GL), early HAMI.

Field Sparrow: Peru feeder 26-29 Oct (E&HF), only report.

Vesper Sparrow: Essex 29 Oct (JP,J&PT,YT), only report.

Fox Sparrow: arr Jay & TL 11 Oct; Inlet 13 Oct (GL), early HAMI; Elizabethtown 29 Oct; 3 TL 31 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: "scores" CP 15 Oct (JH,MM); Inlet feeder to 12 Nov (GL).

White-crowned Sparrow: arr BB 8 Oct; max 20 Keene 14 Oct; last Elizabethtown 23 Oct; others CP, Inlet, Jay, LL, L Placid, Peru, TL, a strong showing.

Snow Bunting: arr 2 NP 20 Oct (DR); thereafter Chilson, Essex, Jay, Gabriels, L Durant, L Placid, Malone, Plattsburgh, TL, & Vermontville, but largest flock only 35.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Cook Mt 9 Oct (NC), record late ESSE.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 80 Whallonsburg 13 Nov (TM,JP); 20 LL 25 Nov (WL), late for such numbers.

Rusty Blackbird: CP 15 Oct (JH,MM), only report.

Com. Grackle: max 50 Jay 22 Oct (PO); 2 L George 24 Nov (NC); 4 LL 25 Nov (WL), ties late HAMI departure date.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 2 LL 25 Nov (WL), quite late in HAMI.

Purple Finch: many Elizabethtown, L Placid, and elsewhere into October, but increasingly scarce to absent thereafter.

Red Crossbill: Rand Hill, CLIN 7 Oct (J&RH), only report.

Com. Redpoll: arr 2 Jay 18 Nov (L&PO).

Pine Siskin: ~50 L Placid feeder Sep-Oct; a few Elizabethtown early Nov, then scarce to absent; 6 Chasm Falls 18 Nov, last report.

Am. Goldfinch: ~50 L Placid Sep-Oct; 26 banded Elizabethtown 1 Nov, but then scarcer.

Evening Grosbeak: max 24 Inlet 19 Nov (GL); others BB, Elizabethtown, Jay, Peru, Redford, TL, but nowhere abundant.

REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

Will Yandik

269 Schneider Road, Hudson NY 12534

wyandik@hotmail.com

Fall 2005 began with the remnants of Hurricane Katrina causing a strong northwest wind to blow through the Region. September was 5.6° F warmer than average, mostly clear, and largely dry. October was wet, with 5.77 more inches of rain than average and a solid drenching of 3+ inches in Albany on 7-8 October. The average October temperature was 52.2° F, 2.9° above average. November continued mild and rainy. Halloween ushered in the first light frost, 31° F, with mostly above freezing temperatures following until a hard frost, 24° F, on 11-12 November. The first significant snowfall occurred on 30 November with 1.26 inches recorded at Albany International Airport. All bodies of water remained completely unfrozen through the end of the season.

Waterfowl migration was unremarkable, with no large build up of birds and little in terms of species diversity. Twenty-three hundred Snow Geese at the Tomhannock Reservoir in Rensselaer County was a novelty for that location. Saratoga County usually hosts the largest gatherings each fall. Barb Putnam received kudos for photographing the Region's first official **Cackling Goose**, observed among other Canada Geese at Bacon Hill in Saratoga County.

Shorebirds were likewise lackluster, with major gaps in our normal fall shorebird checklist. Peep numbers were either down or the birds passed through unnoticed. Water levels were high throughout the Region, which may have contributed to low numbers. Rich Guthrie, who routinely searches around his Hudson River home for uncommon gulls, found an immature **Laughing Gull**.

The Camp Pinnacle Hawkwatch troupe struggled this year with rain and misty mountain ridges, unfortunately during the usual peak migration time of mid October. Numbers were down across the board. The only bright spot was a good movement of 57 Sharp-shinned Hawks on 15 October. Perhaps discouraged by the weather, volunteer coverage was spotty towards the end of the season. This year's numbers, which are summarized in the species accounts, should be judged with caution on account of adverse weather conditions.

A **Rufous Hummingbird** is rare anywhere in New York State but especially rare in the hand of a bird bander. Bob Yunick banded a hatching-year male at a feeder in Fonda, Montgomery County, thought to be only one of a few ever banded within the state. The owners of the feeder had been providing sugar water for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds through the summer

months and grew concerned when they noticed one hummingbird had 'lingered' into chilly November. They called local birders for advice, and Yunick was summoned to capture and band the bird. Yunick submitted the kind of impeccable identification notes that only a bander can produce. Unfortunately, few birders in the Region enjoyed the rarity since the landowners requested that their address not be made public.

Passerine migration peaked around the second week of October, with birds pushing through in large mixed flocks on the clear nights of 6, 10, and 11 October. Many of the late dates were assembled, as is customary each season, by sifting through the Hudson-Mohawk and Alan Devoe Bird club sightings. The task of assigning late and early dates for common passerine species would be nearly impossible without the support of these two Regional organizations. Special thanks go to Phil Whitney (Hudson-Mohawk) and to Bill Cook (Alan Devoe) for compiling the sightings for this largely thankless, but important service.

An exciting end to the season for Alison Heaphy and Rick Werwaiss involved a Northern Parula that visited their feeder in Chatham from 24 November all the way until **15 December**. Parula occur rarely on some upstate CBCs, but seldom, if ever, has a parula lingered this long and this late at an upstate location. The bird was reportedly feeding on suet and quickly learned to exploit the well-stocked supplies of a number of feeders in Chatham, Columbia County.

Additionally, a locale with an ominous name produced some interesting warblers this fall. The Greene County Industrial Development Agency site turned up 3 Connecticut Warblers, each banded by Rich Guthrie.

Finally, another interesting feeder bird was the female White-winged Crossbill found at the homes of Nancy Kern and Ellen Scott in Austerlitz, Columbia County. The last one seen in the county was in 1997. This bird adds yet more evidence to the argument that you don't necessarily need to go tramping through the wilderness to find rarities—ah, what a pleasure when they come to us.

A portion of last season's species list was inadvertently omitted due to a printing error; it is included as an addendum below.

CONTRIBUTORS

Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports, Larry Alden, Bill Cook, Jane Graves, Rich Guthrie, Alison Heaphy, Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York, Nancy Kern, Bill Lee, Andrew Mason, Gail & Rich Nord, Barbara Putnam, Will Raup, Ellen Scott, Alison Van Keuren, Rick Werwaiss, Carol & Owen Whitby, Phil Whitney, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

AUS – T Austerlitz COLU; COX – T Coxsackie GREE; CPHW – Camp Pinnacle Hawk Watch ALBA; HR – Hudson Ri; MEA – T Meadowdale

ALBA; MR – Mohawk Ri; NBA – T New Baltimore GREE; NOR – T Northumberland SARA; TR – Tomhannock Reservoir RENS; VF – Vischer Ferry T Saratoga SARA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 2300 TR 28 Nov.
Brant: 12 HR COLU 9 Oct; 2 Thompsons L ALBA 11 Oct; State Office Campus ALBA 18 Oct; Broadalbin FULT 5-16 Nov.
ACKLING GOOSE: NOR 27 Oct (BP, photo).
Tundra Swan: 2 Galway SARA 5 Nov, only report.
Gadwall: MR 26 Nov, only report.
Am. Widgeon: max 30 Stanton Pd 16 Oct.
Blue-winged Teal: max 35 Collins L 9 Oct.
N. Pintail: 10 Stanton Pd 10 Oct, only report.
Green-winged Teal: last 20 VF 20 Oct.
Ring-necked Duck: last 11 TR 28 Nov.
Surf Scoter: 2 Rensselaerville RENS 10 Oct.
White-winged Scoter: 5 Rensselaerville RENS 10 Oct; 29 Thompsons L 11 Oct; last Nassua L RENS 19 Oct; last 2 Lock 7 SCHE 5 Nov.
Black Scoter: 2 Lock 7 SCHE 5 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: max 105 TR 28 Nov.
Ruddy Duck: max 200 COX Res GREE 11 Nov; 5 TR 28 Nov.
Com. Loon: Jenny Lake SARA 9-10 Sep; Ft Miller WASH 3-9 Nov; TR 5 Nov; max 4 Alcove Res ALBA 27 Nov.
Pied-billed Grebe: last Copake COLU 26 Nov.
Horned Grebe: L George WARR 12 Nov (BC), only report.
Double-crested Cormorant: last TR 5 Nov.
Am. Bittern: last Port of Albany 25 Sep.
Great Egret: max 11 Cohoes ALBA 12 Sep; 4 Collins L 9 Oct; last Gateway Bridge at Collins Park 21 Oct.
Green Heron: last Black Creek Marsh ALBA 16 Oct.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: last Waterford SARA 13 Sep.

