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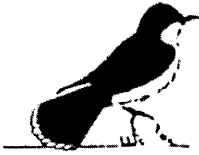
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# THE STATUS OF TRUMPETER SWANS IN NEW YORK STATE IN 2007

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The first reports of Trumpeter Swans (*Cygnus buccinator*) in NYS were of wing-tagged birds at Dunkirk Harbor, Chautauqua Co., in the fall of 1988. Since that time sightings have increased and breeding has been confirmed in at least six locations. Most likely, these NY birds are derived from two sources: the Ontario reintroduction program for this species, and a private reserve in Clyde, Wayne Co., NY where unbanded fledglings have been allowed to roam freely since around 1990. Although less likely, swans from reintroduction programs in Ohio, Michigan, and Minnesota could also be a source for NYS birds. According to the DEC, tagged Trumpeter Swans in NYS are presumed to be from the Canadian reintroduction program north of Lake Ontario. Although most of these programs style themselves as “reintroduction” or “restoration” programs, and they are referred to in this manner below, the original breeding distribution of this species remains a contentious subject (Carroll and Swift 2000; Whan 2000; Rising 2001).

In NY, the first known breeding outside of captivity occurred in 1995 at two sites, Perch River WMA in Jefferson Co., and in Arcadia Township, Wayne Co. They continue to breed at Perch River WMA and in various locations in Wayne Co. where there are a number of active nest sites (details follow). A more recent nesting site at Morristown, St. Lawrence Co., may have been established by the progeny of the Perch River population. Efforts to find documentation on the fate of young Trumpeter Swans from Perch River have been unsuccessful.

Trumpeter Swans are uncommon but are found annually in spring and fall in the bays and ponds along the Lake Ontario and Lake Erie shorelines; at the Northern Montezuma Wetland Complex; on inland ponds south of Lake Ontario and north of the NYS Thruway; and south of the St. Lawrence River. Figure 1 shows the approximate locations of confirmed nest sites and the overall area where Trumpeter Swans have been observed in spring, fall and winter seasons in western NYS.

Most birds found in winter are on the Lake Ontario or Lake Erie shorelines. As sightings have increased, about 20 to 30 birds are now reported annually in spring or fall, usually a mix of mostly unmarked and some tagged birds. In fall, Trumpeter Swans have gathered in Wayne Co. where the highest single count of 33 was recorded at a private reserve in the fall of 2005. Another high count of 27 individuals was tallied in a single group on the 2006 Montezuma NWR CBC. For further details, see discussion on Wayne Co.

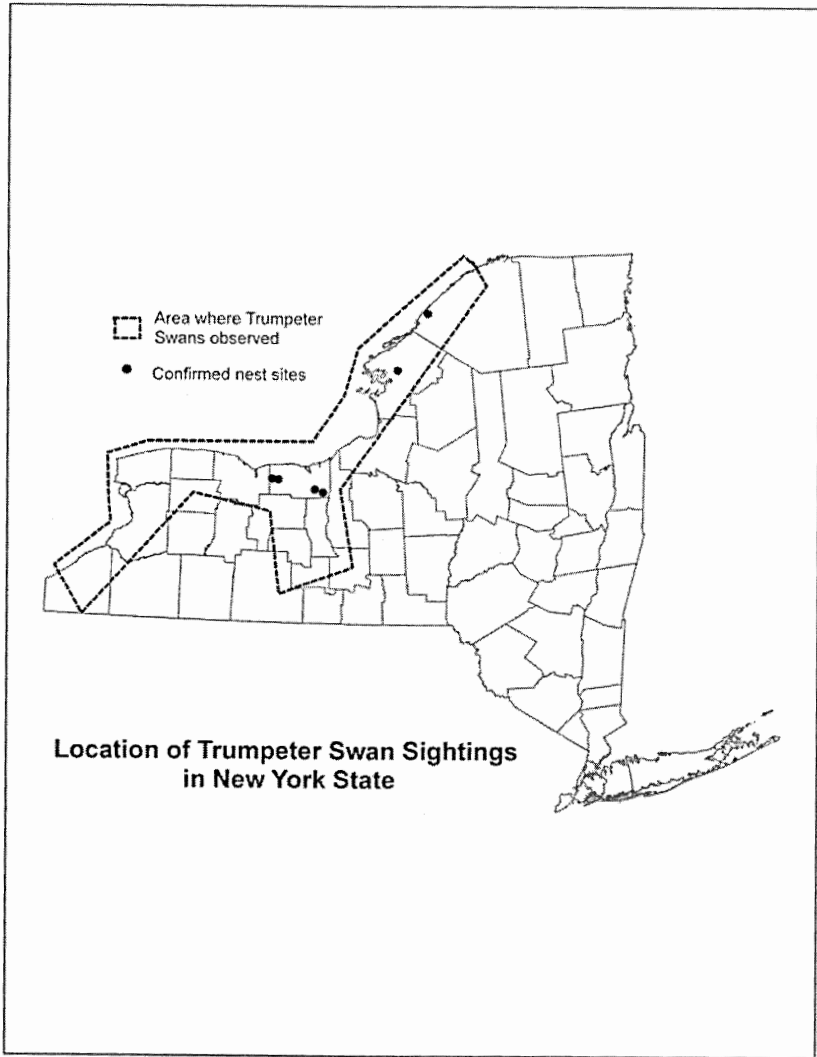


Figure 1. Distribution of Trumpeter Swans (*Cygnus buccinator*) in New York, through 2007.

## WAYNE COUNTY NESTING RECORDS

To date, there are at least four confirmed breeding locations for Trumpeter Swan in Wayne Co. The initial nesters were birds introduced at the Savannah Dhu, a 5000-acre private reserve at 2500 Noble Rd. in Clyde, NY, in 1990; one or possibly two pairs have been breeding there annually ever since. The original birds were pinioned but subsequent breeding pairs there are all free ranging. As an example of nesting success, single nests in 2005 and 2006 produced six cygnets each year.

The Savannah Dhu location has served as a most likely source for other Wayne Co. pairs. The longest known nesting site outside this private reserve is near the property of Don Colvin on Hogback Rd. just south of Rt. 31 in the township of Savannah, where one pair has successfully bred annually since 2002. This property contains a large pond, islands and a marsh, all visible from Hogback Rd. Six cygnets were hatched in 2007; four remained by the end of June.

Another pair has bred in a marshy area behind the home at 4427 Boynton Rd., Walworth, in 2004, 2005, and 2006 and has fledged cygnets successfully in both 2004 and 2005. A third pair outside of the reserve has bred in a marshy creek overflow north of Atlantic Ave. (NY Rt. 286) just east of Town Line Rd. in the town of Walworth, from 2003 to 2007. They produced cygnets in at least one year, 2005 (R. Spahn; NYSARC, in review). None of these nesting swans has been observed with any wing tags or bands. These three confirmed breeding sites are documented in the NYS Breeding Bird Atlas (in press) and are all believed to pertain to progeny of the birds from the Savannah Dhu reserve. There are almost certainly other active nest sites in Wayne and the surrounding county that are not documented.

## WAYNE COUNTY NON-BREEDING RECORDS

The largest single group of Trumpeter Swans recorded in NYS occurred in 2005 at the Savannah Dhu reserve, where 33 were seen in late fall (B. Lainhart, pers. comm.). During the Montezuma NWR Christmas Bird Count on 31 December 2006, a single group of 27 Trumpeter Swans was counted on Armatage Rd. and Vanderbilt Marsh (adjacent to each other). This group was a mix of adults and immatures; none of these carefully identified birds were wing-tagged (W. Gillette, R. Spahn, pers. comm.). Other Trumpeter Swans were reported on this CBC as well.

According to the most recent information from the Montezuma NWR and the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area, there has not been any confirmed breeding at these locations, but both are near the main source of swans in Wayne Co., the Savannah Dhu reserve (L. Ziemba, pers. comm.), and could host future nesting sites. Frequently, young swans will remain into early winter in the area of the Savannah River on the Northern Montezuma WMA. In

2006, seven were seen daily in this area for some time after the CBC mentioned above.

## **REINTRODUCTION PROGRAMS IN THE NORTHEAST AND MIDWEST**

### ***Ontario***

The Ontario reintroduction program was initiated by Harry Lumsden in 1982. The first free-ranging pair of Trumpeter Swans to successfully breed raised young in 1993 at Wye Marsh, about 80 miles north of Toronto. This location continues to host a concentration of the swans. The total Ontario population was estimated to be 406 at the end of 2002. As of late 2006, a total of 835 Trumpeter Swans had been released in the province. The population in the field reached 552 in southern Ontario, about 40 in eastern Ontario and a few in northern Ontario. Although a few are still being released, the Ontario program's focus has shifted to managing the existing wild-breeding swans (K. Ross, Canadian Wildlife Service, pers. comm.).

At Wye Marsh, swans are fed a mixture of corn and duck grower pellets twice daily, both to provide a reliable source of food, and so that volunteers can more easily record swan tag numbers. The feeding program continues to the present time.

### ***Michigan***

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reintroduction program began in 1986 as part of the North American Restoration Plan. Released swans in Michigan are fitted with yellow collars with black lettering. The largest concentration of this species is found in the Upper Peninsula around Seney NWR, where 230 birds were counted in 2005. The total state census for that fall was 728 Trumpeter Swans and included 188 cygnets. The Little River Band of the Ottawa Indians released six Trumpeter Swans on the Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore during the summer of 2007. This release is expected to be the last in Michigan (J. Johnson, pers. comm.).

The Michigan program is conducting a statewide Trumpeter Swan census every 10 years, with the next scheduled to occur in 2010. Data collected so far indicate a growth rate in the state's swan population of 18% per year, although an increase in juvenile mortality in recent years may slow down that growth rate. Bald Eagles are reportedly a major predator of young swans in Michigan.

### ***Minnesota***

The Hennepin Park reintroduction program began in 1966, where the flock had increased to 100 birds by the 1980s. During the winter of 1988-89 20% of the flock died from lead poisoning.

The Minnesota DNR began a statewide reintroduction program in 1982. The first free-flying swans to produce young did so in 1988. As of 2004, the Minnesota flock consisted of approximately 2000 swans. Most of these birds remain in Minnesota throughout the year, although some move to Iowa or other adjacent states. Of the Minnesota flock, approximately 100 pairs were considered “wild” in 2004, producing an estimated 250 cygnets.

Birds released by the Minnesota DNR are marked with orange wing tags with black lettering. Swans released in Minnesota dispersed to the Kenora District of Ontario, where they were discovered nesting in 1989.

### ***Wisconsin***

The Wisconsin DNR reintroduction program began in 1987. In 1989, swans from Minnesota’s Hennepin Park nested in Wisconsin, raising two young and producing the state’s first record of nesting free-flying birds in recent history. Currently, there are about 36 nesting pairs in central and northern Wisconsin.

### ***Ohio***

The Ohio reintroduction program was started relatively recently. In 2005, 25 pairs were found; 10 out of 16 nests were successful. At the end of 2005, 105 Trumpeter Swans were counted in Ohio.

### ***Iowa***

The first free-flying swans to nest in Iowa were recorded in 1998. Most swans released in Iowa remain there during the winter, but some have dispersed to Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Minnesota. One released swan flew to Colorado for the winter, then to Minnesota the following summer (a distance of > 1300 miles). A male released in Iowa flew to Ontario, where it paired with a female; this pair nested along the north shore of Lake Ontario.

Iowa is the only state still releasing swans (J. Johnson, pers. comm.); these Iowa birds are fitted with green and red neck collars.

### ***Survival and mortality associated with reintroduction programs***

Trumpeter Swans, which form strong pair bonds, normally do not breed until their fourth year and introduced birds will “imprint” on the release area. Reintroduction programs in Ontario, Iowa, and elsewhere have reported higher-than-expected mortality, although precise mortality rates seem to be unavailable. Lead poisoning has been a cause of death of birds in Minnesota. After studies in Minnesota in the mid 1980s showed that high winter mortality for introduced Trumpeter Swans was caused by the lack of available winter grain, winter feeding was initiated. Surveys at Seney NWR in Michigan have reported high juvenile mortality rates caused by predation, averaging 80% in 2005. The predators included snapping turtles, mammals, and Bald Eagles. Predation levels of cygnets drop with higher water levels in ponds (Henslee 2005). Few swans other than released birds have been tagged, so it has not been possible to track individual birds to determine their fates after hatching.



There is no demographic information available on the Ontario population, making it difficult to evaluate whether this population could be self-sustaining. Anecdotal information from Ontario and elsewhere suggests that more swans are being produced and surviving to reproductive age than are dying, but this seems not to be well documented.

## **CONCLUSION**

Trumpeter Swans that have been observed in NYS since the late 1980s appear to have come from two sources: the Ontario reintroduction program and the Savannah Dhu private game reserve in Wayne Co., NY. Largely circumstantial evidence suggests that swans nesting in Wayne, Jefferson, and St. Lawrence counties ultimately derived from the progeny of the swans at this game reserve. Populations of Trumpeter Swans introduced into Ontario and several Midwestern states all appear to be increasing steadily, and the number of breeding pairs in NY appears to be growing as well, albeit slowly. These trends suggest that a self-sustaining population may one day occur in NY, but it is too early to state this with any certainty, given the long lifespan of the species, poorly known demographic characteristics such as productivity and recruitment, and the degree of human assistance many introduced swans receive. Unfortunately, it may be many more years before questions about whether Trumpeter Swan populations in NY and elsewhere in northeastern North America can be reliably answered. Until such time, we believe it is premature to consider Trumpeter Swans as being established in NY, which is a requirement for adding the species to the official New York State checklist.

## **CHRONOLOGY OF TRUMPETER SWANS IN NEW YORK STATE**

### **1988**

First Trumpeter Swans from Ontario reintroduction program observed in New York, at Dunkirk Harbor, Chautauqua Co.

### **1990**

Earliest documented year in which Trumpeter Swans were raised at Savannah Dhu, a private game reserve in Wayne Co. Original breeding adults pinioned, but young allowed to move freely.

### **1993**

First breeding season observation of a free-flying Trumpeter Swan in NYS recorded in Wayne Co.

**1995**

First confirmed successful nesting of free-ranging Trumpeter Swans in NYS, with one pair raising two young (originally identified as Tundra Swans) at Perch River WMA in Jefferson Co., and another pair raising four young in Arcadia, Wayne Co.

**1996**

Pair at Perch River WMA, now confirmed as Trumpeter Swans, raise two young and have nested successfully every year since.

**2004**

Pair of swans with six young discovered in Morristown, St. Lawrence Co.

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# GUIDELINES FOR THE ADMISSION OF EXOTIC SPECIES TO THE NEW YORK STATE CHECKLIST

## New York State Avian Records Committee

Roger Tory Peterson, in an article he wrote for *Birder Watcher's Digest* (Peterson 2006) gave a brief history of efforts to introduce foreign bird species into the United States. Prior to 1900, 150 species had been intentionally set free in North America. In New York City, the American Acclimatization Society was just one group that was active in this area. Acclimatization societies sprang up in other cities such as Cincinnati, Ohio and Portland, Oregon. For at least a short time period, some of these introduced species prospered. The Sky Lark and the European Goldfinch were both regarded as established on Long Island (Cruickshank 1942; Bull 1964). The Sky Lark survived for 25 years and the European Goldfinch for nearly 50 years (Bull 1964) before each was extirpated. Other species thrived and expanded and are well known to us today: Ring-necked Pheasant, Rock Pigeon, European Starling, House Sparrow, and a few others. The Lacey Act of 1900 stopped the intentional introduction of exotics but accidental releases continue to this day.

Exotics are defined as non-domesticated birds introduced by humans into areas beyond their natural geographic ranges, through intentional releases or accidental escapes from captivity. Exotic species occur in wild situations in New York by a variety of means, including natural range expansion from populations established elsewhere, state-sponsored introduction programs, accidental or intentional releases from game farms or hunt clubs, and escapes from pet stores, homes, farms, or exotic collections. The key to determining whether exotic species belong on the New York State checklist is the degree to which it can be documented that the species has established a persistent, self-sustaining wild population.

For an exotic species to be recognized as part of an avifauna outside of its natural range, a population must be sufficiently well established in the wild that there is no foreseeable threat of extirpation. Two important supporting points are that the population be able to persist in the wild without direct human assistance and to survive "boom and bust cycles" common to bird populations. In turn, the admission of a particular exotic species to the New York State Checklist depends further on either the presence of established populations within the state, or on the natural occurrence within the state of individuals derived from an established population elsewhere. It is important to keep in mind that "establishment" is not necessarily implied by the presence of active nests in the state, which have been reported in New York for various exotic species over the years. It is also important to note that populations established in one state can furnish acceptable records in another state, via dispersal or vagrancy, as was the case for the acceptance of Eurasian Collared-Dove to the New York State Checklist (NYSARC 2004, p. 295).

To the best of our knowledge, Florida and California are the only states with explicit guidelines on the admission of exotic species to their statewide checklists. The ABA checklist committee has drafted new criteria for judging the status of exotic birds in the ABA area and will publish these in the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the ABA Checklist, due by 31 January 2008. The NYS guidelines described here are based on the ABA guidelines, with some minor modifications. Those wishing a more detailed discussion of the rationales supporting these criteria are encouraged to read the updated ABA guidelines once they are published.

## **CRITERIA FOR THE ADMISSION OF EXOTIC SPECIES TO THE NYS CHECKLIST**

1. Occurrence of the species in NYS is well documented in the form of a published photograph, a specimen archived in an ornithological collection, or written documentation from at least two observers, in accordance with existing NYSARC guidelines for any addition to the NYS Checklist.
2. The acceptable NYS record(s) described above are derived from an established population, defined as follows:
  - a. There is a contiguous population of interacting individuals.
  - b. The population is not currently nor is likely to be subject to an eradication effort that is likely to succeed.
  - c. The population is large enough to survive a routine amount of mortality and nest failure, including the expected “boom and bust” cycles. Additionally, there should be no indication that ongoing releases play a substantial role in population maintenance.
  - d. Sufficient offspring are being produced to maintain or increase the population.
  - e. The population has been present for a minimum of 15 years, although some species may require more time for establishment. The precise number of years a species must be present will be determined on a case-by-case basis, depending largely on the demographic characteristics of the species in question, but will always be at least 15 years.
  - f. The population is not directly dependent on human support.
3. A publication describes how, when, and where the criteria stated above have been met.

## ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

### *Records Following Extirpation of an Exotic Species from the State*

In the event that an established exotic is no longer breeding or present in the state or if the population falls below some threshold number, NYSARC will review the acceptance of any individuals seen in the state on a case-by-case basis by adding the species to the review list.

### *Accidental Records of Exotic Populations from other States*

Established populations of exotic species in neighboring states will be regarded as potential sources of natural dispersants or vagrants to New York State. Such records may be accepted by NYSARC if they are judged to be derived from the established source rather than a non-established population or recently released captive birds.

### *Exotic Report Log*

Since the recording of any exotic species in the state is considered important information, it is the judgment of NYSARC that the Kingbird Regional Editors should include exotics in their quarterly Kingbird reports. This information will serve as an historic database for any future analysis. Birders are therefore encouraged to report exotic species that they encounter in the field, along with any information on behavior or location that might shed light on a bird's status (e.g., wild, feral, intentionally released, recently escaped, or domesticated).

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank the Checklist Committee of the American Birding Association for sharing their revised guidelines in advance of the publication of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of their *Checklist*.

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## 23 MINUTES OF MOOD

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The temperature is in the 60s, the sky is gray and a light mist is beginning to fall. Days like this are heaven sent for my light-sensitive eyes. I can see colors, textures—really the whole landscape—better than I can in bright sun. Approaching the pond where I live, I focus my binoculars on the smooth-as-glass water covered with large islands of soaked willow leaves.

Suddenly, a kingfisher flies out and crashes into the water, then flies to a plump willow on the other side of the pond. There, partially hidden by a curtain of leaves, it has its snack. Five mallards are paddling about in the water. The pond and its denizens have just become my sole focus of attention and without realizing it I'm slipping into a subconscious mood of intense focus and pure serenity.

Some 60 yards away, partially hidden by the leaves of a willow tree, I spy what may be a branch—or is that the kingfisher? I inch my way across the front of the pond. From under a tree I have my best view. The form appears black and white with a dagger bill. No doubt about it, this is my guy. Or is it a female? Now the mist turns to drizzle and the willow tree under which I'm standing becomes an umbrella.

The kingfisher flies from the cover of its tree to a bare branch of another willow that hangs out over the water. It is the female. Her rust breast band is dark and the rust creeping out by her sides is light. The rich rust playing against the subtle charcoal gray is a study in contrast; she's a dusky beauty. At this pond, the kingfisher is the most difficult bird to see, but there's a better chance with this female as she is more active than her male counterpart. The kingfisher is my wife's favorite bird and she'll want a report. The spot on the branch where she perches is worn smooth, unlike the rest of the limb and the other branches whose old bark is moss-stained. This is an often-used perch, perhaps the kingfishers' favorite one. Odd how I've noticed this smooth spot before but never really saw it. The mood has heightened my awareness.

A lone mallard is swimming toward me leaving a V in the water. It soon stops. The duck is moving a seed ball around rapidly in its bill. The ball spills into the water where it floats; the mallard wants no part of it. Soon she approaches some tall bent reeds that have dried yellow seed clusters at their ends. She pecks at two of them but wants no part of them either; perhaps their texture is too rough. She now comes up on the grass so close to me that I can't focus binoculars on her. And I can't take my eyes off her either. The bill is so dark, the eyes and demeanor so trusting. With the naked eye, the neck is thinner and the body smaller than when seen through binoculars. There are tiny clear raindrops on her back, recalling the proverbial "like water off a duck's back".

The mallard paddles away and my eyes fall on new grasses just starting to grow in the water. The serene mood, which has come over me unawares, now reaches through to conscious thought. Leaning on the fence, looking out over the pond just staring at everything, I'm aware that my inner being has suddenly slowed. A silent voice in me says "What more could you ask for on a day like today?" But more is coming.

Suddenly the form of a large bird appears over the pond. At first it looks to be a great blue heron, but no—guess again. The bird, a Canada Goose, starts to circle over the pond. The aspect of long wings, bulky body and sharply angular webbed feet descends lower and lower toward me. Not many of these guys frequent the pond. The goose lands and dips its long neck in the water, then begins to make a continuous sound like it is calling another. That other never comes, and the sound is the only one I hear besides an occasional passing car. The calling becomes soft background music in my half-dreamy, half-focused world.

Now real raindrops start to fall: through the tree to my hair, to my scalp and the shoulders of my tee shirt. The rain would have caused a clear thinking person to leave. But not one in my mood. From a distance, the falling drops on the water look like hail. The closer ones raise high clear bubbles. Now the rain turns serious, pelting the pond and covering it with ripples. I don't even feel myself getting wetter.

The mallard has gone over towards the calling Canada Goose and seems to be trying to feed in its wake. Another duck has joined it and they both paddle away, their broad beams receding like slow moving tugboats. On the far shore, what looks like a yellowlegs flies in. My binoculars are covered with rain and I can't be sure. I'm getting really wet now. Rationality takes my hand and I reach for my plastic bags, carried from a nearby farm stand. But my dusky kingfisher's not going anywhere, nor are the mallards. Why should I? The silent voice inside me says, "these are birds and they've got feathers, you don't." The same voice says "OK, stay a minute more and then get outta here." In that minute the rain starts to abate. The Canada Goose takes off and flies over the trees.

The kingfisher now makes it easy for me to leave. She turned around a few minutes ago, always her prelude to leaving. Now she's winging it halfway across the pond, now disappearing into the recesses of a fat willow tree. At least she has the sense to get out of the rain. The voice in my head wishes her good-bye and says, "I'll be back to enjoy you again." With my main attraction gone I get ready to leave, but first I check my watch. It's been 23 minutes since I got here; 23 minutes of pure subliminal mood. It seems longer. I savor the time for the rest of the afternoon. My wife is thrilled about the discovery of the perch and the chance to catch a glimpse of the birds again. Several days later, now in bright sunshine, I look at the smooth spot on the branch where the kingfisher perched. Suddenly this ordinary place feels like a special sanctuary. 23 minutes of mood.

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

### NEW YORK'S FIRST WESTERN GREBE REVISITED

A Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) first discovered on Tupper Lake, St. Lawrence County on July 2, 1978 remained through early October of that year (Delehanty 1978), was observed and photographed by many birders, and was eventually accepted by NYSARC as the first documented record for New York (NYSARC 1979). After the American Ornithologist's Union (1985) split Western Grebe into the nominate dark form and the pale Clark's Grebe (*A. clarkia*), some confusion arose regarding the identity of the Tupper Lake grebe. The primary source of this confusion was a black-and-white photograph in *The Kingbird* (Delehanty 1978) that did not reproduce well and appeared to show a grebe with substantial white around the eye and a very pale bill. To some birders, this photo suggested that New York's first Western Grebe was in fact a Clark's.

Had it been feasible for *The Kingbird* to print a high-quality color reproduction of the original photograph, it is unlikely that anybody would have thought that this bird might be a Clark's Grebe. In the original color photo, the dark cap clearly surrounds the eye, the lores are dark, the bill is dusky olive-yellow, and the flanks are dark with very little white. This combination of traits indicates Western Grebe, and nothing visible in the color photo suggests Clark's. The photo is reproduced here in color (Figure A, p. 48).

As of 2003, the most recent year for which NYSARC has published their findings, 8 Western Grebe records have been accepted for New York, with several more reports pending review; there are no accepted records of Clark's Grebe for New York. These 8 records have come from widely scattered locations throughout the state during at least 10 months of the year, suggesting that Western Grebe might show up on any body of water and at any time. The Tupper Lake grebe is the only accepted New York record from summer, however; all others have been seen between November and May.

Few eastern *Aechmophorus* grebe reports predating the 1985 split included sufficient details to distinguish the two species, but for nearly two decades after the split all well documented sightings along the east coast proved to be of Westerns. This changed in late 2002 when a Clark's Grebe was photographed on the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia (Ilf 2003), and another Clark's was documented in coastal Maine in 2005 (Perkins 2005). Although undocumented in New York, birders should consider the possibility that any *Aechmophorus* grebe that turns up may be a Clark's, and recognize that the existence of hybrids and birds showing intermediate plumage complicates identification. Observers are strongly encouraged to study carefully any presumed Western or Clark's Grebe found in New York, paying close attention to all traits that distinguish these species, as reliance on a single characteristic such as bill color can lead to an incorrect identification. As always, anyone encountering either of these species is encouraged to document the observation, preferably with photographs, and submit a report to NYSARC.



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## A COMMON RAVEN ON LONG ISLAND

On 13 August 2006, I was walking a trail on the Frick Estate (Nassau County Fine Arts Museum) when I began hearing a series of vocalizations that sounded like a Common Raven. I was surprised to say the least. Over the last 30 years I have often observed and listened to ravens out west and in the mountains from New York to Maine. I realize that it is quite rare for one to show up on Long Island at any time. The vocalizations appeared to be coming from a massive tower and series of platforms adjoining the property. Unfortunately the bird was not visible at this time. From about 12:00 to 16:00 EDT, I remained in the area, birding, running and reading. The vocalizations continued intermittently, especially when other large birds passed over the tower (two separate Turkey Vultures and a Red-tailed Hawk.) There was a pretty strong cold front passing, with NW winds. I saw no crows in the area and I heard none. At no time did this bird utter any crow-like utterances. All the varied vocalizations were those I associate with ravens.

Finally, from 16:00-17:00 the bird began appearing. I saw it perching on the top tower platform from time to time, once sidling up to a recently fledged Osprey that had landed, allowing a nice size comparison. The raven appeared to be the same size as the "stubby" fledgling. I also witnessed over 10 brief flights with the bird making a brief circle and returning to the top or second platform where it was often out of sight. I did look for and note the wedge-shaped tail in flight and the heavy bill when the bird perched. Although this sighting is unusual, I do note that this tower is the closest thing to a cliff in the area, is clearly visible from the Connecticut shore, and is close to the Roslyn viaduct, a prominent bridge (now under reconstruction.) If I were an adventuresome raven that crossed the Long Island Sound on NW winds, this is probably where I'd wind up. I reported the sighting to Anthony J. Lauro, of the New York Rare

Bird Alert. On subsequent visits (about eight over the next three months) I saw and heard nothing of this bird. However, on 27 November 2006, about 16:00 EST I again heard a Common Raven on the tower and watched it perched and in flight over about 15 minutes, after which time I lost track of it and didn't hear or see it over the next hour. I had no subsequent sightings on three more visits through the end of 2006.

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## **A SEDGE WREN AT DEMOCRAT POINT, SUFFOLK COUNTY, LONG ISLAND**

While birding at Democrat Point, Suffolk County on 1 October 2006, I had an interesting ID challenge. Past the jetty, in some small tufts of beach grass, I flushed a wren, which immediately flew into the next tuft and disappeared. This charade went on for fifteen minutes before the bird flew and landed on the sand for a full minute. It was very light below, had a prominent eyeline, and was *continuously bobbing up and down*. It then flew back into the tufts of beach grass where it positively refused to be viewed again. The weather was spitting rain and the horizon looked extremely threatening. In fact I was soaked by the time I got back to my car.

Parked next to me was Bob Paxton whom I had not seen in decades. I told him about the wren and we agreed that it warranted returning and looking for it. It was raining heavily so we both left and said we would return when the weather improved. I returned about 13:30 EDT. I showed Bob the tufts of grass where I had seen the bird, and sure enough something scurried into the next tuft. As in my earlier encounter, the bird would not flush unless you literally stepped on the actual blades of grass in which it was hiding. After much trouble, we finally were able to briefly view it on the ground and determined that it was definitely a Sedge Wren—not the spectacular Rock Wren I was hoping for, but a great bird nonetheless.

At the request of Region 10 Editor Shai Mitra, who noted that Sedge Wrens have been documented on Long Island very rarely in recent decades, both Bob and I assembled field notes documenting the bird's appearance. Bob Paxton noted, "This bird had the general shape and size of a House Wren, or was a little smaller, but this bird bobbed when it was excited. Bill slender. General coloration slightly darker than House Wren but not as dark as Winter Wren. Paler on the breast. Whitish line over the eye. Crown with fine streaks lengthwise. Also coarser streaking at the top of the back. Flanks buff. We ruled out Marsh Wren by the streaked crown and the buff sides, House Wren by the crown and back streaks, and Winter Wren by the slightly longer tail and absence of barred flanks. It was much too small and dark for a Rock Wren and lacked

that species' patterned tail. The bird did not make any call notes and was still there when we left."

My immediate impression was of a wren, close in size to a House Wren, but rather different from that familiar species. The bird was very light below especially near the throat, with very prominent buffy flanks, which contrasted with the rest of the light underparts. It showed a prominent buffy supercilium and a lightly streaked crown. Its barred primaries and tail were quite visible. As noted above, this bird was extremely secretive and mouse-like. At times, it seemed to be running, not hopping. When out in the open, it continuously bobbed its entire body up and down. I am intimately familiar with Marsh Wren. This bird not only differed from Marsh Wren in terms of its streaked crown and other features, but it presented a different jizz overall. I have seen Sedge Wrens twice before, both in October, in Sands Point, Nassau County.

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# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON – SUMMER 2006

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## THE WEATHER

June was seemingly offered an either/or proposition across the state – it was either dry, but warmer than normal (Regions 1 and 2), or about normal for temperature and exceedingly wet (pretty much everywhere else). Precipitation comments from various regions pointed to how extreme the rainfall was: Region 3 – “Rainfall... 194% of normal”; Region 4 – “the wettest month on record... almost one-third of the normal rainfall for an entire year”; Region 5 – “Old Forge had 8” of rain over three days in June”. The warm weather expanded to cover the entire state in July. July continued to be wet as well, with at least five Regions reporting rainfall totals in excess of 1” above normal. Region 2 led the way by tallying its third highest July precipitation total, 5.09” above normal. The resulting flooding from all this rain directly affected a number of breeding birds; for more on this, see below and the Regional reports. In most areas, August moderated somewhat in both temperature and precipitation, although central and southern Regions 3, 4, 9, and 10 continued to suffer from high rainfall totals.

## BREEDING BIRDS

This was the first summer after the completion of the “Atlas 2000” project, which ran from 2000 through 2005, and many of the Regional reports commented on a corresponding decrease in observer activity, and, subsequently, reports. In addition, the heavy rainfall and flooding experienced by a number of Regions may have adversely affected nesting success of some species, although the resulting heavy food crops may have benefited species later in the season. Despite the possibly negative factors, reports of breeding birds made up a large portion of the Regional reports as usual for the summer season, and a number of interesting records were found.

For the second consecutive summer, a small colony of breeding Dickcissels was found in Niagara County in Region 1. At least four birds were found as well as one confirmed and one probable nest. Unfortunately, the nest with young was destroyed when the town mowed the roadside ditch in which it was located. A pair of Dickcissels was also found at the Oswego County Airport in Fulton, Region 5. Breeding activity was noted but nesting was not confirmed. This was the first breeding season record of Dickcissel in the Region since 1937.

The continuing sporadic presence of small numbers of Dickcissels in the state may be due to continued drought in the Midwest.

Dickcissels did not return to last year's locations in Sharon Springs in Region 8, but the private grasslands in the area remained productive for other grassland species. Upland Sandpipers, Sedge Wrens, Henslow's Sparrows, Grasshopper Sparrows, and Bobolinks were all found again this year. Unfortunately, some of these lands are apparently slated for development, another incremental loss of critical habitat. In total, Henslow's Sparrows were reported in small numbers from six locations in five Regions, with a maximum of nine at Fort Drum in Region 6. Clay-colored Sparrows were also reported from five Regions, mainly from previously known breeding locations, and again the largest numbers were from Fort Drum, where 35 singing males were more than double last summer's count there. Other reports of grassland birds included a nice count of 47 Grasshopper Sparrows in Horseheads in Region 3 and generally gloomy statements on the status of Eastern Meadowlarks and Upland Sandpipers. Sedge Wrens were found in three Regions, including the Region 8 site mentioned above. The highest numbers were in Region 6, where numbers increased during the season, resulting in six reports, all but one of multiple singing males. The Region 8 report also includes a short discussion of some of the conservation issues involved in maintaining grassland habitat for these declining nesters.

Once again, Merlins highlighted the nesting raptor reports, as the species continues to expand as a suburban breeder in New York State. Following last year's first Region 1 breeding records, nesting activity was recorded at the same two locations, as well as at a new location near the traditional Merlin roost at the SUNY Buffalo campus. Other noteworthy nests were found in Regions 2 and 3, and increased numbers were widely reported elsewhere. Nesting Peregrine Falcons were reported in Regions 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 and 10. Territorial Northern Goshawks were noted in Region 1, but the handful of reports elsewhere did not reference breeding activity. A Cooper's Hawk nest on Staten Island in Region 10, noted as the second Staten Island record since the 1950s, was locally significant, and emblematic of the species' continuing success. The most notable breeding owl reports were of Short-eared Owl in Region 6, the first documented nesting there since 2001, and Long-eared Owls in Region 8 which fledged four young. Three Long-eared Owls in Region 1 in July were the only other report of the species this season and the date also suggests local breeding.

Common Nighthawk reports referred mainly to northbound or southbound migrants, including several Regions reported encouraging increases. Several sightings in Region 1 throughout June and July may be evidence of continued nesting on some level. Nightjar surveys on Fort Drum in Region 6 recorded maximum single-route counts of 27 Whip-poor-wills and 15 Common Nighthawks. Apart from 25 Whip-poor-wills counted in mid-June in Suffolk County, Region 10, numbers elsewhere were low.

