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WHAT'S IT GONNA BE? PREDICTING THE NEXT NEW ADDITIONS TO THE AVIFAUNA OF NEW YORK—A REDUX

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I can state with an incredible degree of confidence that a Kiwi will not show up of its own accord in New York State. On the other end of the spectrum, it seems like only a matter of time before Black-chinned Hummingbird shows up, or more realistically, is detected and documented. The other 9,500 species in the world that haven't occurred in NYS lie between those two extremes, in a vast gulf of varying probabilities, many of which are non-zero. There are so many factors that go into which new species are found, that limiting your selection to only 10 of those is a seemingly futile effort, and one that can't be 100% accurate.

This is essentially an exercise in perspective and perception. It has to do as much with what is going through birders' minds, as it has to do with the factors that actually compel vagrants to show up in New York.

Some lists contained detailed reasoning for some of these species, and the factors that went into various people's thought processes included: birding coverage in specific habitats, ease of identification of species, recent changes in distribution, and the bird lists of surrounding states.

Many of these were explored in greater depth in the 2010 *Kingbird* article about the next 10 species to show up in New York (Gochfeld 2010), as were a few other factors contributing to birds' additions to the NYS checklist, and I won't re-hash them here, but suffice it to say that there are enough factors that go into it so as to make it virtually impossible to predict the next additions with a high degree of confidence. Despite this, we once again are trying our darndest!

Assessment of the 2010 Predictions

Any list of predictions such as this one will eventually beg a reckoning, so five years later, it's time to see how the field did in regards to its predictions from 2010. Sixteen species not previously on the New York State checklist have occurred since 2010 (of these two recent ones, Crested Caracara, and Little Egret, are still awaiting evaluation by the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC), and so are not officially on the NYS checklist). Of those sixteen, ten were correctly predicted by at least one participant in the last go-around, and nine of those ten were voted on by at least three people. On the face of it, this seems like a pretty decent hit rate, but delving in a little deeper shows that the preponderance of people's most confident picks failed to follow through on their apparent promise of imminent detected vagrancy to New York.

Among the top 10 guesses, only three have shown up. Among these were the overwhelming favorite, Little Egret, which was, as of this writing, the latest new species to be reliably reported [but see postscript!-Ed.]. Although Little Egret had not yet been added to state list when this survey was carried out, it was declared ineligible for voting this time around because of its well-documented appearance. The other two, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, and Hermit Warbler, came in at 7th and 8th place, respectively, though the former did have the highest intensity of preference (average rank for lists on which it appears, among species appearing on at least three lists). The Whistling-Duck was an interesting case of a bird that was apparently not on a broad swath of people's radars (eight lists total), but was strongly favored by those who were thinking about it, with an average rank of 8 across these eight lists. Two more examples of this pattern, one of which did end up occurring, were Black-browed Albatross, which equaled Black-bellied Whistling-Duck's average rank of 8 per list, on the four checklists it was included on; and Kirtland's Warbler, which had an average rank of 7.5 across four lists. Kirtland's Warbler has now occurred twice in the interim, as has a bird ranked a few places ahead of it, Common Ground-Dove. This species appeared on six lists, with an average rank of 7 points per list, which translates into the 4th highest preference value). Five more species that were included on at least one list have already occurred: Band-tailed Pigeon (4 lists/4.75 avg.), Fea's Petrel (4/4.5), Neotropic Cormorant (3/6.3), Virginia's Warbler (3/6.3), and Elegant Tern (1/4).

In terms of foresight, Shawn Billerman outpaced all other contributors, with no fewer than six of his ten predicted species having appeared. Honorable mention must also go to Mike Bochnik (five correct predictions), and to Brent Bomkamp, Heydi Lopes, and Sean Sime (four correct predictions each).

Now comes the real fun stuff, the species that apparently came completely out of left field (though not necessarily in hindsight). These were, in order of occurrence, Gray-hooded Gull, Grace's Warbler, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, Willow Ptarmigan, Couch's Kingbird, and Crested Caracara. Of these, hindsight tells us that there was a reasonable precedent for at least three. Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch has several Ontario records and even an old, unconfirmed report from western New York, from 30 January 1923 (Beardslee and Mitchell 1965). It is notable that this species ultimately occurred TWICE in New York, at widely separated locations, in quick succession. Similarly, Willow Ptarmigan has a history of vagrancy to Maine, and southern Quebec and Ontario, and also has at least one possibly correct prior New York record, from Lewis County (very close to where the 2014 record occurred), from 22 May 1876 (Bull 1974). Crested Caracara didn't have as much of a history of vagrancy at the time, but it was at the very beginning of the recent country-wide northward explosion of the species.

The other three (Gray-hooded Gull, Grace's Warbler, and Couch's Kingbird) were firmly in the "MEGA" department, with each having virtually

no records in the eastern United States (and Gray-hooded Gull only having one previous record for the entire ABA area).

Methods

Once again, a suite of birders was asked to submit a list of the next ten new species they thought would be added to the New York State checklist, in order of likelihood. The respondents were drawn from a large geographic swath of New York State and included a few select experts who don't currently live in New York, but have a strong knowledge of the distributions of the species that could show up. A total of 30 people contributed lists: Shawn Billerman, Shane Blodgett, Mike Bochnik, Jeff Bolsinger, P. A. Buckley, Thomas W. Burke, Willie D'Anna, Glen Davis, Joe DiCostanzo, Andrew Farnsworth, Corey Finger, Brendan Fogarty, Doug Futuyma, Doug Gochfeld, Andy Guthrie, Marshall Iliff, Tom Johnson, Dave Klauber, Bob Kurtz, Paul Lehman, Tony Leukering, Heydi Lopes, Jay McGowan, S. S. Mitra, Jim Pawlicki, Tom Reed, Sean Sime, Benjamin Van Doren, Drew Weber, Angus Wilson.

As was done last time, species were ranked by both overall popularity (the number of lists featuring each species) and intensity of preference (the sum of ranks assigned to each species). The product of these two numbers yields an index that closely tracks both popularity and preference; its advantage is that it compensates for situations where the other two measures are strongly at odds with each other, such as when a species is included on many lists but always at low rank, or on just a single list but at very high rank. Thus a species selected by three contributors at low ranks of 2, 1, and 1 would achieve an index of 12 and would not be eclipsed by a species ranked highly at 9 by a single contributor.

The 2015 Top 10

Unlike previous iterations of this exercise (e.g., Gochfeld 2010), which have yielded a consensus #1 prediction in the form of Little Egret, this year the race for the top spot was much closer. Detailed discussion is presented here for the ten most highly ranked species. Full voting data are presented for these, and for the rest of the 25 most highly ranked species, in Table 1. Summary data are also provided for the 41 other species receiving votes in Table 2.

In the accounts below, the first number represents the number of lists featuring the species, out of the total of 30 (#); the second number is the sum of ranks assigned to each species, with 10 being highest and 1 lowest (**sum**); the third number is the average rank for the species on lists that included the species (**preference**); and the fourth number is an **index** computed as the product of # and sum.

1. Black-chinned Hummingbird *Archilochus alexandri* (19, 137, 7.2, 2603).
It's not much of a surprise that a hummingbird is coming in at Number 1 this time around, and Black-chinned makes a lot of sense given its widespread range

in the West, where it acts as the default hummingbird in many places, much like Ruby-throated in the East. Always highly ranked, and 4th place in 2010, the biggest issue with Black-chinned is largely the question “if and when it shows up, will it be recognized as such?” There are records of Black-chinned for several surrounding states, including Massachusetts (3+ records), New Jersey (4), and Pennsylvania (1), as well as West Virginia, Washington D.C., and Virginia. The likeliest way for one of these to be located is for one to show up in October or November at either someone’s personal home hummingbird feeder, or at one of the classic late fall spots, such as Lenoir Preserve in Westchester County, or one of the Botanic Gardens around the New York City-Metropolitan area. Excellent photos and/or capture and banding with measurements would be greatly desired in order to confirm it as this species, rather than the very similar Ruby-throated.

2. Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina* (19, 121, 6.4, 2299).

This common swallow of the western United States has been recorded (perhaps surprisingly) very few times east of the Great Plains. Like many or most of the species in the top ten, the lack of records could have a lot to do with under-detection due to its similarity with other species that occur more frequently in the region. In this case, it looks a lot like Tree Swallow. Multiple records from Massachusetts (2+), and New Jersey (3+, all Cape May) indicate that this explanation is plausible in this case. Ontario also has multiple records, and it has also been recorded in eastern Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Florida. Interestingly, the regional records of this species have been from March, April, May, August, September, October, and November. This shows that vigilance at any time of year when swallows occur is of the utmost importance when hoping to detect this species. The large late fall Tree Swallow aggregations at places like Jones Beach State Park and other locations along the Long Island barrier beaches seems like a logical place to look, but this (much like the hummingbirds) could show up ANYWHERE in the state, from Niagara to Montauk. Spring swallow aggregations on insect-rich ponds across the state seem a fine bet too.

3. Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* (17, 120, 7.1, 2040).

This widespread *Tyrannus* of the tropics and the southwestern USA has multiple subspecies that could show up in the Northeast. There has been an upward trend in the occurrence of Tropical Kingbirds in the Northeast in the last two decades, but there still aren’t THAT many records. Connecticut, Massachusetts (2+), Maine, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Ontario all have records of their own. Most of these sightings are skewed to the Atlantic coast in October or November. Two very interesting exceptions were the late June record from Philadelphia in 2013, and the May 1975 record from Bermuda. Again, identification is an issue here, as proven by the very similar looking Couch’s Kingbird that showed up in Manhattan during winter of 2014-2015, and even the other less similar, but still similar, yellow-bellied kingbirds, Western and Cassin’s. Given the late fall tendency of the records of this species in the Northeast, look for this bird to

Table 1. Predicted additions to the New York State Checklist, ranked by the product of the number of votes received (#) and the sum of the ranks assigned to these votes (Sum).

Species	SBi	SBI	MBo	JBo	PAB	TWB	WDA	GDa	JDC	AFa	CFi	BFo	DFu	DGo	AGu	Mal	TJo	DKI
Black-chinned Humm.		7	9	7	10	9	7	6	9	5			8		9		9	2
Violet-green Swallow	9	10	5	6		4	8				8	2	7				6	
Tropical Kingbird	10		3	9		6	3						10		8	8	8	
Allen's Hummingbird	8		10	8	6		10								10	9	10	
Eur. Golden-Plover	6	8		2		7		7	8			5	9	4		3	3	4
Barolo Shearwater	3	9					4		10	6				10		10	5	8
Snowy Plover	7				8	3	9					8			5		7	
Bermuda Petrel						10		10	2	10				8		7	4	10
Yellow-legged Gull		6	6	3	3		5		4									
Carolina Chickadee				10								10				1		
Prairie Falcon							6	4			10							5
Brown-chested Martin	1	4												1	6	4		
Garganey					9				3	4								
Gray Flycatcher	2			1	5				1				3		7			
Lesser Sand-Plover								1		8				9	4			
Black-browed Albatross						5										6		9
Green Violetear				4	2			2		1	2			3		2		3
Eurasian Tree Sparrow							2	3						6				
Brewer's Sparrow	4																	
Great-tailed Grackle			8									9						
European Storm-Petrel		5						9		9			2					
Zone-tailed Hawk					7						7							
Brown Noddy									5	7		7						
Black-throated Sparrow			7															
Ferruginous Hawk	5			5			1											
conformity in top 10	6	5	5	7	4	6	7	3	5	3	1	4	4	3	4	6	8	4
conformity in top 25	10	7	7	10	8	7	10	8	8	8	4	6	6	7	7	9	8	7

Table 1. Predicted additions to the New York State Checklist--continued.

Species	BKu	PLe	TLe	HLo	JMc	SSM	JPa	TRe	SSi	BVD	DWe	AWi	#	Sum	Pref	Index	Rank
Black-chinned Humm.			9				6	6		8	6	5	19	137	7.2	2603	1
Violet-green Swallow	2	7		6	8	8		10		4	9	2	19	121	6.4	2299	2
Tropical Kingbird				9	9	9	3	9	7	5		4	17	120	7.1	2040	3
Allen's Hummingbird		8		2	10			3		10	10	10	15	124	8.3	1860	4
Eur. Golden-Plover		9		10	2	1	4			3			18	95	5.3	1710	5
Barolo Shearwater		10	8			7			9		2	9	15	110	7.3	1650	6
Snowy Plover	10					6	9	8	8	9			13	97	7.5	1261	7
Bermuda Petrel									10	2	5	7	12	85	7.1	1020	8
Yellow-legged Gull	4			8		10							9	49	5.4	441	9
Carolina Chickadee						5	1	7		6		8	8	48	6.0	384	10
Prairie Falcon			2						6	7		1	8	41	5.1	328	11
Brown-chested Martin		4		7	5	4							9	36	4.0	324	12
Garganey		6	10					4	2				7	38	5.4	266	13
Gray Flycatcher					6		8						8	33	4.1	264	14
Lesser Sand-Plover	9											6	6	37	6.2	222	15
Black-browed Albatross		3	3	3									6	29	4.8	174	16
Green Violetear													8	19	2.4	152	17
Eurasian Tree Sparrow					3		10						5	24	4.8	120	18
Brewer's Sparrow					7		2	5	4				5	22	4.4	110	19
Great-tailed Grackle			7		1								4	25	6.3	100	20
European Storm-Petrel													4	25	6.3	100	21
Zone-tailed Hawk							5						3	19	6.3	57	22
Brown Noddy													3	19	6.3	57	23
Black-throated Sparrow		5	6										3	18	6.0	54	24
Ferruginous Hawk	1												4	12	3.0	48	25
conformity in top 10	3	4	2	5	4	7	5	6	4	8	5	7					
conformity in top 25	5	8	7	7	9	8	9	8	7	9	5	9					

Table 2. More predicted additions to the New York State Checklist.

Species	#	Sum	Pref	Rank	Contributors
Arctic Loon	3	16	5.3	25	BFo, TLe, DWe
Dusky Flycatcher	3	14	4.7	26	PAB, BKu, SSi
Shiny Cowbird	3	11	3.7	27	JDC, AFa, BFo
White Wagtail	3	10	3.3	28	CFi, AGu, PLe
Lucy's Warbler	3	9	3.0	29	AFa, PLe, SSi
Greylag Goose	3	9	3.0	29	PAB, DGo, SSi
Hooded Oriole	3	8	2.7	31	CFi, AGu, TJo
Sprague's Pipit	3	8	2.7	31	MBo, TWB, JMc
Common Swift	2	12	6.0	31	GDa, HLo
Common Redshank	2	12	6.0	31	DFu, BKu
McCown's Longspur	2	12	6.0	31	TWB, DWe
Glaucous-winged Gull	2	11	5.5	36	BFo, MJI
Kelp Gull	2	11	5.5	36	BFo, JPa
Eurasian Kestrel	3	7	2.3	38	CFi, BKu
Red-throated Pipit	2	10	5.0	39	GDa, DGo
Cape Verde Shearwater	2	10	5.0	39	DKI, SSM
Lesser Goldfinch	2	9	4.5	41	DKI, BKu
Vaux's Swift	2	7	3.5	42	CFi, DWe
White-tailed Hawk	2	7	3.5	42	DKI, DWe
Whiskered Tern	2	6	3.0	44	TWB, HLo
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	2	5	2.5	45	MBo, DFu
Mottled Duck	2	5	2.5	45	TLe, TRe
Pacific Wren	1	9	9.0	47	CFi
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher	2	4	2.0	48	DGo, TRe
Common Pochard	1	7	7.0	49	DWe
Bulwer's Petrel	1	6	6.0	50	JDC
Grey Heron	1	5	5.0	51	DFu
Tundra Bean Goose	1	5	5.0	51	BKu
Common Greenshank	1	4	4.0	53	DFu
Common Snipe	1	3	3.0	54	CFi
Brown Skua	1	3	3.0	54	AWi
Variegated Flycatcher	1	2	2.0	56	SBI
Inca Dove	1	2	2.0	56	AGu
Bronzed Cowbird	1	2	2.0	56	SSM
Green Jay	1	1	1.0	59	MBo
Eurasian Hobby	1	1	1.0	59	HLo
Black Swift	1	1	1.0	59	BVD
Squacco Heron	1	1	1.0	59	TJo
Masked Booby	1	1	1.0	59	SBI
Short-tailed Hawk	1	1	1.0	59	TLe

= the number of lists featuring the species; sum = sum of ranks assigned to each species, with 10 being highest and 1 lowest; pref = the average rank for the species on lists that included the species. Species are ranked by an index computed as the product of # and sum. Contributors are named in the Methods section.

show up some time between mid-October and mid-November, somewhere in Region 10, likely on Long Island. Upstaters should check any farms, ponds, or any other open spaces with aggregations of insects in the later fall.

4. Allen's Hummingbird *Selasphorus sasin* (15, 124, 8.3, 1860).

See above for #1, Black-chinned Hummingbird. At least Allen's Hummingbird doesn't have as much of a danger of being identified as a Ruby-throated, so would be flagged as a notable bird by most birders and experienced feeder watchers in the state. However, separation of Allen's from Rufous Hummingbird is typically even more difficult than that of Black-chinned from Ruby-throated. Despite this, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania each have at least five records of this species, and Cape May, NJ has three. The same places mentioned above, where Black-chinned could occur, apply for Allen's, and banding with measurements are especially necessary to confirm this. Short of capture or procurement of a specimen, the only supportive documentation that could help to resolve this identification is good and unambiguous photos of the spread tail.

5. European Golden-Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* (18, 95, 5.3, 1710).

This great looking shorebird of Europe has a long history of vagrancy to maritime Canada. It also looks similar enough to American Golden-Plover that it could be passed over in many situations, including at the great distance that many Golden-Plovers in the state are seen, and in more favorable viewing situations by those not thinking about it as a possibility. Since 2008 there are records in Maine, New Jersey, and Delaware. Interestingly, these records are all from the southbound shorebird migration, between mid-July and October. Newfoundland gets the vast bulk of its records, including an influx of over 225 individuals in 2014, in spring, from April and May. With this dichotomy, it seems that there are multiple chances through the year for one of these to occur. Montauk or elsewhere on eastern Long Island seems like the best bet for a spring bird, while a fall bird could show up anywhere where there is good upland shorebird habitat. It's likely even a possibility later in the fall into December, as with Northern Lapwings.

6. Barolo Shearwater *Puffinus baroli* (15, 110, 7.3 1650).

This shearwater is typically seen in eastern Atlantic Ocean waters off of NW Africa. However, it also likely regularly occurs in deep water off the shelf south of New England and Maritime Canada in August, given recent encounters with it in this region, despite fairly limited coverage of these far offshore waters. There are two well documented offshore records for Massachusetts, and at least one (of 4 individuals!) farther to the east off Nova Scotia, all in August, and all since 2007. Other records are a specimen that crashed into the Sable Island lighthouse on September 1, 1896, and a couple of other sight reports in late September 2003. It could be a confusion species with other small dark and white shearwaters such as Manx and Audubon's, but good photos should clinch the

ID. Increased pelagic coverage of appropriate waters off of New York could eventually turn this species up. That said, because of generally poor coverage, we don't have an understanding of just how far west it regularly occurs, so it may be more of a long shot than is thought, or even more likely. In any event, your best bet to see this bird in New York State is likely to get on a pelagic trip in August or September visiting warm waters between the Hudson Canyon and Block Canyon.

7. Snowy Plover *Charadrius nivosus* (13, 97, 7.5, 1261).

The map of occurrence for this southern and western breeding species is a scattershot across the Northeast straddling New York, so it seems like only a matter of time. It has occurred in the region from May into October, with more records close to the NY border in western NY than along the coast. It has occurred just across Lake Ontario, on the coast of Ontario, multiple times (May and June), and has also occurred just over the border on Lake Erie at Presque Isle State Park in Pennsylvania (June and July). It has also occurred along the Connecticut coast in October, and off Cape Cod, in Massachusetts, in June. The best time and place for this species is likely May or June at shorebird habitat right along Lakes Erie and Ontario, but as usual, don't count out the Long Island beaches during either spring, or in the southbound migration.

8. Bermuda Petrel (Cahow) *Pterodroma cahow* (12, 85, 7.1, 1020).

Another pelagic species that we know is out there, Bermuda Petrel is different from Barolo Shearwater in one very notable way: it has a tiny worldwide population. With so few birds in the population as a whole to draw from, you might think that it is ludicrous to predict this species, but its distribution is potentially more favorable than that of Barolo. There is data from geolocators recovered from Cahows on the breeding grounds that indicates that the species regularly gets close to New York waters, and some of the points taken from the devices have placed the species within New York waters (though due to the margin of error on these trackers, we don't know definitively where they were). This species is seen in the Gulf Stream off of Cape Hatteras in late May, and there are also other records scattered throughout the summer. Any late spring or summer month pelagic trip to deep New York waters has the potential to net one of these most wanted birds.

9. Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis* (9, 49, 5.4, 441).

It's been a nearly annual winter visitor in Newfoundland for a while now, and there are accepted records as far south as Massachusetts. New York has some really good gull spots, including the gull mecca that is Niagara Falls. While a young bird would be hard to prove, given their similarities with young Lesser Black-backed Gulls and Herring Gulls, good photos of an adult (including spread-wing, given the spectre of hybrid Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gulls) would be the most likely way to add this to the state list. The Long Island coast,

Niagara Falls, and interior NYS garbage dumps and other large gull aggregation spots all hold potential for this species, and so you can look for this in the winter no matter where you are in the state!

10. Carolina Chickadee *Poecile carolinensis* (8, 48, 6.0, 384).

Definitely the bird whose native range is most proximal to New York State, Carolina Chickadee occurs within sight of New York's *Kingbird* Region 10. The issue with this species is two-fold: difficulty of identification, and lack of strong dispersal and migration. Staten Island is the place to look (and listen!) for these, and any time of year seems perfectly plausible, so you can even get out there and look right now!

Changes in Perception from 2010

There were nine species that jumped up at least 20 places between the 2010 voting and the 2015 voting. There were also a slew of species appearing on lists this time around that were completely passed over in 2010, including two species in the new top 20.

The most noticeable jumps within the new top 10 were made by two seabirds, Barolo Shearwater, and Bermuda Petrel (Cahow). Barolo Shearwater jumped from 33rd place in 2010, to 6th place in 2015, while Cahow made the jump from 49th to 8th. This reflects both a recent improvement of our understanding of the distribution of these two species in the northwestern Atlantic, as well as better birding coverage of apparently appropriate sections of New York waters (there still aren't many trips, but there is certainly more coverage now than there had been). Garganey and Prairie Falcon also made a Barolo-like jump, going from tied for 38th place to 13th, and 11th places, respectively. The explanation for the Garganey jump could perhaps have been a result of birders' changing perceptions about the provenance of apparently vagrant waterfowl, though awareness of several recent records from the region could be a strong contributing factor as well [see postscript!].

Because 16 birds showed up in the interim, and 10 were species that were on people's lists, a built-in jump was already expected for most species, which explains why there were relatively few dramatic decreases. Variegated Flycatcher and Green Violetear were two species that took noticeable falls, though Green Violetear is an interesting case on its own, since it still appeared on over a quarter of lists (11th place), but was ranked fairly low on most of those lists, making its composite score fairly low.

Aside from the big jumps of Barolo Shearwater and Bermuda Petrel, most of the top 10 was actually remarkably similar. Of the seven eligible species remaining from the 2010 top 10 (three species occurred in the interim and were no longer eligible for voting), six remained in the top 10 this time around: Black-chinned Humingbird (4th to 1st), Violet-green Swallow (10th to 2nd), Tropical Kingbird (steady at 3rd), Allen's Hummingbird (2nd to 4th), European Golden-Plover (9th to 5th), and Yellow-legged Gull (6th to 9th). Only the

aforementioned Violetear dropped out, and the only new additions were the two tubenoses just mentioned, plus Snowy Plover (moving from 17th to 7th) and Carolina Chickadee (moving from 14th to 10th).

The two most notable species that were completely ignored on lists from 2010, but had a fairly strong backing this time around were Eurasian Tree Sparrow (18th), and Zone-tailed Hawk (22nd). Both of these species have occurred as vagrants (or at least as potential wild vagrants) close to New York multiple times over the past few years. Eurasian Tree Sparrow was seen almost within sight of New York, just across the Niagara River, as well as in Cape May, New Jersey, while Zone-tailed Hawk has now been recorded in Massachusetts multiple times, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Nova Scotia, and twice in Cape May, just in 2014 and 2015. In 2015, the bird that was seen in Connecticut and Cape May assuredly passed through New York, going undetected. Prior to these recent records, neither species had much of a history of documented vagrancy to the immediate area, though the Tree Sparrow has been expanding its range and population in the Midwest fairly steadily over the past decade or more.

Postscript

During the time that this article has been in preparation, but following the closure of voting, two predicted species have already occurred in New York, and are pending review: Garganey (ranked 13) and Bronzed Cowbird (ranked 56). Remarkably, the rate at which new species are being found in New York does not appear to be diminishing. Furthermore, although there are clearly random factors at play in influencing exactly which species appear where and in what order, there are also orderly processes, amenable to analysis, that will continue to fascinate us. As suggested above, there are innumerable combinations of site and season to explore—and not all of these are exotic or intensely birded. Four of the least expected recent additions have been in the dense urbanity of Brooklyn and Manhattan—and in summer and winter no less. That kind of track record proves that where the eyes are out searching, the birds will be found. Wherever you are, whenever you read these words, the next first record could well be within your grasp.

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FIRST SUCCESSFUL NESTING OF PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falco peregrinus*) ALONG CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK COUNTY, SPRING 2014-2015

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The Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) has a long association with New York City (NYC) and the birders of the five boroughs. Here we present a short account of the first Peregrine Falcons to nest on a site overlooking Central Park. We also briefly summarize the history of Peregrine Falcons on Manhattan Island (New York County), with emphasis on the mid-town area between 34th and 72nd Streets.

The earliest record we could find of Peregrine Falcons in NYC was an overwintering bird at the Brooklyn Bridge in 1890 (Anonymous 1890). In the early 20th century, birders were already on the lookout for the occasional Peregrine Falcons in Manhattan (Clarke 1912). Peregrines continued to winter in NYC throughout the first half of the 20th century. Herbert and Herbert (1965) wrote, "By 1946 the number of wintering Peregrines in Manhattan and the Bronx had risen to 16, but by 1952 the number had dropped to 7. Females dominated the New York skyscrapers and appeared to have territorial attachments for certain buildings." More recently, Peregrine Falcons have been observed hunting migrating birds at night at the Empire State Building, occasionally in spring, and more commonly from August through October (DeCandido and Allen 2006).

From 1943-1946, Peregrine Falcons first nested in Manhattan, at the St. Regis Hotel (55th Street and 5th Avenue). In 1943 young were fledged, but by 1946 the young Peregrines were removed because the noise they made bothered some of the tenants. Rosalie Edge, who did much to establish the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, was the person who removed the young birds from the nest cornice outside the penthouse of actress Olivia de Havilland (Furmansky 2009). In total, from 1943-1953, this pair of Peregrines hatched four clutches of eggs on two mid-town buildings. At another nest site in Manhattan in June 1945, two recently fledged Peregrines were captured near their nest on West End Avenue at 72nd Street (Anonymous 1945). These birds were removed by employees of the ASPCA. One was kept by the ASPCA and the other went on display at the Central Park Zoo.

Among those studying New York's Peregrines was Joseph Hickey, one of the founding members of the Bronx County Bird Club in the 1920s (Farrand 1991). Hickey (1969) described the species' decline and extirpation in the eastern United States during the mid 20th century. This was followed by an extensive project at Cornell University to re-establish Peregrines as a breeding bird in the eastern United States (Cade 1974). As part of this re-introduction program, the first Peregrines were released in NYC on 29 July 1980 on the Manhattan Life Insurance Company Building on 57th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues (Spencer 1980). In the spring of 1983, Peregrine Falcons were discovered nesting at two NYC bridges, the Verrazano Narrows and the Throgs Neck (Frank 1994).

Since 2012, about 12-18 Peregrine pairs have nested annually in NYC. This is likely the largest urban Peregrine population in the world, with some pairs nesting less than one kilometer apart (Loucks 1998). Most nests are located on bridges, and most are within 100 meters of a large body of water such as the Hudson River, East River, Long Island Sound, etc. New York County has the largest number of nest sites of the five boroughs: 4-8 pairs breed on Manhattan Island each year. Most, if not all of these pairs remain on territory year-round.

In late 2010, a pair of Peregrine Falcons took up residence at the southwest part of Central Park, Manhattan at 25 Central Park West between 62nd and 63rd Streets, known as the Century building (Figure 1, p. 45). In spring 2011, the female laid several eggs in a small (0.5 meters wide), east facing ledge of the 32nd floor of the south tower of the building. The nest is positioned so that it is shielded from hot afternoon sun as well as strong westerly winds and storms. The eggs did not hatch, probably because they were laid on the bare cement of this small terrace (a ledge with a sunken well): in rainy weather, the small terrace would partially flood. In 2012, no eggs were laid here, but adults were present. In February 2013, gravel was placed on the nest ledge by the owners of the apartment, and two different sets of eggs were laid; the first clutch of three in early April; and the second clutch in early May, the last egg laid on 8 May 2013. However, none of the eggs hatched. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS-DEC) collected one of the unhatched eggs of the second clutch, and after lab analysis concluded that it was infertile.

In the winter of 2013-14, a nest box was secured on the ledge and the bottom filled with gravel. Four eggs were laid beginning on 2 April. Two of the four eggs ultimately hatched, both on 10 May, approximately 11 hours apart (at approx. 1000 am and 0900 pm). The young male left the nest on Day 39 (18 June). Young male Peregrines average 39-46 days to fledge after hatching (Palmer 1988). Females average 41-49 days to leave the nest (Palmer 1988): the young female fledged on Day 43 (22 June). Upon making its first flight, the male was not seen again until 9 July. The young female was seen regularly within 0.5 km of the nest at least until 8 July. Both of the young birds and the adults were seen together in late July.

What is the provenance of the adult Peregrines at the 2014 nest? The female is unbanded (Fig. 2, p. 46). From looking closely at feather molt and plumage patterns, particularly the dark markings on her cheeks, we believe that she is most likely the same bird that appeared at this site in 2011. Photos from 2011 taken by L. Marcus show the female was mostly in adult plumage, but retained some first-year (brownish) feathers—indicating that this falcon was hatched in spring 2010.

The adult male (Fig. 3, p. 46) is the second since this nest site was established in 2011. The current male has a US Fish and Wildlife band (2206-42367) on his right leg, and two separate color bands (black over green band with silver code 04 over AW) on the left leg. He was banded by C. Nadareski of the NYC DEP at Riverside Church (New York County) on 27 May 2011, making this male a little over three years old. He probably replaced the original male sometime in 2012. Both adults have remained roosting within 50 m of the nest throughout the year from 2012 to the present.

Perhaps the most salient feature of these Peregrines is how tolerant they are of humans. From 2012 through 2014, the nest building underwent major renovations, with workers on scaffolding on all faces of the building for much of the year. Building management networked with the apartment owners to keep work done near the nest site to a minimum during incubation and the nestling stages. However, with all the human-related activity on the outside of the building, and people inside the building sometimes visible to the Peregrines through the adjacent glass windows, the adults and young Peregrines became habituated to people. In 2014, these birds rarely reacted to the movement of people nearby, continuing their behavior (preening, sleeping, feeding young, etc.) with no signs of distress or alteration of their behavior.

Observation of prey delivery to the nest and prey remains in the nest box, indicated that much of the diet consisted of Rock Pigeons (*Columba livia*) from April through June 2014. The adult male brought smaller items including European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*; beginning in May juveniles made up the bulk of the starling prey); House Finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*); and rarely, American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*). The female was seen capturing Rock Pigeons in flight over Columbus Circle in late May and June. Other prey occasionally captured included Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) and Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*). On 17 June, the male brought two Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) to the nest within an hour. In Pennsylvania, the state biologist in charge of monitoring Peregrine Falcons there stated that he had never observed Peregrines capture Chimney Swifts in flight, nor seen their prey remains at any of the 40 or so nest sites in that state (*vide* A. McMorris).

As biologists we try to observe and document as reliably as possible the most salient facts about the birds we study here in New York City. We were unprepared for the drama that began to unfold in mid-June 2014 surrounding the Peregrines we had been studying above Central Park.

We were aware that the owners of the apartment where the Peregrines were nesting had not applied for a permit from the New York City Landmarks Preservation Board to put up a nest box on their small planting ledge, nor had they consulted the Board of the building, the landmarked Century ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Century_\(Central_Park_West,_Manhattan\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Century_(Central_Park_West,_Manhattan))). We were also aware that the policy of the Endangered Species Unit of the NYS-DEC was to discourage Peregrines from nesting at private residences and to encourage these falcons to nest on public or corporate-sponsored buildings. Indeed, one of us (rdc) was contacted in 2013 and chastised by a senior official of the NYS-DEC after learning that advice had been given to the owners of the apartment in the Century building on how to build and properly site a Peregrine nest box. We subsequently learned that the NYS-DEC prefers Peregrines to nest on public buildings because they can have easy access to the nest to band the young, etc. On the other hand, when Peregrines nest at a private residence, the owners are under no obligation to allow access to anyone from the NYS-DEC or other agencies. However, in spring 2014 we encouraged (and the owners of the apartment readily agreed) to allow access multiple times to DEC employees.

