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continued on inside back cover



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CONTENTS

A Welsh birder abroad: the story behind a record-breaking Big Year in New York State
 Anthony Collerton 2

Notes and Comments
 Western Kingbird in Savannah, Wayne County, NY, with notes on previous records
 of vagrant *Tyrannus* in this area.
 Jim Tarolli 12

Regional Reports 13

Photo Gallery 43

Standard Regional Report Abbreviations, Reporting Deadlines
 and Map of Reporting Regions 87

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Front Cover – Western Kingbird, Breezy Point, *Queens*, 12 Oct 2012, © Andrew Baksh.

Back Cover – top: Western Kingbird, Savannah, *Wayne*, 5 Oct 2012, © Jim Tarolli;
 bottom: Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Oceanside, *Nassau*, 19 Sep 2012, © S. S. Mitra.

A WELSH BIRDER ABROAD: THE STORY BEHIND A RECORD-BREAKING BIG YEAR IN NEW YORK STATE

Anthony Collerton

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On New Year's Day, 2012, I invited an old birding friend, Philip Dempsey, to bird with me on the east end of Long Island. Our plan was to bird hard for a day and see how many species we could come up with, hopefully capturing some of the nostalgia of New Year's Days gone by, when we were young and rabid birders. Fact is that neither of us had done much birding in recent years; careers, relationships, and other hobbies (fly-fishing in my case, surfing in Philip's) had pushed birding to the back seat. So a bracing day of winter birding seemed a fun (and harmless) thing to do and that really, honestly, was the extent of the plan for 2012.

Our day went well and we found some good birds out east. It started with a pre-dawn Eastern Screech-Owl in my yard in Northwest Harbor and ended 73 species later with one of the last birds being a Snowy Owl at Shinnecock. We saw nothing particularly unusual or rare that day and perhaps the best bird was a Glaucous Gull we found at Sagaponack. We certainly saw nothing like the mega-rarity that Doug Gochfeld and Andrew Baksh turned up when they found New York State's first Grace's Warbler that morning at the other end of Long Island. Philip and I got that call from Angus Wilson but opted to stick to our original plan and stay local (would someone who was doing a Big Year skip a shot at a Grace's Warbler?). We had a good day, enjoyed our time in the field and even picked up six more species, including a staked out Mountain Bluebird, on the way back to the city the next morning.

Then an odd thing happened, the result, perhaps, of a mere series of coincidences. My partner Ryan had introduced me to eBird during the summer of 2011 and I had started to enter local birding records into the database. Back from our New Year's Day trip I entered the birds we'd seen and discovered that you could see real-time league tables of other birders' year-lists. And, almost certainly as a result of every other serious birder in the state abandoning their New Year's birding plans to go and chase the Grace's Warbler, it turned out that Philip and I were doing rather well on that list. In fact I think we were briefly number one and two.

So perhaps, I thought, I'll see if I can see 100 (soon adjusted to 150) species in January. And the rest, as they say is history.

JANUARY

The 'Winter that Never Came' allowed for a lot of birding time and I was able to run around collecting species that had been reported around the New York City area. In addition to the Grace's Warbler I was able to add a Rufous Hummingbird at the American Museum of Natural History, a Barnacle Goose at

Seatuck Creek, an Eared Grebe and a Eurasian Wigeon at Jamaica Bay, and a Black-headed Gull in Brooklyn. Soon enough though the supply of local birds dried up and so I had to look further afield.

In late January Philip and I headed up to the Adirondacks where we met up with Joan Collins and did two days of winter birding. Philip was between girlfriends at the time so could be talked into such a trip given copious assurances about unseasonably mild temperatures. While we didn't get everything we wanted, we did add 14 year birds, including Boreal Chickadee and Gray Jay. That put me in range for my 150-species January target and I got there with a Long-eared Owl at Hunter Island in the Bronx on January 31st. All done....

FEBRUARY

Or perhaps not. Having got back into the habit of birding I ended up adding another 31 species in February to end the month at 181. I finally caught up with the Barrow's Goldeneye at Jamaica Bay after multiple attempts and added a White-winged Dove on Staten Island. I also cleaned up on local wintering birds now that I'd learned how to search eBird and had set up a 'Needs Alert' for New York State.

February, being mild, also allowed two more trips to the north. A second Adirondack's trip with Joan Collins added Black-backed Woodpecker and an American Three-toed Woodpecker, one of New York State's superstar, hard to find residents. The other trip was my first real foray to the northwest of New York and, after picking up two Western Grebes on Cayuga Lake and a King Eider at Sodus Bay, I met up with Greg Lawrence for a Niagara gull trip. Greg and Joan were not people I knew before this year and in both cases I reached out to names I saw on eBird, looking for help in areas I didn't know well. Joan turned out to be a professional bird guide (I had no idea) and Greg turned out to be a college student. Either way, I managed to press both into service as unofficial regional helpers, the first of what became a network of new friends across the state helping me keep abreast of goings-on bird-wise.

Anyway, back to Niagara where Greg and I had a great trip adding Little, Thayer's and California Gulls to my year list. My first time ever at Niagara and I didn't actually see the Falls—my parents live in Wales, and even they've seen the Falls.

Oh, and another thing started to happen in February. People started to notice my year list—most assuming I was some kind of new birder but a few remembering me from 20 years ago when I was last seriously birding in the Northeast. And people started to reach out, including a chap called Richard Fried (who I'd never heard of but learned was the current holder of the New York State Year List record at 352 species) who messaged me via Facebook to ask if I was doing a Big Year. At the time I still wasn't sure.

MARCH

Is a dull month where, if you've birded hard you'll have seen all the winter birds and be waiting impatiently for migration to get underway. The month started off

in spectacular fashion though, with the discovery of a Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch at Nancy Loomis's feeder north of Utica. After that star bird however, normal service was resumed and it went back to being...well, just March. While I added 12 year birds during the month it was quite the slog as I waited impatiently for more migrants and chased down early arrivals even though I knew they'd be abundant in just a couple of weeks time. My last bird in March was a Northern Saw-whet Owl in the 'Owl Woods' at Braddock Bay near Rochester and I had to work really hard for that bird. Still, with spring migration just around the corner and 193 species in the bag, I was actually starting to think I might actually do a Big Year.

APRIL

And the spring migration that I've been waiting for finally got underway. This isn't a time for rarities so much, but rather a 'mopping up' operation. Over the next six weeks I could get most of New York's migrant breeding birds without going too far from home, but each one that I missed required a trip to look for them in their breeding habitat. Too many misses and I'd be running around like crazy chasing breeding birds through June instead of focusing on the rare ones. So through April and May I found myself doing a lot of migrant watching.

I ended up getting 56 year birds in April, almost all from New York City parks and the State parks on the south shore of Long Island. Barn Swallow was my 200th species of the year on April 6th and other 'good birds' included a Yellow-throated Warbler at Riverside Park, a Prothonotary Warbler in Bryant Park, several Kentucky Warblers in Central Park and a Golden-winged Warbler in Crocheron Park in Queens. That bird turned out to be my last add of the month but things were looking pretty good as I headed into May with few misses to worry about.

Misses are an odd thing to think about as almost anything that I'd missed up until that point could feasibly be found later in the year in the 'second winter'. Come April though, a new class of 'permanent' misses appeared with spring overshoot migrants that might not show again and weren't going to give me a second chance. Fortunately there weren't too many of these that April; a Bullock's Oriole upstate was a one day bird and not chaseable, while being lucky enough to see one of the Swallow-tailed Kites that showed up was just that—luck. Those two were the worst of my April misses so I actually considered myself to have done pretty well.

MAY

Is my absolute favorite month of the year in Eastern North America (and large chunks of the Palearctic too for that matter). Migration is at full force and life seems to be flooding back to every habitat in our area. It's a month that I could happily be outdoors in nature every single day, and this year I think I might just well have been.

May started with a good vagrant bird for my 250th bird of the year—a breeding plumage male Yellow-headed Blackbird which had set up territory near Binghamton. It also included my 300th bird when I managed to levy my

local network out east to track down a calling Northern Bobwhite on the North Fork of Long Island. In total I added 57 new year birds in May, ending up at 306 and feeling really positive about breaking the record.

On the record front, by now I was pretty much openly acknowledging that I planned to try to break the New York State Big Year record and had even given an interview to Corey Finger at 10,000 Birds that said as much. Things seemed to be going well and once again I missed very few birds—a Swainson's Hawk and a possible Swainson's Warbler being the most notable misses. It was also a lot of fun racking up such big numbers of year birds day-after-day. You get a lot of endorphins from checking things off a list.

Other May highlights included a lot of time out at night on Long Island failing to find Black Rails but hearing lots of Eastern Whip-poor-wills and successfully tracking down one of New York State's few breeding Chuck-wills-widows. I also chased down Upland Sandpipers at Blue Chip Farms, Bicknell's Thrush at Whiteface Mountain, Henslow's Sparrow at Perch River, and Arctic Tern at Cupsogue Flats. On the vagrant front I finally caught up with a White-faced Ibis at Jamaica Bay after many, many hours of searching, only to have Pat Lindsay and Shai Mitra then find another one about 400 yards from my house in Northwest Harbor (!). I also got Mississippi Kites, a bird I was fretting about bumping into, when a pair showed up and started to build a nest at Sterling Forest.

Coming out of May I was in pretty good shape with a very defined list of breeding birds still to hunt down and a fair amount of time to do it before shorebird season kicked off in July.

JUNE

Involved a lot of miles as I slogged back and forth across the North Country trying to track down those scarce, or even semi-mythical, breeders that are often the envy of many a New York birder.

Spruce Grouse (a small and declining relict population hang on in the Adirondacks) became something of an obsession and 'Hunting the Snark' as I came to call it took me to these mountain bogs, and fed a lot of mosquitos, three times that month. I had good intel from local birders and research scientists, including the location of a breeding pair, but it still took me six long days of searching before I finally bumped into a mother and young at Spring Pond Bog.

Other long-haul trips netted me breeding King Rail in Western New York and Northern Goshawk near Potsdam, but I failed miserably in my attempt to track down a Gray Partridge that Chris Wood had seen in Amish Country near Perch River. Shorebirds also started a bit early with a Curlew Sandpiper at Pike's Beach and a Ruff at Montezuma. I felt really good about this last bird having raced up there as soon as I heard about it and getting the bird late in the day. Sure, it was a 14-hour round trip but surely this would be the only Ruff seen in New York this year ... and then Andrew Baksh found four or five this summer at Jamaica Bay (see Andrew's excellent blog for details of these and other discoveries: <http://birdingdude.blogspot.com/>).

Perhaps the best bird of the month though, and certainly the best bird that I found myself this year, was a total and complete surprise. I'd been debating how to get offshore to look for pelagic birds. Richard Fried, in his record breaking year, had been taken offshore several times by Angus Wilson and John Shemilt and had managed several really good birds. I was pretty sure this was not going to happen for me thought so I was pretty much on my own. While June was early for seabirds, in past years I had seen a lot of jaegers and shearwaters south of Montauk while fly-fishing for Mako Sharks (all catch-and-release). So, chartering a shark boat and captain, I headed offshore and spent a day chumming in and around the shark fleet about 30 miles south of eastern Long Island ... and we had quite simply the most amazing day of sea-birding that I've ever had in New York waters.

To cut a long story short we had all three jaeger species and hundreds of shearwaters often up close to the boat. By the time we had to head back to Montauk I couldn't imagine a better day of birding and then ... a Fea's Petrel flew close by the boat! Luckily the captain was able to pursue the petrel and I was able to get some shots, because no one would have believed me had I not got some decent photos. With Fea's Petrel, Spruce Grouse and Curlew Sandpiper in New York in the same week this truly was a 'purple patch' and perhaps the highlight of the year. The summer, and almost all the sea-birding I did after that, were certainly a bit of an anticlimax.

JULY

So I came into July at 322 species (only 30 shy of the state record) and with an epic June behind me. I was feeling pretty good about myself, and my prospects for breaking the record in the summer. After all, Richard Fried had seen a ton of Hurricane Irene waifs and strays, pelagic birds, and other vagrants in the summer. Visions of 365, or even 375 swirled in my head. And then ... well, I basically hit a wall and endured three months of pretty dismal birding. I put in huge numbers of hours and miles, and added very few birds. I guess Big Years aren't all fun.

In total I added only eight year birds during the month of July. Almost all of them seemed to be hard fought. A Sandwich Tern required multiple visits to the baking, fly-bitten flats of Cupsogue before it surrendered, and Whimbrel gave in only after an epic number of days searching the bays and flats out east. I did pick up a few shorebirds, with Stilt Sandpiper, American Avocet and Pectoral Sandpiper at Jamaica Bay and again have to thank Andrew Baksh for (practically living in the mud at Jamaica Bay all summer and) keeping me up to speed on the shorebird comings and goings.

Considering I spent so many dozens of hours standing out feeding the biting flies and risking sun-stroke or drowning at Cupsogue, it's perhaps ironic that I wasn't there on the day that Derek Rogers and Arie Gilbert had a Brown Booby fly right over them on the flats. My attempts at pelagic-birding were also dismal failures with several charters producing very little in terms of birds and my resorting to whale-watching boats to get out to sea (they didn't produce much either).

To add birds I ran up to St. Lawrence and Jefferson Counties twice (it's an awfully long way to St. Lawrence County). One trip added a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck but another added Sedge Wren and Common Nighthawk only after literally days of searching. And I still couldn't find a Gray Partridge (!) despite serious hours and effort on my part.

AUGUST

So after the dismal July, I was hoping August would be better ... but it wasn't. I added only six species the whole month although I was out birding every day. With no summer hurricane, there just weren't a lot of birds to chase. I did run up to Niagara for a Franklin's Gull but missed it. I also spent a lot of time out on whale-watching boats, and while I did see lots of dolphins and sea turtles, I didn't add any birds.

The only adds for August were five species of shorebirds and an American White Pelican at Jamaica Bay. No vagrants, no seabirds, not all that much fun to be honest.

SEPTEMBER

So this month had to get better, right? Maybe some vagrants? Or a hurricane? Or some rare seabirds?

On the plus side a Fork-tailed Flycatcher caused a mad scramble and was a state bird for me—while I missed Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher and Say's Phoebe this year I can hardly complain after lucking into quick views of the short-staying, and infinitely rarer Fork-tailed. I also managed to finally get out to the Hudson Canyon for a real pelagic trip (after several other bookings on pelagics and fishing boats were cancelled). Audubon's Shearwater got to join the list at least, even if we didn't connect with any of the real pelagic goodies. On the shorebird front, Hudsonian Godwit finally made it onto the list after several misses and a lot of time spent searching for this species. I was getting through the list of expected birds, but it was just really, really hard work.

Even with these birds though, I still only managed six year birds in September. Ever willing to jump in the car for a 15-hour round-trip drive, I ran to Rochester for a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper but was a day late. I also started to get nervous about Brown Pelican as I stubbornly managed to miss the very few that showed up this year. Seabirds in general did not go well for me this year and by the end of September it became obvious that I'd botched my summer pelagic season and now missed a good handful of species that were possible with better planning.

Richard Fried had been kind enough to share his record 2011 list with me and I kept staring at this big cluster of year birds that he got in the summer, and that I simply wasn't replicating. It's not that there weren't birds around, there were plenty of birds and it was actually a pretty good shorebird season overall (and I did see 38 species of shorebird in New York State this year). I think it was more that the summer really highlights the downside of Big Years, and the flip-side of all those endorphins from year birds in May. Big Years are by their nature extremely goal-focused and it gets tougher and tougher to get new birds

as the year moves on. A great day of shorebirding where I saw 15 species of shorebird including a Ruff at Jamaica Bay would be a really great feeling in any normal year, but this year...no Hudsonian Godwit...no smiles. To be honest I really wasn't having a lot of fun with the whole project by this point and, if I hadn't already sunk so much time into it I would seriously have considered easing off. At the very least I went into October with 342 species, serious doubts about breaking the record, and really hoping for a change of luck.

OCTOBER

Is a very birdy month with lots to see and lots to hope for. I spent a lot of time (most days) on the barrier beaches and at the east end of Long Island hoping for Western Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Northern Wheatear and the like but really didn't turn up much in terms of new birds. I did chase, and dip, a Say's Phoebe, and did finally manage to connect with a Western Kingbird at Breezy Point. The kingbird was my only year bird from Long Island though, and one of only five that I managed to turn up all month.

The other four year birds all came from road trips. After dipping Franklin's Gull once in Niagara County I was a bit gun shy about chasing another one up there, but when one showed up at Montezuma NWR I took the risk and managed to get the bird the day after it was found. Montezuma also gave me my only Ross's Geese of the year on rain-challenged trip to the Rochester area. I also managed to add Cave Swallow and Lapland Longspur at Hamlin Beach SP, and even though I subsequently saw both species down on Long Island, seeing Cave Swallows migrating along the shore of Lake Ontario was a very memorable experience.

October also brought us Hurricane *Sandy* which did not bring me any birds; a single Leach's Storm-Petrel was the only bird I could legitimately call a 'storm bird'. It did, however, bring a lot of destruction and misery to many of the low-lying coastal areas of Long Island, and effectively closed large areas of the barrier beaches for the balance of year. We actually got off pretty lightly out in Northwest Harbor with no real damage other than some downed trees. It did create a sort of 'lost week' phenomenon though, as we hunkered down with no heat, or power, and with limited gasoline supplies keeping me close to home. I spent weeks looking for my Brown Pelican, but still no luck.

NOVEMBER

So into 'rarity season' at 347 species. It seemed like I was close to breaking the record back in June and then had crawled along, seemingly no closer to the record, ever since. I still needed six more species, and perhaps a couple of spares just in case. As I looked over the prospects, absent pelagic birds (which I never got in any case), I'd really need a spectacular crop of goodies to show up in New York if I was going to break that 352 mark. And we did indeed get a spectacular crop of November rarities....

On the vagrant front I ran up to Canastota for a Harris's Sparrow, and to Athens for a Western Tanager. I got Virginia's Warbler (!) and Painted Bunting in Queens, and Northern Lapwing and Brewer's Blackbird at Montauk. Both

ends of Long Island were producing at once, and who knows what we might have had if the *Sandy*-damaged beaches had been open to birders.

Ironically, with all these high profile vagrants, my 352nd species (tying the record) was Pine Grosbeak and my (record breaking) 353rd species was Dovekie. Both good birds, but neither a vagrant per se. The Dovekie, part of a very good year for this species at Montauk so far, came on November 24th and was a huge relief. I was birding with Derek Rogers and we 'high-fived' in the parking lot at Montauk Inlet. After slogging away all summer/fall, the November spurt hurled me over the record very quickly so it felt very strange to not be chasing that number after so many months of looking at it stubbornly staying out of reach.

DECEMBER

And so into the home stretch with 356 species and still time to add a few more to 'put it out of reach'.

I did try to get out to sea on fishing boats but had four December trips cancel for lack of bookings. Pelagic birds really did become the big gap in my list this year with five or six additional species left on the table due to my less than impressive pelagic effort. I did, however, manage to catch up with a Brown Pelican (no-one expects to get their year Brown Pelican in December) thus avoiding an embarrassing miss for the year. I also got to catch up with another long-time nemesis bird, one which I had chased and dipped often including two painful missed already this year, when Corey Finger gifted me a LeConte's Sparrow in Queens.

With the year waning, and my enthusiasm fading as thoughts turned to next year, I did still manage to summon the energy to chase a few more things. A Tufted Duck in western Suffolk County was a quick run, but a Townsend's Solitaire in Seneca County wasn't. Finally on December 28th I ran up to Lake Placid to add Hoary Redpoll, giving me my 361st and last NYS year bird of 2012.

And so I was all done and I wondered what it will feel like on January 1st not having a New York Big Year to work on. Although I'll be honest and say that this project was a bit of chore at times, especially during the summer, overall it was a wonderful experience. I saw a lot of really neat birds, got to visit some great places, and met a lot of really interesting people. It was a terrific way to get back into birding in the Northeast after years where my only serious birding was done on vacations to the far-flung corners of the world. I learned a ton, and was slowly getting back up to speed in terms of birding skills. Was it worth doing?...yes, absolutely. Would I do it again?...hell no.

—Monday, December 31, 2012

Some random stats, thoughts and observations from the 2012 Big Year.

I birded (as in posted one or more eBird checklists) on 285 days in 2012. This may be a bit of an understatement as I wasn't always as good an eBirder as I should be.

I saw 361 species in New York State.

That was 95.5% of the 378 species seen this year in New York State (per eBird at year end). Which means I missed 17 species seen by others.

With a little more effort and organization, I should have been able to get four or five more. With luck, who knows?—I do believe that 375 is possible in a year in New York State.

I cheated on New York State only four times—Brown Booby and Crested Caracara in New Jersey, Wood Sandpiper (dipped) in Rhode Island, and a week in the Turks & Caicos.

I birded in 34 of New York State's 62 counties and drove through a bunch more.

Even though I got around a fair bit, the bulk of my birding time was really concentrated in three areas—New York City/Long Island, the Adirondacks/St. Lawrence, and the Montezuma/Rochester area. Almost all the birds I saw this year were in one of these three 'corners' of the State.

I drove approximately 40,000 miles by car, and took 10 boat trips in search of birds.

I stayed in a lot of Marriott Hotels, and ate way too much food at service areas on I87 and I90.

I have still never seen Niagara Falls or been to the Statue of Liberty.

THE MISSES

Despite everyone seemingly thinking that I "saw everything" I actually missed a lot. Some birds I couldn't really try for but there were plenty of "dips" where I drove, often many hours, and failed to see a bird reported previously by others (Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in Rochester, Franklin's Gull in Niagara, White Pelican near Buffalo, Slaty-backed Gull at Newburgh, Brown Pelican on Staten Island, Le Conte's Sparrow in Brooklyn, Le Conte's Sparrow near Ithaca, Say's Phoebe on Fire Island, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher on Jones Beach, Gray Partridge near Perch River, etc., etc.). There were also birds I spent a lot of time looking for and did not see; three in particular absorbed huge numbers of miles, hours, and mosquito bites (Yellow Rail, Black Rail and Gray Partridge). And then there are the birds that I could have seen but didn't get to for logistical reasons (Red Phalarope, Northern Fulmar, Atlantic Puffin, etc.). No one can see everything but I certainly had my share of heart-breaking misses....

THE 'NON-BIRDS'

During the year I did see quite a few other vertebrate species (I really don't keep lists on invertebrates). Among the mammals I saw a Northern Right Whale, several Humpback Whales, a Minke Whale and lots of Common and Bottle-nosed Dolphins. I also had a Black Bear, several Coyotes, Red and Gray Foxes, and lots of smaller critters. I saw surprisingly few herps, which suggests perhaps that herp-watching requires a different focus from bird-watching. Among the best things herp-wise were four species of sea turtle (Leatherback, Green, Loggerhead and Kemp's Ridley), my life (!) Wood Turtle, and the scarce Eastern Tiger Salamander. I didn't really keep a 'fish list' but several breaching Basking

Sharks were quite a spectacle as were a group of Bluefin Tuna feeding on baitfish on the surface.

THANK YOU

In no particular order, big thanks to the many people who helped in some way with the Big Year. So thanks Andrew Baksh for finding me a bunch of birds and keeping on my case as I flagged this summer. To Greg Lawrence for the Niagara Frontier, and Joan Collins for the Adirondacks. To Richard Fried for being such a good egg all year as I chased and then beat his hard-fought record. To Corey Finger, Benjamin Van Doren, Angus Wilson, Shai Mitra, Patricia Lindsay, Tom Burke, Isaac Grant, Peter Polshek, Jim Ash, Hugh McGuinness, Andy Guthrie, Derek Rogers, Bob Adamo, Willie D'Anna, Paul Guris, Jacob Drucker, Larry Master, Mark Manske, Chris Wood, Jay McGowan, Matt Young, Luke Tiller and the many, many other birders who shared information or helped with advice and counsel. To the eBird reviewers for putting up with my onslaught of records from all over the state and my utter lack of expertise in all sorts of places. To Steve N. G. Howell, Ned Brinkley and Michael O'Brien for the seabird help. To Philip Dempsey and Michael Duffy for being enablers and producing bourbon and bacon at strategic moments. And last of course to my partner Ryan for putting up with the insane goat-rodeo that a Big Year inflicts on a home and family life—I promise, I'm done.



NOTES AND COMMENTS

Western Kingbird in Savannah, Wayne County, NY, with Notes on Previous Records of Vagrant *Tyrannus* in This Area

I awoke on 5 October 2012 knowing that I had a busy day of birding ahead of me. I planned on going to Irondequoit Bay to look for the Black-headed Gull, and from there, to look for the Yellow-headed Blackbird at Van Dyne Spoor Road in Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. I arrived at Irondequoit Bay early, and had the Black-headed Gull in my scope almost immediately. After a while of watching the bird, I decided it was time to move on to Montezuma.

After a successful stop at Marten's Tract to look for Nelson's Sparrow, I proceeded onto Van Dyne Spoor Road. While driving down the road, I spotted a bird actively flycatching from the power lines. As soon as I saw the bird, I knew it had the potential to be something good. I was aware that vagrant *Tyrannus* flycatchers will show up in the East in the fall. I quickly pulled off to the side of the road, jumped out of my car, and put my binoculars on the bird. I immediately saw it was a flycatcher. The bird had a gray head and back, with a white throat and breast, yellow belly, and a black tail with white edges on both sides. I then realized it was a Western Kingbird.

I snapped a few photos (see p. 46 and the back cover of this issue) and called some other birders that I knew were in the area. Thankfully the bird was still there when they arrived. When I found it, it was the only bird there, and it was very conspicuous. The area the bird was in is just perfect for any flycatcher. There are open fields on both sides of the road, and the power lines provide the exposed perch to catch insects in flight. The kingbird would sit on the power line, wait for an insect, grab it, and return to the perch and eat it. The bird was very active, not sitting for long before catching another insect and moving up and down the road. The bird was very successful in getting food. After observing the bird for nearly two hours I made my way towards the marsh area of Van Dyne Spoor Road. When I pulled up, the Yellow-headed Blackbird was fairly close, perched and singing. It was quite the birding day.

Tyrannus flycatchers have a tendency to wander out of range, with many east coast records of western North American and tropical species during fall, from September to November. The vast majority of such records are coastal, but the Van Dyne Spoor Road area of the Montezuma Refuge has done remarkably well in this regard, recording Gray Kingbird (23 Oct 2010) and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (25 Oct 2009) in addition to this Western Kingbird on 5 Oct 2012. That's quite impressive. Three different species of vagrant *Tyrannus* flycatchers, in the same inland area, all in October, within four years of one another.

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REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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The warm and dry summer weather extended into the first week of September 2012 before moderating conditions occurred. The average temperature was 63.2° F, 1.3° above normal. Monthly precipitation at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport was 4.39", 0.49" above normal, the first month with above normal precipitation since April. October was substantially wetter than usual and included 1.42" of rain on 29 October with the passage of the remnants of Hurricane *Sandy*. The average temperature was 52.2°, 1.4° above normal, and the monthly precipitation was 6.98", 3.46" above normal. November was cool and dry. The average temperature was 39.3°, 1.4° below normal. The monthly precipitation was 1.05", 2.96" below normal, with only 2.4" of snow at Buffalo, 5.5" below normal. Weather information was obtained from National Weather Service monthly summaries at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport.

Superstorm *Sandy* brought strong northerly winds and heavy rain to the Region as it passed during the evening of 29 October but fortunately did not bring much damage. Birders went out for several days following the passage and recorded strong waterfowl movements on Lake Ontario on 30-31 October and then plenty of gulls and jaegers on Lake Erie on 1 November as the winds shifted to the west and southwest. The only pelagic bird sighting was the Region's first Leach's Storm-Petrel, found by Jim Pawlicki and Joe Mitchell on the morning of 30 October as it struggled to fly west on Lake Ontario past Fort Niagara. Approximately 90 minutes later, perhaps the same bird was sighted at Van Wagner's Beach in Hamilton, Ontario, 35 miles away. The massive storm system clearly influenced migration, as observers from multiple locations on Lake Ontario documented a steady movement of waterfowl including Regional record counts of Brant and Black Scoter. On 1 November, birders picked out a group of six Pomarine Jaegers plus several Black-legged Kittiwakes and Little Gulls among the many Bonaparte's Gulls blown toward Buffalo and Hamburg on Lake Erie. Birders viewing across on the Ontario side witnessed even more rarities including a Ross's Gull, which was not seen in New York waters.

Consistent with recent fall seasons, there were several Greater White-fronted Goose reports. Cackling Geese were reported from more locations than usual, with a maximum of 35 at Iroquois NWR. Tundra Swan migration in November was most prominent at inland Chautauqua County locations of Chautauqua Lake and Bear Lake in Stockton; consistent with its greater migration over Lake Erie than Lake Ontario in fall. One of the long staying Trumpeter Swans at Oak Orchard WMA was shot during hunting season in mid November. Kurt Fox documented some impressive counts of Ring-necked Ducks and Ruddy Ducks, among other divers, from Attica Reservoir in late October. Ruddy Duck numbers at Batavia WWTP were lower than usual in fall. One Harlequin Duck was identified this fall; a passing bird on Lake Ontario.

The Kingbird 2013 March; 63 (1)

13

With no standardized migration lake watches in Region 1, our maximum records for waterfowl are often lacking and likely not indicative of the true status of many common species. Birders using eBird seem to be paying more attention to estimating numbers of passing waterfowl. Thus a count of 1,500 Common Loons is a new Regional record but is likely a result of a smaller sample size of birders making systematic counts through the years. Willie D'Anna was surprised by a seemingly 'white-headed' loon flying past Wilson on 15 October that he studied and identified as an adult Pacific Loon; only the third ever documented in the Region.

The highest count of Great Egrets going to roost at Iroquois NWR was 317 on 13 September. A Cattle Egret near the Cayuga Pool parking lot in late October and early November was the only uncommon wader found this season.

Black Vultures were observed along the Niagara River at Lewiston throughout the fall, with a maximum count of six. This is the only location in the Region to expect Turkey Vultures beyond early November. There were fewer Rough-legged Hawks than usual this fall.

There was one Sandhill Crane report this fall; a bird at Clymer on 12 October. Kurt Fox had a Sora in the same location at Batavia WWTP up until a record late date of 14 November.

Fall shorebird highlights featured a juvenile Western Sandpiper found by Dean DiTommaso at Tiff Nature Preserve on 10 September and a record late Wilson's Phalarope found and photographed by Steve Taylor at Batavia WWTP. Other notable sightings included two groups of Whimbrels, a large flock of White-rumped Sandpipers flying along Lake Erie, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Batavia WWTP, two reports of Long-billed Dowitchers, and several Red-necked Phalaropes.

Bonaparte's Gulls were in good numbers on the Niagara River in November, especially when blown in with strong south or southwesterly winds. One or more Black-headed Gulls were picked out among them this fall. A juvenile Sabine's Gull was blown to Buffalo Harbor on 15 October where Jim Pawlicki and Joe Mitchell even saw it standing on the shore for a while. Dean DiTommaso identified an adult Franklin's Gull at Woodlawn Beach SP on 3 October, while a 2nd cycle Franklin's Gull found by Jim Pawlicki was more obliging during its extended stay at the Niagara Power Project 7-25 November. Large gulls started to show up on the Niagara River in larger numbers by the end of November. Birders documented the same apparent Glaucous x Great Black-backed Gull at several locations along the Lake Erie shoreline that was observed last fall. David Junkin banded 37 Northern Saw-whet Owls at his yard in Wethersfield, with a maximum of 12 on 11 October. Kirk Vanstrom reported a Short-eared Owl at the Chautauqua County Airport and remarked that they can be found at this location with some regularity during their migration in November. The only other Short-eared Owl report was from the regular location in Shelby adjacent to Iroquois NWR.

Brett Ewald found a Western Kingbird, the Region's first since 2004, in Yates on 10 September. The bird was only seen for one day but allowed many birders the opportunity for a successful chase. A White-eyed Vireo at Woodlawn

Beach SP was a rare fall record, and the latest Philadelphia Vireo on record occurred 14 October.

Alec Humann found a late summer Purple Martin roost at Buckhorn Island SP, with up to 4,500 birds on 7 September. Northern Rough-winged Swallows again lingered at Niagara Falls into November and beyond. Willie D'Anna verified at least three Cave Swallows along Lake Ontario at Wilson on 26 October, and the eight other swallows on the same morning were likely Caves as well. Jim Pawlicki found a Cave Swallow at Woodlawn Beach SP 1-2 November and then one or two passing Buffalo Harbor on 8 November; which were the first reports for Erie County.

Red-breasted Nuthatches were widespread after being nearly absent last fall. There were multiple sightings of Bohemian Waxwings along Lake Ontario in November. Warbler highlights included a Golden-winged Warbler at Beaver Island SP and a record late Mourning Warbler for an extended stay 10-20 October at Woodlawn Beach SP. Nelson's Sparrows were found at two locations, including a record count of four at Iroquois NWR.

The predictions for a big finch year proved accurate as all irruptive finch species showed up this fall. Pine Siskins started things off with the bulk of their movement in October. Evening Grosbeaks were welcomed for their best showing in years with many reports in late October and early November. White-winged Crossbills made a push in late October and continued through November. The first Common Redpolls arrived at the end of October, and reports and numbers were building toward the end of November. One Hoary Redpoll was found and photographed among Common Redpolls at Fort Niagara by Brett Ewald on 22 November. Red Crossbills found the Lake Ontario shoreline by mid-November for their first noticeable fall flight in some time. Willie D'Anna videotaped a group of 22 Red Crossbills at his yard in Wilson from which Matt Young identified Type 3 and Type 10 calls. Pine Grosbeaks were reported at two locations along Lake Ontario in November. None of these irruptive species appeared to be staying in one place for long and were considered to be mostly passing through the Region.

The 77th annual BOS October Count was held on the 14th and compiled by Marcie Jacklin. It was a blustery day with strong southerly winds following passage of a warm front and the temperature reaching 74°. The count recorded 156 species with no first count records, two second count records (Greater White-fronted Goose, Black Vulture), 13 record high counts (five Cackling Goose, 76 Mute Swan, 523 Wood Duck, 98 Gadwall, 766 Green-winged Teal, 637 Common Merganser, two Black Vulture, 669 Turkey Vulture, 4 Peregrine Falcon, 37 Common Raven, 561 Eastern Bluebird, 40 Snow Bunting, and 467 Northern Cardinal).

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AmSP – Amherst SP, ERIE; BeSP – Beaver I SP, ERIE; BMAC – Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, WYOM; BOSOC – Buffalo Ornithological Society 14 Oct Count; BufH – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; ChauL – Chautauqua L, CHAU; DH – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; EVSP – Evangola SP, ERIE; FLC – Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, ERIE; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; GHSP – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; INWR – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; LBSP – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; LESP – Lake Erie SP, CHAU; 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; PG – Point Gratiot, CHAU; SPNS – Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary, 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

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr 2 Somerset NIAG 7 Oct (WD, DD), record early arrival; SPNS 8 Oct (LH); INWR 22, 25 Oct (JP, WW).

Snow Goose: arr Albion ORLE 12, 13 Sep (TKI); INWR 8 Oct; 2 Shadigee ORLE, GHSP 30 Oct; max 49 DH (WW, JP); BMAC 2 Nov; 10 PB 22 Nov; Oakfield GENE 23 Nov.

Brant: arr Wilson NIAG 17 Oct; 38 Shadigee ORLE 25 Oct; 400 Shadigee ORLE 31 Oct; 314 PB 28 Oct; max 4455 GHSP, 2823 Shadigee ORLE, 2675 LBSP, 1397 FNSP 30 Oct (WW, BE, KF, JP, CM), record count, heavy movement with Sandy passage; DH 31 Oct; 50 WoBSP, 40 BufH 1 Nov; 2 Barcelona CHAU 8 Nov.

Cackling Goose: arr Oakfield GENE 30 Sep (PY); 14, 8 Somerset NIAG 7, 20 Oct; 2 Lewiston NIAG 10 Oct; Franklinville CATT 19 Oct; max 25, 35 INWR 22, 25 Oct (JP, WW); 7 S Dayton CATT 31 Oct; 8 Wilson NIAG, SPNS 4 Nov; 9 BWWTP 23 Nov; Orangeville WYOM 24 Nov; Stockton CHAU 29 Nov.

