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# The KINGBIRD

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Front Cover – Western Kingbird, Jones Beach West End, Nassau, 11 Sep 2017,  
© Cindy Goldman.  
Back Cover – Eastern Kingbird, Green-Wood Cemetery, Kings, 2 Sep 2017,  
© Daisy Lane Paul.

## A CORN CRAKE (*Crex crex*) AT CEDAR BEACH, SUFFOLK COUNTY, LONG ISLAND

**Ken Feustel**

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*Listen closely, fellow birders, and you will have our take  
on the recent discovery of the elusive Corn Crane.*

(with apologies to William Wadsworth Longfellow)

A cold front had pushed into the Northeast prior to Election Day, 7 November 2017, and Sue and I had begun our birding (after voting, of course) at Robert Moses State Park, a short distance east of Cedar Beach. The birding was slow, with our only notable sighting being a late Magnolia Warbler. We decided to head west on the Ocean Parkway and bird at Jones Beach State Park, where we knew from experience that any south-facing shrub barrier may harbor late insectivorous species. Traveling on the Ocean Parkway during rush hour is not for the faint of heart, with traffic routinely moving at seventy-five miles per hour. We had learned through years of traversing this roadway that maintaining a minimum speed of sixty miles per hour was necessary to prevent being rear-ended. Long ago, we had developed the habit of checking the shoulder of the parkway for birds as we drove, and doubling back to check anything that looked interesting. As we approached the Cedar Beach marina KF noted a buffy-chested bird standing under a shrub on the north shoulder of the parkway. It looked intriguing, although we had no idea what it might be. Carefully making the turn to head east we were soon heading west again, approaching the location where the bird had been seen—and there it was, feeding right along the edge of the shrubline. Meanwhile, cars sped by only five feet away, shaking our car as they whizzed by. Sue and I both said “It’s a rail!”, which is curious, because, in many ways, this bird looked decidedly un-rail-like, more suggestive of a female quail or grouse.

About this time a Suffolk County police officer pulled up along side us and asked if we needed any help (the bird raced into the bushes). Sue smiled sweetly and told the officer that we had just managed to get our car started (!!!). The deception came so easily—who was this woman I thought I knew? Having told the officer our car was in working order we had to leave, making the same circuitous route as before. When we arrived back where the bird had been we quickly spied the bird actively feeding, apparently on earthworms. I was attempting to get photos of the bird, but was constantly shooting through my back window, and the photos were terrible. I carefully opened the door and

stepped outside, and the bird rocketed into the vegetation. For the third time we left and did our (now familiar) route. The bird again cooperated and returned to feeding on the grassy shoulder.

Sue and I had been through this drill previously, having on three occasions discovered Yellow Rail on the nearby Oak Beach Marsh during the Captree Christmas Bird Count. Naturally, we first concentrated on a possible Yellow Rail or immature Sora. Of immediate concern was the large size of the bird, which did not seem to fit either Yellow Rail or Sora. The patterning of the back feathering also seemed inconsistent with the two rails. I decided to take a flyer and asked Sue to look up Corn Crake in the Nat Geo field guide. The book had a tiny illustration of an adult Corn Crake—we were not convinced. During this time the bird had been feeding in relatively tall grass that hid its flanks. When the bird came out a little further we saw the burnt red coloring on the flanks. Sue and I looked at each other and said "uh-oh". At this point Sue smartly googled "juvenile Corn Crake" and once we saw the picture, we were convinced. We called Shai Mitra and Pat Lindsay to help with the identification, and we were lucky they were able to quickly come over and confirm our (tentative) determination that the bird was a Corn Crake.

After that we posted the observation to the Cornell listserv and the insanity began.

The End



# THE CORN CRAKE (*Crex crex*) IN NEW YORK STATE, WITH COMMENTS ON ITS OCCURRENCE IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, 1833-2017.

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When Ken and Sue Feustel reported a Corn Crane (*Crex crex*) to the New York State Birds listserv on the morning of 7 November 2017 (Feustel 2017, Feustel 2018), it was the first ever sight record by birders of a living Corn Crane in New York State (NYS), and the first known occurrence since 1963. Lincoln (1998) listed six specimens collected in NYS: four at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City (AMNH) and two at the State Museum in Albany (NYSM). In addition to these, AMNH #1026 was received from the Central Park Zoo 4 April 1894, and is a skeleton (not skin), and AMNH #75834 flew aboard the steam ship “Bostonian” in the English Channel ca. 17 October 1901 and was brought to this country and obtained by the Museum. Of the seven NYS records that include site data, six came from Long Island (all from Suffolk County except for AMNH #12537, which indicates only “Long Island”), and one from inland NYS in Albany County. Of the six NYS records with reliable dates, five were found in the narrow date range of 1-7 November, and four were collected within the brief period 1880-1888.

The Corn Crane is a highly migratory rail, breeding in the Palearctic from coastal north-western Europe to Western China and migrating primarily to eastern/southern Africa (de Burgos and Olmos 2013). Like other migratory rails, most notably Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*: Farnsworth *et al.* 2015), but also Spotted Crane (*Porzana porzana*), which has occurred 11 times in Greenland (Boertmann 1994) and twice in the eastern Caribbean, at St. Martin and Guadeloupe (Norton *et al.* 2015), Corn Cranes are prone to long distance vagrancy. In our hemisphere, vagrant Corn Cranes have occurred most often in Greenland (25 records from Greenland through 1994, plus three more since then: Boertmann 1994, Boertmann pers. comm.), in Atlantic Canada, in Bermuda, and along the coastal northeastern United States. Table 1 summarizes 35 records from Nunavut, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, St. Pierre et Miquelon, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland, Bermuda, Guadeloupe, and Brazil. The month of detection is available for 29 of 35 records. No fewer than 26 of these 29 were found in fall: September (5), October (11), or November (10), with others in

January (1 or 2), May (1), June (possibly one), and August (1). The uncertainty between January and June arises from the specimen from Cumberland County NJ in 1856; the ledger entry and most publications indicate January, whereas the specimen label itself indicates June. Curiously, Ball (1944) mentions this specimen at the end of his note concerning a Connecticut specimen, stating that the actual date should be June, “according to Stone.” Thus far we have been unable to find any published statement by Stone clarifying this matter (the record is not mentioned at all in Stone 1937), so it remains unknown whether Stone knew more than what is written on the label.

The broad overall range of fall dates is not surprising for a cryptic, secretive species capable of making further movements after initial arrival in the Western Hemisphere. Interestingly, all seven Bermuda records occurred before November, as did four of seven records from Canada and nearby St. Pierre et Miquelon, and the single record from Guadeloupe. Furthermore, all five September records were from these easterly sites. In contrast, of 14 records from the USA, seven were in November and one (or two) in January. This geographic disparity in dates of detection raises the question of whether the later dates of occurrence to the west and south reflect secondary movements post-arrival.

We contacted three museums (AMNH in NYC; NYSM in Albany; and the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia (ANSP)). We asked them to re-evaluate the ages of their specimens, and if possible, to verify the sexes of these specimens. To assess the age of Corn Crake and related rails, one examines the shape of the medial secondaries in a spread wing, and/or the shape of the primary tips (e.g., see the Yellow Rail account in Pyle 2008, or Green 2004, cited by Pyle). The remiges of juveniles are more pointed than those of adults, and individuals retaining juvenile remiges can be aged as Hatching-Year during August-December and Second-Year during January and later.

The results of our inquiry via data reported to us by museum personnel is interesting. In terms of sex, seven specimens could be determined confidently: three males and four females. However, in terms of age, of 11 specimens (five at AMNH; two at NYSM; and four at ANSP), eight were HY/SY age. Furthermore, AMNH #75834 (not included in the table, details above), was also a HY/SY bird. The only three adult birds recently examined by museum personnel are held at AMNH (#64859, 2 November 1880; #64860, 1 November 1888; and #12537, pre-1900). Most of the pre-1900 specimens were collected after being shot; the two most recent specimens, January 2016, PA and November 2017, NY, were victims of cat predation (PA) and vehicle impact (NY). Two images showing the November 2017 bird found on Long Island are shown on page 45; for additional information regarding this record see Uda (2017) and Feustel (2018).

We recommend that museums with Corn Crake specimens re-evaluate the age/sex of those specimens. It would be interesting to know if other specimens previously described as “adult” were actually HY/SY birds. Similarly, for future occurrences of Corn Crake in this hemisphere, we urge photographers and

Table 1. Records of 35 Corn Crakes (*Crex crex*) known from the Western Hemisphere, including Bermuda, the West Indies, and South America, 1833-2017. Boertmann (1994) summarizes 25 records from Greenland through 1994, and three since (pers. comm.). BAMZ is the Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo; YPM is the Yale Peabody Museum; see text for other abbreviations.

Date	State/Prov	Location	Sources	Age	Sex	Comments
ca. 1833	MA		Anon. 1833	-	-	
25 Oct 1847	Bermuda	Pembroke Marsh	Baird <i>et al.</i> 1884 Cooke 1914	-	-	
Fall 1854	NJ	Salem, <i>Salem</i>	Walsh <i>et al.</i> 1999 Boyle 2011	HY	-	ANSP #6493
June* 1856	NJ	ca. Bridgeton, <i>Cumberland</i>	Walsh <i>et al.</i> 1999 Boyle 2011	HY	-	ANSP #6492; *label indicates June whereas ledger indicates January; see text
ca. 1857	RI	Cranston, <i>Providence</i>	Editor 1884	-	-	specimen Roger Williams Park Museum
1859	NF	St. Shott's, Cape Race	Godfrey 1966 Dunn <i>et al.</i> 2002	-	-	
Oct, ca. 1874	NS	Pictou	McKinlay 1899 Godfrey 1966	-	-	also Dunn <i>et al.</i> 2002 "shot in a boggy, swampy situation"
2 Nov 1880	NY	Oakdale, <i>Suffolk</i>	Dutcher 1888 Bull 1974	Ad	f	AMNH skin #64859
5 Nov 1883	NY	Cohoes, <i>Albany</i>	J. Bopp 2017 <i>pers.com</i> Bull 1974	HY	f	NYSM #7212 (formerly #463)
18 Aug 1885	NY	Amagansett, <i>Suffolk</i>	Dutcher 1886 Bull 1974	HY	-	AMNH skin #64858
20 Oct 1887	CT	Saybrook, <i>Middlesex</i>	Clarke 1887 Ball 1944	Ad	m	also Dunn <i>et al.</i> 2002 swamp thicket adjacent to salt meadows
ca. 1 Nov 1888	NY	ca. Montauk Pt., <i>Suffolk</i>	Dutcher 1890 Bull 1974	Ad	f	AMNH skin #64860
14 Oct 1889	ME	Falmouth, <i>Cumberland</i>	Brock 1896 Dunn <i>et al.</i> 2002	-	-	
pre 1900	NY	"Long Island"	Bull 1974	Ad	m	AMNH skin #12537; also P. Capainolo, pers. comm.; from Mus. Comp. Zool. 28 Jun 1937
28 Nov 1900	MD	<i>Worcester</i>	Stewart & Robbins 1958	-	-	MD/DC Rarities Committee #1999-088
11 Nov 1905	NJ	Dennisville, <i>Cape May</i>	Walsh <i>et al.</i> 1999 Boyle 2011	HY	-	ANSP #48498; wheat field