In mid-June 2014, just before the young Peregrines fledged, Joseph Pane of the NYS-DEC sent a letter (Pane 2014) to the Board of the Century informing them that adult falcons could be dangerous to people in defense of their young. He also noted in his letter that “there are many terraces and upper open spaces surrounding your building, including the nearby rooftop playground of the Ethical Culture Fieldston School” implying that children might be in danger. In the next few days, the Board met and ruled that the nest box had to be removed. By September the nest box had been removed from the ledge. This did not affect the success of the already fledged Peregrines in 2014. In the spring of 2015, the adults raised two young by once again nesting on the narrow ledge without the Peregrine nest box. Unfortunately, given what the owners of the apartment had been through with the Condominium Board as well as the NYS-DEC, they understandably no longer allowed access to anyone to observe the Peregrines.

In summary, we believe this nest site at the Century building is a good one for Peregrine Falcons. The prey base seems to be sufficient throughout the year: both adults remain in the area of the nest after the breeding season through the winter. The nest ledge is shaded from hot afternoon sun, as well as protected from strong winds and rain coming from a westerly direction. One possible danger to young Peregrines is the number of glass buildings in the area—collisions with reflective glass have been observed at urban nest sites (White *et al.* 2002). However, compared to other nest sites in Manhattan (e.g., 55 Water Street or the Brooklyn Bridge), it is unlikely that the young Peregrines will land on a roadway and be struck by a vehicle as we have observed at other locations in New York City. Going forward, we recommend that the nest box be returned to the ledge because (a) the adult falcons selected that spot to nest beginning in spring 2011, and did not successfully raise young here until the installation of the nest box in 2014; and (b) in years with inclement weather, particularly spring

seasons with much rain, it is unlikely the eggs will hatch on the narrow ledge that is easily flooded. Finally, though great strides have been made in the protection of raptors and their nests in New York City, state and local government agencies and others including co-op and condo boards should make the best interest of the raptors they monitor their primary consideration. This includes siting nest boxes; best (limited) use practices for pesticides to kill rodents; habitat management for species declining in New York City such as American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) and Eastern Screech-owls (*Megascops asio*); and species reintroductions where feasible. Raptors and their nest sites here in the city can be quite effective ambassadors of the urban environment. We have frequently seen their profound positive effects on people, especially the many individuals who had not paid much attention to birds previously.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

When Linda Marcus and Stephen Nislick first noticed Peregrine Falcons perching outside their apartment and subsequently showing interest in nesting on their terrace, they began working tirelessly with building management and others to get these birds to nest successfully at this site. We thank them for access to watch their Peregrines close-up—and many hours of hospitality, discussion, kindness and friendship.

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REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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September 2015 was warm and pleasant other than heavy rainfall events on the 12th-13th and 29th-30th. The average temperature was 67.2° F, 5.1° above normal, and the monthly precipitation at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport was 4.29", 0.39" above normal. The warmth continued through the middle of October until a cold air mass arrived 16-18 October and even brought a trace of snow. The average temperature was 51.4°, 0.6° above normal, and the monthly precipitation was 3.81", 0.29" above normal. A cold front along with the remnants of Hurricane Patricia passed on the 28th and 29th along with very strong winds out of the southeast and then southwest. November was mild and sunny. The average temperature was 46.2°, 5.5° above normal, and the monthly precipitation was 1.32", 2.69" below normal and only a trace of snow was reported, 7.9" below normal. The most notable events were strong winds on five occasions, including 60 mph winds out of the west/southwest on the 12th. Weather information was obtained from National Weather Service monthly summaries for the Buffalo-Niagara International Airport.

The bouts of strong winds made for some interesting birding along Lake Erie. Birders gathered at Hamburg, Buffalo Harbor, and along the Niagara River in Buffalo as usual when strong west or southwest winds occur in the fall. Two **Red Phalaropes** and a Red/Red-necked were reported on 29 October. Several **Parasitic Jaegers** were sighted during these events, with the maximum of three on 29 October. One or two juvenile **Sabine's Gulls** appeared during the same event, with one lingering at Niagara Falls into early November. There were three reports of juvenile **Black-legged Kittiwakes**. The numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls and Little Gulls swelled during these events, with nine **Little Gulls** on both 29 October and 13 November being good counts. Consistent with reports from elsewhere in the east and northeast, **Franklin's Gulls** arrived with the strong system that blew through 12-13 November. Individuals were sighted along the Niagara River and inland at Cuba Lake on the 13th. Tim Lenz returned to Cuba Lake on the 14th and counted four, which is all the more remarkable as this is believed to be a first county record. Lenz observed another at Barcelona Harbor on Lake Erie on the 14th. There was also an earlier report of one at Buffalo Harbor on 15 October.

There were three reports of **Greater White-fronted Geese**, including up to seven that were observed by many at Kumpf Marsh at Iroquois NWR through much of November. **Cackling Goose** reports continue to increase, and there was a maximum of ten at Iroquois NWR and Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary. There were relatively few Snow Goose reports and just two Brant reports along Lake Ontario. It is interesting to note that maximum counts of Snow Goose were less

than the maxima for Greater White-fronted and Cackling Geese this fall, providing additional evidence of how Snow Goose migration pathways typically miss Region 1. The duck migration was not especially notable, with the highlights being a pair of eider sightings by Willie D'Anna. He identified a **King Eider** along with Dean DiTommaso during a field trip to Golden Hill SP on 24 October, while on the previous day he documented an **eider species** flying past Wilson that he suspected was a Common Eider, but the brief look did not allow for a definitive ID. D'Anna's 105 Red-necked Grebes on 23 October was a good fall count. Up to two **Eared Grebes** remained at Batavia WWTP well into November.

There was one Least Bittern and two American Bittern reports, with Terry Belke providing a stunning photo of an **American Bittern** perched in a tree outside the WGRZ-TV station in Buffalo on 11 November. Great Egret roost counts hit a maximum of 267 in September at Oak Orchard WMA, while at least two remained along the Niagara River in Buffalo through November.

Lewiston's resident **Black Vultures** were observed throughout the fall and grew to a maximum count of 12 in November. With the warmer fall Turkey Vultures remained a bit longer than most years. Most are typically gone by the first few days of November, but they were around until mid-month Region-wide, with up to 69 remaining in Lewiston in late November, the only reliable late fall and into winter location. Rough-legged Hawks were again relatively uncommon. Sightings of Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, and Merlin have become too numerous to include.

Mike Wasilco heard a Virginia Rail grunting at Oak Orchard WMA on the later date of 7 November. Up to nine **Sandhill Cranes** were reported at Iroquois NWR, with a group of seven frequently observed there into mid-October. Reports at nearby Oak Orchard WMA and Town of Alabama may have represented different individuals.

There were no exceptional shorebirding locations this fall, with most birder activity occurring around Iroquois NWR. A newly discovered, at least for birding, pond at Lakeside Beach SP provided another good location with decent diversity and some good finds including a **Willet** and **Whimbrel** in September. I'll call the shorebird highlight Celeste Morien's delightful surprise of four **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** in a field in the Town of Alabama that several birders managed to enjoy in early September. A late Pectoral Sandpiper was notable at Iroquois NWR through 30 November, as was a **Purple Sandpiper** on Lake Ontario at Wilson on 30 October. Jim Pawlicki identified a Long-billed Dowitcher at Tonawanda WMA on 10-12 September. **Red-necked Phalaropes** were reported at Tiffit NP and Batavia WWTP in September.

Only a single report of two **Snowy Owls** was received. Short-eared Owls were reported at their usual location in Town of Shelby along with one off Lake Ontario from Lakeside Beach SP. A Barred Owl at Tiffit NP in late November was an unusual location. David Junkin captured only one **Northern Saw-whet Owl** at his banding station in Wethersfield this fall.

Photographs documented late occurrences of both cuckoo species. Heather Desorcie photographed a juvenile **Black-billed Cuckoo** at Forest Lawn Cemetery on 13 October, while Jerry Anderson photographed a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at Tiff NP on 31 October. Jim Wojewodzki was surprised to hear an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** calling at dusk in his yard in Holland; this species is very rarely reported in the fall in Region 1. There were relatively few reports of Common Nighthawks in September and all in low numbers.

A **Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird** made an extended appearance in the yard of Julie and Walt Heilman in Poland, Chautauqua County. Photographs were circulated to some hummingbird experts but it could not be conclusively identified to species and was considered an adult female. A **White-eyed Vireo** was found at Tiff NP on the unusually late date of 26 November by Lee Langenfield and observed by several birders in the following days. It is unusual that there have been more fall reports of this species than spring reports in recent years. Oliver Platt identified a **Fish Crow** coming to roost in Buffalo in mid-November. A few Fish Crows have been regularly found across the Niagara River from Buffalo in Fort Erie, Ontario.

A joint field trip held by the Buffalo Ornithological Society and New York State Purple Martin Project resulted in an estimated **30,000 (!) Purple Martins** coming to roost just prior to dusk at Grass Island, the cattail marsh just offshore in the Niagara River at Buckhorn Island SP, on 5 September. D'Anna and Morien identified two **Cave Swallows** off Golden Hill SP in November following reports of this species elsewhere on Lake Ontario.

The highlight of fall warblers was a **Golden-winged Warbler** on 9 September at Amherst SP. There were two **Clay-colored Sparrow** reports, with one from the breeding area in Olcott in September and one photographed in Sheridan on 11 October by Gale VerHague. Doug Beattie had a **Grasshopper Sparrow** in Alexander in early September; this species is rarely reported in fall although this one was apparently a holdover on breeding grounds. Jim Pawlicki found a **Nelson's Sparrow** at Amherst SP on 3-5 October. An "**Oregon**" **Junco** again returned to the Colden yard of Jim and Karen Landau in late October, where it has wintered in recent years.

For the third consecutive November, a late **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** appeared at a feeder, with an adult male in Pomfret reported and photographed by Dale Mirth and Andrea Andrews 16-29 November. A **Summer Tanager** was briefly sighted at Forest Lawn Cemetery on 17 October by Jim Pawlicki.

It was not a good fall for seeing northern finches. **Pine Siskins** made a push through in October but few seemed to linger. There was a single report of **Common Redpoll** in late November.

The 80th annual BOS October Count was held on the 10th and compiled by Marcie Jacklin. It was a decent day weather wise, with slightly below average temperatures and no precipitation. The count recorded 163 species. There was one record high count (15 Sandhill Cranes) and no record low counts.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP, ERIE; BeSP – Beaver I SP, ERIE; BMAC – Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, WYOM; BOSOC – Buffalo Ornithological Society 11 Oct Count; BufH – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; CSWMA – Conewango Swamp WMA, CATT; 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; TBNP – Times Beach NP, Buffalo, ERIE; Tift NP – Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo, ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; WoBSP – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

G. White-fronted Goose: arr OOWMA 25 Oct (JiM); max 7 INWR 7-20 Nov (CM); PB 25 Nov (GL, MG).

Snow Goose: arr Buffalo NR 2 Oct; max 6 Shelby ORLE 13 Nov; relatively few reports.

Brant: arr 7 Wilson NIAG 8 Oct (WD); 8 LBSP 7 Nov (DBem); only reports.

Cackling Goose: arr LBSP 12 Oct; 9 Oakfield GENE 25 Oct; max 10, 8 INWR 9, 17 Nov (PH, CM); 3 OOWMA 10 Nov; 6 BWWTP 19 Nov; max 10, 1 SPNS 23, 28 Nov (LH).

Mute Swan: no reports away from L Ontario.

Trumpeter Swan: CSWMA 20 Sep (GV), only report.

Tundra Swan: arr 2 BOSOC; 150 OOWMA 25 Nov; max 175 NF 28 Nov; 139 Ellery CHAU 29 Nov.

Wood Duck: 200 BWWTP 12 Sep; 196 OOWMA 6 Oct; max 250 TWMA 22 Oct.

Gadwall: 80 Tift NP 23 Oct; max 328, 127 INWR 6, 24 Nov (CM).

Am. Wigeon: max 350 TWMA 22 Oct (MW); 202 INWR 6 Oct.

Am. Black Duck: max 25 OOWMA Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: max 103 BWWTP 20 Sep; last BWWTP 14 Nov.

N. Shoveler: 224, max 314, 301 BWWTP 16 Sep, 15 Oct, 23 Nov.
N. Pintail: 449 Wilson NIAG 30 Sep (WD); max 630 INWR 21 Oct.
Green-winged Teal: max 302 INWR 21 Oct.
Canvasback: arr FNSP 7 Oct.
Redhead: 2 Tiff NP 10-13 Sep; 48 ChauL 20 Oct; max 135 BufH 27 Nov.
Ring-necked Duck: arr 3 BWWTP 25 Sep; max 70 Oct 21.
Greater Scaup: arr 3 Wilson NIAG 26 Sep.
Lesser Scaup: arr LBSP 11 Sep; max 13 Wilson 16 Oct, 13 BWWTP 17 Nov.
King Eider: arr GHSP 24 Oct (WD!), slightly early.
Common/King Eider: Wilson NIAG 23 Oct (WD!), suspected as the rarer Common.
Surf Scoter: arr 44 Wilson NIAG 30 Sep (WD); 45 BOSOC; 38 BufH 13 Oct; max 59 Buffalo NR 20 Oct.
White-winged Scoter: max 267 Wilson NIAG 18 Oct.
Black Scoter: arr 2 GHSP 17 Oct; max 21 Buffalo NR 20 Oct.
Long-tailed Duck: max 800 Buffalo NR 6 Nov (JP).
Bufflehead: arr BOSOC; 232 N Harmony ChauL 14 Nov; max 600 Buffalo NR 27 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: arr BOSOC; 130 N Harmony ChauL 21 Nov; max 375 NF 29 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: max 113 INWR 24 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 693 Wilson NIAG 30 Oct.
Ruddy Duck: 65 Findlay L CHAU 24 Oct; 509 BWWTP 27 Oct; 8 Wilson NIAG 5 Nov; max 850 Lakewood ChauL 21 Nov (KV); 500 Ellery ChauL 29 Nov.
Red-throated Loon: arr Wilson NIAG BOSOC; max 144 GHSP 12 Nov; 122 Shadigee ORLE 16 Feb.
Com. Loon: arr Wilson NIAG 10 Sep; max 166 Wilson NIAG 31 Oct.
Horned Grebe: BWWTP 14 Sep; max 109 Shadigee ORLE 16 Nov.
Red-necked Grebe: 2 LBSP 11 Sep; max 105 Wilson NIAG 23 Oct (WD); Cuba L ALLE 2 Nov (R&DR); AISP 29 Nov (DC).
Eared Grebe: max 2 BWWTP thru 23 Nov; annual at this location.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 2600 BufH 20 Oct.
Am. Bittern: INWR 6 Oct; Buffalo ERIE 11 Nov (TB, photo), "hiding" in tree in busy urban area, *intro*; only reports.
Least Bittern: 2 INWR 10 Sep, only report.

Great Egret: max 254, 267 OOWMA 10, 19 Sep (JP, CM), roost location; up to two remained Buffalo NR thru 28 Nov (AH).
Green Heron: last Tiff NP 23 Sep.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 12 Buffalo NR 1 Nov, only report beyond Oct.
Black Vulture: 6, 6, 12 Lewiston NIAG 26 Sep, 31 Oct, 15, 26 Nov, regular at location; Forestville CHAU 27 Sep (GV).
Turkey Vulture: reported thru first two weeks of Nov; 69 Lewiston NIAG 26 Nov, max beyond Oct.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Osprey: last Shelby ORLE 26 Nov (CM).
Bald Eagle: widespread reports; 24 BOSOC.
Red-shouldered Hawk: several reports each month.
Broad-winged Hawk: Alfred ALLE 5 Sep; last BOSOC.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr Alabama GENE 7 Nov; few reports.
Virginia Rail: 4, 2, 1 BWWTP 7, 14 Sep, 8 Oct; Orchard Park ERIE 17 Sep; TBNP 18 Sep; last OOWMA 7 Nov (MW), heard grunting four times in two hours, late.
Sora: last BWWTP 18 Oct.
Com. Gallinule: max 61 INWR 10 Sep; BMAC 10 Sep; last INWR 24 Oct.
Am. Coot: max 400 Mayville ChauL 8 Nov.
Sandhill Crane: 3, 3 Alabama GENE 2 Sep, 29 Nov; max 9 INWR 16 Sep (MT), seven at this location thru most of Oct; 7, 3 OOWMA 6 Oct, 10 Nov.
Black-bellied Plover: six reports; last S Dayton CATT 23 Oct.
Am. Golden-Plover: reported from seven loc; max 9 Shelby ORLE 10 Sep; last BWWTP 27 Oct.
Semipalmated Plover: max 14 TWMA 7 Sep; last BWWTP 17 Oct.
Killdeer: max 275 Alabama GENE 2 Sep; 2 INWR 27-30 Nov, on late side.
Spotted Sandpiper: last Porter NIAG 15 Nov (DeSh).
Solitary Sandpiper: last Grand Island ERIE 6 Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 7 INWR 21 Oct; last INWR 20 Nov.
Willet: LBSP 1-2 Sep (DoSh, WD, BP), only report.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 28 TWMA 2 Sep; last 2 BWWTP 17 Oct.
Whimbrel: LBSP 11 Sep (GL), only report.

Ruddy Turnstone: PB 8 Sep; DH 12-13 Sep; last BufH 27 Sep; only reports.

Stilt Sandpiper: 2-4 LBSP 1-11 Sep; 2 BuSP 5 Sep (CM, AH); 4 TWMA 10 Sep; only reports.

Sanderling: 6 BufH; max 10 DH 15 Sep; 1, 1 PB 26 Sep, 12 Oct; last WoBSP 25 Oct.

Dunlin: arr BOSOC; 1, 7 FNFP 25 Oct, 7 Nov; 8 BWWT 25 Oct; max 24 INWR 7 Nov; fewer reports than usual.

Purple Sandpiper: arr Wilson NIAG 30 Oct (WD).

Baird's Sandpiper: BufH 1 Sep; LBSP 1-8 Sep; TWMA 2 Sep; 2, 3 BWWT 2, 12 Sep; only reports.

Least Sandpiper: last BWWT 25 Oct (JP, JoM).

White-rumped Sandpiper: 4 INWR 6 Oct; Wilson NIAG 8, 16 Oct; 4 LBSP 12 Oct; 3 BWWT 27 Oct; last INWR 8 Nov (JoM); only reports.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 3-4 Alabama GENE 1-2 Sep (CM, mob); only report, good count.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 41 TWMA 7 Sep; last INWR 27-30 Nov (JoM, RD, JL, CM), late.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last BWWT 17 Oct.

Short-billed Dowitcher: LBSP 1-8 Sep; 1, 2 TWMA 10, 12 Sep; only reports.

Long-billed Dowitcher: TWMA 10, 12 Sep (JP, TL), only report.

Wilson's Snipe: fewer reports; last OOWMA 7 Nov.

Am. Woodcock: 5 Grand Island ERIE 17 Sep (AH); 2 Forestville CHAU 25 Oct; 5, 2, 2 OOWMA 5, 7, 11 Nov (MW); Ashford CATT 11 Nov; good reporting.

Red-necked Phalarope: Tift NP 14 Sep (DeSh); 2, 2 BWWT 16, 17 Sep (JP, DBea); only reports.

Red Phalarope: 2 Buffalo NR 29 Oct (JP), only report.

Red/Red-necked Phalarope: BufH 29 Oct (JP, WD, SB), during wind event.

Parasitic Jaeger: arr 1, 1 Wilson NIAG 30 Sep, 25 Oct (WD); BufH 15 Oct (JP); Hamburg ERIE 29 Oct (JP); max 3, 1 Buffalo NR 29 Oct, 13 Nov (JP, WD, SB).

Black-legged Kittiwake: juv BufH 20 Oct (JP); juv Buffalo NR 1 Nov (JP, DD, CK); juv NPP 18 Nov (CK); only reports.

Sabine's Gull: Buffalo NR 29 Oct, 1 Nov (JP); NF 29 Oct, 9 Nov (BP, WD, CK); all juveniles as would be expected.

Bonaparte's Gull: 2000 Buffalo NR 29 Oct; max 3000 NFSP 1 Nov.

Black-headed Gull: NPP 30 Nov (CK), only report.

Little Gull: Grand Island NR 8 Sep (RT), unusual location for date; max 9, 9 Buffalo NR 29 Oct, 13 Nov (JP, AH); 2 Wilson NIAG 31 Oct; 2 NF 1 Nov; 1, 1 DH 7, 11 Nov.

Franklin's Gull: BufH 15 Oct (JP); 1, 4 Cuba L ALLE 13, 14 Nov (TL), 1st ALLE record, high number; Buffalo NR 13 Nov (AH); Barcelona Harbor CHAU 14 Nov (TL); excellent showing.

Herring Gull: 600 Cuba L ALLE 9 Oct; known roost location for fall/early winter.

Iceland Gull: arr 3 NFSP 13 Nov (CK).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: PB 8 Sep; Wilson NIAG 26 Sep; 3, 5 NFSP 3 Oct, 7 Nov; max 11 Cuba L ALLE 9 Oct (TL), remarkable count for location; DH 22 Oct; 5 NPP 27 Nov.

Glaucous Gull: arr LBSP 12 Nov.

Caspian Tern: last 2 BOSOC.

Black Tern: 6 PB 8 Sep (JP), only report.

Com. Tern: 112 Wilson NIAG 30 Sep; 47 FNFP 7 Oct; last 2 Buffalo NR 1 Nov.

Forster's Tern: 1, 1 FNFP 10 Sep, 7 Oct (JP, WD); only reports.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Tift NP 31 Oct (JA), ph, late.

Black-billed Cuckoo: FLC 13 Oct (HD, RF), ph, late.

Snowy Owl: arr 2 BufH 21 Nov (AH).

Barred Owl: Tift NP 27, 28 Nov (AH), unusual location.

Short-eared Owl: arr LBSP 9 Nov (DBem); 2-3 Shelby ORLE 14-29 Nov (CM).

N. Saw-whet Owl: banded Wethersfield WYOM BOSOC (DJ), only report.

Com. Nighthawk: 1-4 at six locations in Sep.
E. Whip-poor-will: Holland ERIE 3 Sep (JW!), heard singing at dusk, unusual for location and date.

Chimney Swift: last FLC 20 Oct.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Amherst ERIE 6 Oct.

RUFUS/ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD: Poland CHAU 29 Sep -18 Oct (J&WH, SF, JB), long-staying bird, *intro*.

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 6 LESP 3 Sep (JS); OOWMA 5 Sep; 2 Wilson NIAG 5 Sep; 2 LBSP 7 Sep; 4 PB 18 Sep; 3 PG 21 Sep; FLC, Erie Basin Marina ERIE 14 Oct; Tift NP 15-16 Oct.

Merlin: too many reports to summarize.

Peregrine Falcon: too many reports to summarize.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: AmSP 3, 14 Sep (JP, RS); FLC 6 Sep (JP); only reports.
E. Wood-Pewee: last Wales ERIE 13 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 2 AmSP 9 Sep; Tift NP 10 Sep; last Wilson NIAG 24 Sep.
Alder/Willow Flycatcher: BWWTP 2 Sep; last LBSP 6 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: last Buffalo NR 26 Sep.
E. Phoebe: last AmSP 30 Oct.
E. Kingbird: last LBSP 14 Sep.
N. Shrike: arr Shelby ORLE 21 Oct.
White-eyed Vireo: Tift NP 26-27 Nov (LL, mob), odd that species has occurred more in fall than spring in recent years.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last 3 INWR 10 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr BMAC 11 Sep; last Tift NP 25 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: Buffalo NR 1 Oct; last Tift NP 8 Oct (SB! ph), late.
Philadelphia Vireo: max 4 AmSP 13 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: last AmSP 20 Oct.
FISH CROW (R1): Buffalo ERIE 15 Nov (OP), headed toward roost.
Com. Raven: Pomfret CHAU 3 Sep; Pembroke GENE 23, 25 Oct; 2 Buffalo NR 6 Nov; 2 Tonawanda ERIE 16 Nov; continuing upward trend beyond the Southern Tier.
Purple Martin: max 30,000 Grass I BuSP 5 Sep (CM, AH, CA), estimated count from known roost location.
Tree Swallow: max 1000 BWWTP 12 Sep; 450 OOWMA 15 Oct.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 1055 NFSP 3 Oct (JP).
Bank Swallow: last BWWTP 18 Oct (JP), late.
Cliff Swallow: last 2 BWWTP 4 Oct.
CAVE SWALLOW: 2 GHSP 12 Nov (WD, CM), following a typical October weather pattern that drives them to northeast.
Barn Swallow: last LBSP 6 Oct.
House Wren: last FLC, BeSP 17 Oct.
Winter Wren: arr Orchard Park ERIE 13 Sep.
Marsh Wren: last INWR 4 Nov (CM).
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last Buffalo ERIE 27 Sep.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr 2 AmSP 14 Sep.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Reinstein Woods NP ERIE 3 Sep.
Veery: last 2 Grand Island ERIE 3 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 2 AmSP 9 Sep; last BOSOC.

Swainson's Thrush: last FLC, Amherst ERIE 17 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: arr Lewiston NIAG 18 Sep.

Wood Thrush: last LESP, Batavia GENE 26 Sep.

Gray Catbird: Tift NP 1-28 Nov; LBSP 8 Nov; Yates ORLE 28 Nov; only reports beyond Oct.

Brown Thrasher: last AmSP 8 Oct.

Am. Pipit: arr 4 Shelby ORLE 24 Sep.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: arr BWWTP 1 Nov; FNSP 7 Nov; Cuba L ALLE 14 Nov; only reports.

Snow Bunting: arr BWWTP 27 Oct; max 135 Wilson NIAG 8 Nov.

Ovenbird: last Tift NP 23 Oct.

N. Waterthrush: last Tift NP 18 Sep.

Golden-winged Warbler: AmSP 9 Sep (JP, RS), only report.

Blue-winged Warbler: last AmSP 14 Sep.

Black-and-white Warbler: last BOSOC.

Tennessee Warbler: last AmSP 14 Oct.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Forestville CHAU 8 Oct; last 3 BOSOC.

Nashville Warbler: last 2 FLC 17 Oct.

Mourning Warbler: 2 TBNP 1 Sep; last AmSP 3 Sep; only reports.

Com. Yellowthroat: last 2 BOSOC.

Hooded Warbler: last AmSP 30 Sep.

Am. Redstart: last AmSP 4 Oct.

Cape May Warbler: last Wilson NIAG 11 Oct.

N. Parula: last FLC 24 Oct.

Magnolia Warbler: last Lancaster ERIE 23 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last 2 BOSOC.

Blackburnian Warbler: last Tillman Rd WMA ERIE 4 Oct.

Yellow Warbler: last Wilson NIAG 24 Sep.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: last Cassadaga CHAU 20 Oct.

Blackpoll Warbler: last ChauL 12 Oct.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: last BOSOC.

Palm Warbler: arr TBNP 5 Sep; last FLC 18 Oct.

Pine Warbler: last 2 BOSOC.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Andover ALLE 9 Nov; 3-8 BuSP 12-20 Nov; only reports beyond early Nov.

Black-throated Green Warbler: last AmSP 30 Oct.

Canada Warbler: last Grand Island ERIE 20 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: last 2 BOSOC.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Wilson NIAG 2 Nov' only report beyond Oct.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Wilson NIAG 24 Oct.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Olcott NIAG 15 Sep (AS); Sheridan CHAU 11 Oct (GV), ph; only reports.

Field Sparrow: West Seneca ERIE 5 Nov (GY), only report beyond Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: BOSOC, only report.

Savannah Sparrow: BWWTP 8 Nov; last Alabama GENE 11 Nov.

Grasshopper Sparrow: last Batavia GENE 8 Sep (DBea).

Nelson's Sparrow: AmSP 3-5 Oct (JP), only report.

Fox Sparrow: arr 2 Cassadaga CHAU BOSOC; max 9 FLC 24 Oct (JP).

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 2 Alfred ALLE 9 Sep; last AmSP 14 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Wilson NIAG 24 Sep.

Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco (*J.h. oregonus*): Colden ERIE 27 Oct thru (JL), rare, likely same indiv has returned to location for multiple winters.

SUMMER Tanager: FLC 17 Oct (JP), rare in fall.

Scarlet Tanager: last AISP 4 Oct.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Pomfret CHAU 16-29 Nov (DM, AA), late, at feeder.

Indigo Bunting: last Buffalo NR 26 Sep.

Bobolink: last 20 Tonawanda WMA 12 Sep.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 2 BuSP 3 Oct; max 350 INWR 21 Oct;

Baltimore Oriole: last Tift NP 20 Sep.

Com. Redpoll: arr Tift NP 27 Nov (PY).

Pine Siskin: arr Buffalo NR 8 Oct; 163 BOSOC; max 800 Barker NIAG 24 Oct.



REGION 2—GENESEE

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This fall season ended as the third warmest on record, a bit over an inch short on rainfall, and with only 1.2" of snowfall arriving on 22-24 November. September started the season off warm and dry. Temperatures averaged 67.9° F, 6.1° above normal, for the fifth warmest September on record. The "dry" might seem strange, with 4.06" of rainfall, 0.69" above normal, but 3.52" of the total fell on 12-13 and 30 September with the rest of the month very dry. There were only weak fronts passing and correspondingly weak migration movements. October continued as a pleasant month at near average conditions; temperatures 51.0°, 0.4° above normal, and precipitation 2.78", 0.06" above normal. No hard freezes in the first half of the month delayed leaf peeping. The first drop into the 30s on the 15th was the third latest for that occurrence on record, yet a high of 45° on the 17th tied the record low high for the date and the official growing season ended on the next day. One third of the total rain for the month fell on the 28th with the passage of the remnant of Hurricane Patricia. November was the fourth warmest and eighth driest on record, temperatures averaging 46.6°, 6.1° above normal, and precipitation at 0.97", 1.97" below normal. The persistent storm track was mainly to our west, but pulses our way, well-spaced through the month, brought some interesting birds from the southwest. A spell of four days from 4-7 November with highs above 70° was a new long period for the month,

and the first three of these dates also recorded record highs. The hoped for waterfowl movements remained weak through season's end. Interestingly, Bill Howe, at the north edge of the Finger Lakes part of the Region, recorded rainfall well above the official Rochester airport data for each month of the season.

From the birding standpoint, this season was fairly lackluster, though such feelings are usually not totally accurate. Generally the migration was weak, as measured by a below average passerine banding season, though less than one standard deviation below average, and a slow, weak waterbird passage. Yet nearly all of the expected species were reported; really only a few relatively rarer species missed, and a decent number (at least 21) species of rarities found. Unfortunately, many of the rarities were seen by few observers or for only short times. The species counts by month were near or above the 10-year averages each of the months though below last year's totals for September and November. The total for the fall season was a respectable 258 species plus two subspecies.

Probably the best way to look in more detail is to take the usual walk through the checklist. Jumping right into the waterfowl, we have a long history of lake watching from Hamlin Beach SP and other spots plus more recently regular counts from our part of the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA) in southern Wayne County. This fall many of the lakewatch days were slow, with southerly or easterly breezes and little happening. As the season progressed, there were some good counts but the usual numbers and peaks just did not happen. 1098 Northern Pintail on 30 September and 837 Long-tailed Ducks and 2499 Red-breasted Merganser on 16 November were among the few numbers at Hamlin Beach approaching notable, and the NMWMA numbers remained unremarkable. Extending past waterfowl, loon numbers remained relatively low; Red-necked Grebe peaks of 47 in October and 147 in November were historically good for fall; and Double-crested Cormorant counts of 3500 on 20 September off Edgemere Drive in Greece and over 1000 on several other dates through mid October off Irondequoit Bay to Greece were typical of very recent years. Generally waterfowl arrival dates were average to even early; e.g., Snow Goose, Brant, the scoters, and Red-breasted Merganser in September. Greater White-fronted Goose was found in November and good numbers of Cackling Geese were reported from 4 September through the season. Ross's Goose was missed, though seen in Regions both sides of us. For rarer ducks, Eurasian Wigeon was on Round Pond in Greece from 3-26 October, Andy Guthrie noted a King Eider passing Hamlin Beach on 10 November, and a (the?) male Barrow's Goldeneye returned to Point Breeze on 25 November. Rounding out the waterbirds, we had Great Egret present through October and a few other marsh bird species to mid-October. Finally, once again Cattle Egret put in a November appearance, 6-7 November in the Town of York, Livingston County.

There was apparently no concerted hawk watch effort this fall. Pulling from a few parts of the checklist we find: Black Vulture missed for the season,

though there were some good counts for Turkey Vulture; Osprey reports to a late 24 November at the south end of Conesus Lake by Andrew Consler; good Bald Eagle numbers through the season; only a lone Northern Goshawk on 12 September; and Rough-legged Hawk arrival on 14 November at Braddock Bay. Taxonomically out of their order after the woodpeckers, Merlin and Peregrine Falcon counts remained good through the season.

As usual, rails and their allies were poorly reported, but we did have a Sora reported on 26 October at Round Pond in Greece, counts of up to 42 Common Gallinule reported to 17 November in the NMWMA, and 110 American Coot on Conesus Lake on 14 November. This year a group of 60 of the Sandhill Cranes that gather in the NMWMA in the fall were seen along Armitage Road in Wayne County on 25 October, with 31 still at Van Dyne Spoor on 21 November. Also, a local high of five associated with the birds in the Taylor Marsh area were seen in the Town of Livonia, Livingston County, on 8 November.

Shorebirds again were reported in good variety but generally low numbers through the season. Upland Sandpiper, Whimbrel, Red Knot, and Red-necked Phalarope were among the regularly expected that were not reported. On the positive side we had good numbers of American Golden-Plover, with a flock to **214** counted in a wet field on Martin Road in the Town of Hamlin just inland from the Lake Ontario Parkway from 15-17 September; some good Killdeer counts; Hudsonian Godwits at Salmon Creek on 8-9 and 27 September; Purple Sandpipers at Sodus Point in November; a decent count of 120 Least Sandpipers on 19 September and a record late individual at the High Acres Nature Area (HANA) on 26-27 November; several reports of Buff-breasted Sandpiper, with a maximum of six in the Town of Hamlin on 2 September; and Long-billed Dowitcher with the plover event on Martin Road and at the Montezuma Audubon Center (MAC) in the Town of Savannah, along with a Wilson's Phalarope, during the Montezuma Muck Race on 19 September.