Mute Swan: max 12 FNSP 30 Oct.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 OOWMA 29 Sep; male shot OOWMA 14 Nov, likely one of pair residing in area over past year.

Tundra Swan: arr 17 INWR 2 Nov; 10, 59 BeSP 9, 14 Nov; max 109 Stockton CHAU 13

Nov (TM); 73 Mayville ChauL 13 Nov; 26, 35 NF 16, 25 Nov.

Wood Duck: 133 BWWTP 7 Sep; max 500, 600 INWR 11, 13 Oct (CM, KF), record count.

Gadwall: max 129, 114 INWR 28 Oct, 3 Nov; 49 BWWTP 30 Oct; 38 Tiff NP 14 Nov.

Am. Wigeon: max 137, 126, 182 INWR 20 Sep, 25 Oct, 3 Nov; 65 BWWTP 23 Oct.

Am. Black Duck: max 15 Tiff NP 11 Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: max 57, 50 INWR 6 Sep, 8 Oct; 30 Tiff NP 11 Sep; last 2 INWR 27 Oct.

N. Shoveler: max 112 BWWTP 14 Sep; 6 Kiantone CHAU 12 Oct; 4 Olcott NIAG 31 Oct; 20 Alexander GENE 9 Nov.

N. Pintail: max 157 Wilson NIAG 7 Oct; 119 Shadigee ORLE, 84 GHSP, 40 BWWTP 30 Oct; 103 INWR 2 Nov; 17 WoBSP 2 Nov.

Green-winged Teal: 350, 495 OOWMA 20, 21 Sep (MW, CM); 70 Tiff NP 12 Oct; max 786, 360 INWR 20, 25 Oct (KF, WW); 100 Alexander GENE 9 Nov.

Canvasback: arr NF 24 Oct; 5 Attica Res WYOM 26 Oct; S Dayton CATT 31 Oct, 1 Nov.

Redhead: 3 BWWTP 3 Sep; 2 BufH 8 Sep; 21 Celeron ChauL 25 Oct (TL); 2 S Dayton CATT 31 Oct; 32 NF 8 Nov; 6 Findley L CHAU 27 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 2 INWR 21 Sep; max 939, 900 Attica Res WYOM 26 Oct, 2 Nov (KF).

Greater Scaup: arr 6 Wilson NIAG 19 Sep; max 1100 NF 24 Oct.
Lesser Scaup: BWWTP 3 Sep, continued from summer; arr BufH 18 Sep.
Harlequin Duck: Wilson NIAG 12 Nov (WD), only report.
Surf Scoter: arr 2, 33 Wilson NIAG 6, 15 Oct; 24 WoBSP 11 Oct; 20 BufH 15 Oct; max 40 GHSP 30 Oct; 2 Hamburg ERIE 31 Oct.
White-winged Scoter: 2 Wilson NIAG 19 Sep; 198 GHSP 30 Oct; max 440 Wilson NIAG 3 Nov.
Black Scoter: arr 23 BOSOC; 245 FNSP 30 Oct (JM, JP); max 880 GHSP 31 Oct (CM, WD), record count, huge movements following Sandy passage; 2 BufH 4 Nov; DH 17, 19 Nov.
Long-tailed Duck: arr Wilson NIAG 6 Oct; max 570, 1000 GHSP 30, 31 Oct (WW, CM); 61 BufH 1 Nov.
Bufflehead: BWWTP 2 Sep; arr 3 INWR 24 Sep; max 630 BeSP 16 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: arr Wilson NIAG 21 Oct; max 250 NF 24 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: 50 DH 9 Nov; 87 Attica Res WYOM 10 Nov; max 169 INWR 16 Nov; 69 Findley L CHAU 27 Nov.
Com. Merganser: max 230 FNSP 30 Oct.
Red-breasted Merganser: 2 Wilson NIAG 16 Sep; 1048 GHSP, 1000 FNSP 30 Oct; max 1855 Wilson NIAG 15 Nov.
Ruddy Duck: 162, 562, 224 BWWTP 28 Sep, 30 Oct, 14 Nov; much lower numbers than last fall; 78, 77 Attica Res WYOM 26 Oct, 2 Nov; 158, 200 S. Dayton CATT 31 Oct, 1 Nov; 198 ChauL 31 Oct.
Red-throated Loon: arr 2 Wilson NIAG 6 Oct; 100 GHSP 31 Oct; max 261 Wilson NIAG 15 Nov; Lewiston Res NIAG 16 Nov; Buffalo ERIE 29 Nov.
PACIFIC LOON: ad Wilson NIAG 15 Oct (WD!, NYSARC), flyby; only third regional record.
Com. Loon: max 1500 GHSP 21 Oct (CM), record count.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 57 S Dayton CATT, 47 ChauL 31 Oct.
Horned Grebe: 3 Wilson NIAG 15 Sep; max 296 Barcelona CHAU, 100 Olcott NIAG, 77 ChauL, 100 GHSP 31 Oct.
Red-necked Grebe: 3, 7, 8 Wilson NIAG 9 Sep, 8, 21 Oct; max 9, 22 GHSP 30, 31 Oct; 1, 2 S Dayton CATT 31 Oct, 4 Nov.
Eared Grebe: 1-2 BWWTP 28 Sep thru 3 Nov (KF), annual at this location.
LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: FNSP 30 Oct (JP! JM! NYSARC), flying west, brief sighting, first for Reg.

Double-crested Cormorant: 704, 599 BuSP 2 Sep, 4 Oct (WW); 519, 835, 600 BufH 13 Sep, 23 Oct, 1 Nov; 129 INWR 20 Sep; 410 DH 31 Oct.
Am. Bittern: INWR 3, 7 Sep, 8 Oct; OOWMA 2 Nov; only reports.
Least Bittern: Carroll CHAU 7 Oct (JB), only report.
Great Egret: 2 Findley L CHAU 9 Sep; max 317 INWR 13 Sep (JP); last 2 INWR 23 Oct.
Cattle Egret: INWR 31 Oct – 2 Nov (J&KL, BM, CM), only report.
Green Heron: max 18 Tifft NP 3 Sep; last BOSOC.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 44 INWR 13 Sep; DH 17 Nov; Tifft NP 24 Nov; only reports beyond Oct.
Black Vulture: 1 - 6 Lewiston NIAG 9 Sep – 20 Nov; regularly seen at this location.
Turkey Vulture: AmSP 6 Nov; 30 Lewiston NIAG 11 Nov, seen regularly in this area thru.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: max 5 INWR 1 Sep.
Bald Eagle: 27 BOSOC; 9 Evans ERIE to Barcelona CHAU 23 Nov; widespread.
N. Goshawk: Attica WYOM BOSOC (DB), only report.
Red-shouldered Hawk: Watts Flats WMA 26 Oct; Orchard Park ERIE 4 Nov; only reports beyond BOSOC.
Broad-winged Hawk: last 2 SPNS 27 Sep.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr Shelby ORLE 3 Nov.
Virginia Rail: BMAC 5 Sep; 1, 3 BWWTP 14, 16 Sep; only reports.
Sora: 2 INWR 11 Sep; 3, 1, 1 BWWTP 16 Sep, 20 Oct, 14 Nov (KF), latest on record.
Com. Gallinule: last 2 INWR BOSOC.
Am. Coot: 400, 720 Mayville ChauL 21 Oct, 18 Nov; max 955 ChauL 31 Oct (CC); 188, 196 DH 31 Oct, 24 Nov.
Sandhill Crane: Clymer CHAU 12 Oct (TL); only report.
Black-bellied Plover: 1, 1 DH 1, 15 Sep; 3 Allegheny Res CATT 18 Sep; 5 BufH 5 Oct; BeSP 13 Oct; Hamburg ERIE 15 Oct; 2 INWR 22, 25 Oct; only reports.
Am. Golden-Plover: BufH 8 Sep; 2, 6 INWR 12 Sep, 2 Oct; last 7 BOSOC.
Semipalmated Plover: 31 Tifft NP 8 Sep; last DH 17 Oct.
Killdeer: 6 Findley L CHAU 27 Nov; 2 Orchard Park ERIE 29 Nov; only reports beyond early Nov.
Solitary Sandpiper: last BOSOC.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 18 INWR 20 Oct; last BeSP 5 Nov.

Lesser Yellowlegs: last LBSP 31 Oct.
Whimbrel: DH 6 Sep (GV); 4 BufH 8 Sep (MM); only reports.
Ruddy Turnstone: BWWTP 9 Sep; only report.
Sanderling: 1, 3 BWWTP 4, 5 Sep; Onoville CATT 18 Sep (JP, WW), unusual location.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 60 BWWTP 3 Sep; last 2 INWR 23 Oct.
WESTERN SANDPIPER: juv Tiff NP 10 Sep (DD!), rare.
Least Sandpiper: max 75 BWWTP 3 Sep; 2 Jamestown CHAU 26 Oct.
White-rumped Sandpiper: BWWTP 4, 5 Sep; Tiff NP 7, 8 Sep; max 80 Hanover CHAU (JP!), flock flying along L Erie 6 p.m.; INWR 12 Sep; last 2 INWR 28 Oct.
Baird's Sandpiper: 2-3 BWWTP 2-5 Sep; INWR 3 Sep; Tiff NP 7-10 Sep; only reports.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 32 INWR 16 Sep; last BWWTP 30 Oct.
Purple Sandpiper: arr 6 FNSP, 2 Shadigee ORLE 30 Oct (JP, JM); only reports.
Dunlin: arr 4 Wilson NIAG 6 Oct; max 39 INWR 22 Oct; WoBSP 8 Nov; NF 29 Nov.
Stilt Sandpiper: max 5 OOWMA 4 Sep (JM); 1, 1, 2 INWR 12 Sep, 7 Oct; 22-23 Oct, only reports.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: BWWTP 2, 3 Sep (WW, CM), only report.
Short-billed Dowitcher: no reports.
Long-billed Dowitcher: 4 TWMA 4 Sep (JM!); OOWMA 16 Sep (PY); only reports.
Wilson's Snipe: 40 TWMA18 Oct; max 59 Jamestown CHAU 26 Oct (TL); last 4 Findley L CHAU 27 Nov.
Am. Woodcock: Orangeville WYOM 17 Nov (KF); last Grand I ERIE 20 Nov (AH); only report beyond Oct.
Wilson's Phalarope: OOWMA 1-3 Sep, continued from late Aug; BWWTP 18-20 Oct (ST!), latest ever for Reg.
Red-necked Phalarope: OOWMA 1 Sep; 1, 1 INWR 22 Sep, 7 Oct; 3, 3 BWWTP 28, 30 Sep (KF); last BWWTP 12 Oct; good showing continued from summer.
Black-legged Kittiwake: 3 BufH 1 Nov (JP, JM); WoBSP 1 Nov; Buffalo NR 8, 29 Nov; BufH 23 Nov.
Sabine's Gull: BufH 15 Oct (JP, JM), only report.
Bonaparte's Gull: 3 SPNS 8 Oct, unusual location; max 12,750 Buffalo NR 23 Nov (JP).
Black-headed Gull: Squaw I NR 2, 8, 18 Nov (JP, RS); BeSP 11 Nov (JP); possibly same individual.
Little Gull: arr Wilson NIAG 1 Oct; GHSP 31 Oct; 2 WoBSP 1 Nov; Buffalo NR 4, 29 Nov;

BeSP 5, 16 Nov; max 3 DH 17 Nov; BufH 23 Nov.
Franklin's Gull: ad WoBSP 3 Oct (DD); 2nd-yr NPP 7-25 Nov (JP), observed by many.
Thayer's Gull: several undocumented reports from NPP and NF in late Nov.
Iceland Gull: arr NPP, Barcelona CHAU 18 Nov; max 8 Lewiston NR 25 Nov.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 juv EVSP 15 Sep; 3 DH 18 Sep; Wilson NIAG 6 Oct; Cuba L ALLE 19 Oct (CW); Olcott NIAG 23 Oct; max 15 NFSP 26 Nov (JP); 8 Lewiston NR, 6 NF 25 Nov (WD).
Glaucous Gull: arr DH 24 Nov; NPP 25 Nov.
Apparent G. Black-backed x Glaucous Gull: Hanover CHAU 5, 13, 15 Oct; LESP 31 Oct; Barcelona CHAU 24 Nov; same bird seen over past two years.
Caspian Tern: max 22 BeSP 7 Sep; last BOSOC.
Com. Tern: Allegheny Res CATT 6 Sep; Newstead ERIE 15 Sep, inland locations unusual; 29, 23 Wilson NIAG 19, 23 Sep; max 40 FNSP 29 Sep; BWWTP 6 Oct; PB 7 Oct; Wilson NIAG 21 Oct; last BeSP 11 Nov.
Forster's Tern: 3 BufH 14 Sep (JP); BWWTP 19 Oct (JM); Buffalo NR 1 Nov (JP); last INWR 2 Nov (MW).
Pomarine Jaeger: 6 BufH 1 Nov (JP, BM); together in group following storm passage.
Parasitic Jaeger: arr FNSP 29 Sep (AG); BufH 5 Oct (JP, JM); 1, 1 Wilson NIAG 15, 26 Oct (WD); FNSP 23 Oct (JM, JP); GHSP 31 Oct (CM).
jaeger species: 2 FMCSPP 26 Oct (PY); LBSP 31 Oct (KF); 1, 1 BufH 1, 23 Nov (WW, JP).

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Tiff NP 12 Sep; last WoBSP 27 Sep; only reports.
Black-billed Cuckoo: N Harmony CHAU 2 Sep, only report.
Snowy Owl: no reports.
Short-eared Owl: arr Jamestown CHAU 10 Nov (KV); 2 Shelby ORLE 25 Nov (CM), only reports.
N. Saw-whet Owl: 37 banded Wethersfield WYOM 3 Oct – 31 Oct (DJ), max 11 on 12 Oct.
Com. Nighthawk: max 6 Colden ERIE 1 Sep; 3 Bethany GENE 3 Sep; 4 Alden ERIE 5 Sep; BuSP 7 Sep; INWR 13 Sep; last AMSP 26 Sep.
Chimney Swift: last 26 BOSOC.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Alfred ALLE 11 Oct.
Red-headed Woodpecker: PG 2 Sep; Tiff NP 3 Sep; WoBSP 1 Oct; 2 BOSOC; only reports.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Tiff NP 3 Sep.
Merlin: reported from 7 loc in Sep.

Peregrine Falcon: Bethany GENE 1 Sep; 1, 1 INWR 3, 7 Sep; BufH 26 Sep; Grand I NR 30 Sep; only reports.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Tift NP 3 Sep (AH); 2 BeSP 3 Sep (DS); only reports.

E. Wood-Pewee: last WoBSP 17 Oct (DD).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: AmSP 3, 4, 6, 11 Sep (RS), only reports.

Least Flycatcher: AmSP 1 Sep; only report.

E. Phoebe: FLC 2, 6 Nov (CC); last AmSP 15 Nov (RS).

Great Crested Flycatcher: last AmSP 18 Sep.

WESTERN KINGBIRD: Yates ORLE 10 Sep (BE, mob), hatch year, first since 2004.

E. Kingbird: last Clay Pond WMA CHAU 1 Sep.

N. Shrike: arr INWR 25 Oct; seven other reports.

White-eyed Vireo: WoBSP 22, 27 Sep (JP!, RS), rare in fall.

Yellow-throated Vireo: last WoBSP 22 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: last Ward ALLE 18 Oct.

Warbling Vireo: last AmSP 16 Sep.

Philadelphia Vireo: last Lancaster ERIE BOSOC (MM!), record late.

Red-eyed Vireo: last Amherst ERIE 25 Oct.

Com. Raven: reported from three locations away from ALLE, CATT, WYOM.

Purple Martin: 3000, 4500 BuSP 6, 7 Sep (AH), roost discovered; last INWR 22 Sep.

Tree Swallow: max 500 BWWT 14 Sep; max 500 INWR 20 Sep.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: 18 INWR 13 Oct; 21, 4 NFSP 7, 22 Nov (JP), regular location for late season sightings.

Bank Swallow: last 25 BWWT 9 Sep.

Cliff Swallow: no reports.

CAVE SWALLOW: 3 Wilson NIAG 26 Oct (WD, BP); WoBSP 1, 2 Nov (JP, JM); 1-2 BufH 8 Nov; first reports for ERIE.

Barn Swallow: max 150 BuSP 6 Sep; last INWR 25 Oct.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: present in good numbers.

House Wren: last Bennett Beach ERIE 15 Oct.

Winter Wren: arr AmSP 12 Sep; 3 Nov reports.

Marsh Wren: last INWR 18 Oct.

Carolina Wren: 27 BOSOC, up from 20 on last year's count but still relatively low.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr Amherst ERIE 21 Sep.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Jamestown CHAU 7 Sep.

Veery: last 2 AmSP, Wilson NIAG 16 Sep.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: six reports in Sep.

Swainson's Thrush: last Williamsville ERIE 15 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: arr AmSP 15 Sep.

Wood Thrush: last Wilson NIAG 17 Oct.

Gray Catbird: two reports beyond Oct.

N. Mockingbird: slight increase in reports away from L Ontario.

Brown Thrasher: eight reports in Sep – Oct; Blasdell ERIE 2-17 Nov (MO), late.

Am. Pipit: arr 30 Porter NIAG 25 Sep; 60 Wilson NIAG 6 Oct; max 87 Lyndonville ORLE 3 Nov.

Bohemian Waxwing: arr 2, 6, 2 Newfane NIAG 8, 10, 11 Nov (BP, WD); max 9, 2 FMCS 9, 20 Nov (JP, JM).

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: arr 2 BOSOC; 10, 10 Wilson NIAG 19, 23 Oct; Orangeville WYOM 17 Nov; only reports.

Snow Bunting: arr 1, 19 BWWT 20, 24 Oct; 60 Wilson NIAG 9 Nov; max 120 GHSP 11 Nov.

Ovenbird: last Tift NP 12 Oct.

N. Waterthrush: last BOSOC.

Golden-winged Warbler: BeSP 18 Sep (DS), rarely seen in fall.

Blue-winged Warbler: last INWR 17 Sep.

Black-and-white Warbler: last Como P ERIE 26 Sep.

Tennessee Warbler: last 27 Sep.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Tift NP 9 Sep; max 5 AmSP 9 Oct; last Aurora ERIE 16 Oct; four other reports.

Nashville Warbler: last 2 BOSOC.

Mourning Warbler: AmSP 1 Sep; Tift NP 22 Sep; last WoBSP 10-20 Oct (DD!), record late.

Com. Yellowthroat: 5 BOSOC; last SPNS 22 Nov (LH).

Hooded Warbler: last Aurora ERIE 22 Sep.

Am. Redstart: last WoBSP 7 Oct.

Cape May Warbler: last BOSOC; well reported.

N. Parula: last Squaw I NR 10 Oct.

Magnolia Warbler: last 2 AmSP 5 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last AmSP 5 Oct.

Blackburnian Warbler: last Tift NP 28 Sep.

Yellow Warbler: last WoBSP 27 Sep.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: last AmSP 26 Sep.

Blackpoll Warbler: last Squaw I NR 21 Oct.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: last FLC 15 Oct.

Palm Warbler (*D.p. palmarum*): last 2 AmSP 24 Oct.

Pine Warbler: last BOSOC.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 60 Tift NP 30 Sep; 2 AmSP 6 Nov, only report beyond Oct.

Black-throated Green Warbler: last 2 AmSP 5 Oct.
Canada Warbler: last 2 Tift NP 19 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: last FNSP 21, 22 Nov (TKe, AG, WD), late.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: last N Clymer CHAU 4 Nov.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 11 BOSOC.
Chipping Sparrow: last Portland CHAU 19 Nov.
Clay-colored Sparrow: Bennett Beach ERIE 13, 15 Oct (JP, JM, photo), fall reports rare.
Field Sparrow: last 5 Tonawanda ERIE 29 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: last 2 BOSOC, only reports.
Savannah Sparrow: last 15 BOSOC.
Nelson's Sparrow: 4 INWR 7, 8 Oct (JP), record count; EVSP 13 Oct (JP, WW); 1, 1 INWR 13, 21 Oct (KF, R&DD).
Fox Sparrow: arr Williamsville ERIE 7 Oct; max 16 Tonawanda ERIE 26 Oct; 13 Alfred ALLE 27 Oct; 6 Lyndonville ORLE 3 Nov.
Song Sparrow: 1 ad + 2 fl Salamanca CATT 12 Sep, on the late side for fledglings.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Wilson NIAG 10 Sep; last 4 AmSP, Squaw I NR 24 Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: arr 2 AmSP 8 Sep; leucistic Williamsville ERIE 1-12 Nov (RS).
White-crowned Sparrow: arr 4 AmSP 27 Sep.
Dark-eyed Junco: arr WTSP 13 Sep.
Dark-eyed Junco (*J. h. oreganus*): Colden ERIE 22 Oct – 25 Nov (J&KL, photo); apparent adult male.
Scarlet Tanager: last AmSP 30 Sep.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last 2 BOSOC.
Indigo Bunting: Orangeville WYOM 23 Sep; last Watts Flats WMA CHAU 13 Oct (TL).
Bobolink: INWR 2 Sep; last Porter NIAG 8 Oct (WD!).
Red-winged Blackbird: max 7500 INWR 13 Oct (KF).
E. Meadowlark: 6 BWWTP 19 Oct; max 10 Watts Flats WMA CHAU 26 Oct; INWR 2 Nov.

Rusty Blackbird: arr Amherst ERIE 20 Sep; 40 Lewiston NIAG 3 Oct; max 1500, 500 INWR 8, 11 Oct; 55 Alexander GENE 30 Oct; 2 OOWMA 3 Nov; BMAC 28 Nov.

C. Grackle: max 8000 INWR 8 Oct.

Baltimore Oriole: Tift NP 7 Sep; last Orchard Park ERIE 4 Nov (mob).

Pine Grosbeak: arr Wilson NIAG 17 Nov (WD, BP); 2 WTSP 18 Nov (PY).

Purple Finch: not widespread; xanthochromistic Williamsville ERIE 15 Nov (RS).

Red Crossbill: arr Wilson NIAG 14 Nov; 22 Wilson NIAG 17 Nov, 5 type 3, 17 type 10 (WD); Orangeville WYOM 17 Nov (KF); 2 Alexander GENE 21 Nov (KF); good showing for recent years.

White-winged Crossbill: arr 30 Lancaster ERIE, 12 Wilson NIAG, 2 LBSP 26 Oct (MM, JM, BP); 16 Lancaster ERIE 2 Nov; 14, 25 FNSP 9, 18 Nov; 6 FLC 10 Nov; 13 Wilson NIAG 12 Nov; 6 FMCSP 18 Nov; several other reports of five or less in Nov.

Com. Redpoll: arr 10 Shadigee ORLE 31 Oct (BP); 12 PB 11 Nov; 35 Wilson NIAG 11 Nov; max 18, 50 FMCSP 18, 20 Nov; 14 LESP 19 Nov; six other reports of six or less in Nov.

HOARY REDPOLL: FNSP 22 Nov (AG, photo), rare.

Pine Siskin: arr Wilson NIAG 6 Sep; FLC 15 Sep; 20 Grand I ERIE 1 Oct; 20 Fredonia CHAU 11-31 Oct; 29 Shelby ORLE 23 Oct; 27 Wilson NIAG 26 Oct; 25 Newfane NIAG 11 Nov; many other reports of 10 or less in Oct and Nov.

Am. Goldfinch: max 85 Wilson NIAG 26 Oct.

Evening Grosbeak: arr 2 ALLE BOSOC; 3 Wethersfield WYOM 20 Oct; max 13, 20 Wilson NIAG 21, 26 Oct; 8 Burt NIAG 23 Oct; 12 Clarence ERIE, 12 S Wales ERIE 2 Nov; 13 Ashford CATT 3 Nov; many other reports of 6 or less in late Oct and Nov; best showing in years.



REGION 2 – GENESEE

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Looking at averages, this fall season began with a continuation of above normal temperatures, then cooled below normal in November. Rainfall was above normal in the first two months, then dry for November. Averages and totals are as follows: September: temperature 62.0° F, 0.2° above normal, and precipitation 4.45", 1.07" above normal; October: temperature 52.8°, 2.2° above normal, and precipitation 4.93", 2.23" above normal; and November: temperature 39.3°, 1.2° below normal, and precipitation 0.71", 2.23" below normal. Snowfall in November was 0.8", 6.5" below normal. However, effects on birds and birding are in the details, not the averages. September was a split month, with a week 5-10° above normal, then 23 days averaging 15° below. Of the 4.45" of rainfall, over half, 2.64", fell on 4 September. October brought a series of storms through the month, with 15 days cloudy, 13 days partly cloudy, and only three days fair. Heavy rain fell on four days and light rain on 21 days. The tail end of Hurricane *Sandy* arrived the night of 29-30 October, fortunately with less severe winds than feared. November started with nine days of cool temperatures and rainfall due to a pressure trough behind the departing *Sandy*, then spiked to a record high on the 11th, back to normal for about two weeks, then a return to cool for the last week. Some of this detail shows clearly in the timing of records.

For the season, the arrival dates of most species were on the early end of local historical distributions, though with only one record early date tied. On the other end, departure dates were biased to the late end—the fourth quartile—but with only two record late dates. It seemed like departures dates were earlier than last year, but in checking the details, it was the usual mixed bag with some earlier and some later. Species counts for the months were all well above the 10-year averages: September 222 (205.9), October 205 (191.4), and November 168 (140.4). The September count was the second highest on record behind only 224 in 1999, and the November number far surpassed the previous high of 150 in 1999 and 2005. Winding up the statistics, there were about 33,291 eBird records for the Region this season.

Among the waterfowl, arrivals were a typical mix, but peak counts and overall numbers were low across the board. There were few good puddle duck counts in late September, and, while the numbers improved in October and there were some good counts, they were not many. There were few big diving duck counts through the season. Looking at observations and counts of note, we start with a major passage of Brant accompanying the tail of Hurricane *Sandy* on 30 October, with an estimated 12,000+ moving west to east along the south shore of Lake Ontario that day; this number is pieced together from notes posted to the geneseebirds listserv for locations and times of observation both west of and within the Region. Up to a couple thousand additional Brant were tallied the *The Kingbird* 2013 March; 63 (1)

next day and a few lingered longer. Cackling Goose arrived with increasing numbers of Canada Goose on 4 October at Hamlin Beach SP. Maxima of 20 and 25 were reported from there for October and November, respectively, with totals of about 40 and 32 for those months, including smaller numbers from several other sites. On 13 November, Dave Tetlow counted **Trumpeter Swans** at several sites in our Region in the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA) and totaled a new record high of **87**. Canvasback and Redhead remained very low in the Region for the season, with Canvasback not even reported until November and then only four, and the Redhead maximum only six. Maxima for all the diving ducks were low by historical standards, and even peaks were often the only double or triple digit reports for a species for the season. An exception was a good passage of 3,060 Black Scoters caught by Kurt Fox and Dave Tetlow off West Port Bay (WAYN) on 31 October. This is the third highest Regional single day count. Rarer waterfowl included four Ross's Geese, a flyby female Harlequin Duck, and the returning male Barrow's Goldeneye at Pt. Breeze, this latter floating back and forth across the Region 1-2 boundary. The fall loon passage was weak, with the first 100-bird count for Common Loon on 16 October. The crossover in counts for the loons occurred near the normal 10 November date, after which there were some good Red-throated Loon counts. In late November there was also a good count of 490 Horned Grebes, and again several days with very good numbers of Red-necked Grebe on the lake or passing, a trend of only the past few years.

Continuing with other waterbirds, an **adult Northern Gannet** spotted by Dave Tetlow on 1 September tied a record early date for the Region and is one of very few adults recorded here. There were quite a few very good counts of Double-crested Cormorants through the season and good numbers of Great Egret into October, but not approaching the peaks in Regions either side of us. Typical of recent years, the Regional Cattle Egret of the year turned up near the border with Region 1 on 10-11 November, coincident with other birds appearing also in Regions both sides of us.

Black Vulture was reported in each month, continuing its upward trend. A good roost count of 64 Turkey Vultures was again noted in November in the Town of Lima. Among records vying for the birds of the season were **two Mississippi Kites** spotted by Kurt Fox and Dave Tetlow at Braddock Bay on 25 October, a very rare fall record anywhere in the Northeast, record late for the Region, and just short of record late for the State. A subadult, likely one of these birds, was again seen nearby along the Lake Ontario Parkway on 1 November by Tetlow, now State late. Osprey continued through October and into November, late for here, and Bald Eagles were reported through the season. We also had the now-typical few reports of Northern Goshawk and Red-shouldered Hawk for the season. Rough-legged Hawk arrived on 3 October, but few additional reports were received. Golden Eagle, rare in the fall along the lakeshore, was seen on 20 October and 12 November. Also extending trends, good numbers of both Merlin and Peregrine Falcon were reported each month.

Often the rails and allies are little reported in this season, so Virginia Rail and Sora to 27 October and Common Gallinule to 10 November were

interesting. Once again Sandhill Cranes lingered in this part of the State, with birds in the NMWMA into November, though higher numbers were seen just south of the Region along Rt. 31 in Region 3, and three birds were video taped by Marcia Mundirk on 7 November just north of Taylor Marsh (T of Richmond, ONTA) where breeding has been suspected for several years. Unfortunately, once again there is not enough detail to confirm one of the birds as a bird-of-the-year and, being fully flighted, that would not prove it nested there anyway. These birds were seen again in the same general area late in the month.

On 22 September, Andy Garland found a basic-plumaged adult Black-headed Gull on the mudflats at the south end of Irondequoit Bay. The next day Gary Chapin sought the gull and located the Region's second and the State's fifth **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** there, a juvenile, among Pectoral Sandpipers very near where our first was seen 10 years ago. Observers gathered to view these and, wandering afterward, found two **American Avocets** and a **Thayer's Gull** at Ontario Beach near the mouth of the Genesee River. The Black-headed Gull persisted to 10 October; the other birds were one-day events. In subsequent days many species of sandpipers were reported, including two Buff-breasted Sandpipers. Shorebird habitat was good due to low Lake Ontario levels. A good variety of shorebirds was located, but numbers in the Region were generally poor. Additional interesting finds included: another Am. Avocet on 31 October; Hudsonian Godwit, though only a single; and all three phalaropes. Long-billed Dowitcher was missed and only a single report of four Purple Sandpipers was received. Small numbers of expected species lingered into November and a few beyond.

Among the larids, we have Black-legged Kittiwake arriving on 31 October, but then only one other record on 3 November, and Bonaparte's Gulls few; so too were the species that often accompany their passage, with only a lone adult Little Gull passing Webster Park and 1-2 more Black-headed Gulls at Sodus Bay. As usual, Lesser Black-backed Gull was reported each month, with maxima of seven at Braddock Bay and Hamlin Beach SP and eight near the Riga landfill. Both Iceland and Glaucous Gulls arrived in late November. Tern counts were low and departures were as expected. It was a good fall for jaegers after a latish start in late August, with about 21 Parasitic, three Long-tailed, and 13 not identified to species, but no Pomarine reported. After an absence of several months, the Eurasian Collared-Doves in Hamlin on the Greenwell farm and nearby were again reported in September, missed in October, and seen off and on through November. Another surprise was a posting by Mike Wasilco after following up on a report from a Rochester animal control officer of a large stick nest on a cell tower behind West Ridge Plaza. He found it occupied by **Monk Parakeets**, and numbers reported by many visiting the site ranged from a most common 3-4 to as many as six and one count of seven. Subsequently there was a report of a September flyby of one past Hamlin Beach and possibly another bird in Irondequoit earlier. There have been very few prior reports here, all considered escapes, since the first few in the late '70s and very early '80s. In a very recent note from Kevin McGowan, he found in searching for them that nearby residents have had 4-6 of the birds at their feeders since May of this year

and speculated they were two adults plus young. They were unaware of the nest until very recently.

Owls usually rate little attention in the fall other than note of typical arrivals of Short-eared Owl—14 October this year—and whether Snowy Owls are moving—none this fall. However, this fall there was a project at BBBO to band N. Saw-whet Owls and 54 were banded in October and 30 in November through the 13th, with also five foreign recoveries through the period. One of the other birds of the season was a **Boreal Owl** heard by Dave Tetlow near his home on 22 November; the earliest date for the species in the Region.

Among the non-passerine landbirds, the highlight was Monroe County's first **Rufous Hummingbird**, a female found at the feeder of Monika Herrmann-Kokis on 21 October in the Town of Henrietta. It was seen and photographed by many thru 30 November. Otherwise in this grouping, Common Nighthawk was very scarce and Chimney Swift erratic, with birds departing early or not building up at historically active sites, then 300 on 24 September and 150 on 2 October appearing over the mudflats at the south end of Irondequoit Bay.

Moving into the passerines, we had four reports of Olive-sided Flycatcher, good for recent years, and a **Western Kingbird** found and photographed by Jim Tarolli on Van Dyne Spoor (NMWMA) on 5 October and seen by many that day. Otherwise, flycatchers departed at typical dates; similarly for the vireos. A count of 136 Blue Jays passing Hamlin Beach on 26 September is good for fall. Fish Crow was reported off and on all season in the usual Charlotte area of Rochester in numbers to six, plus two reports elsewhere. After some good counts in August, swallows dropped off rapidly, a trend of the past few years, but then birds with some good counts for most species appeared again in October. Tree, N. Rough-winged, and Barn continued into November.

One of the highlights of this fall was another major incursion of **Cave Swallows** into the Region. A first wave of approximately 323 was noted from 14-29 October, first at Salmon Creek, Town of Greece, just inland from Braddock Bay, then mostly as passing Hamlin Beach SP. The next burst occurred beginning with the temperature spike on 11 November, peaking on the 12th, and with at least one bird to the 15th; again most were tallied at Hamlin Beach and Braddock Bay with the total 84. The potential softness in the numbers reported comes from multiple reports from observers spending some or all of their time at the same sites but without details to allow totally sorting out overlaps. The numbers reported should be considered minima but close to the actual totals.

The early season also brought observations and banding numbers suggesting irruptions of Black-capped Chickadee and Red-breasted Nuthatch. The nuthatch move fizzled, but the chickadee banding number increased over last fall, though not spectacularly so. Winter Wren and both kinglets were observed and banded in very good numbers, way up from last fall. Veery departed early, but Gray-cheeked, Swainson's, and Hermit Thrushes were banded and tallied in the field in very good numbers. Also, three of the rarer **Bicknell's Thrush** were positively identified and banded at BBBO. A peak of 40 Wood Thrush noted by one Muck Race team on 7 September, a less than

great morning for monitoring nocturnal flights, also indicates the potential for obtaining large thrush counts if dedicated observers who know the calls get out at the appropriate dates and habitats: Veery and Wood Thrush late August into September, Gray-cheeked and Swainson's the last half of September, and Hermit Thrush early October. An intriguing find at the BBBO banding station was a Swainson's Thrush first banded on 14 August and recaptured there on 7 October; where had it been over the interim?

Bohemian Waxwing began to show up with passing Cedar Waxwings on 6 November, with small numbers totaling approximately 72 seen at lakeshore locations through 23 November. Cedar Waxwings seemed spotty, but a good maximum of 1,260 was reported from Hamlin Beach on 10 November. Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting arrived as expected in early October, with decent maxima of 42 and 200, respectively, reported in early November.

Warbler numbers seemed only moderate for most species, yet almost all banded in significant numbers were up from last year, especially Yellow Warbler, American Redstart, and Common Yellowthroat. Among the rarer warblers, 13 Orange-crowned and six Connecticut were reported, many of these banded. Only Black-throated Blue and Blackpoll were banded in smaller numbers, and 575 banded Blackpoll Warblers was still far above average, just not up to last fall's record of 760. A lone Blackpoll Warbler plus Pine, Yellow-rumped, and Black-throated Green Warblers, were reported in November, the latter record late.

Among the sparrows, we find good peak counts for Chipping and Savannah in September; at least three Nelson's Sparrows at the Marten Tract (NMWMA) on 30 September to 9 October and another in the Braddock Bay WMA on 14 October; some good Fox Sparrow counts; and 785 White-throated Sparrows banded, up 50% from last fall. An "Oregon" Junco was photographed in North Wolcott in November, and a beautiful partial albino Northern Cardinal in Webster on 3 November. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was found in the Van Dyne Spoor area (NMWMA) from 30 September to 9 October. Rusty Blackbird, a species of concern, was counted in good numbers in several locations.

