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Front & Back Covers – This Gray Kingbird was photographed at Jones Beach SP, Nassau County, Long Island, on 15 Oct 2011. © Michael McBrien.

CHANGES IN HABITAT AND BREEDING BIRDS IN A PITCH PINE OAK HEATH ROCKY SUMMIT COMMUNITY AT THE MOHONK PRESERVE, ULSTER COUNTY, NY

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Abstract—I studied changes in vegetation and breeding birds over 15 years in a Pitch Pine Oak Heath Rocky Summit community at the Mohonk Preserve, Ulster County, NY. Historical data from the Breeding Bird Census (BBC) were grouped into five-year periods of time from 1992 through 2007 and analyzed using geographic information system (GIS) methodology. In 2007, my colleagues and I collected two sets of BBC data, which were compared to the historical data and to each other, to assess variability among observers.

Changes in resident species were the inclusion of the Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), and Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*) in BBC data. Changes in short distance migrants included a decrease in Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) breeding territories, the absence of the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) since 1997, and a decrease in Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*). Changes in long distance (neotropical) migrants were increases in the Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) and Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo oliveaceus*). Climate data showed increased temperature and increased precipitation over 111 years of data at the Mohonk Lake Cooperative Weather Station. Habitat change has occurred in the study area from 1986 through 2007 associated with Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*) attack, drought, the absence of fire, and an ice storm in 2002. Observer variability needs to be taken into account when analyzing bird populations because there is potentially a high level of variance among different observers.

The Mohonk Preserve is the largest member-and-visitor-supported nature preserve in New York and has been conducting a Breeding Bird Census (BBC) annually since 1992. Five different habitats are censused on a rolling basis. Pitch Pine Oak Heath Rocky Summit has been censused in 1992, 1997, 2002, and 2007. BBC results from the Mohonk Preserve were published in the *Journal of Field Ornithology* in the 1993 annual supplement; all other results are kept at the Daniel Smiley Research Center at the Mohonk Preserve.

I participated in the Mohonk Preserve's BBC in 2007. At the end of each BBC, breeding territories are established for each breeding bird that uses the habitat. Besides delineating breeding territories for each species, little else has been done with the BBC results.

The BBC was established in 1914 by the U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey to collect long-term data on and improve our understanding of changes in

distribution and abundance patterns of avian communities (USGS 2007a). The BBC was sponsored by the National Audubon Society from 1937-1984 and results were published in *American Birds* and its predecessor publications (USGS 2007a). Since 1985, the BBC has been administered by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and results have been published as an annual supplement in the *Journal of Field Ornithology*. A BBC is good for observing changes in bird communities in a single habitat over a period of time; however, it does not give trends for overall bird populations.

The North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) is one of the most commonly used surveys to determine information on overall bird populations in North America. It is a long-term, large-scale international avian monitoring program which began in 1966 and is now comprised of over 4,100 routes, of which about 2,900 are surveyed each year. In June, skilled observers survey a 24.5 mile route which consists of 50 stops at 0.5 mile intervals. Observers stop for three minutes at each stop and record any bird seen within a 0.25 mile radius or heard (USGS 2007b). The overall abundance of birds recorded in the Mississippi and Atlantic flyways of the BBS decreased by up to 18% between 1966 and 2005 (Valiela and Martinetto 2007). Furthermore, U.S. and Canadian resident species decreased by 30%, migrants within the U.S. and Canada (short distance migrants) decreased by 19%, while long distance (neotropical) migrants increased by up to 20% (Valiela and Martinetto 2007). Residents or migrants within the U.S. and Canada that preferred open or edge habitat showed the most rapid population decline since 1966, while residents and both short and long distance migrants associated with forest habitat increased in population size since 1966. Changes in northeastern North American bird populations have been associated with land cover changes such as the abandonment of agricultural areas, regrowth of forests, and the expansion of human development (Valiela and Martinetto 2007, Sibley 2001).

The Pitch Pine Oak Heath Rocky Summit habitat can be found on the southwest facing slopes of the slabrock at the Mohonk Preserve. Typical plants are Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*), Chestnut Oak (*Quercus prinus*), Scrub Oak (*Quercus ilicifolia*), Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), Low-bush Blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*), and Black Huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*) (Thompson 1996). These plants are adapted to climates where fire is a natural disturbance, but there has never been a fire documented in the study area (DSRC 1989). Studies show that fire maintains Pitch Pine and oak associated communities (Jordan et al. 2003, Rieske 2002). Fire alters growth and foliar chemistry of Chestnut Oak making it more vigorous after fire occurs (Gilbert et al. 2003, Rieske 2002).

The Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*), an introduced species, has quickly spread throughout the Northeast and portions of the Southeast, Midwest, and Canada (USDA Forest Service 2003). Gypsy Moth populations are irruptive and the larvae feed on the foliage of many types of North American vegetation. Chestnut Oak at the Mohonk Preserve has faced Gypsy Moth attacks over several decades (DSRC 1989). Heavy defoliation from 1986 through 1988 and drought in 1987 caused many mature stands of Chestnut Oak to die (DSRC

1989). An ice storm in November of 2002 caused heavy breakage and damage to trees and shrubs over a wide area at the Mohonk Preserve (Mohonk Preserve 2007). Gypsy Moth infestation, drought, an ice storm, and the absence of fire have caused habitat change in the Pitch Pine Oak Heath Rocky Summit at the Mohonk Preserve.

I determined if resident and migratory breeding birds of the Pitch Pine Oak Heath Rocky Summit had changed over 15 years. I used a geographic information system (GIS) to plot and analyze BBC results from this habitat. Breeding Bird Census information can help us determine general status in resident and migratory breeding bird populations in the Pitch Pine Oak Heath Rocky Summit and similar habitats, and because two sets of data were collected in 2007, variation between different observers can also be assessed.

METHODS

Study Area

The study area began at the intersection of Millbrook Trail and Trapps Road at the Mohonk Preserve in New Paltz, New York. Using a global positioning system (GPS) to define the study area, I and other observers followed Trapps Road 1,600 feet to the southwest. At this point, we went southeast up the Shawangunk Ridge to Millbrook Trail. The total distance to Millbrook Trail was about 850 feet. Orange ribbons were tied to tree branches every 100 feet in order to mark the path. We then followed Millbrook Trail heading northeast along the Shawangunk Ridge until we reached our starting point at Trapps Road. Directions were reversed each day. The coordinates of the site are 41°44'N, 74°12'W in the USGS Gardiner 7.5 minute quadrangle.

The study area is part of the Northern Shawangunk Mountains which stretch 20 miles from Rosendale, N.Y. to Ellenville, N.Y. in southeastern Ulster County. The two main types of rock found in the Shawangunk Mountains are Shawangunk conglomerate overlying Martinsburg shale. The soil formed on the conglomerate slabrock is acidic, shallow, droughty, and nutrient poor (Russell 2001, Kiviat 1988). The vegetation on the sloping area of the northern section is sparse and patchy with numerous rock outcrops while on the southern section, the vegetation is denser but also had rock outcrops.

In 1993, the open canopy was dominated by Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*), Chestnut Oak (*Quercus prinus*), and Black Birch (*Betula lenta*) estimated to be between 61 and 100 years of age (Larson and Cornwall 1993). The mean canopy height was five meters (range 3-10 meters). The understory was dominated by Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), Shadbush (*Amelanchier arborea*), and Scrub Oak (*Quercus ilicifolia*). Ground cover was dominated by Low-bush Blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*), Black Huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*), Wood Hairgrass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*), Sheep Laurel (*Kalmia angustifolia*), Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum lineare*), Wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*), and lichens including *Cetraria arenaria* and *Cladonia* spp. (Thompson 1996, Larson and Cornwall 1993).

Plant species found in the study area during the 2007 BBC that were not listed previously included Red Maple (*Acer rubrum* L.), Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), White Pine (*Pinus strobus* L.), Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana* L.), Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), and Striped Maple (*Acer pensylvanicum* L.) which were mainly found in the southern half and/or around the edge of the study area (personal observation 2007).

Identification of Birds and Vegetation

I learned to identify the breeding birds by sight and sound using *Stokes Field Guide to Bird Song* (Elliot et al. 1997), *A Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern and Central North America* (Peterson 1980), *The Sibley Guild to Birds* (Sibley 2000), and *The Birds of North America Online* (BNA 2007). Beginning in January 2007, weekly, I walked from Trapps Road to Bayards Path and then back to Trapps Road along the Millbrook Trail, a route which encompassed the study area to become familiar with the habitat and species found there. On each walk I recorded any birds I observed and the arrival dates of some species of migratory birds. I also used the *National Audubon Society Field Guide to Trees – Eastern Region* (Little et al. 1980) to identify tree species. I learned to identify different types of vegetation best by communicating with people who were familiar with the study area.

Breeding Bird Census

Each census involved walking the study area on at least 12 mornings, between 6:00 A.M. and 9:00 A.M. from May to early July. There were three to four observers each morning with the exception of one morning when there were six. The estimated location of singing male birds and any sightings of birds in or around the study area were recorded on a map of the area. A separate map was used for each day (Map 1-13). Censuses in 2002 and 2007 included one evening walk each. The 2002 evening walk was on 24 June from 8:05 P.M. to 9:30 P.M., the 2007 evening walk was on 26 June from 8:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. Temperature, wind speed, and any notes concerning the birds observed were recorded.

At the end of the BBC, the maps created from each day that censusing was done were used to create individual species maps so that breeding territories could be determined. This was done by designating a number for each map created on the 13 days censusing was done (Map 1-13). These numbered maps were reviewed and each species record was transferred to a new species map using the number (1-13) corresponding to the day the bird was observed. With each species map, breeding territories were delineated for each breeding bird based on aggregations of recordings from the BBC. Two sets of data were collected in 2007 so that the set of breeding territories determined by me could be compared with another determined by the other observers.

Breeding territories are used during the breeding season because they offer superior nest sites and food resources. Research on previously recorded breeding territory sizes and locations was obtained from *The Birds of North America*

Online, which I used for reference and comparison when determining breeding territories (BNA 2007). The recorded breeding territory size for many of the birds found in the study area ranged from 0.5 hectares to three hectares. The study area was 15.75 hectares. Recorded locations of breeding territories varied among species and there was variance in breeding territory size for each species.

Each species was assigned a habitat preference (edge or forest) based on the classification of Valiela and Martinetto (2007), and a migratory status (resident, short-distance migrant, or long-distance migrant). Resident species were defined as those living in the north temperate region of the U.S. or Canada throughout the year. Short-distance migrants spend their entire life in the U.S. and Canada and migrate within the north temperate region of the U.S. and Canada to the mid to southern U.S. Long-distance (neotropical) migrants winter outside of the U.S. and Canada in the West Indies, Mexico, or Central and South America.

Weather

Censuses were done when no inclement weather was forecast. Temperature and wind speed were recorded prior to each walk. Wind speed was recorded based on the Beaufort wind force scale.

The Mohonk Lake Cooperative Weather Station, located at the Mohonk Mountain House, completed its 112th year of continuous weather data during 2007. The annual summaries from 1992 through June 2007 were used to examine potential trends in weather data (DSRC 2007, Mohonk Preserve 2007).

Geographic Information Systems

I obtained orthoimagery of the study area from the New York State Geographic Information Systems Clearinghouse website (<http://nysgis.state.ny.us>) and imported images e_05731054, e_05731056, and e_05731058 from the 2001 State Plane Orthoimagery database to ArcGIS 9.0. Then, I created a shapefile in ArcCatalog which enabled me to digitize the BBC data gathered since 1992. A total of 2,705 points were plotted onto the orthoimagery of the study area and an attribute table was created which contained information gathered for each bird species observed. Attributes included the date of observation, time interval of observation, temperature, wind speed on a Beaufort wind force scale, and any notes listed for each bird.

ArcMap was used to analyze the BBC data by allowing me to produce maps which define the study area, breeding territories for each species, and a list of the total number of observations for each species in each year.

RESULTS

Breeding Bird Census

Table 1 summarizes the preferred habitat, migratory status, and frequency of occurrence (as a breeder or visitor) for each of the 70 species encountered.

A total of 39 species of birds have been identified as breeding in the Pitch Pine Oak Heath Rocky Summit at the Mohonk Preserve since 1992. Thirty-six of these birds were “perching birds” in the order Passeriformes, two were woodpeckers in the order Piciformes (family Picidae) and one species was in the order Columbiformes (family Columbidae), which includes pigeons and doves. Of the 36 passerines, 33 were “true songbirds” in the suborder Passeri and three were flycatchers in the suborder Tyranni (family Tyrannidae). Of the 33 “true songbirds”, 10 were wood-warblers in the family Parulidae, four were thrushes in the family Turdidae, three were vireos in the family Vireonidae, three were finches in the family Fringillidae, three were in the sparrow family, or Emberizidae, three were in the cardinal family, or Cardinalidae, and two were in the nuthatches and allies family, or Paridae. There was also one species in each one of the following families: crows/jays (Corvidae), blackbirds (Icteridae), wrens (Troglodytidae), waxwings (Bombycillidae), and mimic thrushes (Mimidae).

Of the 39 species recorded as breeders, 22 were considered edge species because they are most commonly found along forest edges or in disturbed habitat, and 17 were considered forest species because they are most likely found in undisturbed or more forested habitat.

From 1992 through 2007, some breeding bird populations and/or territories remained stable, certain species did not appear in all BBCs, and some species showed observable increases or decreases in population size and/or breeding territories. The four most abundant birds in this BBC were the Chipping Sparrow and Eastern Towhee, both short-distance migrants, and the Black-and-white and Prairie Warblers, which are long-distance migrants. Eighteen species have appeared in all four BBCs, twelve species have been present in two to three BBCs, and nine species have only been recorded in one BBC. Total observations of long-distance migrants increased 45% between 1992 and 2007. Total observations of north temperate residents increased from 1992 until 2002, and then decreased by 24% in 2007. Short-distance migrants had the same trend as north temperate residents but decreased by 29% in 2007.

The total numbers of breeding territories and observations for each species are presented for each of the three migratory classes in Tables 2, 3, and 4 (Joseph Cherneski's data). A value of 0.5 indicates that at least half of the breeding territory was found in the study area, and a positive value indicates that less than half of a breeding territory was found in the study area, the bird had a low number of total observations, or was recorded primarily while flying overhead.

Of 11 north temperate residents, nine were edge species and four had changed since 1992 (Table 2). The Downy Woodpecker, Northern Cardinal, and Tufted Titmouse were not included as breeders in the BBC until 2002 and 2007. The Downy Woodpecker and Northern Cardinal had low total observations. Total observations of the Tufted Titmouse increased. Total observations of the Mourning Dove doubled from the first two BBC years to the last two BBC years while breeding territories remained stable. The Dark-eyed Junco had three territories in 1992 but only one territory in each one of the following censuses.

Table 1. Preferred habitat, migratory status, and occurrence of 70 bird species at the Pitch Pine Oak Heath Rocky Summit of the Mohonk Preserve in New Paltz, NY. Res = north-temperate resident; SD = short-distance migrant; and LD = long-distance migrant. BBC = number of years recorded on Breeding Bird Census; Vis = number of years recorded as a non-breeding visitor to the study site.

Species	Habitat	Migr	BBC	Vis
Turkey Vulture <i>Cathartes aura</i>	open	SD	0	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk <i>Accipiter striatus</i>	forest	SD	0	1
Mourning Dove <i>Zenaidura macroura</i>	edge	Res	4	-
Black-billed Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	forest	LD	0	2
Yellow-billed Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	forest	LD	0	2
Barred Owl <i>Strix varia</i>	forest	Res	0	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird <i>Archilochus colubris</i>	edge	LD	0	3
Red-bellied Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	edge	Res	0	1
Downy Woodpecker <i>Picoides pubescens</i>	edge	Res	2	1
Hairy Woodpecker <i>Picoides villosus</i>	edge	Res	0	2
Northern Flicker <i>Colaptes auratus</i>	edge	Res	3	1
Pileated Woodpecker <i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	forest	Res	0	1
Eastern Wood-Pewee <i>Contopus virens</i>	forest	LD	2	-
Eastern Phoebe <i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	edge	SD	4	-
Great Crested Flycatcher <i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	edge	LD	4	-
Yellow-throated Vireo <i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	forest	LD	1	1
Blue-headed Vireo <i>Vireo solitarius</i>	forest	LD	1	2
Red-eyed Vireo <i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	forest	LD	4	-
Blue Jay <i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	edge	Res	4	-
American Crow <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	edge	Res	0	3
Common Raven <i>Corvus corax</i>	open	Res	0	3
Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	edge	LD	0	1
Black-capped Chickadee <i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	edge	Res	4	-
Tufted Titmouse <i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>	edge	Res	2	2
Red-breasted Nuthatch <i>Sitta canadensis</i>	forest	Res	0	2
White-breasted Nuthatch <i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	edge	Res	0	1
Brown Creeper <i>Certhia americana</i>	forest	SD	0	1
Carolina Wren <i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	edge	SD	1	-
Winter Wren <i>Troglodytes hiemalis</i>	edge	SD	0	2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher <i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	edge	LD	0	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet <i>Regulus calendula</i>	forest	SD	0	1
Eastern Bluebird <i>Sialia sialis</i>	edge	Res	1	-
Hermit Thrush <i>Catharus guttatus</i>	forest	SD	3	-
Wood Thrush <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	forest	LD	4	-

Species	Habitat	Migr	BBC	Vis
American Robin <i>Turdus migratorius</i>	edge	SD	4	-
Gray Catbird <i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	edge	SD	1	2
Northern Mockingbird <i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	edge	Res	0	1
Cedar Waxwing <i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	edge	SD	4	1
Ovenbird <i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>	forest	LD	2	1
Worm-eating Warbler <i>Helmitheros vermivorus</i>	forest	LD	1	2
Black-and-white Warbler <i>Mniotilta varia</i>	forest	LD	4	-
Nashville Warbler <i>Oreothlypis ruficapilla</i>	forest	LD	0	3
Common Yellowthroat <i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	edge	LD	4	-
Hooded Warbler <i>Setophaga citrina</i>	forest	LD	1	1
American Redstart <i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	forest	LD	3	-
Northern Parula <i>Setophaga americana</i>	forest	LD	0	1
Magnolia Warbler <i>Setophaga magnolia</i>	forest	LD	0	1
Blackburnian Warbler <i>Setophaga fusca</i>	forest	LD	0	1
Chestnut-sided Warbler <i>Setophaga pensylvanica</i>	forest	LD	0	1
Blackpoll Warbler <i>Setophaga striata</i>	forest	LD	0	1
Black-thr. Blue Warbler <i>Setophaga caerulescens</i>	forest	LD	1	-
Pine Warbler <i>Setophaga pinus</i>	forest	SD	4	-
Yellow-rumped Warbler <i>Setophaga coronata</i>	edge	SD	3	2
Prairie Warbler <i>Setophaga discolor</i>	forest	LD	4	-
Black-throated Green Warbler <i>Setophaga virens</i>	forest	LD	0	3
Canada Warbler <i>Cardellina canadensis</i>	forest	SD	0	1
Eastern Towhee <i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	edge	SD	4	-
Chipping Sparrow <i>Spizella passerina</i>	edge	SD	4	-
Field Sparrow <i>Spizella pusilla</i>	edge	SD	0	1
Dark-eyed Junco <i>Junco hyemalis</i>	forest	Res	4	-
Scarlet Tanager <i>Piranga olivacea</i>	forest	LD	4	-
Northern Cardinal <i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	edge	Res	2	-
Rose-breasted Grosbeak <i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	forest	LD	0	2
Indigo Bunting <i>Passerina cyanea</i>	edge	LD	4	-
Red-winged Blackbird <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	edge	SD	0	1
Brown-headed Cowbird <i>Molothrus ater</i>	edge	SD	2	-
Baltimore Oriole <i>Icterus galbula</i>	edge	LD	0	3
Purple Finch <i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	forest	Res	2	1
House Finch <i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	edge	Res	1	-
American Goldfinch <i>Spinus tristis</i>	edge	SD	2	3

Table 2. Total number of breeding territories and observations for north temperate resident species. Habitat preference can be found next to common names: E = edge species and F = forest species. Numbers in parentheses are total number of observations.

North temperate residents	1992	1997	2002	2007
Black-capped Chickadee (E)	2 (12)	2 (28)	2 (40)	2 (31)
Blue Jay (E)	2 (6)	2 (17)	1 (37)	0.5 (10)
Dark-eyed Junco (F)	3 (12)	1 (5)	1 (9)	1 (3)
Downy Woodpecker (E)	0	0	+	+(3)
Eastern Bluebird (E)	0	0	+	0
House Finch (E)	1 (2)	0	0	0
Mourning Dove (E)	2 (13)	1 (17)	2 (34)	2 (30)
Northern Cardinal (E)	0	0	0.5	+(3)
Northern Flicker (E)	1 (2)	1 (8)	+	+(2)
Purple Finch (F)	0	1 (8)	0	+(2)
Tufted Titmouse (E)	0	0	0.5 (6)	1 (12)

Of 12 short distance migrants, ten were edge species and six had changed since 1992 (Table 3). Breeding territories of the Eastern Towhee decreased by 50% between the first two BBC years and the last two BBC years; total observations varied over the four BBC years. The Brown-headed Cowbird was not recorded in the BBC after 1997. The Hermit Thrush had established breeding territories and more observations in 1992 and 1997 than the following two BBCs; it was not recorded in 2002 and was observed five times in 2007. The Chipping Sparrow had at least eight breeding territories in all BBCs and the number of observations steadily increased from 1992 to 2002. A visitor species was a bird observed during the BBC but was not specifically using the study area for breeding purposes. The American Goldfinch was listed as a visitor species in the 1992 and 1997 BBCs, as breeding in 2002, and as both in 2007. The Cedar Waxwing was listed as breeding until 2007, when it was listed as both breeding and visiting. The American Goldfinch and Cedar Waxwing recordings were mainly “fly-overs” or small feeding flocks. They were not singing as breeding male birds do in May and June. Cedar Waxwings are non-territorial and breed later in the summer when fruits are abundant (BNA 2007). The American Goldfinch also nests later in the breeding season with the appearance of flowering composites (BNA 2007).

Of 16 long distance migrants, 13 were forest species and six had changed since 1992 (Table 4). Total observations of the Indigo Bunting and Red-eyed Vireo increased steadily since 1992. Breeding territories for the Indigo Bunting were higher in 2002 and 2007 than in 1992 and 1997. The American Redstart was recorded in the first three BBCs but not in 2007. Breeding territories of the Common Yellowthroat decreased since 1997; total observations were stable. The Ovenbird was listed as a visitor in 1992 and then as a breeding bird in 1997, 2002, and 2007. In 1997 and 2007, the Ovenbird had recorded breeding territories and total observations while in 2002 a positive value was the only record. Breeding territories for the Wood Thrush decreased since 1992; total observations were fairly constant.

Table 3. Total number of breeding territories and observations for short-distance migrants. Habitat preference can be found next to common names: E = edge species and F = forest species. Numbers in parentheses are total number of observations.

Short distance migrants	1992	1997	2002	2007
American Goldfinch (E)	0	0	2 (33)	+ (17)
American Robin (E)	4 (20)	4 (36)	2 (63)	2 (23)
Brown-headed Cowbird (E)	2 (18)	2.5 (26)	0	0
Carolina Wren (E)	1 (2)	0	0	0
Cedar Waxwing (E)	5 (6)	2 (23)	2 (26)	+ (7)
Chipping Sparrow (E)	12 (55)	8 (76)	10 (141)	11 (136)
Eastern Phoebe (E)	1 (3)	1 (14)	1 (8)	+ (4)
Eastern Towhee (E)	11 (58)	13 (104)	6 (93)	4.5 (49)
Gray Catbird (E)	1 (2)	0	0	0
Hermit Thrush (F)	2 (10)	4 (21)	0	+ (5)
Pine Warbler (F)	4 (20)	3 (18)	2 (28)	2.5 (38)
Yellow-rumped Warbler (E)	1 (6)	2 (18)	0	+ (2)

Table 4. Total number of breeding territories and observations for long-distance migrants. Habitat preference can be found next to common names: E = edge species and F = forest species. Numbers in parentheses indicate total number of observations.

Long distance migrants	1992	1997	2002	2007
American Redstart (F)	3 (11)	1.5 (12)	1 (13)	0
Black-and-white Warbler (F)	7 (54)	8 (75)	5.5+ (69)	6.5 (57)
Black-thr. Blue Warbler (F)	0	0.5 (9)	0	0
Blue-headed Vireo (F)	0	0	+	0
Common Yellowthroat (E)	3 (10)	3 (15)	0.5 (8)	0.5 (16)
Eastern Wood-Pewee (F)	0	1 (7)	+	+ (2)
Great Crested Flycatcher (E)	2 (6)	1.5 (16)	2 (36)	1 (21)
Hooded Warbler (F)	0	0	0	+ (6)
Indigo Bunting (E)	2 (8)	2 (13)	6 (59)	3.5 (64)
Ovenbird (F)	0	2.5 (25)	+	1 (9)
Prairie Warbler (F)	6 (47)	8 (85)	4 (65)	6 (86)
Red-eyed Vireo (F)	1 (4)	2.5 (26)	1.5 (43)	6 (48)
Scarlet Tanager (F)	1 (3)	3 (15)	1.5 (25)	1 (16)
Wood Thrush (F)	3 (9)	1.5 (10)	+ (4)	+ (7)
Worm-eating Warbler (F)	0	0	0	0.5 (13)
Yellow-throated Vireo (F)	0	1 (3)	0	0

Several species were designated as breeders in at least one year and as visitors in at least one other year: American Goldfinch, Blue-headed Vireo, Cedar Waxwing, Downy Woodpecker, Gray Catbird, Hooded Warbler, Ovenbird, Purple Finch, Tufted Titmouse, and Worm-eating Warbler. The American Goldfinch and Cedar Waxwing were on both lists in 2007 because it could not

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be determined if they were using the habitat for foraging or for breeding. Thirty-one species were recorded only as visitors.

Observer Variation

The observer difference in the number of breeding territories for 2007 between other observers and me is shown in Table 5. Most results were the same or had a difference up to one. The greatest differences in breeding territories were for the Red-eyed Vireo and the Prairie Warbler, which had a difference of -4.5 and +2.5, respectively.

Table 5. Variation in assessment of breeding territories for 2007 BBC in the Pitch Pine Oak Heath Rocky Summit at the Mohonk Preserve. J.C. = Joseph Cherek and O.O. = other observers.

Species	J.C.	O.O.	Difference
Chipping Sparrow	11	12	+1
Eastern Towhee	4.5	4.5	0
Black-and-white Warbler	6.5	6	-0.5
Prairie Warbler	6	8.5	+2.5
Cedar Waxwing	+	1+	+0.5
American Robin	2	1.5	-0.5
Pine Warbler	2.5	3	+0.5
Wood Thrush	+	0	
Common Yellowthroat	0.5	1	+0.5
Dark-eyed Junco	1	1	0
Mourning Dove	2	2	0
Great Crested Flycatcher	1	1	0
Blue Jay	0.5	0.5	0
Black-capped Chickadee	2	3	+1
Hermit Thrush	+	0	
Indigo Bunting	3.5	3.5	0
Northern Flicker	+	0	
Eastern Phoebe	+	0.5	
Red-eyed Vireo	6	2	-4.5
Yellow-rumped Warbler	+	0	
Scarlet Tanager	1	1	0
Ovenbird	1	0	-1
Purple Finch	+	0	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	+	0	
American Goldfinch	+	0	
Tufted Titmouse	1	1	0
Northern Cardinal	+	0	
Downy Woodpecker	+	0	
Hooded Warbler	+	0	
Worm-eating Warbler	0.5	0.5	0

Weather

Two mornings during 2007's BBC had cloud cover and two mornings were partly cloudy at the beginning and sunny at the finish. All other days were bright, clear, and calm. BBC morning temperatures have increased since 1997. In 1992 and 1997 the average temperature taken on census mornings was 10° C, in 2002 the average temperature was 18.5° C and in 2007 it was 14.9° C. Rainfall was below average in May and June of 1997 and 2007 and in June of 2002. However, data from the Mohonk Lake Cooperative Weather Station indicated no trend of below average rainfall for April, May, and June (Mohonk Preserve 2007). Dates, times, and weather data for all BBC visits in 1992, 1997, 2002, and 2007 are available on request.

Of the 111 years of weather data kept at the Mohonk Lake Cooperative Weather Station, eight of the ten warmest years on record have been since 1990. Since 1896, the average daily temperature had increased 2.3° F, the linear average of total precipitation per year had increased by 4.7 inches, and the linear average of total snowfall per season had increased by 21 inches. In addition the growing season was an average of eight days longer with the first frost in the fall three days later and the last frost in spring five days earlier (Smiley 2006).

DISCUSSION

Vegetation

Four distinct periods of vegetational change can be distinguished in the landscape of the Shawangunk Mountains: Pre-colonial period, early European settlement period, period of intensive forest use between 1850 and the early 20th century, and the mid-late 20th century forest recovery (Russell 2001).

Before human settlement of the northeastern United States, natural forces probably played the primary role in the formation of habitats. Major natural forces in the Shawangunk Mountains were probably the changing of seasons with warm summers, cool winters, and sufficient rainfall to support deciduous trees. Based on studies of pollen preserved in swamp sediments, oaks seem to have dominated the regional vegetation for at least 6000 years with various amounts of pine, hemlock, chestnut, beech, and other trees (Laing 1994). Pitch Pine and Chestnut Oak were probably found above the cliff line, with American Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*), Chestnut Oak, and White Pine dominating above 200m, and more Basswood, maple, beech, and Black Oak (*Quercus velutina* Lam.) found at lower elevations (Russell 2001).

During the early European settlement period (mid 17th century-1850) farmers cleared much of the forest of the lowlands but left some woodlots on the poor soils and hedgerows along property lines. At this time, hunting reduced deer, wolf, and panther populations, and livestock was allowed to roam freely. Fires used for agricultural purposes probably became more frequent in lowland forests and may have escaped to surrounding areas (Russell 2001).

Between 1850 and the early 20th century there was continued intensive forest use and it is likely that all extant forests were cut at least once for some use. The forests of the Shawangunk Mountains were used for lumber and

fuelwood. The bark of Eastern Hemlock was used for tanning leather because of its high tannin content. Eastern Hemlock tree saplings were used to make barrel hoops (Snyder and Beard 1981). Between 1900 and 1908, Chestnut Blight Fungus (*Cryphonectria parasitica*) was introduced to North America and by 1940 mature American Chestnut trees were virtually extinct (Wikipedia 2007). Fire frequency probably increased because it was thought to make conditions more favorable for blueberry and huckleberry, which were harvested. This time period came to an end when resources dwindled and the industries died out. Farms were abandoned and the forest was allowed to grow back to its current status (Russell 2001).

The habitat in the 1992 BBC was probably more open due to the heavy defoliation and death of many Chestnut Oaks during the drought and Gypsy Moth infestations observed from 1986 through 1988. Chestnut Oak will refoliate after a disturbance such as Gypsy Moth attack. When refoliation does occur, water needs to be available for growth. The drought in the growing season of 1987, followed by below average rainfall in the growing season of 1988, in combination with the stress of repeated Gypsy Moth infestation is the reason many Chestnut Oaks died (DSRC 1989).

Since the early 1990s Red Maple has become especially abundant in the southern section and along the edge of the study area. In addition, the vegetation became denser. Besides Red Maple, species that were not listed in earlier descriptions of the study area and were seen in 2007 included Eastern Hemlock, White Pine, Black Gum, Witch Hazel Sassafras, and Striped Maple. Most of these plants were less than three meters in height and were found around the perimeter of the study area. The northern section of the study area was more open and was dominated by Pitch Pine. The southern section was dominated by an understory of Mountain Laurel, and an open canopy of Chestnut Oak, Pitch Pine, Black Birch, and Red Maple. Blueberry and huckleberry were mixed in with the Mountain Laurel with an increase in elevation in the southern section. Red Maple is a shade tolerant tree which can survive in many different types of habitat, while Pitch Pine, Scrub Oak, Black Huckleberry, Low-bush Blueberry, and Chestnut Oak depend on partial to full sunlight for survival (Gilbert et al. 2003).

All of the species in the study area have adaptations to resist fire and survive afterwards. These characteristics include basal sprouting, root crown sprouting, rhizome sprouting, and fire resistant bark (Jordan et al. 2003). Red Maple is known to aggressively seed and sprout after fire occurs; it persisted after a single prescribed fire in an oak-pine forest on the Cumberland Plateau in Kentucky (USDA-NRCS 2006, Gilbert et al. 2003). Successive burns have been suggested as a method for controlling Red Maple populations (Gilbert et al 2003).

Fire has been used to maintain Pitch Pine and oak associated communities (Jordan et al. 2003, Rieske 2002). Rieske (2002) found that a series of wildfires over a one month period caused physiological changes in Chestnut Oaks leading to higher levels of foliar nitrogen, higher tannin levels early in the growing season, higher specific leaf mass later in the growing season, and higher leaf

water content. The absolute height growth of seedlings from burned sites was over four times greater than those from non-burned sites and seedlings from burned plots were more productive with respect to leaf area and leaf mass. Without fire, however, succession favors Red Maple, and the development of a denser habitat. The study area has never experienced a documented fire. The ice storm that occurred in November of 2002 did cause heavy breakage and damage to trees and shrubs over a wide area, but this happened five years before the next BBC in the study area, which would have allowed time for some recovery.

Birds

BBC results which show bird community changes corresponding to habitat succession include the absence of Brown-headed Cowbird since 1997, a decrease in Eastern Towhee breeding territories, and an increase in Red-eyed Vireo populations. Although the habitat has never been fragmented, earlier BBC results indicate the habitat was more open compared to the 2007 BBC.

In a more open habitat, bird populations may have been affected by nest predation and nest parasitism. Declines in neotropical migrant birds have been attributed to habitat fragmentation, which cause increased nest predation, nest parasitism by the Brown-headed Cowbird, and loss of habitat (Faaborg 2002, Bohning-Gaese et al. 1993, Robbins et al. 1989). Robbins et al. (1989) analyzed BBS data from 1966-1978 and from 1978-1987 and identified the principal winter habitat of 62 neotropical migrant species in Quintana Roo, Mexico. They found those which used forest habitat on their winter territories showed the greatest population decline. Bohning-Gaese et al. (1993) also studied BBS data during this time period and found that neotropical migrants that make low, open nests had declined the most.

Any animal may be a nest predator; however, Leimgruber (1994) found that Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) and Striped Skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*) were the top nest predators in forests in Front Royal, VA. Corvids, such as the American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) and Blue Jay are also known nest predators which were common in the study area. In a denser habitat, nests would less likely be found by predators and with the absence of Brown-headed Cowbirds, nest parasitism would decrease.

Brown-headed Cowbirds are short distance migrants and may be declining in the study area because of habitat change, but BBS data has shown a decrease of this species in N.Y. and in the eastern BBS region since 1992 (USGS 2007c). It is known that Brown-headed Cowbirds depend on large areas of land for breeding, feeding, and roosting (Gates and Evans 1998). They choose home ranges based on a hierarchy of categories: brush habitat, deciduous forest, and agricultural land were the top three. Developed land was their least favored site. Succession in the study area may be the reason for the absence of the Brown-headed Cowbird; habitat change outside of the study area may also be a factor.

The Eastern Towhee, a short distance migrant which breeds in open woody areas, has also decreased in N.Y. and in the eastern BBS region since 1992. Reasons for declines of this species may be similar to those of the Brown-

headed Cowbird: succession in the study area, habitat change outside the study area, overall population trends, or a combination of these factors.

Valiela and Martinetto (2007) suggested north temperate resident and short distance migratory bird populations have declined because of the development of natural habitat on their breeding grounds in North America. This is because neotropical migratory birds mainly use similar types of habitat on their winter territories as they do on their breeding territories. If tropical habitat is continuously being altered for human purposes and becoming less forested, then neotropical migratory birds which prefer open habitat would increase. Neotropical migratory birds which use open habitat decreased by 22% between 1966 and 2005 (Valiela and Martinetto 2007).