Golden-winged Warbler reports were abysmal, with none reported from Regions 1, 2, and 4, and only single birds reported from Regions 3 and 5. A maximum of six were reported from Fort Drum in Region 6, where the species outnumbers Blue-winged Warbler by a roughly two-to-one ratio; this compares

unfavorably, however, with the 40 counted there last summer. The Region 1 report notes that it is “telling that there were more reports of Brewster’s Warbler... and Lawrence’s Warbler than Golden-winged”. One or both of these hybrid combinations was reported from seven Regions this season. Other breeding warblers reported this season include Yellow-throated Warblers in Regions 1 and Region 3; Prothonotary Warbler at traditional breeding locations in Regions 1 and 5; and Yellow-breasted Chats in Regions 1, 2, 3 and 10. A Kentucky Warbler was reported on a single date in mid-June from Region 9. Prairie Warbler continues to increase in western and central Regions, with good counts from Regions 1, 2, and 3, and good numbers of Pine Warblers were noted in Regions 1 and 5. In Region 10, a pair of Northern Parulas exhibited behavior suggesting a nest nearby. This report continues a trend of mid-summer sightings from eastern Long Island, but is noteworthy in that most prior reports were of territorial males rather than a pair.

The extent of the season’s extreme precipitation and flooding on breeding success can’t be known with certainty, although there were some obvious visible failures. The Ring-billed Gull colony in the Chemung River in Region 3 was decimated twice by rising floodwaters, in early and late June. Many pairs re-nested after the first flood, but there was no additional breeding activity noted after the second washout. A number of dead Tree Swallow nestlings were seen in floodwaters in Region 4, and in Region 5 many Common Loon nests were lost in Herkimer County. Observational evidence included impressions from Regions 3, 4 and 6 that ground-nesting species and waterfowl were down in numbers following the heavy rains.

Trumpeter Swans were reported from Regions 2, 3, and 6, including pairs with seven young in both Regions 2 and 6. Mute Swans continued to increase in Region 2; a single pair also nested in Region 1, and Region 10 had a high count of 325 at Jamaica Bay in late July. The increased numbers of Mute Swans in Region 2 are thought to adversely affect the breeding success there of other waterfowl. This season both American Black Duck and Blue-winged Teal, historically common nesters, were unreported as breeders in the Region. The most interesting breeding duck report was of Common Eiders which nested near Fisher’s Island in Long Island Sound in Region 10. On 2 June at least 12 young were observed as well as a female Eider still on the nest.

Gallinaceous birds were scarcely mentioned this season, making it difficult to determine which species might be declining as opposed to a post-Atlas lack of observer or documentation effort. Ring-necked Pheasant was described as “scarce” in Region 2. The only Northern Bobwhite reports were three from Region 9, including two dozen at a New City, Rockland County feeder in August. Ruffed Grouse was noted as having “very few broods”, post-floods, in Region 6. There was one report of Spruce Grouse, from Region 7, and the species was specifically mentioned as unreported for the season in Region 6. Another factor making it difficult to determine the true status of some species is the annual release of hunting stock and releases through various reintroduction programs. For example, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation coordinates the release of approximately 100,000 Ring-necked Pheasants, of varying ages, annually in the state

(<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7071.html>), and New York City's "Project X", a widescale reintroduction of extirpated or declining native species into New York City Parks, included the release of 32 Northern Bobwhite into Pelham Bay Park in the Bronx in 1999. There are also ad-hoc releases by game clubs, 4-H clubs, and similar organizations, such as the reportedly state-sanctioned release of 140 "bobwhite quail" in 2004 in Pocantico Hills, Westchester County, by a local high school senior and 4-H club member (<http://www.gamebirdhunts.com/hunting-news/detail.asp?iArt=220&iType=53>).

Although reports of spring migrant Sandhill Cranes seem to be on the increase, breeding pairs are still relatively scarce. The (presumably) continuing pair in the vicinity of Montezuma NWR at the Region 2/Region 3 border produced two young; unfortunately the young didn't survive, which "has been the norm for this pair" per the Region 2 report. Other sightings this summer were a pair in the Town of Lansing in Region 3, about 50 miles from the Montezuma location, and the first summer record from Region 5, a single bird photographed in Oneida County.

Black Terns were widely reported, from seven Regions, with a maximum of 42 at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge in Region 3. Encouraging news came from Region 7, where a new nesting location hosted 6-8 pairs this summer, the first confirmed breeding in Franklin County in two decades. Excellent numbers of Common Terns were noted nesting on the St. Lawrence River in Region 6. Caspian Terns breeding on Little Galloo Island in Region 6 were severely affected by a Type E Botulism outbreak. More than 700 carcasses were collected during the summer. The outbreak also killed Double-crested Cormorants, Ring-billed Gulls, and smaller numbers of other species, including all four pairs of Great Black-backed Gulls nesting on the island.

Cuckoos were generally noted in good numbers, but perhaps not as high overall as over the last several years. The Region 4 and 5 editors speculate that the caterpillar outbreaks fueling the cuckoo numbers may have had a corresponding detrimental effect on other woodland nesters, such as Eastern Wood-Pewee.

Red Crossbill was the most commonly reported winter finch, from six Regions, with breeding reported in Regions 4 and 5. Evening Grosbeak was reported in higher than usual numbers in Region 8, where 70 were banded at Jenny Lake from May to August. Adults with two young were noted in Region 6, and from Region 7, an adult female was recaptured nine years after originally being banded. Pine Siskins reported away from breeding areas in Regions 1, 3, 8, and 9 were most likely wandering post-breeding or non-breeding birds. The most intriguing "winter finch" report this season was that of a female-type Pine Grosbeak seen well in Elk Pass, at an elevation of 3400', in the Adirondacks in Region 7. The Regional report also mentions a previously unpublished mid-summer report of a singing male from nearby Panther Gorge about a quarter-century ago. The species breeds sporadically at about the same latitude in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, and has also bred about 180 miles away in Quebec, Canada, but has never been recorded nesting in New York.

Other interesting boreal species reported from Region 7 were Philadelphia Vireo, with four reports in June and July; Rusty Blackbird, reported twice; and

both American Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpeckers. Farther south, good finds in the Catskill Mountains in Region 8 included season-high counts of six Bicknell's Thrushes, seven Swainson's Thrushes, and seven Blackpoll Warblers recorded during point counts on Plateau Mountain in Greene County. Conversely, Black-backed Woodpecker and Spruce Grouse were notable by their absence from Region 6.

## **WATERFOWL/WATERBIRDS**

There were only sporadic reports of lingering waterfowl this summer. The most unusual were two Eurasian Wigeon at Montezuma in early July. Some of the more interesting reports apart from these included a handful of Snow Geese in Region 3 and one in Region 7; a White-winged Scoter in Region 7; Long-tailed Ducks in Regions 9 and 10; Lesser Scaup in Regions 2 and 6; and Common Goldeneye in Regions 1 and 3. Common Loons reports were sporadic south of the breeding grounds, and Red-throated Loon was recorded only in Region 2, where there was at least one report from each month during the season. Horned Grebe reports were scattered across the state, with one each from Region 2 and Region 8 and three reports from Region 3.

Type E botulism once again made an unwelcome appearance on New York's Great Lakes, reaching Lake Ontario in Region 6 during the breeding season, with "disastrous results", per the Regional report. Continuing with the excerpt: "Caspian Terns were especially hard hit, with more than 700 carcasses collected by the end of August and additional sick individuals seen on and near the island. All four pairs of Great Black-backed Gulls nesting on the island died from botulism, and numerous sick and dead Double-crested Cormorants and Ring-billed Gulls were present, with small numbers of several other species affected as well." This unwelcome news follows six consecutive years during which fall outbreaks on Lake Erie or Lake Ontario, primarily in Region 1, have killed thousands of migrating waterbirds.

## **MIGRANTS**

As typical, the summer season was bookended by the tail end of spring migration and the beginning of fall migration. Late spring migrants can often be difficult to separate from potential breeders, and non-breeding birds may wander outside their normal breeding range at any time during the summer. Some of the reports considered to be of late migrants this season were June records of Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Mourning Warblers and American Redstart in Region 1. A Blackpoll Warbler in Region 3 on 5 July may have been a non-breeding summer wanderer rather than a late migrant. More typical late migrants recorded this season included Olive-sided Flycatcher from six Regions and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers from five Regions. More intriguing



was a possible breeding Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Region 3. The tail end of spring raptor migration can often produce interesting results, although coverage is generally limited as official hawkwatches close down toward the end of May. Even with few days of coverage in Region 2, good numbers of Broad-winged Hawks and Bald Eagles were noted into mid-June, and a Golden Eagle videotaped on 18 June was a real surprise. Also unusual, and perhaps similarly straddling the line between migrant and summer wanderer, were at least three and perhaps four immature Rough-legged Hawks seen at Fort Drum in Region 6 in June and July. None of these birds lingered so were apparently either moving through or at least roaming around.

Fall migration is typically well under way by the end of the summer season, including a number of “stealth migrants” as local breeding species pass through and out of our area. By season’s end southbound Philadelphia Vireos and Olive-sided Flycatchers had been recorded in five Regions. A state record 15,000+ Cedar Waxwings were observed migrating past Hamlin Beach in Region 2 in August. Some other notable August migrant reports during August were Golden-winged Warbler in Regions 3 and 10; Connecticut Warbler in Regions 1 and 10; and Dickcissel in Regions 3 and 10. Orchard Oriole and Louisiana Waterthrush seen in July and August, respectively, in Manhattan’s Central Park in Region 10, were likely southbound migrants; early departing local breeders such as these species are often not detected during southbound migration, possibly since birders are less focused on traditional “migrant traps” in late summer. As experienced migrants, post-breeding adults may also move through more quickly and efficiently than young birds.

## SHOREBIRDS

Lack of consistent shorebird habitat, and therefore shorebirds, was a common refrain from most of the state this season. A few productive locations spiced up the reports from interior Regions, and a decent variety was reported from Region 10. Highlights from around the state included a Willet and a new regional maxima of 55 Stilt Sandpipers from Region 1; Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, and Red-necked Phalarope in Region 2; good numbers and variety in Region 3, including Willet, up to 22 Hudsonian Godwits, Marbled Godwit, Red Knot, Western Sandpiper, and Red-necked Phalarope; Sanderling in Region 4; Whimbrel in Region 5; Stilt Sandpiper and Red Phalarope in Region 7; and a nice variety of species at Swinging Bridge Reservoir in Sullivan County, Region 9, including Red-necked Phalarope among other significant county records. Wilson’s Phalaropes appeared in good numbers, with late spring or fall reports from five Regions, including a high count of five in the Montezuma complex, Region 3, on 27 August. A male in Greece, Region 2, in mid-June appeared at an unusually late date for a migrant. A “Western” Willet on the Cupsogue flats in Suffolk County, Region 10, on 18 June was also seasonally unusual; there are very few records of this subspecies from Long Island during May and June. The Region 10 report also contains some comments about the unusually high number of shorebirds again lingering through mid-June, a number of which were

afflicted with obvious infirmities, such as damaged legs and tumor-like swellings.

## SUMMER WANDERERS

Great Egrets wandered widely across the state with several high counts, including a new Region 1 maxima of 140 at Tonowanda NWR on 17 July, 102 in the Montezuma Wetlands Complex in Region 3 on 25 August, and up to 50 on a pond in Canton, Region 6, for much of August. Other notable heron reports were Cattle Egrets in Regions 3, 7, and 10, the latter two near breeding locations; Snowy Egret in Regions 4, 5, 7 and inland Region 9; Little Blue Heron in Region 4; and a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in Region 6, the third Regional record.

A number of interesting larids turned up statewide this season. In Region 1, a remarkable summer concentration of subadult small gulls included single Little and Black-headed Gulls among 120 Bonaparte's Gulls. To the east in Region 2, good gulls included at least two Lesser Black-backed Gulls and an adult Franklin's Gull. Region 10 featured adult Black-headed Gulls in July and August and a subadult Lesser Black-backed Gull in August. Nomadic tern reports this season included single Common and Black Terns in Region 4, both unusual there, and Forster's Terns in Regions 1, 2, and 8. Post-breeding tern hot spots included Chazy River and Noblewood in Region 7, both of which featured Caspian, Common, and Black Terns. A pair of Forster's Terns tending to two juvenile birds at Marshlands Conservancy in Westchester County, Region 9, may have been post-breeding wanderers from the south, but were more likely undocumented local breeders. Similarly, two records of Gull-billed Terns from the Moriches Inlet area in Region 10 in mid to late June are suggestive of possible breeders.

The most notable larid event this season was the unprecedented series of Arctic Terns found at Cupsogue County Park (Suffolk) in Region 10. Region 10 editors S.S. Mitra and Patricia Lindsay diligently monitored the tern congregations which form at low tide on the exposed flats, and they and subsequent observers were able to identify and photograph a remarkable series of mostly subadult Arctic Terns. There were up to 12 cumulative sightings, many of which could be differentiated by age and plumage features, and many of which were documented with photographs and submitted to NYSARC. Continued careful scrutiny of summering tern flocks, particularly those which contain subadult terns, may prove that the species summers in greater numbers than previously thought.

## RARITIES

A number of state-level and seasonal rarities were reported from throughout the state. Covering both categories was an "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler

found on 14 June in Yorkshire in Region 1, the first summer record for this subspecies in the Region and possibly the state. Also in Region 1a briefly observed shrike in Newstead on 5 August wasn't identified to species, but was almost certainly by date a Loggerhead Shrike. Among the rarities reported in Region 2 to the east were Brown Pelican and Mississippi Kite. One can only wonder what environmental factors led to four individual Snowy Owls being seen in three Regions this summer. One each was found in Regions 3 and 5, and two were seen on Point Peninsula in Region 6. Also wildly out of season was an American Tree Sparrow reported in Region 7 on 29 August, over a month before the previous earliest New York State arrival date. In between searching for unusual terns at the Cupsogue flats in Region 10, John Fritz spotted the season's only Wilson's Plover. Studied and photographed by a number of observers for about an hour, the plover was not relocated subsequently. Other rarities found in Region 10 this summer included three Brown Pelicans on the ocean off of Cupsogue on 8 July; a Magnificent Frigatebird seen by multiple fishing boat captains off Montauk Point on 9 June; a King Rail which bred with a Clapper Rail at the Marine Nature Study Area in Oceanside, Nassau County; and a Yellow-headed Blackbird from the Jamaica Bay area. Without question the most unexpected and exciting reports were those of adult male Broad-billed Hummingbirds from Region 2 in late June and Region 4 in August, the first occurrences for the species in New York State. One can only imagine that these reports refer to a single wandering bird. Happily, the lucky observers obtained documentary photographs and reports have been submitted to NYSARC.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Several regions noted that wild food crops were abundant after the summer season, due in part perhaps to the wet spring. The widespread flooding also led to fears that resulting increases in mosquito populations would lead to a spike in West Nile Virus occurrences. In Region 4, at least, no such outbreak occurred, perhaps because the mosquito species which benefited from the flooding were not important carriers of WNV.

Suspected hybrid birds show up virtually every season; some show more obvious probable parentage than others, but in most cases we never know for sure the identity of the parent species. Where genetic material can be obtained, DNA analysis can provide a more definitive answer. This was the case this summer with a hybrid warbler netted twice at a banding station in Wyoming County in Region 1. Two tail feathers from the bird were sent to Cornell for DNA analysis. The results, published in Cornell's *The Living Bird*, indicated this was a hybrid between Mourning Warbler and Kentucky Warbler. Details about the circumstances and the analysis are available at Cornell's website here: <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/mystery>.

Exotics reported this season included a Monk Parakeet in Region 1 which was determined to have captive origins, and a Whooper Swan which spent the summer among the hordes of Mute Swans on the East Pond at Jamaica Bay in Region 10.

## BIRD OF THE SEASON

Some seasons, I have a hard time deciding on a Bird of the Season. It's often difficult to choose from a variety of good rarities, and occasionally it's a matter of sorting through two or more roughly equivalent "megas". This season, highlight rarities include Brown Pelican, Magnificent Frigatebird, Wilson's Plover, King Rail, Mississippi Kite, "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler, the remarkable influx of Arctic Terns, and a number of seasonal rarities such as Snowy Owls, Rough-legged Hawks, American Tree Sparrow, and Pine Grosbeak. Any of these could have been worthy choices during some summer seasons. I have no trouble, however, setting all these aside and selecting the Broad-billed Hummingbird sightings from June in Region 2 and August in Region 4 (Figure B, p. 48). These unexpected occurrences, very probably the same wandering adult male, are the first state records pending acceptance by NYSARC, and apparently by far the furthest north and east. Perhaps the only downside to these exciting reports is that word didn't reach the larger birding community until after the hummingbird had stopped appearing at the feeders it had been frequenting. In any event, it is a reminder that vagrant hummingbirds can appear in mid-summer as well as late fall!



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON – FALL 2006

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## THE WEATHER

The season started off with the passage of the remnants of Tropical Storm Ernesto in early September, bringing heavy rains and strong winds, and a handful of storm-driven birds, mainly to Region 10. The remainder of September was generally uneventful across the state, and temperatures were close to long-term averages. October was also close to average in terms of temperature, but was significantly wetter across the state. Region 1 experienced some extreme weather during the month, including a surprise lake effect storm on 12-13 October, which resulted in snowfall in excess of two feet in some areas. Gray-cheeked Thrushes and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were among disrupted migrants noted during and immediately after the event, although Regional editor Mike Morgante comments that the true impact of the storm may not be known until the summer 2007 breeding results are tallied, due to the resultant tree damage. Late in the month, western New York experienced sustained southwesterly and westerly winds, which carried significant numbers of gulls and other migrant waterbirds to eastern Lake Erie and to a lesser extent to Lake Ontario. November was notable for its extremely warm weather, in many cases 4-5 degrees warmer than normal. As a result, there were a number of late migrants lingering throughout the state.

## WATERFOWL/OTHER WATERBIRDS

The generally mild conditions into late fall seemed to disrupt waterfowl migration in various ways across the state. In Region 1, waterfowl lingered longer than usual and concentrated in good numbers, while pleasant weather made viewing conditions nicer than usual for birders. Region 6 reported good variety, but low numbers, while the overall waterfowl season in Region 2 was described as “uneventful”.

A good variety of rare and uncommon geese turned up across the state. Greater White-fronted Goose was reported in six Regions; Ross's Goose in three; and Cackling Goose in five. Careful observers in Regions 2 and 3 picked out Ross's x Snow Goose hybrids in “white goose” flocks. Most remarkable was a single flock in Region 3 that contained all of these species - four Greater White-fronted Geese, 5 Ross' Geese, 2 Ross' x Snow Goose hybrids, and at least one Cackling Goose. Uncommon ducks included Harlequin Ducks in Regions 1, 5, and 10; Eurasian Wigeon in Regions 1, 3, 9 and 10; and Barrow's

Goldeneye in Regions 7 and 8. Scoters were widespread across the state including many on smaller bodies of water. It's likely that all three species appeared in all ten Regions, although White-winged and Black Scoter were not specifically mentioned in every report (missing Regions 2 and 10, respectively). Ducks reported in good numbers from various Regions included Wood Duck and Green-winged Teal, and a good count of 2000 Ring-necked Ducks was found in Region 6. Several Regions commented on continuing low numbers of Blue-winged Teal. Loon numbers were generally low. A continuing concern is the spread of Type E Botulism across Lake Erie and Lake Ontario; Common Loons seem especially susceptible and make up the great majority of recovered specimens. A Red-throated Loon at Tomhannock Reservoir was notable for Region 8. A Pacific Loon in Region 3 was the only report for the season. Red-necked Grebes were reported from all ten Regions with a high count of 535 on Lake Ontario in Region 2. Several Regions reported high numbers of Pied-billed Grebes, including counts of 147 in Region 1, 60 in Region 2, and 90 in Region 6. Several Regions tallied Eared Grebes this fall, including three at the Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant in Region 1 and singles in Regions 2 and 3. Sandhill Crane continues to be well represented, with reports from five Regions, including a high count of nine at the Savannah Mucklands in Regions 2 and 3, and the first September record from Region 1. Five lingered at Montezuma NWR in Region 3 until November 24. Cattle Egrets were noted in Regions 3, 6, 8 and 10, all from 30 October or later.

## GULLS/TERNS

Conducive weather conditions on the Great Lakes, plus an assist from Tropical Storm Ernesto, brought a good number of unusual gulls to the state this fall. In Region 1, strong westerly and southwesterly winds on October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> concentrated large numbers of gulls and other waterbirds at the eastern end of Lake Erie. In Hamburg, the tally from several viewing points included 2-3 Sabine's Gulls, up to seven Black-legged Kittiwakes, up to 12 jaegers including 2-3 Pomarines, and a Northern Gannet. The same system also brought a Franklin's Gull to the Niagara River, as well as an estimated 20,000 Bonaparte's Gulls, an excellent number for late October. Additional unusual gulls found on the Niagara River this season included two adult Black-legged Kittiwakes and, for the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, California Gull. Sabine's Gulls were unusually widespread this season; apart from the birds mentioned above, there was another along Lake Ontario in Region 1; two more seen in Region 2; one on Cayuga Lake in Region 3; two in Region 5; one in Region 7; and a storm-driven bird following Ernesto in Region 10. Little Gulls were reported from Regions 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7, and Black-headed Gulls were found in Regions 2, 5, and 10. Black-legged Kittiwakes were found in a total of five Regions; in addition to the sightings in Region 1, there were reports from Regions 2, 5, 6, and 10.

Several good terns were transported north by Ernesto, concentrated in Region 10. On the days following the storm's passage, observers on the southern Long Island coastline reported Sooty Terns, Bridled Tern, and counts

of 30-40 Black Terns, good numbers for recent years. Inland, only Region 2 seemed to benefit from Ernesto, with a report of two Sooty/Bridled-type dark terns, too far to be positively identified. See the Region 2 and particularly the Region 10 reports for more details regarding the effects of Ernesto. Also in Region 10 the maximum count of Royal Terns for the season reached 117 in the Pikes Beach/Moriches Inlet area on 10 September.

Jaeger numbers were generally lackluster along Lake Ontario, with, for example, only 18 Parasitic and two Pomarine Jaegers for the season in Region 2, and 13 Parasitic and one Pomarine in Region 5. Two immature Long-tailed Jaegers at Hamlin Beach in Region 2 did spice up the season there. Elsewhere, reports included the jaegers mentioned above at Hamburg as well as a scattering of additional reports of Parasitic and unidentified jaegers in Region 1; a Pomarine Jaeger in Region 6; a Parasitic Jaeger in Region 7; and at least 19 Parasitics and five Pomarines from Region 10, some of these arriving in the wake of Ernesto.

## RAPTORS

Apart from some good showings in Regions 4 and 5, southbound raptor migration was relatively uneventful. Franklin Mountain in Region 4 surpassed 5000 raptors for the fifth time in the 18-year history of the site, and along the way set seasonal records for Red-shouldered Hawk and Merlin, and the second-highest total for Red-tailed Hawk. Golden Eagles topped 200 for the fourth straight year. Region 5 enjoyed several good days of raptor movement with particularly good numbers of Turkey Vulture and Broad-winged Hawk. Northern Jefferson County in Region 6 hosted encouraging numbers of American Kestrels and Northern Harriers, both species in general decline. Rough-legged Hawks did not move in to the state in any numbers by the end of the season. Marshlands Conservancy in Rye, Region 9, enjoyed the season's daily high count of Broad-winged Hawk, with 5,435 on 21 September. Three Black Vultures at the Elmira-Corning airport in Region 3 on 20 October were the second fall Regional report in the past ten years; another was seen upstate in Region 8 at Chatham on 9 October.

There were very few Snowy Owl reports for the season; in fact, the two apparently southbound birds, in Regions 3 and 7, were matched by two remarkable over-summering birds in Region 6. The first had been previously noted from Point Peninsula, and remained until 7 September. The second, not previously mentioned in the Regional reports, was banded in February 2006 and remained on territory through the end of November. Owl reports in general were scarce and several regions commented on the low numbers of migrant Saw-whet and Long-eared Owls, and there was no mention of Barn Owl from any Region. Good numbers of Short-eared Owls were noted in traditional areas in Regions 1 and 6, but only low numbers elsewhere.

## SHOREBIRDS

Many of the Regional reports echoed a common refrain regarding the poor shorebirding this season. Select comments from the narratives include: “Shorebird habitat was nonexistent in the bays and along the creeks”, “plover numbers were pathetic” and “may have been the worst shorebird fall on record!” (Region 2); “Maxima for most shorebirds were low, especially common species” and “few positives” (Region 5); “Shorebirds were once again reported in dismal numbers, with no particularly notable sightings” (Region 6); “Migrant shorebirds were scarce, with even some fairly common species represented by only a single report, and numbers were similarly low” (Region 7). As always, however, some Regions bucked the trend, and there were some interesting and exciting reports scattered throughout the state. One oddity during the fall was the relative abundance of Hudsonian Godwits inland compared to the coast, a reversal of normal fortunes. The high August numbers at Montezuma NWR in Region 3 didn’t last into September, but four there was still a decent count, and a flock of 17 Hudsonians passed Derby Hill on 24 September. More bizarrely, a local business owner witnessed a flock of “several dozen” godwits flying through and into power lines in Ballston, Saratoga County. Eight Hudsonian Godwits perished as a result of the collision and were collected by pathologists from the DEC. Finally, Region 1 recorded a record late Hudsonian Godwit on 11 November in Dayton. Although Hudsonian Godwits are often grounded in Region 10 by tropical storms and hurricanes, none were found following the passage of Ernesto. Eventually several showed up at Jamaica Bay, and one in Accabonac, a low total for the Region.

Region 1 also recorded its second October record of American Avocet, a Long-billed Dowitcher, and one each of Red-necked and Red Phalaropes. The “only highlight” in Region 2 was a Regional record-late Solitary Sandpiper on 15 November. The Montezuma NWR complex, in particular Puddler’s Marsh along Towpath Road, held good numbers and variety of shorebirds, although the birds were harassed by up to three Peregrine Falcons. Most notable were a maximum of three Red-necked Phalaropes on 3 September.

## PASSERINE MIGRATION

Many regions described warbler migration as mixed – good in terms of variety but generally poor in terms of number. A total of 36 species were reported, a good fall figure, and some of the more uncommon species recorded in multiple regions were Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Cape May Warbler, and Bay-breasted Warbler. Golden-winged Warbler was found in Regions 9 and 10; Yellow-breasted Chat in Regions 4, 9, and 10; and two Yellow-throated Warblers were found, one in southern Region 10, at Jones Beach, and one in northern Region 7 at Ausable Point, the latter a fourth Regional record. Most remarkable was the influx of Connecticut Warblers; the species was found in six



Regions, with one in Region 5; two reports each in Regions 1, 3, and 8; three in Region 2; and approximately 18 in Region 10, although an exact count is made difficult by the multiple sightings at locations such as Central Park, Clove Lakes Park (Staten Island) and Jamaica Bay.

Thrush reports were augmented by the increasing focus on nocturnal migrants, including the use of automatic recording equipment and computer programs able to analyze and identify the calls of certain species. See the Region 4 report for some additional description of this technique and its resultant observations there. Late September and early October, in particular the period 25-27 September, featured heavy *Catharus* thrush migration, as noted in particular in the Region 4, 6, and 8 reports; many other seasonal maxima for Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes from other Regions fall into this period as well. Bicknell's Thrushes were reported from four Regions, with banding records from Regions 2 and 4.

Fox Sparrows were noted in good numbers in Regions 2, 3, and 5, and Region 6 featured a heavy migration of thousands of White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows on 4-6 October. Even larger numbers of sparrows, and late migrants in general, were noted in Region 10 on 3-4 November, when, among other extraordinary migrant totals, the following sparrow numbers were estimated: 10,000 White-throated Sparrows, 1,000 Dark-eyed Juncos, 750 Chipping Sparrows, 500 Swamp Sparrows, and 400 Song Sparrows. Please refer to the discussion in the Region 10 report for more details about this remarkable event, including a more comprehensive list of species involved. Region 10 also featured excellent numbers of Clay-colored and Lark Sparrows, as well as Dickcissel, this fall.

Winter finches were generally scarce this fall, with little indication of movement out of traditional strongholds. Two Pine Grosbeaks in Region 2 and five in Region 3 were the only reports of that species. A Northern Shrike at Westville, Franklin County in Region 7 on 28 September was a state-record early arrival; elsewhere, Northern Shrike numbers were generally low to moderate for the season. Conversely, the mild fall weather allowed a number of less hardy species to linger later than normal; see the Regional reports for mentions of a number of warblers and other summering species occurring into November.

## RARITIES

A wide variety of rarities turned up across the state. Derby Hill in Region 5 hosted two normally maritime species, both Regional firsts, in short order in October. First, a well-described Razorbill flew past on 21 October, followed two days later by a Manx Shearwater. Region 1 also hosted a Razorbill, the third Regional record, present at the mouth of the Niagara River from 19 November into January 2007. It's hard to know whether this was the same individual, or whether something diverted multiple Razorbills into the Great Lakes. The same thoughts could possibly apply to the Manx Shearwater, as Lake Ontario also featured two disparate sightings this fall, with an earlier

record at Hamilton, Ontario in late August. It seems less plausible, however, that a shearwater could survive on fresh water for almost two months, making it perhaps more likely that two separate birds arrived as a result of differing influences.

Also out of place, albeit not as dramatically, was a Northern Wheatear well inland at the Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant from 21-23 October. The Northeast featured a good number of this normally coastal vagrant this fall, including several others at inland locations. The only other report in New York this fall was in Region 10; the species is more expected here, although even this sighting was more inland than unusual in South Huntington, Suffolk County, near the middle of Long Island, rather than on the immediate coastline where most reports occur.

The third major rarity in Region 1 this fall was a well-described Black Rail that was flushed from a large meadow as it was almost completely mowed in Ellicottville. The observer was able to relocate the bird in a small remaining unmowed patch and studied it closely. This is the first report of the species in the Region since the first Regional record in May, 1933. Also in Region 1 was the second fall Regional record of Summer Tanager, in Wilson; Snowy Egret; White-eyed Vireo; and an unidentified pale-rumped swallow. Additional White-eyed Vireos were noted upstate in Regions 2 and 3. Region 2 also featured a Loggerhead Shrike, up to five Cave Swallows, and a single-observer report of a Violet-green Swallow; as noted in the Regional report this latter species has not been confirmed in New York State, and is cautiously treated as hypothetical in the Regional summary. Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found in Region 3, at a traditional fall location, and in Region 5 for a first Regional record. The only Yellow-headed Blackbird report was from Montezuma NWR in Region 3. Rufous Hummingbirds were identified in Regions 4, 9, and 10, where there were two, and another *Selasphorus* hummingbird in Region 8 was also thought to be a Rufous. Western Grebes were found in Regions 6 and 7. A LeConte's Sparrow photographed at Bashakill in Region 9 on 22 October was part of a larger regional event which brought the species to New Jersey and Massachusetts as well. Western Kingbirds were found at Katonah in Region 9 and Montauk in Region 10. New York State's second Hammond's Flycatcher (pending acceptance by NYSARC) was seen, heard calling, photographed, and video recorded at Marshland's Conservancy during its six-day-plus stay; unfortunately, it tended toward an alternate day schedule, meaning many more observers missed it than saw it. Another fantastic flycatcher was a Say's Phoebe seen by many at Robert Moses State Park in Region 10, the 16<sup>th</sup> state record, pending NYSARC review. A Yellow Rail, highly sought after by even the most experienced New York birders, turned up in Region 10 as well; unfortunately, shortly after its discovery in Lynbrook it was hit by a car, which did at least allow for photographic documentation of the record. Certainly rare for Region 10, and unusual anywhere in New York during migration, was a Henslow's Sparrow beautifully photographed in Central Park on 31 October. Other rarities reported in Region 10 included four American White Pelicans seen flying over Oceanside, Nassau County on 31 October; two Audubon's Shearwaters near Hudson Canyon on 28 September; a Painted Bunting in Water Mill on 15

October; Cave Swallow; Sedge Wren; and Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow. Locally noteworthy from Long Island were Common Raven and Pileated Woodpecker, both rarely seen or documented from the Region.

## BIRD OF THE SEASON

A variety of contenders surfaced for Bird of the Season, including Regionally significant rarities such as Razorbill in Regions 1 and 5, Manx Shearwater in Region 5 and Black Rail in Region 1; statewide rarities such as Pacific Loon, Western Grebe, Yellow Rail, Sooty and Bridled Terns, Northern Wheatears (Figure C, p. 49), Say's Phoebe, Harris's Sparrow, and LeConte's Sparrow; and even a potential state-first record, Violet-green Swallow. My selection for the Fall 2006 BOTS is a bird I was fortunate to see, the first Region 9 record and second state record Hammond's Flycatcher, which was carefully documented at Marshlands Conservancy in Rye, Westchester County (Figure D, p. 49).



## REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

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September was unusually cloudy and wet. The average temperature for the month was 60.5° F, which was 1.0° F below normal, the first below normal month for 2006. Monthly precipitation at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport was 6.95", 3.11" above normal. At least some rain fell on 17 days and it was the fourth wettest September on record. The remnants of Hurricane Ernesto passed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and other days with substantial rain were the 14<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>. October was also very wet and cool. The average temperature was 49.0° F, 1.7° F below normal, and the monthly precipitation was 8.75", 5.56" above normal. It was the second wettest October on record. On 12-13 October, a surprise lake effect snow storm devastated the Buffalo area, stretching from Hamburg to Lockport. Over 22" of snow fell at the Buffalo airport and some areas had even greater amounts. The snow was very heavy in water content and, combined with leaf cover, resulted in heavy damage to trees and left over 500,000 homes without power, many for more than one week. Following the wettest September-October period on record and with many people still cleaning up from the surprise October storm, November was fortunately very mild. The average temperature was 44.6° F, 4.4° F above normal, making it the eighth warmest November on record. The month ended with a highly unusual warm and dry spell, with six consecutive days in the 60s. The monthly precipitation was 2.15", 1.77" below normal, with only 2.1" of snow, 8.9" below normal.

The unusual weather this fall made for some interesting birding at times. At the start of the season, local birders went out in search of displaced seabirds; however the passage of the remnants of Hurricane Ernesto did not provide any unusual sightings. The wet September seemed to bring more passerines to the migration hot spots and elsewhere, possibly because there were fewer nights of favorable conditions for migration. Especially good numbers of passerines were noted on the morning of 16 September and again during the last week of September.

The impact of the surprise October snow storm on birds may not be realized until the nesting season next year, as significant tree damage occurred and numerous trees fell over a wide area. On the night of the storm, Peter Yoerg was surprised to hear two Gray-cheeked Thrushes flying through the snow. On the morning following the storm, several observers noted many American Robins flying south; it's unknown if these birds were departing the afflicted area or just passing over normally in migration. In the days just after the storm, David Suggs received four reports to the Buffalo RBA of hummingbirds, two of which were identified from photos as Ruby-throated, while no further information was received on the other two.