Larids continued the season's main refrain: all regular species at least reported, excepting Black-legged Kittiwake, but numbers generally low other than occasional observations of huge resting flocks of mostly Ring-billed Gulls on the water or fields near the Lake Ontario shore near Hamlin Beach, or the Shore Acres area about six miles to the east. Jaegers were on the low average side, with a lone Pomarine on 4 October, about nine Parasitic and a Long-tailed on 20 September, plus at least three more not identified to species. We had no huge movements of Bonaparte's Gulls, though there were some good counts at resting areas just inland from the lakeshore. Among the rarer gulls, Andy Guthrie spotted a juvenile Sabine's Gull from Hamlin Beach on 20 September and Jessie Barry and Chris Wood picked out a juvenile Black-headed Gull on 17 October. There was a total of four reports of adult Little Gulls in September and November, good numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gull in each month, and Iceland and Glaucous Gulls arriving in late November. The gull event of the season was our part of the huge movement of Franklin's Gulls to the East Coast.

We had three first winter individuals found at Sodus Point, the mudflats at the south end of Irondequoit Bay, and Salmon Creek on 13 November, with the Irondequoit Bay bird present off LaSalle Landing Park through the 26th. Birders searching for this bird found an adult Thayer's Gull on 14 November. Interestingly, a record-tying influx of six Franklin's Gulls occurred at the same Irondequoit Bay location from 13-21 November 1998. Finishing off the larids with the terns, counts were low average and the regular species continued to typical October departure dates.

Among the non-passerine land birds, we again had all the regular species reported, numbers unremarkable, and departure dates average. Some of the more interesting observations included: two Eurasian Collared-Doves on 11 November at the Greenwell farm in Hamlin—interesting how seldom seen now but nearly always here when found; Snowy Owl back on the 26 and 27 November but only at two locations; the Short-eared Owl counts off to a good start; a Northern Saw-whet Owl at BBBO on 4 October; few Common Nighthawks even in September; a peak of only 186 Chimney Swifts at the York Central School chimney and no other sizable numbers reported; Red-headed Woodpeckers apparently gone from Hamlin Beach SP early, but singles in Webster, Henrietta, and Durand-Eastman Park later; and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker lingering through season's end.

Moving along to our final big order, the passerines, we again find all regularly expected species reported, but most peak counts relatively low. Departure dates of many species extended well into the fourth quartile of their departure date distributions, possibly to be expected with the warm late fall, yet with only a single record late departure. Again, the best way to cover these is to work through the checklist.

Our final Olive-sided Flycatcher was on 7 September. The rest of the flycatcher species departed in September or very early October, other than Eastern Phoebe with two banded on 24 October, and a record late Great Crested Flycatcher seen off and on from 8-22 November, and photographed, at a deer hunter's blind above the east side of Hemlock Lake. Northern Shrike arrived on 16 November, with about 10 more reports of six individuals scattered through the rest of the month. Good numbers of Red-eyed Vireo were banded, and the other vireo species were found in expected-to-low numbers. Our Fish Crows in the Ontario Beach area continued, though they were harder to find by season's end. A lone bird was also reported near the CED office near Avon and a couple were found in the Mt. Hope Cemetery/University of Rochester area south of the city. There were no reports in the Region of really large gatherings of swallows, though numbers just outside the Region in the Montezuma NWR were good. The event of the fall in this family was another good influx of Cave Swallows again in November. Arrival in this Region was on 6 November at Hamlin Beach SP. After that reports came in from the lakeshore from as far east as Sodus Point. Most were seen on 13-14 November, and the maximum reported was

eight near the old bathhouse at Ontario Beach Park and into the adjacent neighborhood.

Continuing on, we have some of the potential irruptive species and more migrants. Black-capped Chickadee should have been on a high-count year in its seesaw appearances, but banding numbers did not really spike up this fall. There were also no numbers to suggest a Red-breasted Nuthatch irruption. There were a few good days in the woods with Winter Wren, but the total banded was about half the average. Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglet banding totals seemed impressive at 257 and 357, respectively, but are really only average or a bit below for these numerous migrants. Among the thrushes, we have a few decent counts and average to low banding numbers, with a very low Hermit Thrush total. A Bicknell's Thrush banded on 2 October is a relatively rare event here. On the other hand, Gray Catbird numbers were high and birds persisted to season's end. Cedar Waxwings seemed scarce and Bohemian Waxwing was not reported. Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting arrived at typical October dates and were noted in modest numbers afterward.

Among the warblers, we had 18 species with October or later departure, a bit on the high side. But none were record late. Looking to banding data, Northern Waterthrush, American Redstart, Northern Parula, and Yellow Warbler were banded in especially high numbers, and Blackpoll Warbler numbers were low for very recent years, though really just moving back toward the long-term average. The rest of the warbler species were in typical numbers. Of special interest were: five Connecticut Warblers banded from 6 September to 1 October; ten Orange-crowned Warblers reports, all in October; a Yellow-rumped "Audubon's" Warbler photographed in the Van Dyne Spoor area of the NMWMA by Wade and Melissa Rowley and Drew Fowler on 11 October; and a Yellow-breasted Chat found in Greece by Kevin Griffith on 22 September.

The sparrows made a good showing this fall, with quite a few rarities. A Lark Sparrow at Hogan Point and Hincer Roads in Greece on 20 September kicked off the show, with Nelson's Sparrows found nearby at Burger Park on 26 and 27-30 September and later on 5 and 17 October. A Clay-colored Sparrow was found at HANA by Dominic Sherony on 5 October, a first for the site. On 18 October, a search of appropriate habitat turned up another Nelson's Sparrow at the Bennett Road Preserve in Parma near Hilton and near that a very rare LeConte's Sparrow found by Andy Guthrie and seen by at least eight others. Fox Sparrow made a good showing from 12 October-24 November. Many of the other sparrows also lingered to November departures, and White-throated Sparrow was banded in good numbers. An interesting find was a very large-sized White-throated Sparrow photographed by Joe Wing in the Town of Ontario in Wayne County on 25 October. A finale for this family was a Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco photographed by Michele Rosenbaum at her feeders on 29 November and present well into December.

Among the blackbirds, a male Yellow-headed Blackbird at Van Dyne Spoor on 19 September was likely the bird first seen there on 22-27 August.

Otherwise blackbird highlights were weak. Birders did search for and report Rusty Blackbirds, but the peak numbers were low, with a high of 200 on 7 November in Caledonia. Winter finches were almost among the missing. Interestingly, there was a flurry of passing Pine Siskins, mainly along the Lake Ontario shore in September and October, with a banding spike for Pine Siskin and American Goldfinch from 23-27 October. Also in late October there were two single White-winged Crossbills and a few Common Redpoll flocks. After that in November we had a very few Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins, often at feeders, and a lone report of one Evening Grosbeak.

This fall season we received about 41,473 eBird “records” plus about 10% more geneseebirds records posted, additional banding data, and a few personal checklists and notes. As always, an interesting season.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

b – banded; BB – Braddock Bay, T Greece, MONR; BB-WS – west spit at the mouth of Braddock Bay; BBBO – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, usually banding station near end of Manitou Beach Rd west of Braddock Bay; BCH – Bear Creek Harbor and offshore, WAYN; CL – Conesus L, LIVI; DE - Durand-Eastman P, MONR; G – T Greece, MONR; HANA – High Acres Nature Area, T Perinton, MONR; H – T Hamlin, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; HB-YC – Yanty Creek Trail in HB; HB-WE – West End Trail in HB; IB-S – LaSalle Landing P, South end of Irondequoit Bay; ICW- Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; M – along Manitou Beach Rd NE of Parkway including the BBBO banding station, MONR; MP – Mendon Ponds CP, T Mendon, MONR; NMWMA – Northern Montezuma WMA (formerly Northern Montezuma Wetlands Complex), WAYN; NMWMA (SCU) – Sandhill Crane Unit; NMWMA (VDS) – Van Dyne Spoor area; OB – Ontario Beach, Charlotte, MONR; OCP - Oatka Creek P, MONR; PB – Point Breeze area, ORLE, nw border of Regions 1 & 2; SPT – Sodus Pt, WAYN; WP – Webster P, MONR.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr Hemlock L 21 Nov (NG, EG, GL, JPod); e of PB 25 Nov (GL, MG).

Snow Goose: arr 1 H 28 Sep; max 140 NMWMA (SCU) 17 Nov.

Brant: arr 11 HB 26 Sep (GL, EG), early; 116 HB 30 Sep (TL); max 250 SPT 18 Oct, low max; last HB 14 Nov.

Cackling Goose: arr HB 4 Oct; max 6 HB 8 Oct (RS); total approx 18 sev loc 4-31 Oct; total 16 sev loc 1-30 Nov.

Mute Swan: max 27 G (Round Pond) 14 Nov.

Trumpeter Swan: max 51 NMWMA (Savannah) 14 Nov (JMc), good count.

Tundra Swan: arr 3-6 BB area 17 Oct; max 180 CL 22 Nov (GM, RSw).

Wood Duck: max 164 NMWMA (SCU) 18 Sep.

Gadwall: max 176 G (Northrup Creek) 14 Nov.

Eurasian Wigeon: arr m G (Round Pond) 3, 17-26 Oct (A. Guthrie, mob, ph).

Am. Wigeon: max 275 G (Round Pond) 1 Nov.

Am. Black Duck: monthly max 50 HB 30 Sep; 48 BCH 21 Oct; 36 off G 15 Nov; all max low.

Mallard: max 200 G (Round Pond) 1 Nov, very low max.

Blue-winged Teal: max 50 NMWMA (SCU) 22 Sep; last 2 BB 22 Oct.

N. Shoveler: max 122 HB 30 Sep.

N. Pintail: max 1098 HB 30 Sep (NG, GL, TL); 789 OB 18 Oct (JeB, ID, BSu, CW).

Green-winged Teal: max 150 NMWMA (Colvin Marsh) 19 Sep (JMc).

Canvasback: arr G (Round Pond) 17 Oct; max 50 CL 23 Nov NK).

Redhead: max 370 CL 21 Nov, low max.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 4 G (Round Pond) 20 Sep (CW); max 200 T West Bloomfield 25 Nov.

Greater Scaup: arr 17-21 HB 20 Sep; max 187 HB 29 Nov, low.

Lesser Scaup: max 34 HB 8 Nov, low.

King Eider: arr 1 imm m HB 10 Nov (AGu), only report.

Surf Scoter: arr 4-5 HB 20 Sep (AGu, SB, CeM), early; max 40 HB 30 Sep, low.

White-winged Scoter: arr 7 HB 13 Sep; max 382 HB 18 Oct, low max.

Black Scoter: arr 6 HB 20 Sep (EG, GL), early; max 43 OB 14 Nov, low; 10-11 CL 19-21 Nov (BH, mob), high for the loc.

Long-tailed Duck: arr 4 HB 5 Oct; max 837 HB 16 Nov. **Bufflehead:** arr HB 15 Oct; max 122 Sandy Bottom P Honeoye L ONTA 24 Nov (DD).

Com. Goldeneye: arr HB 30 Sep; max 175 Sandy Bottom P Honeoye L ONTA 24 Nov (DD).

Barrow's Goldeneye: arr m e of PB 25 Nov (GL), m here late fall past 10 yrs, same ind?

Red-breasted Merganser: arr Spt 13 Sep (W&MR), early; 1950 OB 14 Nov (JeB, LS, CW); max 2499 HB 16 Nov (RS).

Ruddy Duck: arr 2 Spt 9 Oct.

Red-throated Loon: arr HB & IBO 3 Oct; max 64 HB 16 Nov, very low max.

Com. Loon: 125 HB 3 Oct, 1st date over 100; max 403 HB 5 Oct, low max.

Horned Grebe: max 92 HB 16 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: max 147 HB 5 Nov (AGu); 118 HB 10 Nov; 122 HB 29 Nov; historically good fall counts.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 3500 off Edgemere Dr, G 20 Sep (JeB); 1960 off Russell Station, G 20 Sep (CW); 2500 off Sandbar P, Webster 2 Oct (JMi).

Am. Bittern: last NMWMA (SCU) 17 Nov (KB), late.

Great Egret: max 32 MAC 12 Sep, good count; last 2 HANA 31 Oct (DS).

CATTLE EGRET (R2): T York LIVI 6-7 Nov (DT, mob), continues trend of recent years.

Green Heron: last Beechwoods SP WAYN 15 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: last 8 NMWMA (SCU) 10 Oct.

Black Vulture: no reports.

Turkey Vulture: max 170 Riga Landfill 4 Sep (BriM).

HAWKS – LARIDS

Osprey: last CL south 24 Nov (AC), late.

Bald Eagle: 56 rep, approx 41 ind sev loc Nov.

N. Harrier: max 14 Nations Rd IBA 27 Nov (KS).

N. Goshawk: Wolcott 12 Sep (W&MR), only report.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr 1-2 BB 14 Nov; few rep.

Sora: last G (Round Pond) 26 Oct

Com. Gallinule: max 42 NMWMA (SCU) 18 Sep (MW); NMWMA (SCU) 17 Nov (KB), late.

Am. Coot: max 110 CL 24 Nov.

Sandhill Crane: max 60 NMWMA (Armitage Rd) 25 Oct (DNu); 31 NMWMA (VDS) 21 Nov (JMc); part of large fall congregation in the Knox-Marcellus area; 5 T Livonia LIVI 8 Nov (KK), likely from Taylor Marsh group.

Black-bellied Plover: last Spt 4 Nov.

Am. Golden-Plover: 77-111 Nations Rd IBA 15 Sep (MW, sev); max 214 H (Martin Rd) 16 Sep (RS); 91-186 H (Martin Rd) 15-17 Sep (sev obs), sev flocks in and out of wet area with time of day; last 26 H 19 Oct, early dep.

Semipalmated Plover: last G (Salmon Crk) 19 Oct.

Killdeer: 150 H 3 Sep (BK); max 156 H 18 Oct (AGu); last 3 CL 27 Nov.

Spotted Sandpiper: last University of Rochester 5 Oct.

Solitary Sandpiper: last HANA 14 Oct.

Greater Yellowlegs: last HANA 8 Nov.

Lesser Yellowlegs: last 3 HANA 31 Oct.

Hudsonian Godwit: arr Greece (Salmon Crk) 8-9 Oct (RS, mob); last G (Salmon Crk) 27 Oct (MG).

Ruddy Turnstone: last Spt 25 Sep.

Stilt Sandpiper: max 11 MAC 19 Sep; last 6 MAC 20 Sep.

Sanderling: max 16 OB 14, 19 Sep; last OB 18 Oct, early dep.

Dunlin: arr OB 21 Sep; max 158 T Huron WAYN 25 Oct, low; last G (Salmon Crk) 29 Nov.

Purple Sandpiper: arr 1-4 Spt 13-14 Nov (DS, MT, W&MR, mob); Spt 28 Nov (JW, BPu).

Baird's Sandpiper: last 1-2 G (Salmon Crk) 8-9 Oct.

Least Sandpiper: max 120 MAC 19 Sep; last HANA 26-27 Nov (MG), Reg record late.

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 45 HB 4 Oct (BriM); last HB-S 7 Nov.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr T Sodus WAYN 2 Sep (JW); arr & max 6 H (East Fork) 2 Sep (AGu, B&BM, mob); 1-3 H (East Fork) 2 Sep (AGu, B&BM, mob).

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 28 H (Martin Rd) 17 Sep; last HANA 5 Nov.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 30 MAC 19 Sep, low; last 2 G (Salmon Crk) 19 Oct.

Short-billed Dowitcher: last OB 18 Sep.

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr H (Martin Rd) 17 Sep, 2 there later same day; last MAC 19 Sep.
Wilson's Snipe: last HANA 26 Nov.
Wilson's Phalarope: MAC 19 Sep (mob), only report.
Pomarine Jaeger: 1 ph BCH 4 Oct (JW), only report.
Parasitic Jaeger: arr 1 HB 4 Sep; total 6 sev loc 4-30 Sep (mob); 1 imm Spt 7 Oct (W&MR, ph, *et al.*); M 17 Oct; last 1 imm HB 30 Oct.
LONG-TAILED JAEGER: 1 ad HB 20 Sep (SB, AGu, CeM).
jaeger species: BCH 20 Sep (JW); HB 30 Sep; HB 4 Oct.
SABINE'S GULL (R2): 1 juv HB 20 Sep (AGu).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 360 G (Salmon Crk) 13 Nov (AGu), resting area; 145 BB-WS 29 Nov.
BLACK-HEADED GULL (R2): 1 juv HB 17 Oct (JeB, CW).
Little Gull: 1 ad G (off Edgemere Dr) 19 Sep (JeB, Ji&LB, CW); 1 ad Sodus Bay bridge 2 Nov (W&MR); 1-2 ad OB 14 Nov (8 obs); 1 ad BB 23 Nov (BriM).
FRANKLIN'S GULL: 1 1st win Spt 13 Nov (W&MR); 1 1st win IB-S 13-26 Nov (KH, DT, mob); 1 1st win G (Salmon Crk) 13-14 Nov (AGu, mob); all part of the large movement of this species to the East Coast.
THAYER'S GULL: 1 ad IB-S 14 Nov (CW, 17 other obs).
Iceland Gull: arr 1 ad G (off Edgemere Dr) 21 Nov.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: arr HB 11 Sep; total 10 sev loc 11-30 Sep; max 5 OB 18 Oct; 4 rep sev loc 17-24 Nov.
Glaucous Gull: arr 1 1st win HB 29 Nov.
Caspian Tern: last IB-S 10 Oct.
Black Tern: 6 PtB 8 Sep (JPa), high for loc & date; last 3 Hilton 17 Sep (RCl).
Com. Tern: max 79 HB 23 Sep (AGu), good count; last HB 17 Oct.
Forster's Tern: last West Port Bay WAYN 29 Oct (W&MR).

PIGEONS – PARROTS

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: 2 H (Greenwell farm) 11 Nov (MT), only report.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last Twin Cedars Environ Area, Avon 10 Oct.
Black-billed Cuckoo: last Nations Rd IBA 10 Oct.
Snowy Owl: arr HB 26 Nov (AGu); Pultneyville Harbor 27 Nov (CW).

Short-eared Owl: arr 1 OB 18 Oct; max 8 Nations Rd IBA 22 Nov (KS).
N. Saw-whet Owl: 1b BBBO 4 Oct, rarely reported at this time.
Com. Nighthawk: last 2 NMWMA (VDS) 22 Sep.
Chimney Swift: max 186 York Central School 15 Sep (JK); last Whiting Rd Preserve, Webster 10 Oct.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last 1 G 14 Oct (KG); total b 4 BBBO 17-24 Sep.
Red-headed Woodpecker: max 5 HB 15 Sep; last at HB 21 Sep; Sandy Bottom P Honeoye L ONTA 2 Sep (KK), unusual loc; Gosnell Big Woods, Webster 7 Oct; T Henrietta 2 Nov (JCa); DE 16 Nov (KH).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last North Rush 30 Nov.
Am. Kestrel: max 3 Hilton MONR 23 Sep, very low max; scarce this fall.
Merlin: 6 rep, 6 ind sev loc Sep; total 15 sev loc 1-23 Oct; total 16 sev loc 3-29 Nov.
Peregrine Falcon: 22 rep, 19 ind sev loc Sep; total 14 sev loc 3-28 Oct; total 10 sev loc Nov.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last MP 7 Sep (BB).
E. Wood-Pewee: last OCP 8 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 1b M 21 Sep.
Alder Flycatcher: last 1 Auburn Trail MONR 10 Sep.
Willow Flycatcher: last 1 HANA 20 Sep.
“Trail’s Flycatcher: last 1b M 9 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: last Gosnell Big Woods, Webster 7 Oct (GL, JPod), late.
E. Phoebe: 2b BBBO 24 Oct.
Great Crested Flycatcher: Genesee Country Museum 4 Oct (MG), late; last T Canadice ONTA 8-22 Nov (BPe, ph), State record late, *intro*.
E. Kingbird: last H 4 Oct.
N. Shrike: arr T Kendall ORLE 29 Oct; 7 rep, 7 ind sev loc 16-30 Nov.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last NMWMA (VDS) 20 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: last M (Owl Woods) 18 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: last 2 MP 25 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: last 1 HB-YC & 1b M 22 Sep, early dep.
Red-eyed Vireo: last M 12 Oct; total b 87 M 1 Sep - 7 Oct (BBBO).
Fish Crow: 1-6 OB area thru 24 Oct (sev obs); 3 G (Buck Pond) 18 Oct (JeB, ID); Twin Cedars Environ Area, Avon 26 Oct (MW); 1-2

Mt Hope Cemetery & U of Rochester area 7 Nov (EG).

Com. Raven: 16-19 reported each month, mostly from areas south of Rochester, but ind may show up anywhere in the Region now.

Horned Lark: max 150+ se of Cuylerville LIVI 28 Nov (JK).

Purple Martin: max 36 T Parma 7 Sep, low max; last NMWMA (Railroad Rd) 19 Sep.

Tree Swallow: max 1000 NMWMA (SCU) 5 Sep, low max; last 1 M 23 Oct.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 49 MAC 19 Sep, low max; last 2 NMWMA (Morgan Rd) 11 Oct.

Bank Swallow: last 2 NMWMA (Morgan Rd) 11 Oct.

CAVE SWALLOW: arr 5 HB 6 Nov (DT, AGu, ST); 4 HB 13 Nov (DT, AGu); 4 DE (Sherry Pond) 13 Nov (DS, MT, *et al.*); 1 DE (Sherry Pond) 13 Nov (MG); 1 DE (Tamarack Swamp) 13 Nov (KH); 2-8 OB and nearby 13 Nov (DS, MT, mob); 1 Lakeshore Rd ORLE 13 Nov (GL); OB 14 Nov (mob); G (BeattyPt) 14 Nov (AGu, CW); BCH 14 Nov (JW); SPt 14 Nov (DrF, W&MR).

Barn Swallow: last 6 G (Northrup Crk) 17 Oct.

Black-capped Chickadee: total b 35 M 3 Sep-2 Nov, lower than expected, *intro*.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: no irruption.

Brown Creeper: total b 35 M 23 Sep-2 Nov, low.

House Wren: last Rochester 13 Oct.

Winter Wren: total b 36 M 11 Sep-27 Oct, low; max 14 HB-YC 22 Sep (RS).

Marsh Wren: last IB-S 9 Nov (KH).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last G (Beatty Pt) 19 Sep.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr 2 HB 10 Sep; max 87 WP 11 Oct (R&SS), low max; max b 44 M 18 Oct; total b 257 M 24 Sep-2 Nov (BBBO).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr M (Owl Woods) 14 Sep; max 60 WP 11 Oct (R&SS), low max; max b 52 M 10 Oct (BBBO); total b 357 M 21 Sep-30 Oct.

Veery: total b 27 M 1-25 Sep; last North Rush MONR 28 Sep.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: max b 11 M 25 Sep; max 20 HB-WE campground rd 28 Sep (RS); 20 HB-WE 30 Sep (TLe); total b 68 M 10 Sep- last 8 Oct; last U of Rochester 18 Oct.

Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush: max b 7 M 25 Sep; total b 41 M 9 Sep- last 5 Oct.

BICKNELL'S THRUSH: 1b M 2 Oct

Swainson's Thrush: max 23 HB-YC 16 Sep (RS); max b 16 M 22 & 24 Sep; total b 189 M 1

Sep-16 Oct; last M & Webster Arboretum 21 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: arr M & HB 16 Sep; max 34 HB-WE 7 Oct (RS); max b 9 M 10 Oct, low max; total b 83 M 29 Sep-27 Oct, low; 9 Webster P 28 Nov (R&SS), many for so late.

Wood Thrush: last U of Rochester 8 Oct.

Gray Catbird: max 29 Whiting Rd Nature Pres, Webster 11 Sep (GF); total b 104 M 2 Sep-12 Oct; last HB 29 Nov (AGu).

Brown Thrasher: last 1b M 6 Oct.

Am. Pipit: arr 6 H (Martin RD) 15 Sep (RS), early; max 100+ se of Cuylerville LIVI 1 Nov (JK).

Cedar Waxwing: max 270 HB 12 Nov, scarce.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: arr H 18 Oct.

Snow Bunting: arr 4 HB 15 Oct; max 200 Sodus Bay bridge 14 Nov (LL).

Ovenbird: max 6 HB-YC 22 Sep (R&SS); last HB 6 Oct.

N. Waterthrush: total b 14 M 1 Sep – 3 Oct; last M 7 Oct (AN), late.

Blue-winged Warbler: last HB 6 Sep.

Black-and-white Warbler: last Four Mile Crk Pres, Webster 2 Oct.

Tennessee Warbler: last 2 Batavia GENE 10 Oct.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr 1b M 1 Oct; 1b M 2, 8 Oct; 2b M 3 Oct; BBBO 4 Oct (RK); Twin Cedars Environ Area, Avon 8 Oct (MBo); Bennett Rd Pres, Parma 17, 18 Oct (JeB, LB, ID, AGu, BSu, CW); last Letchworth SP 19 Oct (GL).

Nashville Warbler: total b 27 1 Sep – 17 Oct; last 1b M 2 Nov (BBBO), late.

Connecticut Warbler: arr 1b M 6 Sep; 1b M 14, 17, 23 Sep; last 1b M 1 Oct, high number banded.

Mourning Warbler: last HB-WE 4 Oct (BriM), late.

Com. Yellowthroat: max b 10 M 21 Sep; total b 80 1 Sep – 8 Oct; last IB-S 15 Nov.

Hooded Warbler: last HB-WE 30 Sep.

Am. Redstart: total b 47 M 1 Sep – 25 Sep; last West Port Bay WAYN 7 Oct.

Cape May Warbler: last T Gates MONR 21 Sep.

N. Parula: total b 22 M 6 Sep – 2 Oct, high number banded; last G 6 Oct.

Magnolia Warbler: max b 35 M 14 Sep; total b 203 M 1 Sep - last 8 Oct; last M 12 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last 1b M 5 Oct.

Blackburnian Warbler: last Twin Cedars Environ Area, Avon 5 Oct.
Yellow Warbler: last b M 1 Sep, 229b earlier in “season”; last G 25 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last HB-YC & Four Mile Crk Pres, Webster 22 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: max b 7 M 14 Sep; total b 56 M 1 Sep – 22 Oct; last 1b M 22 Oct (BBBO), late; sharp drop from past 4 years.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: total b 36 M 1 Sep – 5 Oct; last 1b M 10 Nov, only ind lingering into Dec in 2006 and 2009 later.
Palm Warbler: arr HANA 8 Sep; last se of Cuylerville LIVI 2 Nov (DBea), late.
Pine Warbler: last 2 Beechwoods SP WAYN 27 Oct (DS), late.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 40 Webster Arboretum 7 Oct (JMi); last HB 17 Nov.
YELLOW-RUMPED “AUDUBON’S” WARBLER: NMWMA (VDS) 11 Oct (W&MR, ph, DrF).
Black-throated Green Warbler: last 1b M 22 Oct.
Canada Warbler: last 1b M 14 Sep.
Wilson’s Warbler: total b 33 M 1 Sep – 25 Oct; last 1 G (Burger P) 27 Sep.
Yellow-breasted Chat: G 22 Sep (KG), seldom reported now.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 1b M 14 Oct.
Chipping Sparrow: last T Pittsford MONR 2 Nov.
Clay-colored Sparrow: HANA 5 Oct (DS), first for site.
Vesper Sparrow: last Batavia GENE 10 Oct.
LARK SPARROW: 1 imm G (Hogan Pt & Hincer Rds) 20 Sep (DT, sev obs, ph), 10th Reg record.
Savannah Sparrow: last Nations Rd IBA 20 Nov (JS), late.
Grasshopper Sparrow: last Batavia GENE 8 Sep.
LECONTE’S SPARROW: Bennett Rd Preserve, T Parma 18 Oct (AGu, 8 other obs), 11th Reg record.
NELSON’S SPARROW (R2): arr 2 G (Burger P) 26 Sep (EG, GL); 1-2 G (Burger P) 27-30 Sep (8 obs); G (Burger P) 5 Oct (BriM); G (Burger P) 17 Oct (AGu, CW); Bennett Rd Preserve, T Parma 18 Oct (AGu, 9 other obs).

Fox Sparrow: arr 1b M & 1 HB-YC 12 Oct; last Rochester 24 Nov (R&SS), late.
Lincoln’s Sparrow: arr 1b M 20 Sep; NMWMA (VDS) 2 Nov (GD), late; last IB-S 19 Nov (MG, ph), late.
White-throated Sparrow: arr sev loc 14 Sep; max b 60 M 24 Sep – 31 Oct; max 125 Webster Arboretum 21 Oct (JMi); total b 588 M 14 Sep – 2 Nov; a very large ind was photographed by Joe Wing in T Ontario WAYN 25 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr G (Burger P) 26 Sep.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 100+ Holy Sepulchre Cem, Rochester 14 Oct (KD); total b 73 M 25 Sep – 30 Oct.
Dark-eyed “Oregon” Junco: Webster 29 Nov thru (MiR, ph).
Scarlet Tanager: last HB-WE 12 Oct.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Bushnell’s Basin MONR 30 Oct (C&HH).
Indigo Bunting: last H 10 Oct (AGu, BriM), late.
Bobolink: last G (Burger P) 26 Sep.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 2000 NMWMA (Morgan Rd) 24 Sep (W&MR).
E. Meadowlark: last Nations Rd IBA 28 Oct.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: 1 m NMWMA (VDS) 19 Sep (GL, EG, JPod), previously seen in area in late Aug.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 3 HANA 24 Sep; 50 HANA 16 Oct; max 200 T Caledonia LIVI 7 Nov (SB).
Com. Grackle: max 3400 North Rush 18 Oct (NK).
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 5000 NMWMA (VDS) 3 Nov (KB).
Baltimore Oriole: last Webster (Whiting Rd Ponds) 27 Sep.
White-winged Crossbill: arr Bennett Rd Preserve, T Parma 19 Oct (SB, GL); G 26 Oct (KG); only reports.
Com. Redpoll: arr & max 25 T Leicester LIVI 21 Sep (MW); max b 14 M 25 Sep; 1 Mill Landing 26 Nov.
Pine Siskin: max 280 M 17 Oct (ID); max b 93 M 23 Oct; 75b M 27 Oct; 30 HB 2 Nov; good numbers thru Oct, then dropped off.
Am. Goldfinch: max b 73 M 27 Oct, end of 5 day finch influx, *intro*.
Evening Grosbeak: 1 Victor MONR 20 Nov (BB), only report

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REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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September and November 2015 were both warmer than normal in Ithaca. September's daily lows averaged 54° F, 6° above normal, and daily highs averaged 76°, 5° above normal. November lows averaged 34°, 3° higher than normal, and highs averaged 53°, 6° above normal. October was about normal while the difference between daily lows and highs was less than usual. October lows at 39° were 2° higher than normal, and highs at 57° were 2° lower than normal.

September precipitation totaled 5.07", 1.84" above normal. Total October precipitation was 2.66", 0.57" less than normal. November precipitation accumulated only 1.18", 1.92" below normal. There was no snow accumulation during the entire season, 5.9" below normal.

Maximum counts and estimates for many species of waterfowl, both dabbling and diving, were high compared to records accumulated between 1994 and 2003. Most of these high counts occurred during November, when the higher than normal temperatures and lack of precipitation in the Region produced few cold fronts to motivate a southward movement of the waterfowl from the abundant aquatic habitat of the Finger Lakes Region. Rare but regularly occurring species like Greater White-fronted, Ross's, and Cackling Geese and Eurasian Wigeon continued this fall. The most exciting find was a **Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal** that spent the first three weeks in November at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR).

With two exceptions, there was little out of the ordinary among the gallinaceous birds, loons, grebes, cormorants, wading birds, or raptors. The six separate reports of the usually hard to find Northern Goshawk was noteworthy as were 12 reports of Golden Eagle.

An Important Bird Area monitoring survey turned up 128 Common Gallinules, a high number for that species. Sandhill Cranes continued to increase in the Region. Mike Tetlow reported 71 at Montezuma NWR, where at least 33 remained at the end of the season. Montezuma NWR hosted a nice variety of shorebirds, with a Western Sandpiper in early September a highlight. Many birders saw the bird, and Benjamin Van Doren provided thorough details.

There were several gulls of interest. Franklin's Gull occurred on both Seneca and Cayuga Lakes. A Thayer's Gull frequented the south end of Cayuga Lake and the compost pile near Reynolds State Game Farm in late November. Gulls thought to be Herring x Glaucous and Herring x Great Black-backed were reported. There was only one report of Black Tern, but several each of Common and Forster's Terns.

Perhaps no species took greater advantage of the warm September weather than did Common Nighthawk, with many still migrating in late September and one reported in late October. The last Chimney Swift and Ruby-throated Hummingbird were both observed on 4 October.

Observers doing traveling counts turned in high counts for every species of woodpecker except for Red-headed. The last observations of Olive-sided Flycatcher and Eastern Wood-Pewee were both at late dates. A **Western Kingbird** in Tompkins County was rare for the Region. A Bank Swallow at MNWR 18 October was the only late departing swallow. Jessie Barry and Chris Wood found a **Cave Swallow** at MNWR in mid-November.