24 Sep 1928	Nunavut	Cape Dorset, Baffin Island	Godfrey 1966 Dunn <i>et al.</i> 2002	?	?	
28 Sep 1928	NF	St. Shott's, Cape Race	Peters & Burleigh 1951 - Godfrey 1966	-	-	
18 Oct 1943	CT	Orange, <i>New Haven</i>	Ball 1944 VertNet.org	-	f	YPM #950; "Redbush Farm, one mile east of Housatonic River"
2 Nov 1963	NY	Orient, <i>Suffolk</i>	Latham 1964 Bull 1974	HY	f	NYSM #2565 (formerly #24890)
2 Oct 1978	Bermuda	Pembroke Dump	Amos 1991	-	-	A. Dobson, D. Wingate, pers. comm.
13 Oct 1981	Bermuda	Hog Bay	Amos 1991	-	-	A. Dobson, D. Wingate, pers. comm.
27-29 Sep 1982	Bermuda	Paget	Amos 1991	-	m	specimen BAMZ; 68 g, emaciated; A. Dobson, D. Wingate, pers. comm.
22 Oct 1989	SPM	St. Pierre	Mactavish 1990 Dunn <i>et al.</i> 2002	-	-	
24 Sep 1991	Bermuda	Southampton	Dobson 2002	-	-	crushed on road, not preserved; seen by D. Wingate, pers. comm.
2 Oct 1991	Bermuda	St. Davids	Dobson 2002	-	-	killed by cat; skeleton possibly preserved; seen by D. Wingate, pers. comm.
4-5 May 1993	NS	Brier I, <i>Digby</i>	Dunn <i>et al.</i> 2002 AB 47: 390			
28-30 Nov 1997	NS	Little Harbor, <i>Shelburne</i>	Mactavish 1998	-	-	photographed
2 Nov 2002	NF	Cape Race	Mactavish 2002	-	-	described as 21 <sup>st</sup> record for NA
28 Sep-2 Oct 2003	Guadeloupe	Petite-Terre	Norton <i>et al.</i> 2004	HY		photographed
5 Oct 2003	Bermuda	Airport, St. David's	Norton <i>et al.</i> 2004	-	f	specimen BAMZ; 120 g, no fat; D. Wingate, pers. comm.
28 Nov 2012	Brazil	Fernando de Noronha Is.	de Burgos & Olmos 2013	-	-	
5 Oct 2014	ME	Monhegan Island, <i>Lincoln</i>	Bevier 2018	HY	-	photographed
early Jan 2016	PA	<i>Wayne</i>	J. Weckstein, <i>pers. comm.</i>	SY	m	ANSP #203182 victim of cat predation
7-9 Nov 2017	NY	Cedar Beach, <i>Suffolk</i>	Feustel 2018	HY	m	AMNH skin #841733; hit by car 9 Nov 2017

birders to assess age and sex as critically as possible. A bias toward HY/SY individuals is expected among vagrant birds of many kinds (Howell *et al.* 2014), but changes in the age ratio and in the overall rate of vagrancy can be indicative of demographic trends within portions of the breeding ranges from which vagrants originate (Veit 2000).

Perhaps the most notable finding to emerge from our re-assessment of Corn Crake records from throughout the Western Hemisphere is the relatively large number of records from recent decades, compared to earlier periods. Each of the four ten-year intervals preceding 2017 yielded at least three Corn Crake records, with five from 1988-1997 and four from 2008-2017. In contrast, four of the eight ten-year intervals from 1898-1977 yielded zero records, and the only ten-year intervals prior to 1978 that yielded more than two records were 1878-1887 (4) and 1848-1857 (3). At a broader scale of 40-year intervals, the most recent period 1978-2017 yielded 15 Corn Crake records, compared to just two from 1938-1977, four from 1898-1937, eight from 1858-1897, and five from prior to 1858. It is possible that, despite the major declines in most western European Corn Crake populations during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, one or more populations have been growing in recent decades and acting as a source for potential future records of vagrants to the Western Hemisphere.

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# LITTLE EGRET AT GOETHAL'S BRIDGE POND, STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK

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We identified and photographed a hatching-year Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) on Staten Island on 8 July 2017. The bird remained only one more day, to 9 July, but was closely studied and photographed by multiple observers during these two days. It fed with a number of Snowy Egrets (*E. thula*) and Little Blue Herons (*E. caerulea*) during its stay. There is only one prior substantiated occurrence of Little Egret in New York State, at Gardiner County Park, Suffolk County, 20-21 May 2015 (Morris 2015), but there has been a substantial increase in records along the United States' Atlantic coast during the last 20 years, probably reflecting colonization of, population growth within, and vagrancy from, the Caribbean.

RRV found this Little Egret in Goethal's Bridge Pond (near Goethal's Bridge, at the northeastern corner of Staten Island, with a tidal connection to the Arthur Kill) during the late morning of 8 July 2017. JR-G, AC, SW, and IG all managed to re-find the Little Egret during the afternoon of 8 July, and to take a number of photographs (Figures 1, 2, and 3, pp. 47-48). Between that time and the early afternoon of 9 July, a number of additional observers managed to see it. The Little Egret could not be found after that day, despite extensive searching.

## IDENTIFICATION

The egret's plumage was entirely white (Fig. 2), with no dusky tips on the primaries as on a Little Blue Heron. Furthermore, the bill lacked the extensively pale bluish base and heavy-based, tapering shape of that species. There were no elongated plumes on the head or chest. Compared to the Snowy Egrets that were present, this bird was noticeably large, long-billed, and thick- and long-legged. Its lores were clearly blue-gray and not yellow. The bill had a subtle paleness around the base, not visible from all angles or in all lights. This, in combination with the absence of breeding plumes, is indicative of a juvenile, or hatching-year individual. The legs were blackish, with yellow toes and a distinct yellow streak running about halfway up the back of the tarsi (Fig 1). In contrast, young hatching-year Snowy Egrets show extensively yellowish legs.

The Staten Island egret resembled a typical juvenile Little Egret in all respects and showed no characters to suggest it might be a hybrid. Characters that would indicate hybrid origin include shape and size intermediate between

Little and Snowy, yellow in the lores and bill, extensively yellowish legs (rather than just the toes and backs of tarsi), and appearance of tufted feathers on the crown, chest, and back. None of these characters was present, and we conclude the bird was a hatching-year Little Egret.

## DISCUSSION

In addition to the absence of observable field characters suggestive of hybrid origins for this bird, there are additional, probabilistic arguments that support its identification as a Little Egret. Despite the close similarity and taxonomic affinity of Little and Snowy Egrets, no hybrid between the two species has ever been confidently identified, and there are rather few opportunities for such hybrids to be produced. Perhaps the most likely locations for hybridization to occur would be Barbados in the Lesser Antilles, where both species breed regularly, and coastal areas in the eastern United States and Canada, where vagrant Little Egrets have occurred regularly within the breeding distribution of Snowy Egrets. At Barbados, 15-25 pairs of Little Egrets have bred annually 1997-2006 and later, and a maximum of 10-12 pairs of Snowy Egrets bred there in 2001 (Massiah and Frost 1998, Buckley *et al.* 2009). During the 20 years that Little Egrets have nested at Barbados, only three mixed pairs (Snowy x Little) have been observed, during 1997, and these did not fledge any young (Buckley *et al.* 2009). Little Egrets have also nested at Antigua, in the northern Lesser Antilles (Kushlan and Prosper 2009), and there are 35+ records of birds at Trinidad and Tobago (Hayes and White 2001), though there is no record of nesting there as of now. At all of these sites where Little Egrets are most numerous in the New World, apparently pure individuals are the rule, whereas hybrids are unproven, not suspected, and never invoked in the cases of individual records.

It could be argued that vagrant Little Egrets in the eastern United States and Canada might pair with local Snowy Egrets, but this has never been observed, and pure individuals must be regarded as more likely than potential hybrids throughout this area. Snowy Egrets nesting in North America are unlikely to produce fledged young before late May at the earliest (Parsons and Master 2000), and fledged, independent Snowy Egrets are not commonly observed in coastal NYS and areas further north until August, later than the early July date of the present record (pers. obs.; S. S. Mitra, unpubl. data). In contrast, Little Egrets nesting at Barbados and Antigua nest earlier, with peak egg laying at Barbados December to February (Massiah and Frost 1998, Buckley *et al.* 2009). A bird fledged at Barbados in mid March could quite readily disperse northward to the New York City area before July, and we suspect this is likely the origin of the Goethal's Bridge Pond bird.

The major increase of Little Egrets in the Caribbean began about 1990, following a spate of earlier records during the 1950s and 1960s and then a hiatus during the 1970s and early 1980s (Murphy 1992). Because of the aggregation of

records during the 1950s and 1960s, it seems unlikely that Little Egrets were overlooked over the next 20 years, since birders were clearly aware of their potential vagrancy. Rather, as with other vagrant birds, it seems clear that successive waves of vagrant Little Egrets reached the Western Hemisphere first in the 1950s and then subsequently from the early 1990s to the present (Hafner *et al.* 1994, Lock and Cook 1998, Hayes and White 2001). Nesting was first detected in Barbados in 1994 (Massiah and Frost 1998; though circumstances suggested they may have been nesting earlier than that) and at Antigua in 2008 (Kushlan and Prosper 2009).

The increase of records (to about 40 now; Howell *et al.* 2014) in eastern North America north to Newfoundland, follows the time sequence outlined above, and is consistent with the idea that increased vagrancy is associated with population growth and range expansion (Grinnell 1922, Veit 2000, Veit 2008). Thus, a plausible explanation for the increasing frequency of vagrant records of Little Egrets in North America is that their populations in Europe (Fasola *et al.* 2010), perhaps northwestern Africa, but certainly in the Caribbean, are growing and producing young that are, in turn, dispersing.

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# UNUSUAL DIURNAL ROOSTING BEHAVIOR BY TURKEY VULTURES (*Cathartes aura*) DURING A SOLAR ECLIPSE

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Unusual behavior has been reported among many species of birds during solar eclipses, both in the scientific literature (Christy *et al.* 1933; Wheeler *et al.* 1935; MacCarone 1997; Trigunayat 1997; Tramer 2000), and by citizen scientists on web-based forums (e.g., Van Doren *et al.* 2017). In general, these reports describe behaviors ordinarily associated with dawn or dusk, when normally diurnal species cease activity and retire to roosting sites, and crepuscular and nocturnal species (including nocturnal migrants) become active (Wheeler *et al.* 1935; MacCarone 1997; Trigunayat 1997; Tramer 2000). The simplest inference is that the expression of these atypical behaviors during eclipses is in response to diminished light levels (Tramer 2000). We here describe unusual communal roosting behavior among Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) in Dutchess County, New York, during a partial solar eclipse on 21 August 2017.

The eclipse (magnitude = 1.0306) occurred when the moon passed between the earth and sun casting an umbral shadow that spanned the continental United States from the Pacific to Atlantic coasts (<https://www.nasa.gov>). Conditions of near-complete darkness prevailed in the Zone of Totality (ZT), a narrow (ca. 115 km wide) corridor extending across 14 states (<https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/4518>). The total eclipse began in the continental United States on the Oregon coast (1015 hr PDT), progressed eastwards, and ended when the umbral shadow passed over Charleston, South Carolina (1441 hr EST). During this period, areas outside of the ZT experienced a partial (annular) solar eclipse with varying levels of diminished light intensity, but not complete darkness (<https://www.nasa.gov>).

Our observations were made at the Joseph A. Sgaggero Memorial Park (41°44.32'N; -73°33.94'W) in Dover Plains, Dutchess County, New York where

Turkey Vultures and lesser numbers of Black Vultures (*Coragyps atratus*) roost communally in riparian forest along Ten-Mile River. This roosting area is structurally similar to others reported in the literature (Prather *et al.* 1976; Coleman and Fraser 1986; Buckley 1996), and consists of large hardwood trees, including American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) and Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) with a dense, inter-locking canopy. Based on observations made during August-September 2016 and August 2017, we conservatively estimate that a minimum of 25-30 Turkey Vultures and 5-7 Black Vultures frequent the roost. Ingress into the roost during August and September typically begins about 1700 hr with the last birds arriving between 1815-1830 hr; egress occurs the following morning, usually between 0900-1000 hr (Platt and Rainwater, unpubl. data).