Very strong southwesterly and westerly winds during the night of 28 October and all day on the 29<sup>th</sup> brought remarkable numbers of gulls and other

waterbirds to the eastern end of Lake Erie. Viewing from several locations along the waterfront in Hamburg, birders came up with many exciting finds including 2-3 **Sabine's Gulls**; up to 7 **Black-legged Kittiwakes**; up to 12 jaegers, with 2-3 reported as **Pomarine Jaegers**; and a **Northern Gannet**. The winds also pushed thousands of gulls on to the Niagara River that day, including the only **Franklin's Gull** of the season. Willie D'Anna estimated 20,000 Bonaparte's Gulls on the river, a remarkable number for late October. Seven record-late Chimney Swifts and hundreds of Northern Rough-winged Swallows observed that day were also likely the result from the strong winds.

The mild November weather allowed waterfowl to linger and concentrate and provided nicer conditions than usual for birders to count them. Rare, but expected, geese included four **Greater White-fronted Geese** along Lake Ontario in Somerset and two reports of **Cackling Geese**. The highlights among duck sightings included a record early **Harlequin Duck** at Dunkirk Harbor and a **Eurasian Wigeon** at Niagara Falls. **Eared Grebes** made their annual appearance at Batavia WWTP, with up to three birds this fall. There was an outbreak of type E botulism among piscivorous waterbirds for the seventh consecutive year on Lake Erie, and it also worsened on Lake Ontario. NYSDEC again conducted counts of dead birds at 13 500-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 201 birds were found dead during the Lake Erie transect surveys conducted from early October through early December, and another 91 non-transect birds were found. NYSDEC estimates that over 3,500 total birds, mostly Common Loons, were killed due to botulism on Lake Erie during this period. Common Loon (266) made up most of the carcass counts on Lake Erie this year. A total of 11 birds were found during mortality transect counts from transects on the Lake Ontario shoreline in NYSDEC Region 9 or Kingbird Region 1 and another 186 non-transect birds were found, 164 of which were Common Loons.

Raptor migration was extremely sparse during the fall season, as usual. Rough-legged Hawks appeared in average numbers. Bald Eagle sightings continue to increase and are too numerous to include mention of all reports. The seasonal maximum was nine along Lake Erie in Sheridan. The Buffalo News reported that the Bald Eagle found near death in June in Amherst was sighted in Quebec in September, offering positive feedback for the rehabilitation effort. However, the Peregrine Falcon news was not positive. The resident female from the Buffalo nest that produced 24 chicks in seven years was found dead on a city street in October. The cause of death was uncertain but may have involved a fight with another falcon.

The highlights of the fall shorebirding season were the second October record of **American Avocet**, on the beach at Hamburg Town Park; the record late report of a **Hudsonian Godwit**, seen by multiple observers on 11 November in Dayton; a **Long-billed Dowitcher** observed and heard as it flew off Lake Ontario; and single reports of **Red-necked Phalarope** and **Red Phalarope**.

Bonaparte's Gulls were especially numerous on the Niagara River in Buffalo this year, with the help of the late October wind event. Two adult **Black-legged Kittiwakes** were found on the Niagara River in November along, with a few of

the more expected juveniles. Large gulls were still building in numbers on the Niagara River in late November. For the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, **California Gull** was found on the Niagara.

There did not appear to be any finch flights this fall. "Winter" finch reports were limited to only a handful of Pine Siskin reports and single report of Evening Grosbeak. Purple Finches were also present in lower numbers than usual.

The Region had three extreme rarities in fall 2006, two of which allowed viewing by numerous birders. While birding at Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant on the morning of 21 October, I had the good fortune of finding a **Northern Wheatear**. Many birders were able to see and photograph the cooperative bird that day and over the next two days before it departed. This was a first-year bird and presumed to be of the *leucorhoa* subspecies that breeds in Greenland and eastern Canada and crosses the Atlantic Ocean to winter in sub-Saharan Africa. It was the third record for the Region. The two previous Regional records were in 1965 and 1967, both in the last week of September. There was a marked increase in sightings of this vagrant in northeastern North America this fall.

During a joint BOS and Rochester Birding Association field trip to the Niagara River on November 19, Norma Platt spotted a diving alcid just off shore at Fort Niagara State Park. When the bird resurfaced, Bob Spahn identified it as a **Razorbill**. Although sometimes absent or difficult to find, the bird remained in this area into January, allowing many birders the opportunity to see it. This was the third Regional record with the previous two Razorbills (1982 and 1985) also occurring in the rip current where the Niagara River enters Lake Ontario.

Unlike the Northern Wheatear and Razorbill sightings that were enjoyed by many, the other mega rarity of the season was only seen by one person. On September 10, Frank Voelker was nearing the completion of several days of tractor-mowing a large meadow in Ellicottville when he saw a small dark bird flush and fly a short distance to a small unmowed patch. He was able to find the bird and study it closely. He noted "dark black feathers on the body, some of which had distal white-tipped fringe that created a flecked appearance of white on black; a red/brown nape that seemed to meld into a lateral crown stripe; red/orange eyes; buff color below the tail; black/brown legs and beak; and head and tail bobbing." He estimated the bird was slightly larger than a starling, appeared healthy, and was fully feathered. His intrigue with this unusual bird led him to research field guides and determine that it must have been a **Black Rail**. The only Regional record prior to this report is from May 1933.

While not considered an 'extreme' rarity like the three species described above, the **Summer Tanager** that frequented the feeders and yard of Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter was nonetheless another remarkable rarity for the season and only the second fall record for the Region. The bird was observed by many, 13-21 November.

The 71st annual BOS October Count was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> and compiled by Mike Hamilton. The weather featured seasonable temperatures and fair skies. The count recorded 161 species with two first count records, Warbling Vireo and Tricolored Heron (in Ontario), 14 record high counts, and one record low

count. Highest counts since inception in 1935 were recorded for: Mute Swan (36), Green-winged Teal (409), Red-throated Loon (7), Common Loon (698), Double-crested Cormorant (2803), Turkey Vulture (469), Cooper's Hawk (30), Red-bellied Woodpecker (149), Common Raven (34), Northern Rough-winged Swallow (139), Tufted Titmouse (132), Carolina Wren (45), Blackpoll Warbler (23), and Northern Cardinal (408). Many of these species have showed continued increases over the last few years. The total of 48 American Black Ducks was the lowest in the 71-year history of the count.

Other notable sightings not previously mentioned include: **Snowy Egret**, **Sandhill Crane**, **White-eyed Vireo**, and an unidentified pale-rumped swallow.

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## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP ERIE; BeSP – Beaver I SP ERIE; BOSOC – Buffalo Ornithological Society 8 Oct Count; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant GENE; ChauL – Chautauqua L CHAU; DH – Dunkirk Harbor CHAU; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP NIAG; INWR – Iroquois NWR GENE/ORLE; LBSP – Lakeside Beach SP ORLE; NF – Niagara Falls NIAG; NFSP – Niagara Falls SP NIAG; NPP – Niagara Power Project on Niagara R, Lewiston NIAG; NR – Niagara R ERIE/NIAG; OOWMA – Oak Orchard WMA GENE/ORLE; PG – Point Gratiot CHAU; SPNS – Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary ERIE; TBNP – Times Beach NP, Buffalo ERIE; Tiff NP – Tiff Nature Preserve, Buffalo ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA GENE/NIAG; WBSP – Woodlawn Beach SP ERIE; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP NIAG.

**WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES**  
**Gr. White-fronted Goose:** 4 Somerset  
NIAG 28 Oct (JP1,WD), good count for fall.

**Snow Goose:** arr 2 Alexander GENE 6 Oct;  
3 Somerset NIAG 28 Oct; max 18 Dayton  
CATT 9 Nov (DN); 3 Orchard Park ERIE  
25 Nov; few reports.

**Cackling Goose:** 4 BWWT 22 Oct (JP); Somerset NIAG 30 Nov (WW!), only reports.

**Brant:** arr 89 Yates ORLE 28 Oct (WD, JP); PG 30 Oct (JL); 7 FNPS 12 Nov; only reports.

**Mute Swan:** 8, 12 Wilson NIAG 23 Sep, 13 Nov; 3 LBSP 30 Sep; 8 WTSP 21 Oct; 2 ad + 5 im Shadigee ORLE 22 Oct; 7 Cassadaga L CHAU thru Nov; Dayton CATT 12 Nov; increasing.

**Tundra Swan:** arr 6 Hamburg ERIE 29 Oct; 10 Dayton CATT 5 Nov; 20 Lancaster ERIE 10 Nov; 43 OOWMA 10 Nov; max 75 BeSP 13 Nov (DS).

**Wood Duck:** max 62 Alexander GENE 2 Sep.

**Gadwall:** max 27 ChauL 22 Nov.

**EURASIAN WIGEON:** male NF 12 Nov (JP), likely same bird sighted on Canadian side of NF 5 Nov (TJ), rarer in fall.

**Am. Wigeon:** max 74 INWR 30 Nov.

**Am. Black Duck:** max 22 BWWT 10 Nov.

**Blue-winged Teal:** last Wilson NIAG 14 Oct.

**N. Shoveler:** max 178, 177 BWWT 10 Sep, 10 Nov.

**N. Pintail:** max 29 BWWT 21 Oct.

**Green-winged Teal:** max 50 Alexander GENE 2 Nov.

**Canvasback:** arr Wilson NIAG 14 Oct.

**Redhead:** arr 19 BOSOC.

**Ring-necked Duck:** arr 13 Attica WYOM 26 Sep; 127 Hanover CHAU 31 Oct; max 697; 700 Dayton CATT 9; 17 Nov (DN), good counts.

**Greater Scaup:** arr 3 Wilson NIAG 29 Sep (WD).

**Lesser Scaup:** arr 2 Wilson NIAG 24 Sep.

**HARLEQUIN DUCK:** arr ad male DH 15 Oct thru (TiL), DN, record early.

**Surf Scoter:** arr 2 Somerset NIAG 2 Oct; 13 NIAG BOSOC; 11 Wilson NIAG 15 Oct; Sheridan CHAU 16, 20 Oct; 3, 2 Buffalo NR 17 Oct, 9 Nov; 2 BWWT 21 Oct (MM), rare inland; 8 Hamburg ERIE 29 Oct; 16 Somerset NIAG 30 Nov.

**White-winged Scoter:** arr Wilson 15 Sep; 50 Buffalo NR 17 Oct (TiL), good count for location; 2 Dayton CATT 25 Oct (JM), uncommon inland; 40 Hamburg ERIE 29 Oct, much less common in migration on L Erie than L Ontario.

**Black Scoter:** arr 3, 13 Wilson NIAG 14, 15 Oct; 5 DH 18 Nov; NF 18 Nov.

**Long-tailed Duck:** arr Wilson NIAG 28 Oct; 800 Buffalo NR 19 Nov (MM), less

common in migration on L Erie than L Ontario.

**Bufflehead:** arr Wilson NIAG 15 Oct; max 4100; 1800 Buffalo NR 5; 18 Nov (TJ; WW), at mouth of L Erie, good counts.

**Com. Goldeneye:** arr 33 BOSOC.

**Hooded Merganser:** max 234 Dayton CATT Nov (DN).

**Com. Merganser:** 108 Sheridan CHAU 10 Sep, good count for date; max 224 Dayton CATT 17 Nov (DN).

**Ruddy Duck:** 269 BWWT 28 Sep; 82 ChauL 18 Oct (DN); max 532 BWWT 21 Oct (MM); 24 AISP 24 Oct (TB); 95 Dayton CATT 17 Nov; 4 Allegany CATT 19 Nov (JR); 4 Alfred ALLE 23, 29 Nov (EB).

**Red-throated Loon:** arr 7 NIAG BOSOC; max 20 Wilson NIAG 15 Oct (WD); Dayton CATT 13 Nov (JM), only report away from L Ontario.

**Com. Loon:** arr 9 Wilson NIAG 10 Sep; 2 Dayton CATT 12 Sep (DN), unusual location for date; max 75 Wilson NIAG 14 Oct; *intro*.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 147 ChauL 22 Nov (DN), good count at Celeron.

**Horned Grebe:** arr Wilson NIAG 23 Sep; 73 Silver Creek CHAU 7 Nov; max 151 DH 18 Nov (DN); 131 Sheridan CHAU 19 Nov (DN).

**Red-necked Grebe:** arr 3 Wilson NIAG 10 Sep (WD! BE), early; 1, 7 Wilson NIAG 7, 15 Oct (WD); 6 BOSOC; 7 Somerset NIAG, Yates ORLE 21 Oct; 2 Buffalo ERIE 29 Oct; 5 Sheridan CHAU 6 Nov (FR, BW).

**EARED GREBE:** 3 BWWT 3 Sep (MM!), at least one remained thru 10 Nov, annual at this location.

**NORTHERN GANNET:** juv Hamburg ERIE 29 Oct (MZ!), during strong SW winds on L Erie, first Oct record for Reg.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 225; 450 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 5 Sep; 2 Nov; max 545; 640 BuSP 12 Sep; 4 Oct (WW); 74 BuSP 27 Nov, high count for date.

**Am. Bittern:** Farmersville CATT 6 Oct (BC), only report.

**Great Egret:** Alfred ALLE 1-30 Sep; 6; 6 BWWT 3; 28 Sep; 6 TBNP 5 Sep; max 39 Strawberry I NR 8 Sep (WW); 4 Alexander GENE 14 Sep; 3 Wethersfield WYOM 22 Sep (RR); 12 Tift NP 5 Oct; 25 BOSOC; last FNPS 28 Oct.

**SNOWY EGRET:** Tift NP & TBNP 2-19 Sep (JP, WW, mob), very rare in fall, only 2<sup>nd</sup> Sep record for Reg.

**Green Heron:** last Alexander GENE 28 Oct.



**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 34 NF 29 Nov, good number for date.  
**Turkey Vulture:** last 12 Wethersfield WYOM 1 Nov.

### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** last BWWTP 21 Oct.  
**Bald Eagle:** reported from numerous locations; 15 BOSOC; max 9 Sheridan CHAU 20 Sep (DN).  
**N. Goshawk:** ORLE BOSOC, only report.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 6 BOSOC; Ashford CATT 10 Oct; Wethersfield WYOM 1 Nov; few typically reported in fall.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** last 3 BOSOC.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** arr Wethersfield WYOM 1 Nov.  
**Merlin:** SPNS 14 Sep; 3 Buffalo ERIE 15, 29 Sep (PY), traditional winter roost; Tift NP 17 Sep; Buffalo ERIE 24 Sep; NIAG BOSOC; AISP 15 Oct (TiL); BWWTP 21 Oct; NF 29 Oct; 2 Batavia GENE 9 Nov (LC).  
**Peregrine Falcon:** INWR 23 Sep; Yates ORLE 24 Sep; NIAG BOSOC; Somersset NIAG 21 Oct; Buffalo ERIE 21 Oct; female from Buffalo pair found dead in Oct, *intro*.  
**BLACK RAIL:** Ellicottville CATT 10 Sep (FV! NYSARC), flushed while mowing wet field with tractor, observed at close range, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional record, *intro*.  
**Virginia Rail:** no reports.  
**Sora:** last Farmersville CATT 6 Oct (BC), only report.  
**Com. Moorhen:** last INWR 22 Oct.  
**Am. Coot:** max 663 ChauL 18 Oct (DN); 161 Dayton CATT 22 Oct; 312 INWR 30 Nov.  
**SANDHILL CRANE:** INWR 23 Sep (JP!), much rarer in fall than spring, only 2<sup>nd</sup> Sep record for Reg.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** 6 WBSP 17 Sep; 2 Yates ORLE 24 Sep; 2 BWWTP 28 Sep; max, last 9 Hamburg ERIE 31 Oct.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** Clarence ERIE 3 Sep; WBSP 17 Sep; max 26 NIAG BOSOC; last BWWTP 21 Oct.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** max 9 Tift NP 9 Sep; last 6 BOSOC.  
**Killdeer:** last 9 Alexander GENE 5 Nov.  
**AMERICAN AVOCET:** Hamburg ERIE 12 Oct (RA! FR), increasing reports of this rarity, only 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct record for Reg.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** last BWWTP 21 Oct.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** last 24 BOSOC.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** last 4 Bethany GENE 15 Oct.

**Willet:** DH 3 Sep, only report.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** last 3 BOSOC.  
**HUDSONIAN GODWIT:** Dayton CATT 11 Nov (JL, DN, BS, KV), latest report for Reg.  
**Sanderling:** max 17 Sheridan CHAU 3 Sep; last 2 Hamburg ERIE 12 Oct.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 24 Wilson NIAG 24 Sep; last 4 BOSOC.  
**Dunlin:** arr BWWTP 28 Sep; max 115 Wilson NIAG 3 Nov (BE); last FNPS 5 Nov.  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** 4 Clarence ERIE 4, 5 Sep (JP); 6 BOSOC; only reports.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 1; 2 Tift NP 3; 9 Sep, only reports.  
**LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** LBSP 30 Sep (WD! JP), identified by call as it flew off of L Ontario.  
**Wilson's Snipe:** 11 INWR 23 Sep; 2 Amherst ERIE 26 Sep; Newfane NIAG 7 Oct; 11 BOSOC; last 4 Findley L CHAU 23 Nov (JL).  
**Am. Woodcock:** 3 BOSOC; last Ashford CATT 13 Nov (JR).  
**Red-necked Phalarope:** BWWTP 27 Sep - 5 Oct (MZ, GS), only report.  
**Red Phalarope:** Hanover CHAU 19 Nov (DN), at mouth of Cattaraugus Creek.  
**POMARINE JAEGER:** 2-3 Hamburg ERIE 29 Oct (JP), during strong wind event.  
**Parasitic Jaeger:** 3 Wilson NIAG 2 Sep (BE); 2 Hamburg ERIE 24 Sep (PY!); 8 Hamburg ERIE 29 Oct (RA!), during strong wind event; FNPS 5 Nov (TJ, PY).  
**jaeger sp.:** 2 Hamburg ERIE 24 Sep (PY); Wilson NIAG 17 Oct (WD); 12 Hamburg ERIE 29 Oct (PY), includes overlap with reports above from same date.  
**FRANKLIN'S GULL:** NF 29 Oct (WD), only report.  
**Little Gull:** arr Wilson NIAG 15, 17 Oct; Lewiston NR 23 Oct; 4 Buffalo NR 29 Oct; 4 NF 29 Oct; Hamburg ERIE 29 Oct; 2 max NR thru Nov.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** 1182 Wilson NIAG 15 Oct (WD), migrating along L Ontario; estimated 20,000 Buffalo NR & NF 29 Oct (WD), following strong wind event, remarkable count for date.  
**CALIFORNIA GULL:** NPP 12, 13, 18 Nov (JP WW! WD! NYSARC); NF 18 Nov (WD!); 15th consecutive year on NR.  
**Thayer's Gull:** several reported NPP and NF in late Nov, undocumented.  
**Iceland Gull:** arr NF 18 Nov (BP).  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Hamburg ERIE 10 Sep (FR); 4 NF 29 Oct; 2 Hamburg ERIE

29 Oct; max 6 NF 22 Nov (JP); Wilson NIAG 29 Nov.

**Glaucous Gull:** arr NF 18 Nov.

**Sabine's Gull:** arr 2 Hamburg ERIE 29 Oct (MM), during strong wind event; Wilson NIAG 11, 16 Nov (WD).

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** arr, max 7 juv Hamburg ERIE 29 Oct (PY!), during strong wind event; juv NF 29 Oct, 5 Nov; ad NF 18 Nov (WD!, BP); ad DHSP 18 Nov (WD!), adults very rare; 2 juvs NF 22 Nov.

**Caspian Tern:** max 29 BeSP 7 Sep; last 3 Wilson NIAG 29 Sep.

**Com. Tern:** 2 Wilson NIAG 15 Oct; last 5; 1 Buffalo NR 2; 14 Nov (PH).

**Forster's Tern:** Hamburg ERIE 2 Sep; 2 Silver Creek CHAU 6 Sep (DN); 2 Carlton ORLE 30 Sep (JP); Wilson NIAG 15 Oct; 2 DH 6 Nov (DN), late; Barcelona Harbor CHAU 10 Nov (BS), late.

**RAZORBILL:** FNPS 19 Nov thru (NP; mob NYSARC), third Regional record, all have been at same location.

#### PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Newstead ERIE 3 Sep (MM); TBNP 16 Sep (RS); BeSP 19 Sep (DS); last AmSP 27 Sep (RS); more fall reports than usual.

**Snowy Owl:** no reports.

**Short-eared Owl:** 18; 22 Porter NIAG 2; 6 Nov (DS), traditional wintering location.

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** 40 banded AISP 1 Oct - 24 Nov (ToL); 15 banded Wethersfield WYOM 1-31 Oct (DJ), wet and windy weather blamed for lower numbers than recent years.

**Com. Nighthawk:** 13 Williamsville ERIE 6 Sep; 10 Buffalo ERIE 6 Sep; max 46 Falconer CHAU 8 Sep (LD), good count for recent years.

**Chimney Swift:** last 7 Buffalo NR 29 Oct (WD!); during strong wind event, record late.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Amherst ERIE 9-14 Oct; last N Tonawanda NIAG 16 Oct (PD); plus two other secondhand reports of hummingbirds to DAB following surprise October storm.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 3 Hamburg ERIE 3 Sep; 3 FNPS 9 Sep; BeSP 16, 27 Sep; 3 LBSP 30 Sep; only reports.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr Orchard Park ERIE 2 Sep.

**N. Flicker:** 17 Brant ERIE 30 Sep, good count for one location.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** 2 Tift NP 10 Sep (MG,GR), rarely reported in fall.

**E. Wood-Pewee:** last BOSOC.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Williamsville ERIE 4 Sep (RS); Eden ERIE 11 Sep (RA); last AISP 21 Sep (TB).

**"Traill's" Flycatcher:** last Amherst ERIE 14 Sep (JP), only report.

**Least Flycatcher:** last 3 AmSP 26 Sep.

**E. Phoebe:** last Brant ERIE 4 Nov (DN).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** last Amherst ERIE 14 Sep.

**E. Kingbird:** last 2 Tift NP 16 Sep.

**N. Shrike:** arr AmSP 30 Oct.

**White-eyed Vireo:** Amherst ERIE 21 Sep (JP!), third consecutive fall report.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** last AmSP 26 Sep.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr Sheridan CHAU 17 Sep; last Tonawanda ERIE 24 Oct.

**Warbling Vireo:** AmSP 29 Sep (RS), late; NF BOSOC, very late.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** 10 reports Sep; last AmSP 26 Sep.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** last 7 BOSOC.

**Com. Raven:** Attica WYOM 26 Sep;

Darien GENE 29 Sep, 11 Nov; 3

Bennington WYOM BOSOC; 2 Stockton CHAU BOSOC; only reports away from ALLE, CATT.

**Horned Lark:** max 200 Chautauqua CHAU 18 Nov (DN).

**Purple Martin:** last 2 Tillman WMA ERIE 6 Oct (RS).

**Tree Swallow:** 400 BWWT 3 Sep; 17 BWWT 21 Oct; 2 NF 29 Oct (WD); BWWT 4 Nov (SG), late; last NF 17 Nov (SM), late.

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** max 200 NF 29 Oct (WD); last 31 NF 19 Nov (WW! WD!), often reported late in season from this location.

**Bank Swallow:** last 10 BWWT 3 Sep.

**Cliff Swallow:** last BWWT 3 Sep.

**Barn Swallow:** max 300 BWWT 11 Sep (WW); Carlton ORLE 28 Oct (WD!), late; last NF 5 Nov (TJ), second latest report ever.

**swallow sp:** pale-rumped swallow NF 17-18 Nov (SM, JP), poorly seen on two occasions, presumed Cave or Cliff.

**Carolina Wren:** max 8 TBNP 16 Sep (RS); 45 BOSOC, highest in 71 year history of count.

**House Wren:** last 11 BOSOC.

**Winter Wren:** arr Wilson NIAG 6 Sep; Hanover CHAU 19 Nov.

**Marsh Wren:** AmSP 1 Oct (RS), migrant; INWR 7 Oct; last 3 BOSOC.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** arr Wilson NIAG 12 Sep.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr WTSP, Tift NP 9 Sep; Silver Creek CHAU 5 Nov; Sherman CHAU 18 Nov; last NF 29 Nov (WW).  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** last 3 TBNP 16 Sep.  
**NORTHERN WHEATEAR:** BWWT 21-23 Oct (MM!, mob, NYARC), third Regional record.  
**Veery:** last 2 Orchard Park ERIE, Wilson NIAG 16 Sep.  
**Gray-checked Thrush:** arr Tonawanda ERIE 5 Sep; 2 Wilson NIAG 16 Sep; 2 NF 3 Oct; 4 Tonawanda ERIE 26 Sep; last 2 Buffalo ERIE 13 Oct (PY).  
**Swainson's Thrush:** arr Salamanca CATT 3 Sep; 5 TBNP 16 Sep; 30 Orchard Park ERIE 16 Sep (MM), nocturnal calls within ~30 mins; last 6 BOSOC.  
**Hermit Thrush:** arr Wilson NIAG 26 Sep; 17 AISP 24 Oct, good count.  
**Wood Thrush:** last 7 BOSOC.  
**N. Mockingbird:** Amherst ERIE 26 Sep; Sherman CHAU 18 Nov; Silver Creek CHAU 23 Nov; Tift NP 28 Nov; Alexander GENE 30 Nov; less common in these locations.  
**Brown Thrasher:** last 2 BOSOC.  
**Am. Pipit:** arr 3 LBSP 30 Sep; max 40 Alexander GENE 14 Oct; max 40 Somerset NIAG 22 Oct.

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** last Tift NP 15 Sep (DS).  
**"Brewster's" Warbler:** last AmSP 11 Sep (RS).  
**Tennessee Warbler:** last 2 BOSOC.  
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr NF, Amherst ERIE 15 Sep; last Pomfret CHAU 15 Oct (TM).  
**Nashville Warbler:** 7 Tift NP 3 Sep; last Hamburg ERIE 21 Oct.  
**N. Parula:** last BOSOC.  
**Yellow Warbler:** last Tift NP 23 Sep (RS).  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** last BOSOC.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** last 2 BOSOC.  
**Cape May Warbler:** 6 Wilson & Porter NIAG 7 Sep (JP); Pomfret CHAU 17 Sep; Wilson NIAG 29 Sep; 2 BOSOC; only reports.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** last 2 BOSOC.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 275 NFSP 30 Sep (DR).  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** last Salamanca CATT 19 Oct (TB).  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** last Silver Creek CHAU 30 Sep.  
**Pine Warbler:** arr NFSP 3 Sep; 3 Wilson NIAG 7 Sep; AISP 23 Sep; last Somerset NIAG 21 Oct (WD, BP).  
**Palm Warbler:** arr 4 TBNP 9 Sep; last BuSP 15 Oct.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** last Tift NP 2 Oct.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** last 23 BOSOC.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** last Tift NP 5 Oct.  
**Am. Redstart:** last Tift NP 5 Oct.  
**Ovenbird:** last Tift NP 1 Oct (JM).  
**N. Waterthrush:** last Wilson NIAG 9 Sep.  
**Connecticut Warbler:** TBNP 10 Sep (RA); BeSP 18 Sep (DS); only reports.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** last 15 BOSOC.  
**Hooded Warbler:** last AISP 27 Sep.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** last Tift NP 5 Oct.  
**Canada Warbler:** last Tift NP 13 Sep.

#### TANAGERS – WEAVERS

**SUMMER TANAGER:** Wilson NIAG 13-21 Nov (BP, WD! mob), 2nd fall record.  
**Scarlet Tanager:** last AmSP 26 Sep.  
**E. Towhee:** 44 BOSOC.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr AmSP 26 Sep (RS), very early, 1<sup>st</sup> Sep record for Reg.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** last 16 Alexander GENE, 4 Attica WYOM 12 Nov.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** Clarence ERIE 4 Sep (JP); BuSP 21 Sep (EL); BWWT 24 Oct (EL); last Hamburg ERIE 25 Oct (RA).  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr 3 BOSOC; last TBNP 19 Nov.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr 2 Olcott NIAG 7 Sep (JP); BuSP 20 Oct; last Pomfret CHAU 26 Oct (TM), late.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** arr Tift NP 9 Sep.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr Wilson NIAG 26 Sep.  
**Lapland Longspur:** arr BOSOC; max 23 Wilson NIAG 15 Oct (WD, BE); 2 Pomfret CHAU 4,8 Nov.  
**Snow Bunting:** arr BOSOC, early; 12 BWWT 25 Oct; 50 Porter NIAG 27 Oct; max 80 Somerset NIAG 28 Oct.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** last BOSOC.  
**Indigo Bunting:** 3 AISP 27 Sep; last AmSP 29 Sep.  
**E. Meadowlark:** AISP 5 Nov (TB); 2 Dayton CATT 17 Nov (DN); only reports beyond Oct.

**Rusty Blackbird:** arr TWMA 1 Oct; max 35 Hanover CHAU 21 Oct; last 7 Wilson NIAG 10 Nov (WD).

**Baltimore Oriole:** last Tiffit NP 9 Sep.

**Purple Finch:** 52 BOSOC, low total; few reports.

**Pine Siskin:** arr 9 BOSOC; 4 Wilson NIAG 13 Nov; 2 Alfred ALLE 30 Nov (EB); only reports.

**Evening Grosbeak:** arr 3 ALLE BOSOC, only report.



## REGION 2 – GENESEE

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September was wet and cloudy. Rainfall was 1.94" above normal. Temperatures averaged 0.8°F above normal, but this was misleading. Daytime highs were typically cool and nighttime lows were held up by the cloud cover. The passage of Hurricane Ernesto on the 2<sup>nd</sup> brought heavy rains, 1-2" Region wide. Birds that were possibly tied to the hurricane passage occurred on 6 September, when a Long-tailed Jaeger, a **Sabine's Gull**, and 14 Black Terns, plus two **Sooty/Bridled Terns** clearly associated with it, were observed at Hamlin Beach State Park. October's temperatures were very normal, averaging 0.2°F above normal. Rainfall was 4.96", 2.36" above normal, making for a wet month. Generally speaking, October's weather did not seem to have any significant effect on either arriving or departing birds, which is not unusual for the middle month of the season. November was a contrast to the two prior months. Rainfall at 2.89" was just 0.05" above normal and therefore had no visible role involving bird reports. The temperatures on the other hand averaged 6°F above normal and clearly had a role in certain species lingering, namely seven species of warbler.

There is no one word or line that could completely describe the weather of fall 2006. *It had it all*, but nothing in the extreme. Well, I guess that is a line that could describe it after all. That same line could almost be used to describe the birds that were reported as well, with a couple of exceptions.

The waterfowl making headlines this fall were certainly the geese. Four **Greater White-fronted Geese** found by Gary Chapin in Hamlin were an unprecedented fall record. Three **Ross's Geese** in Savannah found by Kevin McGowan were equally unprecedented for the fall. Cackling Goose was numerous, with a high count of seven at Hamlin Beach State Park, and several more detected elsewhere. Two **Ross's x Snow Goose** hybrids were found, one in Savannah and one at Hamlin Beach State Park. With the increasing number of hybrids being found, all "white" geese should be closely scrutinized. Pied-billed Grebe numbers this fall were excellent, with a high count of 60 on Irondequoit Bay and several double-digit reports from other locales. A maximum count of 535 Red-necked Grebes was made along the lakeshore from Hamlin Beach State

Park to Kendall by Robert Spahn. A lone **Eared Grebe** was reported by William Symonds at Hamlin Beach State Park.

In contrast, at Hamlin Beach, lakewatching for waterfowl was in general somewhat uneventful. Low maximum counts were had for many species. An example of this would be a count of 367 Brant. I believe that quite often the timing of cold fronts allows several species of waterfowl to over fly our Region at night, and this may be the main reason for these low totals. Brant are an excellent example of this. It is a common occurrence for Brant to show up on their Atlantic coast wintering grounds without being detected en route from breeding grounds. Several other waterfowl species have a similar pattern. This could explain this season's low numbers. Hopefully more study will be done in the future to support or disprove this.

Numbers for both loons passing the lakewatch were on the low average side this fall, though the Red-throated Loon count actually peaked a bit late in early December beyond this season's end. The story for Common Loon is that, similar to neighboring Regions to the east and west, we experienced a die off due to Type-E botulism, with 115 carcasses picked up by the DEC mainly between Sodus Bay and Fairhaven between 8 October and 18 November. Another 37 dead individuals of other waterbird species were also retrieved over that period.

Double-crested Cormorants were again reported in low numbers. Waders were virtually absent; even though they do not need the water to be as shallow as shorebirds, the high lake level may have contributed to their absence. A flock of nine Sandhill Cranes in Savannah is evidence of an increasing eastern population, as is a flock of four at Sodus Bay. A few Rough-legged Hawk reports unfortunately did not turn into an invasion. Compared to the fall of 2005's bounty, Peregrine Falcon and Merlin numbers returned to normal by recent standards. American Kestrel seemed ok at best.

Shorebird habitat was non-existent in the bays and along the creeks due to the high lake level. Accordingly, numbers and variety of shorebirds were exceptionally poor. The fields were wet, but few were plowed to the liking of plovers and the like. Even the passage of Hurricane Ernesto brought no shorebird grounding. The only highlight was a record late **Solitary Sandpiper** at Hogan Point. There were no reports of Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and plover numbers were pathetic. Along the lakeshore Sanderlings were rare and the Dunlin flight was weak. This may have been the worst shorebird fall on record!

Jaeger, gull, and tern species were well represented, but numbers for each were relatively poor. A total of 18 Parasitic and two Pomarine jaegers for the season was so-so at best, but two **Long-tailed** helped salvage the jaeger picture. A low maximum of 621 Bonaparte's Gulls was somewhat offset by eight Little and two Black-headed gulls. Two **Sabine's Gulls** definitely provided some excitement at the lakewatch. Black-legged Kittiwake was virtually absent, with only four reported. Caspian Terns were apparently hurt by the Type-E Botulism affecting nesting birds at the east end of Lake Ontario. There were no triple-digit counts from on the beach or passing by the lakewatch this fall. Common Tern numbers were also extremely low, with a maximum count of only 27. Black Terns had a high count of 14 pass by the lakewatch, an actual event by modern standards. Two **Sooty/Bridled Terns** flew by the lakewatch four days after the

passing of Hurricane Ernesto remnants; unfortunately, they were too far out to positively identify to species.

A **Loggerhead Shrike** was found in Parma, this is a true rarity anytime but especially in the fall. Northern Shrike was late to arrive but eventually occurred in moderate numbers. One White-eyed Vireo was banded at the Kaiser-Manitou banding station, which has become the norm. Swallows were essentially absent from the Region, back-to-back cold fronts at the very end of the summer season saw to that. **Cave Swallows** appeared on a record late date. The initial sighting by Dave Tetlow involved three Cave Swallows and one **Violet-green Swallow**. The latter was observed closely for about two minutes and then disappeared to the east. At that point phone calls were made. The bird was never seen again, only various size groups of Cave Swallow. This single observer sighting of a potential first state record must unfortunately be treated as hypothetical.

It was a lackluster fall for the thrushes, with basically no maxima worth mentioning. Two Bicknell's were noted, one banded and one identified by nocturnal call note. Warbler variety was good, but the volume was poor. Three Connecticut Warblers were a good total and correlated with a mini-invasion in the Northeast. Seven species of warblers in November is certainly of note and reflects the very mild conditions of the month. Sparrows did not warrant any superlatives with the exception of Fox Sparrow. It was an excellent season for them and multiples could be found almost at will in appropriate habitat. A single flock of 22 in Durand-Eastman Park punctuated this. There was a trickle of winter finches hinting at an upcoming invasion, but this absolutely did not happen. Red Crossbills clearly passed through the Region but did not stay. A total of 20 were noted at different locales by multiple observers.