Increases in Red-eyed Vireo populations have been correlated with forest regrowth and fire suppression in eastern North America, both of which have happened in the study area (Sibley 2001).

Warming Temperatures and Observer Variation

Warming temperatures are apparent in the Mohonk Preserve weather data and the BBC temperature data. Global warming has caused avian distribution shifts, earlier migration and egg laying, or population changes in certain species found throughout the U.S. and Canada and as far south as the Antarctic (Bonfield 2007). The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) occurs within two weeks of December 25 and consists of counting all the birds seen in an area within a 15-mile diameter in a single day. The CBC data from 1930-2001 in Cape Cod, MA show that increases in local mean minimum winter temperature correlate with a significantly higher ratio of southern winter distribution bird species to northern winter distribution bird species (Valiela and Bowen 2003). Examples of birds observed in more northern areas include the Carolina Wren, Tufted Titmouse, Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*), and Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) (Bonfield 2007). The Black Vulture's (*Coragyps atratus*) northern limit of distribution used to be to southern PA. It is now a year-round resident at the Mohonk Preserve and successfully bred there for the first time in 1997. The American Robin, Turkey Vulture, and Song Sparrow are also year-round residents at the Mohonk Preserve (Smiley 2006).

Observer variation can be a problem in bird population studies (Sauer et al. 1994). Sauer et al. (1994) found evidence for observer differences in 50% of 369 bird species examined in the BBS from 1966 through 1991. Observer variation may have come from a number of factors such as a person's ability to detect birds, strategies for observing birds, estimating total numbers of birds, the number of observers participating in a group, and changes in observers over time. Observers tended to count more birds in later years than in earlier years which was attributed to observers becoming more skilled over time. There was a considerable increase in observations in this BBC with species such as the Chipping Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, Mourning Dove, and Red-eyed Vireo. Also, the main compilers of BBC data changed from 1992 to 1997.

When comparing my data with other observers' data in 2007, our results were similar but did have some differences. The location of birds recorded in the

field was similar for all species except the Red-eyed Vireo, for which many of my recordings were in the study area while other observers' data were outside of the study area. I declared breeding territories with my results three times: once after making my species maps, a second using ArcGIS, and a third after researching the recorded sizes of breeding territories for each species. Other BBC observers discussed their results together and decided on breeding territories together.

Further observer variation can be attributed to distinguishing the various species which have a trill-like song in the study area. The Chipping Sparrow, which seemed to be everywhere, Pine Warbler, and Dark-eyed Junco all have a similar song and cannot be distinguished at all times unless you are a very good bird observer or a visual sighting is made.

Partners in Flight

It is important that we ensure avifauna is conserved for generations to come. The practice of conservation, education, and research at the Mohonk Preserve is one way to fulfill this goal. Species such as the Prairie Warbler and Wood Thrush have had marked population declines on a large scale while other species such as the Black-and-white and Pine Warbler are specialized to pine forests. Thirty of the breeding birds in the Pitch Pine Oak Heath Rocky Summit were considered common or abundant and had populations that were stable or increasing (BNA 2007). In the future, we must ensure that common species remain common, that we protect species which have declined, and ensure that species with special needs are able to obtain them.

There is a plan for the conservation of North American landbirds. Partners in Flight (PIF) developed the North American Landbird Conservation Plan which provides a continental synthesis of priorities and objectives that will guide landbird conservation actions at national and international levels (PIF 2004). Of the 448 landbirds that regularly breed in the U.S. and Canada, 100 warrant inclusion on the PIF Watch List. Of these 100 species, 28 require immediate action to protect small remaining populations and 44 more are in need of management to reverse long-term declines. In this plan there is also a Stewardship Species List, which includes species that are characteristic of specific landscapes in each portion of the North American continent which need to be considered in conservation planning. Species found in the BBC at the Mohonk Preserve that are Watch List Species on the PIF Landbird Conservation Plan include the Worm-eating Warbler, Prairie Warbler, and Wood Thrush. Stewardship Species found at the Mohonk Preserve include the Eastern Towhee, Hooded Warbler, Pine Warbler, Carolina Wren, Indigo Bunting, and Yellow-throated Vireo. Five of these key species have been present in all of the BBCs in the Pitch Pine Oak Heath Rocky Summit.

The Mohonk Preserve was designated by The Nature Conservancy as one of Earth's "Last Great Places", and it truly is. It is critically important that we continue to monitor and conserve this natural area and natural areas worldwide, so that bird populations and wildlife will continue to survive for generations to come.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—FALL 2011

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Fall 2011 featured many early arrival dates for geese, a good inland Brant flight, and another strong showing of Ross's Goose across the state. A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck continued from summer in Region 1; a Pink-footed Goose was found in Region 9; a breeding-plumaged Yellow-billed Loon was found on Lake Ontario; and various holdovers from Tropical Storm *Irene* persisted, especially along the coast.

Swainson's Hawk is not only rare in New York, but the few that are found almost always move through quickly. For the second time in two years, however, a juvenile bird found roadside grasshoppers an irresistible attraction, this time in Hamlin, Monroe County. As in the case of the Greene County bird of 2009, observers worried about the bird's exposure to traffic; sadly, in this case, the bird was eventually struck and killed by a vehicle. We can take some consolation in the fact that it furnished a very valuable specimen for the collection at Cornell University.

It was an excellent season for Red Phalarope in all sorts of contexts, across the state. This species was found in Regions 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, and 10, including a first county record for Orange, a second county record for Dutchess, and 262 on one pelagic trip off of Long Island. Jim Pawlicki, Andy Guthrie, and others did a great job finding an excellent variety of small gulls in the western part of the state, including good numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes and Sabine's Gulls, wayward Franklin's and Laughing Gulls, and the scarcer Black-headed along with the more regular Little Gull. Pomarine Jaeger is seldom documented anywhere in the state, so Jim Pawlicki's documentation of three in Region 1 this fall is especially noteworthy.

Common Nighthawks were nowhere numerous and notably low in Regions 1, 2, 4, 6 (missed), 7, and 10; numbers were only modestly better in Region 5, despite greater than usual effort. In contrast, a good Snowy Owl irruption was evident by season's end, with four in Region 6 and one on Long Island by late November.

Fall 2011 featured several kinds of evidence underscoring ongoing changes in our understanding of late season swallow migration. The increasingly late abundance of Northern Rough-winged Swallow in western NYS (e.g., 950 at Niagara Falls on 2 October, with birds persisting into late October in Regions 1, 2, and 3) is simply astonishing to long-time (and especially coastal) observers. On the other hand, no Cave Swallows were reported this fall anywhere in New York State, marking the species' first absence since 2000. Late Cliff Swallows recorded in Region 2 (22 October) and Region 10 (8 October) serve as

reminders that observers should keep open minds and pay close attention to all late season swallows.

The fall flights of Blackpoll Warbler were notably heavy and late. The Buffalo Ornithological Society's October count found 188 as late as 9 October. In adjacent Region 2, the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO) banded a fall total of 760, vastly greater than last year's tally of 280 and the previous maximum of 383. There has been a trend evident in recent years toward later persistence of this long-distance migrant in the Northeast, but fall 2011's flight was still remarkably late across the state. It extended through late October in Region 1; 8 November in Region 2 (Regionally record-late); 10 November in Region 3; 14 November in Region 5 (Regionally record-late); 23 October in Region 8; and 18 November in Region 10, with three counts of 13-16 as late as 22-25 October.

Although irruptive finches were scarce most places throughout the season, a highly anomalous surge of Pine Siskins was recorded at BBBO on 5 October, with 311 banded in one day. For comparison, maximum counts in Regions 1 and 10 were 60 on 9 November and 11 on 31 October, respectively. Illustrative of how enigmatic irruptive movements can be, zero siskins were captured at BBBO after that 5 October peak!

Among passerine vagrants, trios of Say's Phoebe (Region 8 and two Region 10) and Northern Wheatear (two Region 8 and Region 10) were especially impressive. Yellow-headed Blackbird occurs more often than these two species, but a total of four this fall (Region 5 and three Region 10) was still impressive. Two Lark Sparrows inland in Regions 3 and 5 were excellent finds, and there seemed to be more than the usual number of Dickcissels across the state. Other outstanding rarities included a Le Conte's Sparrow in Region 9 and a Black-throated Gray Warbler in Region 10.

My choice for Bird of the Season is Blackpoll Warbler. Seldom does such a striking and surprising ornithological event as this fall's Blackpoll flight involve so many observers, each collecting valuable data in supposed isolation, only mutually to discover the intriguing scope of their collective work.



REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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September was warm with an average temperature of 65.5° F, 3.3° F above normal. Monthly precipitation at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport was 4.07", 0.17" above normal. October included a week of summer-like weather but also several bouts of low-pressure-driven wind and rain. The average temperature was 52.2°, 1.4° above normal, and the monthly precipitation was 5.21", 1.69" above normal. November was very mild and without measurable snow in Buffalo for the second year in a row. The average temperature was 46.5°, 5.8° above normal, the sixth warmest November on record. The monthly precipitation was 3.10", 0.91" below normal with only a trace of snow, 7.9" below normal. Weather information was obtained from National Weather Service monthly summaries at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport.

There was an excellent showing of the other goose species that mix in with the plentiful Canada Geese. **Greater White-fronted Geese** were seen on multiple occasions from several locations, including our earliest fall record. A Regional maximum of nine was tied on 9 November at Iroquois NWR. **Cackling Geese** were regularly reported around Iroquois NWR and also at two other locations with a maximum of 10. **Ross's Goose** is occurring more often, and this was the Region's best showing with reports of singles from four locations. Snow Geese were reported irregularly with a maximum at one location of 11. There was a large movement of Brant on the relatively early date of 1 October, and more sightings than in recent fall seasons. At least two Trumpeter Swans continued long stays around Oak Orchard WMA and Iroquois NWR. Out of season swans are expected to be Trumpeters; however, that maxim proved wrong, with separate individual Tundra Swans that were sighted and photographed on 17 September and 25 September in Attica and Busti, respectively. Tundra Swan migration peaked in mid-November as usual.

Waterfowl migration was fairly typical. A group of 75 Blue-winged Teals in early September at Kumph Marsh at Iroquois NWR was a high number for recent years. Bill Watson reported an odd duck at Batavia WWTP that he felt was a hybrid teal, possibly a Blue-winged x Cinnamon. Ruddy Duck numbers swelled to over 2,600 at Batavia WWTP in mid-October, the highest count in recent years. Surf Scoters were sighted at several inland locations where rare. A female **Harlequin Duck** on the Niagara River in Buffalo was a good find.

Horned Grebes were documented in large numbers in late October and early November along Lake Erie, which is typical although counts are rarely made by birders. Red-necked Grebes were in modest numbers along Lake Ontario, with a maximum of 25. **Eared Grebes** continued at Batavia WWTP into early October. A **Northern Gannet** sighted and photographed along Lake Ontario in Olcott on 26 October was the second earliest on record.

A maximum of 228 Great Egrets was counted coming to roost at Iroquois NWR on 16 September. No rare or uncommon waders were found this season. Continuing the pattern from spring and summer, **Black Vultures** were observed along the Niagara River between Niagara Falls and Lewiston on several occasions and with more frequency in November. Turkey Vultures continued in this area beyond their typical late October departure from the Region. There were no unusual raptor reports. Merlins continue to become more common in all seasons.

Two **Sandhill Cranes** at Iroquois NWR on 20 September was the only report for the season. Several counts of American Coots topped 700 at Iroquois NWR, and 500 were counted at the sand and gravel ponds in South Dayton.

Kumph Marsh at Iroquois NWR continued from summer as the best spot for shorebird numbers and diversity. Fall highlights from this location included a **Western Sandpiper** on 13-14 September originally found by Joe Mitchell and up to six **Long-billed Dowitchers** during 18-26 October. Kurt Fox found an **American Avocet** at the sand and gravel ponds in South Dayton on 12 November, which is an excellent record considering the later date, well inland location, and probably a first for Cattaraugus County. Jim Pawlicki counted 635 Dunlin migrating along Lake Ontario on 26 October. There were more Ruddy Turnstone reports than usual in the fall. There was a **Red-necked Phalarope** at Dunkirk Harbor on 1 October and at least one **Red Phalarope** on the Niagara River on 16 October, with reports from Squaw Island and Fort Niagara SP on that day.

The warm November made for some downright pleasant birding conditions along the Niagara River during 'gull season' with little to no shivering, and coverage was good. A juvenile **Franklin's Gull** was found by Willie D'Anna on 5 November at Artpark SP and was seen fairly regularly for the remainder of the month. Immature **Black-legged Kittiwakes** were found at Fort Niagara SP on 3 November and likely another at several spots along the Niagara River 21-27 November. Jim Pawlicki identified an adult **Black-headed Gull** on the Niagara River at Squaw Island on 15 October and again on Lake Erie at Barcelona Harbor on 31 October. Through review of close photographs, Pawlicki determined that it was the same bird. Pawlicki identified an adult **California Gull** at Dunkirk Harbor on the relatively early date of 1 October. This is our first documented record away from the Niagara River. There was at least one California Gull on the Niagara River in November, with three documented reports from Niagara Falls and the Niagara Power Project. As has become recent custom, Lesser Black-backed Gulls were identified well inland with large numbers of roosting gulls at Cuba Lake and Rushford Lake. Strong west winds on 14-15 October brought an estimated 13 unidentified jaegers to Lake Erie in Hamburg as well as several to the Buffalo waterfront. **Pomarine Jaeger** is rarely documented in the Region but is likely a regular occurrence along Lake Ontario based on reports to the west and east. Pawlicki documented this species on two occasions along Lake Ontario and photographed one along the shoreline in Buffalo on 17 October.

The mild fall weather was likely a factor in the plethora of reports for species occurring beyond their normal departure times. An unidentified **cuckoo species** on 7 November is the latest cuckoo on record for the Region and the first November report. An adult male Hooded Warbler photographed by Craig Smith in his Bemus Point yard on 1 November was record late. A Wilson's Warbler frequented the yard of Richard Salembier in Williamsville from late October into December. This is the latest occurrence on record, and it is intriguing to wonder if this was a vagrant from the western population rather than a long-staying eastern migrant. Late reports were also documented for Chimney Swift, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Northern Parula, Blackpoll Warbler, and Bobolink.

David Junkin banded 33 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** at his yard in Wethersfield, with a maximum of 16 on 29 October. Junkin commented that he might have caught many more on the 29th if he had continued banding past 2 a.m. There were single reports of Snowy Owl, Long-eared Owl, and Short-eared Owl. **Common Nighthawks** were reported in low numbers with a maximum of nine.

Richard Salembier reported a large number of migrant flycatchers at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo on 5 September including 14 Eastern Wood-Pewees and an Olive-sided Flycatcher among others. A nearly all-white Tree Swallow was reported by Kurt Fox at Batavia WWTP and observed and photographed by several birders 14-22 October. A count of 950 Northern Rough-winged Swallows at Niagara Falls SP on 2 October was a record count for the Region. Eleven reports of Brown Thrasher in September–October were far more than usual in recent fall seasons; contributions from eBird are a factor in this increased number. Use of eBird is growing in Region 1. However, many if not most of the Region's active birders do not report their sightings to it regularly.

Other than those previously mentioned, additional migrant warbler highlights were a **Connecticut Warbler** at Amherst SP and a **Golden-winged Warbler** at Tiffit Nature Preserve. Blackpoll Warblers were seen in much larger numbers than usual, and there were also several reports into late October, which is later than usual. Several birders reported high counts of blackpolls along the Lake Ontario shoreline in late September and early October. On a much lesser scale, Cape May Warblers were reported in above average numbers.

Where have the Purple Finches gone? They were scarce this fall, which is becoming the normal. Flocks of **White-winged Crossbills** were observed flying west along the Lake Ontario shoreline on 12 November, and there was one other report. **Pine Siskins** appeared in low numbers in October and November. There was a single **Common Redpoll**.

The Region's second **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** discovered in August at Conewango Swamp WMA remained at that location until at least 3 September. The same or another was on Chautauqua Lake in Stow on 19-25 September, where found by Brant Gamma and Peter Landon.

While on a fishing trip on Lake Ontario off Fort Niagara SP Josh Stiller was amazed to find a **Razorbill** diving near the boat. The bird was observed at this location for the remainder of the month by many birders but was not always

easy to find as it often lingered out on the lake waters and dove frequently when foraging in the strong currents where the Niagara River enters Lake Ontario. This was the fourth occurrence in the Region, with all records coming from the same location. The bird was identified as a juvenile.

Jim Pawlicki found a **Nelson's Sparrow** at Amherst SP on 6 October, and it was observed by several others in the next few days. This was the first Regional sighting in five years.

The 76th annual BOS October Count was held on the 9th and compiled by Marcie Jacklin. The weather was warm and pleasant and fell during a prolonged mild stretch. The count recorded 168 species, with three first count records—Greater White-fronted Goose, Purple Gallinule [in Ontario], and Clay-colored Sparrow—and four record high counts—288 Common Merganser, 23 Eastern Screech-Owl, 14 Pine Warbler, and 188 Blackpoll Warbler.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP, ERIE; BeSP – Beaver I SP, ERIE; BOSOC – Buffalo Ornithological Society 9 Oct Count; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; ChauL – Chautauqua L, CHAU; CSWMA – Conewango Swamp WMA, CATT; DH – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; FNSP – 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, ORLE/GENE; PB – Point Breeze, ORLE; SPNS – Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary, ERIE; TBNP – Times Beach NP, ERIE; Tiff NP – Tiff Nature Preserve, Buffalo, ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; WoBSP – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK:

CSWMA thru 3 Sep (BS); Stow CHAU 19-25 Sep (BG, PL, JB, photo, NYSARC), possibly same bird as seen in nearby CATT in late Aug.

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr 5, 7, 7 Oakfield GENE 9, 22, 26 Oct (KS, JA, PY); 1, 2 INWR 12, 13 Oct (NS, WD); SPNS 18 Oct (LH); 2 Somerset NIAG 29 Oct (WD); max 9, 7 INWR 9, 13 Nov (WD, CM); 9 ties Fall max; excellent showing.

Snow Goose: arr DH 1 Oct (JP); 11 BOSOC; 3, 1 SPNS 18-20, 29 Oct; 2 Somerset NIAG 29 Oct; 4 blue Yates ORLE 29 Oct; 3 S Dayton CATT 12 Nov; INWR 15 Nov; max 11 Oakfield GENE 22 Nov.

ROSS'S GOOSE (R1): INWR 23, 28 Oct, 13 Nov (RD, WD, BB, CM); Yates ORLE 29 Oct (WD); juv ChauL 18 Nov (TS, photo); Oakfield GENE 26 Nov (JW); best fall showing.

Brant: arr 557 Wilson NIAG, 75 DH 1 Oct (WD, JP), strong early push; 211 FNSP 26 Oct; 29 WoBSP 27 Oct; 13 Wilson NIAG 27 Oct; Barker NIAG 29 Oct; 25, 15 DH 29, 31 Oct; last 2 PB 6 Nov.

Cackling Goose: arr 6 INWR 12, 13 Oct (CM); 5 BWWTP 23 Oct; 3, 7, 8 Oakfield GENE 24, 26 Oct. 5 Nov; max 10 INWR 9 Nov; 4 Franklinville CATT 12 Nov (KF).

Mute Swan: 3 CSWMA 1 Sep; 4, 5 PB 13 Oct, 25 Nov; 5 Olcott NIAG 29 Oct; max 8 WTSP 6 Nov; 2 FNSP 10, 21 Nov; Waterport ORLE 25 Nov; only reports.

Trumpeter Swan: INWR 6 Sep – 18 Oct (mob); OOWMA 6 Sep, 12 Oct (WW); 2 OOWMA 27 Oct, 5, 22 Nov (CM, WW), long staying birds.

Tundra Swan: arr Attica WYOM 17 Sep – 9 Oct (KM!, photo), very early; Busti CHAU 25 Sep (JB!, photo), early; 3 INWR 30 Oct; 125 BeSP 11 Nov; 28 Orchard Park ERIE 12 Nov; 22 Clarence ERIE 13 Nov; max 150 Findley L CHAU 17 Nov; 85 ChauL 18 Nov; 88 NF 20 Nov; 52 OOWMA 22 Nov.

Wood Duck: 127 BWWTP 11 Sep; 233 INWR 28 Sep (CM); max 241 TWMA 20 Oct (MW).

Gadwall: max 105 INWR 13 Nov; 65 OOWMA 23 Nov.

Am. Wigeon: 145, max 200 INWR 20 Sep, 27 Oct; 154, 140 BWWTP 3, 14 Oct.

Am. Black Duck: max 30 BWWTP 6 Nov; 25 Cuba L ALLE 12 Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: max 75 INWR 5 Sep (MM); last BWWTP 22 Nov (WW), slightly late.

hybrid teal: BWWTP 5 Nov (WW!), observer suggested possible Blue-winged x Cinnamon but origins uncertain.

N. Shoveler: max 156, 150 BWWTP 3, 14 Oct; 20 JAS 25 Nov.

N. Pintail: 19 FNSP 19 Oct; max 64 INWR 21 Oct; 37, 44 BWWTP 30 Oct, 6 Nov (KF).

Green-winged Teal: 46 Franklinville CATT 7 Oct; max 92, 54 OOWMA 20 Oct, 5 Nov; 65 Cuba L ALLE 12 Nov.

Canvasback: arr 25 NF 5 Nov; 6 BWWTP 6 Nov.

Redhead: 1, 5, 3 BWWTP 18 Sep, 23 Oct, 26 Nov; 3 BOSOC; 21 Wilson NIAG 5 Nov; 12 S Dayton CATT 12 Nov; max 29 ChauL 13 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 4, 11 BWWTP 6, 21 Sep; 205 BWWTP 16 Oct; max 244 S Dayton CATT 12 Nov (KF).

Gr. Scaup: arr ChauL 1 Oct; 4 Buffalo ERIE 2 Oct; 300 NF 10 Nov; 365 Yates ORLE 25 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: 18 BOSOC; max 101 Wilson NIAG 16 Oct; 91 ChauL 13 Nov.

Harlequin Duck: Buffalo NR 20 Nov (D&DS), only report.

Surf Scoter: arr 3 DH 1 Oct; 2 GHSP 2 Oct; 84 BOSOC; BWWTP 23 Oct; 2 BuSP 10-30 Oct; 8 Wilson NIAG 16 Oct; ChauL 22 Oct (JB); S Dayton CATT 12 Nov (KF), rare inland; max 9 FNSP 21 Nov.

White-winged Scoter: arr 2 Wilson NIAG & 3 ChauL 1 Oct.

Black Scoter: arr 6, 4 Wilson NIAG 16 Oct, 5 Nov; 4 Olcott NIAG 27 Oct; 2 Somerset NIAG 29 Oct; 2 PB 6 Nov; 4, 4 FNSP 21, 25 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: arr TBNP, 2 BWWTP 22 Oct; ChauL 26 Nov.

Bufflehead: arr BOSOC; 5, 60 BWWTP 22 Oct, 11 Nov; 60 Cuba L ALLE 12 Nov; max 1300 Buffalo NR 16 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: arr 4 Yates ORLE; max 320 NF 20 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: 64 Cuba L ALLE 12 Nov; max 87 INWR 13 Nov.

Com. Merganser: 96 BWWTP 16 Oct; max 140, 82 Cuba L ALLE 12, 22 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: 10 BWWTP 16 Oct; max 2000 Yates & Carlton ORLE 29 Oct.

Ruddy Duck: 100, 55 S Dayton CATT 19 Oct, 12 Nov; max 2303, 2657, 1387 BWWTP 22, 30 Oct, 5 Nov (CM, KF, WW); 14 Cuba L ALLE 12 Nov; 32 OOWMA 23 Nov.

Red-throated Loon: arr Wilson NIAG 16 Oct; 10 Somerset NIAG 29 Oct; max 91 Wilson NIAG 5 Nov; 35 FNSP 10 Nov.

Com. Loon: arr 2 GHSP 2 Oct; max 60 Somerset NIAG 29 Oct.

Pied-billed Grebe: 27 INWR 15 Sep; max 30 ChauL 22 Oct.

Horned Grebe: 51 BOSOC; 376 Shadigee ORLE 29 Oct; max 955 Silver Creek to Westfield CHAU 31 Oct (JP, WW); 100 FNSP 10 Nov; 7 ChauL 26 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: BWWT 8, 11, 26 Oct; 8 BOSOC; 2, 8 Wilson NIAG 16 Oct, 5 Nov; max 25 Somerset NIAG & Yates ORLE 29 Oct; 3 FNSP 6 Nov; BeSP 14 Nov; 2 Barcelona CHAU 18 Nov.

EARED GREBE (R1): BWWT thru 3 Oct (WW, KF), annual at this location.

N. GANNET (R1): Olcott NIAG 26 Oct (JP), on the early side.

Double-crested Cormorant: 788, 763 BuSP 2 Sep, 6 Oct (WW); 90 ChauL 1 Oct; max 1500 Buffalo ERIE 27 Oct (NS); OOWMA 23 Oct.

Am. Bittern: INWR 2 Sep, 12, 23, 28 Oct; 3 BOSOC; only reports.

Least Bittern: no reports.

Great Egret: max 228, 188 INWR 16, 24 Sep (WW); 20 Tift NP 29 Sep; 13 BWWT 1 Oct; last 2 INWR 5 Nov.

Green Heron: last 5 BOSOC.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 4 INWR 4 Sep; BWWT 3, 7 Oct; TWMA 22 Oct, last report.

BLACK VULTURE (R1): 3 Lewiston NIAG 13 Sep (JF); 2 NF 20 Sep (JP); 1, 3 Lewiston NIAG 19, 28 Oct (JP, WW, TK); 3, 4 Lewiston NIAG 12, 24 Nov; seen regularly toward end of period.

Turkey Vulture: 236 Buffalo ERIE 21 Oct; 80, 16 Lewiston NIAG 22 Oct, 10 Nov, seen regularly in this area thru; Franklinville CATT 12 Nov.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: Orangeville WYOM 1 Nov; last Clarence ERIE 19 Nov.

Bald Eagle: 12 BOSOC; widespread.

N. Goshawk: no reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: TBNP 30 Oct (JP, JM), migrants rarely observed in fall; Bennington WYOM 4 Nov; Tonawanda ERIE 6 Nov; only reports beyond BOSOC.

Broad-winged Hawk: last Alfred ALLE 25 Sep.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr 2 Alabama GENE 25 Oct.

Merlin: 2 CSWMA 1 Sep; 12 other reports from 8 locations.

Peregrine Falcon: max 5 Buffalo ERIE 22 Oct.

Virginia Rail: 2 Tift NP 11 Sep, only report.

Sora: 2, 2 INWR 5, 20 Sep; SPNS 12 Sep; BWWT 18 Sep; Aurora ERIE 29 Sep; last AmSP 7 Oct.

Com. Gallinule: max 43 INWR 20 Sep; last INWR 27 Oct.

Am. Coot: max 754, 785 INWR 30 Oct, 9 Nov (CM, WD), high counts; 152 Tift NP 9 Nov; 500 S. Dayton CATT 12 Nov (KF); 85 ChauL 26 Nov.

Sandhill Crane: 2 INWR 20 Sep (CM), only report.

Black-bellied Plover: 4 INWR 3 Sep; BWWT 6, 25 Sep; WoBSP 17 Sep; 3 DH 30 Oct; max 9 Buffalo ERIE 8 Oct; last 3 Shelby ORLE 7 Nov.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr 4, 15 INWR 2, 14 Sep; 18 Porter NIAG 5 Sep; only reports.

Semipalmated Plover: last INWR 11 Oct.

Killdeer: max 100 INWR 10 Sep.

AM. AVOCET (R1): S Dayton CATT 12 Nov (KF), on the late side and unusually far inland.

Spotted Sandpiper: last BeSP 16 Oct.

Solitary Sandpiper: last BeSP 1 Oct.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 43 INWR 21 Oct; last Franklinville CATT 12 Nov.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 22 INWR 10 Sep; last 2 INWR 27 Oct.

Ruddy Turnstone: 1, 2, 2 BWWT 4-11 Sep, 3, 8 Oct; INWR 5 Sep; 2, 2 DH 1, 14 Oct; 2

Buffalo Harbor ERIE 17 Oct; last FNSP 26 Oct.

Sanderling: BWWT 11 Sep; 11 Buffalo ERIE 29 Sep; 6 WoBSP 21 Oct; 3 FNSP 26 Oct; 8 last Buffalo Harbor 12 Nov.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 2 Yates ORLE 11 Oct.

WESTERN SANDPIPER: INWR 13, 14 Sep (JM, WD!), NYSARC), rare.

Least Sandpiper: last INWR 11 Oct.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 3, 2, 2 INWR 5, 15, 28 Sep; max 6 Oakfield GENE 6 Oct (DB); last 4 BOSOC; only reports.

Baird's Sandpiper: 1, 1 INWR 5, 9 Sep; 1, 1 BWWT 6, 8 Sep; only reports.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 12 Oakfield GENE 6 Oct; last INWR 27 Oct.

Dunlin: arr DH 2 Oct; max 635 FNSP 26 Oct (JP); 40 BWWT 26 Oct; 200, 80 INWR 26, 27 Oct; last NFSP 20 Nov.

Stilt Sandpiper: 1, 2 INWR 9, 21 Sep, only reports.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 2, 1 BWWT 4-8, 12 Sep; 2 INWR 5-18 Sep; only reports.

Long-billed Dowitcher: 1, 6 INWR 27 Sep, 18-26 Oct (JP, JM), now annual in fall.

Wilson's Snipe: max 40 INWR 10 Sep (CM).

Am. Woodcock: last Buffalo ERIE 28 Oct.

Red-necked Phalarope: DH 1 Oct (JL, WW), only report.

Red Phalarope: NFSP 16 Oct (JP, KH); Squaw I NR 16 Oct (MZ, DH); only reports.

Black-legged Kittiwake: arr FNSP 3 Nov (JP); NF – Lewiston NR 21-27 Nov.

Black-headed Gull: Squaw I NR 15-18 Oct (JP); Barcelona CHAU 31 Oct (JP); observer determined this to be same bird through photo review.

Little Gull: arr 2 Squaw I NR 15 Oct; 4 Lewiston NR 19 Oct; BeSP 21 Oct; Barcelona

CHAU 31 Oct; FNSP 3, 13 Nov; 2 NPP 27 Nov; 2 Buffalo NR 30 Nov.

Franklin's Gull: Artpark SP NIAG, NPP 5-28 Nov (WD, mob), many reports of this bird in Nov.

CALIFORNIA GULL: ad DH 1 Oct (JP, JM, NYSARC), on early side; ad NPP 13, 26 Nov (WD, NYSARC); NFSP 20 Nov (JM, NYSARC); annual in fall at this location.

THAYER'S GULL: several undocumented reports from NPP and NF.

Iceland Gull: arr 1, 5 NPP 13, 26 Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Porter NIAG 4 Sep; NFSP 17 Sep; max 9, 9 NFSP 7 Oct, 5 Nov (JP); Rushford L ALLE 12 Oct; WoBSP 27 Oct; juv PB 29 Oct (WD); 2 Cuba L ALLE 26 Nov (JP, JM).

Glaucous Gull: arr NPP 26 Nov.

apparent Great Black-backed x Glaucous Gull: DH 2 Oct; Hamburg ERIE 15 Oct; WoBSP 21 Oct (MZ); same bird.

Caspian Tern: last 8 Buffalo ERIE 4 Oct.

Com. Tern: 35 FNSP 7 Oct; 5 BeSP 16 Oct; NFSP 26 Oct; last Hamburg ERIE 20 Nov.

Pomarine Jaeger: Buffalo ERIE 17 Oct (JP, photo); 2 FNSP 26 Oct (JP); Olcott NIAG 26 Oct (JP); good showing; rarely documented via photo or verification report.

Parasitic Jaeger: arr 2, 1 Buffalo ERIE 29 Sep, 15 Oct (JP, WW); 3, 3 FNSP 26 Oct, 10 Nov (JP); Olcott NIAG 27 Oct.

jaeger sp: max 13, 4 Hamburg ERIE 14, 15 Oct (PY, JP); 1, 1 FNSP 19 Oct, 10 Nov.

RAZORBILL: FNSP 8 Nov thru (JS!, mob, NYSARC), fourth record for Reg, all from same location in the rip current where NR enters L Ontario.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Buffalo ERIE 24 Sep; LBSP 29 Sep; only reports.

cuckoo sp: Cheektowaga ERIE 7 Nov (MM), unidentified to species but presumed yellow-billed, latest cuckoo ever for Reg.

Snowy Owl: arr BWWTP 2 Nov; only report.

Long-eared Owl: Tonawanda ERIE 6 Nov (WW), only report.

Short-eared Owl: 3 E Shelby ORLE 21 Nov (CM), only report.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 33 banded Wethersfield WYOM 8 Oct – 4 Nov (DJ); max 16 Wethersfield WYOM 29 Oct.

Com. Nighthawk: max 9 Buffalo ERIE 22 Sep; 8 Williamsville ERIE 25 Sep; last Depew ERIE 29 Sep; seven other Sep reports.

Chimney Swift: 5 BOSOC; last 39 Buffalo ERIE 22 Oct (JP!), on the late side.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Williamsville ERIE 4 Oct; secondhand report of hummingbird species Cheektowaga ERIE 23 Oct.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 Como P ERIE 15 Sep; OOWMA 20 Oct; only reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr AmSP 16 Sep; Fredonia CHAU 24 Nov.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Buffalo ERIE 5 Sep (RS); last 2 BeSP 25 Sep (DS).

E. Wood-Pewee: max 14 Buffalo ERIE 5 Sep (RS); last 4 BOSOC.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Buffalo ERIE 5 Sep; last AmSP 27, 28 Sep (RS).

Least Flycatcher: last Williamsville ERIE 24 Sep.

E. Phoebe: last BuSP 30 Oct.

Great Crested Flycatcher: last 2 Buffalo ERIE 24 Sep.

E. Kingbird: last 3 Clarence ERIE 3 Sep.

N. Shrike: arr Shelby ORLE 25 Oct; four other reports.

Yellow-throated Vireo: last Wilson NIAG 19 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr Buffalo ERIE 16 Sep; last Williamsville ERIE 22 Oct.

Warbling Vireo: last AmSP 27 Sep.

Philadelphia Vireo: last Buffalo ERIE 3 Oct.

Red-eyed Vireo: last 2 Williamsville ERIE 15 Oct.

Com. Raven: 3 Carroll CHAU 18 Oct; Bennington WYOM 30 Oct – 25 Nov; only locations reported away from ALLE, CATT.

Purple Martin: last BWWTP 11 Sep.

Tree Swallow: nearly all white bird BWWTP 14-22 Oct; max 92 BWWTP 22 Oct; last 2 NFSP 26 Oct.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: 800, 950 NF 20 Sep, 2 Oct (JP, WD), maximum count for Reg; last 2 INWR 21 Oct.

Bank Swallow: last 25 BWWTP 11 Sep.

Cliff Swallow: last BWWTP 11 Sep.

Barn Swallow: max 100 BWWTP 18 Sep; last BWWTP 30 Oct (KF).

Brown Creeper: arr NFSP 17 Sep.

Carolina Wren: 20 BOSOC, big drop from 50 on last year's count.

House Wren: last Buffalo ERIE 22 Oct (JP), slightly late.

Winter Wren: arr AmSP 19 Sep.