The solar eclipse in Dutchess County, New York began at 1323 hr and terminated at 1444 hr. Dutchess County was well beyond the ZT and experienced only a partial eclipse with a 50-75% reduction in light levels (<https://www.nasa.gov>). At 1230 hr, one of us (SGP) entered a concealed observation post in an abandoned storage shed that was regularly used to surveil the vulture roost. The northern and northeastern approaches to the roost are visible from this vantage point, although birds entering the roost from the south and southwest cannot be seen owing to the dense canopy foliage. The weather at our study site on the afternoon of 21 August 2017 was clear with a high temperature of about 30°C.

There were no vultures in the vicinity of the roost until 1335 hr when a single Turkey Vulture was observed soaring overhead. This bird was quickly joined by five other Turkey Vultures, and at 1340 hr, a single Black Vulture (hitherto undetected) entered the roost, followed by a Turkey Vulture at 1405 hr. From 1430-1451 hr, 13 additional Turkey Vultures flew into the roost. Other Turkey Vultures that were soaring overhead slowly descended and appeared to be entering the roost from its southern approaches. Considerable activity was evident within the roost as vultures frequently shifted positions and moved between trees. At 1523 hr a limited egress began when one Turkey Vulture left the roost, landed at a waterhole near the observation post, and began drinking. Seven additional Turkey Vultures departed the roost between 1538 and 1558 hr; one of these vultures also paused to drink at the waterhole, while another landed atop a nearby mound of dirt and assumed a spread-wing posture (described by Kirk and Mossman 1998). Shortly thereafter Turkey Vultures began gathering overhead and slowly descending into the trees; at least 21 were counted entering the roost (1600-1635 hr). The discrepancy between the number of vultures leaving the roost immediately following the eclipse (N = 8) and the larger number that returned (N = 21) suggests that not all of the vultures which frequent the roost returned during the eclipse. SGP terminated observations at approximately 1645 hr and additional vultures probably arrived at the roost later in the afternoon.

To briefly summarize our observations, Turkey Vultures began gathering above the roost shortly after the eclipse commenced. Ingress was initiated by a Black Vulture with most Turkey Vultures entering the roost after the eclipse was well underway; the last vulture entered the roost shortly after the eclipse had passed. After a brief lull in activity (about 30 minutes), some (but apparently not all) Turkey Vultures left the roost. Only a few minutes after this partial egress ended, a larger number of Turkey Vultures returned to the roost, likely as part of the daily ingress, albeit somewhat earlier than usual. It should be noted that during the eclipse, the sun assumed a subdued dull hue, but otherwise there was little perceptible diminution of light (at least to SGP).

Our observations are noteworthy for two reasons. First, to our knowledge, this is the only report describing the behavior of Turkey Vultures during a solar eclipse. Second, most atypical behaviors reported among birds during solar eclipses occur when light levels are reduced to near-darkness (Christy *et al.* 1933; Wheeler *et al.* 1935; Trigunayat 1997; Tramer 2000). Indeed, in a review of 1350 checklists compiled during the eclipse and submitted to eBird.org, Van Doren *et al.* (2017) noted that observers were less likely to report unusual behaviors where solar obscuration was < 95%. In contrast, we observed Turkey Vultures entering their roost when there was little perceptible diminution of ambient light levels, which appeared near-normal for an August afternoon. Roosting behavior is thought to be triggered when illumination levels fall below (ingress) or rise above (egress) some critical threshold value, although time of day also appears important (Krantz and Gauthreaux 1975; Eiserer 1984). The fact that our observations occurred under conditions of almost full sunlight suggests that either Turkey Vultures are sensitive to even a slight reduction in light level or were responding to as yet unrecognized stimuli.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON – FALL 2017

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September and October were both warmer months than normal throughout the state, but November had normal average temperatures. September averaged about 2-3°F above normal throughout the state. October was one of the warmest on record across the state, with temperatures 6-8° above normal. The average temperature in the eastern part of the state from New York City to Massena was the warmest ever recorded for October. Many migrant passerines lingered due to the warmer conditions. Precipitation throughout the state showed strong gradients. The Regions along Lakes Erie and Ontario had higher than normal precipitation through the fall, adding to the high water level problem on Lake Ontario. Tropical storms José in September and Nate and Phillippe in October all contributed to the weather gradients across the state, with some of the eastern and southern Regions seeing wind and rain, but these storms relieved the drought conditions in the eastern part of the state. Away from the Great Lakes, precipitation was closer to normal levels other than the effects of the tropical storms, which appeared to remain more confined. November's average temperatures and precipitation were about normal, but there were several snow events in the Great Lake Regions.

Through the quarter, the most significant trend was the warm fall that resulted in a high number of passerines lingering in the state. Fall waterfowl counts were reported lower than average in a number of areas, but good numbers were reported at Montezuma NWR. Lower than average hawk counts were recorded at Chestnut Ridge, Franklin Mountain, and Fire Island, but a few species counts were average or above average. High water levels on the Lake Ontario Plain resulted in poorer than expected shorebird habitat and a lower number of records, but the diversity in the western part of the state was as expected. There was low winter finch activity despite a good food supply. In the northern Regions, the excessive natural food supply reduced the number of local feeder birds. Throughout the state, total species recorded in each Region were close to average except in Region 10. The warm fall that delayed the passerine migration led to many late records and an exceptional number of extralimital species in Region 10. In that Region, a bird survey/competition, the Seatuck LI Birding Challenge conducted in September, also added species, bringing the total for the quarter to 328 species recorded. That is really amazing.

Among the exceptionally unusual sightings throughout the state, an Anna's Hummingbird, photographed at a feeder, and a Northern Wheatear were found in Region 1. An immature Calliope Hummingbird was a spectacular visitor at a feeder on Long Island, Region 10. Yellow Rail was photographed in Region 2 when it appeared on the porch of a residence. Say's Phoebes were found in

Regions 3, 9, and 10. Cave Swallows were again reported in Regions 2, 7, and 10. Wood Stork showed up in Region 4. A Corn Crake, NY's first sight record of a living bird, was seen and photographed for two days along the Ocean Parkway on Long Island before it was killed by a car. (See articles pp. 2-10.) A Hammond's Flycatcher was seen by many in Central Park; it lingered for over a month. There were many other rare migrants or extralimital birds that were reported around the state. Many of these are mentioned below but the reader should consult the various Regional reports for highlights.

Among waterfowl, a maximum of 60 Trumpeter Swans was counted at the Northern Montezuma Wetland Complex, mostly birds that breed in the surrounding Regions and possibly a few Canadian birds. Greater White-fronted Goose sightings continue to increase. The species was reported in nine of the 10 Regions. Pink-footed Goose was reported in Regions 7 and 10, and Barnacle Goose in Region 10. The past prediction that the sightings of Pink-footed Goose would continue to increase is indeed happening. Ross's Goose was recorded in four Regions. Two hybrid geese were seen in Region 3, a Barnacle x Cackling and a Snow x Canada. Eurasian Wigeon was found in Regions 3, 6, and 10. King Eiders are annual in small numbers on Lake Ontario, but one found in Region 7 was unusual, as was a Great Cormorant. Exotic waterfowl reported included Whooper Swan (Region 9), Mandarin Duck (Region 9), Common Shelduck (Region 7), and Ruddy Shelduck (Region 2).

A Northern Gannet in Region 2 was seen at three different locations along Lake Ontario as it flew west on 19 November. Pacific Loon and American White Pelican were each reported from two Regions. In addition to the four species of shearwaters seen annually in Region 10, other pelagic birds seen from shore included Dovekie, Razorbill, Brown Booby, Bridled Tern, and Northern Fulmar. Cattle Egrets were reported in six Regions in late October and November, continuing a trend of recent years but also suggesting a higher influx perhaps due to the warm October. Black Vulture sightings are also continuing to increase, especially in the western part of the state. A Sabine's Gull on 7 September in Region 7 and three Long-tailed Jaegers on 5 September in Region 2 were noteworthy sightings. It was another irruptive year for Snowy Owls. They were reported in seven Regions, with the earliest report on 23 October from Region 6 and a total of at least 20 through the end of November in Region 2.

The number of late records for lingering passerines was most evident in the eastern part of the state. In Region 10, 15 species of warblers were seen in the last week of November. Other Regional editors indicated a few late records but did not focus on late departures. A Loggerhead Shrike found on 31 August in Region 1 was present for two days. Connecticut Warblers were reported in seven Regions in the fall. White-eyed Vireo was recorded in four Regions that were outside of their normal occurrence, Regions 2, 4, 6, and 8. Three Bicknell's Thrushes were banded in Region 2, which lies west of their normal migration corridor. Nelson's Sparrow was seen in Regions 1, 2, 6, and 10, and a LeConte's

Sparrow was photographed in Region 10. There were many other noteworthy species which are described in the Regional reports.

The weather was very accommodating for those who wanted to get out and search for fall migrants, and there was more than expected species diversity. Many birders ran down to the New York City area to chase some of the outstanding rarities. Among the rare birds found this quarter, the Corn Crake and the Pink-footed Goose are ABA Code 4 and the Yellow Rail, Brown Booby, and Northern Wheatear are ABA Code 2. In addition to these there were more than twenty extralimital passerines and other species throughout the state. It was a very rewarding fall. The Bird of the Season Award must go to the Corn Crake.

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## REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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September 2017 started cool and wet but was dry and hot toward the end. The average temperature was 65.4°F, 3.2° above normal, and the monthly precipitation at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport was 3.17", 0.75" below normal. The remnants from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma brought only minor rainfall in the first half of September. October was warm and wet. The average temperature was 57.0°, 6.2° above normal, and the monthly precipitation was 5.01", 1.49" above normal. November was mild save for a brief cold spell. The average temperature was 39.8°, 0.9° below normal, and the monthly precipitation was 5.09", 1.08" above normal, and only 0.1" of snow fell, 7.8" below normal. An arctic front on the 9<sup>th</sup> brought the strongest winds of the month and a winter-like chill to the start of the NYSOA Annual Meeting and Birders Conference hosted by the Buffalo Ornithological Society in Niagara Falls. Weather information was obtained from National Weather Service monthly summaries for the Buffalo-Niagara International Airport.

A **Ross's Goose** at Iroquois NWR was the highlight of migrant geese this season, although this species is now pretty much annual in spring and fall. There were only a handful of Snow Goose reports. Four reports of **Greater White-fronted Geese** were about typical for recent fall seasons. Only several reports of **Brant** were made along Lake Ontario. **Trumpeter Swans** continued at Iroquois NWR as well as a sighting at Olcott. Tundra Swan numbers were unremarkable as there has been an apparent shift to later migration, and perhaps more birds wintering on the Niagara River. There was little that was especially noteworthy for fall duck migration. **Harlequin Ducks** were again at Niagara Falls SP, where

regular in recent years, and one there on 14 October was a bit early. One to two **Eared Grebes** at Batavia WWTP well into November was normal for this location. An **American White Pelican** was sighted along Lake Erie in Hamburg on 3 November.

It was a banner season for **Cattle Egret** sightings, with six reports between 30 October and 9 November. A remarkable 20 (!) were observed by David Crowe in one field in Wellsville, Allegany County on 3 November.

**Black Vultures** occur year round in Lewiston, with a maximum of nine this season. Bald Eagles continue to increase, with a record count of 44 on the Buffalo Ornithological Society October Count more evidence of that trend. Rough-legged Hawks were present in better numbers than recent years, including reports from 14 locations in November.

**Sandhill Cranes** were present in some good numbers. Fifteen were sighted on two occasions in November at Iroquois NWR. Jim Berry observed 32 flying in a loose skein over Jamestown on 28 November, which represents a Regional maximum.