Jay McGowan found the last Marsh Wren at MNWR on the late date of 6 November. The only late departing thrush was Chris Wood's Swainson's Thrush at Monkey Run in Tompkins County. Late departing warblers were Black-and-white Warbler (22 October), American Redstart (18 October), Northern Parula (21 October), Yellow Warbler (21 October), Prairie Warbler (11 October), and Canada Warbler (30 September). Warbler rarities were a Golden-winged Warbler that David Weber photographed at Cornell University's Palmer Woods, a Prothonotary Warbler at Myers Point that surprised Jay McGowan with both its location and its late date (9-10 October), and a most unusual fall report of a **Kentucky Warbler** at Cornell Plantations that Tim Lenz, Jay McGowan, and Luke Seitz found.

Notable sparrow reports for the season included a Clay-colored Sparrow at Cornell University seen by many and photographed by Jay McGowan, and two Nelson's Sparrows seen and photographed by many at Cornell Research Ponds. None of the last reports for sparrows were late records in keeping with the normal October temperatures.

Other records of interest included several reports of **Dickcissel**, including a report of four in Northeast Ithaca. There were two reports of Yellow-headed Blackbird from MNWR, one in September and a report of two in November. Ian Davies reported large numbers of Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, Brown-headed Cowbirds, and European Starlings roosting in Queen Catharine Marsh. A very late Baltimore Oriole was at Myers Point in early November.

Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins both arrived in the Region in October. No other winter finches—crossbills or grosbeaks—were reported.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AHB – Aurora High Banks aka Mackenzie-Childs Bluffs, T Aurora, CAYU; BLNA – Bluegrass Lane Natural Area, T Ithaca, TOMP; CP – Cornell Plantations, CU; CygL – Cayuga L; CRP – Cornell Research Pds, T Dryden, TOMP; CU – Cornell University, C & T Ithaca, TOMP; DLP – Dryden L P TOMP; DP – Durland Preserve, T Dryden, TOMP; FLNF – Finger Lakes National Forest, T Hector, SCHU; HH – Hog Hole, Ithaca, T Dryden, TOMP; LPBP – Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve, T Danby, TOMP; LPSP – Long Pt SP; MNWR – Montezuma NWR; MR – Monkey Run, T Dryden, TOMP; MtPl – Mount Pleasant, T Dryden, TOMP; MyPt – Myers Pt, T Lansing, TOMP; PW – Palmer Woods, T Ithaca, TOMP; PH – Prospect Hill, T Horseheads, CHEM; QCM – Queen Catharine Marsh, T Montour, SCHU; RHPP – Roy H. Park Preserve, T Dryden, TOMP; RJYC – Red Jacket Yacht Club, T Fayette, SENE; RSGF – Reynolds State Game Farm, T Dryden, TOMP; SD – Sullivanville Dam, T Horseheads, CHEM; SLSP – Seneca L SP; SPt – Salt Pt, T Lansing, TOMP; StP – Stewart P, Ithaca, TOMP; SW – SW TOMP; TFSP – Taughannock Falls SP; THSF – Texas Hollow State Forest, T Hector, SCHU; TDry – T Dryden; TIth – T Ithaca; TLan – T Lansing; TNew – T Newfield; TTyr – T Tyre.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:

arr & max 3 MNWR 11 Oct (WF, M&MMA); Muar L Canandaigua ONTA 16 Oct (DD!, KMcGa, ph); last 2 MNWR 29 Oct (JO!).

ROSS'S GOOSE: Cyg L T Aurelius CAYU 19 & 26 Sep (mob); max 2 MNWR 21 Nov thru (mob).

Snow Goose: max 1620 MNWR 27 Nov.

Cackling Goose: arr MNWR 20 Sep (JHT); max 12 MNWR 14 Nov (JMcG, ph).

Canada Goose: max 15,000 MNWR 27 Nov.

Mute Swan: arr 2 MNWR 5 Oct (GF), late; max 4 MNWR 7 Oct (JT); last 2 Clifton Springs Hospital Pd, V Clifton Springs ONTA 4 Nov (DSp).

Trumpeter Swan: max 18 MNWR 21 Nov (JL), high.

Tundra Swan: max 485 MNWR 21 Nov.

Wood Duck: max 160 MNWR 6 Sep (JMcG).

Gadwall: max 250 MNWR 1 Nov (JMcG) & 8 Nov (GD, KR), high.

Eurasian Wigeon: arr MNWR 5 Sep (LK, TL, BW, ST), early; max 2 MNWR 11 Oct-7 Nov (mob); last MNWR 10 Nov (LCB, DK).

Am. Wigeon: max 5000 MNWR 23 Oct (IBA).

Am. Black Duck: max 200 MNWR 14 Nov.

Mallard: max 5000 MNWR 13 Nov (IBA), high.

Blue-winged Teal: max 200 MNWR 26 Sep (JMcG, LSa); last MNWR 12 Nov (Mike Morgante).

BLUE-WINGED X CINNAMON TEAL

(**hybrid**): MNWR 1-22 Nov (mob, ph).

N. Shoveler: max 250 MNWR 18 Oct (JMcG, LSa), high.

N. Pintail: max 5900 MNWR 13 Nov (IBA), high.

Green-winged Teal: max 5000 MNWR 13 Nov (IBA), high.

Canvasback: arr MNWR 11 Oct; max 80 MNWR 14 Nov.

Redhead: max 2000 MNWR 28 Nov (WBU), high.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 6 MNWR 10 Sep; max 7400 MNWR 10 Nov (IBA), high.

Greater Scaup: max 270 MNWR 15 Nov (JB, LSe, CWo), high.

Lesser Scaup: arr SenL TFSP 1 Oct; max 1650 MNWR 15 Nov (JB, LSe, CWo), high.

Surf Scoter: arr Sampson SP 18 Oct (LK, TL, AW); max 2 SenL TFSP 25 Oct (DK); last AHB 14 Nov (JMcG).

White-winged Scoter: arr East Shore P Tlth TOMP 17 Oct (JMcG & LSa); max 3 CygL StP 14 Nov (CTH).

Black Scoter: arr CygL MyPt 15 Oct (JMcG & LSa); max 12 CygL MyPt 7 Nov (CWo).

Long-tailed Duck: arr 2 CygL TFSP 19 Oct (TL); max 23 CygL StP 14 Nov (CTH).

Bufflehead: arr CygL MyPt 10 Sep; max 165 AHB 7 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: arr CygL MyPt 28 Oct; max 13 AHB 15 Nov.

Com. Merganser: max 106 Chemung R C Elmira CHEM 27 Sep.

Red-breasted Merganser: arr SenL TFSP 12 Sep; max 85 AHB 7 Nov (JMcG), high.

Ruddy Duck: max 500 MNWR 8 Nov (mob), high.

Ring-necked Pheasant: max 8 T Ledyard CAYU 29 Nov (JB), high.

Red-throated Loon: arr 2 CygL MyPt 2 Nov (ID, JD); max & last 4 CygL RJYC 22 Nov (DNu).

Com. Loon: arr CygL T Covert SENE 15 Sep (JAS); max 1345 CygL T Ledyard CAYU 7 Nov (JMcG).

Pied-billed Grebe: max 195 MNWR 18 Sep (IBA).

Horned Grebe: arr MNWR 20 Sep (JHT), early; max & last 6 CygL RJYC 22 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: arr 3 Seneca L Lakefront P C Geneva 12 Sep (LK, NG, TL); max 4 CygL TFSP 11 Nov (TL).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 605 CygL StP 3 Oct (KR).

Am. Bittern: max 2 MNWR 2 Oct; last MNWR 15 Nov.

Least Bittern: last MNWR 7 Sep (VF).

Great Egret: max 80 MNWR 6 Sep; last 3 MNWR 15 Oct.

Green Heron: max 23 CU 9 Sep; last CU 13 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 18 MNWR 6 Sep; last 2 MNWR 6 Nov.

Turkey Vulture: max 180 StP 1 Oct.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Osprey: max 11 MNWR 4 Sep; last 2 SW 24 Oct.

N. Goshawk: CU 1 Oct (LF, RR); TDry 8 Nov (JFi); CU 8 Nov (AW); MtPI 8 Nov (JGK); TNew TOMP 15 Nov (ID); Ithaca Reservoir, Tlth TOMP 16 Nov (JGK).

Red-shouldered Hawk: max 5 LPBP 15 Oct; last SW 11 Nov.

Broad-winged Hawk: max 52 T Enfield TOMP 20 Sep; last PH 7 Oct.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 65 CU 17 Oct.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr TLAN TOMP 15 Oct.
Golden Eagle: arr MtPl 10 Oct (LK, JMcG, KR); 11 reports from TOMP, 1 from ONTA.
Virginia Rail: max 2 MNWR 1 Sep; 2 Owasco Lake Inlet 2 T Moravia CAYU 19 Sep; 2 QCM 22 Sep; 2 Mark Twain SP 12 Oct; last BLNA 23 Oct.
Sora: max 2 MNWR 5 Sep; 2 MNWR 19 Sep; 2 QCM 26 Sep; last PW CU 8 Oct.
Com. Gallinule: max 128 MNWR 18 Sep (IBA), high; last MNWR 3 Nov.
Am. Coot: max 900 MNWR 21 Nov.
Sandhill Crane: max 71 MNWR 1 Nov (MT), high; last 33 MNWR thru.
Black-bellied Plover: max 10 MNWR 25 Sep; last 7 MNWR 26 Oct.
Am. Golden-Plover: max 19 T Farmington ONTA 16 Oct; last MNWR 7 Nov (WP, CWo), late.
Semipalmated Plover: max 70 MNWR 6 Sep; last 2 MNWR 13 Oct.
Killdeer: max 137 T Hector SCHU 13 Sep; last Tlth TOMP 27 Nov.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 6 MNWR 20 Sep (LG, KSc, KSn), high; last CU 6 Oct.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 22 LPBP 16 Sep (JMcG, LSa), high; last LPBP 10 Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 50 MNWR 5 Sep; last 2 MNWR 13 Nov.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 130 MNWR 6 Sep; last 3 MNWR 10 Nov.
Upland Sandpiper: CU 9 Sep (mob); last PW CU 13 Sep (MSm, DWe).
Hudsonian Godwit: arr MNWR 25 Sep (mob); max 4 MNWR 7 Oct-11 Oct (mob); last MNWR 14 Oct (EP).
Ruddy Turnstone: MNWR 8 Sep-13 Sep (mob); SLSP 12-13 Sep (mob), only reports.
Stilt Sandpiper: max 14 MNWR 27 Sep; last 3 MNWR 11 Oct.
Sanderling: Cyl MyPt 1 Sep; last MNWR 4 Nov.
Dunlin: max 39 MNWR 30 Oct; last SenL Dresden YATE 21 Nov.
Baird's Sandpiper: max 3 MNWR 1 Sep; last MNWR 8 Oct.
Least Sandpiper: max 180 MNWR 6 Sep; last MNWR 1 Nov.
White-rumped Sandpiper: max 8 MNWR 28 Sep; last 2 MNWR 20 Oct.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: max 6 MNWR 1 Sep (JO); last MNWR 25 Sep (JMcG, LSa).

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 75 MNWR 6 Sep; last MNWR 10 Nov.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 200 MNWR 6 Sep (KR), high; last MNWR 1 Nov.
WESTERN SANDPIPER: arr MNWR 5-6 Sep (mob, BVD!).
Short-billed Dowitcher: max 12 MNWR 1 Sep; last 4 MNWR 1 Oct.
Long-billed Dowitcher: max 34 MNWR 4 Oct.
Wilson's Snipe: max 10 LPBP 3 Nov; last LPBP 16 Nov.
Am. Woodcock: max 2 MNWR 19 Sep; last Tlth TOMP 9 Nov.
Wilson's Phalarope: MNWR 18 Sep-23 Sep (mob), only report.
Red-necked Phalarope: max 2 Warren W. Clute Memorial P, Watkins Glen 12 Sep (ID, LK, TL); last MNWR 1 Oct (PL, SM), late.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 14 Cyl TFSP 13 Nov; last 3 Cyl RJYC 22 Nov.
FRANKLIN'S GULL: arr SenL Lakefront P ONTA (BM), SenL Salt Pt, T Reading SCHU (ID), Cyl TFSP (LSe), Cyl MyPt (NG, JMcG, ph) 13 Nov; last Cyl MyPt 15 Nov (JMcG, BW), part of major incursion in the East.
Ring-billed Gull: max 3500 T Genoa CAYU 6 Nov.
Herring Gull: max 1800 RSGF 25 Nov.
THAYER'S GULL: RSGF 22-25 Nov (mob, ph); Cyl Ithaca 25-26 Nov (B&ACFr!, JMcG!), only reports.
Iceland Gull: arr PW CU 10 Nov (LK, ST); max 3 RSGF 24 Nov (CWo), high.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: arr Cyl LPSP 4 Sep (WE); max 3 Cyl MyPt 24 Nov (ID, CWo).
Glauca Gull: RSGF 24 Nov-26 Nov (mob), only report.
Herring x Glauca Gull (hybrid): RSGF 27 Nov (CWo).
Herring x Great Black-backed Gull (hybrid): RSGF 23-25 Nov (JMcG, EC).
Caspian Tern: max 16 MNWR 1 Sep (AG) & 6 Nov (JMcG), high; last Cyl StP 7 Oct.
Black Tern: Cyl MyPt 7 Sep (JB, CWo), only report.
Com. Tern: 2 T Danby TOMP 2 Sep (JMcG, LSa); max 15 Cyl MyPt 30 Sep (JMcG, LSa); last Warren W. Clute Memorial Park, Watkins Glen 1 Oct (ID, AJ).
Forster's Tern: SenL Watkins Glen SCHU 7 Sep (ID, TL); 7 Sep Cyl MyPt (JMcG, LSa); last Cyl MyPt 30 Sep (JMcG, LSa).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last MNWR 13 Sep.
Black-billed Cuckoo: max 2 FLNF 5 Sep; last Tith TOMP 28 Sep.
Barred Owl: max 3 MNWR 19 Sep (RB, NK); Hammond Hill SF TOMP 30 Oct (GM, DJM, RSw), high.
N. Saw-whet Owl: 2 Hammond Hill SF TOMP 5 Oct-17 Nov.
Com. Nighthawk: max 30 Chemung R Elmira 27 Sep; last MR 26 Oct (CWo), late.
Chimney Swift: max 9 PW CU 1 Sep; last MNWR 4 Oct.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 6 THSF 7 Sep; last Painted Post 4 Oct.
Red-headed Woodpecker: MNWR 1-5 Sep; CU 20 Sep; last Tith 9 Oct.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 12 MR 26 Sep (CWo), high.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 10 THSF 23 Sep (GM), high.
Downy Woodpecker: max 16 DLP 6 Sep (CWo), 16 THSF 24 Sep (ID), high.
Hairy Woodpecker: max 8 MR 27 Sep (CWo), high.
N. Flicker: max 25 CP 20 Sep (BB, LSe, BVD), high.
Pileated Woodpecker: max 7 THSF 24 Sep (ID), high.
Am. Kestrel: max 7 MtPl 2 Oct (JMcG).
Merlin: max 3 PW CU 1 Oct (LK), high.
Peregrine Falcon: max 3 MNWR 13 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last CU 16 Sep (mob), late.
E. Wood-Pewee: max 5 THSF 7 Sep & 5 MNWR 19 Sep; last MR 10 Oct (CWo), late.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 3 THSF 7 Sep (ID, TL); last THSF 27 Sep (ID).
Willow Flycatcher: MNWR 6 Sep (JMcG); DLP 6 Sep (JB); last Newfield-Danby town line TOMP 7 Sep (KR).
Least Flycatcher: max 5 Tith TOMP 6 Sep (TSc), high; last SW 30 Sep.
E. Phoebe: max 10 Tith TOMP 20 Sep; last Tith TOMP 1 Nov.
Great Crested Flycatcher: max 2 DP 3 Sep; last BLNA 22 Sep (KR), late.
WESTERN KINGBIRD: Newfield-Danby town line 7 Sep (mob, ph).
E. Kingbird: max 2 MNWR 1 Sep & 2 DLP 8 Sep; last T Veteran CHEM 10 Sep.
N. Shrike: State Route 90 Fishing Access, T Summerhill CAYU 8 Nov (mob), only report.

Yellow-throated Vireo: max 3 SD 4 Sep (NG, TL) & 3 THSF 6 Sep (ID), high; last Ontario Pathways T Phelps ONTA 5 Oct (JA), late.
Blue-headed Vireo: max 19 THSF 24 Sep (ID), high; last Tith TOMP 29 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: max 13 MyPt 9 Sep (JMcG, LSa), high; last PH 14 Oct (MP).
Philadelphia Vireo: arr 3 PW CU 1 Sep; max 5 PW CU 14 Sep (DWe) & 5 CP 20 Sep (BB, BVD, LSe), high; last SW 6 Oct (J&KMcGo).
Red-eyed Vireo: max 24 THSF 7 Sep; last PW CU 20 Oct.
Blue Jay: max 551 Spt 2 Oct (PL, SM).
Am. Crow: max 1200 MyPt 8 Nov (JMcG).
Fish Crow: max 15 RSGF 13 Sep & 17 Oct (KMcGo).
Com. Raven: max 20 Gleason Meadows T Big Flats CHEM 19 Sep.
Purple Martin: max & last 25 MNWR 19 Sep.
Tree Swallow: max 3000 MNWR 26 Sep (JMcG, LSa); last MNWR 4 Nov (B&LHa).
N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 30 MNWR 27 Sep; last 2 MNWR 19 Oct.
Bank Swallow: max 900 MNWR 6 Sep (JMcG); last MNWR 18 Oct (JMcG, LSa), late.
Cliff Swallow: max 7 MNWR 27 Sep; last MNWR 7 Oct.
CAVE SWALLOW: MNWR 15 Nov (JB, CWo!).
Barn Swallow: max 100 MNWR 6 Sep; last 2 MNWR 19 Oct.
Tufted Titmouse: max 15 SW Rd 9 Oct (AL, NM), high.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 18 RHPP 22 Sep (JMcG, LSa).
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 20 THSF 24 Sep (ID), high.
House Wren: max 5 Tith TOMP 6 Sep; last Riley Tree Farm T Niles CAYU 20 Oct.
Marsh Wren: max 18 MNWR 2 Sep (JO), high; last MNWR 6 Nov (JMcG), late.
Carolina Wren: max 6 PW CU 21 Sep (GD, LK, ST, AW), high.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 2 SD 4 Sep & 2 MNWR 5 Sep; last THSF 13 Sep.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr DP 10 Sep; max 21 THSF 6 Oct; last MyPt 27 Nov (JMcG).
Veery: max 80 Tith TOMP 10 Sep; last 3 CU 24 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr MR 3 Sep; max 30 Tith TOMP 21 Sep; last 2 RHPP 14 Oct (JMcG, LSa).
Swainson's Thrush: max 550 Tith TOMP 10 Sep (JMcG), high; last MR 8 Nov (CWo), late.
Hermit Thrush: max 8 PW CU 20 Oct; last Severne Pt, SenL T Milo YATE 21 Nov.

**PHOTO GALLERY
FALL 2015**



Townsend's Solitaire, Thatcher SP, *Albany*, 24 Oct 2015, © Scott Stoner.



Black-capped Petrel, offshore Long Island, 24 Oct 2015, © Sean Sime.



Franklin's Gull, Venetian Shores Park, *Suffolk*, 13 Nov 2015, © Pete Morris.



Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher, Central Park, *New York*, 22 Nov 2015, © Taylor Sturm.



Peregrine Falcons nesting along Central Park, *New York*—see article pp. 13-18.
Figure 1. View from the nest on Central Park West at 62nd street, looking to the northeast. Adult female Peregrine and nest box (with two young) at lower left, 8 Jun 2014, © Robert DeCandido PhD.



Figure 2. Unbanded adult female Peregrine Falcon feeds ten day old nestlings on 20 May 2014 at the Central Park West nest. Photograph © Deborah Allen.



Figure 3. Banded adult male Peregrine Falcon delivers a male House Finch to the Central Park West nest on 14 Jun 2014. His left leg bands indicate he was banded by C. Nadeski as a nestling at nearby Riverside Church, *New York*, on 27 May 2011. Photograph © Deborah Allen.

Wood Thrush: max 120 Tlth TOMP 10 Sep (JMcG); last MR 14 Oct.
Am. Robin: max 350 TDry TOMP 30 Oct.
Gray Catbird: max 45 Montezuma Heritage Park T Montezuma CAYU 15 Sep; last Ithaca 21 Nov.
Brown Thrasher: max 4 LPBP 16 Sep & 4 CP 20 Sep; last Edwards Lake Cliff Preserve Tlan TOMP 10 Oct.
European Starling: max 21,400 QCM 22 Sep (ID).
Am. Pipit: arr 18 MNWR 19 Sep; max 80 MNWR 18 Oct; last 4 MtPl 20 Nov.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: arr MR 10 Oct (CWo); MNWR 18 Oct (JMcG, LSa); HH 21 Oct (JMcG, LSa); MyPt 26 Oct (JMcG); MNWR 21 Nov (JMcG).
Snow Bunting: arr 7 BLNA & MyPt 31 Oct; max 150 Savannah Mucklands TTYr SENE 20 Nov.
Ovenbird: max 20 CU 10 Sep (mob), high; last Tlth TOMP 5 Oct.
N. Waterthrush: max 2 SW 8-11 Sep; last Robert Treman SP 25 Sep.
GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (R3): PW CU 1 Sep (DWe, ph), only report.
Blue-winged Warbler: max 4 THSF 7 Sep (ID, TL), high; last Ithaca 20 Sep.
“Brewster’s” Warbler (hybrid): Spt 9-13 Sep (ACFr&BFR, KR).
Black-and-white Warbler: max 4 FLNF 5 Sep & 4 THSF 6 & 27 Sep; last Cayuga Community College Nature Trail, Auburn CAYU 22 Oct (KB), late.
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (R3): MyPt & Spt 9-10 Oct (JMcG, LSa), unusual location.
Tennessee Warbler: max 15 CU 10 Sep (mob), high; last QCM, Tlth, TDry 10 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr & max 2 SW 12 Sep (WH); last HH 29 Oct (ID).
Nashville Warbler: max 8 LPBP 24 Sep; last Breeding Bird Atlas Block 3176D T Manchester ONTA 30 Oct (Dsp).
Mourning Warbler: last MNWR 26 Sep.
KENTUCKY WARBLER (R3): CP 9 Sep (TL, JMcG, LSe!).
Com. Yellowthroat: max 34 MNWR 26 Sep; last TDry TOMP & MR 25 Oct.
Hooded Warbler: max 3 FLNF 5 Sep & 3 THSF 7-13 Sep, Yellow Barn State Forest, TDry TOMP 7 Sep; last PH 2 Oct.

Am. Redstart: max 15 CU 10 Sep (TL), high; last Ithaca Farmers Market, Ithaca 18 Oct (LSe), late.
Cape May Warbler: max 12 CU 10 Sep (mob), high; last StP (TL) & Tlan (TSc) 7 Oct.
Cerulean Warbler: MNWR 24 Sep (JO), only report.
N. Parula: arr Dryden L Linear Path TDry TOMP 1 Sep; max 11 THSF 23 Sep (GM), high; last Ithaca 21 Oct (DNu), late.
Magnolia Warbler: max 26 CP 20 Sep (BB, LSe, BVD), high; last TDry (2 locations) 10 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr CU, TDry 2 Sep; max 6 CP 20 Sep; last THSF 6 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 7 THSF 7 Sep (ID, TL), high; last PW CU 28 Sep.
Yellow Warbler: max 10 MNWR 6 Sep; last HH 21 Oct (mob), late.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 20 CU 10 Sep (mob), high; last MR 27 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 15 CU 10 Sep (mob), high; last Spt 10 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 16 CU 10 Sep (mob); last CU 13 Oct.
Palm Warbler: arr Seneca Meadows Wetland Preserve T Seneca Falls SENE 5 Sep; max 9 LPBP 24 Sep.
Pine Warbler: max 7 Turtle Pd, Alpine SCHU 12 Sep; last T Prattsburg STEU 18 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 60 LPBP 8 Oct; last Jetty Woods TOMP 26 Nov.
Prairie Warbler: last RHPP 11 Oct (DJM), late.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 31 THSF 7 Sep (ID, TL), high; last BLNA.
Canada Warbler: max 2 SD 4 Sep & 2 THSF 6 Sep; last SW 30 Sep (JMcG), late.
Wilson’s Warbler: max 4 CP 9 Sep; last 2 CU 6 Oct.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: max 12 CylL LPSP 4 Oct; last PW CU 11 Nov.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr LPBP & T Caroline TOMP 23 Oct; max 40 MNWR 31 Oct.
Chipping Sparrow: max 53 BLNA 3 Oct; last T Seneca Falls SENE 14 Nov.
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (R3): CU 4 Sep (mob, JMcG, ph, BFo!), only report.
Field Sparrow: max 25 CylL LPSP 4 Oct (JMcG, LSa), high; last LPBP 3 Nov.
Vesper Sparrow: max 4 BLNA 25 Oct; last BLNA 27 Oct (WH).

Savannah Sparrow: max 30 CU 10 Sep & 30 T1th 10 Sep; last 2 BLNA 15 Nov.

Vesper Sparrow: max 4 BLNA 25 Oct; last BLNA 27 Oct (WH).

Savannah Sparrow: max 30 CU 10 Sep & 30 T1th 10 Sep; last 2 BLNA 15 Nov.

Grasshopper Sparrow: MNWR 19 Sep (DG), only report.

NELSON'S SPARROW (R3): 2 CRP 8 Oct-11 Oct (mob, ph).

Fox Sparrow: arr T1th TOMP 11 Oct; max 31 LPBP 8 Nov; last TDry TOMP 25 Nov.

Song Sparrow: max 100 Cornell Community Garden Plots TDry TOMP 9 Oct (KMcGo).

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr MNWR 19 Sep; max 5 Cornell Community Garden Plots TDry TOMP 12 Oct; last Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES T1th TOMP 25 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: max 175 LPBP 8 Oct (BFR).

White-crowned Sparrow: arr MNWR 18 Sep; max 10 TLan TOMP 18 Oct; last 2 T Covert TOMP 23 Sep.

Scarlet Tanager: max 10 THSF 6-7 Sep (ID, TL), high; last PW CU 8 Oct.

N. Cardinal: max 22 TDry TOMP 3 Oct (JFi), high.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 30 CRP 20 Sep; last PW CU 14 Oct.

Indigo Bunting: max 10 Dryden L Linear Path TDry TOMP 1 Sep; last PW CU 15 Oct.

Dickcissel: 2 CU 9 Sep (mob); max 4 T1th TOMP 10 Sep (JMcG), high; last T Erwin STEU 20 Oct (MWo).

Bobolink: max 1975 QCM 1 Sep (ID), high; last 6 MNWR 14 Oct.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 13,100 QCM 15 Sep (ID).

E. Meadowlark: max 6 SD 2 Oct; last MR 4 Nov.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: MNWR 26 Sep (ADa); 2 MNWR 15 Nov (DiWh).

Rusty Blackbird: arr LPBP 20 Sep; max 74 SW 13 Nov.

Com. Grackle: max 20,500 QCM 5 Oct (ID); last PW CU 30 Nov (DWe).

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 1100 QCM 16 Oct (mob); last T Horseheads CHEM (Daniel Bednarek) & 4 SW (AL, NM) 25 Nov.

Baltimore Oriole: max 3 MNWR 3 Sep (JMcG); last MyPt 8 Nov (AL, EtM, NM, SW), late.

Com. Redpoll: arr SW 26 Oct (WH), early; max 11 PH 6 Nov.

Pine Siskin: arr T1th TOMP 1 Oct; max 58 T Enfield TOMP 10 Oct (PR), high.



REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

William Kuk

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September 2015 was warmer and drier than normal. In fact September was the second warmest since 1950. October was about average regarding both temperature and precipitation. November was warmer (actually the fourth warmest November) and drier than average. El Niño anyone?

Given the mild September weather, one would not have expected waterfowl to be coming through early, but a flock of Snow Geese was seen on 1 October from a vantage point in Broome County. Black Scoters were seen in good numbers, with 12 seen on Pepacton Reservoir on 18 October.

Moving on to raptors, Andy Mason reports that numbers from the Franklin Mountain hawk watch were somewhat down this year. The total count was 4,312 raptors, which was 18% below the 14-year average of 5,275. However, Broad-winged Hawks were slightly above their 14-year averages, and on 15

September, 480 Broad-wings were counted, which was the high daily total for the season. (The high count for last year was 427 on 17 September.) The total number of Bald Eagles at 231 was 47% above average. Osprey recorded at 54 was about the same as last year's total of 53. Northern Harriers, Red-tailed Hawks, Sharp-shinned Hawks, and Cooper's Hawks were all down significantly from their 14-year averages. Golden Eagles were also down from their average, with 124 tallied. On both 30 October and 14 November 26 Golden Eagles were sighted.

One aspect of the decline noted above at the Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch is that the observation hours in 2015 were 26% below the 14-year average. The weather patterns may also play a role. Andy Mason states: "There is not a clear reason for the declines. A warm fall with few strong cold fronts is probably a factor. The warm December was particularly dismal with only 30 birds counted during 15 days of coverage. Western Pennsylvania had big numbers of Golden Eagles early on, suggesting the birds passed through New York west of Franklin Mt. And there is evidence that Red-tailed Hawks may be migrating in fewer numbers, remaining north due to warming conditions."

Regarding shorebirds, two separate American Golden-Plovers were seen and photographed in the mudflats created by the low waters of the Chenango River in Binghamton in early September and then again in early October. This area of Chenango River is just south of Otsiningo Park and is easily accessible because there is a parking area and a river walk trail. So many birders were able to see these shorebirds.

George Chiu found and photographed an immature Laughing Gull in Dorchester Park in late October. This is an uncommon bird for our Region, and the bird wound up staying for 11 days. It seemed relatively acclimated to human activities and was very interested in the garbage collection in the park and the fishermen's pursuits. Late in November there was also an Iceland Gull spotted and photographed at Dorchester Park.

Warbler diversity continued to be good, with 27 species recorded. (Last year's total was 27 as well). Three Mourning Warblers were observed at the Lime Hollow Nature Center during a wave of fall migrants in early September.

Lance Verderame found eight Vesper Sparrows in Delaware County on 18 October. The sparrows were feeding in a cut field, and field marks were clearly visible. On 31 October, American Tree Sparrows made their first appearance of the season at the Carantouan Greenway in Tioga County. A flock of 14 Rusty Blackbirds was reported from Upper Lisle Park, and there were 13 other scattered reports of this declining species.

There were 21 reports of Pine Siskins, some with good numbers, which seem to echo last year's irruption.

In summary, 209 species were reported with some interesting rarities for the Region. I also want to acknowledge and thank Dave Wheeler for the use of his software SwanSwanHummingbird which is used to sort eBird data and to identify arrivals, last dates, and high counts.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AqPk – Aquaterra P, BROO; BUNP – Binghamton University Nature Preserve, BROO; CanL – Canadarago L, OTSE; CannR – Cannonsville Res, DELA; DorP – Dorchester P, BROO; FMHW – Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch, DELA; GrwP – Greenwood CP, BROO; LHNC – Lime Hollow Nature Center, CORT; MHL – Michigan Hollow L, TIOG; OtsL – Otsego L, OTSE; UL – Upper Lisle, BROO; WRRd – West River Rd, Marathon, CORT.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr flock BROO 1 Oct, early; max 19 East Maine Rd BROO 1 Oct.
Brant: max 91 TIOG 8 Oct, flyover, photo.
Cackling Goose: 2 GrwP 8-26 Oct, mob.
Tundra Swan: 3 UL 14 Nov.
Surf Scoter: DorP 8 Nov.
Black Scoter: max 12 Pepacton Res DELA 18 Oct.
Long-tailed Duck: max 3 DorP 14 Nov.
Ruddy Duck: max 6 DorP 12 Nov.
Red-throated Loon: DorP 16-30 Oct.
Com. Loon: max 14 Daisy Hollow Rd CORT 25 Nov, flyover.
Red-necked Grebe: UL 14 Nov.
Great Egret: 80 reports, most in Sep.
Turkey Vulture: total 429 FMHW, 4% above avg.

HAWKS – LARIDS

(FMHW totals cover 25 Aug to 3 Jan; averages reflect 2001-2014 data, intro).

Osprey: total 54 FMHW, 57% below avg.
Bald Eagle: total 231 FMHW, 47% above avg; many other rep; very widespread.
N. Harrier: total 46 FMHW, 33% below avg.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 297 FMHW, 46% below avg.
Cooper's Hawk: total 48 FMHW, 54% below avg.
N. Goshawk: total 11 FMHW, 49% below avg.
Red-shouldered Hawk: total 23 FMHW, 59% below avg.
Broad-winged Hawk: total 1458 FMHW, about avg.
Red-tailed Hawk: total 1486 FMHW, 24% below avg; many other rep.
Rough-legged Hawk: total 1 FMHW, 88% below avg.
Golden Eagle: total 124 FMHW, 28% below avg.
Virginia Rail: MHL 14-28 Sep.
Sora: BUNP 27-29 Sep, photos.

Am. Golden-Plover: Chenango R, Binghamton BROO 8-9 Sep & 4-6 Oct, photos.
Baird's Sandpiper: Prentice Rd, Vestal BROO 5-9 Sep.
Laughing Gull: DorP 29 Oct to 8 Nov, mob, photos.
Iceland Gull: Yaman P CORT 21 Nov; DorP 25 Nov.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Snowy Owl: Pepacton Res DELA 16 Nov.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last 2 Endicott BROO 29 Sep.
Am. Kestrel: total 40 FMHW, 61% below avg.
Merlin: total 24 FMHW, 4% below avg.
Peregrine Falcon: total 20 FMHW, 26% above avg; many rep from Binghamton BROO of resident downtown pair.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: arr Caldwell Hill Rd BROO 6 Nov.
Horned Lark: max 17 Caldwell Hill Rd BROO 6 Nov.