Turkey Vulture: last Copake COLU 6 Nov; total 160 CPHW 8 Sep-2 Nov.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: last Canaan COLU 16 Oct; total 12 CPHW 8 Sep-2 Nov.
Bald Eagle: total 7 CPHW 8 Sep-2 Nov.
N. Harrier: max 4 NOR 12 Oct; total 6 CPHW 8 Sep-2 Nov.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 133 CPHW 8 Sep-2 Nov; max 57 CPHW 15 Oct, high count.
Cooper's Hawk: total 27 CPHW 8 Sep-2 Nov.
N. Goshawk: 2 Niskayuna SCHE 9 Oct; Hudson COLU 11 Oct; total 3 CPHW 8 Sep-2 Nov.
Red-tailed Hawk: total 165 CPHW 8 Sep-2 Nov.
Red-shouldered Hawk: total 7 CPHW 8 Sep-2 Nov.
Broad-winged Hawk: last S RENS 12 Oct; total 496 CPHW 8 Sep-2 Nov.
Rough-legged Hawk: 2 NOR 16-29 Nov; Taghkanic COLU 25 Nov, scarce.
Peregrine Falcon: total 4 CPHW 8 Sep-2 Nov.
Am. Kestrel: total 26 CPHW 8 Sep-2 Nov.
Merlin: Black Creek Marsh ALBA 8 Sep; Niskayuna SCHE 11 Nov, feeding on chickadee; COX Boat Launch 18 Nov; total 4 CPHW 8 Sep-2 Nov.
Virginia Rail: last VF 5 Sep.
C. Moorhen: last VF 5 Sep.
Am. Coot: VF 14 Oct, Chatham COLU 31 Oct; 2 Stanton Pd 11-14 Nov.
Semipalmated Plover: last 2 VF 21 Sep.
Greater Yellowlegs: last Galway L SARA 12 Nov.
Lesser Yellowlegs: last VF 2 Oct.
Solitary Sandpiper: last Ann Lee Pd 24 Sep.
Spotted Sandpiper: last Livingston COLU 9 Oct.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last VF

21 Sep.
Least Sandpiper: last GREE IDA
25 Sep.
Pectoral Sandpiper: Niskayuna SCHE
12 Sep; Lock 7 SCHE 12 Sep (RY).
Short-billed Dowitcher: VF 21 Sep.
Wilson's Snipe: last GREE IDA 21 Oct.
Am. Woodcock: last 5 Florida MONT
12 Nov.
LAUGHING GULL: COX Boat
Launch 25 Sep (RG).
Iceland Gull: COX Boat Launch GREE
18 Nov.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last Ann Lee Pd
24 Sep.
Short-eared Owl: 4 FtE 27 Nov.
N. Saw-whet Owl: found dead Exit 23
NYS Thruway 5 Nov, only report.
Com. Nighthawk: max 12 Albany
7 Sep; last Waterford 13 Sep.
Chimney Swift: last 75 Germantown
COLU 4 Oct.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird:
last AUS 30 Sep.
RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Fonda
MONT 19-23 Nov, banded (RY).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2 MEA15
Oct; 2 AUS 31 Oct; NBA 29 Nov;
many other reports.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: last Canaan COLU
10 Oct.
Least Flycatcher: last VF 18 Sep.
Great Crested Flycatcher: last VF
10 Sep.
N. Shrike: VF 20 Oct; Galway SARA
4 Nov; Albany 19 Nov; MEA 24 Nov,
all sightings listed.
White-eyed Vireo: MEA 1 Oct (LA).
Yellow-throated Vireo: last L
Taghkanic COLU 12 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: last VF 15 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: last VF 24 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: 2 Saratoga SARA
4 Sep; 2 VF 25 Sep; Peebles I SARA
3-28 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: last NBA 5 Oct.
Horned Lark: max 30 NOR 29 Nov.
Tree Swallow: last 100 Mechanicville

SARA 12 Oct.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: last VF 24
Sep.
Barn Swallow: last Germantown COLU
18 Sep.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last AUS 1
Nov.
Veery: last Burnt Hills SARA 23 Oct.
Swainson's Thrush: last Saratoga
Springs SARA 29 Oct, window-killed.
Wood Thrush: last Albany 14 Oct.
Gray Catbird: last Chatham COLU 25
Nov, late.
Am. Pipit: max 50 NOR 26 Oct; 13
Moreau SARA 27 Oct (BP).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: last NBA 1 Sep.
"Brewster's" Warbler: NBA 1 Sep.
Orange-crowned Warbler: VF 24 Sep.
Nashville Warbler: last AUS 10 Oct.
N. Parula: at feeder N Chatham COLU
25 Nov-15 Dec (RW, AH), record late
date for Region 8.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last MONT
4 Oct.
Magnolia Warbler: last Albany 5 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last
Clifton Park SARA 22 Oct, inside Home
Depot store.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last
MEA15 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last Peebles I
SARA 24 Sep.
Pine Warbler: last Black Creek Marsh
ALBA 6 Oct.
Prairie Warbler: last AUS 1 Oct.
Palm Warbler: last Burnt Hills SARA
23 Oct.
Blackpoll Warbler: last VF 13 Oct.
Worm-eating Warbler: AUS 15-20 Sep.
Connecticut Warbler: 3 GREE IDA
21 Sep, banded by RG.
Com. Yellowthroat: last Meadowdale
15 Oct.
Wilson's Warbler: VF 5 Sep; NBA 9
Sep; VF 10 Sep; Albany 14 Oct.
Canada Warbler: Claverack COLU 5
Sep; Canaan COLU 10 Oct.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: last VF 30 Sep.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Albany 10 Oct.
Chipping Sparrow: last MEA 15 Oct.
Fox Sparrow: 5 Rivers ALBA 1 Nov; Jefferson SCHO 12 Nov; Myosotis L 14 Nov; several Oct reports.
Lincoln's Sparrow: last Gansevoort SARA 27 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: last Jefferson SCHO 27 Oct.
Snow Bunting: 20 COX 13 Nov; 10 COX Boat Launch 18 Nov; 12 Wilton SARA 28 Nov.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last VF 30 Sep.
Indigo Bunting: last NBA 5 Oct.
E. Meadowlark: max 5 Ghent COLU 18 Sep, only report.
Rusty Blackbird: 4 VF 15 Oct; max 50 Black Creek Marsh ALBA 16 Oct; 20 VF 20 Oct; last Copake COLU 20 Nov, all sightings listed.
Red Crossbill: max 15 Jenny L SARA 16 Sep (RY).
White-winged Crossbill: at feeder AUS 25-31 Oct (NK, ES).
Pine Siskin: max 15 Hudson Falls WASH 29 Oct; E Greenbush RENS 22 Nov; Albany 25 Nov, widespread.
Evening Grosbeak: 9 Jefferson SCHO 22 Oct; E Greenbush RENS 5 Nov; max 30 Berlin RENS 18 Nov; New Salem 19-24 Nov; 10 Albany 29 Nov, very modest irruption.

ADDENDUM

The following entries were inadvertently omitted from the summer report

WARBLERS (in part)

Hooded Warbler: New Scotland ALBA 12 Jun.
Canada Warbler: Rural Grove MONT 4-18 Jun; Berne ALBA 8 Jun; CP 25 Jun; Blenheim SCHO 13 Jul; Cocksackie GREE 20 Aug; Schneider Rd COLU 20-26 Aug.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Grasshopper Sparrow: 5 SHA 30 Jun; Ghent COLU 10-30 Jul.
HENSLOW'S SPARROW: 3 SHA 17-30 Jun (mob), probable nesting colony.
White-throated Sparrow: CP 25 Jun; Conesville SCHO 29 Jun; FULT 5 Jul;
DICKCISSEL: 2 m & 3 f Goodrich Rd SHA 10 Jun-? Aug, successfully fledged 4 nestlings.
E. Meadowlark: 4 FtE 4-16 Jun; Conesville SCHO 6 Jun; Cocksackie flats GREE 25 Jun; Gilboa SCHO 29 Jun.
Orchard Oriole: Cocksackie GREE 24 Jul, only report.
Purple Finch: max 33 banded JL 15 Aug (RY).
Red Crossbill: JL 31 Jul, 16 Aug, 22 Aug; 4 JL 26 Aug (RY), subspecies ?.
Evening Grosbeak: JL 4 Jul, banded bird originally from Elizabethtown, NY, 8yrs, 2months old (RY).