There was continued good shorebirding into September in several wet areas on the Lake Ontario plain. A **Long-billed Dowitcher** was identified in Hartland in September, as well as up to three at Iroquois NWR later in the month. Two **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** in the Town of Sheldon 16-22 September allowed many birders to see what was likely the first record for Wyoming County; they were originally found by Ian Davies, Cullen Hanks, and Andrew Spencer. The lone **Purple Sandpiper** report was from Buffalo Harbor on 1 November. Phalarope reports included a Wilson's at Batavia WWTP in early September, a Red-necked on the Niagara River in Buffalo in early October, and two Red/Red-necked on the Niagara River in Buffalo during a wind event on 30 October.

There were three reports of juvenile **Black-legged Kittiwakes**, at least one **Sabine's Gull** (or maybe more if sightings were not of the same bird), and two reports of **Franklin's Gulls** on the Niagara River in November. Unfortunately, none of these could be found during the NYSOA Birder's Conference field trips, although a few **Little Gulls**, the first Iceland Gulls of the season, and the nearly automatic Lesser Black-backed Gull were enjoyed during the conference. A **Forster's Tern** at Lewiston on 19 October was notable. There were several **Parasitic Jaegers** reported from Lake Erie and Lake Ontario in September and October.

The first **Snowy Owl** of the season appeared on 18 November, with reports from seven other locations that followed. **Short-eared Owls** were found at five locations in November. David Junkin banded 48 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** in Wethersfield between 7 October and 8 November, plus there was one identified in Sardinia.

Celeste Morien took several photographs of a hummingbird that appeared at her feeder in Shelby on 20 October that were useful to make an identification as **Anna's Hummingbird**. The bird did not appear after that morning. This is a



Regional first and would be the third for New York State if accepted by NYSARC. As proven once again, it is wise to keep hummingbird feeders maintained deeper into the fall.

The banded, hatch year **Loggerhead Shrike** found at Times Beach NP in Buffalo on 31 August continued to 1 September, thus making this season's report as well; see details in the summer season report. Northern Rough-winged Swallows foraged in the Niagara River rapids off Niagara Falls SP into late November. A Barn Swallow photographed at this location on 7 November was the latest on record for the Region.

Gale VerHague was stunned to find a **Northern Wheatear** plop down in her Forestville backyard in the late afternoon of 22 September. This was the fourth Regional record and first since 2006. The date fits within the window of historical sightings of this species in the northeast.

Two **Golden-winged Warbler** reports in early September were more than for the entire summer season. A **Connecticut Warbler** was found at Lakeside Beach SP on 4 September by Don Bemont. Cape May Warblers had a good showing this fall.

**Clay-colored Sparrows** continued at Olcott into early October; interesting to see how long they remained at a breeding area. **Nelson's Sparrows** were found at Iroquois NWR on two dates in October by Jim Pawlicki.

**Pine Siskins** started to appear in mid-October, and, while there were some counts greater than 100 along Lake Ontario, I wouldn't call them abundant this fall. There was a single report of three flyover **Common Redpolls** on the slightly early date of 20 October. No other 'winter' finches were reported.

The 82<sup>nd</sup> annual BOS October Count was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> and compiled by Marcie Jacklin. The temperature was approximately 10 degrees above average and made for pleasant birding conditions. The count recorded 162 species. Record high counts included two Trumpeter Swan, 197 Gadwall, 467 Redhead, 27 Red-throated Loon, 44 Bald Eagle, 256 Red-bellied Woodpecker, and 44 Northern Mockingbird. Trouble for American Black Duck continued with a record low of 43.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**AmSP** – Amherst SP, ERIE; **BeSP** – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **BOSOC** – Buffalo Ornithological Society 14 Oct Count; **BufH** – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; **BuSP** – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; **BWWTP** – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; **ChauL** – Chautauqua L, CHAU; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **FLC** – Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, ERIE; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; **GHSP** – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **JAS** – Jamestown Audubon Society, CHAU; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NPP** – Niagara Power Project on Niagara R, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara R, ERIE/NIAG; **OOWMA** – Oak Orchard WMA, ORLE/GENE; **PB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **RWNP** – Reinstein Woods NP, ERIE; **SPWS** – Sinking Ponds Wildlife Sanctuary, ERIE; **TBNP** – Times Beach NP, Buffalo, ERIE; **Tiftt NP** – Tiftt Nature Preserve, Buffalo, ERIE; **TWMA** – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; **WFWMA** – Watts Flats WMA, CHAU; **WoBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; **WTSP** – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

### WATERFOWL - VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** arr 1, 1 Hartland NIAG 2, 31 Oct (JSt); INWR 8 Nov (PH); BWWTP 14 Nov (RG).  
**Snow Goose:** arr Fredonia CHAU 5 Oct; Hartland NIAG 31 Oct; Yates ORLE 18 Nov; Wethersfield WYOM 23 Nov; only reports.  
**ROSS'S GOOSE (R1):** INWR 21 Nov (PH), has become nearly annual in fall and spring.  
**Brant:** arr 4, 59, 2 GHSP 12, 16, 17 Oct; 19 Yates ORLE 28 Oct; only reports.  
**Cackling Goose:** arr Olcott NIAG 26 Sep; 4 Oakfield GENE 21 Oct; max 5 BWWTP 12 Nov; 4 Wethersfield WYOM 23 Nov; 1-2 reported from 7 other locs.  
**Mute Swan:** max 15 WTSP 10 Nov; Buffalo NR 10 Nov; TBNP 28 Nov; only reports away from L Ontario.  
**Trumpeter Swan:** 2 INWR thru Oct; 2 Olcott NIAG 1 Nov (JSt); only reports.  
**Tundra/Trumpeter Swan:** OOWMA 8 Oct; inconclusive details.  
**Tundra Swan:** arr 3 INWR 16 Oct; max 150 NF 9 Nov.  
**Wood Duck:** max 128 Attica WYOM 18 Sep.  
**Gadwall:** 55 NF 29 Oct; max 110 Tiftt NP 10 Nov.  
**Am. Wigeon:** max 96 INWR 3 Nov.  
**Am. Black Duck:** 43 BOSOC, record low; max 35 Cuba L 14 Nov.  
**Blue-winged Teal:** max 55 BWWTP 3 Sep; last 3 INWR 9 Nov.  
**N. Shoveler:** max 156, 498, 352 BWWTP 27 Sep, 13 Oct, 8 Nov.  
**N. Pintail:** 111 INWR 25 Sep; 156 OOWMA 19 Oct; max 241 TWMA 26 Oct.

**Green-winged Teal:** max 248, 645 TWMA 23, 26 Oct.  
**Canvasback:** arr 3 BOSOC; 2 DH 27 Oct; max 45 NF 12 Nov.  
**Redhead:** 112, 200, max 436 Ellery ChauL 28 Oct, 9, 28 Nov; 180 NF 12 Nov.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** arr 5 BWWTP 2 Sep; max 125 Ellery ChauL.  
**Greater Scaup:** 300 NF 12 Nov; max 600 BufH 19 Nov.  
**Lesser Scaup:** arr 2 BWWTP 16 Sep; max 238, 4200 Ellery ChauL 7, 28 (WS).  
**Harlequin Duck:** arr 1, 4 NFSP BOSOC, 31 Oct thru (MG, mob); regular at this location in recent years.  
**Surf Scoter:** arr 26 Olcott NIAG 6 Oct; BWWTP 8 Oct; 52 Buffalo NR 8 Oct; 52 GHSP 16 Oct; 8 DH 11 Nov; 8 Wilson NIAG 12 Nov.  
**White-winged Scoter:** arr Wilson NIAG 15 Sep; max 277 GHSP 16 Oct.  
**Black Scoter:** arr 2 Buffalo NR 9 Oct; 6, 15 GHSP 17, 28 Oct; 9 FNSP 11 Nov; 7 DH 11 Nov; 15 BufH 19 Nov; 7 PB 25 Nov.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** arr LBSP 4 Sep.  
**Bufflehead:** arr 4 Buffalo NR 17 Oct; 139 BWWTP 6 Nov; 176 Ellery ChauL 10 Nov; max 2500 Buffalo NR 24 Nov (AH).  
**Com. Goldeneye:** arr 2 Buffalo NR 17 Oct; 170 NFSP 12 Nov; max 225 Olcott NIAG 23 Nov.  
**Hooded Merganser:** max 200 INWR 12 Nov; 103 Cuba L ALLE 21 Nov; 93 S Dayton CATT 23 Nov.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** arr 8 FNSP 28 Sep; max 2450 Buffalo NR 24 Nov (AH).

**Ruddy Duck:** 65, 648, 350 BWWTP 27 Sep, 7 Oct, 11 Nov; 38, 44 Langford ERIE 20 Oct, 2 Nov; 450 N Harmony ChauL 17 Nov; 92 S Dayton CATT 23 Nov.

**Red-throated Loon:** arr NFSP 9 Oct; 11 GHSP 12 Oct; max 131 Wilson NIAG 8 Nov; 50 FNSP 12 Nov; 94 PB, 96 Carlton ORLE 18 Nov.

**Com. Loon:** 11 Yates ORLE 6 Sep; 172 GHSP 20 Oct; max 400 Wilson NIAG 8 Nov.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 47 TWMA 17 Oct; 22 Cuba L ALLE 20 Nov; 18 ChauL 27 Nov.

**Horned Grebe:** arr 9 GHSP 12 Oct; 40 Sturgeon Pt ERIE 17 Nov; max 45 Carlton ORLE 18 Nov.

**Red-necked Grebe:** arr Yates ORLE 6 Sep (WD); 2 Olcott NIAG 6 Oct; 59 GHSP 12 Oct; Cuba L ALLE 14 Nov; Buffalo NR 20 Nov.

**Eared Grebe:** 1-2 BWWTP 1 Sep thru 12 Nov; regular at this location.

**AM. WHITE PELICAN (R1):** Hamburg ERIE 2 Nov (MD; MZ), becoming more regular.

**Am. Bittern:** Tift NP 2 Sep; 1, 1 INWR 27, 30 Sep, 2, 30 Oct; TWMA 28 Oct; last INWR 9 Nov (DBem).

**Great Egret:** 44 OOWMA 4 Sep; max 51 TWMA 10 Oct; last Cuba ALLE 10 Nov.

**Cattle Egret:** Cuba ALLE 30 Oct (DC); Portland CHAU 2 Nov (CaH); max 20 Wellsville ALLE 3 Nov (DC, ph.), stunningly high number; 3 Gaines ORLE 3 Nov (JSt); OOWMA 7 Nov (MW); INWR 8 Nov (PH); very strong showing.

**Green Heron:** last 6 BOSOC.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 4 BuffH 29 Nov; has wintered at this loc.

**Black Vulture:** 2 FNSP 4 Sep (WD); 1, 7, 9 Lewiston NIAG 18 Oct, 11, 23 Nov, regular at location.

## HAWKS - LARIDS

**Osprey:** last Alabama GENE 7 Nov.

**Bald Eagle:** widespread reports; 44 BOSOC, record for count.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** last W Almond ALLE 18 Sep.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** arr Arkwright CHAU BOSOC; reported from 14 locs in Nov.

**Virginia Rail:** last TWMA 10 Oct.

**Sora:** Cassadaga L CHAU 15 Sep; Chautauqua CHAU 16 Sep; 2 BWWTP 24 Sep; last BWWTP, INWR 7 Oct.

**Com. Gallinule:** last 2 INWR 21 Oct.

**Am. Coot:** max 650 Ellicott ChauL 8 Nov (WS); 200 Celoron ChauL 9 Nov; 193 INWR 21 Nov.

**Sandhill Crane:** multiple reports in Sep, Oct at and near INWR; 7 WFWMA 17 Sep; 2 JAS 30 Oct; 15 INWR 19, 27 Nov (JK, PH); max 32 Jamestown CHAU 28 Nov (JB), in flight.

**Black-bellied Plover:** reported from eight locs; max 4 BuffH 6 Oct; last 2 INWR 9 Nov.

**Am. Golden-Plover:** max 20 Hartland NIAG 12 Sep; 13 Sheldon WYOM 16-20 Sep; 17 INWR 25 Sep; last 2 Eden ERIE 3 Nov (SB).