Marsh Wren: last INWR 11 Oct.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr Wilson NIAG, 2 AmSP 27 Sep.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Alfred ALLE 7 Sep.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last WoBSP 21 Oct (JP), late.
Veery: max 31 Tonawanda ERIE 6 Sep (PH), nocturnal flyovers; last Aurora ERIE 20 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 4 Tonawanda ERIE 6 Sep, nocturnal flyovers; last Williamsville ERIE 11 Oct.
Swainson's Thrush: max 27 Tonawanda ERIE 6 Sep (PH); last 20 BOSOC.
Hermit Thrush: arr Wilson NIAG 26 Sep.
Wood Thrush: last BOSOC.
Gray Catbird: no reports beyond Oct.
N. Mockingbird: slight increase in reports away from L Ontario.
Brown Thrasher: 11 reports in Sep – Oct, well more than usual for recent years.
Am. Pipit: arr INWR 16 Sep; max 30 French Creek CHAU 20 Oct.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: arr TBNP 30 Oct; only report.
Snow Bunting: arr BWWT 22 Oct; max 110 Wilson NIAG 5 Nov.
Ovenbird: last Tift NP 3 Oct.
N. Waterthrush: AmSP 19 Sep, only report.
Golden-winged Warbler: last Tift NP 8 Sep (DSh), rarely seen in fall.
Blue-winged Warbler: last Tift NP, BeSP 8 Sep.
Black-and-white Warbler: max 5 Tift NP 29 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: last Tift NP 13 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Tift NP 16 Sep; 2 BOSOC; six other reports.
Nashville Warbler: last Buffalo ERIE 22 Oct.
Connecticut Warbler: AmSP 27 Sep (RS), only report.
Mourning Warbler: last 2 Attica WYOM 27 Sep.
Com. Yellowthroat: last Tonawanda ERIE 6 Nov.
Hooded Warbler: last Bemus Pt CHAU 1 Nov (CS, photo), record late.
Am. Redstart: last BOSOC.
Cape May Warbler: max 3 Farmersville CATT 7 Oct; last BOSOC; well reported.
N. Parula: last Tonawanda ERIE 30 Oct (WW), late.
Magnolia Warbler: last 5 BOSOC.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last 2 BOSOC.
Blackburnian Warbler: last BOSOC.
Yellow Warbler: last Tift NP 11 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last 2 AmSP 30 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: 35 GHSP 27 Sep (JP); 188 BOSOC, abundant near L Ontario shore; 19

WTSP 10 Oct; 4, 2 Bethany GENE 23, 24 Oct (DB); last 2 NFSP 26 Oct (JP), late.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last 2 BOSOC.
Palm Warbler (*D.p. palmarum*): last 3 AISP 22 Oct.
Pine Warbler: last AmSP 22 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 100 AISP 22 Oct; 3 OOWMA 23 Nov.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last BeSP 19 Oct.
Canada Warbler: last Buffalo ERIE 24 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: last Williamsville ERIE 26 Oct thru (RS!), record late.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr AmSP 7 Sep; Busti CHAU 5 Nov.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 3 Alfred ALLE 25 Oct.
Clay-colored Sparrow: S. Dayton CATT BOSOC (JM!), fall reports rare.
Vesper Sparrow: 2 BWWT 8 Oct (GL); 2 BOSOC; only reports.
Savannah Sparrow: last 14 BOSOC.
NELSON'S SPARROW (R1): AmSP 6-9 Oct (JP, RS), first report in several years.
Fox Sparrow: arr BOSOC; max 5, 6 Tonawanda ERIE 30 Oct, 6 Nov.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Buffalo ERIE 18 Sep; last INWR 26 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr Wilson NIAG 26 Sep.
Dark-eyed Junco: arr Wilson NIAG 13 Sep.
Scarlet Tanager: last Tift NP 3 Oct.
N. Cardinal: 2 fledglings Cheektowaga ERIE 25 Oct (KM), late breeding evidence.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last 4 BOSOC.
Indigo Bunting: 15 Elba GENE 6 Sep (DB, ED); 2, 1 BeSP 1, 2 Oct; last 4 BOSOC.
Bobolink: 10, 6 INWR 5, 12 Sep; 8 Elba GENE 6 Sep; last Sheldon WYOM BOSOC (ER1).
Rusty Blackbird: arr 3 Grand I ERIE 7 Oct; max 125 Alden ERIE 15 Nov (JM).
Com. Grackle: max 1000 CHAU 13 Oct.
Baltimore Oriole: last Grand I ERIE 8 Sep.
Purple Finch: 17 BOSOC, very low total.
White-winged Crossbill: arr 59 FNSP 12 Nov (MM), flocks along lake shore to west; 5 PB 25 Nov.
Com. Redpoll: arr 15 WTSP 6 Nov (BP), only report.
Pine Siskin: arr 10, 10 Wilson NIAG 4, 27 Oct; 69 BOSOC; max 60 INWR 9 Nov (WD); 10 Bennington WYOM 12 Nov; several other reports in single digits.
Evening Grosbeak: no reports.

REGION 2 – GENESEE

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September 2011 was warm and damp. Temperatures averaged 64.3° F, 2.5° above normal, with precipitation totaling 3.77", 0.39" above normal. There were no days with highs above 90° or lows below freezing. There was some rainfall on 16 days, with the maximum 1.44" on the 28th. October was near normal for temperature at 51.5°, just 0.9° above normal, but precipitation was nearly double normal at 5.20" (+2.48"). Again, 16 days of rainfall, with the maximum 1.27" on the 19th-20th and over half the total from the 14th-17th. A gray start was quickly followed by a warm sunny week that included the Columbus Day holiday weekend. Then low pressure and lake effect rains accompanied systems marching past with seasonable temperatures until cold air dropped in near month's end, bringing a few snow flakes over most of the Region to a couple of inches at higher elevations to the south. In November temperatures averaged 45.8°, 5.3° above normal, precipitation measured 2.46", 0.48" below normal. There was only a bit of snow on one day, vs. a norm of nine days, near Rochester though more fell to our east and south on the 17th-18th. This warm, tranquil month was the eighth warmest on record. As a whole, our fall was the tenth warmest and eleventh wettest in 141 years of records. Overall, this weather was not good for pushing winter birds into the Region or birds present to feeders.

Jumping right to the movements monitored in the fall, waterfowl provided a good illustration of the strange, yet at times exciting, nature of this fall migration. Watching from the Hamlin Beach Lakewatch was very often quiet and slow, day after day with the winds wrong and very few birds. Yet, if one could make it there on the "good" days when things set up right, there were great birds and some very good counts. Fortunately, Andy Guthrie, Dave Tetlow, and Chris Wood and Jessie Barry and a few others caught several of these days. September was slow, with few days of the expected puddle duck movements and only low number of Common Loon to month's end. There was a very good count of 282 Blue-winged Teal and relatively early arrival dates for Cackling Goose and Black Scoter on the 16th. October brought an early burst of 850 Brant on the 1st, then more typical pulses late in the month. 1-3 Cackling Geese popped up in Canada Goose flocks through the month across the Region. Generally, peak waterfowl numbers remained low, though picking up in the second half of the month. 238 Ruddy Ducks at Northrup Creek (back end of Long Pond, Town of Greece) was very high for this Region but pales beside this fall's counts from the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant only about 30 miles to the west and a mile into Region 1. The month also saw good counts of 1,657 and 1,684 Common Loons, a rare **Pacific Loon**, and the first documented

alternate plumaged **Yellow-billed Loon** for the Region seen by Chris Wood and Jessie Barry on the 16th and likely the same bird as later reported by Tim Lenz off Broadway Road, Town of Wolcott, Wayne County on the 30th. Continuing into November, the regular movement of ducks, particularly divers, was still disappointing. There were a few more Cackling Geese around, Tundra Swan arrived in numbers on Conesus Lake, King Eiders arrived later in the month, Red-breasted Merganser numbers were decent on Lake Ontario with a maximum of 2,400, a peak count of 1,012 Red-throated Loons was tallied, and another **Pacific Loon** was spotted at Hamlin Beach by Dave Tetlow and Andy Guthrie. Through the month, Red-necked Grebe numbers headed up to triple digit numbers, a recent trend for the fall here. Given the surge of Snow Goose numbers in recent years, it was interesting that no big numbers were reported this fall, not even from the Northern Montezuma Wetland Complex (NMWC), where huge numbers have typically arrived in recent falls and spilled over into Region 2 in southern Wayne County.

Wader numbers were decent, mostly in the NMWC in September. Departure dates for American Bittern, Green Heron, and Black-crowned Night-Heron were on the late side in November. A **Glossy Ibis** (photos) in the NMWC in early September and present for the Montezuma Muck Race was a nice addition. This year there were no Northern Gannet reports and no Cattle Egret visits in November. Another surprise of the fall was the Region's fifth record (approx. 23rd individual) **Wood Stork**, an immature, first seen by Dave Tetlow at Hamlin Beach on 24 October, then by several there and photographed in flight by Brad Carlson on the 28th.

Transitioning toward raptors, we have four Black Vultures at the lakewatch in mid-November. Turkey Vultures were also present scattered about through the season. An Osprey to 17 November was late for this Region. Northern Goshawk is now a good find, and only one report was received this fall. Broad-winged Hawk is an expected migrant, but only rarely do we see big numbers, so 784 tallied by Mike Tetlow passing two sites near Sodus Point on 11 September was noteworthy. One of the highlights for the season was an immature **Swainson's Hawk** found by Jessie Barry on the Lake Ontario Parkway in the Town of Hamlin on 1 October. This bird stayed in that area for several days and was viewed and photographed by many, often seen hunting grasshoppers in the Parkway median. Unfortunately, that risky behavior ended in its being hit and killed by a pickup truck on 5 October. Birders were present viewing from a distance and recovered the carcass and delivered it to Cornell Lab. To wrap up the hawk picture, there were few Rough-legged Hawks through the end of the season and typical numbers for recent years of all three falcons, though that meant again American Kestrel reports low.

Reporting is typically spotty in the fall for the rail family, but there were some records for all the regular species. In addition, we had Common Gallinule to late October, counts of over 400 American Coot from Buck Pond in Town of Greece, and a note reporting, with photos, an immature **Purple Gallinule** (fifth Regional record) found near Sodus Point on 27 September and taken to a rehabilitator where it subsequently died. Nearby on the checklist, we have

Sandhill Crane, with reports for the NMWC through most of the season plus a pair with a juvenile seen near Chimney Bluffs (Wayne County), where we have suspected breeding, from 7-10 September, and two adults seen and photographed in the Town of Richmond, Ontario County only a short way north of the Taylor Marsh area, another where we have suspected breeding.

Shorebird variety was good, but peak numbers were generally low. Rains in late August and early September raised the water levels in the NMWC, flooding many of the usual shorebird areas there. There was a carryover from the small fallout associated with Hurricane *Irene* on 28 August, with birds continuing on the Lake Ontario beaches into early September, including: Whimbrel, a photographed **Marbled Godwit**, Ruddy Turnstones, Red Knot, many Sanderlings, and a fair number of Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers. A bit later into September up to 122 American Golden-Plovers and 1-2 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were located on a turf farm at the west edge of the Region in the Town of Elba just north of Batavia. Late in September, a Whimbrel with an injured leg was spotted along the Lake Ontario Parkway in Greece. It then moved a short way south to holding ponds near a Wegmans grocery store, where it was seen and photographed by many through 17 October, a Regional record late date. In late October, a Regional record high count of 1,404 Dunlin passing Hamlin Beach was tallied by Dave Tetlow. Purple Sandpipers arrived very late in the season.

The larid scene along the Lake Ontario shore seemed much like the waterfowl's. Most of the time it was quiet and numbers were low, especially for the Bonaparte's Gull movement we await, expecting other interesting species to move with them. But there were days of big influxes of Ring-billed and Herring Gulls, and the overall assortment of gulls found turned out very good. Among the most interesting we have: at least 10 Black-legged Kittiwakes from 19 October to 7 November; six Sabine's Gulls passing Andy Guthrie at the lakewatch on 12 September and five more seen by Dave Tetlow on the 15th; a winter adult Laughing Gull on 20 September; five adult Little Gulls scattered through the season; at least eight Lesser Black-backed Gulls; Common Tern to 16 November; Forster's Tern to 24 October; and four Pomarine, 19 Parasitic, one Long-tailed, and four jaeger species reports. Late in November, four Iceland Gulls were seen at High Acres Landfill, but hazing efforts are likely to mean few others there as winter progresses.

This season we even had some interesting observations under the non-passerine landbird umbrella. Eurasian Collared-Dove continued to be found off and on in the usual Parma-Hamlin locations, but mostly Hamlin later in the season; maximum four birds. We had relatively late banding records and sightings for Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Right as expected near Thanksgiving, the first of many Snowy Owls arrived on the piers at the mouth of the Genesee River. This has since proved to be a year of a significant irruption south for these beautiful owls. Short-eared Owl was a different matter, with no reports from observers during the season, but afterward word passed along of at least one group present in November along Rt. 39 between Geneseo and Avon, unfortunately this year in fields next to that busy highway with several found

dead along the road. Common Nighthawk numbers were very low, and the peak for Chimney Swift was 118 at Hamlin Beach instead of the usual big count at the school in Greiggsville. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird to 17 October is a good, late date. There were no woodpecker reports of special note; the Lewis's did not return.

Among the passerines, we were off to a good start in August and this continued. Essentially all of the expected migrants were reported. As usual, numbers fluctuated all over the map, but generally this fall was poorer than last and below average for many species. An interested reader could have fun pulling data from the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO) website (www.bbbo.org) and comparing banding numbers over the years. That said, there were some really good finds and interesting events to ponder over. Working through family groups, we start with the flycatchers and find typical numbers and departure dates. Northern Shrike is a potential fall/winter irruptive species, which arrived at a typical date on 28 October, but with numbers remaining low through season's end. Moving to the vireos, we find relatively late departures for Warbling, Philadelphia, and Red-eyed, but no surprises. The Fish Crows of last winter continued to pop up through the season and probably will winter again in the same area along the Genesee River. Generally, peak swallow counts were low compared with historical numbers. However, we had Regional record late 2-3 Purple Martins on 27 October and Cliff Swallow on 22 October Next, amazingly when the martin house was lowered for winter cleaning at the Montezuma Audubon Center in the Town of Savannah on **17 November**, out flew a male **Purple Martin**, observed soaring around by Chuck Gibson, Chris Lajewski, and Dave Spier before it flew off SW. It turns out that Dave Spier, Frank Morehouse, and Leona Lauster had heard martin calls in that area on 11 November and, not finding a bird, dismissed it. Both of these observations are State record late. Another swallow story is no reports of Cave Swallow this fall, though there were several times when the weather patterns seemed right for moving them our way and birders were out looking.

Continuing on, first we find no sign of a chickadee irruption, evidenced by only 28 banded for the season at BBBO vs. 1,118 banded last fall, and also no significant Red-breasted Nuthatch movement. Next, there were good numbers of Winter Wren tallied at peak and on into the winter, and once more Sedge Wren turned up in the Braddock Bay area. There were some good counts for both kinglets when expected and a very late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on 6 November, a day when several observers also noted several species of butterflies on the wing. Thrush numbers observed and banded this fall were decent. On a personal note, I will at least mention a Bicknell's Thrush by call note. As usual, this is with the reservation that it depends on being able to study the nocturnal flight call CD and separate the species' calls. So far it has been surprisingly difficult to elicit any reasonable exchange of thoughts relative to that possibility. Bohemian Waxwing on 17 November was the only report for the season. After a high count of 4,730 on 1 September, Cedar Waxwing dropped back to small numbers. Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting arrived at typical dates, though

late by recent standards, in early October, but remained as small numbers passing other than a count of 555 Snow Buntings.

Among the warblers, we have a new species order with which to become familiar. Looking at banding at BBBO, we note many species at 1/2 to 1/3 of the number banded last fall, yet others essentially at the same numbers. The event of the season was the Blackpoll Warbler migration, where 760 were banded vs. 280 last fall and a previous high of 383. The birds were also still passing to a late banding date of 26 October and field observation dates of 29 October and 8 November. Is this related to the many systems moving northward off the east coast this fall? Recapture records also noted weight gains from about 10g to over 20g in a few days in the area of the banding station, as noted for staging Blackpolls in "Returning to the Tropics: The Epic Autumn Flight of the Blackpoll Warbler" by James Baird, pp. 63-77 in *Gatherings of Angels: Migrating Birds and Their Ecology* (Kenneth P. Parkes, ed., Cornell University Press: Ithaca, NY, 1999). Other warbler records of interest include: the August-banded **Worm-eating Warbler** at BBBO again recaptured on 2 September, five reports of Orange-crowned Warbler, a Connecticut Warbler banded on 18 September, Mourning Warbler to 4 October, Northern Parula to 29 October, a Yellow-breasted Chat banded on 4 September, and news of a Wilson's Warbler retrapped in Vera Cruz, Mexico on 15 October.

Among the sparrows, numbers were decent in migration for most species, but dropped off quickly for some of the typical winter species, e.g., White-throated and White-crowned. Of special note we had: Chipping Sparrow to mid-November at Brad Carlson's feeders in Honeoye Falls, several **Nelson's Sparrow** reports from Savannah, Fox Sparrow from 6 October into December, and the Region's eleventh **Harris's Sparrow** at Mike Tetlow's feeder in Fairport from 23-26 November. Juncos continued into winter in good numbers, but American Tree Sparrow remained relatively scarce.

A **Summer Tanager** was found and photographed on the Yanty Creek Trail in Hamlin Beach SP on 3 November and was then seen sporadically until 9 November. Indigo Bunting was a bit late to 3 October, and a lone Dickcissel was reported on 9 October. There were few good counts among the icterids, and a Baltimore Oriole on 22 October was the most notable record.

Finally, the winter finch picture was a bust this fall. The overall cone crop is poor, except that some ornamental spruces scattered about have heavy cones. Small numbers of White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll, and Pine Siskin were noted in late October and again near mid-November. A surprise was a big movement of Pine Siskin on 5 October noted by several observers in different locations and resulting in 311 banded at BBBO on that morning, with 80 in a single net on one net check! Also incredibly, though decent numbers were seen by birders over the next few days, no more were banded for the season.

Looking at species counts for this fall, we totaled 216, 206, and 143 for the three months, all well above the respective 10-year averages and all close to the respective numbers for last fall.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

b – banded; BB-ES – Braddock Bay-East Spit, T Greece, MONR; BB-WS – Braddock Bay-West Spit; BR – end of Broadway Rd, T Wolcott, WAYN; CL – Conesus Lake, LIVI; DE – Durand-Eastman park, MONR; G – T Greece, MONR; H – T Hamlin, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; HP – Hogan Point, T Greece, MONR; IBO – Irondequoit Bay Outlet (north end outlet to Lake Ontario); ICW – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; K – T Kendall, ORLE; M – Manitou, MONR; MAC – Montezuma Audubon Center, T Savannah, WAYN; MP – Mendon Ponds CP, T Mendon, MONR; NMWC – Northern Montezuma Wetlands Complex, WAYN; NC – Northrup Creek (back of Long Pond), T Greece; OB – Ontario Beach, Charlotte, MONR; OC – Oatka Creek Park, T Wheatland, MONR; P – T Parma, MONR; PE – Town Perinton, MONR; R – City of Rochester, MONR; S – T Savannah, WAYN; SC – Salmon Creek inland from Braddock Bay, Towns of Greece & Parma; SP – Sodus Pt, WAYN; WP – Webster Park, MONR.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr 7 H 20 Sep.
Brant: arr 850 HB 1 Oct; max 1006 HB 26 Oct.
Cackling Goose: arr Kendall 16 Sep, early; 10 more rep of 13 birds thru 18 Nov.
Tundra Swan: arr 10 BB 12 Nov; max 120 CL 26 Nov.
Gadwall: max 77 NC 22 Oct.
Blue-winged Teal: max 282 HB 12 Sep (AGu); last BB 19 Oct.
N. Pintail: max 509 HB 26 Oct (DT).
Green-winged Teal: max 100 MAC 3 Nov.
Redhead: arr 4 SC 27 Sep; max 300 CL 25 Nov.
Canvasback: arr HB15 Oct; very few this season.
Ring-necked Duck: arr 4 S 9 Sep, Montezuma Muck Race.
Greater Scaup: arr BB 14 Sep.
Lesser Scaup: arr 3 HB 10 Sep; max 110 HB 18 Nov, low.
King Eider: arr 1 fem HB 19 Nov (AGu, DT).
eider species: 1 HB 19 HB (AGu, DT)
Surf Scoter: max 159 HB 22 Oct, low.
White-winged Scoter: max 484 HB 22 Oct.
Black Scoter: 2 HB 16 Sep (WS, *et al*), early.
Long-tailed Duck: arr HB 5 Oct; max 579 HB 22 Oct.
Bufflehead: arr HB 16 Oct; max 150 CL 27 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: arr 3 HB 22 Oct; max 105 HB 19 Nov, low.
Red-breasted Merganser: arr HB 10 Sep (AGu), early; max 2400 Long Pond 16 Nov.
Ruddy Duck: max 238 NC 15 Oct (JeB, CW), high for this Region but see Region 1.
Red-throated Loon: arr HB 5 Sep, early; max 1012 HB 19 Nov (AG, DT).
PACIFIC LOON: HB 23 Oct (AGu, DT); HB 19 Nov (AGu, DT).
Com. Loon: 120 HB 15 Oct; 1st date over 100, late; 950 HB 16 Oct (JeB, CW); 1657 HB 19 Oct (DT); max 1684 HB 24 Oct (DT); good counts.
YELLOW-BILLED LOON: alt ad HB 16 Oct (JeB, CW), good details, distant ph, 1st documented Reg record; alt ad off BR 30 Oct (TL), likely same bird given rarity.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 37 Buck Pond, T Greece 29 Oct (GL, RF), good count.
Horned Grebe: max 300+ HB 6 Nov (ST, JLe).
Red-necked Grebe: max 111 HB 16 Nov.
WOOD STORK: 1 imm HB 24 Oct (DT), 5th Reg record, approx. 23rd individual, seen again near same loc 28 October (BCar – ph, MT, AGu) & ph in flight.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 668 HB 13 Sep (DT); 640 HB 26 Oct (DT); good counts.
Am. Bittern: last BB-WS 6 Nov (SG, TN), late.
Great Egret: last High Acres Trails, PE 6 Oct.
Green Heron: last G 1 Nov (KG), late.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: last BB 21 Nov (GL), late.
GLOSSY IBIS (R2): S 2-11 (DSp – ph, mob), stayed to be seen by man on Muck Race.
BLACK VULTURE (R2): 4 HB 19 Nov (AGu, DT), 1st Reg Nov record.
Turkey Vulture: seen thru.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: last Twin Cedars Environmental Area, T Avon 17 Nov (KK), late.
N. Goshawk: M 13 Sep (RK), only report.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 724 at 2 sites near SP 11 Sep (MT), good tally.
SWAINSON'S HAWK: 1 imm Lake Ontario Parkway, T Hamlin 1-5 Oct (JeB, mob), seen and ph by many, hit by pickup & killed on 5 Oct, *intro*.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr SC 8 Oct.
Merlin: total 19 sev all Sep; total 9 sev all Oct; total 3 sev all Nov.
Peregrine Falcon: total 5 sev all Sep; total 10 sev all Oct; total 4 sev all Nov.
PURPLE GALLINULE: 1 SP area 27 Sep (anon), taken to rehab where died, *intro*.
Com. Gallinule: last High Acres Trails, PE 23 Oct (JPo).
Am. Coot: max 408 Buck Pond, T Greece 29 Oct (GL, RF).
Sandhill Crane: 2-4 S thru Oct; 1-2 ad, 1 juv Chimney Bluffs WAYN 7-10 Sep (DTe, DM, *et al*); .2 T Richmond ONTA 14 Nov (KK, MM-ph); *intro*.
Am. Golden-Plover: max 122 T Elba GENE 10 Sep (AGa, GL).
Semipalmated Plover: max 35 S 17 Sep, low.
Spotted Sandpiper: last BB-WS 6 Oct.
Solitary Sandpiper: last 1 G 17 Oct.
Upland Sandpiper: last 1 H 8 Sep.
Whimbrel: HB 7 Sep (RS); G 21 Sep-17 Oct (FL, mob), bird with injured leg seen and ph, Reg rec late..
MARBLED GODWIT: OB 3 Sep (A&DS-ph).
Red Knot: 1-2 OB & IBO thru 5 Sep.
Sanderling: max 42 HB 19 Oct.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 50 S 3 Sep, low max; last 2 NC 7 Nov (KG).
Least Sandpiper: max 160 S 3 Sep.
White-rumped Sandpiper: last 1 SC 25 Nov (KG), late.
Baird's Sandpiper: last 1 NC 15 Oct.

Pectoral Sandpiper: last 4 NC 6 Nov.
Purple Sandpiper: arr 1-2 IBO 28 Nov (GC, *et al*) & 1 Summerville Pier, T Irondequoit, MONR 28 Nov (F,G, & HL).
Dunlin: max 1404 passing HB 26 Oct (DT), inland State record high; last 4 IBO 28 Nov.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 1 T Elba GENE 6, 10 Sep (BCar, *et al*); 1 SE of Cuylerville 1-4 Sep (DB, ST).
Stilt Sandpiper: last SC 15 Oct.
Wilson's Snipe: last 4 SC 22 Nov (KG).
Am. Woodcock: last 1 S 1 Nov.
phalarope species: 1 HB 5 Oct (RS).
Black-legged Kittiwake: all imm: arr HB 19 Oct (AGu, DT); 3 imm 22 Oct HB (WD'A, AGu); HB 23 Oct (AGu); BR (TL, NSI); 3 HB 4 Nov (AGu, RS); last BB-ES 7 Nov (KG).
SABINE'S GULL (R2): 6 HB 12 Sep (AGu), Reg record high; 5 HB 15 Sep (DT).
Little Gull: 5 rep single ad sev loc 11 Sep-28 Nov.
LAUGHING GULL (R2) Gull: 1 w ad HB 25 Sep (AGu).
Iceland Gull: arr 2 ad & 2 1st w High Acres Trails, PE 21 Nov (DSh, MT).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 8 rep 13 Sep thru.
Caspian Tern: last NC 22 Oct.
Com. Tern: last 1 BB-ES 16 Nov (KG), late.
Forster's Tern: last 1 HB 24 Oct.
Pomarine Jaeger: arr HB 22 Oct (WD'A, AGu, BP, DT); 2 BB-ES 22 Oct (KG); 1 HB 19 Nov (AGu, DT).
Parasitic Jaeger: 12 rep of 19 individuals sev loc 13 Sep-26 Oct.
Long-tailed Jaeger: 1 HB 15 Sep (DT).
jaeger species: 4 rep of singles sev loc 7 Sep-11 Nov.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: 1- 4 Parma & Hamlin thru (sev), usual location for past several years.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last 1 HB 22 Oct.
Black-billed Cuckoo: last T Charlotte 26 Sep.
Snowy Owl: arr 1-2 piers at mouth of Genesee River and nearby 22 Nov thru (TM, mob).
Short-eared Owl: arr Nov, but no rep until notes of birds killed along Rt. 39 T Avon late in month.
Com. Nighthawk: last G 19 Sep.
Chimney Swift: max 118 HB 1 Sep (DT); last 2 Honeoye Falls 3 Oct.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last 1 N Wolcott WAYN 17 Oct (W&MR).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: last 1b M 6 Oct.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 1b M 18 Sep.
Acadian Flycatcher: last 1b M 8 Sep.
Willow Flycatcher: last 1 G 26 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: last 1 Beatty Pt, G 29 Sep, late.
empidonax species: last 1 T Webster 2 Oct.
Great Crested Flycatcher: last 1b M 19 Sep.
E. Kingbird: last 1 H 9 Sep.
N. Shrike: arr 1 HB 28 Oct.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last 1 Twin Cedars Environ Area 23 Sep.
Warbling Vireo: last 1 G 1 Oct, late.
Philadelphia Vireo: last 1 Highland Park, Rochester 23 Oct (KH), late.
Red-eyed Vireo: last 1 HB 29 Oct, late.
Fish Crow: scattered rep along Genesee River near Charlotte thru.
Purple Martin: max 363 HB 1 Sep (DT); 2-3 MAC 27 Oct (DSp, BD), Reg record late at the time; 1 heard MAC 11 Nov (LL, FMoo, DSp); last 1 ad m MAC 17 Nov (CG, CL, DSp), State record late, *intro*.
Tree Swallow: max 800 S 2 Oct, low max.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: last T Galen WAYN 25 Oct (DT), late..
Cliff Swallow: last 1 T Mt Morris LIVI 22 Oct (DT), Reg record late.
CAVE SWALLOW: no reports.
Barn Swallow: max 1062 HB 1 Sep.
Black-capped Chickadee: total b 28 M thru, vs. 1118 for 2010, clearly not an irruption year.
House Wren: last 1b M 20 Oct.
Winter Wren: arr 1 M & HB 16 Sep.
Sedge Wren: 1-2 BB area 3-14 Oct (KG, JRo), only reports for year.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max b 41 M 5 Oct; max 132 HB-Yanty Creek 5 Oct (RS).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr M 11 Sep; max b 39 M 5 Oct; max 89 HB-Yanty Creek 6 Oct (R&SS); last HB-Yanty Creek 25 Nov.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last DE 6 Nov (R&SS), late.
Veery: 2 BB 14 Oct.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: max 34 HB-West end 29 Sep (RS); total b 96 M thru; last 1b M 18 Oct.
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush: total b 29 M thru.
BICKNELL'S THRUSH: 1 heard HB-West end 27 Sep (RS), *intro*.
Swainson's Thrush: max 25 HB 23 Sep (AGu); total b 75 M thru; last 1b M 21 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: arr WP 25 Sep; max 45 HB-Yanty Creek 5 Oct (RS); total b 209 M thru.
Wood Thrush: last HB-Yanty Creek 8 Oct.
Bohemian Waxwing: arr 1 G 17 Nov (KG).
Cedar Waxwing: max 4730 HB 1 Sep (DT).

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: arr 1 HB 7 Oct.
Snow Bunting: arr 5 HB 11 Oct; max 555 HB 19 Nov (AGu, DT).
Ovenbird: last 1 M 27 Oct.
Worm-eating Warbler: recapture 1b M 2 Sep (BBBO), rare in fall, same bird as first banded M 9 Aug and recap 29 Aug.
N. Waterthrush: last 1b M 24 Sep.
Blue-winged Warbler: last 1 HB-West end 18 Sep.
Black-and-white Warbler: last 1b M 21 Oct.
Tennessee Warbler: last 2b M 20 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Honeoye Fall 22 Sep; Twin Cedars Environ Area 3 Oct; 1b M 3 Oct; High Acres Trails, PE 6 Oct; last MP 18 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: last 1b M 20 Oct.
Connecticut Warbler: 1b M 18 Sep (BBBO).
Mourning Warbler: last 1 RIT Swamps 4 Oct.
Com. Yellowthroat: total b 54 M all Sep
Hooded Warbler: last 1 WP-Whiting Rd 25 Sep.
Am. Redstart: last 1b M 8 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: last 1 WP 19 Sep.
N. Parula: last 1 HB-Yanty Creek 29 Oct (GL, RF), late.
Magnolia Warbler: last 2 HB-Yanty Creek 15 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last 1 RIT Swamps 4 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last 1 HB-Yanty Creek 15 Oct (JeB), very late.
Yellow Warbler: last 2 High Acres Trails, PE 24 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last 1b M 4 Oct.
Blackpoll Warbler: max b 80 M; HB-Yanty Creek 19 Sep; total b 760 M 25 Aug-26 Oct (BBBO), Reg record banding total, *intro*; ICW 29 Oct (GL, RF), late; last HB-Yanty Creek 8 Nov (RS), Reg record late.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last 1 M 7 Oct.
Palm Warbler: arr 1 N Byron GENE & Rochester 6 Sep; last High Acres Trails, PE 6 Oct..
Pine Warbler: last HB 16 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 135 G 1 Oct (GL);
Black-throated Green Warbler: last HB-Yanty Creek 15 Oct.
Canada Warbler: last 1b M 13 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: last 1 G & Honeoye Falls 5 Oct; banding recovery Vera Cruz, Mexico 15 Oct, first BBBO Wilson's Warbler recovered in Mexico.
Yellow-breasted Chat: last 1b M 4 Sep (BBBO), now rare in Reg.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr T Wolcott WAYN 7 Oct.
Chipping Sparrow: 1 Honeoye Falls 1-18 Nov (BCar), late.
Nelson's Sparrow: arr 1-2 S 9-10 Oct (sev); 1 S 18 Oct (BP); last & max 4 S 23 Oct (BCar-ph, GC); all these rep were from the Marten Tract area.
Fox Sparrow: arr HB-Yanty Creek 6 Oct; last WP 26 Nov.
Lincoln's Sparrow: last RIT Swamps 7 Oct.
Swamp Sparrow: max 81 P 13 Oct (DT).
White-throated Sparrow: arr 1 sev loc 16 Sep; total b 454 M all Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr 1 Honeoye Falls 26 Sep.
HARRIS'S SPARROW: Fairport 23-26 Nov (MT, BCar-ph, *et al*), erratic feeder visitor for a few days, 11th Reg record.
SUMMER TANAGER: 1 fem HB-Yanty Creek 3-9 Nov (A&DS-ph, KK-ph, ST, RS, DSh-ph, MT, KG)
Scarlet Tanager: last WP 25 Sep.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Highland Park, Rochester 13 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: last High Acres Trails & H 3 Oct.
Dickcissel: SC 9 Oct (JeB, CW, NSe).
Bobolink: last HB 12 Sep.
Rusty Blackbird: arr RIT Swamps 25 Sep; last WAYN 17 Nov.
Com. Grackle: max 6340 Burger Park, G 13 Oct.
Baltimore Oriole: last High Acres Trails, PE 22 Oct (JPo), late.
White-winged Crossbill: arr 8 HB 31 Oct (DT); max 12 HB 18 Nov (AGu); few reports this fall.
Com. Redpoll: 6 HB-Yanty Creek 28 Oct.
Pine Siskin: max 311b M 5 Oct (BBBO), 80 in one net on one net check!, no others banded for season; good numbers many locations that 5-9 Oct.

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REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

Hope Batcheller

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Fall 2011 had fairly average weather conditions. October and November were both within 15% of average precipitation levels. Though September received 10 inches of precipitation, 200% of normal levels, roughly half this rain was due to Hurricane *Lee* on 8 September. Temperatures were average overall, though a bit milder than average in November, making the first part of winter feel unusually warm.

A good waterfowl flight on 27 October carried large numbers of Brant and scoters through the Region. Jay McGowan counted 2,865 **Brant** from Myers Point over the morning, while Bill Purcell reported 98 **Surf Scoters** and 53 **White-winged Scoters** from Fair Haven State Park. Tim Lenz reported 200 **Black Scoters** from Stewart Park.

Though no vagrant waterfowl were found this fall, the typical assortment of uncommon geese was reported. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** frequented the Montezuma NWR Visitor Center for much of October, and another was reported from Towpath Road on 6 and 7 November. Multiple **Ross's Geese** were reported from Montezuma's Snow Geese flocks in late October through mid November. Similarly, there were scattered reports of **Cackling Geese** throughout the Region. Though not "countable," a **hybrid Snow x Canada Goose** was present at the Montezuma NWR Visitor Center throughout October into early November.

On 16 September, Chris Wood saw a flyover **Cattle Egret** from Warren Road in Ithaca. Despite efforts to relocate the bird, it was never seen on the ground. Several observers reported a ***Plegadis ibis* sp.** from the Montezuma area in early and mid September. The reports suggest that there were two individuals in the area: one an adult and the other a first-year bird. The multiple sighting locations (Knox-Marcellus Marsh, the Main Pool, and Railroad Rd. in Wayne County) also seem to suggest this.

A reasonable assortment of unusual shorebirds was reported this fall. The highlight was undoubtedly a juvenile **Red Phalarope** present along the Montezuma NWR Wildlife Drive on 8-9 October. Originally found by Mark Miller, this bird gave excellent views to many observers. Additionally, an **American Avocet** inhabited Puddler's Marsh from 16 September to 27 October. A **Whimbrel** visited Union Springs on 22 September.