Winter finches were seen through the season, starting with a few crossbills and Pine Siskins in September, picking up in the last half of October with crossbills increasing and Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll, and Evening Grosbeak added by month's end, and a Hoary Redpoll reported by Dave Tetlow from Hamlin Beach on 24 November completing the list. Most of the species dropped off by late November, with nearly all the remaining Pine Grosbeak reports from Webster Park and Evening Grosbeak essentially gone but Common Redpoll continuing to increase. Once again for several of these species it was difficult-to-impossible to arrive at accurate total numbers without detailed notes accompanying reports.

For the season, 264 species were reported plus Trumpeter Swan, Monk Parakeet, and Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco and hybrids, including a White-throated Sparrow x Dark-eyed Junco.

Acknowledgement: Some results from David Wheeler's eBird-data processing program SwanSwanHummingbird (v3.21) were used in preparing this report.

Adding another comment on records: Bird records require decision making on the part of records keepers or reporters—individuals or committees. Sticking to fall, how do you detect arrivals of migrant individuals of species that breed in a Region? When does a last report change from a late migrant to likely a lingering winter visitant that may finally perish? In reporting numbers and recognizing record high counts, what is the appropriate level of aggregation? At the very least, one must make known what criteria are used. But if one debates passing birds at a single point vs. counts of resting birds over some span of shore (as for waterbird counts), then what about the rare cases of passing boats, especially large, fast boats, kicking up birds off the water which would otherwise not be visible? Are repeated sightings at a feeder, or even an orchard or plantation, a series of passing flocks, short-term resident flocks, or a mix? Many of these are not simple-to-answer questions. If one is looking at the question of screening records or requiring verifications, key questions become: Why? and When are there enough for a given species?

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

b – banded; BB – Braddock Bay, T Greece, MONR; CL – Conesus L, LIVI; DE – Durand-Eastman Park, MONR; G – T Greece, MONR; HANA – High Acres Nature Area, T Perinton, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; HP – Hogan Point, T Greece, MONR; IBO – Irondequoit Bay Outlet (north end outlet to Lake Ontario); IB-S – LaSalle Landing P, South end of Irondequoit Bay; ICW-Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; K – T Kendall, ORLE; M – along Manitou Beach Rd NE of Parkway including the BBBO banding station, MONR; MAC – Montezuma Audubon Center, T Savannah, WAYN; MP – Mendon Ponds CP, T Mendon, MONR; NMWMA – Northern Montezuma WMA (formerly Northern Montezuma Wetlands Complex), WAYN; NMWMA (MT) – Marten Tract; NMWMA (RR) – Railroad Rd marshes area; NMWMA (SCU) – Sandhill Crane Unit; NMWMA (VDS) – Van Dyne Spoor area; NC – Northrup Creek (back of Long Pond), T Greece; NWTP – NW Water Treatment Plant, T Greece; OB – Ontario Beach, Charlotte, MONR; 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 6 HB 25 Oct; max 150 NMWMA (Armitage) 25 Oct.

Ross's Goose: 4 NMWMA (Armitage) 25 Oct (W&MR), only report.

Brant: arr 62 SPB 7 Oct; max 5030 Brighton Cliff ORLE 30 Oct (DT); total >12,000 S shore Lake Ontario 30 Oct (mob), assembled from many reports (RS); 1770 W Port Bay WAYN 31 Oct (W&MR).

Cackling Goose: arr 6 HB 4 Oct; max 25 HB 6 Oct (AG); total ~ 40 Oct; 20 HB 10 Nov (DT); total ~ 32 Nov.

Canada Goose: max 17,970 Lake LaGrange WYOM 10 Nov (KF).

Trumpeter Swan: max 87 NMWMA (Savannah) 13 Nov (DT), Reg & State record high.

Tundra Swan: arr 34 NMWMA (VDS) 3 Nov; max 108 CL 21 Nov.

Wood Duck: max 150 NMWMA 7 Sep.

Am. Wigeon: max 186 BB 11 Oct.

Am. Black Duck: max 41 HB 14 Oct, low.

Blue-winged Teal: max 65 NMWMA (RR); last 4 BB 24 Oct.

N.Shoveler: max 116 BB 11 Oct.

N. Pintail: max 635 HB 29 Oct (DT).

Green-winged Teal: max 230 NMWMA (Malone Unit) 5 Oct (JMcG).

Canvasback: arr 4 HB 3 Nov, very late arr.

Redhead: arr 1 NMWMA (MT) 16 Sep; max 6 G & HB 3 Nov, very low max.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 1 T Galen WAYN 7 Sep, early; max 567 Lake Lagrange WYOM 10 Nov (KF).
Greater Scaup: arr 4 HB 22 Sep; max 230 HB 12 Oct, low.
Lesser Scaup: arr HB 9 Sep; max 160 HB 24 Nov, low.
Harlequin Duck: arr 1 fem HB 25 Nov (KF).
Surf Scoter: arr 3-5 HB 28 Sep; max 71 HB 25 Oct, low.
White-winged Scoter: max 644 HB 3 Nov.
Black Scoter: 1 HB 28 Sep; max 3060 West Port Bay WAYN 31 Oct (KF,DT), high count.
Long-tailed Duck: arr 3 HB 2 Sep; 730 Brighton Cliff ORLE 30 Oct (DT); max 1250 HB 25 Nov (DT).
Bufflehead: arr 2-3 BB 20 Oct; max 137 HB 28 Oct.
Com. Goldeneye: arr HB 22 Oct; max 149 HB 3 Nov, low.
Barrow's Goldeneye: arr 1 m Pt Breeze 17 Nov thru, likely the winter resident returning.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 2800 HB 11 Nov (KF, DT).
Ruddy Duck: max 220 Greece Ponds 9 Nov (KG), high for this Reg.
Red-throated Loon: arr HB 19 Sep; max 858 HB 26 Nov (RS).
Com. Loon: 123 HB 16 Oct; 1st date over 100, late; 320 West Port Bay WAYN 31 Oct.
Pied-billed Grebe: 81 NMWMA(SCU) 1 Oct (JMcG,PMcG); max 92 BB 11 Oct (DT), good counts.
Horned Grebe: arr 2 HB 5 Sep; max 490 HB 25 Nov (KF, DT), good count.
Red-necked Grebe: max 226 HB 25 Nov, again a good late fall count, sev other similar counts near this date this year, max depends on aggregation decision.
EARED GREBE (R2): 1 HB 25 Nov (DT).
NORTHERN GANNET (R2): 1 ad HB 1 Sep (DT), ties Reg record early and one of very few adults seen here.
Double-crested Cormorant: 585 West Lakeshore 18 Sep (KG); max 710 BB 6 Oct (KG), good counts.
Am. Bittern: last BB 26 Oct (GL).
Great Egret: max 24 NMWMA(VDS) 11 Sep; last 21 NMWMA(SCU) 6 Oct.
CATTLE EGRET (R2): 1 T Barre GENE 10-11 Nov (DT, mob), trend of recent years.
Green Heron: last DE 9 Oct (KG), late.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: last NMWMA(VDS) 5 Oct (GL), late.
BLACK VULTURE (R2): WAYN 29 Sep (BVD, TL, LS, JeB); WP 30 Sep (R&SS); H 15 Oct (DT); Port Bay 13 Nov (W&MR); HF 26, 29

Nov (BC); T Lima LIVI (DT); continues increasing.
Turkey Vulture: max 64 T Lima 30 (DT), good late count.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

MISSISSIPPI KITE: 2 BB 25Oct (KF, DT), Reg record late, very few this late in Northeast; 1 sub ad Lake Ontario Parkway Greece 1 Nov (DT), likely 1 of previous 2 birds, State record late.
Osprey: last BB 7 Nov (DT), late.
Bald Eagle: max N Wolcott WAYN 10 20 Oct.
N. Harrier: max 38 T Lima 23 Nov (DT).
N. Goshawk: 5 reports.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 5 rep Sep; 1 rep Oct.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr Conesus WMA 3 Oct.
Golden Eagle: 1 imm East Bay WAYN 20 Oct (MT); 1 imm HB 12 Nov (DT, MT, sev); rare in fall.
Virginia Rail: last 1 NMWMA (MT) 27 Nov.
Sora: last 1 NMWMA (SCU) 27 Nov.
Com. Gallinule: last NMWMA (SCU) 10 Nov (TL), late.
Am. Coot: max 400 CL 19 Nov (KC).
Sandhill Crane: 1 MAC 3 Nov (CL), late; 3 T Richmond ONTA 7 Nov (MM), video taped, *intro*; 3 N of Hemlock 29 Nov (DC).
Black-bellied Plover: last BB 16 Nov.
Am. Golden-Plover: last BB 7 Nov.
Killdeer: max 65 IB-S 20 Sep.
AMERICAN AVOCET (R2): 2 OB 23 Sep (ST, mob); 1 Summerville area 31 Oct (RS, AGa, sev), late.
Spotted Sandpiper: last DE 27 Sep.
Solitary Sandpiper: last 1 G 6 Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: last BB 7 Oct
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 45 IB-S 22 Sep, low; last SC-G 5 Nov.
Upland Sandpiper: last 1 M 7 Oct.
Whimbrel: HB 1 Sep (DT), only report.
Hudsonian Godwit: 1 Russell Station, Greece 27 Sep (KG), only report.
Ruddy Turnstone: 5 rep Sep.
Sanderling: last BB 20 Oct.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 65 IB-S 3 Sep, low.
Least Sandpiper: max 101 S 2 Sep; last SC-G 22 Oct..
White-rumped Sandpiper: max 9 SC-G 7 Nov (KG, DT); 4 Port Bay WAYN 13 Nov (W&MR); last 3 SC-G 19 Nov (RS).
Baird's Sandpiper: last 2 IB-S 28 Sep.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 47 IB-S 24 Sep; last 1 SC-G 7 Nov.
SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER: 1 juv IB-S 23 Sep (GC, mob), 2nd Reg, 5th State, *intro*.

Purple Sandpiper: arr 4 IBO 24 Nov (GC), only report.
Dunlin: arr SP 21 Sep; max 50 SC-G 4 Nov, low.
Stilt Sandpiper: last IB-S 9 Oct.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr 1-2 IB-S 3-6 Sep (KH, AGa, mob); 1 SE of Cuylerville 5 Sep (JK).
Wilson's Snipe: max 31 BB 14 Oct (JeB, CW).
Am. Woodcock: last Hamlin (2 loc) 12 Nov (DT).
Wilson's Phalarope: arr MAC 8, 15 Sep (JGK, JMcG, LL).
Red-necked Phalarope: Greece Ponds 28 Sep (KG).
Red Phalarope: arr IB 4 Nov (S&SF); SP 5-6 Nov (ST, *et al*).
Black-legged Kittiwake: arr 1 imm West Port Bay WAYN 31 Oct (KF, DT); 1 imm HB 3 Nov (AGu, DT).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 130 HB 25 Nov, low.
BLACK-HEADED GULL (R2): 1 basic ad IB-S 22 Sep-10 Oct (AGa, mob); SB 6 Nov (DT); SB 7 Nov (W&MR); 2 SB 16 Nov (W&MR).
Little Gull: 1 ad off WP 1 Nov (RS), only report.
THAYER'S GULL: 1 1st cycle OB 23 Sep (ST).
Iceland Gull: arr 2 HB 25 Nov (KF, DT).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 7 rep Sep; ~15 rep Oct; 7 HB 14 Oct (JeB, CW); 7 BB 20 Oct (GL, KS); ~15 rep Nov; max 8 Riga landfill (DT).
Glaucous Gull: arr Rigney Bluff, Greece 29 Nov.
Caspian Tern: last BB 12 Oct.
Black Tern: 1 HB 6 Sep (DT); last 2 NMWMA 8 Sep (JGK).
Com. Tern: last 1 Summerville Pier 21 Oct.
Forster's Tern: last 1 HB 5 Sep.
Parasitic Jaeger: total 9 HB 5-28 Sep; max 5 HB 5 Sep (DT); 9 rep, 13 individuals HB loc 1-29 Oct; 4 lt ad HB 5 Oct (ST).
Long-tailed Jaeger: 1 imm HB 7 Sep (DT); 1 drk ad HB 25 Sep (ST); 1 HB 12 Oct (AGu).
jaeger species: 2 rep Sep; 4 rep, 7 ind 14-31 Oct; 2 rep, 4 ind 3, 14 Nov.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: 1 Greenwell farm-H 10 Sep (DT); 2 w of Greenwell farm 5 Nov (R&SS) & 27 Nov (BrB, MV); less frequently seen than past sev yrs.
Short-eared Owl: arr G & HB 14 Oct.
BOREAL OWL: 1 heard HP 22 Nov (DT), Reg record early

N. Saw-whet Owl: NMWMA (VDS) 7, 9 Sep (BP, LL); total b 84 M-BBBO 1 Oct-15 Nov (DM, AP), also 5 foreign recoveries, *intro*.
Com. Nighthawk: last NMWMA (VDS) 11 Sep.
Chimney Swift: max 300 IB-S 24 (BCar); last 150 IB-S 2 Oct.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last 3 G 4 Oct (LB).
RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: 1 fem Henrietta 21 Oct-30 Nov (MH-K, JG, mob, ph), 1st MONR, 2nd Reg record
Merlin: total 18 sev loc all Sep; total 22 sev loc all Oct; total 24 sev loc all Nov.
Peregrine Falcon: total 13 sev loc all Sep; total 14 sev loc all Oct; total 2 all Nov.
MONK PARAKEET: 1 flyby HB 9 Sep; 3-7 West Ridge Plaza, Rochester 21 Nov thru (MW, mob), detailed origin and status ??, *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr MP 2 Sep; H 4 Sep; Riverside Cemetery Rochester 9 Sep; last SE of Cuylerville LIVI 20-22 Sep.
E. Wood-Pewee: last Rattlesnake Hill WMA 6 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: total b 14 M 1-17 Sep (BBBO); last 1 Victor 22 Sep.
“Trail’s” Flycatcher: last 1b M 4 Oct.
Willow Flycatcher: last N. Wolcott WAYN 24 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: last 1 HB 2 Oct.
E. Phoebe: last 1 N Wolcott WAYN 27 Oct.
Great Crested Flycatcher: last HB 20 Sep.
WESTERN KINGBIRD: NMWMA (VDS) 5 Oct (JTa, ph, mob), 13th Reg record.
E. Kingbird: last Conesus Inlet 14 Sep.
N. Shrike: arr G & Perinton 21 Oct; total 9 sev loc Nov.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last DE 16 Sep.
Warbling Vireo: last G 22 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: total b 22 M 4-30 Sep (BBBO); last MP 3 Oct.
Red-eyed Vireo: last N. Wolcott WAYN 10 Oct.
Blue Jay: max 136 HB 26 Sep (DT), good count for fall.
Fish Crow: scattered rep, 1-6 ind along Genesee River near Charlotte thru; 2 Dewey Ave Wendy's, Greece 17± Nov (KD); 2 Riga Landfill 28 Nov (DT).
Purple Martin: last 1-5 NMWMA 13 Sep.
Tree Swallow: max 5000 NMWMA (VDS) 5 Oct (JBr, DaW); last 3 WP (R&SS) & IB-S (DT) 1 Nov.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: last HB 12 Nov (DT, MT), Reg record late.

Bank Swallow: last NWTP 21 Oct (DT), late.
Cliff Swallow: last 3 NWTP 15 Oct (DT), late.
CAVE SWALLOW: arr 1 SC-G 14 Oct (JeB, CW); early (4th earliest for Reg); 1 HP & 4 Burger P 14 Oct (DT), early – only 3 earlier Reg records; NWTP 15 Oct (DT); ~ 77 HB 22 Oct (DT, KH, et al); ~ 159 HB 25 Oct (DT, KF, et al); 76 HB 26 Oct (DT, CMO); 1 T Carlton ORLE 29 Oct (DT); 1 HB 11 Nov (DT, KF); 11 BB 12 Oct (DT); 61 HB 12 Oct (DT, MT); 1 Lake Ontario Pky at Rt 272 12 Oct (DT); 3 Summerville Pier 12 Oct (KH); 4 PB 12 Oct (DT); 2 NWTP 14 Oct (DT); last 1 DE 15 Oct (DT); a major event in two parts with about 407 individuals passing, *intro*.
Barn Swallow: last 3 NWTP (DT) 7 Nov, late.
Black-capped Chickadee: total b 175 M thru, vs. 28 for 2011, maybe an irruption starting.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: total 17b M Sep (BBBO), suggested irruption, but only 30b M for season; max 39 HB 23 Sep (KH, R&SS).
Brown Creeper: total b M 132 9 Sep-27 Oct (BBBO).
House Wren: last 1b M 15 Oct.
Winter Wren: arr 1-2 BB & HB-West 10 Sep; max 31 HB-Yanty Creek 8 Oct (R&SS); total b 88 M thru (BBBO).
Sedge Wren: no reports.
Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher: last T Galen WAYN 17 Sep.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max b 64 M 7 Oct; max 100 M-Owl Woods 28 Sep (ST); 100 WP 30 Sep (R&SS); total b M 329 season.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max b 58 M 5 Oct; max 100's M-Owl Woods 16 Oct (PMar); total b 339 M season; total 14 sev 1-14 Nov, many for so late; last 1 HB-Yanty Creek 14 Nov (RS).
Veery: last 2b M 25 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: max 17 HB-West 20 Sep (RS); max b 12 M 16, 21 Sep; total b 120 M 5 Sep-15 Oct; last HANA 15 Oct.
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush: max b 9 M 17, 24 Sep; total b 70 M thru 8 Oct.
BICKNELL'S THRUSH: 1b M 16, 24, & 30 Sep (BBBO), a high number for a season here.
Swainson's Thrush: max est 30 M-Owl Woods 16 Sep (PMar); max b 34 M 17 Sep; total b 306 M thru 13 Oct; 1 recap M 7 Oct, initially banded on 14 Aug, *intro*; last 1b HB 13 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: arr WP & HB-West 20 Sep; max 58 HB-Yanty Creek 8 Oct (R&SS); max b 81 M 7 Oct; total b 288 M 20 Sep-24 Oct.
Wood Thrush: max 40 NMWMA (VDS) 7 Sep (JMcG); last HP 13 Oct.
Gray Catbird: total b 290 M season; last WP 20-25 Nov (R&SS, BC).
European Starling: max 32,000 NMWMA (VDS) 17 Oct (DT).

Am. Pipit: arr 1 HB 2 Sep; max 300+ SE of Cuylerville 20 Oct (JK).
Bohemian Waxwing: arr 6 East Bay Marshes, T Huron, WAYN (DT); 17, 22 HB 10, 23 Nov (DT); total ~ 72 6-23 Sep.
Cedar Waxwing: 870 West Port Bay WAYN 31 Oct (KF, DT); max 1260 HB 10 Nov (DT).

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: arr 1 HB 2 Oct (AGu); max 42 11 Nov.
Snow Bunting: arr 8 HB 4 Oct (R&SS); max 200 Port Bay WAYN 5 Nov.
Ovenbird: last 1 Rochester 3 Oct.
N. Waterthrush: last 1b M 24 Sep.
Blue-winged Warbler: last 1 M 20 Sep.
Black-and-white Warbler: last 1 Oatka Creek P 22 Oct (JA).
Tennessee Warbler: last 1 HB 14 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr 1b M 31 Sep; 10 rep, 12 ind, 3b sev loc 3-15 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: total b 45 M season; last 1 HANA 15 Oct.
Connecticut Warbler: 1b M 6, 8, 19 Sep, 7 Oct (BBBO), good banded total; 1 M-Owl Woods 7 Sep (ST); 1 Kent Arboretum, Webster 9 Sep (JMi).
Mourning Warbler: last 1 Badgerow P, Greece 20 Oct (KG).
Com. Yellowthroat: total b 167 M season.
Hooded Warbler: last 1 M-Owl Woods 24 Sep.
Am. Redstart: total b 107 M thru Oct 1; last 1b M 1 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: last 1 M-Owl Woods 21 Sep.
N. Parula: last 1 ICW & NMWMA (VDS) 2 Oct.
Magnolia Warbler: total b 183 M season; last 2b M 27 Sep.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last 1 Conesus 4 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last 1 HB 23 Sep.
Yellow Warbler: total b 126 M season; last 1 BBWMA 7 Oct (AGu).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last 1b M 28 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: max b 63 M 20 Sep; total b 575 M thru 4 Oct (BBBO), down from last fall's 760, but still very high, *intro*; last BB 1 Nov (DT), late.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: total b 52 M thru 13 Oct; last 1b M 13 Oct.
Palm Warbler: arr 1 NMWMA (RR) 2 Sep; last Burger P, Greece 25 Oct.
Pine Warbler: 1 Webster 6, 19 Nov (NP, PMab), late; last HB 27 Nov (RS), late.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 80 HANA 10 Oct (DSH); total b 125 M thru 21 Oct; last HB 27 Nov, late.

Black-throated Green Warbler: last 1 fem SB 6 Nov (DT), Reg record late.
Canada Warbler: last 1 Lucien Morin P 13 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: total b 48 M season; last 1 HB 14 Oct.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 1, 2 NMWMA & N Wolcott WAYN 17 Oct.
Chipping Sparrow: max 64 HB 26 Sep (DT), good count; last Beatty Pt, Greece 9 Nov.
Clay-colored Sparrow: 1 M-Owl Woods 30 Sep (KH).
Savannah Sparrow: max 60+ SE of Cuylerville LIVI 12 Sep (JK), good count.
Nelson's Sparrow: arr 1-3 NMWMA (MT) 30 Sep, 5, 9 Oct (CT-H, JBr, DaW, mob), good site for this species in recent falls; 1 BBWMA 14 Oct (JeB, CW).
Fox Sparrow: arr Beatty Pt, Greece 8 Oct; 17 Honeoye Inlet WMA 30 Oct (MW); 18 WP 31 Oct; max 21 SB marshes 6 Nov (DT), good counts; last WP 11 Nov.
Lincoln's Sparrow: last Nations Rd 22 Oct (KC), late.
White-throated Sparrow: max 100's M-Owl Woods 16 Sep (PMar); total b 785 M season.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr 1b M 16 Sep.
Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco: N Wolcott WAYN 25 Nov thru (W&MR, ph)
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW X DARK-EYED JUNCO: DE 4 Oct (TF), interesting bird.
Scarlet Tanager: last M-Owl Woods 17 Sep.
N.Cardinal: partial albino Webster 5 Nov (John Pochan, ph), beautiful bird.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last 1 fem Webster 7-10 Nov (D&DTr), very late.
Indigo Bunting: last HANA 7 Oct (JP), late.
Bobolink: last BBWMA 7 Oct (AGu), late.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 360,000 NMWMA (VDS) 17 Oct (DT).
E. Meadowlark: last HB 10 Nov.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: 1 m NMWMA (VDS) 30 Sep-9 Oct (LL, mob)
Rusty Blackbird: arr & max 200+ Bushnell's Basin (RM); 180 NMWMA (VDS) 17 Oct.
Com. Grackle: max 40,000 NMWMA (VDS) 27 Oct (NS, StS, MS); 17,000 T Murray GENE 3 Nov (DT).
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 5000 NMWMA (Armitage) 27 Oct (TL, BW).
Baltimore Oriole: last MAC 8 Sep.
Pine Grosbeak: arr 5, sev West Port Bay WAYN (KF, DT) & T Ontario WAYN (JoP) 31 Oct; 37 rep, 32+ ind sev 5-25 Nov; max 17 WP 20 Nov (GL), most Nov rep from WP.
Purple Finch: max 19 HB 23 Sep; 24 rep 1-24 Oct.
House Finch: max 282 HB 22 Sep (DT), very high count.
Red Crossbill: 1 Burger P, Greece 29 Sep; HB & Burger P, Greece 2, 25 Oct; 21 rep, 57+ ind, max 12 many loc 5-23 Nov; 4 ea Types 3 & 10 DE 10 Nov (KH), from analysis (Matt Young) of recorded calls.
White-winged Crossbill: arr 2 HB 23 Sep (AGu); 2-5 sev lakeshore sites 22-30 Oct; 56 rep, 413+ ind many loc 4-28 Nov; max 200 HB 6 Nov (R&SSp, KG).
Com, Redpoll: arr 1 West Port Bay WAYN 31 Oct; 69 rep Nov; max 164 HB 11 Nov (KF, DT); 160 HB 12 Nov (DT, MT).
Hoary Redpoll: arr 1 HB 24 Nov (DT).
Pine Siskin: 105 rep Nov; max 84 S Conesus 3 Nov (KC).
Am. Goldfinch: max 1210 HB 26 Oct (DT), very high.
Evening Grosbeak: arr 1 Victor 18 Oct (BaB); total ~ 173 many loc 18-31 Oct; 28 rep, 86+ ind, max 18 many loc 1-23 Nov.



REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

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With the exception of Hurricane *Sandy*, this fall brought very average weather conditions. Temperatures were close to average for most of the season, except for a warm spell during *Sandy*, followed by a cold spell with temperatures 15° F below average in early November. Precipitation in both September and October followed historic averages closely, but November was significantly drier, yielding only 20% of average precipitation, three inches less than normal.

The most exciting meteorological event of the season was Hurricane *Sandy*. Although the storm had lost its original force and became a tropical depression, it still brought many displaced birds to our Region. The storm's arrival on the evening of 29 October prompted many birders to scour Cayuga Lake for vagrants on the following two days. A group of birders at Myers Point watched a **Leach's Storm-Petrel** fly in from the landside and get harried by a Merlin, while Chris Wood watched a second **Leach's Storm-Petrel** further north at Frontenac Park. These records constitute the first upstate sightings of this species (pending review, though a photo of the storm-petrel and Merlin by Tim Lenz provides excellent verification). Many observers noted a southbound adult, light morph **Parasitic Jaeger** at several locations on Cayuga Lake on 30 October, and others saw a dark morph **Parasitic Jaeger** from Aurora on 31 October. Additionally, **Red Phalaropes** were reported from Montezuma and Stewart Park on 31 October, along with a **Purple Sandpiper** found by Brad Carlson at Long Point SP. Finally, a **Cave Swallow** was seen from Myers Point on 31 October. Because of effort differences, fewer storm birds were reported from the other Finger Lakes, but Matt Young did report a juvenile **Northern Gannet** from the south end of Owasco Lake on 31 October.

Observers also reported several interesting gulls during the storm. Several birders noted a single adult **Black-legged Kittiwake** from Long Point SP on 30 October, and Chris Tessaglia-Hymes reported two adults from Stewart Park the following day. A **Laughing Gull** also visited the south end of Cayuga Lake on 31 October-1 November. As interesting as these records are, however, they were dimmed in comparison to the adult **Ross's Gull** that Chris Wood photographed from Long Point SP on 30 October. Although the species was entirely unexpected, and the bird was quite distant, the photos distinctly show the pinkish tinge and black necklace marking.

Except for *Sandy*, the migration season was fairly typical. Few species lingered past their expected departure dates; if anything, some Neotropical migrants seemed to disappear earlier than normal. These early departure dates may be a byproduct of the early bias during the spring migration. For an interesting reference, see Lehtikoinen, et al. 2004. Additionally, many winter finches arrived in the Region this fall, foreshadowing the upcoming invasion winter.

A few interesting wader species made their way to the Region this fall. Chris Wood saw a **Snowy Egret** fly by Long Point SP on 1 November, which Kevin McGowan refound at Stewart Park that afternoon. A **Cattle Egret** lingered at the Montezuma Wildlife Drive from 12-17 September, and a group of three **Cattle Egrets** visited Seneca Falls from 31 October-10 November. Teams on the Montezuma Muckrace found two **American Avocets** at Knox-Marsellus Marsh on 8 September. Both birds were seen again on 9 September, and one stayed through 12 October. An immature **Western Sandpiper** was reported from the Montezuma Wildlife Drive from 14-23 September, and Chris Wood found two more from Towpath Road on 1 November.

In addition to those brought by Hurricane *Sandy*, the Region hosted several other unexpected gull species this fall. Chris Wood and Jessie Barry saw a juvenile **Sabine's Gull** from the Aurora Boathouse on 11 November, but the bird was not seen again. There were several **Laughing Gull** reports throughout the season from both Myers Point and Stewart Park, though it is unclear how many individuals were actually present. Tim Lenz and Brad Walker found a **Franklin's Gull** at Knox-Marsellus Marsh on 7 October, which stayed until 11 October. Finally, a Cayuga Bird Club field trip led by Jay McGowan found and photographed a first cycle **Thayer's Gull** at Myers Point on 3 November.

At least one **Rufous Hummingbird** was seen in the Region this fall. One visited Steve and Susan Fast's feeder in Brooktondale on 1-2 October, and another, perhaps the same individual, took up residence at Marty Schlabach's feeder in Interlaken from 3 October-15 November. Additionally, two **Connecticut Warblers** were reported this season. Jay McGowan found the first at the Park Preserve on 12 September, and Chris Wood and Jessie Barry found the second at Hog Hole on 2 October.

Jay McGowan also found a **Clay-colored Sparrow** at Stewart Park on 14 October, and the bird was reported again on 15 October. A high count of four **Nelson's Sparrows** was noted from Hog Hole, Tompkins County, on 29 September. The highlight of the season's sparrows, however, was a **Le Conte's Sparrow** that Tom Schulenberg found near Freese Road in Ithaca. The bird was initially reported as a possible Le Conte's candidate on 11 November, but was seen again and confirmed on 17 November. Several observers saw this skulky bird again on the 18th and 19th. Interestingly, this report does not constitute the first Regional record; a painting by Louis Fuertes depicts a Le Conte's Sparrow that he had collected in Ithaca in October 1897.

Finally, this fall brought the harbingers of the winter finch invasion. **Red Crossbills** were reported sporadically throughout the Region, and several groups of **White-winged Crossbills** were also seen, including one flock that lingered on the Cornell Campus for nearly a week beginning in late October. Steve Kelling reported a flock of 145 **Pine Siskins** from Brooktondale. Finally, **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported from many locations beginning in early October, with a maximum of 30 visiting feeders near Summerhill in mid-November.

A total of 256 species was reported this fall.

Reference: Lehtikoinen, E., T. I. M. Sparks, and M. Zalakevicius. 2004. Arrival and departure dates. *Advances in Ecological Research* 35: 1-31.

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ABBREVIATIONS

Compost Piles – Stevenson Rd. area in Ithaca, TOMP; DrLa – Dryden L, TOMP; Knox-Mar – Knox-Marsellus Marsh area, SENE (including Towpath Rd, East Rd, and Puddler's Marsh); Long Pt – Long Point SP, CAYU; MyPt – Myers Point, TOMP; ParkPre – Roy H. Park Preserve, TOMP; Salt Pt – Salt Point in Lansing, TOMP; SaW – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; StP – Stewart P, TOMP; Treman – Treman SP, TOMP (including Hog Hole); WildDr – Montezuma NWR Wildlife Drive, SENE.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: max 9 Knox-Mar 21 Oct.

Ross's Goose: max 8 Knox-Mar 3 Nov.

Brant: max 2500 MyPt 30 Oct.

Cackling Goose: first DrLa 16 Oct; max 9 WildDr 24 Oct.

Tundra Swan: max 1200 Lower Lake Rd. SENE 25 Nov.

Green-winged Teal: max 2440 Knox-Mar 1 Nov.

Canvasback: first WildDr 22 Oct.

Redhead: first StP 14 Oct.

Com. Goldeneye: MyPt 5 Sep (JM), early.

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: MyPt 30 Oct (mob, ph - TL); Frontenac Park CAYU 30 Oct (CW).

NORTHERN GANNET: 1 juv Owasco Lake south end 31 Oct (MY); 1 juv Long Pt 11 Nov (DNI).

Great Blue Heron: max 422 Knox-Mar 2 Sep.

Great Egret: max 82 Knox-Mar 6 Sep.

SNOWY EGRET: Long Pt and StP 1 Nov (CW, JM).

CATTLE EGRET: WildDr 12-17 Sep (ST, mob); 3 Seneca Falls 31 Oct-10 Nov.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Sora: last Hog Hole 28 Oct.

Sandhill Crane: max 29 Knox-Mar 27 Nov.

Am. Golden-Plover: max 23 Knox-Mar 5 Sep.

AMERICAN AVOCET: 2 Knox-Mar 8-9 Sep (mob); 1 Knox-Mar 10 Sep-12 Oct.

Hudsonian Godwit: 4 Knox-Mar 11-19 Sep (JT, DW); 4 WildDr 21 Sep.

Ruddy Turnstone: last 2 Lansing 20 Oct.

Sanderling: MyPt 18 Sep; 2 WildDr 29 Sep.

WESTERN SANDPIPER: 1 imm WildDr 14-23 Sep (MT, BC); 2 Knox-Mar 1 Nov (CW).

Least Sandpiper: last Knox-Mar 5 Oct.

White-rumped Sandpiper: last 2 Knox-Mar 17 Nov.

Baird's Sandpiper: last Knox-Mar 10 Oct.

PURPLE SANDPIPER: Long Pt 31 Oct (BC, mob).

Dunlin: max 217 Knox-Mar 1 Nov.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: max 4 Knox-Mar 5 Sep; last Knox-Mar 10 Oct.

Wilson's Phalarope: 2 Knox-Mar 1 Sep.

RED PHALAROPE: Knox-Mar 31 Oct; StP 31 Oct; StP 6 Nov.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: Long Pt 30 Oct (mob); 2 StP 31 Oct (CTH).

SABINE'S GULL: 1 juv Aurora Boathouse 11 Nov (CW, JB).

Bonaparte's Gull: arr WildDr 9 Oct.

ROSS'S GULL: 1 ad Long Pt 30 Oct (CW, ph).

LAUGHING GULL: StP 10 Sep; Treman 16 Sep; MyPt 18 Sep-3 Oct; MyPt south to StP 31 Oct-1 Nov.

FRANKLIN'S GULL: Knox-Mar 7-11 Oct (TL, BW, mob).

THAYER'S GULL: 1 1st cycle MyPt 3 Nov (JM, mob).

Iceland Gull: arr Lakefront Park ONTA 1 Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: arr Compost Piles 1 Sep; max 4 MyPt 4 Nov.

Glaucous Gull: StP 16 Nov; Compost Piles 28 Nov.

Com. Tern: arr MyPt 15 Sep; last Cayuga Lock CAYU 3 Nov.

PARASITIC JAEGER: lt morph Cayuga Lake 30 Oct (mob), light morph adult; dark morph Aurora High Banks 31 Oct (mob).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Barn Owl: Brooktondale 15 Sep (SK), flight call.

E. Whip-poor-will: Burdett 27 Sep (J&S G), banded.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Ithaca 14 Oct.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Brooktondale 1-2 Oct (SSF, mob); Interlaken 3 Oct – 15 Nov (MS, mob), hatch year female.

Peregrine Falcon: max 3 Knox-Mar 23 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: last Treman 16 Oct.

Least Flycatcher: last SaW 4 Oct, late.

E. Phoebe: last SaW 7 Nov.

Great Crested Flycatcher: last Treman 29 Sep.

Warbling Vireo: last Three Mills Park ONTA 4 Oct.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 78 Knox-Mar 5 Oct.

Bank Swallow: max 1200 Mays Pt. Pool SENE 5 Sep; last Knox-Mar 9 Oct.

CAVE SWALLOW: MyPt 31 Oct (mob).

Marsh Wren: last WildDr 1 Nov.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last StP 20 Nov, late.

Bicknell's Thrush: Freeville 30 Sep (CTH), flight call.

Am. Robin: max 1200 Ithaca 5 Nov.

Gray Catbird: last SaW 5 Oct; DrLa 5 Oct.

Am. Pipit: max 240 Knox-Mar 24 Oct.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: arr WildDr 20 Oct.

Tennessee Warbler: last Salt Pt 2 Nov (JM), late.

Orange-crowned Warbler: last StP 31 Oct.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: ParkPre 12 Sep (JM); Treman 2 Oct (CW, JB).

Com. Yellowthroat: last Treman 6 Nov.

Cap May Warbler: last Freese Rd. TOMP 10 Nov, late.