All said and done, it seemed like a season with tons of potential that ultimately lacked punch. That being said, a year-to-date total of 295 species was aided considerably by several rarities and is quite respectable. The 10-year average through November is 291.4.

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## 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; NC - Northrup Creek, 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; SB - Sodus Bay, WAYN; V - T. Victor, MONR; W - T of Webster, MONR; Y - T. York LIVI.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

#### **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED**

**GOOSE:** 4 H 19 Nov (GC), rare fall report.

**Snow Goose:** arr 1 HB 18-25 Sep; max 3000+ S 24 Nov.

**ROSS'S GOOSE:** arr 3 S 19 Nov (KM).

**ROSS'S GOOSE x SNOW GOOSE:** 2 S 19 Nov (KM); 1 HB 29-30 Nov (DT, MD, et al).

**Cackling Goose:** arr 3 P Oct; max 7 HB 6 Nov.

**Brant:** arr 195 HB 5 Oct; max 367 HB 25 Oct.

**Mute Swan:** max 300+ IB 22 Nov.

**Tundra Swan:** max 1000+ S 24 Nov.

**Trumpeter Swan:** 3 S 24 Nov.

**Am. Widgeon:** arr 2 HB 2 Sept; max 72 HB 10 Oct.

**Blue-winged Teal:** last 1 G 19 Nov.

**N. Shoveler:** arr 1 HB 6 Sep.

**N. Pintail:** arr 2 HB 2 Sep.

**Green-winged Teal:** arr 6 G 1 Sep.

**Canvasback:** arr 1 HB 15 Oct; max 29 HB 10 Nov.

**Redhead:** arr 3 HB 16 Sep.

**Ring-necked Duck:** arr 65 G 10 Oct; max 245 G 21 Nov.

**Greater Scaup:** arr 9 HB 6 Sep.

**Lesser Scaup:** arr 16 HB 4 Sep; max 1000+ G 4 Nov.

**Surf Scoter:** arr 1 HB 23 Sep; max 49 HB 3 Nov.

**Black Scoter:** arr 3 HB 26 Sep; max 210 HB 14 Nov.

**Long-tailed Duck:** arr 25-30 HB 3 Sep.

**Bufflehead:** arr 1 HB 23 Oct; max 264 HB 3 Nov.

**Com. Goldeneye:** arr 1 HB 6 Oct.

**Hooded Merganser:** max 59 HB 21 Nov.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** arr 14 G 8 Sept; max 6000+ off IB outlet 18 Nov.

**Ruddy Duck:** arr 2 G 18 Sep.

**Red-throated Loon:** arr 3 HB 8 Oct; max 216 HB 14 Nov, low max, but higher in Dec.

**Com. Loon:** high counts 1544 HB 15 Oct, 1728 HB 16 Oct.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 60 IB 15 Oct.

**Horned Grebe:** arr 4 HB 6 Sep; max 68 HB 27 Nov, low max.

**Red-necked Grebe:** arr 2 H 4 Sep; max 535 HB to K 27 Nov (RS), State record high fall count.

**EARED GREBE:** 1 HB 15 Oct (WS, ST).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 106 HB 11 Sept, low Sep max; max 419 HB 10 Oct.

**Great Egret:** 1 BB 24 Oct, only report.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** last 1 NC 9-10 Nov.

### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** last 1 HB 10 Nov.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** arr 1 Mt. Morris LIVI 10 Nov.

**Merlin:** 10 reports for season, several locations.

**Peregrine Falcon:** 4 reports for season, several locations.

**Com. Moorhen:** 1 S 9 Sep; last West Lakeshore 19 Sep, only reports.

**Am. Coot:** max 400+ IB.

**Sandhill Crane:** 1 S 9 Sep; 4 SB 19 Oct; 9 S 19-30 Nov (KM, et al).

**Black-bellied Plover:** max 63 HB 5 Oct.

**Am. Golden-Plover:** last 1 HB 28 Oct.

**Semipalmated Plover:** last 3 S 15 Oct.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** last 1 Byron GENE 9 Nov.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** last 1 HP 15 Nov (DT), ties Reg. record late.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** last 1 H 15 Sep.  
**Whimbrel:** last 1 HB 19 Sep.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** last 1 S 15 Oct.  
**Least Sandpiper:** last 10 S 15 Oct.  
**Purple Sandpiper:** arr 1 IB 13 Nov.  
**Dunlin:** arr 1 HB 22 Sep; max 300 HB 3 Nov.  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** arr 5 S 9 Sep; last 4 S 15 Oct.  
**Long-billed Dowitcher:** 1 G 8-10 Oct; 3 S 15 Oct.  
**Red-necked Phalarope:** 1 HB 2 Sep.  
**Pomarine Jaeger:** 1 imm HB 25 Oct; 1 IB outlet 4 Nov.  
**Parasitic Jaeger:** 18 total HB season.  
**Long-tailed Jaeger:** 1 imm HB 5 Sep (WS); 1 dark imm HB 6 Sep (RS).  
**Little Gull:** 8 total HB season.  
**Black-headed Gull:** 1 imm HB 23 Oct; 1 imm HB 24 Oct.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 621 HB 16 Oct; 535 HB 1 Nov, both are low for peak counts.  
**Iceland Gull:** arr 1 HB 29 Nov.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 1 Perinton MONR Oct, only report.  
**SABINE'S GULL:** 1 imm HB 6 Sep (DT, KG); 1 imm HB 31 Oct (WS, DT).  
**Glaucous Gull:** arr 1 IB 25 Nov.  
**Black-legged Kittiwake:** 1 imm HB 16 Oct; 1 imm HB 6, 9, 14 Nov.  
**Caspian Tern:** last 1 HB 16 Oct.  
**Com. Tern:** max 27 HB 6 Sep; last 1 HB 16 Oct.  
**Forster's Tern:** last 1 HB 16 Oct.  
**SOOTY/BRIDLED TERN:** 2 HB 6 Sep (DT, KG, RS).  
**Black Tern:** max 14 HB 6 Sep; last 1 HB 18-21 Sep.

#### PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** last 1 Elba GENE 9 Oct.  
**Short-eared Owl:** arr 1 Geneseo LIVI 28 Oct.  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** 1 S 9 Sep; 1 Penfield MONR 30 Nov.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** last 1 G 5 Oct.  
**Chimney Swift:** max 790 York LIVI 10 Sep.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 1 Bushnell's Basin MONR 25 Sep.

#### FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

**E. Wood-Pewee:** last 3 HB 2 Oct.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** last 1 banded M 20 Sep.  
**"Traill's" Flycatcher:** last 1 banded M 30 Sep.  
**Willow Flycatcher:** last 2 Sweden MONR 16 Sep.  
**E. Phoebe:** last 2 banded M 25 Oct.  
**E. Kingbird:** last 1 G 1 Sep.  
**N. Shrike:** arr 2 HB 31 Oct; 16 total reported for Nov.  
**LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE:** 1 PA 23 Sep (DT).  
**White-eyed Vireo:** 1 banded M 1 Oct.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** last 1 banded M 15 Oct.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** last 2 Penfield MONR 10 Sep.  
**Warbling Vireo:** last 1 banded M 28 Sep.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** last 1 banded M 26 Sep.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** last 1 G 5 Oct.  
**FISH CROW:** 1 Rochester MONR 5 Oct (DT).  
**Purple Martin:** last 10 S 9 Sep.  
**Tree Swallow:** max 300+ Conesus Lake LIVI 15 Oct; last 1 HP 22 Nov.  
**Bank Swallow:** last 1 G 1 Sep.  
**CAVE SWALLOW:** 5 HP 29 Nov (DT, MD, RS), record late.  
**VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW:** 1 HP 29 Nov (DT), 1st State record should be treated as hypothetical as a single observer record.  
**Barn Swallow:** last 1 HB 31 Oct (WS, mob), late.  
**House Wren:** last 1 Mendon Ponds MONR 15 Oct.  
**Winter Wren:** arr 1 banded M 8 Sep.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 130 banded M 29 Sep.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max 106 banded M 29 Sep; last 1 IB 4 Nov.  
**Veery:** last HB 2 Oct.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr 1 HB 12 Sep; max 24 banded M 26 Sep; last 1 banded M 6 Oct.  
**Bicknell's Thrush:** 1 Webster Park MONR 22 Sept (RS), nocturnal migrant; 1 banded M 27 Sep.  
**Gray-cheeked/ Bicknell's Thrush:** 55 total banded M, all month.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** max 30+ Webster Park MONR 22 Sep; last 1 banded M 15 Oct.  
**Hermit Thrush:** max 25 M 2 Oct.  
**Wood Thrush:** last 1 banded M 5 Oct.



## WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** last 1 banded M 6 Sep.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** last 1 banded M 5 Oct.  
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr 1 banded M 5 Oct; last 1 HB 8 Nov.  
**Nashville Warbler:** last 1 HB 8 Nov.  
**N. Parula Warbler:** arr 1 G 1 Sep.  
**Yellow Warbler:** last 1 banded M 6 Sep.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** last 1 banded M 13 Oct.  
**Cape May Warbler:** last 1 banded M 16 Sept.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 1 HB 8 Nov (DT, MD); 1 HB 26 Nov (MD), probably same bird, Reg. record late at the time, but seen into Dec.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 35 HB 9 Nov.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** last 1 IB 9 Oct.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** last 1 Cumming Nature Center ONTA 17 Sept.  
**Pine Warbler:** 1 HB 12, 21 Nov.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** last 1 banded M 18 Oct, very late.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** last 1 banded M 2 Oct.  
**Am. Redstart:** last 1 banded M 30 Sep.  
**Ovenbird:** last 1 Henrietta MONR 21 Nov (CM), late.

**N. Waterthrush:** last 1 banded M 29 Sep.  
**Connecticut Warbler:** arr 1 banded M 4 Sep; 1 HP 14 Sep; last 1 banded 15 Sep.  
**Mourning Warbler:** last 1 HB 25 Sep.  
**Hooded Warbler:** last 2 banded M 18 Sep.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** last 1 M 6 Oct.  
**Canada Warbler:** last 1 banded M 6 Sep.

## TANAGERS – WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** last 2 Auburn Trail MONR 1 Oct.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr 1 CU 10 Oct.  
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** 1 S 9 Sep; 1 G 18 Sep.  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr 1 HB 27 Sep; max 22 DEP MONR 16 Nov (DT).  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr 1 G 5 Sep; last 1 banded M 10 Oct.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr 2 banded M 17 Sep.  
**Indigo Bunting:** last 1 H 18 Sep.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** arr 1 Perinton MONR 27 Sep.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** last 1 HB 12 Sep.  
**Pine Grosbeak:** 2 HP 15 Nov.  
**Red Crossbill:** 1 HP 14 Nov; 5 HB 15 Nov; 2 HB 20 Nov; 12 DEP MONR 30 Nov.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** 1 G 8 Nov; 1 HB 8 Nov.



Figure A. Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), Tupper Lake, St. Lawrence Co., 5 August 1978, T. Davis. See pp. 14-15.



Figure B. Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus latirostris*), Owego, Tioga Co., 9 August 2006, J. & S. Ballard. See p. 26.



Figure C. Northern Wheatear, (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, 22 Oct 2006, W. D'Anna. See pp. 33 & 36.



Figure D. Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*), Marshlands Conservancy, Westchester Co., 19 Nov 2006, G. Benson. See pp. 33 & 82.

## REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES REGION

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Fall weather in the Finger Lakes Region was fairly normal on average. September had a near normal average temperature of 59.1° F, but lows were warmer and highs were cooler than normal. October highs were also cooler than normal, causing the average temperature to be 1.4 F° cooler than normal. November lows and highs were both warmer than normal, yielding an average that was 3.9 F° above normal. September rainfall was more than one inch below normal, October's was an inch above normal, and November's just a 0.19" below normal. The only snowfall occurred in November with only trace accumulations.

The first highlight of the season was a juvenile Sabine's Gull, first spotted by Glenn Seeholzer off Stewart Park. Several observers were with Glenn when he located it and others found it from East Shore Park. The bird soon flew north over Cayuga Lake and was subsequently seen by still more observers at Myers Point in the Town of Lansing.

Two Connecticut Warblers appeared in Tompkins County. Thorsten Balsby and Mark Chao located one in Sapsucker Woods. Shawn Billerman and Tom Johnson noted the thick eye ring of one flying close by during a nocturnal migrant vigil at Cornell University's Schoellkopf Stadium. The stadium lights, combined with a low cloud cover, attract many migrants within easy hearing distance and many within easy viewing distance. Other notable birds traversing the stadium this season included Cape May Warbler, Upland Sandpiper, Dickcissels, and Ruddy Turnstones.

A second-hand report of a male Yellow-headed Blackbird at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge rounded out the September highlights. A member of a group of birders from Albany saw the bird fly in with Red-winged Blackbirds and perch briefly before joining the other birds in grasses near the Thruway.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was again found by various observers at Hog Hole, an area in Treman Marina State Park at the southwest corner of Cayuga Lake, through the first half of October. Tim Lenz and Chris Wood located a singing White-eyed Vireo along Towpath Road in the Montezuma Wetlands Complex on the way to checking Puddler's Marsh for shorebirds. Shorebird numbers and variety at this location were good throughout the season, but may have been better had it not been for the Peregrines hunting there. As many as three Peregrine Falcons were seen there on Montezuma Muckrace day.

Steve Cooper observed three Black Vultures at the Elmira-Corning Regional Airport in Big Flats. This is only the second fall report in the region in at least the last ten years.

A flock of five Pine Grosbeaks flew over West Elmira in early November, but this was not to be part of a big movement either of that species or of other winter finches. In September, Mark Chao reported the only Pine Siskin. Red

Crossbills were occasionally heard flying over. Elaina McCartney had one stop briefly in her Ithaca yard.

Jeff Gerbracht, Tim Lenz, and Chris Wood found a Pacific Loon in Aurora Bay on Cayuga Lake on 7 November. It continued to be seen there through the end of the season. The Pacific Loon was also seen one day at the Town of Ovid Park at Sheldrake where one was often seen the previous winter. The year before that, a suspected but too distant bird was occasionally seen near the south end of the lake. The first confirmation of the species came that spring (2005) when one was found closer to the north end of the lake. It seems very possible that all of these reports have been of the same bird.

Mary Wentworth found a Cattle Egret in a pasture near King Ferry. The same or another bird was found in Tyre by SUNY-ESF students on a field trip. Both sightings were in mid-November.

On 18 November, an Eared Grebe again appeared in the region. This year, however, it showed up at Willard Point on Seneca Lake instead of on Cayuga Lake. Tim Lenz discovered this bird. Also on that day, Mike Harvey and Tom Johnson found a remarkable flock of geese at the Savannah Mucklands which included four Greater White-fronted Geese, five Ross' Geese, two Ross' - Snow Goose hybrids, and at least one Cackling Goose.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AuB – Aurora Bay CAYU; BH – Beam Hill TOMP; CU – Cornell University; DLP – Dryden L P TOMP; DLT – Dryden L Trail TOMP; EIRW – East Ithaca Recreation Way TOMP; ESP - E Shore P; FRCG – Freese Road Community Gardens TOMP; HoHo – Hog Hole TOMP; KH – Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory SCHU; MNWR – Montezuma NWR; MtPl – Mt. Pleasant TOMP; MWC – Montezuma Wetlands Complex; MyPt - Myers Pt TOMP; SaMu – Savannah Mucklands SENE; StP – Stewart Park TOMP; SW – Sapsucker Woods TOMP.

### WHISTLING DUCKS–VULTURES

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** 4 SaMu 18 Nov (MiH, TJ, ph), only report, high.

**Snow Goose:** arr 150 Danby 5 Oct; max 5000 SaMu 19 Nov; last 2000 MNWR 24 Nov.

**SNOW GOOSE X ROSS'S GOOSE:** 2 SaMu 18 Nov (MiH, TJ, ph).

**Ross' Goose:** arr MNWR Oct 18-21 (TL, CW); max 5 SaMu 18 Nov (MiH, TJ), high; last 3 MWC 26 Nov (GCh), late.

**Brant:** arr 25 MtPl 6 Oct; max 400 MyPt 22 Oct; last 5 SaMu 18 Nov.

**Cackling Goose:** arr MNWR 21 Oct; last SaMu 18 Nov.

**Tundra Swan:** arr MNWR 24 Oct; max 475 SaMu 15 Nov.

**Trumpeter Swan:** arr 10 MWC 21 Oct, late.

**Wood Duck:** max 300 MWC 9 Sep (RS, ASt, KW), high; last 2 StP 11 Nov.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** MNWR 23-26 Sep; max 3 MNWR 15 Oct (MiH, TJ), high; last MNWR 24 Oct, early.

**Am. Black Duck:** max 6 StP 4 Oct, low.

**Blue-winged Teal:** max 20 MWC 9 Sep; last 3 SW 25 Oct.

**N. Shoveler:** max 30 MWC 9 Sep; last MNWR 26 Nov.

**N. Pintail:** max 2400 MWC 21 Oct (F&JBI), high.

**Green-winged Teal:** arr 14 MNWR 2 Sep; max 50 MWC 9 Sep.

**Canvasback:** max 2000 MNWR 14 Nov (SBI), high.

**Lesser Scaup:** arr DLP 20 Oct; max 15 StP 13 Nov.

**Surf Scoter:** arr ESP 26 Oct; max 4 DLP 27 Oct; last 2 MyPt 17 Nov (BB), late.

**White-winged Scoter:** arr AuB 21 Oct; max 15 MyPt 28 Oct.

**Black Scoter:** arr ESP 25 Oct; max 210 ESP 15 Nov (BoM), high; last ESP 28 Nov (DN), late.

**Long-tailed Duck:** arr 5 ESP 26 Oct; max 6 ESP 14 Nov.

**Bufflehead:** arr MyPt 21 Oct; max 20 StP 13 Nov.

**Com. Goldeneye:** arr & max 2 Ithaca Yacht Club TOMP 29 Oct, low.

**Hooded Merganser:** max 11 DLP 12 Nov, low.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** arr & max 3 Long Pt SP 26 Oct, low.

**Ruddy Duck:** max 450 MNWR 24 Nov (St&SuF), high.

**Red-throated Loon:** arr AuB 22 Oct; max 9 StP 19 Nov.

**PACIFIC LOON:** AuB 7-28 Nov (JGe, TL, CW); 1 T Ovid P 24 Nov (St&SuF!).

**Com. Loon:** arr 2 MyPt 15 Oct; max 337 Taughannock Falls SP 18 Nov, low.

**Horned Grebe:** 1 Eldridge P CHEM thru 25 Oct AT max 20 Seneca L SP 19 Nov.

**Red-necked Grebe:** arr 3 MyPt 28 Oct (MeH) max 5 AuB 28 Nov (JGe, TL, CW), high.

**EARED GREBE:** Willard Pt SENE 18-20 Nov (MiH, TJ), late.

**Am. Bittern:** last MNWR 9 Sep.

**Least Bittern:** max 2 MWC 3 Sep; last MNWR 9.

**Great Egret:** max 85 MNWR 25 Sep (AM), high; last MNWR 24, early.

**CATTLE EGRET:** Genoa 10-11 Nov (MWe); Tyre 15 Nov (AB, SUNY-ESF).

**Green Heron:** max 8 Big Flats Bird Sanctuary CHEM 5 Sep; last MNWR 1 Oct.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** max 20 MWC 9 Sep; last HoHo TOMP 5 Oct.

**BLACK VULTURE:** 3 Elmira-Corning Regional Airport 20 Oct (SC), high.

**Turkey Vulture:** max 100 CU 5 Oct; last Lansing 28 Nov.

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## HAWKS--ALCIDS

**Osprey:** max 2 StP 12 Sep; last DLP 27 Oct.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** max 40 CU 14 Sep; last 2 MacKenzie-Childs Pottery CAYU 20 Sep.  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 7 MtPI 6 Oct, low.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** arr Caroline 1 Nov, late; max 2 MtPI 18 Nov.  
**Golden Eagle:** arr Tompkins County Airport 19 Nov, late.  
**Am. Kestrel:** max 2 SENE 15 Oct, low.  
**Virginia Rail:** last MNWR 9 Sep.  
**Sora:** last MWC 9 Sep.  
**Com. Moorhen:** max 25 MWC 9 Sep; last HoHo TOMP 10 Oct.  
**Sandhill Crane:** max 9 SaMu 19-22 Nov (MCh, mob), high; last 5 MNWR 24 Nov.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** max 15 MWC 1 Sep; last MWC 9 Sep, early.  
**Am. Golden Plover:** max 10 MWC 3 Sep; last MNWR 2 Oct.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** max 40 MWC 9 Sep; last MyPt 16 Sep, early.  
**Killdeer:** max 130 Herman Road Fields TOMP 3 Sep; last 2 George Road Flooded Field TOMP 30 Nov (StF), late.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** last HoHo TOMP 5 Oct.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** max 4 Willow Creek Golf Course CHEM 7 Sep; last May's Pt Road N Pd SENE 9 Sep.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** max 20 MWC 9 Sep; last KH 16 Nov.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 100 MNWR 2 Sep; last 11 George Road Flooded Field TOMP 25 Oct, early.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** last CU 19 Sep (MiH, TJ, GS), late.  
**Hudsonian Godwit:** max 4 MWC 3 Sep; last 2 MWC 4 Sep, early.  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** last MNWR 3 Sep.  
**Sanderling:** MWC 15 Sep; last MyPt 16 Sep, early.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 75 MNWR 2 Sep; last MyPt 22 Oct.  
**Least Sandpiper:** max 35 MNWR 2 Sep; last MNWR 9 Sep, early.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** max 20 MWC 3 Sep; last MWC 23 Sep.  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** max 2 Purvis Road Field TOMP 15 Sep; last Purvis Road Ponds TOMP 1 Oct.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** max 20 MNWR 2 Sep; last MWC 5 Nov.  
**Dunlin:** arr 2 MNWR 30 Sep; max & last MWC 5 Nov.  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** max 104 MWC 3 Sep (MeH, TJ), high; last MWC 26 Sep.

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**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** max & last 3 MWC 2 Sep.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** max 30 MNWR 2 Sep; last 2 MNWR 1 Oct.  
**Long-billed Dowitcher:** max & last 40 Waterloo 28 Oct.  
**Wilson's Snipe:** max 5 MNWR 4 Sep; last MNWR 2 Oct.  
**Am. Woodcock:** max 2 Caroline 12 Oct; last Union Springs 11 Nov.  
**Wilson's Phalarope:** MWC 3 Sep; last MWC 9 Sep.  
**Red-necked Phalarope:** max 3 MWC 3 Sep; last MWC 9 Sep.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** arr MyPt 2 Sep; StP 18 Oct.  
**SABINE'S GULL:** StP 3 Sep (GS, mob).  
**Caspian Tern:** max 15 MWC 9 Sep (RS, AS, KW), high; last 12 Ithaca 25 Sep.  
**Com. Tern:** Owasco L 4 Nov (CW), late, only report.

## PIGEONS--WOODPECKERS

**Rock Pigeon:** max 40 Ovid 6 Oct, low.  
**Snowy Owl:** arr Tyre 28-29 Nov (FM), only report.  
**Short-eared Owl:** arr Ledyard 22 Nov, late.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** max 149 Elmira 6 Sep (BO), high; last MNWR 9 Sep.  
**Chimney Swift:** last Ithaca Commons TOMP 13 Oct.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** last 2 KH 6 Oct.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Enfield 5 Sep; last Lansing 23 Nov (RH), late.  
**Downy Woodpecker:** max 5 MyPt 30 Sep, low.

## FLYCATCHERS--WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** last Lansing 14-15 Sep (CW), late.  
**E. Wood-Pewee:** max 2 SW 1 Sep, low; last CU 25 Sep.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** last SW 1 Sep, early.  
**Least Flycatcher:** last CU 5 Sep, early.  
**E. Phoebe:** max 6 HoHo TOMP 5 Oct; last DLT 20 Oct, early.  
**E. Kingbird:** max 3 StP 7 Sep (DN), high; last EIRW 16 Sep.  
**N. Shrike:** arr KH 2 Nov; MNWR 15 Nov.  
**WHITE-EYED VIREO:** MWC 18 Oct (TL, CW).  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** max 3 SW 19 Sep; last SW 29 Sep, early.  
**Warbling Vireo:** max 2 CU 5 Sep; last SW 26 Sep.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** max 2 SW 5 Sep; last SW 19 Sep.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** max 9 SW 16 Sep; last CU 6 Oct.

**Blue Jay:** max 12 SENE 2 Oct, low.

**Purple Martin:** max & last 10000 MWC 9 Sep (RS, ASt, KW), high.

**Tree Swallow:** max 25000 MWC 9 Sep; last "several" MyPt 28 Oct.

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** max 500 MWC 9 Sep; last 2 MNWR 1 Oct.

**Bank Swallow:** max 200 StP 4 Sep; last 3 MWC 9 Sep.

**Cliff Swallow:** last 5 MWC 9 Sep, early.

**Barn Swallow:** max & last 50 MWC 9 Sep.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** max 13 SW 23 Sep, low.

**Brown Creeper:** max 10 STEU 23 Nov (JVN), high.

**House Wren:** max 2 Lansing 16 Sep; last BH 21 Oct.

**Marsh Wren:** last HoHo TOMP 12 Oct.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max 20 MWC 23 Sep; last Taughannock Falls SP 18 Nov (TL).

**Veery:** last CU 19 Sep.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr CU 6 Sep (MiH), early; last SW 28 Sep.

**Swainson's Thrush:** max 10 Ithaca 26 Sep; last SW 1 Oct.

**Hermit Thrush:** max 6 BH 21 Oct; last KH 28 Nov (J&SGr), late.

**Wood Thrush:** CU 20 Sep; last SW 23 Sep.

**Am. Robin:** max 1000 KH 1 Nov (J&SGr), high.

**Gray Catbird:** max 25 DLT 23 Sep; last Ithaca 18 Nov.

**Brown Thrasher:** MWC 23 Sep; last SW 26 Sep.

**Am. Pipit:** arr 2 MWC 9 Sep; max 200 Purvis Road Field TOMP 25 Oct; last 4 Purvis Road Field TOMP 19 Nov.

#### WARBLERS

**Tennessee Warbler:** DLT 23 Sep; last MyPt 30 Sep.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr SW 5 Sep; last Dryden 23 Oct.

**Nashville Warbler:** max 5 SW 16 Sep; last CU 5 Oct.

**N. Parula:** arr 2 SW 5 Sep; max 4 EIRW 16 Sep; last CU 6 Oct.

**Yellow Warbler:** last 2 StP 12 Sep.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 6 CU 16 Sep; last SW 29 Sep.

**Magnolia Warbler:** max 10 SW 5 Sep; last SW 29 Sep.

**Cape May Warbler:** arr KH 5 Sep; last SW 16 Sep.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max 2 SW 29 Sep; last CU 6 Oct.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 30 CU 6 Oct; last MWC 26 Nov.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** max 5 EIRW 16 Sep; last Ithaca 1 Nov.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** max 2 EIRW 16 Sep; last SW 29 Sep.

**Pine Warbler:** max 2 Mark Twain State Park 4 Sep; last CU 1 Nov.

**Palm Warbler:** arr StP 5 Sep; max 2 Stevenson Road Compost Piles TOMP 5 Oct; last SW 20 Oct.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** last EIRW 16 Sep.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** max 2 CU 18 Oct; last CU 21 Nov.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** max 3 SW 5 Sep; last SW 27 Sep.

**Am. Redstart:** max 5 SW 5 Sep; last CU 16 Sep, early.

**Ovenbird:** last 2 SW 16 Sep.

**CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** SW 9 Sep (TB, MCh); CU 15 Sep (SBI, TJ).

**Mourning Warbler:** last SW 16 Sep.

**Com. Yellowthroat:** max 4 CU 16 Sep, low; last 2 CU 15 Nov.

**Hooded Warbler:** CU 7 Sep.

**Wilson's Warbler:** last 2 MWC 23 Sep.

**Canada Warbler:** last SW 16 Sep.

#### TANAGERS--WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** max & last 5 Lansing 16 Sep.

**E. Towhee:** max & last 3 BH 21 Oct, low.

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr SW 23 Oct; max 22 Hector 13 Nov.

**Chipping Sparrow:** max 30 BH 27 Oct; last Dryden 10 Nov.

**Field Sparrow:** max 8 Dryden 23 Sep; last 3 MyPt 15 Oct.

**Vesper Sparrow:** max 4 SENE 15 Oct; last SW 20 Oct.

**Savannah Sparrow:** max 6 FRCG TOMP 28 Sep; last 3 SENE 15 Oct.

**NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW:** HoHo TOMP 4-14 Oct (TL).

**Fox Sparrow:** arr BH 22 Oct; max 24 Hector 25 Oct (ND), high; last Caroline 15 Nov.

**Song Sparrow:** max 35 DLT 23 Sep.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr DLT 23 Sep; max 2 FRCG TOMP 30 Sep; last MyPt 15 Oct.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr 2 SW 23 Sep; max 7 KH 6 Oct; last 2 KH 27 Nov (J&SGr), late.

**Lapland Longspur:** arr & max 2 SaMu 5 Nov.

**Snow Bunting:** arr 2 MNWR 27 Oct; max 300 SaMu 15 Nov (SBI), high.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 5 EIRW 16 Sep; last SW 26 Sep.



**Indigo Bunting:** max 5 FRCG 16 Sep; last 2 FRCG 28 Sep.

**Dickcissel:** arr Lansing 15 Sep (RD), early; last SW 24 Oct.

**Bobolink:** max 20 MWC 9 Sep; last 3 EIRW 16 Sep.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 2000 MNWR 26 Oct; last 6 MWC 19 Nov.

**E. Meadowlark:** max 4 MtPl 6 Oct; last SENE 15 Oct, early.

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** MNWR 25 Sep (fide AM).

**Rusty Blackbird:** arr 2 Lansing 5 Sep (RD), early; max & last 12 Connecticut Hill TOMP 11 Nov, low.

**Com. Grackle:** max 6000 Hector 5 Nov; last 3 Etna 25 Nov.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max & last "several dozen" Genoa 11 Nov.

**Baltimore Oriole:** last DLT 23 Sep (JM), late.

**PINE GROSBEAK:** 5 Elmira 5 Nov (BO), early & high.

**Red Crossbill:** arr Ithaca 30 Oct (EM), early.

**Pine Siskin:** arr CU 10 Sep (MCh), only report.

**Am. Goldfinch:** max 28 SENE 3 Sep, low.

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Typically the most remarkable weather factors for the fall season are tropical storms. In fact, last year's report noted that the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season was the most active on record. This fall was a complete turnaround, with no hurricanes or other major storms affecting the Northeast. Statistics from the Binghamton weather station indicate that temperatures and precipitation for September were near normal. Only one date brought over one inch of rain. October's temperatures were again normal, but precipitation was 1.3 inches above average. Most of this increase came in a wet second half of the month when 13 of the last 15 days had at least a trace of precipitation. November remained damper than normal, with rain or snow recorded on over half the dates. It was also warm, with 18 days with above average temperature. Highs the final week of the month were 10 to 20 degrees F above normal.

A handful of rarities were reported in the Region, most likely a result of chance and good observation, rather than weather. A late September/early October Rufous Hummingbird in Delaware County may be a Regional first - certainly there have been no reports in recent years. This species and other out-of-range hummingbirds seem to be on the increase in fall and early winter. Katie Ray's thorough monitoring of Buckhorn Lake, Otsego County, turned up White-winged Scoter, Black Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser, and Red-necked Grebe, all uncommon at best in the Region. A Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society field trip led by Bob Donnelly found a Greater White-fronted Goose on Allen Lake, Otsego County.

Otherwise, waterfowl were fair. Brant continue to be regularly reported as flyovers at the Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch (FMHW) as well as elsewhere.

Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, and Pied-billed Grebe reports again were good. Loon numbers were down somewhat and Blue-winged Teal remain low.

Green Heron was well reported, and this species appears to be continuing a comeback from its downturn in past years. Sara Kinch turned up an uncommon Black-crowned Night-Heron in BROO in early September.

The Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch had a good season, with 5432 raptors tallied, marking the 5th time the 5000 hawk mark has been reached in the 18 year history of the site. New seasonal records were set for Red-shouldered Hawk at 115 and Merlin at 39. Notable was a large flight of 43 red-shoulders on 11 November, the largest single day count for the species at FMHW. Golden Eagles topped 200 for the fourth consecutive season, with a big day of 33 coming on 18 November. A good two day flight of 743 Red-tailed Hawks 25-26 October contributed to the second highest season for the species at this site. Species below average included Osprey and Am. Kestrel, the former likely a normal fluctuation, but the latter a continuation of a troubling long term decline. Osprey were also low Region-wide.

Elsewhere in the Region, Bald Eagle continues to spread and increase. Northern Harrier remains low, but Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers show some promise. Both Cooper's Hawk and Merlin remain healthy. Late season species, Rough-legged Hawk and Northern Goshawk, did not make much of a showing.

As usual, BROO carries the shorebird load for the Region. Reports were mixed, with few peeps spotted, but Regionally-uncommon Upland Sandpiper and Pectoral Sandpiper were found. American Woodcock numbers were down.

Bonaparte's Gull is becoming a regular late fall visitor to the Region. Four late-November sightings, all Broome County, included 25+ at Dorchester Park on 15 November, reported by Marie Petuh and Dan Watkins from a Naturalists' Club of Broome County Weed Walk. Jon Weeks located two Black Terns, rare in the Region, in early September.

No cuckoos were reported, and owls, nighthawks and Ruby-throated Hummingbird were all low. Pileated Woodpecker was again well reported through the Region.

Gail Kirch at the Vestal Banding Station (VBS) described a mixed season, with favorable conditions in September, but wind, rain and fog less conducive for banding in October and November. Highlights included a big day 30 September when 53 birds of 13 species were caught in two hours. Gail noted the value of her assistant Andrea Martin on this day and through the season. A Hooded Warbler and a Yellow-breasted Chat were banded at VBS, both species only the second records since 1989. A Sharp-shinned Hawk flew into the nets on 10 November, creating a scramble to deal with a bird much larger than the usual songbirds encountered here! Gail also commented on the high numbers of hatching year Gray Catbirds at the site - 60 of the 65 banded this fall - attributing it to ideal nesting habitat and abundant food supply in the vicinity. On the down side were low numbers of Dark-eyed Junco, late season migrants affected by the poor weather the second half of October and through November.

Flycatchers were reported in low numbers this season, with single reports of Olive-sided Flycatcher and Yellow-throated Flycatcher being bright spots. Great-crested Flycatcher was missed.

Vireos were fair, although no Yellow-throated Vireos were reported. Notable among swallows were reports of the Regionally uncommon Bank Swallow and Cliff Swallow in early September.

Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, and Winter Wren all made good showings, while House Wren remains low. Marsh Wren appears regular at Boland Park, Broome County.

The thrush reports reflect counts of night flights of these and other species made by Steve Broyles of Cortland, using recording equipment and computer programs to identify the call notes of the birds. This technology, now evidently within the capabilities of the layperson, has the potential to revolutionize the monitoring of songbird migration. As most of these species travel over a broad front, a good sampling of nocturnal movements is now possible. As numbers were not precise, these results are often noted as "flights" in the reports below. Counts were typically in the hundreds, however. Note also that these night flights often correspond with daytime sightings and banding records in the same periods. Other species reported via this technology include Bobolink and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. These impressive thrush numbers should not be viewed as a jump in their populations. More traditional counts remain low for all spotted-breast thrushes. Of note is a Bicknell's Thrush banded by Bob Pantle in Candor, Tioga County on 27 September.