This fall also brought several interesting gulls to the Region. Dave Nutter found a second-year **Laughing Gull** at Stewart Park on 4 September. This bird continued on 5 September and was seen again on 8 September. On 6 September, Dave Nutter discovered a **Franklin's Gull** at Stewart Park. This bird was a clear adult, answering any doubts regarding its separation from the previously

reported Laughing Gull. This bird was also seen though 8 September. On 23 November, Jay McGowan photographed two adult **Black-legged Kittiwakes** seen from Myers Point. Kevin Ripka found a sitting **Long-tailed Jaeger** at Stewart Park on 9 September.

A report of a **Snowy Owl** at West Barrier Bar County Park on 23 November heralded the start of the irruption year. There were also scattered reports of **Long-eared Owl**, including one in Mark Chao's Cayuga Heights backyard, which many observers saw and photographed.

Many observers saw the **Red-headed Woodpecker** that visited Sapsucker Woods on 13 September. Chris Wood found a **Connecticut Warbler** at Roy H. Park Preserve on 16 September, and Steve Kelling reported another in Slaterville on 25 September.

The passerine highlight of the fall, however, was a **Lark Sparrow** that David Wheeler found at Fair Haven State Park on 11 September. The bird stayed only a brief while before flying west. Additional unusual sparrows include a **Clay-colored Sparrow** found by Ken Rosenberg and Arvind Panjabi at Hog Hole on 18 October. As in past falls, Hog Hole also proved fruitful for **Nelson's Sparrows**, with reports throughout mid October. **Nelson's Sparrows** were also reported in Ithaca from Hanshaw Road and Bluegrass Lane on 22 and 23 October, respectively. More **Dickcissels** than usual were reported this fall, though the vast majority were heard-only records of their distinctive flight call. One, however, was seen near Ithaca's Freese Road on 24-25 September.

247 species were reported this fall.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CCampus – Cornell University campus, TOMP; FHSP – Fair Haven SP, CAYU; HoHo – Hog Hole at Treman Marina, TOMP; HowI – Howland Island, CAYU; MWR – Montezuma NWR; MWC – Montezuma Wetlands Complex; MyPt – Myers Pt, TOMP; RPP – Roy H. Park Preserve, TOMP; SalPt – Salt Point, TOMP; SaW – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; StP – Stewart Park, TOMP; WBB – West Barrier Bar CP, CAYU.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: MWR 8-30 Oct; MWC 6-7 Nov.

Ross's Goose: 2 MWC 30 Oct; MWC 7 Nov; MWC 13 Nov; 2 MWC 19 Nov.

Brant: max 2865 MyPt 27 Oct (JM); 1025 FHSP 27 Oct.

Cackling Goose: max 7 Fayette 25 Nov.

Snow x Canada Goose: MWR 9 Oct-6 Nov.

Tundra Swan: max 500 MWC 19 Nov.

Wood Duck: max 85 HowI 10 Sep.

Eurasian Wigeon: MWR 1 Nov (CS).

Green-winged Teal: max 2000 MWC 30 Oct.

Surf Scoter: max 98 FHSP 27 Oct (BP).

White-winged Scoter: max 53 FHSP 27 Oct (BP).

Black Scoter: max 200 StP 27 Oct (TL).

Bufflehead: max 65 FHSP 19 Nov.

Red-throated Loon: max 3 MyPt 16 Nov.

Com. Loon: max 500 Romulus 30 Oct.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 34 StP 23 Oct.

Am. Bittern: last Slaterville Springs 25 Oct (SK).

Great Egret: max 70 MWR 4 Sep.

CATTLE EGRET (R3): Ithaca 16 Sep (CW).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: last MWR 29 Oct (DK).

PLEGADIS SP (R3): MWC 10 Sep (BP); MWC 17-18 Sep (mob), possibly same bird continuing from late August, possibly two birds, see also Region 2 report.

Turkey Vulture: max 250 CCampus 23 Oct.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Broad-winged Hawk: 150 CCampus 9 Sep.

Rough-legged Hawk: first MWC 8 Oct, early.

Am. Kestrel: max 11 MtPI 18 Sep.

Virginia Rail: last MWR 5 Oct.

Com. Gallinule: last MWR 6 Nov, late.

Am. Coot: max 350 StP 28 Oct.

Sandhill Crane: 16 MWC 13 Nov.

Am. Golden-Plover: max 20 MWC 10 Sep (RS), at one site.

AMERICAN AVOCET (R3): MWC 16 Sep – 27 Oct.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 8 StP 10 Sep; last Sheldrake Pt 25 Nov (JM), late.

Greater Yellowlegs: last Horseheads North 22 Nov (MP), late.

WHIMBREL (R3): Union Springs 22 Sep (FB).

Hudsonian Godwit: max 3 MWC 3 Oct; last MWR 2 Nov.

Red Knot: WBB 3 Sep (DW).

Sanderling: last Aurora 23 Oct (JM).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last HoHo 13 Nov; 2 MWC 13 Nov.

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 45 MWC 6 Oct; last MWR 13 Nov (NS).

Pectoral Sandpiper: last 4 MWC 13 Nov.

Long-billed Dowitcher: last 4 MWR 6 Nov.

Wilson's Snipe: last 3 Ithaca 16 Nov.

Am. Woodcock: last SaW 8 Nov.

RED PHALAROPE (R3): MWR 8-9 Oct (mob), molting juvenile.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (R3): 2 MyPt 23 Nov (JM), adults.

LAUGHING GULL (R3): 1 2nd w StP 4-5, 8 Sep (mob).

FRANKLIN'S GULL (R3): 1 ad StP 6-8 Sep (mob).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: arr MWR 18 Sep; max 3 Dean's Cove 30 Oct.

Glaucous Gull: FHSP 20 Nov (MT).

Black Tern: last MWC 19 Sep.

Com. Tern: WBB 27 Sep (DW).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: StP 9 Sep (KR).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Snowy Owl: arr WBB 23 Nov.

Long-eared Owl: MWC 9 Sep (MS); RPP 29 Oct (JBA, CW); Cayuga Heights 7 Nov (mob).

Short-eared Owl: first MyPt 10 Nov.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Hopewell Center 4 Oct (JA).

Red-headed Woodpecker: SaW 13 Sep (mob).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: last Bristol 23 Oct (KK).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Ithaca 1 Oct.

Great Crested Flycatcher: last Bath 27 Sep.

N. Shrike: arr SaW 25 Oct.

Yellow-throated Vireo: last SaW 27 Oct (TS), late.
Warbling Vireo: last SaW 30 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: last Dryden 2 Oct; Ithaca 2 Oct.
Red-eyed Vireo: last Ithaca 23 Oct (KR), late.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: last 8 Tyre 25 Oct (DT), late.
Barn Swallow: last MWC 23 Oct (JM), late.
Cliff Swallow: last MWR 1 Oct (WF).
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last Connecticut Hill 11 Oct (CySm).
Veery: last Horseheads 8 Oct (MP).
Swainson's Thrush: max 300 Ithaca 22 Sep (KR), by flight call.
Wood Thrush: max 50 Howl 10 Sep (RS).
Am. Pipit: max 225 Ithaca 29 Oct (JB).

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

N. Waterthrush: last SaW 22 Sep (JM).
Tennessee Warbler: last SalPt 28 Oct (JM), late.
Nashville Warbler: last StP 3 Nov (JM), late.
CONNECTICUT WARBLER (R3): RPP 16 Sep (CW); Slaterville 25 Sep (SK).
Com. Yellowthroat: SalPt 30 Nov (JM), bird continuing from early November.
Cape May Warbler: StP 3 Nov (JM), very late.
Cerulean Warbler: last 2 MWC 17 Sep (mob).

Yellow Warbler: last StP 22 Oct (TL), late.
Blackpoll Warbler: last StP 10 Nov (DNu), late.
Wilson's Warbler: last MWC 10 Oct (AS).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Chipping Sparrow: last Dryden Lake 24 Nov.
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (R3): HoHo 18 Oct (CW, KRo, AP).
Field Sparrow: last SaW 10 Nov.
LARK SPARROW: WBB 11 Sep (DW).
Nelson's Sparrow: HoHo 8-10 Oct; HoHo 18-19 Oct; Ithaca 22 Oct; Ithaca 23 Oct.
Song Sparrow: max 120 HoHo 18 Oct.
Swamp Sparrow: max 75 HoHo 18 Oct.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last SaW 29 Oct (CD).
Dickcissel: arr Ithaca 10 Sep (JM), flight call; last Etna 7 Oct (CTH), flight call.
Rusty Blackbird: max 250 Cato 20 Nov.
Com. Grackle: max 10,000 MWC 13 Nov.
Baltimore Oriole: last SalPt 17 Nov (JM), very late.
Red Crossbill: Summerhill 13 Nov (GK).
White-winged Crossbill: max 12 Summerhill 12-19 Nov; 3 Summerhill 21 Nov.
Pine Siskin: max 92 Summerhill 27 Nov.



REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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September was the wettest month, with a one-day, record-breaking rainfall report of 7.49" recorded at the Binghamton weather station on 7 September. This was brought by Tropical Storm *Lee*, which also delivered much destruction and misery to the Region. The total monthly precipitation was 16.58" versus an average of 3.63"; this was basically a foot of water above average, occurring mostly in a short span of time. After his home was totally flooded, one birder still reported an adult Bald Eagle flying above the Susquehanna River and titled his posting "An eagle, of hope?" While September was wet, October and especially November were warm. The October monthly average temperature was roughly a degree warmer than average, and November's average

temperature was an amazing 6 degrees above average. The precipitation for October and November was about average.

How did this weather affect migration in the Region? It is difficult to tell, but the flooding did affect where birders birded, since some local parks were closed or damaged. The fields and wooded areas near the rivers were also flooded and so may have been less attractive to migrants.

Because we had so much water, one might think the waterfowl would be abundant. However, perhaps due to the warm temperatures especially in November, the Snow Goose migration did not seem very heavy, with the largest observed flight of 80 occurring at the Franklin Mt. Hawk Watch. We did have an interesting sighting of two hybrid Canada x Snow Goose at Greenwood Park documented by Cpt. Mike Ackley on 26 October. Also sighted on 26 October at Greenwood by a field trip of the Naturalists' Club of Broome County was a male Long-tailed Duck, which is not a common sighting in our Region. On 30 October, two Ruddy Ducks were also found at Greenwood along with the Long-tailed Duck that was still there. This was a good example of the Patagonia picnic table effect in which one good bird brings other birders who find other good birds; more on this later.

There was also a large movement of Brant at Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch (FMHW), with 1,550 observed on 20 October. No other Brant sightings were reported, so it appears the Brant weren't stopping in the Region. Canadaroga Lake in Otsego County was the main source of observations of scaup, both Lesser and Greater; Common Goldeneye; White-winged Scoter; Long-tailed Duck; Horned Grebe; and Red-necked Grebe. There were no reports in the Region of Blue-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, or Red-breasted Merganser. Loon numbers seemed low, with the only sighting of a Red-throated Loon at FMHW and only six observations of Common Loons. Overall the waterfowl migration appears to either to have been delayed or to have skipped over the Region, perhaps due to the warm weather in November.

Great Egrets made their late summer appearance with a maximum of six sighted on 2 September in the Susquehanna River near the appropriately named River Road in Endwell. There were twenty Green Herons reported from Brick Pond in Owego on 3 September. Perhaps this gathering is due to migration or a post-breeding dispersal event.

At season's end, Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch had counted 4,609 raptors, well below the ten-year average of 5,400. Red-tailed Hawks accounted for much of the decline, with a count of 1,384, which was 752 below the ten-year average for the species. This seems paradoxical because Red-tailed Hawks are widely reported and seemingly common. Thus one can see the importance of systematic observation over time. However, Bald Eagles, which do seem on the increase to the casual birder, did show an increase in 2011 to set a seasonal record of 238, which is 64% above average. Sharp-shinned Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks, Peregrine Falcon, and Merlin all also showed average to above-average counts. The Osprey count of 95 was down 35% this year from the ten-year average of 147. Franklin Mountain is best known for its Golden Eagle counts, and this year 160 were reported, with 181 being average. Last year just

PHOTO GALLERY
Fall 2011



Franklin's Gull, Niagara River, *Niagara*, 12 Nov 11, © Dominic Sherony.



Swainson's Hawk, Hamlin, *Monroe*, 2 Oct 11, © Dominic Sherony.



Lark Sparrow, Fair Haven SP (West Spit), *Cayuga*, 11 Sep 11, © Jay McGowan.



Yellow-headed Blackbird, Captree SP, *Suffolk*, 19 Oct 11, © Michael McBrien.



Gray Kingbird, Jones Beach SP, *Nassau*, 15 Oct 11, © Michael McBrien.



Northern Wheater, Deep Hollow, Montauk, *Suffolk*, 22 Sep 11 (left), © S. S. Mitra;
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Captree SP, *Suffolk*, 22 Oct 11 (right), © Ken Thompson.



Two Say's Phoebes: Caumsett SP, *Suffolk*, 4 Oct 11 (left) & Robert Moses SP, *Suffolk*, 7 Oct 11; photos © S. S. Mitra.



Ross's Goose, Brooklyn Golf Center, *Kings*, 26 Nov 11, © Heydi Lopes.



Troupial, Roslyn, *Nassau*, 28 Nov 11, © Andrew Baksh.

93 were tallied. On October 30, 31 Golden Eagles were counted, which Andrew Mason said was one of the top ten daily counts for that species. In contrast, away from FMHW there were only a few sightings of Golden Eagles in the Region. Continuing on with the top daily counts were 258 Red-tails on 30 October, 330 Broad-wings on 16 September, and 16 Red-shouldered on 28 October. There were no Rough-legged Hawks reported from FMHW, while the ten-year average count is 11. However there were a couple of reports of this species away from FMHW.

Also reported from FMHW were Sora from the wetland area and a Sandhill Crane. These were the only reports in the Region for these species. Tri-Cities Airport in Endicott had a number of shorebirds, including Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers and Semipalmated Plover among the nine shorebirds tallied. A Dunlin was seen on 30 October on the flats in Dorchester Park in northern Broome County.

A Bonaparte's Gull in Johnson City and a Caspian Tern in Owego, both in September, were the only sightings of these species in the Region. A Great Black-backed Gull was spotted on Otsego Lake by a few observers, and another was found at Dorchester Park in Broome County.

During Tropical Storm *Lee* in September, a birder was putting his squeaky wheelbarrow away after a night of fighting water in his basement and heard an Eastern Screech-Owl calling, perhaps in response to his melodious wheelbarrow. This was one of only four reports in the Region for screech-owl. At FMHW there was a calling Barred Owl, which added to the diversity of species tallied there. Great Horned Owls were reported just three times in the entire Region.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were reported mostly from feeders, with the last leaving 8 October. Common Nighthawks in migration were observed in early September, with a couple of flocks reaching 30.

The first Northern Shrike of the season was seen at Lime Hollow Nature Center in Cortland on 3 November, and further sightings were made in Broome and Delaware Counties during the rest of November.

Common Raven was well reported, with it being regular at Franklin Mt. Hawk Watch, and it seems to be widespread and increasing. Carolina Wrens were common in Broome and Tioga Counties, but not recorded elsewhere. House Wren and Winter Wren by contrast were both sparse, and Marsh Wren escaped all notice. It seems as though Carolina Wrens have increased while House Wrens have decreased in parts of our area.

It appears that the best time to observe thrushes is at night. Dave Nicosia, from his home in Johnson City in Broome County, has counted the night flight calls of various thrushes and other songbirds. On 26 September for example, he counted 225 Swainson's, 27 Gray-cheeked, and 10 Hermit Thrushes. The natural response to this is, "Where are all these thrushes?" One aspect of the floods brought on by Tropical Storm *Lee* was that Aqua Terra Park in Broome County, despite its watery name, was left relatively unscathed due to its higher elevation. Many other parks were closed due to flooding or road closures. As more birders scoured Aqua Terra Park, more birds were found, especially

thrushes and warblers. This is another example of the Patagonia picnic table effect. The Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes found at the park were a bit of a reflection of the night migration which goes unnoticed by most.

Bohemian Waxwings were observed in Vestal on 5 November; this was an uncommon sighting for our area. Snow Buntings were reported from FMHW and Dorchester Park in November. American Pipits arrived in early October in Broome County but were not noted in the rest of the Region.

There seemed to be a good diversity of warblers seen, with 25 species recorded. Worm-eating Warblers were sighted twice in Broome in early September. A Yellow-breasted Chat, which is rare for the area, was found dead in Apalachin in Tioga County on 8 October. In Milford in Otsego County on 3 September, there was a very diverse flock sighted in some apple trees. The flock consisted of ten species, which included: Nashville, Bay-breasted, Blue-winged, Magnolia, Cape May, Blackburnian, and Black-and-white Warblers. This one flock had 40% of the warbler species seen in the Region. Warbler species that were missed overall were Hooded, Mourning, and Pine Warblers.

White-crowned Sparrows first returned in early October, and Fox Sparrows in late October and November. Lincoln Sparrows were also observed in mid-September and early October. The only Vesper Sparrow was seen in Delaware County in late October. Both Indigo Bunting and Bobolink had few sightings, and some of those few were from night calls. Eastern Meadowlark had five reports, with the latest on 9 November. Rusty Blackbirds were reported from the Lime Hollow Nature Center in Cortland County and in the Binghamton University Nature Preserve, both in November.

Purple Finches were observed in all five counties of our Region. Red Crossbills were reported from New Michigan State Forest and Pharsalia Wildlife Management Area in Chenango County. Pine Siskins started arriving in November, with a flock of 40 spotted at Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch and another flock of 25 observed in Chenango County. There was a lone report of two Evening Grosbeaks at Bear Spring Mountain in Delaware County on 24 September.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AqPk – Aquaterra Park, BROO; BHL – Buck Horn L, OTSE; BUNP – Binghamton University Nature Preserve, BROO; BPd – Boland Pd, BROO; CanL – Canadarago L, OTSE; CherryVSF – Cherry Valley State Forest, OTSE; CVSP – Chenango Valley SP, BROO; DorP – Dorchester P, BROO; DHRd – Dunham Hill Road, BROO; FMHW – Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch, DELA; GrP – Greenwood P, BROO; JC – Johnson City, BROO; LHNC – Lime Hollow Nature Center, CORT; OtsL – Otsego L, OTSE; PrRd – Prentice Rd, Susquehanna R, Vestal, BROO; RivR – River Road, Endwell, BROO; TrAir – Tri Cities Airport, Endicott, BROO; UL – Upper Lisle, BROO; WCM – W Corners Marsh, BROO; WNR – Wildwood Nature Reserve, TIOG.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 80 FMHW 22 Nov; other reponly singles.

Canada Goose: max 590 CanL OTSE 15 Nov; no large flights reported.

Canada x Snow Goose: 2 GrP 26 Oct.

Brant: max 1550 FMHW 20 Oct; all 6 rep from FMHW.

Mute Swan: 1 OtsL 11 Nov, only report.

Wood Duck: 32 rep; max 25 WNR TIOG 8 Oct.

Am. Wigeon: no reports.

Am. Black Duck: 14 rep; mostly pairs or small flocks.

Mallard: max 50 BPd 29 Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: no reports.

N. Pintail: no reports.

Green-winged Teal: 4 rep; max 14 LHNC 3 Nov.

Redhead: 1 Homer CORT 16 Oct.

Ring-necked Duck: 6 rep; max 11 Allen L OTSE 11 Nov; all rep from OTSE.

Greater Scaup: 1 CanL 11 Nov, only report.

Lesser Scaup: max 7 CanL 11 Nov; few reports.

White-winged Scoter: 4 rep; max 3 CanL 11 Nov; uncommon in Region.

Long-tailed Duck: 1 GrP 26-30 Oct, 1 CanL 15 Nov; uncommon in Region.

Bufflehead: 11 rep Nov; max 6 PrRd 2 Nov; most rep from OTSE.

Com. Goldeneye: 8 rep Nov OTSE; max 12 CanL.

Hooded Merganser: 11 rep Nov; max 24 Stewart Rd Vestal BROO.

Com. Merganser: many rep; max 100 DorP 23 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: no reports.

Ruddy Duck: 2 GrP 30 Oct, only report.

Ruffed Grouse: 10 rep spread across the Region.

Wild Turkey: 12 rep; max 15 Glimmerglass St Park OTSE 24 Sep.

Red-throated Loon: 1 FMHW 21 Nov, only report.

Com. Loon: 6 rep; max 3 FMHW 21 Nov.

Pied-billed Grebe: 9 rep across the Region.

Horned Grebe: CanL 11 Nov, only report.

Red-necked Grebe: CanL 11 Nov, uncommon in Region.

Double-crested Cormorant: 23 rep; mostly in BROO along Susq R and Chenango R.

Great Egret: 7 rep Sep; max 6 RivR 2 Sep; 1 rep TIOG ; 2 rep OTSE ; 4 rep BROO.

Green Heron: 10 rep Sep; max 20 Brick Pd TIOG 3 Sep; UL 7 Oct.

Turkey Vulture: common thru mid-Oct; max (non HW) 25 Delhi DELA 20 Oct; total 352 FMHW, 17% below avg.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

(FMHW totals cover 20 Aug to 1 Jan, 2011; averages reflect 2001-2010 data).

Osprey: total 95 FMHW, 35% below avg; 10 other rep, low.

Bald Eagle: total 238 FMHW, 64% above avg; many other rep; very widespread.

N. Harrier: total 44 FMHW, 43% below avg; 13 other rep.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 593 FMHW, 5% above avg; many other rep; good count.

Cooper's Hawk: total 87 FMHW, 26% below avg; 21 other rep.

N. Goshawk: total 17 FMHW, 35% below avg; Knapp Rd BROO 26 Nov; Hicks St. Forest OTSE 2 Sep; only two sightings outside of FMHW.

Red-shouldered Hawk: total 37 FMHW, 43% below avg; New Michigan St. Forest CHEN 4 Sep, only 1 rep outside of FMHW.

Broad-winged Hawk: total 1424 FMHW, 7% above avg; 11 other rep.

Red-tailed Hawk: total 1384 FMHW, 35% below avg; 50+ other rep.

Rough-legged Hawk: total 0 FMHW, avg 11; arr 2 Harpersfield DELA 13 Nov; 2 Northern BROO 30 Nov.

Golden Eagle: total 160 FMHW, 11% below avg; 3 West Burlington OTSE 15 Oct; Vestal BROO 3-4 Nov; 3 reports outside of FMHW.

Am. Kestrel: total 88 FMHW, 20% below avg; 18 other rep; max 30+ Northern roads of BROO 28 Sep, field trip NCBC; good count outside of FMHW.

Merlin: total 27 FMHW, at avg; 7 other rep.

Peregrine Falcon: total 19 FMHW, 13% above avg; many rep from Binghamton BROO of resident downtown pair.

Sora: wetland at FMHW 27 Sep and 4 Oct, only 2 rep.

Am. Coot: 7 rep; max 63 OtL15 Nov; 14 Bpd 14 Nov.

Sandhill Crane: FMHW 9 Sep, only rep.

Semipalmated Plover: 4 rep; max 9 TrAir; last DorP Oct 11.

Killdeer: 14 rep; max 27 TrAir 1 Sep; last DorP 23 Nov.

Greater Yellowlegs: 1 TrAir 6 Sep, only rep.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 1 TrAir 1 Sep, only rep.

Solitary Sandpiper: TriAir 2 Sep; AqPk 29 Sep; TriAir 11 Oct, only 3 rep.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 11 TriAir 1 Sep; PrRd 11 Oct, only 3 rep.

Least Sandpiper: 3 TriAir 1 Sep; 3 reports all at TriAir.

Baird's Sandpiper: 1 TriAir 1 Sep, uncommon.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 TriAir 22 Sep (DW); 2 PrRd 11 Oct (DW), uncommon.

Dunlin: 1 DorP Oct 30, only rep.

Bonaparte's Gull: JC BROO 19 Sep.

Great Black-backed Gull: OtsL 9 Sep; DorP 11 Oct; 3 rep OtsL.

Caspian Tern: 2 Owego, TIOG 8 Sep, uncommon.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

E. Screech-Owl: Vestal BROO 9 Sep; Babcock Hollow Rd. CORT 17 Sep; low count.

Great Horned Owl: 17 Sep Binghamton BROO; 2 Apalachin BROO Nov 5; West Burlington OTSE 30 Oct; low count.

Barred Owl: FMHW 9 Oct; New Michigan SF CHEN 4 Sep; 6 rep.

Com. Nighthawk: 30 Binghamton BROO 1 Sep; 30+ Tioga Terrace TIOG 3 Sep; 8 Westover BROO 9 Sep; 5 rep; remains low.

Chimney Swift: 9 rep BROO early Sep; last 10 Chenango R BROO 20 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 9 Sep rep BROO; 5 Sep rep TIOG; 8 Sep & Oct reports DELA; 3 Sep & Oct rep CHEN; last DELA 8 Oct & CHEN 8 Oct.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 25 rep; continues regular.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 26 rep; last DELA 23 Oct & BUNP 23 Oct; continues regular.

Pileated Woodpecker: 25 rep; continues regular.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: 8 rep; last Tubbs Hill Rd, Richford TIOG 25 Sep.

Acadian Flycatcher: Hawkins Pond BROO 9 Sep, uncommon.

Least Flycatcher: 4 rep; last TrAir 2 Oct & Ross Park BROO 2 Oct.

empidonax, sp: last AqPk 27 Sep.

E. Kingbird: 4 rep; last 2 BUNP 10 Sep.

N. Shrike: LHNC 3 Nov; FMHW 17 Nov; DHRd 23 Nov; Edwards Hill Rd BROO 23 Nov; Hancock DELA 26 Nov; Coon Hill DELA 27 Nov.

Yellow-throated Vireo: CVSP 18 Sep, only rep.

Blue-headed Vireo: 15 rep; last Webb Rd BROO 19 Oct.

Warbling Vireo: TrAir 1 Sep, only rep.

Philadelphia Vireo: TIOG 16 Sep, only rep.

Red-eyed Vireo: 22 rep; last WNR 1 Oct.

Fish Crow: flock DHRd 21 Sep; flock JC 5 Oct; only two rep, both away from lakes or rivers.

Com. Raven: 30+ widespread rep; regular at FMHW; increasing numbers.

Horned Lark: no reports.

Tree Swallow: 3 rep; max 150 Owego TIOG 8 Sep; last 5 Binghamton BROO 20 Sep.

Barn Swallow: 10 Owego TIOG 8 Sep, only rep.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 18 rep; max 7 Hicks St. Forest OTSE 2 Sep.
Brown Creeper: 17 rep; max 3 PrRd 22 Oct.
Carolina Wren: 50 rep all from BROO and TIOG.
House Wren: 4 rep; low count.
Winter Wren: CVSP 9&16 Oct; Coon Hill DELA 27 Nov; only rep, low count.
Marsh Wren: no reports.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: widely reported.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 37 rep; last DELA 26 Oct.
E. Bluebird: 28 rep; widely reported thru Region.
Veery: AqPk 3 & 5 Sep, only rep, low count.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: 1 AqPk 22 Sep; night flight 37 JC 24 & 26 Sep (DN).
Swainson's Thrush: night flight 225 JC 26 Sep (DN); 3 Foley Rd BROO 18 Oct; 11 rep: good count.
Hermit Thrush: night flight 15 JC 24 & 26 Sep (DN); 12 other day rep Sep & Oct; last JC 30 Oct.
Wood Thrush: night flight 51 JC 12 & 24 Sep (DN).
Gray Catbird: well reported in Region thru early Oct; last BUNP 23 Oct.
N. Mockingbird: 10 rep BROO; 1 rep TIOG; distribution seems spotty.
Brown Thrasher: 7 rep; all rep in Sep most in BROO.
Am. Pipit: 2 Endicott BROO 7 Oct; 1 DorP 7 Oct; 2 DorP 6 Nov; low count.
Bohemian Waxwing: 5 Vestal BROO 1 Nov, uncommon.
Cedar Waxwing: well reported thru; max 100 RivR 6 Sep.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Snow Bunting: Max and arr 20+ FMHW 6 Nov; 4 rep from DorP 6-23 Nov.
Ovenbird: last 2 Greek Peak CORT 27 Sep; 3 rep.
Worm-eating Warbler: Binghamton BROO 3 Sep (AC); BUNP 10 Sep (AC), uncommon.
N. Waterthrush: JC 17 Sep; only report.
Blue-winged Warbler: Milford OTSE 3 Sep, only report.
Black-and-white Warbler: CherryVSF 1 Sep; 2 Milford OTSE 3 Sep; AqPk 9 Sep; Bear Spring Mt DELA 24 Sep; only 4 rep; low count.
Tennessee Warbler: Vestal BROO 28 Sep, often missed.
Orange-crowned Warbler: JC 1 & 10 Oct, uncommon.
Nashville Warbler: 19 rep; last PrRd 22 Oct; max 3 AqPk 2 Oct, good count.

Com. Yellowthroat: many rep: last BROO 2 Oct & TIOG 2 Oct.
Am. Redstart: 8 rep; last AqPk 27 Sep; JC 26 Sep.
Cape May Warbler: Milford OTSE 3 Sep; WNR 1 Oct; Brown Rd BROO 20 Oct.
N. Parula: AqPk 10 Sep; Hancock DELA 19 Sep; uncommon.
Magnolia Warbler: 27 rep; last AqPk 1 Oct; Round Top Pk 1 Oct; DELA 1 Oct; good count.
Bay-breasted Warbler: Milford OTSE 3 Sep; TrAir 2 Oct; only two rep.
Blackburnian Warbler: Milford OTSE 3 Sep; AqPk 5 & 9 Sep; only three rep.
Yellow Warbler: AqPk 9 Sep, only rep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: 2 rep OTSE 1 & 2 Sep; 7 rep at AqPk 9 Sep to 1 Oct; Hancock DELA 9 Sep; no other rep.
Blackpoll Warbler: 8 rep in Region; last BUNP 10/23.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 7 rep mid Sep - Oct; last Parson's Rd. BROO 5 Oct.
Palm Warbler: 12 rep mid Sep - mid Oct; last DELA 18 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 40 rep; max 30 JC 10 Oct; last Bing BROO 25 Oct; good count.
Prairie Warbler: JC Sep 3 & 16, only rep.
Black-throated Green Warbler: 28 rep; last DELA 18 Oct; max 7 CherryVSF 1 Sep.
Canada Warbler: 5 rep; last JC 18 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: 7 rep; last Endicott BROO 18 Oct; JC 10 Oct; good count.
Yellow-breasted Chat: Apalachin TIOG 8 Oct (JS), rare in Region, killed by cat.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: 34 rep Sep-Oct; 16 rep from AqPk; last AqPk 24 Oct; good count in BROO.
Am. Tree Sparrow: 8 rep all Nov; arr 3 Roger's Nature Center CHEN 6 Nov; low count.
Chipping Sparrow: 38 rep; last DELA 4 Nov.
Field Sparrow: 23 reports; last AqPk 24 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: DELA 28-30 Oct, uncommon.
Savannah Sparrow: Alberts Rd. CORT 21 Sep; TrAir 2 Oct; only two rep, low count.
Fox Sparrow: 5 rep same loc DELA 24 Oct - 1 Nov; AqPk 29 Oct & 5 Nov; low count.
Lincoln's Sparrow: Hancock DELA 19 Sep; AqPk 1 Oct; BROO 7 Oct; uncommon.
Swamp Sparrow: 20 rep many at same location; last 3 BUNP 23 Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: 55+ rep; max 21 BUNP 23 Oct; abundant.
White-crowned Sparrow: 18 rep; arr AqPk 1 Oct; last DELA 4 Nov.
Dark-eyed Junco: 100+ rep; max 39 Coon Hill DELA; widespread, good count.

Scarlet Tanager: 14 rep; last AqPk 1 Oct; good count.

N. Cardinal: 115+ rep; good count.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 5 rep; max 11 night flight JC 12 Sep (DN); 8 Hancock DELA 18 Sep.

Indigo Bunting: JC 16 Sep; Hauck Hill Rd
CORT 17 Sep; Night flight 1 JC 24 Sep; low.

Bobolink: night flight 1 JC 26 Sep.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 500 AqPk 8 Oct.

E. Meadowlark: 5 rep; max 8 Northern BROO
28 Sep; last 5 Edwards Hill Rd BROO 9 Nov;
fair count.

Rusty Blackbird: 8 LHNC 11 Nov; BUNP 17
Nov; only 2 rep, declining.

Com. Grackle: max 100 AqPk 10 Sep.

Brown Headed Cowbird: AqPk 9 Sep, only
rep, under reported?

Baltimore Oriole: Lime Hollow Tunison Labs
CORT 22 Sep, only report.

Purple Finch: 13 rep scattered through Region;
5 rep DELA 14 Oct to 20 Nov.

Red Crossbill: 2 New Michigan St Forest
CHEN 4 Sep; 3 Pharsalia CHEN 26 Nov.

Pine Siskin: 10 rep; max 40 FMHW 11 Nov; 25
CHEN 9 Nov; 5 rep DELA same location.

Evening Grosbeak: 2 Bear Spring Mt Launt
Pond DELA 24 Sep, rare in Sep, only rep.



REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The season was warmer and wetter than average with almost no snow. Heavy rainfall from Hurricane *Irene* on 28 August and the remnants of Hurricane *Lee* on 7 September raised water levels, especially at Delta Lake, which had been partially drawn down for the first time in four years. In September the average temperature was 66.0° F, 4.0° above normal, with 6.36" of rain, 2.67" above normal. For October the average temperature was 52.6°, 2.0° above normal, with 3.20" of rain, 0.24" below normal. November had an average temperature of 46.8°, 6.2° above normal, with 3.36" of precipitation, 0.17" below normal, and 0.6" of snow.

The goose and swan migration was fairly typical of recent years. Canada Geese were moving after mid-September and more were expected in winter. Most Snow Geese and Tundra Swans were apparently waiting until December, and Brant went through in October. We had a single Greater White-fronted Goose, several Cackling Geese, Trumpeter Swans of unknown origin, and Mute Swan continuing to increase at Fair Haven. The dabbling duck migration was spread out, and it seemed that a big flight might be expected after a severe cold front in the winter. *Aythya* numbers were low, with no Canvasback, while Scoter, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, and Long-tailed Duck numbers were typical for the season. A King Eider was the only uncommon species reported.

There was a large concentration of Horned Grebes in Mexico Bay, but other loons and grebes were seen in more typical numbers. Two American Bitterns were reported; this reclusive species often goes unreported in the fall.

Great Egret numbers were low, with high water partially to blame. An egret in Old Forge on 20 November was very late. One migrant Black-crowned Night-Heron was reported.

Hawk migration near Pulaski is dependent on north and northeast winds. Predominantly northwest winds push birds well away from the eastern shore of Lake Ontario. After two nice early September flights, which included Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and American Kestrel, winds were mostly uncooperative into November. Rough-legged Hawks remained scarce through the end of the season, while Northern Goshawk, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon numbers were representative.

A Sora was a nice fall bird at Howland Island WMA during the Montezuma Muckrace. There were two reports of Sandhill Crane, one adjacent to a known Region 2 breeding site. Our sod farm, facing a poor economy, was mostly planted in corn and soybeans with little turf or unplanted areas. No Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported this year, and only the heavy rain of 7 September produced many shorebirds at the farm. Lake Ontario and Delta Lake levels were high and shorebirds numbers were low. White-rumped Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, and dowitchers were not reported. Following a cold front 20 Hudsonian Godwits were seen flying past Oswego and afterwards at Derby Hill.