REGION 9 - HUDSON - DELAWARE

Michael Bochnik

86 Empire Street, Yonkers, NY 10704

The fall season started off very dry and warm, continuing the drought-like conditions that started in mid July. September was one the driest on record. Sullivan County had less than an inch of rain. Across the river in Poughkeepsie, only 0.6 inches of precipitation fell. The southern area of

Region 9 fared slightly better. White Plains recorded 1.6 inches but still far short of the normal 4.7 inches. The month was also 4 to 6 degrees warmer than normal. Highs in Poughkeepsie were 80° and above for the first three weeks. By mid month some trees were going dormant with leaves turning brown and falling. Insects, especially mosquitoes, were almost unnoticeable. This may have lead to a scarcity of food as migrants did not linger.

Conditions changed dramatically when the remnants of Tropical Storm Tammy combined with a cold front and dumped heavy rains on 7, 8 October. The front stalled and tropical moisture continually traveled along the front to dump more heavy rain on the area for another 6 days. Nearly all rivers and ponds overflowed their banks. The mud flats at Swinging Bridge Reservoir, responsible for many shorebird sightings in August and September, were now under 15 feet of water. Rainfall totals were astounding. Poughkeepsie had over 7.5 inches of rain on the 8th and 14.4 inches over the 8 day period. A week later a cold front arrived on the 22nd bringing more rain. A nor'easter formed three days later off New England and, fed by moister feeding back from Hurricane Wilma, brought another 1.5 inches of rain. October was one of the wettest months on record. Poughkeepsie recorded 17.6 inches of rain. Normal rainfall is only 3.6 inches. October ended up 1.5 to 3 degrees warmer than normal. Six to twelve inches of snow accumulated on the upper elevations in the Catskill High Peaks on 22 October and remained throughout the period. Poughkeepsie's first frost occurred on the 24th.

November started out warm, with highs in the seventies on the 4th and 5th. It was in the seventies again on the 16th. The first killing frost came very late in northern Ulster County during the early morning hours of 18 November. Tree foliage change and leaf-drop also occurred very late into the season. Poughkeepsie ended up 4 degrees warmer than normal. Precipitation varied, with Liberty a third of an inch wetter but Poughkeepsie and inch drier for November.

Hank Weber saw three **White Pelicans** soar over Rye Town Park, Westchester County on 1 November. Three days later Evan Mark found a single White Pelican at Croton Point Park on 4 November. It circled over the capped landfill and flew out heading Northwest. These would represent the 2nd and 3rd sightings for Westchester County, the first occurring in September 1994.

Broad-winged Hawks peaked on 19, 21, and 24 September, but numbers were moderate. Mt Peter had over 1200 on the 19th, Hook Mountain was over 1300 on the 21st, and Bear Mountain hits its peak on the 24th with 1400. A dark-morph bird was reported from Mount Peter on 20 September.

The Lenoir Hawk Watch in Yonkers had a banner day on 16 October. A cold front had finally arrived to push out the last rain after a week of record rainfall. The strong west winds pushed hawks east, so Hook Mt and Mt Peter had only a fair day of hawk watching. Connecticut was still in the clouds and drizzle, making the eastern shore of the Hudson a corridor for the hawks that day. Highlights that day included 10 Bald Eagles, 3 Golden Eagles, and 37

Merlin. Maximum day counts for the Region were recorded for Sharp-shinned Hawk and Peregrine Falcon.

The Swinging Bridge Reservoir recorded plenty of shorebirds till the heavy rain. The highlight was 4 Black-bellied Plovers found on 17 September by John Haas for Sullivan County's 4th record. American Golden-Plover, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Stilt Sandpiper, and Short-billed Dowitcher all made appearances. Three Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at Pine Island on 3 September. Two Willets were found at Piermont Pier on 4 September followed by a Glossy Ibis there on 12 September. Then on 22 October Drew Ciganik's son came home and told him "Dad, there's a different bird on the end of Pier." Drew senior went out to confirm and identify a Hudsonian Godwit.

A large chickadee migration was observed on 5 November. Over 1000 Black-capped Chickadees were seen moving south in flocks of 25 – 80 at the Lenoir Nature Preserve between 10 AM and 1 PM. Many more may have passed by the area earlier in the day. This movement of chickadees explains the Boreal Chickadee that was found in Sterling Forest a day earlier on 4 November. Others noted smaller chickadee movements between 8 September and mid November.

Among the rarer sightings, first we have Mark DeDea, Mary Jo Wiltshire, John Hickey, and Paul McCullough finding a **Townsend's Solitaire** on Immigrant's Way, just north of Kingston Point Beach on 12 November. This will be Ulster County's first record, if a report is submitted and accepted by the NYS Avian Records Committee. The bird was observed in a cedar tree for several minutes before flying northward. Next, 3 Orange-crowned Warblers made appearances, all in Westchester County, a well described Connecticut Warbler was found at Rockland Lake SP on 10 September, and an immature was at Marshlands Conservancy on 30 September. Finally, an immature Blue Grosbeak was found at the Hummock's School, Larchmont on 16 October.

Finally looking to the winter finches, 2 Pine Grosbeaks were in Westbrookville on 29 October, the only report of Red Crossbill was from Woodstock on 13 November, and Evening Grosbeaks were noted in Sullivan County, with numerous reports beginning on 28 October and continuing through November. They were absent from the southern part of the Region.

Other notable species include: Sedge Wren, Lapland Longspur, Dicksissel.

CONTRIBUTORS

John Askildsen, Ajit Antony, Scott Baldinger, Michael Bochnik, Arlene Borko, Leah Boyd, Lysle Brinker, Gene Brown, Thomas Burke, Barbara Butler, Steve Chorvas, Judith Cinquina, Drew Ciganik, Drew Ciganik Jr, Mark Damian, Renee Davis, John Dean, Patrick Dechon, Mark DeDea, Lin Fagan, Carol Fredericks, Misha Fredericks, Valerie Freer, Fred Freeze, Yolanda Garcia, Marge Gorton, Christine Guarino, Andy Guthrie, John Haas, John Hickey, Dick Hirshman, John Irrizary, Kelli Jewell, Susan Joseph, Chris Lyons, Evan

Mark, Paul McCullough, Kenneth McDermott, Tully McElrath, Glenn Nystrup, Joe O'Connell, Lorrie and Stan Pallan, Gerhard Patsch, Vince Plogar, Carena Pooth, Jim Previdi, Kevin Quill, Ev and Bob Rifenburg, Charlie Roberto, Dick Rogers, Russell Scheirer, Peter Schoenberger, Diane Sheridan, Ruth Shursky, Herb Thompson, John Tramontano, Chet Vincent, Hank Weber, Carol Weiss, Della & Alan Wells, Mary Jo Wiltshire.

ABBREVIATIONS

CPP-Croton Point Park, EGR-Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, HM – Hook Mountain, LNP - Lenoir Nature Preserve, MC - Marshlands Conservancy, RNC-Rye Nature Center, SBR - Swinging Bridge Reservoir.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 40 Summitville 6 Oct; 40 SBR 10 Oct.
Brant: migrating flocks past hawk watches were fewer than normal.
Wood Duck: 1541 Bashakill 30 Sep.
Gadwall: 12 Rockland Lake SP 28 Nov.
N. Pintail: Six-and-a-half Station Marsh 4 Oct; Swan L 1-7 Oct; Wurtsboro 19 Nov.
Green-winged Teal: 40 Bashakill 26 Sep; 40 Swan L 1 Oct.
Redhead: 2 Rockland Lake 25 Oct thru.
Ring-necked Duck: 25 Abel's Pd, Union Vale 2, 9 Oct; 40 Bashakill 23-25 Oct.
Greater Scaup: arr EGR 17 Oct; 400 EGR 29 Nov.
Lesser Scaup: arr EGR 17 Oct; 75 EGR 29 Nov.
Surf Scoter: EGR 23 Oct.
White-winged Scoter: EGR 26 Sep; 2 Neversink Res 9 Oct (RD,JHa,AB); EGR 8 Oct; 4 EGR 13 Nov.
Black Scoter: 6 Neversink Res 25 Oct (JHa, AB).
Long-tailed Duck: 25 EGR 24 Nov.
Bufflehead: arr 23 Oct; 50 EGR 13 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: 45 Yankee L 19 Nov; 4 EGR 30 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: arr EGR 3 Nov.
Com. Merganser: 5 Tarrytown Re 20 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: arr 23 Oct
Ruddy Duck: 330 Sylvan L, Beekman 29 Oct.
N. Bobwhite: Poughkeepsie 27 Sep.
Red-throated Loon: arr EGR 23 Oct;

Neversink Res 16, 26 Nov (JHa).
Com. Loon: arr EGR 15 Oct; 14 EGR 30 Nov.
Horned Grebe: arr Kiamesha Lake 25 Oct.
N. Gannet: EGR 15 Nov; 8 EGR 29 Nov.
WHITE PELICAN: Rye 1 Nov (HW); CPP 4 Nov (EM), 2nd and 3rd WEST records, *intro*.
Double-crested Cormorant: 185 EGR 24 Nov.
Great Cormorant: arr EGR 24 Oct; 8 EGR 24 Nov.
Am. Bittern: Bashakill 26 Sep; Callicoon Center 6 Oct.
Great Blue Heron: 12 EGR 16 Oct.
Great Egret: 8 MC 2 Oct; EGR 22, 24 Nov.
Snowy Egret: 3 MC 2 Oct.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: Six-and-a-half Station Marsh 4 Oct; 21 EGR 10 Oct.
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Dennings Pt 30 Sep.
Glossy Ibis: Piermont Pier 12 Sep (DC).
Black Vulture: 5 LNP 16 Oct; 10 Shawangunk Grasslands NWR 26 Nov.
Turkey Vulture: 222 LNP 16 Oct.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: 29 HM 18 Sep; last Mt Peter 26 Oct.
Bald Eagle: 10 LNP 16 Oct.
N. Harrier: 7 HM 18 Sep.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 93 HM 27 Sep; 280 LNP 16 Oct, Regional high record count; 276 HM 19 Oct.