Warblers were mixed this season, with Nashville, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Palm, and N. Waterthrush all doing well, while Chestnut-sided and Black-and-white were down. Showing up from the often missed category were Tennessee, N. Parula, Blackburnian, Mourning, and Hooded. Missed were Blue-winged, Orange-crowned, and Yellow.

Notable among sparrows were three reports of Vesper Sparrow. Dark-eyed Junco numbers were down generally, although some reports indicated normal or good counts. Modest numbers of Snow Buntings showed from late October on. Indigo Bunting remains low.

E. Meadowlark, another declining species, held its own with six reports this season. Rusty Blackbird was a bright spot with a number of widespread reports. A late Baltimore Oriole appeared in McGraw CORT 21 November.

Among finches, Purple Finch was low relative to recent seasons. Red and White-winged crossbills were reported by Matt Young from their usual locations in Chenango County. These are likely breeders rather than early migrants. No other winter finches were reported.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## 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; WCM - W Corners Marsh BROO.

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

**GOOSE:** Allen L OTSE 10 Nov (BD), rare in Region.

**Snow Goose:** 4 rep BROO; 100+ Glen Aubrey BROO 10 Oct; flock FMHW 10 Oct; 30+ Tioga TIOG; 1000 FMHW 20 Nov; 350 FMHW 22 Nov.

**Cackling "Richardson's" Goose:** DorP 1 Nov.

**Canada Goose:** max 1500 FMHW 25 Sep.

**Brant:** 3 rep BROO; 4 rep FMHW 5 Oct - 27 Oct; max 70 FMHW 26 Oct; 11 BHL 28 Oct; continuing to be reported in good numbers throughout Region.

**Mute Swan:** OtsL 10 Nov; no spread in Region.

**Wood Duck:** 55 rep; 60+ BPd 9 Oct; continues steady.

**Am. Wigeon:** "many" Cincinnatus L Cort 1 Nov; 2 BPd 2 Nov; Allen L OTSE 10 Nov.

**Am. Black Duck:** 46 rep, mostly pairs or small flocks.

**Mallard:** max 160 Chenango BROO 17 Nov.

**Blue-winged Teal:** 7 BHL 10 Sep; 4 BHL 26 Sep; remains low.

**N. Shoveler:** 8 BPd 12 Oct.

**N. Pintail:** 5 BHL 26 Sep, often missed.

**Green-winged Teal:** 40 rep BROO, good count; max 11 Chenango BROO 1 Oct.

**Canvasback:** 2 Canadarago Lk OTSE 17 Nov.

**Ring-necked Duck:** 9 rep Oct & Nov.

**White-winged Scoter:** Vestal BROO 14 Nov; 3 BHL 20 Oct; 1 BHL 21 Oct; good showing for Region.

**Black Scoter:** BHL 15 Nov, 17 Nov (KR), uncommon in Region.

**Bufflehead:** 11 rep Nov; max 12 BHL 2 Nov, 4 Nov, good count.

**Com. Merganser:** numerous reports, particularly BROO; max 32 BHL 18 Oct; 32 Triangle BROO 15 Nov.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 3 BHL 4 Nov, 5 Nov, uncommon in Region.

**Ruddy Duck:** 8 Quaker L BROO 28 Sep; present BHL 9 Oct - 5 Nov; DorP 1 Nov;

Allen's L OTSE 10 Nov; max 12 BHL 29 Oct.; fair count for recent years.

**Ruffed Grouse:** 9 rep BROO; 1 rep CHEN; 3 rep CORT; 4 rep OTSE; multiple rep TIOG; fair count.

**Wild Turkey:** 20 rep; max 34 Colesville BROO 28 Nov; continues below peak.

**Red-throated Loon:** 4 DorP 15 Nov; Vestal BROO 13 & 20 Nov.

**Com. Loon:** Triangle BROO 3 Sept, early; multiples FMHW 25 Oct; Otl 10 Nov; Cincinnatus L CORT 26 Nov; low.

**Loon, sp.:** 9 FMHW 26 Oct; 4 FMHW 29 Oct; 4 FMHW 4 Nov; 3 Colesville BROO 19 Nov; FMHW 21 Nov; 3 FMHW 25 Nov.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** 32 rep BROO; present BPd most of season; present BHL most of Oct; N Norwich CHEN 10 Nov; Allen L OTSE 10 Nov; good count.

**Horned Grebe:** DorP 4 Nov; 2 DorP 5 Nov; often missed.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** BHL 1 Nov, 5 Nov, uncommon.  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** 24 rep; max 98 Vestal BROO 25 Oct.  
**Great Egret:** BPd 4 Sep; Ots 4 Sep; 9 Brick Pd TIOG 6 Sep, good count; Greenwood Pk BROO 21 Sep.  
**Green Heron:** 21 rep Sep; "many" Brick Pd TIOG 6 Sep; BUNP 6 Oct; BUNP 10 Oct.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** WCM 8 Sep (SaK), uncommon in Region.  
**Turkey Vulture:** common thru mid-Oct; max 87+ Owego TIOG 21 Oct; total 393 FMHW, 17% above avg.

#### HAWKS – ALCIDS

(FMHW totals cover 20 Aug to 1 Jan, 2007; averages reflect 2001-2006 data).  
**Osprey:** total 121 FMHW, 23% below avg; 8 other rep, low.  
**Bald Eagle:** total 127 FMHW, avg; 28 other rep, very widespread.  
**N. Harrier:** total 70 FMHW, 9% below avg; 13 other rep.  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** total 574 FMHW, 6% above avg; 23 other rep, good count.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** total 115 FMHW, 4% below avg; 23 other rep, continues increase.  
**N. Goshawk:** total 8 FMHW, 72% below; 3 other rep; poor season.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** total 115 FMHW, 73% above avg; Vestal BROO 17 Sep; max 43 FMHW 1 Nov.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** total 774 FMHW, 20% below avg; max 174 FMHW 17 Sep; 5 other rep, low.  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** total 2730 FMHW, 18% above avg; max 433 FMHW 25 Oct.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** total 4 FMHW, 71% below avg; Otselic CHEN 13 Oct; Scott CORT 14 Nov; Lincklaen CHEN 18 Nov.  
**Golden Eagle:** total 207 FMHW, avg; max 33 FMHW 18 Nov; 2 other rep.  
**Am. Kestrel:** total 85 FMHW, 28% below avg; 34 other rep, fair count; max 4 Lisle BROO 21 Sep.  
**Merlin:** total 39 FMHW, 31% above avg; 19 rep BROO, several from same Binghamton location; 2 other rep.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** total 14 FMHW, 12% below avg; 6 rep BROO.  
**Virginia Rail:** WCM 11 Sep; 2 WCM 14 Sep; BPd 22 Sep.  
**Am. Coot:** regular BPd Oct - early Nov; Otl 11 Nov; BHL 13 Oct; 2 BHL 14 Oct.

**Killdeer:** 50 rep; max 37 Chenango BROO 2 Sep.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** 5 rep BROO; max 7+ Vestal BROO 25 Oct.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 2 DorP 3 Sep; 2 Oxford CHEN 12.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** DorP 3 Sep; Brick Pd TIOG 6 Sep; WCM 11 Sep.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** Norwich CHEN 28 Sep; 5 rep BROO Sep, Oct.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** Pitcher CHEN 14 Oct (MT), uncommon in Region.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Tri-cities Airport, Endicott BROO 6 Sep.  
**Least Sandpiper:** 2 Tri-cities Airport, Endicott BROO 8 Sep; Chenango BROO 14 Sep.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Chenango BROO 14 Sep (JW, BG), uncommon.  
**Am. Woodcock:** 2 Burlington OTSE 4 Sep; Richford CORT 22 Sep; Triangle BROO 1 Nov, in flight display at dusk; low.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** 10 Kirkwood Industrial Pk BROO 15 Nov; 2 Hillcrest Pits BROO 15 Nov; 25+ DorP 15 Nov; Chenango BROO 19 Nov; good count for Region, apparently increasing.  
**Ring-billed Gull:** numerous thru; max 148+ Chenango BROO 2 Nov.  
**Great Black-backed Gull:** Otl 10 Nov; DorP 18 Nov; uncommon.  
**Black Tern:** 2 DorP 3 Sep (JW), rare in Region.

#### PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**E. Screech-Owl:** Burlington OTSE 5 Sep; multiple rep TIOG Sep & Oct; low count.  
**Great Horned Owl:** BHL 9 Oct; 2 Cortland CORT 22 Oct; Burlington OTSE 19 Nov; low.  
**Barred Owl:** FMHW 1 Sep, 14 Sep, 17 Sep; Barker, BROO 7 Sep; low.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** Hillcrest Pits BROO 4 Sep; 12+ Binghamton BROO 6 Sep; Binghamton BROO 8 Sep; Delhi DELA 19 Sep; remains low.  
**Chimney Swift:** 8 rep BROO early Sep; last AqPk 24 Sep; BHL 6 Sep.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 2 Sep rep BROO; 3 Sep reports DELA; 4 Sep & Oct reports OTSE; 1 Sep report TIOG; quite low; last Delhi DELA 6 Oct.  
**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD:** Andes, DELA 30 Sep-6 Nov (RP).  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** 11 rep BROO; 1 rep OTSE; multiple rep TIOG; continues regular.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 8 rep BROO; 1 rep DELA; 1 rep OTSE; multiple rep TIOG; FMHW 25 Nov, late.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** 31 rep BROO; 1 rep CORT; 5 rep OTSE; multiple rep TIOG; another good year.

#### FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

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

**E. Wood-Pewee:** Burlington OTSE 4 Sep; BHL 3 Sep; Delhi DELA 15 Sep; BUNP 16 Sep; BUNP 18 Sep.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** VBS 4 Sep, uncommon.

**Least Flycatcher:** TIOG 1 Sep; VBS 4 Sep; BUNP 16.

**empidonax, sp:** AqPk 17 Sep.

**E. Kingbird:** Triangle BROO 3 Sep; 2 BPd 5 Sep; 5 Plymouth CHEN 5 Sep; WCM 11 Sep.

**N. Shrike:** Carr Rd. CORT 1 Nov; Richford CORT 4 Nov; Lisle BROO 11 Nov; Richford CORT 12 Nov; Pharsalia CHEN 18 Nov.

**Warbling Vireo:** Conklin BROO 1 Sep; Brick Pd TIOG 6 Sep; 2 WCM 9 Sep.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** 6 VBS thru early Oct; WCM 9 Sep; Vestal BROO 11 Sep.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** 16 rep BROO; 15 VBS 15 Sep; max 16 VBS 4 Sep.

**Am. Crow:** max “100s” Nanticoke BROO 25 Sep.

**Fish Crow:** TIOG Oct; Tioga TIOG 7 Nov; CVSP 17 Nov; no indication of extending range.

**Com. Raven:** 27 widespread rep; nearly daily FMHW.

**Horned Lark:** DorP 1 Oct; Lisle BROO 8 Oct; 20+ Lisle BROO 11 Nov; 39 Lisle BROO 14 Nov.

**Tree Swallow:** “massive number” BPd 4 Sep; 8 other rep.

**Bank Swallow:** BPd 4 & 5 Sep, uncommon.

**Cliff Swallow:** BPd 4 & 5 Sep, uncommon

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 22 rep; “all month” Kirkwood BROO Oct; large flock Oneonta OTSE 1 Oct; good count.

**Brown Creeper:** 33 rep, mostly Oct & Nov.

**Carolina Wren:** 1 VBS; 64 other rep; continues steady expansion in Region.

**House Wren:** 15 rep BROO; multiple rep TIOG Sep; last Glen Aubrey BROO 10 Oct; continues low.

**Winter Wren:** CVSP 17 Sep; Milford OTSE 1 Oct; VBS 15 Oct; CVSP 17 Nov; BUNP 30 Nov; good count.

**Marsh Wren:** BPd 22 Oct; BPd 6 Nov; BPd 8 Nov.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** widely reported, but no large flocks.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** last DorP 5 Nov.

**E. Bluebird:** 57 rep thru; max 16 Kirkwood BROO 14 Oct.

**Veery:** BHL 3 Sep; 150+ Cortland CORT 4-5 Sep; VBS 5 Sep; flight Cortland CORT 9-10 Sep; approx 60 Cortland CORT 20-21 Sep; multiple rep TIOG Sep.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** Cortland CORT 5 Sep; flight Cortland CORT 9-10 Sep; approx 125 Cortland CORT 20-21 Sep; flight Cortland CORT 25 Sep, 26 Sep; 2 VBS 26 Sep; VBS 27 Sep; Candor, TIOG, banded; 2 VBS 1 Oct; 3 VBS 3 Oct.

**Bicknell’s Thrush:** Candor TIOG 27 Sep, banded (BP); rarely reported in Region.

**Swainson’s Thrush:** flight Cortland CORT 9-10 Sep; 2 AqPk 17 Sep; approx 950 Cortland CORT 20-21 Sep; 21 VBS mid Sep-early Oct; Candor TIOG 22 Sep; Ely Pk BROO 25 Sep; flight Cortland CORT 25 Sep, 26 Sep.

**Hermit Thrush:** Candor TIOG 4 Sep; flight Cortland CORT 4-5 Sep; 12 VBS thru mid Sep; 3 Burlington OTSE 13 Oct; 5 rep BROO.

**Wood Thrush:** flight Cortland CORT 4-5 Sep; flight Cortland CORT 9-10 Sep; approx 60 Cortland CORT 20-21 Sep; Candor TIOG 26 Sep; 6 VBS thru mid Oct.

**Gray Catbird:** 66 VBS Sep-Oct; well reported BROO thru early Oct; last Vestal BROO 25 Oct.

**Brown Thrasher:** Candor TIOG 1 Sep; WCM 14 Sep; 2 AqPk 17 Sep; remains scarce.

**N. Mockingbird:** 8 rep BROO, low.

**Am. Pipit:** 12+ Lisle BROO 8 Oct; 3-4 Lisle 18 Oct; multiples FMHW 25 Oct; Glen Aubrey BROO 26 Oct, 31 Oct; BPd 1 Nov, 11 Nov; 7 Maine BROO 11 Nov; 2 Lisle BROO 14 Nov.

**Cedar Waxwing:** well-reported thru; max 125+ BPd 4 Sep.

#### WARBLERS

**Tennessee Warbler:** VBS 29 Sep, often missed.

**Nashville Warbler:** 16 VBS mid Sep-mid Oct; 11 other rep BROO; Candor TIOG 22 Sep; FMHW 27 Sep; second consecutive good year.

**N. Parula:** VBS 15 Sep; 2 VBS 16 Sep, uncommon.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 2 VBS Sep; BUNP 16 Sep; low.

**Magnolia Warbler:** 22 rep thru early Oct; total 38 VBS; good count.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 6 VBS; 8 other rep thru early Oct.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** 15 rep; max 4 UL 23 Sep; 4 Ely Pk BROO 26 Sep; 3 VBS.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** BHL 11 Sep, often missed.  
**Pine Warbler:** Otsiningo Pk BROO 25 Sep; Roundtop Pk BROO 25 Oct.  
**Prairie Warbler:** Mirror L CHEN 6 Sep; AqPk 20 Sep; fourth consecutive fall reported.  
**Palm Warbler:** 2 WCM 14 Sep; "Western" VBS 16 Sep; Glen Aubrey BROO 26 Sep; Ely Pk BROO 26 Sep; Johnson City BROO 4 Oct, 8 Oct; FMHW 7 Oct; BHL 13 Oct.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** VBS 15 Sep, 16 Sep; 2 UL 23 Sep; Bpd 4.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** Binghamton BROO 10 Sep; Vestal BROO 11 Sep; remains low.  
**Am. Redstart:** 2 BUNP 16 Sep (DG); BUNP Sep 19 (DG); 7 VBS.  
**Worm-eating Warbler:** Vestal BROO 8 Sep (DW), uncommon.  
**Ovenbird:** Richford CORT 9 Sep; Glen Aubrey 22 Sep; AqPk 24 Sep; Burlington OTSE 29 Sep; 11 VBS, last 1 Oct.  
**N. Waterthrush:** 12 VBS thru mid Sep; max 6 VBS 4 Sep; good count, often missed.  
**Mourning Warbler:** VBS 4 Sep, uncommon.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** 14 VBS Sep; 25 other rep; last Bpd 21 Oct.  
**Hooded Warbler:** Barker BROO 1 Oct, uncommon.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** 9 VBS thru mid Sep; Binghamton BROO 10 Sep; BUNP 19 Sep; Ely Pk BROO 26 Sep.  
**Canada Warbler:** VBS 4 Sep; 2 VBS 6 Sep; Ely Pk BROO 18 Sep.  
**Yellow-breasted Chat:** VBS 15 Sep; rare in Region.

#### TANAGERS - WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** 2 BHL 11 Sep; 6 VBS; CVSP 17 Sep; AqPk 17 Sep; 2 BUNP 17 Sep; Ely Pk BROO 26 Sep; FMHW 7 Oct; low.  
**E. Towhee:** VBS 25 Sep; VBS 1 Oct; 28 other rep Sep-Oct; 2 rep TIOG Nov.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** regular BROO Nov; FMHW 14 Nov; 4 Sherburne CHEN 21.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** 36 rep BROO; max 30+ Vestal BROO 1 Sep; last Doty Rd. CORT 26 Nov.

**Field Sparrow:** 2 VBS Oct; 25 rep BROO; Candor TIOG 1 Sep; max 11+ Cole Pk BROO 10 Sep.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** Lisle BROO 22 Oct; 3 Maine BROO 22 Oct; 3 Maine BROO 25 Oct; often missed.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** 5 rep BROO, often missed.  
**Fox Sparrow:** VBS 15 Oct; FMHW 23 Oct - 14 Nov; VBS 2 Nov; Middlefield OTSE 1 Nov; Glen Aubrey BROO 8 Nov; Norwich BROO 10 Nov; Richford CORT 12 Nov.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** 2 VBS 17 Sep; 2 AqPk 24 Sep; Milford OTSE 1 Oct; Bpd 15 Oct.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** 3 VBS Oct; 17 rep BROO; last Bpd 8 Nov.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** 23 rep; max 22 BHL 24 Oct; somewhat low.  
**Snow Bunting:** 10+ DorP 29 Oct; 3 DorP 12 Nov; 13 DorP 14 Nov; "flock" Decatur OTSE 20 Nov; fair count.  
**N. Cardinal:** 20 VBS, good count.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** flight Cortland CORT 9 Sep; 6 rep BROO; multiple reports TIOG Sep.  
**Indigo Bunting:** TIOG 4 Sep; AqPk 17 Sep, low.  
**Bobolink:** flight Cortland CORT 9 Sep.  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** max "10,000s" Bpd 19 Oct.  
**E. Meadowlark:** 2 Lisle BROO 21 Sep; 6 Triangle BROO 27 Sep; UL 17 Oct; 7 Virgil CORT 22 Oct; multiples FMHW 25 Oct; UL 5 Nov; fair count.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** 12 WCM 26 Sep; 3 Arnold Pk BROO 22 Oct; 5 Maine 25 Oct; multiples FMHW 25 Oct; Finch Hollow Nature Center BROO 2 Nov; UL 4 Nov; 2 WCM 15 Nov; 2 Lisle BROO 20 Nov; good count.  
**Com. Grackle:** max "10,000s" Bpd 19 Oct.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** flight Cortland CORT 9 Sep; McGraw CORT 21 Nov, late.  
**Purple Finch:** Richford CORT 9 Sep; Burlington OTSE 22 Sep; VBS 26 Sep; multiples FMHW 30 Sep; multiple rep TIOG Sep; 2 CVSP 17 Nov; Pharsalia CHEN 18 Nov; 3 Richford CORT 18 Nov; 3 Otego OTSE 19 Nov; dropoff from recent years.  
**Red Crossbill:** 6 Pharsalia CHEN 18 Nov; multiples Pharsalia CHEN 19 Nov; regular at this location.  
**White-winged Crossbill:** 2 Pharsalia CHEN 18 Nov.  
**Am. Goldfinch:** max 35+ CVSP 19 Nov.

## REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The season was a little warmer and a little wetter than normal, aided by a warm November and a wet October. In September the average temperature was 60.7°F, 0.6° below normal, with 4.04 inches of rain, 0.11 inches below normal. The October averages were 49.2°, 0.9° below normal and 5.7 “ of rain, 2.5” above normal. Twenty-two inches of snow fell in northern Herkimer on 29 October. The average temperature for November was 44.7°, 5.0 ° above normal, with 2.62” of precipitation, 1.15” below normal. Oswego County received up to 12 inches of snow on 3-4 November.

Snow Goose numbers were low this season. It's likely many had remained to our north through November with the mild weather. The Brant migration was spread over several cold fronts. Mute Swans have been marginal breeders thus far in the Region, so nine at Fair Haven is not a positive development. Dabbling duck numbers were mostly unremarkable, although the Northern Pintail flight at Derby Hill was quite good. We had our usual small numbers of Canvasback and Redhead, with more respectable numbers for other *Aythia* species. There were decent scoter flights at Derby Hill but few were noted elsewhere. Species such as Long-tailed Duck and Common Merganser were seen in smaller than usual numbers, but their migration may have been delayed by the mild weather. Unusual waterfowl for this season were Greater White-fronted Goose and Cackling Goose in Van Buren and a Harlequin Duck at Derby Hill.

Two species rare on inland waters and both Regional firsts flew past Derby Hill in October. A **Razorbill** was seen on 21 October with a good description provided by Mike Harvey. It flew in on somewhat mild northwest winds of 15 MPH. Two days later a **Manx Shearwater** was seen passing on westerly gales of 40 MPH, the sort of conditions one hopes will bring unusual species. A report was sent to NYSARC. Dead Common Loons, victims of type E botulism, washed ashore along Lake Ontario beginning about 15 October. Some dead grebes and ducks were also reported. It was thought that the disease would become a part of our ecosystem, so we will hope that the virulence lessens in succeeding years. Many loons did survive to migrate through the Region along with numbers of Horned and Red-necked grebes.

In Utica Marsh a Least Bittern lingered into early September, while Great Egrets were scattered but remained into October. We had several good days of raptor movement along the eastern shore of Lake Ontario. Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and American Kestrel all passed in representative numbers, and there were also better than usual days for Turkey Vulture and Broad-winged Hawk. The weather did not cooperate for later migrants; Red-tailed Hawk numbers were low and no Golden Eagles were reported. Rough-legged Hawk normally winters in some numbers locally but few had been reported by the end of November. Peregrine Falcons continue to reside in our two largest cities, and Merlin sightings were frequent.



There were several reports of Sora, Virginia Rail, and family groups of Common Moorhen in early September, all species that may have had to re-nest after torrential June rains. A Sandhill Crane was seen for over a week at a site where one had been reported in the summer. Maxima for most shorebirds were low, especially for common species such as Least, Semipalmated, and Pectoral sandpipers, Sanderling, and Dunlin. Contributing factors included a wet year resulting in high water levels on most bodies of water, especially Delta Lake, and few visits to Sandy Pond. There were no Sanderling reports after September, only single reports of Ruddy Turnstone and Red Knot, and no dowitchers or phalaropes. The few positives were a late Upland Sandpiper, a large flock of migrating Hudsonian Godwits, and both Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Purple Sandpiper at expected locations.

Unusual gulls for the season were a Black-headed Gull and two Sabine's Gulls, while other uncommon but expected species included Little Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake and Forster's Tern. The jaeger flight was modest, with only a single Pomarine and about 13 Parasitic for the season. No Lesser Black-backed Gull was reported, the three common large gulls were seen in low numbers, and only single Glaucous and Iceland gulls were seen.

The three common resident owls, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned, and Barred, are rarely mentioned in these reports since they can be found in suitable habitat with a bit of effort. Other owls were quite scarce, no Snowy Owl had been seen by the end of November and neither Long-eared nor N. Saw-whet owls were reported. We had two Common Nighthawk reports, and there were only a few Chimney Swifts (no one visits roost sites). Participants in the Montezuma Muckrace spent a lot of time on Howland Island on 9 September and were responsible for our only cuckoo reports.

Most flycatcher species were seen in September, Northern Shrike was scarce through November, and Tree Swallow was the only swallow found in large numbers. Gary Lee reported that there were still many birds in the Adirondacks at the end of the season and Tom Salo found much the same at the eastern end of Stillwater Reservoir, with both mentioning Red-breasted Nuthatches and Golden-crowned Kinglets.

Some observers thought the warbler migration was very poor, while others noted a somewhat constant movement but without large numbers. There were several Orange-crowned and Cape May warblers, and at least one Cerulean Warbler. A Northern Parula was seen in late October, and a Hooded Warbler was a record late in Whiskey Hollow. We also had one Connecticut Warbler.

An early November snowstorm caught a lot of migrants on the move. In Orwell 8 inches of snow forced sparrows out to the plowed roadsides, where large numbers of Dark-eyed Juncos, Am. Tree Sparrows, and Fox Sparrows were noted, while many more sparrows could not be identified as they flew from approaching vehicles. Joe Brin gave a good description of the Region's first Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, a species we have been expecting for some time. A Dickcissel was found at Howland Island during Muckrace scouting.

With the abundant cone crop in the northeastern states and into Canada, few finches had moved this far south. There were Red Crossbills in southern Madison County and in northern Herkimer County, scattered reports of Purple

Finch, and one report of Pine Siskin. Pine Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll, and Evening Grosbeak were not reported for the season.

For the season observers reported 238 species, the highest for the fall since the same total in 1985. Highlights included Greater White-fronted Goose, Harlequin Duck, Least Bittern, **Manx Shearwater**, Sandhill Crane, Black-headed Gull, Sabine's Gull, **Razorbill**, Connecticut Warbler, Dickcissel, **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow**, and Red Crossbill.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Betty Armbruster, Brenda Best, Sue Boettger, Joseph Brin, Abe Borker, Ken Burdick, Rose Burdick, Bernie Carr, Gerald Case, Jared Caster, Greg Dashnau, Ryan Douglas, Bill Gruenbaum, John Kapshaw, Mike Harvey; Gene Huggins, David Nash, Gary Lee, Dan Leete; Tim Lenz, George Marleau, Kevin McGann, Yvonne Merriam, Matt Perry, Bill Purcell, Paul Richardson, Marge Rusk, Tom Salo, Mickey Scilingo, Tony Shrimpton, Maureen Staloff, Andrew Van Norstrand, David Wheeler, Brian White, Judy Wright, Matt Young.

## ABBREVIATIONS

BRH – Bishop Road Hawk watch, Richland; CM - Clay Marsh; FH - Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; Geo – Georgetown; HIWMA – Howland Island WMA; HVWMA – Happy Valley WMA; LOL - Lake Ontario Littoral; NS - Noyes Sanctuary, New Haven; OneiL - Oneida Lake; Skan – Skaneateles; SHF - Sky High Sod Farms, T Sullivan; SFNS - Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; SPd – Sandy Pond; SSSP - Selkirk Shores State Park; SVB – Sylvan & Verona Beach; Syr - Syracuse; TRWMA - Three Rivers WMA; UM - Utica Marsh; VB – T Van Buren; WM – T West Monroe.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** VB 13-17 Nov.

**Snow Goose:** arr SHF 21 Sep; max 700 Skan 20 Nov; otherwise 200-400 per day after 13 Nov.

**Brant:** arr 12 DH 29 Sep; max 729 DH 29 Oct.

**Cackling Goose:** VB after 7 Nov.

**Canada Goose:** max 20,000 Skan 5 Oct.

**Mute Swan:** 9 FH 22 Oct, big increase at that site.

**Tundra Swan:** max 12 DH 18 Nov.

**Wood Duck:** max 20 SVB 19 Sep.

**Gadwall:** max 10 DH 29 Oct.

**Am. Wigeon:** 4 DH 29 Sep; max 9 DH 23 Oct.

**Am. Black Duck:** max 200 SPd 9 Nov (MR), sadly a good count now.

**Blue-winged Teal:** max 16 SPd 19 Sep; 15 UM 24 Sep.

**N. Shoveler:** arr 2 UM 30 Sep; max 9 FH 15 Oct.

**N. Pintail:** max 1077 DH 24 Sep; 519 DH 29 Sep.

**Green-winged Teal:** max 40 UM 4 Sep.

**Canvasback:** DH 29 Oct; 4 FH 6 Nov; max 6 Skan L 16 Nov.

**Redhead:** max 7 DH 29 Oct.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 240 Skan L 16 Nov.

**Greater Scaup:** arr DH 20 Sep; max 600 SPd 5 Nov.

**Lesser Scaup:** 16 FH 7 Sep, early; max 33 DH 29 Oct.

**HARLEQUIN DUCK:** DH 17 Nov (KM).  
**Surf Scoter:** arr 2 DH 29 Sep; max 46 DH 23 Oct.  
**White-winged Scoter:** 50 DH 24 Sep; max 281 DH 29 Sep.  
**Black Scoter:** max 54 DH 29 Oct.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** max 527 DH 29 Oct.  
**Bufflehead:** DH 23 Oct; max 71 Skan L 16 Nov.  
**Com. Goldeneye:** 18 DH 29 Oct; to 300/day LOL end of Nov.  
**Hooded Merganser:** max 54 SPd 5 Nov.  
**Com. Merganser:** max 80 per day.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 940 DH 29 Oct.  
**Ruddy Duck:** max 176 Skan L 11 Nov.  
**Red-throated Loon:** max 15 FH-Oswego 5 Nov.  
**Com. Loon:** 71 FH 22 Oct; max 140 FH 5 Nov.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 10 UM 4 Sep.  
**Horned Grebe:** arr DH 24 Sep; max 16 DH 29 Oct.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** arr DH 24 Sep; max 7 DH 29 Oct.  
**MANX SHEARWATER:** DH 23 Oct (BP, DW, NYSARC), first Regional record.  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 226 Oswego 31 Oct.  
**Least Bittern:** UM to 7 Sep (JK).  
**Great Egret:** max 8 Elbridge 15 Sep; last Port Byron 10 Oct.  
**Green Heron:** max 6 UM 4 Sep; last SPd & WM 19 Sep.  
**Turkey Vulture:** max 558 BRH 4 Oct.

#### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** max 12 BRH 10 Sep; last SPd 5 Nov.  
**Bald Eagle:** max 7 BRH 10 Sep, 4 Oct.  
**N. Harrier:** max 11 BRH 4 Oct.  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 24 BRH 10 Sep; max 33 BRH 4 Oct.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** max 6 BRH 4 Oct.  
**N. Goshawk:** 3 reported.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 4 reported to 22 Nov.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** max 1764 BRH 10 Sep; last BRH 4 Oct.  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 80 BRH 4 Oct.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** arr DH 10 Nov.  
**Am. Kestrel:** max 23 BRH 10 Sep.  
**Merlin:** 7 reported.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** 3 reports LOL; pair Syr and 1 Utica thru.  
**Virginia Rail:** UM 30 Sep; CM 16 Oct.  
**Sora:** UM to 7 Sep; CM to 11 Sep.

**Com. Moorhen:** 4 families UM 1 Sep; 5 UM 30 Sep.  
**Am. Coot:** max 120 FH 6 Nov.  
**Sandhill Crane:** Sauquoit 19-28 Sep (JH).  
**Black-bellied Plover:** only 4 reports, last FH 22 Oct.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** max 11 SHF 9-14 Sep; last Solvay 27 Oct.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** max 12 SPd 19 Sep; last Solvay 27 Oct.  
**Killdeer:** max 110 SHF 3 Sep.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** max 11 FH 22 Oct; last Otisco L 9 Nov.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 23 WM 19 Sep; 7 Skan 7 Nov; last SPd 9 Nov.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** 4 singles, last SFNS 5 Oct.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** max 2 FH 7 Sep; last Skan 29 Sep.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** HIWMA 9 Sep, late.  
**Hudsonian Godwit:** 17 DH 24 Sep (BP, DW).  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** FH 7 Sep, only report.  
**Red Knot:** SPd 15 Sep, only report.  
**Sanderling:** max 13 SPd 15 Sep; no reports after Sep.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 8 SPd 19 Sep.  
**Least Sandpiper:** 1-2 per day; last SPd 23 Sep.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** SPd 15 Sep; 2 SPd 9 Nov.  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** 2 OneiL 15 Sep; last 2 SPd 19 Sep.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 5 singles to 1 Oct.  
**Purple Sandpiper:** arr 2 FH 13 Nov; max 3 FH 17-18 Nov.  
**Dunlin:** max 12 FH 31 Oct.  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** max 2 SPd 15-19 Sep; last SPd 23 Sep.  
**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** arr SHF 3 Sep; max 1/day to last SHF 21 Sep.  
**Wilson's Snipe:** only 4 reported, lack of mudflats.  
**Am. Woodcock:** last SFNS 14 Nov.  
**Pomarine Jaeger:** DH 10 Nov.  
**Parasitic Jaeger:** 3 Oswego 2 Sep (JC); max 5 DH 29 Oct; 10 total DH sightings 24 Sep - 17 Nov.  
**Little Gull:** DH 23, 24 Oct; 2 DH 3 Nov; DH 18 Nov.  
**BLACK-HEADED GULL:** DH 10 Nov (KM, BP).  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 200 SVB 23 Sep.  
**Iceland Gull:** arr SVB 27 Nov.  
**Glaucous Gull:** arr DH 20 Nov.  
**SABINE'S GULL:** OneiL 22 Sep (DW); DH 3 Nov (KM, DW).

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** max 6 DH 29 Oct; singles DH 24 Sep & 3 Nov.

**Caspian Tern:** max 36 SPd 15 Sep; last 3 DH 29 Sep.

**Com. Tern:** max 70 SVB 19 Sep; last DH 29 Oct.

**Forster's Tern:** FH 31 Oct - 12 Nov.

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

**RAZORBILL:** DH 21 Oct (MH!), first Regional record.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** HIWMA 9 Sep.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 2 HIWMA 9 Sep.

**Short-eared Owl:** FH 11 Nov; SVB 27 Nov.

**Com. Nighthawk:** Hastings 4 Sep; N Syr 6 Sep.

**Chimney Swift:** max 8 UM Sep.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** last T Onondaga 1 Oct.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** DH 18 Sep.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** max 15 NS 30 Sep.

**Black-backed Woodpecker:** Limekiln Creek HERK 5 Oct.

**N. Flicker:** max 15 SPd 19 Sep.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** CM 11 Sep; DH 18 Sep; WM 19 Sep.

**E. Wood-Pewee:** 1-2 per day; last LOL 2 Oct.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 6 reports, last Brewerton 15 Sep.

**Willow Flycatcher:** last SPd 8 Sep.

**Least Flycatcher:** 7 reports, last Clinton 16 Sep.

**Empidonax sp:** last WM 19 Sep.

**E. Phoebe:** last 2 TRWMA 22 Oct.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** 3 reports, last HIWMA 9 Sep.

**E. Kingbird:** last N Syr 9 Sep.

**N. Shrike:** arr Pompey 29 Oct; reports from 5 other sites.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** HIWMA 9 Sep, only report.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** max 5 NS 30 Sep; last TRWMA 21 Oct.

**Warbling Vireo:** max 10 UM 8 Sep; last DH 19 Sep.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** max 4 HIWMA 9 Sep; about 16 for season; last TRWMA 1 Oct.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** max 8 SPd 17 Sep; last WM 8 Oct.