Swainson's Thrush: max night flight 6 Greater Binghamton Airport BROO 13 Sep (DN).

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Snow Bunting: max 5 Pepacton Res DELA 31 Oct.
Mourning Warbler: 3 LHNC 7 Sep.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Carantouan Greenway TIOG 31 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: max 8 Bridge St Downsville DELA 18 Oct.
Red Crossbill: UL 15 Oct; Long Pond SF CHEN 26 Nov.
Rusty Blackbird: 14 UL 4 Nov; 13 other rep with small numbers.
Pine Siskin: max 60 Bridge St Downsville DELA 25 OCT; 58 Long Pond SF CHEN 26 NOV; 20 scattered rep.



REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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On the whole the fall season was warmer than normal with below average precipitation. A mean temperature of 67.9° F in September was nearly 6° above the norm. On 7 September a high of 93° was recorded in Syracuse. A total of 5.05" of rain fell in September, which is 1.36" higher than normal. 2.96" of that precipitation came in a single storm on the 29th and 30th. In Syracuse the average temperature for October was 49.9°, which is 0.7° cooler than normal. Precipitation was 3.77", which is only slightly above average for the month. In October a few inches of snow fell in northern parts of the Region, but only 0.4" fell in Syracuse, which is average for that city. Precisely the same amount of snow fell in November, but in this case it was over 9" less than normal. The mean temperature for November was 46°, which is 5.4° above average. A meager total of 0.89" of rainfall in November gave the month a precipitation deficit of 2.64".

By all accounts waterfowl migration was unremarkable this season. Persistent mild temperatures and the lack of strong storm fronts kept most tallies low, even as it made for more comfortable birding. It seemed that typical “October” conditions prevailed right through the end of November. Snow Goose migration seemed to hold off until December, which is typical. Brant migration peeked in mid-October with a high count of 1945 over Derby Hill on the 17th.

For the most part, Derby Hill was deprived of large movements of migrant waterfowl, but other classes of birds occasionally kept things interesting there. On 14 September, 20-25 mph winds from the “right” direction (NW-W) delivered a nice spread of species including some rarities. Notables on that day included: Long-tailed Jaeger, Black-legged Kittiwake, **Sabine’s Gull**, Little Gull, and Forster’s Tern. Gregg Dashnau’s field notes documented an important feature for separating distant Sabine’s Gull from kittiwake. Like Little Gull, Sabine’s dabs at the water’s surface persistently, never making the steady upwind progress that kittiwakes always do. That same day, observers at Derby saw 13 American Golden-Plovers as well as four phalaropes sitting together on the water. Phalaropes were seen moving about all day, leading to speculation about number and identity. The birds were always distant and sunlit from various angles. The bill could never be seen and the back pattern changed appearance as the sun struck it from different directions. Though Red-necked is the more common migrant in the Great Lakes, Red could not be excluded.

The spectacle of many thousands of Canada Geese staging at ponds throughout the Region never gets old for many birders. In mid-November at Woodman Pond in Madison County, Richard Cohen captured on video skein upon skein of geese streaming in from the surrounding countryside and settling onto the water. In mid-November the flock size was estimated at less than 4000, but on that relatively small body of water it made for quite a sight. On 10 November, a careful scan of the goose assemblage at Woodman revealed single Brant, Snow Goose, and Greater White-fronted Goose. The latter species remained for the balance of the period. Greater White-fronted Geese were also found at three other locations. Despite the large numbers of Canada Geese migrating through and/or staging in the Region, there were only eight reports of Cackling Geese. 101 Gadwall reported by Ken Burdick on 19 September at Fair Haven is an impressive count, especially when compared to the dismal high counts of other dabblers. Northern Shovelers weren’t common this fall, but a decent count of 11 came in from the Utica Marsh on 26 November. Our duck highlight was a Eurasian Wigeon found by Gregg Dashnau at Fair Haven, which like fellow-European Lesser Black-backed Gull seems to be over-represented in North America compared with other European duck species. Why are they getting here so often and where are they coming from?

The outbreak of type E botulism affecting Lake Ontario was purportedly serious, but during the period few cases of dead or dying fish-eating birds were reported from Region 5. Jean Soprano, a wildlife rehabilitator at Kindred Kingdoms Wildlife Center (KKWC) in Pennelville, treated several birds

exhibiting symptoms consistent with botulism. A Mallard (not thought to be overly susceptible to this disease due to diet) picked up in Oswego on 12 September tested positive for the disease but recovered with treatment and was later released. Another botulism case involved a White-winged Scoter that came in from Richland on 30 September. Affected birds typically die after ingesting botulinum toxins in their prey fish. Birds are first paralyzed and then drown. Since the early 2000s, it is not unusual for tens of thousands of birds to die in botulism outbreaks around the Great Lakes.

A not-so-impressive high count of 28 Wild Turkeys was reported from Dolgeville on 24 September. Numbers of Wild Turkey in the Region continue to be low. Reasons for the decline are likely multifold, but local observations point to the increasing numbers of mammalian nest predators as a chief factor. It's possible that the overabundance of turkeys in the 1990s was due to an imbalance in the predator/prey relationship, and, with predators now reestablishing themselves in the Region, a smaller and arguably more sustainable turkey population could be the result. This is probably not such a bad thing for other avian consumers of beechnuts and other popular turkey forage. Declining or not, turkeys are still finding ways to let their presence be known on the landscape. During Thanksgiving week (of all times), Rose DeNeve and party attempted to get a closer look at two adult male turkeys that were standing along a highway. As soon as their car came to a stop on the shoulder of the road, both turkeys trotted across the highway and began hazing the vehicle. DeNeve reported that the birds "...began running around the car. They repeated this action a few times, with occasional stops between rounds to peer at us through windows or fan out their tails and display at the front bumper." DeNeve tried to evade the turkeys by pulling back onto the pavement, but the birds continued circling the car, effectively blocking her way forward. She decided that instead of risking the birds' lives by pushing them into passing traffic, she'd just pull off the pavement for a while and wait. Soon enough a pick-up truck drove by and drew the birds off. DeNeve said that the turkeys pursued the truck "...like two black labs chasing a set of wheels."

Bitterns tend to migrate early and are often missed in the fall period, but a single Least Bittern was found by Dave Nash at the Clay Marsh on 6 September and two American Bitterns were found in Pulaski, also during the first week of September.

Although the Bishop Road Hawk Watch (near Pulaski) was mostly starved of favorable winds, there were a few notable flights to report. On 23 October Bill Purcell saw three Golden Eagles pass over. His best day for Broad-winged Hawks was 20 September when 143 migrated through. Half way across the Region at Spring Farm Nature Preserve in the Town of Kirkland, a couple of kettles of Broad-winged Hawks (totaling 89 birds) were seen on 12 September. The raptors circled in a sunny portion of the sky directly in front of a massive shelf cloud that was pushing north and edging east—essentially skirting the Region. Mickey Scilingo's persistent observing from his yard paid off with a

Golden Eagle on 16 November.

All of the summer resident rail species were found this period, albeit in small numbers. Leading a field trip to Fair Haven for the Onondaga Audubon Society on 21 November, Gene Huggins asked “Where are the Coots?” That same question was asked by a few of us during the course of the season. It’s undeniable that the number of American Coots being reported around the Region continues to fall. Perhaps two consecutive hard winters that penetrated further south than usual share some of the blame. Coots frequently linger late into the season and often seem to be taken by surprise by the onset of ice.

There were no persistent or great concentrations of shorebirds during the season. Unfortunately, that hardly comes as a surprise anymore. Still, a fair diversity of species was encountered and few expected species were missed. Observing from the north lookout at Derby Hill on 13 September, Dave Wheeler saw one Hudsonian Godwit flying together with two pluvialis plovers (presumably Black-bellied Plovers). Subsequently seven other likely Hudsonians were seen as they flew along the same flight line but were not seen clearly enough to be safely identified. Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Delta Lake on 2 September were a great find by Kevin McGann. An additional two discovered by Mickey Scilingo only five days later at the Sky High Turf Farm in Chittenango is interesting. Were they the same birds? Whimbrel continued a best-in-recent-memory showing on the Ontario lakeshore with birds at Fair Haven and Derby Hill.

The Region experienced a fair number of jaegers passing by Derby Hill this period. Three Pomarine Jaegers were seen there on 19 November by Dave Wheeler. More than two months earlier on 14 September, Bill Purcell tallied an impressive 12 Parasitic Jaegers and two Long-tailed Jaegers. Although gull numbers were low this period, the Region racked up a few surprises—particularly the aforementioned Sabine’s Gull. On 7 November, another Sabine’s was seen foraging with Bonaparte’s Gulls at Oswego Harbor. Bill Purcell reported that strong winds out of the south and west on 13 November pushed six **Franklin’s Gulls** past Derby Hill as part of a broader incursion of the species into the eastern US. Viewing the next day under similar conditions, Wheeler photographed groups of four and two that passed late in the day. Analysis revealed two adults and four immatures. Dashnau, who was leaving for the day, was able to view the birds through his car windshield as Wheeler frantically waved and pointed at them.

In mid-November members of the Utica Peregrine Falcon Project (UPFP) responded to calls of Rock Pigeons acting erratically and falling dead in the vicinity of downtown Utica. Since safeguarding the resident pair of Peregrine Falcons is the organization’s primary concern and pigeons are one of the raptors’ main prey species, members of UPFP mobilized to collect carcasses. In a few days, 20 pigeons and one Dark-eyed Junco were collected and turned over to the DEC for testing. Test results were slow in coming, but ultimately the notorious pesticide Avitrol was detected in two of the specimens. Another

unidentified pesticide was suspected in some of the other specimens. During a period of three weeks, around 40 pigeon carcasses were recovered by the UFPF. With poisoning confirmed and the threat to the Peregrines and other non-target species validated, the DEC mounted an investigation. At the time of the incident, the DEC informed the UFPF that no licensed application of Avitrol had been authorized in the downtown area due to the possibility of non-target birds (including a NYS Endangered Species) being affected. As of this writing, no results from the DEC's investigation have been announced. Avitrol is a deadly and dangerous pesticide, and its use is subject to strict regulation. According to the manufacturer of Avitrol, uneaten tainted corn and all bird carcasses must be removed from the site and disposed of in a prescribed manner. It was clear that those guidelines were disregarded in this case.

A mother and son walking near a railroad tracks in Phoenix came upon a Great Horned Owl that was unable to fly and had badly damaged talons. During an attempt to rescue the bird, the woman fell on the tracks, injuring herself and breaking a finger. An oncoming train suddenly made the situation more grave, but, thankfully, the woman and the owl were moved to safety in time. The owl was taken to KKWC where unfortunately it had to be euthanized. The Region's first Snowy Owl showed up in Clinton during the week of 16 November, but was promptly killed after impacting against a building. The bird was collected by a DEC Wildlife Biologist that was called to the scene. The only other Snowy Owl report came from Fair Haven on 25 November. An adult male Barred Owl found in Volney on 28 October had both feet shattered by a leg-hold trap. The bird was brought to KKWC where it had to be euthanized. This run of bad news for owls concludes with the season's sole report of a Short-eared Owl. On 28 November the body of a Short-eared Owl was collected from an airport runway at the Griffiss Business and Technology Park in Rome. It's speculated that the owl didn't strike directly into the plane, but rather the force of a mass of air from the landing plane drove the owl into a hard impact against the ground. There were widespread reports of Merlins this period, which is no longer unusual. Both of the Region's resident pairs of Peregrine Falcons were accounted for this season and just over a dozen migrant Peregrines were reported.

A female Ruby-throated Hummingbird continued into late October (at least) at a Syracuse residence. In fall 2013, presumably the same bird lingered into late November until an abrupt change to winter weather necessitated capture. The bird had followed the homeowner indoors as she carried its feeder and was subsequently overwintered by Jean Soprano and released in May 2014. The bird was absent in fall 2014, but the feeders were brought in early. Did it migrate on time or linger elsewhere? Both homeowner and Soprano noted the exceptionally vocal nature of the individual. Cold weather in late October necessitated use of an overnight heat lamp, but fall 2015 proved to be mild. As of this writing, the outcome of this interesting story is somewhat unknown. The homeowner may have brought the feeder in during warmer early-November weather in an attempt to encourage the bird's migration.

Flycatcher migration wasn't particularly noteworthy; only a single Olive-sided Flycatcher was reported. Separate observers confidently claimed both Alder Flycatcher and Willow Flycatcher in the first week of September, which can be a brave thing to do, and there were seven reports of single Yellow-bellied Flycatchers. Northern Shrikes showed up in four locations, but none of them lingered or were relocated. In the latter part of September, Mickey Scilingo spent a few hours each morning counting Blue Jays as well as other migrants that passed by his residence on the north shore of Oneida Lake at Constantia. The numbers of Blue Jays counted were significant, with a maximum tally of 3403 on 25 September! The total Scilingo counted between 21 September-4 October was a staggering 12,573 Blue Jays, a conservative estimate!

There was no discernible irruption of Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Winter Wren numbers continue to be low. Once again migrant Hermit Thrushes were slim on the ground. An extraordinary movement of American Robins was noted in several places around the Region but was most pronounced on the Oneida lakeshore, where, during a snow squall on 8 November, Mickey Scilingo counted 2766 birds. Far away from any lake or significant geographic boundaries, Matt Perry and Tim Johnston counted migrants passing over Spring Farm Nature Preserve in the early post-dawn hours, and they too tallied large numbers of migrating American Robins as well as a fair number of Cedar Waxwings—all heading south. 1169 robins were counted there on 30 October.

On 22 November, 25 Common Ravens kited in strong west winds just east of Mexico Bay while observers at Derby Hill watched the spectacle for several hours. Eventually the birds passed by in small groups going upwind. A flock of ravens on the Ontario lakeshore is not unprecedented. In 2007 Wheeler and Tony Shrimpton were surprised to see at least 18 during a fall lakewatch near Sterling. Ken Burdick intercepted a **Cave Swallow** at Fair Haven, one of the Region's best places to look for the species. Birding the east end of Oneida Lake on strong east winds, Wheeler found another Cave Swallow feeding along the sheltered shoreline at the Verona Beach lighthouse. The bird was extensively photographed and showed active wing molt like that illustrated in the Sibley Guide to Birds—most of the secondaries and inner primaries freshly replaced, with worn, almost translucent outer primaries strongly contrasting. A shift to strong west winds the next day would likely be unkind.

Neotropical songbird migration wasn't so spectacular this fall. High counts were very low and few of the best "hotspots" received more than a steady trickle of movement even during the normal peak days of the season. Tennessee Warblers were relatively numerous this season, while the numbers of Blackburnian Warblers and Black-throated Blue Warblers were low. Seven reports of Orange-crowned Warblers and eight reports of Cape May Warblers seemed a little above par. Sparrow migration was somewhat more encouraging and dominated by a large contingent of White-throated Sparrows. A maximum of 200 was counted at Three Rivers WMA on 8 October. A few observers noted that Fox Sparrow numbers were down, and that may be indicative of a

continuing downward trend for that species.

Wheeler again monitored Common Grackle and other blackbirds roosting at the Clay Marsh. Summertime spraying for mosquitos at the spot has eliminated most insectivores as breeders, but great rivers and huge counts use the spot as a roost during late March and October. Theresa and Jeff Covington joined the fun and reversed it occasionally, watching the morning departure just before sunrise. For the second year in a row, Joe Brin noted late Bobolinks still present into mid-October at a Baldwinsville farm. Aside from Pine Siskins, fall reports of irruptive winter finches were non-existent this season.

A total of 236 species was reported for the season, which is two more than the recent 10-year average of 234. Highlights included: Cackling Goose, **Eurasian Wigeon**, Golden Eagle, Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Red/Red-necked Phalarope, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, **Long-tailed Jaeger**, Black-legged Kittiwake, **SABINE'S GULL**, Little Gull, **FRANKLIN'S GULL**, Forster's Tern, Snowy Owl, Short-eared Owl, **CAVE SWALLOW**, and Orange-crowned Warbler.

Swan Hummingbird v4.02 was used to process 34,388 eBird records from 155 contributors.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

Adks – Adirondacks (n. HERK); BLNC – Beaver L Nature Center, Baldwinsville; BRH – Bishop Road Hawk Watch, T Richland; Bville – Baldwinsville; CM – Clay Marsh, Clay; Const – Oneida L at Constantia; DB – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox; DH – Derby Hill, T Mexico; DL – Delta L; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; GB – Great Bear Rec Area, Fulton; GLSP – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; GSC – Great Swamp

Conservancy, n. MADI; Hast – Hastings; HI – Howland I WMA; NH – New Haven; OLC – Onondaga L Creekwalk; OneiL – Oneida L; OnonL – Onondaga L; OswH – Oswego Harbor; SBP – Sunset Bay P, Scriba; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; SH – Southern Highlands of ONON & MADI; SHTF – Sky High Turf Farm, Chittenango, MADI; Skan – Skaneateles; SNC – Sterling Nature Center, Sterling; SSSP – Selkirk Shores SP; SVB – Sylvan & Verona Beach; Syr – Syracuse; TR – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; VBSP – Verona Beach SP; WP – Woodman Pond, Hamilton.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: Syr 25 Oct (JLu, ph); 2 GSC 15 Nov (GC); 2 BLNC 11–22 Nov (JB, GD); WP 25 Oct thru (GM, MP); T of Russia, HERK, 3 Nov (GC), unexpected loc.

Snow Goose: arr 70 DeWitt 28 Oct; prior reports of singles & small numbers; 65 FH 14 Nov.

Brant: arr 75 FH 30 Sep; max 1945 DH 17 Oct; last OswH 14 Nov.

Cackling Goose: arr NH 26 Sep (WF); max 4 SSSP 15 Nov (CN); about 8 reports.

Canada Goose: 3500 BLNC 24 Oct; max 4000 WP16 Nov.

Mute Swan: max 34 FH 14 Oct.

Trumpeter Swan: max 10 FH 20 Oct (BP); all reports from FH and vicinity.

Tundra Swan: arr 2 FH 10 Oct; max 12 DH 14 Nov.

Wood Duck: 35 HI 9 Sep; max 36 Phoenix 15 Nov.

Gadwall: arr HI 19 Sep; max 101 FH 19 Nov (KB), good number.

Eurasian Wigeon: FH 14 Oct (GD, ph).

Am. Wigeon: 82 FH 20 Oct; max 90 WP 6 Nov.

Am. Black Duck: max 377 DH 22 Oct; 76 BLNC 25 Oct.

Mallard: 220 Bville 6 Sep; Oswego 12 Sep, one with Type E Botulism (JS), *intro*; max 261 DeRuyter Reservoir 5 Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: max 14 Hamilton 2 Sep; 6 HI 19 Sep–11 Oct; low counts & relatively few reports.

N. Shoveler: arr HI 19 Sep; 8 FH 17 Oct; max 11 UM 26 Nov; low counts.

N. Pintail: arr 5 DH 13 Sep; max 310 DH 17 Oct; 57 FH 3 Oct.

Green-winged Teal: 35 Richfield Springs 14 Sep; max 50 DH 17 Oct.

Canvasback: arr FH 26 Oct; few reports; none after 14 Nov.

Redhead: 6 Fulton 14 Oct; max 9 FH 21 Oct; 6 BLNC 8 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: 98 Tully 11 Nov; 87

Warren 11 Nov; max 120 Pompey 22 Nov.

Greater Scaup: arr Const 15 Sep; 8 FH 30 Oct; max 60 DH 7 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: arr FH 30 Sep; 13 FH 17 Oct; max 17 DH 8 Nov.

scaup sp: max 150 Pompey 23 Oct.

Surf Scoter: arr 6 FH, OswH 30 Sep; max 10 DH 17 Oct; 3 Big Moose ADK 19 Nov.

White-winged Scoter: arr OswH 30 Sep; max 134 DH 17 Oct; Richland, OSW 30 Oct (JS), botulism; 28 FH 7 Nov.

Black Scoter: arr BLNC 13 Oct; max 19 DH 13 Nov.

Surf/Black Scoter: max 50 DH 17 Oct.

Long-tailed Duck: arr 9 DH 17 Oct; max 200 DH 1 Nov; 83 OswH 13 Nov.

Bufflehead: arr DH 17 Oct; max 17 FH 7 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: arr 3 DH 25 Oct; 75 OneiL 23 Nov; max 180 OneiL 27 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: 19 Mallory 26 Nov; 16 Otisco Lake 26 Nov; max 54 BLNC 28 Nov.

Com. Merganser: max 160 SVB 23 Nov; 148 BLNC 25 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: arr DH 14 Sep; max 400 FH 30 Oct; 200 DH 7 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: arr Warren 1 Oct; max 50 WP 26–30 Oct.

Ring-necked Pheasant: max 6 TR 8 Oct; 10 reports of singles; none east of OneiL.

Ruffed Grouse: 2 SFNS 7–12 Oct; max 3 Ohio 13 Oct; 3 Erieville 21 Oct.

Wild Turkey: max 28 Dolgeville 24 Sep; 26 SH 10 Nov.

Red-throated Loon: arr DH 17 Oct; max 8 OswH 19 Nov.

Com. Loon: max 40 DH 17 Oct; 26 FH 5, 14 Nov; 10 OswH 13 Nov.

Pied-billed Grebe: 8 TR 5 Oct; max 11 WP 7 Oct; 7 WP 20 Oct.

Horned Grebe: arr 24 OswH 7 Oct; 25 DH 22 Oct; max 27 FH 5 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: arr DH 9 Sep; max 3 DH 14 Oct & WP 16 Oct.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 345 Oswego 21 Oct; 274 FH 21 Oct; 227 Phoenix 23 Oct.

Least Bittern: CM 6 Sep, only report.
Am. Bittern: Pulaski 2 Sep, only report.
Great Blue Heron: 7 Cedarville 1 Sep; max 8 DL 7 Sep; 7 UM 14 Sep.
Great Egret: 7 DL 3 Sep; 8 Warners 16 Sep; max 11 Port Byron 18 Sep; last HI, GSC 15 Oct.
Green Heron: max 5 TR 9 Sep; 4 Jamesville 9 Sep; 4 UM 15 Sep; last West Eaton 20 Oct, late.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: no reports.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Turkey Vulture: 106 DH 14 Sep; 80 Clinton 17 Oct; max 469 BRH 23 Oct.
Osprey: 5 Phoenix 3 Sep; max 6 DH 14 Sep; last Mexico 1 Nov.
Golden Eagle: arr & max 3 BRH 23 Oct (BP); Western 9 Nov, ad; Const 16 Nov; only reports.
Bald Eagle: max 10 BRH 20 Sep; 10 SNC 25 Oct; 8 DH 17 Oct.
N. Harrier: 3 Poland 2 Sep; 3 Fairfield 11 Oct; 3 BRH 23 Oct; max 6 DH 13 Nov.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 6 BRH 20 Sep; max 17 Const 25 Sep (MS); 14 Const 26 Sep (MS); relatively good numbers.
Cooper's Hawk: 2 SFNS 12, 20 Sep; max 3 Const 25, 26 Sep; 2 DH 12 Sep.
N. Goshawk: Const 26 Sep (MS), only report.
Red-shouldered Hawk: only 11 reports of singles thru 1 Nov.
Broad-winged Hawk: 89 SFNS 12 Sep; 143 BRH 20 Sep; last Camden 5 Oct.
Red-tailed Hawk: Boonville 11 Sep (JS), West Nile Virus, expires; 11 Const 18 Oct; 39 BRH 23 Oct.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr BRH 23 Oct; 7 reports of singles.
Virginia Rail: HI 12 Sep; max 3 Hamilton 27 Sep; only reports.
Sora: 2 HI 26 Sep, only report.
Com. Gallinule: 5 Hamilton 8, 28 Sep; max 14 HI 19 Sep; last 3 HI 11 Oct.
Am. Coot: 17 FH 14 Oct; 32 FH 21 Oct; 20 WP 10 Nov; relatively low numbers.
Sandhill Crane: DB 7 Sep (MS); max 5 HI 6 Oct (TB); only reports.
Black-bellied Plover: 6 DH 14 Sep; max 8 FH 27 Oct; last 3 FH 11 Nov.
Am. Golden-Plover: max 13 DH 14 Sep (TS, KB), singles/pairs usual locs.
Semipalmated Plover: max 33 DL 2 Sep; 10 Hinckley Reservoir 2 Sep; 7 Jamesville 8 Sep; last West Eaton 1 Oct; low numbers.
Killdeer: 77 Skan 2 Sep; max 135 SHTF 9 Sep (TS), good number; last SSSP 26 Nov.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 3 Jamesville 8 Sept, 3

HI 19 Sep; last 2 FH 21 Oct.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 5 Skan 2 Sep; 4 HI 19 Sep; last SFNS 15 Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 17 DL 3 Sep (MV), good number; 5 Skan 6 Sep; 5 Redfield 10 Oct; last 3 WP 12 Nov (BW).
Lesser Yellowlegs: 11 DL 4 Sep; 6 Jamesville 9 Sep; max 15 HI 19 Sep; last SSSP 17 Nov.
Whimbrel: FH 2 Sep (DW); DH 9 Sep (DW); only reports.
Hudsonian Godwit: DH 13 Sep (DW, GD); only report, *intro*.
Ruddy Turnstone: max 10 DH 13 Sep (BP, GD, DW); 2 OswH 19 Sep (DW); last 4 OswH 30 Sep (DW); only reports.
Sanderling: 4 DH 14 Sep; max 13 FH 21 Sep; SVB 18 Oct; last FH 25 Oct; low numbers.
Dunlin: 8 DH 17 Oct; max 35 FH 30 Oct; last FH 8 Nov.
Baird's Sandpiper: Brewerton 11, 12 Sep (DW); DL 12 Sep (TS); only reports.
Least Sandpiper: max 23 Jamesville 4 Sep; 15 Hamilton 4 Sep; 15 Jamesville 9 Sep; last SHTF 27 Oct, late; generally poor numbers.
White-rumped Sandpiper: 3 FH 7 Oct (GD), only report.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 2 DL 2 Sep (KM); 2 SHSF 7 Sep (MS).
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 5 Hamilton 6 Sep, 5 DL 7 Sep; last West Eaton 26 Oct; relatively few reports.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 16 Skan 2 Sep; 3 Jamesville 4 Sep; 4 DL 12 Sep; last West Eaton 27 Oct; low numbers.
Short-billed/Long-billed Dowitcher: HI 19 Sep.
Wilson's Snipe: 6 Hamilton 3 Sep; 6 Bridgeport 31 Oct; max & last 16 Bridgeport 15 Nov (AB).
Am. Woodcock: 4 DeWitt 18 Sep; max 5 Phoenix 25 Sep; last TR 26 Nov.
Red-necked Phalarope: 2 DH 14 Sep (BP, mob), *intro*.
Red-necked Phalarope/Red Phalarope: 4 DH 14 Sep (DW, JT), *intro*.
Pomarine Jaeger: 3 DH 19 Nov (DW), only report.
Parasitic Jaeger: max 12 DH 14 Sep (BP), good number; 4 DH 14 Oct; last 3 DH 13 Nov.
Pomarine/Parasitic Jaeger: DH 13 Nov.
Long-tailed Jaeger: 2 DH 14 Sep (BP, NYSARC).
jaeger species: 3 DH 9 Sep.
Black-legged Kittiwake: arr DH 14 Sep (DW, ph, mob); max 2 DH 25 Oct & DH 13 Nov (DW, GD); last DH 20 Nov.

SABINE'S GULL (R5): DH 14 Sep (GD); OshH 7 Nov (mob, ph).
Bonaparte's Gull: 60 SVB 10 Oct; 90 Cicero 31 Oct; 127 DH 13 Nov; max 135 FH 14 Nov.
Little Gull: DH 14 Sep (BP), only report.
FRANKLIN'S GULL: 6 DH 13 Nov (BP, NYSARC); 6 DH 14 Nov (DW, ph, NYSARC); *intro*.
Ring-billed Gull: 500 SVB 10 Oct; max 1451 DH 22 Nov.
Herring Gull: 200 OshH 30 Oct; max 203 DH 22 Nov.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: DH 17 Oct; SSSP 12 Nov; only reports.
Glaucous Gull: DH 14 Nov, only report.
Great Black-backed Gull: 13 DH 14 Nov; 12 FH 14 Nov; max 15 SVB 21 Nov.
Herring X Great Black-backed Gull: SSSP 7 Nov.
Caspian Tern: 5 FH 1 Sep; max 7 FH 2 Sep; last FH 26 Sep.
Black Tern: max 8 DH 14 Sep, only report.
Com. Tern: max 16 DH 9 Sep; 10 Const 15 Sep; 6 OshH 20 Sep; last FH 30 Sep.
Forster's Tern: max 3 DH 9 Sep (DW); DH 14 Sep (mob); 2 OshH 20 Sep (DW); last DH 14 Oct (DW).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Rock Pigeon: 153 Cicero 18 Nov; 179 Fulton 18 Nov; max 225 Phoenix 29 Nov; evidence of poisonings in Utica, *intro*.
Mourning Dove: max 150 BRH 26 Nov.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Chittenango 6 Sep; HI 18 – 19 Sep, late; only reports.
Black-billed Cuckoo: Erieville, 21 Sep (BW), only report.
E. Screech-Owl: max 3 HI 18 Sep; Clinton 2 – 23 Sep; SSSP 17 Oct; SNC 16 Oct; Manlius 5 Nov; one more report.
Great Horned Owl: 2 DeWitt 18 Sep; 2 HI 19 Sep; singles at 9 other locs.
Snowy Owl: arr OshH w of 16 Nov; see *intro*; Clinton week of 16 Nov, impact death; FH 25 Nov; only reports.
Barred Owl: 2 Camden 23 Sep; 2 NH 27 Sep; 2 Mexico 3 Oct, 25 Nov; Volney 28 Oct (JS), caught in trap, *intro*; 2 DeWitt 3 Nov; singles at 9 other locs.
Short-eared Owl: 28 Nov Rome (JS), impact death, *intro*, only report.
Com. Nighthawk: max 10 Hamilton 4 Sep; 3 Skan 5 Sep; 5 Phoenix 6 Sep; Minoa 25 Sep (JS), impact death; last Cedarville 1 Oct.
Chimney Swift: max 4 FH 23 Sep; 2 Const 24 Sep; last Const 25 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 4 SFNS 12 Sep; last Syr 21 Oct or later, *intro*.
Belted Kingfisher: 4 Bville 6 Sep; max 5 Oneida Creek 7 Oct.
Red-headed Woodpecker: max & last 3 FH 2 Sep.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 7 CM 21 Sep; max 12 HI 11 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 4 SFNS 27 Sep; max 7 Phoenix 28 Sep; 4 TR 8 Oct.
Downy Woodpecker: max 25 HI 11 Oct.
Hairy Woodpecker: max 5 HI 11 Oct.
N. Flicker: max 28 SH 28 Sep; 12 Camden 28 Sep.
Pileated Woodpecker: max 3 Mexico 1 Sep; 3 Phoenix 11 Oct.
Am. Kestrel: max 11 Poland 2 Sep; 6 Fairfield 2 Sep; 8 BRH 20 Sep.
Merlin: max 2 Poland 2 Sep; 2 Bville 13 Sep; widespread reports.
Peregrine Falcon: 2 DH 17 Oct; resident prs Utica, Syr thru; over a dozen reports of single migr.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 2 TR 9 – 10 Sep, only loc.
E. Wood-Pewee: max 5 TR 3 Sep; 4 Phoenix 3 – 5 Sep; 4 SFNS 6 Sep; last TR 5 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last HI 19 Sep; singles at 6 other locs.
Alder Flycatcher: SFNS 1 Sep, only report.
Willow Flycatcher: Phoenix 5 Sep, only report.
Alder/Willow Flycatcher: last FH 23 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: 2 Hinckley Reservoir 2 Sep; max 3 SFNS 5 Sep; last Erieville 27 Sep.
empidonax species: max 3 Manlius 4 – 25 Sep.
E. Phoebe: max 6 WP 5 Oct, 6 TR 12 Oct; last Manlius 31 Oct.
Great Crested Flycatcher: 2 Phoenix 1 Sep; 2 BLNC 7 Sep; last BLNC 17 Sep.
E. Kingbird: max 3 Hamilton 3 Sep, 3 SFNS 4 Sep, 3 Salisbury 5 Sep; last Hamilton 8 Sep.
N. Shrike: arr Tully 7 Nov; TR 10 Nov; Mexico 12 Nov; SH 23 Nov; only reports.
Yellow-throated Vireo: 3 Camden 12 Sep; max 7 HI 19 Sep (MW); last FH 21 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: max 3 DH 20 Sep; 3 Const 4 Oct, 3 SFNS 5 Oct; last TR 11 Nov, late.
Warbling Vireo: 5 WP 6 Sep; max 6 Fulton 11 Sep; last Const 4 Oct.
Philadelphia Vireo: max 3 BLNC 11 Sep (JB, DA); 2 Phoenix 15 – 16 Sep; 2 TR 18 Sep; last Kirkville 3 Oct.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 10 SFNS 1 – 7 Sep; 8

Phoenix 11 Sep; last Brewerton 7 Oct.
Blue Jay: 160 Phoenix 25 Sep; max 3403
Const 25 Sep; 12573 counted at Const between
21 Sep – 4 Oct (MS), *intro*.
Am. Crow: max 2330 BRH 23 Oct (BP); 827
SFNS 30 Oct.
Fish Crow: 2 OnonL 31 Oct – 23 Nov, only
loc.
Com. Raven: 7 Hinckley Reservoir 12 Nov;
max 25 DH 22 Nov, *intro*; widespread reports.
Horned Lark: 83 FH 5 Nov; max 140 BRH 12
Nov.
Purple Martin: 8 TR 3 Sep; max & last 40 HI
19 Sep.
Tree Swallow: 300 HI 19 Sep; max 350 FH 1
Oct; 48 DH 11 Oct; last 5 HI 15 Oct.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 15 HI 19
Sep; last 5 HI 26 Sep; all reports from same loc.
Bank Swallow: max 2 HI 19 Sep; last HI 26
Sep; all reports from same loc.
Barn Swallow: 10 Red Creek 1 Sep; max xx
HI 19 Sep; last FH 5 Nov.
Cliff Swallow: HI 19 Sep, only report.
CAVE SWALLOW: FH 12 Nov (KB,
NYSARC); SVB 21 Nov (DW, ph, NYSARC).
Swallow species: 300 FH 2 Sep.
Black-capped Chickadee: 25 SFNS 11 Sep;
max 45 HI 19 Sep; Bville 5 Oct, leucistic (JB,
ph); 25 Oswego 16 Nov.
Tufted Titmouse: max 20 SFNS 11 Sep; 14 HI
11 Oct.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 10 Hamilton 22
Sep; 8 SSSP 17 Oct; 4 Cazenovia 1 Nov; no
discernable irruption.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 18 HI 19 Sep;
12 SFNS 2 Oct, 7 Nov.
Brown Creeper: 4 HI 11 Oct; 4 Mexico 20
Oct; max 7 Camden 2 Nov.
House Wren: 4 SFNS 23 Sep; max 5 TR 5 Oct;
last TR 10 Oct.
Winter Wren: 4 SFNS 28 Sep; 4 TR 8 Oct;
max 7 HI 11 Oct; 5 Mexico 20 Oct.
Marsh Wren: 3 HI 19 Sep; max 5 FH 10 Oct;
last WP 21 Oct.
Carolina Wren: widespread reports of mostly
singles; most reports west of Oneil.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 2 Phoenix 1 – 2 Sep;
max 3 Jamesville 3 Sep; 2 OnonL 10 Sep; last
SBP 20 Sep.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 14 SFNS 10 Oct;
max 15 SFNS 14 Oct, 15 SSSP 17 Oct.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 25 Phoenix 3 Oct
& SFNS 26 Oct; 24 Mexico 18 Oct; last TR 11
Nov.
E. Bluebird: max 55 Const 18 Oct; 15 Phoenix
18 Oct; 27 TR 27 Oct.