Cooper's Hawk: 48 Mt Peter 15 Oct; 36 LNP 16 Oct.
N. Goshawk: SBR 5 Sep; HM 16 Oct; 7 Summitville 23 Oct (JHa,FF).
Broad-winged Hawk: 553 HM 11 Sep; 1240 Mt Peter 19 Sep; 656 HM 19 Sep; dark-morph Mt Peter 20 Sep (AA); 1336 HM 21 Sep; 1094 Mt Peter 21 Sep; 1400 Bear Mountain 24 Sep; EGR 23 Oct; last HM 24 Oct.
Red-tailed Hawk: 112 Summitville 23 Oct; albino Mt Peter 26 Oct (DR).
Rough-legged Hawk: Summitville 23 Oct; Fremont 25 Nov.
Golden Eagle: 3 LNP 16 Oct; HM 26 Oct; 4 Summitville 23 Oct; EGR 23 Oct; 2 Summitville 29 Oct; 3 Mt Peter 1 Nov; Mt Peter 2 Nov.
Am. Kestrel: 33 HM 26 Sep.
Merlin: 37 LNP 16 Oct.
Peregrine Falcon: 6 LNP 16 Oct, Regional high record count.
Am. Coot: arr Bashakill 26 Sep; 36 Rockland Lake SP 28 Nov.
Black-bellied Plover: SBR 17 Sep (JHa), 4th county record.
Am. Golden-Plover: SBR 1, 2 Sep (JHa,RD,VF); MC 1 Oct (TB).
Semipalmated Plover: 2 MC 1 Sep; MC 4 Oct; 2 Piermont Pier 24 Oct - 10 Nov.
Am. Oystercatcher: 2 MC 1 Sep; 2 EGR 26 Sep; 2 MC 4 Oct; 2 EGR 8 Oct; 3 EGR 24 Nov.
Greater Yellowlegs: 6 MC 1 Sep; 5 SBR 17 Sep; 2 Piermont 25 Oct.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 7 SBR 17 Sep.
Solitary Sandpiper: Thompson Pond 1 Sep.
Willet: 2 Piermont Pier 4 Sep (A&DW, CW).
Hudsonian Godwit: 22 Oct Piermont Pier (DC, DCJ).
Ruddy Turnstone: EGR 8, 9 Oct.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 7 MC 7 Sep.
Least Sandpiper: 20 Hillside Lake 2 Sep; 2 Hudson Valley Rail Trail 3 Oct.
Baird's Sandpiper: SBR 1-5 Sep (JHa,RD,MG,AB,VF,PD).
Pectoral Sandpiper: 9 SBR 14 Sep.

Purple Sandpiper: 12 EGR 17 Nov; 24 EGR 24 Nov; Piermont Pier 29 Nov (A&DW).
Dunlin: SBR 8 Oct; 2 MC 18 Nov.
Stilt Sandpiper: 9 SBR 1 Sep; last 2 SBR 12 Sep (JHa,AB).
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 3 Pine Island 3 Sep (CF).
Short-billed Dowitcher: SBR 4 Sep.
Wilson's Snipe: 14 New Paltz 29 Oct.
Laughing Gull: 80 MC 23 Sep; 100 EGR 26 Sep; 80 EGR 16 Nov; 6 EGR 30 Nov.
Bonaparte's Gull: Morningside 10 Sep; Norrie Pt 9 Oct; EGR 22, 30 Nov.
Iceland Gull: Monticello 30 Nov (JHa).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Monticello 19, 30 Nov (JHa).
Com. Tern: 40 EGR 1 Oct; EGR 29 Oct.
Forster's Tern: 30 EGR 26 Oct; 12 EGR 29 Oct.

DOVES - WOODPECKERS

Short-eared Owl: CPP 5 Nov; 5 Shawangunk Grasslands NWR 26 Nov.
Com. Nighthawk: 22 MC 1 Sep; 2 MC 2 Oct.
Chimney Swift: lingered thru Oct.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 2 LNP 22 Oct.
Red-headed Woodpecker: LNP 19 Sep; HM 30 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Kingbird: 10 MC 1 Sep.
N. Shrike: 1 Summitville 29 Oct (VF); Cape Pond 21, 28 Nov (PM, KC).
Yellow-throated Vireo: Mt Peter 2 Sep (JC), singing a Blue-headed Vireo song.
Blue-headed Vireo: 2 MC 28 Oct.
Philadelphia Vireo: 2 Depot Hill MUA 3 Sep (CP); Swan Lake 4 Sep (JHa,AB); MC 6 Sep (TB).
Horned Lark: 2 MC 17 Nov; 22 EGR 17 Nov 10; 14 Monticello 19 Nov; Bethel 25 Nov.
Tree Swallow: 80 EGR 23 Oct.
Bank Swallow: 2 MC 7 Sep.
Black-capped Chickadee: 1000+ LNP 5 Nov (MB,KJ), *intro*.
Boreal Chickadee: Sterling Forest

4 Nov (JI).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: moving south by mid Sep.

Sedge Wren: MC 30 Oct (AG).

Marsh Wren: 6 MC 23 Sep, 4 Oct.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE:

Immigrant's Way, Kingston Point 12 Nov (MDe,MW,JHi,PM), first Ulster County record.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Cape Pond 20 Sep (VF); RNC 22 Sep (TB).

Hermit Thrush: 12 Esopus Bend Nature Preserve, Saugerties 19 Nov.

Am. Pipit: 127 SBR 7, 8 Oct; 13

Piermont 30 Oct; 25 CPP 4 Nov;

36 CPP 5 Nov; 36 Bashakill 25 Nov.

Cedar Waxwing: 40 EGR 23 Oct; 50 CPP 5 Nov.

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler: MC 28 Sep (TB); Hummock's School, Larchmont 16 Oct (TB); LNP 18 Oct (MB).

Cape May Warbler: CPP 5 Nov (CR).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 201 LaGrangeville 19 Oct; 40 Piermont Pier 24 Oct; 40 MC 27 Oct.

Palm Warbler: 15 CPP 4 Nov.

Blackpoll Warbler: MC 28, 30 Oct.

Connecticut Warbler: Rockland Lake 10 Sep (KQ), well described; imm MC 30 Sep (TB), seen well.

Mourning Warbler: MC 5 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: Kingston Point 21 Nov (MDe).

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr CPP 1 Nov.

Vesper Sparrow: 14 CPP 23 Oct; 2 SBR 23 Oct; Bethel 23 Oct; Kingston Point Park 5 Nov.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: MC 1 Oct; 4 MC 4 Oct; 5 MC 19 Oct; MC 2 Nov.

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow:

2 MC 2 Sep; EGR 28 Sep; MC 4 Oct.

Fox Sparrow: 6 Saugerties 5 Nov.

Song Sparrow: 80 Piermont 24 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: EGR 20 Sep;

2 EGR 26 Sep; Stony Kill 28 Sep;

2 MCD 1 Oct; New Paltz 3 Oct;

Morningside Park 10 Oct; Cohecton

10 Oct; EGR 16 Oct; LaGrangeville

19 Oct; New Paltz 11 Nov.

Swamp Sparrow: 20 EGR 18 Oct; 20 MC 19 Oct;

White-throated Sparrow: arr in wintering areas 18 Sep.

White-crowned Sparrow: Vassar

College Farms 5 Oct; Neversink

14 Oct; 9 EGR 18 Oct; 5 LaGrangeville

19 Oct; Bashakill 21 Oct; Youngsville

22, 27 Oct; 7 Town of North East

23 Oct.

Dark-eyed Junco: arr in non-breeding areas 18 Sep, early.

Lapland Longspur: Kingston Point 27 Nov (MDe).