**Semipalmated Plover:** max 25 BuffH 10 Sep.

**Killdeer:** max 88 Newfane NIAG 8 Oct.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** last Buffalo NR 31 Oct.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** last 3 BOSOC.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** last INWR 8 Nov.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 35 BWWTP 3 Sep; last Attica WYOM 22 Oct.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** Wellsville ALLE 1 Sep, unusual loc; DH 4 Sep; BuffH 5-6 Sep; 1, 1 Buffalo NR 24 Oct, 2 Nov (PY).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** max 1, 9 Somerset NIAG 5, 9 Sep; Hartland NIAG 6-10, 18 Sep; 2, 2 INWR 13, 27 Sep; S Dayton CATT 16 Sep.

**Sanderling:** max 22 Buffalo NR 1 Oct; last DH 21 Nov.

**Dunlin:** 26 FNSP 31 Oct; max 138 INWR 1 Nov; 40 BuffH 1 Nov; 50 NFSP 2 Nov; last Wilson NIAG 28 Nov.

**Purple Sandpiper:** 2 BuffH 1 Nov (PY), only rpt.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** DH, BWWTP 1 Sep; Somerset NIAG 2, 4 Sep; last 1-2 BuffH 3-11 Sep; Hartland NIAG 5-9 Sep.

**Least Sandpiper:** last 2 INWR 16 Oct.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** TWMA 5 Sep; 2 BuffH 7-8 Sep; 4, 4 INWR 13, 27 Sep; Somerset NIAG 18-19 Sep; TWMA 26 Oct; last Bethany GENE 8 Nov (JM).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** 2 Sheldon WYOM 16-22 Sep (ID, CuH, AS); rare for WYOM.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 12, 13 BuffH 8 Sep, 9 Oct; Strykersville WYOM 17 Sep; max 20 INWR 27 Sep; last Bethany GENE 8 Nov.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 25 Hartland NIAG 2 Sep; last INWR 26 Sep.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 1, 1 Hartland NIAG 2, 18 Sep; only rpts.

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** Hartland NIAG 7 Sep (WD); 1, 3 INWR 14, 25 Sep (PH, GL); only reports.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** 1, 1 BWWTP 1, 4 Sep; only reports.

**Red-necked Phalarope:** Buffalo NR 4 Oct (SB); only report.

**Red/Red-necked Phalarope:** 2 Buffalo NR 30 Oct (PY); only report.

**Parasitic Jaeger:** 1, 2 Hamburg ERIE 4 Sep, 19 Oct (AG, PY); 3, 1 GHSP 12, 20 Oct (WD, DD); NFSP 19 Oct (WD, DD, JP); only reports.

**jaeger species:** 1, 2 Buffalo NR 15, 17 Oct; only reports.

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** arr Hamburg ERIE 19 Nov; Buffalo NR 20, 24 Nov; NFSP 26 Nov; all juvs.

**Sabine's Gull:** NF 30 Oct (BP); BufH 31 Oct (SS); Whirlpool SP NIAG 31 Oct (BP); NFSP 3-8 Nov (BP, WD); juvs; only reports.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 6600, 5450 FNSP 19 Oct, 11 Nov (WD, DD, LS, BF); 2200 NFSP 31 Oct; 3500 NPP 12 Nov.

**Little Gull:** Buffalo NR 15 Oct; 3 GHSP 16 Oct; max 5 FNSP 19 Oct; Sheridan CHAU 21 Oct; 3 NFSP 5 Nov; DH 10 Nov; 2 Lewiston NR 11 Nov.

**Franklin's Gull:** NFSP 8 Nov; Buffalo NR 20, 21 Nov (KR); different birds.

**Iceland Gull:** arr NPP 11 Nov; max 10 Lewiston NR 26 Nov.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 2 FNSP 23 Sep; 2 WoBSP 29 Sep; max 13, 8 Cuba L ALLE 12, 13 Oct (CG, TL); 5 NFSP 10, 17 Nov.

**Glaucous Gull:** arr NFSP 10 Nov; NPP 19 Nov; Cuba L ALLE 20 Nov; BufH 24 Nov.

**Caspian Tern:** max 24 BeSP 8 Sep; last 2 BOSOC.

**Black Tern:** 3, 1 BWWT 3, 4 Sep (RT, GD); only reports.

**Com. Tern:** max 27 Hamburg ERIE 4 Sep; 4 Bennett Beach ERIE 15 Nov; last 1, 1 BeSP 18, 24 Nov.

**Forster's Tern:** Lewiston NR 19 Oct (WD); only report.

#### PIGEONS – PARROTS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** last Tiff NP 24 Sep (JM).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** last W Almond ALLE 18 Sep (DH).

**Snowy Owl:** arr Carlton ORLE 18 Nov; seven other reports.

**Barred Owl:** Wilson NIAG 14 Oct (WD), unusual loc.

**Short-eared Owl:** arr Dunkirk Airport CHAU 3 Nov; 3, 1 Hartland NIAG 3, 25 Nov; Shelby ORLE 8, 29 Nov; INWR 25 Nov; Yates ORLE 27 Nov; only reports.

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** 48 banded Wethersfield WYOM 7 Oct – 8 Nov (DJ); Sardinia ERIE 21 Oct (JP, JM).

**Com. Nighthawk:** max 13 TWMA, 12 Chautauqua CHAU 6 Sep.

**Chimney Swift:** last FLC 20 Oct.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** last Grand I ERIE 10 Oct.

**ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD:** Shelby ORLE 20 Oct (CM! ph.), brief stops at nectar feeder, Reg first; *intro*.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** six locs.

**Merlin:** 12-21 locs each month.

**Peregrine Falcon:** 4-8 locs each month.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** last Sheridan CHAU 11 Sep.

**E. Wood-Pewee:** last RWN 9 Oct.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** last Tiff NP 19 Sep; 7 other reports; good showing.

**Willow Flycatcher:** last Gaines ORLE 13 Sep.

**Least Flycatcher:** last Java WYOM 20 Sep.

**E. Phoebe:** last TBNP 3 Nov.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** last LBSP 17 Sep.

**E. Kingbird:** last LBSP 7 Sep.

**LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE:** TBNP thru 1 Sep (TJM).

**N. Shrike:** arr TWMA 23 Oct.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** last BuSP 21 Sep.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** last WFWMA 27 Oct.

**Warbling Vireo:** last AmSP 9 Oct (JSa), on the late side.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** last Ellicottville CATT 1 Oct.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** last 2 BOSOC.

**Com. Raven:** 2 Clarence ERIE 30 Sep; 2 RWN 30 Oct; 3 INWR; 2 NF; continuing increase in northern half of Reg.

**Purple Martin:** max 325 BuSP 6 Sep; last 2 Buffalo NR 13 Sep.

**Tree Swallow:** max 500 BWWT 8 Sep; last 10, 1 NFSP 5, 7 Nov.

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** last 9, 6 NFSP 11, 27 Nov.

**Bank Swallow:** last 2 FNSP 23 Sep.

**Cliff Swallow:** last 3 BWWT 16 Sep.

**Barn Swallow:** last NFSP 7 Nov (GV, ph.), late.

**House Wren:** last 8 BOSOC.

**Winter Wren:** arr DH 5 Sep.

**Marsh Wren:** 2 TBNP 3 Nov; SPWS 4 Nov; 4, 1 OOWMA 7, 10 Nov; INWR 17 Nov; only reports beyond Oct.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** last Pendleton NIAG 12 Sep.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** arr Tift NP 24 Sep.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr BeSP 1 Sep.  
**NORTHERN WHEATEAR:** Forestville CHAU 22 Sep (GV, SB, ph.), 4th Reg rec, remarkable yard bird!  
**Veery:** last 3 N Harmony CHAU 17 Sep.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 8 Sep; 8 Amherst ERIE 6 Oct, nocturnal flight calls; last Gaines ORLE 20 Oct, nocturnal flight call.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** last 7 BOSOC.  
**Wood Thrush:** last 2 BOSOC.  
**Brown Thrasher:** last BOSOC.  
**Am. Pipit:** arr PB 3 Sep; max 48 Somerset NIAG 19 Sep.

### LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** arr Somerset NIAG 11 Oct; GHSP 20 Oct; Hartland NIAG 25 Nov; only reports.  
**Snow Bunting:** arr 14 Yates ORLE, Buffalo NR 28 Oct; max 150 Shelby ORLE 20 Nov.  
**Ovenbird:** last TBNP 9 Oct.  
**N. Waterthrush:** last Tift NP, TBNP 2 Sep.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** AmSP 2 Sep; WoBSP 9 Sep; only reports.  
**Blue-winged Warbler:** last Carlton ORLE 2 Sep.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** last AmSP 9 Oct.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** last 2 BOSOC.  
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr Tift NP, TBNP 10 Sep; last BuSP 16 Oct.  
**Nashville Warbler:** last Hamburg ERIE 18 Oct.  
**Connecticut Warbler:** LBSP 4 Sep (DBem), only report.  
**Mourning Warbler:** WoBSP 10 Sep; Orchard Park ERIE 25 Sep; only reports.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** last 5 BOSOC.  
**Hooded Warbler:** 6 LBSP 6 Sep, impressive count.  
**Am. Redstart:** last BOSOC.  
**Cape May Warbler:** last Olcott NIAG 22 Oct; good showing this fall.  
**N. Parula:** last Tift NP 13 Oct.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** last 2 BOSOC.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** last BOSOC.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** last 2 N Harmony CHAU.  
**Yellow Warbler:** last Amherst ERIE 22 Sep.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** last Bond Lake CP NIAG 30 Sep.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** last 5 BOSOC.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** last 2 BOSOC.  
**Palm Warbler:** last 21 BOSOC.  
**Pine Warbler:** last BOSOC.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** reported from two locations in Nov.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** last BOSOC.  
**Canada Warbler:** last Tift NP 10 Sep.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** last Portland CHAU BOSOC.

### TOWHEES – WEAVERS

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr BOSOC.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** three locs Nov.  
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** 2, 2, 2, 1 Olcott NIAG 26, 30 Sep, 4, 6 Oct (WD, BP), continued from summer breeding location.  
**Field Sparrow:** 2, 1 BuSP 15, 24 Nov, only reports beyond Oct.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** Batavia GENE 6 Nov, only report beyond Oct.  
**Nelson's Sparrow:** 3, 2 INWR 10, 20 Oct (WD, JP); rare, but regular in fall at this location.  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr TBNP 12 Oct; max 6 AmSP 27 Oct.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr Forestville CHAU 6 Sep; last 2 Bond Lake CP NIAG 26 Oct.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** arr Wilson NIAG 15 Sep.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr 2 TBNP 16 Sep.  
**Scarlet Tanager:** last BOSOC.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** last AmSP 28 Sep.  
**Indigo Bunting:** last BeSP 9 Oct.  
**Bobolink:** last INWR 27 Sep.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** arr Orchard Park ERIE 16 Sep; max 39 Shelby ORLE 3 Nov.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** last LBSP 15 Sep.  
**Com. Redpoll:** arr 3 GHSP 20 Oct (JP, AG), slightly early, only report.  
**Pine Siskin:** arr 33 BOSOC; max 175 GHSP 20 Oct; 120 LBSP 28 Nov.