N. Parula: last Recreation Way TOMP 19 Nov, late.

Black-throated Green Warbler: last StP 1 Nov.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Chipping Sparrow: max 130 Bluegrass Ln TOMP 30 Sep.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: StP 14-15 Oct (JM, mob).

Field Sparrow: last Salt Pt 20 Nov.

Savannah Sparrow: last Bluegrass Ln TOMP 17 Nov, late.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW: Freese Rd. 17-19 Nov (TS, mob), possibly beginning on 11 Nov.

Nelson's Sparrow: max 4 Treman 29 Sep (mob).

Lincoln's Sparrow: max 7 Freese Rd. 29 Sep.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 40 Seneca Meadows SENE 24 Oct.

Dickcissel: 10 Sep Ithaca (JM), only report.

Bobolink: max 600 WildDr 2 Sep.

Red Crossbill: arr 2 Durland Preserve TOMP 2 Sep.

White-winged Crossbill: arr East Hill Plaza TOMP 12 Oct; max 20 Summerhill CAYU 2 Nov.

Pine Siskin: max 145 Brooktondale 30 Oct.

Am. Goldfinch: max 450 WildDr 31 Oct.

Evening Grosbeak: arr 3 Brooktondale 7 Oct, early; max 30 Summerhill CAYU 13 Nov.

Corrigenda: Reg. Reports Ed: Due to oversight on my part in editing and proof reading the 2011 fall and 2012 spring reports for Region 3, 7 fall records and 2 spring records from Howland's Island and Fairhaven SP, sites in the Region 5 part of Cayuga County, were included in the Region 3 reports. These were also covered by the Region 5 editor, so they are not lost but are duplicated.



REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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September 2012 was about average in temperature and a bit drier than normal. October was wetter and a bit warmer than average while November was a couple of degrees cooler than the norm with only half the average precipitation. Of course, the main meteorological event was Superstorm *Sandy*, which affected the Region from 29-30 October. The main effects were gusts up to 49 mph and about an inch of rain. Our Region was very lucky to escape the brunt of the storm.

On 30 October there were a number of notable sightings of waterfowl. At Dorchester Park in northern Broome County, 200 Brant were spotted, while our average flock might be 15. Also seen were seven Red-breasted Mergansers, a Long-tailed Duck, 15 Bufflehead, two Surf Scoters, six White-winged Scoters, a Black Scoter, and four Ruddy Ducks. On the same day on the Susquehanna River in Broome County, two Black Scoters were seen, as well as 57 Double-crested Cormorants. In Otsego County on Allen Lake, there were seven Lesser Scaup and 110 Ring-necked Ducks, though Ring-necked Duck numbers had reached a maximum of 120 a week prior to *Sandy*. There was also a maximum of 15 Ruddy Ducks on 28 October at Dorchester Park. Usually we are lucky to see a pair of Ruddy Ducks. Most of these sightings are not common for the Region, especially that many in one day. It is apparent that Superstorm *Sandy* had a major effect on waterfowl migration, though I am not certain of the exact mechanics. Were these migrants that were stopped by *Sandy's* winds, or were these coastal birds who were blown inward?

Great Egrets made their late summer appearance with a maximum of four sighted on 4 September in the Chenango River in Binghamton. There were 14

Green Herons reported from Brick Pond in Owego on 9 September. Brick Pond seems to have a high concentration of Green Herons again this year; last year 20 were reported.

At season's end, Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch had counted 5,039 raptors, which is 6% below the 11-year average of 5,362. Bald Eagles, Sharp-shinned Hawks, and Broad-winged Hawks had very good counts compared to their 11-year averages. According to Andy Mason, the Sharp-shinned Hawk total of 637 was the third highest total recorded for that species. However, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Merlin, and Peregrine all had below-average numbers. Golden Eagles had a fairly good count, with 172 tallied versus the average of 179. On 5 November, 30 Golden Eagles were recorded, which was the maximum daily count. On 27 October, a female Golden Eagle with a GPS tag passed Franklin Mountain, which matched the ground observation of an adult Golden Eagle that very morning (from Andy Mason).

A newly renamed Common Gallinule was observed at West Corners Marsh in Indicott with observations from 5-26 September. At Dorchester Park on 20 October, Bob Grosek discovered a flock of shorebirds that contained 14 Pectoral Sandpipers, a Stilt Sandpiper, Dunlin, and a Black-bellied plover. Most of these species were seen and photographed by others. On a field trip by the Naturalists' Club of Broome County, a White-rumped Sandpiper was spotted on Cincinnatus Lake in Chenango County on 14 November.

A Great Black-backed Gull and a Common Tern were spotted on Otsego Lake in November. Another Common Tern was observed on Whitney Point Lake in Broome County on 30 September.

On 5 November a Short-eared Owl was observed at Franklin Mt. Hawk Watch, which was the only sighting in the Region for this species. A Barred Owl was also present at the Hawk Watch in early October.

At Tri-Cities Airport in Indicott, four Common Nighthawks were seen on 3 October, while at Franklin Mt. one was noted on 23 September. There were few sightings of Common Nighthawks in the Region, and I can remember when in the evening sky over Binghamton 30 years ago they seemed plentiful and booming.

Red-headed woodpeckers were reported from feeders in Delaware County and Otsego County in mid to late October. There were two observations of Olive-sided Flycatchers in early September in Broome and Delaware Counties. The first Northern Shrike of the season was seen at a feeder in Hancock on 22 October, as it unsuccessfully tried bird-feeding at the feeder.

Common Raven was well reported, with it being regular at Franklin Mt. Hawk watch, and it seems to be widespread and increasing. There were a few Tree Swallows in early November along the Susquehanna River in Endwell, with the last sighting on 8 November which is rather late for our Region. Were these sightings also related to Superstorm *Sandy*?

A lone Bohemian Waxwing was observed and photographed on 20 November by Jon Weeks; this was an uncommon sighting for our area. American Pipits arrived in a couple of large flocks (50+) in Otsego and Cortland

Counties in late October. Snow Buntings were reported from Dorchester Park on 8 November.

There seemed to be a good diversity of warblers seen, with 26 species being noted. Yellow-rumped Warblers were observed in high numbers (300) along the Susquehanna River in Vestal in late September, with wave after wave being described. Some commented that the flocks seen this fall were very diverse and in high numbers. Last year the total number of warbler species seen was 25.

A **Nelson's Sparrow** was spotted at the Tri-Cities Airport in Endicott by Bob Grosek on 2 October. Other observers were able to also see this sparrow, which stayed until 4 October. The only sighting of a Vesper Sparrow was also seen at Tri-Cities Airport on 28 October. Rusty Blackbirds were reported in Otsego County on 14 October and from the Franklin Mt. Hawk Watch on 4 November. A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was photographed at a feeder in Milford in Otsego County on 30 November.

A flock of 30 White-winged Crossbills was reported from Otego, Otsego County, foraging in the crowns of White Pines from 4-9 November. A large movement of Pine Siskins swept through the Region from October to early November, with many feeder reports exceeding ten individuals. There were 77 reported from a feeder in Johnson City on 5 October. Common Redpolls were also beginning to be reported with a flock of 80 in Tioga County on 23 November. Evening Grosbeaks were also reported from every county in the Region, with good numbers coming in late October and November. There were comments of surprise and happiness from feeder proprietors as the Evening Grosbeaks suddenly appeared after years of absence.

It is with sadness that I report the death of Marie N. Petuh, who for many years guided and mentored the members of the Broome County Naturalists' Club. She was the author of *Broome Birds & Byways*, which provides a guide to the local flora and fauna with well-written directions and maps. Marie was an indomitable birder as well as an enthusiastic promoter of birding and the Club. She seemed to know every landowner and every feeder in three counties and could tell you what's been seen everywhere for the past 20 years or so. Plus she could really, really write. We will miss her greatly.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ALL – Allen L, OTSE; AqPk – Aquaterra P, BROO; BHL – Buck Horn L, OTSE; BUNP – Binghamton University Nature Preserve, BROO; BPD – Boland Pd, BROO; BrPd – Brick Pd, TIOG; CanL – Canadarago L, OTSE; ChenRB – Chenango R, Binghamton, BROO; 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; SKAL – Skaneateles L, CORT; 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 9 CanL 15 Nov; other rep only singles.

Brant: max 200 DorP 30 Oct; last ChenRB 9 Nov.

Canada Goose: max 8000 CanL 29 Nov.

Mute Swan: OtsL 15-20 Nov.

Wood Duck: max 50 ALL 15 Oct.

Gadwall: 2 WNR 13 Oct, only rep.

Am. Wigeon: max 17 ALL 3 Nov.

Am. Black Duck: max 41 Hamden DELA 24 Nov.

Mallard: max 200 BrPd 23 Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: 4 Endicott BROO 28 Sept, only rep.

N. Pintail: BPD 16 Sep; 2 RivR 26 Oct, only reports.

Green-winged Teal: 17 rep; max 20 BrPd 23 Nov.

Redhead: OtsL 26 Nov, only rep.

Ring-necked Duck: 34 rep; max 120 ALL 22 Oct; 110 ALL 30 Oct; most rep from OTSE; good numbers.

Greater Scaup: arr 2 RivR 25 Oct.

Lesser Scaup: arr 7 ALL 30 Oct..

Surf Scoter: arr 3 RivR 25 Oct, ph; 2 DorP 30 Oct; uncommon in Region.

White-winged Scoter: arr 6 DorP 30 Oct; uncommon in Region.

Black Scoter: arr 2 RivR 30 Oct; DorP 30 Oct; uncommon in Region.

Long-tailed Duck: arr DorP 30 Oct; SKAL 17 Nov; uncommon in Region.

Bufflehead: max 52 PrRd 13 Nov; 15 DorP 30 Oct.

Com. Goldeneye: max 34 CanL 16 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: max 34 ALL 21 Nov.

Com. Merganser: max 300 DorP 8 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: arr 7 DorP 30 Oct.

Ruddy Duck: max 20 DorP 28 Oct, 4 DorP 30 Oct; good numbers.

Ring-necked Pheasant: max 11 OTSE 10 Nov.

Ruffed Grouse: max 5 Tubbs Hill Rd TIOGA 21 Oct.; 25 rep across Region.

Wild Turkey: max 20 BROO 10 Oct; many rep.

Red-throated Loon: arr DorP 28 Oct.

Com. Loon: max 10+ FMHW 5 Nov.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 13 UL 7 Oct.

Horned Grebe: max 4 OtsL 7 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: arr 2 PrRd 10 Nov.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 57 RivR 30 Oct; most rep in BROO along Susq R and Chenango R.

Great Egret: max 4 ChenRB 9 Sep; last ChenRB 23 Sep.
Green Heron: max 14 BrPd 9 Sep; last Bpd 23 Sep.
Black Vulture: 2 BROO 7 Sep, only rep.
Turkey Vulture: common thru mid-Oct; max (non HW) 28 OTSE 8 Oct; total 249 FMHW, 40% below avg.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

(FMHW totals cover 22 Aug to 30 Dec; averages reflect 2001-2011 data).
Osprey: total 90 FMHW, 37% below avg; 15 other rep, low.
Bald Eagle: total 185 FMHW, 21% above avg; many other rep; very widespread.
N. Harrier: total 75 FMHW, 2% above avg; 19 other rep.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 638 FMHW, 12% above avg; 18 other rep.
Cooper's Hawk: total 63 FMHW, 45% below avg; 16 other rep.
N. Goshawk: total 10 FMHW, 61% below avg; UL 13 Nov, only rep outside of FMHW.
Red-shouldered Hawk: total 43 FMHW, 31% below avg; 5 rep outside of FMHW; Owego, TIOG 29 Sep, parking lot at NYSOA meeting.
Broad-winged Hawk: total 1763 FMHW, 31% above avg; non-FMHW max 35 JC 10 Sep.
Red-tailed Hawk: total 1600 FMHW, 23% below avg; many other rep.
Rough-legged Hawk: total 2 FMHW, 81% below avg; arr Northern BROO 11 Nov.
Golden Eagle: total 172 FMHW, 4% below avg; Northern BROO Oct 30 to Nov 3, 3 rep.
Com. Gallinule: WCM 5-26 Sep, 3 rep at this location.
Am. Coot: max 73 OtsL 29 Nov.
Black-bellied Plover: arr DorP 10 Oct; last DorP 21 Oct.
Killdeer: max 25 TrAir 28 Sep; last 6 Cincinnatus L CHEN 14 Nov.
Spotted Sandpiper: Sidney OTSE 5 Sep, only rep.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr TrAir 10 Sep; last 2 TrAir 24 Sep.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 5 OtsL 14 Oct; last 3 OtsL 1 Nov.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 4 DorP 17 Oct; last 2 OtsL 1 Nov.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 6 DorP 17 Oct, only rep.
Least Sandpiper: DorP 20 Oct, only rep.
White-rumped Sandpiper: Cincinnatus L CHEN 14 Nov (DW), uncommon and late.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 14 DorP 20 Oct (mob, ph), large count.
Dunlin: arr 2 DorP Oct 20.

Stilt Sandpiper: DorP Oct 20 (BG), only rep.
Long-billed Dowitcher: arr UL 30 Sep (DN), uncommon.
Wilson's Snipe: arr 2 TrAir 3 Oct, only rep.
Am. Woodcock: 4 rep, widely scattered.
Great Black-backed Gull: OtsL Nov 1, 15, 18, 20.
Com. Tern: UL 30 Sep; OtsL 1 Nov; only 2 rep.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

E. Screech-Owl: CVSP 16 Sep; CHEN 8 OCT; Binghamton BROO 15 Oct; only 3 rep.
Great Horned Owl: max 3 OTSE 13 Nov; 2 CHEN 8 Oct; 3 rep from BROO; low count.
Barred Owl: FMHW 2&4 Oct; CHEN Oct 7&9; 5 rep.
Short-eared Owl: FMHW 5 Nov, only rep.
Com. Nighthawk: FMHW 23 Sep; last & max 4 TrAir 3 Oct, late; only 4 rep.
Chimney Swift: last & max 30 Endicott BROO 15 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last TIOG 29 Sep.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Fly Creek OTSE 16 Oct; DELA 29 OCT to 1 NOV; both feeder rep.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last Bing BROO 28 Oct.
Am. Kestrel: total 96 FMHW, 11% below avg; 25 other rep; good count outside of FMHW.
Merlin: total 15 FMHW, 44% below avg; 15 other rep.
Peregrine Falcon: total 15 FMHW, 12% below avg; many rep from Binghamton BROO of resident downtown pair.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Cherry Ridge Forest DELA 2 Sep; AqPk 9 Sep; only two rep.
E. Wood-Pewee: last BROO 21 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: last ALL 5 Oct.
E. Kingbird: last AqPk 3 Oct, very late.
N. Shrike: arr Hancock DELA 22 Oct; 7 rep.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last PrRd Sep 20; 6 rep.
Blue-headed Vireo: last Vestal BROO 9 Oct; most last 2 weeks of Sep.
Warbling Vireo: last OTSE 17 Sep; most first 2 weeks of Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: last OTSE 24 Sep; 8 rep, good count.
Red-eyed Vireo: last ALL 3 Oct; many rep.
Fish Crow: max 4 RivR 30 Sep; 5 rep.
Com. Raven: 37 rep, widespread; regular at FMHW.
Tree Swallow: max 50 PrRd 21 Sep; 4 rep RivR 1-8 Nov (GW, AK, BG), last 2 RivR 8 Nov, late, Sandy-related?
Barn Swallow: last 2 ChenRB 11 Sep; 3 rep.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 78 rep; good widespread count.
Brown Creeper: 36 rep; widespread.
Carolina Wren: 120+ rep; most from BROO & TIOG.
House Wren: 10 rep; all in Sep.
Winter Wren: 5 rep; max 2 Heiberg Forest CORT 21 Oct.
Marsh Wren: BUNP 2 Sep; 2 UL 30 Sep; BPd 11 Nov; 3 rep.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 2 CVSP 9 Sep; CHEN 9 Sep; 2 rep.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: widely reported.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr AqPk 20 Sep; last AqPk 11 Nov.
E. Bluebird: max 20 BROO 23 Sep; 50+ rep, widespread.
Veery: AqPk 2 & 8 Sep, only rep.
Gray-checked Thrush: max night flight 13 JC 15 Sep (DN).
Swainson's Thrush: max night flight 280 JC 15 Sep (DN).
Hermit Thrush: last BUNP 11 Nov; Glimmerglass SP OTSE 11 Nov.
Wood Thrush: night flight 1 JC 2 Sep (DN), only rep.
Gray Catbird: well reported thru early Oct; last BROO 20 Oct.
N. Mockingbird: 11 rep BROO; 1 rep Sydney DELA; distribution seems spotty and puzzling.
Brown Thrasher: 24 rep; many from feeder DELA; last DELA 6 Oct.
Am. Pipit: max 55 Springfield OTSE 26 OCT; 50 CORT 25 Oct; 5 rep.
Bohemian Waxwing: Vestal BROO 20 Nov (JW, ph).
Cedar Waxwing: well reported thru; max 100 PrRd14 Sep.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Snow Bunting: Max 7 DorP 8 Nov; 5 rep all Nov.
Ovenbird: last UL 27 Sep; 5 rep.
Blue-winged Warbler: DELA 1 Sep; CHEN 10 Sep; 2 rep.
 Black-and-white Warbler: last UL 27 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: last PrRd 4 Oct; 12 rep, good count.
Orange-crowned Warbler: PrRd 29 Sep, uncommon, only rep.
Nashville Warbler: 21 rep; last CVSP 7 Oct; max 3 ALL 3 Oct; good count.
Mourning Warbler: 2 Moyer Rd OTSE 19 Sep, AqPk 29 Sep; only 2 rep.
Com. Yellowthroat: many rep; last Keibel Rd BROO 17 Nov.
Hooded Warbler: last Endicott BROO 30 Sep; 4 rep, all BROO.

The Kingbird 2013 March; 63 (1)

Am. Redstart: 10 rep; last AqPk 29 Sep; TIOG 29 Sep.
Cape May Warbler: last WNR 14 Oct; DELA 1-26 Sep; good count.
N. Parula: last Endicott BROO 30 Sep; 5 rep.
Magnolia Warbler: 39 rep; last 2 Tubbs Hill Rd TIOG 29 Sep; good count.
Bay-breasted Warbler: Heiberg Forest CORT 8 Sep; Vestal BROO 14 Sep; only 2 rep.
Blackburnian Warbler: last BROO 25 Sep; 7 rep.
Yellow Warbler: last PrRd 29 Sep; 14 rep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last Glimmerglass SP 26 Sep; 14 widely scattered rep.
Blackpoll Warbler: CVSP 15-16 Sep, only rep; down from last year.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last AqPk 28 Sep; 10 rep.
Palm Warbler: last BUNP 21 Oct; max 15 PrRd 29 Sep; good count.
Pine Warbler: last ALL 4 Oct; 12 rep.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 300 PrRd 29 Sep (DW); 15 Moyer Rd OTSE 29 Sep; last Endicott BROO 3 Nov; high count.
Prairie Warbler: last Oneonta OTSE15 Sep; 4 rep.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last DELA 11 Oct; max 7 Moyer Rd OTSE 24 Sep; 56 rep.
Canada Warbler: AqPk 9 Sep, only rep.
Wilson's Warbler: last ALL 3 Oct; 9 rep.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: last Vestal BROO 30 Oct.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 3 BROO 3 Nov.
Chipping Sparrow: last BROO 28 Nov; many rep thru Oct.
Field Sparrow: last Endicott BROO 27 Oct; OSTE 27 Oct; 22 rep.
Vesper Sparrow: TrAir 28 Oct, uncommon.
Savannah Sparrow: last TrAir 28 Oct; 10 rep.
NELSON'S SPARROW: TrAir 2-4 Oct mob (BG).
Fox Sparrow: arr DELA 11 Oct; 33 rep, good count.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr BROO 4 Sep; 13 rep.
Swamp Sparrow: max 25 WNR 29 Sep (NYSOA field trip).
White-throated Sparrow: 150+ rep, abundant.
White-crowned Sparrow: 50+ rep; arr WNR 29 Sep; last CHEN 30 Nov ph.
Dark-eyed Junco: 200+ rep; max 45 ALL 24 Oct; widespread, good count.
Scarlet Tanager: 13 rep; last DELA 3 Oct; good count.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 22 rep; last DELA 3 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: last BROO 30 Sep.
Bobolink: UL 30 Sep, only rep.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 500 WNR 4 Oct; last 12 SKAL 24 Nov.

E. Meadowlark: 10 rep; max 12 TrAir 3 Oct; last 9 Keibel Rd BROO 14 Oct; good count.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: Miford OTSE 30 Nov, feeder, ph, uncommon.

Rusty Blackbird: max 9 Moyer Rd OTSE 15 Oct; 8 FMHW 4 Nov; 5 other rep with small numbers.

Com. Grackle: max 1000 Vestal BROO 4 Sep ph, lawn invasion.

Brown Headed Cowbird: max 4 BROO 30 Oct feeder; 5 rep in Oct & Nov, mostly at feeders.

Purple Finch: max 13 Vestal BROO 4 Oct; 70+ rep.

Red Crossbill: Shackham Rd CORT 13 Nov, only rep.

White-winged Crossbill: max 30 Otego OTSE 5-9 Nov; E. Pharsalia CHEN 10 Nov; 2 FMHW 4 Nov; 2 BROO 8 Nov.

Com. Redpoll: max 80 Tubbs Hill Rd TIOG 23 Nov; arr 2 AqPk 9 Oct; 4 rep.

Pine Siskin: max 77 JC 5 Oct; 66 rep across Reg Oct to early Nov; many feeder rep with 10+.

EVENING GROSBEAK: arr Kirkwood BROO 23 Sep; 28 BROO Vestal 30 Oct; 50 Beckwith Rd CHEN 10 Nov; 25 SKAL 24 Nov; 25 Hamden DELA 4 Nov; 9 Tubbs Hill Rd TIOGA 21 Oct; 21 reports, high counts at feeders.

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REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The fall 2012 season was somewhat warmer and drier than normal following a warm, dry summer. In September a total of 3.11" of rain fell in Syracuse, which is 0.58" less than normal. Regions to the east of Syracuse received noticeably less precipitation during September. In October the average temperature in Syracuse was 62.6° F, which is 2.6° above normal, and rainfall was approximately one half inch below normal. November broke the warming trend with an average temperature of 39.3°, which is 1.3° cooler than normal. However, rainfall at only 1.41" was 2.12" less than normal. For the period only 2.8" of snow fell, most of which fell on a single day in late November.

In the waning days of October, Hurricane *Sandy* merged with low pressure to become "Superstorm *Sandy*" coming ashore in northern New Jersey. As *Sandy* moved inland it threatened to bring high winds and heavy rain to our Region and the hope of entrained or displaced avian rarities. Ultimately we experienced very little of the storm's deleterious effects, with little rain and strong (but not historic) east winds. Though adjacent Regions upstate found exciting species, our best and brightest birders surveyed the usual spots around Lake Ontario but came up with nothing that could be attributed with certainty to the storm. This rather disappointing outcome may have been related to the unusual easterly direction of the wind, and it was speculated that lakes whose

PHOTO GALLERY
Fall 2012



Pine Grosbeak, Elizabethtown, Essex, 12 Nov 2012, © Anthony Collerton.



Le Conte's Sparrow, Edgemere, *Queens*, 15 Dec 2012, © Anthony Collerton.



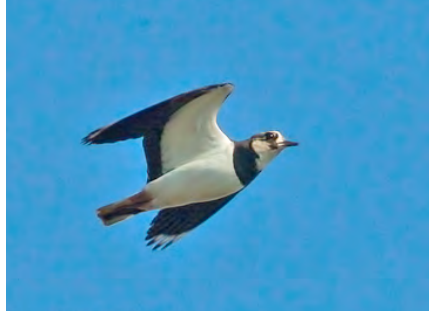
Mourning Warbler, Brushton, *Franklin*, 3 Jun 2012, © Anthony Collerton.



Painted Bunting, Alley Pond Park, *Queens*, 26 Nov 2013, © Steve Walter.



Virginia's Warbler, Alley Pond Park, *Queens*, 12 Nov 2013, © Steve Walter.



Northern Lapwing, Montauk, *Suffolk*, 11 Nov 2013, © Andrew Baksh.



Brewer's Blackbird, Montauk, *Suffolk*, 11 Nov 2012, © Michael McBrien.



Western Kingbird, Savannah, *Wayne*, 5 Oct 2012, © Jim Tarolli.

long direction spanned north to south may have intercepted more of the east wind and thus been more productive.

Water levels throughout the Region remained low following a dry summer. The large sandbar stretching out from Carl Island at Sandy Pond received little birder coverage after a busy summer. Delta Lake in Oneida County remained drawn down, but unfortunately few shorebirds availed themselves of the exposed mud flats. Some waterfowl did find a haven there, and in the latter part of September, over 100 Wood Duck and decent numbers of both common teal species were found. Bald Eagle also took advantage of the habitat at Delta, as did a small contingent of Great Egret. For the most part, waterfowl migration in the Region was unremarkable. However, Brant numbers were good around the Lake Ontario shoreline. On 12 October, 4,140 Brant went by Derby Hill. 436 Northern Pintail also passed by the same morning. The more common diving duck species staged in the usual locations on Oneida Lake and Lake Ontario. Gene Huggins monitored the waxing and waning of waterfowl populations in the Tully Lakes Area. There, Ring-necked Duck peaked at 376 on 3 November. Pied-billed Grebe numbers were relatively good throughout the Region, and some groups lingered through the end of October. Horned Grebe also appeared in many places and in decent numbers, but high counts were limited to Lake Ontario.

The Bishop Road Hawk Watch near Pulaski suffered from a lack of northeast winds, with virtually no good hawk flights noted. Migrant raptor numbers were average for fall, but the lack of weather fronts made for few instances of concentration. Consistent with the trend of recent years, Bald Eagle sightings were widespread and numerous. A maximum of 16 Broad-winged Hawks were seen in West Winfield on 16 September. Rough-legged Hawk arrived at the end of October but wasn't especially common. Winds with a southerly component produced small hawk flights at Derby Hill.

Shorebirds were not found in abundance, and many of the less common but expected species were missed altogether; limited coverage of hotspots like Sandy Pond and Fair Haven undoubtedly played a role. A relatively-late White-rumped Sandpiper was found by Bill Purcell at Selkirk Shores SP in Oswego on 8 November, where it remained for at least two days. American Woodcock were encountered in fairly good numbers at the beginning of November. Purple Sandpiper (a.k.a. the "Pumpkin Piper") arrived on time in the days preceding Halloween but was not seen after. Red and Red-necked Phalaropes are expected but never guaranteed and careful looking turned up both this fall on Lake Ontario.

The Region's four common rail species were all reported this fall and in relatively good numbers. Twenty Common Gallinule were seen in Volney on 2 September, and Wayne Fidler is commended for his coverage of this excellent marsh-bird spot. American Coot numbers were low, with a maximum of 40 at Woodman Pond in Madison County on 9 November. Ten Sandhill Cranes winging over Cicero were undoubtedly headed for the Montezuma Wetlands Complex.

West and northwest wind lakewatches at Derby Hill produced disappointing numbers but a decent variety of expected species. An adult **Northern Gannet** flyby on 21 October was possibly the same bird seen from Hamlin Beach on 1 September and by Tony Shrimpton from Stony Point on 13 October. It is of particular interest since most inland gannet records are of juveniles. If the same bird, perhaps it challenges our assumption that gannets don't live long on fresh water.

Later in the day Ken Burdick spotted an adult Pomarine Jaeger, with full tail streamers, that was eventually in the same scope view with a juvenile **Long-tailed Jaeger**, providing a once-in-a-lifetime direct comparison of the two species. The Long-tailed remained in Mexico Bay for the duration of the watch and allowed extensive study and photographs. Amidst all this excitement and for the second year in a row, a **Franklin's Gull** passed going west. Only two reports of Parasitic Jaeger is very low for recent years. A big shoreline gull flight finally happened on 24 November, with the highlight an adult Little Gull. An Iceland Gull on 30 October was earlier than usual but carefully identified. Drew Weber treated many to a Forster's Tern at the Onondaga Lake Marina on 29 September, while Bill Gruenbaum and Sue Boettcher found one in the same place on 5 November.

There were relatively few owl sightings and no northern owls were reported. In the latter half of November, a Northern Saw-whet Owl was found in a grove of conifers at Beaver Lake Nature Center. The species has been encountered in this same location in previous years.

Probably the single best find of the season was an adult male **Rufous Hummingbird**, which first appeared on 16 September at the Phoenix, Onondaga County, residence of Anne Dillon Gray. The identification of the bird was confirmed by personnel at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and many birders from around the state came to see and photograph this gorgeous bird, which remained throughout the fall. The bird was banded and determined to be an AHY (after-hatching-year) male. Many thanks to Anne for her hospitality and care of the bird throughout its stay. It will be interesting to see if it returns in 2013.

The increasingly uncommon Red-headed Woodpecker continues to hang on in our Region, and three very vocal individuals were seen at Fairhaven on 12 September. Merlin sightings were fairly numerous and widespread this season, and Peregrine Falcon were seen migrating and in their urban territories in expected numbers. A new pair has apparently claimed downtown Utica as their territory. 11 October brought an impressive nine Peregrines past Derby Hill on strong winds.

In Scriba on 27 November, a Northern Shrike was seen pursuing songbirds including Bluebird and Snow Bunting. Many observers picked out migrant Philadelphia Vireo, while the more normally common Blue-headed Vireo proved more elusive. On 16 September Mickey Scilingo counted 2,262 Blue Jays as they migrated in small groups along the north shore of Oneida Lake. There are continuing indications that Common Raven may be expanding its range in the suburbs south of Utica, as some of that area's former agricultural

land evolves into forested habitat. Horned Lark seemed to be quite scarce in the Region, but a flock of 280 was seen Pennelville on 30 November. Swainson's Thrush sightings were common and fairly widespread, and 20 Hermit Thrush were found at Sunset Bay Park in Oswego on 24 October, a good count.

South winds brought 44 **Cave Swallows** by Derby Hill on 12 November, which is an excellent single day count for this species. The species was first seen in Region 5 in fall 2005 and has become a quite predictable annual visitor for those who study the continent's wind currents. It is worth noting that Cave Swallows passing Derby Hill are seen heading east, while the flight direction at Hamlin Beach near Rochester is often mostly, if not entirely, westbound. Are they the same birds having turned around?

A minor irruption of Red-breasted Nuthatch was indicated this fall and is likely the result of the species pushing out of areas with poor food reserves. Bohemian Waxwings were noted primarily at Derby Hill, but a few small flocks were also discovered in other areas. Cedar Waxwings were not commonly encountered, which speaks again to the general lack of winter food supplies in the wild this year.

The migration of common warbler species was unremarkable, and few species were found in any number, which is typical for our Region in recent years. On 14 October, Joe Brin found three Orange-crowned Warbler at Three Rivers Wildlife Management Area at a power line cut; this is a superb one day count for our Region. A **Kentucky Warbler** was located by David Nash at the Clay Marsh on 9 September. On 24 October a very late Ovenbird was found at Sunset Bay Park in Scriba during an excellent fallout of species typical for the date. A Tennessee Warbler on 7 November is almost certainly a record-late date. On 20 November, the "Tuesday Birders" found and photographed a very late Northern Parula at Selkirk Shores SP, also presumed to be a new record-late date.

The Onondaga Lake Creekwalk is fast establishing itself as a hotspot for late-fall passerines. Andrew VanNorstrand discovered a first-Regional-record "**Audubon's**" **Yellow-rumped Warbler** foraging with a mixed flock of chickadees and two "Myrtle" Yellow-rumps on 27 November. The "Audubon's" Warbler remained and was seen by many in subsequent days as the number of Myrtles grew to about ten. The Yellow-rumps are a candidate for splitting by the AOU, and Audubon's may eventually enjoy full species status. Also at the end of November, a lingering Wilson's Warbler was found by Joe Carey, and a Common Yellowthroat was located in this same area.

Sparrow migration was good this season, and there were some noteworthy high counts reported. Tree Sparrow arrived on 23 October, and four Vesper Sparrows were located in different areas. Both Fox Sparrow and Lincoln Sparrow showed up in better than average numbers this fall. Twelve Fox Sparrows were found by Matt Perry at Spring Farm CARES Nature Sanctuary in Clinton on 25 October, and the same number was found at Three Rivers Wildlife Management area on the very next day. A well-described Dickcissel was found in Pompey Center on 11 September and another in Whitestown on 29 September. On 3 November, a **Harris's Sparrow** appeared at a Canastota bird

feeder and was identified by Ruth Kuryla, the homeowner. Many observers enjoyed the bird until it was reportedly killed by a cat. Many thanks to Ruth for allowing visitors to see the bird before its unfortunate demise.

Derby Hill now hosts a “flower pot” night-migration microphone with data available, typically the morning after, at Bill Evans' website, www.oldbird.org. It is part of a transect spanning eastern North America. The availability of timely counts can be a tremendous aid to birders in evaluating the intensity of the passerine migration. Peak migration nights as recorded by the microphone occurred on 5-6 September with 374 flight calls, 26-27 September with 341, 27-28 September with 657, 12-13 October with 344, and 23-24 October with 729 flight calls. These counts coincided well with daytime ground observation, and indeed the morning of 24 October produced excellent birding at Sunset Bay Park. A breakdown of the species distribution is beyond the scope of this report and not included in the summary data section.

Gary Lee provided a report from northern Herkimer County in which he noted: “We had four inches of snow on the ground the last week of November. Ice went in and out of small ponds a few times. Anyone who had a feeder open got cardinals for the first time ever. One feeder in Thendara still has three pairs.” Gary also banded 16 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at the Stillwater Hotel.

Numerous people commented on the remarkable passage of *icterids* this fall. 15,000 Common Grackles were counted in Baldwinsville on 23 October and 7,000 Red-winged Blackbirds in North Syracuse on 30 October. Rusty Blackbirds are often the odd-man-out in these blackbird high counts, but this year a flock of at least 220 was observed at Cicero Library on 19 October.

Jim Tarolli and David Wheeler watched blackbird roost-flights at the Clay Marsh during October, starting about an hour before dusk. Peak flight days produced difficult-to-estimate numbers of Red-wings, Grackles, and Rusties with only a few Starlings mixed in. Many rivers of birds passed over the Henry Clay Blvd. overlook and queued in trees throughout the marsh before swirling about in massive clouds and descending into the reeds to roost. A strategy for estimating numbers needs to be developed, but the overall count on peak days in late October was thought to be at least 100,000 birds. What fraction of the total refers to each species?

A good winter finch invasion year was predicted and seemed to be coming true in mid-fall, but a lack of food reserves may cause many to continue out of the area. A few Pine Grosbeaks were found as were both crossbill species, White-winged in particular flying by Derby Hill in small flocks. An influx of Evening Grosbeaks into the heart of the Region was welcomed by all, most especially by newer birders seeing this now uncommon and irregular visitor for the first time. Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak at the location hosting the Rufous Hummingbird made for an interesting juxtaposition of species. The end of the season found redpolls and siskins widespread and possibly settling in for the winter.

A total of 238 species was found in Region 5 during the fall 2012 season. Highlights were an adult Northern Gannet, Little Gull, **Franklin's Gull**, **Long-**

tailed Jaeger, an adult male **Rufous Hummingbird**, Kentucky Warbler, “**Audubon's**” **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, Dickcissel, and **Harris's Sparrow**.

A final note - the use of eBird for data reporting has increased dramatically as the tool has become ubiquitous among birders. eBird records for New York State have doubled every two years since 2004, with 362,800 reports being condensed by *Kingbird* Regional Editors for fall 2012. In Region 5, the season produced 27,832 eBird records, which were processed in a first use of a data-analysis software tool called “Swan Swan Hummingbird” developed by David Wheeler. This is at version 3.21 as of this writing. The software provides various functionalities in examining this huge database and will hopefully aid in future *Kingbird* reports as the amount of eBird data continues to grow.