Snow Bunting: Piermont Pier 24 Oct;

2 Summitville 27 Oct; 1-5 Bashakill 29,

30 Oct- 20 Nov; 2-3 Piermont 29,30 Oct;

6 Kingston Point 13 Nov; 3 Monticello 30 Nov.

Blue Grosbeak: imm Hummock's School, Larchmont 16 Oct (AG, TB).

Dickcissel: Rye 16 Oct (TB); MC 4 Nov (TB).

E. Meadowlark: 40 CPP 23 Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: 200 Summitville 27

Oct (JHa); 115 Bashakill 28 Oct (JHa).

Pine Grosbeak: 2 Westbrookville 29 Oct (SB).

Red Crossbill: 4 Woodstock 13 Nov (PS).

Pine Siskin: arr 26 Oct; MC 28 Oct; 2 EGR 17 Nov.

Evening Grosbeak: many reports SULL

28 Oct thru; Forsyth Nature Center,

Kingston 27, 29 Oct; Mt Peter 31 Oct;

Rhinebeck 1 Nov; New Paltz 12 Nov;

20 Monticello 25 Nov.



REGION 10-MARINE

Patricia J. Lindsay

28 Mystic Circle, Bay Shore, NY 11706

S. S. Mitra

Biology Department, College of Staten Island,

2800 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314

mitra@mail.csi.cuny.edu

September was very warm and dry, with average temperatures of 70.2° F at Islip and 73.3° degrees at Central Park, 4.4° and 5.8°, respectively, higher than normal. Temperatures reached 90° on the 12th and 92° on the 13th. Islip's rainfall total of 1.31 inches was 2.08 inches shy of normal. Central Park recorded less than an inch of rain for a deficit of 3.75 inches. October continued warm, with an average temperature of 56.4° F, 2.1° higher than normal. October's rainfall totals more than made up for the previous dry months. Central Park had a record 16.73 inches for the month, 12.88 inches more than normal; similar statistics were recorded for the rest of the Region as well. Remnants of tropical storm Tammy brought moisture streaming northward around 7 October, and a stalled front left us with NNE winds and soaking rain on the 8th and 9th, then light rain and overcast skies from the 10-14 October. Hugh McGuinness reported flooding at Sagaponack Pond and severe beach erosion on eastern Long Island. Clearing weather and NW winds brought migrants streaming along the barrier beach in fantastic numbers 17-22 October. November's weather figures were just a bit above average at 46.4° F and 3.17" of precipitation.

Hurricane Ophelia passed well offshore on 16 September and resulted in a very modest list of pelagic birds: a few Cory's Shearwaters and Wilson's Storm-Petrels off Breezy Pt., one Cory's Shearwater and two adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Democrat Pt., and sub-adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Shinnecock Inlet (two) and Sagaponack, all on the 16th; and a Manx Shearwater inside Jones Inlet on the 17th. Lesser Black-backed Gulls are suspected to migrate largely offshore in this Region, and the observations listed above, Region 10's first migrants of the season, were likely driven ashore by Ophelia. The Manx Shearwater in Jones Inlet remained through 26 September, allowing extensive study and debate over its identity. (See the short article on this subject in Vol. 55, pp. 335-339.) Ophelia's effects included high tides on 16 September that overwashed a late active Black Skimmer colony at Lido Beach, though there were survivors (fide Mike Farina). This colony held an estimated 1100 birds.

As noted above, when early October's prolonged rains finally gave way to fair weather on the 16th, huge numbers of migrants appeared throughout the Region. These flights continued through 21 October, when a line of showers and heavily overcast skies grounded especially large numbers of sparrows, kinglets, wrens, and thrushes along the barrier beach and at the city parks. The huge flights of mid October featured a macabre side. The Jones Beach strip, a famous pathway for many thousands of migratory birds, is also shared by frantic commuters making their way westward just after dawn. These vehicles,

on mornings of heavy flights, turned the parkway into a scene of shocking carnage. The authors conservatively counted 180 fresh carcasses on 20 October along less than 10 miles of roadway. Actual numbers were probably much higher, as detailed inspection of just a few hundred meters of roadway yielded many freshly killed Myrtle Warblers and Song and White-throated sparrows, plus a Merlin, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and others.

The remnants of Hurricane Wilma passed well offshore around 25 October. This disturbance may have been responsible for the appearance of two Red-necked Phalaropes at Great Kills Harbor, a **Magnificent Frigatebird** at Bayport on 6 November, and for at least some of the news that aerial insectivores made this fall. Barn Swallows staged a November flight of unprecedented magnitude, accompanied by a few exceptionally late Chimney Swifts, and Cave Swallows continued their recent trend of annual occurrence. The southbound flight of Barn Swallows in our Region typically diminishes abruptly after a late August-early September peak, and this year was no exception. For example, the writers noted counts of 600, 300, and 300 Barn Swallows migrating along the barrier beach on 2, 3, and 4 September, but explicitly noted the species' absence there just six days later on another fine day for fall migration. Thus, a single Barn Swallow at Fire Island Lighthouse on 4 November was a surprise, but this was merely the harbinger of something unique. During the next two weeks, Barn Swallows were found along the South Shore by many observers. Many of these observers were searching for Cave Swallows and neglected to record the dates, locations, and numbers of the Barn Swallows they saw, precluding any real estimate of the numbers involved. Some measure of the magnitude of the flight is conveyed by a systematic count on Block Island, just east of our area, on 12 November, which tallied 41 Barn Swallows, one Cave Swallow, two unidentified *Petrochelidon* swallows, and a Chimney Swift (S. S. Mitra, et al.).

These observations on and around Long Island coincided not only with a major push of Cave Swallows to the Lake Ontario Plain, but also with an astonishing influx of "reverse migrants" to the Canadian Maritimes. Whereas western New York's Cave Swallows are presumed to have originated from the southwest, the species composition observed in the Maritimes was very different and possibly indicative of a southeastern origin associated with Hurricane Wilma. Thus, Nova Scotia observed huge numbers of Chimney Swifts and Barn Swallows, dozens of Cliff Swallows, but just a handful of Cave Swallows (B. Maybank, pers. comm.). In view of these considerations, it would seem prudent for local observers to study their November *Petrochelidon* swallows very closely and to forebear the temptation to apply default identifications!

Among irruptive landbirds, Downy Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Purple Finch, and Pine Siskin staged modest flights. As is often the case, the Purple Finch flight was bimodal, with a small pulse around Labor Day followed by a heavier movement in October and November. This sort of pattern is shared by a number of species locally, most notably American Pipits and Cedar Waxwings.

In general, the migration season unfolded rather favorably, with multiple reports and/or easily viewed examples of many scarce and sought after migrants, including Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Western Kingbird,

Philadelphia Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, and Dickcissel. Special attention is devoted below to enumerating records of this motley collection of species, and the relative frequencies of some “rarities” to some “regular migrants” offer some surprises.

This season’s list of vagrants includes the frigatebird mentioned above, a **White-winged Dove** at Montauk on 26 November, **Ash-throated Flycatchers** at Jones Beach and Brooklyn, a **Northern Wheatear** at Fort Tilden, and a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at Montauk 24-27 September. Most cooperative was the **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, discovered by Seth Ausubel at Forest Park on 13 November, which remained through the 20th and was seen by many birders.

Capital lettering denotes species requiring NYSARC review or, when followed by “R10,” records unusual enough in Region 10 to warrant documentation.

CONTRIBUTORS

John Askildsen, Seth Ausubel, Andy Baldelli, Alan Baratz (AIB), Rich Barube, Matt Bayer, Willy & Gerry Becker, Gail Benson, Steve Biasetti, Mary Beth Billerman, Orhan Birol, Shane Blodgett (SBI), Tom Burke, Vicki Bustamante, Ben Cacace, Jim Clinton, Sr., Steve D’Amato, Tom Damiani, Jim Demes, Joe DiCostanzo, Peter Dorosh, Mary Eyster, Michael Farina, Ken Feustel; Sue Feustel; Tom Fiore, Howie Fischer, Alex Flint, Gerta Fritz, John Fritz, Douglas Futuyma, Peregrina Garcia (PeG), Klemens Gasser, Richard Gershon, Rich Gostic (RGo), Paul Gillen, Joe Giunta (JGi), John Gluth, Diane Gorodnitzky, Andy Guthrie, Cliff Hagen, Zubin Haghi, Elliot Harold, Brian Hart, John Heidecker, Sandy Hunter, Stephen Janko, Sam Jannazzo, Phil Jeffrey, Scotty Jenkins (ScJ), Rob Jett, Pat Jones, Dave Klauber, Anthony J. Lauro, Al Levitan, Ernie Lewis, Patricia Lindsay, Jean Loscalzo, Chris Lyons, Rich McGovern (RiM), Robert McGrath (RMcG), Hugh McGuinness, Larry Merryman, Eric Miller, Shai Mitra, Wayne Moynes, Andy Murphy, NY Rare Bird Alert, Staten I Naturalist, Geoff Nulle, Arleen O’Brien, Kevin O’Leary, Al Ott, William Overton, Robert O. Paxton, Pat Pollack, Peter Post, Joan Quinlan, Peter Reisfeld, Chris Roberts, Robert Rossetti, Barbara & Karen Rubinstein, Eric Salzman, Starr Saphir (StS), Michael Scheibel, Inara Schwartz, John Sep, Mike Shanley (MSh), Sean Sime (SSi), Lloyd Spitalnik; Sandy Spitalnik (SaS), Lenore Swenson (LSw), Diana Teta, Joe Trezza, Richard Veit, Kristine Wallstrom, Steve Walter, Rich Willot, Alex Wilson (AxW), Dave Wintheimer, Al Wollin, Seth Ian Wollney (SIW), Mike Zablocky, Janet Zinn.