Veery: max 3 Mexico 1 Sep; 2 GB 2 Sep; 2
Camden 4 Sep; 2 BLNC 7 Sep; last Phoenix 16
Sep; only reports.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr DH 20 Sep; FH 21
Sep; Hast 22 Sep; BLNC 26 Sep; last Const 17
Oct; only reports.
Swainson's Thrush: 2 BLNC 23 Sep; max 3
Phoenix 29 Sep; 2 GB 29 Sep; last HI 11 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: max 25 Camden 8 Oct, good
number; 6 SFNS 8 Oct; 5 Mexico 20 Oct;
mostly low numbers & relatively few reports.
Wood Thrush: 5 Mexico 1 Sep; max 7
Camden 4 Sep; 3 HI 19 Sep; last TR 8 Oct.
Am. Robin: 1590 Const 18 Oct; 1169 SFNS 30
Oct; max 2766 Const 8 Nov (MS); large
migration.
Gray Catbird: 15 SFNS 12 Sep; 18 OnonL 18
Sep; 18 HI 19 Sep; max 28 CM 21 Sep; last 2
Syr 10 Nov.
N. Mockingbird: 2 Jamesville 8 Sep; max 3
Oswego 21 Oct; 2 Fayetteville 21 Nov; no
reports east of Oneil.
Brown Thrasher: max 8 SFNS 8 Sep; 3 GLSP
16 Sep; last Hast 15 Oct.
European Starling: max 2000 HI 19 Sep, 2000
Williamstown 28 Oct.
Am. Pipit: 35 Pulaski 20 Sep; 36 Lysander 6
Oct; max 40 Fabius 18 Oct.
Cedar Waxwing: 148 Const 24 Sep; max 150
SFNS 22 Oct; 145 DH 12 Nov.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: arr Phoenix 27 Oct (GD);
2 FH 12 Nov; OswH 16 Nov; only reports.
Snow Bunting: max 120 FH 14 Nov; 110
OswH 19 Nov; 65 DH 19 Nov.
Ovenbird: max 3 SFNS 6 Sep; last Mexico 3
Oct.
Louisiana Waterthrush: no reports, which is
not unusual.
N. Waterthrush: 2 Jamesville 8 Sep; max &
last 2 SFNS 11 Sep; 2 more reports.
Golden-winged Warbler: HI 19 Sep, only
report.
Blue-winged Warbler: max 2 SFNS 1 Sep;
last TR 12 Sep; a few other reports of singles.
Black-and-white Warbler: 2 Phoenix 11 Sep;
last SSSP 17 Oct; a dozen reports of singles.
Tennessee Warbler: 4 SFNS 15 Sep; max 5 HI
19 Sep; 3 Jamesville 30 Sep; last GLSP,
Manlius 8 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr TR 21 Sep; 2
TR 5 Oct; last Hast 15 Oct; 4 other reports of
singles.
Nashville Warbler: max 5 DH 20 Sep; 4 TR
21 Sep; last FH 20 Oct; low numbers.

Mourning Warbler: NH 4 Sep; Tully 5 Sep; Dolgeville 7 Sep; only reports.
Com. Yellowthroat: 9 Hast 4 Sep; 10 SFNS 4, 9 Sep; max 18 HI 19 Sep; last TR 20 Oct.
Hooded Warbler: 2 SFNS 3, 14 Sep; 2 Camden 13 Sep; max 3 BLNC 15, 23 Sep; last SFNS 28 Sep.
Am. Redstart: max 5 SFNS 4 Sep, 5 Phoenix 5 Sep; last SH 27 Sep.
Cape May Warbler: max 4 Hast 10 Sep; last SH 2 Oct; singles at 6 other locs.
N. Parula: max 2 DH 13 Sep; last Erieville 27 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: max 6 BLNC 11 Sep; 5 Phoenix 5, 16 Sep; last Hast 21 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: 5 Phoenix 5 Sep; 2 SFNS 6 Sep; max 6 Camden 11 Sep; last BLNC 28 Sep.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 2 various locs; last SFNS 22 Sep; low numbers.
Yellow Warbler: max 3 Jamesville 8 Sep; 2 Phoenix 11 Sep; last Phoenix 16 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: 2 Hast 6 Sep; 2 SFNS 7 Sep; max 3 Phoenix 10 – 16 Sep; 2 BLNC 11 Sep; last HI 26 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 3 SFNS 9 Sep; last 2 FH 10 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 3 Phoenix 26 Sep; last Tully 8 Oct.
Palm Warbler: max 4 various locs 27 Sep – 8 Oct; last Westvale 28 Oct.
Pine Warbler: max 5 GB 2 Sep; last GB 29 Sep.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 40 TR 10 Oct; max 45 HI 11 Oct; 40 Jordan 14 Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: 5 various locs 10-28 Sep; max 7 Jamesville 30 Sep; last Jordan, Manlius 8 Oct.
Canada Warbler: 2 SFNS 8 Sep; last Phoenix 10 Sep; singles from 3 other areas.
Wilson's Warbler: max 3 Hast 1 Sep; last GB 25 Sep.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: max 9 TR 24 Sep & CM 8 Oct; 6 SFNS 5 Oct; last 2 Const 1 Nov.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 5 SNC 27 Oct; max 18 TR 24 – 29 Nov; 17 Dolgeville 30 Nov.
Chipping Sparrow: max 25 NH 27 Sep; 23 Poland 5 Oct; last OswH 16 Nov.
Field Sparrow: 5 SFNS 7 Sep; max 8 TR 24 Sep; 7 Verona 18 Oct; last GSC 31 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: max & last 2 Pulaski 25 Oct; 6 reports.
Savannah Sparrow: 3 Poland 2 Sep; 3 FH 23

Sep; max 16 Bville 7 Oct; last Bville 20 Oct.
Grasshopper Sparrow: Holland Patent 2 Sep (BLH), only report.
Fox Sparrow: arr TR 8 Oct; 4 GLSP 2 Nov; max 4 SFNS 11 Nov; last SFNS 23 Nov.
Song Sparrow: max 100 TR 8 Oct; 70 HI 11 Oct.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Dolgeville 9 Sep; 3 TR 21 Sep; 2 SFNS 21 Sep, 8 Oct; 2 CM 27 Sep; 2 HI 11 Oct; last Phoenix 20 Oct.
Swamp Sparrow: 10 Fabius 26 Sep; 7 CM 21 Sep; 40 HI 11 Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: max 200 TR 8 Oct; 120 HI 11 Oct; 60 SFNS 15 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: max 40 TR 8 Oct; 20 OnonL 17 Oct; 15 Verona 18 Oct; last Clinton 29 Nov.
Dark-eyed Junco: 55 TR 8 Oct; max 57 SH 20 Oct.
Scarlet Tanager: max 4 Manlius 1 Sep, 4 DeWitt 3 Sep; last Jordan 8 Oct.
N. Cardinal: max 12 Osw 16 Nov & DeWitt 21 Nov.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 4 Phoenix 15 Sep; last Bville 7 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: max 3 BLNC 7 Sep & SFNS 18 Sep & NH 26 Sep; last Bville 4 Oct.
Bobolink: max 20 SFNS 5 Sep; last 2 Bville 7 Oct (JB).
Red-winged Blackbird: 1500 HI 11 Oct; 2000 Williamstown 28 Oct; max 9500 NSyr 3 Nov.
E. Meadowlark: 3 Dolgeville 21 Sep; max 17 Const 18 Oct; last Tully 19 Oct.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 26 CM 28 Oct; 75 Manlius 16 Oct; 71 Phoenix 23 Oct; max 92 Tully 14 Nov.
Com. Grackle: 6200 Hast 27 Oct; 8000 Marcellus 5 Nov & Mallory 7 Nov; max 20000 Syr, est (JLu).
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 150 TR 12 Oct; 40 Phoenix 19 Oct.
Baltimore Oriole: 2 Phoenix 2 – 6 Sep; last Phoenix 8 Sep; singles in 7 other areas.
blackbird species: max 75000 Hamlin Marsh 23 Oct (DW), roost flight, likely 3-4 sp represented.
Purple Finch: max 6 Clinton 3 – 11 Sep; 5 SFNS 14 Nov & TR 24 Nov.
House Finch: 14 Bville 30 Nov; 13 SH 29 Nov.
Pine Siskin: max 65 Mexico 20 Oct; 30 Camden 10 Nov; 31 OswH 16 Nov.
Am. Goldfinch: 54 HI 19 Sep; 80 SFNS 8 Oct; 100 Bville 24 Oct.
House Sparrow: max 50 SFNS 19 Sep.

REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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High pressure dominated the fall, providing numerous warm, sunny days and a seemingly unending southwesterly flow of air for nearly the entire season. September and November were both considerably warmer than normal, and neither month offered many days with conditions that were suitable for large movements of migrating birds. October was slightly cooler than usual, thanks to a series of cold fronts that brought some of the best migration weather of the season. Precipitation was within 0.1 inches of normal during September and October and slightly below normal in November.

Waterfowl diversity was about typical but numbers of several species were notably low. Snow Geese were nearly unreported all fall, with fewer than five seen in a few flocks of Canada Geese but no large groups or significant movements noted. Although still the most abundant duck at several WMAs, maximum Ring-necked Duck numbers were the lowest they have been since 2009. Similarly, late November counts of Long-tailed Ducks at favored Lake Ontario sites were unusually low, and Common Goldeneye were scarce on the St. Lawrence River.

The unusually productive shorebirding that was such a highlight of the spring and summer seasons continued into the fall, although numbers were never as high as during August. At the beginning of the fall the best shorebirding was at Perch River WMA, where the drained Stone Mills Pool continued to attract a nice assortment of species until it began to refill during the second half of September. During that same month wild swings in the water levels on the St. Lawrence River between the Iroquois and Robert Moses dams provided intermittently extensive mudflats that when exposed provided foraging habitat for a good assortment of species. Single Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, and Ruddy Turnstone were observed on such mudflats between Waddington and Massena.

The passerine migration was mostly sluggish with few large movements noted, especially during September when migrant flocks were particularly tough to find. A tally of 17 warbler species on Fort Drum 4 September was a seasonal high and occurred on one of the few mornings following a decent songbird flight all month. Large numbers of thrushes were heard overhead on the nights of 10-11 and 20-21 September, but migrants were scarce on the following mornings. The volume of migrants observed during the first half of October picked up substantially, with Ruby-crowned Kinglets, “Myrtle” Warblers, and White-throated Sparrows occurring in normal or above-normal numbers. A few species lingered later in the fall than usual, especially Northern Waterthrush in September and Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Red-eyed Vireo, Swainson’s Thrush, and Hermit Thrush in October.

Emblematic of the season's songbird flight was the scarcity of migrants in an oak woodland on Fort Drum, where a large flock of Pine Warblers, Chipping Sparrows, and Eastern Bluebirds has been detected annually since at least 2008. During most years this flock forms in late August and persists until early October, with a constantly changing mix of warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and other songbirds joining the flock daily. This fall numerous checks of the area turned up a few Pine Warblers and Eastern Bluebirds but no coherent flocks and far fewer birds than in any recent year. However, a flock of more than 100 Chipping Sparrows was seen in this area on 13 October, a relatively late date for such a large number.

The only rarities of the season were found in October, the first being a **Lark Sparrow** seen for a few minutes on Fort Drum on 5 October. The standout rarity of the season was a **Bronzed Cowbird** seen and photographed by Nora Lee in her Norfolk yard for two weeks in October. The homeowner who found the cowbird is not a birder, so it was impressive that she recognized that it was unusual, obtained documentation, and submitted a record to eBird. Unfortunately, this was her first submission to eBird and she made an error that prevented it from being widely known until after the cowbird departed, so no birders saw this first state record (subject to NYSARC acceptance, of course).

For the season I received reports of 223 species, about average for the past five years. The Bronzed Cowbird was clearly the bird of the season, but also the biggest disappointment because birders were able to see it. The very slow pace of migration for nearly the entire season was also a big disappointment, although the relative abundance of shorebirds somewhat made up for the lack of passerines.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BRB – Black River Bay; CCSP – Coles Creek SP; CV – T Cape Vincent; CWF – Canton Wastewater Treatment Facility, T Canton; ED – El Dorado Shores Preserve, T Ellisburg; FD – Fort Drum Military Reservation; GPSP – Grass Point SP; HP – Hawkins Point, Robert Moses SP; ICNC – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton; KC – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; LWMA – Lakeview WMA; MM – Massawepie Mire, T Piercefield and Colton; MP – Montario Pt, T Ellisburg, JEFF; RMSP – Robert Moses Sp; RWSP – Robert G. Wehle SP; PilPt – Pillar Pt, JEFF; PRGC – Partridge Run Golf Course trail, T Canton; PRWMA

– Perch River WMA; PtPen – Point Peninsula, JEFF; SBSP – Southwick Beach SP; SLR – St. Lawrence R; StPt – Stony Pt, T Henderson, JEFF; ULLWMA – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA; WISP – Wellesley I SP; WP – Whalen P, T Louisville.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr 2 T Dekalb 30 Sep; scarce thru.
Brant: arr CCSP 10 Oct; max 80 SBSP 17 Oct.
Cackling Goose: CV 11 Oct (NL); ULLWMA 3 Nov (JB); only reports.
Trumpeter Swan: 2 PtPen 2-28 Nov, only report away from known nesting sites at PRWMA & ULLWMA.
Tundra Swan: arr PilPt 6 Nov; max 300 PtPen 30 Nov.
Wood Duck: max 200+ FD several dates thru early Oct; last T Massena 8 Nov.
Gadwall: max 36 ULLWMA 24 Oct.
Am. Wigeon: max 270 WHWMA 31 Oct.
Am. Black Duck: max 90 BRB 14 Nov.
Mallard: max 1000 confluence Coles Creek & SLR 12 Sep.
Blue-winged Teal: max 42 ULLWMA 6 Oct; last PRWMA 23 Oct.
N. Shoveler: max 26 CWF 5 Nov.
N. Pintail: max 78 WP 10 Oct.
Green-winged Teal: max 600 WP 18 Oct.
Canvasback: PtPen 24 Nov.
Redhead: max 500 WHWMA 18 Oct.
Ring-necked Duck: max 1785 WHWMA 10 Oct; 1270 ULLWMA 3 Nov.
Greater Scaup: 1500 CV 13 Oct.
Lesser Scaup: max 20 PRWMA 18 Oct.
Surf Scoter: arr ULLWMA 9 Oct; max 5 CCSP 31 Oct.
White-winged Scoter: arr CCSP 10 Oct; max 31 StPt 11 Nov.
Black Scoter: max 29 MP 29 Oct.
Long-tailed Duck: arr CCSP 10 Oct; max 200 StPt 9 Nov; fewer than usual Lake Ontario late Nov.
Bufflehead: arr CCSP 18 Oct; max 46 PtPen 24 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: arr ULLWMA 9 Oct; max 300 PtPen 30 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: max 43 CCSP 31 Oct, low.
Com. Merganser: max 238 StPt 26 Sep.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 110 StPt 14 Nov.
Ruddy Duck: ULLWMA 1-7 Nov, only report.
Red-throated Loon: SLR Waddington 12 Oct; MP 9 Nov; CCSP 21 Nov; PilPt 26 Nov.

Com. Loon: max 133 PilPt 26 Oct (NL); 131 RWSP 9 Nov.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 53 ULLWMA 9 Oct, low for this site; last 8 ULLWMA 11 Nov.
Horned Grebe: max 20 ED 23 Oct.
Red-necked Grebe: max 26 ED 23 Oct (JB); 16 PilPt 26 Oct (NL).
Double-crested Cormorant: scarce after 8 Nov.
Am. Bittern: last ULLWMA 17 Oct.
Great Egret: last 3 T Massena 8 Nov, late.
Green Heron: last CV 1 Oct.
Turkey Vulture: last CV 14 Nov.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Osprey: last T Stockholm 8 Nov (BD), late.
N. Harrier: 2-6/day FD & PtPen thru.
N. Goshawk: juv FD 15 Oct, only report.
Red-shouldered Hawk: last ICNC 25 Sep.
Broad-winged Hawk: last T Massena 27 Oct (HyZ, RS), late.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr T Massena 25 Oct.
Golden Eagle: imm FD 22 Oct (JB), only report.
Virginia Rail: last T Adams 22 Sep.
Sora: max 3-7/day ULLWMA to 25 Sep; no reports after 25 Sep.
Com. Gallinule: max 11 FD 15 Sep; last 3 FD 30 Sep.
Am. Coot: max 40 PRWMA 23 Oct.
Black-bellied Plover: max 20 ED 23 Oct; last WP 8 Nov.
Am. Golden-Plover: max 2 WHWMA 20 Sep; singles PRWMA 10 Sep, PtPen 19 Sep, ED 26 Sep & CCSP 10 Oct.
Semipalmated Plover: max 23 PRWMA 8 Sep; last RMSP 17 Oct.
Killdeer: max 35 T Hammond 20 Sep; last 2 ED 23 Oct.
Spotted Sandpiper: last ED 4 Oct.
Solitary Sandpiper: last ED 26 Sep; unusually scarce.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 9 CCSP 20 Sep; last WP 8 Nov.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 6 PRWMA 21 Sep; last WHWMA 15 Oct.
Whimbrel: LWMA 4 Sep; WHWMA 12 Sep.
Hudsonian Godwit: RMSP early Oct (HW).
Ruddy Turnstone: WP 12 Sep, only report.

Stilt Sandpiper: PRWMA 14 Sep (JB), only report.
Sanderling: 4 WHWMA 12 Sep, only report.
Dunlin: max 11 CCSP 18 Oct; last WP 8 Nov.
Least Sandpiper: max 48 PRWMA 4 Sep; last WHWMA 18 Oct.
White-rumped Sandpiper: max & last 4 WHWMA 31 Oct.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 8 PRWMA 21 Sep; last WP 10 Oct.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max & last 33 PRWMA 14 Sep.
dowitcher sp: 6 apparently both spp but poor viewing conditions prevented certain identifications WHWMA 18 Oct.
Wilson's Snipe: last ED 18 Oct.
Am. Woodcock: last ED 14 Nov.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 15 PtPen 20 Nov.
Herring Gull: max 800 SLR Massena 31 Oct.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: SLR Massena 31 Oct (JB); RWSP 9 Nov (JB); T Ellisburg 14 Nov (AS); PtPen 26 Nov (CN).
Great Black-backed Gull: max 110 HP 28 Nov.
Caspian Tern: last WHWMA 20 Sep.
Com. Tern: last SBSB 17 Oct (TL, LK).
Forster's Tern: RWSP 13 Sep (BP).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last CV 5 Oct (DM), late.
Black-billed Cuckoo: last T Massena 11 Sep.
E. Screech-Owl: max 3 SBSB 21 Sep & WISP 30 Oct.
Snowy Owl: arr PtPen 26 Nov.
Long-eared Owl: WISP 31 Oct (TL), only report.
Short-eared Owl: last at FD breeding territories 2 Sep.
N. Saw-whet Owl: MM 7 Oct (AB); T Lyme 10 Nov (CN), only reports.
Com. Nighthawk: max 29 FD 1 Sep; last 2 KC 6 Sep.
E. Whip-poor-will: last 3 RWSP 18 Sep.
Chimney Swift: last KC 3 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last T Croghan 11 Sep.
Belted Kingfisher: scarce after 10 Oct.
Red-headed Woodpecker: last FD 29 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last T Watertown 14 Oct.
Black-backed Woodpecker: Cranberry Lake 6 Sep; MM 25 Sep; only reports.
N. Flicker: fewer than usual.
Am. Kestrel: mostly departed by 15 Oct but more than usual Nov.

Merlin: 17 reports mostly from JEFF.
Peregrine Falcon: multiple reports PRWMA, ULLWMA, & T Watertown 1-21 Sep; only reports away from SLR Massena where resident.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: last WISP 24 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: PRWMA 6 Sep; FD 9 Sep.
Willow Flycatcher: last PRGC 6 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: last T Croghan 11 Sep.
E. Phoebe: last CV 23 Oct.
Great Crested Flycatcher: last T Croghan 10 Sep.
E. Kingbird: last T Chaumont 6 Sep.
N. Shrike: arr FD 5 Nov.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last T Croghan 12 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: last FD 21 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: last T Hammond 20 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: 2 FD 4 Sep; CV 5 Sep; PRWMA 6 Sep; Cranberry Lake 6 Sep; 2 WHWMA 12 Sep; 2 ICNC 12 Sep; 2 T Croghan 12 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: last SBSB 17 Oct (TL, LK, photos!), late.
Gray Jay: max 4 MM 7 Oct.
Horned Lark: arr FD 15 Oct; max 18 T Waddington 31 Oct.
Tree Swallow: max 250-1000/day PRWMA 4-21 Sep; last PRWMA 23 Oct.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: last PRWMA 4 Sep.
Bank Swallow: last PRWMA 6 Sep.
Barn Swallow: last 3 ICNC 20 Sep.
House Wren: last 2 FD 5 Oct.
Winter Wren: unusually scarce.
Marsh Wren: last ULLWMA 7 Oct.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr GPSP 19 Sep; last active migrants FD 19 Oct.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr FD 20 Sep; max 46 on 1-mile transect FD 5 Oct (JB); last ED 14 Nov (JB).
E. Bluebird: max 23 RWSP 17 Oct; scarce after 21 Oct.
Veery: last FD 8 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: 3 SBSB 21 Sep; 2 FD 24 Sep; only reports.
Swainson's Thrush: last FD 15 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: last FD 16 Nov.
Wood Thrush: last T Rossie & WISP 23 Sep.
Am. Robin: max 140 FD 21 Oct.
Gray Catbird: last FD 16 Oct.
Brown Thrasher: last T Watertown 2 Oct.

Am. Pipit: arr PRWMA 18 Sep; max 13 ED 23 Oct; last FD 5 Nov.
Bohemian Waxwing: arr FD 2 Nov; max 4 St. Lawrence University 3 Nov.
Cedar Waxwing: max 200 CPSP 31 Oct.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: FD 24 Sep (JB), early; PRGC 24 Oct (JB), only other report.
Snow Bunting: arr ED 23 Oct; max 45 ED 9 Nov.
Ovenbird: last FD 1 Oct.
N. Waterthrush: last FD 22 Sep (JB, photos), late.
Golden-winged Warbler: last KC 1 Sep.
Blue-winged Warbler: last FD 10 Sep.
Black-and-white Warbler: last T Chaumont 11 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: last FD 7 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: T Hermon 25 Sep; FD 5 Oct; PRGC 6 Oct; FD 15 Oct; last 2 FD 16 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: last FD 15 Oct.
Mourning Warbler: last PRWMA 23 Sep.
Com. Yellowthroat: last FD 21 Oct.
Am. Redstart: last T Stockholm 23 Sep.
Cape May Warbler: last FD 7 Oct.
N. Parula: last FD 1 Oct.
Magnolia Warbler: last WISP 24 Sep.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last T Parishville 25 Sep.
Blackburnian Warbler: last T Fine 20 Sep.
Yellow Warbler: last 3 Sackets Harbor 20 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last Lewis County Recreation Area 19 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 35 FD 24 Sep; last WHWMA 10 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last KC 30 Sep.
Palm Warbler: last "Western" FD 6 Oct; 5 "Yellow" still on MM nesting grounds 7 Oct.
Pine Warbler: last FD & MM 7 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: last CCSP 31 Oct.
Prairie Warbler: last FD 24 Sep.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last CV 5 Oct.
Canada Warbler: last FD 3 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: last FD 24 Sep.
Yellow-breasted Chat: T Croghan 18 Sep (MR).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: last PRGC 18 Oct.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr ICNC 25 Oct.
Chipping Sparrow: max 105+ FD 13 Oct; last FD 2 Nov.
Clay-colored Sparrow: last CV 18 Oct.
Field Sparrow: last RWSP 17 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: last CV 26 Oct.
LARK SPARROW: FD 5 Oct (JB).
Savannah Sparrow: last FD 14 Oct.
Grasshopper Sparrow: last FD 2 Sep.
Fox Sparrow: arr FD 15 Oct; max 21 FD 27 Oct; last FD 16 Nov.
Song Sparrow: few after 20 Oct.
Lincoln's Sparrow: last PRGC 24 Oct.
Swamp Sparrow: last 3 WISP 15 Nov.
White-throated Sparrow: max 125 FD 16 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr MM 25 Sep; max 20 MM 7 Oct; last FD 2 Nov.
Dark-eyed Junco: arr FD 24 Sep; max 80 FD 16 Oct.
Scarlet Tanager: last T Croghan 28 Sep.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last PRGC 8 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: last FD 21 Sep.
Bobolink: last ICNC 12 Sep.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 4200 ULLWMA 6 Sep; few after Oct.
E. Meadowlark: last CV 23 Oct.
Rusty Blackbird: arr PRWMA 23 Sep; max 150 ULLWMA 17 Oct; last ULLWMA 22 Nov.
Comm. Grackle: last PtPen 30 Nov.
BRONZED COWBIRD: T Norfolk 16-28 Oct (NL, photos!), 1st State record when approved by NYSARC, *intro*.
Baltimore Oriole: last FD 3 Sep.
Purple Finch: max 30 PRGC 11 Nov.
Red Crossbill: apparently nesting Adirondacks but reports lacked details including location or date.
White-winged Crossbill: ad m CV 28 Oct; ED 7 Nov.
Com. Redpoll: heard over FD 24 Oct; 8 HP 26 Nov; only reports.
Hoary Redpoll: with Common Redpolls HP 26 Nov (JC, photos), surprising given scarcity of redpolls during period.
Pine Siskin: arr ED 22 Sep; max 120 FD 12 Oct; reports dwindled to single digits after 30 Oct.
Evening Grosbeak: T Canton 4-6 Nov; 4 T Stockholm 8 Nov; 3 T Croghan 10 Nov.

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REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

No report was received this season.

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REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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The 2015 fall season began with a very warm and wet September. At the Albany International Airport, the monthly mean temperature was 6.7° F above normal, with a three-day heat wave on 7-9 September. Precipitation was more than twice the usual 3.3", although nearly 4" fell on the last two days of the month alone. October featured near-normal conditions, with the first below freezing readings recorded on the eighteenth day of the month at Albany. November offered a return of well above normal temperatures, with only about half the typical precipitation. Only a trace of snow was recorded during the period.

Two reports of **Greater White-fronted Goose** were received this fall. Nancy Kern found the first in a flock of Canada Geese feeding in a harvested cornfield near Kinderhook, Columbia County, in early November. The following day, Alan Mapes picked one out among a throng of Canada Geese at the north end of the Tomhannock Reservoir. Very few Snow Goose reports were gathered, mostly just individuals and small groups, the main population remaining in the unfrozen north. Brant made their usual fleeting passage over the area, with only a few observations on 18 and 23 October. Tristan Lowery obtained good images and video of a Cackling Goose at the Corning Preserve in Albany, also on 18 October. Stanton Pond, in Coeymans Hollow, Albany County, had its typical assortment of easily viewed dabbling ducks, and maintained its reputation as the Gadwall hotspot of the Region. Loughberry Lake, in Saratoga County, continued to host large groups of diving ducks in the fall, especially Ring-necked Duck. All three species of scoter were scarce, and Long-tailed Duck was equally hard to find. Single Red-throated Loons were seen on the Hudson River from the Cocksackie Boat Launch on 3 November and at the southern end of Alcove Reservoir on 21 November.

A group of seven **Sandhill Cranes**, a Regional rarity, was observed at midday on 17 September, flying just above the treetops near the Columbia County Airport. Shorebird migration stopover seemed underwhelming this season, with lower than average numbers and few surprises. Two reports of **White-rumped Sandpiper**, an uncommon visitor, were collected, one from 1 September at Stuyvesant in Columbia County, the other a very late sighting on 18 October from the Hudson River across from Fort Miller. The epic 2015

Franklin's Gull flight to the East Coast of the United States on 13 November went unobserved by Regional birders, but a hunt for stragglers the following day led to the discovery of a single first-winter **Franklin's Gull** mixed in with a flock of gulls in their morning repose at the Kmart parking lot in Queensbury! A tip of the hat to Lindsey Duval for tracking down the bird.

The Conservation Science team at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve began a preliminary effort to band **Northern Saw-whet Owls** this fall in order to get a better understanding of timing, distribution, and habitat usage by the diminutive birds. On the second night of the effort, the group, led by Field Ecologist Amanda Dillon, netted and measured one owl. Remarkably, the bird was a recapture, having been banded only a few nights earlier at a banding station near Williamstown, Massachusetts.

A juvenile **Red-headed Woodpecker**, another infrequent visitor to the Region, was observed on 9 November by Bruce Dudek, while he was driving near his home in suburban Colonie, Albany County. It was gathering and caching acorns in a large woodlot with much suitable woodpecker habitat and was seen almost daily through the end of the month. Two reports of Regionally-rare **White-eyed Vireo** arrived in early October, one from the Rogers Island Overlook in Columbia County on the sixth, seen by Bill Cook and Will Yandik, and one from a suburban Newtonville, Albany County, backyard, photographed by Sam Gonzalez on 10 October. A **Dickcissel**, found in a flock of House Sparrows on 25 October along the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail at Scotia/Glenville by Bill Cook, was apparently a one-day wonder.

While walking the Indian Ladder Trail at John Boyd Thacher Park in Albany County on 18 October, Craig Thompson saw a bird he didn't recognize. As he recently retired as Director of the Five Rivers Environmental Education Center in Delmar and has watched birds and nature all of his life, that was a big deal. He later consulted a field guide and determined that it was a **Townsend's Solitaire**. The bird fed on the abundant fruits of eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) trees growing along the edge of the Helderberg Escarpment, and it remained for at least three weeks after the initial sighting, allowing birders from across Eastern New York and the New York City area to enjoy this splendid thrush.

A homeowner observed and correctly identified a **Harris's Sparrow** coming to his backyard bird feeders in Loudonville, Albany County on 11 November. He and his wife graciously arranged for the local, and not-so-local, birding community to come onto their property and view this Regional rarity, thanks to the excellent negotiating skills of Rich Guthrie. The bird was seen until about the end of the month. The entire episode, with one minor hiccup, was a fine example of birders on their best behavior, encouraging the residents to embrace their feathered guest and share it most generously.

218 species were reported during the 1 September-30 November period.

