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pp. 1-108

CONTENTS

Regular inshore occurrence of non-breeding Arctic Terns (*Sterna paradisaea*) during summer on Long Island, New York
S. S. Mitra 2

Fall Migration of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Southeastern New York
Cameron Rutt 12

A Magnificent Frigatebird in Central New York State: First Record for the Finger Lakes Region
Thomas B. Johnson and Shawn M. Billerman 16

Report of the New York State Avian Records Committee for 2006 18

An Exemplary NYSARC Report from 2006 43

Notes and Observations 46

Highlights of the Season — Fall 2008
Andrew Guthrie 48

Photo Gallery 51

Regional Reports 61

Standard Regional Report Abbreviations, Reporting Deadlines, and Map of Reporting Regions 107

Editor – S. S. Mitra

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Cover Photo – Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Shawangunk Grasslands, Ulster County, 16 Aug 2008, copyright Peter Schoenberger.

REGULAR INSHORE OCCURRENCE OF NON-BREEDING ARCTIC TERNS (*Sterna paradisaea*) DURING SUMMER ON LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK

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Abstract—Forty-one New York State records of Arctic Tern, involving 57 individuals, are presented and analyzed with respect to historical, geographical, seasonal, and age/plumage criteria. The records show pronounced patterns with respect to all four criteria: all but three records are from 1975-2008; coastal Long Island records greatly outnumber those from the mainland and offshore waters combined; summer records from June and July greatly outnumber those from May and those from August–September combined; and immatures in their second or third calendar years of life greatly outnumber adults and juveniles combined. Thus, contrary to published summaries, non-breeding Arctic Terns appear to be regular summer visitors to coastal LI, whereas passage migrants remain poorly known anywhere in the state or its offshore waters. The abrupt recent increase in records of Arctic Tern in NYS is a consequence of a concurrent increase in deliberate searches for immature Arctic Terns around ocean inlets during June and July, a context historically regarded as unfavorable for this species. Moreover, recent, fully documented records of the species from New Jersey contain a higher proportion of June and July dates than do older, unreviewed sight reports, and specimen records from southeastern North America contain a higher proportion of second calendar year birds than do sight reports. These patterns suggest that summering non-breeders were overlooked in the past, and that the recent surge in records in NYS more likely reflects improved detection rather than a change in rate of occurrence.

Perhaps more than any other species, Arctic Tern (*S. paradisaea*) has frustrated the efforts of field observers seeking to understand its status in New York State and adjacent regions. An abundant circum-boreal breeder and trans-hemispheric migrant, it has been described as “accidental” along the United States’ Atlantic coast, west and south of its southernmost breeding sites in Massachusetts (American Ornithologists’ Union 1957), and as a “very rare vagrant” to NYS (Cooper 1998). As recently as 1974, Bull (1974) knew the species exclusively from three old specimens, two from Long Island dating back to 1884 and 1897, and one from Cayuga Lake, in central NYS, from 1916. No other long-distance migrant of comparable global abundance and distribution remained so poorly known for so long in NYS.

Although the example of Arctic Tern is undoubtedly extreme in this regard, the infrequency with which many tern species are detected during migration, and at even short distances from their actual breeding sites during spring and summer, has long attracted the attention of field ornithologists. For example, Roseate Terns (*Sterna dougallii*) are very infrequently observed from shore in the eastern United States anywhere between the Florida Keys and LI, at any season (Gochfeld *et al.* 1998). Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) is very rare in spring even a few miles east of its northernmost breeding sites on LI (Mitra 2008), and Forster's Tern (*S. forsteri*), despite its regular northward movements in late summer and fall, is almost as rare during spring as Gull-billed Tern on eastern LI and in New England (Veit and Petersen 1993, R. Ferren in litt., pers. obs.). Even a species as abundant and widespread as Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) is notoriously difficult to detect over large portions of eastern North America during spring migration. In well-studied New Jersey and LI, a handful of records are the contemporary norm each May (*New Jersey Birds, The Kingbird*). A century ago, the presumably larger population of northbound migrants almost completely evaded the smaller number of observers of the time, as Stone (1908) knew of no spring records for NJ and Griscom (1923) cited only one May and two June records for LI.

Another interesting geographical attribute of some long-distance migrant tern species, especially Common (*S. hirundo*), Roseate, and Least (*Sternula antillarum*) Terns, is the relative scarcity of first-summer (= second calendar year) and second-summer (= third calendar year) individuals at the boreal breeding colonies. Most first-summer birds of these species are believed to remain on or near the wintering grounds, which in some cases are in the Southern Hemisphere (Nisbet 2002, Hays *et al.* 1997). Although small numbers of first-summer Arctic Terns are routinely seen around breeding sites (Hatch 2002), this author also states that many first-summer Arctic Terns probably spend the boreal summer far south of their ultimate breeding areas, and he describes large aggregations of such birds at specific sites, such as Sable Island, Nova Scotia and Monomoy, Massachusetts, that are far out of proportion to nearby breeding colonies. Notably, Hatch's authoritative work does not explicitly describe the summer status of first- and second-summer Arctic Terns in the middle latitudes of the western North Atlantic. It is worth noting here that Arctic Tern's "second-summer" plumage refers to an alternate plumage that differs from definitive alternate in several respects, such as lesser coverts dusky, black cap tinged brown, forehead white or flecked with white, throat and venter less extensively gray, tail streamers shorter, and bill or legs with dusky markings; some adults also fail to attain full breeding condition and can closely resemble third calendar year birds (Malling Olsen and Larsson 1995). This means that the second-summer category, as assessed via outward appearance, is necessarily imprecise. Even so, this category remains useful for field workers because birds of this appearance, like first-summer birds, are much more apt than adults in definitive alternate plumage to occur away from breeding areas during summer.

In the present paper, all documented, published records of Arctic Terns in NYS are reviewed and analyzed with respect to historical, geographical, seasonal, and age/plumage criteria, with three specific objectives: (1) reassessing the species' status in NYS and also more generally along the coast of the eastern United States, south of its breeding range; (2) evaluating the relative frequencies of passage migrants (breeders and juveniles en route to or from breeding areas) vs. non-breeders among Arctic Terns occurring in NYS; and (3) determining whether the increasing frequency of records in recent years reflects an actual change in the species' rate of occurrence, or whether it is a consequence of improved detection.

METHODS

An effort was made to find all records of Arctic Tern from NYS. Records were collected from published sources, including Cooper's (1998) statewide summary, the seasonal regional summaries published quarterly in *North American Birds* (and its antecedents) and *The Kingbird*, and the annual reports of the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC). Because of the difficulties surrounding field identification of *Sterna* terns (Bull 1964, Paxton *et al.* 1976, Lee and Cardiff 1993), only those reports supported by specimens, identifiable photos, or written descriptions by field observers thoroughly familiar with this identification challenge were considered acceptable. Several sight records by P. A. Buckley or A. J. Lauro, published at the time of observation but otherwise lacking extant documentation, are included on the basis of correspondence with these experienced observers, both of whom have found other Arctic Terns in NYS that were photographed. To place the NYS records in better geographical context, they were compared with the best available data from NJ (*New Jersey Birds*, New Jersey Bird Records Committee, L. Larson, in litt.), NYS' neighbor to the south.

Age and plumage designations follow Malling Olsen and Larsson (1995). First-summer plumage was readily assigned to birds showing a stereotyped appearance, with almost no intermediates resembling the second-summer category. In contrast, the latter category was quite variable, including birds differing from definitive alternate in all of the respects described above and others that barely differed from definitive alternate. Operationally, birds showing two or more well-marked defects were regarded as second-summers, whereas those more closely resembling definitive alternate were regarded as adults.

RESULTS

New York State—Of 41 total NYS records of Arctic Tern, involving 57 individual birds, only three, involving three birds, were recorded prior to 1975; only five, involving five birds, were recorded from the mainland (i.e., NYS

exclusive of LI); and only three, involving three birds, were recorded from New York's offshore waters. The vast majority of records (33, involving 49 birds) were land-based observations from LI, and all but two of these date from 1975-2008 (Table 1).

In addition to the much greater absolute frequency of records from coastal LI compared to New York's mainland and its offshore waters, the relative proportions of individuals in first- and second-summer plumages, and of records from June and July, are strikingly higher on LI than in the other two geographic contexts: first- and second-summer birds account for 82% of LI records, compared to 0% of mainland records and 33% of pelagic records; and June/July records account for 84% of LI records, compared to 0% of mainland and 0% of pelagic records. Because of these correlations among the geographical, seasonal, and age/plumage trends, a clear majority of all statewide records (65%) refer to individuals along the LI coast, during June or July, and in first- or second-summer plumage. The discovery and identification of each of the 30 first-summer Arctic Terns individually documented from NYS is attributable, at least in part, to just five observers, P. A. Buckley, A. Guthrie, A. J. Lauro, P. J. Lindsay, and S. S. Mitra, all of whom have spent many years birding together and sharing information concerning the status and identification of this species, among others.

Whereas all mainland (five) and pelagic (three) records of Arctic Terns from NYS involved single individuals, no fewer than nine of 32 records from coastal LI involved more than one bird at a particular site on a given day. Although the birds involved in these multi-individual records sometimes interacted loosely with one another (e.g., brief associations between two birds on 14 Jun 2000 and 29 May 2006 and among three of five birds on 9 Jul 2006), equally often they remained spatially or temporally isolated from each other, as noted for two of five birds on 9 Jul 2006 and two birds on 16 Jun 2007 and 21 Jun 2008. Furthermore, all of the individuals noted above as associating with each other were also observed completely apart from each other at other times (S. Mitra, pers. obs.).

All of the NYS records presented here are supported by specimens (three), have been accepted by NYSARC (16), are supported by identifiable photos and detailed descriptions available upon request (14), or were identified and published at the time of the observations by Buckley or Lauro, observers with demonstrable familiarity with the species (eight).

New Jersey—Since its placement on the NJ review list in 1996, Arctic Tern has been documented in NJ on 14 occasions through 2006, with four earlier records also reviewed and accepted as of 2009 (NJBRC 2009). Dates range from an exceptionally early storm-related record on 28 April 2004 to 20 October 1999. Six (33%) of the documented records were from May, compared to six (33%) from June and July collectively. In contrast, of 49 historical records from prior to the inception of review, 23 (47%) were from May, and only seven (14%) were from June-July (J. Hanson, L. Larson, in litt.). Only two (11%) of the documented records were from offshore, one of which could arguably be

Table 1. Records of Arctic Tern from New York State, divided by region of occurrence: Long Island (33 total); pelagic waters (three total); and mainland exclusive of Long Island (five total).

Date	Site	County	#	Age/Plum	Obs	Doc	Source
Long Island							
18 Jul 1884	Cartwright Island	Suffolk	1	2S	Worthington	spec	AMNH #64696
7 Oct 1897	"Long Island"		1	J		spec	NYSM #1707
23-26 Nov 1975	Montauk	Suffolk	1	J	PAB, mob	ph	KB 26: 59
4-5 Jun 1981	Shinnecock Inlet	Suffolk	1	1S	PAB		KB 31: 267
23 Jun 1982	Shinnecock Inlet	Suffolk	4	All 1S	PAB		KB 32: 303
7-9 Jun 1984	Fire I Inlet	Suffolk	1	1S	PAB, AJL		KB 34: 272
13 Jun 1984	Shinnecock Inlet	Suffolk	5	All 1S	PAB		KB 34: 272
21 Sep 1984	Sagaponack Pd	Suffolk	2	Both J	PAB		KB 35: 71
7 Jul 1995	Fire I Inlet	Suffolk	1	1S	PAB, F. G. Buckley		KB 45:332
16 Jun 1996	Shinnecock Bay	Suffolk	1	Ad	E. Salzman	doc	ARC #1996-48
13 Jun 1999	Sagaponack Pd	Suffolk	1	Ad ¹	AJL		KB 49: 376-8
13 Jun 1999	Fire I Inlet	Suffolk	1	1S	SSM	doc	ARC #1999-80
10 Jun 2000	Fire I Inlet	Suffolk	1	1S	AJL, AG	ph	KB 50: 444-6
13 Jun 2000	Fire I Inlet	Suffolk	2	1S, 2S	SSM, PJL	doc	ARC #2000-64
14 Jun 2000	Fire I Inlet	Suffolk	2	1S, 2S	SSM	doc	ARC #2000-64
28 May 2004	Mecox Bay	Suffolk	1	2S	SSM, mob	doc, ph	ARC #2004-30
21 May 2005	Jamaica Bay WR	Queens	1	2S	J. Yrizarry, mob	doc, ph	pers. comm.
3-12 Jul 2005	Moriches Inlet	Suffolk	1 ²	1S	SSM, mob	doc, ph	ARC #2005-40
29 May 2006	Moriches Inlet	Suffolk	2	2S, Ad ¹	SSM, PJL	doc, ph ³	ARC #2006-70-71
2 Jul 2006	Moriches Inlet	Suffolk	1	1S	SSM, S. Blodgett, mob	doc, ph ³	ARC #2006-26
8-16 Jul 2006	Moriches Inlet	Suffolk	1 ⁴	1S	S. Blodgett, SSM, mob	doc, ph ³	ARC #2006-74
9 Jul 2006	Moriches Inlet	Suffolk	5	4 1S, 2S	SSM, PJL, mob	doc, ph ³	ARC #2006-72-76
10 Jun 2007	Moriches Inlet	Suffolk	1	1S	SSM, PJL	doc, ph ³	ARC, <i>in review</i>
16 Jun 2007	Moriches Inlet	Suffolk	2	Both 1S	K. O'Leary, SSM	doc, ph ³	ARC, <i>in review</i>
17-30 Jun 2007	Moriches Inlet	Suffolk	1 ²	2S	T. W. Burke, AG, mob	doc, ph	ARC, <i>in review</i>

8 Jun 2008	Moriches Inlet	Suffolk	1	Ad ¹	SSM, PJJ, A. Baldelli	doc, ph ³	ARC, <i>in review</i>
14 Jun 2008	Moriches Inlet	Suffolk	1	1S	SSM, TWB, mob	doc, ph	ARC, <i>in review</i>
21 Jun 2008	Moriches Inlet	Suffolk	2	1S, 2S	SSM, PJJ, TWB, mob	doc, ph ³	ARC, <i>in review</i>
27 Jun 2008	Moriches Inlet	Suffolk	1	1S	S. Whittle, SSM, mob	doc, ph	ARC, <i>in review</i>
11 Jul 2008	Moriches Inlet	Suffolk	1	Ad	SSM, PJJ	doc, ph ³	ARC, <i>in review</i>
12 Jul 2008	Moriches Inlet	Suffolk	1	2S	S. Ausubel <i>et al.</i>	doc, ph	ARC, <i>in review</i>
13 Jul 2008	Moriches Inlet	Suffolk	1	1S	SSM, PJJ	doc, ph ³	ARC, <i>in review</i>
20 Jul 2008	Moriches Inlet	Suffolk	1	1S	SSM, PJJ	doc, ph	ARC, <i>in review</i>
Pelagic							
13 Aug 1980	13 mi sw Montauk Pt	Suffolk	1	Ad	D. Crumb, B. Spencer	doc	ARC #1980-20
23 Aug 1980	8 mi s Montauk Pt	Suffolk	1	Ad	D. Crumb, B. Spencer	doc	ARC #1980-20
31 May 1997	Block Canyon	Suffolk	1	1S	PAB, M. Cooper, mob	doc, vid	KB 47: 249
Mainland							
20 May 1916	Cayuga L	Tompkins	1	Ad	L. Griscom	spec	CUM 2754
12-19 Nov 1989	Niagara R	Erie	1	J	M. Galas, mob	doc	ARC #1989-7
10 May 1999	Chazy Riverlands	Clinton	1	Ad	W. Krueger	doc	ARC #1999-14
5 Oct 1999	Hamlin Beach	Monroe	1	J	B. Ewald	doc	ARC #1999-69
19 Sep 2003	Cayuga L	Tompkins	1	Ad	P. Hosner, C. Marantz	doc	ARC #2003-42

1S—first-summer; 2S—second-summer; Ad—adult; AG—Andrew Guthrie; AJL—Anthony J. Lauro; AMNH—American Museum of Natural History accession number; ARC—New York State Avian Records Committee record number; CUM—Cornell University Museum accession number; Doc—documentation; J—juvenile; KB—*The Kingbird*; NYSM—New York State Museum accession number; PAB—P. A. Buckley; ph—photograph; PJJ—Patricia J. Lindsay; SSM—Shaibal. S. Mitra; vid—videotape.

1 Reported as adults, each showed at least one defect in definitive alternate plumage and/or soft parts coloration.

2 Reports on dates subsequent to initial discovery were consistent with original bird, but individual identity not assessed critically or documented.

3 See Figs. H-Q, pp. 56-58, for photographs of these birds.

4 This individual was unique in verifiably persisting across a range of dates. Present on 8, 9, & 16 Jul, it is counted only once in summary totals.

attributed to NYS' pelagic waters (15 birds near Hudson Canyon 26 May 2003). Excluding two pelagic and six storm-related records, six of ten documented NJ records (60%) involved first- or second-summer birds during June or July.

DISCUSSION

The historical circumstances and contemporary perceptions accompanying NYS' earliest records of Arctic Tern are of sufficient interest to warrant detailed discussion. "The one that started it all" was a juvenile Arctic Tern found and photographed by P. A. Buckley *et al.* at Montauk Point, LI, on the remarkable date of 23 Nov 1975. Prior to this, more than a century of ornithological work had produced just two LI records, both specimens: 18 July 1884, Cartwright Island; and 7 October 1897, "Long Island" (no locality specified). The only other NYS record to date was Griscom's specimen of 20 May 1916, from Cayuga Lake, in central NYS. Against this scant and heterogeneous backdrop, the November record from Montauk did little to clarify the species' mode of occurrence in the state, but it elevated birders' awareness of and interest in the species. Griscom (1916) interpreted his specimen as a long sought clue regarding the timing and route of the species' northbound migration in eastern North America. Griscom's hypothesis that Arctic Terns migrate to breeding colonies in the Gulf of Maine and the Canadian Arctic during late May, both far offshore from and high above NYS, was prescient in a general way (Hatch 2002 presents extensive data supporting both routes), but it has not yielded any subsequent pattern of spring records from either mainland NYS (just one adult 10 May 1999) or the state's offshore waters (just one first-summer 31 May 1997, identified by P. A. Buckley, among others). Including fall records, only three pelagic records and four mainland records have been documented since 1975.

The next phase in the ornithological history of Arctic Terns in NYS occurred between 1981 and 1984, along LI's south shore inlets. During this period, P. A. Buckley produced five additional records, involving 13 individuals, most of which were discovered in the course of systematic surveys of colonial waterbirds on LI, and at least one of which was co-found with A. J. Lauro. All of these birds were found at coastal inlets on the south shore of LI, and, with the exception of two September juveniles, all involved first-summer birds during June. The pattern evident in these records furnished a model by which A. J. Lauro and three students of Buckley and Lauro, A. Guthrie, P. J. Lindsay, and S. S. Mitra, recorded 29 additional Arctic Terns from LI's south shore inlets from 1999-2008, all during the period 28 May-20 Jul, and all but one lacking definitive breeding aspect.

In view of the frequency with which non-breeding Arctic Terns have been documented from LI's south shore inlets during June and July, this species should not be regarded as accidental, nor even as particularly rare, in this context. Unlike true vagrants, the vast majority of which are detected as single individuals, or sometimes as discrete family groups or flocks, there are

numerous examples of multiple, apparently independent, Arctic Terns occurring at the same coastal LI sites on the same days. These Arctic Terns associate with loafing flocks that typically also include one- and two-year-olds of various other larid species, some of which are regionally or seasonally notable in their own right: e.g., first-summer Common, Forster's, Roseate, Least, Black, Royal (*Thalasseus maximus*), and Sandwich (*T. sandvicensis*) Terns, and first-summer gulls such as Bonaparte's (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*), Black-headed (*C. ridibundus*), Little (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*), and Laughing (*Leucophaeus atricilla*). Careful daily scrutiny and photography of these birds, many of which are individually recognizable by virtue of head pattern, soft parts coloration, and rectrix length, indicate a great deal of turn-over among individuals within and between days (S. Mitra, unpubl. data). Especially among Arctic Terns, individuals have almost never persisted across multiple dates, perhaps because they spend much of their time at sea and visit the inlets only at intervals. Instead, observers seeking recently reported Arctic Terns have much more frequently found completely new individuals.

In contrast to the remarkably predictable pattern of occurrence among non-breeding Arctic Terns on LI, authentic passage migrants (adults during May and adults or juveniles during August-September) remain very poorly known anywhere in NYS. Recent records of Arctic Terns from NJ appear to include more migrants, both northbound and southbound, than are evident in the New York data, but most of these involve either offshore or storm-related observations. Among recent land-based NJ records not directly associated with storms, most were summering non-breeders, just as on LI. Of six juvenile Arctic Terns ever recorded in NYS, no fewer than four occurred at decidedly abnormal dates during October-November, when the species is extremely rare anywhere in North America. This fact, plus the statewide paucity of records of full adults at any season, casts doubt on the longtime hope that increased field work during late May and late August-early September might yield a pattern of regular occurrence in NYS' pelagic waters similar to those known from the waters off Cape Hatteras (Lee and Cardiff 1993, B. Patteson, pers. comm.), Cape Cod (Veit and Petersen 1993, *North American Birds*), and, to a lesser extent, NJ.

The regular presence of non-breeding Arctic Terns during June and July in the middle latitudes of the coastal western North Atlantic is supported not only by the present study and by Hatch's (2002) general review of the species' migratory dynamics, but also by a modest set of similar inshore records from the Southeast and the Gulf of Mexico (Lee and Cardiff 1993). Regarded by these authors as plausibly referable to late migrants, "stragglers, birds trapped in the Gulf of Mexico, or loitering non-breeders," these records seem most readily explained as a still more southerly extension of the LI pattern described in the present paper. At least equally relevant is the regional precedent afforded by a long series of records of first-summer Arctic Terns from Massachusetts, from at least 1938 (Veit and Petersen 1993) through the present time (B. Nikula, pers. comm.). As many as 800+ first-summer birds were recorded at Monomoy, Cape Cod during June and early July between 1975 and 1980 (Veit and Petersen 1993). These observations, and many others of smaller numbers of first-summer

birds, from Massachusetts sites both north and south of Cape Cod, illustrate the scale at which this age class sometimes occurs in the western North Atlantic, even south of major breeding stations (Veit and Petersen 1993). Note that the period of greatest abundance of non-breeders at Monomoy (1975-1980) entirely precedes the abrupt increases in such records on LI (1981-1984 and 1999-2008) and in NJ (1995-2006).

The historical spikes in the frequency of LI records during 1981-1984 and 1999-2008, when Arctic Tern was deliberately sought by observers familiar with its first- and second-summer plumages, suggests that the species was likely overlooked prior to 1981 and from 1985-1998. The preponderance of first-summer individuals among the birds identified 1981-1984 and 1999-2008, in contrast to the complete absence of this age class prior to 1981, is strongly suggestive of a detection bias. Similarly, the disparity in the proportions of presumed migrants vs. summer non-breeders in NJ, before and after the inception of review, suggests that birds of the former kind were previously over-reported. Finally, among Arctic Tern records from the southeastern United States, Lee and Cardiff (1993) noted a higher proportion of first-summer birds among specimens than among sight records and attributed this disparity to problems in field identification. Although the recent increases in records of summer non-breeders in NJ and on LI conceivably could be construed as reflecting an actual increase in the frequency of occurrence of such birds, the disparity in age-class frequencies between specimens and sight records cited by Lee and Cardiff (1993) cannot be explained in this way, nor can the fact that all 30 LI records of first-summer birds are attributable to just five observers. Considering all these sources of evidence, it seems simplest to attribute the recent increases in records of Arctic Terns on LI and elsewhere to improved detection and identification.

Reasons that Arctic Terns were likely under-detected in the past include a paucity of readily available, detailed identification information, especially for first- and second-summer plumages, prior to Kaufman (1991), and misconceptions about where, when, and what to look for—e.g., an over-emphasis on offshore adult migrants, which in practice have proven extremely difficult to detect over LI's relatively broad and recessed shelf waters. The paucity of documented pelagic migrant Arctic Terns offshore from LI compared to Cape Hatteras and Cape Cod is analogous to the example provided by Leach's Storm-Petrel, large numbers of which undoubtedly migrate far offshore from LI while remaining almost entirely unrepresented by actual records.

In summary, the data presented here support several generalizations concerning the occurrence of Arctic Terns in NYS: the species should be regarded as rare to uncommon, but regular (certainly not casual); coastal LI records greatly outnumber pelagic and inland records; birds in first- and second-summer plumage greatly outnumber adults and juveniles; and seasonal occurrence extends from late May through mid July, with a peak during mid June. Moreover, similar patterns are discernible along the immediate coast, both north and south of LI, although passage-migrant adults are more regularly encountered off easterly projecting capes such as Cape Cod and Cape Hatteras.

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FALL MIGRATION OF THE RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD IN SOUTHEASTERN NEW YORK STATE

Cameron Rutt
Bedford Audubon Society

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*) migrate from their primary breeding grounds in the eastern United States to winter in Central America, either following a coastal route or embarking on a nonstop flight over the Gulf of Mexico (Robinson *et al.* 1996). In New York, Ruby-throated Hummingbird is listed as a “fairly common to occasionally common migrant, especially inland” (Levine 1998). Actually observing hummingbirds in the act of migrating, however, can be a real challenge in everyday birding. Due to the nature of hawkwatch locales, these sites often provide a fascinating opportunity to glimpse the diurnal migration of hummingbirds, something that has been known for some time (Saunders 1942, McWilliams *et al.* 2000).

During fall 2008, Tait Johansson and I, under the Bedford Audubon Society, studied the hummingbird migration past Chestnut Ridge Hawk Watch, situated just southwest of Bedford, Westchester County, approximately 12 miles from the coast of Long Island Sound. From 22 Aug to 1 Oct, we recorded 284 hummingbirds (all assumed to be Ruby-throated Hummingbirds). The hour of passage was noted for all but the first two days of this span (n = 265). At least one hummingbird was noted on each day an official count was conducted from 22 Aug through 24 Sep, and the highest single-day count occurred on 15 Sep, when a surprising 42 hummingbirds were recorded (4.67 birds per hour). Hummingbird migration peaked in late August and the first half of September, and 92% were recorded between 23 Aug and 15 Sep (Figure 1). We were not able to observe the onset of migration prior to our first official count on 22 Aug, but data from Waggoner’s Gap Hawk Watch (west of Harrisburg, PA) suggest a slow start to hummingbird migration during the first half of August. Waggoner’s Gap began its fall season on 1 Aug, recorded its first hummingbird on 4 Aug, and tallied only ten during the first half of the month.

As with the raptor migration at Chestnut Ridge, most hummingbirds were seen traveling in a direction between SW and W, presumably to avoid heading over Long Island Sound if they flew directly south (and perhaps due to geographic aid in the form of ridges further down the line?). Migrating hummingbirds were usually detected while we scanned for raptors, mainly through binoculars but occasionally through a spotting scope as well. These hummingbirds ranged from those zipping just over the treetops to some in flight fairly high overhead, but the majority appeared to be ascending from the terrain below, as if they were just taking flight. It is perhaps more likely, though, that individuals migrating fairly low over the forest canopy must gain altitude as they approach the N/S ridge upon which the Chestnut Ridge Hawk Watch lies.

The six best Chestnut Ridge hummingbird days are outlined in Table 1, with notes about the weather for each day. The weather conditions for these six

days were somewhat varied, but each day had at least light winds (1-5 km/h), if not periods of moderate winds (6-19 km/h), and most days featured winds with a N or W component. The peak flight of 15 Sep was associated with light to moderate westerly winds. On the same day as our highest count, a coastal hawkwatch, Lighthouse Point, in New Haven, Connecticut, had an astounding 270 hummingbirds on 15 Sep, with 210 between the hours of 9 AM and 12 noon (all times are in EDT), just their second ever triple-digit day!

Elsewhere in the Northeast, Willimont *et al.* (1988) examined the daily timing of hummingbirds migrating at Hawk Mountain, PA, during fall 1985. Peak passage at Hawk Mountain was between 11 AM – 3 PM, with fewer birds sighted during the four hours before and after. Using a Goodness of Fit test, this pattern was found to significantly differ from that of a uniform distribution. Similarly, midday peaks were also observed at Quaker Ridge and Lighthouse Point, CT, during fall 1985. Willimont reasoned that this pattern could be attributed to the birds' need to refuel both prior to and after a nighttime fast, thus limiting any lengthy migratory flight to the intervening daylight hours (namely, the midday). But if our data are divided by Willimont's intervals (9 – 11 AM, 11 AM – 3 PM, and 3 – 6 PM), the pattern is obscured: our "mornings" yielded 1.49 birds per hour, the "midday" 1.24, and the "afternoon" 0.93. No statistical procedures, however, were used for the Chestnut Ridge data to determine if they differed from a uniform distribution.

Obstacles to direct comparisons between the datasets include the rather coarse scale of Willimont's morning and midday divisions (probably arising from their smaller sample sizes) and the fact that we typically didn't count prior to 9 AM. Sixty percent of our hummingbirds were tallied between 9 AM and 1 PM (Table 2), for a rate of 1.47 birds per hour, compared to a diminished rate of less than a bird per hour (0.98) after 1 PM. At a finer scale, the 10 AM and 12 noon hours had the highest rates, at 1.71 and 1.68 birds per hour, respectively. Furthermore, hummingbird migration does not cease late in the day, as I might have initially suspected. I was surprised that we had three hummingbirds whiz by in the 5 to 6 PM hour with the latest hummingbird seen at 5:56 PM on 15 Sep. All things considered, it seems that mid-morning to early afternoon is the optimal window to scour the skies for migrant hummingbirds in the Northeast.

In conclusion, I would like to encourage other hawkwatchers and hawkwatch sites to include non-raptors in their monitoring efforts. Few locales boast the numbers of keen observers relentlessly scanning the skies on a daily basis as hawkwatch sites do. With just a bit of extra effort, the diurnal migration of many other species can be further elucidated. With time and additional data, a further understanding of Ruby-throated Hummingbird migration in the East will be forthcoming.

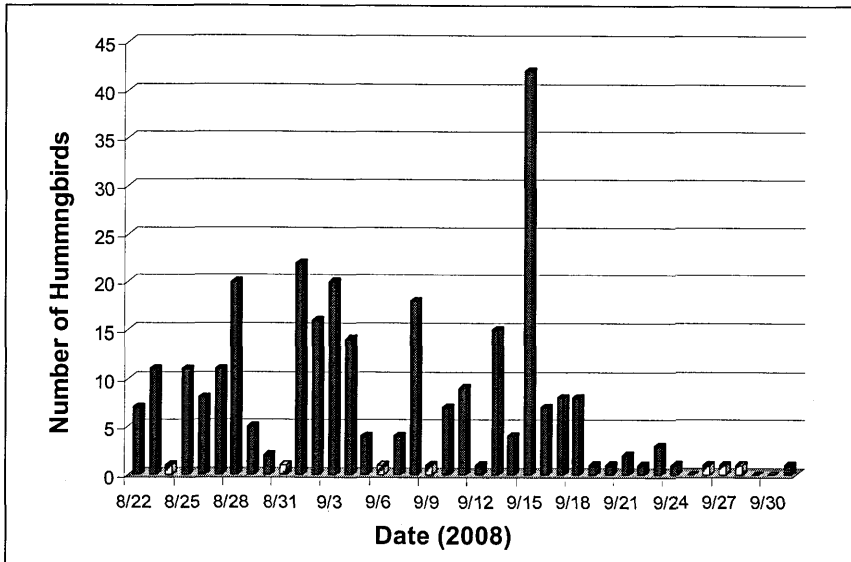


Figure 1. Daily number of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds observed migrating past Chestnut Ridge Hawk Watch from August 22 – October 1, 2008. Except for two dates (Aug 30 – 5 hours; Sep 12 – 4 hours), each count day consisted of 7-9 hours of observation time. Days in which no count was conducted are indicated by a hatched bar (gray and white) equivalent to one hummingbird (Aug 24, Aug 31, Sep 6, Sep 9, and Sep 26-28).

Table 1. Peak days of passage of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at Chestnut Ridge, fall 2008.

Date	Number	Wind Speed	Wind Direction
28-Aug	20	Light	ESE, S late PM
1-Sep	22	Light to moderate	N/NW
2-Sep	16	Light	N
3-Sep	20	Light	N/NW, ESE late PM
8-Sep	18	Light	WNW
15-Sep	42	Light to moderate	W

Table 2. Hourly migration of hummingbirds at Chestnut Ridge, fall 2008.

Hour (EDT)	9*	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5
Hours	24.25	28	28	28	27.25	26	26	23.5	5.5
Birds	30	48	34	47	27	28	26	22	3
% Total	11.3	18.1	12.8	17.7	10.2	10.6	9.8	8.3	1.1
Birds/hr	1.24	1.71	1.21	1.68	0.99	1.08	1.00	0.94	0.55

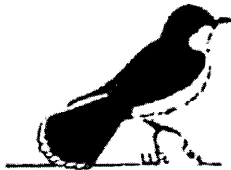
*9 = 9:00 – 9:59 AM, etc.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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A MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD IN CENTRAL NYS: FIRST RECORD FOR THE FINGER LAKES REGION

Thomas B. Johnson and Shawn M. Billerman
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

On Sunday, 21 September 2008, Johnson and Billerman were returning to Ithaca from the New York State Ornithological Association meeting in Rochester and visited Myers Point in Lansing, NY to look for migrating shorebirds and waterbirds. The average birding pit stop at Myers is usually pretty uneventful, often lacking migrant waterbirds due to picnickers, windsurfers, or beachgoers. Over the years, however, this short gravel bar that juts out into the east side of Cayuga Lake has provided some remarkable bird records, including King Eider, Barrow's Goldeneye, Pacific Loon, Piping Plover, and Lark Bunting in recent years.

On this particular day, our visit to Myers Point was anything but uneventful. As we pulled into the parking lot at the spit, Johnson glanced south toward a small cove and noticed a large black bird with extremely long wings flying about 50 meters away with the usual flock of Ring-billed Gulls. Recognizing the bird, Johnson shouted, "FRIGATEBIRD, FRIGATEBIRD!!" interrupted by various expletives of an unprintable nature. We were able to watch the bird as it floated, facing into the north wind, at close range. The frigatebird slowly began moving north directly over the observers, and a series of close-range flight photographs were taken by both Johnson and Billerman. The bird circled overhead and banked, showing its upperwings; at this point, it was evident that the frigatebird was all black in plumage with only a slightly paler brown bar on the tertials and upperwing coverts. A small, deflated red gular sack was also visible. Although identifying out of range frigatebirds (*Fregata* sp.) can be difficult due to distance and poorly understood identifying characters (Sullivan *et al.* 2007), this individual was easily identified by the above characters as an adult male Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*).

The local birding phone chain was immediately put into action, and word of the frigatebird was circulated in short order. The frigatebird began to gain altitude and circled to the north of Myers Point over Salt Point and the mouth of Salmon Creek. It then set into a glide and headed south down the lake, disappearing toward Ithaca with remarkable speed given its initial plodding pace. Updating the phone chain, we joined a small army of birders spread out between East Shore Park and Stewart Park in Ithaca, about eight miles to the south of Myers, and waited for the frigatebird to appear from up the lake. In a short interval, the bird was refound as it came into Ithaca waters along the west side of Cayuga Lake and many other observers were able to view it. After circling at a distance for perhaps twenty minutes, the frigatebird turned back to the north and disappeared from view. Returning to Myers Point, several observers were able to get splendid views as the bird returned along its initial path, passing low over Myers Point (Fig. E, p. 53). After drifting several miles

to the north, the bird turned south again and headed back for Ithaca. Later in the evening, Bill Baker, Tim Lenz, and others were able to view the bird as it circled low overhead at Stewart Park (southeastern corner of Cayuga Lake). The bird disappeared inland over the Jetty Woods, and was later found roosting in a tree along the Cayuga Inlet by Lenz. More observers were able to watch the bird as it perched over the Inlet, and several noted that its posture was perhaps not typical for a healthy, energetic frigatebird.

Indeed, the next morning (22 September 2008), observers led by Jeff Gerbracht recovered the now-dead frigatebird from the water beneath the roost tree. The carcass was taken to the Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates (CUMV) where it was prepared as a study skin and preserved in the ornithological collection.

Magnificent Frigatebird breeds off the west coast of Mexico from Baja California south to coastal Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, and on the Atlantic, from the Dry Tortugas (only US breeding site), south along the coast of Mexico, Central America and northern South America and Brazil. Non-breeding birds are regularly found along the coast in Florida and along the Gulf of Mexico from Florida to Texas, with vagrants moving farther up the coast (Diamond and Schreiber 2002).

In New York State, Magnificent Frigatebird is a rare vagrant. Levine (1998) lists 18 records, all coastal except for one at Derby Hill, Mexico, Oswego Co. 23 Sep 1990. Since 1998, there have been at least four additional records, all in Suffolk County: 2 Oct 2003 (NYSARC 2006), 6 Nov 2005 (NYSARC 2009), 26 Aug 2007 (KB 57: 355), and as recently as 7 Sep 2008 (p. 100; photo p. 53). Other reports of frigatebirds from neighboring states during fall 2008 include two from New Jersey (Cape May 8 Sep, Montclair hawkwatch 27 Oct: S. Barnes, pers. comm.) and two from Pennsylvania 20 Sep. Whereas the reports from 7-8 Sep were associated Tropical Storm *Hanna*, those from 20-21 Sep, including the one described above, were probably displaced inland by Hurricane *Ike*.