Glaucous and Iceland Gulls arrived in November, there was a single Lesser Black-backed, and a Little Gull spent a lot of time in the Mexico Bay area. A young Franklin's Gull was the best find. One Forster's Tern and some Common Terns lingered into mid-October, but no Black Terns were seen this season. A Pomarine Jaeger and several Parasitic Jaegers were seen on Lake Ontario outside of Oswego Harbor in early September. Lake watching at Oswego might prove worthwhile if one could find a vantage point with protection from the elements. Otherwise, jaegers and Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen at Derby Hill after strong cold fronts.

There was a total of six cuckoo reports for the season, with a 22 October Yellow-billed especially late. There were no reports of Long-eared Owl, while two Snowy Owls, one Short-eared Owl, and four Northern Saw-whet Owls were found. Common Nighthawk was more actively sought this fall and better numbers were seen, especially near Baldwinsville and the Seneca River. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird lingered to 27 October at a feeder near Syracuse. On that date it was captured by a rehabilitator. Red-headed Woodpecker was at two sites, and one Black-backed Woodpecker was reported from the Adirondacks.

Flycatcher numbers were typical for the fall, with most departing during the first half of September. There was one early Northern Shrike, then moderate numbers arrived in November. Four species of swallows departed in the first week of September, while Barn Swallow was seen into October and Tree Swallow into November. Fish Crows along lower West Canada Creek likely indicate expansion along the poorly birded Mohawk River corridor. Red-breasted Nuthatch was scarce at feeders, so the ones found in breeding areas were more likely to be local birds taking advantage of the good cone crop than migrants from the north.

A “large night flight” of Swainson's Thrush and Veery on 6 September was reported but with no numbers given. The brown thrushes were otherwise seen mostly as single birds. Warblers were widespread into October, with many observers noting a wide variety of species although often in low numbers. An exception was a large flock of Palm Warblers in Cazenovia. We had one Connecticut Warbler this season plus very late Chestnut-sided and Blackpoll Warblers. The period from 21-23 October appeared to be the last push of lingering warblers as well as the peak of sparrow migration.

Both Fox and White-crowned Sparrows were mentioned as scarce this fall. There were two Clay-colored Sparrows. A **Lark Sparrow** was a nice find in September along Lake Ontario, and Matt Perry sent a report of a **Nelson's Sparrow**, which had been congregating with House Sparrows and other true sparrows in a shopping plaza. The Nelson's Sparrow had become partially covered with glue, likely after perching on a building where the owners were employing some form of bird control to keep House Sparrows and other nuisance birds away. Taken to a rehabilitator, the Nelson's expired after a day.

Five Dickcissels were reported over two days in September, three identified by flight call and two seen with House Sparrows in Syracuse. A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was found moving with other icterids at Three Rivers WMA. Large flocks of Common Grackles were present at the end of October, and a two-and-a-half mile long string of blackbirds emerging from roost at Clay Marsh was estimated to be over a million strong. With a very good cone crop birders were looking for winter finches, but the finches were sparse over the fall. There were no White-winged Crossbills and only single reports of Red Crossbill, Common Redpoll, and Evening Grosbeak. Pine Siskins were moving in, and there was one good flight day noted at Derby Hill.

For the season a total of 238 species was reported, about 10 above the recent 10 year average. Highlights included Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross's Goose, Hudsonian Godwit, Little Gull, Franklin's Gull, Connecticut Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, **Lark Sparrow**, **Nelson's Sparrow**, Dickcissel, and **Yellow-headed Blackbird**.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BRH – Bishop Road Hawk Watch, T Richland; CM – Clay Marsh; DH – Derby Hill; DL – Delta Lake; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; Geo – Georgetown; GSC – Great Swamp Conservancy, n. MADI; GLSP – Green Lakes SP; HI – Howland Island WMA; OneiL – Oneida Lake; OnonL – Onondaga Lake; SHF – Sky High Sod Farms, T Sullivan; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; Skan – Skaneateles; SPd – Sandy Pond; SVB – Sylvan and Verona Beach; Syr – Syracuse; TR – Three Rivers WMA; VB – T Van Buren; WM – West Monroe; WPd – Woodman Pond, Hamilton.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: BLNC after 15 Nov.

Snow Goose: max 567 DH 12 Nov.

ROSS'S GOOSE (R5): WPd 20 Nov (BB!).

Brant: max 1969 DH 22 Oct.

Cackling Goose: DG 22 Oct; New Hartford 28 Oct, injured; WPd 20 Nov.

Mute Swan: max 45 FH 19 Nov.

Trumpeter Swan: max 5 FH 19 Nov.

Tundra Swan: max 179 Constantia 29 Nov.

Wood Duck: max 85 HI 10 Sep.

Gadwall: max 23 DH 11 Nov.

Am. Wigeon: max 77 DH 11 Nov.

Am. Black Duck: max 122 FH 27 Oct.

Blue-winged Teal: max 42 HI 10 Sep; last GSC 6 Nov.

N. Shoveler: max 25 FH 7 Nov.

N. Pintail: max 118 DH 22 Oct.

Green-winged Teal: max 94 FH 27 Oct.

Canvasback: no reports.

Redhead: max 4 FH 20 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: max 125 Pompey 18 Nov.

Greater Scaup: max 130 DH 11 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: max 30 SVB 29 Oct.

King Eider: DH after 17 Nov (DW, BP).

Surf Scoter: max 98 FH 27 Oct.

White-winged Scoter: max 313 DH 21 Oct.

Black Scoter: max 48 DH 21 Oct.

Long-tailed Duck: arr 124 DH 21 Oct; max 568 DH 17 Nov.

Bufflehead: arr UM 20 Oct; max 150 Polar Bay OneiL 20 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: max 150 Maple Bay OneiL 22 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: max 59 Eaton Res 17 Nov.

Com. Merganser: max 72 Tuscarora L 1 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 1200 FH 30 Oct.

Ruddy Duck: max 37 WPd 1 Nov.

Red-throated Loon: arr DH 17 Oct; max 8 Oswego 18 Nov.

Com. Loon: max 235 DH 22 Oct.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 8 WPd 16 Oct.

Horned Grebe: arr Otisco L 2 Oct; max 172 Mexico Bay 6 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: arr OnonL 10 Sep; max 6 WPd 28 Oct.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 600 Oswego 3 Oct.

Am. Bittern: Fulton 26 Sep & Volney 30 Oct.

Great Egret: 2 Fulton 11 Sep; last Old Forge 20 Nov, late.

Green Heron: max 39 WM 1 Sep; last FH 18 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Camden 6 Oct (RL).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Turkey Vulture: max 300 Richland 19 Oct.

Osprey: max 27 BRH 6 Sep.

Bald Eagle: max 22 BRH 6 Sep.

N. Harrier: max 15 BRH 6 Sep.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 91 BRH 6 Sep.

Cooper's Hawk: 4 BRH 21 Nov.

N. Goshawk: 5 Nov reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: BRH 8 Sep; 2 Nov reports.

Broad-winged Hawk: max 48 BRH 6 Sep.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 49 BRH 4 Nov.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr Oswego 30 Oct; max 5 BRH 21 Nov.

Golden Eagle: New Woodstock 21 Oct; BRH 4 Nov; W Winfield 25 Nov.

Am. Kestrel: max 23 BRH 6 Sep.

Merlin: widespread singles.

Peregrine Falcon: max 2 SPd 1 Oct; max 2 FH 27 Oct.

Sora: HI 10 Sep, only report.

Com. Gallinule: max 7 HI 10 Sep.

Am. Coot: max 160 FH 30 Oct.

Sandhill Crane: 3 HI 10 Sep; 2 W Winfield 23 Sep (KZ).

Black-bellied Plover: max 5 SHF 5 Sep.

Am. Golden-Plover: max 14 SHF 5 Sep; last VB 5 Oct.

Semipalmated Plover: max 10 DL 3 Sep; last 2 FH 3 Oct.

Killdeer: 32 Mexico 21 Oct.

Spotted Sandpiper: 2 OnonL 3 Sep; last OneiL 22 Oct.

Solitary Sandpiper: last 3 Elbridge 5 Sep.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 3 per day Sep; last FH 8 Oct.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 9 DL 3 Sep.

Hudsonian Godwit: 20 Oswego (DW) and DH (KM) 1 Oct.

Ruddy Turnstone: max 2 FH 3 Sep; max 2 Oswego 13 Sep; last Oswego 17 Sep.

Red Knot: FH 3 Sep; last 2 Fulton 11 Sep.

Sanderling: max 7 Oswego 13 Sep; last 3 FH 1 Oct.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 5 SVB 5 Oct.

Least Sandpiper: max 28 SHF 5 Sep.

Baird's Sandpiper: DL 3 Sep; Syr 9 Sep.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 29 SHF 5 Sep; last Fabius 8 Oct.

Purple Sandpiper: arr DH 17 Nov; max 3 FH 30 Nov.

Dunlin: last 9 FH 12 Nov.

Am. Woodcock: TR 30 Oct; last Syr 14 Nov.

Red Phalarope: Oswego 1 Oct; DH 25 Oct.

Black-legged Kittiwake: max 5 DH 25 Oct; 2 DH 17 Nov.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 219 SVB 29 Sep.

Little Gull: SVB 17 Sep; DH 16-28 Oct; DH 18 Nov.

FRANKLIN'S GULL (R5): DH 17 Oct (DW, BP).

Iceland Gull: arr MADI landfill 5 Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: SVB 19 Nov.

Glaucous Gull: Oswego 18 Nov; FH 20 Nov.

Caspian Tern: max 10 Oswego 1 Sep; last FH 1 Oct.

Com. Tern: last 7 DH 17 Oct.

Forster's Tern: 2 Otisco L 11 Sep; DH 15-17 Oct.

Pomarine Jaeger: Oswego 13 Sep; DH 11 Nov.

Parasitic Jaeger: 3 Oswego 14 Sep; max 7 DH 25 Oct.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 4 reports to 1 Oct; last DH 22 Oct (LG), late.

Black-billed Cuckoo: HI 10 Sep & Hastings 25 Sep.

Snowy Owl: arr FH 23 Nov; Oswego 30 Nov.

Short-eared Owl: DH 19 Nov, only report.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Big Moose 18 Sep; T Lebanon 14 Oct; BLNC 15 Nov thru; W Winfield 23 Nov.

Com. Nighthawk: max 31 VB 3 Sep; last Waterville 17 Sep.

Chimney Swift: max 100 Syr 13 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last E Syr 27 Oct.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 Lysander 2 Sep; 2 Tully 15 Nov.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 3 CM 28 Sep; last Mexico 14 Nov.

Black-backed Woodpecker: Quiver Pd 22 Nov.

N. Flicker: max 15 GLSP 24 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: last CM 14 Sep

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 2 Richland 18 Sep.

Alder Flycatcher: 2 Waterville 2 Sep.

Least Flycatcher: last Hastings 19 Sep.

E. Phoebe: last Mexico 3 Nov.

Great Crested Flycatcher: last Kirkville 5 Sep.

E. Kingbird: max 5 Mexico 2 Sep; last Chittanooga 17 Sep.

N. Shrike: arr FH 8 Oct, early; 8 reports after 7 Nov.

Yellow-throated Vireo: max 5 HI 10 Sep; last Fabius 16 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: last 21 Oct.

Warbling Vireo: max 6 HI 10 Sep; last 18 Sep.

Philadelphia Vireo: 10 reports 7-28 Sep; last Camden 2 Oct.

Red-eyed Vireo: last SFNS 5 Oct.

Blue Jay: max 53 Hastings 23 Sep, few migrants noted.

Am. Crow: 930 BRH 30 Oct.

Fish Crow: Poland 8 Sep, on West Canada Creek; max 26 Oakwood Cem Syr 31 Oct.

Horned Lark: max 200 Williamstown 16 Nov.

Purple Martin: max 8 WM 1 Sep; last DH 3 Sep.

Tree Swallow: max 600 SHF 5 Sep; last DH 13 Nov.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 15 SHF 5 Sep.

Bank Swallow: last 5 GSC 3 Sep.

Cliff Swallow: max & last 8 SHF 5 Sep.

Barn Swallow: max 400 WM 5 Sep; last 2 OnonL 2 Oct.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 15 Morgan Hill SF 26 Nov.

House Wren: last Skan 13 Oct.

Marsh Wren: Marcellus & CM 18 Sep; VB 8 Oct; TR 18 Oct.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last Richland 18 Sep.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 25 Geo 6 Sep.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 59 Richland 22 Oct; last Kirkville 12 Nov.

E. Bluebird: max 21 BRH 21 Nov.

Veery: last HI 11 Sep.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: 4 reports, last Scriba 4 Oct.

Swainson's Thrush: last TR 27 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: max 6 BLNC 6 Oct; last CM 16 Nov.
Wood Thrush: last Hastings 24 Sep.
Am. Robin: max 533 DH 2 Nov.
Gray Catbird: max 19 CM 18 Sep.
Brown Thrasher: Scriba & CM 3 Oct; last 2 SFNS 5 Oct.
Am. Pipit: max 180 Mexico 28 Oct & 182 BRH 21 Nov.
Cedar Waxwing: max 110 Hastings 12 Oct.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: T Manheim 12 Nov & BRH 21 Nov.
Snow Bunting: arr 2 Hinckley Res 27 Oct; max 110 FH 19 Nov.
Ovenbird: last SFNS 9 Sep.
N. Waterthrush: last Nelson Swamp & SFNS 9 Sep.
Blue-winged Warbler: last Hastings 9 Sep.
Black-and-white Warbler: last SFNS 24 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: last TR 12 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: VB 8, 27 Oct; DH 21 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: last Syr 22 Oct.
CONNECTICUT WARBLER (R5): BRH 8 Sep (TC).
Mourning Warbler: last SFNS 12 Sep.
Com. Yellowthroat: last SFNS 4 Nov.
Hooded Warbler: last 20 Sep.
Am. Redstart: last 2 GLSP 9 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: 9 Sep reports; last 2 CM 28 Sep.
N. Parula: max 4 Mexico 8 Sep; TR 11 Oct.
Magnolia Warbler: last Salisbury 23 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last Skan 28 Sep.
Blackburnian Warbler: 3 per day to 20 Sep; last Salisbury 15 Oct;
Yellow Warbler: last FH 11 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last 20 Camden 4 Nov (RL ph), Reg record late.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 6 SFNS 8 Sep; last Skan 14 Nov, dead.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 6 Camden 28 Sep; last Nelson 18 Oct.
Palm Warbler: arr VB 5 Sep; max 23 Cazenovia 29 Sep (AB); last SFNS 25 Oct.
Pine Warbler: last UM 24 Nov.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 30 SFNS 30 Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last Oswego 13 Oct.
Canada Warbler: 2 reports; last GLSP 10 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: last SFNS 29 Sep.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: max 11 Hastings 22 Sep; last 15 Nov.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr TR 26 Oct; max 32 CM 16 Nov.
Chipping Sparrow: max 48 Richland 22 Oct; last New Haven 21 Nov.
Clay-colored Sparrow: FH 21 Sep (DW); CM 3 Oct (DN).
Field Sparrow: max 10 GLSP 24 Sep; last 27 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: max 8 Mexico 22-23 Oct; last 4 Mexico 28 Oct.
LARK SPARROW: FH 11 Sep (DW, mob, NYSARC).
Savannah Sparrow: max 11 TR 23 Oct; last TR 28 Oct.
NELSON'S SPARROW (R5): New Hartford 20 Oct, injured and soon died.
Fox Sparrow: arr TR 23 Oct; max 4 Skan 2 Nov.
Lincoln's Sparrow: 8 reports; last Skan 23 Oct.
Swamp Sparrow: max 18 WM 23 Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: max 60 TR 23 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr SFNS 3 Oct; max 20 Salisbury 9 Oct.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 43 Richland 23 Oct.
Scarlet Tanager: last Syr 6 Oct.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 15 HI 10 Sep last Erie Canal SP 12 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: last Scriba 3 Oct.
DICKCISSEL (R5): Fulton 25 Sep (DW); 2 Syr 25 Sep (TM); 2 BRH 26 Sep (TC).
Bobolink: max 110 WM 1 Sep; last VB 5 Oct, late.
Red-winged Blackbird: 5700 N Syr 14 Nov.
E. Meadowlark: max 6 Tully 13 Oct; 3 Skan 28 Oct.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: TR 28 Oct (TC!).
Rusty Blackbird: arr SFNS 16 Sep; max 450 CM 12 Oct.
Com. Grackle: max 14500 Hastings 31 Oct.
Brown-headed Cowbird: 50 DH 9 Sep; 50 TR 23 Oct;
blackbird sp: million plus CM 31 Oct, flock extended 2.5 miles.
Baltimore Oriole: last Hastings 25 Sep.
Purple Finch: max 11 Hastings 21 Sep.
Red Crossbill: 3 Geo 26 Nov, only report.
Com. Redpoll: DH 14 Nov, only report.
Pine Siskin: max 410 DH 14 Nov.
Am. Goldfinch: max 2570 DH 2 Nov.
Evening Grosbeak: SFNS 2 Nov, only report.

REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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It was an unusually warm fall, with above average temperatures all three months. The average monthly departure from normal temperatures ranged from +2.0° F for October to a whopping +6.0° for November. Precipitation was relatively light during the beginning and end of the period, with 3.5" in September and 3.1" in November, which are 0.7" and 1.5" below normal, respectively. October was wet, with 6.0", or 1.6" above normal. Not surprisingly, given the warm November temperatures, little snow fell during the period, with minor snowfall on 17 and 23 November that did not accumulate in most areas.

The dominant weather feature of this fall was a persistent wind that seemed to come out of the south every day for weeks at a time and out of the north hardly at all, frustrating birders hoping for big migratory movements. Few large movements of songbirds were noted all season, and in fact the largest warbler flocks I saw this "fall" passed through in August. The lack of north winds and accompanying flights of birds extended through the waterfowl season and into December.

This season's waterfowl migration conformed to the recent pattern of late passage of dabbling ducks and geese compared to long-term norms. Once again few Snow Geese passed through the Region during the fall reporting season, with a weak push of birds during the first half of October and then almost none until after the end of November. Many species of dabbling ducks showed a similar pattern, and I heard complaints from several hunter acquaintances that the current duck hunting season in Region 6 no longer matches the period when ducks are most numerous. Diving ducks bucked this trend, especially Ring-necked Ducks, which were present in excellent numbers, including more than 5,000 at Wilson Hill WMA. Notable waterfowl included a Cackling Goose on the Canton sewage ponds 7 October, an adult male Eurasian Wigeon at Wilson Hill for the fourth consecutive fall, and a Harlequin Duck on the St. Lawrence River in Cape Vincent. A Trumpeter Swan at Lucky Star Lake wearing a green wing tag with black numbers was one of two swans banded and tagged at nearby Perch River WMA in August.

Most water birds were present in typical numbers, although there did not seem to be as many Pied-billed Grebes at Upper and Lower Lakes as in recent years. More Red-necked Grebes were tallied on the St. Lawrence River than usual, but this may be the result of increased observer effort. The 191 Great Egrets counted at the Stockholm roost was a new record high count for Region 6, five more than the previous record from the same site. A Cattle Egret in a Waddington hayfield on 27 November was the first reported in Region 6 since

November 2006. Three Sandhill Cranes in Ellisburg during October were believed to be the same family group observed there during the summer.

More species of shorebirds were reported this fall than during any recent year, almost entirely because of increased effort by Tony Shrimpton, who visited El Dorado fairly regularly throughout the fall, and myself, as I was almost single-minded in my efforts to find shorebirds this season. Between the two of us we tallied 23 species of shorebird during the fall reporting season, which may not sound like much to coastal birders but is the highest Region 6 tally in more than a decade. Among the shorebird highlights were several species that are rarely reported in Region 6, including a Buff-breasted Sandpiper on a large lawn in Canton 5-6 September, a Red Knot at El Dorado on 11 September, and all three phalarope species. It's worth noting that although the species tally was higher than usual, numbers of individuals were not particularly high, and shorebirding remained a frustrating, hit-and-miss endeavor. For example, the best day of the season at El Dorado was 11 September, when I observed more than 100 individuals of 14 species. On my next visit to El Dorado the following week I saw no shorebirds at all, not even a Killdeer!

There is no lake-watching tradition in Region 6, which largely accounts for the historical paucity of reports of a number of species of birds that rarely occur away from Lake Ontario. Somewhat better coverage of the lake this year yielded observations of a few of these species. Forster's Terns have not been reported in Region 6 in several years, so five found by Steve Kelling on Point Peninsula on 11 September and another by Alexandra Class and Benjamin Freeman at Lakeview WMA in October were welcome reports. Several lake watches in October and November produced one Pomarine and four Parasitic Jaegers on strong westerly winds.

Four Snowy Owls in November was high for recent years, indicating the potential for a sizable winter invasion. Eastern Whip-poor-wills were unusually well documented this fall, both by birders in the field and through automated microphones deployed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology on Fort Drum. Although the Cornell data have not been fully analyzed, preliminary results suggest that the last date whip-poor-wills were picked up by the microphones was 3 October, about 10 days later than the last date reported by birders. Red-headed Woodpeckers departed the Fort Drum breeding grounds by the third week of September, slightly earlier than usual. Numbers of Northern Flickers seemed very low this season, with daily maximum totals well below past years.

The passerine migration was fairly slow and steady, with no large pulses noted, as the seemingly interminable southerly winds did nothing to help push birds southward. Despite this slow pace, most species arrived at or before average arrival dates, and less common species such as Philadelphia Vireo and Orange-crowned Warbler were observed in fairly typical numbers. Blackpoll and Cape May Warblers were more common than usual, likely indicative of high reproduction associated with spruce budworm outbreaks in Quebec and Ontario. These warbler species and Yellow-rumped Warbler also persisted in decent numbers longer into the fall than usual. Conversely, the sparrow migration was pitiful, with no large waves noted and maximum daily numbers

of White-throated Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos 10-20% of those seen most years. Based on counts of night-calling birds overhead, thrush numbers also seemed down, although large numbers of Swainson's Thrushes were heard on a few nights, particular early in the morning of 23 September, when I could hear what sounded like 2-3 calls per second over my house in Canton.

Modest numbers of irruptive finches appeared during October and November. Pine Siskins and White-winged Crossbills began moving into the Region on 5 October, and Pine Siskins were fairly common Region-wide through late November, but White-winged Crossbills were mostly restricted to the Adirondacks, where numbers were low. A few Common Redpolls passed through in November, but these seemed to be isolated flocks and not part of any significant irruption. Red Crossbills and Evening Grosbeaks were entirely unreported, although it is likely that a few occurred in the Adirondacks.

The season's tally of 230 species was higher than any recent year, reflecting a continuing improvement in coverage of the Region overall, albeit still by few observers. Broadly speaking, the season's highlight was the detection of a number of species that normally escape the attention of birders when they occur at all, including Red Knot, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Wilson's, Red-necked, and Red Phalaropes, Forster's Tern, and Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers. These observations illustrate the largely untapped birding potential of Region 6. The slow land bird migration was the season's low point, particularly the very low numbers of Northern Flickers and sparrows.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BI – Barnhart Island, T Massena; BRB – Black River Bay; CB – Chaumont Barrens preserve, T Lyme; CCSP – Coles Creek SP, T Waddington; CV – T Cape Vincent; CWF – Canton wastewater facility; ED – El Dorado Shores Preserve, T Ellisburg; FD – Fort Drum Military Reservation; ICNC – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton; KPSP – Kring Point SP; LWMA – Lakeview WMA, T Ellisburg; MM – Massawepie Mire, T Piercefield and Colton; MP – Montario Point, T Ellisburg; PilPt – Pillar Point; PRGC – Partridge Run Golf Course trail, T Canton; PRWMA – Perch River WMA; PtPen – Point Peninsula;

RWSP – Robert G. Wehle SP, T Henderson; SBSP – Southwick Beach SP, T Ellisburg; SLR – St. Lawrence River; StPt – Stony Point, T Henderson; TP – Tibbitt’s Point, T Cape Vincent; ULLWMA – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA; WS – Winthrop Swamp, T Stockholm.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr 8 SLR Ogdensburg 2 Oct; modest movement of mostly flocks 50-75 thru 16 Oct; few reports after 15 Oct, mostly of individuals in Canada Goose flocks.
Brant: arr SLR Ogdensburg 2 Oct; max 260 SBSP 22 Oct; 130 PRWMA 22 Oct; last Waddington 18 Nov.
Cackling Goose: CWF 7 Oct (JB, photos).
Canada Goose: first significant southward movement FD 27 Sep; up to 20000/day SLR Waddington Nov; lower than usual numbers elsewhere; 2 “Lesser” CWF 18 Nov (JB).
Mute Swan: max 17 PRWMA 10 Oct.
Trumpeter Swan: up to 8/day PRWMA thru; 2 Lucky Star Lake 30 Oct included one with green wing tag #242 banded and tagged PRWMA Aug 2011; 4 ULLWMA 5 Nov.
Tundra Swan: arr 29 ED 11 Nov; max 400+ BRB 24 Nov.
Wood Duck: numbers at ULLWMA & WHWMA far below previous 2 years; scarce after early Nov.
Gadwall: max 110 PRWMA 7 Nov.
EURASIAN WIGEON (R6): WHWMA 2-5 Nov (TS, MM, JB), 4th consecutive fall at this location.
Am. Wigeon: max 350 PRWMA 7 Nov & WHWMA 30 Nov.
Mallard: numbers low thru.
Am. Black Duck: numbers low thru.
Blue-winged Teal: max 200+ ULLWMA 8 Oct; last 6 Coles Creek Louisville 4 Nov (late).
N. Shoveler: 11 CWF 9 Sep; CWF 7 Oct; PRWMA 10 Oct; 2 WHWMA 23 Oct; 12 L Bonaparte 9 Nov; last CB 20 Nov; more than usual.
N. Pintail: max 16 PRWMA 10 Oct.
Canvasback: shot by hunter CB 22 Oct; WHWMA 2 Nov; only reports.
Redhead: max 500 WHWMA 15 Oct.
Ring-necked Duck: 1000+ ULLWMA 8 Oct; max 5500 WHWMA 2 Nov where 4000+ thru 18 Nov; 900 PRWMA 7 Nov.
Greater Scaup: max 450 SLR CV 25 Nov; no reports from BRB site of traditional fall max counts.
Lesser Scaup: max 350 PRWMA 7 Nov.
King Eider: imm SLR near Massena Intake 1 Oct (JB), early, rare STLA.
Harlequin Duck: CV 25 Nov (JB).

Surf Scoter: arr Ogdensburg 2 Oct; scattered reports 1-3/day L Ontario & SLR thru.
White-winged Scoter: 2 arr ULLWMA 2 Oct; max 160 SBSP 22 Oct.
Black Scoter: ED 16 Oct; 38 ULLWMA 27 Oct; 74 CCSP 4 Nov; 2 KPSP 25 Nov; TP 25 Nov.
Long-tailed Duck: 4 arr SBSP 16 Oct; max 500+ ED 11 Nov.
Bufflehead: arr PRWMA 22 Oct;
Com. Goldeneye: juv WHWMA 3 Sep, prob local/regional product; arr CCSP 23 Oct; max 345 SLR Massena 27 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: max 355 WHWMA 27 Nov.
Com. Merganser: max 250+ Coles Creek 18 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: arr SLR Waddington 1 Oct; max 70 MP 10 Nov.
Ruddy Duck: max 34 KPSP 25 Nov.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 55 ULLWMA 4 Sep; 36 PRWMA 10 Oct; last ULLWMA 12 Nov.
Red-throated Loon: 3 SBSP 16 Oct; 3 SBSP 22 Oct; only reports.
Com. Loon: max 30+ CCSP 13 Nov.
Horned Grebe: 2 arr BI 17 Sep; max away from L Ontario 5-10/day SLR mouth Coles Creek 23 Oct - 13 Nov; max 45+ StPt 7 Nov.
Red-necked Grebe: 2 SLR Waddington 17 Sep; 2 ED 10 Oct; SBSP 22 Oct; 1-2/day SLR mouth Coles Creek 23 Oct - 5 Nov; StPt 24 Oct; PilPt 20 Nov; StPt 29 Oct; ULLWMA 4 Nov; SLR Waddington 18 Nov; good showing.
Double-crested Cormorant: 1200+ ED 11 Sep; 2000+ moving S near SBSP 12 Sep.
Am. Bittern: last FD 19 Oct.
Great Egret: max 191 WS 4 Sep, Regional record high; 37 still present WS 15 Oct, where none by 4 Nov.
Cattle Egret: Waddington hayfield 27 Nov (JB).
Green Heron: last ED 22 Oct.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: last PRWMA 10 Sep.
Turkey Vulture: last 2 ED 11 Nov.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: last FD 8 Nov.
Bald Eagle: influx of wintering birds late Nov.
N. Goshawk: imm CV 30 Oct; imm ULLWMA 4 Nov.
Red-shouldered Hawk: last 2 WBSP late Oct.
Broad-winged Hawk: last reports late Sep.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr FD 22 Oct.
Am. Kestrel: scarce after 2nd week Oct.
Merlin: 6 on wintering territories CV farms by late Nov.
Peregrine Falcon: pr Long Sault Dam thru; ED 11 Sep; Canton 18 Sep.
Virginia Rail: Massena 9 Sep.
Sora: ICNC 5 Sep.
Com. Gallinule: last PRWMA 22 Oct.
Am. Coot: max 250 PRWMA 7 Nov; 60 KPSP 25 Nov.
Sandhill Crane: 3 Ellisburg 10 Oct (CB), believed to be local family group.
Black-bellied Plover: max 45 ED 29 Oct; last 8 ED 7 Nov.
Am. Golden-Plover: SLR Louisville 3 Sep; ED 11 Sep; ULLWMA 23 Sep; 2 ED 10 Oct.
Semipalmated Plover: max 34 ED 11 Sep.
Killdeer: last Waddington 23 Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: last ED 29 Oct.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 30-37/day CWF thru 15 Sep; last ED 10 Oct.
Solitary Sandpiper: fewer reports than recent years; none after mid-Sep.
Spotted Sandpiper: last CWF 23 Sep.
Ruddy Turnstone: max 13 ED 11 Sep; last ED 29 Oct.
Red Knot: imm ED 11 Sep (JB).
Sanderling: max 24 ED 11 Sep; last Murphy I 18 Nov.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 8 CWF 15 Sep; last CWF 7 Oct.
Least Sandpiper: max 7 ED 11 Sep & CWF 15 Sep.
White-rumped Sandpiper: 3 ED 11 Sep.
Baird's Sandpiper: WP 7 Oct; ED 7 Nov.
Pectoral Sandpiper: ED 11 Sep; 3 Coles Creek Louisville 7 Oct; scarce.
Dunlin: Waddington 18 Nov; 4 ED 29 Oct; 7 ED 7 Nov; scarce.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: imm on large municipal building lawn Canton 5-6 Sep (JB, photos!).
Wilson's Snipe: max 50 FD 13 Oct; last CB 20 Nov.
Am. Woodcock: last reports by hunters 1st week Nov.
Wilson's Phalarope: 2 WHWMA 5 Nov (JB).
Red-necked Phalarope: CWF 1 Sep (JB).
Red Phalarope: ED 16 Oct (JB); CCSP 4 Nov (JB).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: SLR Ogdensburg 2 Oct (JB).
Caspian Tern: last 4 LWMA 11 Sep.
Com. Tern: last SBSP 22 Oct.
Forster's Tern: 5 PtPen 11 Sep (SK); LWMA 8 Oct (AC, BF).
Pomarine Jaeger: SBSP 11 Nov (JB).

Parasitic Jaeger: SBSP 16 Oct (JB); RWSP 16 Sep (TS); 2 SBSP 22 Oct (JB).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: last FD 7 Sep.
E. Screech-Owl: FD 22 Sep; several reports N JEFF Sep & Oct.
Snowy Owl: WHWMA 10 Nov; LWMA 22 Nov; 2 RMPD 23 Nov; Gouverneur 26 Nov.
Short-eared Owl: 2 Lyme 19 Nov; Chaumont 25 Nov.
N. Saw-whet Owl: injured owl FD taken to rehab 26 Oct.
Com. Nighthawk: none.
E. Whip-poor-will: heard calling CV, Chaumont, FD 10-23 Sep; last calls picked up by automated recording units FD 3 Oct (CLO).
Chimney Swift: last FD 7 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last FD 20 Sep.
Red-headed Woodpecker: last FD 18 Sep; imm CV mid-Nov thru.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last Louisville 15 Oct.
Black-backed Woodpecker: Massawepie L 13 Nov, only report.
N. Flicker: no large movements noted for 2nd consecutive year.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: FD 19 Sep, only report.
E. Wood-Pewee: last FD 13 Sep.
Willow Flycatcher: last *Empidonax* FD banding station 21 Sep, likely Willow based on brown upperparts and wing measurements.
Least Flycatcher: last FD 14 Sep.
E. Phoebe: last FD 1 Nov.
Great Crested Flycatcher: last FD 7 Sep.
E. Kingbird: last FD 2 Sep.
N. Shrike: arr Canton 29 Oct.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last FD 27 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: migr arr FD 26 Sep; last 2 FD 12 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: last FD 21 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: 2 ICNC 5 Sep; ICNC 10 Sep; max 4 PtPen 11 Sep (SK); MM 13 Sep; 10 reports FD thru 29 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: last ED 22 Oct, late.
Gray Jay: 8-10 Five Ponds Wilderness 3-5 Sep; 6 MM 10 Sep.
Purple Martin: last FD 1 Sep.
Tree Swallow: last 35 PRWMA 22 Oct, high total for date.
Cliff Swallow: last 2 ED 11 Sep.
Barn Swallow: last CCSP 17 Sep.
Boreal Chickadee: max 8 MM 13 Sep.
House Wren: last FD 29 Sep.
Winter Wren: migr arr FD 26 Sep.

Sedge Wren: PRGC 23 Sep (JB); FD 27 Sep (JB).
Marsh Wren: last FD 3 Oct.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr FD 26 Sep.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr FD 27 Sep; last FD 26 Oct.
E. Bluebird: max 21 PtPen 22 Oct.
Veery: last FD 14 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: first night flight calls Canton 21 Sep; also heard nights of 23, 26 & 27 Sep; last FD 5 Oct.
Swainson's Thrush: many night flight calls Canton 14, 21, 23, 26 & 27 Sep; max 100+ calls/minute during 10-minutes Canton 23 Sep; last FD 5 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: last FD 1 Nov.
Wood Thrush: last Canton 23 Sep.
Am. Robin: heaviest movement 24-28 Oct.
Gray Catbird: last FD 11 Oct.
N. Mockingbird: ad feeding y FD 6 Sep (late); Antwerp 26 Sep.
Brown Thrasher: last FD 4 Oct.
Am. Pipit: arr FD 20 Sep.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: CCSP 5 Nov; ED 7 Nov; 2 FD 15 Nov; few reports.
Snow Bunting: arr FD 28 Oct; max 70 CCSP 13 Nov.
Ovenbird: last FD 28 Sep.
N. Waterthrush: last FD 1 Sep.
Golden-winged Warbler: last 2 ICNC 5 Sep.
Blue-winged Warbler: last Chaumont 10 Sep.
Black-and-white Warbler: last ED 11 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: last FD 11 Oct, singing male.
Orange-crowned Warbler: FD 21 Sep, 6, 14 & 17 Oct; ICNC 2 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: last FD 3 Oct.
Mourning Warbler: last Canton 18 Sep.
Com. Yellowthroat: last FD 6 Oct.
Am. Redstart: last Chaumont 10 Sep.
Cape May Warbler: 1-3/day FD thru 29 Sep, more than usual; last FD 3 Oct.
N. Parula: last FD 23 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: last FD 6 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last CCSP 1 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: heavy movement 5-10 Sep; last several locations 10 Sep.
Yellow Warbler: last ED 11 Sep.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: last FD 19 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: last 3 ICNC 21 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last ICNC 8 Oct.
Palm Warbler: many "Yellow" still on MM nesting grounds 21 Sep; last FD 4 Oct.
Pine Warbler: max 12 FD 13 Sep; last FD 11 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 80 ICNC 8 Oct; 29 ED 11 Nov, good number for date; 1-3/day near L Ontario late Nov.
Prairie Warbler: last FD 4 Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last FD 5 Oct.
Canada Warbler: last FD 1 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: last FD 28 Sep.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: last ED 22 Oct.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr ICNC 21 Oct.
Chipping Sparrow: last FD 31 Oct.
Field Sparrow: last FD 19 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: last FD 11 Oct.
Savannah Sparrow: last Massena 13 Nov.
Fox Sparrow: arr ICNC 8 Oct; last FD 9 Nov.
Song Sparrow: more than usual late Nov.
Lincoln's Sparrow: 1-4/day FD 12 Sep thru 12 Oct.
Swamp Sparrow: scarce after 5 Nov.
White-throated Sparrow: fewer migrants than usual.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr ICNC 23 Sep; last FD 3 Nov.
Dark-eyed Junco: fewer migrants than usual with few flocks > 25.
Scarlet Tanager: last Canton 18 Sep.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last FD 4 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: last FD 27 Sep.
Bobolink: last FD 19 Sep.
E. Meadowlark: last 4 FD 28 Oct.
Rusty Blackbird: possible local breeders at Five Ponds Wilderness 4 Sep & MM 10 Sep; arr ICNC 23 Sep; max 580+ ULLWMA 21 Oct flying to roost with other blackbirds.
White-winged Crossbill: 2 arr FD 5 Oct; MM 12 Oct; 2 Massawepie L. 13 Nov.
Com. Redpoll: 4 CCSP 5 Nov; max 20 FD 16 Nov; scarce.
Pine Siskin: 50+ arr FD 5 Oct; 56 Massawepie L. 13 Nov; many reports smaller flocks Oct & Nov.