**Blue Jay:** max 200 per day late Sep.

**Com. Raven:** 2 BRH 6 Oct, only report away from breeding areas.

**Horned Lark:** max 120 Van Buren 5 Nov.

**Purple Martin:** max Oneil 4 Sep; last BRH 10 Sep.

**Tree Swallow:** max 20,000 Sullivan 9 Sep.

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** Oswego 3 Sep; UM 4 Sep.

**Bank Swallow:** max & last 5 UM 4 Sep.

**Cliff Swallow:** max & last 10 UM 4 Sep.

**Barn Swallow:** max 15 BRH 10 Sep.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** many found in breeding areas.

**Brown Creeper:** max 7 NS 30 Sep; 7 SSSP 15 Oct.

**House Wren:** max 3-5 per day to 1 Oct; TRWMA 21 Oct, late.

**Winter Wren:** max 21 NS 30 Sep.

**Marsh Wren:** max 3 CM 2 Oct.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 28 NS 30 Sep.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr HIWMA 5 Sep, early; max 64 NS 30 Sep; last SFNS 26 Nov.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** max 4 UM 1 Sep; last 3 UM 8 Sep.

**Veery:** max & last 3 HIWMA 9 Sep.

**Gray-checked Thrush:** 5 reports 23 Sep - 6 Oct.

**Swainson's Thrush:** max 2 per day to last 30 Sep.

**Hermit Thrush:** max 7 SFNS.

**Wood Thrush:** 7 reports, last HVWMA 23 Sep.

**Gray Catbird:** max 15 SPD 17 Sep; last TRWMA 21 Oct.

**N. Mockingbird:** W Winfield 11 Oct, still unusual there.

**Brown Thrasher:** about 8 reports; last CM 2 Oct.

**European Starling:** max 30,000 Skan 11 Nov.

**Am. Pipit:** arr 20 VB 7 Sep; max 100 VB 27 Sep & 28 Oct.

**Cedar Waxwing:** max 150 SFNS 26 Sep, scarce in Nov.

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** Hastings 4 Sep; CM 22 Sep.

**Tennessee Warbler:** 4 reports; last HIWMA 9 Sep.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr CM 22 Sep; SSSP 1 Oct; 1/day TRWMA 26 Sep - 21 Oct.

**Nashville Warbler:** max 5 SFNS 12 Sep; last 2 SFNS 5 Oct.

**N. Parula:** max 3 Brewerton 15 Sep; last Dewitt 21 Oct, late.

**Yellow Warbler:** max 4 Oswego 4 Sep; 9 others thru 19 Sep.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 4 UM 4 Sep; last TRWMA 30 Sep.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** max 15 HIWMA 9 Sep; last 2 SFNS 3 Oct.  
**Cape May Warbler:** max 3 Hastings 4-6 Sep; last CM 22 Sep.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** last 3 Skan 8 Oct.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 30-35 per day 1-8 Oct.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** max 22 SFNS 25 Sep; last SFNS 5 Oct.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** max 2 per day thru Sep; last CM 2 Oct.  
**Pine Warbler:** last UM 1 Oct.  
**Palm Warbler:** 3-4 per day 19 Sep to 5 Oct; last SFNS & TRWMA 22 Oct.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** max 4 HIWMA 9 Sep; last Mexico 30 Sep.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** max 10 Utica 7 Sep; last Sunset Bay 3 Oct.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** HIWMA 9 Sep.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** 5 reports, last NS 1 Oct.  
**Am. Redstart:** max 3 HIWMA 9 Sep; last 2 CM 2 Oct.  
**Ovenbird:** max 6 HIWMA 9 Sep; last 3 TRWMA 23 Sep.  
**N. Waterthrush:** max 2 UM 7 Sep; last SFNS 10 Sep.  
**Connecticut Warbler:** Syr 30 Sep (TShr!).  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** max 10 HIWMA 9 Sep; last 2 TRWMA 22 Oct.  
**Hooded Warbler:** Hannibal to 4 Oct; VB 5 Oct, record late.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** max 3 UM 4 Sep; last SFNS 5 Oct.  
**Canada Warbler:** SFNS 12 Sep, only report.

#### TANAGER - WEAVER

**Scarlet Tanager:** max 6 UM 4 Sep; last CM 2 Oct.  
**E. Towhee:** max 4 CM 10 Oct; last Skan 22 Oct.

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr TRWMA 18 Oct; max 58 Orwell 5 Nov.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** max 75 Parish 23 Sep.  
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** TRWMA 18 Oct (GD).  
**Field Sparrow:** max 7 Hastings 6 Oct.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** 2 VB 4 Oct; DH 21 Oct; last VB 25 Oct.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** max 11 Skan 18 Oct; 4-6 several sites to last 22 Oct.  
**NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW:** Van Buren 9 Oct (JB!), first Regional record.  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr SFNS 11 Oct; max 24 TRWMA 1 Nov; 21 Orwell 5 Nov.  
**Song Sparrow:** max 120 WM 8 Oct.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr VB 7 Sep; widespread 1-2 per day to 12 Oct; last TRWMA 4 Nov.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** max 16 WM 8 Oct.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** max 250 WM 8 Oct.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr Boylston 17 Sep; max 28 WM 8 Oct.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 460 Orwell 5 Nov.  
**Lapland Longspur:** 2 VB 28 Oct.  
**Snow Bunting:** arr FH 22 Oct; 100 per day LOL in Nov.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 2/day; last SFNS 30 Sep.  
**Indigo Bunting:** 6 reports, last SSSP 1 Oct.  
**DICKCISSEL:** HIWMA 7 Sep (MH).  
**Bobolink:** 3 reports; last SFNS 12 Sep.  
**E. Meadowlark:** max 17 Pulaski 2 Oct; last VB 13 Nov.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** max 86 CM 16 Oct.  
**Com. Grackle:** max 2800 Mexico 15 Oct.  
**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 85 Clay 26 Sep.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** last 14 Sep.  
**Purple Finch:** few reports, mostly singles.  
**Red Crossbill:** 9 Geo 1 Sep, 6 fl; 6 Geo 19 Nov.  
**Pine Siskin:** 2 Hamilton 9 Sep, only report.

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## REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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Fall consisted of two wet months with near normal temperatures followed by a very warm November with near normal precipitation. Mean temperatures in Watertown for September (60.0° F) and October (47.9° F) were within 0.3° of normal, but the precipitation totals of 5.2 and 6.9 inches were 0.6 and 3.1 inches above normal, respectively. Two to three inches of snow fell on much of the Region on 21 October for the first snowfall of the season, but it melted quickly. The mean November temperature of 40.3° F in Gouverneur (Watertown data were unavailable) was 5.4° above normal, and the month ended on a warm spell, with widespread high temperatures in the 60s during the last two days of the month. Snowstorms hit western Jefferson County on November 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>, but warm temperatures melted the snow rapidly, and the ground was bare throughout most of the Region by the end of the reporting period.

A good variety of waterfowl was reported, but overall numbers seemed about average with a few exceptions. Species reported in good numbers included Tundra Swan, mostly from the Lake Ontario shoreline; Green-winged Teal on Fort Drum; Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, and Hooded Merganser at Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Area; and more than 2000 Ring-necked Ducks at Upper and Lower Lakes WMA. For the first time in several years, all three species of scoter were reported, both from Lake Ontario and from smaller inland bodies of water. On the negative side, I received few reports of Snow Goose, Brant, or Long-tailed Duck.

Among the highlights of the season were good numbers of grebes, although at least a few grebes and many more loons were killed by the botulism outbreak in Lake Ontario. Pied-billed Grebe numbers were high at Upper and Lower Lakes for most of the fall, where I counted 90 on 18 September just on Lower Lake. Red-necked Grebes came through in two waves, one in September and one in early November, with a high count of 15 on the St. Lawrence River. Perhaps the bird of the season was a **Western Grebe** Bob and Ellie Long saw on the St. Lawrence River on 25 September. Unfortunately this bird did not stick around long enough for anybody else to see it. As expected, the botulism outbreak killed numerous waterbirds on Lake Ontario, including several species of ducks, grebes, and gulls, but especially loons. Common Loons accounted for more than 80% of all bird carcasses picked up along the Jefferson County shoreline by DEC personnel monitoring the outbreak.

A regionally unusual concentration of up to 50 Great Egrets in Canton dispersed during early September only to reappear about 20 miles to the northeast later in the month. Unfortunately, few birders heard about this group of egrets until after they had moved from each site. A Cattle Egret photographed in Cape Vincent in early November was the first Regional report since 2004.

An impressive build-up of raptors occurred in northern Jefferson County throughout the fall. Northern Harrier and American Kestrel were reported from

Cape Vincent and Point Peninsula in especially large numbers, with good numbers of Red-tailed Hawk and a modest showing of Rough-legged Hawk. Notable raptors reported elsewhere included a late Osprey at Carry Falls Reservoir on 25 November, a Golden Eagle on Fort Drum on 6 September, and 8 Merlins and 3 Peregrine Falcons.

Shorebirds were once again reported in dismal numbers, with no particularly notable sightings. Nick Leone saw a Little Gull on Pt. Peninsula on 26 October and a Pomarine Jaeger and 2 Black-legged Kittiwakes at Montario Point 3 days later for the season's only noteworthy larid sightings. These species are rarely reported in Region 6, almost certainly because few observers spend any time watching the lake during appropriate weather conditions.

The **Snowy Owl** first found on Pt. Peninsula in July was last seen on 7 September. I thought that this owl represented the only Region 6 record of Snowy Owl for the months of July, August, and September until I received a late report from Tom McDonald that one of his banded Snowy Owls remained on a territory in St. Lawrence County from February 2006 through the summer and fall and was still present as of the end of November. Tom noted that some of his other banded owls have remained in northern New York until about 4 July in past years, but never through the entire summer. The other noteworthy owl event was the arrival of good numbers of Short-eared Owls to northern Jefferson County, where daily counts of 10 to 15 were typical in Cape Vincent.

The passerine migration was better documented than in most other recent years. By the middle of October Northern Shrike was present in good numbers. Gray-cheeked Thrush typically slips through Region 6 undetected, so the multiple reports from Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties were welcome. I also received more Swainson's Thrush reports than in many years, and large numbers of thrushes were heard calling overhead on several nights in late September and early October. Warblers passed through the Region at a modest but steady pace for much of September, with at least one large wave on 21 & 22 September that was dominated by Myrtle and Black-throated Green warblers. The highlights of the warbler migration were three Orange-crowned Warblers reported from Chaumont Barrens and Fort Drum. The largest songbird movement of the season came from 4 to 6 October, when thousands of White-throated and White-crowned sparrows were observed near Lake Ontario in Jefferson County. Among the hordes of sparrows Tom Carrolan found a **Dickcissel** on Pt. Peninsula on 5 October.

Winter finches presented a mixed story. In the Adirondacks, Joan Collins and others found numerous Red Crossbills and Purple Finches and modest numbers of White-winged Crossbills, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks. Outside Adirondack Park, crossbills and siskins were unreported, and although Purple Finches moved through the Region in large numbers in October and early November, they were difficult to find by Thanksgiving. I found an early flock of Common Redpolls on Fort Drum on 31 October, but this was the only redpoll report for the season. Other winter songbirds, such as Snow Buntings and American Tree Sparrows, passed through in good numbers from mid October through early November, but were not plentiful by the end of the season.

The 201 species reported represents the highest fall total for Region 6 in many years, no doubt indicative of a recent increase in reporting. The year will perhaps best be remembered as the year the Snowy Owls stayed all summer. Other highlights not mentioned above include: 23 species of warblers, more than has been reported in Region 6 any fall in recent memory; a good flight of Rusty Blackbirds; and a generally prolonged passerine migration. The main disappointments were continued poor shorebird numbers and waterbird mortality on Lake Ontario from botulism.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

BRB - Black River Bay JEFF; CV - Cape Vincent JEFF; CB - Chaumont Barrens Preserve; 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; LGI - Little Galloo Island; LPdT - Leonard Pond trail T Colton STLA; MM - Massawepie Mire T Colton and Piercefield STLA; MP - Montario Pt, Ellisburg JEFF; PiPt - Pillar Pt, T Brownville JEFF; PtPen - Pt Peninsula, T Lyme JEFF; PRGC - Partridge Run Golf Course, T Canton, STLA; PRWMA - Perch River WMA; RMSP - Robert Moses State Park T Massena STLA; SLR - St. Lawrence River; ULLWMA - Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton STLA; WBSP - Westcott Beach SP, T Henderson JEFF; WHWMA - Wilson Hill WMA STLA.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** arr ULLWMA 1 Oct; max 465 Canton 19 Nov.  
**Canada Goose:** max 8000-10000 PRWMA 21 Nov.  
**Brant:** 57 MP 29 Oct.  
**Mute Swan:** 4 WHWMA 9 Oct; 18 PtPen 30 Nov.  
**Tundra Swan:** 183 BRB 13 Nov; 60 PtPen 30 Nov.  
**Trumpeter Swan:** 2 ad with 7 y PRWMA 30 Sep.  
**Wood Duck:** max 150 WHWMA 4 Sep; last PRGC 19 Nov.  
**Gadwall:** max 75 WHWMA 18 Nov.

**Am. Wigeon:** 25-60 per day ULLWMA 15 Sep through 28 Oct; max 125 WHWMA 9 Oct.

**Am. Black Duck:** max 190 ULLWMA 23 Nov.

**Mallard:** 550 ULLWMA 22 Nov.

**Blue-winged Teal:** max 23 ULLWMA 1 Sep; last ULLWMA 8 Oct.

**N. Shoveler:** ULLWMA 6 Oct; Clayton 24 Nov.

**N. Pintail:** max 10 ULLWMA 6 Oct.

**Green-winged Teal:** max 300 FD 8 Oct, high; more typical numbers, 32 ULLWMA 1 Sep; 22 PiPt 21 Nov.

**Canvasback:** ULLWMA 23 Nov.

**Redhead:** max 475 WHWMA 18 Nov.



**Ring-necked Duck:** max 2000-2100 ULLWMA 12-27 Oct.  
**Greater Scaup:** 4500 BRB 30 Nov.  
**Lesser Scaup:** 4-40 per day ULLWMA 15 Sep - 4 Nov.  
**Surf Scoter:** 16 WBSP 19 Oct; 4 ULLWMA 1 Nov; 2 SLR Massena 18, 26 Nov.  
**White-winged Scoter:** MP 29 Oct; 12 PtPen 31 Oct.  
**Black Scoter:** WBSP 19 Oct; ULLWMA 28 Oct & 19 Nov; 48 WBSP 13 Nov.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** ULLWMA 27 Oct.  
**Bufflehead:** arr ULLWMA 27 Oct; max 124 PtPen 30 Nov.  
**Com. Goldeneye:** arr ULLWMA 1 Nov.  
**Hooded Merganser:** max 385 WHWMA 26 Nov.  
**Com. Merganser:** 68 RMSP 18 Nov.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** ULLWMA 8 Oct, 1 Nov; 2 RMSP 18 Nov.  
**Ruddy Duck:** ULLWMA 9 Nov.  
**Com. Loon:** max 111 PiPt 26 Oct; 216 carcasses picked up on DEC botulism mortality surveys L Ontario shore JEFF 20 Oct - 28 Nov.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 90 ULLWMA 18 Sep; last ULLWMA 23 Nov.  
**Horned Grebe:** ULLWMA 25 Oct; 2 PtPen 31 Oct; max 24 WBSP 13 Nov.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** ULLWMA 15, 18, & 26 Sep; PiPt 26 Sep; 15 Jacques Cartier SP 2 Nov; SLR Massena 2 Nov.  
**WESTERN GREBE:** Morrilstown 25 Sep (BL&EL), report to NYSARC!  
**Am. Bittern:** last ULLWMA 8 Oct.  
**Great Egret:** 4-50 per day Canton early Sep; up to 50 per day Winthrop late Sep - early Oct.  
**CATTLE EGRET:** CV 6-11 Nov (JA, photo!).  
**Green Heron:** last KC 2 Nov.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 3 ICNC 23 Sep.  
**Turkey Vulture:** last Potsdam 26 Nov (late).

#### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** last Carry Falls Res 25 Nov (PO), late.  
**Bald Eagle:** 1-2 juv per day ULLWMA thru 15 Sep.  
**N. Harrier:** 11 FD 4 Oct; 15-30 per day CV Oct & Nov, excellent numbers.  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 22 reports.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** 16 reports.  
**N. Goshawk:** imm Tug Hill WMA 8 Oct.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** FD 5 Sep.  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** 15-25 per day CV Nov.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** arr Potsdam 14 Oct; 3-8 per CV late Oct thru.  
**Golden Eagle:** FD 6 Sep.  
**Am. Kestrel:** 45-50 per day CV thru, excellent numbers.  
**Merlin:** Canton 17 Sep; Massena 23 Sep; PtPen 14 Oct, 7 Nov; PRGC 19 Nov; 3 CV Oct & Nov.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** Canton 4 Sep; CV 1-10 Oct, 3 Nov.  
**Sora:** ICNC 1 Sep.  
**Com. Moorhen:** last ULLWMA 27 Sep.  
**Am. Coot:** 5 ULLWMA 15 Oct.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** 7 ED 1 Sep.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** 2 ULLWMA 1 Sep; 5 ED 1 Sep; 2 ED 8 Sep.  
**Killdeer:** max 36 ED 1 Sep.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** last ICNC 4 Nov.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 4 ULLWMA 1 Sep; 4 Canton 4 Sep.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** 4 ULLWMA 1 Sep; ICNC 16 Sep.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** last WBSP 19 Oct.  
**Sanderling:** 5 ED 8 Sep (only report).  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** ULLWMA 1 Sep; 6 PiPt 4 Sep; 4 ED 8 Sep.  
**Least Sandpiper:** 6 ULLWMA 4 Sep; 4 ED 8 Sep.  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** 2 PiPt 4 Sep.  
**Wilson's Snipe:** max 23 ULLWMA 1 Sep; FD 30 Oct; Potsdam 18 Nov.  
**Am. Woodcock:** m performing display flight Canton 6 Nov.  
**Pomarine Jaeger:** MP 29 Oct (NL).  
**Little Gull:** PiPt 26 Oct (NL).  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** 25 RMSP 4 Sep; 100 PiPt 26 Oct.  
**Black-legged Kittiwake:** 2 MP 29 Oct (NL).  
**Com. Tern:** 10 RMSP 4 Sep.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**SNOWY OWL:** PtPen owl found July last seen 7 Sep (GS); imm m that first appeared Hammond Feb remained through the fall (TM, *intro*).  
**Barred Owl:** ICNC 6 Oct.  
**Short-eared Owl:** Long Sault Is 13 Nov; 10-15 per day CV late Nov, excellent numbers.  
**Chimney Swift:** last FD 6 Sep.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** last KC 23 Sep.  
**Belted Kingfisher:** widely scattered reports thru end Nov.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** last KC 10 Oct.  
**Black-backed Woodpecker:** 2 MM 9 Sep;  
LPdT 22 Sep.  
**N. Flicker:** scarce after late Oct.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Oswegatchie 1  
Sep.  
**E. Wood-Pewee:** last FD 22 Sep.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** FD 5 Sep; last  
FD 25 Sep.  
**Least Flycatcher:** last ULLWMA 1 Sep.  
**E. Phoebe:** last KC 18 Oct.  
**Great-crested Flycatcher:** last FD 6 Sep.  
**E. Kingbird:** last Morristown 16 Sep.  
**N. Shrike:** arr Potsdam 25 Oct; 20 other  
reports.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** last FD 12 Oct.  
**Warbling Vireo:** last FD 5 Sep.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** FD 12 Sep; ICNC 16  
Sep.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** last FD 2 Oct.  
**Gray Jay:** 6 MM 9 Sep; 2 Massawepie L 17  
Sep; 7 LPdT 3 Nov.  
**Blue Jay:** 81 migrating PiPt 30 Sep.  
**Am. Crow:** 3000-5000 per night in roost  
along Black River near downtown  
Watertown.  
**Horned Lark:** 12 Canton 16 Sep; 75 FD 30  
Oct.  
**Tree Swallow:** 800-1000 PiPt 26 Oct.  
**Barn Swallow:** last ULLWMA 27 Sep.  
**Boreal Chickadee:** 6 Massawepie Mire 9  
Sep; "many" LPdT 22 Sep.  
**House Wren:** last FD & KC 2 Oct.  
**Winter Wren:** scarce after 12 Oct.  
**Marsh Wren:** last ULLWMA 8 Oct.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** arr ICNC 16  
Sep.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr FD 6 Sep.  
**E. Bluebird:** 15-25 per day FD thru 10 Oct  
declined to 1-2 per day by 2 Nov.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** FD 28 Sep, 3 Oct;  
nocturnal migrants heard Potsdam 1 Oct &  
Canton 3 Oct.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** FD 5 & 25 Sep;  
Massawepie L 17 Sep; nocturnal migrants  
heard Potsdam 23 Sep & 1 Oct.  
**Hermit Thrush:** 4-10 per day FD thru 7  
Oct; scarce after 12 Oct.  
**Wood Thrush:** last FD 5 Sep.  
**Am. Robin:** small flight; max 70 PRGC 7  
Oct.  
**Gray Catbird:** scarce after 7 Oct.  
**Brown Thrasher:** last FD 22 Sep.

**Am. Pipit:** 10-130 per day FD 21 Sep - 9  
Nov; max 150 CV 3 Nov; lingering  
individuals to 25 Nov.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** modest flight; max 75  
RMSP 18 Nov.

#### WARBLERS

**Tennessee Warbler:** last FD 16 Oct.  
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** CB 16 Sep  
(SK); FD 28 Sep, 12 Oct (JB).  
**Nashville Warbler:** last FD 10 Oct.  
**N. Parula:** last FD 22 Sep.  
**Yellow Warbler:** last FD 6 Sep.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** last Watertown  
12 Sep.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** last FD 5 Oct.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 1-2 per day  
FD thru 26 Sep; last Watertown 12 Oct.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** scarce after 25  
Oct; last FD 21 Nov.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** max 40+  
FD 22 Sep; last FD 4 Oct.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** last FD 21 Sep.  
**Pine Warbler:** 1-5 per day FD thru 5 Oct.

**Prairie Warbler:** CB 9 Sep, only report.  
**Palm Warbler:** *palmarum*: FD 5 Sep; 1-2  
per day FD 22 Sep - 4 Oct; *hypochrysea*:  
"many" on MM nesting grounds 9 Sep;  
migrant FD 7 Nov.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** max 3 FD 22 Sep.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** last Hitchens Pond 8  
Oct.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** last FD 25 Sep.  
**Am. Redstart:** last FD 7 Sep.  
**Ovenbird:** last ICNC 16 Sep.  
**N. Waterthrush:** last ICNC 11 Sep.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** last FD 4 Oct.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** ULLWMA 1 Sep; FD 6  
Sep; last FD 4 Oct.  
**Canada Warbler:** last KC 22 Sep.

#### TANAGERS - WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** last FD 25 Sep.  
**E. Towhee:** scarce after mid Oct.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr FD 26 Oct.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** scarce after 7 Oct; last  
FD 17 Nov.  
**Field Sparrow:** last Clayton 14 Oct.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** max 40 FD 22 Sep,  
where last seen in nesting areas 10 Oct;  
migrants elsewhere on FD 30 Oct, 6 Nov; 2  
Hounsfield 25 Oct.  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr PRGC 7 Oct.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr FD 5 Sep; last 2  
ULLWMA 4 Nov, late.

**Swamp Sparrow:** 10-20 per day ICNC thru 7 Oct; last ULLWMA 19 Nov.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** max 4500-5000 PtPen & CV 4-6 Oct; heavy movement thru mid-Oct; scarce after 25 Oct.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr FD 22 Sep; max 1500 PtPen & CV 4-6 Oct.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** arr FD 25 Sep.  
**Lapland Longspur:** max 15 CV early Nov; 1 with Snow Buntings FD 27 Nov.  
**Snow Bunting:** arr Canton 25 Oct; 500-600 CV early Nov; 90 FD 27 Nov.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** last FD 21 Sep.  
**Indigo Bunting:** ULLWMA 1 Sep.  
**DICKCISSEL:** CV 5 Oct (TC).  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 1700 ICNC 1 Sep.  
**E. Meadowlark:** 2 FD 31 Oct.

**Rusty Blackbird:** arr Canton & KC 1 Oct; max 300 KC 28 Oct; 280 KC 15 Oct; 200 FD 31 Oct; 200 Red Lake 5 Nov; many smaller flocks to 22 Nov.

**Baltimore Oriole:** last Clayton 15 Sep.  
**Purple Finch:** many calling overhead FD 26 Oct - 3 Nov; scarce outside Adirondacks after early Nov.  
**Red Crossbill:** 60 LPdT 16 Nov (JC).  
**White-winged Crossbill:** "small flock" LPdT 16 Nov (JC).  
**Com. Redpoll:** 40 FD 31 Oct (JB), early, only report.

**Pine Siskin:** LPdT 21 Nov.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** Henderson 13 Nov; 4 Barnes Corners early Nov; max 24 LPdT 16 Nov.



## REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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The first half of the season was generally pleasant, with Lake Champlain continuing its summer decline, from 96.78' on 1 September to a low of 95.38' on 17 October. The first frost hit Saranac Lake on 11 September, with a low of 27°, and later in the month winds there reached 45 mph on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Plattsburgh was a balmy 63° on 2 October, but Inlet had snow on the 5<sup>th</sup>, and higher elevations like Azure Mt. saw another dusting of snow on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Conditions changed at mid-month, with 0.54" of rain at Saranac Lake on the 18<sup>th</sup>, followed by 3" of snow at Duane and rain elsewhere on 20 October. Depending upon elevation, rain or snow dominated the remainder of the season, with 22 inches of snow on the ground at Inlet by 29 October. Although much of November was warm, with Plattsburgh hitting 62° on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Saranac Lake received another 1.23" of rain on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The autumn rains and melting snow raised Champlain to a seasonal high of 98.10" on 19 November. The end of the month was unseasonably warm, with Elizabethtown hitting 53° on the 29<sup>th</sup>, but the lake level was 97.50', higher than at the start of the season.

Geese, diving ducks, and grebes were present in good numbers and variety. Eagles and falcons appeared to be doing well, and seven reports of Golden Eagle were especially encouraging. Moorhens were unusually successful breeders this

year, with young found in several places. At least three different broods were present on the Laurin Farm at Chazy Rivers. Migrant shorebirds were scarce, with even some fairly common species represented by only a single report, and numbers were similarly low, despite the continuing drop in the lake level prior to mid-October. A jaeger, gulls, and terns provided a few highlights. Most boreal birds were found where expected but with a few surprises. Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Wren continued to be found in good numbers and new places, with the wren penetrating the central Adirondacks at Long Lake this fall. American Pipit on Noonmark Mt. followed the reports of previous autumns from the summits of Cascade, East Dix, Marcy, Rocky Peak, Skylight, and Whiteface; clearly the alpine zone that resembles tundra is an attraction. Numbers of migrant northern warblers and sparrows were modest, but Rusty Blackbird and Common Grackle were abundant at times.

The wild food crop was judged excellent. By late November, White-winged Crossbills were feeding on tamarack cones, and all conifers except white pine were loaded with a variety of cones to support any invasion of winter finches that might occur. Yellow birch and striped maple were loaded with seeds, the remaining American beech not killed by the blight produced a heavy nut crop, and American mountain ash were weighted with berries. Despite the full larder, most finches were widely scattered and sparse, as were frugivorous species such as bluebirds, robins, and waxwings. Reports of both crossbills, however, lent hope for the winter to come.

The total of 173 species surpassed the counts of 2003 and 2005 by 1, but fell just short of the record 175 located in 2004. All of the notable rarities came from the Champlain shoreline: **Western Grebe** swimming at Port Kent, **Great Cormorant** southbound at Cumberland Head, **Snowy Egret** lingering on the Laurin Farm at Chazy Landing, a juvenile **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at the same farm, **Parasitic Jaeger** flying south off the north mouth of the Ausable River, a juvenile **Sabine's Gull** near Mullen Bay in Moriah, **Fish Crow** chasing a Rough-legged Hawk in Essex, and **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Ausable Marsh State Wildlife Management Area. Note also the number of record-early county arrivals and departures. A Northern Shrike at Westville on 28 September not only set a new early arrival date for Franklin County, but also New York State, and six other northern species arrived early in a given county. Late county departure records were set for another 19 species, strongly suggestive of the influence of global warming. Since records in *The Kingbird* date back 56 years, to 1950, and county records have been well-maintained since the early 1970s (with those of all four counties now published), to see 26 old records broken in an otherwise unremarkable season is quite striking and noteworthy. We urge observers to continue to submit seasonal lists of all species seen—providing numbers, places, and dates—and not simply report highlights on Northern New York Birds, a growing trend.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AMR - Akwesasne Mohawk Reserve; AP - Ausable Pt; BB - Bloomingdale Bog; CH - Cumberland Head; Cr - Chazy Rivers; CRF - Cedar R Flow; FB - Ferd's Bog; IL - Indian L, Franklin Co.; LL - Long L; LP - L Placid; MRP - Malone Rec Pk; NP - Noblewood Pk; PtR - Pt au Roche; SB - Sabattis Bog; SPB - Spring Pond Bog; TL - Tupper L; WB - Whallon's Bay; WD - Wilcox Dock, Plattsburgh.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** arr 15 CH 14 Sep (BK); snow/blue intergrade PtR 14 Sep (BK,CM); 3 MRP 25 Sep (TW), early FRAN; 600 Noonmark Mt 20 Nov (ET), one blue; still 1000s MRP thru (JT).

**Brant:** arr 20 CH 10 Oct (BK,CM), early CLIN; 50 Sagamore 10 Nov; Seventh L Mt 20 Nov (GL); 3 TL 21 Nov (CD), excellent showing.

**Gadwall:** BB 4 Sep (J&PT); CR 14 Nov (BK), good finds.

**Am. Wigeon:** 2 CR 15 Nov (BK), only report.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 233 Moody Pd 27 Oct (LM).

**Greater Scaup:** arr NP 13 Nov (ET); max 1500 NP 27 Nov (L&PO), ESSE record.

**Lesser Scaup:** arr 100+ NP 13 Nov (ET) to 27 Nov (JP,ET).

**Surf Scoter:** arr 5 WB 7 Oct (WR); 2 hens LL 14 Oct (JE,PH,MM), early HAMI; WB 15& 21 Oct (J&PT); f WB 27 Nov (L&PO); IL 27 Nov (JT), late FRAN, a good showing.

**White-winged Scoter:** arr 3 IL 3 Oct (JT); max 65 NP 13 Nov (ET); 36 IL 27 Nov; 2 pr there to 30 Nov (JT).

**Black Scoter:** arr Pt Kent 29 Oct (DR); max 4 NP 13 Nov (ET); 2 NP 27 Nov (L&PO); IL 27 Nov (JT), late FRAN.

**Long-tailed Duck:** arr 4 NP 13 Nov (ET); CH 22 Nov (NO); 3 NP 27 Nov (L&PO); IL 27 Nov (JT), late FRAN.

**Com. Goldeneye:** max 5000 NP 27 Nov (L&PO), ESSE record.

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** ad drake arr NP 13 Nov (ET), early ESSE.

**Wild Turkey:** max 50 Seventh L Mt 20 Nov (GL).

**Red-throated Loon:** arr 3 CH 8 Sep (EB,MD), early CLIN; CH 22 Sep (BK).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** FY CR 1 Sep (BK); 2 AP 30 Nov (J&RH) & 2 WD 30 Nov (NO), fairly late.

**Horned Grebe:** arr AP & Mirror L 22 Oct (BK,CM,LM); max 30 NP 6 Nov (ET).

**Red-necked Grebe:** arr 6 LP 27 Oct (LM); Pt Kent 30 Oct-5 Nov (DR); NP 6-13 Nov (ET); Essex 18 Nov (EDT); Coll Bay 19

Nov (J&PT); AP 27 Nov (BK,CM); max 4 WB 27 Nov (L&PO), an excellent showing.

**WESTERN GREBE:** Pt Kent 29-30 Oct (DR), long, thin neck, white foreneck down to & including visible breast, with ad & 1<sup>st</sup> yr Red-necked Grebes for comparison.

**GREAT CORMORANT:** imm CH 6 Sep (BK,CM!), southbound, 3<sup>rd</sup> CLIN & Regional record.

**Am. Bittern:** AMR 2 Oct (HW), late FRAN.

**Least Bittern:** AP 22 Oct (J&PT), close view.

**Great Egret:** max 4 CR 1 Sep (BK); AMR 4&20 Oct (HW), late FRAN.

**SNOWY EGRET:** CR 1 Sep (BK), present from 31 Jul.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** AMR 20 Sep (HW), late FRAN.

**Turkey Vulture:** max 32 Jay 5 Oct (PO,NW), 20 in one kettle, high ESSE; AMR 23 Oct (HW), late FRAN.

#### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Bald Eagle:** max 3 Jay 10 Sep, singles LL, Noonmark Mt, NP, WM, now normal numbers.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** arr Townsend Rd, T Bombay 3 Oct (DW), early FRAN.

**Golden Eagle:** arr Jay 6 Oct (PO); Wadhams 29 Oct (J&PT); Brown's Tract 3 Nov (SF); Pillsbury Mt 10 Nov (TS); BB 18 Nov (J&PT); Noonmark Mt 20 Nov (ET); Essex 30 Nov (MM), greatly encouraging.

**Merlin:** 2 Jay 10 Sep (PO); L Clear 17 Sep (BC); family Plattsburgh 18 Sep (TA); Paul Smiths 19 Sep (WR); AP 22 Sep (EF); BB 11 Nov (J&PT), increasingly common.

**Peregrine Falcon:** Pok-o-Moonshine 7 Sep (MM); 2 Jay 5 Oct (PO,NW); Jay 6 Oct (PO).

**Com. Moorhen:** 2 ads, 3 groups of chicks CR 1 Sep (BK); 3 imm AP 15 Sep (BK,CM); 3 juv PtR 22 Sep (HK), a successful season.

**Am. Coot:** 1-2 WD 13-30 Nov (BK,C&JM,NO), only site.

**Black-bellied Plover:** CR 13 Oct (BK), only fall report.

**Semipalmated Plover:** CR 2 Sep (BK,CM); max 6 NP 7 Sep (J&PT).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** 4 AP 22 Oct (BK,CM), only report.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** CR 2&4 Sep (BK,CM), only report.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** CR 4 Sep (BK), sole sighting.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** CH 18 Oct (BK), late CLIN.

**Sanderling:** 4 CR 1 Sep (BK); max 6 CR 2 Sep (BK,CM); 2 NP 1-3 Sep (JH,MDM,J&PT).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 4 CR 2-4 Sep (BK,CM).

**Least Sandpiper:** 8 CR 2 Sep (BK,CM), low.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 9 AP 22 Oct (BK,CM), good, but only report.

**Dunlin:** Monty's Bay 18 Oct (BK,CM), same.

**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:** juv CR [Laurin Farm] 1 Sep (BK!), 3<sup>rd</sup> CLIN & 4<sup>th</sup> Regional record, a great find.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** CR 2 Sep (BK,CM); NP 13 Nov (ET), late ESSE & Reg 7.

**Wilson's Snipe:** LL 11 Nov (JC), late HAMI.

**PARASITIC JAEGER:** intermediate phase AP 7 Sep (BK,CM!), offshore N mouth Ausable R.

**Little Gull:** ad NP 2 Sep (JH,MDM); ad CH 17 Oct (CM), both nice finds.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 300 NP 1 Sep (J&PT); max 982+ NP 3 Sep (JH,MDM), declining to 3 NP 13 Nov (ET); 70 Coll Bay 12 Nov (J&PT); AP 30 Nov (J&RH).