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REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 2006

The New York State Avian Records Committee (hereafter “NYSARC” or the “Committee”) reviewed 113 reports from 2006, involving 73 separate sightings, and an additional three reports from previous years. Reports were received from all over the state, with 33 of the 62 counties represented. The number of reports accompanied by photographs remains high. The Committee wishes to remind readers that reports submitted to eBird, listserves, local bird clubs, rare bird alerts (RBAs) and *Kingbird* Regional Editors are not necessarily forwarded to NYSARC, and doing so remains the responsibility of the observer. The growing use of the internet and mobile phones has had a very positive impact on the timely dissemination of rare bird sightings and has made it easier for birders to locate birds found by others. The Committee has always held that receipt of multiple independent reports provides a much fuller documentation of the sighting and can in some cases increase the likelihood of acceptance. We therefore urge ALL observers, not just the finder, to submit written reports and/or photographs. The names of the 91 contributors that submitted materials (written reports, photographs and sketches) are listed alongside accepted reports and again at the end of this document. Where possible, the name(s) of the original finder(s) is (are) included in the narratives. Production of this Annual Report is a team effort involving a large number of people. In addition to the contributors mentioned above, several *Kingbird* Regional Editors have made valued efforts in cajoling reluctant observers into preparing and submitting documentation. The review process has also been aided by thoughtful commentaries from a number of experts in bird identification and distribution, including Louis Bevier, Alvaro Jaramillo, Kevin McGowan, Steve Mlodinow, and Peter Pyle. On behalf of the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA), we thank this army of willing volunteers for help in documenting the rare birds of New York State (NYS).

HOW TO SUBMIT REPORTS

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

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

Here, a list of species requested for review by NYSARC (The Review List) is provided along with illustrated copies of previous annual reports. The Committee is very grateful to Carena Pooth (NYSOA Vice President and website administrator) for updating and continuously improving the NYSARC web site. An on-line reporting form allows observers to compose a written report and attach up to five digital image files. Documentation (written reports

and photographs) and any other correspondence for the Committee can also be sent via email or regular mail to:

Jeanne Skelly, Secretary for NYSARC
420 Chili-Scottsville Road
Churchville, NY 14428

E-mail: nysarc3@nybirds.org

COMMITTEE NEWS

Voting on the majority of the 2006 reports was finalized at the NYSARC Annual Meeting held at the Greene County Accelerator facility in Coxsackie on 13 September 2008. Once again, we are indebted to Rich Guthrie, who very kindly made the arrangements for us to use this comfortable and convenient venue, and we extend our warm thanks to him. One discussion topic at the meeting was the changing potential of Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) to occur as a wild vagrant in NYS. Individuals are reported almost every year, and although there are rarely questions about the identification, the Committee has wrestled with the possibility that some might be escapes or deliberate releases from captivity rather than true wild birds that have reached North America unaided. Like many other state and provincial records committees, NYSARC has taken a relatively conservative stance on this difficult question, accepting most reports of Barnacle Geese under the qualifier “origins uncertain.” As discussed below, recent increases in wild populations of Barnacle Geese wintering in Western Europe and concordant increases in the numbers of sightings across northeastern North America, combined with a recent band recovery from Ontario, have prompted the Committee to reappraise this issue.

HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of the 2006 Annual Report include an adult **Western Gull** (*Larus occidentalis*) encountered during an organized pelagic voyage off Long Island and male **Broad-billed Hummingbirds** (*Cynanthus latirostris*) in both Wayne and Tioga Counties. Both the gull and hummingbirds represent new additions to the New York State Avian Checklist, which now stands at 470 species. Other highlights of this report are the second state record of **Hammond's Flycatcher** (*Empidonax hammondi*) from Westchester Co. and an accommodating trio of **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks** (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge in Queens Co., the first accepted occurrence in the state since 1991.

2006 Reports Accepted

Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*)

2006-16-A/G Three, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**, 28-29 May, 4 Jun (Joseph O'Connell, Sr., Alan W. Wells, Rex & Birgit Stanford, Ed Coyle, Elliotte Rusty Harold, Shaibal S. Mitra, Yolanda Garcia; ph J. O'Connell, Sr., A. Wells (Fig. F, p. 54), R. Stanford, E. Coyle, E. Harold; sketch Y. Garcia)

These three Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were discovered by Joseph O'Connell, Sr. on 28 May and frequented the weedy margins of the refuge's West Pond until 5 Jun, during which time they were seen by a large number of observers. This is the first accepted record for NYS since 1991 and comes 41 years after three birds spent a remarkably similar period (29 May-4 Jun 1965) at Jamaica Bay. Fulvous Whistling-Ducks breed on the gulf coastal plain of Texas and Louisiana and at scattered localities in southern California and Florida. In general they are resident or make only short-distance migrations but, like other whistling-ducks, are also prone to irruptions in which small flocks appear well beyond their normal range. A photograph by Scott Elowitz has been published in *North American Birds* 2006 60(3): 355.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

2006-8-A One, Great Swamp Conservancy Overlook, Canastota, Town of Lenox, **Madison**, 9 Mar (Brenda Best; ph B. Best)

2006-15-A One, Tilly Foster Farm Conservation Area, **Putnam**, 30 Dec and 2, 16 Jan 2007 (Douglas Gochfeld; ph D. Gochfeld)

The status of Barnacle Goose in NYS has long been a topic of uncertainty, if not controversy, due to difficulties in distinguishing natural vagrants from formerly captive birds. Even though there is good reason to think that a handful of wild Barnacle Geese winter every year in the northeast, the species remains fairly common in captivity and there are occasional reports of escapes or deliberate releases of unwanted captive-reared birds. The Committee has therefore taken a conservative approach, accepting the identification but considering the origins to be uncertain. Acceptance of both 2006 reports without this qualifier reflects a significant shift in thinking. As outlined in a published article by Committee member Dominic Sherony, there has been a steady increase in the number of sightings of Barnacle Geese in the northeast during the past 10-15 years (Sherony 2008). This parallels a quite substantial increase in the Barnacle Goose populations that winter in Western Europe, beneficiaries of extensive conservation efforts in several European countries and the dramatic effects of recent climate change on the available nesting habitat in the arctic. The population nesting in northeastern Greenland—the one perhaps most likely to reach NYS—increased from 38,400 in 1993 to 56,386 in 2003 and may have grown even further in the interim (Owen 1997, Worden *et al.* 2004). Canada Geese (*B. canadensis*) have also continued to expand their range northwards along the west coast of Greenland, and these might serve as a “carrier species” that brings small numbers of Barnacles with them on their southward journey to wintering grounds in the mid-Atlantic states. More solid support for the occurrence of wild Barnacles in North America comes from two banding

recoveries: a bird shot in Newfoundland in 1981 that had been banded in Svalbard, Norway in July 1977 (although note that this is a separate population from the Greenland birds) and another that was shot on the Ottawa River, Ontario, in 2005 that had been banded the year before on Islay, a mountainous island off the west coast of Scotland. Renowned for its malt whiskies, the snow-free agricultural fields of Islay provide an important wintering site for Greenland-nesting Barnacle Geese (ca. 35,000) and Greater White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) (ca. 15,000), and Islay is also a premier spot for vagrant North American geese, hinting at regular exchange across the Atlantic. The recovery of an Islay-banded Barnacle Goose so close to the NY border provides a particularly compelling link and, when combined with the recent upturn in Barnacle reports, suggests a greater percentage of natural vagrants than in the past. It is hoped that birders will continue to fully document all Barnacle Goose sightings in NYS irrespective of the location or season. This information will allow us to better understand the status and movements of these attractive geese in our area. Attention should be paid to the presence or absence of leg bands (many wild birds are so marked) and to the other types of geese or waterfowl that they consort with. While Barnacle Geese are most often seen with Canada Geese, the flocks may also contain Cackling Geese (*B. hutchinsii*), Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) or Greater White-fronted Geese, and this information should be included with reports.

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*)

2006-42-A Three, Hamlin Beach SP, **Monroe**, 30 Oct (Dominic Sherony; ph D. Sherony) This trio of "Richardson's" Cackling Geese, originally discovered by Robert G. Spahn, was studied and photographed with a flock of 200 Canada Geese (*B. canadensis*). Their significantly smaller size, diminutive bill, frostier plumage and hint of neck collar are typical of this population of Cackling Geese. A photograph showing one of these birds has been published (*North American Birds* 2007 61(1): 42). Many "Richardson's" Cackling Geese follow the Mississippi flyway between their wintering grounds on the plains of west Texas and Oklahoma and their nesting grounds in the central Canadian arctic. Small numbers are found across NYS every winter, especially in western NY, where small flocks are not unusual. The frequency is such that NYSARC has agreed to drop Cackling Goose from the review list (NYSARC 2007 meeting), although the Committee would welcome documentation of any subspecies other than nominate *hutchinsii* (Richardson's).

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

2006-4-A/D One, Cayuga Lake, Sheldrake Point Park, Sheldrake, **Seneca**, 28 Jan-11 Feb (Anne Marie Johnson, Mark Dettling, Bernie Carr, Michael J. Andersen; ph A. Johnson, Timothy A. Johnson, Matt Victoria (Fig. G, p. 55))

This basic-plumaged Pacific Loon was discovered by Anne Marie Johnson and Timothy Johnson and subsequently reported by many other observers during its two-week stay. The Pacific Loon was occasionally seen alongside Common Loons (*G. immer*), offering valuable comparison. The detailed written descriptions were complemented by an outstanding collection of photographs. *The Kingbird* 2009 March; 59 (1)

The very similar Arctic Loon (*G. arctica*) was firmly ruled out by the absence of white flank feathers above the waterline and the presence of a well-defined black “chinstrap.”

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

2006-65-A One, Lake Champlain off Port Kent, **Essex**, 25 Dec (Dana C. Rohleder; ph D. Rohleder)

2006-67-A One, on the St. Lawrence River at Morristown, **St. Lawrence**, 25 Sep (Robert E. Long; sketch R. Long)

There were credible reports of a Western Grebe in the Port Kent area of Lake Champlain on 29 and 30 Oct but the bird was not photographed until 25 Dec. Although grainy, the four digiscoped images that accompanied the report clearly show an *Aechmophorus* grebe. Although the question of Clarke’s Grebe (*A. clarkii*) was not explicitly addressed in the narrative, the images gave no hint of this species, and the Committee concurred with the identification as a Western based on the written details. The St. Lawrence grebe was first noted close to the New York bank but flew further out, where it remained for 30 minutes before drifting downstream and out of sight.

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

2006-10-A Four, Dunkirk Harbor, **Chautauqua**, 14 Apr (William W. Watson; ph J. Pawlicki)

These four American White Pelicans were observed loafing on the water and on the breakwater wall of the harbor at Dunkirk. Recognizing the sustained increase in the number of American White Pelican sightings from western and central NY, the Committee no longer solicits reports except for the marine region, where the species remains very uncommon (NYSARC 2006).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*)

2006-28-A One, private residence, Waterloo, **Seneca**, late Mar to end Jun (Kim Maines; ph K. Maines)

2006-32-A One, Perch River WMA, **Jefferson**, 12 Jul (Jeff Bolsinger)

Although a written description was not provided of the Waterloo bird, the two color photographs clearly identify this as an adult Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. This species has appeared with increasing frequency in western and central NYS, though it is uncommon for one to stay in an area for such an extended period. The well-described adult at Perch River was studied as it walked around on a large expanse of mud created by the draining of Stones Mill Pond to allow for repairs to a water control facility.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)

2006-12-A/B One, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**, 27, 29 Apr (Sean Sime, Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Sime)

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge remains the most reliable site in the state for White-faced Ibis; this is a reflection of the numbers of Glossy Ibis (*P. falcinellus*) that use the extensive tidal marshes throughout the summer months and the fact that ibis can be scrutinized at relatively close range when they visit

the fresh and brackish ponds to bathe and drink.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

2006-60-A One, sub-adult, Great Gull Island, Suffolk, 19 Jun (Joseph DiCostanzo)

When first glimpsed, the kite was being pursued by an irate mob of a thousand or so Common (*Sterna hirundo*) and Roseate (*S. dougallii*) Terns, which proceeded to chase the unfortunate raptor from one end of the 17-acre island to the other! Several additional researchers working in the tern colony independently noticed the kite and its cloud of pursuers. Great Gull Island is situated between Plum and Fishers Islands, and together these form a loose island chain connecting the North Fork of Long Island to the mainland near the Connecticut/Rhode Island border. Interestingly, this is the third record of Mississippi Kite from Great Gull Island, the first being on 25 May 1991 (NYSARC 1991-41-A) and the second on 26 Jul 1999 (NYSARC 1999-26-A).

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

2006-7-A One, adult, East Road, Savannah Mucklands, Seneca, 4 Feb (Michael J. Andersen; ph Brian L. Sullivan, Christopher L. Wood)

This impressive Gyr Falcon was studied by a group of birders as it perched in a tree on the edge of the Savannah Mucklands. The significant size and bulk of the falcon were made more evident by comparison to a Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) and a Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) sitting in the same tree. The falcon was also studied in flight and on the ground alongside the same harrier. Photos of the extended legs confirm the absence of falconer's jesses or bands. During the winter, the farmland surrounding Cayuga Lake attracts large numbers of migrant waterfowl, including many thousands of Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens*). A similar gray-phase adult Gyr Falcon was observed on the other side of the lake in the previous winter, and the 2006 bird is conceivably the same returning bird.

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)

2006-53-A One, in a field near Ellicottville, Cattaraugus, 10 Sep (Frank Voelker)

This diminutive rail was flushed from a grass and wild flower meadow whilst it was being mowed with a tractor. The bird rose an estimated 12-14 feet and traveled 25 feet before dropping back into the vegetation. Described as a dark starling-sized bird, the observer Frank Voelker also noted its extended neck and dangling legs. His interest piqued, Voelker dismounted his tractor and re-spotted the bird walking through the vegetation, where he was able to note the white fringes to the otherwise dark feathers. Approaching to within five feet, he could see buff below the tail, a valuable field mark that is not described in field guides. Black Rail has become extremely rare in western NY, coinciding with a general severe decline in the inland population over the past 50 years. Nowadays, the species is generally thought of as a rare to uncommon inhabitant of coastal saltmarshes (Eddelman *et al.* 1994). However, Black Rails are found quite regularly in several mid-western states during the late summer, when they are presumably in the process of migrating to coastal areas for the winter.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

2006-11-A/B One, JFK Wildlife Sanctuary, Tobay Beach, Nassau, 17 Apr (Rex & Birgit Stanford, Sean Sime; ph R. Stanford, S. Sime)

2006-66-A One, Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside, Nassau, 8 Jun to mid-Aug (Michael A. Farina; ph M. Farina)

The Tobay King Rail, first spotted by Dave Klauber on 16 Apr, pleased many birders as it often paraded around in the open along the pond outflow to at least 3 May. Mike Farina first noticed the Oceanside King Rail on 8 June in a tidal saltmarsh on the south shore of Long Island. At this point the rail seemed to have already paired with a Clapper Rail (*R. longirostris*) and was observed defending a nest containing 10 eggs a few days later. Subsequently the adults were seen tending to three chicks into mid-August, when the King Rail was last sighted. King Rail remains rare in NYS. Although King Rail is more inclined to use freshwater marshes, other mixed pairings at coastal sites have been documented. For more details and spectacular color photographs of the mixed pair, see Farina (2006).

American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*)

2006-57-A One, Great Kills Park, Gateway National Recreation Area, Staten Island, Richmond, 6-8 Dec (David Jordet; ph D. Jordet)

The early winter date of this juvenile American Golden-Plover is notable. American Golden-Plover, like its Pacific (*P. fulva*) counterpart, is a long-distance migrant, with most individuals spending the boreal winter on the southern expanses of South America. However, a few do not travel that far and will winter in Florida or Central America. This excellent report carefully described the plumage and structure of the bird, ruling out all other *Pluvialis* plovers. The reasons for its delayed departure are unclear but might reflect some underlying pathology. The observer noted that the plover ran without difficulty, flew strongly, and was seen eating an earthworm.

Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*)

2006-20-A One, Robert Moses SP, Suffolk, 27 Apr (Annie McIntyre)

2006-22-A/B One, Pike's Beach, Westhampton Dunes, Suffolk, 17 Jun (John Fritz, Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra, Gail Benson)

The Pike's Beach individual was discovered by John Fritz and seen by a number of fortunate observers working the Moriches Inlet area that day. The two written descriptions and photographs by Shai Mitra and Gail Benson clearly indicate that this was an adult male. Other similar *Charadrius* plovers were duly considered and ruled out. In May 1999, this same sandy stretch on the bayside of the narrow barrier beach hosted another Wilson's Plover (NYSARC 1999-82-A). The Robert Moses SP bird was noticed by workers setting up protective fencing around a nesting colony of Piping Plovers (*C. melodus*), and again this bird proved to be a one-day wonder. The timing of both reports fits with the emerging trend for Wilson's Plover sightings in which lone individuals (often but not always males) wander north onto Long Island in the late spring and early summer, often appearing briefly in or near Piping Plover colonies.

“Western” Willet (*Tringa semipalmata inornatus*)

2006-21-A One, Cupsogue County Park, **Suffolk**, 18 Jun (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)
This well described *inornatus* Willet from the sand flats near the Moriches Inlet is appreciably earlier than the expected mid July arrival on the coast and raises the intriguing question of whether some *inornatus* arrive in NYS in the spring and remain all summer, paralleling the non-breeding Short-billed Dowitchers (*Limnodromus griseus*) and various other shorebirds that also linger through the summer. Remarkably, there is no prior documented record of *inornatus* from Long Island during spring. In the past few years, our knowledge of the criteria for distinguishing “Eastern” (*T. s. semipalmatus*) and “Western” Willets (*T. s. inornatus*) in the field has advanced significantly, prompting astute observers to re-evaluate the temporal and geographic distribution of the two subspecies in the state. Their observations suggest that larger and paler *inornatus*, which breeds in the prairie states and provinces, is the expected taxon inland and during winter and is a common southbound migrant along the coast, arriving when locally breeding *semipalmatus* are abundant (Lindsay and Mitra 2007). By early fall (Sep), *inornatus* often outnumber *semipalmatus* (Mitra 2005), which are thought to migrate to the Caribbean and South America at the close of the nesting season. Even so, the status of “Western” Willets during spring and the timing of their southbound arrival on the coast are worthy of careful attention and reporting to Regional Editors. Similarly, the identity of inland and winter sightings is worthy of careful scrutiny at the Regional level.

Sabine’s Gull (*Xema sabini*)

2006-31-A One juvenile, Democrat Point, Fire Island, **Suffolk**, 3 Sep (Shaibal S. Mitra)
2006-35-A One juvenile, Lake Champlain at Mullen Bay, Moriah, **Essex**, 23 Sep (Ted Murin)

The Fire Island Sabine’s Gull was spotted by Shai Mitra and Patricia Lindsay as they watched for seabirds pushed inshore by the passage of tropical storm *Ernesto*. After crossing Cuba, the storm skimmed the southern tip of Florida and then, after a brief sojourn over the Atlantic Ocean, made landfall again in North Carolina and proceeded inland (Davis *et al.* 2007). Another juvenile Sabine’s Gull was observed in Ithaca on 3 Sep. The Lake Champlain Sabine’s Gull, another juvenile, was observed by Ted Murin, JoAnn Lafayette, Bob Budliger and Heidi Rich as it flew over the middle of Lake Champlain, crossing the VT/NY state line in Mullen Bay. It is likely that small numbers of Sabine’s Gulls make their way through the Great Lakes en route to the Atlantic Ocean from their arctic breeding grounds and may follow natural water courses such as the St. Lawrence Seaway, Lake Champlain and the Hudson River.

Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*)

2006-68-A/B One adult, at sea [39° 52' 52" N, 72° 38' 43" W], approx. 60 nautical miles from Jones Inlet, **Nassau**, 11 Feb (Paul A. Guris, Angus Wilson; ph P. Guris, A. Wilson, Andy Guthrie (Fig. G, p. 55), Ed Coyle, Martin Lofgren)

With no accepted records east of Chicago, and with various potentially similar-looking hybrid combinations being equally or more plausible than the real thing, it would take an extraordinarily well-documented Western Gull to have any

chance of being accepted for any state in the northeast. Even then, the bird would likely have to be a “classic example,” perfect in nearly every respect, to garner the comfort level necessary to accept such a record. Remarkably, this gull, discovered off the coast of Long Island during a pelagic trip organized by Paul Guris and See Life Paulagics, was just such a bird! Found by one of the trip leaders, Frank Gallo, this white-headed adult was first noticed as it sat on the water with a group of Great Black-backed (*L. marinus*) and Herring (*L. argentatus smithsonianus*) Gulls, offering direct comparison. The area is a well known fishing spot and the water depth was 30 fathoms (approx. 180 feet). Although first called out as a probable Lesser Black-back Gull (*L. fuscus*), the observers very quickly realized that this was not correct. The structure seemed wrong, and the pink rather than yellow or yellowish leg color did not fit with the alternate or near-alternate plumage. Chum was used to bring the bird very close to the boat, at times within 10-15 yards, allowing close study of the bright yellow/orange bill and photo-documentation of the yellow orbital ring. During the 15-20 minute encounter, the gull was seen well by everyone onboard, including several members of this Committee, and it was extensively photographed. After returning to shore, a preliminary analysis by Shai Mitra and comments from several observers were posted on Angus Wilson’s OceanWanderers web site, prompting an in-depth discussion on the ID-Frontiers listserve by gull enthusiasts from all over North America. Understandably, most commentators were incredulous that this could be a Western Gull given the seemingly unlikely locality, but most agreed that this west coast species appeared to be the best fit for the gull under study.

The first-round deliberations by the Committee brought up no concerns with the identification. However, recognizing the extreme variability of large gulls and the possibility of hybrids, the Committee opted to send the documentation to several west coast birders who know the species extremely well. Of these, Alvaro Jaramillo, Steve Mlodinow and Peter Pyle were gracious enough to look over all of the documentation and to provide written comments, which the committee then considered in its final vote. Past Committee member Kevin McGowan kindly agreed to serve as a seventh voter, as Angus Wilson opted not to vote on his own submission. None of the three west coast reviewers had any concerns with the identification of this bird as a Western Gull and, as it must for a first state record, the Committee voted unanimously in favor of acceptance. The photographs and comments gathered during the internet discussions are now archived with NYSARC. Paul Guris also submitted a collection of photographs together with an extensive written analysis of the identification. In preparing the report, he visited the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, where he studied and photographed several skins. Photographs by Martin Lofgren have been published in *North American Birds* (2006 60(2)), including on the cover, and in *The Kingbird* (2006 56(2):186).

There are two subspecies of Western Gull, nominate *occidentalis*, which breeds from southern Washington to central California, and the more southerly *wymani*, which breeds from central California south into the Baja California peninsula of western Mexico. The west coast reviewers offered no

recommendation as to which subspecies might have been involved with the New York bird. Non-breeding and winter adult Western Gulls are found further north into British Columbia, further south to the tip of Baja California, and slightly further east to the northern end of the Gulf of California (Howell and Dunn 2007). A coastal specialist, Western Gulls are routinely found well offshore, especially in areas of active fishing, and the species tends not to stray far from saltwater and occurs rarely far inland. The most easterly records prior to the New York bird are from southern Lake Michigan (Wright and Komarek 1928) and southeastern Texas (Howell and Dunn 2007). A long-lived bird that ranged from Alabama to Florida, 1977-1990, was thought by some to be a Western Gull, but many believed it may have been a hybrid (Duncan 1982; Stevenson and Anderson 1994; Howell and Dunn 2007).

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

2006-50-A/C One, adult, Niagara River, Town of Lewiston, **Niagara**, 18 Nov & 31 Dec (William W. Watson, Willie D'Anna, Curtis A. Marantz; ph Sean Sime)

For the past several winters the churning waters below the Adam Beck Power Dam on the Niagara River have hosted at least one if not more California Gulls. These reports describe adult birds in basic plumage seen in the same area of the river on a variety of days. Although not proven, it is likely that the reports pertain to the same wintering individual.

Sooty Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*)

2006-30-A One, Democrat Point, Fire Island, **Suffolk**, 3 Sep (Shaibal S. Mitra)

This juvenile Sooty Tern was spotted by Shai Mitra, Patricia Lindsay and John Fritz as it entered the Fire Island Inlet. As discussed above in relation to the Sabine's Gull report, the remnants of tropical storm *Ernesto* passed to the west of New York on 2 Sep and were responsible for a large displacement of seabirds throughout the mid-Atlantic region. In excess of one hundred Sooty Terns were reported from across a large swath stretching from North Carolina to Connecticut. On 2 Sep, multiple Sooty Terns were found in Pennsylvania, 11 were counted flying past Cape May, NJ, and a juvenile was found in Stamford, CT (Davis *et al.* 2007).

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

2006-26-A/B One, 1st summer (1S), Cupsogue CP, near Moriches Inlet, **Suffolk**, 2 Jul (Shane Blodgett, Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Blodgett)

2006-70-A One, adult, Cupsogue CP, **Suffolk**, 29 May (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)

2006-71-A One, 2nd summer (2S), Cupsogue CP, **Suffolk**, 29 May (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)

2006-72-A One, 2S, Cupsogue CP, **Suffolk**, 9 Jul (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)

2006-73-A One, 1S, Cupsogue CP, **Suffolk**, 9 Jul (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)

2006-74-A One, 1S, Cupsogue CP, **Suffolk**, 8, 9 & 16 Jul (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)

2006-75-A One, 1S, Cupsogue CP, **Suffolk**, 9 Jul (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)

2006-76-A One, 1S, Cupsogue CP, **Suffolk**, 9 Jul (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)

Regular study by Shai Mitra and others of terns roosting on exposed sand flats at Cupsogue County Park, on the bayside just east of Moriches Inlet, has revealed the regular occurrence of non-breeding Arctic Terns, a species that breeds as *The Kingbird* 2009 March; 59 (1)

close to NYS as Massachusetts but for which there had only been three proven records in NYS prior to 1975. This excellent series of reports documents a number of individuals, all of which were extensively photographed; most of these were determined to be sub-adult birds in either their second (1st summer) or third (2nd summer) calendar year. By carefully noting plumage differences it became clear that multiple birds were visiting this one spot on successive days rather than there being a recurring individual or two. Awareness of the regular occurrence of non-breeding Arctic Terns around Long Island's ocean inlets has grown in several stages, beginning with P. A. Buckley's observations around Shinnecock and Sagaponack inlets in the early 1980s (Cooper 1998), followed by a series of records from Fire Island Inlet 1999-2000, and continuing with the recent series of reports from Moriches Inlet and occasionally elsewhere. Analysis of the historical, geographical, seasonal, and age/plumage trends in Arctic Tern records south of Massachusetts suggests that improved detection has been a major factor in the increasing frequency of records (see pp. 2-11), but it is also possible that we are witnessing a real jump in the frequency of occurrence, as was observed on Monomoy Island, MA, in the summers between 1975 and 1980 (Veit and Petersen 1993).

Common Murre (*Uria aalge*)

2006-46-A 20, at sea, various spots southwest of Jones Inlet, Nassau, 11 Feb (Paul A. Guris; ph Angus Wilson)

Scattered groups of Common Murres in various plumages were found during an organized pelagic trip aboard the *Capt. Lou VII* out of Freeport, Long Island, along with a Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*) (see below) and nine birds identified only as "murre species." The first Common Murre was found approximately 7.9 miles from Jones Inlet [40° 28' 36" N, 73° 31' 14" W] and the last at 35.5 miles [40° 07' 53" N, 73° 15' 23" W]. The first 14 birds were all seen in relatively shallow water (12-18 fathoms, 70-110 feet) and the remainder in slightly deeper water (20-22 fathoms, 120-130 feet). The water temperature was 42°-43°F. Recent observations from shore and at sea hint at profound changes in the winter distribution of several alcid species off the New England and Mid-Atlantic states (Veit and Guris 2008). A marked increase in the numbers of Razorbills (*Alca torda*) wintering in the waters around Long Island since about 1990 has been amply documented by land-based observers, and a growing body of data from Long Island, New Jersey and Rhode Island reveals a similar increase in the numbers of Common Murres offshore (Schiff and Wollin 1995; Lindsay and Mitra 2006). Interestingly, this is balanced by an apparent decline in the numbers of Thick-billed Murres, formerly the more numerous of the two murres in the region. The 20 or more Common Murres recorded on the 11 Feb pelagic represent a single day maximum for NYS.

Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*)

2006-45-A One, at sea [40° 30' 01" N, 73° 32' 07" W], ca. 6.1 miles southwest of Jones Inlet, Nassau, 11 Feb (Paul A. Guris)

This Thick-billed Murre was found at the beginning of an organized pelagic excursion to the Hudson Shelf Valley and only a relatively short distance from

Jones Inlet, in approximately 10 fathoms (60 feet) of water. The surface temperature was 42-43°F (5.6-6.1°C), and the area was obviously quite attractive to murres, as indicated by the record-breaking number of Common Murres (*Uria aalge*) seen over the next few miles (see above).

Razorbill (*Alca torda*)

2006-47-A/E One, mouth of Niagara River at Lake Ontario, **Niagara**, 19-28 Nov (William W. Watson, Jeanne Skelly, Gerald S. Lazarczyk, Dominic Sherony, Willie D'Anna; ph G. Lazarczyk, D. Sherony (Fig. G, p. 55), Jean Iron)

This basic-plumaged Razorbill, most likely a first-year bird, was discovered on 19 Nov by Norma Platt during a Rochester Birding Association field trip, as it fished in the outflow of the Niagara River. News spread quickly, and the bird was viewed from both the Canadian and US sides of the river mouth by birders in touch with each other by mobile phone. Written descriptions were supported by convincing digiscoped photographs showing the distinctive bill shape, black upper parts and relatively long tail. Although Razorbills are regular along the Atlantic coast of Long Island during the winter, this species is extremely rare on freshwater, including the Great Lakes, even after major storm events.

Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*)

2006-44-A One, at sea [39° 54' 58" N, 72° 41' 50" W], ca. 65.3 miles southwest of Jones Inlet, **Nassau**, 11 Feb (Paul A. Guris; ph Angus Wilson, Martin Lofgren)

This first-basic Atlantic Puffin marked the fifth alcid species of the day during the extremely successful 11 Feb Hudson Shelf Valley pelagic organized by See Life Paulagics aboard the *Capt. Lou VII* out of Freeport, Long Island. The water depth was approximately 30 fathoms (ca. 180 feet) and had a surface temperature of 46°F (7.7°C). The bird was viewed by everyone aboard ship and extensively photographed. It is likely that puffins are fairly regular during the winter months on the continental shelf, especially in areas of appropriate water temperature, but remain extremely rare close to shore. The Committee strongly encourages proper documentation of sightings from land or unusual numbers encountered offshore.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

2006-13-A One, Jones Beach West End, **Nassau**, 5 May (Shaibal S. Mitra)

2006-18-A One, Clinton, Town of Kirkland, **Oneida**, 5-6 Jun (Ian Rosenstein)

The Jones Beach dove was found by Anthony J. Lauro and provided decent views for a few lucky birders during its brief stay there. The Kirkland dove visited feeders in a private yard for two days and was observed alongside several Mourning Doves (*Zenaida macroura*) at close range. The detailed description of the plumage included an apparent minor bill deformity.

Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*)

2006-25-A Two, near entrance to Stewart International Airport, New Windsor, **Orange**, 27- 29 Jun, 1 Jul (Kenneth M. McDermott; ph Ken Kijewski, Jeff Goulding)

Two Monk Parakeets were observed and photographed at a feeder and later on a telephone pole on the side of a busy road, where they were attempting to build a

typical stick nest. It is not known what caused them to give up the nesting attempt and move on. Monk Parakeets have nested in the New York City area since 1971, notably in Brooklyn, Staten Island, and suburban Westchester, Nassau, and southwestern Suffolk counties, but the size and stability of these non-native populations have remained poorly known for a variety of reasons, including intermittent efforts at eradication, secrecy on the part of observers opposed to eradication, and inattention by many birders during periods when the species was not recognized on official checklists (Mitra 2008). Certainly, the species is quite rare away from the New York City region, and records such as this from outside the traditional areas are important because they may foreshadow expansions of the population into new areas.

Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*)

2006-51-A Two, near Point Peninsula, Town of Lyme, **Jefferson**, 10 Jun (Irene Mazzocchi, Edgar “Rusty” Walker; ph Mike Sicley)

On 10 Jun Edgar “Rusty” Walker noticed two Snowy Owls perched on a telephone pole along North Shore Road and then watched the birds fly north across a field and disappear. Two days later, whilst driving to work, Walker found one of the owls injured by the side of County Route 57, less than three miles away. He was able to capture the bird and deliver it into the care of wildlife rehabilitator Jackie Cooper. Irene Mazzocchi, who provided the report, identified the Snowy Owl as an immature male, presumably based on reduced dark spotting on the upperparts. After recuperating, the owl was eventually released back into the wild. Although Snowy Owls are regular in winter, these summer sightings are unusual as the species nests on the arctic tundra, several hundred miles north of our region.

Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*)

2006-1-A/G One, agricultural field off Rte. 63, near Lyndonville, Town of Yates, **Orleans**, 7-9 Jan, 4 Feb, 26 Feb (William W. Watson, Jeanne Skelly, Gerry Rising, Michael F. Galas, Gerald S. Lazarczyk, Robert Dekoff, Willie D’Anna; ph J. Skelly, R. Dekoff, W. D’Anna)

This cooperative first-year Northern Hawk Owl was discovered on 7 Jan when it was caught by Paul Schnell, Anne Terninko and Mike Crane during a hawk banding session. Local residents indicated that the bird had been in the area for at least two weeks prior to this. Despite its close encounter with humans, the owl remained in the area until 9 Mar, during which time it was seen and photographed by a large number of observers. This is the 4th record of Northern Hawk Owl for Region 1 and the first since 1963. A photograph by Willie D’Anna has been published in *North American Birds* 2006 60(3):354.

Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus latirostris*)

2006-23-A One, private residence, North Rose, **Wayne**, 23-24 Jun (Dorothy Legg, Harold Legg; ph D. & H. Legg (Fig. F, p. 54))

2006-29-A One, private residence, Owego, **Tioga**, 9-27 Aug (Jim Ballard; ph J. Ballard, Sue Ballard)

In the northeast, hummingbird enthusiasts are generally content with a single

species, but every once in a while the status quo is shattered by the arrival of an unexpected visitor from afar. On the morning of 23 Jun Dorothy and Harold Legg noticed an unfamiliar hummingbird at their sugar feeders and were able to take some photographs of it. The bird reappeared the following morning but not thereafter. Three images were submitted to the Committee along with a report, and these clearly show a male Broad-billed Hummingbird by virtue of the prominent red base of the long, slightly down-curved bill, iridescent green plumage, darker green flanks and diffuse white edge of the ear coverts. In combination, these features rule out all other species, including Salvin's Hummingbird, a known hybrid between Broad-billed and Violet-crowned (*Amazilia violiceps*). Two months later another male Broad-billed Hummingbird was spotted visiting a feeder at the Ballard residence in Owego. Again, photographs were taken and shown to local birders Marie Petuh and Sara Kinch, who quite naturally visited the feeders forthwith but were, it seems, too late. The photos were forwarded to Dorothy Crumb and Kevin McGowan, who confirmed the identification and spread the news over the internet. This sighting comes two months after the disappearance of the male in Wayne Co. some 87 miles away. Although the chronology and relatively short distance make it possible that the two sightings involved the same wandering male, this has not been proven. A color photograph by Jim & Sue Ballard of the Toiga County bird has been published (*Kingbird* 2007 57(1):49).

Broad-billed Hummingbird is essentially endemic to the arid scrub deserts of Mexico, with a short extension north of the border into Arizona and New Mexico. On face value, vagrancy to NYS might seem unlikely because Broad-billed Hummingbirds are short- rather than long-distance migrants, typically retreating from the northern part of their range during the colder months (Oct-Feb). However, a persistent and expanding pattern of vagrancy has been established, with regular sightings in California and Texas and accepted records from Wisconsin (Oct 2000), Illinois (Nov 1996), Michigan (Jun 1996, Jul 2000), Ontario (Oct 1989), New Brunswick (Oct 1999, possibly from Sep), and North Carolina (Oct 2001). Although most of these vagrants have occurred in the mid-to-late fall, both of the Michigan records were during the summer, and in May 2006, a Broad-billed Hummingbird was documented in Halifax, Nova Scotia. More recently there are additional well-documented sightings from Massachusetts (Aug-Nov 2008) and Connecticut (Aug 2008). Interestingly, a Green Violetear (*Colibri thalassinus*), also from Mexico, was discovered in Monmouth Co., New Jersey on 23-24 Aug 2006 (Barnes 2006, Barnes *et al.* 2006).