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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The fall season of 2011 continued the year's trend of wet weather and above average temperatures, with two of the three months being the warmest on record. September was one of them, with temperatures 3-5° above average across the Region. The remnants of tropical storm *Lee* hit the Region on the 5th, bringing temperatures as high as 86° in Peru and dumping 1.5-2" of rain in a single day. Most of the lower elevation areas of the Region made it through September without a single hard frost, though some places, such as Inlet, dipped just below freezing on the 17th. October continued to stay warm and wet, with temperatures 2.1° above average across the Region, and record highs on the 9th-11th of 80° in Lake Placid and Peru. The first hard frost in the Champlain Valley came late in the month, with the coldest night dipping down to 25° in Peru on the 29th. Rainfall for the month was slightly above average, with 3.5-4.25" total. A record snowstorm blanketed much of the state on the 28th, but the Region escaped its fury and received no measurable snowfall in October. November became yet another of the warmest months on record, with temperatures 5-6° above normal in the Region. Temperatures ranged from a high of 66° in Peru on the 10th to a low of 15° in Tupper Lake on the 22nd. Most of the month was dry, with precipitation 1-2" below average, but a large amount of snow did blanket the Region on the 23rd, dumping 8" of snow in Tupper Lake, 10" in Peru, and 12" in Elizabethtown.

The remnants of tropical storm *Lee* brought a peak in shorebird activity at the Chazy Riverlands, with good numbers of shorebirds stopping to refuel between 1 and 6 September and continuing their journey once the storm passed. Notable sightings at the riverlands during that period include 40 Black-bellied Plovers, 3 American Golden-Plovers, 2 Ruddy Turnstones, and 8 **Whimbrel**, which is only the sixth record in Clinton County. The same storm also brought 113 Bonaparte's Gulls to Noblewood and a Solitary Sandpiper to Bellmont on the 6th. Other notable lake sightings in the period include a Purple Sandpiper on Valcour Island on 21 November and a **Black-legged Kittiwake** on 22 October, only the second record for Clinton County.

Waterfowl migration did not have a clear peak this year, and the lack of cold weather caused a few species to linger on inland lakes later than usual. Late sightings included two Wood Ducks on Shaw Pond on 7 November, two Gadwall in Cold Brook on 20 November, and a Northern Shoveler at Hoisington Brook on 16 November. Only one scoter, a lone White-winged Scoter, was reported during the period from the Paul Smith's VIC on 16 November. With the wet season causing some farmers to cut their corn later than usual, Snow Geese also stayed in the Region later than normal, with a flock of 6,000 still present on 28 November in Chazy. Common Loons were still present on inland

lakes of the Adirondacks at the end of the period, where waters remained unfrozen.

Mild temperatures meant a slightly later migration for most species of passerines, with a good diversity of warblers being reported into the end of September and boreal species being reported into mid-October. The biggest warbler surprise for the season was a **Prairie Warbler** sighted at Camp Dudley on 26 November, a rare species in the Region at any time of year and certainly unexpected in November. Other late migrants included a Red-eyed Vireo on 23 October in Saranac Lake, an Orange-crowned Warbler in Elizabethtown on 17 November, and a Gray Catbird in Keene that stayed in my yard from 27 November thru the end of the period.

Raptor migration was not well recorded this year, as there were no reports of high numbers of migrants for the season. Two Golden Eagles were reported on 3 and 10 September, and two Red-Shouldered Hawks were seen on 3 September. There were equally few records of migrating sparrows, with only two Fox Sparrow reports and three White-Crowned Sparrow sightings. Snow Buntings arrived on 9 November in Newcomb and were seen across the Region in small numbers through the period.

As predicted in the 2011-2012 Winter Finch forecast, strong numbers of siskins and crossbills were seen in the Region beginning in late October. The first record of Pine Siskins came from a hike I did of The Brothers in Keene on 26 September, but it wasn't until late October that I began to see large flocks on every hike I took through conifer forests. Flocks of up to 250 birds were reported by multiple observers from high elevation forests, as birds flocked to the Region to take advantage of the excellent hemlock and spruce cone crops. Crossbills also arrived to take advantage of the cone crops, but in smaller numbers. The highest numbers reported were 13 Red Crossbills on 8 November and 25 White-winged Crossbills on 9 November. I suspect more reports will continue through the winter season.

A total of 173 species was reported in the fall season, an average number but well below the record of 194 species set in 2007.

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; HF – Huntington Forest; IF – Intervale Farm; LP – Lake Placid; MRP – Moose River Plains; NP – Noblewood Pk; PS – Paul Smiths; RF – Reagan Flats Rd; RTT – Roosevelt Truck Trail; SB – Sabattis Bog; SL – Saranac Lake; WP – Westport.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 5000 CR 11 Oct (SP); 400 Burke 15 Oct (NR); max 6000 West Chazy 28 Nov (MM).

Cackling Goose: CH 26 Oct (BK).

Canada Goose: max 1000 WP 16 Oct (J&PT).

Wood Duck: max 6 HF 20 Oct (CD); last 2 Shaw Pd 7 Nov (HZ).

Gadwall: 2 PS 20 Nov (BM); 2 Cold Brook Rd 20 Nov (HZ).

Am. Black Duck: max 15 Bulwagga Bay 15 Oct; 7 PS 16 Nov (SF).

Blue-winged Teal: 3 FB 30 Sep (GL), only report.

N. Shoveler: Hoisington Brook 16 Nov (SF), only report.

Green-winged Teal: IF 11 Sep (LM).

Ring-necked Duck: 3 FB 9 Oct (WL); max 60 HF 20 Oct (CD); L Abanakee 1 Oct (FM); 4 Chimney Mt 2 Nov (LH); LP 15 Nov (ED).

White-winged Scoter: PS 16 Nov (SF), only report.

Long-tailed Duck: CH 26 Oct (BK); Piseco L 2 Nov (LH).

Bufflehead: arr 4 PS 10 Nov; max 16 Hoisington Brook 16 Nov; 4 LP 16 Nov; 15 L Colby 17 Nov (AB).

Com. Goldeneye: 21 PS 16 Nov (SF); CP 25 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: 3 SB 19 Nov (JC); max 21 PS 16 Nov (SF); 4 Fifth L 23 Nov (GL).

Com. Merganser: max 35 Whallons Bay 16 Oct (J&PT).

Red-breasted Merganser: Paradox L 3 Nov (SS), only report.

Com. Loon: max 33 CH 36 Oct; Inlet 30 Nov, still present on inland lakes thru November.

Pied-billed Grebe: AP 29 Oct (AB, SO, TM), only report.

Horned Grebe: arr 4 WP 15 Oct (J&PT); 6 Whallons Bay 9 Nov (MM); 5 LC 21 Nov (WS).

Red-necked Grebe: CH 19 Oct (BK); Piseco L 21 Oct (LH).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 220 Bulwagga Bay 15 Oct (JE); last Stony Pt 27 Nov.

Am. Bittern: CR 2 Sep (BK), only report.

Great Egret: CR 3 Sep (J&PT); 3 RF 4 Sep (RS, HZ).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 RF 4 Sep (RS); PS 21 Sep (BM).

Turkey Vulture: last 2 SB 27 Oct (JC).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: L Abanakee 1 Oct (FM); last Hope 2 Oct (MY).

Bald Eagle: max 2 Oseetah L 2 Sep (GD); CH 22 Oct (BK); CP 25 Nov.

N. Harrier: CR 2-8 Sep; CH 11 Oct; Mt Van Hoevenberg 4 Oct; max 3 WP 15 Oct; 2 Paradox L 3 Nov.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 4 IF 17 Sep (LM).

Cooper’s Hawk: IF 17 Sep (LM); CH 2 Sep & 3 Oct (BK).

N. Goshawk: Peru 10 & 28 Sep; SB 27 Oct; Split Rock 9 Nov; Keene 12 Nov.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 St Regis Mt 3 Sep (GD); IF 19 Sep (LM).

Broad-winged Hawk: max 2 FB 19 Sep (JA); last Marcy Dam 7 Oct (MM).

Rough-legged Hawk: 3 WP 5 Nov; 3 dark ph WP 13 Nov; 2 lt ph Essex 13 Nov; CP 25 Nov; L Colby 17 Nov.

GOLDEN EAGLE: Poke-O-Moonshine 3 Sep (J&PT); Peru 10 Sep (DR).

Am. Kestrel: last Dickinson Ctr 10 Nov (DK, HZ)

Merlin: Ampersand Mt 2 Sep; max 2 Silver L Bog 9 Sep; Osgood Pd 11 Sep; SB 29 Nov.

Peregrine Falcon: CR 1 Sep (BK, MMe); RF 7 Sep (RS, HZ); WP 5 Nov (AB, SO, TM).

Com. Gallinule: RF 7 Sep (RS, HZ).

Black-bellied Plover: CR 5-8 Sep, max 40 5 Sep (MMe, BK).

Am. Golden-Plover: CR 1-6 Sep, max 3.

Semipalmated Plover: CR 1-10 Sep, max 31 9 Sep (MMe, BK); 2 L Colby 5 Sep (AB).
Killdeer: 15 Piseco Airport 27 Oct.
Spotted Sandpiper: last WP 16 Oct (J&PT).
Solitary Sandpiper: Belmont Ctr 6 Sep (NR); CR 9 Sep (BK).
Greater Yellowlegs: NP 6 Sep (MMe); CR 9 Sep (BK).
Whimbrel: 8 CR 5 Sep (MMe), 6th rec CLIN.
Ruddy Turnstone: CR 1-6 Sep, max 2 1 Sep (MMe, BK).
Sanderling: CR 1-9 Sep, max 3 6 Sep (BK); NP 6 Sep (MMe).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: CR 2-10 Sep, max 35 9 Sep (BK); NP 11 Sep (MK).
Least Sandpiper: CR 6-9 Sep, max 24 5 Sep (BK, MMe).
Purple Sandpiper: Valcour I 21 Nov (WS), good find.
Dunlin: 2 GBM 17 Oct (BK).
Wilson's Snipe: LA 3 Sep (J&PT); last RF 4 Sep (RS).
Black-legged Kittiwake: imm CH 22 Oct (DH), 2nd rec CLIN.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 113 NP 6 Sep (MMe); 50 Whallons Bay 16 Oct (J&PT); 2 Stony Pt 27 Nov.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 8 Bullwagga Bay 15 Oct (JE).
Com. Tern: max 121 NP 6 Sep (MMe); 6 GBM 9 Sep (BK); 28 WP 23 Sep (B&LH); last 2 WP 15 Oct (J&PT).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Browns Tract 19 Sep (JA).
Snowy Owl: Malone 12 Nov (CB); Camp Dudley 26 Nov (BM, SO, TM).
Barred Owl: 2 Oseetah L 4 Sep (GD); Keene 4-9 Sep (J&PT); Akey Rd 23 Oct (CMJr).
Short-eared Owl: Clark Rd Essex 23 Nov thru, max 10 23 Nov (CD, ED, J&PT).
N. Saw-whet Owl: Hocum I 3 Sep (TA); Keene 3 Sep & 12 Nov (J&PT); The Brothers 26 Sep (MM).
Com. Nighthawk: max 6 L Colby 1 Sep (AB); last 2 Panther Peak 3 Sep (KF).
Whip-poor-will: Clintonville 3 Sep; Port Kent 3-4 Sep (DR).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Inlet 30 Sep (GL).
Belted Kingfisher: max 2 Oseetah L 2 Sep; Roostercomb Mt 30 Nov (MM).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: Hope 2 Oct (MY).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 5 IF 17 Sep (LM); last Mt Van Hoevenberg 4 Oct (MM).

Black-backed Woodpecker: Silver L Bog 9 Sep (MM); 3 FB 9 Oct (WL); 2 SB 27 Oct; max 4 RTT 29 Nov (JC).
N. Flicker: max 10 Piseco 6 Sep (B&LH)
Pileated Woodpecker: max 3 Minerva 9 Nov (JC).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: RF 7 Sep (RS, HZ); last IF 17 Sep (LM).
E. Wood-Pewee: Belmont 1 Sep (NR); last RF 7 Sep (RS, HZ).
Least Flycatcher: last IF 18 Sep (LM).
E. Phoebe: last IF 29 Sep (LM).
N. Shrike: arr Inlet 14 Oct (GL); Piseco 2 Nov (LH); L Colby 17 Nov (AB); Cold Brook Rd 20 Nov (HZ).
Blue-headed Vireo: last FB 30 Sep (GL).
Philadelphia Vireo: IF 18 Sep (LM); last Piseco 21 Sep (LH).
Red-eyed Vireo: last SL 23 Oct (AB).
Gray Jay: Hamilton 29 Sep (JM); 2 FB 9 Oct (WL); 5 BB 22 Oct (AB); max 6 SB 29 Oct; 2 PS 10 Nov.
Horned Lark: max 20 Newcomb 16 Nov (JC); 10 Essex 27 Nov (J&PT); 10 SB 29 Nov.
Barn Swallow: 5 CR 5 Sep (MMe); 3 RF 7 Sep (HZ).
Boreal Chickadee: 4 Great Range 17 Sep; 3 FB 19 Sep; 3 Blue Mt 24 Sep; 4 SB 27 Oct, 4 Sawteeth Mt 8 Nov; max 20 RTT 20 Nov, MRP 30 Nov.
Tufted Titmouse: max 5 WP 27 Nov (J&PT).
House Wren: last Hope 2 Oct (MY).
Winter Wren: last L Durant 25 Sep (JM).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 8 BB 6 Oct (MM); last SB 27 Oct (JC).
E. Bluebird: max 35 IF 29 Sep (LM).
Veery: last Belmont 3 Oct (NR).
Bicknell's Thrush: 30 Great Range 17 Sep (KF).
Swainson's Thrush: last 3 Keene 11 Oct (J&PT).
Hermit Thrush: last SB 23 Oct (MM).
Wood Thrush: L Durant 25 Sep (JM).
Gray Catbird: last Keene 27 Nov thru (MM).
N. Mockingbird: Plattsburgh 29 Oct (AB, SO, TM).
Am. Pipit: 7 Great Range 17 Sep; 2 Hope 2 Oct; 28 Hamilton & 54 Piseco Airport 27 Oct.
Cedar Waxwing: max 120 IF 18 Sep (LM).

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Ovenbird: last Mt Jo 19 Sep (MM).
Tennessee Warbler: Ferds 4 Sep; MRP 5 Sep; 2 IF 18 Sep; Mt Jo 19 Sep; last Black Bear Mt 20 Sep.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Elizabethtown 17 Nov (J&PT).
Nashville Warbler: last The Brothers 26 Sep (MM).
Com. Yellowthroat: last Keene 12 Oct (MM).
Am. Redstart: last L Durant 25 Sep (JM, LS).
Cape May Warbler: Coreys 4 Sep (AL); last Blue Mt 24 Sep (JM, LS).
N. Parula: last L Durant 25 Sep (JM, LS).
Magnolia Warbler: max 4 MRP 5 Sep (KF); last The Brothers 26 Sep (MM).
Bay-breasted Warbler: FB 4 Sep; MRP 5 Sep; L Durant 25 Sep; last IF 29 Sep.
Blackburnian Warbler: last IF 26 Sep (LM).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last IF 11 Sep (LM).
Blackpoll Warbler: last Marcy Dam 7 Oct (MM).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last SB & L Durant 25 Sep (JM, LS).
Palm Warbler: last 2 FB 13 Oct (SP).
Pine Warbler: IF 29 Sep; last 2 Piseco 21 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 35 Blue Mt 24 Sep (JM, LS).
Prairie Warbler: Camp Dudley 26 Nov (BM, SO, TM), an unexpected find.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last L Durant 25 Sep (JM, LS).
Wilson's Warbler: Willis L 10 Sep (KC); IF 11 Sep (LM); Keene 18 Sep (MM); last Black Bear Mt 20 Sep (JA).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 4 Piseco 27 Oct; max 6 Dickinson Ctr 10 Nov (DK).
Chipping Sparrow: max 40 IF 29 Sep (LM); last Piseco 27 Oct (LH, EH).
Field Sparrow: 2 Piseco 21 Sep & 27 Oct (LH).
Savannah Sparrow: max 5 RF 7 Sep (RS, HZ); last 2 WP 16 Oct.

Fox Sparrow: SL 23 Oct (AB); SB 29 Oct (JC).
Lincoln's Sparrow: BB 4 Sep (GD); MRP 5 Sep (KF); last IF 29 Sep (LM).
Swamp Sparrow: last BB 22 Oct (AB).
White-throated Sparrow: max 20 Essex 16 Oct (SP).
White-crowned Sparrow: IF 29 Sep; max 6 Belmont 3 Oct (NR); Dickinson Ctr 10 Nov (DK).
Snow Bunting: arr 14 L Harris 9 Nov (AW); PS 10 Nov (HZ, DK); max 250 CH 14 Nov (AB); 5 Essex 28 Nov (J&PT).
Scarlet Tanager: last MRP 5 Sep (KF).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last 2 Keene 10 Sep.
Indigo Bunting: last MRP 5 Sep (KF).
Bobolink: Hocum 1 3 Sep (TA).
Red-winged Blackbird: max 850 RF 4 Sep.
E. Meadowlark: 2 WO 15 Oct; 3 Piseco 27 Oct (LH, EH).
Rusty Blackbird: L Pleasant 8 Oct (JW); max 5 Keene 13 Oct (J&PT); indiv's at SB, AP, & Port Kent 27 Oct; last WP 5 Nov (AB, SO, TM), small numbers but good number of reports.
Purple Finch: max 20 RTT 16 Nov (JC).
Red Crossbill: 5 Browns Tract 22 Sep; PS & SB 25 Sep; max 13 St Regis Mt & 1 Keene 8 Nov; 7 RTT 29 Nov.
White-winged Crossbill: BB 22 Oct; max 25 Newcomb 9 Nov; 6 Long L 15 Nov; 24 SB 19 Nov, a good irruption year so far.
Pine Siskin: arr 2 The Brothers 26 Sep; 17 Lyon Mt 22 Oct; 200 SB 27 Oct; 130 Sawteeth Mt 8 Nov; 200 Ampersand Mt 15 Nov; 235 RTT 16 Nov; 200 Minerva 29 Nov, a frequent sight in conifer forests from late October thru.
Evening Grosbeak: 6 LP 6 Nov (LL); 12 Minerva 9 Nov; 5 RTT 16 Nov (JC).



REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Fall 2011 brought in very mild and overall wet conditions. September ended 3.2° F above average with 3.32" more rain than average, with much of that moisture associated with the remnants of Tropical Storm *Lee* that dropped more than 3 inches in the Region from 5-8 September. Flooding in many fields, along

watercourses, and in low-lying urban areas was common, especially on the heels of a very wet summer. October continued warm, ending 3.2° above average, with an average amount of rain. The first frost occurred late, not until 28 October at Albany International Airport. The first killing frost did not occur until a freak Halloween snowstorm arrived, dusting pumpkins with a heavy white snow. November ended unseasonably warm, 4.7° above average, and dry. In November, the landscape seemed April-like in the valleys where grass and winter cover crops took advantage of the sun and warmth and looked downright lush in places. All watercourses remained ice free well into Christmas Bird Count season.

The rarest bird of the season, a blow-in from Tropical Storm *Lee*, was a **Magnificent Frigatebird** spotted by Tim O'Connor at South Bay in Hudson, a first ever sighting for Columbia County. The report is awaiting NYSARC verification, but details were good for this distinctive species.

The weather also created another county first for Columbia County and a rare sighting across the Hudson in Greene County, where Rich Guthrie spotted three **Forster's Terns** fly from Coxsackie to Stockport on 10 September. A fairly common fall migrant in the lower Hudson River, Forster's Terns rarely get even as far north as Dutchess County and remain unrecorded for many towns north of that.

Some interesting shorebirds tarried in the Region, despite the high water around many rivers and streams. Area birders recorded **American Golden-Plover**, **Stilt Sandpiper**, and **White-rumped Sandpiper** as well as more common but infrequent shorebirds, such as Short-billed Dowitcher, Sanderling, and Dunlin at an unusual four separate locations.

Bob Yunick echoed other birders when he remarked that raptors were scarce this fall. Usually productive in fall, the Fort Edward grasslands in Washington County turned up only one Rough-legged Hawk and very few Northern Harriers, a species that was tough to find in many places this November. Reports of American Kestrels dribbled in from scattered locations, as did reports of Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, and Bald Eagle, all of which are considered so common along the Hudson these days that I often neglect to mention them.

Rich Guthrie also added to the rarity list this year by spotting a **Say's Phoebe** actively feeding and flying about the sun-warmed side of a building near the Coxsackie Grasslands. Typically hyper and phoebe-like, the bird did not tarry long enough for others to get a handle on it.

American Pipits seemed abundant this year. There was an order of magnitude more reports this fall than any other; too many, in fact, to list in the full report. The abundance is perhaps the result of a good breeding year on the tundra? My own experience, admittedly anecdotal, was that I found them even in small fields of 2-3 acres of planted winter rye, the kinds of small fields that most would drive straight by while searching for more promising birding locations. Sparrow migration was mixed, with the beginnings of what seems to be shaping up to be another dreadful year for American Tree Sparrows. A few reports of Lincoln Sparrows and Vesper Sparrow came in, but no *Ammodramus*

sparrows or any rare species. The lack of snow cover or harsh weather seemed to make any passerines hard to find in late fall, and lonely feeding stations abounded. However, higher-than-average reports of Cape May Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, and Orange-crowned Warbler suggest that all of these species had a good breeding year in Canada.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

COX – T Cossackie, GREE; FtE – T Fort Edwards, WASH; HR – Hudson Ri; TR – Tomhannock Res., RENS; VF – Vischer's Ferry, SARA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

(R8): Ft. Miller WASH 5 Nov; Queensbury SARA 13 Nov (mob).

Snow Goose: max 20 Stuyvesant COLU 2 Nov.

Brant: max 30 New Baltimore GREE 19 Oct.

Cackling Goose: Rensselaerville ALBA 2 Oct; 2 Brunswick RENS 18-24 Oct; 2 Germantown COLU 4 Nov.

Gadwall: max 5 Stony Creek Res SARA 23 Oct.

N. Shoveler: max 8 Stanton Pd ALBA 15 Nov.

N. Pintail: max 12 Stanton Pd ALBA 22 Oct.

Ring-necked Duck: max 130 Galway L SARA 25 Nov.

Surf Scoter: 7 TR 23 Oct.

White-winged Scoter: max 11 L George WARR 15 Nov.

Black Scoter: max 12 COX Res 4 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: 3 Collins L SCHE 11 Nov; 2 Saratoga L SARA 26 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: Stanton Pd ALBA 13-15 Nov; TR 25 Nov; Galway L SARA 25 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: last 11 TR 22 Nov.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Kinderhook COLU 26 Oct.

Red-throated Loon: TR 7-30 Nov.

Com. Loon: max 10 Saratoga L SARA 20 Nov.

Horned Grebe: max 10 Saratoga L SARA 20 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: 2 L George WARR 1-3 Nov; TR 11-25 Nov; Galway L SARA 25 Nov.

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: South Bay Hudson COLU 5 Sep (TO), 1st COLU record.

Double-crested Cormorant: last TR 17 Nov.

Am Bittern: last Hillsdale COLU 21 Oct.

Great Egret: last Ann Lee Pd ALBA 20 Oct.

Green Heron: last Neiber Swamp Livingston COLU 7 Nov, late.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Corning Preserve ALBA 10 Sep.
Black Vulture: Chatham COLU 25 Oct; 2 Slingerlands ALBA 4 Nov.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: last Stockport COLU 5 Oct.
N. Harrier: 5 reports Region-wide, scarce.
N. Goshawk: Powell Sanctuary Chatham COLU 25 Oct.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Westerlo ALBA 5 Nov; Vosburgh Marsh ALBA 15 Nov.

Golden Eagle: Livingston COLU 10 Oct; Powell Sanctuary Chatham COLU 25 Oct.

Am. Coot: max 8 Burden L RENS 30 Nov.
Black-bellied Plover: last Colonie ALBA 20 Oct.

AM. GOLDEN-PLOVER (R8): 24 Germantown COLU 7 Sep; Charlton SARA 23 Oct (mob).

Greater Yellowlegs: last Colonie ALBA 20 Sep.

Lesser Yellowlegs: last Colonie ALBA 17 Sep.
Sanderling: 3 L George WARR 8 Sep.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (R8): 2 Papscanee RENS 12-13 Sep (mob).

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 8 Papscanee RENS 13 Oct.

Dunlin: max 5 Stockport COLU 2 Oct; Colonie ALBA 2-5 Oct; Stuyvesant COLU 25 Oct; Collins L SCHE 16 Nov.

STILT SANDPIPER (R8): Colonie ALBA 17 Sep; Papscanee RENS 29 Sep; Colonie ALBA 4 Oct.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Colonie 17 Sep.

Bonaparte's Gull: TR 17 Nov.

Caspian Tern: Coeymans ALBA 8 Sep.

FORSTER'S TERN (R8): 3 4-mile Pt GREE to Stockport COLU 11 Sep (RG), 1st COLU record.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last Albany 16 Oct.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Berne ALBA 12-30 Nov.

Com. Nighthawk: last Albany 9 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Austerlitz COLU 2 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 3 Five Rivers ALBA 7 Sep.

Acadian Flycatcher: Greenport COLU 5 Sep.

Least Flycatcher: last Brunswick RENS 4 Oct.

SAY'S PHOEBE: COX grasslands 19 Nov (RG).

Blue-headed Vireo: last VF 23 Oct.

Philadelphia Vireo: last COX grasslands 2 Oct, 7 reports of singles.

Veery: last VF 23 Oct.

Grey-cheeked Thrush: Partridge Run ALBA 27 Sep.

Swainson's Thrush: last VF 23 Oct.

Am. Pipit: 4 Rensselaerville ALBA 2-8 Oct; 40 Greenwich WASH 21 Oct; max 200 FtE WASH 23 Oct; Halfmoon SARA 24 Oct; 60 Stuyvesant COLU 25 Oct; 30 Stuyvesant COLU 2 Nov; 15 Green Acres Farm Livingston COLU 13 Nov.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Snow Bunting: arr Hillsdale COLU 12 Oct.

N. Waterthrush: last Florida MONT 30 Sep.

Black-and-white Warbler: last Florida MONT 30 Sep.

Tennessee Warbler: last TR 23 Oct.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Five Rivers ALBA 1 Oct; Florida MONT 7 Oct; Papscanee RENS 13 Oct; Saratoga SARA 16 Oct.

Mourning Warbler: last Brunswick RENS 17 Sep.

Am. Redstart: last Knox ALBA 16 Oct.

Cape May Warbler: last Partridge Run ALBA 24 Sep, 10 reports of singles.

N. Parula: last Brunswick RENS 4 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Pine Bush ALBA 8 Sep; 2 Brunswick RENS 8 Sep.

Blackburnian Warbler: last Albany 4 Oct.

Blackpoll Warbler: last VF 23 Oct.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: last Saratoga SARA 13 Oct.

Canada Warbler: Great Sacandaga L FULT 28 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: Albany 1 Oct; Meadowdale ALBA 2 Oct.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Austerlitz COLU 12 Oct, low numbers thru.

Vesper Sparrow: Green Acres Farm Livingston COLU 18 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: last Collins L SCHE 24 Oct.

Indigo Bunting: last Florida MONT 5 Oct.

E. Meadowlark: max 11 Rensselaerville ALBA 8 Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: max 30 Ann Lee Pd ALBA 23 Oct; VF 4 Nov.

Red Crossbill: 11 Burnt-Rossman SF SCHO 6 Nov.

White-winged Crossbill: 5 Florida MONT 26 Sep.

Pine Siskin: max 15 Rensselaerville ALBA 9 Oct; Brunswick RENS 2 Nov; Five Rivers

ALBA 5 Nov; 2 Perth FULT 25 Nov.

REGION 9—HUDSON – DELAWARE

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The after-effects of Hurricane/Tropical Storm *Irene*, which hit late in the summer season, lingered well into September. Both Forster's and Common Terns lingered in the Hudson River for the first part of the season after being chased up river by the storm. The rains left the Black Dirt Region of Orange County under water but led to great shore birding habitat. Twenty-six species were found in the county. The flooding returned as the season started with the remnants of Tropical Storm *Lee* soaking the area with 6.5-7.0" of rain from 6-8 September. Passages of two cold fronts on 15 September led to a great weekend of birding for both hawks and passerines. The month ended with a total 10-11.4" of rain and was 3.5° to 3.8° F warmer than average. Most of October was also wet and warm, with temperatures 1.3° to 3.4° above normal and with nearly 5" of precipitation. Late October saw an abrupt change to cold wintery weather, with a record breaking nor'easter dumping 6-21" inches of snow on the entire Region on 29 October. Snow fall totals were highest north and west and with higher elevation. Tree damage was heavy and widespread due to the heavy wet snow and foliage still on the trees. The town of Harriman saw 16", where Mount Vernon saw 6". It looked like we would have a long winter, but the warm weather quickly returned. Poughkeepsie hit a high of 70° on 11 November. Less rain was seen totaling only 3". Temperatures averaged 4.6° warmer than normal.

Deborah and Lee Hunter discovered a **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** with a small flock of Canada Geese on the grass a local bank on 15 November, on the corner of Schutt Road Extension and Dunning Road in Middletown. It was found later the same day behind another bank off of Schutt Road and continued in the area the next day. The bird was then not relocated until 21 November, this time at the intersection of Carmelight Drive and Waywayonder. The elusive bird was again seen 25 November. This is a first record for Orange County and at least one NYSARC was report submitted.

Terry Hardy photographed a banded Double-crested Cormorant in Beacon on 4 October. This cormorant was banded by Dave Capen on Young Island in Lake Champlain as an adult in 2003. An immature **BROWN PELICAN** that was present for a few weeks in Connecticut ventured south and was seen at the Edith G. Read Sanctuary in Rye on 13 November. The bird appeared here again on the 20th. This would be the second record for Westchester County.

Large numbers of Broad-winged Hawks passed the hawk watch sites on 16 & 17 September. Chestnut Ridge reported over 2,500 on 16 September and 9,655 the next day. Hook Mountain surpassed those numbers with 14,670 Hook Mt. on the 17th.

On 9 October, Drew Ciganek heard two Sandhill Cranes barking and watched them jump out of the Tallman Marsh in Rockland County and fly away to the north. Tait Johansson reported four Sandhill Cranes seen flying north and low from the Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch platform, Bedford on 17 November. On the same day Doreen Beebe saw one on the west side of the NYS Thruway in the Town of Ulster.

The farms in black dirt region of Orange County were inundated by flooding in early September. Shorebirds in the thousands stopped in the flooded fields making for discoveries almost daily at this newly created shorebird hotspot. The event produced many new county records. The reports started slowly, with unusual birds for the county such as a few White-rumped Sandpipers and a pair of Stilt Sandpipers on 3 September. A few days later unprecedented numbers of White-rumped Sandpiper were being found. As more birders searched the area more rarities were discovered. On 9 September, John Haas found Orange County's first record of Willet on Turtle Bay Road, New Hampton. As other people arrived to see the bird Rob Stone found a hatch year Red Knot at the same location, also a first Orange County record. John Haas also found four Hudsonian Godwits in Pine Island, Orange County on 15 September. They relocated later in the day to Skinners Lane in Goshen. Peter Schoenberger and Susan Rogers found a Whimbrel while kayaking on the Hudson River on 2 September. The bird was working the water chestnut just south of Saugerties lighthouse in Saugerties, Ulster County. Barry Babcock found a phalarope on Skinner Lane in Orange County on 7 September. After much discussion, Rob Stone, John Haas and others determined the bird to be a **RED PHALAROPE**, a first record for Orange County. Photos were obtained by John Haas. The bird continued to the following day. At least one NYSARC report was submitted by Ken McDermott. A second Red Phalarope was found by Steve Chorvas at Greig Farm, Red Hook in Dutchess County on 10 October. There were also sightings of Red-necked Phalarope in the area on 8 & 15 September.

A female **RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD** appeared at Mountainville on 15 October and was seen by many. Excellent photos were taken by Curt McDermott. The bird remained through 9 November. A report was filed with NYSARC. Another **RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD** appeared at the Lenoir Nature Preserve in Yonkers, Westchester County. This immature female was first observed on 6 November by Bill Van Wart at a feeder behind the Lenoir Mansion where Hudson River Audubon Society conducts a part-time hawk watch. It was later found coming to one of the three feeders inside the butterfly garden. It also preferred some blooming pineapple sage that flowers late into the fall. This is the fourth time in eleven years that this species occurred at the garden. The bird was seen daily until 25 November, when a second hummingbird appeared, an immature male Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Both appeared daily until the end of the fall season. The Rufous Hummingbird continued into December. Robert Yunick captured, banded, and measured both birds on 30 November and confirmed the species and sex of each and that both were hatch-year birds. NYSARC reports were submitted.

A **NORTHERN WHEATEAR** was found by Christopher Letts and confirmed by Charlie Roberto at the southern end of the Croton Train Station, Croton-on-Hudson on 6 September. Many observers were able to see it before nightfall. Fortunately it remained another two days affording more people an opportunity to observe it. This is Westchester County's fourth record. A second **NORTHERN WHEATEAR** was discovered on 7 October by Rob Stone just north of Oil City Road at the Wallkill Wildlife Management Area. It remained until at least the 9th. This is another first record for Orange County. A NYSARC report was submitted.

Jim Clinton reported 15 species of warblers along with a Philadelphia Vireo and a Lincoln's Sparrow at the Bashakill on 17 September. He later found a Yellow-breasted Chat at Vassar Farm in Dutchess County. Peter Schoenberger photographed an *Ammodramus* sparrow at Greig Farm in Red Hook. After posting it to the internet it was identified as a **LE CONTE'S SPARROW**. Bill Elrick found a Lark Sparrow on Indiana Rd, Goshen on 15 September. A NYSARC report was submitted.