CONTRIBUTORS

Larry Alden, Will Aubrey, Ramona Bearor, Susan Beaudoin, Mike Birmingham, Matt Brunelle, Nancy Castillo, Glen & Malinda Chapman, Steve Chorvas, Jeremy Collison, Bill Cook, Alan Devoe Bird Club recent sightings, Amanda Dillon, Craig Driggs, Bruce Dudek, Lindsey Duval, Larry Federman, Debra Ferguson, Mark Fitzsimmons, Brianna Gary, Sam Gonzalez, Bernie & Chris Grossman, Rich Guthrie, HMBirds Yahoo Group, Larry & Barbara Hall, David Harrison, Ron Harrower, John Hershey, John Kent, Nancy Kern, Bill Lee, Naomi Lloyd, Tristan Lowery, Larry Main, Alan Mapes, Leigh McBride, Thom McClenahan, Steve Mesick, Joyce Miller, Frank Mitchell, Frank Murphy, Jenny Murtaugh, Bill Ostrander, Ellen Pemrick, Will Raup, Gregg Recer, Neal Reilly, John Roosenberg, Jeanette Roundy, Kathy Schneider, Zach Schwartz-Weinstein, Marian Sole, George Steele, Scott Stoner, Craig Thompson, Alison Van Keuren, Phil Whitney, Tom & Colleen Williams, Donna Wright, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

5R – Five Rivers EEC, ALBA; APBP – Albany Pine Bush Preserve, ALBA; AR – Alcove Res, ALBA; BCM – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; BCR – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; BMB – Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail, SARA; CCGP – Cocksackie Creek Grasslands Preserve, GREE; CF – Cohoes Flats, ALBA; CL – Collins L, SCHE; CRM – Cline Rd. Marsh, FULT; FtEG – Ft. Edward Grasslands, WASH; FV – Franklinton Vlaie, SCHO; HP – Huyck Preserve, ALBA; OCA – Ooms Conservation Area, COLU; PRWMA – Partridge Run WMA, ALBA; SNHP – Saratoga National Historical P, SARA; TR – Tomhannock Res, RENN; VFNHP – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve, SARA; WMP – Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, COLU.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

(R8): Stuyvesant COLU 5 Nov (NK); TR 6 Nov (AM).

Brant: max 100 HP 18 Oct (JK).

Cackling Goose: Corning Preserve ALBA 18 Oct (TL).

Gadwall: max 50 Stanton Pd ALBA 29 Nov.

Am. Wigeon: max 80 Stanton Pd ALBA 21 Nov.

Mallard: max 450 Galway L SARA 25 Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: max 40 Stanton Pd ALBA 18 Sep.

N. Shoveler: max 10 Stanton Pd ALBA 11 Nov.

N. Pintail: max 12 Stanton Pd ALBA 31 Oct.

Green-winged Teal: max 60 Saratoga L SARA 11 Nov.

Canvasback: Loughberry L SARA 5 Oct.

Redhead: max 6 Loughberry L SARA 22 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: max 800 Loughberry L SARA 16 Nov.

Greater Scaup: max 60 Loughberry L SARA 22 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: max 150 Loughberry L SARA 22 Nov.

Surf Scoter: 2 BCR 26 Oct.; Vischer Ferry SARA 14 Nov.

White-winged Scoter: max 8 Saratoga L SARA 11 Nov.

Black Scoter: max 18 AR 18 Oct.

Long-tailed Duck: max 6 Saratoga L SARA 11 Nov.

Bufflehead: max 150 Saratoga L SARA 28 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: arr TR 30 Oct.

Barrow's Goldeneye: Fenimore Bridge SARA 26 Nov (LD).
Hooded Merganser: max 300 BCR 14 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: 4 Saratoga L SARA 23 Nov.
Ruddy Duck: max 402 BCR 4 Nov.
Red-throated Loon: Cossackie Boat Launch GREE 3 Nov; AR 21 Nov.
Horned Grebe: 3 AR 23 Oct; 3 Saratoga L SARA 11 Nov.
Red-necked Grebe: max 6 Saratoga L SARA 6 Nov.
Am. Bittern: Ft Edward WASH 20 Sep.
Great Egret: max 17 VFNHP 10 Sep.
Green Heron: last Petersburg RENN 10 Oct.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: BCR 6 Oct.

HAWKS – LARIDS

Osprey: last OCA 18 Nov.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 246 Helderberg Hawk Watch ALBA 15 Sep.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr FtEG 11 Nov.
Am. Coot: max 11 AR 12 Oct.
SANDHILL CRANE (R8): 7 Columbia Cty Airport COLU 17 Sep (MB)
Black-bellied Plover: max 4 CF 21 Oct.
Semipalmated Plover: last 2 Greenwich WASH 14 Sep.
Killdeer: last Center Hill Pond COLU 3 Nov.
Spotted Sandpiper: last Gay's Point COLU 28 Oct.
Solitary Sandpiper: last 5R 3 Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: last CF 2 Nov.
Lesser Yellowlegs: last Schuylerville SARA 8 Oct.
Dunlin: Harris Rd. SARA 18 Oct; CF 21 Oct.
Least Sandpiper: last Stanton Pond ALBA 6 Oct.
WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (R8): Stuyvesant COLU 1 Sep (NK); Harris Rd. SARA 18 Oct (LD).
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr CF 17 Sep; max 4 BCR 26 Oct, scarce.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 11 Stuyvesant COLU 1 Sep.
FRANKLIN'S GULL: Queensbury WARR 14 Nov (LD), NYSARC, *intro*.
Bonaparte's Gull: max. 20 Athens GREE 5 Sep (RG).
Iceland Gull: arr Crescent Power Plant ALBA 15 Nov.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: arr Waterford SARA 21 Nov.
Caspian Tern: Lock 2 SARA 7 Sep.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last Johnstown FULT 13 Sep.
N. Saw-whet Owl: APBP 8 Nov, banded (AD).
Com. Nighthawk: last Colonie ALBA 6 Oct (CD).
Chimney Swift: last Quack I RENN 15 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Guilderland ALBA 5 Oct.
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (R8): Old Valley Rd, Colonie ALBA 9-30 Nov (BD), *intro*.
Am. Kestrel: max 9 Knox ALBA 12 Sep.
Merlin: 2 HP 5 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: PRWMA 2 Sep; CL 5 Sep; Five Combines Trail WASH 13 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 3 APBP 9 & 11 Sep, banded; Five Combines Trail WASH 11 Sep.
Alder Flycatcher: Five Combines Trail WASH 11 Sep, late
Willow Flycatcher: last Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail, Scotia/Glenville SCHE 12 Sep.
E. Phoebe: 5R 30 Nov, late
Great Crested Flycatcher: last 5R 22 Sep; Buckingham Pd ALBA 22 Sep.
E. Kingbird: last Athens GREE 13 Sep.
WHITE-EYED VIREO (R8): Rogers I Overlook COLU 6 Oct (BC, WY); Newtonville ALBA 10 Oct (SG).
Yellow-throated Vireo: last VFNHP 24 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: TR 5 Nov, late
Philadelphia Vireo: 17 reports 7 Sep - 4 Oct.
Cliff Swallow: last Stuyvesant COLU 1 Sep.
House Wren: last U Albany ALBA 10 Oct.
Marsh Wren: last BCM 14 Oct.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: VFNHP 3 Oct, late (JC)
TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: Thacher Park ALBA 18 Oct - 8 Nov (CT), NYSARC, *intro*.
Veery: last Buckingham Pond ALBA 22 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: BMB 23 Sep; Schodack I SP RENN 5 Oct.
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush: BMB 4 Oct.
Swainson's Thrush: max 5 APBP 21 Sep.
Wood Thrush: last 2 Schodack I SP RENN 4 Oct.
Brown Thrasher: last Towpath Rd WASH 4 Oct.
Am. Pipit: max 32 nr Schuylerville SARA 22 Oct.

Bohemian Waxwing: at Harris's Sparrow site, Loudonville ALBA 13 Nov (TW).

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Snow Bunting: arr Thompson's Lake SP 26 Oct.

Ovenbird: last Schodack I SP RENN 5 Oct.

Tennessee Warbler: last U Albany ALB 19 Oct.

Orange-crowned Warbler: 6 reports 2 Oct - 31 Oct.

Connecticut Warbler: APBP 18 Sep, banded (AD); APBP 23 Sep (TW).

Mourning Warbler: U Albany ALBA 10 Sep; Austerlitz COLU 12 Sep.

Cape May Warbler: 7 reports 2 Sep - 3 Oct.
N. Parula: last 2 Rogers I Overlook COLU 6 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: 8 reports 2 Sep - 21 Sep.

Yellow Warbler: 12 reports 2 Sep - 27 Sep.

Blackpoll Warbler: last Spring Hill Ponds WARR 15 Oct.

Palm Warbler: max 14 Scotia SCHE (DH), high count.

Wilson's Warbler: 15 reports 2 Sep - 4 Oct.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr CL 31 Oct.

Chipping Sparrow: last Lock 6 State Canal Park SARA 22 Nov.

Vesper Sparrow: 6 reports 22 Sep - 19 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 10 Towpath Rd, Kingsbury WASH 17 Oct.

HARRIS'S SPARROW: Loudonville ALBA 11 Nov - 29 Nov, NYSARC, *intro*.

Scarlet Tanager: last Schodack I SP 5 Oct.

Indigo Bunting: last U Albany ALBA 22 Oct.
DICKCISSEL (R8): Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail, Scotia/Glenville SCHE 25 Oct (BC).

Bobolink: 5R 3 Sep.; Towpath Rd, Kingsbury WASH 12 Sep.

Rusty Blackbird: max 23 VFNHP 3 Oct (BO).

Baltimore Oriole: last Five Combines Trail WASH 13 Sep.

Com. Redpoll: max 13 Thacher Park ALBA 23 Oct.

Pine Siskin: max 140 Thacher Park ALBA 20 Oct (JC).



REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The season's weather was marked with many days of easterly or southerly winds, putting a damper on fall migration through the area. September was very warm and included a four day heat wave starting 6 September with a high in Poughkeepsie of 97° on 8 September. There were no cool, well-below-average days in the month. The average monthly temperature was 5.8° above normal. Rainfall amounted to 3.5", 0.8" below normal. October was very dry with only 1.7" of precipitation; 2.8" below normal. Temperature fluctuated greatly, with three days with highs at 78° and six days with lows in the twenties. The coldest day in Poughkeepsie had a low of 21° on 19 October. This all averaged out to normal temperatures for the month. November was also dry, with 1.8" of rain, 1.6" below normal. The frequent southerly winds brought the month in at 4.8° warmer than normal. This summer-like weather made for a generally uneventful fall, but a few good birds did show up.

Greater White-fronted Goose appeared in late November in Dutchess and Ulster Counties. A couple of Cackling Geese also appeared in the month.

Easterly and southern winds kept numbers down at most hawk watches this fall. The exception was a record number of Broad-winged Hawks at Mount Peter for the season. The Mount Peter Hawk Watch tallied over 11,000, with the high of 2806 on 16 September.

After breeding successfully in Sharon Station Rd. Marsh in Amenia, Common Gallinules lingered to delight birders into October.

A Baird's Sandpiper found on Greig Farm in Red Hook 6 September was only Dutchess County's third record. The bird stayed until the 19th. Baird's were also found in the expected areas of Orange County in early September. Western Sandpiper and a Long-billed Dowitcher appeared in Morningside Park in September. Apparently these are the first records for shorebird habitat-deprived Sullivan County.

A highlight of the season was yet another report of **CRESTED CARACARA**. One passed the hawk watch on Route 299, Highland, Ulster County on 16 September and appeared to be missing an eye. Monk Parakeets appear to be expanding in Westchester from their stronghold in New Rochelle, with sightings and nests in Yonkers and Rye.

CAVE SWALLOWS were found and photographed in mid-November, with two at Rye Town Park 14 November followed by a single bird at Croton Point Park 23 November. This marks the sixth and seventh record for both Region 9 and Westchester County.

Nice fall finds included a few Nelson's Sparrows and Blue Grosbeaks and a single Dickcissel.

CONTRIBUTORS

Scott Baldinger, Gail Benson, Kelli Bochnik, Michael Bochnik, Arlene Borko, Paul Bourdin, Tom Burke, Judy Cinquina, Mark DeDea, Evan Edelbaum, Tom Fiore, Eamon Freiburger, Derek Furr, Mary Gall, John Haas, Ken Harris, David Hayes, Ed Higgins, Mary Iorizzo, Deborah Kral, Aimee LaBarr, Karalyn Lamb, Carol Linguanti, Barbara Mansell, Ken McDermott, Mack Meller, Frank Murphy, Bruce Nott, Matthew Papula, Gerhard Patsch, Charlie Plimpton, Carena Pooth, Adrienne Popko, Jessica Prockup, Kriss Replogle, Jane Rossman, Matt Rymkiewicz, Steve Sachs, Peter Schoenberger, Bob Senerchia, Anne Swaim, Herb Thompson, Wendy Tocci, Larry Trachtenburg, Bill VanWart, Chet Vincent, Carol Weiss, Della and Alan Wells, Jim Yates, Michael Yaun, Matthew Zeitler.

ABBREVIATIONS

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

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: Thompson P 7, 12, 13, 19 Nov (CV,AP, MGa); Blue Chip Farm 22, 23, 25, 30 Nov (MD); The Camel Farm 27 Nov (KM).

Snow Goose: Orange 9 Sep (SB).

Brant: 450 Lenoir Nature Preserve 10 Oct (MB).

Cackling Goose: Thompson P 7 Nov (AP, MGa); Weeping Spruce Preserve, Amenia 22,27 Nov (CPo,HT).

Wood Duck: 57 Forest L, White Plains 7 Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: 46 Bashakill 6 Oct (JH).

Green-winged Teal: Rockland L 1 Sep (D&AW), early.

Ring-necked Duck: arr early Rockefeller 4 Oct (EE).

Surf Scoter: EGR 14 Nov.

White-winged Scoter: 14 Lenoir Nature Preserve 10 Oct (MB); EGr 14 Nov.

Red-throated Loon: arr EGR 2 Nov.

Com. Loon: arr EGR 26 Sep.

Horned Grebe: 2 Neversink Res 10 Oct (JH).

Red-necked Grebe: Neversink Res 10 Oct (JH).

Am. Bittern: New Rochelle 4 Sep (PB); Croton Bay 6 Oct (AS).

Great Egret: Kingston Pt 7 Nov (DFu); Clarkstown Landfill 16 Nov (MP), late this far north.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Osprey: Lenoir Nature Preserve 22 Nov (EH, BV); CPP 24 Nov (EE).

Broad-winged Hawk: 2806 Mount Peter 16 Sep; 2365 Mount Peter 17 Dec; 1845 Mount Peter 21 Sep.

Golden Eagle: Mount Peter 17, 19 Oct, 8, 9, 14 Nov; 2 Hook Mt 23 Oct (TF, MI); 3 Butler Sanc 8 Nov; 3 Interstate-84 Overlook HawkWatch 20 Nov (GP, BS).

Clapper Rail: MC 3 Sep.

Sora: Sharon Station Rd Marsh, Amenia 8 Sep (JR).

Com. Gallinule: 1-3 Sharon Station Rd Marsh, Amenia 8, 13 Sep, 25 Oct (JR, EF, CPo, HT).

Am. Oystercatcher: 1-2 MC 1,4 Sep; EGR 10 Sep.

Am. Golden-Plover: 17 Warren sod Farm 9 Sep (BN); Ryder P Millbrook 4,5,6 Nov (CV,AP,DK,CPo,DH).

Semipalmated Plover: 6 Tappan 22 Oct (KR).

Spotted Sandpiper: Sleightsburg Spit 23,25 Oct (JY).

Upland Sandpiper: Hook Mt 20 Sep (SS, MY, ph).

Stilt Sandpiper: 6 ½ Station Marsh 4 Sep (MZ).

Baird's Sandpiper: Red Hook 6-10 Sep (MR); 4-5 Black Dirt Region 5, 6, 7 Sep (JH,APo, KM, BN). Warren Sod Farm 9 Sep (BN).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Morningside P 15 Sep (JH, AB, SB).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 3-4 Warren sod Farm 5, 6, 9 Sep (BN, JH).

Pectoral Sandpiper: 4 Morningside P 15 Sep (JH); 3 Pine Plains 20 Sep (CP).

Western Sandpiper: Morningside P SULL 15-16 Sep (JH, AB, SB), first county record.

Short-billed Dowitcher: MC 3 Sep; 4 Bontecou Wetlands, Millbrok 3 Sep (AP); 6 ½ Station Marsh 21 Sep (MZ); Route 82, Stanfordsville 7 Nov (BM).

Long-billed Dowitcher: Morningside P 6, 15 Sep (JH, SB), first county record.

Laughing Gull: max 160 EGR 11,15 Sep.

Caspian Tern: MC 14 Sep (TB).

Com. Tern: max 260 EGR 15 Sep.

Forster's Tern: 2 EGR 10 Sep; 6 EGR 14 Nov.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

N. Saw-whet Owl: Sloan Gorge, Saugerties 19, 27 Oct. 1, 8 Nov (PS); 2 caught and banded New Paltz 13 Nov (DH).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Bashakill 5 Oct.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Vassar Farm 9 Sep; max 8 Western Swamp 25 Nov; Chestnut Ridge 21 Sep (CPI); Bashakill 27 Oct (JH).

CRESTED CARACARA: Route 299, Highland, Ulster County 16 Sep, passing hawk watch and appeared to be missing an eye.

Monk Parakeet: 4 Yonkers 15 Sep; 12 EGR 15 Oct; 10 EGR 7 Nov.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Bashakill 7, 11 Sep (JH, AL).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Mount Peter 1 Sep; RNC 1 Sep; Bashakill 7, 14 Sep (JH).

Philadelphia Vireo: 2 Pawling 1 Sep;

Bashakill 2, 14 Sep (JH, SB, BN); 2 Rockefeller SP 14 Sep (AS); MC 16 Sep; 2 Peach Hill 16 Sep; Dutchess Rail Trail 25 Sep (KH).

CAVE SWALLOW: 2 Rye Town Park 14 Nov (GB, TB); CPP 23 Nov (KL), ph.

Marsh Wren: 1-2 MC 2 Sep- 11 Nov; EGR 15 Nov.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Bedford 25 Oct (MM).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Bashakill 8, 21 Oct (JH); CPP 17 Oct (LT); Hook Mt 16 Nov (CW).
Bicknell's Thrush: MC 5 Nov.
Am. Pipit: 6 Bashakill 24 Sep (JH); 2 CPP 6 Oct (AS); 20-24 Bashakill 20, 27 Oct; 20 CPP 26 Oct, 4 Nov (AS).

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Snow Bunting: 2-5 CPP 7, 15 Nov.
"Lawrence's Warbler": Buttercup East 5 Sep (MR); MC 16 May (TB).
Mourning Warbler: Rye 14 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: 2 Bashakill 7 Sep; Rockefeller SP 14 Sep (AS); Bashakill 23 Sep; Sharpe Reservation 23 Sep; Dustchess Rail Trail 25 Sep (KH).
Bay-breasted Warbler: Bashakill 13, 14 Sep (JH).
Wilson's Warbler: Harriman SP 21 Oct (AW).
Yellow-breasted Chat: CPP 10 Sep (LT); Black Creek Preserve 16 Oct.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr CPP 26 Oct
Vesper Sparrow: 2 CPP 6 Oct (AS); Bethel 16 Oct (JH, AB); 6 CPP 26 Oct (AS); Dover Plains 1 Nov (DK).
Nelson's Sparrow: Posquiello Creekside Rd, Marbletown 12 Oct (PS,MD); MC 12 Oct; 3 MC 13 Oct; 4 MC 14 Oct; max 5 MC 21 Oct (TB).
Saltmarsh Sparrow: 2 MC 14 Oct.
Fox Sparrow: arr Pruyne Sanc 23 Oct (AS); Bashakill 23 Oct (JH).
Lincoln's Sparrow: Mt Vernon 15 Nov (KB, MB), late.
White-crowned Sparrow: max 4 CPP 17 Oct (LT).
Blue Grosbeak: 2 MC 10 Oct (GB, TB); Lenoir Nature Preserve 11 Oct (MB).
Dickcissel: Posquiello Creekside Rd, Marbletown 11, 12 Oct (FM).
Rusty Blackbird: max 60 Bashakill 27 Oct (JH, SB).
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 1000 Stanford 27 Sep (CP, HT).

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REGION 10—MARINE

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The weather during the fall season was very warm and generally dry, with persistent easterly winds and few substantial cold fronts. Average temperatures in September at stations across the Region ranged from 4.9-6.4° F above historical averages reported by the National Weather Service. At the upper extreme, temperatures in Central Park averaged a balmy 74.4°. October temperatures were closer to the historical norms, for example 57.8° at JFK Airport, 0.8° above historical norms. Persistent easterly winds (see below) probably held the temperatures down. But the warmth was back in November, with temperatures about 5° above historical averages (52.5° at JFK, 5.0° above historical norms). Average precipitation in September across the Region has been approximately 3.5" historically. This September JFK received 2.58", 0.92" below normal, while 4.03" fell at Islip, 0.45" above normal. About half of the precipitation fell on 10-11 September, for example 2.3" at Islip. Precipitation in October ranged from 3.91" at Central Park (0.49" below normal), to 4.57" at Islip (0.78" above normal). November was dry. Generally, half the normal

precipitation fell (for example, 2.01" at Central Park, exactly half the normal), and about half of that fell on 19 November.

A principal factor contributing to the weather in our area this fall was a pattern called a Rex Block, in which strong high and low pressure systems occur with little west-east movement and the high to the north of the low. This results in persistent easterly winds between the two systems. In fall 2015, the low set up over South Carolina, while the high was over the Canadian Maritime Provinces, resulting in our persistent easterly winds. For example, beginning 22 September, winds were east for 18 days straight. This undoubtedly diverted many migrant land birds and raptors away from our area. Hurricane Joaquin passed well to the east of Long Island on 3 October, producing a northeast gale but no unusual seabird sightings. Despite what was generally poor weather for peak bird abundance, 306 species were recorded in Region 10 this season.

With few strong cold fronts, the fall passerine migration produced few days with any particularly impressive numbers of birds. There was no distinct peak of migrant passerine diversity during the first half of the season. More interesting was that diversity in mid-October equaled or perhaps exceeded that in September. For example, at least 14 species of warblers were noted in Central Park on 10 and 12 October. This may reflect a trend toward later migration due to climate change. Overall, at least 25 species occurred substantially later than their normal departure dates this fall. This number is similar to recent seasons. Most notable were a Louisiana Waterthrush seen by Howie Fischer on 21 October at Clove Lakes Park, Staten Island, and a Kentucky Warbler reported 9 October in Central Park. These may be new record late dates for the Region or State.

8 November brought a substantial diurnal coastal flight. Corey Finger estimated almost 43,000 Red-winged Blackbirds and 17,000 Common Grackles among more modest numbers of other common diurnal migrants, during his "Big Sit" at Ft. Tilden, Queens County. He recorded only 17 Rusty Blackbirds among the migrating flocks, consistent with the precipitous decline of this species. With the exception of moderate numbers of Purple Finches and very small numbers of Pine Siskins, irruptive winter finches were absent from Region 10 this fall. It was an exceptionally poor fall for migrant owls. For the first time in the author's memory, at least 25 years past, there were no reports of Long-eared or Northern Saw-whet Owls in Region 10.

It was another poor season at the Fire Island Hawk Watch. 2293 hawks were counted, 33% below the average of the previous 20 years. A comparison of data from FIHW with several other hawk watches in the northeast by compiler Drew Panko indicates that weather conditions and population changes affected the numbers variously for the different species. For example, American Kestrel numbers (63% below the 20-year average at FIHW) were poor at all the hawk watches examined, indicating, as expected, that a widespread population decline is continuing. Sharp-shinned Hawk (-31%) showed a similar result. However, the low numbers of Merlins (-19%) and Peregrine Falcons (-63%) at FIHW were

not reflected at the inland hawk watches examined, indicating that the weather caused the migration to shift inland. Low numbers of Northern Harriers at all the hawk watches examined (-28% at FIHW) do not reflect results in recent years, which may indicate a poor breeding year for this species.

As noted above for passerines, the FIHW results this year also indicate a shift toward later migration, possibly a result of climate change. For example, the 454 total hawks on 23 October was a record for the date and an exceptionally large number, and included notable counts for most of the species regularly seen at FIHW. There were notable counts of Merlin (201, a record for the date), American Kestrel (136), Sharp-shinned Hawk (74), and Northern Harrier (33); as well as four Cooper's Hawks and two Bald Eagles, both records for the date. Interestingly, a Broad-winged Hawk was reported at Ft. Tilden on 23 October and at Hempstead Lake State Park, Nassau County the day before, late for this species. The late migration was also evident in early November, when notable counts at FIHW occurred on several dates despite east winds. For example, a record 44 total hawks on 8 November included notable counts of 22 Sharp-shinned Hawks, seven Northern Harriers, two American Kestrels, and two Cooper's Hawks.

Consistent with the very warm weather, waterfowl numbers this season were generally very low. However, rare geese were well represented, including a **Pink-footed Goose**, a **Barnacle Goose**, and a **Ross's Goose**, the latter taken by a hunter on 28 November. There were only four distinct reports of Canvasback all season, involving no more than 17 birds in total. Baisley Pond Park in South Jamaica, Queens has become a Regionally significant location for Redhead. The maximum count there was 72. Elsewhere in the Region the greatest count was nine. Despite the generally low waterfowl numbers, a nice aggregation occurred on the East Pond of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. This included seasonal maxima of at least seven common species, plus Canvasback, Redhead, and two drake Eurasian Wigeon. Numbers of American Coots there reached an impressive maximum of 800 birds on 26 November. Also unusual for Region 10 was that the seasonal maximum of Lesser Scaup (234) exceeded that of Greater Scaup (150).

A widespread incursion of **Franklin's Gulls** occurred in the eastern U.S. on 13 November. This remarkable event followed the passage of a strong cyclone over the upper Great Lakes, producing wind vectors reaching the east coast. The event produced sightings from Portsmouth, NH south to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel and throughout the eastern Great Lakes. In *Kingbird* Region 10 there were 14 birds recorded on 13 November. But they were gone by the next day, with none found despite much searching. The Franklin's Gull incursion coincided with an incursion of **Cave Swallows**, with over 40 birds reported 13-15 November.

Regular pelagic trips to the continental shelf in recent years during late summer and fall have produced an impressive assortment of sea birds, especially warm water species. For example, John Shemilt, Derek Rogers, and Chase

Cammarota ventured to waters south of “The Claw”, about 100 miles south of Montauk, on 3 September and found three **Black-capped Petrels**, 49 **Audubon’s Shearwaters**, and nine **Band-rumped Storm-Petrels**. A See Life Paulagics trip led by Doug Gochfeld and others went to Hudson Canyon as far as 110 miles offshore on 24 October, finding eight Black-capped Petrels and one Audubon’s Shearwater. Both of these trips also found **Leach’s Storm-Petrel**, three on 3 September and one on 24 October.

This season’s rarities included quite a few one-day, one-observer, or otherwise inaccessible birds. However, one celebrity bird was perhaps seen by more people than any other bird to date in the Region or maybe even the state!

There was only one report of “**Eurasian**” **Green-winged Teal** this season, a bird found by Thomas Kernan on Mill Pond, Setauket, Suffolk County on 26 November. A photograph seen by Don Riepe showed an **American White Pelican** flying over the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on 14 November. Then on 17 November, Ed Becher found two birds on the refuge’s East Pond. They remained in the area through the season. Klemens Gasser photographed an adult **White Ibis** flying over Prospect Park on 11 October. This bird was relocated at nearby Green-wood Cemetery the day after. Anthony Ciancimino and Catherine Baron saw perhaps the same bird on 18 October at River Road, Staten Island. Single fly-by **Sandhill Cranes** were seen by Anthony at Lemon Creek Pier, Staten Island on 11 October and at Venetian Shores Park, Lindenhurst, Suffolk County on 14 November by several observers. Andrew Farnsworth found a **Red Phalarope** at Inwood Hill Park, Manhattan on 1 October. The author spotted an adult **Sabine’s Gull** flying east over the ocean at Dolphin Lane, along Dune Rd, East Quogue, Suffolk County on 21 November. The bird could not be relocated further east. A number of birders saw a **Long-tailed Jaeger** at Robert Moses State Park on 25 October. Cynthia Holden photographed a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** on 24 October at Inwood Hill Park, Manhattan. Could this be the same bird seen around the Chelsea Piers, Manhattan through December 2014? Richard Aracil saw a **White-winged Dove** at Pelham Bay Park, Bronx on 23 November. An immature female **Rufous Hummingbird** visited a feeder at a private residence in Riverhead, Suffolk County from 17 November through the season. At least three **Pileated Woodpeckers** were present in Staten Island this fall. They were seen repeatedly around the Mt. Loretto area, including North Mt. Loretto State Forest, Cemetery of the Resurrection, and the Mt. Loretto Unique Area by Seth Wollney, Anthony Ciancimino and others. Anthony also found a **Say’s Phoebe** at Miller Field, Staten Island on 28 September. Alex Wilson found an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** at Calvert Vaux Park, Brooklyn on 24 October. An *empidonax* flycatcher found in Central Park was initially identified as a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, until Peter Post and others realized that it appeared to be a “**Western**” **Flycatcher** (Pacific Slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher). It was present from 18-24 November. Review of recordings of its calls may establish the specific identification. John Sepenoski saw a **Northern Wheatear** at Plum Island, Suffolk County on 25 September. An “**Audubon’s**” **Yellow-**

rumped Warbler showed up at Sunken Meadow State Park, in the same area one was found in three of the previous four years. Shai Mitra found the bird, which was seen on 22 November only. Dick Veit identified a “**Cassiar**” **Dark-eyed Junco** at Conference House Park, Staten Island on 25 November, which was seen through the season. Most of the records of this rare and poorly understood race of Dark-eyed Junco are from the winter in the Pacific Northwest. Lastly, a male **Painted Bunting** found by Kier Randall at Prospect Park on 29 November became a true New York celebrity. The bird remained around the new and beautifully planted LeFrak Center through the fall season. He was prominently featured in the New York Times, and one birder counted 92 fellows jockeying for a good viewing position during his visit.

Readers may be interested to know of a new competitive birding event in our area. The second annual Seatuck Birding Challenge was held 26 September. The 12-hour competition was sponsored by the Seatuck Environmental Association, a NYSOA member club. 47 birders scoured Long Island from Brooklyn to Suffolk. The competing teams, including seven adult teams and five high school teams, recorded a total of 148 species despite the east winds. Some of the notable species found were Eurasian Wigeon, Redhead, Common Eider, White-winged Scoter, Black Scoter, Ring-necked Pheasant, Great Cormorant, Bald Eagle, Clapper Rail, American Golden-Plover, Piping Plover, Pectoral Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Great Horned Owl, Monk Parakeet, Willow Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, Golden-winged Warbler, Nelson’s Sparrow, Saltmarsh Sparrow, and Lincoln’s Sparrow. The winners, “Pteam Parmageddon”, found 106 species. The top high school team was Team Mennecke, with 30 species. The event combines fun and education, and hopefully will foster interest in birds and birding. The third annual Birding Challenge next fall promises to be even better. The author’s team, the W.T Hornadays, vows to avenge our second place finish. But we would not mind if there was even more competition! For more information, visit Seatuck’s web site at seatuck.org.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

APEF – Avalon Pd/East Farm Pres, Stony Brook, SUFF; APP – Alley Pd P, QUEE; BPP – Baisley Pd P, QUEE; BPT – Breezy Pt, QUEE; BRY – Bryant P, NEWY; CB – Cedar Beach, Babylon, SUFF; CCP – Cupsogue CP, SUFF; CHP – Conference House P, RICH; CIC – Coney I Cr/P, KING; CP – Central Park, NEWY; CR – Cemetery of the Resurrection, RICH; CRSP – Connetquot R SP, SUFF; CVP – Calvert Vaux P, KING (formerly Drier-Offerman P); Ed – Sod fields on Edwards Av north of Route 25, Riverhead, SUFF; EPCAL – Calverton Grasslands (former Grumman Property), Calverton, SUFF; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; FIHW – Fire Island Hawk Watch, Robert Moses SP, SUFF; FKP – Fresh Kills P, RICH; FMCP – Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, QUEE; FP – Forest Park, QUEE; FT – Fort Tilden, QUEE; FWP – Ft. Washington P, NEWY; GBP – Goethal’s Bridge Pd, RICH; GBy – Gravesend Bay, KING; GKP – Great Kills P, RICH; GwC – Green-wood Cemetery, KING; HLSP – Hempstead L SP, NASS; HP – Hook Pd, East Hampton, SUFF; HSP – Heckscher SP, SUFF; JBSP – Jones Beach SP, NASS; JBWE – West End, Jones Beach SP, NASS; JBWR – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; KP – Kissena P, 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 SP, SUFF; NYBG – New York Botanical Garden, BRON; PBP – Pelham Bay P, BRON; PL – Patchogue

L, Patchogue, SUFF; PP – Prospect P, KING; RI – Randall’s I, NEWY; RMSP – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; RP – Jacob Riis P, QUEE; Rt 105 – Sod fields south of Sound Av between Route 105 and Doctor’s Path, Riverhead, SUFF; Sag – Sagaponack Pd/Inlet, SUFF; Shinn – Shinnecock Inlet, SUFF; SPCP – Smith Pt CP, SUFF; SPP – Southards Pd P, West Babylon, SUFF; SMSP – Sunken Meadow SP, SUFF; VCP – Van Cortlandt P, BRON; VSh – Venetian Shores P, Lindenhurst, SUFF; VSSP – Valley Stream SP, NASS; WPP – Wolfe’s Pd P, RICH.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: Rt 105 26 Nov thru (PIL, SSM, mob).

Greater White-fronted Goose: 2 Heckscher P, Huntington, SUFF 3 Nov (RBA); APEF 14 Nov (RBA); Shorts Pd, Bridgehampton, SUFF 25-29 Nov (BBo, DF); 3 HP 28 Nov – thru (MZ, mob); 2 Belmont L SP, West Babylon, SUFF 28 Nov thru (DR).

Snow Goose: max 1000 JBWR 22 Nov (PU, DL); very few elsewhere.

ROSS’S GOOSE (R10): Calverton, SUFF 24 Nov (DR); same bird Reeves Av Buffalo Farm, Riverhead, SUFF 26-27 Nov (MMcB, TWB, GB); killed by hunter 28 Nov (RBA).