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ABBREVIATIONS

Bville – Baldwinsville; BLNC – Beaver Lake Nature Center; BRH – Bishop Road Hawk Watch, T Richland; CM – Clay Marsh; Caz – Cazenovia L; DL – Delta L; DH – Derby Hill; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; GLSP – Green Lakes SP; HI – Howland Island WMA; MCL – Madison County landfill, T Lincoln; T's Scriba and New Haven; NSyr – North Syracuse; OneiL – Oneida Lake; OnonL – Onondaga L; Osw – Oswego Harbor; SSSP – Selkirk Shores SP; SHF – Sky High Sod Farms, T Sullivan; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; Skan – Skaneateles; SPd – Sandy Pd; SR – Stillwater Reservoir; SBP – Sunset Bay Park, Scriba; SVB – Sylvan and Verona

Beach; Syr – Syracuse; TR – Three Rivers WMA; UM – Utica Marsh; VB – Van Buren; WM – West Monroe; WPd – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr 24 Sept; max 500 SFNS 26 Nov; no large flights reported.
Brant: arr 6 Oct; max 4140 DH 12 Oct; 770 FH 31 Oct; last flock DeRuyter Reservoir 27 Nov.
Cackling Goose: VB 26 Oct (JTa!, ph); 2 Sunset Lake 24 Oct; 2 WPd 27 Oct.
Mute Swan: max 47 FH 7 Nov.
Trumpeter Swan: max 7 Volney 3 Sept, at least 1 thru 17 Nov, injured; 4 Caz 30 Nov.
Tundra Swan: arr 17 Nov; max 24 OneiL 25 Nov.
Wood Duck: good numbers at DL in Sept; max 400 DL 15 Sept.
Gadwall: arr OnonL 5 Sept; max 14 FH 24 Oct.
Am. Wigeon: arr Richfield Springs 8 Sept; max 58 DH 11 Oct.
Am. Black Duck: max 130 DH 12 Oct.
Am. Black Duck X Mallard (hybrid): 2 reports.
Blue-winged Teal: max 25 DL & DH 6 Sept; 20 HI 8 Sept; last 2 Tully Lakes 3 Nov.
N. Shoveler: arr 8 Sept; max 15 UM 22 Nov.
N. Pintail: arr 3 Sept; max 1050 DH 11 Oct.
Green-winged Teal: max 100 Rte 481 ponds 10 Oct (TB); 75 DL 6 Sept.
Canvasback: no reports.
Redhead: arr & max 26 DH 21 Oct.
Ring-necked Duck: arr WPd 28 Sept; max 376 Tully ponds 3 Nov.
Greater Scaup: arr Osw 10 Sept (JTa, DW); max 400 SVB 6 Nov.
Lesser Scaup: arr 3 DH 23 Sept; max 75 OnonL 10 Nov.
scaup sp: 1000 SVB 30 Oct.
Surf Scoter: arr DH 6 Oct; max 80 FH.
White-winged Scoter: arr Osw 11 Sept; max 142 DH 2 Nov.
Black Scoter: arr DH 11 Oct; max 980 FH 31 Oct (BP).
Long-tailed Duck: arr DH 12 Oct; max 920 DH 24 Nov.
Bufflehead: arr FH 24 Oct; max 214 SSSP 28 Oct.
Com. Goldeneye: arr Osw 11 Sept (WF); max 115 OneiL 25 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: max 103 Otisco Lake 17 Nov.
Com. Merganser: max 108 SVB 3 Oct.
Red-breasted Merganser: arr 16 DH 23 Sept; max 240 DH 2 Nov.
Ruddy Duck: arr WPd 28 Sept; max 200 BLNC 30 Oct; good numbers reported.

N. Bobwhite: 4 Poland Village 24 October (LB), likely released in the vicinity.
Ring-necked Pheasant: max 3 TR 16 Nov, some reports come from suspected release sites.
Ruffed Grouse: max 4 Bradley Brook Reservoir 13 Sept; singles/small numbers not uncommon.
Red-throated Loon: arr DH 21 Oct; max 5 SSSP 28 Oct; few reports.
Com. Loon: arr OneiL 22 Sept; max 157 DH 2 Nov; 67 same location 3 Nov.
Pied-billed Grebe: 23 OnonL 24 Oct; max 26 OnonL 30 Oct; good numbers.
Horned Grebe: arr DH 1 Oct; 75 DH 27 Oct; max 170 DH 16 Nov; good numbers.
Red-necked Grebe: arr DH 11 Oct; max 8 DH 27 Oct.
NORTHERN GANNET (R5): adult DH 21 Oct (BP, KB), adults very rare on Great Lakes, *intro*.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 2200 Osw 31 Oct.
Am. Bittern: only 3 reported; last Volney 21 Sept.
Least Bittern: 1 Longbranch Park 11 Sept, only report.
Great Egret: max 11 DL 15 Sept; last 30 Oct FH.
Green Heron: max 12 OnonL 5 Sept; last Syr 9 Oct.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: New Haven 17 Sept, only report.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Turkey Vulture: 125 BRH 7 Oct; max 180 same loc 12 Oct.
Osprey: max 3 HI 8 Sept; DH 27 Oct; Pennellville 23 Nov (TH); Hamilton 25 Nov (RC), very late.
N. Harrier: max 3 CM 12 Oct.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 28 DH 11 Nov.
Cooper's Hawk: 5 DH 12 Nov.
N. Goshawk: max 2 CM 8 Oct; few reports.
Bald Eagle: 5 DH 3 Sept; 7 DH 3 Nov; max 9 Hinckley Reservoir 28 Nov.
Red-shouldered Hawk: max 3 DH 13 Oct; last 2 Mexico 18 Nov.
Broad-winged Hawk: 7 DH 3 Sept; max 16 West Winfield 16 Sept; last SFNS 2 Oct.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 22 DH 3 Sept; 21 BRH 12 Oct.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr Fairfield 14 Oct; max 3 BRH 14 Nov.
Golden Eagle: Cleveland 30 Oct (BB, MV); SBP 31 Oct (WF); only reports.

Virginia Rail: last & max 2 Volney 4 Oct; 4 records only.

Sora: last & max Volney 4 Oct; all 4 records Volney location.

Com. Gallinule: max 23 Volney 11 Sept; same loc thru 30 Oct.

Am. Coot: max 60 WPd 13 Nov; 50 Skan 17 Nov.

Sandhill Crane: 1 Herkimer 21 Sept; 2 Columbia Center 30 Oct & 4 Nov; max 10 Cicero 17 Nov, flying west (DW).

Black-bellied Plover: 5 DL 27 Sept; max & last 12 Bville 17 Oct.

Am. Golden Plover: max 9 SHF 9 Sept; last Kirkville 18 Sept; few reports.

Semipalmated Plover: max 10 Lenox 15 Sept; last FH 24 Oct.

Killdeer: max 92 Verona 23 Sept; last OnonL 27 Nov; good numbers.

Spotted Sandpiper: last SBP 26 Sept; few reports and singles only.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 4 Redfield 2 Sept; last TR 14 Oct.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 8 Redfield 1 Sept; last SSSP 2 Nov.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 26 Redfield 1 Sept; last 2 SSSP 13 Nov.

Sanderling: max 15 Osw 8 Sept; last 2 SSSP 28 Oct & 5 FH 28 Oct; only 4 reports.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max and last 15 DL 15 Sept; few reports

Least Sandpiper: max 27 DL 10 Sept; last DL 27 Sept.

White-rumped Sandpiper: last SSSP 10 Nov; few reports. only singles.

Baird's Sandpiper: DL 19-27 Sept (MP); only report.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 18 DL 13 Sept; last OnonL 27 Sept.

Purple Sandpiper: SSSP 28 Oct, only report.

Dunlin: max & last 8 SVB 30 Oct.

Stilt Sandpiper: last Columbia Center 5 Oct; few report, only singles.

Wilson's Snipe: max 12 Dolgeville 3 Oct; last Volney 6 Nov.

Am. Woodcock: max 5 SFNS 3 Nov; last 11 Nov same loc.

Red-necked Phalarope: Oswego 22 Sept (BP), only report.

Red Phalarope: DH 6 Oct (DW, KM, GS); SVB 1 Nov (BB!, mob); last DH 2 Nov (DW).

Black-legged Kittiwake: 2 DH 2 Nov; 2 (juv & ad) DH 3 Nov (DW!); last DH 24 Nov.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 144 DH 24 Nov; last 3 OnonL 28 Nov.

Little Gull: adults, DH 2 Nov (BP, WF)) & 24 Nov (DW, mob).

FRANKLIN'S GULL: first-winter DH 21 Oct (DW, KB, BP, DWe, ph, NYSARC).

Ring-billed Gull: 2500 Osw 31 Oct; max 5200 DH 24 Nov, excellent flight.

Herring Gull: 550 MCL 13 Nov; max 700 DH 24 Nov, good number.

Iceland Gull: arr SVB 30 Oct (DW!), early; 2 DH 13 Nov & 24 Nov; MCL 23 & 30 Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: arr Osw 7 Sept (WF); DH 23 Sept; singles MCL thru Nov.

Glaucous Gull: arr MCL 23 Nov; MCL 30 Nov.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 165 MCL 13 Nov.

Caspian Tern: max 9 DH 23 Sept; last SVB 3 Oct.

Com. Tern: max 3 DH 23 Sept; last DH 1 Nov.

Forster's Tern: DH 23 Sept (BP); OnonL 29 Sept (DWe), OnonL 5 Nov (WG, SB); last DH 14 Nov (DN).

Pomarine Jaeger: ad DH 21 Oct (KB, BP, DW, DWe); Pulaski 7 Nov (TC); last DH 24 Nov.

Parasitic Jaeger: DH 1 Oct; ad DH 21 Oct; only 2 reported – much fewer than recent years.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: juv DH 21 Oct (KB, BP, DW, DWe, ph, NYSARC).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: only 4 reports of singles, thru mid-Sept.

Black-billed Cuckoo: only 5 reports of singles, thru mid-Sept.

E. Screech-Owl: max 4 HI 8 Sept; widespread reports of singles & pairs.

Great Horned Owl: max 2 Fayetteville 14 Sept; few reports.

Barred Owl: max 2 HI 8 Sept; singles found in scattered areas.

N. Saw-whet Owl: max 3 Waterville 6 Oct; 2 BLNC 27 Nov thru.

Com. Nighthawk: max 8 Tully 1 Sept; last Schiller Park 16 Sept; only 3 reports.

Chimney Swift: max 8 GLSP 1 Sept; last DH 8 Sept; only 4 reports

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 16 banded SR 2 Sept (GL); last SFNS 25 Sept.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: ad male Phoenix 16 Sept thru (ADG!, mob, ph, NYSARC).

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 3 FH 12 Sept; last Bville 20 Oct; few reported.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 4 SBP 26 Sept; last HI 11 Oct.

N. Flicker: max 13 Hastings 25 Sept.

Am. Kestrel: max 5 Griffiss Technology Park, Rome 7 Oct.

Merlin: max 2 Big Moose 5 Sept, 2 OnonL 18 Oct, widespread singles.

Peregrine Falcon: max 9 DH 11 Oct (WF, BP, DW), prob. a new Reg high if all different birds; new pr at Utica site 1 Sept.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: four reports; last N. Syr 6 Sept.

E. Wood-Pewee: max 7 HI 8 Sept; last Dolgeville 30 Sept.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: a few singles; last Waterville 23 Sept.

Least Flycatcher: max 2 HI 8 Sept; last SVB 25 Sept.

empidonax sp: 31 records for Sept, some early Sept records may be "Traill's."

E. Phoebe: max 7 SVB 22 Sept; last Barry Park, Syr 1 Nov.

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 2 SVB 20 Sept; last CM 24 Sept.

E. Kingbird: max 2 Hastings 1 Sept; last Central Square 10 Sept.

N. Shrike: arr Constantia 26 Oct; SL 11 Nov; TR 11 Nov; Mexico 10 Nov; Scriba 26 Nov; Erieville 27 Nov.

Yellow-throated Vireo: max 4 HI 8 Sept; last Noyes Sanctuary 14 Sept.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 4 Camden 2 Oct; last Camden 28 Oct.

Warbling Vireo: max 12 Barry Park, Syr 9 Sept, good number; last 2 SBP 26 Sept.

Philadelphia Vireo: max 3 HI 8 Sept; last Nelson Swamp 28 Sept; 33 reports.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 21 Camden 9 Sept; last DH 6 Oct.

Blue Jay: max 2,262 north shore of OneiL, Constantia 16 Sept, flying west.

Fish Crow: max 3 OnonL 21 Nov; few reported, none from Sept or Oct.

Com. Raven: max 9 Hastings 3 Sept; singles & pairs SFNS thru, unusual loc.

Horned Lark: few reports; max 280 Pennelville 30 Nov.

Purple Martin: max & last 6 HI 8 Sept; only 7 reports

Tree Swallow: max 500 HI 8 Sept; last DH 12 Nov.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 35 HI 8 Sept; last 2 DH 14 Oct, only 7 reports.

Bank Swallow: max 52 HI 8 Sept; last 2 OnonL 9 Sept.

Cliff Swallow: only 2 reports of singles; last HI 8 Sept.

CAVE SWALLOW: 5 DH 11 Nov (WF, BP); 44 DH 12 Nov (BP); 6 DH 13 Nov (AVN); 1 DH 19 Nov (WF, BP); last BP 23 Nov (TC), unusual loc.

Barn Swallow: max 65 HI 8 Sept; last DH 26 Oct.

swallow sp: 1000 HI 8 Sept.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 30 Syr 7 Oct; minor irruption, widespread reports.

Brown Creeper: max 5 Camden 3 Oct.

House Wren: last 2 SFNS 12 Oct.

Winter Wren: max 9 SBP 26 Sept.

Marsh Wren: max 3 Volney 4 Oct; last Dewitt 9 Oct.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max & last 3 HI 8 Sept; few reports.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 23 CM 24 Oct; max 24 OnonL 27 Oct.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Camden 9 Sept; max 20 FH & Manlius 7 Oct; last SVB 10 Nov.

E. Bluebird: max 25 HI 8 Sept; Camden 29 Oct.

Veery: singles early Sept; last Constantia 16 Sept; only 8 reports.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: 5 singles second half Sept; last Hastings 29 Sept; only 5 reports.

Swainson's Thrush: arr Mexico 5 Sept; max 5 TR 21 Sept; last TR 15 Oct (JTa!, ph).

Hermit Thrush: max 20 SBP 24 Oct (WF); last Manlius 22 Nov.

Wood Thrush: max 5 Camden 15 Sept; last Hamilton 20 Oct (RC), late.

Am. Robin: max 266 SVB 1 Oct.

Gray Catbird: max 22 CM 17 Sept; last Dolgeville 22 Nov.

N. Mockingbird: max 4 Osw 8 Sept.

Brown Thrasher: max 3 NSyr 6 Sept; last Hastings 12 Oct.

Am. Pipit: max 85 BRH 7 Oct; last SFNS 23 Nov, possibly injured.

Bohemian Waxwing: arr 2 NSyr 4 Nov (DWe); max 49 DH 11 Nov (WF).

Cedar Waxwing: max 211 DH 11 Nov.

LONGSPURS-WARBLED

Lapland Longspur: arr & max 4 DH 24 Oct; 2 Pennelville 30 Nov - only reports.

Snow Bunting: arr 6 DH 11 Oct; max 88 FH 31 Oct.

Ovenbird: max 3 HI 7 Sept; last SBP 24 Oct (WF), very late.

N. Waterthrush: no reports.

Blue-winged Warbler: 3 records early Sept.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 3 SVB 5 Sept; last Noyes Sanctuary 26 Sept.

Tennessee Warbler: max 5 OneiL 22 Sept; last Manlius 7 Nov (AVN), very late.

Orange-crowned Warbler: first SVB 20 Sept; max & last 3 TR 14 Oct (JB).

Nashville Warbler: max 10 OneiL 22 Sept; last SFNS & TR 12 Oct.

Mourning Warbler: a few singles; last Hamilton 5 Oct.

KENTUCKY WARBLER (R5): CM 9 Sept (DN).

Com. Yellowthroat: max 9 Mexico 1 Sept; last Syr **28 Nov** (AVN), late.
Hooded Warbler: last SBP 26 Sept.
Am. Redstart: max 5 Camden 2 Sept; last TR 9 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: last SBP 26 Sept.
N. Parula: max 5 SBP 26 Sept; Selkirk **20 Nov** (RD!, mob, ph), very late.
Magnolia Warbler: max 12 HI 8 Sept; last HI 8 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: max 6 Camden 10 Sept; 4 OnonL 15 Sept; last Dolgeville 2 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 25 OneiL 22 Sept, great number; last Dolgeville 28 Sept.
Yellow Warbler: last OnonL 27 Sept, relatively late.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last SFNS 26 Sept.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 30 OneiL 22 Sept, good number; last TR 16 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 4 SBP 26 Sept; last OSP 27 Sept
Palm Warbler: max 10 Bville 19 Sept & Hastings 8 Oct; last OnonL 16 Oct.
Pine Warbler: max 3 SVB 1 Sept; last New Woodstock 20 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 55 SFNS 12 Oct; last 2 OnonL 30 Nov.
“AUDUBON'S” YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: OnonL 27 Nov thru (AVN!, mob, ph), first Reg record.
Prairie Warbler: OneiL 22 Sept, only report.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 20 OneiL 22 Sept; last 2 OnonL 9 Oct.
Canada Warbler: max 3 HI 7 Sept; last Bridgeport 25 Sept.
Wilson's Warbler: max 4 Hastings 7 Sept; last Syr **28 Nov** thru (JC!, mob, ph), very late.

SPARROWS - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: max 8 Mexico 30 Sept; last SFNS 30 Oct.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr DH 23 Oct; max 40 Mexico 12 Nov.
Chipping Sparrow: max 60 Syr 9 Sept; last 2 Camden and Canastota 4 Nov.
Field Sparrow: max 6 GLSP 21 Sept; max 6 TR 10 Oct, 16 Oct; last 2 CM 21 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: 3 Mexico 20 Oct; max 4 Sandy Creek 3 Nov; last Oswego 5 Nov.
Savannah Sparrow: max 26 Fabius 9 Sept, good number; last Mexico 28 Oct.
Fox Sparrow: max 15 Camden 31 Oct; good numbers; last SFNS 24 Nov.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 9 Sept; max 8 Mexico 7 Oct; last SFNS 13 Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: max 180 Hastings 8 Oct; 126 TR 12 Oct; leucistic bird VB 7 Oct.
HARRIS'S SPARROW: Canastota 3-10 Nov (RK!, mob, ph, NYSARC), likely killed by cat.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr Dolgeville 24 Sept; max 25 TR 9 Oct; last Phoenix 21 Nov.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 250 Ohio 28 Oct.
Scarlet Tanager: max 4 HI 8 Sept; last Camden 2 Oct.
N. Cardinal: max 30 Whitestown 3 Sept; 6 Thendara late Nov (GL), very unusual.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 5 Nelson 3 Sept; last Dolgeville 1 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: max 8 Bville 19 Sept; last Clinton 5 Oct; few reports.
Dickcissel: Pompey 11 Sept (DH!); Whitestown 29 Sept (FV).
Bobolink: 2 HI 8 Sept; last SFNS 14 Sept; only reports.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 7,000 NSyr 30 Oct.
E. Meadowlark: 7 Oswego Co Airport 30 Sept; last Dempster Bch 5 Nov; few reports.
Rusty Blackbird: arr OnonL 16 Sept; max 220 Cicero 19 Oct; last 10 CM 17 Nov.
Com. Grackle: max 15,000 Bville 23 Oct.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 150 HI 2 Sept.
Baltimore Oriole: max 2 West Winfield 7 Sept; last Hastings 17 Sept; few reports.
blackbird sp: est. 100,000 mostly Grackles and Red-wings, mixed flock roost at CM 20 Oct - 5 Nov (DW, JT).
Pine Grosbeak: max 5 New Woodstock 24 Nov; 3 DH 18 Nov.
Purple Finch: max 34 Dolgeville 1 Sept; 30 SFNS 11 Oct; less common in most areas after mid October.
House Finch: max 50 Skaneateles 13 Nov; numbers improving for this species.
Red Crossbill: 11 DH 3 Sept; last DH 19 Nov.
White-winged Crossbill: Highland Forest 21 Oct; max 35 DH 11 Nov.
Com. Redpoll: arr Stillwater Reservoir 5 Nov; max 115 Mexico 18 Nov.
Pine Siskin: arr Williamstown 13 Sept; max 100 same loc, 24 Oct.
Am. Goldfinch: max 742 DH 11 Nov (WF), good number.
Evening Grosbeak: arr Constantia 17 Sept; max 24 Mexico 23 Oct; reports widespread.



REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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The fall started out warm and wet and ended cool and dry. Watertown had mean temperatures that were 1.2° F and 3.6° above normal for September and October, respectively, but November's mean temperature was 1.4° below average. The 7.5" of rain that fell in September was 3.2" above normal, but October's precipitation total was 0.8" below normal, and November's was 2.8" below normal. Temperatures for much of November were actually typical of the season or even a little warm, but winter asserted itself during the last week of the month, with cool temperatures and light snow nearly every day that week.

Hurricane *Sandy*, the meteorological event of the season across the eastern United States, brought numerous rarities to New York State and the Northeast, but no truly rare species were seen in Region 6, and locally the birding was generally poor during the week or so following *Sandy*'s passage. Gerry Smith spent several days checking the Lake Ontario shoreline for storm birds, but the best he could turn up were six Parasitic Jaegers and one Pomarine Jaeger. I spent slightly less time watching the lake and saw one **Black Vulture** and two Black-legged Kittiwakes. With the possible exception of the Black Vulture, these species probably all pass through the Region annually, so it not clear whether the presence of any of these species was a direct result of the storm, and no seabirds or other obvious storm-blown birds were reported. In fact the most unusual report of the season from Lake Ontario was an adult **Northern Gannet** that Tony Shrimpton saw fly past Stony Point on 13 October, well before *Sandy* developed.

Waterfowl numbers were generally good, with impressive counts of a few species. The most impressive concentration of ducks was at Wilson Hill WMA on 27 October, where **8200** Ring-necked Ducks and 835 Redhead dominated the ten species present. Typical numbers of Long-tailed Ducks and scoters were at favored locations along Lake Ontario, but the 120 Black Scoters at Coles Creek State Park on 3 November was a good tally away from the lake. Highlighting waterfowl rarities was the continuing **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** in Clayton, which was reported by no birders, to eBird or otherwise, after July, but which continued to appear at the house of Richard and Nancy Powers until 2 October. Unfortunately, the whistling-duck was next heard of during early November when a hunter shot it on nearby Grindstone Island.

Waders and *rallids* were well reported this fall, the highlight being a **Glossy Ibis** seen by Dick Brouse along the Point Peninsula shoreline on 2 September. During the late summer Great Egret numbers seemed to build at the Winthrop roost as they have during the past few years, but on 7 September only 10 egrets were present at daybreak, far fewer than the 150-190 counted around the same date the previous five years. Unfortunately, this was the only count of the fall made at a time of day that would indicate how many birds used the roost

on a given night, and it is unclear whether fewer egrets actually used the roost this fall. Two Sandhill Cranes were in Ellisburg in early November, in the same general area where nesting has been suspected for several years.

The water level on Lake Ontario was already very low at the end of the summer and continued to drop throughout the fall, resulting in more exposed shoreline than has been seen in many years. Unfortunately, the hoped-for shorebird bonanza never materialized, and few to no shorebirds were observed on many visits to El Dorado and other lakeshore sites. During 2011 the Canton sewage ponds had the best numbers of shorebirds of any site away from Lake Ontario, but shorebird numbers and diversity at this site were poor this fall, although a Red-necked Phalarope here on 17 September was among the shorebird highlights of the season. Other notable shorebirds included a juvenile Red Knot Nick Leone saw on Point Peninsula 14 September and a juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher on Coles Creek 5 October.

By the end of the fall numbers of *buteos* were quite low and winter owl numbers were no better. Red-tailed Hawks were scattered throughout the Region but not common anywhere, and only a very few Rough-legged Hawks were present. The only Snowy Owl reports were from Wilson Hill WMA. Given the mid-October date, nine Short-eared Owls on Fort Drum 14 October were surprising, but none could be found at this location by the end of the month.

The passerine highlight of the season was the long-awaited documentation of **Cave Swallow** in Jefferson County, in this case six foraging over a breakwater at Westcott Beach State Park on 23 November. There are at least two prior Region 6 November records of *Petrochelidon* swallows that were likely Cave Swallows, but in both cases the birds in question were too distant to be identified to species. Cave Swallows have almost certainly passed through the Region without being detected during other years as well, with the paucity of lake watchers in the Region explaining the lack of records. A combination of unfamiliarity with Cave Swallows and the late date might make one suspect that the four or five Cliff Swallows reported from Grenadier Island by a relatively novice birder on 13 October were actually Cave Swallows, but detailed reports of late Cliff Swallows came from several locations in New York State, and these birds could have been of either species.

There were a few other noteworthy landbird reports from the fall but no true rarities. At least three Red-headed Woodpeckers remained on their summer territories at Fort Drum through November and appeared to be settling in for the winter, no doubt thanks to a massive acorn crop. Most passerines seemed to pass through the Region in typical numbers, including Blackpoll and Cape May Warblers, two species that were unusually abundant during the fall of 2011. One exception was Lincoln's Sparrow, which seemed about twice as numerous as usual, with up 13 per day seen on Fort Drum. The nights of 26-27 and 27-28 September and 3-4 October saw some of the heaviest nocturnal movements of the season, with large numbers of Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes heard over Canton and Fort Drum. Bohemian Waxwing, Pine Grosbeak, and Common Redpoll all arrived in late October or early November and were well established by the end of the period. One Hoary Redpoll was on Fort Drum 20 November,

where several more redpolls showed Hoary-like traits but could not be identified to species with certainty.

The species tally for the fall was 225, fewer than the 230 documented during the fall of 2011 but higher than any other recent autumn. The recent increase in reports is thanks to a combination of more extensive coverage by two or three observers and the submission to eBird of records by visiting birders that historically would not have made it to the Regional Editor. The documentation of Cave Swallows in Region 6 after years of disappointment is certainly the highlight of the season, although there was more competition than usual given the relatively numerous rarities. The overwhelming disappointment of the season, and probably the year, was the absence of any of the storm-blown rarities that were seen at the west end of Lake Ontario and elsewhere; for the second year in a row a hurricane that brought large numbers of rarities to New York was a total bust for Region 6.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BI – Barnhart Is, T Massena, STLA; BRB – Black River Bay; CCSP – Coles Creek SP; ChB – Chaumont Bay, JEFF; ED – El Dorado Shores Preserve, T Ellisburg; FD – Fort Drum Military Reservation; HH – Henderson Harbor; HP – Hawkins Point, T Massena, STLA; ICNC – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton; KPSP – Kring Point SP, JEFF; LWMA – Lakeview WMA; MM – Massawepie Mire, T Piercefield and Colton; MP – Montario Pt, T Ellisburg, JEFF; PilPt – Pillar Point, JEFF; PRWMA – Perch River WMA; PtPen – Point Peninsula, JEFF; RMSP – Robert Moses SP; RWSP – Robert G. Wehle SP; SBSP – Southwick Beach SP; SLR – St. Lawrence River; StPt – Stony Point, T Henderson, JEFF; SWG – St. Lawrence County Wetlands and Grasslands Management District, T Dekalb; ULLWMA – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; WBSP – Westcott Beach SP; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA; WISP – Wellesley Is SP; WS – Winthrop Swamp, T Stockholm.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES
BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK:
continued feeding at Clayton house thru 2 Oct
(RP & NP); shot by hunter Grindstone Is. 1st
week Nov.

Greater White-fronted Goose: WHWMA 28
Sep (TS).
Snow Goose: modest movement 13-27 Oct;
scarce Nov.

Brant: 100+ each PtPen & SLR Waddington 6 Oct; 289 SLR Louisville 13 Oct; 95 SBSP 30 Oct.

“Richardson’s” Cackling Goose: 4 ULLWMA 7 Oct (JB); FD 8 Nov (JB).

Trumpeter Swan: SWG 6 Sep; 3 ULLWMA 10 Nov thru; 6 PRWMA 12 Nov.

Wood Duck: max 175 WHWMA 14 Sep; scarce after 28 Oct.

Gadwall: max 325 PRWMA 23 Nov.

Eurasian Wigeon: m BRB 30 Oct (GS).

Am. Wigeon: max 450 PRWMA 2 Nov.

Am. Black Duck: max 143 WHWMA 5 Oct.

Mallard: max 380 WHWMA 5 Oct.

Blue-winged Teal: max 125 SWG 1 Sep; last ULLWMA 28 Oct.

N. Shoveler: max 30 PRWMA 12 Nov.

N. Pintail: max 84 WHWMA 5 Oct.

Green-winged Teal: max 1550 ULLWMA 28 Oct.

Canvasback: WHWMA 5 Oct & 17 Nov.

Redhead: max 785 WHWMA 27 Oct.

Ring-necked Duck: max 8200 WHWMA 27 Oct; 1200 ULLWMA 10 Nov;

Greater Scaup: max 400 PtPen 13 Oct.

Lesser Scaup: max 90 PRWMA 12 Nov.

Surf Scoter: max 26 CCSP 13 Oct.

White-winged Scoter: max 210 MP 30 Oct.

Black Scoter: max 205 MP 30 Oct.; 120 SLR CCSP 3 Nov good tally away from L Ontario.

Long-tailed Duck: arr 3 Henderson 15 Oct; max 750 MP 12 Nov.

Bufflehead: max 105 PtPen 9 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: few before 1st week Nov; max 340 SLR Massena near Eisenhower Lock 18 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: max 374 WHWMA 17 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: arr ULLWMA 15 Sep; max 151 StPt 30 Oct.

Ruddy Duck: max 8 KPSP 14 Nov; 7 other reports 17 Sep to 27 Nov.

Spruce Grouse: MM 18 Oct at same location multiple reports past 3 years (JC).

Red-throated Loon: max 6 PilPt 20 Nov (NL).

Com. Loon: max 155 PilPt 9 Nov (NL).

Pied-billed Grebe: max 136 WHWMA 14 Sep; 126 ULLWMA 12 Oct; scarce after 10 Nov.

Horned Grebe: arr SLR Ogdensburg 8 Oct.

Red-necked Grebe: arr ED 1 Sep; CCSP 13 Oct & 17 Nov; ULLWMA 18 Oct; SLR Massena 17 Nov; PilPt 30 Nov.

N. GANNET (R6): ad StPt 13 Oct (TS).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 2100 flying N past MP 15 Oct; scarce after 17 Nov.

Am. Bittern: FD 18 Sep; WHWMA 21 Sep.

Great Egret: max 10 WS roost 7 Sep, where typically 100+ on same date prev 5 years; last 5 Canton 30 Sep.

Green Heron: last WHWMA 28 Sep.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 WS 7 Sep, only report.

GLOSSY IBIS (R6): PtPen 2 Sep (DB).

BLACK VULTURE (R6): HH 30 Oct (JB).

Turkey Vulture: last 7 StPt 2 Nov.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: last StPt 2 Nov.

N. Harrier: scare at inland areas after October and near L Ontario by late Nov.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 15 reports.

Cooper’s Hawk: 16 reports.

N. Goshawk: CCSP 19 Nov.

Red-shouldered Hawk: last SWG 28 Sep.

Broad-winged Hawk: last FD 24 Sep.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr FD 29 Oct; low numbers Nov.

Golden Eagle: WBSP late Oct (GS); StPt 2 Nov (TS); LWMA 12 Nov (JB).

Com. Gallinule: last ULLWMA 8 Oct.

Virginia Rail: last FD 2 Oct.

Sora: last ULLWMA 8 Oct.

Am. Coot: arr WHWMA 21 Sep; max 55 PRWMA 12 Nov.

Sandhill Crane: 2 Ellisburg 2 Nov (TS), only report.

Black-bellied Plover: 4-6/day WHWMA 21 Sep to 5 Oct; last PtPen 3 Nov.

Am. Golden-Plover: ULLWMA 15-16 Sep.

Semipalmated Plover: max 8 WHWMA 14 Sep; last ED 2 Nov.

Killdeer: last Canton 26 Oct.

Spotted Sandpiper: last CCSP 21 Sep.

Solitary Sandpiper: last ICNC 30 Sep.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 14 WHWMA 5 Oct; last SWG 26 Oct.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 10 WHWMA 8 Oct; last ED 2 Nov.

Whimbrel: Pamela 4 Sep; ED 9 Sep.

Red Knot: PtPen 14 Sep (NL).

Sanderling: max 45 MP 30 Oct; last MP 2 Nov.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: no reports!

Least Sandpiper: last ED 23 Nov, late (TS, JB).

White-rumped Sandpiper: WHWMA 14 Sep; 2 ED 30 Oct.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 2-4/day SWG thru 13 Sep; max & last 5 Coles Creek T Louisville 13 Oct.

Dunlin: max 35-40/day MP & LWMA 30 Oct to 12 Nov.

Long-billed Dowitcher: juv Coles Creek T Louisville 5 Oct (JB).

Short-billed Dowitcher: ULLWMA 15 Sep; max 10 Massena 27 Sep.

Wilson's Snipe: last Coles Creek T Louisville 17 Nov.
Am. Woodcock: last PiPt 9 Nov.
Red-necked Phalarope: CWF 17 Sep (JB).
Black-legged Kittiwake: 2 MP 2 Nov (JB).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 50+ ChB mid Oct.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1st cycle LB 28 Oct; 2 MP 12 Nov.
Caspian Tern: last ED 26 Sep.
Parasitic Jaeger: ED 6 Oct (JB); 3 BRB 30 Oct (GS); 3 PtPen 31 Oct (GS).
Pomarine Jaeger: BRB 30 Oct (GS).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Snowy Owl: arr WHWMA 29 Nov, only report.
Short-eared Owl: 9 FD 14 Oct, where 1 still present 25 Oct but none thereafter.
Com. Nighthawk: last 8+ FD 13 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last WHWMA 14 Sep.
Red-headed Woodpecker: at least 3 ad on FD summer territories thru.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last ICNC 8 Oct.
N. Flicker: scarce after 12 Oct.
Am. Kestrel: generally scarce after 11 Oct, but more than still present lowland areas late Nov.
Merlin: ad last seen FD breeding site 28 Sep; 20+ reports throughout Region.
Peregrine Falcon: pr BI thru; migrants: ULLWMA 23 & 30 Sep, 8 Oct; FD 1 Oct; Ellisburg & Hounsfield 6 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: last FD 25 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: ED 1 Sep; SWG 5 Sep; only reports.
Least Flycatcher: last FD 27 Sep.
E. Phoebe: last FD 1 Nov.
Great Crested Flycatcher: last ED 9 Sep.
N. Shrike: arr FD 25 Oct.
Blue-headed Vireo: last FD 12 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: last WHWMA 5 Oct.
Philadelphia Vireo: 2 ICNC 3 Sep; FD 10, 11, 13 & 17 Sep; ICNC 23 Sep; Wellesley Is. SP 25 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: last FD 26 Sep.
Gray Jay: max 5 MM 18 Oct.
Horned Lark: migrants SLR 8-25 Nov.
Tree Swallow: max 1000+ LWMA 27 Sep; last LWMA 15 Oct.
Cliff Swallow: max 60 ED 1 Sep, good number for date; unclear whether 4-5 ind. Grenadier Is. 13 Oct this sp or Cave Swallow.
CAVE SWALLOW: 6 WBSP 23 Nov (JB, RB, DP), first regional record.
Barn Swallow: ED 1 Sep.
Boreal Chickadee: max 4 MM 6 Nov.
House Wren: last FD 9 Oct.