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

2006-49-A/B One, Lenoire Nature Preserve, Yonkers, **Westchester**, 23-30 Nov (Barry Freed, Michael Bochnik; ph B. Freed, M. Bochnik, Steve Walter (Fig. F, p. 54))

2006-59-A One, private residence, Northport, **Suffolk**, 2, 9, 10 Dec (Ed Coyle; ph E. Coyle)

The Lenoire hummingbird was discovered by Ed Higgins on Thanksgiving Day morning, and he promptly alerted Michael Bochnik, who provided a very comprehensive report. Careful study in the field, combined with a superb *The Kingbird* 2009 March; 59 (1)

photograph by Steve Walter showing the spread tail, firmly established the identification as an immature female Rufous rather than the extremely similar Allen's Hummingbird (*S. sasin*). The rectrices were broad and round tipped, and the absence of rufous on R1 is indicative of a female. The bird was seen regularly until 30 Nov. Remarkably, this is the third Rufous/Allen's hummingbird to have been observed at the Lenoire Nature Preserve in only six years. Presumably the abundance of late-flowering plants (notably pineapple sage, *Salvia elegans*) in the well-maintained Beverly E. Smith Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden, combined with its prominent location overlooking the lower reaches of the Hudson River, help to make this delightful preserve a premier location in the region for vagrant hummingbirds. The Northport hummingbird was identified as a first-year female and was watched and photographed as it visited sugar feeders and flowering pineapple sage provided by very gracious host Norm Klein. Valuable photographs of the spread tail were obtained when the bird perched on a twig to preen and stretch; this confirmed that the outer tail feathers were rounded, with distinct emarginations on R2. The bird stayed at these friendly confines from 26 Nov to 29 Jan 2007.

Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*)

2006-52-A One, Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, **Westchester**, 19 Nov (Thomas W. Burke; ph Gail Benson)

This Hammond's Flycatcher was found and identified by Tom Burke in an overgrown former garden and was photographed by Gail Benson. Although extremely elusive at times, the flycatcher was seen and heard in the same area by a number of birders during the following few days. Identification of fall *Empidonax* can be very difficult, and in this case it was essential to rule out two major contenders, Least (*E. minimus*) and Dusky (*E. oberholseri*) Flycatchers. In addition to a suite of plumage and structural characters, the distinctive call notes were captured on video, although a copy of the video was not submitted to the archive. A color photograph by Gail Benson has been published (*Kingbird* 2007 57(1):49 and *North American Birds* 2007 61(1):43). This is the second record of Hammond's Flycatcher for NYS and first for Westchester County. The prior record (26-27 Nov 2001, Jones Beach, Nassau Co., NYSARC 2001-44-A/C) was also in the late fall.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

2006-33-A/E One, Robert Moses State Park, **Suffolk**, 24-25 Sep (James F. C. Osterlund, Angus Wilson, Lloyd Spitalnik, Shaibal S. Mitra, John Gluth; ph J. Osterlund, A. Wilson, L. Spitalnik, S. Mitra, J. Gluth)

This well-documented Say's Phoebe was discovered by Shai Mitra on an otherwise mediocre day for fall migrants along the outer barrier beach of Long Island. The flycatcher frequented the western end of Parking Field 5, often alighting on prominent perches such as signs and fence posts. This set of reports is notable for the exemplary written descriptions, including a thorough analysis of the identification, and the sheer number of outstanding supporting photographs.

Boreal Chickadee (*Poecile hudsonica*)

2006-3-A One, private residence, Palenville, Town of Catskill, **Greene**, 16 Jan & 2 Feb (Larry Federman; ph L. Federman)

This Boreal Chickadee was studied and photographed alongside other feeder visitors including several Black-capped Chickadees (*P. atricapillus*), providing direct comparison. Features noted included the brown cap and extensive rusty flanks. Although generally true to their name, Boreal Chickadees occasionally wander away from boreal habitat into central NYS or down the Hudson River watershed.

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

2006-39-A/E One, Batavia Water Treatment Plant, Batavia, **Genesee**, 21-23 Oct (Jeanne Skelly, Gerald S. Lazarczyk, Dominic Sherony, Michael Morgante, Willie D'Anna; ph G. Lazarczyk, D. Sherony, W. D'Anna)

This first-basic Northern Wheatear was discovered by Mike Morgante and seen by numerous local birders during its three-day stay. The wheatear favored the rocky ground surrounding the sewage impoundments, often perching on rocks, fence posts and other prominent objects before sallying forth to snatch insects. This is the third record for Region 1, with the previous records being from the end of Sep 1965 and 1967. The fall of 2006 was noted for the number of Northern Wheatear reports in southeastern Canada and the eastern United States (Smith 2007; Schmoker and Leukering 2007). Color photographs by Willie D'Anna and Dominic Sherony have been published previously (*Kingbird* 2007 57(1): 49 and *North American Birds* 2007 61(1): 44).

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)

2006-9-A One, Taylor Road, Hamburg, **Erie**, 1 Jan (Michael Zebehy)

This thrush was studied briefly in the late afternoon as it perched high in a deciduous tree overlooking the road. Unfortunately, it took flight before the observer and his companion could get a scope on to it for better views, and it was not subsequently relocated.

Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*)

2006-56-A/B One, private residence off Duck Pond Road, Matinecock, **Nassau**, 22 Dec (Thomas W. Burke, Mary Normandia; ph Sean Sime (Fig. F, p. 54), Sam Crosby)

Carol Johnston noticed this first-basic male Townsend's Warbler on 11 Dec when it visited her suet feeder. It was sighted regularly at the feeder until 4 Feb 2007, which coincided with a particularly cold spell. Written descriptions were supported by 10 color photographs. There have been fewer than 20 prior records of this attractive western warbler.

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*)

2006-19-A One, Mohonk Preserve, New Paltz, **Ulster**, 11 Jun (Jim Marks)

This Swainson's Warbler was studied for about five minutes as it walked about on the trail in front of observers Jim Marks, Jim Spears, Alita Marks and Liz Hester until disappearing into the side brush. The description made mention of the large bill, unmarked creamy underparts and rufous cap. This secretive

southern warbler breeds in appropriate habitat in the Gulf Coast and Mid-Atlantic States, including West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina, but remains rare in NYS. The early June date is fairly typical for records north of the core range. The Mohonk Preserve is located on the edge of the Shawangunk Ridge, an extension of the Appalachians, raising the strong possibility that this individual is from the Appalachian (laurel forest) rather than coastal population.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)

2006-48-A/B One, private residence, Lake Road, Wilson, **Niagara**, 13-16 Nov (William W. Watson, Willie D'Anna; ph W. D'Anna)

Betsy Potter first noticed this Summer Tanager when it perched briefly on the deck railing of the Potter/D'Anna residence. A quick phone call brought her partner Willie D'Anna rushing home and, after an anxious 45 minute wait, the bird finally reappeared. The tanager visited the yard several times during the following week through 21 Nov, often remaining high in some deciduous trees, where it appeared to be catching flying insects. It was also seen eating berries and sunflower seeds, and during its stay many visiting birders were able to view the bird. Summer Tanagers are far more typical of the spring, and this record is notable as only the second fall occurrence in Region 1.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*)

2006-55-A/D One first-basic, private residence on Upland Street, Irondequoit, **Monroe**, 3 Jan-6 May (Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly, William W. Watson, Curtis A. Marantz; ph D. Sherony)

Homeowner Gerhard Leubner first noticed this Harris's Sparrow in his yard on 2 Dec 2005, and although sometimes elusive, it was seen on most days up to 6 May, when presumably it began its journey back to central Canada. Remarkably, this was the second Harris's Sparrow to visit Mr. Leubner's yard—the first occurring 35 years earlier on 27 Apr 1971. A photograph by Richard Ashworth was published in the *Kingbird* (2007 57(2):146).

LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*)

2006-41-A One, along Haven Road, Bashakill, Town of Mamakating, **Sullivan**, 22 Oct (John H. Haas; ph J. Haas)

This LeConte's Sparrow was found mid-morning by John Haas in some weedy grass at the side of Haven Road and was viewed by several other birders during the day, only to have vanished by the next morning. Initially it was presumed to be a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*A. nelsoni*), a more likely *Ammodramus* at this inland site, but with better study the key field marks began to fall into place and are clearly evident in the photographs that accompanied the report. These include the white median crown stripe, unmarked buffy breast and pronounced black streaks on the flanks and upperparts.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)

2006-37-A One, along Noyac Path, Watermill, **Suffolk**, 15 Oct (Hugh McGuinness)

This Painted Bunting was studied briefly when it joined a mixed flock of migrant passerines along the weedy edge of a road separating oak woodland from some fields. Unfortunately, the bird could not be relocated after this initial sighting.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

2006-62-A One female, Pennsylvania Avenue Landfill, Brooklyn, **Kings**, 14-22 Jun (Andrew Bernick; ph A. Bernick)

2006-63-A One male, Fountain Avenue Landfill, Brooklyn, **Kings**, 14 Aug-1 Sep (Andrew Bernick; ph A. Bernick)

These former city refuse dumps are situated on the northern shore of Jamaica Bay and are currently closed to the public during the final phase of a project to convert them to parkland. Whilst conducting survey work for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, Kristen Schaumburg and Andrew Bernick noticed a female Yellow-headed Blackbird among a flock Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) foraging on the Pennsylvania Avenue site. The blackbird ranged over the straw-covered slopes of the newly capped pile and, at low-tide, moved onto the exposed mudflats of the Fresh Creek Basin. Later in the summer, Andrew Bernick found an immature male at the nearby Fountain Avenue site. This individual also ranged widely over the former landfill and adjacent shoreline. Yellow-headed Blackbirds are quite rare on Long Island, and the discovery of two individuals within a few miles of each other in a single season is remarkable.

2006 Reports Accepted Origins Uncertain or Unnatural

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*)

2006-27-A One subadult, near Tupper Lake, Moody, **Franklin**, 21, 26, 29 Mar (Tom Dudones; ph T. Dudones, Alan McFadden)

2006-54-A One adult, Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, **Seneca**, 29 Jul (Brendan Fogarty; ph B. Fogarty)

The Tupper Lake swan was studied and photographed alongside Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*), Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and other waterfowl and is likely an offspring of one of several nesting pairs in the region, the closest being at Perch River WMA to the northeast. Trumpeter Swans are not native to NYS, and most are descended from an introduction program in southern Ontario that began in 1982. Over time, the species may establish a self-sustaining breeding population in NYS, supplemented in winter by visitors from Ontario. See Sherony and Boslinger (2007) for a more detailed consideration of the current status of Trumpeter Swan in the state.

2006 Reports Accepted in Revised Form

Shearwater sp. (*Puffinus* species)

2006-40-A One, on Lake Ontario, Derby Hill, Town of Mexico, Oswego, 23 Oct (Bill Purcell)

This black-and-white shearwater was watched for less than a minute as it flew in a westerly direction along the lakeshore during a storm. A description and thoughtful analysis of the identification were submitted by one of the two observers, naming the bird as a Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*). Although it was battling into a strong wind, the bird alternated between periods of flapping and gliding on stiff wings in typical shearwater style. The Committee agrees that Manx would fit the details provided but felt that under these difficult observation conditions, it was not possible to fully eliminate the very similar Audubon's Shearwater (*P. lherminieri*). Given that any shearwater on the lake is a remarkable find, the Committee felt it necessary to be very cautious about identifying the bird to species.

Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus/sasin*)

2006-34-A One, private residence, Lake Delaware shore, Delhi, Delaware, 17-28 Sep (Ruth Pedersen; ph Joanne Lowe)

2006-43-A One, private residence, Patchogue, Suffolk, 1 Nov (James F. C. Osterlund; ph J. Osterlund)

Both hummingbirds were submitted as Rufous Hummingbirds (*Selasphorus rufus*). The Lake Delaware hummingbird frequented Ruth Pedersen's sugar feeders and was also seen catching flies from the top of some *viburnum* bushes. Photographs by Joanne Lowe indicated an adult female rather than immature male based on the extent of green feathering, presence of a dark smudge on the throat, and the rather worn plumage. Unfortunately, the very similar Allen's Hummingbird (*S. sasin*) could not be ruled out from the description or photos. This hummingbird was last seen 21 Dec. The Patchogue bird was judged to be an immature male and regularly visited a sugar feeder during the first few days of November, disappearing on 6 Nov. Appreciating the identification challenge, the observer tried to obtain photographs of the spread tail with the goal of distinguishing between Rufous and Allen's but was not successful.

1996 Report Accepted

Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*)

1996-95-A One, side of Route 189, Lorraine, Jefferson, 9 Sep (Robert C. Walker; ph R. Walker, Gerald A. Smith)

This dark-mantled tern was found by Jay and Kristin Matteson on the side of the road following the passage of Hurricane *Fran*. The identification as a Sooty Tern was established by Robert Walker, the submitter of this report, as well as June Walker, Gerry Smith and wildlife rehabilitator David Plante. Although alive, the tern was emaciated and died 48 hours later. Four photographs were provided along with a clipping from the *Watertown Daily Times*, and the

specimen was subsequently given to Cornell University. Even though a decade has past, the Committee very much appreciates receiving the report and accompanying documentation.

1993 Report Accepted

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

1993-75-A One, Vanderbilt Island, Jefferson, 24 Sep (Robert C. Walker; ph & sketch R. Walker)

This Northern Wheatear was studied for two periods totaling 10 minutes on 24 Sep but was first discovered by the landowners, Mr. and Mrs. George Houghton, on the 21st, remaining until at least 25 Sep. Photographs were obtained by Bob Walker. Vanderbilt Island is a tiny islet in the St. Lawrence River equipped with a boat house and area of exposed rock favored by the wheatear. The late Sep date is fairly typical of this attractive Old World species, which nests in Greenland and occasionally migrates south through North America rather than returning to continental Europe and its normal wintering grounds in sub-Saharan Africa.

1968 Report Accepted

Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*)

1968-1-A One male, along railroad tracks near Rhinecliff, Dutchess, 5 Nov (submitted by Barbara Butler)

This basic-plumaged male Chestnut-collared Longspur was studied for one and a half hours as it fed in a patch of foxtail grass. The report included original notes by Helen Manson, who was accompanied by Alice Jones, and was brought to the Committee's attention by Barbara Butler, Records Chairman of the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, who provided contextual notes and a letter from a *Kingbird* Regional Editor explaining why the sighting would not be included in the regional report. At that time, there were only four prior records, all from Long Island. The Committee felt that the description, while brief, was fully consistent with Chestnut-collared Longspur and provided convincing descriptions of multiple characters, including vocalizations, the distinctive tail pattern, and hints of the black breast and belly feathering typical of alternate plumage. The species was listed as "hypothetical" in *The Birds of Dutchess County* (DeOrsey and Butler 2006) on the basis of this report; it should now be considered the first county record.

REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

Reports are not accepted for various reasons. The most frequent is that the material submitted to the Committee was considered insufficient or too vague to

properly document the occurrence and/or eliminate similar species. Reports that simply state the species and location of the bird(s) but provide no description to support the identification are rarely accepted. Likewise, simply stating that it looked just like the illustration in the field guide is not sufficient. Records are never rejected because the observer is unfamiliar to the Committee or has had records rejected in the past. Every effort is made to be as fair and objective as possible, but if the Committee is unsure about a submission, it will take a conservative stance, preferring not to accept a good record over validating a bad one. All submissions, whether accepted or not, remain in the archive and can be re-evaluated if additional substantive material is presented. The Secretary or Chair can advise on whether the new information is sufficient to warrant re-evaluation by the Committee. Descriptions prepared from memory months or years after a sighting are seldom voted on favorably. The Committee cannot overstate the importance of taking field notes while the bird is under study or, if this is not possible, immediately afterwards. It is very helpful to include a photocopy of your field notes with the report. This helps the Committee to know what was seen at the time of the actual observation, before field guides or other sources of information were consulted. Field sketches, no matter how crude, can be extremely useful in illustrating what you saw. Lastly, when writing a report, it is very important to explain how you settled on the identification. *What feature did you see or hear that clinched the identification for you?* This is a vital aspect of any rare bird report and is all too frequently omitted. Providing a detailed answer to this basic question will greatly enhance the report and further improve your birding skills.

2006 Reports Not Accepted

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

2006-65-A/D One first-winter, Spearman Road, Cumberland Head, Plattsburg, Clinton, 27 & 28 Nov

The committee was concerned that aspects of the plumage description, particularly the dirty or dark appearance of some of the neck, and the lack of a good description of the overall shape of the bird, did not adequately eliminate Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*). Likewise, the sketch provided could not be clearly assigned to Red-necked or Western Grebe. Also troubling was the fact that the observers made no mention of or comparison to the Western Grebe seen in the same general location almost four weeks earlier.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)

2006-24-A One, Central Park reservoir, New York City, New York, 30 Jun

When first spotted, this all dark waterbird was circling low over the center of the reservoir at a distance of 300 yards or so from the observer, who studied the bird carefully with binoculars and made field notes which were provided in the report. The bird gained some altitude before turning to the north-east but unfortunately did not give a clear view of the upperparts, and the presence of

whitish wing coverts (a definitive plumage character for this species versus a cormorant) was not noticed. There are far more reports of Anhinga than there are accepted records, and firmly ruling out the various plumages of Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) is a challenge, including when the latter is observed soaring and providing an unexpected silhouette for a cormorant.

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*)

2006-5-A One, over Fishkill, Dutchess, 5 Feb

This long-winged and long-tailed bird was viewed by naked eye as it drifted high over the observer in a southeasterly direction. Although frigatebirds are fairly distinctive, the Committee felt that the generalized description and mid-winter date left too much uncertainty for acceptance, even as a frigatebird species.

Harris's Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*)

2006-36-A One, at the Orange County Environmental Facility, New Hampton, Orange, summer and fall 2006

This hawk was described as rusty brown with a white rump patch. While suggestive of Harris's Hawk, a species not yet recorded in NYS, the same details also fit a female or juvenile Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*).

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

2006-6-A One immature, Fairhaven SP, Cayuga, 27 Jan

This bulky falcon was seen in flight and then perched in a cottonwood tree, allowing a few minutes of study through a telescope. Although the details were strongly suggestive of Gyr Falcon, the tail and wing tips were obscured by a branch and could thus not be evaluated. In addition to Peregrine Falcon (*F. peregrinus*), observers should keep in mind the possibility of more exotic species as well as hybrids that are used by falconers.

Razorbill (*Alca torda*)

2006-38-A One, on Lake Ontario, Derby Hill, Oswego, 21 Oct

This black and white bird was observed for only a few seconds as it flew along the lake shore at an estimated distance of 200m from the observer, who was using a telescope. He felt it was slightly smaller than a scoter and roughly football shaped. The upperparts were black and contrasted with white underparts. The very rapid wing beats were suggestive of an alcid. The Committee deliberated over this record but ultimately came to the conclusion that the detail reported was not sufficient to confirm this identification and rule out other alternatives, including other species of alcids.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

2006-2-A One, Main Street, Clarence, Erie, 13 Jan

The description indicates that this was a domesticated dove.

Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*)

2006-69-A One female-type, private residence, Fredonia, **Chautaugua**, May-Aug 2006 & 2007

This distinctive female hummingbird took up residence in a private yard during the summers (May-Aug) of 2006 and 2007. The observer believed it to be paired with a male Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*A. colubris*) based on their shared flight path to the sugar feeders. Two photographs of marginal quality were provided, together with a slight enlargement of one of the images. The field identification of female *Archilochus* hummingbirds is notoriously difficult and requires a very high level of documentation (see Howell 2002 for details). Although the Committee agreed that this was indeed a distinctive individual, it felt that neither the photographs nor the written description provided enough detail to establish this as a Black-chinned, a species not yet recorded in NYS. Moreover, some of the features cited as evidence against it being a Ruby-throated are not established in the literature.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)

2006-17-A One, Old Furnace Road, Paradox, **Essex**, 25 May

This Robin-sized bird was viewed for only 15 seconds or so, during which time the observer noticed a dark band running across its orange breast. Although suggestive of Varied Thrush, the Committee felt that there was simply not enough detail to positively rule out other species.

Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*)

2006-14-A One, private residence, Fort Greene, Brooklyn, **Kings**, 26 May

This thrush was heard but was not seen as it sang from the underbrush of a private yard. Although the observer has been involved in Bicknell's Thrush studies in Vermont, and thus presumably knows the song well, no rendition of the song was provided in the report nor was there any discussion as to how the song differed from other *Catharus* thrushes, notably Gray-checked Thrush (*C. minimus*).

CONTRIBUTORS

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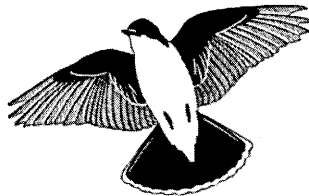
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AN EXEMPLARY NYSARC REPORT FROM 2006

Rufous Hummingbird 2006-49-B

DATE(S) OF OBSERVATION: November 23-26, 2006, December 1-3, 8,10, 18, 23, 30, January 6, 2007.

LOCALITY: Beverly E. Smith Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden located at the Lenoir Nature Preserve in Yonkers, Westchester County.

TIME & LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: Numerous observations varying from 20 seconds while visiting feeder to 15 minutes while resting on a perch.

OTHER OBSERVER(S): Ed Higgins, Kelli Jewell, Joe O'Connell, Tom Burke, Gail Benson and many others.

LIGHT CONDITIONS: Initially in a light rain, but subsequently in bright sunshine with direct lighting of the hummingbird.

DISTANCE IN FEET: 6-30

OPTICS: Bausch and Lomb 10X42 Elites and Kowa scope (32X)

NUMBER/SIZE/SHAPE: I received a phone call from Ed Higgins on a rainy Thanksgiving morning November 23, 2006. He had a hummingbird that looked "brownish" at the Beverly E. Smith Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden located at the Lenoir Nature Preserve in Yonkers, Westchester County. I arrived at the preserve around 11:30 AM in a light rain and met up with Joe O'Connell, Kelli Jewell, Tom Burke and Gail Benson.

A small hummingbird eventually came into a feeder. In profile the shape of the bird was somewhat stout, not elongated and the tail extended well past the wingtips.

COLOR & PATTERN: The hummingbird was seen a few times drinking from one of the four feeders in the garden, the one above the blooming Pineapple Sage. The hummingbird was green on the upperparts and had fairly bright rufous sides extending into the belly, the upper chest was whitish and the throat had a small gorget patch in the center. The rest of the throat was whitish with small flecks of dark. There was noticeable rufous in the face. Flashes of rufous were seen in the tail as it flew to and away from the feeder. Based on this we knew we had Lenoir's third selasphorus hummingbird in six years (2001, 2002). Due to time constraints (turkey dinner waiting) and an uncooperative bird, I did not get a look at the tail (feeder blocking it when sitting).

The next day was bright and sunny. I finally got great looks at the bird including its tail. In profile the shape of the bird was somewhat stout, not

elongated and the tail extended well past the wingtips. The back, uppertail coverts and nape were a bright green with some rufous on the sides of the lower back. The crown seemed darker green than the nape. In the face a small white spot was immediately behind the eye and this was surrounded by some rufous. The rufous in the face was most prominent on the cheek and below the eye. The center of the throat had an orange/red gorget patch in good light. The rest of the throat was fairly clean, whitish with only a few small darker marks. When sitting and facing away I saw that the center tail feathers (R1) had no rufous visible. R1 was green blending to black at the tip. We were dealing with a female Allen's/Rufous Hummingbird. The bird briefly spread its tail when leaving one of the feeders. R2-R5 had rufous bases sharply followed by black, R3-R5 had very prominent white tips. The tail was graduated with R5 shorter than R4, and R4 shorter than R3. All rectrices were wide and surprisingly rounded at the tip. In this brief flash of the tail feathers, R5 looked to be about 2/3 as wide as R4 and about 1/2 as wide as the center tail feathers R1.

BEHAVIOR: Vocalized rarely; a series of plaintive twittering notes, usually as feeders were being filled.

Fed from hummingbird feeders and blooming Pineapple Sage. Frequently seen catching small insects by hovering over the garden and surrounding area and stabbing at the small gnats.

HABITAT: Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden with four feeders and Pineapple Sage in bloom. The garden is located at the edge of a large sloping open field and adjacent to a White Pine stand.

HOW IDENTIFICATION WAS DETERMINED: Steve Walter took a great digital image of the tail spread out; most comments after this are based on my own observations as well as this photograph.

The tail extending well past the wingtips and extensive rufous in the base of the tail feathers ruled out Calliope Hummingbird.

The stout profile, rufous in the face, rufous extending across the base of R4 eliminate Broad-tailed Hummingbird.

That leaves Rufous/Allen's. To attempt to correctly identify the bird one must sex and age the bird first. The lack of rufous in center tail feathers eliminated both adult male and immature male Rufous /Allen's and clearly point to a female.

The throat at first suggested adult female. The center gorget patch was fairly prominent (9-12 feathers). But the tail feathers were all wrong. Adult female Rufous/Allen's should have tapered tail feathers, narrowing toward the tips. All tail feathers were quite blunt and rounded. Most adult females have nearly all green center tail feathers to the tip with some having just a small black tip. On this bird there was a fair amount of black at the tip extending down the sides. R4 is also tipped with white. The white tips of R3-5 were extensive. All this strongly points to an immature female.

The throat bothered me for a while. Some guides indicate that immature females have unmarked throats with some having a small center gorget patches. But given the late date for the discovery, and if this bird was hatched relatively early in the year, these things could account for the size of the patch. Immature females will develop the center gorget feather through the fall and winter. Allen Chartier's web page on a Niagara Falls 2004 bird had the hummingbird developing four gorget feathers by late fall, "where a week ago she was showing none": <<http://www.ofo.ca/photos/rufoushummer/>>. Sheri L. Williamson's *Hummingbirds of NA* states "Females tend to acquire more iridescence in gorget with each molt." and "immatures begin molting shortly after arrival on wintering grounds, often extending into spring migration" (p 226).

Another website <<http://www.hiltonpond.org/ThisWeek061022.html>> has pictures of two hatch year females, one with three metallic throat feathers (this bird returned four years in a row) and another with seven. There is also a nice comparison of the tapered tail feathers of an adult female vs. the rounded tail feather of a hatch year female Rufous.

Immature females pose the greatest challenge for separating Rufous from Allen's. The widths of all tail feathers are the widest for each species for this sex and age. The field mark for Rufous on R2, the indentation on the inner side towards the tip, is "lacking or poorly developed ... on most immature female Rufous" (Steve N.G. Howell's photo guide).

Steve Walter's picture of the spread tail shows a hint of an indentation on the farther R2. The R2 tail feather is shown at a shallow angle and the indentation appears as a straight edge in the picture.

R1 and R2 are very broad, strongly suggesting Rufous over Allen's. R5 is also quite broad (notice in Steve Walter's photo that part of the white tip is missing which at first glance suggests a narrow tail feather but the far edge of R5 shows where the white is partially missing). All this points to an immature female Rufous Hummingbird.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

The bird was never in view with other species. I am very familiar with Rufous Hummingbirds having studied the two that were here in 2001 and in 2002.

In my trips to Arizona, I spent much time becoming familiar with similar species such as Broad-tailed Hummingbird and other species. I've seen Allen's Hummingbird in California.

OTHER EVIDENCE

Digital photos attached.

Michael Bochnik

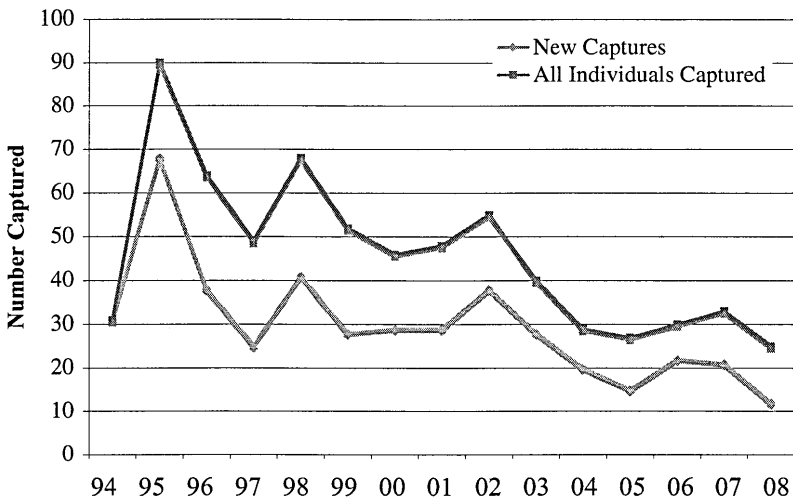
86 Empire Street, Yonkers, New York 10704

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

DECLINING CAPTURE RATES FOR GRAY CATBIRDS BREEDING IN EASTERN SUFFOLK COUNTY, LONG ISLAND

I have operated a summer banding station in Moore's Woods, Greenport, Suffolk County, Long Island since 1994, in cooperation with the Institute for Bird Populations' MAPS program (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship). Birds are captured in 12-meter mist nets that are operated for six hours per session, starting at 10 minutes after sunrise. Each year, nine nets are set up in the same place and operated on seven evenly spaced days, in the months of June and July (breeding season).

During 2008, I banded 131 new birds, which is above the 14-year average (109.6). The recapture of 23 birds from previous seasons is below the average (29.4). New captures of three species, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker and Wood Thrush were each more than two standard deviations above their long-term averages. Only one species, Northern Cardinal, was more than one standard deviation below its 15-year average. Even so, Gray Catbird has been on a steady decline and hit a new low of 23 new captures in 2008 as compared to 90 in 1995 and a 14 year average of 31.8, as shown in the chart. Other observers have reported recent declines in breeding populations of Gray Catbirds on Long Island (e.g., Ken and Sue Feustel *The Kingbird* 57: 358).



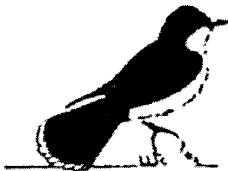
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CALIFORNIA GULL IN CENTRAL NYS: FIRST RECORD FOR THE CAYUGA LAKE BASIN

Thomas B. Johnson
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On November 1, 2008, I was birding with Ann Mitchell, Chris Wiley, and Shawn Billerman in Aurora Bay on the east side of Cayuga Lake. We had just left Long Point State Park where Shawn had spotted a rare Pacific Loon and were driving north into the town of Aurora when I noticed a large number of gulls on the lake and pulled the car over. This area, the mouth of Paines Creek, has a few gravel islands where geese and gulls often congregate. Getting out of the car, I made a hopeful but joking quip about "the California Gull" that we were about to see. Less than a minute after beginning to scan the flock, my absurd prediction was realized when an adult California Gull appeared in the middle of my scope's field of view, standing on the gravel with a flock of Ring-billed Gulls. I noticed the bird's larger size in comparison with Ring-billed Gulls, slightly darker gray mantle, yellowish legs, dark eye, and long yellow bill with red and black gonydeal markings. The outer primaries showed extensive black above; the undersides of the primaries were medium gray, appearing darker than Herring or Ring-billed Gulls. After I took some documentary photos, other birders began to arrive and were able to enjoy this rarity (see photo by Kevin McGowan, Fig. E, p. 53). The California Gull returned to the mouth of Paines Creek each day until November 4, the last day it was found.

This incidence constitutes the first record of California Gull for the Cayuga Lake Basin. To date, NYSARC has reviewed 36 reports of California Gull from New York and accepted 30 records. Of these 30 accepted records, only three are from locations away from Niagara County, where California Gull is now recorded annually. Two of those non-Niagara records involve the same adult California Gull that returned to Rockland Lake, Rockland County from 1978-1982, apparently the first record for the northeastern United States. The other non-Niagara record is from Elmira, Chemung County, from 1998 (NYSARC 2008: <http://www.nybirds.org/NYSARC/RecordsSummary.htm>).



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—FALL 2008

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THE WEATHER

September was generally mild statewide, with temperatures averaging near or somewhat above normal. Two tropical systems affected the state in early to mid September. Tropical Storm *Hanna* moved up the coast and passed New York City and Long Island on 6 September. The remnants of Hurricane *Ike* brought precipitation and high winds to western New York in the middle of the month. More details on the avian effects of these two systems are included below and in the Regional reports. Statewide, October averaged slightly colder than normal with nearly 50% more precipitation than average. For November, the temperature statewide was near normal but precipitation was somewhat lower than average.

WATERFOWL/WATERBIRDS

Waterfowl migration was considered normal to slow for the most part. One consistent theme across most Regions is the continued increase in reports of Cackling Goose. This species was reported from seven of the nine reporting Regions this period, with a remarkable high count of 73 from Hamlin Beach in Region 2. As noted in the Region 3 report, it's hard to know how much of the uptick in reports is due to increased observer knowledge and effort rather than a real increase in the number of birds. Greater White-fronted Geese were reported from Regions 2, 3, 7 and 10, and Ross's Geese were seen in Regions 3 and 7, with Region 3 setting a new Regional maximum of nine at Montezuma NWR on 24 October. A Ross's x Snow Goose hybrid was identified in Region 9; as birders have become more aware of this hybrid combination, possible Ross's Geese have been subject to heightened scrutiny. Barnacle Goose was found in two locations in Region 10. Ducks were highlighted by Eurasian Wigeon in Regions 3, 6, and 10; Barrow's Goldeneye in Regions 2 and 7; and King Eider in Regions 2, 9, and 10.

A second-hand report of a nesting attempt by Trumpeter Swan was reported in Region 1, as the species continues to increase its numbers in New York and the Northeast in general. An apparent Trumpeter x Tundra Swan hybrid was found in Region 2.

Red-throated Loon numbers were low in Region 2 and there were no peak movements noted at the Hamlin Beach lakewatch there. Region 3 recorded Pacific Loons at two locations on Cayuga Lake in November, possibly the same

bird, and perhaps the same individual that has been in the general area for the last several winters. The only Eared Grebes for the season were at the traditional Batavia location in Region 1, with up to three found there. Northern Gannets appeared upstate with one in Region 1 and four in Region 2; downstate, they appeared in western Long Island Sound at Rye in Region 9, and a nice count of 1,000 was tallied at Robert Moses State Park in Region 10. A Great Cormorant was inland in Region 2 at Hamlin Beach.

A few impressively rare seabirds were delivered to New York by two tropical systems this fall. In September, in the wake of Tropical Storm *Hanna* a Magnificent Frigatebird was found at Mecox Bay and tracked westward to Moriches Inlet by a number of birders keeping in contact via cell phone. A Bridled Tern was also found following *Hanna*, at Democrat Point in Region 10. Even more unusual was a Magnificent Frigatebird found on Cayuga Lake in Region 3 following the passage of the remnants of Hurricane *Ike* to the west. This provided the first record for the Cayuga Lake and the second inland record for the State. A number of observers were able to see the bird the day of its discovery but unfortunately it was found dead the next day under the tree in which it went to roost. The specimen was salvaged and preserved at the Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates. This individual was part of a widespread post-*Ike* incursion of Frigatebirds into the Great Lakes and eastward, with reports from Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Lingering Cory's and Sooty Shearwaters were found into October in Region 10, and Audubon's Shearwater was found on a Hudson Canyon pelagic trip in September. More unusual were two inshore Northern Fulmars, one at Fire Island inlet and one found at Montauk Point among the hordes of late-season Laughing Gulls, which peaked at an estimated 10,000 birds in early November. Also found in this dynamic mix were a Pomarine Jaeger and a Franklin's Gull. Franklin's Gull was also found upstate, with two from Region 2, and Sabine's Gulls were in Regions 1, 2 and 7, the Region 1 bird an ultra-confiding individual at Squaw Island in Buffalo. Black-legged Kittiwakes were found coastally in Region 10 and inland in Regions 1 and 2, but were missed in Region 5 for the first time in over 40 years. Little Gulls were reported from Regions 1, 2, 5 and 7, and Black-headed Gulls were found in Regions 7 and 10. California Gulls were highlights in Region 1, where the species has been found 16 of the last 17 years, and in Region 3, where an adult was the first record for the Cayuga Lake basin. Laughing Gulls were inland in Regions 3 and 5. Tern highlights included an Arctic Tern and a late Common Tern from Region 2, and nice counts of Royal Tern and Roseate Tern in Region 10. Parasitic Jaegers were widely reported, from Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 10, although numbers were lower than normal along the traditional Lake Ontario strongholds. Pomarine Jaegers were found in Regions 2, 5, and 10.

Southern herons made a minor push upstate with Glossy Ibis in Regions 1 and 3 and Little Blue Heron in Region 3. Cattle Egret was only reported from Regions 9 and 10, where two lingered in Water Mill through the end of the season. Sandhill Cranes, generally less common in fall than in spring, were reported from four Regions, including a state record maximum of 44 found in

the Savannah Mucklands in Region 3. The Region 7 report includes a summary of the species' occurrence in the Region.

HAWKS AND OWLS

Golden Eagle was seemingly more widespread than usual, with numerous reports spread across six Regions. Osprey lingered into November in at least four Regions. Fall Black Vultures are very rare upstate, so reports from both Region 1 and Region 2 were notable. The individual raptor highlight was no doubt the Swallow-tailed Kite seen at Hook Mountain in Region 9, the third for Rockland County. Snowy Owls staged an impressive incursion into the state in the latter part of the reporting period. Reports were received from 8 of the 9 reporting Regions, with the best numbers in years in some locations.

SHOREBIRDS

Several Regions described unimpressive shorebirding for the season, but there were highlights scattered about nonetheless. The rarest shorebird reported statewide was a Curlew Sandpiper from Region 7. Other Regional highlights include two reports of Whimbrel from Region 1; both Red and Red-necked Phalarope from Regions 1 and 2; Red Knot upstate in Regions 2 and 5; and Western Sandpiper upstate in Region 2. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported from Regions 2, 5, and 10. American Golden-Plovers were reported from seven Regions, with a high count of 122 in Region 2. On a negative note, Hudsonian Godwit was unreported statewide during the season; as noted in the Region 10 report, even the passage of Tropical Storm *Hanna* failed to ground any Hudsonians.