## REGION 2—GENESEE

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A generally warm, pleasant fall, but with the usual variations to keep things interesting. September started off with the first 11 days cool, then the last 19 days 10°F warmer than normal. There were four consecutive 90° days, with the 24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup> setting new record highs. Temperatures averaged 65.6°, 3.8° above normal. Rainfall at 1.28" was 1.08" below normal, and 0.35" of the total fell on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The 20 days from 9-28 September without rainfall was the longest such stretch since 1977 and the fifth longest on record. October brought warm afternoons for outdoor activities. Mid-September to mid-October was the warmest on record for that period, then it cooled by month's end. It ended the sixth warmest October on record. Temperatures averaged 57.7°, 7.1° above normal. It was also the fourth wettest October on record, with a total of 6.71", 3.99" above normal. However, two days saw record rainfall, 2.39" on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 2.10" on the 29<sup>th</sup>, accounting for 2/3 of the total. Finally, November was a cooler month, with temperatures averaging 40.5°, right on normal for the month. A flow of Pacific air kept us warm but damp for much of the month, with the last week rising above normal. The month started with six days of rain followed by an Arctic surge bringing the first 1"+ snowfall in a day at 1.65" on the 5<sup>th</sup>. It was dry then until our first lake effect event on 19-20 November, with 1.1" in Rochester but over a foot of snow falling in the east end of the Region. Precipitation totaled 4.13", 1.19" above normal, and snowfall added up to 2.6", 4.8" below normal. 7 November, as the first fall day averaging < 32°, gave us 212 days since the last freezing day, the second longest such period on record behind only 216 days in 1938.

In keeping with the weather, this fall was generally pleasant for birding, but also comments generally revolved around relatively low numbers and slow progress for migration. Total species remained close to or above the 10-year averages each month at 221 vs. 215.2 for September, 201 vs. 201.7 for October, and 156 vs. 150.6 for November. The banding total at the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO) station echoed the general feel, with 3475 new bands the lowest for the past seven years for which I have data at hand and > two standard deviations below the prior 6-year average. The total species reported for the Region for the season was 253 plus one likely escape—Ruddy Shelduck at the DEC Avon ponds near Avon on 1-11 November. This season, eBird downloads after eliminating out-of-Region records were approximately 19,580, 18,252, and 14,826 for the three months, respectively.

Moving to the checklist, waterfowl movement was slow in September, with only three species' maxima even reaching 100 birds. Numbers were even low in the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA) for

waterbirds generally. Snow Goose, Brant, and Cackling Goose were noted at relatively early arrival dates. As the season progressed through October, waterfowl numbers remained low for most species, though there were a few days with good Brant numbers, and scoters, Long-tailed Duck, and Red-breasted Merganser increased as expected. Greater White-fronted Goose and Harlequin Duck arrived and Cackling Goose numbers increased. The expected loons and grebes were reported in decent numbers on occasion but well below historical expectations. November saw some increase in waterfowl maxima, a few larger loon counts, and even a triple digit peak for Red-necked Grebe. Ross's Goose and King Eider at five locations were additions for the month, as well as the Ruddy Shelduck at the DEC ponds. Among the other interesting waterbirds, we had a Northern Gannet spotted moving west along the south shore of Lake Ontario on 19 November tracked with times of sighting at several sites. We also had the recently typical Cattle Egrets in early November and a *Plegadis* ibis species on 5 November. Departure dates were all unremarkable. Wrapping up this section, one or two Black Vultures were reported in each month.

Among the hawks, there were no focused efforts at counts. The numbers of Bald Eagle reports to eBird were very good—167 and 117 lines, respectively, for October and November. There was only a single Northern Goshawk report on 27 November and few Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawk reports. Rough-legged Hawk arrived on 27 October, a typical arrival date, with only one other October report, then about 19 individuals in November.

The rails and their allies is usually a sparse section of this report, but this season a special occurrence was a **Yellow Rail** photographed by Jodie Stahl on her deck in the Town of Brockport on 15 September. This is the fifth record for the Region and the first since 1935. Sandhill Cranes lingered through the season, with numbers to 94 in the NMWMA on 29 November, with higher numbers nearby and a few days later even in this Region. Cranes were reported from at least seven locations in the Region.

There was little habitat for shorebirds in the Region, with larger bodies of water still high into September and little rain in August, leaving fields dried up. Still, twenty-five species for the season is a good showing for variety, with Whimbrel, Red Knot, and Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes among those present. Numbers remained low other than a couple of counts of 117 for Killdeer in September and 175 for Dunlin on 1 November, even those low by historical standards. There were also no unusual departure dates. The high(maybe low)light in this group was Upland Sandpiper unreported for the season and thus for the year for the Region. Purple Sandpiper was reported only as a single on 28 October at Sodus Point.

Good numbers of jaegers were seen along the Lake Ontario shore, including: three Long-tailed Jaegers on 5 September by Andy Guthrie, Pomarine Jaegers on 10 and 28 October and 12 November, and about 20 Parasitic Jaegers and eight jaeger sp. seen scattered from 1 September to 27 November. Black-legged Kittiwake was noted near the north end of Irondequoit Bay on 26

November and farther into the Bay on the next day. Passing Bonaparte's Gulls usually bring us the rarer smaller gulls, and Bonaparte's numbers were generally low excepting a day with a peak of 1000 on 16 October. On that date at least seven Little Gulls were reported. More Little Gulls were then reported off and on through 4 November, and a first winter Franklin's Gull was found by Greg Lawrence at Sodus Point on 1 November. We occasionally have interesting gatherings of our regular gulls, and two of these were 5000+ Ring-billed Gulls spotted passing Geneseo by Jim Kimball on 22 November, and 2500 Herring Gulls in the Town of Riga on 7 November by Brad Carlson. Good numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gull were reported each month. Iceland Gull arrived on 20 November and Glaucous Gull on 3 November. Other than the last Black Tern report, an early departure on 5 September, our regular terns stayed to normal departure dates in the second half of October.

Non-passerine landbirds often receive scant attention this season. We had only two reports of the Eurasian Collared-Doves at the Greenwell farm in the Town of Hamlin on 29 and 31 October. The first Snowy Owl report was from the Summerville Pier at the mouth of the Genesee River on 11 November, but by the 29<sup>th</sup> at least 20 individuals had been reported from 15 locations; a start to a BIG Snowy Owl winter. Short-eared Owl arrived on 15 October and good numbers were reported from the usual locations through the season including on the first of the DEC's bi-weekly surveys on 21 November. A N. Saw-whet Owl responded to whistled imitations and flew at our Muck Race team in the Town of Savannah on 15 September. Other saw-whets were found and banded in the BBBO banding area in mid-September. Common Nighthawk numbers were poor this season, but there were several good Chimney Swift tallies in late September. Numbers for all three falcon species were good for each month.

All of the really expected passerine species were reported. Only a few of the usually early departing or rarer species were "missed". Among the special finds were: three White-eyed Vireos, one of them banded at BBBO and the last on 13-14 November in Webster; 22 Cave Swallows from 23 October to 8 November; three Bicknell's Thrushes banded on 22, 24, and 26 September; a Golden-winged, five Connecticut and one Prairie Warblers banded in September; a Nelson's Sparrow banded on 28 September; and a female Summer Tanager, a 25<sup>th</sup> Regional record, photographed by Jonathan Blades during a brief stop at his Irondequoit feeder on 29 November. Overall the migration seemed slow and weak for numbers both from field reports and from the BBBO banding tallies. Departure dates were typical until quite a few toward the late end of expectations in November. Still, only House Wren was record late on 17 November. Some of the late dates were for species for which some individuals fairly regularly linger into winter making the assignment of departures dates a judgment call. Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting arrived at normal dates of 1 October and 22 October, respectively. Blackbird counts were generally poor. The predicted possibility of a finch winter did not reach us this season, with only



a lone Red Crossbill on 6 October, small numbers of Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin, and a lone Evening Grosbeak on 4 November reported from that group.

As usual, the BBBO banding summary provides a chance to make some more quantitative comparisons of this fall with the past six years. There actually were few species whose totals varied significantly from their averages. It was a down year in the Black-capped Chickadee seesaw, with only 14 banded for the fall vs. 236 last year. Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Nashville Warbler, and Yellow Warbler were way below normal; Blackpoll Warbler was back toward long-term normal; and Cape May Warbler was up, though banding numbers for that species are typically so low that such a note means little even if the calculation appears statistically significant. The records section to follow will provide many examples of dates and numbers to help complete the picture of this fall's birding scene.

## 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 off shore, WAYN; **CL** – Conesus L, LIVI; **DEP** – 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-WE** – West End Trail in HB includes Devil’s Nose area; **IB-S** – LaSalle Landing P, South end of Irondequoit Bay; **M** – along Manitou Beach Rd NE of Parkway including the BBBO banding station, MONR; **MAC** – Montezuma Audubon Center, T Savannah, WAYN; **MP** – Mendon Ponds P, MONR, **NMWMA** – Northern Montezuma WMA (formerly Northern Montezuma Wetlands Complex), WAYN; **NMWMA (MRdM)** – Morgan Rd Marshes area; **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; **TCEA** – Twin Cedars Environmental Area, Avon DEC; **W** – Town of Webster, MONR; **WP** – Webster P, MONR.

### WATERFOWL – VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** arr TCEA 5 Oct (GL); Webster 31 Oct (JiM).

**Snow Goose:** arr 2 HB 28 Sep, early; max 50 CL 23 Nov.

**Ross’s Goose:** arr TCEA 21 Nov (MW), only report.

**Brant:** arr 5 HB 30 Sep (PMar, DSh), early; max 620 HB 16 Oct (PMar, MG); 600 Wolcott WAYN 27 Oct (W&MR); last 3 SPt 17 Nov.

**Cackling Goose:** arr HB 29 Sep (MG, PMar); max 10 HB 19 Oct (JD); total 30 at 11 loc Oct; total 39 at 14 loc 5-27 Nov.

**Canada Goose:** max 5600 TCEA 8 Nov.

**Mute Swan:** max 97 G (Round Pd) 19 Nov (NK).

**Trumpeter Swan:** max 60 NMWMA (Armitage Rd) 11 Nov (JMcG, JCo, SB).

**Tundra Swan:** arr 7 G (Round Pd) 21 Oct; max 160 G (Round Pd) 9 Nov (MG); 150 CL 24-25 Nov (TB).

**RUDDY SHELDUCK:** 1 TCEA 1-11 Nov (MW, 4 oth obs), likely escape.

**Wood Duck:** max 52 NMWMA (Marten Tract) 15 Sep, low fall max.

**Gadwall:** max 150 G (Northrup Crk) 25 Nov (JMcG, AS, SD, TBr).

**Am. Wigeon:** max 300 G (Round Pd) 28 Oct (KG), good count.

**Am. Black Duck:** max 42 near Clarendon 12 Nov, low.

**Mallard:** max 290 NMWMA (Armitage Rd) 11 Nov.

**Blue-winged Teal:** max 40 NMWMA (Marten Tract) 5 Sep; last 5 HANA 17 Nov.

**N. Shoveler:** max 30 NMWMA (Marten Tract) 5 Sep.

**N. Pintail:** max 146 HB 16 Oct, low max.

**Green-winged Teal:** max 250 NMWMA (MRdM) 8 Oct.

**Canvasback:** arr HB 31 Oct; max 30 T Groveland LIVI 1 Nov, low.

**Redhead:** max 800 CL 25 Nov.

**Ring-necked Duck:** arr 2 G (Salmon Crk) 30 Sep; max 86 G (Round Pd) 19 Nov.

**Greater Scaup:** arr 2 BB-ES 2 Sep; max 76 HB 20 Nov, low max.

**Lesser Scaup:** arr 5 BB & 2-3 HB 30 Sep; max 110 G (Round Pd) 19 Nov, low max.

**King Eider:** arr 7 f, 1 imm m HB & 1f OB 18 Nov (AGu); 4 f, 1 imm m HB 19 Nov (AGu, ph); 4 West Port Bay WAYN 19 Nov (W&MR); 1 ad m G (off E. Manitou Rd) 18-23

Nov (GL, 30+ oth obs, ph); 1 imm m W (off Sandbar P) 25 Nov (JeB, KB, CW).