**SABINE'S GULL:** juv mid-lake near Mullen Bay, Moriah 23 Sep (RB,JL,TM,HR!), viewed from Oven Pt, VT, 3<sup>rd</sup> ESSE & Reg record, details to NYSARC.

**Caspian Tern:** 6 CR 1-4 Sep (BK); NP 1-7 Sep; max 26 CR 2 Sep (JH,MDM).

**Com. Tern:** 3 NP 1 Sep (J&PT); max 20 NP 2 Sep (JH,MDM); last NP 7 Oct (WR), late ESSE.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Rand Hill 5 Oct (PG), window-kill, late CLIN and Region 7.

**E. Screech-Owl:** Elizabethtown 1 Sep (J&PT), rarely reported.

**Snowy Owl:** arr CR 15 Nov (BK), moving to nearby Pt au Fer 16-17 Nov, then back to CR 22 Nov thru, but presumed to be same owl.

**Com. Nighthawk:** Essex 1 Sep; Keene 3 Sep (J&PT), rather sparse.

**Belted Kingfisher:** Fifth L 27 Nov (GL), late HAMI.

**Black-backed Woodpecker:** Bigelow Rd, Duck Hole, LL, N-P Trail, known spots.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**E. Phoebe:** Inlet 3 Nov (GL), late HAMI.

**N. Shrike:** arr imm Westville 28 Sep (HW), early NYS, Region 7, & FRAN record by 8

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days; Keene 29 Oct (J&PT); FB 3 Nov (SF).

**Blue-headed Vireo:** T Franklin 28 Oct (MDM,WO), late FRAN.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** Keene 6 Sep (J&PT), late ESSE.

**Gray Jay:** BB, Bigelow Rd, FB, LL, Madawaska, SPB expected sites; Keene 10 Sep (J&PT), singing; Jay mid-Sep (PO), with Blue Jay; Paul Smiths VIC mid-Nov (LW), at feeders, less expected.

**FISH CROW:** Essex 29 Oct (J&PT), chasing light-phase Rough-legged Hawk, 2<sup>nd</sup> ESSE & 5<sup>th</sup> Region 7 record.

**Com. Raven:** NP 2 Oct (BM), Boquet R delta on L Champlain.

**Horned Lark:** max 200+ Essex 21 & 29 Oct (J&PT).

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** CRF 6 Sep (GL), late HAMI.

**swallow (sp.):** Jay 26 Oct (PO), silhouette plump, broad-winged, flight level, wingbeat deliberate.

**Boreal Chickadee:** BB; FB, LL, Oregon Plains; SB; SPB, expected locales.

**Tufted Titmouse:** max 4 Elizabethtown feeder 25 Nov (JP); also 2 AP; 2 CH; Essex; Mineville; NP; Ticonderoga.

**Carolina Wren:** LL 3 Sep-28 Oct (WL), 2<sup>nd</sup> HAMI record; 2 Cook Mt 8 Sep-20 Nov (NC); CH 17 Sep (BK,CM); 2 CH 15-30 Oct (NO), as invasion continues

**Gray-checked Thrush:** TL 5 Oct (CD), "larger than other thrushes," late FRAN.

**Swainson's Thrush:** TL 5 Oct (CD), late.

**Am. Robin:** max 300+ Jay 26 Oct (PO);

200 Brown's Tract 3 Nov (SF), max HAMI.

**Am. Pipit:** 2 Noonmark Mt 24 Oct (ET), 7<sup>th</sup> ESSE peak with a fall report.

#### WARBLERS

**Cape May Warbler:** Blueberry Mt 3 Sep (DD), only report.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** m Keene 16 Oct (J&PT), late ESSE.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** Keene 18 Nov (J&PT), late ESSE & Region 7.

**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** AP 15 Nov (BM,JS), possibly same warbler there next day (J&RH), 2<sup>nd</sup> CLIN & 4<sup>th</sup> Regional record.

**Palm Warbler:** "Western" Salmon R, LL 4 Sep (JC); Jay 5 Oct (PO); Madawaska 9 Oct (MS).

**Wilson's Warbler:** BB 3 Sep (BM), only report.

#### TANAGERS - WEAVERS

**Fox Sparrow:** Bigelow Rd 9 Oct (MS); TL 13-30 Oct (CD); Keene 30 Oct (J&PT), sparse.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** max 12 Jay 5 Oct (PO) & TL 23 Oct (CD); other Oct reports Elizabethtown, LL, Westport, a good showing.

**Snow Bunting:** arr 25 Newcomb 12 Nov (ER); 3 NP 13 Nov; max 120 Essex 13 Nov (ET).

**Rusty Blackbird:** transient TL 2 Oct (CD), in hedge; many migrants Drum St, AMR 4 Oct (HW); 50+ AP 16 Oct (BK,CM).

**Com. Grackle:** 1000s flying w Rand Hill, CLIN 25 Sep (J&RH); 300+ Jay 26 Oct (PO), high numbers.

**Red Crossbill:** CRF 6 Sep (GL); L Clear 17 Sep (BC); flocks Sagamore 10 Nov; Moose R 19 Nov (GL); SB 24 Nov (JC), suggestive of invasion.

**White-winged Crossbill:** 8 Long Pd & 11 Osgood Pd 7 Oct (BM); SB 22 Nov & 15 Little TL 24 Nov (CD), feeding on tamarack cones & similarly encouraging.

#### EXOTIC

##### ORANGE-CHEEKED WAXBILL

(*Estrilda melpoda*): Peru, CLIN 22-24 Sep (E&HF), 16 Oct (EF); native of Africa (including Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gambia, Zambia), popular cage bird.



## REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Warm weather and modestly wet conditions describe fall 2006. September passed with no weather surprises, and both precipitation and temperature hovered close to historic averages. Rain fell heavier in the month of October, with 1.72 inches more than average. November remained unseasonably warm, 5.4° F above average, with 17 days above 50°. The first light frost at Albany International Airport occurred on 13 October, and temperatures flirted with the freezing point for the following two weeks. The first killing frost did not occur until 3 November. With so many warm days even shaded ponds and small wetlands remained free of ice well into December.

Waterfowl watchers kept busy this fall, and we have a number of interesting reports. A **Barrow's Goldeneye** remained firmly in place on Tomhannock Reservoir in Rensselaer County through most of the month of November. A single **Red-throated Loon**, which may get no more than a pause in the scanning scope of a birder from another region, is still an infrequent and delightful sighting in Region 8. Five reports of Red-necked Grebe are notably high as was the surprising report of 95 American Black Ducks paddling about in one small area of the Mohawk in Cohoes, Albany County. American Wigeon, Ruddy Duck, Common Merganser, and Common Loon all exhibited higher maxima than typical falls.

The Hudson Valley *Independent* reported a Mute Swan murder mystery at the end of November. Seven - yes, seven - swans were decidedly not swimming when Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) officials collected their bloodied bodies from Copake Lake in Columbia County for post-mortem analysis. After much worried public buzzing about a swan serial killer, pathologists concluded that the birds bled to death from infections of the trematode, *Sphaeridiotrema globules*. The fluke, which utilizes aquatic snails as an intermediate host, often infects domestic ducks and has been shown to kill wild geese in Saratoga. Department of Environmental Conservation officials have asked birders and residents to report any other dead waterfowl found on Copake Lake.

An even more bizarre story of death reached area birders in September when WAMC radio reported that **eight Hudsonian Godwits** collided with power lines outside a lumber store in Ballston, Saratoga County and were electrocuted. It is more likely that they were simply killed by the collisions, but the story is remarkable because a private business owner witnessed the event firsthand. He reported that a flock of "several dozen" godwits, the largest number ever seen in Region 8, flew into the lines in the early afternoon of 15 September. Pathologists from DEC collected seven of the birds and treated the eighth, which later died from injuries. At least one of the birds will be preserved for the New York State Museum's bird collection.



An interesting **Selasphorus hummingbird** appeared in Rensselaer County at the feeder of Woody Gillies, who photographed the bird and posted images for public comment. Awaiting final confirmation from the NYSARC, many regional birders believe it to be an immature male Rufous Hummingbird based on the bearding of the throat and thin width of the outer rectrix.

Passerine migration this fall occurred a bit earlier than usual in a strong push in late September. Reports of heavy *Catharus* thrush nocturnal migration around 25-27 September match up with reports from New England. Very few warblers lingered in the area after 1 October. Birders didn't turn up any rarities, but did fill out a complete fall checklist, reporting species that are sometimes missed such as Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Bicknell's Thrush, Philadelphia Vireo, Bay-breasted Warbler, **Connecticut Warbler**, Wilson's Warbler, and Canada Warbler.

The Rusty Blackbird count for the season is disappointing, and local birders who traveled out of the Region into the Adirondacks similarly reported empty bogs. The decades-long decline in Rusty Blackbirds may not be a natural cyclical population dip but a significant decline driven by a combination of anthropological and natural factors. Due to more natural cycles, this is the first fall in many years in which birders reported no siskin, early redpoll, or crossbill.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports, Larry Alden, Hope Batcheller, Mimi Brauch, Mike Cantwell, Bill Cook, Tim Dormandy, Corey Finger, Woody Gillies, Gary Goodness, Elisabeth Grace, Jane Graves, Bernie Grosman, Rich Guthrie, Ronald Harrower, Alison Heaphy, John Hershey, Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York, Nancy Kern, Bill Lee, Matt Liebers, Mitzi Lobdell, David Martin, Andrew Mason, Joyce Miller, Roger Miller, Frank Murphy, Gail & Rich Nord, Tom Palmer, Barbara Putnam, Bob Ramonowski, Will Raup, Bob Reilly, Neil Reilly, Alison Van Keuren, Carol & Owen Whitby, Phil Whitney, Chris Winters, Tom Williams, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

## ABBREVIATIONS

AUS – T Austerlitz COLU; CHA –T Chatham COLU; COH – T Cohoes ALBA; COX – T Coxsackie GREE; CPHW – Camp Pinnacle Hawk Watch ALBA; FLO – T Florida MONT; FR – Five Rivers EEC Delmar ALBA; FtE T Ft. Edward grasslands WASH; GL – Galway L SARA; HR – Hudson Ri; PI –Peebles I SARA; RL – Round L SARA; SL – Saratoga L SARA; TR – Tomhannock Res RENS; VF – Vischer Ferry T Saratoga SARA.

## WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** max 1000 Beacon Hill SARA 13 Nov; 800 Northumberland SARA 14 Nov; TR 19 Nov; 200 FLO 29 Nov; 800 Glen MONT 29 Nov.  
**Brant:** South Glens Falls WARR 3 Nov; Claverack COLU 14 Nov.  
**Gadwall:** 2 TR 26 Nov; 3 GL 28 Nov, a few other reports of singles.  
**Am. Wigeon:** max 100 Stanton Pd ALBA 16 Nov.  
**Am. Black Duck:** max 95 COH 1 Sep, high number.  
**Blue-winged Teal:** 10 PI 10 Sep; VF 11 Sep; last Carter Pd 9 Oct.  
**N. Shoveler:** PI 21 Sep, only report.  
**N. Pintail:** max 12 Stanton Pd ALBA 23 Nov.  
**Green-winged Teal:** last Neiber Swamp Livingston COLU 25 Nov.  
**Canvasback:** max 150 Cheviot COLU 26 Nov.  
**Lesser Scaup:** Collins L SCHE 14 Oct; Copake L COLU 9 Nov; 2 Neiber Swamp Livingston COLU 25 Nov.  
**White-winged Scoter:** 9 SL 26 Oct; Old Pd CHA 26 Oct - 4 Nov.  
**Black Scoter:** imm Collins L SCHE 18 Oct; VF 20 Nov.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** VF 20 Nov.  
**BARROW'S GOLDENEYE:** TR 9-25 Nov (BG, RG).  
**Com. Merganser:** max 400 Nassau L RENS 15 Nov.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** 2 SL 19 Nov.  
**Ruddy Duck:** max 170 Nassau L RENS 15 Nov.  
**RED-THROATED LOON:** TR 19 Nov (WR).  
**Com. Loon:** TR 21 Oct; 5 SL 26 Oct; Alcove Res ALBA 4 Nov; TR 4 Nov; Copake L COLU 8 Nov; 3 SL 19 Nov; max 8 TR 25-26 Nov; GL 28 Nov.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** last GL 28 Nov.  
**Horned Grebe:** Copake L COLU 29 Oct; TR 4 Nov; GL 28 Nov.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** VF 3 Oct; SL 26 Oct; RL 26 Oct; TR 4 Nov; SL 20 Nov; TR 25 - 26 Nov.  
**Great Egret:** RL 3 Sep; Meadowdale ALBA 16 Sep; SCHE 25 Sep; FR ALBA 26 Sep; New Scotland ALBA 4 Nov; Niskayuna SCHE 7-15 Nov, not an irruptive year.  
**Cattle Egret:** CHA 10 Nov (CW).  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** RL 3 Sep.  
**Black Vulture:** CHA 9 Oct.  
**Turkey Vulture:** last CHA 17 Nov.

## HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** last Bog Meadow Trail SARA 5 Nov.  
**Bald Eagle:** max 7 PI 20 Sep.  
**N. Harrier:** max 11 FtE 5 Nov.  
**N. Goshawk:** COX flats 1 Oct; AUS 4 Oct; Greenfield SARA 10 Oct; Thatcher Park ALBA 30 Oct; Livingston COLU 19 Nov.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** max 79 CPHW 11 Sep.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** arr AUS 4 Oct; IDA grasslands GREE 4 Nov; FtE 26 Nov.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** numerous reports of resident HR pairs thru.  
**Am. Kestrel:** max 5 FtE 26 Nov.  
**Merlin:** COH 2 Sep; Ramshorn-Livingston GREE 8 Sep; CPHW 11 Sep; PI 21 Sep; Thatcher Pk ALBA 3 Oct; VF 3 Oct.  
**Am. Coot:** 6 Crescent SCHE 15 Oct; Collins L SCHE 1 Nov; Coopers Pd Troy RENS 25 Nov; Neiber Swamp Livingston COLU 25 Nov; GL 28 Nov, only reports.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** last Scotia SCHE 12 Sep.  
**Killdeer:** last Stanton Pd ALBA 4 Nov.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** last Schodack RENS 30 Sep.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 12 COH 1 Sep.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** last FR 12 Sep.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** last COH 11 Sep.  
**HUDSONIAN GODWIT:** "dozens" Ballston SARA 15 Sep (WAMC radio), 8 hit power lines and were killed, at least one specimen to NYS Museum, *intro*.  
**Least Sandpiper:** 2 PI 10 Sep, only report.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** last COH 1 Sep.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** COH 2 Sep, only report.  
**Am. Woodcock:** last Krumkill Rd ALBA 21 Nov.

## PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**Long-eared Owl:** FR 15 Oct.  
**Short-eared Owl:** 3 FtE 25 Nov.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** 5 Albany 1 Sep; 2 Bethlehem ALBA 1 Sep; 7 Niskayuna SCHE 1 Sep; max 40 Albany 6 Sep; 30 Albany 8 Sep, 5 other reports of singles.  
**Chimney Swift:** last Knox, ALBA 16 Sep.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** last CHA 12 Oct.  
**SELASPHORUS hummingbird:** Petersburg RENS 17 Sep, photographed (WG).  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Knox ALBA 16 Sep; Powell Sanct. COLU 8 Oct; Guilderland ALBA 15 Oct; Livingston COLU 25 Nov, scattered other reports at lower elevations.

## FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Ramshorn-Livingston GREE 8 Sep (RG).  
**Least Flycatcher:** last Petersburg RENS 7 Sep.  
**E. Kingbird:** last Schodack RENS 22 Sep.  
**N. Shrike:** Rensselaerville RENS 11 Nov, only report.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** last VF 21 Oct.  
**Warbling Vireo:** last Hannacroix P GREE 13 Sep.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** COH 2 Sep; Claverack Rail Trail COLU 4 Sep; VF 11 Sep; FR 12 Sep.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** last FR 26 Sep.  
**Horned Lark:** max 50 IDA grasslands GREE 4 Nov.  
**Tree Swallow:** last VF 18 Nov.  
**Barn Swallow:** last New Salem ALBA 6 Sep.  
**House Wren:** last Germantown COLU 6 Nov.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** last Clermont COLU 9 Sep.  
**Veery:** last Claverack COLU 4 Sep.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** CHA 11 Oct.  
**Bicknell's Thrush:** last Rotterdam SCHE 22 Oct.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** last Thatcher Pk ALBA 8 Oct.  
**Wood Thrush:** last FLO 26 Sep.  
**Gray Catbird:** last FR 12 Oct.  
**Brown Thrasher:** last Scotia SCHE 13 Oct.  
**Am. Pipit:** 2 IDA grasslands GREE 4 Nov; 6 COH 15 Oct.

## WARBLERS

**Tennessee Warbler:** last FLO 26 Sep  
**Nashville Warbler:** last FR 26 Sep.  
**N. Parula:** FR 2 Sep; Hannacroix P GREE 8 Sep; VF 11 Sep; Vosburgh Marsh GREE 14 Sep; PI 21 Sep; last AUS 3 Oct, all reports.  
**Yellow Warbler:** last FLO 21 Sep.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** last FR 12 Sep.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** last Jefferson SCHO 26 Sep.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** last VF 3 Oct.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** last East Greenbush RENS 27 Oct.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** last Coeymans ALBA 22 Sep.  
**Pine Warbler:** last TR 4 Nov.  
**Prairie Warbler:** last VF 7 Oct.  
**Palm Warbler:** last VF 21 Oct.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** FR 2 Sep, only report.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** last FR 29 Sep.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** last PI 21 Sep.  
**Am. Redstart:** last Vosburgh's Marsh GREE 18 Sep.  
**CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** FLO 30 Sep (TP); Wilton SARA 13 Oct (BP).  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** last Rensselaer Tech Park RENS 15 Oct.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** Niskayuna SCHE 1 Sep; FR 4 - 26 Sep; COX 7 Sep; PI 10 Sep; FLO 21 - 26 Sep.  
**Canada Warbler:** Albany 1-10 Sep; FR 2 Sep.

## TANAGERS - WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** last Burnt Hills ALBA 24 Sep.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** last New Baltimore GREE 3 Nov.  
**Field Sparrow:** last Livingston COLU 14 Oct.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** AUS 4 Oct; IDA grasslands GREE 4 Nov.  
**Fox Sparrow:** last Hillsdale COLU 12 Nov.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** Petersburg RENS 7 Sep; Meadowdale ALBA 16 Sep; max 12 FLO 21 Sep, few reports after Sep.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** last VF 21 Oct.  
**Snow Bunting:** 11 Coeymans ALBA 13 Nov.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** last FLO 21 Sep.  
**Indigo Bunting:** last Collins L SCHE 9 Oct.  
**Bobolink:** last FLO 21 Sep.  
**E. Meadowlark:** max 6 COX 16 Nov.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** VF 3-21 Oct; 2 RL 5 Oct; Hillsdale COLU 9 Oct; 6 FR 4 Nov, all reports.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** COX 23 Nov, late (WR).  
**Evening Grosbeak:** Jenny L SARA 4 Sep; AUS 5 Sep.



## REGION 9 - HUDSON - DELAWARE

**Michael Bochnik**

86 Empire Street, Yonkers, NY 10704

Remnants of Ernesto brought heavy rain to the southern sections of Region 9 to begin the season on 1 and 2 September. The easterly winds brought little in the way of storm related birds. The rest of September was slightly cooler than normal with average precipitation. Poughkeepsie did pick up nearly 2.8 inches of rain on the 15<sup>th</sup>. October's weather was uneventful until the 28<sup>th</sup>. A coastal nor'easter roaring past the Region brought sustained winds of 20 mph with gusts to 50. White Plains had nearly 3 inches of rain. The Bashakill in Sullivan County was under water. November began with a strong cold front on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, which brought in a morning flight of over 1200 American Robins at Marshlands Conservancy and a late Osprey to Hook Mountain. The last three weeks of the season saw temperature well above normal, reaching nearly seventy degrees on the 16<sup>th</sup> and the high sixties on the last day of the month. November averaged over 5 degrees above normal with above average precipitation.

A Red-necked Grebe and an immature White-winged Scoter were found by Chet Vincent on the Hudson River at Waryas Park, Poughkeepsie 30 October. Two weeks later two Red-necked Grebes were found by Chet inland at Stissing Lake on 15 November, and they stayed till 27 November and were view by numerous observers. White-winged Scoters were also reported away from Long Island Sound at Swan Lake, Sullivan County. Two were present from 28 October to 5 November with one thereafter. Black Scoters were found at Toronto Reservoir in late October and at Kiamesha Lake and Swan Lake in mid November.

The area hawk watches noted that the peaks of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks came late. The peaks were on 21 October rather than in late September or early October. Broad-winged Hawks peaked at their usual time from the 17 to 25 September. Strong NW winds on 21 September pushed Broad-winged Hawks towards the coast of Long Island Sound. Marshlands Conservancy in Rye had 5435 for the day. Both the Mt. Peter and Hook Mountain watches reported nearly completely white Red-tailed Hawks migrating past on 10 November. The hawks were obvious different individuals, with the Hook Mt. bird crossing in from the Hudson River heading southwest.

A **Hammond's Flycatcher** was discovered at Marshlands Conservancy in Rye on 19 November by Tom Burke, Gail Benson, Kirsten Lewis, and John Askildsen. Confirmation of the ID came on the 21<sup>st</sup> when it was heard singing and was video taped by Andy Guthrie. It lasted at least till the 25<sup>th</sup>. It was not seen on the 26<sup>th</sup>, possibly seen on the 27<sup>th</sup>, and possibly heard on the 28<sup>th</sup>. A report along with numerous photographs and the video will be submitted to NYSARC. During the flycatcher's stay, late Blue-headed Vireo, Nashville Warbler, and American Redstart were reported from the same area. The redstart was found dead on the 22 November.

Ed Higgins found a “brownish” hummingbird at the Lenoir Nature Preserve in Yonkers on Thanksgiving Day 23 November. A call to this Regional editor had Joe O’Connell, Kelli Jewell, Tom Burke, Gail Benson, and me there in the rain to find a *selasphorus* hummingbird. Subsequent sunnier days and many observation and photographs, especially an excellent tail shot taken by Steve Walter, led to identification of this bird as an immature female **Rufous Hummingbird**. It was an odd bird. It had a small central orange/red iridescent throat patch suggestive of an adult female. The rectrices were all quite wide and very blunt and rounded, with the central rectrices green with blackish tips. R3-R5 were boldly tipped in white, but even R2 had some white in the tip. This strongly suggested an immature female. This is the third *selasphorus* hummingbird at this location in six years. In 2001 an immature male hummingbird appeared on 17 November and lasted into January. The next year, an immature female Rufous appeared on 28 October but only stayed till 29 November.

Lorraine Konzelmann had a white hummingbird at her feeders on 6 and 7 September in the town of Hopewell Junction, Dutchess County. She managed to get a very blurry photo of it. It was assumed to be a Ruby-throated.

John Haas found a **LeConte’s Sparrow** at the Bashakill on October 22. It was at first thought to be a sharp-tailed sparrow, but upon returning that afternoon John made the corrected id. Photographs were taken by Kenneth Kijewski. The sparrow was not relocated the next morning, in spite of the efforts of several birders.

John Askildsen photographed a Western Kingbird in Katonah, on 8 September. It hung around until dark but could not be relocated the following morning.

Two Lapland Longspurs were found by Della Wells and photographed by Alan Wells during an Audubon field trip at Croton Point Park on 22 October. Two more longspurs were reported by Mona Payton at Southlands Farm, Rhinebeck on 4 November. A Blue Grosbeak was found by Paul Steinneck and Barbara Dexter in their condominium complex in Yonkers 10 November.

White-winged and Red Crossbills were reported from Stanford on 17 October, and Mt. Peter had Evening Grosbeak in September.

Other notable species include: Eurasian Wigeon, Caspian Tern, Northern Shrike, Sedge Wren, and Dickcissel.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Ajit Antiny, Andrea Alterman, John Askildsen, Scott Baldinger, Gail Benson, Dave Berg, Andrew Block, Frank Bonanno, Arlene Borke, Renee Burgevin, Tom Burke, Barbara Butler, Judith Cinquina, Jim Clinton, Mary Collier, Renee Davis, Barbara Dexter, Ken & Sue Feustel, Tom Fiore, Dot Fleury, Ken and Carol Fredericks, Valerie Freer, Roy & Marge Gorton, Christine Guarino, John Haas, Rick Hansen, Barry Haydasz, Dave Hayes, Ed Higgins, Bob Kendall, Kenneth Kijewski, Lorraine Konzelmann, Christopher Letts, Kirsten Lewis, Robert Lewis, Carol Linguant, Curt McDermott, Barbara & Allen Michelin, Joe

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## ABBREVIATIONS

CPP-Croton Point Park, EGR-Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, MC - Marshlands Conservancy, HM - Hook Mountain, LPN- Lenoir Nature Preserve, RNC-Rye Nature Center, SBR - Swinging Bridge Reservoir.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Ponderosa Farm, Scotch Plains 16 Nov (CV).  
**Brant:** 1424 EGR 11 Oct; 50 Chelsea 22 Oct.  
**Wood Duck:** 2358 Bashakill 28 Sep; 2253 Bashakill 5 Oct, good counts.  
**Eurasian Wigeon:** Rye 12,19 Nov (TB,JA).  
**Am. Wigeon:** arr 6 Oct.  
**Blue-winged Teal:** 1-2 Bashakill 3,5,10,28 Oct.  
**N. Shoveler:** arr Thompson Pond 19 Oct.  
**N. Pintail:** arr 19 Oct.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** arr 20 Abel's Pond, Union Vale 23 Sep, early; 70 Swan Lake 28 Oct; 150-200 Abel's Pond, Union Vale 10-31 Oct; 74 Swan L 17,28 Oct.  
**Greater Scaup:** arr 5 Nov; 200 EGR 29 Nov.  
**Lesser Scaup:** arr 7 EGR 16 Oct; 110 EGR 5 Nov.  
**Surf Scoter:** 4 EGR 11 Oct; 3 EGR 5 Oct; 6 EGR 11 Oct.  
**White-winged Scoter:** 2 Swan Lake 28 Oct- 5 Nov, one thru (JH,LV); Hudson R, Poughkeepsie 30 Oct (CV); 2 EGR 31 Oct.  
**Black Scoter:** 7 Toronto Res 28 Oct (JH,LV); Kiamesha Lake 18,19 Nov (JH); Swan Lake 18,19 Nov.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** 2 EGR 31 Oct; Sleepy Hollow 9 Nov; 26 flying down the Hudson R Yonkers 18 Nov; Neversink Res 24 Nov; 3 Neversink Res 26 Nov.  
**Bufflehead:** arr 25 Oct.  
**Com. Goldeneye:** 81 Lake Superior SP 18 Nov.  
**Hooded Merganser:** arr 30 Oct; 50 Swan L 4 Nov.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** arr 14 Oct.  
**Red-throated Loon:** EGR 31 Oct; Sylvan L 19-24 Nov.  
**Com. Loon:** EGR 6 Oct; 5 EGR 24 Oct;  
**Horned Grebe:** Bashakill 28 Oct (JH,LV); 2 Piermont Pier 7 Nov.

**Red-necked Grebe:** Hudson R, Poughkeepsie 30 Oct (CV); 2 Stissing Lake, Pine Plains 15-27 Nov (CV,mob).  
**N. Gannet:** 8 EGR 17 Nov.  
**Great Cormorant:** 2 EGR 24 Oct.  
**Am. Bittern:** LaGrange 13 Nov.  
**Turkey Vulture:** 150 LNP 23 Oct; 18 HM 29 Oct.

### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** 21 MC 21 Sep; 36 HM 26 Sep; HM 3 Nov.  
**N. Harrier:** 15 HM 22 Oct.  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 135 Mt Peter 21 Oct; 136 LPN 21 Oct; 151 HM 22 Oct.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** 19 HM 7, 21 Oct; 25 LPN 21 Oct.  
**N. Goshawk:** Mt Peter 29 Oct.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 13 Mt Peter 2 Nov; 15 HM 4 Nov; 62 LNP 19 Nov.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** 1022 HM 17 Sep; 5435 MC 21 Sep; 1002 HM 22 Sep; 858 Mt Peter 22 Sep; 507 LNP 25 Sep.  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** almost pure white, Mt Peter 10 Nov (CLi); almost pure white, HM 10 Nov (TF); max 51 HM 10 Nov.  
**Golden Eagle:** Summitville 15 Oct; 5 Summitville 18 Oct; 2 Mt Peter 31 Oct; total 11 HM Oct; total 8 HM Nov.  
**Am. Kestrel:** 22 HM 20, 21 Sep.  
**Merlin:** 6 HM 28 Sep.  
**Clapper Rail:** MC 1, 8 Sep.  
**Sora:** MC 2 Oct.  
**Am. Coot:** 60 Croton River 16 Oct; 70 Sylvan L, Beekman 31 Oct.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** 5 EGR 15 Sep; 5 MC 26 Sep, 9 Oct; MC 7 Nov.  
**Killdeer:** 18 MC 4,6 Oct.  
**Am. Oystercatcher:** 2 EGR 29 Oct.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** 10 MC 13 Sep.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 4 Pine Plains 10, 13 Oct; 4 Pleasant Valley 26 Oct.  
**Willet:** EGR 5 Sep.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** EGR 12 Nov.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** SBR1,3 Sep.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 4 SBR11-13 Sep; 3 Thompson Pond 19 Oct.  
**Purple Sandpiper:** 3 EGR 12 Nov; 6 EGR 29 Nov; Kingsland Point Lighthouse 15 Nov.  
**Dunlin:** Pleasant Valley 12, 13 Oct; Pine Plains 13 Oct; 2 Piermont Pier 7 Nov; 10 MC 7 Nov.  
**Wilson's Snipe:** 6 Woodbourne 15 Sep.  
**Laughing Gull:** 60 MC 26 Sep; 70 EGR 17 Oct; 200 EGR 16 Nov.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** Hyde Park 25, 30 Oct (CV).  
**Caspian Tern:** juv MC 13 Sep (TB).  
**Forster's Tern:** 2 MC 4 Oct; 7 EGR 28 Oct.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Pleasant Valley 4 Oct.  
**Long-eared Owl:** 3 Beekman 6 Oct.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** 5 MC 3 Sep; 44 Bashakill 6 Sep; 60 Wurtsboro 7 Sep; 74 Bashakill 7 Sep; 5 Hurley 26 Sept.  
**Chimney Swift:** 30 MC 1 Sep.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** albino Hopewell Junction 6-7 Sep (LK).  
**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD:** Lenoir Nature Preserve, Yonkers 23-30 Nov (EH,MB), *intro*.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Mt Peter 24 Sep.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** MC 1 Sep; Rio Res 6 Sep.  
**HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER:** MC 19-25, 27-28 Nov (TB,GB,JA,KL), *intro*.  
**Western Kingbird:** Katonah 8 Sep (JA).  
**N. Shrike:** Harcourt Wildlife Sanctuary, New Paltz 27 Oct (CG); Bethel 19-25 Nov (JH,LV).  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** MC 19 Nov (DB).  
**Warbling Vireo:** Buttercup East Sanctuary 9 Oct.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** 2 Depot Hill, Beekman 3 Sep; Linear Park 4 Sep; MC 5, 7 Sep; Bashakill 6, 9 Sep.  
**Purple Martin:** 3 Bashakill 15 Sep.  
**Tree Swallow:** 80 MC 21 Oct.  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** no major influx seen.  
**Sedge Wren:** MC 2 Oct (TB).  
**Marsh Wren:** 8 MC 13 Sep; 4 MC 4 Oct.  
**Gray-checked Thrush:** MC 3,5 Oct.  
**Am. Robin:** 1000 MC 26 Oct; 1200 MC 3 Nov.

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**Am. Pipit:** 2 SBR12 Sep; MC 26 Sep; 18 MC 6 Oct; 15 Piermont Pier 21 Oct; 200 Bashakill 22 Oct; 2-5 MC 1, 3, 7 Nov; 44 SBR 12 Nov.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** 120 MC 26, 31 Oct.

#### WARBLERS

**Golden-winged Warbler:** MC 7 Sep.  
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** Neversink 1 Oct (JH,RD); MC 26 Oct.  
**Nashville Warbler:** MC 12, 19 Nov (TB,DB).  
**N. Parula:** Mt Vernon 18 Nov (MB).  
**Cape May Warbler:** DUTC 7 Sep; HM 16 Sep.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 6 Hastings-on-Hudson 3 Oct.  
**Palm Warbler:** 25 CPP 9 Oct.  
**Am. Redstart:** MC 21, 22 Nov (ABI), found dead 22 Nov.  
**Worm-eating Warbler:** Buttercup East Sanctuary 2 Oct.  
**Mourning Warbler:** Bashakill 30 Sep (JH).  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** 2 Riverside Trail, Beacon 11 Sep.  
**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Hastings-on-Hudson 3 Oct; MC 8, 25 Sep, 4, 23 Oct.

#### TANAGERS - WEAVERS

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr 6 Buttercup Sanctuary 9 Oct.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** Lenoir Nature Preserve 13, 14 Oct; Wurtsboro 14-15 Oct; Bashakill 22 Oct; LaGrange 24 Oct.  
**LECONTE'S SPARROW:** Haven Road, Bashakill 22 Oct (JH), seen by eight others and photographed (KK), *intro*.  
**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** 2 MC 26 Sep; 7 MC 9 Oct.  
**Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** MC 13 Sep, 2, 9 Oct.  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr 24 Oct; 12 CPP 21 Nov.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** MC 18, 25-28 Sep; Wurtsboro 1, 7, 15 Oct; MC 3, 4 Oct; 3 Buttercup Sanctuary 2 Oct; 2 Briscoe 8 Oct.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr MC 17 Sep.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** arr 8 Oct.  
**Lapland Longspur:** 2 CPP 22 Oct (A&DW); 2 Rhinebeck 4 Nov (MP).  
**Snow Bunting:** 2 Piermont Pier 28 Oct, 7 Nov; EGR 11 Nov; 3 Marist College 19 Nov; 8 CPP 21,28 Nov.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** 2 Stissing L 24 Nov.  
**Blue Grosbeak:** Yonkers 10 Nov (PS,BD).  
**Dickcissel:** MC 2 Oct (TB).

**Rusty Blackbird:** 4 MC 25 Oct.  
**White-winged Crossbill:** 30 Stanford 17  
Oct (JCI).  
**Red Crossbill:** 2 Stanford 17 Oct (JCI).  
**Pine Siskin:** 3 Bashakill 2 Nov.

**Evening Grosbeak:** Mt Peter 4 Sep (JCI); 6  
Mt Peter 18 Sep (JCI).  
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## REGION 10-MARINE

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Fall 2006 featured long periods of unremarkable weather and poor birding punctuated by some unusual weather events accompanied by interesting birds. Landbird migration was regarded as poor to mediocre by most observers. September's average temperature was 64.4 degrees, 1.4 degrees below normal, and the month's precipitation totaled 4.9", an unremarkable 0.90" above average. October's mean temperature was a very normal 54 degrees, but rainfall amounted to 7.09", 3.46" above average. November was warm, with a mean temperature 4.8 degrees above normal, at 49.7 degrees. November's total precipitation was 4.57", just 0.71" above normal.