GENERAL MIGRATION

Common Nighthawks were reported as low statewide; the reported maximum statewide was 16 in Region 1. A Chimney Swift roost in Region 2 tallied 740 individuals, an average total for the location but lower than the maximum of 1000+. White-eyed Vireos made a strong showing upstate this fall with single reports from Regions 1, 2, and 7, plus two found in Region 8. Philadelphia Vireos were well reported from six Regions. A late Least Flycatcher in Region 2 on 1 October was surpassed by one in Region 10 on 16-18 November. 287 hummingbirds, presumably all Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, were tallied for the season at Chestnut Ridge Hawk Watch in Region 9, with a single day high count of 42 on 15 September. A November hummingbird in Region 1 was identified as a Ruby-throated after careful analysis; it lingered into early December providing a record late date for the Region. Late Sedge Wrens were noted in Regions 2, 6, and 7. Orange-crowned and Connecticut Warblers were

PHOTO GALLERY
Fall 2008



Figure A. "Yellow" Wagtail, Plumb Beach, Kings, 7 Sep 08, copyright D. Gochfeld.



Figure B. Red Phalarope (left), Buffalo, Erie, 29 Oct 08, copyright Jim Pawlicki; Western Sandpiper (right), Charlotte Beach, Monroe, 20 Sep 08, copyright D. Sherony.

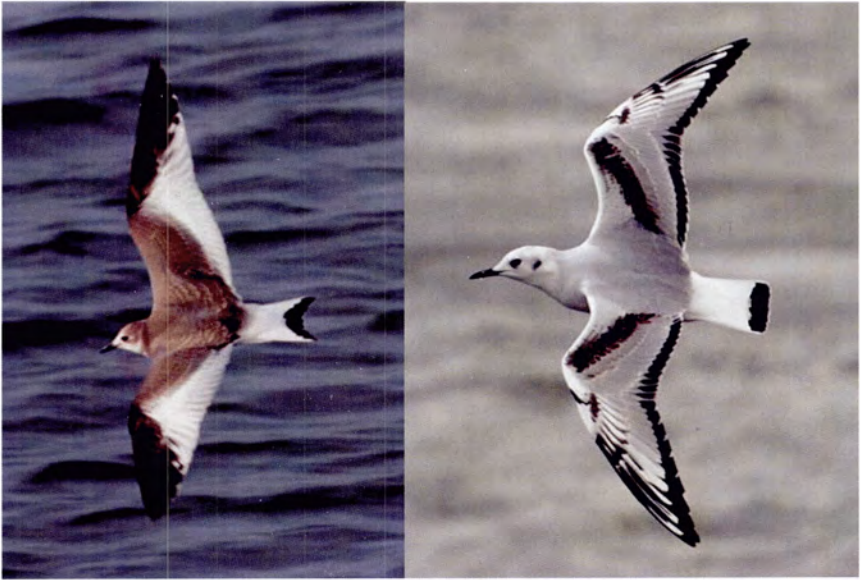


Figure C. Sabine's Gull (left), Buffalo, Erie, 1 Nov 08, copyright D. Sherony; Bonaparte's Gull (right), Buffalo, Erie, 28 Nov 08, copyright Jim Pawlicki.



Figure D. Black-legged Kittiwake, Buffalo, Erie, 16 Nov 08, copyright Jim Pawlicki.

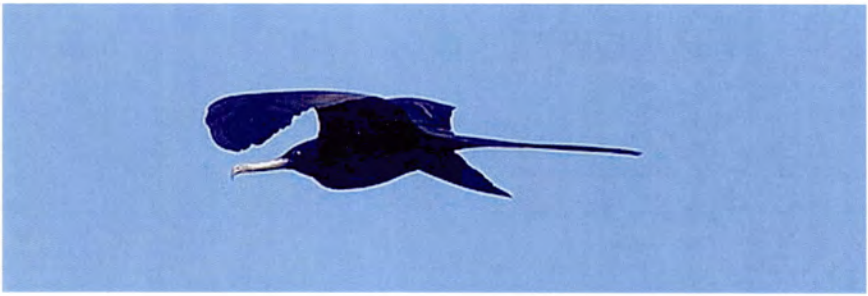


Figure E. Two Magnificent Frigatebirds: Shinnecock Bay, Suffolk, 7 Sep 08, copyright R. Guthrie (top) and Myer's Pt, Tompkins, 21 Sep 08, copyright T. Johnson (middle). California Gull, Aurora Bay, Cayuga, 1 Nov 08, copyright K. McGowan.

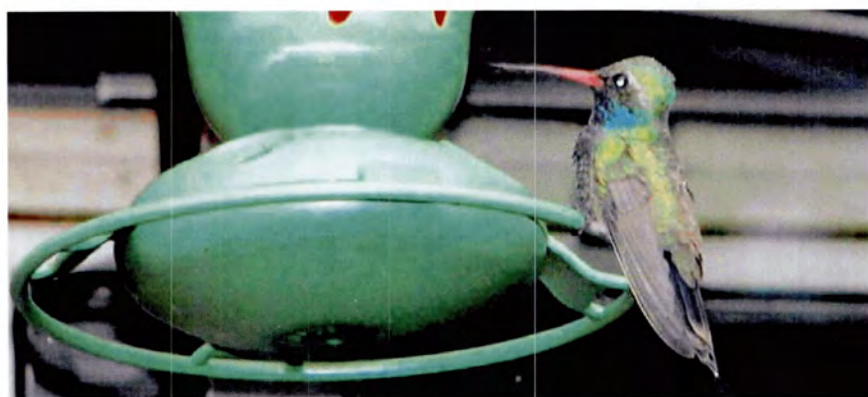
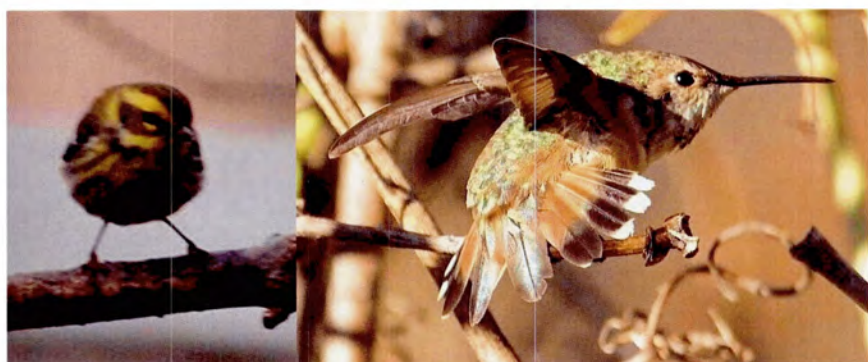
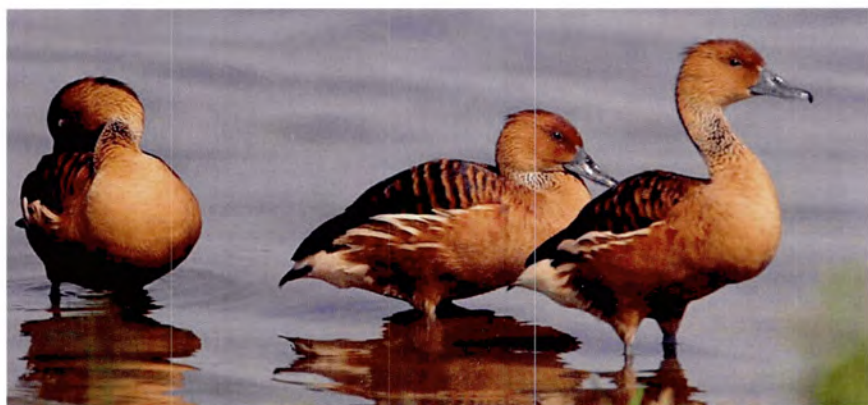


Figure F. Photos from the Report of the NYS Avian Records Committee for 2006. Fulvous Whistling-Ducks, Jamaica Bay WR, Queens, 28 May 06, copyright A. Wells; Townsend's Warbler, Matinecock, Nassau, 24 Dec 06, copyright S. Sime; Rufous Hummingbird, Lenoire Preserve, Westchester, 24 Nov 06, copyright S. Walter; Broad-billed Hummingbird, North Rose, Wayne, 23 Jun 06, copyright H. Legg.



Figure G. Photos from the Report of the NYS Avian Records Committee for 2006. Western Gull, 60 n. mi. se Jones Inlet, Nassau, 11 Feb 06, copyright A. Guthrie; Pacific Loon, Cayuga Lake, Seneca, 3 Feb 06, copyright M. Victoria; Razorbill, Niagara River Mouth, Niagara 28 Nov 06, copyright D. Sherony.

First-summer Arctic Terns from ca. Moriches Inlet, Suffolk, Long Island (see pp. 2-11).
Photos copyright S. S. Mitra, except as noted.



Figure H. Typical birds from 10 Jun 07 (left) and 16 Jun 07 (right, one of two present).



Figure I. One of two birds present 21 Jun 08 (left, see Fig.M); another typical first-summer (right) photographed by S. Blodgett on 2 Jul 06.



Figure J. Two birds from 9 Jul 06; see Fig. L. The bird depicted on the right was very unusual in persisting for more than one day (photo copyright S. Blodgett).



Figure K. This bird was molting its inner primaries on 13 Jul 08.

Second-summer Arctic Terns from ca. Moriches Inlet, Suffolk, Long Island (see pp. 2-11). Photos copyright S. S. Mitra.



Figure L. One of five individuals present 9 Jul 06; see Fig. J.



Figure M. One of two birds present 21 Jun 08; see Fig. I.



Figure N. One of two birds present 29 May 06; see Fig. O.

Adult-like Arctic Terns from ca. Moriches Inlet, Suffolk, Long Island (see pp. 2-11).
Photos copyright S. S. Mitra.



Figure O. One of two birds present 29 May 06; see Fig. N. Note brownish tone on crown.



Figure P. The first Arctic Tern of the 2008 season, 6 Jun 08; note dusky marks on bill.



Figure Q. Although very adult-like, this bird's occurrence on 11 Jul 08 suggests that it did not breed during 2008.

reported from six and seven Regions, respectively. Conversely, Cape May Warbler was reported from only four Regions. Single Yellow-throated, Prothonotary and Kentucky Warblers were found in Region 10, and Yellow-breasted Chat was reported from Regions 9 and 10. Clay-colored Sparrows are uncommon upstate in the fall, but this year they were reported from Regions 1, 2, 3, and 6 in addition to coastal Region 10, where they are more frequent. The only Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows upstate this fall were two at Ithaca in Region 3; coastally they were found in Regions 9 and 10. Henslow's Sparrows were noted on their Fort Drum breeding grounds until 8 September. Late migrants this season included an immature male Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Region 2 on 21 October and a Blue-winged Warbler in Region 3 on 30 October.

"WINTER" VISITORS

The signature avian event of this season may well have been the massive influx of two species of winter finches, White-winged Crossbill and Pine Siskin. The irruptions for both species extended well to the south, and some of the most significant concentrations were recorded in New York. Both species were recorded from all nine reporting Regions this season. High counts of White-winged Crossbill included 1,785 recorded in two and a half hours on 24 October in Region 2 and 1,660 in less than two hours on 3 November in Region 6. Pine Siskin numbers were topped by 6,520 on 10 November in Region 10; 2,524 on 13 October in Region 9; and 2,500 on 24 October in Region 2. The Regional reports contain further details on the specifics of the overall flights. Other winter finches were generally scarce. Red Crossbill was found in low numbers in all reporting Regions with the exception of Region 10, and, somewhat oddly, Adirondack Region 7. There were six Pine Grosbeaks reports scattered over four Regions. Evening Grosbeak was reported from four Regions as well, with only single birds seen outside Region 7. After last year's Common Redpoll invasion, only low numbers were found in a few Regions by the end of the reporting period. There were only three reports of Bohemian Waxwing for the season, two in Region 2 and one in Region 7.

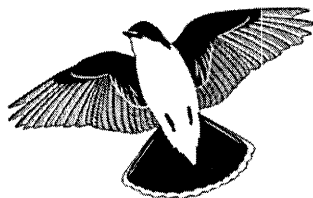
RARITIES

There were a number of additional top-notch rarities not mentioned above. Cave Swallows continued their now-annual incursion into the state, with reports this year from five Regions, plus probable Cave Swallows in Region 6. All sightings occurred from 3 November to 18 November. Northern Rough-winged Swallow has established a similar late-fall pattern in the Northeast, albeit on a smaller scale. This year they were found on 11 November at Niagara Falls in Region 1, where they have occurred over the past several years, and, more unusually, on the coast at Breezy Point in Region 10. Rufous Hummingbirds have also made late-season inroads into the Northeast; this year, an adult male provided the first

Rockland County record, and in Region 10 a Rufous Hummingbird frequented the same feeders in Northport that had hosted one two years prior. Summer Tanager turns up occasionally in fall, and this year individuals were found in Region 1 and Region 10. Rare flycatchers made a nice showing upstate with a Say's Phoebe in Region 1 in October and a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Region 2 in November. The standout rarity in Region 6 was a Northern Wheatear present for a day only on 15 October, the only sighting for the state this year. A Eurasian Collared-Dove in Region 2 was found within a few miles of two previous Regional sightings. Region 10 hosted a series of additional rarities not mentioned above. Most prominent among these was a "Yellow" Wagtail found and nicely photographed by Doug Gochfeld at Plumb Beach, Brooklyn (Fig. A, p. 51). This is not only a potential first record for New York State, if accepted by NYSARC, but if it can be specifically identified within the "Yellow" Wagtail complex, could be a new species for North America. The complex was split by the American Ornithological Union in 2004; to date, all North American records pertain to Eastern Yellow Wagtail, *Motacilla tschutschensis*, which breeds in northwestern Alaska and Canada. There are currently no accepted records arising from European populations. Plumb Beach also hosted a Le Conte's Sparrow in October. Additional highlights from Region 10 included Black-throated Gray Warbler and American White Pelican from Central Park; the Region's first Lark Bunting in nearly 20 years; and a Yellow-headed Blackbird in Montauk.

BIRD OF THE SEASON

It was a good season for rarities, many of which would make a respectable Bird of the Season. Some of the more exciting rarities reported statewide included Say's Phoebe in Region 1, Eurasian Collared-Dove in Region 2, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Region 3, Northern Wheatear in Region 6, Swallow-tailed Kite in Region 9, and Bridled Tern, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Lark Bunting in Region 10. The Magnificent Frigatebirds from Region 3 and Region 10 would make good choices, particularly since so many people were able to see them. In my opinion, though, the "Yellow" Wagtail in Region 10 is the clear choice for Bird of the Season. Wherever this bird originated from, it is a rarity on a "lower 48" level in addition to being a potential first state record.



REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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September 2008 was seasonable and mostly pleasant and sunny. The average temperature was 64.2° F, which was 2.7° F above normal. Monthly precipitation at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport was 3.96", 0.12" above normal, with most of it falling during a stalled warm front ahead of the remnants of Hurricane *Ike* on the 13th. October was sunny and comfortable with an average temperature of 49.7° F, 1.0° F below normal. The monthly precipitation was 4.13", 0.94" above normal. November averaged out normal. However, it was very warm for the first two weeks and colder than normal for the last two weeks. The average temperature was 39.9° F, 0.3° F below normal. The monthly precipitation was 3.3", 0.58" below normal, with 6.2" of snow, 4.8" below normal. Weather information was obtained from National Weather Service monthly summaries at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport.

Like the season's weather, the waterfowl migration was mostly normal and without significant events. Nine reports of **Cackling Goose** demonstrate that most birders are now closely scanning groups of Canada Geese for their smaller cousins. There were two early Snow Goose reports, including a record early fall arrival of 10 September at Oak Orchard WMA. Snow Geese remain uncommon in fall in Region 1, especially compared to the rest of the state, as evidenced by a maximum count of five birds this fall. There were only two reports of Brant, which might be attributed more to poor coverage along Lake Ontario on flight days than an actual decreased flight. A wing-tagged Trumpeter Swan remained at Clay Ponds WMA throughout the season, continuing from late spring. Two other **Trumpeter Swans** were discovered at a pond in the Town of Chautauqua. The landowner indicated that the birds had a failed nesting attempt in the summer. While breeding has yet to be confirmed for the Region, it may not be far away whether the birding community likes it or not.

There were some good counts of Common Loons on Lake Ontario in late October. The Type E botulism outbreak among piscivorous waterbirds continued for the ninth consecutive year on Lake Erie; however, carcass counts and projected mortality estimates were not available from NYSDEC at the time of preparing this report. Common Loon has been the most affected species during this outbreak. **Eared Grebes** made their annual appearance at Batavia WWTP, with up to three birds through mid-November. The only **Northern Gannet** report was from the Peace Bridge area of the Niagara River, where sightings are much less common than along Lake Ontario. A Regional maximum count of 1,500 Double-crested Cormorants was obtained on 27 October at Buffalo Harbor. It was likely influenced by strong winds on Lake Erie.

There were two Osprey reports in November. These would have been considered unusual formerly but have become regular in recent years. Sightings of Bald Eagle, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon are now too numerous to include all reports. Rough-legged Hawks were reported in average numbers in late October and November.

Shorebirding was unremarkable. There were two reports of **Whimbrel**, including two birds present at Batavia WWTP for almost a week in September, to the delight of many observers. Reports of Whimbrel away from the Great Lakes are rare. A **Red Phalarope** along Squaw Island on the Niagara River in late October was close and cooperative (Fig. B, p. 51). There were also two reports of **Red-necked Phalaropes** during the season.

There were only three jaeger reports this season despite good lakewatching effort on several days of strong southwest and west winds on Lake Erie. All were identified as **Parasitic Jaegers**. For the second year in a row Bonaparte's Gull numbers were lower than expected for October. However, they increased throughout November, including an estimated 25,000 on the lower Niagara River on the 16th. A juvenile **Sabine's Gull** was observed at very close range off Squaw Island on the Niagara River in late October and early November (Fig. C, p. 52). Possibly the same bird was observed a few days later at Niagara Falls for the only other report this season. There were also two reports of **Black-legged Kittiwake**, including a second-winter individual observed at close range on at least two dates in Buffalo Harbor (Fig. D, p. 52). After a one year absence, the Niagara River again hosted a **California Gull**; a second-winter bird was found on 23 & 30 November at the Niagara Power Project. This makes 16 out of 17 years that this species has been documented on the Niagara River.

It was possibly the best fall season this decade for **Snowy Owl** sightings, with seven reports from widely scattered locations in November. Dave Junkin banded 15 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** at his banding station in Wethersfield; this was his lowest total but was affected by reduced effort. **Common Nighthawks** trickled through in September, with a maximum count of only 16. Margaret Rose did nightly tracking of a group of 14 Chimney Swifts residing in Alden until they departed on September 20. It would be useful to obtain data from more roosts throughout the Region to get a better sense of departure dates. The last sighting for the season was one swift in Buffalo on 10 October.

Kathy Kroidart spotted a hummingbird hawking insects from atop a bush in her Orchard Park backyard on November 7th. She put her hummingbird feeder back up and soon had a regular visitor to it. She realized it was very unusual to have a hummingbird around and welcomed a few birders to come and photograph the bird. An identification debate ensued for a while until numerous photos by Jim Pawlicki and Willie D'Anna revealed enough features to arrive at an identification of a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird. The bird remained into early December making it the latest for the Region by far.

No "fallouts" or days of exceptional activity were noted this fall for passerine migration. There were late reports of Eastern Kingbird and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and a slightly early report for Northern Shrike. However, shrikes did not appear to be numerous this fall. An unexpected trend continued as a

White-eyed Vireo was found for the fifth consecutive fall season, this one a backyard bird for Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter in late October.

White-winged Crossbills irrupted in unprecedented numbers, with several counts over 100 easily exceeding previous maxima. There were several reports early in November but then the crossbills were widespread starting on 23 November through the remainder of the month and into the winter season. Pine Siskins were also widespread, with the peak movements around the third week of October. Other finches were relatively sparse. It was a poor fall season for Purple Finch sightings. There was only one Common Redpoll report, one **Pine Grosbeak** report, and no reports of Evening Grosbeaks. There were two sightings of **Red Crossbill**, both from Allegany County, including a singing bird from Palmer's Pond, where they were present in late summer. An audiospectrographic analysis revealed they were Type 1 birds, consistent with Matt Young's analysis from the same location in the summer.

There were several notable rarities this season including a potential new species for the Region. While birding at Batavia WWTP on October 22, Brad and Bill Carlson flushed a **Say's Phoebe** that was lost from view after approximately 20 minutes. Repeated searches of the area that afternoon and the next day did not result in any additional sightings. This will be the first record for the Region if accepted by NYSARC. The third fall record, all in this decade, of **Summer Tanager** was the result of Darrell Stevens' inspection of some apple trees at Delaware Park in Buffalo on 11 November. He was initially uncertain of the identification, however he took some excellent photographs that revealed a female or first-year male Summer Tanager. The bird was re-found the next day but not again. Willie D'Anna identified 14 to 22 **Cave Swallows** flying west on Lake Ontario past the town of Wilson. The date, 3 November, of the sighting is consistent with past occurrences of Cave Swallows and coincided with observations that day to the east in Region 2.

The 73rd annual BOS October Count was held on the 12th and compiled by Mike Hamilton. The weather featured warm temperatures and clear skies. The count recorded 163 species, with two first count records—Curlew Sandpiper and White-winged Dove—both in the Ontario portion of the BOS Study Area; eight record high counts; and no record low counts. Highest counts since inception in 1935 were recorded for: Trumpeter Swan (2), Common Merganser (358), Peregrine Falcon (4), Killdeer (1,427), Eastern Screech-Owl (23), Pileated Woodpecker (32 = 2nd consecutive record count), Northern Shrike (1), and Northern Cardinal (443 = 2nd consecutive record count).

Other notable sightings not previously mentioned include: **Glossy Ibis**, **Black Vulture**, "**Yellow**" **Palm Warbler**, and **Clay-colored Sparrow**.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP, ERIE; BeSP – Beaver I SP, ERIE; BOSOC – Buffalo Ornithological Society, 12 Oct Count; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; BWWT – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; ChauL – Chautauqua L, CHAU; DH – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; FMCS – Four Mile Creek, SP NIAG; FN – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; GHSP – Golden Hill 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, NIAG; NR – Niagara R, ERIE/NIAG; OOWMA – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE/ORLE; TBNP – Times Beach Nature Preserve, Buffalo, ERIE; Tift NP – Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo, ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; WoBSP – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr OOWMA, INWR 10, 20 Sep (WW!), earliest ever in fall; 2 Houghton ALLE 16 Sep (LW); 1, 5 Dayton CATT 11 Oct, 5-7 Nov (DN); 5 BOSOC; 3, 5 Hanover CHAU 24, 31 Oct; only reports.

Cackling Goose: arr 1 Wilson NIAG & 2 INWR 4 Oct (WD!; WW!); max 16 INWR 23 Oct (WW); TWMA 23 Oct; Freedom CATT 7 Nov (JP, WW); FN 9 Nov; Grand I ERIE 28 Nov; 5 BWWT 28 Nov; 10 Oakfield GENE 28 Nov (PY).

Brant: arr 2 DH 30 Oct (DN); FN 13 Nov (AH); only reports.

Mute Swan: 5 LBSP 4 Oct; 32 BOSOC; 5 Olcott NIAG 15, 30 Nov; only reports.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 Chautauqua CHAU 8-12 Oct (JS, JL, JB), second-hand report of failed breeding attempt from summer for this location; Clay Ponds WMA CHAU 8, 31 Oct, 25 Nov (JB), continued from late spring.

Tundra Swan: arr 8 BeSP 10 Nov; max 175 BeSP 21 Nov (DSh); 15 Cheektowaga ERIE 11 Nov; 31 Salamanca CATT 17 Nov; 39 ChauL 26 Nov; 11 Pomfret CHAU 26 Nov; 10 OOWMA 28 Nov; only reports.

Wood Duck: 51 Alexander GENE 1 Oct; max 55 Sherman CHAU 7 Oct.

Am. Wigeon: max 152 INWR 23 Nov.

Am. Black Duck: max 31 Silver Creek CHAU 29 Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: last 20 BOSOC.

N. Shoveler: Silver Creek CHAU 6 Sep; max 268 BWWT 19 Oct, 10 Nov.

N. Pintail: 29 Wilson NIAG 4 Oct; max 86 OOWMA 4 Oct; 80 INWR 23 Oct; 75 BWWT 23 Oct.

Green-winged Teal: max 30 TWMA 4 Oct.

Canvasback: arr ChauL 7 Oct.

Redhead: arr BOSOC; BWWT 19 Oct; 2 ChauL 22 Oct; only reports.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 3 Tift NP 4 Sep; max 157 Hanover CHAU 31 Oct (DN); 150 ChauL 26 Nov.

Greater Scaup: arr 8 Wilson NIAG 4 Oct.

Lesser Scaup: arr 3 Wilson NIAG & 4 BWWT 4 Oct.

Surf Scoter: arr 14 Buffalo NR & 8 LBSP 4 Oct; 15 GHSP 18 Oct; 2 Hamburg ERIE 26 Oct; max 30 Buffalo NR 29 Oct (WW).

White-winged Scoter: arr 7 Wilson NIAG 3 Oct; BWWT 22 Oct (JP, WW), uncommon inland.

Black Scoter: arr BWWT 5 Oct (ED, DB), unusual inland; Olcott NIAG 6 Oct; 8 GHSP 18 Oct; Hamburg ERIE 26 Oct; DH 31 Oct; 9 Wilson NIAG 2 Nov; max 13 FN 16 Nov; Barcelona CHAU 26 Nov (JP, DN).

Long-tailed Duck: arr 3 Buffalo NR 6 Oct.

Bufflehead: arr 15 BOSOC; max 600 Buffalo ERIE 13 Nov; 255 ChauL 26 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: arr GHSP 18 Oct; 50 ChauL 27 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: 159 Dayton CATT 5 Nov; 485 N. Harmony CHAU 12 Nov (DN); max 596 ChauL 26 Nov (JP, DN); 91 DH 25 Nov.

Com. Merganser: 81 Silver Creek CHAU 10 Sep; 64 BWWTP 5 Oct; 190 Sheridan CHAU 8 Oct; max 232 Dayton CATT 5 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: arr 5 Wilson NIAG 3 Oct; max 1250 Wilson NIAG 9 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: 135, 285 BWWTP 20 Sep, 19 Oct; Wellsville ALLE 28 Sep; 2 Hanover CHAU 4 Oct; Cassadaga L CHAU 22 Oct; Findley L CHAU 23 Oct; max 137, 371 Dayton CATT 25 Oct, 11 Nov; 27 ChauL 22 Nov.

N. Bobwhite: W. Seneca ERIE Sep thru Oct (DE), regular at feeder, undoubtedly a released bird.

Red-throated Loon: arr 2 Wilson NIAG 4 Oct (WD); max 148 Wilson NIAG 9 Nov.

Com. Loon: arr 5 Wilson NIAG 29 Sep; 810 Wilson NIAG 19 Oct (WD); max 1480 Wilson NIAG to Shadigee ORLE 25 Oct (JP, WD); 12 ChauL 12 Nov; botulism on L Erie continued.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 84 Celeron ChauL 12 Nov.

Horned Grebe: arr 12 LBSP 4 Oct; max 91 DH 21 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: arr BOSOC; 2 GHSP 18 Oct; max 6 Wilson NIAG 19 Oct; Porter NIAG 19 Oct; 2 Olcott NIAG 9 Nov; BWWTP 20 Nov (MZ).

EARED GREBE: 2-3 BWWTP 10 Sep-12 Nov (mob), annual at this location.

N. GANNET: Buffalo NR 13 Nov (JP), sightings much less frequent on NR and L Erie than L Ontario.

Double-crested Cormorant: 790 BuSP 9 Sep, (WW); 658 BuSP 3 Oct (WW); 300 DH 11 Oct; max 1500 Buffalo ERIE 27 Oct (WW), maximum count influenced by strong winds.

Am. Bittern: BWWTP 22 Sep (ED, DB); INWR 4 Oct (CH), only reports.

Great Egret: max 139 TWMA 4 Sep (WW); 124 TWMA 19 Sep (WW); 9 Tift NP 5 Sep; last Cuba L ALLE 7 Nov (WW, JP).

Green Heron: last BWWTP 13 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: TWMA 4, 19 Sep; 2 Alexander GENE 9 Sep; BWWTP 10 Sep, 5 Oct; DH 22 Sep; 3 BOSOC; Strawberry I NR 19 Oct; last Pike WYOM 14 Nov, rare for location.

GLOSSY IBIS: 3 Tift NP 5 Sep (WW), very rare in fall.

BLACK VULTURE: Williamsville ERIE 13 Sep (RSa), fall reports very rare.

Turkey Vulture: N. Clymer CHAU 10 Nov; last 25 Lewiston NIAG 13 Nov.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: last Clarence ERIE 5-14 Nov (M&BM); DH 8 Nov (DN); on the late side.

Bald Eagle: reported from numerous locations; 17 BOSOC; max 4 Ripley to Sheridan CHAU 28 Sep.

Red-shouldered Hawk: reported from six locations; 7 BOSOC.

Broad-winged Hawk: 2 Orchard Park ERIE 1 Sep; BWWTP 28 Sep (D&DS); last BOSOC.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr Ischua CATT 22 Oct; max 3 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 5 Nov.

Merlin: reported from 6 locations throughout Reg; two returned to winter roost at SUNY Buffalo 10 Nov.

Peregrine Falcon: reported from 11 locations.

Sora: TBNP 6 Sep (DW), only report.

Com. Moorhen: last INWR 11 Oct.

Am. Coot: 110, 227 Celeron ChauL 7, 22 Oct; 102 DH 28 Oct; 96 INWR 23 Oct; max 463 ChauL 26 Nov (DN, JP).

Black-bellied Plover: last 3 Hamburg ERIE 26 Oct (JP).

Am. Golden-Plover: 2-3 DH 5-7 Sep; 2 WoBSP 6 Sep; 3 Porter NIAG 8 Sep; BeSP 10 Sep; max 36 Pembroke GENE 24 Sep (WW); only reports.

Semipalmated Plover: last 5 BOSOC.

Killdeer: last 13 Wilson NIAG 16 Nov.

Gr. Yellowlegs: last Grand I ERIE 2 Nov (NU).

Lesser Yellowlegs: last 7 BOSOC.

Solitary Sandpiper: last Fredonia CHAU 7 Oct.

Spotted Sandpiper: last 2 BOSOC.

Whimbrel: TBNP 6-7 Sep (DW); last 2 BWWTP 17-22 Sep (MZ, mob), rarely found inland.

Ruddy Turnstone: DH, 2 WoBSP, TBNP 6 Sep; 2, 2 BWWTP 10, 17 Sep; only reports.

Sanderling: max 25 DH 7 Sep; last DH 8 Nov.

Least Sandpiper: last BWWTP 11 Oct.

White-rumped Sandpiper: DH 6 Sep; Sheridan CHAU 11 Sep; only reports.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 2 Sherman CHAU 19 Sep; last BOSOC.

Dunlin: 2 BWWTP 29 Sep; 1, 1 Buffalo NR 28 Oct, 13 Nov; last 3 Wilson NIAG 16 Nov.

Short-billed Dowitcher: last Sherman CHAU 2 Oct (DN), only report.

Wilson's Snipe: BOSOC; last Chautauqua CHAU 14 Nov.

Am. Woodcock: AISP 11 Sep; Westfield CHAU 13 Sep; 3 BOSOC; Salamanca CATT 7 Nov (TB); last Arcade WYOM 15 Nov (KF).

Red-necked Phalarope: BeSP 5 Sep (DSh); Hamburg ERIE 9 Oct (DW), only reports.

Red Phalarope: Buffalo NR 28-29 Oct (JP, mob), only report.

Parasitic Jaeger: Hamburg ERIE 2 Oct (DW); NIAG BOSOC (WD); Wilson NIAG 26 Oct (WD); only reports.

Little Gull: NF 29 Oct; 3 Lewiston NR 29 Oct; max 4 Lewiston NR 11 Nov.

Bonaparte's Gull: 5000 NR 1 Nov (WW, JP); 3000 NFSP 10 Nov (JP, RSa); max 25,000 lower NR 16 Nov (RSp), estimated; very few around until late Oct.

CALIFORNIA GULL: 2nd-winter NPP 23, 30 Nov (WD!, JP!, NYSARC), returns after one year absence on NR.

Herring Gull: 1600 Cuba L ALLE 7 Nov (JP, WW), good count for inland location.

Thayer's Gull: several undocumented reports from NPP.

Iceland Gull: arr 1,8 NPP 11, 30 Nov; NF 23 Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: arr NFSP 7 Oct (MM); DH 19 Oct; Olcott NIAG 25 Oct; 3 Cuba L ALLE 7 Nov (WW, JP), rare inland; max 7 NF 11 Nov (WD).

Glaucous Gull: arr Wilson NIAG 22 Nov; NPP, NF 23 Nov; only reports.

Sabine's Gull: juv Buffalo NR 27 Oct-4 Nov (WW, mob), observed at extremely close range; NFSP 9 Nov (DK), possibly same bird.

Black-legged Kittiwake: Lewiston NR 8 Nov; 2nd-winter Buffalo Harbor ERIE 16, 28 Nov (JP!), plumage rarely seen in Reg.

Caspian Tern: last DH 22 Sep.

Com. Tern: last Hamburg ERIE, 2 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 16 Nov.

Black Tern: Buffalo ERIE 6 Sep; last 4 BOSOC.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: last BeSP 4, 13 Sep (DSh); Elma ERIE 11 Sep (MM).

Snowy Owl: arr Ransomville NIAG 6 Nov (DMu), found dead; Buffalo ERIE 11 Nov (TC); 2 NF Airport NIAG 21 Nov (CR); Dunkirk Airport CHAU 22 Nov (KV); Chautauqua Airport CHAU 23 Nov (JB, BS); Wilson NIAG 25 Nov (GT); good showing.

Short-eared Owl: no reports.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 15 banded Wethersfield WYOM 7 Oct-6 Nov (DJ), reduced effort compared with other recent years.

Com. Nighthawk: 2 Alden ERIE, Elma ERIE 1 Sep; TBNP 6 Sep; max 16 Williamsville ERIE 13 Sep (RSa); 10 Buffalo ERIE 20 Sep; 3 Eggertsville ERIE 25 Sep; 4 AmSP 25 Sep; last 3 Williamsville ERIE 27 Sep (RSa).

Chimney Swift: 14 Alden ERIE thru 20 Sep (MR), tracked group at night roost; last Buffalo ERIE 10 Oct.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 2 BOSOC: last Orchard Park ERIE 7 Nov thru (KK, JP, WW, WD, photo), latest ever.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Orchard Park ERIE 21 Sep; 2 BOSOC; only reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Buffalo ERIE 22 Sep; INWR 12 Nov; Williamsville ERIE 14 Nov; AISP 23 Nov; Silver Creek CHAU 29 Nov.

Pileated Woodpecker: WTSP 5 Oct (D&DS), less common along L Ontario shore.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: last AmSP 30 Sep.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Tiffn NP 5 Sep; Westfield CHAU 13 Sep; Sheridan CHAU 13 Sep; dead Lakewood CHAU 30 Sep (JB); last NFSP 30 Sep (DR).

“Traill’s” Flycatcher: last 2 TBNP 6 Sep.

E. Phoebe: last 2 AmSP 20 Oct.

SAY’S PHOEBE: BWWTP 22 Oct (BC! NYSARC), would be first Regional record if accepted by NYSARC.

Gr. Crested Flycatcher: last 2 Ripley CHAU 13 Sep.

E. Kingbird: NFSP 14 Sep; last Busti CHAU 27 Sep (JB), late.

N. Shrike: arr BOSOC (S&TO), slightly early; Charlotte CHAU 30 Oct; BWWTP 20 Nov; Somerset NIAG 30 Nov; 2 AISP 30 Nov (TB); only reports.

White-eyed Vireo: Wilson NIAG 24, 28 Oct (BP! WD!), fifth consecutive fall report.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr Williamsville ERIE 16 Sep.

Warbling Vireo: last AmSP 28 Sep.

Philadelphia Vireo: 6 Ripley, Westfield CHAU 13 Sep (JP); 9 other reports Sep; last AmSP 3 Oct.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 25 Tiffn NP 6 Sep (JP); last 4 BOSOC.

Com. Raven: 2 Arkwright CHAU 27 Sep; 2 Bethany GENE 18 Oct; 2 Charlotte CHAU 31 Oct; 2 Colden ERIE 10 Nov; only locations away from ALLE, CATT.

Purple Martin : max 204 Ripley CHAU 7 Sep (JP) ; last NFSP 17 Sep.

Tree Swallow: max 40 BWWTP 4 Oct; last 9 BOSOC.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: last 5 NF 11 Nov (WD).

Bank Swallow: last 16 Clymer CHAU 5 Sep (AB).

Cliff Swallow: last 2 Buffalo ERIE 6 Sep.