Winter Wren: max 10 ED 26 Sep; last FD 5 Nov.
Marsh Wren: last FD 15 Oct.
Carolina Wren: StPt 1 Sep; Canton thru.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr ICNC 16 Sep; 24-30/day ED 26 Sep to 2 Nov; migrants scarce after 5 Nov.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr FD 17 Sep; max 57 FD 27 Sep; last ED 30 Oct.
E. Bluebird: 12 PtPen 15 Nov.
Veery: last FD 17 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: heavy passage nights of 27-28 Sep & 3-4 Oct; last FD 12 Oct.
Swainson's Thrush: heaviest passage night of 27-28 Sep when average 15-20+ calls/min over Canton; large movements also on nights of 26-27 Sep & 3-4 Oct; last Canton 9 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: last FD 12 Oct.
Wood Thrush: last FD 27 Sep.
Am. Robin: peak Oct numbers lower than usual.
Gray Catbird: last ICNC 14 Oct.
N. Mockingbird: PtPen 24 Nov, only report.
Brown Thrasher: last PRGC 30 Sep.
Am. Pipit: max 45 Potsdam 10 Oct; last 2 ED 17 Nov.
Bohemian Waxwing: arr 2 ED & 26 WBSP 2 Nov; max 62 Louisville 17 Nov.
Cedar Waxwing: max 95 RMSP 3 Nov.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: arr Waddington 21 Sep; max 3 FD 11 Oct.
Snow Bunting: arr FD 11 Oct (JB), early.
Ovenbird: last FD 27 Sep.
N. Waterthrush: last FD 7 Sep.
Black-and-white Warbler: last ED 26 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: last ICNC 30 Sep.
Orange-crowned Warbler: different locations FD 28 Sep, 3 & 4 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: last FD 4 Oct.
Com. Yellowthroat: last FD 12 Oct.
Am. Redstart: last FD 26 Sep.
Cape May Warbler: last FD 19 Sep.
N. Parula: last FD 26 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: last WISP 3 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last WISP 25 Sep.
Blackburnian Warbler: last FD 17 Sep.
Yellow Warbler: last FD 24 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last WISP 25 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: last FD 11 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last FD 4 Oct.
Palm Warbler: max 35 FD 19 Sep; last FD 12 Oct.
Pine Warbler: max 13 with Chipping Sparrows & E. Bluebirds in traditional fall gathering spot FD 17 Sep; last FD 4 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 219 FD 4 Oct; scarce after 2 Nov.

Prairie Warbler: last FD 17 Sep.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last FD 12 Oct.
Canada Warbler: RWSP 1 Sep, only report.
Wilson's Warbler: last WISP 25 Sep.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: last FD 12 Oct.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr FD 25 Oct.
Chipping Sparrow: last 7 SBSP 31 Oct.
Clay-colored Sparrow: last FD 11 Oct.
Field Sparrow: last Clayton 13 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: max & last 15+ FD 9 Oct.
Savannah Sparrow: scarce after 29 Oct.
Fox Sparrow: arr PRGC 8 Oct; last WHWMA 8 Nov.
Song Sparrow: scarce after 4 Nov.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr FD 10 Sep; max 13 FD 27 Sep; last FD 26 Oct.
Swamp Sparrow: last Lowville 28 Nov.
White-throated Sparrow: max 153 ICNC 8 Oct; scarce after 29 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr ED 26 Sep; scarce after 29 Oct; 3 Watertown 5 Nov; 2 PtPen thru.

Dark-eyed Junco: arr FD 11 Sep.
Scarlet Tanager: last FD 9 Oct.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last FD 28 Sep.
Indigo Bunting: last FD 24 Sep.
Bobolink: last WHWMA 14 Sep.
E. Meadowlark: last Leray 1 Oct.
Rusty Blackbird: arr ICNC 23 Sep; max 100 ULLWMA 28 Oct; last PRGC 10 Nov.
Com. Grackle: scarce after Oct.
Baltimore Oriole: last FD 6 Sep.
Pine Grosbeak: arr HP 9 Nov; max 20 Canton 30 Nov.
Purple Finch: scarce after mid-Oct.
White-winged Crossbill: modest movement lowlands 26 Oct thru 24 Nov.
Com. Redpoll: arr PRGC 23 Oct; max 400 FD 29 Nov.
Hoary Redpoll: FD 20 Nov (JB).
Pine Siskin: lowland max 150 Leyden 24 Oct; scarce lowland areas after Oct.
Evening Grosbeak: scarce migrant St. Lawrence Valley 30 Oct thru.



REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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The fall season of 2012 brought fairly average weather conditions to the Region, a change from the abnormal weather patterns of the previous months. September's temperatures were just slightly above average, with peaks of 85° in Peru on the 1st and lows of 30° in Newcomb on the 20th. Precipitation for September ranged from 1-2" above normal across the Region. October was an unusual month for some parts of New York State, as areas downstate were ravaged by Hurricane *Sandy*, but the Region was mostly spared from this major weather event. Rain from *Sandy*'s system brought 1-2" to the Region on the 19th and 20th, resulting in monthly precipitation levels of 1-2" above average. Temperatures were well above average for October, ranging from a high of 74° in Peru on the 5th to a low of 20° in Lake Placid on the 13th. The above average precipitation of September and October was negated by one of the driest Novembers on record, with monthly precipitation ranging from 3-4" below average in the Region. Snowfall for the month ranged from 2-4", with most of the Region experiencing just dustings of snow, though Tupper Lake received 3"

on the 30th. November temperatures averaged 2-3° below normal and ranged from 70° in Dannemora on the 12th to -2° in Ellenburg Depot on the 30th.

With the lack of major weather events in September, reports of migrant shorebirds and songbirds were scattered throughout the period with no major fallouts occurring. Highlights of shorebird migration were a White-rumped Sandpiper in Inlet on 4 September, two American Golden Plovers at Noblewood on 21 September, and four Pectoral Sandpipers at Ausable Point on 16 October. Most notable were the reports of two **Purple Sandpipers** in Plattsburgh on 30 October, only the fourth record of the species in Clinton County, and an incidental observation of a juvenile **Red-necked Phalarope** on Union Falls Pond on 1 September. Also notable was an **Iceland Gull** in Plattsburgh on 4 September, a record early date for Clinton County.

Songbird migration was fairly typical, with most warbler reports tapering off by late September. The highlight of the season was most certainly the **Harris's Sparrow** that stopped for one day, 17 November, at Charlotte Demer's feeders in Newcomb. The only previous record of this species in Essex County was in 1980. A Gray Catbird in Tupper Lake on 9 October was a record late date for Hamilton County, and another was seen in Keene the next day. Other songbird highlights include a Gray-cheeked Thrush in Lake Pleasant on 29 September, a maximum of 15 Rusty Blackbirds at Winch Pond on 21 September, and multiple reports of Evening Grosbeaks, including two that were banded in Inlet.

Waterfowl migration was well documented by observers this season across the Region. Snow Goose migration peaked in mid-November, with flocks of 3000 recorded in Plattsburgh on the 18th and 7000 in Malone on the 19th. A few rarer species were found within these large flocks, including five **Ross's Geese**, one of which was an even rarer blue morph; two Cackling Geese; and a **Greater White-fronted Goose**. Scoters were widely reported from lakes across the Region in October, with maxima counts of 164 Black Scoters at Point Au Roche on the 24th, seven White-winged Scoters on Indian Lake on the 12th, and nine Surf Scoters on Lake Colby on the 5th. Other notable October reports include three Ruddy Ducks on Indian Lake on the 9th, 15 Brant on Lake Colby on the 14th, and a Red-necked Grebe and a Red-throated Loon at Point Au Roche on the 16th and 24th, respectively. The season's first **Barrow's Goldeneye** was reported from Ausable Point on 11 November.

Regional specialties such as Boreal Chickadee, Black-backed Woodpecker, and Gray Jay were reported as expected from sites such as Bloomingdale Bog, Shingle Shanty Preserve, and the Roosevelt Truck Trail. There were no reports of Spruce Grouse or Three-toed Woodpecker this period. The end of the period brought the arrival of a number of wintering bird species, providing an indication of which irruptions would occur this winter. Bohemian Waxwings moved through the Region early this year due to a poor fruit crop up north this season. The first report was on 3 November in Lake Placid, and a maximum of 60 was reported from Westport on the 18th. The first Common Redpolls were also reported from Lake Placid on the 18th, Snow Buntings arrived on 20 October, and four Northern Shrikes were reported in November.

A total of 167 species was reported for the season, well shy of the 2007 record of 194 species.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AM – Alderon Marsh; AP – Ausable Point; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CH – Cumberland Head; CR – Chazy Riverlands; GBM – Gilbert Brook Marina; IL – Intervale Lowlands; ILk – Indian Lake; KB – King's Bay; LA – Lake Alice; LCol – Lake Colby; LP – Lake Placid; LL – Long Lake; MRP – Moose River Plains; NP – Noblewood Park; PS – Paul Smiths; PtR – Point Au Roche SP; SB – Sabattis Bog; SL – Saranac Lake; SSP – Shingle Shanty Preserve; TB – Treadwell Bay; TL – Tupper Lake.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 13000 PtR 18 Nov (JO); 7000 Malone 19 Nov (JS).

Ross's Goose: 4 Chazy 24 Oct (JO); 4 (1 **blue morph**) PtR 18 Nov (JO); Malone 18 Nov (JS).

Brant: Blue Mt L 8 Oct (JC); 15 LCol 14 Oct (TM).

Cackling Goose: 2 LA 24 Oct (JO); 2 Malone 19 Nov (MC).

Canada Goose: max 5778 Malone 3 Oct (JS).

Greater White-fronted Goose: PtR 18 Nov (JO).

Wood Duck: max 26 AP 11 Sep (PO); 6 Shaw Pond 15 Sep (L&BH).

Gadwall: SC 27 Oct (WS).

Am. Wigeon: max 20 AM 27 Oct (JR&LL).

Am. Black Duck: max 300 AM 10 Nov (JR&LL).

Blue-winged Teal: max 2 Shaw Pond 15 Sep (L&BH); SC 20 Sep (NO).

N. Pintail: AP 8 Oct (NO).

Green-winged Teal: max 42 Essex 15 Sep (L&BH).

Ring-necked Duck: max 454 LA 24 Oct (JO); 52 IL 2 Nov (B&LH).

Greater Scaup: LCol 4 Nov (LM, AB, EM).

Lesser Scaup: 6 LCol 28 Oct (GD).

Surf Scoter: 3 Plattsburgh 4 Oct (PO); max 9 LCol 5 Oct (AB).

White-winged Scoter: max 7 ILk 12 Oct (JTr); 6 Essex 24 Oct (B&LH).

Black Scoter: LCol 5 Oct, early record FRAN (AB); 17 ILK 12 Oct (JTr); 28 Essex 24 Oct (B&LH); max 164 PtR 24 Oct (JO).
Bufflehead: arr 10 Westport 4 Nov (JD,BM,LL); max 70 LCol 14 Nov (AB).
Com. Goldeneye: max 27 Malone 28 Sep (JSh).
Barrow's Goldeneye: AP 11 Nov (JH).
Hooded Merganser: max 16 Plattsburgh 16 Oct (JO).
Com. Merganser: max 27 Malone 28 Sep (JSh).
Red-breasted Merganser: max 7 TB 9 Oct thru (HK); max 16 PtR 24 Oct (JO); 2 ILK 4 Nov (JTr).
Ruddy Duck: 2 imm ILK 9 Oct; 1 fem ILK 22 Nov (JTr).
Red-throated Loon: 5 PtR 24 Oct (JO).
Com. Loon: max 51 L Clear 29 Sep (EG).
Pied-billed Grebe: max 3 AP 13 Oct (NO).
Horned Grebe: arr Willsboro 3 Oct (SP); max 7 Westport 24 Oct (B&LH).
Red-necked Grebe: PtR 16 Oct (JO); LCol 5 Nov (AB); Westport 15-17 Nov (DL&JD).
Am. Bittern: Red Tavern Rd 10 Oct (NR).
Turkey Vulture: last AM 27 Oct (JR, LL, MF).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: last NP 30 Sep (SP).
Bald Eagle: max 3 Westport 17 Nov (JD).
N. Harrier: max 3 AM 27 Oct (JR,LL,MF).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 2 IL 30 Sep (LM).
Cooper's Hawk: IL 30 Sep thru (LM).
N. Goshawk: TL 14 Sep (KC); IL 30 Sep (LM).
Broad-winged Hawk: last Miner Dam 23 Sep (NO).
Red-tailed Hawk: max 4 AM 10 Nov (LL,MF).
Rough-legged Hawk: arr 2 Cole Bay 4 Nov (JD).
GOLDEN EAGLE (7): SB 22 Nov (JC); IL 26 Nov (LM).
Sora: SSP 1 Sep (JP).
Black-bellied Plover: Plattsburgh 4 Oct (PO).
Am. Golden-Plover: NP 21 Sep (JH); KB 13 Oct (BK).
Semipalmated Plover: 2 Westport 5 Sep (B&LH).
Killdeer: last Piseco 29 Sep (JDW).
Spotted Sandpiper: last Lewey L 5 Oct (RW).
Solitary Sandpiper: 2 Westport 5 Sep (B&LH); max 5 8 Sep Bellmont (NR).
Greater Yellowlegs: max 6 NP 9 Sep (AB); 4 SC 20 Sep (NO).
Lesser Yellowlegs: KB 3 Sep (BK).
Sanderling: max 6 NP 9 Sep (AB).
Least Sandpiper: KB 6 Sep (BK); NP 9 Sep (AB).
White-rumped Sandpiper: Inlet 4 Sep (GL).
Pectoral Sandpiper: 4 AP 16 Oct (JO).

Purple Sandpiper: 2 Plattsburgh 30 Oct (PO).
Wilson's Snipe: Westport 15 Nov, late rec ESSX Co (DL).
Am. Woodcock: max 4 MRP 28 Sep (GDa).
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (7): 1 juv Union Falls Pond 1 Sep (RF).
Bonaparte's Gull: 9 GBM 16 Oct (JO); max 14 Westport 17 Nov (JD).
Iceland Gull: CH 4 Sep (AB), record early CLIN.
Caspian Tern: 5 KB 3 Sep (BK); NP 9 Sep (AB).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Great Horned Owl: IL 12 Sep & 19 Nov (LM).
Barred Owl: 2 Fish Creek 27 Sep (WG).
N. Saw-whet Owl: 8 banded IL 8 Oct (LM&NS).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Jay 2 Oct (PO).
Belted Kingfisher: max 4 SC 20 Sep (NO).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: Essex 15 Nov (DL).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last IL 8 Oct (LM).
Black-backed Woodpecker: 2 BB 28 Oct (GD); max 3 SSP 17 Nov (JP).
Am. Kestrel: last Piseco 11 Oct (L&BH).
Merlin: Willsboro 16 Sep; IL 11 Oct; TL 13 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 2 BB 14 Sep (JR, LL, MF)
Least Flycatcher: last Bellmont 11 Sep (NR).
E. Phoebe: last Bellmont 12 Oct (NR).
N. Shrike: arr PS 3 Nov (BM); Cole Bay 17 Nov (JD); IL 19 Nov (LM); SL 20 Nov (AB).
Blue-headed Vireo: last MRP 28 Sep (GDa).
Philadelphia Vireo: last IL 24 Sep (LM).
Red-eyed Vireo: last PS 22 Sep (DS).
Gray Jay: 6 SSP 2 Sep (JP); max 11 BB 28 Oct (GD); 2 SB 13 Nov (JC).
Com. Raven: max 7 TL 13 Oct.
Horned Lark: PS 22 Oct (LL); max 136 Chazy 18 Nov (JO).
Boreal Chickadee: 2 BB 27 Sep (MS); max 10 Newcomb 27 Oct (BD); 5 RTT 12 Nov (TL, JK).
Tufted Titmouse: 2 TL 13 Oct (LL,MF); Newcomb 17 Nov (CD).
House Wren: last 12 Sep Bellmont (NR).
Winter Wren: last 20 Oct Willis Mt (KC).
Carolina Wren: Willsboro 16 Sep (LLe); PtR 5 Oct (JH); Westport 23 Nov (JD).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last BB 27 Oct (LL,MF).
E.Bluebird: max 4 Willsboro 2 Oct (SP).
Gray-cheeked Thrush: L Pleasant 29 Sep (JDW).

Swainson's Thrush: last MRP 28 Sep (GDa).
Hermit Thrush: last 20 Oct Whiteface Mt.
Gray Catbird: Little Tupper L 9 Oct, late rec HAM Co (JC); last Keene 10 Oct (JR).
Am. Pipit: 8 Willsboro 16 Sep (LLe); 5 Kings Bay 16 Oct (JO).
Bohemian Waxwing: arr L Placid 3 Nov; 23 LA 18 Nov (JO); max 60 Westport 18 Nov (AC).
Cedar Waxwing: max 20 BB 14 Sep (JR, LL, MF).

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

N. Waterthrush: Reagan Flats Rd 5 Sep (RS).
Black-and-white Warbler: last Bellmont 7 Sep (NR).
Tennessee Warbler: 2 Inlet 20 Sep (GL); last MRP 28 Sep (GDa).
Nashville Warbler: last BB 16 Oct (AB).
Mourning Warbler: last Cold Brook 3 Sep (GD).
Com. Yellowthroat: last IL 30 Sep (LM).
Am. Redstart: last IL 14 Sep (LM).
Cape May Warbler: last IL 24 Sep (LM).
N. Parula: last PtR 5 Oct (JH).
Magnolia Warbler: last L Pleasant 30 Sep (JDW).
Bay-breasted Warbler: last MRP 28 Sep (GDa).
Blackburnian Warbler: last L Pleasant 30 Sep (JDW).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last Eagle Nest lodge 20 Sep (MMo).
Blackpoll Warbler: last IL 14 Sep (LM).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last 30 Sep L Pleasant (JDW).
Palm Warbler: last Keene 9 Oct (J&PT).
Pine Warbler: last PS 27 Sep (LL).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: last Westport 4 Nov (JD).
Black-throated Green Warbler: last 30 Sep L Pleasant (JDW).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: SL 10 Oct (AB).

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr BB 27 Oct (LL, MF); max 18 IL 4 Nov (LM).
Chipping Sparrow: last Piseco 31 Oct (L&BH).
Savannah Sparrow: last IL 8 Oct (LM, BM).
Fox Sparrow: arr 5 LA 16 Oct (JO); 5 IL 5 Nov (LM).
Lincoln's Sparrow: max 3 BB 14 Sep (JR, LL, MF); last Piseco 11 Oct (L&BH).
Swamp Sparrow: last Little Tupper L 9 Oct (JC).
White-throated Sparrow: max 40 BB 14 Sep (JR, LL, MF).
White-crowned Sparrow: arr MRP 28 Sep (GDa); max 10 IL 8 Oct (LM, BM).
HARRIS'S SPARROW: Newcomb 17 Nov, 2nd rec ESSEX Co (CD).
Snow Bunting: arr Whiteface Mt 20 Oct (WF); max 24 Giant Mt 24 Oct (KF).
Scarlet Tanager: last MRP 28 Sep (GDa).
N. Cardinal: 2 Newcomb 17 Nov (CD).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Inlet 27 Sep (GL).
Indigo Bunting: last Bellmont 12 Sep (NR).
Red-winged Blackbird: max 600 AM 27 Oct (JR, LL, MF).
Rusty Blackbird: IL 14 Sep (SC); 15 Winch Pond 21 Sep (AB); 12 PS 22 Sep (LLO); 2 IL 8 Oct (LM, BM).
Pine Grosbeak: arr Plattsburgh 9 Nov (HK); 10 Malone 3 Oct (JS); 7 LA 18 Nov (JO); 4 ILk 25 Nov (JTr); 8 Limekiln L 29 Nov (GL).
Purple Finch: max 10 Malone 3 Oct (JSh).
Red Crossbill: 2 LL 11 Nov (JC).
White-winged Crossbill: 3 Whiteface Mt 20 Oct (WF); 2 Newcomb 4 Nov (JK).
Com. Redpoll: arr 12 IL 4 Nov (LM); max 74 LP 18 Nov (LM).
Pine Siskin: max 170 LP 2 Oct (LM); 30 CH 15 Nov (NO).
Evening Grosbeak: 5 PS 29 Sep (WG); 2 banded Inlet 2 Nov (GL); 3 TL 13 Nov (JC); max 16 IL 19 Nov (LM).



REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Fall 2012 was slightly warmer than average and slightly wet. September had seasonal temperatures and ended 2.4" wetter than average. October ended 3.6° F warmer than average with average precipitation. On 28-29 October the remains of Hurricane *Sandy* reached the Region bringing some rain and moderately strong gusts of wind. A killing frost occurred on 13 October followed by a widespread warming trend that continued until the end of the month. November ended with seasonal temperatures and average rainfall. The Region remained snow and ice free throughout the season.

Three sightings of **Greater White-fronted Goose** in our Region is unusual. Seasonally average numbers of Snow Geese and Brant passed through the Region. Overall waterfowl numbers were down, likely due to still turbid conditions in rivers and streams following a wet summer and the lack of cold weather to push northern ducks down onto the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers. An unusually large number of all three scoters tarried in our Region, delayed between their breeding grounds and customary marine winter haunts.

Did Hurricane *Sandy* blow in any birds to the Region? Many birders went out to look, but the general consensus is "no." A Black-crowned Night-Heron in Hudson the day after may have blown up, however, others were reported in the Region this season, and it may have already been local.

Every Region would be lucky to have a troupe of Tim O'Connors, the kind of birder who goes out week after week, kicking brush, investigating marshes, looking, recording, and reporting. It is due to Tim's efforts that in the small freshwater tidal marshes near Hudson we finally received some fall reports of Least Bittern, Virginia Rail, Sora, and Marsh Wren, which are often reported in spring, but completely ignored after Labor Day. Tim recorded the record late date for Least Bittern for the Region, 19 November. Birding for rarities can be a tough go in our Region; most weeks you're out there counting chickadees and crows. When unusual species crop up in Region 8, it is often because they were earned with an order of magnitude more walks than those required by our luckier Regional neighbors who have larger geographic features to attract and trap birds. Region 8 is the true "flyover" country of our State, and hats off to the birders who keep searching for the unusual and unexpected. Rare birds are everywhere, of course, but here, without large bodies of water, urban traps, or large mountains, they are but needles in rolling hills of haystacks, unnoticed as they slip away.

Our Region experienced its second year of an American Pipit invasion. They often move through each fall, tarry in winter rye fields and corn stubble in small numbers, and vanish. This season they were found in greater numbers, in nearly every county in the Region, and for long stretches of time from

September into mid-winter where they were reported on many Christmas Counts.

Speaking of rarities, fall is the best time to get one in Region 8, and sharp eyes at a residence in Athens, Greene County, alerted the birding community to a **Western Tanager** that appeared for a few days at their feeder. Two other uncommon passerines this season include **Connecticut Warbler** and **Clay-colored Sparrow**.

Among finches, after several decent years for crossbills, they were scarce this year. This absence on the checklist has been more than balanced by several other irruptive finches. Pine Siskins were widely reported, and sightings in late November of Common Redpolls indicate an irruption year. Pine Grosbeaks were noted at three locations, and after years of scarcity, Evening Grosbeaks have left the foothills of the Adirondacks and the Berkshires and were spotted at feeders at many low elevation locations in the Hudson and Mohawk Valleys.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

COH – T Cohoes, ALBA; COX – T Cocksackie, 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): Myosotis L ALBA 8 Oct; Ft Miller WASH 13-15 Nov; HR Hudson COLU 15 Nov.

Snow Goose: arr COH 30 Sep; max 150 Livingston COLU 24 Oct.

Brant: max 330 HR Clermont COLU 13 Oct.

Gadwall: max 6 VF 22 Nov.

N. Shoveler: Stanton Pd ALBA 22 Sep.

N. Pintail: max 2 Stanton Pd ALBA 22 Sep.

Surf Scoter: max 2 Lock 7 SCHE 27 Oct.

White-winged Scoter: max 44 TR 31 Oct.

Black Scoter: max 145 TR 31 Oct, high number for R8.

Long-tailed Duck: 2 Catskill GREE 22 Oct; TR 30 Oct; Nassau L RENS 1 Nov; Loughberry L SARA 11 Nov; Myosotis L ALBA 13 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 5 Saratoga L SARA 5 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: last HR Castleton RENS 25 Nov.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Chatham COLU 14 Oct.

Ruffed Grouse: Glenville SCHE 26 Oct; Providence SARA 30 Oct; Charlton SARA 4 Nov; Coeymans ALBA 22 Nov.
Red-throated Loon: TR 1-11 Nov.
Com. Loon: max 12 TR 1 Nov.
Horned Grebe: max 6 Saratoga L SARA 4 Nov.
Red-necked Grebe: 2 Clifton Park SARA 8 Oct; Collins L SCHE 19 Oct; Loughberry L SARA 21 Oct; Saratoga L SARA 26 Oct; TR 1 Nov.
Double-crested Cormorant: last Lock 7 SCHE 21 Nov.
Least Bittern: Greenport COLU 19 Nov (TO), record late date R8.
Great Egret: last COH 26 Oct.
Snowy Egret: TR 9-20 Sep.
Green Heron: last Lock 7 SCHE 24 Sep.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: Hudson COLU 29 Sep; COH 4 Oct; Livingston COLU 30 Oct.
Black Vulture: 2 Helderbergs ALBA 3 Sep; Voorheesville ALBA 17 Sep; max 3 Hudson COLU 22 Sep; Bethlehem ALBA 5 Oct.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: last Wager Pd RENS 3 Nov.
N. Harrier: max 6 COX grasslands 7 Oct.
N. Goshawk: Partridge Run ALBA 28 Oct.
Red-shouldered Hawk: Coeymans ALBA 2 Sep; Saratoga SARA 2 Sep; Thatcher Park ALBA 17 Oct; Partridge Run ALBA 28 Oct.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr Saratoga Cemetery SARA 25 Oct.
Virginia Rail: last Hudson COLU 28 Sep.
Sora: last Hudson COLU 28 Sep.
Com. Gallinule: Rensselaerville ALBA 13 Oct (TLW).
Am. Coot: TR 11 Oct; Rensselaerville ALBA 27 Oct; 4 Collins L SCHE 30 Oct; 4 Saratoga L SARA 25 Nov.
Am. Golden-Plover: 2 COH 17 Sep.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 26 TR 31 Oct.
Lesser Yellowlegs: last TR 11 Oct.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 3 Charlton SARA 20 Oct.
Dunlin: COH 3 Nov.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: New Baltimore GREE 2 Sep; COX boat launch 11 Oct.
Caspian Tern: Cohoes ALBA 30 Sep.
Com. Tern: 5 4-mile Pt GREE 9 Sep.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last Saratoga SARA 23 Sep.
Black-billed Cuckoo: last Austerlitz COLU 16 Sep.
Long-eared Owl: 2 Rensselaerville ALBA 17 Nov.

Short-eared Owl: 6 MONT grasslands 17 Nov; 5 Ft Edward WASH 25 Nov.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Berne ALBA 30 Nov.
Com. Nighthawk: last Black Creek Marsh ALBA 17 Sep.
E. Whip-poor-will: Hillsdale COLU 3 Sep; Queensbury WARR 23 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last New Baltimore GREE 27 Sep.
Merlin: Meadowdale ALBA 3 Sep; 2 Albany 23 Sep; Stuyvesant COLU 5 Oct; COX grasslands 17 Oct; Collins L SCHE 19 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: max 2 Partridge Run ALBA 7 Sep; Clermont COLU 15 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 2 VF 23 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: last Albany 28 Sep.
N. Shrike: arr Rensselaerville ALBA 27 Oct.
Blue-headed Vireo: last Five Rivers ALBA 7 Oct.
Philadelphia Vireo: last COH 13 Sep.
Marsh Wren: last Hudson COLU 28 Sep.
Veery: last Bethlehem ALBA 4 Oct.
Grey-cheeked Thrush: Florida MONT 27 Sep, banded (RY); Hyuck Preserve ALBA 29 Sep; Albany 24 Oct.
Swainson's Thrush: last Albany 28 Sep.
Am. Pipit: max 120 Green Acres Farm Livingston COLU 13 Oct, numerous and widespread mid-Sep thru Nov.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Snow Bunting: arr Glenville SCHE 6 Nov.
N. Waterthrush: last VF 23 Sep.
Black-and-white Warbler: last Albany 28 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: last Albany 27 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: Wright's Loop SARA 5 Oct; Five Rivers ALBA 9 Oct.
CONNECTICUT WARBLER (R8): VF 15 Sep (JH).
Mourning Warbler: last Florida MONT 12 Sep.
Com. Yellowthroat: last Rensselaerville ALBA 27 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: last VF 23 Sep.
N. Parula: last Five Rivers ALBA 7 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: Albany 10 Sep; Albany 1 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last Austerlitz COLU 30 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: last Five Rivers ALBA 7 Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last Livingston COLU 22 Oct.
Canada Warbler: VF 3 Sep; W Charlton SARA 8 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: Albany 9 Sep; VF 23 Sep; Albany 1 Oct.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Papscanee I RENS 25 Oct.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (R8): Rensselaerville ALBA 27 Oct (TLW).

Vesper Sparrow: Florida MONT 26 Oct; 2 Rensselaerville ALBA 27 Oct; Troy landfill RENS 19 Nov.

Lincoln's Sparrow: last Florida MONT 2 Nov.

WESTERN TANAGER: Athens GREE 29 Nov-2 Dec (mob).

E. Meadowlark: max 8 COX grasslands 30 Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: max 40 Papscanee I RENS 9 Nov.

Baltimore Oriole: last Stanton Pd ALBA 1 Nov.

Pine Grosbeak: 2 Partridge Run ALBA 7 Nov; 2 Swyer Preserve Stuyvesant COLU 25 Nov; 6 Queensbury WARR 27 Nov.

Red Crossbill: Brunswick RENS 22 Nov.

Com. Redpoll: arr Colonie ALBA 26 Oct, numerous reports in Nov.

Pine Siskin: max 50 Poestenkill RENS 10 Oct.

Evening Grosbeak: W Sand Lake RENS 2 Oct; New Baltimore GREE 22 Oct; 8 Providence SARA 20 Oct; max 24 Austerlitz COLU 5 Nov, modest irruption in Nov-winter.



REGION 9—HUDSON – DELAWARE

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The fall season started with average monthly temperatures above normal for Poughkeepsie in September and October. This set an incredible twenty-one straight months with above average temperatures starting in February 2011. September averaged 2.1° F above normal, with 5.6" of precipitation, 2" above normal. October was 4.9° warmer with near average rainfall. November broke that streak with slightly below average temperatures but was very dry. Less than 0.7" of precipitation were recorded. The big weather event for the season was Hurricane/Superstorm *Sandy* on 29 October. The Region was on the windy, drier side, with the center coming ashore in New Jersey. Numerous trees were felled and the largest impact to the Region was along Westchester's sound shore due to the storm surge. Some natural areas and shore line were off limits to the public for some time.

Storm related birds were few. Curt McDermott found a shearwater in the Hudson River between Newburgh and Cornwall the day after *Sandy* on 30 October. Unfortunately it was too far out to identify to species. Jim Clinton found a Wilson's Petrel the same day on the Hudson off Lighthouse Park, Esopus, just south of Port Ewen and Tom Dow had another bird off Piermont Pier for Rockland's first record.

Cackling Goose was reported from both Dutchess and Westchester Counties. I expect we will see more reports in the future as observers become more aware of scanning though flocks of Canada Geese. But I caution observers to take care and not to be fooled by some of the local non-migratory stunted populations, which can look much smaller than the Atlantic race. Details or photographs are appreciated by this editor so that we can firmly ascertain the

distribution and occurrence of this recent split. All three scoter species as well as Long-tailed Duck were reported inland, with multiple reports with good numbers. This is a trend that seems to be increasing.

Two **American White Pelicans** were discovered at Marshlands Conservancy in Rye on 7 October and subsequently just to the north off Edith G. Read Preserve the following three days. This is Westchester's third record, with the previous records also from Rye in 1994 and 2005.

The number of Northern Goshawks at hawk watches was impressive, with Chestnut Ridge and Summitville reaching double digits for the season. Broad-winged Hawks peaked at different dates at different sites between 15 and 23 September, and there were no huge one day totals. A Swainson's Hawk was found at Chestnut Ridge on 11 September. Summitville Hawk Watch recorded a remarkable seventeen Golden Eagles, and Chestnut Ridge had thirteen. Oddly, no hawk watch recorded a Rough-legged Hawk.

Notable shorebirds included American Golden-Plovers at Morningside Park, Piermont and Ashokan Reservoir. A Whimbrel was at Marshlands Conservancy from 3 to 6 September and was joined by an Upland Sandpiper on the 7th. A Baird's Sandpiper was at Apollo Plaza, Monticello for one day on the first of September.

Snowy Owls made appearances at Kingston and Ulster on 7 November. The Ulster bird lingered in the area till at least the 26th.

Bob Yunick banded a hatch year female Rufous Hummingbird in Wappinger Falls, 9 November. It had been present for some time. Another was photographed in Ellenville 14 November, and another immature was reported from Piermont 17 November. Rufous Hummingbirds are now appearing to be annual occurrences.

It looks like a long awaited winter finch invasion is underway, with all the species represented. Pine Grosbeaks were reported from Rock Hill and Pound Ridge in November. Both Red and White-winged Crossbills started moving through the area in mid October as well as Common Redpoll. Reports continued through the period. Pine Siskins were impressive, with a number of sightings of flocks of one hundred. Evening Grosbeak reports were weighted to the northern counties, but reports from Rockland and Westchester were received.

Other notable species include: Tundra Swan, Red-necked Grebe, Sandhill Crane, Northern Shrike, Lapland Longspur, Blue Grosbeak and Dickcissel.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AR – Ashokan Reservoir; CIES – Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies; CPP – Croton Point P; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; LNP – Lenoir Nature Preserve; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 100 Bear Mt 11 Oct; 72 Bashakill

25 Oct; 75 Forsyth Nature Center 25 Oct.

Brant: 600 Hook Mt 8 Oct; 1250 LNP 12 Oct; 1184 Bashakill 25 Oct; 5000 - 10,000 Hook Mt 12 Oct.

Cackling Goose: Round Pd, North East 22 Oct (CV); Huguenot Lake, New Rochelle 4 Nov (ZS).

Tundra Swan: 3 Marlboro 23 Oct (AMa).

Wood Duck: 50 Bashakill 8 Sep.

Blue-winged Teal: 17 MC 7 Sep; 30 Bashakill 8 Sep.

N. Pintail: 8 AR 5-11 Oct.

Green-winged Teal: 50 AR 30 Sep.

Canvasback: very few reports; Rockland L 3 Nov; 4 Piermont 25 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 2 Shunpike 27 Sep; max 350 Wanasink L 25 Nov.

Greater Scaup: 1600 EGR 22 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: 400 EGR 22 Nov.

Surf Scoter: Yankee L 10, 31 Oct (JH); AR 13 Oct (PS); Kingston Pt 29 Oct (RG); 2 EGR 28 Nov; 10 Newburgh 30 Nov (CuM).

White-winged Scoter: Kiamesha L 24 Oct (LV, JH); 2 Piermont 30 Oct (TD); Saugerties 30 Oct (FM); 5 Kiamesha L 30 Oct (JH); 7 AR 31 Oct (SS); 9 Neversink Res 31 Oct (LV, JH); 180 Rye 22 Nov.

Black Scoter: 25 Bashakill 25 Oct (LV, JH); 5 Esopus 30 Oct (PS); 10 AR 31 Oct (FM); Sylvan L 31 Oct (CP, HT); 12 AR 10 Nov (PS, SR); 2 EGR 22 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: 10 Kiamesha L 25 Oct (LV, JH, ABo); 11 Neversink Res 25 Oct (LV, JH); 8 EGR 22 Nov.

Bufflehead: 2 Stanford 29 Sep (AP), early.

Com. Merganser: 60 Lake Tappan 29 Oct; max 358 Lake Superior 25 Nov.

Ring-necked Pheasant: few reports from Sull and Dutc only.

Red-throated Loon: Hook Mt 15 Oct; 3 CPP 30 Oct; Esopus 31 Oct; Neversink Res 10-13 Nov; 28 Rye 22 Nov.

Com. Loon: 8 EGR 28 Oct.

Horned Grebe: 7 AR 27 Oct; 12 AR 10 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: Poughkeepsie 30 Sep (KH); 2 AR 10 Nov (PS, SR); Stewart Airport 24-26 Nov.

SHEARWATER, sp: Hudson River off Newburgh 30 Oct (CuM).

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL: Piermont 30 Oct (TD), 1st ROCK record; Hudson River off Lighthouse P, Esopus 30 Oct (JC).

N. Gannet: 5 EGR 28 Oct.

Great Cormorant: 2 Rye 4 Nov.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: 2 MC 7 Oct (M&AC, TB, GB); 2 EGR 8, 9, 10 Oct (BV, EC, TB), 3rd Westchester record.