At least two weather-related events deserve detailed discussion. Tropical storm Ernesto approached our area on 2 September, passed inland just to the west of us, and produced a series of interesting birds. As is often the case when oceanic storms arrive around this date, Black Terns and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were widely reported, and a number of noteworthy records of various shorebirds 2-4 September were likely related to this weather event. Highlights from Democrat Pt. on 3 September included Parasitic Jaeger, **Sabine's Gull**, **Sooty Tern**, 40 Black Terns, and a variety of interesting shorebirds. Single-observer reports of **Bridled Tern**, **Sooty Tern**, and **Pomarine Jaeger** from other coastal vantages are credible but were not accompanied by details. Other storms following a similar timing and path, e.g., Hurricane David in 1979, have produced similar records in the past.

The passage of a strong cold front during the day on 2 November set the stage for a good late fall landbird flight, but the events of 3 November were beyond the expectations - and indeed beyond the collective experience - of the people who witnessed them. In just 90 minutes from 6:45-8:15, the morning flight of diurnal migrants at Robert Moses State Park included 50,000 Red-winged Blackbirds, 10,000 American Robins, and 1,000 Cedar Waxwings, as



well as small numbers of raptors, Yellow-shafted Flickers, Tree Swallows, American Pipits, Eastern Bluebirds, Eastern Meadowlarks, Rusty Blackbirds, and Purple Finches. As impressive as these birds were, the most unusual feature of the flight became more evident as the day wore on, as astounding numbers of nocturnal migrants emerged from the puckerbrush and collected along the grassy margins of barrier beach's roadways and parks. Of several statewide maxima set on this day, the most mind-boggling involved **422** Hermit Thrushes carefully counted by SSM driving the perimeter of Robert Moses State Park and its parking fields during the afternoon. This number includes only those thrushes obviously visible on the grass, whereas many more birds were present, and even giving nocturnal flight calls throughout the afternoon, in the dense thickets. An estimated **500** Chipping Sparrows at Robert Moses, swelling to **750** on the 4<sup>th</sup>, similarly strained observers' comprehension. Also noteworthy were **10,000** White-throated Sparrows at Robert Moses, possibly a new statewide maximum, although explicit single-site numbers have not always been recorded for big flights in the past (e.g., see A. J. Lauro's discussion of huge numbers of migrants present on the barrier beach on 24 October 1976 in *The Kingbird* 27: 58). Less remarkable by comparison were 2,000 "Myrtle" Warblers, **1,000** "Slate-colored" Juncos, and 400 Song Sparrows at Robert Moses. The early November flight was unusual not only in terms of its overall magnitude, but also in terms of its date and species composition. For example, counts of 3,000 "Myrtle" Warblers and 750 Golden-crowned Kinglets at Robert Moses 21-22 October, and **2,000+** juncos near Montauk on 22 October, during a much more typical mid-late fall flight, were predictably larger than those recorded 3-4 November. In contrast, the counts of Hermit Thrush and Chipping Sparrow from 21-22 October were smaller by orders of magnitude. It deserves emphasizing that absolutely no landbird vagrants were recorded among the huge numbers of birds present 21-22 October and 3-6 November, but many late Neotropical migrants were noted during these flights, including Yellow, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Prairie, and Blackpoll warblers, Lincoln's Sparrow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, and Baltimore Oriole.

Numbers of American Golden-Plovers were lower than usual this year, and Hudsonian Godwits were absent from late summer through the early part of the fall season. Even Ernesto, which seemed to provide perfect conditions for grounding these long-distance migrants, did not produce any significant numbers of the former, nor any at all of the latter. Eventually, one, then two, then three Hudsonians showed up at Jamaica Bay. Fall 2006 was also very poor for Long-eared and Northern Saw-whet owls in the coastal pine groves, and for Common Nighthawks Region-wide. In contrast, this was a banner year for Connecticut Warbler, Lark and Clay-colored sparrows, and Dickcissel in the Region. A few Red-breasted Nuthatches moved through, as did unimpressive numbers of Pine Siskins and Purple Finches, but it was a very poor season on the whole for irruptive landbirds.

The absence of extralimital species during the season's biggest flights was all the more striking because fall 2006 was a banner season for vagrants in Region 10. As we have remarked more than once before, in this column and to the irritation of our sometimes bored field companions, the very slowest days

seem most likely to be enlivened by real rarities. This view was supported to some extent by Hugh McGuinness's discovery of a **Painted Bunting** in Water Mill on 15 October, a day featuring a variety of migrants but paltry numbers compared to what is possible for the date. Even stronger support for our pet notion was provided on 24 September, a typical example of 2006's autumn doldrums, which featured southwest breezes and excruciatingly few migrants, but also a **Say's Phoebe** at Field 5 Robert Moses, the 16th NYS record if accepted by NYSARC. The bird remained through late afternoon and was enjoyed by many local birders. Although reported twice the next day, it could not be found by the great majority of people searching for it then. Elyse Taylor found a **Harris's Sparrow** at Fort Tilden on 7 October, a day featuring northeast winds and very few passerine migrants. Steve Savage's **Northern Wheatear** appeared on a decent flight day, 26 October, but in a very odd place, South Huntington. Virtually all wheatears in the northeastern USA are found on the immediate coast, but the flight of 2006 was not only much bigger than usual but featured a number of inland reports (see summaries in *North American Birds*). Two **Audubon's Shearwaters** near Hudson Canyon on 28 September were not unexpected at that time and place, and two **Rufous Hummingbirds** visiting feeders during November were consistent with recent patterns of occurrence. Similarly, a single **Cave Swallow** and two reports of **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow** were consistent with recent experience.

Seven species were reported which, although not rare in NYS as a whole, are genuinely rare in Region 10. We encourage observers to treat these locally rare species with the same care accorded statewide rarities. Lending credence to the old adage, "Don't forget to look up" were four **American White Pelicans** over Oceanside, Nassau County on 31 October; single **Golden Eagles** there on 25 October and near Orient on 10 November; and a **Sandhill Crane** off the bluff at Mount Loretto, Staten Island on 2 October. A **Pileated Woodpecker** seen in flight at Brookhaven National Lab on 15 October is almost as tantalizing from a Long Island perspective as the spate of recent reports of Ivory-bills in Arkansas and Florida. Is it too much to hope for a photo, or at least a leisurely view one of these years? Lloyd Spitanik's stunningly photographed **Henslow's Sparrow** in Central Park on 31 October was the first at this intensively birded site since 1952 and one of very few fully documented records of this cryptic and declining species from Region 10 in recent years. Meticulous descriptions of a **Common Raven** at the Frick Estate, Nassau County, and a **Sedge Wren** at Democrat Pt. are featured elsewhere in this issue. Perhaps not as rare as it seems is the elusive **Yellow Rail**, an example of which was observed this fall by Matt Bayer as he rode his bike in Lynbrook on 2 November. The bird was struck by a car and killed, an unfortunate outcome that nevertheless allowed for photographic documentation.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

APP – Alley Pond P; BBG – Brooklyn Botanical Garden; BNL – Brookhaven National Laboratory; BP – Breezy Pt; CBM – Cedar Beach Marina; CSP – Caumsett SP; CCP – Cupsogue County P; CHP – Conference House P, Staten I; CLP – Clove Lakes P, Staten I; CP – Central P; CSP – Caumsett SP; DP – Democrat Pt; EEB – East End Birds email summary; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field; FP – Forest Park; GA – Gabreski Airport; GE – Grace Estate, Easthampton; HLSP Hempstead L SP; HSP – Hecksher SP; Jam Bay – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBSP – Jones Beach SP; JBWE – Jones Beach SP West End; LI – Long Island; MB – Mecox Bay; MI – Moriches Inlet; MLP – Mt Loretto P, Staten I; MP – Montauk Pt; MS – Maple Swamp; OMNSA – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area; OP – Orient Pt; PB – Pike's Beach, PBP – Pelham Bay P; PP – Prospect Park; RMSP – Robert Moses SP; RSF – Riverhead Sod Fields; Sagg – Sagaponack Pd; Shinn – Shinnecock Inlet; SMSP

– Sunken Meadow SP; SPCP – Smith Pt County P; TRCP – Teddy Roosevelt CP, Montauk; VCP – Van Cortland P; WNWR – Wertheim NWR; WSP – Wildwood SP

#### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** arr JBWE 10 Oct; 8 migr RMSP 22 Oct; 10 migr RMSP 2 Nov.

**Brant:** 100+ Jam Bay 3 Oct.

**Tundra Swan:** 2 Jam Bay 4 Nov (JDi, mob); Flushing Meadows 10 Nov (C. Monaco, Jr.).

**Wood Duck:** max 7 CP 29 Oct, 5 Nov.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** m Jam Bay 10 Sep, 3 Oct.

**Am. Wigeon:** 10 Jam Bay 10 Sep.

**Am. Black Duck:** 2000 Tobay 26 Nov.

**Blue-winged Teal:** 5 Jam Bay 10 Sep; MLP 7 Oct.

**N. Shoveler:** 200 Jam Bay 10 Sep; 50 Tobay 26 Nov.

**N. Pintail:** Jam Bay 10 Sep; 40 Tobay 26 Nov.

**Green-winged Teal:** 20 Jam Bay 10 Sep; 10 Capri Pd 26 Nov.

**Redhead:** arr m Jam Bay 4 Nov (JDi et al); 8 Capri Pd 26 Nov.

**Ring-necked Duck:** arr Long Pd 6 Oct (HM).

**Com. Eider:** 124 MP 5 Nov (AJL).

**Harlequin Duck:** JBWE 20 Nov (JGi et al.)

**White-winged Scoter:** DP 3 Sep.

**Long-tailed Duck:** arr MP 29 Oct (HM, CG).

**Bufflehead:** arr Oyster Pd, Montauk 27 Oct.

**Hooded Merganser:** PP 30 Sep (AXW); Little Reed Pd, Montauk 30 Oct.

**Com. Merganser:** f MB 15 Sep (SM, KM), unusual date.

**Ruddy Duck:** max 465 CP 4 Nov (BC).

**Wild Turkey:** 4 Greenport 29 Oct (EL), new loc.

**N. Bobwhite:** 12 Southold feeder 3 Nov (RW), only report.

**Red-throated Loon:** arr Lake Montauk Inlet 11 Oct (VB).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** Sore Thumb Pond 11 Nov (JQ), unusual loc.

**Red-necked Grebe:** 2 JBWE 9-11 Nov; Great Kills Harbor 24 Nov thru (CH et al.).

**N. Fulmar:** RMSP 18 Oct, taken to rehab facility where it recovered; oiled lm seen swimming and fluttering near shore n of Jam Bay 9 Nov (ABI).

**Cory's Shearwater:** 6 Hudson Canyon 28 Sep (SSI); RMSP 6 Oct (SSI).

**Greater Shearwater:** 75+ Hudson Canyon 28 Sep (SSI).

**Sooty Shearwater:** RMSP 6 Oct (SSI).

**Manx Shearwater:** Hudson Canyon 28 Sep (SSI).

**AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER:** 2 Hudson Canyon 28 Sep (SSI).

**Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** PB 1 Sep (R&BS); Mecox 3 Sep (AB); 16 Hudson Canyon 28 Sep (SSI).

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** 4 OMNSA 31 Oct (MF).

**Great Cormorant:** arr 2 Ponquogue Bridge 3 Sep (HM).

**Am. Bittern:** RMSP 13 Oct; Ocean Pkwy at Gilgo 10 Nov (JQ), farm in Bridgehampton 22 Oct (CG); unusual locs.

**Least Bittern:** OMNSA 7 Oct (MF).

**Snowy Egret:** last Hook Pd, Easthampton 27 Oct (K&BRu).

**Tricolored Heron:** Lake Montauk 15 Sep (BB), unus loc.

**Cattle Egret:** Southampton nursery 30 Oct (VB, PR); RMSP 3 Nov, from Hawkwatch.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** CP 8 Oct; 9 Nov, unusual loc.

**Glossy Ibis:** latest reports DP 8 Sep (SM, J. Bolsinger) & Jam Bay 10 Sep (M. & F. Butterfield).

**Turkey Vulture:** 8 Eastport 7 Sep (J&GF); CP 21 Sep; 25 Sep; 5 Oct; 21 Oct; 4 Nov; OMNSA 21 Oct (MF); Amagansett 22 Oct (VB); Peconic 25 Oct (RW); Aquebogue 29 Oct (GQ); FI Hawkwatch RMSP 3 Nov, rare on barrier beach; Hampton Bays 6 Nov (AWi).

#### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** max 23 FI Hawkwatch RMSP 5 Oct; last E Quogue 4 Nov (OB).

**Bald Eagle:** CP reports: 10 Sep, two 11 Sep, 16 Sep, imm 17 Sep, two imm 20 Sep, two 21 Sep, 16 Oct, 2 ads 25 Oct; imm CHP 16 Sep (HF et al); Carmans R mouth 21? Sep (JC), all mig; imm TRCP 1 Oct (VB); imm Three Mile Harbor 7 Oct (AWi); imm Little Reed Pd 8 Oct (AWi); OMNSA 21 Oct (MF); imm JBWE 25 Oct (JGi et al); Mashomack, Shelter I 27 - 28 Oct (PS); 5 total FI Hawkwatch RMSP.

**N. Harrier:** max 34 FI Hawkwatch RMSP 5 Oct.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 73 FI Hawkwatch RMSP 26 Oct.

**Cooper's Hawk:** max 8 FI Hawkwatch RMSP 5, 26 Oct.

**N. Goshawk:** FI Hawkwatch RMSP 25 Oct; imm Tobay 19 Nov (DF).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** MLP 4 Sep (DE); CP 20 Oct, 21 Oct, 25 Oct.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** a few small kettles VCP 10 Sep (YG); CHP 17 Sep; 3,605 CP 21 Sep (TF et al), very high count.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** singles FI Hawkwatch RMSP 21, 26 Oct.

**GOLDEN EAGLE (R10):** OMNSA 25 Oct (fide MF); imm Narrow River Rd, 10 Nov (RW); details are requested for all reports of this species in Region 10.

**Am. Kestrel:** max 285 FI Hawkwatch RMSP 5 Oct; many reports NYC, near breeding sites.

**Merlin:** max 173 FI Hawkwatch RMSP 21 Oct.

**Peregrine Falcon:** max 20 FI Hawkwatch RMSP 25 Sep.

**YELLOW RAIL:** Lynbrook 2 Nov (MB), killed by car, ph.

**Virginia Rail:** JBWE 17 Sep (MM), found on the jetty.

**Com. Moorhen:** Napeague 6 Oct (P. Paladines), found injured and taken to rehab.

**SANDHILL CRANE (R10):** MLP 2 Oct (RV).

**Am. Golden-Plover:** ad DP 3 Sep; max 11 RSF 4 Sep (VB), low; last Bridgehampton 28 Oct (HM), see winter report.

**Am. Oystercatcher:** 100+ Southampton 1 Oct (KG); 108 JBWE 26 Oct (SMu).

**Am. Avocet:** thru at least 27 Sep Jam Bay.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** singles migr RMSP/DP 2, 3, & 4 Sep, storm-related; Noyac Path, Watermill 15 Oct (AJL et al); Aquebogue duck farm 15 Oct (AB), last reports.

**Willet:** 4 *inornatus* DP 3 Sep.

**Upland Sandpiper:** RSF thru 6 Sep, only report.

**Whimbrel:** 3 DP & singles WPP & GKP 3 Sep, following Ernesto; many scattered reports of singles.

**Hudsonian Godwit:** fading alt Jam Bay 10 Sep (DK); fading alt Jam Bay 18-20 Sep (SSI); 2 Jam Bay 24 Sep (TF); 3 Jam Bay 27 Sep (MSH et al), one still present 30 Sep (JLa, NO); Acabonac Harbor 7 Oct (K&BRu).

**Marbled Godwit:** max 7 Ponquogue Bridge 3, 6 Sep.

**Red Knot:** Bridgehampton, inland field 28 Oct (HM), unusual loc.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** max 15 DP 3 Sep; last 2 Georgica P 6 Nov (HM).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** 2 Cedar Overlook 13 Sep (JQ); 2 MB 20-24 Sep (CG), 1- 27 Sep; near Jam Bay 25 Sep (ABl).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 7 Bridgehampton 28 Oct (HM); 2 Sagg 5-6 Nov (AB).

**Purple Sandpiper:** arr 3 Montauk L 27 Oct.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** Sagg 5 Nov (AB), late.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** 2 DP 3 Sep; 4 RSF 2-6 Sep; 2 near Jam Bay 13 Sep (ABl); max 7 Jam Bay 27 Sep (MSH et al).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** juv CCP 4 Sep (JG).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** 2 Miller Field 2 Sep (AP, CB); 3 DP 3 Sep (SM).

**Pomarine Jaeger:** 2 land-based reports: 2 Im ads Riis P 2 Sep (IG) & MP 16 Sep (AB), details desired; 3 Hudson Canyon 28 Sep (SSi).

**Parasitic Jaeger:** Im ad Riis P 2 Sep (IG); Mecox 3 Sep (HM); juv DP 3 Sep (SM, PL), storm-related; MP 10 Sep (HM, BK); RMSP 13 Sep (KF); 3 MB 15 Sep (KM, SM), ad & 2 juvs; MP 16 Sep (HM, PS); 2 Shagwong 23 Sep (AJL); MP 7 Oct (SSi); MP 8 Oct (AWi); MB 15 Oct (AJL); subad RMSP 22 Oct (SM); 2 MP 29 Oct (HM, CG).

**Laughing Gull:** 400 MP 10 Sep (HM, BK); 400+ Shagwong 23 Sep (AJL); 1000 GKP 30 Sep (RV); 2000 MP 21 Oct (AB); 4000+ MP 29 Oct (HM, CG); 3500 MP 5 Nov (HM, CG).

**Black-headed Gull:** ad Sagg 1 Sep (HM, CG); ad MB 1 Sep (HM) & 15 Sep (SM, KM), cont from summer?.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** many reports during storms 2-3 Sep and 28 Oct, e.g. 4 RMSP-JBWE (SM) & 4 Bridgehampton (AB, HM) 28 Oct; juv DP 23 Sep (SM ph).

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED X HERRING GULL HYBRID:** 3<sup>rd</sup> W JBWE (SM! ph).

**SABINE'S GULL (R10):** juv DP 3 Sep (SM, PL), intro.

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** Mecox 3 Sep (RK), storm-related.

**Caspian Tern:** MB 3 and 5 Sep (HM); ad, juv Jam Bay 13 Sep (JDi et al); MB 15 Sep (SM, KM); FT 27 Sep (MSH); MB 28-29 Sep (CG); 3 GKP 30 Sep (RV); 4 DP 1 Oct (GQ, RP).

**Royal Tern:** max 117 MI to PB 10 Sep (AB); a few present RMSP-JBSP thru.

**Roseate Tern:** last DP 8 Sep.

**Com. Tern:** 1200+ MP 10 Sep (HM, BK); 1000 Shagwong 23 Sep (AJL).

**BRIDLED TERN:** Ponquogue 3 Sep (AB).

**SOOTY TERN:** Riis P 2 Sep (IG); juv DP 3 Sep (SM!, PL, JF); *intro*.

**Black Tern:** 30 Riis Park 2 Sep (IG); 40 DP 3 Sep (SM, PL); WPP 3 Sep (CH), generally scarce on SI; *intro*; 35 MP 10 Sep (HM, BK); 60 Shagwong 23 Sep (AJL).

**Black Skimmer:** 2 Plumb Beach, Brooklyn 28 Oct (AWi), late.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Monk Parakeet:** Ft Tryon P, Manhattan 7 Nov (TF, KW).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** 2 MP 22 Oct (AB), late.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** last CP 30 Sep.

**Long-eared Owl:** CP 17 Nov, only report.

**Short-eared Owl:** FT 4 Nov (JDi et al).

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** very few reports.

**Com. Nighthawk:** total 109 for seasonal watch ending on 15 Oct (JC), poorest year in 5 years of record-keeping; scattered reports throughout the Region early Sep.

**Chimney Swift:** CP 18 Oct.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** at least 12 CLP 1 Sep (DE); at least 12 VCP 19 Sep (YG), both groups feeding in jewelweed; imm m CP 21 Oct, late (DA et al); an unidentified young bird from Ft Tryon P 7-9 Nov was thought to be this species (TF).

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD:** imm m Patchogue feeder 1-6 Nov (JO, ph); Northport 26 Nov thru (N. Klein, mob!).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** juv PP 23 Sep (PK); ad CP 26 Sep (David Monk); imm CHP 7 Oct (RM); imm CP 10 Oct (TF).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr CP 20 Sep thru.

**PILEATED WOODPECKER (R10):**

BNL 15 Oct (John McNeil), details desired.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** CHP 4-5 Sep (RV); CP 6 - 7 Sep; Camp Hero SP 8 Sep (JA, HY); CP 20 - 21 Sep.

**E. Wood-Pewee:** last CP 5 Oct.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 8 reports CP 3 Sep-30 Sep;

**Acadian Flycatcher:** RMSP 16 Sep (SA, TWB, SM!), very rare in fall.

**E. Phoebe:** max 40+ CSP 5 Nov (JG).

**SAY'S PHOEBE:** 24 -25 Sep RMSP (SM! mob), 16<sup>th</sup> NY record, *intro*.

**Western Kingbird:** Camp Hero, Montauk 14 Oct (JG); NYBG 25 Nov thru (W. Matsushita, J. Van Dort, mob).

**COMMON RAVEN (R10):** Frick Estate 27 Nov (PM!), well documented.

**CAVE SWALLOW:** JBWE 18 Nov (StS, et al).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** arr CP 26 Sep; 3 RMSP-JBSP 3-5 Nov (DF); scarce this year.

**Winter Wren:** arr Shelter I 15 Sep (NH).

**SEDGE WREN (R10):** DP 1 Oct (GQ!, RP!); Freshkills 3 Nov (AP, CB); *intro*.

**Marsh Wren:** PP 23 Sep (AxW), unusual loc.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 750 RMSP 22 Oct; 75 + CSP 5 Nov (JG).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 50 RMSP 22 Oct; max 200 + CSP 5 Nov (JG).

**NORTHERN WHEATEAR: S**  
Huntington, SUFF 26 Oct (SSa), details desired.

**Swainson's Thrush:** Big Reed Pd, Montauk 26 Oct (VB), late.

**Hermit Thrush:** max 422+ RMSP 3 Nov (SM), State record high count, *intro*.

**Wood Thrush:** CP 4 Nov (fide TF), late.

**Am. Robin:** 12,000 migr CHP 31 Oct (RV); 10,000 migr RMSP 3 Nov (SM, PL), *intro*.

**Am. Pipit:** 5 VCP 5 Oct (YG); 50+ Jam Bay 6 Oct (AB!); 25 CHP 31 Oct (RV); 23 RMSP 3 Nov (SM).

**Cedar Waxwing:** 1000 migr RMSP 3 Nov (SM, PL), *intro*.

#### WARBLERS

**"Brewster's" Warbler:** PP 1 Sep (PhP).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** PP 5 Sep; f FP 9 Sep (BE et al); m MP 10 Sep (HM, BK); m CLP 4 Oct (CB).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr Shelter I 30 Sep (OB, HM, NH).

**Nashville Warbler:** Lido Beach 18 Nov (TWB, GB ph, JAsk), probably referable to western race.

**N. Parula:** E Lake Drive, Montauk 15 Oct (VB), late.

**Yellow Warbler:** FT 3 Nov (SBI!), very late.

**Magnolia Warbler:** MB 21 Oct (AB, CG), late; JBSP 5 Nov (mob ph), very late.

**Cape May Warbler:** last CP 31 Oct, attending the sap wells of Yellow-Bellied Sapsuckers (DA).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** latest were Amagansett 29 Oct (K&BRu) and 2 JBSP 4 Nov (DF).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 3,000 migr RMSP 21 Oct (SM); 1,000 migr RMSP 3 Nov (SM, PL).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** JBSP 4 Nov (DF), late.

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** JBWE 13 Sep (KF et al).

**Prairie Warbler:** MP 22 Oct (AB), late.

**Palm Warbler:** 3 RMSP 10 Sep, early; 2 MB 13 Sep, early.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr 5 MP 10 Sep (HM, BK); Hither Hills SP 5 Nov (AW), late.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** MP 10 Sep (HM, BK).

**Ovenbird:** last CP 14 Nov.

**N. Waterthrush:** MP 14 Oct (AB), late.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** last CP 6 Sep, unusual after Aug.

**Connecticut Warbler:** CLP 1 Sep (Ro&CA); 4 MLP 8 Sep (RV); PP 9 Sep (RC); CLP 9 Sep (HF, JT); Jam Bay 9 Sep; ad f, imm Jam Bay 10 Sep; CHP 10 Sep (SWo); poss 2 APP 10 Sep; CP 12 Sep (DSp); Bronx Zoo 12 Sep (C. Seewagen et al), banded; CP 13 Sep (StS); CP 17 Sep; CP 19-20 Sep (SQ, et al).

**Mourning Warbler:** CHP 4 Sep (SWo); CP 6 Sep (StS, mob); CP 7 Sep; MLP 9 Sep (RV); CP 11 Sep (TF); Bronx Zoo 8 Sep (C. Seewagen), banded, ph.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** CP reports: 6, 9, 11, 18, 20, 22, & 27 Sep, 3-5 Oct; Camp Hero SP 8 Sep (JA, HY); MLP 9 Sep (RV); RMSP 22 Sep (RJ); SMSP 26 Sep (ABl); PP 30 Sep (AxW); MLP 1 Oct (ESC); Pt Lookout 22 Oct (KF); Riis P 27 Oct (JGi).

#### TANAGERS - WEAVERS

**Summer Tanager:** f MP 22 Sep (VB, PR).

**Scarlet Tanager:** last 29 Nov-2 Dec E Northport (BR), very late.

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** RMSP 3 Nov.

**Chipping Sparrow:** max 750 RMSP 4 Nov (SM et al.), State record high count, *intro*.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** Fort Tilden 10 Sep (SW); JBWE 10 Sep (SS); PP 10 Sep (JoA); PP 23 Sep (RJ); CBM 24 Sep (DK); PP 24 Sep; FBF 30 Sep (D&BG); FT 30 Sep (D&BG); Gilgo 1 Oct (SP); Big Egg Marsh 3 Oct (SB, SSi, RJ); 2 CP 4 Oct (LSw; DSp); JBWE 7 Oct; Gilgo 10 Oct; JBWE 13 Oct; 2 JBWE 16 Oct (SS); RMSP 22 Oct (SM).

**Field Sparrow:** max 8 RMSP-JBSP 4 Nov (DF et al.).

**Vesper Sparrow:** CP 17 Sep (fide TF); Kissena P 6 Oct (JL, EM); JBWE 16 Oct (SJ et al); PP 21 Oct (AxW); RMSP 22 Oct (SM); GKP 30 Oct (SWo et al.); 2 VCP 31 Oct (TF et al); RMSP 5 Nov (PL, SM).

**Lark Sparrow:** 2 RMSP 13-16 Sep; CBM 23-26 Sep (JG); JBWE 24 Sep; Tiana Beach 5 Oct (ES); MLP 7 Oct (C&LN, DE); JBWE 10 Oct (JQ).

**"Ipswich" Sparrow:** CBM 6 Oct (SM), early.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** RMSP 1 Nov (SM), rare in migration on barrier beach.

**HENSLOW'S SPARROW (R10):** CP 31 Oct (LS, mob, ph), first record for this loc since 1952.

**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** Big Egg Marsh 2 Oct (SB); *subvirgatus* FT 3 Oct (SB, SSi, RJ); Pt Lookout 7 Oct; PP 22 Oct (JoA); *nelsoni/alterus* MP 22 Oct (AB); 2 PBP 26 Oct (RA); *subvirgatus*, CCP 4 Nov (GT, TC).

**Fox Sparrow:** arr PP 10 Oct (TF), early; 10 MP 4 Nov (AB).

**Song Sparrow:** max 400 RMSP 4 Nov.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** CP reports: 1, 17, 21, 22, 27, & 30 Sep, 1, 5, 6, & 15 Oct; PP 21 Oct (AxW); 3 MP 22 Oct (AB); last RMSP 5 Nov (PL, SM) & Camp Hero 5 Nov (AWI).

**Swamp Sparrow:** max 500 RMSP-JBSP 4 Nov (DF et al.), State record high count.

**White-throated Sparrow:** max 3000 RMSP 3 Nov (SM et al.), more than maxima mentioned in BBNYS, *intro*.

**HARRIS'S SPARROW:** FT 7 Oct (E. Taylor), details desired.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** 7 RMSP 22 Oct (SM); max 15 RMSP-JBSP 4 Nov (DF), low.

**GAMBEL'S WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (R10):** RMSP 22 OCT (PL, SM).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** at least 2000 E Lake Dr, Montauk 22 Oct (AB), State record high count; 1000 RMSP 22 Oct (SM); *intro*.

**Lapland Longspur:** arr Freshkills 17 Oct (RV et al.).

**Snow Bunting:** arr Easthampton 29 Oct (MW).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** last imm m JBSP 4 Nov (DF).

**Blue Grosbeak:** f MLP 16 Sep (IG); MLP 19 Sep (RV); CHP 19 Sep (RV); Camp Hero 23 Sep (AJL); FT 24 Sep (JoA); f CHP 30 Sep (HF); Kissena Pk 2 and 5 Oct (A&KO); FT 3 Oct (SB, SSi, RJ); VCP 5 Oct (YG); CP 7-15 Oct (StS, mob); Riis P 14 Oct; Aquebogue duck farm 15 Oct (AB); JBWE 15-16 Oct (KF et al); Aquebogue 29 Oct (AB).

**Indigo Bunting:** many reports, especially from western parks; last JBSP & RMSP 4 Nov.

**PAINTED BUNTING:** f Watermill 15 Oct (HM).

**Dickcissel:** E Lake Dr, Montauk 14 Sep (VB); JBWE 15 Sep (EC); FBF 18 Sep (CK); 4 RMSP 20 Sep (KF), 2 remaining thru at least 26 Sep; 2 JBWE 20 Sep (KF); 2 MLP 20 Sep (RV); m FT 24 Sep;

Mashomack 26 Sep (MSch); JBWE 30 Sep (D&BG); West Hampton Dunes 1 Oct (AB); Big Egg Marsh 3 Oct (SB, SSi, RJ).  
**Bobolink:** 5 MLP 20 Sep (RV); 50 Wainscott 25 Sep (BH); Springs, Easthampton 28 Oct (K&BRu).  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** 50,000 migr RMSP 3 Nov (SM, PL), *intro*.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** arr CP 7 Oct.  
**Boat-tailed Grackle:** 100 CBM 23 Sep (JG).  
**Baltimore Oriole:** max 25 CHP 8 Sep (RV); JBSP 4 Nov (DF), late.

**Purple Finch:** arr E Lake Drive, Montauk 13 Oct (VB); 3 migr RMSP 3 & 4 Nov (PL, SM).  
**Pine Siskin:** Pt Lookout 22 Oct (KF); JBSP 4 Nov (DF); only reports.

#### EXOTICS

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:** Cammans Pd, Merrick 30 Oct (SSi), clipped wing.  
**Budgerigar:** Lindenhurst 16 Sep.  
**European Goldfinch:** PP 6 Sep (RC).





## STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in **BOLD**; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in **UPPER CASE** letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! - details seen by Regional Editor; ad - adult; Alt - Alternate plumage; Am. - American; arr - arrival or first of season; BBS - Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS - bird of the season; CBC - Christmas Bird Count; CO - confirmed nesting; Com. - Common; E. - Eastern; FL - fledgling; FY - adult feeding young; I - Island; imm - immature; intro - see introduction to report; juv - juvenile; L - Lake; max - maximum; mob - multiple observers; N. - Northern; NYSDEC - New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC - report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P -park; Pd- Pond; ph - photographed; Pt -Point; Res - Reservoir;Ri - River; SP - State Park; spm - specimen; subad - subadult; T - Town of; thru - throughout period; Twn - township; W. - Western; WMA - Wildlife Management Area; y - young.

## REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:  
the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;  
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19  
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:  
the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64  
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21  
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:  
the boundary is NY Route 31.

## REPORTING DEADLINES

WINTER SEASON: DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

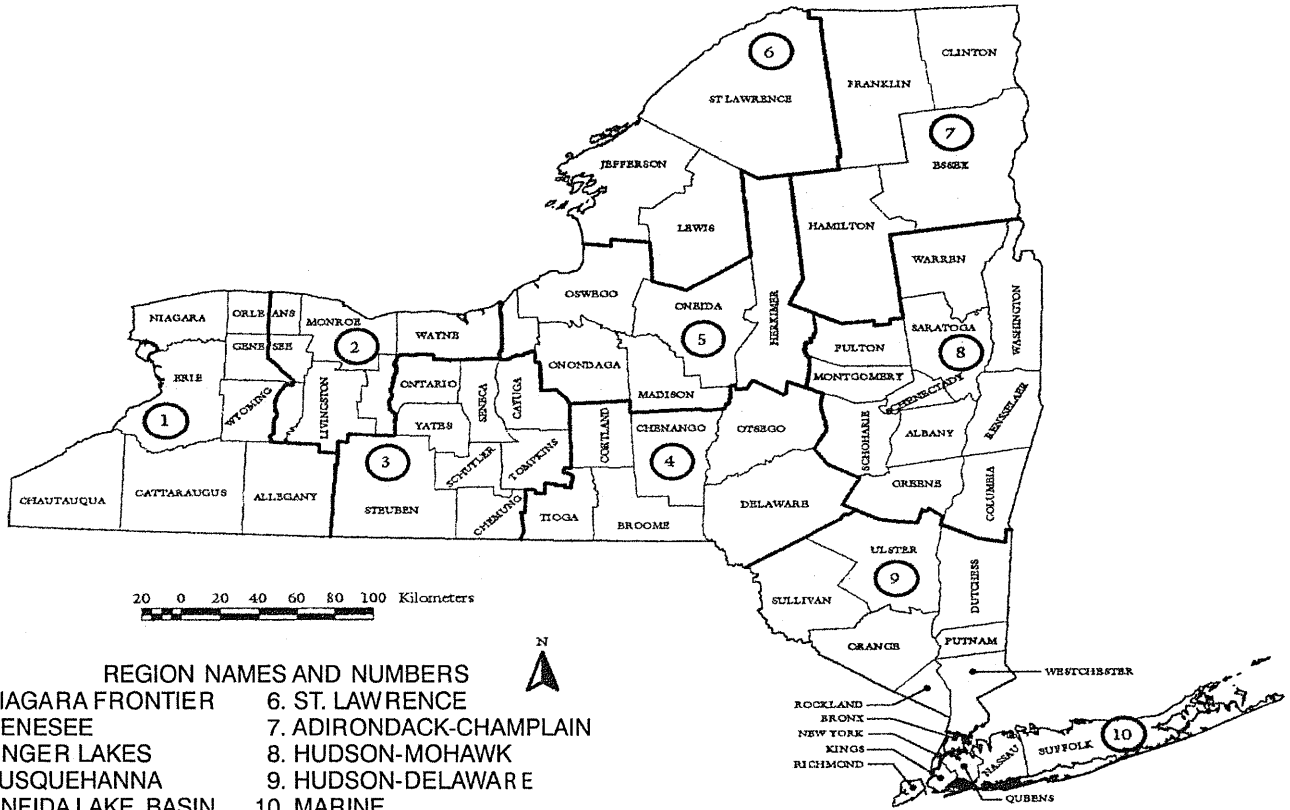
Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



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