CAVE SWALLOW: 14-22 Wilson NIAG 3 Nov (WD!), flying west over L Ontario.
Barn Swallow: last BWWTP 23 Oct.
Carolina Wren: 30 BOSOC, up from last October's recent low of 16.
House Wren: last AmSP 15 Oct.
Winter Wren: arr AmSP 1 Sep; max 7 AmSP 18 Oct; BuSP 28 Nov.
Marsh Wren: last 8 BOSOC.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr 14 INWR 22 Sep.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 2 Amherst ERIE 19 Sep; AISP 23 Nov.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last Fredonia CHAU 29 Oct (JG), late.
Veery: last 11 Tonawanda ERIE & 1 Westfield CHAU 28 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: max 5 Tonawanda ERIE 28 Sep (PH), nocturnal calls; last 3 BOSOC.
Swainson's Thrush: 62, 37 Tonawanda ERIE 15, 28 Sep (PH), nocturnal calls; last 4 BOSOC.
Hermit Thrush: arr Williamsville ERIE 28 Sep; 2 Alfred ALLE 23 Nov.
Wood Thrush: last BOSOC.
Gray Catbird: last Porter NIAG 23 Nov.
N. Mockingbird: Dunkirk CHAU 1, 8 Nov; Tiff NP 29 Nov; less common in these locations.
Brown Thrasher: last BOSOC.
Am. Pipit: arr Hanover CHAU 13 Sep; max 90 Somerset NIAG 26 Oct (D&DS); last 2 DH 25 Nov.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: last Bethany GENE 15 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: last AmSP 7 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr INWR 22 Sep; last WoBSP 18 Oct (LC).
Nashville Warbler: last INWR 23 Oct.
N. Parula: last AmSP 4 Oct.
Yellow Warbler: last Amherst ERIE 19 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 6 AmSP 29 Sep (RSa); last BOSOC.
Magnolia Warbler: last 10 BOSOC.
Cape May Warbler: 3 NFSP 8 Sep (WD, BP); 3 Salamanca CATT 4 Oct (TB); last BOSOC.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last 3 BOSOC.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr NFSP 4 Sep; 2 AmSP 12 Nov; 4 INWR 12 Nov.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last AmSP 19 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last AmSP 30 Sep.

Pine Warbler: arr 2 NFSP 20 Sep; last FNFS 22 Nov (DMA).
Palm Warbler (*D.p. palmarum*): arr NFSP 17 Sep; max 18 Amherst ERIE 29 Sep (JP); last AmSP 24 Oct.
Palm Warbler (*D.p. hypochrysea*): AmSP 25 Oct (RSa), rare.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last 2 Williamsville ERIE 2 Oct.
Blackpoll Warbler: last BeSP 26 Oct (LC), late.
Black-and-white Warbler: last AmSP 1 Oct.
Am. Redstart: last 3 BOSOC.
Ovenbird: last Ripley CHAU 13 Sep.
N. Waterthrush: Westfield CHAU 7 Sep; last Williamsville ERIE 29 Sep; only reports.
Connecticut Warbler: CATT BOSOC, only report.
Mourning Warbler: BeSP 17 Sep; last Tiff NP 1 Oct.
Com. Yellowthroat: last 20 BOSOC.
Hooded Warbler: last 2 Tiff NP 1 Oct.
Wilson's Warbler: last AmSP 3 Oct.
Canada Warbler: last AISP, BeSP 17 Sep.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

SUMMER TANAGER: Buffalo ERIE 11, 12 Nov (DSt, PH, photo); 3rd fall Regional record, all this decade.
Scarlet Tanager: last AmSP 29 Sep.
E. Towhee: arr RTPI 3 Oct.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr AmSP 8 Oct.
Chipping Sparrow: last 2 AmSP 6 Nov.
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: Williamsville ERIE 25 Sep (RSa), rare in fall.
Field Sparrow: last 2 Tonawanda ERIE, AmSP 30 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: 8 BOSOC; Charlotte CHAU 1 Nov (R&CB), only reports.
Savannah Sparrow: last Yates ORLE 25 Oct.
Fox Sparrow: arr Alma ALLE 27 Sep; 8 INWR 23 Oct (JP, WW); 14 AISP 24 Oct (TB); max 15 Tonawanda ERIE 30 Oct (WW); last 2 Portland CHAU, RTPI 21 Nov.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Amherst ERIE 19 Sep; last AmSP 18 Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: arr 5 Bethany GENE 12 Sep.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr Joseph Davis SP NIAG 28 Sep.
Dark-eyed Junco: arr Buffalo ERIE 22 Sep.
Lapland Longspur: arr NIAG BOSOC; Wilson NIAG 16 Nov; 5 Porter NIAG 20 Nov; 2 Pomfret CHAU 23 Nov; only reports.
Snow Bunting: arr 6 Wilson NIAG 19 Oct; 200 Somerset NIAG 25 Oct; 250 Bethany

GENE 19 Nov; max 400 Porter NIAG 20 Nov (S&TO).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last AmSP 4 Oct.

Indigo Bunting: last BOSOC.

Bobolink: 2 Lancaster ERIE 10 Sep; last Amherst ERIE 29 Sep.

E. Meadowlark: max 39 Charlotte CHAU 30 Oct (R&CB); 2 S. Dayton CATT 18 Nov; last 2 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 24 Nov.

Rusty Blackbird: last 6 BWWTP 11 Nov.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 2000 Royalton NIAG 13 Oct (WD, BP).

Baltimore Oriole: last 1 TBNP & 3 Williamsville ERIE 6 Sep.

Pine Grosbeak: arr Bennington WYOM 16 Nov (KF), only report.

Purple Finch: 57 BOSOC, low count total; not widespread.

Red Crossbill: W. Almond ALLE 18 Oct (TL), singing, analyzed as Type 1; 8 Houghton ALLE 19 Oct (LW); only reports.

White-winged Crossbill: arr 7 Wilson NIAG 3 Nov; 11 INWR 11 Nov; 5 Bethany GENE 14 Nov; 5 Bennington WYOM 16 Nov; 90, 120, 100 Wilson NIAG 22, 23, 29 Nov; 95 Porter NIAG 22 Nov; widespread in late Nov; *see intro.*

Com. Redpoll: arr 3 FMCSF 2 Nov (PY), only report.

Pine Siskin: arr 3 Wilson NIAG 6 Oct; max 460 Wilson NIAG 19 Oct (WD); 130 Porter NIAG 19 Oct; 230 DH 19 Oct (TL); 240 FMCSF 2 Nov (PY); 100 Arkwright CHAU 7 Nov (DN); 100 AISP 23 Nov (TB).

Evening Grosbeak: no reports.

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REGION 2—GENESEE

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As far as the weather goes it was a pretty decent fall season. It wasn't until late in the season that we started to see some major fluctuations. September continued the summer trend of warm temperatures. The average of 63.1° F was 1.9° above normal. The first week and the last week were the warmest. To top that off, we went twelve straight days from the 15th to the 26th without any rain. The meager rainfall for the month topped out at 1.66", less than half of the usual 3.45". It was the driest September in 13 years. Meteorologically the main event was Hurricane *Ike* in the middle of the month. While we were spared the major effects of the storm, we did experience high winds resulting in fallen trees and power outages. October was a pretty decent month. Most of the month was pleasant and bright with only a slight hint of winter at the end of the month. The average temperature was a full degree below normal at 49.7°. A brief chilly period at the beginning of the month and a cold spell at the end kept the average down. The precipitation total of 3.38" was 0.78" below normal. The bulk of that fell on the 16th and 25th. Overall conditions did not seem to promote traditional patterns of migration flights and departures. November showed a greater contrast. At the outset of the month temperatures approached 70°. Another unseasonably warm period followed a brief cool stretch. A cold snap settled in by the 15th and produced midwinter conditions. Eleven inches of snow eclipsed the historical average of 8.1". That said, the resulting averages were near

normal. Temperature averaged 39.3°, which was 0.6° below normal. Precipitation was 0.73" below normal at 2.11".

The lakewatch at Hamlin Beach was manned with some regularity and always adds to our database and knowledge of movements during the fall season. Many reports come from that location. Braddock Bay Bird Observatory members banded into October and contributed a number of departure dates and maxima. Notice also that Auburn Trail continues to be a hotspot for migrants especially late in the season. It has become one of the best spots away from the lakeshore. The increased coverage of locations in the eastern part of the Region, particularly Wayne County, has added to the Regional bird information.

Waterfowl observations showed some significant contrasts. Greater White-fronted Geese spent an extended period of time at Hamlin Beach. The maximum of 73 Cackling Geese (all those included in the count *B.h.hutchinsii*) observed by Dave Tetlow on 24 October at Hamlin was unprecedented. Five Brant in September were early, but Brant totals for the season were low. Of interest was a Trumpeter x Tundra Swan studied by Jessie Barry and Chris Wood on Round Pond in Greece in November. Trumpeters in general continued their trend of increasing sightings. Duck numbers seemed to be down from recent years. This was particularly true for puddle ducks, scaup, and scoters. Loon totals were fair, but without their typical large peaks. Both Horned and Red-necked Grebe numbers were down from recent years. Four immature N. Gannets were observed at Hamlin Beach in November, and Andy Guthrie, Robert Spahn, and Bill Symonds saw an immature Great Cormorant there on the 14th. Great Egrets tarried on late into the season, consistent with the recent trend. Mike Tetlow observed a Black Vulture on the 14th in Perinton. This was at a sheep farm where Turkey Vultures often stay into the winter and where Mike has been watching for Black Vulture to join them, given increasing Regional reports in recent years.

There were few raptor highlights during the season. Of note were one adult and two immature Golden Eagles reported by Mike Tetlow in Williamson on 23 October. The species is uncommon here that late in the season. Northern Goshawk continues to be scarce, with a single report from each month. Merlin and Peregrine Falcon reports continued to be on the rise. A young Common Moorhen at Braddock Bay was slightly encouraging for a species that has decreased significantly in the west lakeshore marshes in recent years. Sandhill Cranes were reported throughout the season, with Lynn Braband observing a pair near Taylor Marsh in Ontario County in November. This area has been suspected of having nesting Sandhill Cranes, but access to the marsh is so limited that searching for them is nearly impossible. A pair with one young was sighted there for a week in late November of 1996. Shorebird habitat was limited in the early part of the season, yet there were some shorebird highlights during that period. Late in the season there was a significant amount of habitat but few shorebirds. Killdeer and Wilson's Snipe maxima from East Barre were good. A Western Sandpiper joined a good mix of species on Ontario Beach at Charlotte just in time for field trips of the annual NYSOA meeting held in Rochester this year (Fig. B, p. 51). Given the current low numbers, a Red Knot

at the MAC ponds in Savannah for the Montezuma Muckrace was a nice surprise. Buff-breasted Sandpiper was present for several days in decent numbers at the now regular site near Cuylerville in Livingston County, tracked closely by Jim Kimball. Dunlin numbers were much lower than usual. Both Red-necked and Red Phalaropes were reported from Hamlin Beach. Jaeger sightings started off well in August and September, but there was only a single report of a Parasitic in October and two Pomarine and three Parasitic in November. There were two reports of Long-tailed Jaeger from Hamlin Beach in September. Gull highlights included Franklin's and Sabine's Gulls. An immature Arctic Tern was identified by Dave Tetlow and William Symonds at Hamlin Beach on 7 September. Unfortunately, it remains undocumented. Common and Forster's Terns were reported in decent numbers, with a very late Common tern reported in November.

Dave and Kathy Tetlow discovered a Eurasian Collared-Dove in Parma in September. The bird was seen sporadically near the same location throughout the season. After a number of years with limited sightings of Snowy Owl, this year was a banner year. The first was seen at Ontario Beach in October. After that individual, sightings came from all over the area. At least twelve different birds were reported. N. Saw-whet Owls are certainly fall migrants through the area but are not searched for as diligently as in the spring. So two birds banded at the BBBO Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station in October were noteworthy. Few Common Nighthawks were reported, a return to the recent norm after the huge peak this spring. The Chimney Swift roost in Greiggsville topped out at 740 birds. This is an average maximum, but down a bit from the peak of 1000+. A late Ruby-throated Hummingbird was at the Dalheim Unit of the Braddock Bay Wildlife Management Area on 1 October.

Only two Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported, and the only late-departing flycatcher was a Least banded on 1 October. Other than that, there wasn't much happening of note with this family. The first Northern Shrike of the season was spotted on 18 October. A White-eyed Vireo banded on 1 October at Manitou was the only report of the year and was quite late in the season, though the species has been banded at that site in October in three other of the past 10 years. Common Raven continued its increasing trend, with a bird along the lakeshore in Greece, two at Ontario County Park in the Bristol Hills, and two in Geneseo. Cave Swallows continued their fall occurrence with a total of 34 individuals on five different days. The largest numbers were seen at Hamlin Beach, but there were also reports from Greece and Ontario Beach. The Sedge Wrens that nested at the Dalheim Unit of the Braddock Bay Wildlife Management Area continued to be found into October to a record late date. Some decent kinglet flights were observed in October. The thrush migration in general was unimpressive. There were two reports of Bicknell's Thrush. Robert Spahn and Dominic Sherony reported two individuals in September that were identified by call. This may be the only reliable way to identify them in the field. A number of Bicknell's/Gray-cheeked Thrushes were banded at BBBO, but none keyed out as certainly Bicknell's. There were two November reports of

Bohemian Waxwing. Dave Tetlow found three at Hamlin Beach and Kenny Frisch observed one in Durand-Eastman Park.

The usual warbler species were reported, but numbers were for the most part lackluster. Highlights included Orange-crowned and Connecticut. Magnolia and Blackpoll Warblers were noted on the plus side. Observers also noted that they felt Bay-breasted Warbler numbers were down. Late October Nashville, Palm, and Blackpoll Warblers were of interest.

A late Scarlet Tanager was banded on 1 October at BBBO. While Clay-colored Sparrow nests in the Region, a bird seen at Cuylerville on 1 October by Jim Kimball was one of few reported after they stop singing. White-throated and White-crowned Sparrow numbers seemed low this season. Quite often fairly large concentrations are noted in the fall, and this was not the case this year. An immature male Rose-breasted Grosbeak in the Town of Marion on 21 October was very unusual.

Winter finch variety was not great this fall, but that was offset by the arrival of two species in great numbers. Richard Crossley and Dave Tetlow witnessed an incredible finch flight on 24 October. The impressive flight included 1 Pine Grosbeak, **1785 White-winged Crossbills**, and **2500 Pine Siskins**. The only Evening Grosbeak report was a single bird in Webster Park on 1 November.

The monthly totals were 202, 194, and 146 species, respectively. These numbers were 3.9 species below and 9.6 and 6.9 species above their monthly 10-year averages. The Regional total species for the year-to-date was four species below the ten-year average, at 287.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AR – Armitage Rd, T Savannah, WAYN; AT – Auburn Trail, T Victor, MONR; b – banded; BB – Braddock Bay Fish and Wildlife Management Area, MONR; BBBO – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory; CL – Conesus Lake, LIVI; CU – T Cuylerville, LIVI; DE – Durand-Eastman Park, MONR; EB – T East Barre, ORLE; G – T Greece, MONR; *The Kingbird* 2009 March; 59 (1)

GE – T Geneseo, LIVI; GR -T Greiggsville, LIVI; HB–Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; HP – Hogan Pt, T Greece, MONR; IB – Irondequoit Bay, MONR; K – T Kendall, ORLE; LW – Letchworth SP, LIVI, WYOM; M – Manitou Beach area, MONR; MAC – Montezuma Audubon Center, WAYN; MW – Montezuma Wetlands Complex, WAYN; OB – Ontario Beach, Charlotte, MONR; P – T Parma, MONR; PB – Point Breeze, ORLE; PE – T Perinton, MONR; R – C Rochester, MONR; RR – Railroad Road, T Savannah, WAYN; RU – T Rush, MONR; S – T Savannah, WAYN; TC – Twin Cedars Environmental Center, T Lima, LIVI; W – T Webster, MONR; WL – West Lakeshore, MONR, ORLE; WP – Webster Park, MONR.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: 2-3 HB 24-31 Oct (RS, DT, mob); 2 continued HB 1-9 Nov (mob), all Greenland race.
Snow Goose: arr 1 Palmyra, WAYN 19-26 Sep; 1 HB 28 Sep.
Cackling Goose: max 73 HB 24 Oct (DT); 14 PB 24 Oct (DT); 1-47 HB 24-31 (mob); 1-2 HB 4-7 Nov (mob); 5 TC 6Nov (MW); 18 HB 7 Oct (MT).
Brant: arr 5 HB 320 Sep (WS, RS), early; max 281 HB 28 Oct (RS).
Mute Swan: max 86 BB 25 Oct.
Trumpeter Swan: 2 MW 5 Oct; 3 G 7 Oct; 2 AR 26 Oct; 2 RR 29 Oct; 2 MAC 30 Oct; max 18 MAC 15 Nov; 1-4 S 9 Nov; 2 G 16 Nov.
Tundra Swan: arr 1 G 18 Oct; max 20 WL 27 Nov.
Trumpeter x Tundra Swan: 1 G 16-30 Nov (JeB, CW, *et al.*).
Wood Duck: max 73 BB 8 Oct.
Gadwall: max 45 BB 3 Oct.
Am. Wigeon: max 70 BB 18 Oct.
Blue-winged Teal: max 14 BB 9 Oct.
N. Shoveler: last 1 DE 16 Nov.
N. Pintail: max 123 S 16 Nov.
Green-winged Teal: max 365 S 1 Nov.
Canvasback: arr 2 HB 7 Oct.
Redhead: arr 3 HB 3 Oct.
Ring-necked Duck: arr 1 PE 23 Sep.
Greater Scaup: arr 1 HB 9 Sep; max 88 HB 29 Nov, very low.
Lesser Scaup: max 80 G 19 Nov, low.
King Eider: 1 fem HB 1 Nov (R&SS).
Surf Scoter: arr 7 HB 26 Sep.
White-winged Scoter: max 331 HB 1 Nov, low.
Long-tailed Duck: arr 1 HB 30 Sep; max 782 HB 30 Oct.
Bufflehead: arr 3 HB 17 Oct; max 104 HB 12 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: arr 1 HB 16 Oct; max 85 G 28 Nov, low.
Barrow's Goldeneye: 1 male PB 26-27 Nov (DT, JP).
Hooded Merganser: max 75 T Penfield, MONR 28 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 8,000 WL 19 Nov.
Red-throated Loon: arr 1 HB 16 Sep; max 165 OB 15 Nov (JeB, CW), low.
Com. Loon: max 415 HB 1 Nov.
Horned Grebe: arr 1 HB 9 Sep; max 100 HB 9 Nov (AGu), low.
Red-necked Grebe: max 19 HB 2 Oct.
N. Gannet: 1 imm HB 1 Nov (RS); 1 imm HB 8 Nov (AGu); 1 imm HB 11 Nov (RS); 1 imm HB 14 Nov (AGu, RS, WS).
Double-crested Cormorant: max 1200 G 12 Oct (LiB).
Great Cormorant: 1 imm HB 14 Nov (AGu, RS, WS).
Great Egret: max 26 MW 26 Sep; last 2 T Ogden, MONR 21 Oct (KG), late.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 1-3 G 12-16 Oct.
Green Heron: last 1 G 3 Oct.
BLACK VULTURE: 1 PE 14 Sep (MT).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: last 1 TC 2 Oct (MW).
N. Goshawk: 1 W 7 Sep; 1 HP 25 Oct; 1 W 28 Nov.
Broad-winged Hawk: last 1 BB 4 Oct.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr 2 HB 25 Oct.
Golden Eagle: 3 (1ad, 2 imm) T Williamson, WAYN 23 Oct (MT).
Merlin: total 6 sev loc Sep; 1 HB 2 Oct; total 4 sev loc Nov.
Peregrine Falcon: total 2 sev loc Sep; 1 HB 2 Oct; total 4 sev loc Nov.
Sora: last 1 PE 7 Nov.
Com. Moorhen: 1 BB 13, 20 Sep (KG); 1 BB 3 Oct (KG).
Sandhill Crane: 2-4 ad Crusoe L WAYN 9-12 Sep (WG); 4-5 S 5-6 Oct (LL, FM); 2 Taylor Marsh, LIVI 7 Nov (LyB).
Black-bellied Plover: last 4 AR 26 Oct.
Am. Golden-Plover: max 122 CU 17 Sep (JK); last 1 G 17 Nov.
Semipalmated Plover: last 2 RR 29 Oct.
Killdeer: max 340 East Barre, ORLE 23 Oct (DT).

The Kingbird 2009 March; 59 (1)

Greater Yellowlegs: last 5 G 9 Nov.
Lesser yellowlegs: last 1 S 1 Nov.
Solitary Sandpiper: last 1 BB 8 Oct.
Spotted Sandpiper: last 1B 15 Oct.
Whimbrel: 1 HB 6 Sep (DT, RS); 1 HB 19 Sep (WS); 1 OB 19 Sep (mob).
Red Knot: MAC 12-16 Sep (mob).
Sanderling: last 2 HB 3 Oct.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 2 G 18 Oct.
Western Sandpiper: arr 1 OB 17-20 (DS, mob).
Least Sandpiper: last 1 G 9 Oct.
White-rumped Sandpiper: last 1 AR 26 Oct.
Purple Sandpiper: arr 1-2 Summerville Pier, T Irondequoit 10-18 Nov (F&HL); 1 Troutburg, ORLE 27 Nov (JeB, CW).
Dunlin: max 30 HB 14 Nov (AGu, RS, WS), very low.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr 1-6 CU 7-17 Sep (JK, DS); 1 K 9 Sep (KG).
Long-billed Dowitcher: arr 1 juv G 29-30 Sep (RS); last 1 G 18 Oct.
Wilson's Snipe: max 70 East Barre, ORLE 23 Oct (DT).
Wilson's Phalarope: last 1 MW 6 Oct (FM), quite late.
Red-necked Phalarope: 1 HB 3 Oct (WS); 2 HB 9 Oct (WS); 2 HB 27 Oct (RS).
Red Phalarope: arr 1 HB 30 Oct (RS).
Pomarine Jaeger: arr 1 BB 12 Nov (KG); 1 HB 14 Nov (WS, RS, AGu).
Parasitic Jaeger: total 7 HB all Sep (mob); 1 BB 9 Sep (KG, GL, FL); 1 HB 3 Oct (RS); 1 HB 1 Nov (RS); 1 HB 14 Nov (AGu, RS); 1 G 22 Nov (Ji&LiB).
Franklin's Gull: 2 imm G, BB 30 Sep (GL, FL, KG).
Little Gull: 2 ad G 20 Sep (LiB); 1ad BB 16 OCT (KG); 1ad HB 29 Nov (RS).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 242 HB 1 Nov, low.
Iceland Gull: total 5 sev loc 16-27 Nov.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 first cycle CL 22 Nov (JK).
Glaucous Gull: total 7 sev loc Nov.
SABINE'S GULL: 1 imm BB 29 Nov (KG).
Black-legged Kittiwake: 1 G 28 Nov (JeB, JiB, LiB, CW).
Caspian Tern: last 1 IB 15 Oct (NP).
Com. Tern: max 57 HB 2 Oct; last 1 BB 2 Nov (DS), late.
ARCTIC TERN: 1 imm HB 7 Sep (WS, DT).
Forster's Tern: max 14 HB 19 Sep (WS).

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared-Dove: 1 P 1 Sep (DT); 1 P all Oct (D&KT, *et al.*); 1 P 1-16 Nov (AGu, mob).

Snowy Owl: arr 1 OB 18 Oct (TMc); total 12 sev loc Nov.
Short-eared Owl: arr 1 HB 12 Oct.
N. Saw-whet Owl: 2b M 9 Oct.
Com. Nighthawk: max 5 LW 12 Sep, poor max; last 4 W 18 Sep.
Chimney Swift: max 740 GR 1 Sep (JK); last 124 GR 6 Oct (JK).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last 1 HP 1 Oct (RS).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 LW 12 Sep (AW); 1 CL 20 Sep (MW).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 1b M 16 Sep.
Willow Flycatcher: last 1 BB 2 Sep.
“Traill’s” Flycatcher: last 1b M 10 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: last 1b M 1 Oct.
Great Crested Flycatcher: last 1 M 17 Sep.
E. Kingbird: last 1 S 13 Sep (RD).
N. Shrike: arr 1 South Conesus, LIVI 18 Oct (GP); total 13+ sev loc Nov.
White-eyed Vireo: 1 imm b M 1 Oct (BBBO).
Blue-headed Vireo: last 1b M 23 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: last 1b M 7 Oct.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr 1 S 3 Sep; last 1b M 7 Oct.
Red-eyed Vireo: last 1b M 14 Oct.
Com. Raven: 1 M 1 Oct (RS); 2 Ontario County Park 4 Nov (CJ, JBu); 2 GE 9 Nov (JK).
Horned Lark: max 320 WL 21 Nov.
Purple Martin: last 1 RU, MONR 25 Sep.
Tree Swallow: last 1 RU 16 Nov.
Bank Swallow: last 1 RU, MONR 25 Sep.
CAVE SWALLOW: arr 13 HB 3 Nov (R&SS, WS, *et al.*); 11 HB 4 Nov (WS, RS); 1 OB 8 Nov (KG, GL); 3 G 9 Nov (JiB, LiB); 5 HB 9 Nov (RS, AGu); 1 HB 10 Nov (RS, DS).
Barn Swallow: last 2 TC 3 Oct.
Tufted Titmouse: 1 Pittsford 10-23 Nov (R&SM), all white.
House Wren: last 1b M 16 Oct.
Sedge Wren: 1-4 HP all Sep (mob); 1 HP 1-14 Oct (KG), record late.
Golden-cr. Kinglet: max 75 G 5 Oct (LiB).
Ruby-cr. Kinglet: max 100 G 5 Oct (LiB); last HB 8 Nov.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last 1 W 19 Sep.
Veery: 1 HB 24 Oct (DT), record late.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 1 PE 1 Sep; last 1b M 8 Oct.
BICKNELL'S THRUSH: 1 HB 18 Sep (RS); 1 M 25 Sep (RS, DS).
Swainson's Thrush: arr 3 WP 1 Sep; last 8b M 23 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: 191b M all Oct.

Wood Thrush: last 2 AT 1 Oct.
Gray Catbird: 1 W 17 Nov (JoB).
Am. Pipit: arr 1 MAC 13 Sep; last 3 K 26 Nov.
Bohemian Waxwing: arr 3 HB 24 Nov (DT); 1 DE 25 Nov (KF).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: last 1 HP 13 Sep.
Golden-winged Warbler: last 1 HB 28 Aug.
Tennessee Warbler: last 1b M 6 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 IB 16 Sep (KH); 1 AT 27 Sep (ST); 1b M 30 Sep (BBBO); 1b M 3 Oct (BBBO); 1 TC 10 Oct (MW); 1 G 22 Oct (KG); 1b M 12 Nov (R&CMc).
Nashville Warbler: last 1 AT 31 Oct (KH), late.
N. Parula: last 1 AT 31 Oct.
Yellow Warbler: last 1 Huckleberry Swamp, WAYN 20 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last 1 M 11 Oct.
Magnolia Warbler: last 2b M 6 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 1b M 12 Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last 1b M 4 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last 1 M 17 Sep.
Palm Warbler: last 1 AT 31 Oct (KH), late.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last 1 G 25 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: last 1 IB 26 Oct, record late.
Cerulean Warbler: last 1 MW 13 Sep.
Black-and-white Warbler: last 2b M 4 Oct.
Am. Redstart: last 1 TC 6 Oct.
Ovenbird: last 1 HP 4 Oct.
N. Waterthrush: last 1b M 7 Oct.
Connecticut Warbler: 1b M 1 Sep (BBBO); 1 b M 17 Sep (BBBO); last 1b M 6 Oct (BBBO).

Mourning Warbler: last 1b M 6 Oct.
Com. Yellowthroat: 1 G 16 Nov (JeB, CW).
Wilson's Warbler: last 1b M 29 Sep.
Canada Warbler: last 1b M 11 Sep.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: last 1b M 1 Oct.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 1 HB 13 Oct.
Clay-colored Sparrow: 1 CU 4 Oct (JK), rarely reported in fall.
Field Sparrow: max 36 Oak Openings, T Rush 9 Oct (MW).
Fox Sparrow: last 1 R 20 Nov.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 2b M 10 Sep; last 2b M 12 Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: arr 1b M 7 Sep; max 75b M 4 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr 2b M 23 Sep.
Snow Bunting: arr 1 HB 13 Oct; max 660 WL 21 Nov.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 1 imm male T Marion, WAYN (DK).
Indigo Bunting: last 1 M 29 Sep.
E. Meadowlark: 1 S 1 Nov (CJ, LL).
Rusty Blackbird: max 50 PE 15 Oct.
Baltimore Oriole: last 5 R 20 Sep.
Pine Grosbeak: arr 1 HB 19 Oct (DT); 1 HB 24 Nov (DT).
Red Crossbill: 1 Crusoe L WAYN 13 Sep.
White-winged Crossbill: arr 4-6 HB 24 Oct; 3 HB 31 Oct; max 1785 HB 24 Nov (DT, RC).
Com. Redpoll: 3 HB 7 Nov (MT), only report.
Pine Siskin: 430 HB 24 Oct (DT); max 2500 HB 24 Nov (DT, RC).
Am. Goldfinch: max 404 HB 4 Nov.
Evening Grosbeak: 1 WP 28 Nov (JeB, CW).

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REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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Weather this season was typical; rainfall was slightly below average, and temperatures were slightly below normal. Several light snowfalls came in the last two weeks of November, but no storm exceeded 2" in accumulation.

Goose migration was not overwhelming in quantity this fall, but the species composition was very interesting, with new Regional high counts for Ross's Goose (nine at MNWR on 24 October) and Cackling Goose (16 at MNWR on

17 October). Increasing numbers of Ross's Goose records statewide can probably be attributed to the continued population growth of mid-continent Snow and Ross's Geese. Increasing observer coverage and knowledge of goose identification might explain the continued increase in Cackling Goose observations. Continued documentation of Cackling and small Canada Goose sightings is requested even as Cackling Goose becomes less "novel" since the AOU split in 2004. Most records appear to pertain to "Richardson's" Cackling Goose (*B. h. hutchinsii*), but there is uncertainty with some individuals, including the possibility that Lesser Canada Goose is regularly present in small numbers. Eurasian Wigeon were also present at MNWR in larger than usual numbers, with up to six males reported. A Pacific Loon at Aurora Bay 1-3 November and another at Sheldrake 23 November may be the same individual and could be the same bird that has returned to Cayuga Lake for several years running. Probably related to the remnants of Hurricane *Ike* that pushed many birds north across the continent toward the Great Lakes, an adult male Magnificent Frigatebird was found at Myers Point on 21 September (see p. 16 & Fig. E, p. 53). Many observers were able to view the bird as it floated up and down the south end of Cayuga Lake between Myers Point and Stewart Park. The bird was found dead under its roost tree in Ithaca the next morning, and the specimen has been preserved at the Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates. This represents the second inland report for New York and a first record for the Cayuga Lake Basin.

Southern waders made a small but well-documented late-season appearance in the Region, with a juvenile Little Blue Heron at Sapsucker Woods from 4-20 November and a Glossy Ibis at MNWR on 18 October.

Larids were largely typical, with notable records including a juvenile Laughing Gull photographed at Dryden on 29 September and a California Gull at Aurora Bay from 1-4 November. The adult California Gull represents the first record for the Cayuga Lake Basin (see p. 47 & Fig. E, p. 53).

Although jaegers are regular fall transients on the south shore of Lake Ontario just to our north, they are very rarely detected in Region 3. Therefore, two jaeger reports this season are noteworthy. One was identified by the observer as a dark juvenile Parasitic Jaeger at Long Point State Park on 16 October, and the other was not identified to species, seen at Myers Point on 22 October. Neither was photographed. More lake-watching effort earlier in the season might produce more reports of jaegers.

Passerine migration was largely typical, though a late Blue-winged Warbler at Horseheads on 30 October was exceptional. A vagrant Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Moravia on 17-18 November was outstanding.

Although warblers and sparrows were not outstanding, the beginning of a massive Pine Siskin and White-winged Crossbill invasion was nicely documented this fall by many observers. Pine Siskin arrived in Ithaca on 8 October and were soon found throughout the Region. Initially most siskins were reported as flyovers. As the season wore on, more were found "on the ground" in favored feeding trees as well as at backyard birdfeeders. White-winged Crossbills were first detected 29 September at Summerhill State Forest and

became a welcome sight for birders late this quarter, especially at consistent feeding areas in Summerhill State Forest and Dryden, where up to 260 were reported. Subsequent seasonal reports will likely continue to highlight this invasion as it develops in winter 2008-2009 and spring 2009.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CU – Cornell University, Ithaca; DuP – Durland Preserve, Dryden; EHCP – Ellis Hollow Creek Preserve, Dryden; LPSP – Long Point State Park; MNWR – Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; MyPt – Myers Point; StP – Stewart Park, Ithaca; SSF – Summerhill State Forest; SW – Sapsucker Woods.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: MNWR thru (mob); last 4 MNWR 9 Nov (JBr), high.

Ross's Goose: arr 2 MNWR 5 Oct; max 9 MNWR 24 Oct (SB, TBJ), high; last MNWR 17 Nov (KR).

Snow x Canada Goose hybrid: MNWR 23 Sep-26 Oct (PH, CWo, MI, TL, TJ).

Cackling Goose: arr MNWR 27 Sep; max 16 MNWR 17 Oct (CWo, MI, TL, TJ), high; last MNWR 23 Nov (LG).

Eurasian Wigeon: MNWR thru (mob); max 6 MNWR 24-26 Oct (SB, TJ), high.

PACIFIC LOON: Aurora Bay 1-3 Nov (SB; mob); Shelldrake 23 Nov (LG).

Com. Loon: 1340 MyPt 30 Oct, high; 642 MyPt 18 Nov, high.

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: MyPt, StP 21 Sep (TJ, SB; mob), first record for Cayuga Lake Basin.

LITTLE BLUE HERON: SW 4-20 Nov (KR, SKe; mob).

GLOSSY IBIS: MNWR 18 Oct (TJ, mob).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Dunlin: max 300 StP 21 Oct (DN), high.

Sandhill Crane: thru; max 44 MNWR 22 Nov (TJ, TL, SB, MM, CWl), State record high.

LAUGHING GULL: Dryden 29 Sep (KM).

CALIFORNIA GULL: Aurora Bay 1-4 Nov (TJ; mob), first record for Cayuga Lake Basin.

Iceland Gull: arr StP 23-29 Oct (PH), early.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: arr MNWR 13 Sep.

Glaucous Gull: arr StP 24 Oct (DN), early.

PARASITIC JAEGER: LPSP 16 Oct (TJ).

JAEGER SP: MyPt 22 Oct (BM).

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Red-headed Woodpecker: Caroline 15 Sep (AF); CU 25 Nov (ET).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER:

Moravia 17-18 Nov (mob).

Fish Crow: max 74 Dryden 11 Nov (TJ), high.

Gray Catbird: last CU 25 Nov (RD), late.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: last Horseheads 30 Oct (MP), late.
CONNECTICUT WARBLER: EHCP 2 Sep (DM); CU 18 Sep (TJ).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: CU 3 Oct (TJ); CU 11 Oct (RD); presumably different individuals.
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 2 Ithaca 7-11 Oct (TL, CWi).

White-crowned Sparrow (West Taiga): Burdett 20 Nov (JG).

Dickcissel: 2 Lansing/ Ithaca 21 Sep (RD, BM).

RED CROSSBILL: SSF 22 Sep (BM); SSF 3 Nov (MC); SSF 9 Nov (BM).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: arr 2 SSF 29 Sep (MY), max 260 Dryden 30 Nov (EI), high.

Pine Siskin: arr Ithaca 8 Oct (TJ); max 60 Shindagin Hollow 19 Oct (SF).

Evening Grosbeak: SSF 1 Nov (SF), only report.

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[The Report for **Region 4** was not received in time for publication.]

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REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The season started with above normal temperatures, but the average dipped below normal in the last two months. The Adirondacks had snow cover as of 29 October, and other snowbelt areas north of Oneida Lake had snow cover by 9 November. Ponds and small lakes were mostly frozen by the end of November. The average temperature in September was 62.7° F, 1.4° above normal, with 2.47" of precipitation, 1.68" below normal. The October averages were 48.3° F, 1.8° below normal, with 4.87" of precipitation, 1.67" above normal. For November the average temperature was 38.2° F, 1.5° F below normal. November had 3.15" precipitation, 0.62" below normal, and 16.1".of snow.

The waterfowl highlights included good flights of Brant, Northern Pintail, and Long-tailed Ducks following cold fronts, and several Cackling Geese. Snow Goose reports were few with low total numbers. The Canada Goose migration began in mid-September following the passage of Hurricane *Ike*. Mute Swan continued to increase in northern Cayuga County. Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, and White-winged Scoter numbers were low, and no Canvasback were reported. Ring-necked Duck was especially numerous on southern Madison County lakes, while the eastern end of Oneida Lake hosted a large raft of scaup and Common Goldeneye.

Ruffed Grouse seemed to have a good year as noted by observers in the Adirondacks, Tug Hill, and Southern Highlands. A small Red-throated Loon

flight in November was good for this Region. Least Bittern was reported in September, and Black-crowned Night-Herons were at Onondaga Lake through September. The geography of the Region does not favor detection of fall hawk migration, but this year saw a record flight of Turkey Vultures. Both Golden Eagle and Red-shouldered Hawk were more widely reported than usual. There were a few Broad-winged Hawk kettles, and Rough-legged Hawks were filtering in as the season ended. There was one report of Sandhill Crane, a species still uncommon in fall.

High water levels at Delta Lake and on Lake Ontario led to low numbers of Least, Semipalmated, and Pectoral Sandpipers. Sandy Pond on Lake Ontario did attract shorebirds when the water level dropped around the middle of September. A sod farm in Madison County attracted a one-day record count for Buff-breasted Sandpiper along with numbers of other "grasspipers". A juvenile Whimbrel seemed content to feed on insects stirred up by a lawnmower at Derby Hill. Red Knot, Ruddy Turnstone, and the phalaropes were not seen this fall, and there were also few Wilson's Snipe reports.