Am. Bittern: CIES 30 Sep; Bashakill 5 Oct.

Snowy Egret: 13 MC 4 Sep; Piermont 17 Sep; Larchmont 19 Nov.

Turkey Vulture: 301 LNP Oct 13; 389 Chestnut Ridge 13 Oct.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: 101 Hook Mt 8 Sep; many late sightings Hook Mt 5 Nov; CP 14-22 Nov; Harriman SP 24 Nov.

Bald Eagle: 16 Hook Mt 16 Sep.

N. Harrier: max 20 SGNWR 25 Nov.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 205 Mt Peter 12 Oct.

Cooper's Hawk: max 36 Chestnut Ridge 17 Oct.

N. Goshawk: hawk watch numbers were up for the season; 12 Chestnut Ridge; 11 Summitville; 4 Hook Mt; max 3 Summitville 6 Nov.

Red-shouldered Hawk: max 42 Hook Mt 17 Oct; 27 Chestnut Ridge 27 Oct.

Broad-winged Hawk: 1177 Summitville 15 Sep; 1211 Chestnut Ridge 16 Sep; 1156 LNP 16 Sep; 1123 Hook Mt 16 Sep; 1493 Chestnut Ridge 19 Sep; 1218 Chestnut Ridge 20 Sep; 1183 Mount Peter 20 Sep; 1028 Mount Peter 23 Sep.

SWAINSON'S HAWK: Chestnut Ridge 11 Sep (GR, AW).

Rough-legged Hawk: SGNWR 22 Nov; Stewart Airport 25 Nov; none at hawk watches.

Golden Eagle: hawk watch numbers were up for the season; 17 Summitville; 13 Chestnut Ridge; 5 Hook Mt; 3 Mt Peter; max 6 Summitville 2 Nov; 4 Hook Mt 13 Oct; 4 Chestnut Ridge 27 Oct; 4 Summitville 28 Oct, 1 Nov; plus other scattered reports.

Sora: Crumkill Creek, Piermont 1 Sep; Red Hook 9 Sep; Kingston Point P 22 Sep.

Com. Gallinule: The Great Vly, Saugerties 1 Sep.

Am. Coot: The Great Vly, Saugerties 7 Oct; 16 AR 31 Oct; max 125 Rockland L 3-25 Nov.

Sandhill Crane: Red Hook 23 Sep (CG).

Am. Golden-Plover: Morningside P 13 Sep (JH); Piermont 17 Sep; (T&ED); 2 Piermont 30 Sep (CW); 4 AR 30 Sep (PS).

Semipalmated Plover: 15 MC 7 Sep.

Am. Oystercatcher: 3 MC 3 Sep.

Solitary Sandpiper: AR 20 Oct (PS), late.

Greater Yellowlegs: 28 AR 30 Sep.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 10 AR 5 Oct.

Upland Sandpiper: MC 7 Sep (TB).

Whimbrel: MC 3-7 Sep (TB).

White-rumped Sandpiper: AS 15 Sep.

Baird's Sandpiper: Apollo Plaza, Monticello 1 Sep (JH, ABo, LV).

Pectoral Sandpiper: 20 AS 5 Oct.

Dunlin: AS 4 Oct; 1-3 MC 5, 6, 16, 30 Nov.

Wilson's Snipe: 23 Swan L 17 Nov.

Bonaparte's Gull: Saugerties 21, 23 Sep;

Croton-on-Hudson 30 Oct; 3 MC 6 Nov.

Laughing Gull: 110 MC 30 Sep.

Iceland Gull: 3 Beacon 28 Nov (CuM).

Least Tern: Piermont Pier 9 Sep (CC).

Com. Tern: Saugerties 21-23 Sep (FM, PS, SR, SC).

Forster's Tern: 3 Bashakill 8 Sep (JH, ABo, LV, SB); 10 EGR 11 Oct.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Barn Owl: Florida 19 Nov (DS).

Snowy Owl: Kingston 7 Nov (AM); Ulster 7, 10-26 Nov (JC, FM, SC).

Short-eared Owl: Hook Mt 25 Oct; SGNWR 18 Nov; 5 SGNWR 25 Nov.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 8 Mohonk Preserve 2 Nov (AM).

Com. Nighthawk: 27 MC 9 Sep; MC 21 Oct.

Chimney Swift: 500 Saugerties 16 Oct.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 9 Hook Mt 3 Sep.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: hatch year female Wappinger Falls 7-11 Nov, banded (BY); Ellenville 14 Nov ph (VF, MC); imm Piermont 17 Nov, no details (DC).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Hook Mt 21 Oct; 4 Weston Road Swamp 10 Nov.

Am. Kestrel: max 52 Hook Mt 15 Sep; 38 Chestnut Ridge 6 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Bashakill 15, 16 Sep.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Saugerties 3 Sep; Woodstock 10 Sep; Staatsburg 13 Sep; Bashakill 15 Sep; Kingston 29 Sep.

N. Shrike: Livingston Manor 4 Nov (LV); Skinner Lane, Goshen 28 Nov (KM).

Blue-headed Vireo: Hook Mt 20 Nov (JPr, JPh).

Philadelphia Vireo: Saugerties 2, 9, 25 Sep; Kingston 7, 23 Sep; 3 Bashakill 8 Sep; 4 Bashakill 9 Sep; MC 3 Oct.

Horned Lark: 150 Skinners Lane 25 Nov.

Sedge Wren: Stonykill 13, 15 Sep (SG,JC).

Marsh Wren: 3 MC 12, 30 Sep.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Summitville Hawk Watch 9 Sep (JH), early; Bashakill 11 Sep (JH).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: MC 1 Sep; 2 Bashakill 24 Sep; Minnewaska SP 11 Oct.

Bicknell's Thrush: vocalizing Saugerties 9 Sep (SC).

Am. Pipit: 57 Red Hook 5 Oct; 300 Marbletown 20 Oct; 180 Red Hook 21 Oct; 21 Bashakill 23 Oct; 33 NR 4 Nov; 24 MC 8 Nov; 50 CPP 17 Nov.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: CPP 27 Oct (AS).

Snow Bunting: AR 27 Oct; 4 Marist College 27 Oct; 3 Hook Mt 5 Nov; 75 AR 7 Nov; 5 Neversink Res 4 Nov; 2 Woodstock 14 Nov; 20 Kingston 17 Nov.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Vassar Farm 22, 25 Sep; Forsyth Nature Center 28 Sep; 2 Vassar Farm 8 Oct; MC 3,14 Nov.

Connecticut Warbler: Bashakill 14, 19, 20, 30 Sep (LV,JH,PL,SMi); Basin Rd, AR 16 Sep (SR,PS); Wurtsboro 29 Sep (JH).

Mourning Warbler: MC 6 Sep; Bashakill 27,29 Sep.

Cape May Warbler: Woodstock 11 Sep; AR 30 Sep.
N. Parula: Tallman Mountain SP 2 Nov; Nyack Beach SP 5 Nov.
Bay-breasted Warbler: Bashakill 1 Sep.
Yellow Warbler: EGR 8 OCT (BV).
Blackpoll Warbler: Rockland Lake SP 1 Nov (EE).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 500 Hook Mt 13 Oct.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: Red Hook 3, 9, 15, 29 Sep, 6 Oct; CIES 13 Sep; Marblatown 13 Oct; 2 Bashakill 17 Oct; 4 Marblatown 20 Oct; Hook Mt 5 Nov.
Grasshopper Sparrow: Red Hook 9 Sep; MC 24 Oct (TB).
Nelson's Sparrow: 2 MC 8 Oct; Stone Ridge 13 Oct (WT); Marblatown 13 Oct (MD).
Saltmarsh Sparrow: MC 8 Oct.
Lincoln's Sparrow: Mt Kisco 7 Nov (AS), late.
White-throated Sparrow: arr 2 MC 17 Sep.
White-crowned Sparrow: Red Hook 29 Sep; 1-3 MC 7 Oct-4 Nov; 6 Morningside Park 13 Oct; 3 Vassar Farm 25 Oct; 4 SGNWR 12 Nov; 6 Millerton 19 Nov.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Bylane Farm 22 Oct (TJ), Rosendale 29 Oct (AM).
Blue Grosbeak: Bashakill 4 Oct (JH), 3rd record SULL.
Dickcissel: Marblatown 20 Oct (JC, PS, MD, FM, WT); MC 20 Oct (TB); Rhinebeck 26 Oct (KH).

Rusty Blackbird: FDR 17 Oct; 60 Bashakill 11 Nov.
Pine Grosbeak: 2 Rock Hill 5 Nov (TM); Pound Ridge 22 Nov (JV).
Red Crossbill: Hook Mt 13 Oct; Chestnut Ridge 17 Oct; MC 14,20 Nov; Port Ewen 17 Nov; Krumville 18 Nov; EGR 22 Nov; Tibbets Brook Park 23 Nov.
White-winged Crossbill: Roscoe 26,27 Oct; 3 Forsyth Nature Center 4 Nov; 2 MC 4 Nov; MC 6,15,20 Nov; 2 Minnewaska SP 13 Nov; 6 Kingston 17 Nov; 13 Krumville 18 Nov.
Com. Redpoll: Millbrook 20-21 Oct; Saugerties 5 Nov; Orange Lake 6 Nov; Tillson L 9 Nov; MC 15 Nov; 2 Kingston 18 Nov; 3 MC 22 Nov.
Pine Siskin: arr Poughquag 9 Sep; 35 LNP Oct 13; 100 Chestnut Ridge 17 Oct; 36 Clinton Corners 17-30 Oct; 100 Woodstock 23 Oct; 75 Poughkeepsie 25 Oct; 70 EGR 28 Oct; 100 Roscoe 5 Nov.
Evening Grosbeak: Hook Mt 13 Oct; 2 Lewisboro 18 Oct; 4 Bashakill 20 Oct; 6-12 Kingston 23,24 Oct; 23 Woodstock 24 Oct; Poughquag 24 Oct; 8 Millbrook 25 Oct; 12 Livingston Manor 26 Oct; Saugerties 27-29 Oct; 2 MC 4,12 Nov; 7 Saugerties 5 Nov; and a nine additional scattered reports from Sullivan Co in early Nov.

EXOTICS - ESCAPES

Chukar: 2 Clinton Corners 14 Sep (W&LS).

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REGION 10—MARINE

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The devastation of Hurricane *Sandy* irrevocably altered so many human lives that it seems trivial to discuss birding. And while *Sandy* will surely be remembered most, Fall 2013 was an outstanding season of birding. An astonishing 323 species were recorded in the Region, well exceeding any previous seasons.

September temperatures and precipitation were close to historical norms around the Region. October was warmer and dryer than normal with substantial

variation in temperature. The average temperature at Islip was 57.9° F, 3.6° above normal, while the average in Central Park was 58°, 1.1° above normal. October precipitation at Islip was 2.08", 1.71" below normal. November was cooler and dryer than normal. The average temperature at Central Park was 43.9°, 3.6° below normal. Precipitation at Islip was representative for the Region at 1.91", 1.76" below normal. While average weather conditions were generally unremarkable, the weather extremes were unprecedented. Hurricane *Sandy* slammed into the Region on 29 October with winds gusting to 90 mph and storm surges exceeding 13 feet, causing widespread damage in coastal areas. A nor'easter followed on 7-8 November dropping over 4" of snow in western portions of the Region, an historical record snowfall for November.

In addition to the human suffering and property damage caused by these storms, substantial damage to natural habitats occurred. The combination of *Sandy* and the November snow on limbs still bearing leaves resulted in heavy tree damage, dramatically reducing canopy coverage in many areas. *Sandy* produced very little rain to dilute its maritime winds. As a result, coniferous trees with low salt tolerance suffered burn on their seaward sides even miles inland. White Pines seem to be most severely affected. *Sandy* leveled primary dunes along the barrier beaches, transporting huge amounts of sand offshore and into coastal bays and marshes. But the dunes probably prevented much wider devastation of the barrier islands. The barrier islands were breached in three places. One of these, on Fire Island, may be left open to the potential benefit of water quality in Great South Bay. Another, at Cupsogue County Park, has been closed. Both the East and West Ponds at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge were breached. The breaches on the East Pond were closed to restore subway service, but the pond was flushed with salt water. A 100-foot wide breach remains on the West Pond with no plans for repair. At low tide the pond is now a tidal mudflat, clearly a detriment to shorebird and waterfowl habitat. However, overall, the long-term impacts of these changes remain to be seen, and some may be beneficial.

Another unfortunate legacy of *Sandy* is the enormous amount of waste and debris generated. For example, as of this writing, some 30,000 damaged automobiles are stockpiled on the runways at the Calverton Grasslands, Suffolk County. This may have a negative impact on the habitat and groundwater resources. There are hundreds or thousands of derelict boats in waterways and marshes. If not removed they may present an environmental hazard by leaking oil and other substances. An enormous amount of debris of all kinds has washed onto shorelines and into marshes. *Sandy's* floods damaged wastewater treatment plants around the Region causing the discharge of raw and inadequately treated sewage, for example at the Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant in East Rockaway, Nassau County. As of this writing repairs are not completed.

Access to key birding areas on the barrier islands was impossible after *Sandy*. Fire Island remained off limits at the end of the reporting period, as did Jones Beach Island east of the water tower at Jones Beach State Park and Ft. Tilden and Riis Park, Queens.

Despite enormous constraints on travel in the days following *Sandy's* passage, including a complete lack of access to the barrier islands, intrepid birders found a good number of displaced birds on 30-31 October. The species seen were mostly our typical shorebirds and waterbirds displaced inland, or seabirds typical of the North Atlantic in season. This is not surprising given that *Sandy* interacted with a strong low-pressure system that formed over the eastern U.S, becoming a hybrid storm and gaining immense power and size. Thus the air mass impacting our Region was extra tropical.

While the only reports of tropical seabirds were a *Pterodroma* petrel reported from eastern Long Island Sound off Baiting Hollow, Suffolk County, and a tropicbird sp. reported from Gravesend Bay, Brooklyn, other pelagic seabird reports were numerous from the few birders who were able to access the waterfront. For example, around the New York Harbor area, reports were highlighted by a *skua* sp. photographed flying over Cemetery of the Resurrection, Staten Island. Three Leach's Storm-Petrels were seen in Gravesend Bay, and single birds were seen in the Hudson and East Rivers off Manhattan, at Montauk, and inland at Bellport Bay, Suffolk County. A Red Phalarope was seen along the Spuytin Duyvil in northern Manhattan. A Cory's Shearwater and a couple of late Wilson's Storm-Petrels were also seen at Gravesend Bay. Reports of Pomarine Jaeger were widespread as were Parasitic Jaeger, less expected at this time of year. Another Cory's Shearwater and an unidentified shearwater were seen at Bellport Bay, along with a Northern Gannet and 17 Black Scoters. The absence of pelagic seabirds in western Long Island Sound, despite searching by several parties, was notable.

Also following the storm there were several reports of late Common Terns, including a notable 20 at Glen Cove, Nassau County. A late Black Tern was at Orowoc Lake, Islip, Suffolk County, and six Bonaparte's Gulls wound up inland at Baisley Pond, Queens County. Finally, a Surf Scoter, an American Oystercatcher, and an American Avocet were found inland at Meadow Lake in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, Queens. One wonders what else may have been found had access to the barrier islands been possible.

It was an outstanding season for irruptive finches. Pine Siskins were particularly abundant. An early trickle of birds in mid-September turned into a flood in October. For example over 1800 were counted passing through Robert Moses SP on the early date of 7 October; 20,275 were counted there on 21 October, a record. Both White-winged and Red Crossbills were also seen in good numbers, with the former generally more abundant. Following a few early reports including 12 at Central Park through 1 September, the main Red Crossbill flight began in mid-November. The White-winged Crossbill flight began in early November, and reports were numerous through the season. Maxima of both occurred on 23 November, with 200 White-winged Crossbills reported at Smith Point CP, Suffolk County and 82 Red Crossbills at Jones Beach West End. Both species were widespread and easily viewable at coastal locations such as Jones Beach and Montauk. A review of recordings indicated that the dominant Red Crossbill type was Type 3 with a few Type 10 birds mixed in. There were fifteen or more reports of Evening Grosbeak in November.

Reports from Cemetery of the Resurrection far exceeded elsewhere in the Region. For example, 31 birds were reported there on 11 November. This species has been exceptionally rare in Region 10 in recent years. Purple Finch reports were widespread beginning in the summer and included a maximum count of 200 birds on 21 October at Jones Beach West End. Small numbers of Common Redpolls occurred in November.

Many other irruptive species were on the move this fall. For example, an unusual coastal flight of several species of woodland birds normally rare on the barrier beaches was observed on 5 October. The species involved included Red-bellied Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Blue Jay. Red-breasted Nuthatch was abundant, with a maximum of 209 at Robert Moses SP on 8 October. 85 House Finches were observed migrating in East Patchogue on 4 November.

The Cave Swallow incursion into our area this season was greater than ever. After widespread sightings of a few birds on 4 November, an unprecedented incursion began on 17 November and lasted until 25 November. Birds were seen daily during this period. Numbers were particularly great in southern Staten Island, where they peaked at about 80 at Cemetery of the Resurrection on 18 November.

With a few exceptions, waterfowl numbers were low this season. The season's total count of Canvasback was only five and Redhead only nine. Numbers of Greater Scaup, all three scoters, Common Eider, and Common Goldeneye were low relative to recent norms. The maximum count of Snow Goose was only 104. At least ten individual Eurasian Wigeon were found in the Region this season, a good showing. These included five at two ponds in Sayville, Suffolk County.

456 hawks were counted at the Fire Island Hawk Watch on 10 September, the season's maximum. The count included 234 American Kestrels. The 380 hawks on 16 October was a record for the date. The 176 Sharp-shinned Hawks recorded for the season was a 30-year minimum, 52% below the 10-year average. Cooper's Hawk continued to be recorded in good numbers. The 40 birds recorded in 2012 were 56% above the 30-year average and 5% above the 10-year average. A Broad-winged Hawk was seen on 12 October, only the thirteenth in the 30-year history of the hawk watch. A count of 41 Peregrine Falcons on 5 October was notable.

Drought conditions affecting much of the continent may have contributed to the finch irruption and also to the appearance earlier than normal of generally small numbers of several common migrants in our area. For example, Yellow-rumped Warblers were present from the summer and small numbers continued in early September. Palm Warblers were fairly numerous in early September, also being reported in late summer. A few White-throated Sparrows and Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from 1 September and Winter Wren on 4 September. Ruby-crowned Kinglets arrived 10 September as did Lincoln's Sparrow. Dark-eyed Junco was reported 14 September, American Pipit 17 September, and Fox Sparrow 8 October.

More than forty species occurred in the Region substantially later than historical norms. These included Little Blue Heron on 23 November, Osprey on 30 November, Olive-sided Flycatcher (two on 27 September, one on 5 October), Great Crested Flycatcher on 3 October, Northern Rough-winged Swallow (two on 11 November), Cliff Swallow (two on 2 November may be a new record), Louisiana Waterthrush (one on 17 September and one on 19 September, also possibly a new record), Blue-winged Warbler on 11 October, Mourning Warbler on 18 October, Bay-breasted Warbler on 12 November, and Orchard Oriole on 5 October.

There were excellent showings of a number of typically uncommon passerines. Blue Grosbeak numbers have been increasing, and there were at least 35 reports this season, including up to three birds at Kissena Park from September into November. There were about 30 reports of Vesper Sparrow and over 30 of Clay-colored Sparrow, including many reports of multiple birds. Lincoln's Sparrow has become a common bird. There were at least 50 reports. There were no fewer than 23 Connecticut Warblers reported and about 25 Philadelphia Vireos. Increased birding effort certainly has an impact on the sightings of these desirable species, and misidentification may play a role, in particular with the latter species.

Common Raven sightings were numerous in Staten Island, but elsewhere in the Region were fewer than recent seasons. Seventeen Turkey Vultures were counted in Eastport, Suffolk County on 30 November, a record count for Long Island.

The season produced a truly exceptional assortment of rarities. Eric Miller found New York's first Virginia's Warbler on 31 October at Alley Pond Park, Queens, where it remained through the season. While present for a long period, the bird foraged over a wide area of woods with dense thickets, leading to many long and fruitless searches. There were numerous reports of Northern Lapwing in eastern North America this season, including a bird photographed by parks department staff at the closed Robert Moses SP on 8 November. This would have been frustrating to many birders had not two shown up at Deep Hollow Ranch in Montauk on 10-14 November, providing opportunity for all to see. Four Audubon's Shearwaters and a Leach's Storm-Petrel were among the birds seen on a pelagic trip to Hudson Canyon out of Freeport, Nassau County on 16 September. A juvenile Thayer's Gull was photographed at Robert Moses SP on 19 October and well described by Shai Mitra. A White-faced Ibis was found at Jamaica Bay on 30 September. An American White Pelican stayed at Jamaica Bay through 11 October. There were three Barnacle Geese, two Pacific Loons, and three Golden Eagles. A White-winged Dove was seen at the Fire Island Hawk Watch on 23 October. *Selasphorus* hummingbirds made another good showing in the Region. There were five birds; the three identified to species were Rufous Hummingbirds. One of these was an adult male. A *Myiarchus* flycatcher at Rita's Stable in Montauk on 10 November was not identified to species. A Say's Phoebe was observed for 15 minutes as it hawked insects around the lighthouse at the Fire Island National Seashore, Suffolk County on 22 October. It then disappeared, not to be seen again. The season featured both a

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and a Fork-tailed Flycatcher, the former at Sunken Meadow SP, Suffolk County on 11 November and the latter, an adult male, at the Marine Nature Study Area in Oceanside, Nassau County on 19 September. A Sedge Wren was reported at Pelham Bay Park, Bronx on 12 October. A LeConte's Sparrow was at Floyd Bennett Field on 6 October. There were two Painted Buntings. An adult male was photographed at a private feeder in Port Jefferson, Suffolk County on 11 October, and a female type was seen by many at Alley Pond Park on 25-26 November, another find by Eric Miller. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was reported at Smith Point CP on 7 October. Sharp-eyed Michael McBrien found a female Brewer's Blackbird at Rita's Stable in Montauk on 11 November. It was seen by many that day but was gone the next. Pileated Woodpecker was once again reported from the New York Botanical Garden. A Canada Goose present at Deep Hollow Ranch on 11-12 November and photographed may be a "Dusky" Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis occidentalis*). These birds breed in a limited range in southeast Alaska and winter mostly in the Willamette Valley, Oregon. An unusual *Passerina* bunting with characteristics of both Lazuli and Indigo Bunting was seen and photographed at Conference House Park, Staten Island on 4 November. It is hoped that the observers will submit additional documentation.

An immature White-eyed Vireo at the Mt. Loretto Unique Area, Staten Island on 11-12 September provided some excitement when it was mistaken for a Bell's Vireo. Despite observations by many experienced birders, it took more than a day for this exceptionally difficult identification to be made correctly through digital photos posted on the Internet and an ensuing discussion on the NYSBirds listserv. The incident is yet another example of how electronic media have transformed our challenging pastime.

There are more than 147,000 records in the eBird database for *Kingbird* Region 10 this fall season. The author used the output of a new program called "Swan Swan Hummingbird" developed by David Wheeler of North Syracuse, New York, to help incorporate the data into the Region 10 report. The program performs various sorting and logical functions, for example providing a summary of first and last reports and maxima for reported species within a specified geographic area and date range. The program makes use of the huge volume of data much more manageable.

The author wishes all those in the birding community affected by *Sandy* a speedy recovery and much good birding in your future.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AMA – Amagansett, SUFF; APP – Alley Pd P, QUEE; BPT – Breezy Pt, QUEE; BRY – Bryant P, NEWY; Calv – Calverton Grasslands (former Grumman Property), SUFF; CR – Cemetery of the Resurrection, RICH; CCP – Cupsogue CP, SUFF; CHP – Conference House P, RICH; CP – Central Park, NEWY; CRSP – Connetquot R SP, SUFF; DOP – Drier-Offerman P, a.k.a. Calvert-Vaux P, KING; DP – Democrat Pt, SUFF; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; FIHW – Fire Island Hawk Watch, Robert Moses SP, SUFF; FMCP – Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, QUEE; FP – Forest Park, QUEE; FT – Fort Tilden, QUEE; GBP – Goethal’s Bridge Pd, RICH; 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/Mecox Inlet, SUFF; MLUA – Mt. Loretto Unique Area, RICH; MNSA – Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside, NASS; MP – Montauk Pt, SUFF; NYBG – New York Botanical Garden, BRON; 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: 5 East Hampton, SUFF 11-24 Nov (DR, SA, mob); Mattituck, SUFF 23-24 Nov (DR, TM); Southaven CP, SUFF 28 Nov (DR).
Snow Goose: max 104 Jam Bay 28 Oct (AB), low number; imm blue morph FMCP 25 Oct (CF, DS), ph.
BARNACLE GOOSE: PP 24-26 Oct (AxW, mob); Inwood Hill P, NEWY 11-13 Nov (D. Barrett, AP); prob. same bird VCP 24 Nov thru (fide BC, AB, mob); Maratooka L, Mattituck, SUFF 10-25 Nov (JSe, DR, TM, mob).
Cackling Goose: Northville, SUFF 10 Nov (MLL); Maratooka L 10-25 Nov (JSe, SBu); East Hampton 11 Nov (AnW); Deep Hollow, Montauk, SUFF 11-12 Nov (MMcB, mob); VCP 29 Nov thru (CF, mob).
“Dusky” Canada Goose: Deep Hollow 11-12 Nov (SA, mob), ph; *intro*.
Mute Swan: max 160 Jam Bay 2 Sep (BBE), fewer than recent years.
Tundra Swan: not reported.
Wood Duck: max 23 NYBG 1 Sep (D. Becker); 21 Mashomack Preserve, SUFF 22 Oct (MSch).
Eurasian Wigeon: Lotus L, Sayville, SUFF 13 Oct (DR), 2cy m; same bird continued Mill Pd, Sayville thru mid-Nov (fide MMcB, KF, SF, JT); Mass 3-13 Nov (KF, SF, JT); 3 Mill Pd, Sayville 18 Nov (MMcB), 2 ad m & 1cy m; 2 Mass 19 Nov thru (RK, mob); Tottenville, RICH 21-22 Nov (DE, PJ); ad m Mill Pd, Sayville 23 Nov (MMcB); fem Lotus L 23 Nov (MMcB); Southaven CP 28 Nov (DR); Dosoris Pd, Glen Cove, NASS 30 Nov thru (SA, RK, MN); *intro*.
Am. Wigeon: max 75 Patchogue L, SUFF 16 Oct (BY).
Blue-winged Teal: max 76 Jam Bay 1 Sep (SSM, PJJ).
N. Shoveler: max 344 PP 28 Nov (RJ), large number.
N. Pintail: max 24 GATX Property, RICH 25 Oct (M. Rehman), large number.
Canvasback: Eastport L, SUFF 21 Nov (RKA); 2 Centerport Pd, SUFF 21 Nov (DR); Fort Pd, Montauk 26 Nov (DG); Maratooka L, Mattituck, SUFF 27 Nov (JSe); only reports.
Redhead: 5 Baisley Pd P, QUEE 18 Nov (AB); 4 Baisley Pd P 23 Nov (AB); only reports.
Ring-necked Duck: max 125 Patchogue L 23 Nov (BY).

Greater Scaup: max 500 GKP 30 Nov (CB), low number.
Lesser Scaup: max 450 SPCP 22 Nov (RKA), large number.
King Eider: 5 Montauk 28 October (SSM, PJJ).
Com. Eider: a few fr summer; much fewer than recent years; 12 MP 17 Oct (PMP); 23 MP 12 Nov (BB); max 90 MP 17 Nov (AnW); 55 MP 26 Nov (DG, TJ); 21 Shinn 29 Nov (CS).
Harlequin Duck: 2 fem Napeague, SUFF 14 Nov (AC); 2 Pt. Lookout 24-25 Nov (BF, SSe); 3 Pt. Lookout 30 Nov (PM).
Surf Scoter: Dead Horse Bay, KING 8 Sep (RJ); Bellport Bay, SUFF 30 Oct (MMcB); FMCP 30 Oct (SA, CF), unusual loc; max 150 MP 3 Nov (AC), low number; *intro*.
White-winged Scoter: max 1146 Goldsmith’s Inlet CP, SUFF 25 Oct (JSe).
Black Scoter: 17 Bellport Bay 30 Oct (MMcB), unusual loc; max 1150 SPCP 27 Nov (BY); *intro*.
Com. Goldeneye: max 14 Plum I, SUFF 30 Nov (JSe), low number.
Com. Merganser: fem Avalon Park & Preserve, Stony Brook, SUFF thru 13 Oct (SBu); SMSP 21 Nov (BB0); Stony Brook Mill Pd., Stony Brook, SUFF 21-30 Nov (M.J. Good, RG).
Ruddy Duck: max 500 Jam Bay 16 Oct (KT), low number.
N. Bobwhite: Uplands Farm Preserve, SUFF 19 Sep (JGa), introduced; 2 Ridge, SUFF 29 Sep (RKA); 3 Avalon Park & Preserve 13 Oct (SBu), introduced; Ridge 24 Oct (RKA); 10 Greentree Estate, Manhasset, NASS 24 Oct (MN, *et al*), introduced; 2 Ridge 17 Nov (RKA); only reports.
Red-throated Loon: max 95 MP 26 Nov (TJ, DG), large number.
PACIFIC LOON: MP 24-26 Nov (DR, TJ, DG); East Moriches, SUFF 26 Nov thru (CS, MS, JGI, mob).
Red-necked Grebe: Montauk Inlet 23 Nov (AC); Hook Pd, East Hampton 24 Nov (AnW).
PTERODROMA SP.: Baiting Hollow, SUFF 30 Oct (DF), pending NYSARC review, *intro*.
Cory’s Shearwater: Shinn 8 Sep (TWB, GB); 2 CCP 9 Sep (MC); 5 Hudson Canyon 16 Sep (PG, *et al*); MP 25 Sep (PMP); 2 MP 5 Oct (AC); Gravesend Bay, KING 30 Oct (SB); Bellport Bay 30 Oct (MMcB); *intro*.

Great Shearwater: 350 Hudson Canyon 16 Sep (PG, *et al*); 4 MP 23 Sep (AC); 4 one mi S.E. MP 24 Sep (OB).

Manx Shearwater: MP 22 Sep (AC); 2 MP 29 Sep (AnW).

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER: 4 Hudson Canyon 16 Sep (PG, SA, BVD, *et al*).

shearwater sp.: Bellport Bay 30 Oct (MMcB), unusual loc, *intro*.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 175 Hudson Canyon 16 Sep (PG, *et al*); 2 Gravesend Bay 30 Oct (SB), 2 Orient Pt. 30 Oct (PJL, SSM, JSe), *intro*.

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: Hudson Canyon 16 Sep (PG, *et al*); Bellport Bay 30 Oct (MMcB); 3 Gravesend Bay 30 Oct (SB); W 54 St., NEWY 30 Oct (AF); Riverside P, NEWY 30 Oct (AP); East Lake Dr., Montauk 31 Oct (AC); details desired; *intro*.

TROPICBIRD SP.: Gravesend Bay 30 Oct (SB!), *intro*.

N. Gannet: Bellport Bay 30 Oct (MMcB), unusual loc, *intro*.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (R10): Jam Bay thru 11 Oct (mob).

Brown Pelican: 2 Mt. Loretto, RICH 20 Oct (SIW, ACi); Orient Point 30 Oct (PJL, SSM, JSe); Gilgo Beach, SUFF 2 Nov (RBA).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 4840 RMSP 6 Oct (SSM); 3185 Shinn 24 Oct (BY); large numbers.

Am. Bittern: CP 9-20 Sep (mob); MLUA 12 Sep (ACi); Jam Bay 17 Oct (JOS); Gerritsen Cr., KING 26 Oct (PD); Jam Bay 31 Oct (RB); East Patchogue 4 Nov (MMcB); 3 Dune Rd. East Quogue 13 Nov (DR).

Snowy Egret: 158 Jam Bay 11 Oct (AB), large number.

Little Blue Heron: 4 Jam Bay 23 Nov (SA), late.

Cattle Egret: 2 Mecox, SUFF 23 Oct (PMP); 2 Belt Pkwy, KING 31 Oct (SB); 2 Sag 7 Nov (AC).

Green Heron: VCP 11 Nov (SSt), late.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 93 Jam Bay 6 Oct (AB), large number.

WHITE-FACED IBIS: Jam Bay 30 Sep (AB, SA).

Black Vulture: reported only from southern RICH; 5 Moses Mtn. 9 Sep (AP); MLUA 11-12 Sep (HF, ACi); 2 MLUA 13 Sep (ACi); 2 CR 14 Sep (ACi); 3 MLUA 17 Sep (AB); 2 CR 23 Sep (ACi); 2 Mt. Loretto State Forest 27 Sep (ACi); 2 CR 1 Oct (ACi); CR 10 Oct (MSh); 4 CR 18 Oct (ACi); 2 CHP 3 Nov (SIW).

Turkey Vulture: 12 LI reports involving appx. 38 birds incl: 17 Eastport, SUFF 30 Nov (AM);

max 54 E 52 St, 3 Nov (AF); 11 CP 23 Nov (JSu).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: Cedar Beach, Babylon, SUFF 30 Nov (BB), late.

Bald Eagle: pr present, Mill Neck/Oyster Bay, NASS thru (fide MN); 6 Moses Mtn. 9 Sep (AP); 2 CP 10-12 Sep (TF, mob); 2 ad CR 15 Sep (ACi); ad Yaphank, SUFF 20 Sep; 3 Moses Mtn. 30 Sep (CB); imm MLUA 1 Oct (RV); HLSP 1 Oct (M. Wohl); Eltingville, RICH 7 Oct (DE); 2 FIHW8 Oct (RJK); 2 Camp Hero, Montauk 8 Oct (KR, *et al*), juv Wave Hill, BRON 8 Oct (GW, *et al*); 2 FT 11 Oct (DG); ad & imm PBP 14 Oct (J. Rothman); Wave Hill 15 Oct (GW, *et al*); CP 16 Oct (StS, *et al*); imm PBP 21 Oct (SA, CF); Inwood, NEWY 30 Oct (NS, *et al*); 2 CR 4 Nov (SIW, *et al*); Greenwood Cemetery, KING 4 Nov (RJ, HL); 3 PBP 6 Nov (RAR); imm Lakeview, NASS 15 Nov (MF); 2 ad Northville, SUFF 17 Nov (MLL).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 176 FIHW, 30-year min; *intro*.

Cooper's Hawk: total 40 FIHW, *intro*.

N. Goshawk: E 52 St. 21 Oct (AF); Tobay, NASS 26 Oct (PM); ad Wagner College, RICH 27 Oct (HF); imm Patchogue, SUFF 30 Oct (PJL, SSM); Wantagh, NASS 4 Nov (PM); imm JBWE 24 Nov (fide SA), ph; Bellmore, NASS 26 Nov (PM), details desired.

Red-shouldered Hawk: GKP 30 Sep; imm William Floyd Estate, Mastic Beach, SUFF 12 Oct (MLL); FT 22 Oct (SW); CHP 1 Nov (SIW, MSh); 2 CHP 3 Nov (SIW); max 19 Greenwood Cemetery 4 Nov (RJ, HL), large number; 18 E 52 St. 4 Nov (AF); 2 CR 4 Nov (SIW, *et al*); CP 4 Nov (SSt).

Broad-winged Hawk: 350 CP 10 Sep (TF), large number; PP 5 Oct (CCa); FT 11 Oct (DG); KP 11 Oct (JOS); FIHW 12 Oct (RJK).

Rough-legged Hawk: Pt. Lookout 30 Nov (PM), details desired.

GOLDEN EAGLE (R10): juv 123 St, NEWY 31 Oct (James O'Brien), ph; Westhampton, SUFF 9 Nov (DR); E 52 St. 4 Nov (AF).

Virginia Rail: Windsor Terrace, KING 24 Sep (fide PD); Gerritsen Cr. 27 Oct (PD); unusual loc.