BARNACLE GOOSE: Maratooka L, Mattituck, SUFF 14-21 Nov (JSe, SA, MN); same bird Alvah’s Ln, Cutchogue, SUFF 26 Nov thru (MMcB, RBA).

Cackling Goose: FMCP 29-30 Sep (CF, CCo), early; 2 BPB 24 Oct (MB); Caumsett SP, SUFF 1 Nov (RBA); HP 8 Nov (RBA); JBWE 14 Nov (TH); APEF 14 Nov (RBA); Maratooka L 14-21 Nov (JSe, SA, MN); same bird Alvah’s Ln 26 Nov (MMcB); HSP 22 Nov (DR), possible *Branta hutchinsii taverneri*; Reeves Av Buffalo Farm 26 Nov (MMcB); 13 Calverton 26 Nov (MMcB), large number, 4 possible *B.h. taverneri*; 2 Centerport Pd, Centerport, SUFF 27 Nov (DR).

Mute Swan: max 200 JBWR 5 Sep (CF), population there perhaps returning to levels pre Hurricane Sandy.

Tundra Swan: Brooklyn Bridge P, KING 19 Oct (HW), ph; 4 HP 25 Nov thru (BBo, mob).

Wood Duck: max 24 FT 14 Nov (SB, DG), migr.

Gadwall: max 300 JBWR East Pd 22 Nov (JMcG, *et al.*).

Eurasian Wigeon: JBWR 26-28 Sep (JGI, *et al.*); 2 JBWR 22 Nov thru (JMcG, AB, SA, CF); 2 Mill Pd, Patchogue, SUFF 19 Oct (PU, KC); Setauket Mill Pd, Setauket, SUFF 19 Oct-

14 Nov (KC; RBA); Rt 25A, Centerport 23 Nov (RBA); fem Maratooka L 26 Nov (MMcB).

Am. Wigeon: max 350 JBWR East Pd 22 Nov (JMcG, *et al.*).

Mallard: max 640 JBWR East Pd 19 Sep (Jared Cole), large number.

Blue-winged Teal: max 50 JBWR 3-26 Sep (mob).

N. Pintail: max 32 Fresh Kills P, RICH 8 Nov (SIW), large number.

Green-winged Teal: max 250 JBWR 20 Nov (RB).

“EURASIAN” GREEN-WINGED TEAL (R10): Mill Pd, Setauket, SUFF 26 Nov (TK).

Canvasback: Centerport Pd, Centerport, SUFF 18 Nov (BBo); 5 JBWR 23 Nov (ACi, MK); 4 Seatuck Cr, Islip, SUFF 26 Nov (AC); 7 Centerport Pd 26 Nov (DR); only reps.

Redhead: 9 Santapogue Cr, Lindenhurst, SUFF 15 Nov (CCo); 9 JBWR 26 Nov (AB); max 72 BPP 27 Nov (AB), large number.

Ring-necked Duck: max 25 Lily Pd, Georgica, SUFF 28 Nov (JRo), few.

Greater Scaup: JBWE 26 Sep (JGI, TS, *et al.*), early, Seatuck Birding Challenge; max 150 JBWR East Pd 19 Nov (SSch), few.

Lesser Scaup: max 234 Mill Pd, Watermill, SUFF 28 Nov (AnW).

Com. Eider: a few from summer; max 125 MP 29 Nov (SF), few.

Harlequin Duck: fem Jones Inlet, NASS 27 Oct (KF, BA), first; 1-3 Jones Inlet 28 Oct - 29 Nov (mob); 4 Jones Inlet 30 Nov thru (mob); fem Dead Horse Bay, KING 1 Nov (HL, KR).

Surf Scoter: max 969 MP 21 Nov (AnW), otherwise much smaller numbers.

White-winged Scoter: max 1208 Goldsmith’s Inlet, Southold. SUFF 31 Oct (JSe); 400-500 noted MP late Nov.

Black Scoter: 1170 MB 8 Nov (SSM, PIL, PMo); 1000 New Inlet, Fire I, SUFF 12 Nov (MLL); 1250 MP 25 Nov (BBo); max 5000 SPCP 29 Nov (AiP).

Long-tailed Duck: max 110 Shinn 7 Nov (RVa), few.

Bufflehead: max 535 VSh 25 Nov (PMo).

Comm. Goldeneye: max 25 GKP 29 Nov (ACi).

Hooded Merganser: max 142 HLSP 29 Nov (BB), large number.

Com. Merganser: PBP 20 Nov (RAR); only rep.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 83 SMSP 10 Nov (SF), few.

Ruddy Duck: max 860 Mill Pd, Watermill 28 Nov (AnW); 500 JBWR East Pd 9 Nov – thru (mob).

N. Bobwhite: Southold 11 Oct (JSe), only SUFF rep.

Red-throated Loon: Hudson Canyon, pelagic trip fr Sheepshead Bay, KING 24 Oct (DG, *et al.*), unusual loc; 476 Amagansett, SUFF 29 Nov (RBA), large number.

Red-necked Grebe: Shinn 20 Sep (RBA), early.

N Fulmar: 7 Hudson Canyon, pelagic trip fr Sheepshead Bay 24 Oct (DG, *et al.*).

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: 3 100 mi S Montauk, SUFF 3 Sep (JSh, DR, CC); 8 Hudson Canyon, pelagic trip fr Sheepshead Bay 24 Oct (DG, *et al.*).

Cory's Shearwater: 15 100 mi S Montauk 3 Sep (JSh, DR, CC); 2 Sag 5 Sep (RBA); 3 3 mi SW MP 12 Sep (OB); 2 1 mi W Gardiner's I, SUFF 12 Sep (OB), unusual loc; 20 Great Gull I, SUFF 12 Sep (fide JDi); max 54 Ama 12 Sep (AnW); 10 Sag 13 Sep (RBA); 9 MB 13 Sep (RBA); 7 Hudson Canyon, pelagic trip fr Sheepshead Bay 24 Oct (DG, *et al.*); RMSP 25 Oct (fide SSM).

Great Shearwater: 100 mi S Montauk 3 Sep (JSh, DR, CC); 92 Hudson Canyon, pelagic trip fr Sheepshead Bay 24 Oct (DG, *et al.*).

Manx Shearwater: 2 Hudson Canyon, pelagic trip fr Sheepshead Bay 24 Oct (DG, *et al.*).

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER: 49 100 mi S Montauk 3 Sep (JSh, DR, CC).

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 24 100 mi S Montauk 3 Sep (JSh, DR, CC); 21 Hudson Canyon, pelagic trip fr Sheepshead Bay 24 Oct (DG, *et al.*).

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: 2 100 mi S Montauk 3 Sep (JSh, DR, CC); Hudson Canyon, pelagic trip fr Sheepshead Bay 24 Oct (DG, *et al.*).

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: 9 100 mi S Montauk 3 Sep (JSh, DR, CC).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (R10): JBWR 14-17 Nov (*fide* DRI, EB, mob); 2 JBWR 21 Nov - thru (MY, EM, *et al.*, mob).

Great Cormorant: imm Great Gull I 1-10 Sep (JDi, *et al.*; MLL); JBWR 26 Sep (SSM, PJL, *et al.*), Seateck Birding Challenge; early.

Am. Bittern: CCP 3 Sep (RBA); SPP 17-18 Sep (PMo); CCP 7-8 Oct (RBA); Dune Rd, E Quogue, SUFF 21 Nov (SA, MN, PN).

Tricolored Heron: JBWR 12 Oct (CF), only rep.

WHITE IBIS: PP 11 Oct (KG), ph; same bird GwC 12 Oct (*fide* RJ).

Black Vulture: 4 NYBG 17 Oct (DB, *et al.*); CP 9 Nov (BK).

Turkey Vulture: max 25 Northville, SUFF 5 Oct (MLL), large number; 5 FT 23 Oct (CF, DG), migr.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Osprey: 378 FIHW, 10% above 20-yr average (*fide* DP).

Bald Eagle: 6 FIHW, 77% above 20-yr average (*fide* DP), *intro*; pr present William Floyd Estate, Mastic Beach, SUFF thru, at nest late Nov (MLL); imm Great Gull I 1-10 Sep (JDi, *et al.*, MLL); imm Sands Pt Pres 14 Sep (GQ); ad Northville 30 Sep (MLL); 2 JBWE 4 Oct (SyS); SPP 6 Oct (PMo); imm FT 10 Oct (CF); 2 Riverhead 15 Oct (MLL), ad & juv; SPP 16 Oct (PMo); 3 Greentree Estate, Manhasset, NASS 17 Oct (SP); 2 Leed's Pd, Plandome Manor, NASS 24 Oct (RBA); MLUA 24 Oct (JSt) ad HLSP 25 Oct (TH); PBP 26 Oct (Jrn, *et al.*); ad FT 8 Nov (CF, SA); MLUA 8 Nov (SIW); ad KP 16 Nov (CCo); pr present FMCP ca 20 Nov thru (MN, mob); ad EPCAL 25 Nov (SyS, JGi).

N. Harrier: 164 FIHW, 28% below 20-yr average (*fide* DP), *intro*.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 220 FIHW, 37% below 20-yr average (*fide* DP), *intro*.

Cooper's Hawk: 41 FIHW, 27% above 20-yr average (*fide* DP), *intro*.

N. Goshawk: Twin Lakes Pres, Wantagh, NASS 14 Nov (PM); CR 23 Nov (ACi); PBP 26 Nov (S. Sachs), ph.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Bellmore, NASS 27-29 Oct (PM); 5 CP 14 Nov (*fide* DA).

Broad-winged Hawk: HLSP 22 Oct (SyS, *et al.*); FT 23 Oct (CF, DG); late, rare on L.I.

Rough-legged Hawk: Tobay, NASS 24 Nov (Bill Elrick), only rep.

Virginia Rail: Rockefeller Center, NEWY 21 Sep (RBA), 49th St & 6th Av, NEWY 30 Oct (*fide* BC); unusual locs.

Sora: River Rd, RICH 20 Sep (ACi); Brooklyn Bridge P 10 Oct (HW); CP 17 Oct – 3 Nov (mob); SPP 23 Oct (PMo).
Com. Gallinule: McKay L, EPCAL 9 Sep thru (DR, DK, BR, SyS, JGi), injured wing.
Am. Coot: max 800 JBWR 26 Nov (AB), large number.
SANDHILL CRANE (R10): Lemon Creek Pier, RICH 11 Oct (ACi); VSh 14 Nov (PMo, JGI, TS, TD), in flight.
Am. Golden-Plover: few; 2 Great Gull I 2 Sep (JDi, *et al.*); 12 Bridge Ln, Cutchogue, SUFF 3 Sep (RBA); 12 Bridge Ln, Cutchogue 6 Sep (TWB, GB, RJK); 2 CCP 7 Sep (RBA); 2 Rt 105 7-8 Sep (MC, SS); 12 Rt 105 11 Sep (RBA); 10 Rt 105 12 Sep (MN); 4 Rt 105 13 Sep (SA, MN); JBWE 14-15 Sep (mob); max 35 Rt 105 20 Sep (AnW); 8 Rt 105 27 Sep (RBA); GKP 12-24 Oct (DE, ACi); appx 12 addtl reps, last 15 Nov.
Solitary Sandpiper: 10 McKay L, EPCAL 9 Sep (DR), large number.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 225 CIC 24 Sep (SS, SB); large number.
Whimbrel: JBWE 2 Sep (RT); Great Gull I 3 Sep (*vide* JDi); Plum B, KING 4 Sep (RBA); 2 Sailor's Haven, Fire I, SUFF 11 Sep (Bob Nyman, ph); CCP 12 Sep (RBA); Bellport, SUFF 27 Sep (RBA); JBWE 4 Oct (RBA).
Hudsonian Godwit: Cedar Beach CP, Southold, SUFF 1 Oct (RBA); 7 VSh 3 Oct (PMo).
Marbled Godwit: 2 JBWR 5 Sep (SW); CCP 7 Sep (RBA).
Red Knot: max 73 JBWE 25 Oct (GL, *et al.*).
Stilt Sandpiper: 2 Captree I 12 Sep (SSM, *et al.*), unusual loc; Captree I 27 Sep (RBA).
Baird's Sandpiper: Bridge Ln, Cutchogue 3 Sep (TWB, GB, RJK); JBWR 7 Sep (SW); Rt 105 7-8 Sep (AnW, SS); 2 JBWE 13-14 Sep (SA, CF, mob); JBWE 14 Sep (SyS, JGi).
White-rumped Sandpiper: 33 JBWR 2 Sep (RBA), large number; 9 JBWR 3 Sep (TH); Plum B 4-9 Oct (RBA).
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: JBWE thru 3 Sep (mob); 2 Bridge Ln 3-12 Sep (JSe, RBA); Miller Field 5-6 Sep (ACi); 6 Rt 105 5-6 Sep (JGI, TWB, GB); 9 Rt 105 7 Sep (AnW); max 11 Rt 105 8 Sep (SS); 4 Rt 105 11 Sep (MN); 2 Rt 105 12 Sep (DK, BR); 6 Rt 105 27 Sep (RBA).
Pectoral Sandpiper: 7 Calverton Ponds Pres, SUFF 9 Sep (DR); max 9 Calverton Ponds Pres 10 Sep (AG); 5 Captree I, SUFF 27 Sep (RBA); 6 Miller Field, RICH 3 Oct (ACi); 7 Miller

Field 4 Oct (ACi); JBWR 18 Oct (CF), late; 2 Captree I 25 Oct (RBA); appx 5 addtl reps.
Western Sandpiper: 18 JBWR 3 Sep (TH), large number; JBWE 28 Nov (RBA), late.
Long-billed Dowitcher: Captree I 12 Sep (SSM, *et al.*); 2 Captree I 26 Sep (JGI, *et al.*), Seateck Birding Challenge; 4 Captree I 27 Sep (RBA); Captree I 25 Oct (RBA); Santapogue Cr 30 Sep thru, max 12 on 21 Nov, 11 thru (PMo, RBA); 7 VSh 16 Nov (SSM); 1-2 present JBWR 18 Nov thru (CF, AB, mob).
Wilson's Phalarope: 2 CCP 12 Sep (RBA).
Red-necked Phalarope: 9 ind 100 mi S Montauk 3 Sep (JSh, DR, CC).
RED PHALAROPE (R10): IHP 1 Oct (AF).
Pomarine Jaeger: 3 ind 100 mi S Montauk 3 Sep (JSh, DR, CC); 2 Hudson Canyon, Pelagic trip fr Sheepshead Bay 24 Oct (DG, *et al.*).
Parasitic Jaeger: Nickerson B 26 Sep (RBA); 5 RP 3 Oct (IG); Oakwood B, RICH 3 Oct (ACi); 2 Hudson Canyon, Pelagic trip fr Sheepshead Bay 24 Oct (DG, *et al.*); 13 RMSP 25 Oct (RBA); FIHW 26 Oct (RJK); imm JBWE 27 Oct (KF, SF); Tiana B, E Quogue 21 Nov (SA, MN, PN); Ama 29 Nov (RBA).
LONG-TAILED JAEGER: RMSP 25 Oct (KF, SSM, *et al.*).
Dovekie: Montauk Harbor Inlet 25 Nov (BBo).
Razorbill: Dune Rd, vic. Quogue, SUFF 25 Nov (SF); 4 MP 29 Nov (KF, SF); only reps.
Black-legged Kittiwake: 2 Hudson Canyon, pelagic trip fr Sheepshead Bay, 24 Oct (DG, *et al.*); 25 Hither Hills SP, Montauk, SUFF 21 Nov (AnW), flying east over ocean; 1st cycle Sag 25 Nov (BBo), loafing.
SABINE'S GULL (R10): ad Dune Rd, E Quogue, 21 Nov (SA), flying east over ocean.
Bonaparte's Gull: 40 Jones Inlet 25 Nov (SyS, JGi); max 110 Montauk Harbor Inlet 25 Nov (BBo).
Black-headed Gull: Norton Pt. KING 21-23 Nov (RM, DHr).
FRANKLIN'S GULL (R10): Captree I 29 Sep (AG, PU); reps 13 Nov: 2 RP (AB); 1st win Miller Field (IG); 1st win FBF (DG); ad Plum B (SB); imm Malibu Beach, NASS (BR, mob); 3 Midland B, RICH (SIW, IG), 2 1st win, ad; 1st win VSh (PMo); ad East R at 42 St, NEWY (AF); 2 Hudson R at 70 St, NEWY (JDi); *intro*.
Iceland Gull: imm MP 29 Nov (KF, SF, DF).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Great Gull I 2-3 Sep (JDi); max 33 JBWE 4 Sep (RBA); Rt 105 12 Sep (DK, BR), unusual loc; 11 JBWE 13 Sep (SA, CF); 27 JBWE 26 Sep (RBA); 29 JBWE 3 Oct (BB); 11 Tobay 3 Oct (BB); ad Northville 3 Nov (MLL); 4 Tobay 13 Nov

(BB); returning ad Arden Av, RICH 1 Oct thru; appx 10 addtl reps.

Glaucous Gull: no reps.

Gull-billed Tern: JBWR thru 12 Sep (RBA); 3 JBWR 2 Sep (RBA); 2 E Rockaway, QUEE 6 Sep (CF).

Caspian Tern: 2 Great Gull I 2 Sep (*fide* JDi); GKP 12 Sep (RBA); MB 13 Sep (RBA); JBWE 14 Sep (mob); 3 JBWE 15 Sep (RBA); 2 RMSP 21 Sep (RBA); MB 23 Sep (RBA); FBF 2 Oct (RBA); 2 MB 4 Oct (RBA); 2 Lemon Cr Pier, RICH 10 Oct (ACi); 2 Zach's Bay, JBSP 20 Oct (KF, SF).

Black Tern: Gravesend Bay, KING 1 Sep (DG, TJ); 5 JBWR 2 Sep (RBA); 2 Lemon Cr Pier 7 Sep (ACi); 12 Nickerson B, NASS 13 Sep (TH); 2 Jones Inlet 21 Sep (RBA); CIC 24 Sep (SS, SB); 2 RP 3 Oct (IG, CF); JBWE 4 Oct (RBA).

Roseate Tern: Gravesend Bay 1 Sep (DG, TJ), unusual loc.

Com. Tern: 1324 CIC 24 Sep (SS, SB, large number); VSh 16 Nov (DK), late.

Forster's Tern: 550 Gilgo B, Babylon, SUFF 19 Sep (SSM), large number; 200 Orchard B, BRON 27 Sep (JRn, RAR, *et al.*).

Royal Tern: 13 CCP 7 Sep (RBA); 4 Patchogue 10 Sep; 9 CCP 12 Sep (RBA); 4 MB 23 Sep (RBA); 2 Plum B 23 Sep (RBA); 2 JBWE 26 Sep (MN, SA, RK, SP), Seatuck Birding Challenge; 2 Plum B 30 Sep (RBA); max 200 RP 3 Oct (IG), large number; 5 JBWE 7 Oct (RT); 2 JBWE 8 Oct (RT); 6 Zach's Bay 20 Oct (KF, SF); 40 GKP 21 Oct (DE); 11 VSh 22 Oct (PMo); 90 Midland B 23 Oct (CB); 100 Midland B 24 Oct (CB); 2 Sheepshead Bay 24 Oct (DG, *et al.*); 10 Davis Park Ferry, Patchogue, SUFF 27 Oct; 4 Davis Park Ferry 31 Oct; 7 VSh 1 Nov (PMo); 2 Bayport B, SUFF 2 Nov (JSt), last.

Black Skimmer: max 400 Rockaway B, QUEE 5 Sep (CF), downy young present where breeding not previously noted; 105 VSh 1 Oct (PMo); 84 VSh 22 Oct (PMo); 51 Miller Field 15 Nov (ACi, MK); 21 Nov, last, several locs.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: IHP 24 Oct (Cynthia Holden), ph.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: PBP 23 Nov (RAR).

Barn Owl: pr nested PBP, 4 fledglings.

Snowy Owl: FIHW 4 Nov (*fide* DP), ph.

Barred Owl: PBP 15 Nov (JRn, *et al.*).

Long-eared Owl: no reps.

Short-eared Owl: Santapogue Cr 30 Oct (PMo), migr, only rep.

N. Saw-whet Owl: no reps.

Com. Nighthawk: 7 E Setauket, SUFF 1 Sep (DF); 14 Glen Cove, NASS 3 Sep (RC); 16 Lattingtown, NASS 7 Sep (*fide* RC); max 59 E Setauket 11 Sep (DF); 13 PP 11 Sep (PD); 5 SPP 14 Sep (PMo); 10 Lattingtown 15 Sep (RC); 23 VCP 6 Oct (RAR); Bronx Park E, BRON 9 Oct (DA).

E. Whip-poor-will: CP 26 Sep (KFu, mob).

Chimney Swift: FIHW 8 Nov (RJK), late.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: imm fem private residence, Riverhead, SUFF 17 Nov thru (MLL, SSM, PJJ), ph.

Red-headed Woodpecker: imm CP 24 Sep (RBA); Stuyvesant Square, NEWY 5 Oct (RBA); Plum I, SUFF 6 Oct (MLL); 2 imm FIHW 11 Oct (RJK); imm RMSP 14 Oct (KF, SF); ad JBWE 16-17 Oct (SyS, JGi, mob); imm JBWE 17 Oct (TH), second bird; FT 23 Oct (CF, DG); JBWE 23 Oct (SyS, JGi); imm CP 26 Oct thru (mob); 2 imm CP 31 Oct (*fide* DA); imm Willowbrook P, RICH 17 Nov (ACi); 2 Willowbrook P 21 Nov thru (MSh, mob).

PILEATED WOODPECKER (R10): 3 Mt Loretto area, RICH thru; 1 m present, 2 fem ph together (*fide* SIW); 2 there ca 12-17 Oct (ACi, MK); College of Staten Island, RICH 6 Nov (ACi).

Am. Kestrel: 344 FIHW, 63% below 20-yr average (*fide* DP), *intro*.

Merlin: 1064 FIHW, 19% below 20-yr average (*fide* DP), *intro*.

Peregrine Falcon: 73 FIHW, 63% below 20-yr average (*fide* DP), *intro*.

Monk Parakeet: Santapogue Cr thru, max 33 on 12 Nov (PMo).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: CR 23 Sep (ACi), late.

“WESTERN” FLYCATCHER: CP 18-24 Nov (PP, mob), ph, NYSARC review pending.

SAY'S PHOEBE: Miller Field 28 Sep (ACi, mob).

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: CVP 24 Oct (AxW), ph.

Great Crested Flycatcher: CP 20 Nov (SC, mob), late.

Western Kingbird: RMSP 1 Oct (KF, SF); Edgemere, QUEE 4 Oct (LS, CF); RMSP 12-15 Oct (PMo, MSch); JBWE 14 Oct (EB); Dead Horse Bay, KING 25 Oct (HL, *et al.*); Napeague 1 Nov (RBA); McAllister CP, Belle

Terre, SUFF 8 Nov (DR); SMSP 14 Nov (RBA); Edgemere 15 Nov (AB).
N. Shrike: McAllister CP 8 Nov (DR).
Blue-headed Vireo: still widespread mid-Nov; last 21 Nov.
Philadelphia Vireo: SPP 4 Sep (PMo); PP 12 Sep (SS); CR 14 Sep (ACi); MLUA 14 Sep (MSh); 2 JBWE 14 Sep (TH); SPP 14-15 Sep (PMo); JBWE 15 Sep (SyS, JGi); FP 15 Sep (CF); Garvies Pt Pres, NASS 16 Sep (*fide* RC); PBP 16 Sep (MB); PP 19 Sep (RBA); GwC 24 Sep (RBA); HlSP 26 Sep (JGI, *et al.*), Seatuck Birding Challenge; 2 addtl reps 26 Sep, Seatuck Birding Challenge.
Blue Jay: max 600 CHP 10 Oct (HF), large number.
COMMON RAVEN (R10): pr present Bush Terminal area, KING thru; pr present Chelsea area, NEWY, thru; 2 Plainview, NASS 15 Sep (PM); 4 Yaphank, SUFF 18 Sep (KC); 4 CP 20 Sep (ABu); 4 IHP 21 Sep (AF); 3 East Meadow, NASS 27 Sep (Steve Williams); 5-6 CP 10 Oct (KS, mob), large number; Greentree Estate 17 Oct (SP); 3 SMSP 18 Oct (PM); 2 Roslyn, NASS 21 Oct (PM); Northville 3-8 Nov (MLL); Roslyn 4 Nov (PM); 2 New Dorp, RICH 14 Nov (ACi); 2 Moses Mtn, RICH 14 Nov (AP); Hicksville, NASS 21 Nov (DK).
Purple Martin: max60 Shelter I, SUFF 10 Sep (OB), large number.
Tree Swallow: FIHW obs generally 1000-2000, not the usual much larger flights (RJK).
N. Rough-winged Swallow: Sliver L P, RICH 11 Nov (HF), late.
Cliff Swallow: RMSP 1 Nov (SSM, PJJ), late.
CAVE SWALLOW: 5 Miller Field 13 Nov (IG); 4 PBP 14 Nov (JRn); 9 Coney I, KING 14 Nov (RJ, *et al.*); 7 VSh 14 Nov (PMo, mob), 4 still present 15 Nov (PMo, PJJ); 6-8 BP 14 Nov (RB); 2 Broad Channel, QUEE 14 Nov (JDi, *et al.*); 2 FT 14 Nov (JDi); Captree SP, SUFF 14 Nov (GQ); 5 Lemon Cr P 14 Nov (ACi, MK); 4 Coney I 15 Nov (KM); 2 BP 15 Nov (AB); 2 Edgemere 15 Nov (CF); 2 MLUA 15 Nov (HF); Hudson R, Midtown, NEWY (DHG); 5 Ama 29 Nov (RBA).
Marsh Wren: BRY 16 Sep (CF), unusual loc.
NORTHERN WHEATEAR: Plum I 25 Sep (JSe);
Gray-checked Thrush: VSh 15 Sep (PMo); PBP 16 Sep (MB); VSh 18 Sep (PMo); PP 22 Sep (PD); 4 CP 1 Oct (DM); 2 CP 3 Oct (DA, *et al.*); CP 12 Oct (DA, *et al.*); Sands Pt Pres 18 Oct (GQ), late.
Wood Thrush: CP 11 Oct (*fide* DA), late.

Am. Robin: 440 FT 8 Oct (CF), migr, "Big Sit".

Am. Pipit: 65 Hallockville, SUFF 14 Nov (MLL).

Cedar Waxwing: 491 FT 8 Nov (CF), migr, "Big Sit".

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: Plum B 26 Oct (CCo); 2 FT 14 Nov (RBA); Hallockville, 14 Nov (MLL).

Worm-eating Warbler: Sands Pt Pres 23 Sep (SP, *et al.*), late.

Louisiana Waterthrush: CLP 21 Oct (HF), poss record late date for NY State, NYSARC report desired.

Golden-winged Warbler: RMSP 15 Sep (RBA); SPP 17 Sep (PMo); CB Marina 26 Sep (SSM, PJJ, *et al.*), Seatuck Birding Challenge.

Blue-winged Warbler: CP 26 Oct (DA, *et al.*), late.

Black-and-white Warbler: CP 15 Nov (JSP), late.

Prothonotary Warbler: SMSP 16 Sep (BBo).

Orange-crowned Warbler: appx 25 reps incl: Abingdon Square P, NEWY 6 Oct (AR), first; 2 JBWE 27 Nov (RBA).

Connecticut Warbler: World Trade Center, NEWY 11 Sep (AF), nocturnal obs in lights of 9/11 Memorial; KP 14-15 Sep (CCo, CF); GwC 16 Sep (RJ); APEC 16 Sep (RBA); Trinity Church, NEWY 21-22 Sep (BC, mob), unusual loc.

Mourning Warbler: Trinity Church 27 Sep (mob), unusual loc.

Kentucky Warbler: CP 9 Oct (*fide* KFu), poss record late date for Region 10, NYSARC report desired.

Hooded Warbler: appx 30 reps, many on 10 Oct, incl 5 CP 10 Oct (Jeffrey ward), large number; CP 18 Oct (SC), late.

Am. Redstart: max 21 SPP 1 Sep, large number.

Blackburnian Warbler: PBP 21 Oct (MB), late.

"Yellow" Palm Warbler: 73 Greentree Estate 17 Oct (SP), large number.

"Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler: fem SMSP 22 Nov (SSM, PJJ), found at loc 3 of past 4 years.

Prairie Warbler: CP 5 Nov (Fritz Mueller); EPCAL 25 Nov (SyS, JGi), late.

Wilson's Warbler: JBWR 14 Nov (JDi, *et al.*), late.

Yellow-breasted Chat: CIC 1 Sep (DG, TJ); CP 7 Sep (*vide* DA); JBWE 13-14 Sep (SA, CF, mob); 2 KP 16 Sep (RBA); CR 11 Oct (ACi); JBWE 17-18 Oct (TH); Tobay 29 Nov (RBA).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: appx 25 reps incl Great Gull I 5 Sep (*vide* JDi), early; JBWE 5 Nov (BA), last.

Vesper Sparrow: fewer than last year; CP 3-7 Oct (mob); CVP 15 Oct (SS); JBWE 17-26 Oct (mob); 2 KP 17 Oct (PR, *et al.*); CP 20 Oct (ABi); KP 20 Oct (PR); Willow L, FMCP 24 Oct (CF).

Lark Sparrow: more than usual; RMSP 11 Sep (SSM); Snug Harbor, RICH 11 Sep (CB); Captree SP 15 Sep (SSM); RMSP 18-21 Sep (SSM, mob); CR 26 Sep (ACi); Brooklyn Bridge P 26 Sep (HW); FBF 28 Sep (SS); Cemetery of the Evergreen, KING 5 Oct (DM); 2 JBWE 14-17 Oct (PPa, mob); one bird continuing JBWE 18-30 Oct (mob); Six Diamonds P, KING 19 Oct (DG); Moravian Cemetery, RICH 29 Nov (DE, ACi).

Grasshopper Sparrow: EPCAL thru 12 Sep (DK, BR), incl 6 on 6 Sep (JSe); CP 26 Sep (*vide* KFu); Hillview Reservoir, BRON 5 Oct (RBA); 2 KP 18 Oct (CF); CP 3 Nov (RBA).

Nelson's Sparrow: CB Marina 26 Sep (SSM, PjL, *et al.*), Seatuck Birding Challenge, *subvirgatus*; BRY 8 Oct (CF, mob), unusual loc; NYBG 17 Oct (DB, *et al.*), unusual loc; 4 Dune Rd, E Quogue 21 Nov (SA, MN, PN), *subvirgatus*.

Seaside Sparrow: 7 Dune Rd, E Quogue 21 Nov (SA, MN, PN), large number.

Lincoln's Sparrow: appx 30 reps 14 Sep – 16 Nov.

Swamp Sparrow: 108 Greentree Estate 17 Oct (SP), large number.

"CASSIAR" DARK-EYED JUNCO: CHP 25 Nov thru (RV), *Junco hyemalis cismontanus*, NYSARC review pending.

Blue Grosbeak: few; appx 15 reps incl: EPCAL 1 Sep (RT); Governor's I, NEWY 4 Sep (BC); 2 KP 15 Sep (CF); KP 19 Sep (EM,

CF, SA, JR); CVP 19 Sep (RBA); KP 26 Sep (SA); KP 6 Oct (CF); Brooklyn Botanical Garden, KING 14-17 Oct (mob).

PAINTED BUNTING: PP 29 Nov thru (KR, mob).

Dickcissel: CIC 1 Sep (DG, TJ); captree SP 12 Sep (TWB); JBWE 12-24 Sep (BA, mob); Sands Pt Pres 14 Sep (GQ); 3 RMSP 15 Sep (SF); RMSP 18-21 Sep (JGl, mob); CP 29-30 Sep (mob); MNSA 7 Oct (SyS); HSP 8 Oct (RBA); FT 10 Oct (CF, *et al.*); PBP 10 Oct (RAr); Brooklyn Botanical Garden 14-17 Oct (W. Pollard, mob); 3 RMSP 15 Oct (SSM); CP 1-14 Nov (DA, *et al.*, mob); CHP 25 Nov (RV).

Bobolink: max 69 CIC 1 Sep (DG, TJ); 22 PBP 14 Nov (MB), late.

Red-winged Blackbird: 42,891 FT 8 Nov (CF), large number, "Big Sit".

Rusty Blackbird: 17 FT 8 Nov (CF), migr, "Big Sit".

Com. Grackle: 16,766 FT 8 Nov (CF), large number, "Big Sit".

Boat-tailed Grackle: 100 or more regularly seen Captree I mid Sep – early Oct incl 186 on 29 Sep (BBo); max 320 JBWR 12 Oct (CF), large number; 142 SPCP 28 Nov (DR).

Brown-headed Cowbird: 345 FT 8 Nov (CF), migr, "Big Sit".

Orchard Oriole: JBWE 13 Sep (PPa, JGa), rare in fall.

Purple Finch: widespread in moderate numbers late Oct thru incl: 8 SPP 31 Oct (PMo); max 22 JBWE 8 Nov (TH); 10 FT 8 Nov (CF); 19 RMSP 8 Nov (KF); 10-15 William Floyd Estate 15 Nov (MLL); 20 CP 15 Nov (BK); 16 KP 16 Nov (CCo).

Pine Siskin: very small numbers late Oct thru; distinct max migr 8 Nov, incl: CR 11 Oct (ACi), first; GKP 20 Oct (RV); GKP 24 Oct (RV); max 8 SPCP 5 Nov (DR); 5 JBWE 8 Nov (TH); 6 FT 8 Nov (CF); 4 RMSP 8 Nov; 5 CP 8 Nov (BK).

EXOTICS

European Goldfinch: Ridge, SUFF 11 Oct (JH).

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

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

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December

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