November had few of the strong cold fronts that push birds into eastern Lake Ontario. As a result, jaeger numbers were a little low and Black-legged Kittiwake was not reported for the first time in over forty years. There were several Little Gulls and Forster's Terns this season along with early Iceland and Glaucous Gulls. A Laughing Gull was seen at Onondaga Lake. Snowy Owl arrived in late October and numbers were building by the end of the season. One of the Snowies was being harassed by a Peregrine Falcon in Syracuse. The other migrant owls, Northern Saw-whet, Long-eared, and Short-eared, were not reported.

The passerine migration seemed to be steady and expected species were widely reported, but there seemed to be few waves of birds and only one party. A small flock of Cave Swallows was found at Fair Haven during what has become their typical November flight period. A dead Cave Swallow was found and taken to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. We had low numbers of wrens, kinglets and thrushes, although, in the case of thrushes, there is no monitoring of the night flights. Carolina Wren appears to be doing well in its stronghold along the Erie Canal corridor but remains uncommon away from there.

The Montezuma Muckrace held on 13 September provided many vireo and warbler sightings. Seven Philadelphia Vireos found then was a very good count. Warblers were widespread into October, but no one seemed to find any large concentrations. Early migrants lingering into September included Yellow Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler, and Canada Warbler. We had several Orange-crowned Warblers but no Cape May Warbler.

American Tree Sparrows were very uncommon across the Region except at Clay Marsh, and White-crowned Sparrow numbers were very low. The only Vesper Sparrow reports came from breeding areas. After a snowstorm on 28-29 October, Fox Sparrows moved to feeders and Dark-eyed Juncos massed along plowed roadsides.

We received no reports of winter irruptives such as Bohemian Waxwing, Pine Grosbeak, or Evening Grosbeak. The summer influx of White-winged Crossbills continued, and transients could be found feeding on white spruce with cones even in relatively open areas. Matt Perry also reported them feeding on eastern hemlock cones. There was little or no evidence of breeding. Large numbers of Pine Siskins were on the move in October, and, although that flight was mostly missed in the Region, small numbers were present by November. Red Crossbills lingered in some areas, and Purple Finches were seen in small numbers.

For the season a total of 228 species was reported, one below the past 10 year average. Highlights included Sandhill Crane, Whimbrel, Laughing Gull, Forster's Tern, **Cave Swallow**, and the numerous White-winged Crossbills.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BRH – Bishop Road Hawk Watch, T Richland; CM – Clay Marsh; DH – Derby Hill; Dvl – Durhamville; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; Geo – Georgetown; GSC – Great Swamp Conservancy, n. MADI; HI – Howland Island WMA; LOL – Lake Ontario Littoral; OnonL – Onondaga Lake; Sch – T Schroepel; SHF – Sky High Sod Farms, T Sullivan; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; Skan – Skaneateles; SL – T's Sullivan & Lenox mucklands; SPd – Sandy Pond; SSSP – Selkirk Shores State Park; StMC – Saint Mary's Cemetery, Dewitt; SVB – Sylvan and Verona Beach; Syr – Syracuse; TR – Three Rivers WMA; VB – Van Buren; WH – Whiskey Hollow, T Van Buren; WM – West Monroe; WPd – Woodman Pond, Hamilton.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: 80 SFNS 14 Oct; 95 Hastings 30 Nov.

Brant: max 6135 DH 21 Oct & 3450 DH 29 Oct; single Onon L thru Nov.

Cackling Goose: 4 BRH 21 Sep (BP);

Sauquoit 7 Oct (JH); OnonL 18 Oct (GH).

Canada Goose: first migrants 16 Sep, after Hurricane Ike.

Mute Swan: max 28 FH 25 Oct, 14 juveniles.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 FH 14 Oct, 19 Nov; Pulaski 1 Nov.

Tundra Swan: max 132 Constantia 23 Nov.

Wood Duck: max 174 WM 4 Sep.

Gadwall: max 15 FH 11 Nov.

Am. Wigeon: 48 SPd 29 Sep; max 87 FH 11 Nov.

Am. Black Duck: max 226 DH 29 Oct.

Blue-winged Teal: max 8 SPd 29 Sep.

N. Shoveler: max 2 per day after 14 Oct.

N. Pintail: max 613 DH 15 Sep and 615 DH 21 Oct.

Green-winged Teal: max 53 SPd 29 Sep.

Redhead: max 7 SPd 29 Sep.

Ring-necked Duck: max 328 Moraine L & WPd 2 Nov.

Greater Scaup: max 700 SPd 29 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: max 95 DH 16 Nov.

scaup species: 2400 SVB 21 Nov.

Surf Scoter: max 10 DH 21 Oct.

White-winged Scoter: max 51 DH 16 Oct.
Black Scoter: max 38 LOL 26 Oct.
Long-tailed Duck: max 757 DH 29 Oct.
Bufflehead: max 71 FH 11 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: max 240 SVB 21 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: max 280 Otisco L 30 Nov.
Com. Merganser: max 320 SVB 21 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 700 LOL 28 Nov.
Ruddy Duck: max 10 WPd 2 Nov.
Red-throated Loon: max 16 DH 16 Nov.
Com. Loon: max 127 DH 29 Oct.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 10 OnonL 1 Nov.
Horned Grebe: max 65 DH 2 Nov.
Red-necked Grebe: max 2 per day LOL after 21 Oct.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 154 SPd 21 Oct.
Least Bittern: VB 13 Sep (JW).
Great Egret: max 9 GSC 5 Sep; VB to 1 Oct.
Green Heron: max 16 WM 3 Sep; last WM 21 Oct.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 4 OnonL to 1 Oct.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Turkey Vulture: max 1093 BRH 17 Oct, new fall record.
Osprey: max 10 BRH 18 Sep; last WPd 6 Nov.
Bald Eagle: max 14 BRH 18 Sep.
N. Harrier: max 21 BRH 22 Oct.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 25 BRH 18 Sep.
Cooper's Hawk: max 5 BRH 18 Sep.
N. Goshawk: max 2 BRH 22 Oct; 5 other reports.
Red-shouldered Hawk: max 4 BRH 22 Oct, 7 other reports.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 291 BRH 18 Sep; 57 Elbridge 11 Sep; 49 Erieville 13 Sep.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 139 BRH 17 Oct.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr BRH 17 Oct; max 4 BRH 5 Nov; scattered in usual areas.
Golden Eagle: max 4 BRH 1 Nov; 7 other reports.
Am. Kestrel: max 14 BRH 21 Sep.
Merlin: 8 reports away from known breeding areas.
Peregrine Falcon: 2 SHF 10 Sep; BRH 18 Sep; Oswego 30 Nov; Syr & Utica thru.
Virginia Rail: WM 19 Oct.
Com. Moorhen: 2 Canastota 5 Sep, only report.
Am. Coot: max 18 WPd 2 Nov.
Sandhill Crane: 2 SPd 29 Sep.
Black-bellied Plover: max 46 SPd 15 Oct.
Am. Golden-Plover: max 20 SHF 14 Sep; 16 SPd 18 Oct.

Semipalmated Plover: SPd 28 Sep; 2 FH 11 Oct.
Killdeer: max 62 Skan 11 Sep.
Spotted Sandpiper: last SPd 29 Sep.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 5 Skan 10 Sep; last Skan 21 Sep.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 4 SPd 28 Sep; Syr 2 Nov.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 15 Skan 6 Oct.
Whimbrel: DH 11 Sep, feeding on lawn (KH).
Sanderling: max 58 SPd 29 Sep; last FH 16 Nov.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last SPd 15 Oct.
Least Sandpiper: last SPd 15 Oct.
White-rumped Sandpiper: 3 SPd 28 Sep.
Baird's Sandpiper: max 3 SHF 11-16 Sep; last SPd 15 Oct.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 4 Lysander 4 Sep.
Purple Sandpiper: arr FH 22 Oct (SF); 2-3 FH 16-28 Nov; 3 DH 16 Nov; 2 Oswego 29 Nov.
Dunlin: max 46 SPd 15 Oct.
Stilt Sandpiper: SPd 28-29 Sep.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr SHF 4 Sep; Solvay 8-10 Sep; max 6 SHF 14 Sep (BG, SB), record high; last SHF 18 Sep.
Short-billed Dowitcher: 3 SPd 28 Sep, only report.
Wilson's Snipe: max 1 per day, few reports.
Am. Woodcock: Syr 15 Oct; 2 W Winfield 19 Nov.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 221 DH 16 Nov.
Little Gull: 2 DH 29 Oct; DH 16 Nov.
LAUGHING GULL: OnonL 1 Sep (DW).
Iceland Gull: 2 DH 16 Nov.
Glaucous Gull: DH 29 Oct; Fulton 28 Nov.
Caspian Tern: last 3 SPd 29 Sep.
Com. Tern: max 150 SVB 11 Sep; last FH 23 Oct.
Forster's Tern: FH 29 Sep; DH 3 Oct; SPd 5 Oct.
Pomarine Jaeger: DH 16 Oct; 2 DH 16 Nov.
Parasitic Jaeger: DH 3 Oct; 2 DH 16, 21, 29 Oct; DH 21 Oct.
jaeger sp: 9 DH 6 Sep.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Camden 10 Sep; HI 13 Sep.
Black-billed Cuckoo: Camden 10 Sep.
Snowy Owl: Plainville 25 Oct; Syr 1 Nov; FH 15 Nov; Cazenovia 20 Nov; New Haven 30 Nov.
Com. Nighthawk: last Pompey 14 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last 29 Sep.
Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 Kirkland 7 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 4 StMC 15 Oct.

Black-backed Woodpecker: Limekiln L outlet 6 Nov.
N. Flicker: max 13 CM 29 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: WM 11 Sep; HI 13 Sep.
E. Wood-Pewee: last Camden 28 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Hastings to 8 Sep; 2 HI 7 Sep.
Alder Flycatcher: HI 6 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: last SFNS 21 Sep.
E. Phoebe: max 9 SPd 29 Sep; last Camden 15 Oct.
Great Crested Flycatcher: 9 reports to 10 Sep.
E. Kingbird: last HI 6 Sep.
N. Shrike: Geo 25 Oct; W Winfield 14 Nov; SFNS 16 Nov; Mexico 30 Nov.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last SVB 21 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: last SFNS 26 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: max 4 Kirkville 6 Sep; last SL & HI 13 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: max 7 HI 13 Sep; last SFNS 5 Oct; 8 other reports.
Red-eyed Vireo: last Elbridge 1 Oct.
Blue Jay: max 1074 Hastings 23 Sep.
Am. Crow: max 5200 BRH 1 Nov.
Fish Crow: OnonL thru.
Com. Raven: increasing s. HERK, s. ONEI.
Horned Lark: max 15 Pompey 18 Oct.
Tree Swallow: max 3000 Canastota 5 Sep.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 10 HI 13 Sep.
Bank Swallow: max 250 SL 6 Sep.
Cliff Swallow: max 10 Canastota 5 Sep.
CAVE SWALLOW: 7 FH 11 Nov (BP, mob, NYSARC); dead individual take to Cornell Lab.
Barn Swallow: max 120 SHF 11 Sep; last WM 30 Oct.
Carolina Wren: Mexico & W Winfield unexpected areas, doing well at lower elevations.
House Wren: max 5 StMC 25 Sep; last DH 4 Oct.
Winter Wren: migrant max 3 per day.
Marsh Wren: VB 13 Sep.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 12 Camden 26 Sep.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr HI 7 Sep; max 15 DH 3 Oct; last Camden 12 Nov.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last Hamilton 6 Sep.
E. Bluebird: max 30 T Onondaga 29 Sep.
Veery: last HI 13 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: Mexico 18 Oct, only report.
Swainson's Thrush: 9 reports; last TR 5 Oct.

The Kingbird 2009 March; 59 (1)

Hermit Thrush: max 4 per day Oct.
Wood Thrush: 6 reports to 21 Sep; Big Moose 19 Nov, late.
Gray Catbird: max 31 CM 17 Sep; last Syr 1 Nov.
Brown Thrasher: last SFNS 1 Oct.
Am. Pipit: arr 2 OnonL 1 Sep; max 125 BRH 2 Nov.
Cedar Waxwing: max 230 DH 30 Nov.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: Hastings & HI 4 Sep, only reports.
Tennessee Warbler: last SFNS 1 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: Lysander 21 Sep; TR 4 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: last TR 11 Oct.
N. Parula: max 3 SFNS 23 Sep; last 3 TR 4 Oct.
Yellow Warbler: last Hamilton 7 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 4 Dvl 6 Sep; last TR 28 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: max 5 HI 7 Sep; last StMC & Dvl 3 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last at 3 sites 3 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max to 25 per day Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 10 SFNS 23 Sep; last 5 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last Vernon 20 Sep.
Pine Warbler: HI 4 Sep; TR 8 Sep.
Palm Warbler: max 3 DH 3 Oct; last WM 30 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: max 4 Hastings 1 Sep & HI 13 Sep; last TR 19 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 5 SFNS 18 Sep; last SFNS 24 Sep.
Cerulean Warbler: Dvl 6 Sep; HI 7 Sep.
Black-and-white Warbler: last Elbridge 1 Oct.
Am. Redstart: last SSSP 26 Sep.
Ovenbird: last CM 6 Oct.
N. Waterthrush: WM 2 Sep, only report.
Mourning Warbler: last SFNS 4 Sep.
Com. Yellowthroat: last 2 SFNS 7 Oct.
Hooded Warbler: last WH 22 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: last Hastings 28 Sep.
Canada Warbler: Hamilton 1 Sep; TR 8 Sep.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 12 HI 7 Sep; last Elbridge 7 Oct.
E. Towhee: max 6 TR 30 Sep.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr WM 30 Oct; max 42 CM 10 Nov.
Chipping Sparrow: max 32 Camden 10 Sep.
Vesper Sparrow: VB to 27 Oct.

Savannah Sparrow: max 6 SHF 17 Sep; last VB 11 Oct.

Fox Sparrow: max 10 WH 15 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr TR 8 Sep; max 3 per day to last 6 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: max 55 DH 3 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr SPd 26 Sep; max 4 per day Oct, low; last Erieville 19 Nov.

Dark-eyed Junco: 50+ roadsides 29-31 Oct, after snowfall.

Lapland Longspur: Pompey 18 Oct, only report.

Snow Bunting: arr 6 SPd 18 Oct; max 120 Fulton 28 Nov.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last TR 4 Oct 1.

Indigo Bunting: last 2 VB 1 Oct.

Bobolink: max & last 6 TR 22 Sep.

Red-winged Blackbird: 20,000 Sch 25 Sep.

E. Meadowlark: to 6 per day; last VB 20 Nov.

Rusty Blackbird: max 360 CM 20 Oct.

Baltimore Oriole: 3 early Sep reports; Erieville 31 Oct; last VB 1 Nov.

Purple Finch: to 20 per day SFNS after mid Oct.

Red Crossbill: reports from Geo & Boylston; max 8 Geo 25 Oct.

White-winged Crossbill: max 300 Sch 25 Nov; widespread, opportunistic feeding.

Pine Siskin: 2 Hamilton 8 Sep; max 119 DH 14 Nov.

Am. Goldfinch: max 1420 DH 5 Nov.



REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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September was warmer and drier than average, but the rest of the fall was very wet with near normal temperatures. The mean September temperature in Watertown was 61.8° F, which is 1.7° above normal. Mean temperatures for October and November were both within 0.3° of normal. Watertown received 3.0" of precipitation in September, 1.6" below normal, but October and November totals were 7.1" and 5.4", which are 3.4" and 2.0" above normal, respectively. Each of the last two months included a 3-4 day stretch, beginning 25 October and 25 November, during which the precipitation totals were within about half an inch of the historic means for each full month. The first significant snowfall occurred on the night of 28-29 October, when many areas received 6-12" of wet snow. Mixed snow, sleet, and rain characterized much of November, particularly the latter half of the month.

The general opinion of both birders and duck hunters was that waterfowl numbers were generally low with a few exceptions. The first Snow Geese showed up in late September, but few were noted, perhaps because many passed through after the end of the fall reporting period. I received few reports of Brant, most likely because virtually nobody spent any time watching Lake Ontario, but 60 migrating over farm country during a snowstorm on 29 October were noteworthy. Birders are clearly becoming more knowledgeable about distinguishing Cackling and Canada Geese, as I received a number of reports of the former, several of which included good details. Among the species that seemed to be present in lower than usual numbers were American Black Duck,

Mallard, Green-winged Teal, all three scoters, and Common Merganser. American Wigeon numbers were better, and one male **Eurasian Wigeon** spent at least a week at Wilson Hill WMA. Wilson Hill also had the Region's high count of Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, and Hooded Merganser. The only report I received of Greater Scaup on Black River Bay indicated numbers that were an order of magnitude below what usually occurs here, but it's unclear whether scaup numbers really were low or the apparently poor showing reflects low observer effort. Bufflehead numbers were very good along the shore of Point Peninsula.

Nick Leone's tally of 21 Red-throated Loons on Black River Bay was a good total for Region 6. Common Loons were present in typical numbers along the Lake Ontario shoreline. The 43 Common Loon carcasses (out of 54 total carcasses) found on DEC botulism mortality surveys of the Lake Ontario shoreline represents a substantial reduction from the previous two years, providing evidence that the outbreak has lessened in severity. The Great Egret roost in Winthrop continued to host Regionally high numbers, with tallies of 90+ in early September.

Raptor highlights included three Golden Eagles, five Peregrine Falcons, and many Merlins. This latter species continues to increase, both as a breeder and a migrant. I received late word that a pair of Peregrine Falcons fledged one chick from a nest on the Ogdensburg Bridge during July 2008, but that the fledgling died a week or two after leaving the nest. This appears to be the first confirmed nesting in Region 6 in many decades. The season's first Rough-legged Hawk was seen on 14 October, which is about average.

In marked contrast to the fall of 2008, when very low water levels contributed to relatively good shorebird numbers, water was high everywhere and shorebirds were scarce. Diversity was better than in some recent years, but this likely represents a modest improvement in reporting, and numbers of individuals were low. An American Golden-Plover on Fort Drum and Stilt Sandpiper and Ruddy Turnstone in Hounsfield were the highlights, but no true rarities were observed. El Dorado Shores Preserve, once the undisputed shorebird hotspot in Region 6, was even poorer this fall than the past few, and the handful of reports I received from this location commented on the almost total lack of shorebirds present. The season's only notable larid was a juvenile Parasitic Jaeger seen chasing a Bonaparte's Gull over the St. Lawrence River at Wilson Hill.

Good numbers of Snowy and Short-eared Owls were present in traditional areas by the end of the season. Snowy Owls began showing up the last week of October, with migrants apparently accounting for most early reports. The 12 Snowy Owls that were reported represents the largest yearly total for Region 6 in several years. Short-eared Owls were at their traditional roosting area in Cape Vincent by 31 October, with at least 16 present by the end of November. A Northern Saw-whet Owl was at Indian Creek Nature Center on 7 November.

The passerine migration was generally slow, but large numbers of migrants were noted on several dates. Particularly heavy movements of vireos, thrushes, and warblers were noted 16-18 September, 29-30 September, and 1-2 October.

On 16 September three Philadelphia Vireos were seen along a 50-yard stretch of trail on Fort Drum, making for an unusual concentration. Also at Fort Drum, an impressive fallout on 1 October included one each Orange-crowned and Connecticut Warblers among 13 warbler species. Another Orange-crowned Warbler was on Fort Drum on 3 October.

Possible Cave Swallows were seen twice in November, but in both cases the birds were too distant for definitive identifications. The best evidence that Cave Swallows occurred in Region 6 came from the St. Lawrence River, where Gerard Philips saw three Cave/Cliff Swallows flying over New York water from the Canadian side. The next day Bruce DiLabio had good looks at three Cave Swallows approximately six miles west of this location on the Canadian side of the river. It therefore seems almost certain that Cave Swallows were present in Region 6 during 2008, but this species remains frustratingly unconfirmed. Hopefully when the next invasion occurs a coordinated effort can be made to have sufficient observers watching Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

Certainly the bird of the season was a **Northern Wheatear** Tom Magarian found in the yard of the house he was renting on the Tug Hill. The wheatear was only seen on 15 October, but Tom made heroic efforts to get the word out, allowing more than a dozen birders to make it to this remote location in time to see the bird. Bill Purcell commented on the incredibly small odds of a single wheatear just happening to put down in the yard of one of the few people in Lewis County who could possibly identify it.

Fall surveys of the Fort Drum grasslands documented late dates for several species that are not normally reported during this season. Sedge Wrens were consistently seen on their nesting or natal territories through September, with the last sighting occurring on 14 October. Two Henslow's Sparrows seen on 8 September included one individual undergoing heavy molt. Repeated efforts to find these or other Henslow's Sparrows after this date failed. Clay-colored Sparrows were found sporadically at recent nesting locations until 3 October. It was generally a good season for sparrows, with reports of every species that regularly occurs in Region 6, including at least eight Lincoln's Sparrows. White-throated Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco numbers seemed low, with maximum counts well below those reported during the previous two falls.

Following their summer influx, White-winged Crossbills apparently staged a second invasion of northern New York during October and November. Numbers were particularly impressive on the Tug Hill, where on 3 November Tom Magarian counted **1,660** individuals in less than two hours. Tom also saw several juveniles suggesting that at least a few crossbills may have nested locally. White-winged Crossbills were seen virtually everywhere in Region 6, although numbers were much lower in lowland areas than on the Tug Hill or in the Adirondacks. Smaller numbers of Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins were reported. Purple Finches were widespread through late October, but were scarce by early November and virtually absent by the end of the reporting period. Two reports each of Pine Grosbeak and Common Redpoll hinted at the potential for winter flights.

For the season I received reports of 202 species, excluding the possible Cave Swallow. The Northern Wheatear was the clear highlight, although the apparent decline in the severity of the botulism outbreak on Lake Ontario is certainly good news. Other highlights were multiple Cackling Geese, Parasitic Jaeger, Connecticut and Orange-crowned Warblers, and the White-winged Crossbill bonanza. The biggest disappointment was the failure once again of anybody to confirm Cave Swallow in Region 6, although perhaps this year's close calls may help focus efforts to find this species the next time it invades the northeastern United States.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BRB – Black River Bay; CPSP – Cedar Point State Park; CV – Cape Vincent; ED – El Dorado Shores Preserve; FD – Fort Drum Military Reservation; ICNC – Indian Creek Nature Center, Canton; KC – Kelsey Creek, Watertown; LPd – Leonard Pond trail, Colton; MM – Massawepie Mire, Piercefield and Colton; MP – Montario Point, Ellisburg; PilPt – Pillar Point; PRWMA – Perch River WMA; PtPen – Pt. Peninsula; RMPD – Robert Moses Power Dam; SBSP – Southwick Beach SP; SLR – St. Lawrence River; TP – Tibbet's Point, Cape Vincent; ULLWMA – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA; WBSP – Westcott Beach SP; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA; WS – Winthrop Swamp, Stockholm.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr Dekalb 18 Sep; max 600 over MM 19 Nov.

Brant: 120 CV 10 Oct; 60 flying over Philadelphia hayfields during snow storm 29 Oct.

Cackling Goose: Lowville 15 Oct (CW, JB, TL, MI); Hammond 16 Oct (GS!); ULLWMA 19 Oct (JB); 2 Canton 25 Oct (JB).

Tundra Swan: max 168 PtPen.

Wood Duck: last 2 FD 12 Nov.

Gadwall: max 75 ULLWMA 22 Oct.

EURASIAN WIGEON (R6): m WHWMA 10 Nov, 16 Nov (JB).

Am. Wigeon: max 400 WHWMA 11 Oct.

Am. Black Duck: max 30 ULLWMA 12 Nov, low.

Blue-winged Teal: max 58 ULLWMA 20 Sep; last ULLWMA 25 Oct.

N. Shoveler: PRWMA 13 Oct, 8 Nov.

N. Pintail: max 7 PRWMA 3 Nov.

Green-winged Teal: max 132 Whalen Park Louisville 27 Sep.

Redhead: max 450 WHWMA 10 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: max 1350 WHWMA 24 Oct.

Greater Scaup: arr SBSP 29 Sep; max 230 PilPt 17 Nov, very low.

Lesser Scaup: max 200 CV 19 Oct.

Surf Scoter: 2 SLR Massena 11 Oct; 3 SLR Massena 24 Oct.

White-winged Scoter: MP 29 Oct; CPSP 2 Nov.

Black Scoter: MP 29 Oct; BRB 17 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: 12 CV 18 Oct; 130 TP 21 Nov.

Bufflehead: 300 PilPt 8-9 Nov; 1000 PtPen 15 Nov, high.

Com. Goldeneye: arr CPSP 2 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: max 165 WHWMA 10 Nov.

Com. Merganser: 10-25 per day SLR
Louisville and Massena late Nov; low.
Red-breasted Merganser: 38 CV 21 Nov.
Ruddy Duck: 3 PRWMA 8 Nov.
Red-throated Loon: max 21 BRB 12 Nov.
Com. Loon: max 104 PiPt 12 Nov; 43
carcasses picked up on DEC botulism surveys
of L Ontario shore Oct and Nov.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 97 ULLWMA 12 Sep.
Horned Grebe: arr MP 19 Oct; max 23 PiPt
12 Nov.
Am. Bittern: last ICNC 26 Sep.
Great Egret: max 90+ WS 16 Sep.
Green Heron: last ICNC 5 Oct.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: last ULLWMA
13 Oct.
Turkey Vulture: max 200 WBSP 16 Oct; last
FD 4 Nov.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: last Massena 21 Sep.
N. Harrier: 1-3 per day late Nov.
N. Goshawk: PRWMA 13 Oct; FD 24 Nov.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 FD 6 Oct.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr CV 14 Oct.
Golden Eagle: WBSP 16 Oct; 2 WHWMA 2
Nov.
Merlin: more than 20 reports.
Peregrine Falcon: Hounsfield 3 Sep; ICNC 20
Sep; FD 2 Oct; SBSP 3 Oct; CV 29 Oct.
Com. Moorhen: last PRWMA 13 Oct.
Am. Coot: max 14 ULLWMA 13 Oct.
Black-bellied Plover: max 17 PtPen 24 Oct;
last PtPen 15 Nov.
Am. Golden-Plover: FD 29 Sep.
Semipalmated Plover: ED 19 Sep.
Killdeer: last Waddington 24 Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: last Croil Is SLR 13 Nov.
Lesser Yellowlegs: last Leray 29 Sep.
Solitary Sandpiper: last 5 FD 8 Oct.
Ruddy Turnstone: Hounsfield 3 Sep.
Sanderling: max 140 SBSP 9 Oct; 15 MP 29
Oct.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 6 ULLWMA 5
Sep; last SBSP 9 Oct.
Least Sandpiper: last SBSP 9 Oct.
Pectoral Sandpiper: 2 Leray 24 Sep; 5 PtPen
23 Oct.
Dunlin: 37 SBSP 9 Oct.
Stilt Sandpiper: Hounsfield 3 Sep.
Wilson's Snipe: last FD 12 Nov.
Am. Woodcock: last FD 30 Oct when one foot
of snow on ground.
Parasitic Jaeger: juv chasing Bonaparte's
Gull WHWMA 12 Sep (JB), rare on SLR.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 52 PtPen 24 Oct.
Com. Tern: last WHWMA 24 Oct.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Snowy Owl: Theresa 26 Oct; RMPD 27 Oct
thru; Pamela 9 Nov thru; Antwerp 12 Nov;
Ogdensburg 12 Nov; Croil Is SLR 13 Nov; FD
14 Nov thru; Massena 20 Nov; Gouverneur 24
Nov; CV 21 Nov; 2 PtPen late Nov.
Short-eared Owl: 6 CV 31 Oct; 16 CV 28
Nov.
N. Saw-whet Owl: ICNC 7 Nov.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Canton 28
Sep.
Belted Kingfisher: last FD 18 Nov.
Red-headed Woodpecker: last FD 18 Sep.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: new location FD 10
Oct.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last KC 6 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: last FD 22 Sep.
E. Phoebe: last FD 16 Oct.
Great Crested Flycatcher: last FD 17 Sep.
E. Kingbird: last Potsdam 12 Sep.
N. Shrike: arr CV 14 Oct; Hounsfield 19 Oct;
5 reports FD Oct.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last FD 2 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: last FD 15 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: last ICNC 26 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: Potsdam 13 Sep; 3 FD 18
Sep; ICNC 26 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: last FD 15 Oct.
Gray Jay: max 4 LPd 5 Oct.
Horned Lark: 80 Adams 29 Oct.
Tree Swallow: 3 PtPen 2 Nov; Lakeview
WMA 11 Nov.
Petrochelidon sp. PRWMA 8 Nov (JB); 3 SLR
Lisbon 12 Nov (GP); likely Cave Swallows but
too distant for specific id.
Barn Swallow: last FD 10 Sep.
Carolina Wren: KC 26-28 Oct, 5 Nov, 21
Nov.
House Wren: last FD 2 Oct.
Winter Wren: last FD 6 Nov.
Sedge Wren: max 7 FD 8 Sep; last FD 14 Oct.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr FD 22 Sep.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr FD 17 Sep; last
FD 27 Oct.
N. WHEATEAR: Lowville 15 Oct. (TM,
mob, photos!; report to NYSARC).
E. Bluebird: scarce after 7 Nov.
Veery: last FD 16 Sep.
Gray-checked Thrush: Colton 13 Sep; FD 16
Sep & 6 Oct; ICNC 20 Sep; several Canton &
Potsdam 29-30 Sep; CV 18 Oct.
Swainson's Thrush: many moving 16-18 Sep;
last Canton 6 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: last FD 20 Oct.
Wood Thrush: last ICNC 7 Sep.
Gray Catbird: last FD 16 Oct.

Brown Thrasher: last Canton 4 Oct.
Am. Pipit: arr FD 10 Sep; 109 PtPen 25 Sep;
105 Adams 29 Oct; last Leray 18 Nov.
Cedar Waxwing: max 75 FD 16 Oct.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: last FD 3 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: last FD 2 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: different locations
FD 1 Oct, 3 Oct (JB).
Nashville Warbler: last KC 6 Oct.
N. Parula: last FD 6 Oct.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last ICNC 7 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: last Martinsburg 1 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: FD 3 Sep, 22 Sep.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last FD 1 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: last FD 3 Nov.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last LPd 5
Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last FD 1 Oct.
Pink Warbler: last FD 3 Oct.
Palm Warbler: max 14 FD 30 Sep; last FD 6
Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last ICNC 26 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: last FD 6 Oct.
Black-and-white Warbler: last Martinsburg 1
Oct.
Am. Redstart: last Martinsburg 1 Oct.
Ovenbird: last FD 30 Sep.
Connecticut Warbler: FD 1 Oct (JB).
Mourning Warbler: last FD 4 Sep.
Com. Yellowthroat: last KC 6 Oct.
Wilson's Warbler: FD 3 Sep, 17 Sep; ICNC 7
Sep, 12 Sep.
Canada Warbler: last FD 18 Sep.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: last FD 18 Sep.
E. Towhee: last FD 16 Oct.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Canton 1 Nov.
Chipping Sparrow: last FD 31 Oct.
Clay-colored Sparrow: last FD 3 Oct.
Field Sparrow: last PtPen 24 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: last FD 16 Oct.
Savannah Sparrow: last 2 FD 15 Oct.

Grasshopper Sparrow: last PtPen 25 Sep.
Henslow's Sparrow: last 2 FD 8 Sep,
including one in heavy molt.
Fox Sparrow: arr FD 2 Oct; last ICNC 7 Nov.
Song Sparrow: last FD 14 Nov.
Lincoln's Sparrow: 6 reports FD 8 Sep to 3
Oct; Potsdam 30 Sep; Martinsburg 30 Sep.
Swamp Sparrow: last FD 23 Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: max 85 FD 1 Oct,
low.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr WBSP 29 Sep;
last ICNC 7 Nov.
Dark-eyed Junco: arr FD 18 Sep; max 165 FD
15 Oct, low.
Lapland Longspur: ULLWMA 7 Nov, 9 Nov.
Snow Bunting: arr ULLWMA 25 Oct.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last KC 3 Oct.
Bobolink: last FD 17 Sep.
E. Meadowlark: last 4 FD 31 Oct.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 50 ICNC 26 Sep; 45
Potsdam 29 Sep; 270 Potsdam 4 Oct; 250
ULLWMA 22 Oct; 50 KC 22 Oct; 41 PtPen 24
Oct; last Canton 11 Nov.
Baltimore Oriole: last Pamela 1 Sep.
Pine Grosbeak: FD 4 Nov; 6 ULLWMA 11
Nov.
Purple Finch: max 22 FD 27 Oct; scarce after
4 Nov.
White-winged Crossbill: max 1660
Martinsburg 3 Nov (TM); many reports from
all parts of Region; late summer/early fall
nesting suspected on Tug Hill.
Red Crossbill: scattered reports of 1-3 thru.
Com. Redpoll: 30 Canton 1 Nov; 25 ICNC 2
Nov.
Pine Siskin: 35 Hammond 19 Oct; LPd 5 Oct;
Potsdam 6 Oct; max 75 Martinsburg 3 Nov.
Am. Goldfinch: max 150 Martinsburg 16 Oct.

ADDENDUM

Peregrine Falcon: pair fledged one chick from
nest on Ogdensburg bridge over SLR early Jul
2008; fledgling found dead later in month
(MW).

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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September was largely sunny and pleasant but with the first frosts at Saranac Lake on 11 September (29°) and again on 22-23 September (26°), and the month was extremely dry, with little rain. Early October was clear and cool, with the first snow at Inlet on the 3rd and a heavy frost on the 19th that saw a morning temperature of 15° at Saranac Lake. Rain returned on the 21st, with 0.34" at Plattsburgh followed by snow squalls the following day that left 7" on Whiteface Mountain and 3" on Lyon Mountain. More rain and winds on 28 October left 11,000 without power before turning to snow 29-30 October, dumping 13" at Inlet and 11" at Malone but leaving only a dusting along the Champlain corridor. Early November was exceptionally warm, with a four-day stretch in the low 60s between 4 and 7 November, before temps dropped later in the month, with Inlet -5° on the 23rd. Lake Champlain stood at an unusually high 97.73' on 1 September, more than two feet higher than the same date in 2007 and three feet above the 83-year median daily statistic. The lake dropped to 95.21' by 25 October, before late autumn rain and snow lifted it to 96.01' at season's end. There was a bumper crop of wild foods, with a good cone crop on tamarack, spruce, and pine; fruits on apple, cherry, hawthorn, mountain ash, and mountain holly; and seeds on beech and birch.

As expected, birders along the Champlain corridor found a rich variety of species, including several rarities and even a new Regional shorebird. Greater White-fronted Goose (probably Geese) was found in both Beekmantown and Champlain, Barrow's Goldeneye at Noblewood Park, Great Egret at the Chazy Riverlands, a Regional record six Sandhill Cranes in Beekmantown, Stilt Sandpiper at Chazy Riverlands, both Little Gull and Black-headed Gull at Westport, a juvenile Sabine's Gull at Noblewood Park, Parasitic Jaeger on Treadwell Bay, an unidentified jaeger at Cumberland Head the following day, two Snowy Owls in Champlain and another in Peru, Short-eared Owl at Cumberland Head, Red-bellied Woodpecker at a Chazy feeder, White-eyed Vireo at Ausable Point, a half-dozen reports of Carolina Wren (including a nest with four young on Willsboro Point), and a late Sedge Wren and an early Bohemian Waxwing at Ausable Point. The real highlight, however, was the discovery and careful 20-minute identification of the first **Curlew Sandpiper** for Clinton County and Region 7, at Gilbert Brook Marina in the Town of Chazy, on the morning of 16 September. The observers eliminated the possibility of similar species with which they are familiar, Dunlin and Stilt Sandpiper, for example, which they also saw this fall. Details have been provided to NYSARC.

The Regional history of Sandhill Crane deserves a short review. Following the first at Point au Roche 18 May 1977 and second at Blue Mountain Lake 21 June 1986, there were no sightings during the 1990s. The floodgates opened

after northbound singles passed over Wadhams 13-14 April 2002, with the first multiple sightings of two cranes at both Tupper Lake and Gabriels in May-June 2005. That maxima was broken 8 September 2007, with four flying north from Fort Covington toward Quebec. The six in Beekmantown this fall, on 5 September, represent yet another new high count, but probably not the last. There have now been 14 separate sightings of Sandhill Crane in Region 7 since 1977, with all but two of those between 2002-08.

Within the Adirondacks, White-winged and Black Scoters and Long-tailed Duck were found on both Mirror Lake and Lake Placid. A dead Short-eared Owl outside Lake Placid was an unhappy surprise. All of the expected boreal birds, including Spruce Grouse, were reported with the exception of American Three-toed Woodpecker. The most notable event was the continued invasion of White-winged Crossbill which had begun in early July. By early November as many as 200 might be encountered in a day in the central Adirondacks, but only 30 along the lake at Port Kent on 5 November. Curiously, there were no autumn reports of Red Crossbill, which had been present in all counties except Clinton from 5 July until 11 August. Numbers of Pine Siskin, which had been scarce in summer, greatly increased. Most were found in the Adirondack highlands, although they were also found at Ausable Point, Westport, and Willsboro.