Other notable species reported this season include: Cackling Goose in Westchester and Ulster Counties, Eurasian Wigeon, a drake Barrow's Goldeneye at Edith G. Read Preserve, Northern Bobwhite in Chelsea, Baird's Sandpiper at four locations, Royal Terns in Piermont and Croton Point--rare on the Hudson River, early Northern Shrikes in Orange and Sullivan Counties, Connecticut Warblers, and a few Dickcissels.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Point Park; CIES – Cary Institute for Ecological Studies; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; MLR – Mission Land Road, Pine Island; PP – Piermont Pier; RNC – Rye Nature Center; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR; SkL – Skinner Lane, Goshen; Stony Kill – Stony Kill Farm Environmental Education Center; TBR – Turtle Bay Road, New Hampton.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: Middletown 15-16,21,25 Nov (DP,LHu,KM,DaM,CuM), 1st ORAN record.

Greater White-fronted Goose: outside Middletown 16 Nov (KM).

CACKLING GOOSE (R9): MC 17 Oct (AF); 3 Kingston 5 Nov (MD).

Wood Duck: low numbers at Bashakill due to flooding.

Eurasian Wigeon: Rockland Lake, early Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: 400 Wallkill NWR 25 Sep.

Green-winged Teal: 150 Wallkill NWR 25 Sep.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 4 Mashomak 14 Oct.

Greater Scaup: 5 EGR 5 Nov; 2500 EGR 30 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: 6 EGR 28 Oct; 40 EGR 10 Nov.

Surf Scoter: 20 Rye 24 Nov.

White-winged Scoter: 4 EGR 29 Oct; 16 EGR 21 Nov; 2 Kiamesha Lake 23 Nov; 60 Rye 24 Nov.

Black Scoter: EGR 28 Oct; Neversink Res 5 Nov; 3 EGR 21 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: 4 Ashokan Reservoir 5 Nov; 3 Neversink Res 5 Nov.

Barrow's Goldeneye: drake EGR 23 Nov (TB).

N. Bobwhite: pair Chelsea 7 Oct (RJ).

Ring-necked Pheasant: Buttercup West 24 Sep; CIES 24 Sep; 2 Tivoli 2 Oct.

Red-throated Loon: Yankee Lake 23 Nov; 2 Kiamesha Lake 23 Nov; 18 Rye 24 Nov.

Com. Loon: 8 EGR 21 Nov.

N. Gannet: MC 1 Nov; EGR 13,16,21,23 Nov; 9 Rye 24 Nov.

Double-crested Cormorant: Beacon 4 Oct (TH), banded, *intro.*

Great Cormorant: arr EGR 15 Oct.

BROWN PELICAN (R9): 1 imm EGR 13, 20 Nov (TB, BeV), 2nd WEST record.

Snowy Egret: 3 New Hamburg 8 Sep; 2 Norrie Point 9 Sep.

Little Blue Heron: MC 2 Sep; 2 Wallkill NWR 10 Sep.

Cattle Egret: CPP 2 Sep; Wallkill NWR 3,5,10 Sep.

Green Heron: 7 Saugerties 12 Sep.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: 102 Chestnut Ridge 30 Sep; Hook Mountain 1 Nov; Chestnut Ridge 4 Nov.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 233 Chestnut Ridge 5 Oct; 255 Hook Mountain 6 Oct.

Cooper's Hawk: 48 Chestnut Ridge 7 Oct.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 19 Hook Mt 31 Oct; 24 Chestnut Ridge 11 Nov.

Broad-winged Hawk: 2595 Chestnut Ridge 16 Sep; 9655 Chestnut Ridge 17 Sep; 14670 Hook Mt 17 Sep; 2170 Mt Peter 18 Sep.

Red-tailed Hawk: 144 Chestnut Ridge 4 Nov.

Rough-legged Hawk: CIES 25 Oct; SGNWR 26 Nov.

Golden Eagle: Lenoir Nature Preserve 16 Sep, early; Buttercup East Sanctuary 28 Sep; 4 Summitville 16 Oct; Forsyth Nature Center 28 Oct; Millbrook 28 Oct; MC 30 Oct.

Am. Kestrel: 42 Chestnut Ridge 25 Sep.

Merlin: 8 Chestnut Ridge 21 Oct.

Sandhill Crane: 2 Tallman Marsh 9 Oct (DC); Town of Ulster 17 Nov (DB); 4 Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch 17 Nov (TJ).

Am. Golden-Plover: Kingston 3 Sep; Ascot Park, Ulster 4,5,11-13 Sep; 25 MLR 5 Sep; 20 SkL 8 Sep; 20 TBR 8 Sep; 40 Pine 1 15 Sep; MC 18,21 Sep; Ryder Pd, Amenia 23 Oct; 41 Camel Farm 6 Nov.

Killdeer: 60 MLR 3 Sep.

Am. Oystercatcher: 5 EGR 20 Sep; 2 EGR 2 Oct.

Willet: Croton Train St 7 Sep (TB); 2 TBR 9 Sep (JH, RSt, KM), 1st ORAN record.

Whimbrel: Saugerties 2, 3 Sep (PS,SR,SC,FM); MC 14 Sep (TB).

Hudsonian Godwit: 4 SkL 15 Sep (JH,KM,CM).

Ruddy Turnstone: TBR 8 Sep; SkL 14 Sep.

Red Knot: EGR 1 Sep; 1 imm TBR 9 Sep (RSt, JH), 1st ORAN record; PP 13 Sep (RM); SkL 14 Sep (DS).

Sanderling: Kingston 3 Sep; 6 TBR 8 Sep; 12 SkL 14,15 Sep.
Western Sandpiper: MLR 10 Sep (JS, MB).
Least Sandpiper: 100 MLR 3 Sep.
White-rumped Sandpiper: 3 MLR 3 Sep; 4 SkL 8 Sep; 32 MLR 8 Sep (MB); 250 TBR 8 Sep (JH).
Baird's Sandpiper: Apollo Plaza in Monticello 8 Sep (JH); TBR 8 Sep (JH); PP 13 Sep (RM); Loch Sheldrake 2 Oct (LV).
Pectoral Sandpiper: 31 SkL 8 Sep; 20 TBR 8 Sep; 22 SkL 25 Sep.
Purple Sandpiper: EGR 13 Nov.
Dunlin: Greig Farm, Red Hook 29 Oct.
Stilt Sandpiper: 2 MLR 3 Sep (LL, ML).
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: MLR 3 Sep; 2 MLR 5 Sep; Wurtsboro Airport 8 Sep; Ascot Park, Ulster 11-13 Sep; Pine I 15 Sep.
Short-billed Dowitcher: 4 SkL 8 Sep; SkL 14 Sep.
Wilson's Snipe: 6 SkL 8 Sep; 20 SkL 14 Sep.
Red-necked Phalarope: TBR 8 Sep (RSt); Pine I 15 Sep (JH).
RED PHALAROPE (R9): SkL 7, 8 Sep (BB, RSt,JH, KM), 1st ORAN record; Greig Farm, Red Hook 8-11 Oct (SC, PS, DKr, FM, CV,J,A,RM, AM), 2nd DUTC record.
Bonaparte's Gull: Rockland L 12 Oct; Kiamesha Lake 23 Nov.
Laughing Gull: Summitville Hawk Watch 29 Sep.
Caspian Tern: PP 2 Sep (MT, LPi).
Com. Tern: 2 Yonkers 7 Sep.
Forster's Tern: 25 Croton Bay 6 Sep (CR); 60 EGR 20 Sep; 44 EGR 30 Oct; 17 EGR 13 Nov.
Royal Tern: imm Piermont 2 Sep (EM); 2 CPP 7 Sep (RSI).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Short-eared Owl: SGNWR 26 Nov.
N. Saw-whet Owl: 7 Youngsville 2 Nov, banded; 16 Westchester Com College 28-29 Oct, banded.
Com. Nighthawk: 40 Lagrangeville 3 Sep; 20 Fishkill 5 Sep; 15 Stony Pt 8 Sep.
Chimney Swift: 200 Hook Mt 9 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Lenoir Nature Preserve, Yonkers 25-30 Nov (SA,MB, RY), late.
RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Mountainville 15 Oct- 9 Nov (CM); Lenoir Nature Preserve, Yonkers 6-30 Nov (BiV, MB,RY); Lenoir birds caught, banded, and age and sex confirmed 30 Nov (RY), NYSARC rep submitted, *intro*.
Red-headed Woodpecker: RNC 26 Sep; 2 Weston Rd, New Paltz/Esopus 5 Nov.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Bashakill 3,23 Sep; Fishkill 21 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: MC 1, 14 Sep.
E. Phoebe: Basakill 28 Nov, late.
N. Shrike: Orange County Airport 22 Nov (DFu); Clements Road, Liberty 24, 25 Nov (JH,ABO, SB).
Yellow-throated Vireo: 14 Bashakill 17 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: 2 Bashakill 2 Sep; MC 16 Sep; Woodstock 16,19 Sep; Bashakill 17 Sep; Stony Kill 24 Sep; Vassar Farm 24 Sep; Bashakill 24,25 Sep, 1 Oct; Stony Kill 8 Oct.
Blue Jay: 2750 Lenoir Nature Preserve 1 Oct.
Am. Crow: 1700 Kingston 28 Oct.
Horned Lark: 75 Indiana Rd, Goshen 6 Nov.
Marsh Wren: 5 Stony Kill 25 Sep.
NORTHERN WHEATEAR: Croton Train Station 6-8 Sep (CL,CR), 4th WEST record; Wallkill WMA 7-9 Oct (RSt), 1st ORAN record.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: Bashakill 24 Sep; RNC 26 Sep; Buttercup W 5 Oct.
Am. Pipit: 4 Piermont 28 Oct; 100 Greig Farm, Red Hook 29 Oct; 8 EGR 30 Oct; 50 PP 30 Oct; 9 MC 2 Nov; 20 CPP 13 Nov.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: Greig Farm, Red Hook 10 Oct; CPP 6 Nov.
Snow Bunting: 2 Maybrook 27 Oct; 4 Kingston 29 Oct; 27 Hunter Rd 30 Oct; 6 CPP 6 Nov; 5 CPP 13 Nov; 2 Mohonk Preserve 15 Nov; 36 Neversink Res 25 Nov.
Golden-winged Warbler: Bashakill 3 Sep.
Blue-winged Warbler: Lewisboro 19 Oct.
“Brewster’s” Warbler: Wappingers Falls 17.
Orange-crowned Warbler: N. Dutchess 24 Sep; Kingston 12, 16 Oct; 2 Millbrook 15 Oct.
Connecticut Warbler: CIES 24 Sep; MC 6 Oct (TB); Dennings Pt 7 Oct (DKr); MC 17 Oct (FG,TG).
Mourning Warbler: MC 19,22 Sep; FDR National Historic Site, Hyde Park 28 Sep.
Cape May Warbler: Bashakill 17 Sep; Tymor Forest P, Union Vale 23 Sep; Hook Mt 23 Sep; Bashakill 25 Sep.
Bay-breasted Warbler: Bashakill 3,17,24 Sep; Wappingers Falls 2 Oct.
Palm Warbler: 28 Galeville Town Park 14 Oct.
Yellow-breasted Chat: Rockefeller SP 7 Sep; MC 12 Sep; Vassar Farm 17 Sep; Mt Pleasant Cemetery 25 Sep.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr CPP 13 Nov.
Clay-colored Sparrow: 2 Stony Kill 24 Sep (BeV); Fishkill 25 Sep (SM); Stony Kill 8 Oct (KHa).

Vesper Sparrow: 2 Vassar Farm 17 Sep; 1-3 Greig Farm, Red Hook 10 Oct; Stony Kill 15,22 Oct; Bashakill 17 Oct; Livingston Manor 23 Oct; Ulster 28 Oct; Rockland L 26 Oct; MLR 6 Nov; 2 CPP 6 Nov.

LARK SPARROW (9): Indiana Rd, Goshen 15 Sep (BE, KM), NYSARC rep submitted.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Stony Kill 24 Sep; Hunter Rd 30 Oct, feeding with Savannah Sparrow after snow storm.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW: Greig Farm, Red Hook 9, 10 Oct (PS-ph, DKo).

Nelson's Sparrow: MC 4 Oct; Greig Farm, Red Hook 10, 11 Oct; 6 MC 10 Oct; 3 MC 31 Oct; MC 1 Nov.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Bashakill 17 Sep.

White-crowned Sparrow: many reports in Oct.

Blue Grosbeak: pair and 2 yg TBR 9,10 Sep (JH,KM).

Dickcissel: MC 13 Sep, 3 Oct (TB); 2 Stony Kill 24 Sep (BeV); 3 Stony Kill 28 Sep (SG); Yonkers 6 Oct (JG,BM); CPP 10 Oct (LL).

Baltimore Oriole: CPP 13 Nov; Yonkers 23 Nov, late.

Pine Siskin: some reports from SULL from mid Oct – mid Nov; small flock Forsyth Nature Center, Kingston 7 Nov; Accord 20 Nov.

Evening Grosbeak: 10 Vassar Farm 24 Sep (SM); flock flying over private residence, Woodstock 16 Oct (RG).



REGION 10—MARINE

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“It was one of those falls that just sneak up on you” said an astonished birder in retrospect of the fall 2011 season in *Kingbird* Region 10. The weather was weird. The mosquitos were bad. Good migrant flights were few, particularly raptors. Irruptive winter finches were almost completely absent. Yet there were a great number of interesting records and some outstanding birds including lingering hurricane birds and a slew of western land bird vagrants. 307 species were reported, the total getting a significant bump from a couple of pelagic trips.

The season was warm and generally wetter than normal. September was warm across the Region. The mean temperature at Islip was 69.0° F, 3.4° above normal. September precipitation was near normal across most of the Region. However points west received above normal precipitation, for example 9.39" in Central Park, 5.11" above normal. Much of this was attributable to a storm dumping up to 3.2" on 6 September. October temperatures were warmer than normal on Long Island, but near normal westward. The average temperature at Islip was 56.7°, 2.4° above normal. Central Park's average of 57.1° was only 0.2° above normal. October was wetter than normal. For example, 6.14" of rain fell at Islip, 2.35" above normal. November was much warmer than normal across the Region. The average temperature at Islip was 49.8°, 4.7° above normal. 2.78" of rain fell at Islip in November, 0.89" below normal. Observations were similar across the Region. The pattern of generally warmer than normal temperatures has persisted across our Region for a number of years

and likely reflects the “new normal”. In addition a pattern of more intense weather systems has been observed. An example this season was the 29 October nor'easter that dumped 2.9" of snow in Central Park and devastated many areas to our north and west with a foot or more of snow. Cold fronts this season tended to be followed by strong west or southwest winds that resulted in generally poor migrant flights but also appear to have brought a good number of western vagrants. The record rains of the summer resulted in a bumper crop of mosquitos across the Region that lasted well into October. The swarm at Jones Beach West End was so bad that at times one could not even open the car window without being assaulted.

The passage of Hurricane/Tropical Storm *Irene* through our area on 28 August produced an historic if not unprecedented fall-out of storm birds. Some notable birds lingered into the fall season. A **Bridled Tern** and a **Sooty Tern** were found dead in the Montauk area on 4 and 11 September, respectively. The Bridled Tern was described as freshly dead. Six different **Sandwich Terns** were found from 2-5 September. As many as 15 individual **Brown Pelicans** were reported this fall. It is likely the storm brought most of them north. The reports included four or five birds in the Montauk area, the last 26-27 November; three at Sagaponack Pond, Town of Southampton on 5 September; and a fly-by at Jones Beach West End on 28 November. **American White Pelicans** on 1 September in East Hampton and 3-5 September at Jamaica Bay (two birds) may be storm-blown. Another two American White Pelicans were seen on 1 October at Robert Moses State Park. There were two reports of **White Ibis** that may also be associated with the storm: an immature at Sagaponack Pond on 2-3 September, and an adult at Triton Lane in Hampton Bays on 6 September.

Pelagic birding offshore of Shinnecock Inlet on 6 November by Angus Wilson, John Shemilt, and Richard Fried, and at Hudson and Block Canyons on 10 November by Christopher Vogel resulted in the following notable records: 34 Northern Fulmars (Shinnecock), 450 Great Shearwaters (Hudson/Block), 262 **Red Phalaropes** (Shinnecock), **South Polar Skua** (Hudson/Block), **skua sp.** (Shinnecock), four Pomarine Jaegers (Shinnecock), and **Atlantic Puffin** (Hudson/Block). Angus reported a notable 307 Great Shearwaters at Montauk Point during the nor'easter on 29 October, along with over 13,000 scoters.

Shorebird numbers this season were modest and reports were fewer than usual. This is due partly to the inundation of the shorebird habitat at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. The record rains of summer played a part, as did the malfunctioning of the system allowing regulation of the water levels on the East Pond. The prompt repair or replacement of the system is a matter of utmost importance to shorebirds and birders alike. As of the writing of this report, a new valve has been installed and work is underway to replace a corroded section of pipe. Hopefully this will lead to improved conditions on the pond next season and thereafter.

The best shorebird rarity of the season was a **Black-necked Stilt** found by Heydi Lopes at Marine Park, Brooklyn on 11 September. Good numbers of Red Knots and American Oystercatchers appeared around Jones Inlet. “Grasspiper” numbers were again low. Upland Sandpiper was not reported. The maximum of

Buff-breasted Sandpipers was only four. While there were many reports of American Golden-Plover the numbers were low, the maximum being five. There were only two reports of Baird's Sandpiper.

Results at the Fire Island Hawk Watch were poor due to the infrequency of northwest winds. The total number of hawks, 2,883, was 19% below the 10-year average and 28% below the 20-year average. American Kestrel numbers were particularly low, 37% below the 10-year average and 61% below the 20-year average. After a record flight last year, Northern Harrier numbers were 46% below the 10-year average and 40% below the 20-year average. Peregrine Falcon numbers were 23% below the 10-year average and 12% below the 20-year average. The only bright spot was Cooper's Hawk, 45% above the 10-year average and 93% above the 20-year average. The period 4-6 October brought consistent northwest winds and 34% of the total hawks for the season at the Fire Island Hawk Watch, including 507 birds on 5 October. A flight on 30-31 October brought two **Golden Eagles** to Region 10, one at Riverside Park in Manhattan and the other at "Moses Mountain", Staten Island. Four Northern Goshawks were also seen during this period, the only ones this season. 128 hawks were counted at the Fire Island Hawk Watch on 30 October, a notable count for the date. Eight Red-shouldered Hawks at Moses Mountain on 30 October is notable for Region 10.

Waterfowl numbers were generally low. Canvasback and Redhead were particularly scarce. There was only one report of Common Merganser. Scaup and sea ducks were mostly fewer in number than in recent years. However, there were notably high counts of Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, and Ruddy Duck. There were large late November flights of Bonaparte's Gull, mostly along the western barrier beaches, and both loon species throughout. Northern Bobwhite and Ring-necked Pheasant have now virtually disappeared from our Region, and reports of migratory owls were exceptionally scarce.

A cold front on 15 October brought west-southwest winds gusting over 30 mph. Though migrants were few in number, the front brought perhaps the most outstanding rarity of the season, a **Gray Kingbird** seen and photographed at the Jones Beach Coast Guard Station by Michael McBrien. The bird quickly disappeared to the east and was not relocated to the chagrin of many searching. Michael also saw a Western Kingbird that morning at Jones Beach West End.

A good incursion of western vagrants, especially late in the season, included four *Selasphorus* hummingbirds, one identified as a female **Rufous Hummingbird** lingering in East Hampton from the summer, and another female Rufous in Staten Island; two **Say's Phoebes** in early October; an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** at Jones Beach West End; a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** and a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at Captree State Park in late October; two other **Yellow-headed Blackbirds**, at Smith Point County Park in late September and Robert Moses State Park on 5 October; an elusive immature female **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at Central Park that was likely present for about a week before it was conclusively identified; a **White-winged Dove**; and several more Western Kingbirds. Orange-crowned Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, and Dickcissel all made good showings, continuing recent trends.

White-crowned Sparrows were common this fall, with over 150 reports including several exceeding ten birds. A report of 500 Swamp Sparrows at the Mount Loretto Unique Area, Staten Island, on 24 October is an exceptional number. Cave Swallow was not reported after several years of incursions into our area.

One can hardly imagine a fall with fewer irruptive winter finches. The maxima of Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, and American Goldfinch were 10, 11, and 437, respectively. No other species were reported.

Mild conditions and a predominantly westerly or southwesterly flow may have contributed to the abundance of late migrant passerines. About 30 species were reported later than normal including at least 14 species of warblers, some in numbers. Particularly notable was the late abundance of Blackpoll Warblers, such as 13 on 22 October at Robert Moses State Park. The flight on 22 October included 18 species of warblers on Long Island. Swainson's Thrush and Ovenbird lingered through the season at Bryant Park in Manhattan. A Prothonotary Warbler present to 1 November at Sunken Meadow State Park was also notably late. There were five November reports of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

Other notable rarities this season included a **Ross's Goose** at Floyd Bennett Field and the adjacent golf center from 21 November through the reporting period and a **Yellow Rail** at Caumsett State Park on 5 October as reported on the New York Rare Bird Alert. A **Mississippi Kite** was spotted over Central Park on 25 September by Peter Post and others. A **Northern Wheatear**, the first in the Region since 2001, was found by Karen Rubenstein at Deep Hollow Ranch, Montauk on 17 September and stayed to the 20th. A first-winter "**Nelson's**" **Gull** (hybrid Herring x Glaucous Gull) seen at Jones Beach State Park Field 6 on 13 November is notable for Region 10. A Barred Owl spent much of the season in Central Park, the first in 25 years or more.

Common Raven reports were fewer this fall than previous seasons. The reports indicate no more than 6-8 birds on Long Island. A report from the Fire Island Hawk Watch on 5 October, a major flight day, may be evidence of the dispersal of local birds. The first ever fall records of **Mitred Parakeet** included numbers similar to the maxima from previous seasons. The evidence indicates that 15 or fewer birds are residing in south-central Queens County, associating in a single flock that disperses during breeding season. The birds recently have appeared healthy, perhaps recovering from the harsh winter of 2011.

Two birding spots generated unusual excitement this fall. In addition to the birds mentioned above, birds found at Bryant Park, a square block in midtown Manhattan, included up to three Gray-cheeked Thrushes, two long-staying Yellow-breasted Chats, Saltmarsh Sparrow, several Lincoln's Sparrows, and several late warbler reports. A forest restoration project in progress at Kissena Park, Queens currently includes areas in an early successional stage, resulting in great bird habitat. Birds found over the season included three Connecticut Warblers, Golden-winged Warbler, up to six Blue Grosbeaks, four Lark Sparrows, several Philadelphia Vireos, Vesper Sparrows, Yellow-breasted Chat, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Clay-colored Sparrow. 17 species of warblers were seen there on 24 September.

CONTRIBUTORS

Italics: Sent end-of-season report. Robert Adamo (RA), Patricia Aitken, Jim Ash, John Askildsen, Seth Ausubel, Andrew Baksh, Catherine Barron, Rob Bate, Dick Belanger, Gail Benson, *Bobby Berlinger*, Orhan Birol, Andrew Block (ABl), Shane Blodgett, Mike Bochnik, Brent Bomkamp (BBo), Ardith Bondi (ABi), Tom Brown, Joe Bucellato, Sara Burch (SBu), Thomas W. Burke, Vicki Bustamante, Ben Cacace (BC), Steve Chang, Anthony Ciancimino (ACi), Jim Clinton, Jr., Anthony Collerton, Mike Cooper, Willie D'Anna, Joseph DiCostanzo (JDi), Peter Dorosh, Jacob Drucker, Dave Eib, Michael Farina, Andrew Farnsworth, Ken Feustel, Suzy Feustel, Corey Finger, Tom Fiore, Howie Fischer, Brendan Fogarty, Lila Fried, Richard Fried, Gerta Fritz, Karen Fung (KFu), Doug Futuyma, John Gavriety (JGa), Arie Gilbert, Paul Gildersleeve (PGi), Paul Gillen, Joe Giunta (JGi), John Gluth (JGl), Doug Gochfeld, Isaac Grant, Dan Heglund, Gene Herskovics, Sam Jannazzo, Phil Jeffrey, Rob Jett, Ed Johnson, *Richard Kaskan* (RK), Rich & Linda Kedenburg, Rich Kelly, Marie King, David Klauber, *Robert J. Kurtz*, Mary Laura Lamont, Anthony J. Lauro, Anne Lazarus, Patricia J. Lindsay, Heydi Lopes, Jean Loscalzo, *Peter Martin*, Michael McBrien, Hugh McGuinness, Keith Michael (KM), Eric Miller, Karlo Mirth, *Shaibal S. Mitra*, Jack Noordhuizen, Mary Normandia, Luke Ormand, Joseph O'Sullivan, Robert Paxton (RPx), Vinny Pellegrino, Tom Perlman, Peter Max Polshek, Peter Post, Betsy Potter, Robert Proniewych, Anne Purcell, *Joan Quinlan*, Glenn Quinn, Antonio Quinn, Peter Reisfeld, Don Riepe (DRi), Jeff Ritter, Derek Rogers, Jane Ross, Bobby Rossetti, Jack Rothman (JRo), Karen Rubenstein, Matthew Rymkiewicz, Patrick Santinello, Starr Saphir, Steve Schellenger (SSc), Lisa Scheppke, Sy Schiff (SyS), Eileen Schwinn, Peter Scully (PSc), John Sepenoski (JSe), Mike Shanley, John Shemilt (JSh), Pete Shen (PSh), Lloyd Spitalnik (LS), Carl Starace, Jeff Stetson, Gary Strauss, Dianne Taggart, Ken Thompson, John Turner, Benjamin Van Doren, Richard Veit, Joe Viglietta, Christopher Vogel, Steve Walter, Gabriel Willow, Alex Wilson, Angus Wilson, Seth Ian Wollney, Christopher Wood, Byron Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

AMA – Amagansett, SUFF; APP – Alley Pd P, QUEE; BPT – Breezy Pt, QUEE; Calv – Calverton Grasslands (former Grumman Property), SUFF; CB – Cedar Beach, Babylon, SUFF; CCP – Cupsogue CP, SUFF; CHP – Conference House P, RICH; CP – Central Park, NEWY; CRSP – Connetquot R SP, SUFF; DOP – Drier-Offernam P, KING; DP – Democrat Pt, SUFF; FIHW – Fire Island Hawk Watch; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; FMCP – Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, QUEE; FP – Forest Park, QUEE; FT – Fort Tilden, QUEE; GKP – Great Kills P, RICH; HHSP – Hither Hills SP, SUFF; HLSP – Hempstead L SP, NASS; HSP – Hecksher SP, SUFF; Jam Bay – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; JBSP – Jones Beach SP, NASS; JBWE – West End, Jones Beach SP, NASS; KP – Kissena Park, QUEE; Mass – Massapequa Preserve, NASS; MB – Mecox Bay, SUFF; MI – Moriches Inlet, SUFF; MLUA – Mt. Loretto Unique

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Area, RICH; MNSA – Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside, NASS; MP – Montauk Pt, SUFF; nm – nautical miles; NYBG – NY Botanical Garden, BRON; PB – Pikes Beach, Westhampton Dunes, SUFF; PBP – Pelham Bay P, BRON; PP – Prospect P, KING; RMSP – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; RP – Riis P, QUEE; Sag – Sagaponack Pd, SUFF; Shinn – Shinnecock Inlet, SUFF; SPCP – Smith Pt CP, SUFF; SMSP – Sunken Meadow SP, SUFF; VCP – Van Cortlandt P, BRON; VSSP – Valley Stream SP, NASS; WPP – Wolfe’s Pd P, RICH.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: Deep Hollow, Montauk, SUFF 8 Oct – 30 Nov (JGi, AnW), pink-billed form; Maratooka L, SUFF 5-12 Nov (PG); VCP 10-25 Nov (*vide* MB, AB, mob); 2 Ama 12 Nov (AnW), orange billed form; Further Ln., East Hampton, SUFF 19-20 Nov (JR, SSM, PJL).

Snow Goose: max 900 Coney I. Creek P, KING 22 Nov (DG); 790 Jam Bay 29 Nov (DG).

ROSS’S GOOSE (R10): FBF & Brooklyn Golf Center, KING 21 Nov thru (DG, mob).

Cackling Goose: Baisley Pd P, QUEE 9 Oct – 25 Nov (AB); FIHW 30 Oct (JGi); Mattituck, SUFF 9 Nov (RA); MLUA 26 Nov (ACi); Deep Hollow 26 Nov (JSe); Agawam L, SUFF 27 Nov (SSM, PJL); Noyack, SUFF 27 Nov (RBA).

Mute Swan: max 90 Glen Cove, NASS 21-23 Nov (MN).

Tundra Swan: 4 Hook Pd, SUFF 19 Nov (JR); 5 Hook Pd 21-22 Nov (AC).

Wood Duck: max 21 Philips Cr/Alcott Pd, SUFF 30 Oct (ES); 13 FBF 12 Nov (MK); 14 Jam Bay 12 Nov (P. Wolter).

Gadwall: 150 Jam Bay 9 Oct (JN); max 164 Swan Lake, Patchogue, SUFF 19 Nov (WD, BP, D. Gagne); 120 CP 23 Nov (M. Daw).

Eurasian Wigeon: Jam Bay 4-12 Nov (DG, mob); Patchogue L, SUFF 13-14 Nov (AB, SA, mob); probably same bird West L, Patchogue, SUFF 19-25 Nov (*vide* SSM, Sys, JGi, mob); Coopers Neck Pd, SUFF 12-13 Nov (Jim Ash, *vide* AnW); Tottenville, RICH 13-20 Nov (SIW, DE, mob); Setauket Harbor, SUFF 29 Nov (PSc).

Am. Wigeon: max 400 Jam Bay 21 Oct (A. Fleishman).

Am. Black Duck: max 470 Jam Bay 9 Oct (JN).

Blue-winged Teal: 3 Jam Bay 20 Nov (RBA), late.

N. Shoveler: max 350 Jam Bay 29 Nov (DG).

N. Pintail: max 23 Patchogue L 14 Nov (BY), few.

Green-winged Teal: max 150 Jam Bay 6 Nov (JN).

Canvasback: only about 10 reports; max 4 Jam Bay (IG, *et al*).

Redhead: only about 15 reports; max 6 L. Capri, SUFF 19 Nov (WD, BP, D. Gagne).

Ring-necked Duck: max 414 Patchogue L 19 Nov (SSM, *et al*); *intro*.

Greater Scaup: max 2000 Jam Bay 13 Nov (MK); *intro*.

Lesser Scaup: max 54 Patchogue L 14 Nov (BY), few; *intro*.

Com. Eider: few RP, FT other western inlets from late Oct; 25 JBWE 15 Nov; max 1185 MP & Camp Hero SP 26 Nov (SF); *intro*.

Harlequin Duck: imm m FT 26 Nov (SA, MN); drake Pt. Lookout, NASS 24 Nov (*vide* SA); only reports.

Surf Scoter: max 1080 MP & Camp Hero SP 26 Nov (SF); *intro*.

White-winged Scoter: max 1500 MP 5 Nov (AnW); *intro*.

Black Scoter: max 6175 Ama 29 Oct (AnW); *intro*.

Scoter sp.: 13,252 MP 29 Oct (AnW); *intro*.

Bufflehead: max 807 Centre I Town Pk, NASS 26 Nov (BBo); *intro*.

Barrow's Goldeneye: East Marion, SUFF 25 Nov thru (*vide* HM, RBA), drake returning for 2nd yr.

Hooded Merganser: max 55 L Capri 12 Nov (P. Wolter).

Com. Merganser: FT 22 Nov (DG, SB).

Ruddy Duck: max 4580 Jam Bay 29 Nov (DG); *intro*.

N. Bobwhite: PBP 12 Nov (AB); 4 Avalon/East Farm Preserves 20 Nov (JB); only reports.

Ring-necked Pheasant: max 5 KP 1 Oct (SSc).

Wild Turkey: max 51 Seaview St. & Father Capodanno Blvd., RICH 3 Sep (MK); 25 Brookhaven National Lab, SUFF 6 Nov (RK).

Red-throated Loon: large late Nov flights; max 1594 RMSP 21 Nov (SSM); 535 RMSP 22 Nov (SF).

Com. Loon: max 285 Springs, SUFF 5 Nov (AnW).

Red-necked Grebe: Fort Pd Bay, Montauk, SUFF 12 Nov thru (AnW, AC, mob), max 8 there 26 Nov (KF, RJK), large number; Old Field Pt, Setauket, SUFF 18-29 Nov (PSc); Gardiners Bay, SUFF 19-20 Nov (KR, JGi, mob); Orchard Beach, BRON 19 Nov (AB, *et*

al); 2 MP 20 Nov (SSM, PJL); 2 RMSP 21 Nov (SSM); Lemon Cr, RICH 24 Nov (ACi); RP 27 Nov (RBA).

Eared Grebe: Jam Bay 3 Nov thru (AL, mob).

N. Fulmar: 34 offshore Shinn 6 Nov (AnW, JSh, RF); *intro*.

Cory's Shearwater: 2 RMSP10 Sep (RBA); MP 18 Sep (*vide* AnW); RMSP 24 Sep (SA); 7 offshore Shinn 6 Nov (AnW, JSh, RF); 7 Hudson/Block Canyons 10 Nov (CV).

Great Shearwater: 307 MP 29 Oct (AnW); 28 offshore SUFF 1 Nov (CV); 713 offshore Shinn 6 Nov (AnW, JSh, RF); 450 Hudson/Block Canyons 10 Nov (CV); *intro*.

Manx Shearwater: offshore SUFF 1 Nov (CV); 4 offshore Shinn 6 Nov (AnW, JSh, RF); 4 Hudson/Block Canyons 10 Nov (CV).

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: RMSP 10 Sep (RBA).

N. Gannet: 4500 FT 18 Nov (DG); max 5000 RMSP 18 Nov (SSM).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (R10): East Hampton 1 Sep (*vide* HM); 2 Jam Bay 3-5 Sep (SW, KM, Dri, et al.), ph; 2 RMSP 1 Oct (JGI, mob); *intro*.

Brown Pelican: Many reports, especially Montauk: Old Fort Pd, Southampton, SUFF thru 1 Sep (*vide* DF); ad Montauk Inlet/L Montauk thru 2 Sep (mob); imm Montauk Inlet/L Montauk, SUFF thru 13 Nov (*vide* AnW, mob); another imm Montauk Inlet/L Montauk 12-13 Nov (AnW); Great Gull I, SUFF 2 Sep (*vide* JDi); imm CCP 4 Sep (SW, RK); 3 Sag 5 Sep (RK); imm 11 Sep Three-mile Harbor, SUFF (AnW); Orient, SUFF 17 Sep (RBA); Sag 21 Sep (JASH); Mecox, SUFF 22 Oct (JSh); Fort Pd Bay 26-27 Nov (RJK, AC); imm JBWE 28 Nov (RP); *intro*.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 4700 RMSP 26 Oct (SSM), large number.

Great Cormorant: 4 imm Montauk Inlet 11 Sep (AnW), early.

Am. Bittern: RMSP 1 Sep (RJK); MNSA 27-30 Sep (MF); E52 St., NEWY 23 Oct (AF); Jam Bay 4-8 Nov (mob); 3 Shinn 9 Nov (MLL); Dune Rd, East Quogue, SUFF 22 Nov (DF); 2 Jam Bay 27 Nov (RBA).

Great Egret: max 44 Jam Bay 9 Oct (JN).

Tricolored Heron: CCP 10 Oct (BBo), late, unusual location.

Cattle Egret: FMCP 22 Sep (PSh); Stillwell Woods Pres., NASS 12-15 Nov (MN), ph, late.

Green Heron: Mill Pd, Setauket 18 Nov (PSc); Husing Pd Pres, SUFF 26 Nov (JSe); Bronx Zoo, BRON 27 Nov (CF); late.

WHITE IBIS: imm Sag 2-3 Sep (JASH); ad Triton Ln, Hampton Bays, SUFF 6 Sep (KT); *intro*.