ABBREVIATIONS

APP – Alley Pd P; BP – Breezy Pt; BHP – Blue Heron P, SI; CB – Cedar Beach, Babylon, CBM – Cedar Beach Marina; CHP – Conference House P, SI; CP – Central P; CSP – Captree SP; DP – Democrat Pt; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field; FINS LT – Lighthouse Tract, Fire I National Seashore; FP – Forest P;

FT – Fort Tilden; JBSP – Jones Beach SP; JBWE – Jones Beach West End; GKP – Great Kills P; MLP – Mount Loretto P, SI; MP – Montauk Pt; OMNSA – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area; PB – Pike’s Beach; PBP – Pelham Bay P; PL – Point Lookout, plum – plumage; PP – Prospect P; Pres – Preserve; RSF – Riverhead Sod Fields; Sagg – Sagaponack Pd; Shinn – Shinnecock Inlet; SI – Staten I; RMSP – Robert Moses SP; VCP – Van Cortlandt P; WPP – Wolfe’s Pond P, SI.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: ad Montauk 17 Oct (VB, KR).

Snow Goose: sev flocks arr CP 30 Sep; 100 JBWR 13 Nov (JH).

CACKLING GOOSE: PBP 20 Nov (AO).

Eurasian Wigeon: m JBWR 2-9 Oct (SaS, mob) & 5-27 Nov (SA, mob); West L, Patchogue 23-26 Nov; Maratooka L 26 Nov (JS); Seguine P, SI 28 Nov (SIW).

Greater Scaup: 6 arr Oyster Pd, Montauk 29 Sep (VB).

King Eider: ad m eclipse plum JBWE 17 Sep-9 Oct, (MB et al), joined by a f 24 Oct-9 Oct (SW, mob); ad m DP 30 Oct (PL, SM), joined by f at Sore Thumb 4 Nov (LM) thru.

Com. Eider: f JBWE 24 Sep-25 Nov (SW); 1,500 MP 13 Nov; sub ad m Sore Thumb 19 Nov; PL 21 Nov (SS).

Harlequin Duck: 2 Bayville (RR) 11 Nov thru.

Surf Scoter: 15 arr MP 24 Sep (AJL).

White-winged Scoter: arr Mashomack Pres 1 Sep (TD).

Wild Turkey: increasingly numerous and widespread throughout Region, including: hen Hecksher SP 5 Sep (JG), reported as unusual for this location by observer very familiar with site; Battery P 21 Sep, 3rd report here in 3 years; NY Botanical Garden 13-20 Oct (AB).

Red-throated Loon: Shinn 9 Oct (AB), arr e LI.

Horned Grebe: arr 5 GKP 7 Nov (RiM).

Red-necked Grebe: JBWR 4 Nov (TF et al).

Cory’s Shearwater: RMSP 16 Sep (PL, SM); “a few” BP 16 Sep (TF); well up into FI Inlet 18 Sep (fide JA).

Manx Shearwater: Jones Inlet 17-26 Sep (PL, SM, mob); *intro*.

Wilson’s Storm-Petrel: “a few” BP 16 Sep (TF).

N. Gannet: 1000 RMSP 29 Oct (PL, SM); off GKP 24 Nov (SIW, SBI), unusual location.

AM. WHITE PELICAN: 5 JBWR 27 Oct (JDi et al).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: Bayport 6 Nov (fide HMcG); several reports of this species in the Northeast and Atlantic Canada following Hurricane Wilma.

Am. Bittern: Shinn 15 Oct (AM), arr e LI; reports of wintering birds from JBWR, Gilgo as usual.

Little Blue Heron: 2 CCP 15 Oct (AM).

Cattle Egret: JBWR 14, 17 Sep.

Turkey Vulture: near Riverhead 2 Sep (JG).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: imm APP 3 Sep (JL, EM); 6 CP 27 Sep; imm CHP 28 Sep (RV); imm JBWE 28 Sep; OMNSA 15, 28 Oct (MF); ad FINS LT 15 Oct; imm CP 26 Oct; 2 ads Fort Tryon P 29 Oct (PeG, CL); imm CHP 24 Nov (SIW, MSh); increasingly numerous and widespread in Region.

N. Goshawk: CP 26 Oct; 2 CP 27, 29 Oct; imm JBWE 31 Oct (PL, RB).

Red-shouldered Hawk: juv PP 16 Oct (PD); CP 17 Oct (DS *et al.*); 2 CP 26 Oct, BHP 6 Nov (JT, CH) & 11 Nov; ad Lighthouse Hill & 3 juvs Grimes Hill, SI 13 Nov (HF).

Broad-winged Hawk: CHP 16 Oct (RV); FINS LT 17 Oct (fide DP), rare barrier beach; juv CP 6 Nov; Cutchogue 21 Nov (NYRBA).

Clapper Rail: ad & 3 chicks North Sea 3 Sep (W&GB), uncommon in Peconic

Bay estuaries.

Sora: 2 JBWR 11 Sep (K&SF); JBWR 17 Sep (JA); juv Weesuck Creek 13 Sep (ES); ad JBWR 9 Oct.

Com. Moorhen: JBWR cont from summer thru 9 Oct.

Am. Golden-Plover: max 26 Riverhead 11 Sep; reported in small numbers from other expected locations.

Semipalmated Plover: 5 JBWE 7 Nov (SS), late.

Killdeer: max 50 Cutchogue 10 Oct (J&GF, JQ).

Am. Oystercatcher: 75 JBWE 27 Nov (PL, SM).

Willet: 65 (54 *inornatus*, 11 *semipalmatus*) JBWE 9 Sep (PL, SM, ph).

Upland Sandpiper: RSF 2 Sep (JG), only report.

Whimbrel: 6 reports 3 Sep-23 Nov, mostly from e.

Hudsonian Godwit: JBWE 10 Sep; JBWR 17 Sep (JA); 3 JBWR 6-9 Oct.

Marbled Godwit: CCP 2 Sep (JG); JBWR 3, 5, 11, & 15 Sep; JBWE 3 Sep (KO'L); 2 JBWE 6 Sep (PL); OMNSA 6 Sep (MF); Shinn 24-25 Sep (SB); 4 PB 1-9 Oct (AM, mob); Shinn 8 Oct (AB).

Western Sandpiper: 2 JBWE 25 Oct (PL).

Baird's Sandpiper: 2 JBWR 2 Sep; 1 JBWR 4, 10, 11, & 13 Sep.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 10 Aquebogue 5 Sep (AB); max 30 Cutchogue 10 Oct (J&GF, JQ).

Purple Sandpiper: arr JBWE (via LIB) 13 Nov; arr MP 13 Nov (AB).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: widespread and numerous; max 9 RSF; last 4 Cutchogue 18 Sep.

Long-billed Dowitcher: 9 (8 ads, 1 juv) Massapequa Pres 5 Sep (K&SF); 18 (ads) Massapequa Pres 6 Sep (PL, SM); JBWR 10-11 Sep; juv Democrat Pt 16 Sep (PL, SM); 5+ JBWR 8 Oct.

Wilson's Snipe: arr 6 JBWR 24 Oct (AO, JL).

Wilson's Phalarope: JBWR 10, 11 & 13 Sep (TB, GB).

Red-necked Phalarope: 2 Great Kills Harbor 25 Oct (AF).

Laughing Gull: 20 Jones Inlet, last (PL, SM).

Black-headed Gull: imm Cutchogue Town Dump 17 Oct (PG), unusual location.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: clustered arrival probably related to Hurricane Ophelia: 2 ads DP 16 Sep (PL, SM); 2 sub-ad Shinn & 1 sub-ad Sag 16 Sep (AJL); sub-ad Oak Beach 18 Sep (JA); 5 records 9 Oct, southbound peak.