The total of just 166 species was far short of the record 194 species reported in 2007, as well as the previous record of 175 in 2004. Nevertheless, there are still some gems in the list that follows.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Pt; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CH – Cumberland Head; CR – Chazy Riverlands; FB – Ferd's Bog; GBM – Gilbert Brook Marina; T Chazy; LL – Long L; LP – L Placid; ML – Mirror L; MRRRA – Moose River Rec Area; NP – Noblewood Pk; PtR – Pt au Roche; SB – Sabattis Bog; SL – Saranac L; TL – Tupper L; WB – Whallon's Bay; WD – Wilcox Dock.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: Deyo Rd, T Beekmantown 8 Nov (BK), prob *flavirostris*; Lake Shore Rd, T Champlain 10 Nov (WS); Conroy Rd, T Beekmantown 12 Nov (MAMc), now ~10 CLIN & 11 Reg 7 records since 1943.

Snow Goose: arr 125 Elizabethtown 30 Sep (JP), early ESSE; many 1000s CR & PtR Oct-Nov; ad "Blue" T Beekmantown 10 Nov (LS).

Ross's Goose: T Beekmantown 9 Nov (SO,J&PT), with ~2500 Snow Geese.

Brant: arr 3 PtR 30 Oct (WS); WB 3 Nov

(BM); 2+ T Beekmantown 10 Nov (LS); Falls Pd trail 18 Nov (GL), with Snows; max 6 WD 20 Nov (DR), late CLIN.

Canada Goose: max 1200 WD 20 Nov (DR).

Gadwall: Westport 26 Oct (TM,SO), CH 18 Nov (NO), nice finds.

Am. Wigeon: Westport 26 Oct (TM,SO), also good.

N. Pintail: AP 9 Nov (JH,MAMc), only sighting.

Green-winged Teal: Scotion Cr 15 Nov (WS); max 8 WD 20 Nov (DR).

Ring-necked Duck: max 100s Moody Pd 1 Nov (LM).

Greater Scaup: arr Mirror L 30 Oct (LM).

Lesser Scaup: arr 3 Mirror L 30 Oct (LM); AP & 2 WD 20 Nov (DR).

scaup (sp.): max 500 NP 8 Nov (MDM).

White-winged Scoter: arr CH 15 Sep (BK); 1-22 NP 5 Oct-8 Nov (MDM); 2 Mirror L 30 Oct; 3 LP 1 Nov (LM), good finds.

Black Scoter: arr 2 Mirror L 30 Oct; max 6 LP 1 Nov (LM); 2 f WB 3 Nov (BM); Pt Kent 6 Nov (DR), good finds.

Long-tailed Duck: arr 2 Mirror L 30 Oct; LP 1 Nov (LM); AP 9 Nov (JH,MAMc); m Mirror L 10 Nov (LM), somewhat low numbers.

Bufflehead: arr Grass Pd 24 Oct (GL), ties early HAMI; 30 Golden Beach 17 Nov (GL), ties max HAM; numerous other reports.

Barrow's Goldeneye: arr m NP 8 Nov (MDM), always welcome.

Red-breasted Merganser: 2 WD 20 Nov (DR), only report.

Ruffed Grouse: f, 3 *small* y Baxter Mt Lane, Meete 23 Oct (J&PT).

Spruce Grouse: Spring Pd Bog 7 Sep (AM), well-known location.

Pied-billed Grebe: 3-5 CR 12 Sep-17 Oct (BK); AP 21 Sep-6 Nov, max 16 there 5 Oct (DR).

Horned Grebe: arr 22 NP 5 Oct (MDM), max 35 WD 20 Nov (DR), many other reports.

Red-necked Grebe: arr 3 Westport 26 Oct (TM,SO); max 4 LP 1 Nov (LM); also AP, Mirror L, WD.

Double-crested Cormorant: Sixth L to 5 Oct (GL), rare transient HAMI.

Great Egret: CR 7 Sep (NO) & 25 Sep (BK,CM), only locale.

Green Heron: Brown's Tract stream 4 Sep (GL), late HAMI.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: Rouses Pt 10 Nov (WS); CR 12 Nov (BK,CM), last.

Bald Eagle: AP; Ausable R; T Black Brook; Noonmark; Pt Kent; TL, now typical.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr Westport 6 Oct (DR).

Golden Eagle: 2 ads Bombay 20 Sep (MAMa); 3 ads, juv Azure Mt 17 Oct (JC).

Am. Kestrel: ad m trapped T Moira 27 Sep (MAMa), banded as nestling Winthrop, STLA 8 Jul '03, now aged 5 yrs, 3 mos.

Merlin: Keene 10 Sep (J&PT); Lincoln Pd 30 Sep (MAMu, EKT); Westport 6 Oct (DR), only reports.

Peregrine Falcon: 4 Noonmark 5 Oct (MAMu,EKT); CH 17 Oct (BK); Plattsburgh 18 Oct (DR), also low.

Com. Moorhen: CR 7 Sep (NO); CR 12 & 25 Sep (BK), but only location.

Am. Coot: AP 5-9 Nov (BK,CM,MAMc); max 6 CR 10 Nov (WS).

Sandhill Crane: max 6 US 9 & Spellman Rd, T Beekmantown 5 Sep (JCo), 6th CLIN record & new max Reg 7.

Black-bellied Plover: PtR 22 Sep (BK,CM); Essex harbor 26 Oct (L&PO); AP 5 Nov (JH).

Am. Golden-Plover: arr CR 17 Sep (BK), after none in summer.

Semipalmated Plover: CR 17 Sep (BK); NP 24 Sep (DL); max 7 CR 28 Sep (BK).

Solitary Sandpiper: River Rd, LP 1 Sep (TM), after none in summer.

Greater Yellowlegs: CR 25 Sep (BK); max 2 NP 26 Oct (L&PO).

Lesser Yellowlegs: AP 27 Sep (BK,CM); CR 28 Sep (BK), expected.

yellowlegs (sp.): AP 21 Sep (MAMc).

Sanderling: max 2 NP 7 Sep (MAMc,MDM); NP 24 Sep (DL), typical.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2 CR 25 Sep (BK), noteworthy as only report.

Least Sandpiper: max 8 GBM 9 Sep; CR 17 Sep; 2 CR 28 Sep (BK).

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr juv CR 12 Sep; GBM 16 Sep (BK,CM); max 4 CR 25-28 Sep (BK).

Dunlin: 4 CR 7 Sep (NO); max 9 CR 25 Sep; 8 CR 28 Sep; GBM 24 Oct (BK).

CURLEW SANDPIPER: GBM 16 Sep (BK,CM!), on tires 9:40 a.m., white rump, slender bill decurved much of its length, flew north 10 a.m., 1st CLIN & Reg 7 record.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr juv CR 25 & 28 Sep (BK), late CLIN & Reg 7.

Wilson's Snipe: max 14 CR 28 Sep (BK), a good number.

Little Gull: Westport 27 Oct (BM,JP,EKT), always a good find.

BLACK-HEADED GULL: Westport 26 Oct (TM,SO), 3rd ESSE & 5th Reg 7 record.

Bonaparte's Gull: max ~1000 Westport 26 Oct (TM,SO); also 5-175 NP 6 Sep-5 Oct (MDM).

SABINE'S GULL: juv NP 6 Sep (MDM, photo), 5th ESSE & Reg 7 record.
Black Tern: 2 NP 7 Sep (MAMc,MDM,NO), always welcome.
Com. Tern: max 370 NP 6 Sep (MDM), high ESSE & Reg 7; 80 NP 7 Sep (MAMc,MDM); 1st winter NP 26 Oct (L&PO), last.
Parasitic Jaeger: Treadwell Bay 14 Sep (DH), 5th CLIN, but now ~20 Reg 7 records.
jaeger (sp.): CH 15 Sep (BK), still a good sighting.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Rock Pigeon: 2 white pigeons Spruce Hill (Elizabethtown/Keene line) 2 wks in late Oct (J&PT), lost in the woods.
E. Screech-Owl: Keene 26 Sep (J&PT); Akey Rd, T Cadyville 3 Nov (CM,Jr), both nice finds.
Snowy Owl: arr 2 imm Banker Rd, T Champlain 9 Nov (RL), early CLIN; imm Peru 20 Nov (CM,Jr), with hopes of more to come.
Barred Owl: leucistic owl first seen Witherbee 25 Nov '07 returned 14 Sep-4 Nov (MAA,CW).
Short-eared Owl: CH 30 Sep (NO), where seen 15 Dec '07; Adk Loj Rd late Oct (LM), found dead.
Whip-poor-will: Ticonderoga 2-3 Sep (NC), last.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: f Chazy feeder 20 Nov thru (DF), as range expansion continues.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Mountain View 27 Nov (JT), late FRAN.
Black-backed Woodpecker: BB; Grass Pd; Inlet; Mitchell Pds; MRRRA; Red R; Wilson Pd, known locales.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: Witherbee to 10 Sep (CW), only report.
E. Phoebe: Redford 1 Nov (DF), late CLIN.
E. Kingbird: AP 30 Sep (BK), late CLIN.
N. Shrike: arr MRRRA 23 Oct (JC); Adk Loj Rd 1 Nov (LM), a weak start.
White-eyed Vireo: AP 9 Nov (JH,JL,MAMc), 1st CLIN record.
Blue-headed Vireo: singing m SL 21 Oct (TM); banded Elizabethtown 25 Oct (JP), late ESSE.
Gray Jay: FB; Helldiver Pd; Newcomb; SB, usual locales.
Boreal Chickadee: BB; Boreas R; FB; Gothics-Saddleback; LL; Newcomb; Pyramid-Armstrong; Red R; Wolf Cr, expected locales.
Tufted Titmouse: CH; Elizabethtown; Inlet; Keeseville; NP; Pt Kent; SL; Willsboro Bay; Witherbee, barely indicative of current range.

Carolina Wren: nest with 4 y Willsboro Pt (RL), fledged c. 30 Sep; CH 2 Oct (BK); Plattsburgh 5 Oct; CH 18 Oct (NO); Westport 26 Oct (TM,SO); pr Essex 15 Nov (EDT), all excellent reports from developing strongholds.
Sedge Wren: AP 30 Sep (BK), late CLIN & Reg 7.
Bicknell's Thrush: Pyramid, 4 Gothics 7 Sep (DD); Whiteface Mt 8 Sep (AM); max 6 Gothics 21 Sep (DD).
Am. Robin: ~100 Inlet 21 Oct (GL); ~100 LP 30 Oct (LM), good numbers.
Brown Thrasher: transient banded Elizabethtown 2 Oct (JP), only report.
Am. Pipit: 4600' Gothics 21 Sep (DD), the 8th High Peak where found during Sep-Oct; max 12 Reynolds Rd, T Chazy 19 Oct (BK,CM).
Bohemian Waxwing: arr AP 19 Nov (BK), but only report.
Cedar Waxwing: max 50 Willsboro Bay 16 Nov (LS), other reports BB; Elizabethtown; LL; LP; Peru; Pt Kent; Witherbee.

WARBLERS

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Inlet 28 Oct (GL), in yard on snow, late HAMI.
Palm Warbler: 2 "Western" 4400' Saddleback jct 7 Sep (DD); BB 13 Sep (BM); "Yellow" banded Elizabethtown 3 Oct (JP).
Blackpoll Warbler: Gothics-Saddleback 7 Sep (DD); max ~50 Armstrong 21 Sep (DD), record high ESSE; 3 banded Elizabethtown 21 Sep (JP); Rand Hill 5 Oct (JH).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Pt Kent 5 Nov (DR).
Field Sparrow: Inlet 31 Oct (GL), only report.
Vesper Sparrow: MRRRA 23 Oct (JC), late HAMI.
Fox Sparrow: Inlet; Keene; LP; Pt Kent, only locations.
Song Sparrow: max 25 Pt Kent yard 7 Sep (DR).
Lincoln's Sparrow: near summit of Pyramid (4100') 7 Sep (DD); banded Elizabethtown 22 Sep (JP).
White-crowned Sparrow: arr Peru 1 Oct (EF), later reports Azure Mt; Peru; PtR; Pt Kent to 5 Nov.
Dark-eyed Junco: 95 banded Elizabethtown 22 Sep-10 Nov (JP), widespread.
Snow Bunting: arr 2 T Beekmantown 19 Oct (BK,CM); later reports of 6-50 AP; Essex; Limekiln Rd; LL-Newcomb; LP; WB.
N. Cardinal: transient f banded Elizabethtown 5 Oct (JP).
Red-winged Blackbird: max 100+ CR 10 Nov (WS).

Rusty Blackbird: Limekiln L 2 Nov (GL); 3 AP 6 Nov (JH), only reports.

Com. Grackle: max 70 CH 6 Sep (NO).

Purple Finch: BB; Keeseville; MRRRA; Westport, only reports.

House Finch: 5 CH 22 Oct (NO); Keeseville feeder (JL), but only locations.

White-winged Crossbill: Invasion that began 9 Jul continued, with reports of up to 200/day by Nov from BB; Golden Beach; Inlet; Keene; LL; Madawaska; Minerva; Mitchell Pds; MRRRA; Mt View, Newcomb; North Elba; Paul Smiths, Pt Kent; Red R; Sagamore; SB; TL;

Union Falls; Wolf Creek.

Pine Siskin: Numbers increased, with reports of up to 100/day by Nov from AP; Azure Mt; BB; FB; Keene; LL; LP; Minerva; MRRRA; Newcomb; Union Falls; Westport; Willsboro.

Am. Goldfinch: max 35 Pt Kent feeder 5 Nov (DR); scattered reports from AP; BB; Elizabethtown; Keeseville; LL; LP; Mitchell Pds; Union Falls, mostly at feeders.

Evening Grosbeak: max 20+ LL 29 Nov (JC); other reports Minerva; Newcomb; SB, but generally scarce.



REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Fall 2008 began warm and wet and ended colder and dry. September remained comparatively warm, 3.7° F above average, with seasonal daytime temperatures and above-average nighttime temperatures. The month ended wet, with 0.91" more rain than average brought by only a handful of large storms. October ended wet and 1.2° cooler than average. The first frost occurred on higher elevations on the 7th with a hard freeze in the lower valleys on the 20th. A cold snap in mid-November ushered in a week of daytime highs near or below freezing, which froze most shallow ponds and wetlands. Temperatures moderated at the end of the season, but with few clear sunny days, many slow bodies of water remained covered with thin ice.

Merlin sightings continue to increase locally, represented by at least 12 reports of single birds scattered throughout the Region. Merlins now appear to be resident breeders near the urbanized Port of Albany, where they feast well on starlings, and seem to be increasing along the Adirondack foothills and in the mid-Hudson and Mohawk valleys. John Saville reported an adult Golden Eagle soaring over the Helderbergs in Albany County, a location that also hosted some 1500 migrating Broad-winged hawks on 16 September. It was an unremarkable season for shorebirds, save the pair of American Woodcock observed in Montgomery County engaged in late courtship display on Halloween. Regional observers spotted some white-winged gulls at the usual haunts by late November.

Will Raup reported Peregrine Falcons harassing an emaciated juvenile Snowy Owl found floating in the Hudson. The owl eventually reached the shore, where it was rescued and sent to rehabilitation.

Two late reports of White-eyed Vireo enlivened the fall passerine list, one seen in Meadowdale in Albany County and another across the river at the Troy landfill, observed in a flock of mixed woodland gleaners. Five reports of Philadelphia Vireo this fall were welcome, as they are often missed. Orange Crowned Warbler and Connecticut Warbler top the list of passing migrants. Many birders faithfully reported last dates for various migrants from favored birding grounds near Vischer's Ferry in Saratoga County, Partridge Run in Albany County, and the Coxsackie grassland area of Greene County. A Dickcissel in the Mohawk Valley may be the highlight of the season, although we cannot call this species a true rarity anymore, since they seem to show up now in every season, with confirmed local breeding in Schoharie County.

Larry Federman reported a Purple Finch with conjunctivitis in the Catskills, an observation also noted by bander Bob Yunick, who discovered the disease among 20 Purple Finches that passed through his mist nets between 27 July and 20 September. Yunick reports that the disease affected immatures most severely, 18 out of the 20 observed, with varying degrees of swollen eyelids and weeping eyes. More than one birder has asked me if any researchers are interested in observations of conjunctivitis in species other than House Finches. If readers know of any, please contact me at the above address and I will spread the word.

In other finch news, the modest irruption of Common Redpolls has ended locally this year, with virtually no reports through the fall into early winter 2009. A single October sighting of a Pine Grosbeak in Ghent, Columbia County, is a lingering taste of what was an interesting irruption last winter. Pine Siskins have taken up the slack, however, with too many reports to list and several reports of flocks exceeding 50 birds. Multiple reports of White-winged Crossbills in the northern section of the Region also foreshadow a flurry of interesting winter finch activity.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AMS – T Amsterdam, MONT; AUS – T Austerlitz, COLU; COH – T Cohoes, ALBA; COX – T Coxsackie, GREE; FtE – T Fort Edwards, WASH; GL – Galway L, SARA; HR
The Kingbird 2009 March; 59 (1)

– Hudson Ri; MEA – T Meadowdale, ALBA; ML – Myosotis L, ALBA; MR – Mohawk Ri; NIS – T Niskayuna, SCHE; PR – Partridge Run WMA, ALBA; REN – T Rensselaerville, ALBA; TR – Tomhannock Res, RENS; VF – Vischer's Ferry, SARA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: 'blue phase' Watervliet ALBA 28 Sep-8 Oct; Alcove Reservoir ALBA 17 Oct; Churchtown COLU 5 Nov.
Brant: max 70 Berne 18 Oct; TR 23 Oct; Chatham COLU 6-8 Nov; TR 11 Nov; Coeymans Landing ALBA 15 Nov.
Wood Duck: last Schodack I RENS 9 Nov.
Gadwall: max 2 TR 11-29 Nov.
Am. Wigeon: max 4 TR 23 Nov.
Blue-winged Teal: last Germantown COLU 29 Nov.
N. Pintail: 2 GL 18 Nov; NIS 21 Nov.
Green-winged Teal: max 12 TR 23 Nov.
Canvasback: 20 Germantown COLU 29 Nov.
Ring-necked Duck: max 500 Loughberry L SARA 9 Nov.
Greater Scaup: max 2 Germantown COLU 29 Nov.
Surf Scoter: ML 18 Oct.
White-winged Scoter: max 7 ML ALBA 18 Oct; 2 L George WARR 6 Nov.
Black Scoter: 26 ML 1 Nov; max 45 L George WARR 12 Nov.
Long-tailed Duck: Nassau L RENS 6 Nov; ML 16 Nov; NIS 21-30 Nov.
Bufflehead: max 16 L George WARR 6 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: max 176 TR 8 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: max 164 TR 30 Nov.
Com. Merganser: max 902 TR RENS 30 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: 12 Saratoga L 29 Nov.
Ruddy Duck: max 100 GL 25 Oct.
Ruffed Grouse: 4 REN 7 Sep.
Com. Loon: max 5 Saratoga L SARA 29 Nov.
Pied-billed Grebe: last TR 23 Oct.
Horned Grebe: max 10 Great Sacandaga L FULT 28 Nov.
Red-necked Grebe: TR 23-24 Oct.
Double-crested Cormorant: last NIS 29 Nov.
Great Blue Heron: white phase/albino Saratoga SARA 14 Sep.
Great Egret: max 5 VF 18 Sep; Ancramdale COLU 25 Sep; VF 28 Sep; 2 COX Boat Launch 3-10 Oct.
Green Heron: last BCM 11 Sep.
Black-crowned Night-heron: Chatham COLU 2 Sep; 3 VF 6 Sep; MEA 8 Sep.
Black Vulture: Five Rivers ALBA 1 Sep; 3 Thatcher Pk ALBA 16 Sep; 2 Helderbergs ALBA 11 Oct.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: last COH 24 Oct.
N. Harrier: max 6 COX grasslands 29 Nov.
N. Goshawk: VF 18 Sep; AUS 23 Sep; REN 13 Oct; Berne-Rossmann ALBA 2 Nov; Thatcher Pk ALBA 18 Nov; Germantown COLU 29 Nov; TR 30 Nov.
Red-shouldered Hawk: NIS 8 Sep; PR 21 ALBA; Defreestville RENS 21 Sep; VF 22 Sep.
Broad-winged Hawk: 1500 Thatcher Pk ALBA 16 Sep.
Golden Eagle: Thatcher Pk ALBA 18 Nov (JS).
Merlin: 12 reports of singles throughout Region.
Am. Coot: 3 GL 9 Nov; Copake COLU 15 Nov.
Killdeer: last REN 9 Nov.
Solitary Sandpiper: last VF 28 Sep.
Greater Yellowlegs: last Northampton FULT 26 Oct.
Lesser Yellowlegs: last VF 18 Sep.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last COH 6 Sep.
Least Sandpiper: last Waterford SARA 21 Sep.
Am. Woodcock: 2 AMS 31 Oct, in courtship display.
Wilson's Snipe: last Saratoga L SARA 29 Nov.
Bonaparte's Gull: 3 L George WARR 7 Oct.
Iceland Gull: arr COX Boat Launch ALBA 17 Nov.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: arr COX Boat Launch GREE 30 Nov.
Glaucous Gull: NIS 29 Nov.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: last PR 7 Sep.
Snowy Owl: REN 16 Nov (WR), see intro.
Short-eared Owl: Ripple Corners MONT 28 Nov.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Galway SARA 26 Oct.
Com. Nighthawk: MEA 8 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last New Salem ALBA 22 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: REN 7 Sep.
E. Wood-Pewee: last Chatham COLU 18 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: MEA 11 Sep; COX grasslands 22 Sep.

E. Phoebe: last COX 16 Nov.
N. Shrike: arr Great Sacandaga L FULT 28 Nov.
WHITE-EYED VIREO: MEA 18 Nov; Troy landfill RENS 19 Nov (HB), late.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last VF 6 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: last REN 13 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: last VF 20 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: COX grasslands 12 Sep; PR 14-28 Sep; AMS 17 Sep; Five Rivers ALBA 23 Sep; VF 28 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: last Saratoga Battlefield SARA 18 Oct.
Tree Swallow: last TR 11 Nov.
Barn Swallow: last ML 28 Sep.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last Clermont COLU 13 Sep.
Swainson's Thrush: last COX grasslands 25 Sep.
Wood Thrush: last COX grasslands 23 Sep.
Brown Thrasher: last Berne ALBA 20 Oct.
Am. Pipit: 5 REN 25 Oct; max 20 REN 26 Oct.

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler: last PR 21 Sep.
Orange-crowned Warbler: VF 7 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: last Schenectady SCHE 7 Oct.
N. Parula: last PR 27 Sep.
Yellow Warbler: last AMS 8 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last AUS 29 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: last AUS 9 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: PR 14 Sep.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last Five Rivers ALBA 2 Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last VF 7 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last New Salem RENS 27 Oct.
Pine Warbler: last Saratoga Battlefield SARA 18 Oct.
Prairie Warbler: last VF 7 Sep.
Palm Warbler: last Claverack COLU 30 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: Greenport COLU 1 Sep; 2 PR 28 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: last TR 8 Nov.

Black-and-white Warbler: last VF 8 Nov, late.
Am. Redstart: last Greenport COLU 1 Sep.
Ovenbird: last AUS 16 Oct.
N. Waterthrush: last COX grasslands 14 Sep.
Connecticut Warbler: COX grasslands 9 Sep.
Mourning Warbler: COX grasslands 12 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: AMS 8 Sep; PR 21 Sep; VF 22 Sep.
Canada Warbler: PR 21 Sep.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: last AUS 4 Oct.
Chipping Sparrow: last AUS 6 Nov.
Field Sparrow: last AMS 31 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: Papscahee I RENS 5 Oct.
Savannah Sparrow: last COX 16 Nov.
Lincoln's Sparrow: last PR 19 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: last Troy RENS 27 Oct.
Lapland Longspur: REN 28 Nov.
Snow Bunting: 12 MEA 22 Nov; 8 Basic Creek Res ALBA 29 Nov.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Jenny L SARA 17 Sep.
Indigo Bunting: last AMS 24 Sep.
DICKCISSEL: fem AMS 4 Oct (RY).
Bobolink: last COX 8 Sep.
E. Meadowlark: last REN 19 Oct.
Rusty Blackbird: 5 Five Rivers ALBA 23 Sep; Papscahee I RENS 5 Oct; Wilton SARA 11 Oct; COX Boat Launch 6 Nov; Charlton SARA 28 Nov.
Pine Grosbeak: Ghent COLU 14 Nov.
Red Crossbill: 5 Stony Creek WARR 13 Nov.
White-winged Crossbill: 2 PR 1 Sep; 30 Burnt-Rossman ALBA 2 Nov; 8 REN 9 Nov; max 70 Burnt-Rossman ALBA 11 Nov; Stony Creek WARR 13 Nov; 53 PR 22 Nov; 20 Edinburgh ALBA 28 Nov.
Com. Redpoll: Brunswick RENS 27 Nov, only report.
Pine Siskin: max 120 PR 13 Nov; 100 Bolton SARA 27 Nov, numerous reports of flocks <50.
Evening Grosbeak: Jenny L SARA thru, only reported location.



REGION 9—HUDSON – DELAWARE

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Remnants of Hurricane *Hanna* affected the area on 6 September with plenty of rain. This precipitation helped September come in a little wetter and warmer than normal. The first half of October was very warm. Poughkeepsie was in the 70s for half of those days. Even Monticello was in the 70s on the 13th and 14th, and Poughkeepsie reached 75° on the 15th. An unexpected storm from the ocean hit on 28 October and brought heavy snow in the western part and higher elevations of Region 9. Up to 12" were dumped. The southern and eastern parts of the Region saw heavy rain and wind. October still came in drier than average but a degree colder. November was also drier than normal, and it also started warm. Monticello was in the 60s from 5 to 7 November. An unusual cold snap hit 18 to 24 November. Monticello dipped to 17° on the morning of the 19th and 8° on the 22nd. Even southern Westchester saw temperatures in the low twenties. There was snow in the higher elevations of Sullivan and Ulster County on 25-26 November.

Drew Ciganek observed a King Eider at the end of Piermont Pier, late afternoon on 23 November. The next morning the eider was easily found off the very end of the Pier, often approaching within 10 feet. The bird appeared to be a first cycle male. Photos were posted shortly on <www.rocklandaudubon.org>. On that same day the pier hosted a Purple Sandpiper and Dunlin on nearby rocks. The eider remained until the end of November and into December.

Two days after Hurricane *Hanna* affected the area, a **SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** was found by Carol Weiss moving south past Hook Mountain in Nyack late on Monday morning, 8 September. The kite appeared from below the south side of the mountain, over Upper Nyack. It circled the entire hilltop, at times coming within a few hundred feet of the hawk watch, and then flew south over Nyack and disappeared from view. Rockland County's other sightings were in 1900 and 1951, but it is a first for the Hook Mountain hawkwatch, which began in 1971.

Broad-winged Hawk numbers were down for most of the hawk watches, except for record numbers at Mt Peter. It appears many Broad-wings took a more westerly route this fall.

On a day most other hawk watches did not report data due to rain and high gusty winds, a few diehards at the Lenoir Nature Preserve hawkwatch recorded 36 Bald Eagles on 26 September. There was a break in the rain and no other raptors were seen due to the heavy wind with gusts up to 20 mph. The Region also saw increased numbers of both Rough-legged Hawk and Golden Eagle.

Dutchess County had its fourth record for Ruddy Turnstone when an individual appeared at Chelsea Yacht Club along the Hudson River on 17 September. A second sighting of a different bird was made there two days later.

Tait Johansson and Cameron Rutt quantified the hummingbird migration past Chestnut Ridge Hawk Watch (Bedford, Westchester County) this fall.

Hummingbird migration peaked in late August and the first half of September, the highest single-day count was 42 on 15 September, and they tallied 284 hummingbirds for the season (see pp. 12-15).

Beverly Simone found a Rufous Hummingbird at her Clarkstown feeder on 24 September. Carol Weiss observed it the next day and Alan Wells photographed it the day after. This adult male Rufous Hummingbird was seen almost daily until 10 October. It was sighted again on 26 Oct and 10 November. This is Rockland County's first record for this species.

Tom Burke found a **CAVE SWALLOW** at Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, on 9 November. A week later on 16 November two appeared at nearby Edith G. Read Sanctuary and were seen by Paul Lehman, Tom Burke, and Gail Benson.

The White-winged Crossbills discovered in August in Sullivan County continued at the Parksville/Cooley Road Bog. A fledgling with a pair of adults was found on 14 September. On 12 November a single bird passed the Chestnut Ridge Hawk Watch. This was followed by more and more sightings. Back in Sullivan County large flocks were now being seen, with up to 80 on Brown Settlement Road in Livingston Manor and in other near-by areas.

The only Red Crossbill report was that of two in Wilson State Park, Bearsville, on 23 November. There were large movements of Pine Siskins over the area hawkwatches beginning on 13 October. Cameron Rutt and Tait Johansson at the Chestnut Ridge hawkwatch counted/estimated the groups of flyby siskins, reaching a final tally of 2,524 birds. Altogether, 73 flocks were noted, with flock sizes ranging from two to 133 individuals. Among the more noteworthy flocks were two groups of 90, one of 85, two of 80, and one of 75. The average flock, though, was about 35 birds strong. Siskins continued flying until shortly after 5:00 PM EDT, with a flock of 90 at 5:05 and three birds at 5:20. The site's second major push occurred 20 October and totaled 1,261 birds in 62 flocks. The following day the tally was 1,389 in 53 flocks. That brought the count up to 6,600 for those 11 days.

Other notable species include Cackling Goose, Cattle Egret, American Golden-Plover, Caspian Tern, Black Skimmer, Snowy Owl, Connecticut Warbler, Lapland Longspur, Blue Grosbeak, and Dickcissel.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Pt P; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; HW – hawkwatch; MC – Marshlands Conservancy, RNC – Rye Nature Center, SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Ross's x Snow Goose: Round Pd 24 Nov (CV, BB, DF).

Cackling Goose: Millbrook 9 Nov (AP).

Mute Swan: 47 Saugerties Lighthouse 9 Nov (SC).

Wood Duck: 1537 Bashakill 25 Sep (RD, RS, JMari, JC, DH); 1803 Bashakill 2 Oct (RD, RS, RB).

Blue-winged Teal: 3 Tarrytown Res 1 Sep (EM); 2 MC 16 Sep.

N. Shoveler: arr MC 24 Sep.

Green-winged Teal: 25 Humpo Marsh, New Paltz 16 Oct (CG).

Redhead: Esopus Meadows 16 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: 125 Strauss Marsh 14 Nov; 119 Red Wing P, East Fishkill 27 Nov.

Greater Scaup: arr Lake Superior P 25 Oct; 600 EGR 26.

Lesser Scaup: 50 EGR 18.

King Eider: Piermont Pier 23-30 Nov (DC, CWeb, A&DW).

White-winged Scoter: Twin Island L, Pine Plains 23 Oct (CP); 4 Neversink Res 30 Oct (JH, AB); Twin Island L, Pine Plains 23 Oct (CP); 4 Saugerties Lighthouse 9 Nov (SC); EGR 16 Nov.

Black Scoter: 38 Kiamesha L 22 Oct (JH); 21 Neversink Res 22 Oct (JH); 12 Neversink Res 30 Oct (JH); Yankee L 30 Oct (JH, AB).

Long-tailed Duck: 2 EGR 29 Oct; 3 Yankee L 30 Oct (JH, AB); Norrie Pt 16 Nov (CV); 20 EGR 16 Nov.

Bufflehead: arr 17 Oct.

Com. Goldeneye: arr Yankee L 23 Oct (JH); 23 Yankee L 22 Nov (JH, AB, LV).

Hooded Merganser: arr Twin Island L, Pine Plains 23 Oct (CP).

Com. Merganser: 450 Superior L 22 Nov (JH, AB, LV).

Red-breasted Merganser: Denning Pt 10 Sep (TM), early.

Ruddy Duck: arr MC 24 Sep; 31 Thompson Pd 8 Oct; 94 Lake Walton 30 Oct.

N. Bobwhite: Wurtsboro 23 Sep (AB).

Red-throated Loon: 6 EGR 25 Oct.

Horned Grebe: 8 Ashokan Res 11 Nov.

N. Gannet: 3 EGR 25 Oct; 15 EGR 16 Nov (TB, GB, PL).

Great Cormorant: 4 EGR 11 Nov; Norrie Pr 16 Nov.

Cattle Egret: Tilly Foster Farm, Carmel 13 Nov (BW).

Turkey Vulture: 214 Summitville 7 Oct (JH).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Hook Mt 8 Sep (CWei).

Osprey: 31 Chestnut Ridge 3 Sep; Esopus Bend Nature Preserve 9 Nov (SC); Poughquag 9 Nov (CP, HT).

Bald Eagle: 36 Lenoir Nature Preserve 26 Sep (BD, EH).

N. Goshawk: Kingston Point 13 Oct; Parksville Rd bog 19 Oct (LV); Summitville Hawkwatch 23 Oct (JH).

Broad-winged Hawk: 1332 Chestnut Ridge 16 Sep; 4222 Mt Peter 16 Sep; 3564 Mt Peter 17 Sep; 1043 Mt Peter 18 Sep; 5473 Chestnut Ridge 18 Sep.

Rough-legged Hawk: 2 Horseshoe L Rd 1 Oct (KC); Summitville HW 7 Oct (JH); Millerton 9 Nov; 3 Black Dirt region 22 Nov (JV); Rhinebeck 23, 29 Nov.

Golden Eagle: Bard Coll 17 Sep; Mt Peter 18 Sep; Summitville HW 1 Oct (JH); Hook Mt 11 Oct; Trapps HW, Shawangunks 4 Oct; 2 Hook Mt 19 Oct; Chestnut Ridge 23 Oct; Mt Peter 24 Oct; Lenoir 30 Oct; Sullivan Co HW 30 Oct; Hook Mt 30 Oct; Forsyth Nature Center, Kingston 10 Nov; Mt Peter 2, 9, 16 Nov.

Com. Moorhen: 9 juv Bashakill 7 Sep (JH).

Black-bellied Plover: MC 2 Sep; 11 MC 1, 2 Oct; 8 MC 4 Nov.

American Golden-Plover: 1 MC 4, 8 Sep; 2 MC 5 Sep; EGR 5 Oct (TB).

Semipalmated Plover: 10 MC 5 Sep.

Am. Oystercatcher: 5 MC 5 Sep.

Greater Yellowlegs: 6 MC 24 Sep.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 4 MC 10 Sep.

Ruddy Turnstone: Chelsea Yacht Club 17, 19 Sep (DF), 4th & 5th DUTC records; 2 EGR 5 Oct, 5 Nov.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 3 MC 4 Sep.

White-rumped Sandpiper: MC 4 Sep.

Pectoral sandpiper: MC 24 Sep.

Purple Sandpiper: Piermont Pier 24 Nov (DC, CWeb, A&DW); 15 EGR 27 Nov.

Dunlin: Piermont Pier 24, 26 Nov (DC, CWeb, A&DW); 2 MC 4 Nov.

Short-billed Dowitcher: MC 5 Sep.

Laughing Gull: 50 MC 16 Oct.

Iceland Gull: Chestnut Ridge 23 Oct (CRu); EGR 25 Oct; Monticello Apollo Plaza 30 Oct, 26 Nov (JH AB); Kiamesha L 30 Oct (JH).
Caspian Tern: 2 EGR 5 Oct (TB).
Forster's Tern: 4 EGR 9 Sep; 36 EGR 26 Oct; 18 EGR 1 Nov.
Black Skimmer: MC 1 Oct.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: 8 MC 16 Sep.
Snowy Owl: Poughkeepsie 6 Nov.
Long-eared Owl: Stone Ridge 15 Oct (JMark).
Short-eared Owl: 10 Black Dirt region 22 Nov (JV); SGNWR 24 Nov (RT).
N. Saw-whet Owl: Fir Brook 18 Oct (LV); Parksville Rd 19 Oct (LV); 9 Summitville fire tower 20 Oct (JH, AB, LV); 7 banded at Cape Pond 24 Oct (VF, RD, MC).
RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: adult male Clarkstown 24 Sep – 10 Oct, 26 Oct, 10 Nov, *intro*.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 42 Chestnut Ridge 15 Sep (TJ, CRu).
Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 Humpo Marsh, New Paltz 4 Nov (JBNHS).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Woodstock 8 Sep (PS); MC 10 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: MC 4 Sep; Bashakill 8, 20 Sep (SB, JS).
Philadelphia Vireo: 2 Bashakill 8, 11, 13, 20 Sep; Bashakill 10, 21 Sep (SB, JS); MC 18 Sep, 3 Oct; 2 Buttercup East 23 Sep (K&CF).
Com. Raven: 17 Summitville Hawkwatch 8 Oct (JH).
Horned Lark: 20 Red Hook 16 Nov.
CAVE SWALLOW: MC 9 Nov (TB); 2 EGR 16 Nov (TB, GB, PL).
Marsh Wren: 2 MC 24 Sep.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Esopus Bend Nature Preserve, Saugerties 9 Nov (SC).
Gray-cheeked Thrush: Bashakill 20 to 22 Sep (SB LV); Bashakill 1 Oct (SB).
Am. Pipit: 8 Neversink Res 11 Oct (LV); 7 Monticello landfill 25 Oct (JH, AB); 20 CPP 26 Oct (CRu, LT).