Sora: 2 Jam Bay 9 Sep (RBA); Mt. Loretto State Forest 17 Sep (ACi); MNSA 20 Sep (RJK); Mt. Loretto State Forest 29 Sep (ACi); Pine Neck Sanctuary, East Quogue, SUFF 5 Oct (MSch).

Com. Gallinule: MNSA 19 Sep (MF); Mill Pd, Bellmore, NASS 1 Nov (Bob Anderson).

NORTHERN LAPWING: RMSP 8 Nov (fide Anne McIntyre), ph; 2 Deep Hollow 10-14 Nov (J. Ake, PMP, mob).

Am. Golden-Plover: max 53 Riverhead 1 Sep (JC); 49 Riverhead 2 Sep (JSe); Riverhead 3 Sep (JGI); Miller Field, RICH 4 Sep (HF); Manorville 6 Sep (RJK); 12 Riverhead 6 Sep (RJK); 2 Manorville 7 Sep (PPr, CS, D. Belanger); 21 Riverhead 8 Sep (RF); Manorville 8 Sep (RF); 26 Riverhead 9 Sep (CF); Jam Bay 9 Sep (RBA); Rita's Stable, Montauk 23 Sep (AC); Plumb Beach, KING 28 Sep (SB); JBWE 2 Oct (KF); JBWE 5 Oct (AB); Pt. Lookout 21 Oct (AB).

Am. Oystercatcher: 350 JBWE 22 Sep (JGI); 238 JBWE 21 Oct (AB); max 355 JBWE 24 Oct (SF); FMCP 30 Oct (DS), unusual loc, *intro*; 210 JBWE 16 Nov (AB).

Am. Avocet: Jam Bay thru 3 Sep (mob); 2 Seaford, NASS 16-23 Sep (A. Brzezinski, fide AnW), ph; MNSA 26-27 Sep (MF); FMCP 30 Oct (SA, CF), *intro*.

Solitary Sandpiper: Caumsett SP, SUFF 18 Oct (KF, SF); Grace Estate, Northwest Harbor, SUFF; late.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 11 Jam Bay 28 Oct (AB), late for number; FMCP 30 Oct (SA, CF), late.

Whimbrel: HSP 4 Sep (KT); CCP 13 Sep (JGI); SPCP 16 Sep (RKA); CCP 17 Sep (fide JGi); 2 Shinn 23 Sep (SA, *et al*); Shelter I, SUFF 28 Oct (fide OB), late.

Hudsonian Godwit: Jam Bay 15 Sep (GL, GC)

Marbled Godwit: 3 CCP 11-17 Sep (CS, DB, JGi, mob); JBWE 15 Sep (AC).

Red Knot: max 35 JBWE 14-15 Sep (AGu, AC).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Jam Bay 28 Oct (AB), late.

Western Sandpiper: 3 JBSP 4 Sep (SF); 2 JBWE 14 Sep (AC); JBWE 18 Sep (AC); JBWE 2 Oct (KF).

Least Sandpiper: 2 Jam Bay 17 Oct (AB), late.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 6 Jam Bay 1 Sep; 1-2 Riverhead 6 Sep (RJK); max 15 MB 19 Sep (DR); Jam Bay 22 Sep (SW); JBWE 2 Oct (KF); 2 Jam Bay 12 Oct (AB); juv MLUA 30 Oct (ACi!); Rita's Stable 11-12 Nov (MMcB, BB, mob), late.

Baird's Sandpiper: FBF 1 Sep (M. Yuan); FBF 4 Sep (RJ); 2 Riverhead 6-7 Sep (DR, mob); MB 29 Sep (JSh); MB 19-20 Oct (RBA), late.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 14 Riverhead 6 Sep (JSe).

Stilt Sandpiper: few; 2 Jam Bay 22 Sep (SW); max 5 Jam Bay 25 Sep; 2 Jam Bay 21-28 Oct (AB), late.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 6 Riverhead 1-3 Sep (JC, JGI); Miller Field 4 Sep (HF); FBF 4-5 Sep (RJ, mob); max 21 Riverhead 6 Sep (DR, AC, mob); 9 Riverhead 7 Sep (CS, DB); 2 HSP 7 Sep (PJJ, SSM); 15 Riverhead 8 Sep (RF); 5 Riverhead 9 Sep (CF).

Long-billed Dowitcher: few; Jam Bay 22 Sep (SW); Jam Bay 25 Sep (AB); Jam Bay 21 Oct (AB); Jam Bay 28 Oct (AB); 3 Bergen Pt., KING 30 Oct (RBA).

Wilson's Phalarope: FBF 3 Sep (PD, *et al*); HSP 7 Sep (J. Heidecker, PJJ, SSM).

Red-necked Phalarope: 3 Hudson Canyon 16 Sep (PG, *et al*)

Red Phalarope: Spuytin Duyvil, Inwood Hill P, NEWY 30 Oct (JDI, NS, JK); *intro*.

Black-legged Kittiwake: 5 ad MP 24 Nov (AC, DR).

Bonaparte's Gull: very few; 6 Baisley Pd P 30 Oct (SA, CF), unusual location, *intro*; max 64 Horton Lane Beach, Southold, SUFF 25 Nov (JSe).

Black-headed Gull: Randall's I, NEWY 22-24 Sep (ADr); 1 win Hook Pd 8 Nov (PMP); 2 Randall's I 21 Nov (JD, *et al*).

THAYER'S GULL: juv RMSP 19 Oct (SSM!), ph.

Iceland Gull: 24th St. Hudson R 30 Oct (SSt); imm MP 25 Nov (MC); 2 Montauk Inlet 25 Nov (AnW).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: about 25 reports involving about 100 birds, incl: 11 HSP 5 Sep (PJJ), near ad; 20 RMSP 5 Sep (SSM), ad and older imm; 3 Hudson Canyon 16 Sep (PG, *et al*); 17 JBSP 18 Sep (AC); max 27 RMSP to JBSP 18 Sep (MMcB); Napeague, SUFF 29 Sep - thru (AnW), returning ad; 6 juv 1 ad RMSP 19 Oct Arden Av, RICH 27 Oct - thru (SIW), returning ad.

Glaucous Gull: imm SPCP thru 23 Nov (mob).

Caspian Tern: 2 Fort Pd, Montauk 7 Sep (AC); PB 11-12 Sep (CS, DB); JBWE 18 Sep (AC); juv Jam Bay 12 Sep (AB); max 8 FIHW 19 Sep (JGI); 4 SPCP 27 Sep (GS); JBWE 29 Sep (DF); 4 RMSP 5 Oct (SSM, PJJ); FIHW 7 Oct (RJK).

Black Tern: 7 BPT 3 Sep (SB, IG, PD, *et al*); max 138 Plum I 7 Sep (JSe), large number; 2 East Lake Dr, Montauk 7 Sep (AC); 3 CR 10 Sep (ACi); Hudson Canyon 16 Sep (PG, *et al*); 8 BPT 24 Sep (SB); Orowoc L, Islip, SUFF 30 Oct (JGI), late, *intro*.

Com. Tern: Canarsie Pier, KING 30 Oct (SA, CF); 20 Glen Cove 30 Oct (MN!); 5 24 St. Hudson R 1 Nov (SSt); JBWE 17 Nov (SA); late; *intro*.

Forster's Tern: 7 East Patchogue 5 Nov (MMcB).

Royal Tern: 40 Shinn 7 Sep (TWB, GB); max 70 PB 9 Sep (MC); 37 PB 11 Sep (CS, DB); 25 PB 13 Sep (JGI); 20 Robins I, SUFF 16 Sep (Paul Gillen); 3 SPCP 23 Sep (SA, *et al*); 10 Shinn 23 Sep (SA, *et al*); 2 JBWE 29 Sep (SyS, *et al*); RMSP 29 Sep (DF); 2 MB 29 Sep (JSh); 4 SPCP 7 Oct (RKA); 3 FIHW 7 Oct (RJK); 2 WPP 13 Oct (SIW); 6 MB 15 Oct (PMP); 9 SPCP 16 Oct (CS); 4 JBWE 20 Oct (PD); 8 JBWE 21 Oct (AB); 2 Dead Horse Bay, KING 21 Oct (M. Wills); 19 JBWE 22 Oct (PM); GKP 27 Oct (SIW); 2 JBWE 27 Oct (SyS, *et al*); CCP 28 Oct (RKA); 6 East Patchogue 29 Oct (MMcB), unusual loc; Randall's I 29 Oct (AF), last.

Black Skimmer: 300 Nickerson Beach 8 Sep (PM); max 615 JBWE 18 Sep (MMcB), large number; 220 JBWE 26 Sep; 300 JBWE 27 Sep (RJK), half HY; 600 JBWE 28 Sep (AB), large number; 175 JBWE 2 Oct (SF); 48 JBWE 20 Oct (PD), mostly juv; 58 JBWE 21 Oct (AB).
SKUA SP.: CR 30 Oct (ACi, TS), ph ACi, *intro*.

Pomarine Jaeger: ad Shinn 8 Sep (TWB, GB); 3 Hudson Canyon 16 Sep (PG, *et al*); ad FBF 10 Oct (AC), ph, unusual loc; 5 East R at 58 St, NEWY 30 Oct (AF); Southold Town Beach, SUFF 30 Oct (SSM, PJJ, JSe); 5 Orient Pt, SUFF 30 Oct (DF, SSM, PJJ, JSe); 3 Ft. Wadsworth, RICH 30 Oct (IG); ad 24 St Hudson R 30 Oct (StS), ph; *intro*.

Parasitic Jaeger: Shinn 8 Sep (TWB, GB); Hudson Canyon 16 Sep (PG, *et al*); 2 MP 22 Sep (AC); MP 15 Oct (PMP); 6 Gravesend Bay, KING 30 Oct (SB); 4 Southold Town Beach 30 Oct (DF, SSM, PJJ); 4 Orient Pt. 30 Oct (DF, SSM, PJJ); 11 Ft. Wadsworth 30 Oct (IG), *intro*.

jaeger sp.: 2 Inwood Hill P 30 Oct (NS, JK); 8 Orient Pt. 30 Oct (DF, SSM, PJJ, JSe); *intro*.

Dovekie: Montauk Inlet 24 Nov (AC, DR).

Razorbill: 9 Montauk Inlet 23 Nov (AC); 40 MP 24 Nov (AnW); max 85 MP 26 Nov (TJ, DG); Shinn 29 Nov (CS).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: FIHW 23 Oct (MN).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: FT 14 Oct (DF); E 52 St. 1 Nov (AF); late.

Black-billed Cuckoo: APP 10 Sep (PJJ); APP 11 Sep (SyS, JGi); Rocky Pt Preserve, SUFF 1 Oct (RKA); 2 Montauk 7 Oct (AnW); CCP 28 Oct (RKA).

Great Horned Owl: prs present KP, CP; JBWE 17 Nov (SA, *et al*).

Barred Owl: Long Island Expwy Exit 18, QUEE 30 Nov (PP); up to 3 present CP 3 Nov thru; NYBG 17 Nov (D. Becker).

Long-eared Owl: CP 17 Oct; only report.

Short-eared Owl: Eastport, SUFF 11 Nov (JA, *et al*), only report.

N. Saw-whet Owl: CP 4 Nov (mob); APP 10 Nov (SS, mob); KP 19 Nov (CF); APP 22 Nov (SA, BB).

Com. Nighthawk: 2 FIHW 10 Sep (RJK); max 21 Meadow Croft Estate, SUFF 11 Sep (DR), low number; 3 Manorville 23 Sep (MN, SA, *et al*), flying mid-day; KP 27 Sep (CF, AB); 6 KP 3 Oct (EM), unusual loc; JBWE 5 Oct (AB), late.

E. Whip-poor-will: CP 15-19 Sep (JD, APe, mob).

Chaetura sp.: Orient Pt 31 Oct (PJJ, SSM!, H. Wilson), unus. date.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Pleasant Plains, RICH 12-16 Oct (ACi), ph, late.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Pleasant Plains, 3 Oct (ACi, SIW), ph; ad m Ft. Tryon P, NEWY 11-12 Nov (SSt), ph; CP 13-19 Nov (NS, mob).

RUFIOUS/ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD: imm f CP 17 Sep (StS, *et al*); Jamesport, SUFF ca. 2-8 Nov (fide DT).

Red-headed Woodpecker: ad RMSP 15 Sep (SSM); MP 25 Sep (PMP); CR 26 Sep – 1 Oct (ACi); JBWE 5 Oct (AB); 2 Camp Hero 7 Oct (AnW); SPCP 13 Oct (CS); imm CP 11 Nov (PS).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: RMSP 25 Sep (DF); 2 RMSP 5 Oct (SSM); FT 11 Oct (DG); rare on barrier beach.

PILEATED WOODPECKER (R10): NYBG 15 Sep (DB, *et al*).

Peregrine Falcon: 41 FIHW 5 Oct (RJK), large number.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: CLP 7 Sep (HF); CP 17 Sep (AD); CP 21 Sep (RBA); Weesuck Creek, East Quogue, SUFF 26 Sep (ES), late; East Quogue 27 Sep (DR), same bird?; PP 27 Sep (Maureen Mathews); JBWE 5 Oct (AB).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: CP 11 Oct (JDi), late.

Acadian Flycatcher: JBWE 2 Sep (BB, JV!); KP 3 Sep (SA, CF); rare in fall.

Alder Flycatcher: MLUA 12 Sep (SSM, PJJ).
Willow Flycatcher: JBWE 2 Sep (BB!).

SAY'S PHOEBE: Fire I National Seashore, SUFF 22 Oct (MN!, RJK).

"MYIARCHUS" FLYCATCHER SP.: Rita's Stable 10 Nov (J. Ake).

Great Crested Flycatcher: Dyker Beach P, KING 24 Sep (J. Preston); CP 2-3 Oct (SC, JGi, *et al*), late.

Western Kingbird: 2 RMSP 16 Sep (SSM); JBWE 16 Sep (KF, SF); BPT 12 Oct (AB, AC); PP 17 Oct (RJ); JBWE 27 Oct (SW); FT 27 Oct (SA, IG, PA, EiM); 34 St and 3 Av., NEWY 5 Nov (SSt), unusual loc; Caumsett SP 15 Nov (JGi); William Floyd Estate 18 Nov (MLL).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: SMSP 11 Nov (Beth & Jerry Platt, fide NK), ph.

FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER: MNSA 19 Sep (MF, KF, mob), ph KF.

N. Shrike: HSP 27 Oct (JQ, SSM, mob), early; Caumsett SP 11-15 Nov (Ben Weinstein, JGi); Napeague 12 Nov (RJK).

White-eyed Vireo: imm MLUA 11-12 Sep, mistaken for Bell's Vireo; *intro*.

Warbling Vireo: singing m 9 Sep APP & KP; 2 Whitney Pd P, NASS 2 Oct (SP); CP 16 Oct (LSw, *et al*), late.

Philadelphia Vireo: about 25 birds reported, incl: CLP 1 Sep (GBo, SIW, DE); CP 4 Sep (JDi), early; 2 CLP 16 Sep (HF); RMSP 12 Oct (TWB), late; *intro*.

Red-eyed Vireo: APP 3-6 Nov (SW, EM, SA, mob), late.

Blue Jay: 15 FIHW 5 Oct (RJK), rare on barrier beach.

COMMON RAVEN (R10): pr present Jericho, NASS (fide MN, SA) and vicinity PBP; numerous reports RICH, only a few elsewhere: Eastview Drive, Central Islip, SUFF 7 Sep (BB); Central Islip, SUFF 7 Sep (RBA); 2 Goose I, BRON 16 Sep (RAR); CR 17 Sep (ACi); Wagner College 19 Sep (HF); Pleasant Plains 19 Sep (ACi); 2 CP 20 Sep (RAR, mob); 2 Eastview Drive, Central Islip 25 Sep & 7 Oct (BB); Snug Harbor, RICH 26 Sep (CB); Jackson Heights, QUEE 27 Sep (Peter Capainolo); CR 29 Sep (ACi); 2 PBP 30 Sep (JRo); Snug Harbor 1 Oct (EJ); Kings Point P, NASS 2 Oct (SP); 2 West Hills CP, SUFF 3 Oct (SP); 2 Snug Harbor 3 Oct (MSh); Bucks Hollow, RICH 5 Oct (fide SIW); 2 Castleton Av., RICH 7 Oct (AP); CLP 12 Oct (GBo); 2 Ft. Wadsworth 21 Oct (GBo); Rocky Point Preserve, SUFF 20 Oct (DH); 2 PBP 11 Nov (RAR); Hicksville, NASS 29 Nov (MN).

Purple Martin: last 4 Sep.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: RMSP 5 Oct (SSM), late; RMSP 21 Oct (SSM); Montauk 11 Nov (AC); CR 11 Nov (ACi).

Bank Swallow: 15 CCP 8 Sep (MSc), large number.

Cliff Swallow: 2 Coney I 2 Nov (DG), poss record late.

CAVE SWALLOW: MP 30 Oct (AC, PMP); 58 St., NEWY 2 Nov (AF); Dyker Beach P 4 Nov (T. Preston); E. Patchogue 4 Nov (MMcB); 30 CR 17 Nov (SIW); 4 JBWE 17 Nov (EM, SA, mob); 3 Camp Hero 17 Nov (AnW); max 80 CR 18 Nov (IG, mob); 24 CR 19 Nov (ACi); 16 CR 20 Nov (AP); 40 CR 21 Nov (IG); large numbers; 8 CR 22 Nov (SA, mob); CR 23 Nov (ACi); 3 GKP 23 Nov (RG); 10 Montauk 24 Nov (AnW); 4 JBWE 24 Nov (SW); Arden Av 24 Nov (SIW); 8 Pt. Lookout 24 Nov (fide TWB); 4 Pt. Lookout 25 Nov (AG, mob); Montauk 25 Nov (MC); *intro*.

Barn Swallow: 5 Coney I 2 Nov (DG); 3 CR 11 Nov (ACi), late.

Black-capped Chickadee: 12 DOP 2 Nov (DG), unusual loc.

Tufted Titmouse: DOP 2 Nov (DG), unusual loc.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: good numbers thru; 105 RMSP 10 Sep (KF, SF); 49 RMSP 5 Oct (SSM); max 209 RMSP 8 Oct (MMcB), large number; 73 RMSP 21 Oct (SSM).

White-breasted Nuthatch: 3 RMSP 5 Oct (SSM); FT 11 Oct (DG); 3 JBWE 13 Oct (JGa); several other reports JBWE; rare on barrier beach.

House Wren: last CP 18 Nov, late.

Winter Wren: CP 4 Sep (AC), early.

SEDGE WREN (R10): PBP 12 Oct (David Burg, fide PD).

Marsh Wren: CP 24 Sep (StS, *et al*); CP 25-29 Sep (MR, PJ); 2 KP 29 Sep (PR, *et al*); KP 30 Sep (SSc, SA, mob); FT 13 Oct (IG, CF, *et al*); unusual loc.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 10 Sep, early.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: FT 11 Oct (DG); Mass 4 Nov (KF, SF), late.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: JBWE 16 Sep (DR, SA, mob); max 19 E 52 St., NEWY 15 & 19 Sep (AF); Ama 22 Sep (RBA); 2 CLP 24 Sep (CB); JBWE 24 Sep (CC); Stuyvesant Town, NEWY 24 Sep (ALa); Rocky Pt. 1-3 Oct (RkA); BRY 4 Oct (GW, *et al*); Stuyvesant Town 11 Oct (ALa); CP 11 Oct (JGi, *et al*).

BICKNELL'S THRUSH: Green-wood Cemetery, KING 20-21 Oct (RJ, HL, RB).

Am. Pipit: 2 DOP 17 Sep (SB), early; 45 Caumsett SP 12 Oct (JT), large number.

LONGSPURS-WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: RMSP 5 Oct (SSM); DOP 3 Nov (AxW); Montauk Inlet 24 Nov (AC, DR); 2 MP 24 Nov (DR).

Louisiana Waterthrush: CLP 15 Sep (DE!); BRY 17 Sep (APe, mob)!; CLP 19 Sep (GBo), poss record late date.

N. Waterthrush: 44 RMSP 16 Sep (SSM), large number.

Golden-winged Warbler: CP 19 Sep (PS); CP 30 Sep (John Sheehy), ph.

Blue-winged Warbler: PP 3-4 Oct (RJ, *et al*); PP 11 Oct (PD), late.

Prothonotary Warbler: CP 20 Sep (RBA).

Tennessee Warbler: APP 1 Nov (DG, IG); PP 4-6 Nov (DG, mob), late.

Orange-crowned Warbler: few; CP 29 Sep (TF); 2 SPCP 7 Oct (RKA); Zach's Bay 11 Oct (PM); CP 14 Oct (fide TF); VCP 20 Oct (AB, *et al*); Southards Pd, Babylon, SUFF 26 Oct (Peter Morris); Ft. Wasdworth 26 Oct (CB); CP 31 Oct (SSt); KP 4 Nov (JR); APP 10-12 Nov (EM, SW).

Nashville Warbler: APP 29 Nov (mob), late.

VIRGINIA'S WARBLER: APP 31 Oct – thru (EM, AB, mob); first State record when accepted.

Connecticut Warbler: PP 1 Sep (MR, TPr); MLUA 1 Sep (DE); CP 4 Sep (AC); Garvies Pt. Preserve, Glen Cove, NASS 7 Sep (MN); APP 8 Sep (AB); APP 9 Sep (EM, SA, *et al*); KP 9 Sep (CF); 2 JBWE 9 Sep (BBE); DOP 9 Sep AxW; PP 10 Sep (PD); CLP 15 Sep (DE); APP 15-16 Sep (PR); CP 16 Sep (RBA); BRY 17 Sep (MR, mob); CP 21 Sep (Mikkel Thorup); CLP 23 Sep (HF); CP 23 Sep (JSu); All Faiths Cemetery, Middle Village, QUEE 23 Sep (DC); CLP 24 Sep (GBo); Stuyvesant Town 25-29 Sep (ALa); KP 27 Sep (AB); FBF 28 Sep (SB); Gardiner's CP, Bayshore, SUFF 5 Oct (CC); *intro*.

Mourning Warbler: FBF 5 Sep (SyS, JGi, *et al*); PP 11 Sep (PD); CP 15 Sep (fide JD); CLP 15 Sep (DE), singing; City Hall P, NEWY 1 Oct (NS); CP 5 Oct (JSu, mob); KP 8 Oct (CF), ph; FP 9 Oct (JOS); CP 13-14 Oct (PJ), late; CP 15-18 Oct (mob), noted as one-legged; Stuyvesant Town 16 Oct (ALa).

Com. Yellowthroat: APP 27 Nov – thru (EM, AB), late.

Am. Redstart: APP 31 Oct – 1 Nov (EM, mob), late.

Cerulean Warbler: CLP 4 Sep (GBo!).

N. Parula: APP 31 Oct (EM); 2 APP 1-6 Nov (SA, CF, mob), late.

Magnolia Warbler: PP 3 Nov (MY), late.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Forest Hills, QUEE 10-12 Nov (KM, AM), ph, late.

Yellow Warbler: Coney I 2 Nov (AxW, DG); Mass 9 Nov (KF, SF), late.

Blackpoll Warbler: less abundant than last fall; max 28 RMSP 5 Oct (SSM, PJL), large number.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: BRY 9 Nov (BC), late.

Palm Warbler: early migr fr sum; 2 KP 3 Sep (SA, CF), early; *intro*.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: early migr fr sum; Jam Bay 2 Sep (RAR); JBWE 3 Sep (TWB); early; 15,670 RMSP 21 Oct (SSM); large number, *intro*.

Black-throated Green Warbler: Edgewood Preserve, SUFF 27 Oct (JGI); DOP 31 Oct (AxW), late.

Yellow-breasted Chat: 2 CP 5 Sep (PS); APP 6 Sep (EM); PP 10-11 Sep (fide PD); 2 CR 17 Sep (ACi); PP 22 Sep (RC); Zach's Bay, JBSP 28 Sep (AB); SPCP 29 Sep (RKA); KP 27 Oct (JR); South Ozone Park, QUEE 30 Oct (AB); Oyster Bay, NASS 11 Nov (PGi); South Ozone Park 16 Nov (AB); PP 26 Nov thru (PD, RJ, mob).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: 43 Rocky Pt. 6 Oct (RKA), large number.

Clay-colored Sparrow: over 30 reports incl: 2 RMSP 1 Sep (RBA), early; 2 Matinecock, NASS 17 Sep (MN, SA); 2 CR 26 Sep (ACi); 2 FBF 29 Sep (CF); 2 RMSP 5 Oct (KF, SF); 4 SPCP 7 Oct (RKA), large number; 2 Montauk 7 Oct (AnW); 2 JBWE 7 Oct (TWB); Greentree Estate 24 Oct (MN, *et al*); KP 17 Nov (FP), ph, late; APP 28 Nov (EM).

Vesper Sparrow: about 30 reports incl: arr JBWE 24 Sep (RBA); 2 Caumsett SP 8 Oct (KF, SF); 3 All Faiths Cemetery 14 Oct (KM, AM); 3 Upland Farms Sanctuary, Cold Spring Harbor, SUFF 19 Oct (DR); 4 Calv 23 Oct (DR); Greentree Estate 24 Oct (MN, *et al*); 3 JBWE 25-27 Oct (SyS, mob); Randall's I 25 Oct (P. Pollock); 5 SMSP 26 Oct (SSM), large number; 2 KP 4 Nov (SA, CF); Caumsett SP 15 Nov (JGI), last.

Lark Sparrow: fewer than recent years; FT 19 Sep (SB); CSP 22-23 Sep (DR, MSc); FIHW 23 Sep (RJK); RMSP 25 Sep (DF); KP 1 Oct (EM); RMSP 2 Oct (AC); Theodore Roosevelt CP, Montauk 8 Oct (KRu, PMP); EECO Farm, East Hampton, SUFF 17 Oct (Jim Ash, *et al*); Caumsett SP 17 Nov (ERH).

Grasshopper Sparrow: CP 29 Sep (fide TF); APP 21 Oct (EM, fide AB); PP 3-6 Nov (MY, mob); Montauk 9 Nov (AC); KP 9 Nov (CCo), ph.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW: FBF 6 Oct (RJ, *et al*).

Nelson's Sparrow: Plumb Beach 28 Sep (SB); Pine Neck Sanctuary, Quogue, SUFF 3-4 Oct (DR, MSc); Plumb Beach 8 Oct (PD), Coney I Creek P 10 Oct (DG, SB); PP 11 Oct (PD); 1-5 Randalls I 13-27 Oct (ADr, AF, PJ, mob)

Fox Sparrow: first 8 Oct, early.

Lincoln's Sparrow: > 50 reports, incl: PP 10 Sep (PD), early; APP 11 Sep (AB); MLUA 11 Sep (HF); CP 11 Sep (PS); Rocky Pt. 11 Sep (RKA); Matinecock 12 Sep (MN, RK); 5 JBWE 8 Oct (AB); 3 Camp Hero 8 Oct (KRu, *et al*); 4 DOP 13 Oct (RJ, HL); Greentree Estate 24 Oct (MN, *et al*); 2 KP 4 Nov (SA, CF, JR); Westerleigh, RICH 8 Nov (EJ), last; *intro*.

White-throated Sparrow: a few from 1 Sep, early; *intro*.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr 29 Sep; about 20 reports.

Dark-eyed Junco: CP 14 Sep; KP 30 Sep (SA, GH); early.

Summer Tanager: East Hampton 8 Sep (AC); Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge, SUFF 24 Sep (MSch).

Blue Grosbeak: At least 35 reports, incl: arr Matinecock 12 Sep (MN, RK); 2 Matinecock 17 Sep (SA, MN); All Faiths Cemetery 21-23 Sep, 9 Oct (DC), unusual loc; 1-3 KP 19 Sep – 8 Nov, last; *intro*.

Indigo Bunting: 15 Matinecock 17 Sep (SA, MN); 16 KP 1 Oct (CCo); large numbers.

Passerina bunting sp.: CHP 4 Nov (SIW, IG, *et al*), ph; possible Indigo/Lazuli Bunting hybrid; details desired.

PAINTED BUNTING: ad m Port Jefferson, SUFF 11 Oct Bill Walsh, fide DT), ph; fem type APP 25-26 Nov (EM, AB, mob).

Dickcissel: MP 1 Sep (AC); DOP 2 Sep (AxW); JBWE 2 Sep (BB); RMSP 2-3 Sep (RBA); 2 KP 2 Sep (RBA); RMSP 16 Sep (KF, SF); FIHW 23 Sep (RJK); 3 RMSP 5 Oct (KF, SF, PJJ); Ama 7 Oct (KRu, *et al*); 2 SPCP 7 Oct (CS, SSw); RMSP 7 Oct (MC); Theodore Roosevelt CP 8 Oct (KRu); 3 SPCP 13 Oct (CS); 2 EECO Farm 17 Oct (PMP); CR 26 Oct (ACi).

E. Meadowlark: 12 Caumsett SP 18 Oct (KF, SF), large number.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: SPCP 7 Oct (CS, SSw, BY).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: fem Rita's Stable 11 Nov (MMcB, mob).

Orchard Oriole: RMSP 5 Oct (SSM), late.

Purple Finch: a few fr summer; widespread throughout; over 65 reports incl: 6 RMSP 10 Sep (KF, SF); 6 MLUA 11 Sep (IG, SA); 60 CHP 7 Oct (HF); 7 Wading River, SUFF 13 Sep (DR); 160 FT 11 Oct (DG); max 200 JBWE 21 Oct (AB); 20 KP 8 Oct (SA, CF).

House Finch: 85 migr East Patchogue 4 Nov (MMcB).

Red Crossbill: good coastal flight, mid-Nov thru; at least 35 reports incl: 12 CP thru 1 Sep (JD, mob), Type 3; FIHW 28 Oct (SA, *et al*);

20 Camp Hero 15 Nov (AC); 30 HSP 16 Nov (KF, SF, JGI); 60 HSP 17 Nov (DR, JGI); 25 CR 17 Nov (SIW); 80 JBWE 17-18 Nov (TWB, SA, mob); 30 Green-wood Cemetery 18 Nov (PD); max 82 JBWE 23 Nov (BBo); 8 Montauk 23 Nov (AC); 77 JBWE 25 Nov (SA); fewer thereafter; *intro*.

White-winged Crossbill: widespread early Nov thru; at least 55 reports, incl: 9 South Ozone Park 4 Nov (AB); 4 East Patchogue 4 Nov (MMcB); 6 Sayville, SUFF 4 Nov (DR); 10 Old Field Pt., SUFF (DF); 30 Green-wood Cemetery 4 Nov (RJ, HL); 2 Flax Pd, Setauket, SUFF 4 Nov (PS); 25 Green-wood Cemetery 10 Nov (RJ); 30 Kirk P, Montauk 11 Nov (SA, EM, mob); 34 CR 11 Nov (ACi); 5 HSP 11 Nov (KT); 43 JBWE 16 Nov (AB); 20 HSP 17 Nov (JGI, DR); 70 JBWE 17-18 Nov (SA, TWB, mob); 60 SPCP 22 Nov (RKA); max 200 SPCP 23 Nov (DR); 16 PP 23 Nov (fide PD); 6 JBWE 25 Nov (SA, *et al*); 6 APP 30 Nov (PS).

Com. Redpoll: 5 William Floyd Estate 1 Nov (MLL); Hallowville SP, SUFF 3 Nov (DR); 2 APP 6 Nov (SA, CF); 2 Flax Pd 6 Nov (PS); Montauk 16 Nov (PP, ABi); JBWE 18 Nov (JV, SyS, *et al*); Huntington, SUFF 18 Nov (PGi); 4 APP 22 Nov (BF); JBWE 24 Nov (JGa); Pt. Lookout 25 Nov (BF); MP 26 Nov (TJ, DG).

Pine Siskin: record flight; over 100 reports, incl: RMSP 16 Sep (KF, SF), early; 307 RMSP 5 Oct (SSM); 276 Montauk 7 Oct (AnW); 200 FBF 7 Oct (IG); 400 SPCP 7 Oct (RKA); 1884 RMSP 7 Oct (SSM); 1840 FIHW 11 Oct (SSM), one hour obs; 3500 FIHW 12 Oct (RJK); 2000 FIHW 16 Oct (MN); 600 SPCP 16 Oct (CS); **max 20,275** RMSP 21 Oct (SSM), record number; 4500 JBWE 21 Oct (AB); 75 Greentree Estate 24 Oct (MN, *et al*); scattered reports thereafter.

Am. Goldfinch: max 1896 RMSP 21 Oct (SSM).

EVENING GROSBEEK (R10): CR 2 Nov (ACi); 13 South Ozone Park 3 Nov (AB); 6 Beach 113 St., Rockaway, QUEE 3 Nov (CF); 18 CR 4 Nov (ACi); 2 CP 4 Nov (SSt); 20 CR 5 Nov (ACi); Old Field Pt. 5 Nov (DF); CP 10 Nov; max 31 CR 11 Nov (ACi); 6 Montauk 11 Nov (AC); South Ozone Park 14 Nov (AB); fem PP 16-20 Nov (AxW, mob); m PP 29 Nov (RJ); *intro*.

EXOTICS

Orange Bishop: FBF 7 Oct (AB, CF), ph.

European Goldfinch: APP 6 Sep (EM); PP 10 Sep (R).

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

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

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

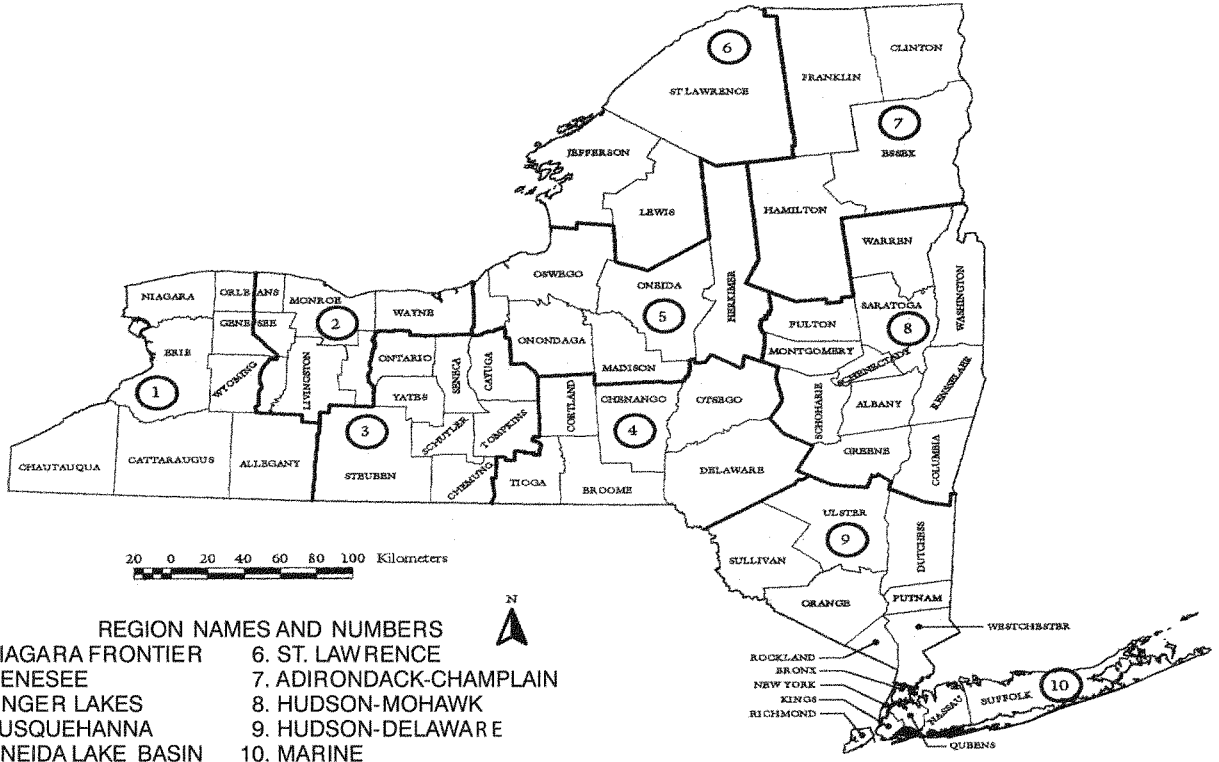
Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



REGION NAMES AND NUMBERS

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

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