Black-legged Kittiwake: arr 3 MP 25 Nov.

Caspian Tern: widely reported 2 Sep-16 Oct; max 9 Sagg 3 Oct.

Royal Tern: max 50+ PB 6 Sep; last 2 Mecox 6 Nov (PL, SM).

SANDWICH TERN: 2 Dune Rd (AB).

Com. Tern: last JBWE 27 Nov

(PL, SM).

Forster's Tern: 15 Mecox 30 Oct;

last 6 Nov at Bayville (SSI) & Mecox (PL, SM).

Least Tern: last JBWE 6 Sep.

Black Tern: max 5 BP (date?); last & max 5 Robbins I 9 Oct.

Black Skimmer: active colony est 1100 Lido Beach overwashed 16 Sep, see *intro*; 49 Acabonac Harbor 17 Sep (CR); 250 JBWE 29 Sep.

Razorbill: 2 arr e LI 25 Nov.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: Montauk 26 Nov (RiM, RGo).

Mourning Dove: 200+ Upland Farm, Cold Spring Harbor (JG).

Monk Parakeet: reported away from Brooklyn strongholds: CP 4 Sep thru (DA); Sag Harbor feeder 15, 17 Sep (RW); PBP 6 Nov (PeG); & near Shinn 8, 21 Nov; 2 Bronx 14 Nov (ZH).

Black-billed Cuckoo: MLP 2 Nov (WM), late.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: RMSP 22 Oct (PL, SM).

Great Horned Owl: SI 18 Sep (JT).

Snowy Owl: arr CB 12 Nov (K&SF);

JBWE 19 Nov (mob), relocated to Gilgo and found there 20 Nov (PL, SM).

Long-eared Owl: CP 23 Oct (PJ); JBWE 12 Nov (fide AG).

Short-eared Owl: JBWE 20 Nov (PL, SM).

N. Saw-whet Owl: arr JBWR

28 Oct (JGi); JBWE 30 Oct.

Com. Nighthawk: total 300 Baiting Hollow thru 5 Oct (JC);

Chimney Swift: 50 RMSP 3 Sep (PL, SM); max 'several hundred' CP 27 Sep (fide NYC RBA); 2 BP 4 Nov (TF); JBWE 11 Nov (RJ), very late, *intro*.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 12 PP 11 Sep; CP 5 Nov (SIN), late.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2-3 imm Montauk 1 Oct (VB); juv FP 2 Oct (KM); imm CP 3 Oct; imm FINS LT 16 Oct (SM); Port Jefferson 6 Nov.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr CP 12 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: JBWE 7 and 9 Sep (DK).

E. Wood-Pewee: late reports: Montauk 18 Oct (VB); CP 24 Oct (TF); CP 5 Nov (PJ).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 11 rep from 6 locations, all west 1 Sep-24 Oct.

Alder Flycatcher: FINS LT 4 Sep (PL, SM), call heard.

Empidonax species: **PP 25 Nov (PD, ph).**

E. Phoebe: JBWE 4 Sep (SM), first migrant on barrier beach.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: Shore Rd P, Brooklyn 6-8 Nov (AxW); JBWE 7 Nov (JGi).

Western Kingbird: E Northport 2 Nov (KF); RMSP 5 Nov (SD, DT); Montauk 7 Nov (J&GF, JQ); JBSP 14 Nov (DW, StS); Montauk 25 Nov (VB).

E. Kingbird: max 75 RMSP 3 Sep (PL, SM); 60 RMSP 4 Sep (PL, SM); Montauk 2 Oct (PL, SM); last CP 3 Oct.

Yellow-throated Vireo: Weesuck Cr 17 Oct (ES); Barcelona Neck 19 Oct (SH); both late.

Blue-headed Vireo: PP 17 Nov, late.

Philadelphia Vireo: circa 24 rep from 13 loc, widespread 1-30 Sep; max 6 PP (date?) (RJ).

Red-eyed Vireo: CP 8 Nov (NYRBA), late.

Blue Jay: 35 MP 2 Oct, migr.

Tree Swallow: 2000 RMSP 18 Sep (PL, SM); 1000 JBWE 11 Nov (RJ).

Bank Swallow: 50 RMSP 3 Sep (PL, SM).

CAVE SWALLOW: JBWE 8 Nov (AG, EM, JL); JBWE 9 Nov (TF); JBWE 12 Nov (SW); 3 MP 11 Nov; 1 MP 13 Nov (AB); 2 PL 17 Nov (SJ); JBWE 18 Nov; *intro*.

Barn Swallow: max 600 JBWE 2 Sep (PL, SM); FINS LT 4 Nov (PL, SM); 3 BP 5 Nov (TF); JBWE 8 Nov (mob); RMSP 19 Nov (PL, SM); JBWR 21 Nov (RJ, SBI); additional reports mid Nov; *intro*.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 21 Dune Rd 4 Sep (AJL); 30 RMSP 4 Sep (PL, SM).

Marsh Wren: CP 22 Sep (BC); JBWR 21 Nov (RJ, SB).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 10 Sep: JBWR (RJ); JBWE (J&GF); RMSP (PL, SM).

NORTHERN WHEATEAR: FT 23 Oct (StS, LSw).

E. Bluebird: 8-10 MLP 30 Oct (RiM, ScJ).

Veery: 8 Gardiner's P 6 Sep (PL, SM).

Swainson's Thrush: E Quogue 4 Nov (OB), late.

Hermit Thrush: max 45 JBWE 27 Oct (PL).

Wood Thrush: CP 1 Nov (PP), late.

Am. Robin: roost of 675 CP 2 Sep (BC).

Am. Pipit: 2 JBWR 13 Sep (RG, DK); 6 DP 15 Sep (PL); 2 RMSP 18 Sep (PL, SM); Mecox Bay 25 Sep (KG), arr date for East End; 30 CCP 16 Oct (AB); 24 VCP 30 Oct (PeG, CL); 7 Hallockville 4 Nov (MLL).

Cedar Waxwing: 100 JBWE 2 Sep (PL, SM); 100 RMSP 3 Sep (PL, SM); 200 RMSP 4 Sep (PL, SM); 75 CHP 28 Sep (RV).

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: CHP 1 Sep (fide SIN); Bayard Cutting Arboretum 11 Sep; CP 1 Oct (fide TF); f CP 17-18 Oct (AL *et al.*), very late.

Tennessee Warbler: generally scarce in recent years, especially east; sev rep mid Sep: e.g., FINS LT 18 Sep (PL, SM); others from sev1 sites (mostly west) around this date.

Orange-crowned Warbler: 14 rep 13 Sep-13 Nov, widespread; max 3 CP 13 Nov.

Nashville Warbler: CP thru; PP 17 Nov.

N. Parula: CP thru 17 Nov.

Cape May Warbler: well reported, up to 3 per site per day; last CP 15 Oct.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: CP 13 Nov, late.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 8 JBWE 27 Nov (PL, SM), very low along barrier beach.

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER: FP 13-20 Nov (SA, mob), *intro*.

Black-throated Green Warbler: CP 10 Nov.

Palm Warbler: arr JBWE 4 Sep (SM); max 200 KP 17 Oct (AO).

Blackpoll Warbler: MP 6 Nov, late.

Black-and-white Warbler: Sears Bellows P 13 Nov (JG).

Worm-eating Warbler: Amagansett 17 Sep (HM).

Ovenbird: FT 21 Nov (RJ, SBl), late.

N. Waterthrush: CP thru at least 26 Nov.

Kentucky Warbler: CP 13 Sep (JD).

Connecticut Warbler: CP 3-5 Sep (PP), 7-8 Sep (fide LS), 17 Sep (PJ), and 5 Oct; APP 3 Sep (EM), 9-10 Sep (EM, mob), 13 Sep (EM), 22 Sep (2), and 24 Sep (AO); PP 5 Sep (AIB JZ), 24 Sep (ME), and 28 Sep (AxW); Riverside P 6 Sep (GN); JBWR 11 Sep (TB, GB); Muttontown Pres 18 Sep (PR); Setauket 3 Oct.

Mourning Warbler: 2 APP 3 Sep (JL, EM); JBWE 5 Sep (K&SF *et al.*); CP 10 Sep; APP 10-11 Sep; CHP 20 Sep; 2 PP

24 Sep (PD, AxW).

Hooded Warbler: 14 rep singles 5 loc, all western parks 4-17 Oct.

Yellow-breasted Chat: widely reported across Region thru Oct; Gilgo 18-20 Nov (JF, mob); CP 27 Nov.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: f JBWE 28 Sep (PL, SM); m CP 30 Sep (BH); m CP 15 Oct (TF).