Black Vulture: Fresh Kills, RICH 2 Oct (SIW, EJ); E 52 St 5 Oct (AF); Moses Mtn, RICH 15 Oct (EJ); 2 Tottenville, RICH 25 Oct (RV); E52St 25 Oct (AF), unusual location; Moses Mtn 30 Oct (AP, CB); 2 Buck's Hollow, RICH 3 Nov (DE); max 11 Moses Mtn 6 Nov (CB, AP); 3 Moses Mtn 18 Nov (TB); 3 GKP 30 Nov (MS).

Turkey Vulture: 23 Fresh Kills 2 Oct (SIW, EJ); 34 E52 St 22 Oct (AF); 40 Riverside P, NEWY 30 Oct (D. Barrett); max 75 Moses Mtn 30 Oct (AP, CB), large number; Long Island reports incl. 9 Greenwood Cemetery, KING 17 Sep (PD); 13 PP 17 Sep (RB); 3 Montauk 2 Oct (HM, *et al*); FT 30 Oct (SA, CF); 3 Brookville, NASS 9 Nov (PM); Bayshore, SUFF 19 Nov (RBA).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: Total 294 FIHW (*vide* DP); max 142 FT 1 Oct (SW, *et al*), large number; VCP 26 Nov (MN, SA, CF), late.

MISSISSIPPI KITE: CP 25 Sep (PP, *et al*).

Bald Eagle: At least 25 reports involving ca. 30 birds, incl: Total 3 FIHW (*vide* RJK); 3 Moses Mtn. 6 Oct (AP, CB); Cold Spring Harbor, SUFF 9 Oct (Marc & Sharon Brody); imm MLUA 9 Oct (MS); ad Bush Terminal Pier, KING 6-7 Oct (*vide* PD), ph; 3yr Moses Mtn 30 Oct (AP, CB); ad Moses Mtn 6 Nov (AP, CB); Moses Mtn 18 Nov (TB); 3 Gardiners I, SUFF 19 Nov thru (AnW).

N. Harrier: Total 149 FIHW (*vide* DP); *intro*.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Total 389 FIHW (*vide* DP); max 60 FT 22 Oct (DG, SA, GH).

Cooper's Hawk: Total 58 FIHW (*vide* DP); *intro*.

N. Goshawk: imm Moses Mtn 30 Oct (AP, CB); FT 30 Oct (SW); FIHW 31 Oct (RBA);

Richmond, RICH 31 Oct (MS); *intro*.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Northville, SUFF 30 Sep (MLL); 3 PP 26 Oct (RJ); ad Edgemere, QUEE 30 Oct (SA, CF); max 8 Moses Mtn 30 Oct (AP, CB); FT 30 Oct (SW); ad FT 18 Nov (DG); 2 GKP 30 Nov (MS); *intro*.

Broad-winged Hawk: Buck's Hollow 3 Nov (DE), ph, late.

Rough-legged Hawk: no reports.

GOLDEN EAGLE (R10): imm Moses Mtn 30 Oct (AP, CB); Riverside P, NEWY 30 Oct (D. Barrett).

Am. Kestrel: Total 538 FIHW (*vide* DP); *intro*.

Merlin: Total 1267 FIHW (*vide* RJK, DP).

Peregrine Falcon: Total 164 FIHW (*vide* RJK, DP); 4 Mecox 26 Sep (HM); 2 Edgemere 30 Oct (SA, CF); *intro*.

YELLOW RAIL: Caumsett SP, SUFF 5 Oct (RBA).

Virginia Rail: PP 17 Sep (RBA); Cemetery of the Resurrection, RICH 10 Oct (ACi); Herald Square P, NEWY 24 Oct (*vide* GW), ph; FT 13 Nov (*vide* MN); South Ozone Park, QUEE 13 Nov (RBA).

Sora: CP 17-19 Sep (*vide* SC, mob); 3 Yankee Stadium, BRON 25 Sep (AF), unusual location; Morton NWR, SUFF 15 Oct (PGI).

Am. Coot: max 260 Patchogue L 19 Nov (D. Gagne), large number.

Am. Golden-Plover: Over 30 reports incl: max 5 Eastport, SUFF 3 Sep (GS); 2 FBF 29 Sep (RJ, HL); 4 JBWE 20 Oct (KF); numerous reports there thru 25 Oct; 2 Montauk Inlet 29 Oct (AnW); HSP 31 Oct (DR), last.

Piping Plover: Cedar Pt CP, SUFF 16 Oct (AC), late.

Am. Oystercatcher: large numbers Jones Inlet; max 465 JBWE 4, 17 Sep (RJK, MM, respectively); 370 JBWE 2 Nov (CF, *et al*); 220 JBWE 23 Nov (AB).

BLACK-NECKED STILT: Salt Marsh Nature Center, Marine Park, KING 11 Sep (HL).

Solitary Sandpiper: WPP 11 Oct (ACi); Deep Hollow 31 Oct (AC); late.

“Western” Willet: max 35 JBWE 9 Oct (SSc).

Lesser Yellowlegs: 15 Ocean Parkway, SUFF 15 Nov (KT); late, large number.

Upland Sandpiper: no reports.

Whimbrel: 3 CCP 2 Sep (CS); 2 Riverhead, SUFF 4 Sep (A. Murphy); HSP 5 Sep (GQ, AQ); GKP 8 Sep (JS); SPCP 16 Sep (CS, PS); 2 SPCP 24 Sep (RK); SPCP 25 Sep (RK).

Hudsonian Godwit: Jam Bay 5 Sep (TWB, GB, AB); JBWE 9 Sep (JGi, SyS); JBWE 28 Sep (AL, *et al*); 3 JBWE 2 Oct (SyS, MM, BB).

Marbled Godwit: reports JBWE thru 23 Nov incl: 3 JBWE 15 Oct (SA, mob), 2 JBWE 23 Oct - 23 Nov (mob); CCP 2 Sep (CS); max 14 CCP 3 Sep (RK, CS, DB), large number; 2 Warner I, Shinnecock, SUFF 3 Sep (JR); 11 CCP 4 Sep (RK); 5 CCP 11 Sep (RK, LO); 2 Mecox 21 Sep (*vide* AnW).

Red Knot: 105 JBWE 8 Sep (RJK); 200 JBWE 9 Sep (JGi, SyS); 187 JBWE 15 Oct (SA); 310 JBWE 1 Nov (RJK); max 330 JBWE 3 Nov (DG); large numbers.

Sanderling: max 1250 JBSP 10 Oct (SF).

Western Sandpiper: 3 Mecox 5 Sep (HM); HSP 12 Sep (RJK); WPP 17 Sep (SIW); 2 WPP 18-21 Sep (ACi mob); JBWE 20 Oct (KF); JBWE 1 Nov (RJK).

White-rumped Sandpiper: 5 Mecox 5 Sep (HM); 2 Eastport 9 Sep (CS, DB, MLL); max 12 HSP 12 Sep (KF); WPP 17 Sep (SIW); 6 WPP 18 Sep (ACi); 2 WPP 21 Sep (mob); WPP 8 Oct (MS); WPP 11 Oct (ACi).

Baird's Sandpiper: Mecox 5 Sep (HM); Eastport 9 Sep (CS, DB, MLL); only reports.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 20 Depot Lane, Cutchogue, SUFF 25 Sep (JSe).

Dunlin: max 3700 JBSP 30 Oct (SF), large number.

Stilt Sandpiper: Mecox 5 Sep (RK, HM); MNSA 10 Sep (MF); 2 HSP 12 Sep (RJK, KF); 2 Captree SP 7 Oct (SSM, PJJ); Deep Hollow 15 Oct (AnW), late; juv Rita's Stables, Montauk, SUFF 29-30 Oct (AnW, MM), late; only reports.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: HSP 3-6 Sep (MC, mob); max 4 Eastport 3 Sep (GS); Nickerson Beach, NASS 4 Sep (SyS); 2 Eastport 4 Sep; 3 DP 10 Sep (JGi); Deep Hollow 10 Sep (VB); 3 Eastport 11 Sep (DB); SPCP 24 Sep (MC); Sag 26 Sep (HM); only reports.

Long-billed Dowitcher: 2 JBWE 23 Nov thru (AB).

Wilson's Phalarope: 3 HSP 12 Sep (PJJ, RJK); HSP 15 Sep (LO).

RED PHALAROPE (R10): 262 offshore Shinn 6 Nov (AnW, JSh, RF); 150 Hudson/Block Canyons 10 Nov (CV); *intro*.

Black-legged Kittiwake: MP 18 Sep (SF), early; MP 29 Oct (AnW); offshore SUFF 1 Nov (CV); 14 offshore Shinn 6 Nov (AnW, JSh, RF); 35 Hudson/Block Canyons 10 Nov (CV); 4 MP 20 Nov (D. Gagne); Camp Hero SP, SUFF 22 Nov (DF); 3 MP 20 Nov (SSM, PJJ).

Bonaparte's Gull: late Nov flight incl 275 FT 18 Nov (DG); 42 RMSP 18 Nov (SSM); 370 FT 21 Nov (DG); 550 FT 26 Nov (SA, MN); max 5600 Beach 115 St., Rockaway, QUEE to RP 27 Nov (AB, TWB, GB, *et al*), large number; 600 Coney I Creek P 28 Nov (DG); 290 RMSP 29 Nov (KF).

Black-headed Gull: ad Owl's Head P, KING 6-23 Nov (AxW), returning; imm Mill Pd, Setauket, SUFF 12-14 Nov (SBu), ph; ad RP 26 Nov (R. Fleming).

Little Gull: imm BP 26 Nov (RBA); prob same bird RP 27 Nov (RBA).

Laughing Gull: 346 FT 21 Nov (DG), large number for date; few present thru.

Iceland Gull: juv Montauk Inlet 20 Nov (WD, BP); ad Montauk 27 Nov (DG, HL).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: At least 18 reports involving at least 25 individuals. Returning ads: Lazy Pt, Napeague, SUFF 15 Oct thru; Arden Av., RICH 30 Oct – thru; Fort Pd Bay 19 Nov thru.

Glaucous Gull: 1 win BP/FT 29 Nov thru (AC, DG, AG, JL).

“Nelson's” Gull: 1 win JBSP Field 6 13 Nov (BR).

SOOTY TERN: Camp Hero SP 11 Sep (AnW), found dead, *intro*.

BRIDLED TERN: juv L Montauk 4 Sep (*fide* AnW), freshly dead, *intro*.

Gull-billed Tern: Mecox 3 Sep (AC); Sag 3 Sep (AC); CCP 3 Sep (RK, CS, DB); Plumb Beach, KING 12 Sep (RJ).

Caspian Tern: Mecox 3 Sep (AC); CCP 3 Sep (RK, CS, DB); 3 CCP 4 Sep (SW); 3 JBWE 9 Sep (JGi, SyS); DP 10 Sep (RBA); Mecox 21 Sep (*fide* AnW); 2 Mecox 22 Sep (PMP); 5SPCP 24 Sep (MC); 3 Mecox 25 Sep (HM); 2 Mecox 26 Sep (HM); FIHW 27 Sep (RJK); Jones Inlet, NASS 2 Oct (SyS); 3 SPCP 2 Oct (RK); last Watch Hill, Fire Island, SUFF 10 Oct (JO).

Black Tern: 631 Gardiner's Bay 4 Sep (AnW); max 875 Gardiner's Bay 11 Sep (AnW), large numbers; 95 Napeague 20 Sep (PMP); last JBWE 30 Sep (SyS).

Roseate Tern: Montauk Inlet 11 Sep (AnW).

Com. Tern: Captree SP 2 Nov (*fide* DG), ph; 7 Montauk 12 Nov (AnW); Montauk Inlet 22 Nov (DF); Fort Pd Bay 27 Nov (DG, HL); late.

Royal Tern: fewer than recent years; appx. 60 noted through season FIHW (RJK); other reports incl: 2 JBWE 2 Sep (SA, MN); 6 Warner I, Shinnecock, SUFF 3 Sep (JR); max 40 CCP 4 Sep (RK); Lido Beach, NASS 8 Sep (PM); DP 10 Sep (JGi); 2 CCP 11 Sep (LO); 3 Miller Field, RICH 11 Sep (SIW); JBWE 16 Sep (SyS, JGi); Mecox 21 Sep (*fide* AnW); 9 RMSP 24 Sep (SA, MN); Jones Inlet 2 Oct (SyS); 5 Mecox 8 Oct (AnW); JBWE 9 Oct (SA, et al); 2 Mecox 9 Oct (AC); 3 GKP 9 Oct (MS); Napeague 16 Oct (AC); Sag 16 Oct (AC); JBWE 22-25 Oct (mob); 7 Mecox 23 Oct (HM, PMP); 2 Napeague 27 Oct (AC); Old Field Pt, Setauket, SUFF 1 Nov (PSe); Shinn 5 Nov (JCJ); 2 Shoreham, SUFF 8 Nov (RK); 5 Northville 26 Oct – 8 Nov, 2 continuing thru 15 Nov (MLL), late; last RMSP 29 Nov (KF).

SANDWICH TERN: JBWE 2 Sep (SA, MN, PP); Great Gull I, SUFF thru 1 Sep (*fide* JDi); 2 Warner I 3 Sep (JR); CCP 4 Sep (RBA); Mecox 5 Sep (HM, RK); *intro*.

Black Skimmer: 170 Mecox 18 Sep (SA, PA), 160 juv; 104 Mecox 25 Sep (HM); 96 Mecox 26 Sep (HM); 3 Napeague 18 Oct (AC); 3 juv Coney I Cr, KING 16 Nov (DG), late.

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: Hudson/Block Canyons 10 Nov (CV).

SKUA sp: offshore Shinn 6 Nov (AnW, JSh, RF).

Pomarine Jaeger: 4 offshore Shinn 6 Nov (AnW, JSh, RF); 2 Hudson/Block Canyons 10 Nov (CV).

Parasitic Jaeger: DP 10 Sep (RBA); 2 MP 20 Sep (PMP, *et al*); 3 MP 18 Sep (*fide* AnW); 2 MP 14 Oct (PMP); max 8 JBWE 19 Nov (RBA);

2 FT 20 Nov (AB); FT 21 Nov (DG); 5 RP 27 Nov (RBA); RMSP 29 Nov (KF).

Razorbill: MP 12 Nov (AnW); 52 MP 20 Nov (AnW, *et al*); FT 21 Nov (DG); 6 RMSP 22 Nov (KF); 3 Camp Hero 22 Nov (DF); Ditch Plains, Montauk, SUFF 22 Nov (DF); 20 MP 20 Nov (SSM, PJJ); JBWE 25 Nov (RK, SA, RJK); 23 MP 25 Nov (BBo); 19 MP 26 Nov (KF); 47 MP 27 Nov (DG, HL); 2 RP 27 Nov (RBA); max 66 RMSP 29 Nov (KF).

ATLANTIC PUFFIN: Hudson/Block Canyons 10 Nov (CV).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: Sheepshead Bay, KING 27-28 Nov (Avi Lewis, *fide* AF).

Monk Parakeet: 55 Greenwood Cemetery 18 Nov (DG, RB), large number; expanding s NASS & sw SUFF: Freeport & Baldwin, NASS, and Captree SP.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: JBWE 2-3 Nov (DG, CF, DF); DOP 5 Nov (TP); late.

Black-billed Cuckoo: only 15 reports.

Snowy Owl: arr Hicks I, Napeague 20 Nov (PJJ, SSM, mob); Hoffman I, RICH ca. 29 Nov (*fide* Erica Sherman), ph; reported in "Sheepshead Bites" Blog.

Barred Owl: CP 30 Sep thru (Brian Moore, mob, *fide* LS); rare there.

Long-eared Owl: only one report.

Short-eared Owl: migr Midtown, NEWY 30 Oct (AF), unusual location.

N. Saw-whet Owl: only one report.

Com. Nighthawk: PP 7 Oct (GW, *et al*), late.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: fem Northwest Woods, East Hampton, SUFF thru 19 Sep (AC); fem Tottenville, RICH 11-12 Nov (*fide* SIW), ph.

SELASPHORUS sp: Southampton 23 Nov; East Hampton 23 Nov; both on private property; former present for approx one month prior, latter for approx one week prior (*fide* HM); details desired.

Red-headed Woodpecker: ad CP 7-9 Sep (mob); CLP 13 Sep (HF); 2 juv PP 17 Sep (*fide* PD); JBWE 17 Sep (MM); RMSP 24 Sep (MN, SA); CHP 24 Sep (JGi, et al); RMSP 30 Sep (SyS, JGi); imm CHP 30 Sep (SIW, DE); imm RMSP 1 Oct (JGi); JBWE 1 Oct (DF); imm CP 2 Oct thru (*fide* LS, TF, mob); RMSP 5 Oct (RJK); imm Napeague 8 Oct (AnW); imm RMSP 23 Oct (GQ); ad Montauk 4 Nov (VB).

N. Flicker: 1168 RMSP 5 Oct (SSM, PJJ), large number.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: CLP 4-5 Sep (CB, mob); CP 24 Sep (RBA); CP 7 Oct (Bill Benish), late.

E. Wood-Pewee: 36 CP 25 Sep (AF), large number; JBWE 25 Oct (SyS, JGi, SJ), late.

Least Flycatcher: Lido Beach 23 Oct (BB), late.

SAY'S PHOEBE: Caumsett SP 4-5 Oct (SF, mob); RMSP 7 Oct (JQ).

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: JBWE 22-25 Nov (KF, SS, mob).

Western Kingbird: Gilgo Beach, SUFF 3 Oct (KF, SF); JBWE 15 Oct (MM); Old Field Lighthouse, Setauket 10 Nov (PSc), ph; BP 20 Nov (AB).

GRAY KINGBIRD: JBWE 15 Oct (MM), ph MM.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: Captree SP 21-22 Oct (KT, mob), ph Vincent Tizio.

N. Shrike: ad SPCP 12-14 Nov (RK, mob).

Blue-headed Vireo: SPCP 5 Nov (CS, *et al*); CHP 28 Nov (RV), late.

Philadelphia Vireo: PP 9 Sep (mob); Rocky Point, SUFF 10 Sep (RK); CLP 13 Sep (HF); SMSP 14 Sep (RBA); CP 17 Sep (mob); Orient, SUFF 17 Sep (RBA); Tobay, NASS 17 Sep (RBA); Garvies Pt Pres, NASS 18 Sep (PR); East Hampton 19 Sep (AC); KP 24 Sep (JR); CLP 25 Sep (IG, SA, GH); PP 25 Sep (RB); KP 1 Oct (JR, EM, *et al*).

Red-eyed Vireo: Caumsett SP 5 Nov (KF, SF), late.

COMMON RAVEN (R10): fewer reports than recent years; South Ozone Park 20 Sep (AB); 2 APP 25 Sep (TWB, GB); 2 Kew Gardens, QUEE 26 Sep (Anne Craig); 2 Rocky Pt, SUFF 2 Oct (DH); FIHW 5 Oct (RJK), rare on barrier beach; Northport, SUFF 16 Oct (GQ); 2 Bronx Zoo, BRON 28 Oct (Todd Olson); Roslyn, NASS 11 Nov (MN); 2 Roslyn 28 Nov (MN).

Tree Swallow: max 3000 FT 28 Sep (RB), large number.

Cliff Swallow: last RMSP 8 Oct (SSM).

CAVE SWALLOW: no reports.

House Wren: 21 CP 25 Sep (AF), large number.

Marsh Wren: APP 1 Oct (JR, EM, *et al*), unusual location; Mecox 27 Nov (SSM, PJL), late.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Jam Bay 7 Nov (DG); CHP 14 Nov (RV); MP 20-26 Nov (SS, *et al*, KF); Coney I Cr P 24-28 Nov (SB, DG); PBP 27 Nov (JRo); late.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR: Deep Hollow 17-20 Sep (KR, mob).

E. Bluebird: 36 Caumsett SP 5 Nov (KF, SF); 41 Caumsett SP 14 Nov (JGl); large numbers for location.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Willowbrook P, RICH 9 Sep (RBA); E52 St. 16 Sep (AF); RMSP 16-17 Sep (KF, SF, mob); CP 24 Sep (JD); 19 CP 25 Sep (AF), large number; 1-2 Bryant P, NEWY 5-18 Oct (BC, mob); Bryant P 9 Nov (BC1), late.

Swainson's Thrush: 245 CP 25 Sep (AF), large number; Bryant P 19 Nov (BC), very late, *intro*.

Am. Robin: max 4750 E52 St 31 Oct (AF).

Am. Pipit: 50 FBF 23 Oct (RJ, HL); 52 FT 30 Oct (SA, CF); large numbers.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: MP 10 Oct (BB); RMSP 30 Oct (RBA); DP 5 Nov (DR, *et al*); Northville 15 Nov (MLL); RMSP 18 Nov (SSM); JBWE 25 Nov (SA, RJK).

Ovenbird: Bryant P 2 Nov thru (BC, mob), late.

Golden-winged Warbler: fem KP 21 Sep (EM, JL, *et al*).

Blue-winged Warbler: KP 1 Oct (SSC); Caumsett SP 5 Oct (ES, DT); late.

Black-and-white Warbler: Gilgo 23 Oct (SSM); Bryant P 26 Oct (GW); last 1 at 604 Flatbush Ave, KING 2 Nov (“The Wildlab”), late.

Prothonotary Warbler: CP 1 Sep (mob); CLP 4 Sep; CP 14 Sep (SC); PP 15 Sep (*fide* PD); Mecox 25 Sep (HM); SMSP 22 Oct – 1 Nov (KF, SF, KT, mob), very late, *intro*.

Tennessee Warbler: 10 Caumsett 7 Oct (KF), large number; 2 RMSP 22 Oct (SSM); Lido Beach 23 Oct (RJK, BB); JBWE 23 Oct (SW, SA, *et al*); Pt Lookout 23 Oct (RJK, BB); KP 26 Oct (CF, EM); CP 30 Oct (SC); late.

Orange-crowned Warbler: over 30 reports, first 17 Sep.

Connecticut Warbler: College of Staten Island, RICH 13 Sep (SSM); FT 16 Sep (PD); CP 17 Sep (*fide* TF), ph; KP 24-25 Sep (EM, JR, mob); NYBG 24 Sep (mob); PP 25 Sep (RB); Snug Harbor, RICH 26 Sep (MS, IG); PP 30 Sep (RJ); 2 KP 1 Oct (JR, EM, mob), ad & imm; Greenwood Cemetery 1 Oct (RJ, *et al*); Jam Bay 2 Oct (EM, AG, *et al*); RMSP 5 Oct (SSM); Crocheron P, QUEE 6 Oct (EM).

Mourning Warbler: only about 10 reports; last CB 1 Oct (DF).

Com. Yellowthroat: Camp Hero SP 27 Nov (DG, HL), late.

Hooded Warbler: m JBWE 15 Oct (RBA); PP 17 Oct (RB); m CP 18 Oct (PJ, SC, mob); CP 30 Oct (SC), late.

Am. Redstart: Gilgo 23 Oct (SSM), ph, late.

Cape May Warbler: few; approx 20 reports; 2 Zach's Bay, JBSP 15 Oct (RJK); last RMSP 22 Oct (SSM).

N. Parula: 60 VSSP 17 Sep (BB), large number; FT 22 Oct (GH, SA, DG); NYBG 26 Oct (ABI); CHP 14 Nov (RV); late.

Yellow Warbler: RMSP 22 Oct (SSM), late.

Blackpoll Warbler: 34 CP 25 Sep (AF), large number; many late: 13 RMSP 22 Oct (SSM); 8 FT/RP 22 Oct (SA, GH, DG); 13 Pine Neck Sanctuary, East Quogue, SUFF 24 Oct (DR); 16 Caumsett SP 25 Oct (KF, SF); 2 KP 25 Oct (CF, EM); Bryant P 26 Oct (GW); Buck's Hollow 3 Nov (DE); 5 Caumsett SP 5 Nov (SF); JBWE 5 Nov (SA, *et al*); E52 St 18 Nov (AF).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: 3 RMSP 22 Oct (SSM); Gilgo 23 Oct; JBSP 23 Oct (SSM); PP 1-2 Nov (PD, AxW), late.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 11,300 RMSP 22 Oct (SSM), large number.

Prairie Warbler: fem CP 26 Nov thru (mob), late.

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER: imm fem CP 17-24 Nov, identified 23 Nov (PSc), probably present from 17 Nov; *intro*.

Black-throated Green Warbler: RP 22 Oct (SA, GH, DG); RMSP 22 Oct (SSM); late.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Ft. Wadsworth, RICH 10 Sep (CB); Bryant P 16 Sep (BC); RMSP 16-18 Sep (KF, SF, mob); RMSP 16 Sep (MN); PP 17 Sep (*fide* PD); CP 24 Sep (TF); CP 29 Sep (JDi); Rocky Point 30 Sep (RK); KP 1 Oct (JR, EM, *et al*); 2 CP 1-2 Oct (PJ, TF); FBF 2 Oct (PD, *et al*); CP 4-5 Oct (*fide* TF); 2 CP 12 Oct (RBA); Zach's Bay, JBSP 15 Oct (RJK); Snug Harbor 18 Oct (MS); Gilgo 23 Oct (RPx); MLUA 24 Oct (RV); 1-2 Bryant P 26 Oct thru (BC, GW, mob), ph; Caumsett SP 5 Nov (KF, SF); Quogue, SUFF 15 Nov (OB); MLUA 26 Nov (EJ); 2 Mecox 27 Nov (SSM, PJL); CHP 29 Nov (RV).

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: PB 4 Sep (RBA), very early; CHP 24 Sep (JGi, *et al*); KP 24-25 Sep (EM, JR, mob); CLP 26 Sep (HF); APP 1 Oct (DF); RMSP 5 Oct (SSM); 2 JBWE 8 Oct (BF); JBWE 9 Oct (SA, mob); MP 11 Oct (ES, DT); Wading R, SUFF 16 Oct; 2 Gilgo 16 Oct (RBA); 1-2 JBWE 15-18 Oct (RBA, JGI, SyS); HHSP 17 Oct (AC); FT 22 Oct (DG, SA, GH); FBF 22 Oct (DG); SPCP 22 Oct (RK); Plumb Beach 23 Oct (JD, *et al*); JBWE 23-25 Oct (JD, *et al*); MP 26 Oct (PMP); SPCP 28 Oct (CS, DB); BP 20 Nov (AB), late.

Field Sparrow: 15 Lido Beach 23 Oct (RJK, BB); 10 FT 30 Oct (SA, CF); 15 FBF 26 Nov, large numbers.

Vesper Sparrow: Snug Harbor 26 Sep (MS); Caumsett SP 7 Oct (KF); FT 8 Oct (CF, SA); Caumsett SP 8 Oct (D. Furbish); 2 FT 22 Oct

(DG, GH, SA); 2 FBF 22 Oct (DG); Lido Beach 23 Oct (RJK, BB); FBF 24 Oct (SyS, JGi); 3 KP 25 Oct (CF, EM); PP 26 Oct – 1 Nov (GW, mob); 3 FT 28-30 Oct (CF, AB, SA); FT 31 Oct (DG); 2 CP 1 Nov (*fide* KFu); SPCP 20 Nov (DR, *et al*).

Lark Sparrow: at least 15 reports involving at least 18 birds: JBWE 8 Sep (RP); CP 13-15 Sep (TP, mob); 3 JBWE 16 Sep (PP, ABi); FT 16-17 Sep (PD, mob); RMSP 16-17 Sep (SSM, SF); JBWE 17-18 Sep (RBA); KP 25 Sep (PR); 2 KP 27-29 Sep (CF, mob); FBF 29 Sep (PD); KP 1 Oct (KM); Theodore Roosevelt County P, SUFF 2 Oct (HM, *et al*); PP 5 Oct (RJ); FT 8 Oct (CF, IG, SA); JBWE 9 Oct (SA, mob); FT 22 Oct (DG, SA, GH).

Grasshopper Sparrow: E52 St. 4 Oct (AF); CP 6 Oct (MR); Zach's Bay, JBSP 15 Oct (RJK).

Nelson's Sparrow: arr PP 6 Oct (RJ, RB); RP 8 Oct (CF, IG, SA); PBP 8 Oct (AB); MLUA 7 Oct (RV); max 13 Plumb Beach 9 Oct (HL); Captree I, SUFF 10 Oct (SF); CCP 10 Oct (BBo), *subvirgatus*; 8 Plumb Beach 23 Oct (JD, *et al*), all *subvirgatus*; 3 Plumb Beach 24 Oct (SyS, JGi); 6 Plumb Beach 25 Oct (JGI); Cedar Beach, Babylon 26 Oct (JSe); last Meadow Croft Estate, SUFF 19 Nov (DR).

Saltmarsh Sparrow: Bryant P 5 Oct (GW, *et al*), ph, unusual location.

Fox Sparrow: CP 11 Oct (RBA), early.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Over 35 reports incl: 3 Caumsett SP 7 Oct (KF); Northville 15 Nov (MLL), late; Bryant P 19 Nov thru (BC), late.

Swamp Sparrow: 500 MLUA 24 Oct (RV); poss State record high count.

White-crowned Sparrow: common this fall; over 150 reports incl reports of 13-15 JBWE, 16 RMSP, & max 21 JBSP 8-10 Oct.

Summer Tanager: CLP 27 Sep (HF, *et al*); Blydenburgh CP, SUFF 5 Oct (GQ).

Scarlet Tanager: PBP 19 Nov (AB), late.

Blue Grosbeak: 3 RMSP 16 Sep (MN, KF, SF); 3 SMSP 16 Sep (RBA); 2 JBWE 24 Sep (SA); 1-2 KP 24 Sep – 1 Oct (EM, JR, CF, mob); CP 25 Sep (TF); RMSP 1 Oct (JGI); 4 KP 2 Oct (AB, MM); Jam Bay 2 Oct (EM, AG, *et al*); FBF 2 Oct (PD, *et al*); 4 Snug Harbor 3 Oct (IG, MS); RMSP 5 Oct (KF, SF); KP 8-11 Oct (GH, EM, mob); CP 11-12 Oct (TP, KFu, mob); Ama 15 Oct (KRu); JBWE 16 Oct (JGI); 2 RMSP 16 Oct (JGI).

Indigo Bunting: 15 KP 1 Oct (AB), large number.

Dickcissel: RMSP 9 Sep (RBA); FBF 10 Sep (RBA); DP 10 Sep (RBA); JBWE 11 Sep (TWB, GB); CP 11 Sep (TF); FT 27 Sep (TF); Georgica, SUFF 28 Sep (N Laviola); RMSP 1 Oct (DF); MP 8 Oct (AC); JBWE 9 Oct (SA, mob); HSP

15 Oct (JGI); Zach's Bay, JBSP 15 Oct (RJK); Zach's Bay, JBSP 16 Oct (RBA); FT 22 Oct (GH, SA); JBWE 12-18 Nov (BB, SW, mob); Ditch Plains 27 Nov (DG, HL); CHP 28 Nov (RV).

Red-winged Blackbird: max 2700 FT 18 Nov (DG, RB).

E. Meadowlark: 20 Calv 24 Nov (PM), large number.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: imm m SPCP 26 Sep (CS); imm m RMSP 5 Oct (SSM); imm f Captree SP 19-22 Oct (SSM, mob).

Rusty Blackbird: arr 3 Caumsett SP 7 Oct (KF); 45 FT 22 Oct (DG, SA, GH); 35 FT 30 Oct (SA, CF); 46 RMSP 19 Nov (SSM); max 130 FT 19 Nov (DG, RB).

Com. Grackle: 6500 several locations coastal KING 17 Nov (DG), large number.

Boat-tailed Grackle: 120 Captree SP 7 Oct (SSM); 110 Captree SP 26 Oct (SSM); 400 Jam Bay 3 Nov (DG, CF), large number.

Orchard Oriole: L Montauk 2 Sep (SSM, PJJ); CP 1 Oct (*fide* TF), ph, late.

Baltimore Oriole: 3 PBP 19 Nov (AB); CP 25 Nov (J. Rabi); CHP 28 Nov (RV), late.

Purple Finch: few; first 5 Oct several loc; 5 CHP 18 Nov (RV); max 10 RMSP 18 Nov (SSM).

Pine Siskin: very few; first 5 Oct RMSP; max 11 E52 St 31 Oct (AF); 6 GKP 30 Nov (MS).

Am. Goldfinch: very few; 150 RMSP 24 Nov (BBo); max 437 FT 24 Nov (DG).

EXOTICS

Mitred Parakeet: 7 Ozone Park, QUEE 1 Oct (Lisa Scheppke), ph; 11 Ozone Park, QUEE 3 or 4 Oct (Lisa Scheppke).

Great Kiskadee: Spuyten Duyvil, BRON 11 Sep (Philip & Alice Brickner), ph.

Venezuelan Troupial: Gerry Pd P, Roslyn, NASS 28-30 Nov (MN, mob), ph.



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

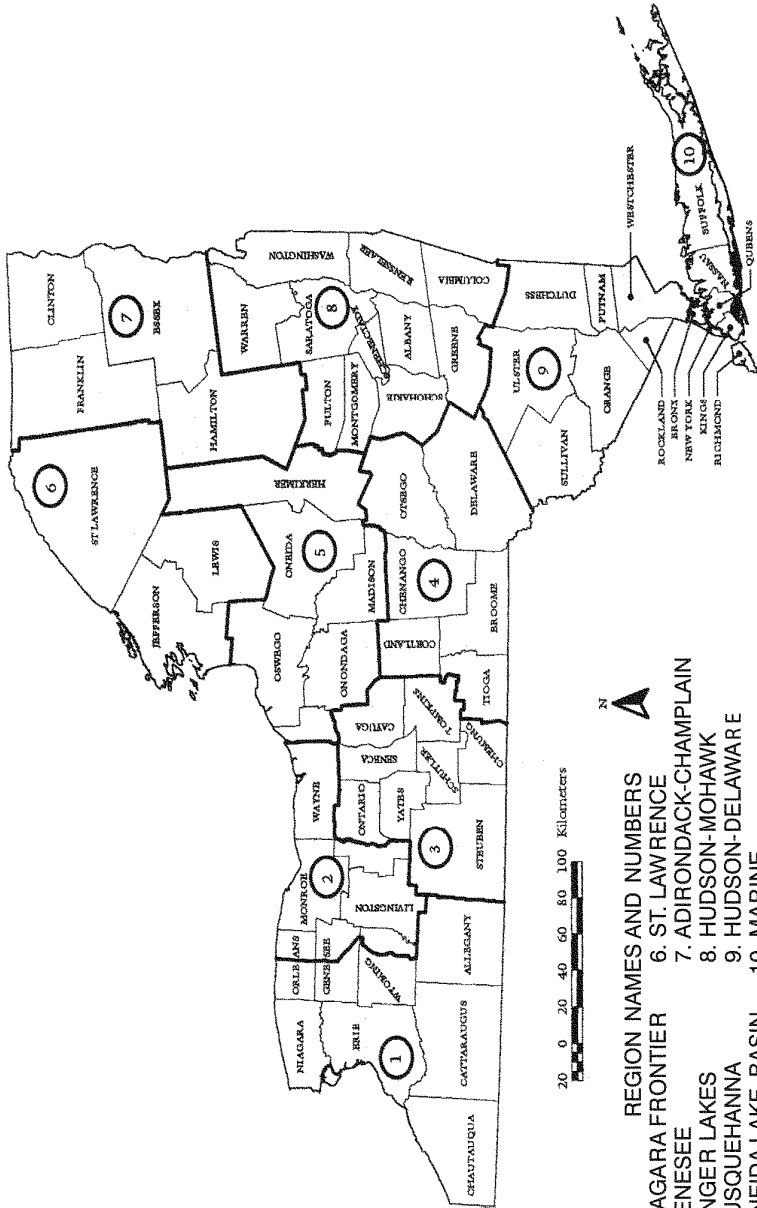
Deadline is 7 June

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

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