WARBLERS

"Brewster's" Warbler: MC 1 Sep (TB).
Palm Warbler: 20 CPP 11 Oct (RL).
Blackpoll Warbler: CPP 26 Nov (EM).
Connecticut Warbler: ad f banded Cape Pond 8 Sep (VF, MC).
Yellow-br. Chat: MC 10 Sep, 18, 20 Nov.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 12 Esopus Bend Nature Preserve 20 Nov.
Vesper Sparrow: 3 Stony Kill 24 Sep (SG); 2 Rockefeller SP 11 Oct (EM); Rhinebeck 11 Oct; CPP 16 Oct (EM); Stony Kill 18 Oct; CPP 18 Oct (CRo); Bethel 25 Oct (JH, AB); 2 CPP 26 Oct (CRu, LT).
Savannah Sparrow: 50 CPP 25 Oct (CRu, LT).
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 7 MC 16 Oct; 10 MC 21 Oct; 3 MC 4 Nov.
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: MC 15, 21 Oct.
Seaside Sparrow: 2 MC 16 Oct.
Song Sparrow: 50 CPP 25 Oct (CRu, LT).
Swamp Sparrow: 150 CPP 25 Oct (CRu, LT).
White-crowned Sparrow: 5 Stony Kill 4, 18 Oct; New Paltz 7, 14 Oct (CWei, LB); 11 Peach Hill 11 Oct; Wolf Brook MUA 11 Oct (SB); few CPP 16 Oct (EV); 3 CPP 25 Oct (CRu, LT); Stony Kill 2, 17 Nov; 2 LaGrange 23 Nov.
Lapland Longspur: Rhinebeck 2 Nov (MP); EGR 18 Nov (TB).
Snow Bunting: 2 Hunter Rd 19 Oct (LV); Lake Minnewaska, Minnewaska SP 22 Oct (ARS); 8 CPP 26 Oct (CRu, LT); 5 Callicoon Center 31 Oct (RD); 22 Immigrant's Way, East Kingston 1 Nov (PS); 200 East basin Ashokan Res 2 Nov (PS); 4 SGNWR 4 Nov; 38 EGR 18 Nov; 12 Delaware Twp 22 Nov (JH, AB, LV); 2 Piermont Pier 26 Nov (AW).
Blue Grosbeak: CPP 16 Oct (EV).
Dickcissel: MC 20 Sep, 27 Oct (TB); Stony Kill 4, 7, 8 Oct (SG, RJ); CPP 18 Oct (CRo).
Bobolink: 125 Burger Hill, Rhinebeck 13 Sep; CPP 18 Oct (CRo).
Rusty Blackbird: 30 White Sulfur Springs 13 Oct (JH, AB); 20 Bashakill 26 Oct (JH, AB).
White-winged Crossbill: 1-8 Parksville/Cooley Rd bog Sep thru, pair w. fledgling there 14 Sep (LV); Chestnut Ridge 12 Nov, 20 on 17 Nov, & 14 on 18 Nov (CRu); 6 Neversink Res 26 Nov; 35 Brown Settlement Rd, Livingston Manor 26 Nov & 80 there 29 Nov; num reports of small flocks, var Catskill Mt loes, ULST Nov.
Red Crossbill: 2 Wilson SP, Bearsville 23 Nov (PS).
Pine Siskin: 50 Horseshoe L 1 Oct (KC); 2,524 Chestnut Ridge 13 Oct (CRu, TJ); 1261 Chestnut Ridge 20 Oct (CRu); 1389 Chestnut Ridge 21 Oct; 50 Staatsburg 29 Oct; common and widespread in SULL 26 Nov; 30 Esopus Bend Nature Preserve, Saugerties 29 Nov (SC).

REGION 10—MARINE

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Tropical Storm *Hanna* swept past Long Island on 6 September and brought with her an adult male **Magnificent Frigatebird**. Found by Angus Wilson at Mecox Bay on the morning of 7 September, this bird was tracked, studied, and photographed by multiple, tag-team cadres of admirers westward to Moriches Inlet (Fig. E, p. 53). Among vagrants to our Region, frigatebirds occur relatively frequently, but, especially prior to cell phones, they have proven almost impossible to chase—a combination that has caused much frustration for many long-time observers. Apparently immune to this sort of thing, Hugh McGuinness undoubtedly set a record of sorts when, after his successful nocturnal twitch of last year's frigatebird in Accabonac, he hounded this summer's bird from point to point, covering no fewer than three different inlets—Mecox, Shinnecock, and Moriches. Adding in the frigatebird he co-founded at Fire Island Inlet decades ago, he's personally mapped almost the whole of New York's ocean coast with this elusive species! *Hanna's* aftermath on the 7th produced many other interesting sights for Regional birders, including the predictable grounding of passage-migrant Lesser Black-backed Gulls and some wayward shorebirds, Least Terns, skimmers, swifts, and swallows. But the only documented tropical strays were the afore-mentioned frigatebird and a single **Bridled Tern**, seen by Doug Futuyama at Democrat Point. Observers already concerned by the non-occurrence of Hudsonian Godwit thus far in the season found none in the storm's wake and none at all for the whole season—probably an unwelcome first such fall season.

One vagrant that must be mentioned here, although its occurrence showed no obvious direct link to the storm, was a “**Yellow**” **Wagtail** found by Doug Gochfeld at Plumb Beach, Brooklyn (Fig. A, p. 51). Anyone who has ever beheld a “mega” in the field will appreciate Doug's composure and skill in obtaining photos, recording a detailed description of the bird, and immediately alerting his fellow enthusiasts. Frustratingly, the bird departed before anyone else was able to see it, but the documentation he collected will be of great interest and value to ornithologists far beyond New York State.

Apparently annual now in our Region, **Barnacle Geese** were reported from two sites in western Long Island this fall. One was at Sunken Meadow State Park, on the north shore of western Suffolk County, where one was recorded last winter also. The other was at St. Charles Cemetery, in the interior of extreme western Suffolk County, associating with a flock of Canada Geese that also harbored a juvenile Greater White-fronted Goose. A “Richardson's” Cackling Goose in Montauk was consistent with the recent trend of annual occurrence.

Enormous throngs of Laughing Gulls at Montauk Point peaked at ca. **10,000** in early November. The late fall mix at this dynamic site included large numbers of Northern Gannets; a few Cory's Shearwaters, Black-legged Kittiwakes and Parasitic Jaegers; and three scarcer birds—a Northern Fulmar on 1 November, a Pomarine Jaeger on 15 November, and a **Franklin's Gull**, nicely photographed by Angus Wilson on 16 November. The latter is genuinely rare on Long Island, and the other two are rarely seen from shore. Curiously, another inshore fulmar had been seen on 24 October in Fire Island Inlet by Larry Merryman.

Once again, a **Rufous Hummingbird** visited Norm Klein's Northport, Suffolk County, feeders 9-11 November. Obviously, Norm maintains a very attractive setting for birds. Photos were obtained, so stay tuned to learn whether this year's bird can be identified as Ilsa, Long Island's most famous hummingbird, who enjoyed Norm's hospitality two years ago. A major coastal flight of Red-bellied Woodpeckers, summarized elsewhere in this issue, was not accompanied by irruptions of other allegedly sedentary bark gleaners. At least one duo of **Common Ravens** caused a sensation on Staten Island throughout most of the season. First reported by Howie Fischer on 7 September (there's that date again!), five more reports followed from several parts of the island.

As is now the norm, November brought Cave Swallows to Long Island. The highest count was eight at Breezy Point on 11 November. Even more remarkable in my opinion was the **Rough-winged Swallow**, presumably, but not at all certainly, Northern, that Doug Gochfeld also reported there that day. Relatively scarce on the barrier beach at any time, this species is also decidedly the earliest of our seven swallows to depart Long Island, and none was reported in Region 10 during September-October this year. Inland, the species regularly lingers later, occurring at places like Montezuma NWR through September, but only in the past few years, coincident with the surge in Cave Swallow records, have November records been proven in the Northeast, e.g., in upstate NY, CT, and MA. Let's keep this one in mind going forward, as we work out the geographic origins of our late-season swallows.

Although not necessarily obvious to birders at the time, the fall's best landbird flights produced consistently low totals for kinglets, sparrows, Myrtle Warbler, and many other common species. This trend prevailed despite many fine mornings with northerly winds, which produced our biggest coastal Pine Siskin flight since at least 1999 and perhaps our biggest ever. American Goldfinches lagged a week or two behind the siskins in general, and showed some other interesting spatial and temporal quirks as well. The two species seemed much less apt to move together this year compared with years with more modest siskin numbers and also compared with my admittedly vague recollections of the big siskin flights of 1999. The first really big day for siskins at Fire Island was 1 November, when 1,692 siskins shouted down a paltry 19 goldfinches. More equitable distributions occurred on 10 November, when **6,520** siskins exceeded 850 goldfinches by less than an order of magnitude, and on 18 November, when 4,000 goldfinches bore a comparable, but opposite ratio, to 1,000 siskins. But the oddest thing was the manner in which the two species appeared to take turns, almost day by day. The ratio of 6,520 siskins: 850

goldfinches on 10 November swung wildly the next day to 50 siskins: 1,000 goldfinches! On 16 November, I tallied just 2 siskins against 650 goldfinches, and when the next day's rather larger flight yielded a ratio of 150 siskins: 2,900 goldfinches, many people began speculating that the siskins had run their course. This view was refuted the very next day when 1,000 siskins made a very respectable showing against the fall's peak count of 4,000 goldfinches. Another notable pattern this season was the siskins' tendency to fly in tight, species-pure flocks, whereas the dribs and drabs we normally see more often join flocks of other diurnal migrants. Purple Finch numbers were neither poor nor excellent, breaking double digits twice at Fire Island. Andy Baldelli, Mike Cooper, Tom Fiore, and Mary Laura Lamont detected small numbers of White-winged Crossbills from all corners of the Region, a hint of things to come in winter?

John Fritz passed away on 11 Sep while birding Cedar Beach, one of his favorite places. A familiar figure in the field, a tireless advocate on environmental issues, and a major contributor to this report for two decades, John will be remembered with great fondness by birders in Region 10 and beyond.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

APP – Alley Pd P, QUEE; BP – Breezy Pt, QUEE; CB – Cedar Beach, Babylon, SUFF; CCP – Cupsogue CP, SUFF; CHP – Conference House P, RICH; CP – Central P, NEWY; CRSP – Connetquot R SP, SUFF; DOP – Dreier-Offerman P, KING; DP – Democrat Pt, SUFF; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; FIHW – Fire I Hawkwatch, SUFF; FP – Forest P, QUEE; FT – Fort Tilden, QUEE; GKP – Great Kills P, RICH; Grumman – former Grumman property, Calverton, SUFF; HHSP – Hither Hills SP, SUFF; HLSP – Hempstead L SP, NASS; HSP – Heckscher SP, SUFF; Jam Bay – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; JBWE – West End, Jones Beach SP, NASS; Mass – Massapequa Pres, NASS; MB – Mecox Bay, SUFF; MI – Moriches In, SUFF; MLUA – Mount Loretto Unique Area, RICH; MP – Montauk Pt, SUFF; PB – Pikes Beach,

SUFF; PBP – Pelham Bay P, BRON; PP – Prospect P, KING; QCBC – Queens County Bird Club; RMSF – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; RP – Riis P, QUEE; Sagg – Sagaponack Pd, SUFF; Shinn – Shinnecock In, SUFF; SPCP – Smith Pt CP, SUFF; WPP – Wolfe’s Pd P, RICH. For other locations mentioned more than once below, the county is given in the first citation but not thereafter.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: Silver L, RICH 14 Oct-26 Nov (C. Barron, mob); 2 Grumman 18 Nov (RM); Caumsett SP, SUFF 23 Nov (J. Gluth); juv St. Charles Cemetery, SUFF 28 Nov (SSM *et al.*).
Snow Goose: 3 Greenwood Cem, KING from summer; arr Riis P, QUEE 27 Sep; 300 migr CP 30 Oct; ca. 600 Jam Bay 31 Oct; 10 Shorts Pd, SUFF 23 Nov.
Brant: 6 JBWE 6 Sep & 3 Shinn 7 Sep, from summer; widespread arr 5 Oct.
“Richardson’s” Cackling Goose: Montauk 2-16 Nov (DK, RM, mob).
BARNACLE GOOSE: Sunken Meadow SP, SUFF 2 Nov (NK, K&SF); St. Charles Cem, SUFF 28 Nov thru (MC *et al.*).
Mute Swan: max 300 Jam Bay & 150 MB, typical.
Tundra Swan: 3 Hook Pd, SUFF 26 Nov (MA).
Wood Duck: max 34 Aquebogue, SUFF 7 Aug (AB); 8 migr RMSP 1 Nov.
Gadwall: max 105 Mass 28 Nov, 132 Swan L, SUFF 21 Nov, & 162 CRSP 29 Nov.
Eurasian Wigeon: Jam Bay 19-31 Oct (mob); Mass 26 Oct-thru (mob); Setauket Mill Pd, SUFF 10 Nov; Centerport, SUFF 16 Nov (B. Bomkamp); Hook Pd 26 Nov (MA).
Am. Wigeon: max 180 Mass 28 Nov (S. Holschbach, D. Scheiman) & 134 Patchogue L, SUFF 20 Nov (B. Young).
Blue-winged Teal: max 80 Jam Bay 9 Sep.
N. Shoveler: max 400 PP 15 Nov (R. Jett).
Green-winged Teal: 20 migr MB 1 Sep; 5 migr SPCP 19 Oct; 4 migr with scoters RMSP 1 Nov; illustrative of the species’ protracted passage in our Region.
Canvasback: arr Jam Bay 3 Nov (J. Gavrity); max 17 Centerport, SUFF (B. Bomkamp); declining in Region.
Redhead: arr 2 Jam Bay 23 Nov (T. Preston); f Mass 29 Nov; 4 CRSP 29 Nov (K. Michael); only reports.
Ring-necked Duck: max 85 Eastport Pd, SUFF 24 Oct.
Greater Scaup: 1 migr w/scoters RMSP 1 Nov; max 200 GKP 29 Nov.
Lesser Scaup: 1 migr w/scoters RMSP 1 Nov; 22 Eastport Pd 8 Nov; 102 Swan L, 21 Nov.
King Eider: 3 MP 29 Nov.

The Kingbird 2009 March; 59 (1)

Com. Eider: 46 MP 20 Sep (AnW), summered?; 130 Montauk, SUFF area 9 Nov; 1,000 MP 16 Nov.
Harlequin Duck: arr f Pt. Lookout, NASS 9 Nov; m Ditch Plains, SUFF 22 Nov.
Surf Scoter: 12 MP 20 Sep; 1,000 RMSP 1 Nov.
White-winged Scoter: m MP 1 Sep; 2 MP 20 Sep; 50 RMSP 1 Nov.
Black Scoter: 11 MP 20 Sep; 1,500 RMSP 1 Nov.
Long-tailed Duck: 32 migr RMSP 1 Nov.
Bufflehead: 70 Bellport Bay, SUFF 31 Oct; 8 migr RMSP 1 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: arr Bronxville, BRON 14 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: max 100 HLSP 7 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: CP 11 Sep, not a summering site.
Com. Merganser: arr Hook Pd, SUFF 23 Nov.
N. Bobwhite: Rocky Pt, SUFF 4 Sep; 12 HSP 13 Oct.
Red-throated Loon: 60 migr RMSP 1 Nov; 170 MP 15 Nov.
Com. Loon: migr CP 20 Oct; 38 SPCP 31 Oct; 90 MP 15 Nov.
Horned Grebe: Jam Bay 11 Oct (J&KA), early; small flight 9 Nov, e.g., BP & MP.
Red-necked Grebe: arr 2 Plumb Beach, KING 10 Nov; 2 Culloden Pt, SUFF 29 Nov.
N. Fulmar: MP 24 Oct (L. Merryman); MP 1 Nov (AB); very rare inshore.
Cory’s Shearwater: 4 HHSP 28 Sep (AnW); MP 19 Oct (PJJ, SSM); MP 25 Oct (AnW).
Sooty Shearwater: SPCP 19 Oct (C. Starace), very late.
AUDUBON’S SHEARWATER: Hudson Canyon pelagic 23 Sep (S. Whittle ph).
N. Gannet: 1,000 RMSP 1 Nov.
AM. WHITE PELICAN (R10): Manhattan 7 Sep (TF), details desired.
Double-crested Cormorant: 5,000 migr RMSP 12 Oct.
Great Cormorant: arr 27 Sep JBWE; 3 MP 5 Oct.
MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: ad m tracked by mob from MB (AnW) to Shinn & MI; *intro.*
Am. Bittern: arr Plumb Beach 9 Sep; max 3 Dune Rd, SUFF 13 Oct.
Least Bittern: PP 28 Sep (R. Jett, P. Linden).

103

Great Blue Heron: 97 migr RMSP 5 Oct.
Great Egret: 7 migr RMSP 5 Oct.
Snowy Egret: 22 Napeague, SUFF 1 Sep; max 25 Dune Rd 20 Sep; PBP 16 Nov, last.
Little Blue Heron: 3 imms Captree I, SUFF 27 Sep; 3 imms Jam Bay 11 Oct; imm Jam Bay 27 Nov, last.
Cattle Egret: CB 8-14 Sep (P JL, mob); Water Mill, SUFF 19 Oct thru (P JL, SSM, mob); 2 Fresh Kills, RICH 1 Nov (HF, DJ).
Turkey Vulture: max 60 migr CP 30 Oct; many LI, esp North Fork, SUFF, e.g., 4 Northville 16 Sep (MLL), feeding on dead bluefish & 12 Mattituck 4 Nov (MLL); also migr FIHW 23 Sep & 7 Oct, where rare.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: max 103 FIHW 18 Sep; 96 FIHW 29 Sep; season total 501.
Bald Eagle: now regular thru Region; migr FIHW 19 Oct, 20 Oct, 18 Nov, where rare; ad SPCP 16 Sep; Wagner Coll, RICH 19 Sep; imm Napeague 5 Oct; juv SPCP 6 Oct; 2 JBWE 11 Oct; imm Dune Rd. 11 Oct; ad MB 11 Oct; FT 12 Oct; imm SPCP 19 Oct; 2 CP 30 Oct; CP 21 Nov; Oceanside, NASS 21 Nov; WPP 22 Nov; CP 28 Nov; CRSP & Riverhead, SUFF late Nov.
N. Harrier: poor season at FIHW, where max just 23 on 7 Oct & season total just 188.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 109 FIHW 7 Oct; season total there just 279.
Cooper's Hawk: max FIHW 9 18 Oct; season total there 49.
N. Goshawk: none recorded FIHW; arr Riverside P, NEWY 29 Sep (*vide* RBA); PBP 17 Nov (TF); Tobay, NASS 20 Nov (JQ); Willowbrook P, RICH 27 Nov (SSM); Stony Brook, SUFF 29 Nov (R. Adamo).
Red-shouldered Hawk: ad CP 28 Nov.
Red-tailed Hawk: FIHW 31 Aug, where rare.
Rough-legged Hawk: 2 CHP 18 Nov (SIW).
GOLDEN EAGLE (R10): imm CP 30 Oct (TF), details desired.
Am. Kestrel: only two three-figure days at FIHW: 174 on 18 Sep & 309 on 7 Oct; season total there 667.
Merlin: max FIHW 199 on 18 Sep; season total there 1240.
Peregrine Falcon: max FIHW 68 on 29 Sep; season total there 315.
Clapper Rail: Plumb Beach 5 Oct & 2 Nov.
Virginia Rail: Plumb Beach 5 Oct.
Sora: Jam Bay 1-4 Sep (TWB *et al.*).
Am. Coot: arr PP 10 Sep; 35 Georgica Pd, SUFF 23 Nov, many for loc.
Black-bellied Plover: 105 Jam Bay 2 Sep.

Am. Golden-Plover: ad HSP 2-10 Sep; Miller Field, RICH 26 Sep (E. Johnson); juv RMSP 25 Oct-1 Nov.
Semipalmated Plover: 8 JBWE 29 Nov (S. Schiff), late for so many.
Killdeer: 15 migr RMSP 12 Oct.
Am. Oystercatcher: max 300 JBWE 9 Sep.
Willet: 2 western & 6 eastern PB 7 Sep.
Upland Sandpiper: not reported.
Whimbrel: many reports of small numbers.
Hudsonian Godwit: unreported for the first time in memory.
Marbled Godwit: 5 CCP 1 Sep; 4 Jam Bay 2 Sep.
Red Knot: 12 Jam Bay 2 Sep; max 40 JBWE 16 Nov.
Western Sandpiper: 9 DP 1 Sep (J. Gluth); 6 Jam Bay 2 Sep.
White-rumped Sandpiper: 5 DP 1 Sep; 15 Jam Bay 2 Sep.
Baird's Sandpiper: MB 1 Sep; Jam Bay 2 Sep; DP 27 Sep; JBWE 30 Sep.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 5 Jam Bay 2 Sep; 8 HSP 13 Sep, low.
Purple Sandpiper: arr 5 Coney I Pier, KING 12 Nov.
Dunlin: bas CCP 1 Sep, cont from summer.
Stilt Sandpiper: DP 1 Sep; 12 Jam Bay 2 Sep.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: CCP 1 Sep (AB *et al.*); DP 6 Sep (C. Rutt) DP 29 Sep.
Long-billed Dowitcher: juv Jam Bay 2 Sep (RJK); 8 Mass 29 Sep (S. Walter), building to 10 on 19 Nov; Jam Bay 11 Oct.
Wilson's Phalarope: 2 Jam Bay 2 Sep & 3 there 4 Sep.
Black-legged Kittiwake: juv MB 14 Sep (J. Shemilt ph); juv Plum Gut, SUFF 25 Oct (SSM), unus loc; 2 imms MP 15 Nov.
Black-headed Gull: imm WPP 7 Nov (SIW).
Laughing Gull: 10,000 MP 2 Nov (P JL, SSM).
FRANKLIN'S GULL (R10): MP 16 Nov (AnW ph)
Ring-billed Gull: 1,000 migr RMSP 1 Nov.
Iceland Gull: Coney I Creek, KING 18 Nov (DG); Iron Pier, SUFF 30 Nov (J. Sepenoski); only reports.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: ad DP 6 Sep; JBWE 7 Sep; 2 Easthampton, SUFF 7 Sep; Sagg 7 Sep; Tiana Beach SUFF 27 Sep; max 3 MP 16 Nov; Iron Pier, Northville SUFF 20 Nov thru, returning for 8th or 9th year.
Glaucous Gull: juv RMSP 16 Nov.
BRIDLED TERN: DP 7 Sep (DF!).
Least Tern: last 9 MB 15 Sep.
Gull-billed Tern: juv MB 15-27 Sep (HM, mob), increasingly regular e LI.

Caspian Tern: many reports MB; max 13 MB 23 Sep; others RMSP 7, 17 Sep, 3 Oct; Plumb Beach 8 Sep.

Black Tern: 10 Miller Field, RICH 6 Sep; 40 Napeague 6 Sep (AnW); 26 Easthampton-Napeague 7 Sep (AnW); 70 Montauk 7 Sep (PJJ, SSM); 4 JBWE 6 Sep; 9 MP 20 Sep, last.

Roseate Tern: 150 Montauk 7 Sep; MP 28 Sep, last report.

Com. Tern: last MP 15 Nov.

Forster's Tern: 80 Lemon Cr P, RICH 19 Oct. **Royal Tern:** max 87 PB 7 Sep; 18 RMSP 1 Nov; last RMSP 18 Nov.

Black Skimmer: 75 PB 28 Sep, inc 55 juvs.

Pomarine Jaeger: 2 Hudson Canyon pelagic 23 Sep (S. Whittle); imm MP 15 Nov (AnW).

Parasitic Jaeger: L Montauk In 28 Sep (SSM *et al.*); RMSP 12 Oct (SSM); RMSP 1 Nov (SSM); 4 MP 15 Nov (AnW).

Razorbill: arr 2 MP 1 Nov (AB).

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: W Islip, SUFF flock dwindled from 12 to 3 thru period (R. Grover).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: HSP 12 Oct, last.

Barn Owl: Riverhead 22 Sep (R. Adamo), only report.

Great Horned Owl: RMSP 23 Oct (S. D'Amato, RJK, K. Thompson, mob ph), v rare barrier beach.

Snowy Owl: SPCP 28 Nov (MC); CB 29-30 Nov (K. Thompson); up to 4 reported JBWE & vic 29 Nov.

N. Saw-whet Owl: JBWE 12 Nov (S. Schiff).

Com. Nighthawk: 11 HSP 1 Sep (J. Gluth); 10 Castleton, RICH (E. Callahan).

Chimney Swift: 15 RMSP 8 Sep, many for barrier beach.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Babylon 16-20 Nov (K&SF! ph).

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: 9-11 Nov Northport (N. Klein).

Red-headed Woodpecker: PP 3 Oct (S. Blodgett); RMSP 5 Oct (mob).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: big flight on barrier beach.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2 Montauk 21 Sep, arr e LI.

N. Flicker: max 200 RMSP 5 Oct, low.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: JBWE 8 Sep (KF).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: several reports from CP; just three LI reports: Jam Bay 1 Sep, RMSP 8 Sep, & PP 10 Sep.

Least Flycatcher: MLUA 16-18 Nov (RV!, mob), v late.

E. Phoebe: 20 DOP 4 Oct (AxW); 20 FT 8 Oct (DG); max 23 Governors I, NEWY 11 Oct (A. Barrie).

W. Kingbird: Dune Rd. 30 Sep (AB); FT 4 Oct (mob); Gilgo, SUFF 10 Nov (R May).

N. Shrike: Rocky Pt Pres, Suff 24 Nov (J. Horman).

Blue-headed Vireo: last FP 22 Nov (C. Finger); PP 19-26 Nov (mob), late.

Philadelphia Vireo: well reported w LI; CB 8 Sep (PJJ), Gilgo 28 Sep (JQ), scarce on barrier beach.

Red-eyed Vireo: Hudson Canyon pelagic 23 Sep, 100 mi offshore.

Blue Jay: high counts of migr inc: 500 CHP 26 Sep; 24 MB; 140 MP 28 Sep; 100 DOP; 211 Midtown Manhattan 4 Oct.

Am. Crow: max 130 FBF 10 Oct.

COMMON RAVEN (R10): 2 Clove Lakes SP, RICH 7 Sep (HF!); five additional reports of two birds Staten I thru 9 Nov (mob).

Purple Martin: 15 Montauk 7 Sep; 1 Shinn 7 Sep.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: BP 11 Nov (DG), extraordinary date coastally; *intro*.

CAVE SWALLOW: 8 BP 11 Nov (DG); 5 JBWE 11 Nov (mob); PBP 12 Nov (TF); 2 JBWE 15 Nov; Zach's Bay, NASS 16 Nov (J. Gluth); Gilgo, SUFF 18 Nov (SSM!).

Red-br. Nuthatch: arr e LI Montauk 1 Sep.

Golden-cr. Kinglet: max 60 RMSP 11 Oct.

Veery: 16 JBWE (K&SF); 2 RMSP 8 Sep, many for barrier beach.

Hermit Thrush: no counts > single digits.

Am. Robin: 1100 CHP 28 Sep; max 2050 RMSP 17 Nov.

Gray Catbird: 50 FT 4 Oct; 20 RMSP 5 Oct, many.

Am. Pipit: arr MB 21 Sep; max 70 DOP 1 Nov.

"YELLOW" WAGTAIL: Plumb Beach 7 Sep (DG! ph); potential first state record, pending identification to species and NYSARC review; *intro*.

WARBLERS

"Lawrence's" Warbler: Riverside P NEWY 4-5 Sep (J. Drucker); Rocky Pt Pres 4 Sep.

Orange-crowned Warbler: GKP 9 Oct (HF, J. Trezza); CSP 22 Nov.

Yellow Warbler: max 20 RMSP 8 Sep; last RMSP 3 Oct.

Magnolia Warbler: max 40 CP 16 Sep; last CP 21 Nov, late.

Cape May Warbler: APP 4 Oct.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 250 RMSP 12 Oct, 10 Nov, low.

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER:

CP 21 Sep (D. Speiser, C. Vornberger ph).

Yellow-throated Warbler: FT 4 Oct (S.

Ausubel, mob).

Palm Warbler: arr RMSP 8 Sep; max 15 western & 6 yellow RMSP 5 Oct.**Bay-breasted Warbler:** CB 8 Oct (BBE, SSM), late.**Prothonotary Warbler:** Montauk 13 Sep (HM *et al.*).**Kentucky Warbler:** Ft Wadsworth, RICH 11 Oct (T. White), v late.**Connecticut Warbler:** MLUA 28 Sep (RV); RMSP 3 Oct (SSM).**Mourning Warbler:** APP 4 Oct (PJJ *et al.*), late; MB 12 Oct (J&KA), v late.**Hooded Warbler:** GKP 18 Sep (DJ).**Yellow-breasted Chat:** GKP 13 Sep; RMSP 5, 8 Oct; Staten I feeder 6 Oct; RMSP 12 Oct; Montauk 12 Oct.**TANAGERS – WEAVERS****Summer Tanager:** Montauk 1 Sep (HMcG); Fire I lighthouse tract 8 Sep (JQ).**Clay-colored Sparrow:** RMSP 16 Sep (PJJ); Amagansett, SUFF 23 Sep (HM); FT 27 Sep (DG); CP 1 Oct (J. Giunta *et al.*); JBWE 1-2 Oct (M. Mayer, mob);**Vesper Sparrow:** 2 GKP 4 Sep (C. Barron); 3 Sammy's Beach, SUFF 12 Oct (J&K Askildsen).**Lark Sparrow:** BP 7 Sep (DG); 2 RMSP 8 Sep (PJJ, SSM); JBWE 14 Sep (M&N Larsen); RP 21 Sep (Steve Nanz, Jerry Layton); FT 22 Sep (DG, mob); FT 4 Oct (mob); RP 4 Oct (SSM *et al.*); CB 22 Oct (MN).**LARK BUNTING:** RMSP 16-21 Sep (DF, mob! ph), first LI record since 1992.**Savannah Sparrow:** max 70 RMSP 12 Oct.**"Ipswich" Savannah Sparrow:** arr RMSP 5 Oct; max 2 RMSP 1 Nov.**LE CONTE'S SPARROW:** Plumb Beach 8 OCT (DG ph, mob!).**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** 20 *subvirgatus* Dune Rd 12 Oct (J&KA), v high count.**Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** 70 Dune Rd 12 Oct (J&KA), v high count.**Seaside Sparrow:** 20 Captree I 27 Sep (T. Johnson, C. Rutt); 20 Dune Rd 12 Oct (J&KA), v high counts.**Song Sparrow:** max 40 Gilgo 11 Oct, low.**Lincoln's Sparrow:** CB 8 Sep; APP 4 Oct; RP 4 Oct; 2 RMSP 5 Oct; Gilgo 5 Oct; RMSP 8 Oct.**Swamp Sparrow:** max 12 Gilgo 11 Oct & RMSP 1 Nov.**White-thr. Sparrow:** max 40 CB 5 Oct, low.**Dark-eyed Junco:** arr RMSP 16 Sep; max 50 Gilgo 11 Oct, low.**Snow Bunting:** max 300 CB 29-30 Nov.**Blue Grosbeak:** PP 10 Sep (AxW); RMSP 14 Sep; 2 RMSP 29 Sep.**Dickcissel:** JBWE 14 Sep (M & N Larsen, mob); RP 20 Sep (RJ); RP 27 Sep (DG); Montauk 28 Sep (SSM *et al.*); RMSP 30 Sep (K&SF); FT 4 Oct; RMSP 26 Oct (BBE); CHP 10 Nov (Ed & Zach Johnson).**Bobolink:** max 60 RMSP 8, 10 Sep.**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 2,000 RMSP 11 Nov.**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (R10):** f Deep Hollow, SUFF 22-24 Sep (VB ph).**Rusty Blackbird:** max 25 RMSP 17 Nov.**Com. Grackle:** 3,500 Wading River, SUFF.**Boat-tailed Grackle:** 150 Gilgo-CB 3 Oct, many.**Baltimore Oriole:** max 20 RMSP 8 Sep.**Purple Finch:** arr CHP 26 Sep; max 21 RMSP 1 Nov.**House Finch:** many migr barrier beach, e.g., 100 RMSP 18 Nov.**White-winged Crossbill:** 2 Flanders, SUFF 18 Oct (AB); 10 RMSP 2 Nov (M. Cooper); Woodlawn Cem, BRON 11 Nov (TF); 15 Northville 22 Nov (MLL).**Pine Siskin:** arr 12 RMSP 12 Oct; 1,692 RMSP 1 Nov, 6,520 RMSP 10 Nov; 1,000 RMSP 18 Nov, highest counts of migr; *intro.***Am. Goldfinch:** 2,900 17 Nov RMSP; 4,000 RMSP 18 Nov, highest counts of migr, *intro.***EXOTICS****Budgerigar:** Kissena P, QUEE 12 Oct (QCBC).**Orange Bishop:** pr Kissena P 12 Oct (QCBC).

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in **BOLD**; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in **UPPER CASE** letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! – details seen by Regional Editor; ad – adult; Alt – Alternate plumage; Am. – American; arr – arrival or first of season; BBS – Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS – bird of the season; CBC – Christmas Bird Count; CO – confirmed nesting; Com. – Common; E. – Eastern; FL – fledgling; FY –adult feeding young; I – Island; imm – immature; intro – see introduction to report; juv – juvenile; L – Lake; max – maximum; mob – multiple observers; N. – Northern; NYSDEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC – report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P – park; Pd – Pond; ph – photographed; Pt – Point; Res – Reservoir; Ri – River; SP – State Park; spm – specimen; subad – subadult; T – Town of; thru – throughout period; Twn – township; W. – Western; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; y – young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:
the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:
the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:
the boundary is NY Route 31.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

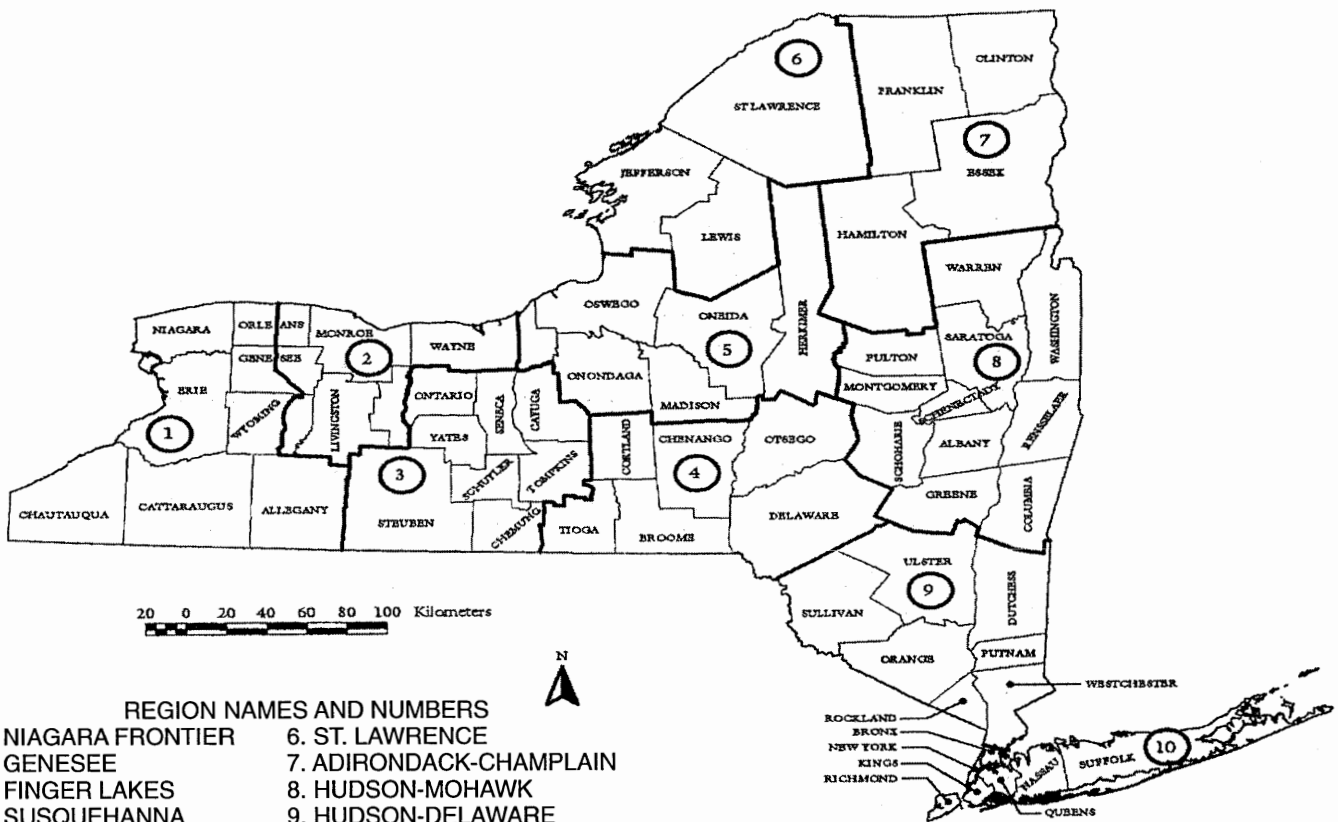
Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



REGION NAMES AND NUMBERS

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. NIAGARA FRONTIER | 6. ST. LAWRENCE |
| 2. GENESEE | 7. ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN |
| 3. FINGER LAKES | 8. HUDSON-MOHAWK |
| 4. SUSQUEHANNA | 9. HUDSON-DELAWARE |
| 5. ONEIDA LAKE BASIN | 10. MARINE |

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