Clay-colored Sparrow: OMNSA 13 Sep (MF, WO); 2 JBWE 19 Sep (SM, AW, mob), 1 continuing thru 25 Sep; 1-2 JBWE 1-12 Nov (mob), at least two individuals; PP 20-21 Sep; PP 25 Sep (EH); PP 16 Oct (PD); FT 3 Oct (TF, KW); RMSF 3 Oct (PL); VCP 16 Oct (PG); CP 16 Oct (StS); Caumsett SP 27 Oct; RMSF 29 Oct (DF); CSP 27 Nov (PL, SM).

Vesper Sparrow: 25+ rep, mostly west, 3 Oct-4 Nov, unusually numerous.

Lark Sparrow: JBWE 2 Sep (PL *et al.*); RMSF 18 Sep (MBB, EL); PP 21 Sep (IS); Shinn 5 Oct (RMcG); Kissena P 15 Oct (AO); FBF 19 Oct (TF).

"Ipswich" Sparrow: Shinn 9 Oct (AB); Sore Thumb 5 Nov SM, LS, SaS).

Grasshopper Sparrow: FINS LT 9-10 Oct (PL, SM); FT 28 Oct (SBl), unusual away from breeding sites.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: *subvirgatus* JBWR 9, 24 Oct (AO *et al.*); GKP 12-14 Nov (RiM, MSh).

Fox Sparrow: arr CP 16 Oct (StS); JBWR 16 Oct (StJ).

Song Sparrow: max 400 GKP 18 Oct (SIW).

Lincoln's Sparrow: 20 rep widespread 18 Sep- 4 Nov, unusually numerous; max 4 Montauk 17 Oct (AB).

White-throated Sparrow: arr Wagner College, SI 5 Sep (HF), early; max 1,000 Gilgo 21 Oct (ROP).

White-crowned Sparrow: imm JBWE 20 Sep (DK); Greenwood Cemetery 24 Sep (MZ); max 100+ Montauk 17 Oct (AB) & 15 Gilgo 21 Oct (ROP).

"GAMBEL'S" WHITE-CROWNED

SPARROW (R10): imm CSP

16 Oct (PL, SM ph); ad JBWE
7 Nov (mob, ph).

Lapland Longspur: arr RMSP

14 Oct (PL, SM); Shelter I 20 Oct
(MS); FBF 11 Nov (RJ); CB 11 Nov
(K&SF); VCP 25 Nov; GKP
28 Nov (SIW).

Snow Bunting: arr GKP 1 Nov (SIW);
60 JBWE 20 Nov (SM, PL), scarce
barrier beaches.

Blue Grosbeak: MLP, SI 17 Oct (RV);
JBSP 23 Oct (TB, GB et al); PP 12 Nov.

Indigo Bunting: 9 Bridgehampton 2 Oct
(PL, SM); 7 CP 13 Oct, high counts.

Dickcissel: 4 JBWE 2 Sep (PL, SM);
JBWE 10 Sep (PL, SM); 2 FINS LT
10 Sep (PL, SM); 2 RMSP 18 Sep (PL,
SM); JBWE 21 Sep (TB, mob); PP
24 Sep (ME); Dune Rd 5 Oct (RMcG);
CCP 16 Oct (AB); CBM 19 Oct (AG);
JBWE 23 Oct (TB).

Bobolink: 20 RMSP 3 Sep; 25 RMSP 4
Sep (PL, SM); 24 + Kissena P
20 Sep (JL, EM).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD

(R10): imm m Montauk Horse Farm
24-27 Sep (VB, mob).

Com. Grackle: roost of 271 CP
2 Sep, increased to “thousands”
mixed with EUST 30 Sep (BC).

Boat-tailed Grackle: 40 Shinn
19 Sep (PG).

Baltimore Oriole: max 50 each day
RMSP 3, 4 Sep (PL, SM); last CHP 27
Nov (MSh, SIW).

Purple Finch: 30 CCP 16 Oct (AB).

Pine Siskin: arr 8 FINS LT 16 Oct;
arr CCP 16 Oct; sev JBWE 25 Nov
(NYRBA).

EXOTICS

Ringed Turtle-Dove: JBWE 14 Sep and
later (JG, mob).

Mitred Parakeet: CP 16 Sep (PaP).

Pin-tailed Wych: imm JBWE 9 Sep
(DK), band on leg; ad m Kissena P 20
Sep (JL, EM), breeding plum.



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.

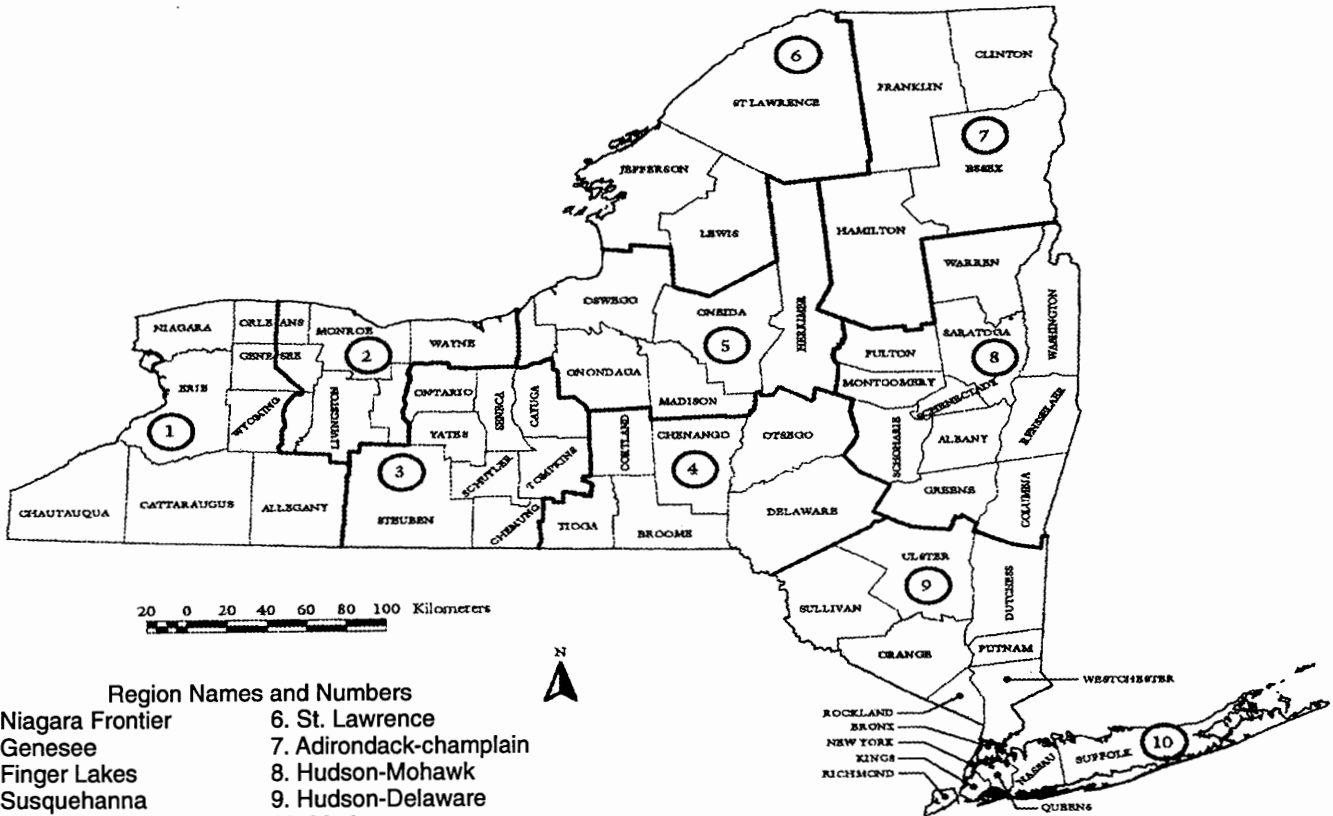
REPORTING DEADLINES

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



Region Names and Numbers

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Niagara Frontier | 6. St. Lawrence |
| 2. Genesee | 7. Adirondack-champlain |
| 3. Finger Lakes | 8. Hudson-Mohawk |
| 4. Susquehanna | 9. Hudson-Delaware |
| 5. Oneida Lake Basin | 10. Marine |

Editor of *THE KINGBIRD*

Shaibal S. Mitra
Biology Dept., College of Staten Island
2800 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314

Editor of *NEW YORK BIRDERS*

Tim Baird
242 E. State St., Salamanca, NY 14779

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Awards:

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John Confer
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Jeanne Skelly, Secretary for NYSARC
420 Chili-Scottsville Rd., Churchville, NY 14428

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Waterfowl Count:

Bryan L. Swift
NYSDEC Bureau of Wildlife
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Web Site:

Carena Pooth
22 Brothers Rd., Poughquag, NY 12570

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