**Harlequin Duck:** arr f Spt 7-10 Oct (JW, MG, ph, 4 oth obs); 1 f IBO 11-25 Oct (MG, ph, 17+ oth obs); 1 f G (off Edgemere Dr) 29 Oct (JeB, LiB, AGu); 1 f G (off E. Manitou Rd) 19 Nov (A&DGu); 1 f HB 24 Nov (D&MK, ph).

**Surf Scoter:** arr HB 22 Sep; max 76 HB 16 Oct.

**White-winged Scoter:** arr 2 HB 22 Sep; max 367 HB 16 Oct, low max.

**Black Scoter:** arr HB 28 Sep; max 108 G (off Edgemere Dr) 29 Oct.

**Long-tailed Duck:** arr 3 HB & 5 & 12 G (off Edgemere Dr) 16 Oct; max 645 HB 6 Nov.

**Bufflehead:** arr BB-ES 11 Sep; max 210 CL 25 Nov; 150 Silver L – S, WYOM 24 Nov.

**Com. Goldeneye:** arr 2 HB 26 Oct; max 180 Broadway Rd WAYN 11 Nov.

**Hooded Merganser:** max 69 IBO 26 Nov, low max.

**Com. Merganser:** max 350 G (Northrup Crk) 22 Nov.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** arr HB 5 Sep (DTe), early; 1700 G (Long Pnd) 19 Nov (NK); 1350 G (Cranberry Pnd) 23 Nov (AGu); max 1763 G (Edgemere Dr) 26 Nov (JeB, CW).

**Ruddy Duck:** arr Groveland Pnd 25 Sep (KC), early; max 73 Sandy Bottom P, Honeoye L ONTA 4 Nov.

**Red-throated Loon:** arr 3 HB 21 Sep (MG, PMar), early; max 341 HB 18 Nov, low max.

**Com. Loon:** 113; 150 HB 13 Oct, 1<sup>st</sup> date over 100; max 412 HB 17 Oct, low max; 307 HB 6 Nov.

**Horned Grebe:** arr HB 5 Sep; max 98 HB 17 Oct, low max.

**Red-necked Grebe:** max 128 HB 25 Nov (AGu), low relative to recent late peaks.

**N. Gannet:** 1 imm heading W along S shore Lake Ontario 19 Nov; 10:15 AM IBO (NK, RBA YBC); G (Edgemere Dr) (JeB); 11:05 G (off E Manitou Rd) (DHo, DSh); 1:00 PM HB (AGu, PMar); & later off MONR/ORLE county line (AGu, ph).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 2000 OB 2 Sep.

**Great Egret:** last LaSalle Landing P MONR 5 Nov (JWi).

**CATTLE EGRET (R2):** arr T Ogden MONR 3 Nov (GL, BCar, JW, MG, ph); near G (Buck Pnd) 6 Nov (JiB); sev others just outside Region early Nov.

**Green Heron:** last DEP 16 Oct.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** max 16 NMWMA (MRdM) 1 Sep; last G (Salmon Crk) 21 Oct.

**plegadis ibis species:** NMWMA (Armitage Rd) 5 Nov (LSt, TS., 8+ oth obs).

**Black Vulture:** ICW 21 Sep (RRy); HANA 3 Oct (SJ); LSP 22 Oct (GL); 2 LSP 18 Nov (RSt).

## HAWKS – LARIDS

**Osprey:** last HANA 17 Oct (MG).

**Bald Eagle:** 167 lines eBird many loc Oct; 116 lines eBird 39+ loc Nov; good numbers.

**N. Goshawk:** DEP 27 Nov (MSh, ph), only rep.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** only 3 rep.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** N Wolcott WAYN 25 Oct, only rep.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** arr G 27 Oct, typical arrival date; 16 rep of approx 19 ind Nov.

**YELLOW RAIL:** near Brockport 15 Sep (JSt, ph), 5<sup>th</sup> Reg record and 1<sup>st</sup> since 1935, *intro*.

**Virginia Rail:** last MP 7 Nov.

**Com. Gallinule:** max 75 NMWMA (VDS) 3 Sep; last 2 NMWMA (VDS) 3 Nov.

**Sandhill Crane:** 47 NMWMA (Armitage Rd) 23 Nov (MTe); max 94 NMWMA (Rt 89 n of end of East Rd) 29 Nov (MTe, DSh), *intro*.

**Black-bellied Plover:** max 29 HB 22 Oct; last Perry Rd WYOM 9 Nov.

**Am. Golden-Plover:** max 32 T Elba GENE 3 Sep; last 3 HB 28 Oct, early dep.

**Semipalmated Plover:** last G (Salmon Crk) 28 Oct.

**Killdeer:** max 117 H 2 Sep & Rose Valley Rd WAYN 16 Sep; H 5 Sep (W&MR); last 6 Roseburgh Rd LIVI 21 Nov (KC).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** last BB-ES 19 Oct.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** last NMWMA (MRdM) 7 Sep.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** last Webster Arboretum 14 Nov, ph.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** last 2 TCEA 27 Oct.

**Whimbrel:** BB-ES 2 Sep (AGu); last SPT 19 Sep (GF, W&MR).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** last BB-ES 9 Oct.

**Red Knot:** BB-ES 2-24 Sep (14+ obs).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** last 2 MAC 15 Sep, early dep..

**Sanderling:** max 42 BB-ES 2 Sep (BCar, AGu); last 7 OB 17 Nov.

**Dunlin:** arr OB 5 Sep; max 175 IBO 1 Nov (DHo, DSh), low max; last BB-ES & SPT 21 Nov.

**Purple Sandpiper:** arr SPT 28 Oct, only rep.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** last SPT 19 Sep.

**Least Sandpiper:** last off G 21 Oct.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** last SPT 17 Nov.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** max 26 NMWMA (Marten Tract) 20 Oct, low max; last T Riga MONR & NMWMA (Armitage Rd) 6 Nov.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 40 NMWMA (Marten Tract) 1 Sep, low max; last 2 G (Buck Pnd) 27 Oct.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** last Shore Acres NMWMA (Marten Tract) 15 Sep.  
**Long-billed Dowitcher:** last NMWMA (MRdM) 8 Oct, early dep. (JMcG, SP).  
**Wilson's Snipe:** 1B M 20 Oct, unusual capture; last NMWMA (Guy Baldassare Marsh) 22 Nov.).  
**Am. Woodcock:** Honneoye Falls 19 Oct (BCae), not many late fall birder reports.  
**Wilson's Phalarope:** arr NMWMA (Marten Tract) 3-5 Sep (BP, 8 oth obs).  
**Red-necked Phalarope:** arr NMWMA (Marten Tract) 2-9 Sep (37+ obs); 2 NMWMA (Marten Tract) 6, 7 Sep (JWi, RMi).  
**phalarope sp.:** HB 31 Oct.  
**Pomarine Jaeger:** arr HB 10 Oct (AGu); HB 28 Oct (AGu, AGa); Brown Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 13 Nov (W&MR).  
**Parasitic Jaeger:** arr 2 HB 1 Sep; HB 5 Sep; total approx 14 at 5 loc 5-28 Oct (9 obs); 3 loc 4, 25, 27 Nov.  
**jaeger species:** HB 1, 7, 9 Sep; approx 14 at 3 loc 5-31 Oct (6 obs); last Brown Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 8 Nov (W&MR).  
**LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** 3 HB 5 Sep (AGu).  
**Black-legged Kittiwake:** arr imm IBO and nearby 26 Nov (CW, AGu, BriM); imm IB-W 27 Nov (KH).  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 1000 HB 16 Oct (MG, PMar); 200 IB-W 26 Nov.  
**Little Gull:** arr 7 ad HB 16 Oct (MG, PMar, AGu); 2 ad HB 16 afternoon Oct (AGu, ph); 1 ad G (off Edgemere Dr) 17 Oct (JiB); 1 ad HB 18 Sep (AGu); 3 ad HB 26 Oct (MG, PMar); 3 ad HB 27 Oct (AGu); 1 G (off Edgemere Dr) 29 Oct (JeB, LiB, AGu); 1 ad T Huron WAYH 2 Nov (W&MR); 1 ad HB 4 Nov (BCar, AGa, DSh).  
**FRANKLIN'S GULL:** 1 1<sup>st</sup> win SPT 1 Nov (GL).  
**Ring-billed Gull:** max 5000+ Nations Rd, Geneseo 22 Nov (JK).  
**Herring Gull:** max 2500 T Riga 7 Nov (BCar).  
**Iceland Gull:** arr HB & HANA 20 Nov; 2 Mill Seat landfill, T Riga 23 Nov (AGu, BriM).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** total 8 at 4 loc 16-28 Sep; total 7 at 6 loc Oct; 13 rep, 21 ind 8 loc 7-26 Nov.  
**Glaucous Gull:** arr T Riga 3 Nov; total 6 at 5 loc 3-26 Nov.  
**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 50 OB 21 Sep (LM).  
**Caspian Tern:** last G (Salmon Crk) & IBO 16 Oct.  
**Black Tern:** last 5 HB 5 Sep (DTe), early dep.  
**Com. Tern:** last CL 20 Oct.  
**Forster's Tern:** last 2 SPT 28 Oct (W&MR).

## PIGEONS – PARROTS

**EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE:** 2 H (Greenwell farm) 29, 31 Oct (AGu), surprising how rarely reported.  
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** last NMWMA (Marten Tract) 10 Sep.  
**Black-billed Cuckoo:** last G 9 Sep.  
**Snowy Owl:** arr Summerville Pier 11 Nov; total approx 20 at 15 loc 11-29 Nov (50+ obs).  
**Short-eared Owl:** arr IBO 15 Oct; max 15 Nations Rd IBA 10 Nov.  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** NMWMA (Savannah) 15 Sep (Windbirders), during Muck Race; M (BBBO) 14 Oct (CS); 6b M (BBBO) 20 Oct (TS).  
**Com. Nighthawk:** last Silver L – S, WYOM 18 Sep.  
**Chimney Swift:** 250 Piffard LIVI 18 Sep & York Central School, Greiggsville 25 Sep; max 310 Culver Rd, T Irondequoit 26 Sep (KS); last 3 N Irondequoit Crk Trail 8 Oct.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** last Penfield 10 Oct; total b 8 BBBO 9-17 Sep.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 1-8 HB thru; WP 24 Sep; 8 Irondequoit Crk 7 Oct (SG); Co Rd 10 LIVI 19 Nov; T Albion 2 Nov.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** total 14 ind 12 loc 7-29 Nov (18 obs), good number late in season.  
**Am. Kestrel:** 25 rep, 25 ind 19 loc Nov, good number late in season.  
**Merlin:** 22 rep, 22 ind 17 loc Sep; total 24 at 11 loc Oct; 24 rep, 21 ind 19 loc 1-25 Nov.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** 19 rep, 21 ind 11 loc Sep; total 24 at 16+ loc Oct; 18 rep, 17 ind 14 loc Nov.

## FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** last BB-ES 6 Sep.  
**E. Wood-Pewee:** last Ellison P, T Penfield 4 Oct.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** total b 10 BBBO 1-11 Sep; last S Conesus 20 Sep.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** last NMWMA (Carncross Rd) 1-5 Sep (GD, JMcG), late.  
**Alder Flycatcher:** last 2 Ganondagan 10 Sep.  
**Willow Flycatcher:** last Ontario Center Greenway P 11 Sep (JWi).  
**“Trail’s Flycatcher:** last 3 NMWMA (VDS) 16 Sep (RB, NK). BBBO 11 Sep.  
**Least Flycatcher:** last 1M (Owl Woods) 16 Sep.  
**E. Phoebe:** last 2 Canadice Lake & 1 WAYN 20 Oct.  
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** last 2 M (Owl Woods) 17 Sep.  
**E. Kingbird:** last CL Inlet 10 Oct (KC), late.  
**N. Shrike:** arr Rochester 27 Oct; 20 rep 13 ind 12 loc Nov.  
**WHITE-EYED VIREO (R2):** 1 Brown Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 3 Oct (W&MR); 1b BBBO 27 Sep; 1 Webster Arboretum 13-14 Nov (JiM), late.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** last Palmyra WAYN 19 Sep.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** last 1b BBBO 27 Oct.  
**Warbling Vireo:** last Indian Fort Pres, Geneseo 1 Oct.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** total b 9 BBBO 4-24 Sep.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** total b 84 BBBO 1 Sep - 6 Oct; last N Irondequoit Crk Trail 8 Oct.  
**Am. Crow:** max 5200 U of Rochester 26 Nov (JG).  
**Fish Crow:** 1-14 resident in the area from the mouth of the Genesee River west into N Greece; occasional singles elsewhere.  
**Purple Martin:** max 250 Summerville Pier 5 Sep; last T Bergen GENE 25 Sep.  
**Tree Swallow:** max 800 NMWMA (MRdM) 8 Oct, low max; last MAC 21 Oct.  
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** last MAC 21 Oct.  
**Bank Swallow:** last NMWMA (VDS) & MAC 16 Sep.  
**Cliff Swallow:** last 4 HB 4 Oct.  
**CAVE SWALLOW:** arr 3 HB 23 Oct (AGu); SPT 3 Nov (MG, ph); 11 HB 5 Sep (RB, NK, JiM); 3 HB 5 (later) Sep (JiM); 1; 2 G (Buck Pnd) 5; 6 Nov (JiB); 1 Lakeshore Marshes WAYN 8 Nov (W&MR), *intro*.  
**Barn Swallow:** max 300 NMWMA (Marten Tract) 21 Sep; last HB 24 Oct.  
**Black-capped Chickadee:** max 32 WP 26 Nov, low max; max b 1 BBBO 9 days; total b 9 BBBO 7 Sep - 27 Oct, low, *intro*.  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 10 WP 3 Oct; max 19 WP 26 Nov, only double digit tallies.  
**Brown Creeper:** total b 64 BBBO 21 Sep – 27 Oct.

**House Wren:** last DEP 17 Nov (DH), Reg record late.  
**Winter Wren:** arr 1b BBBO 10 Sep; max b 10 BBBO 22 Sep; max 16 HB-YC 1 Oct (R&SS, RB); total b 78 BBBO 10 Sep-27 Oct.  
**Marsh Wren:** last NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 29 Nov (DSh, MTe), late.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** last HB 8 Oct.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** arr BB 20 Sep; max 36 HB-YC 20 Oct (DBe, RSp), low max; max b 52 BBBO 16 Oct; total b 293 BBBO 25 Sep – 28 Oct.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr Rochester 2 Sep; max 28 M (Owl Woods) 1 Oct, low max; max b 156 BBBO 16 Oct; total b 441 BBBO 15 Sep - 27 Oct; last BB-WS 25 Nov (AGu), late.  
**Veery:** total b 21 BBBO 4-26 Sep; last IB 28 Sep.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** max b 10 BBBO 25 Sep; total b 97 BBBO 7 Sep- last 6 Oct; last HB-WE 13 Oct.  
**Gray-cheeked/Bicknell’s Thrush:** max b 10 M 26 Sep; total b 56 BBBO 13 Sep - last 6 Oct.  
**BICKNELL’S THRUSH:** 1 each b BBBO 22, 24, 26 Sep.  
**Swainson’s Thrush:** max 19 Seneca Parkway, Rochester 22 Sep (RB); max b 18 BBBO 13 Sep; total b 189 BBBO 1 Sep – last 16 Oct.  
**Hermit Thrush:** arr migr BB 21 Sep; max 25 HB-WE 13 Oct (RSp); max b 20 BBBO 16 Oct; total b 98 BBBO 23 Sep – 28 Oct.  
**Wood Thrush:** last 2 IBO 13 Oct.  
**Am. Robin:** max 400 Lehigh Swamp 22 Nov (CN).  
**Gray Catbird:** max 31 WP 13 Sep (RSp); 30 MP 16 Sep (TL); total b 110 BBBO 1 Sep - 27 Oct; last 1 b BBBO 28 Nov (AP).  
**Brown Thrasher:** last HANA 14 Oct.  
**Am. Pipit:** arr BB-ES 2 Sep; last 2 HB 15 Nov.

#### LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** arr HB 1 Oct.  
**Snow Bunting:** arr BB-ES 22 Oct; 150 H 2 Nov; max 200 West Port Bay WAYN 17 Nov (W&MR).  
**Ovenbird:** total b 9 BBBO 2 Sep – last 5 Oct.  
**N. Waterthrush:** last HB-YC 17 Sep.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** 1B BBBO 18 Sep, now scarce in fall, late.  
**Blue-winged Warbler:** last St. John Fisher Natural Area 19 Sep.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** last H 20 Sep.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** last BB – Dalheim Unit 14 Oct.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr WP 13 Sep; BB-ES 30 Sep; Indian Fort Pres, Geneseo 1 Oct; 1b BBBO 20 Oct; last 1b BBBO 15 Nov, late.

**Nashville Warbler:** total b 17 1 Sep – last 21 Oct.

**Connecticut Warbler:** arr BB 12 Sep (MG); 1 each b BBBO 13, 14, 19, 27, Sep.

**Mourning Warbler:** last 1b BBBO 4 Oct, late.

**Com. Yellowthroat:** total b 88 BBBO 1 Sep – 5 Oct; last G (Salmon Crk) 25 Nov (AG, AW), late.

**Hooded Warbler:** last 1b BBBO 6 Oct.

**Am. Redstart:** total b 65 M 1 Sep – 6 Oct; last CL inlet 24 Oct.

**Cape May Warbler:** last 1b BBBO 11 Oct.

**N. Parula:** last BB-ES 1 Oct.

**Magnolia Warbler:** max b 18 BBBO 10 Sep; total b 124 BBBO 1 Sep – 3 Oct; max 25 M (Owl Woods) 11 Sep; last Beechwood SP WAYN 17 Oct.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** total b 23 BBBO 1-21 Sep; last IBO 13 Oct.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** last T Gates MONR 7 Oct.

**Yellow Warbler:** 1 each b BBBO 2, 7 Sep, low; last Sherburne P, Walworth WAYN 23 Sep.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** last 1 b BBBO 5 Oct.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** max b 21 BBBO 4 Oct; total b 124 BBBO 1 Sep – last 23 Oct; *intro*.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** total b 33 BBBO 1 Sep – 5 Oct; last 3 T Conesus LIVI & 1 Webster Arboretum 6 Oct.

**Palm Warbler:** arr HB 2 Sep; max 17 G (Burger P) 5 Oct (KG); last NMWMA (Marten Tract) 14 Oct.

**Pine Warbler:** last HB 14 Oct.

**Prairie Warbler:** 1 b BBBO 21 Sep, only report.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 30 G (Canal P) H 14 Oct; max b 22 BBBO 10 Oct; total b 35 BBBO 23 Sep – 18 Oct; last NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 29 Nov (DSh, MTe), late.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** total b 9 BBBO 1-28 Sep; last 1 Penfield & 3 G(Burger P) 8 Oct.

**Canada Warbler:** last G 20 Sep.

**Wilson's Warbler:** total b 27 BBBO 1-30 Sep; last T Wolcott WAYN 6 Oct.

## TOWHEES – WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** last WP 29 Nov (RSp), late.

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr Ellison P, Penfield 20 Oct.

**Chipping Sparrow:** last Highland P, Rochester 28 Nov (KH), late.

**Field Sparrow:** last 2 TCEA 4 Nov (CG).

**Savannah Sparrow:** last NMWMA (Armitage Rd) 13 Nov (BF).

**NELSON'S SPARROW (R2):** 1 b BBBO 28 Sep.

**Fox Sparrow:** arr 1b BBBO 5 Oct; last Highland P, Rochester 19 Nov (KH).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr Oatka Crk P MONR 5 Sep; total b 11 BBBO 6 Sep – 6 Oct; last HANA 16 Oct.

**White-throated Sparrow:** max 80 Webster Arboretum 28 Sep (JiM); max b 65 BBBO 10 Oct; total b 429 BBBO 6 Sep – 28 Oct; 76 M (Owl Woods) 1 Oct (AGu).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr 1b BBBO 25 Sep; max 35 HANA 14 Oct (R&SS).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** max b 32 BBBO 26 Oct; total b 78 BBBO 22 Sep – 27 Oct.

**SUMMER TANAGER:** f Irondequoit 29 Nov (JBl, ph), brief stop at feeder.

**Scarlet Tanager:** last Oatka Crk P 25 Sep.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** last Webster P 24 Sep.

**Indigo Bunting:** last Highland P, Rochester 5 Oct.

**Bobolink:** last 3 G (Beatty Pt) 24 Sep.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 4000 NMWMA (MRdM) 8 Oct.

**E. Meadowlark:** last G (BurgerP) 22 Nov (DR, VW).

**Rusty Blackbird:** arr BB-ES 16 Sep; 35 rep, 97 ind 21 loc Oct (25 obs); 6 rep, 15 ind 6 loc 1-8 Nov (7 obs); last Oatka Crk P 20 Nov; no sizable flocks reported this season.

**Com. Grackle:** max 2500 BB-Dalheim Unit 5 Oct (KG).

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 700 CR 10 LIVI 3 Nov.

**Baltimore Oriole:** last Palmyra WAYN 21 Sep.

**Red Crossbill:** arr HB 6 Oct (AGu), only report.

**Com. Redpoll:** arr 2 HB 22 Oct; HB 9, 15 Nov; only reports.

**Pine Siskin:** arr HB 16 Sep; 400 DEP 21 Oct (JiM); max 510 HB 22 Oct (AGu); sev other counts > 100.

**Am. Goldfinch:** max b 30 BBBO 18 Oct; total b 98 8 Sep – 28 Oct; max 172 HB 27 Oct; 146 BBBO 15 Nov (GL); 150 HB 15 Nov (AGu).

**Evening Grosbeak:** arr HB 4-5 Nov (BCar, AGa, DSh, NK); irregular visitor now.

## REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

**Bill Ostrander**

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September 2017 was warmer and drier than normal. In Ithaca, the average low was 51°F, 3° above normal. The average high was 73°, 2° above normal. Rainfall was 1.70", 2.14" less than normal. October was much warmer than normal and wetter. The average low temperature was 45°, 8° above normal, and the average high was 66°, 7° above normal. Rainfall was 5.73", 2.50" less than historic average. November was cooler and drier than normal. The average low was 29°, 2° below normal, and the average high was 46°, 1° below normal. Rainfall was 1.88", 1.22" below normal. There was no accumulation of snow, 5.4" less than normal. Arrivals and departures of migrating birds were little affected by the temperature departures with nearly all dates well within the normal range.

Waterfowl numbers were generally good, particularly at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Counts of Gadwall and Northern Pintail were high. A count of more than 1000 Double-crested Cormorants at Stewart Park was also high. Among less common species, observers counted seasonal highs for Cackling Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, and Surf Scoter. Rare species of waterfowl all appeared in November. They included Greater White-fronted Geese at Montezuma NWR, a single report of Ross's Goose in the Savannah Mucklands, a Pacific Loon, first on Seneca Lake and then on Cayuga Lake, and a Great Cormorant on Seneca Lake. The rarest bird in the Region was a Barnacle Goose X Cackling Goose hybrid that appeared at Seneca Lake State Park.

Counts of three American Bitterns and three Least Bitterns were high counts for the fall season. Rare herons were Snowy Egret at Montezuma NWR in September, Cattle Egrets in and near Montezuma NWR in October, and an injured Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in Tompkins County, also in October. The Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was the first record for Tompkins County. Unfortunately, it had to be euthanized because of the severity of its injuries.

Dominic Sherony and Mike Tetlow counted 39 Bald Eagles at Montezuma NWR in early September for a fall season high. The 24 September arrival of a Golden Eagle in Steuben County was early. Doug Daniels counted 98 Sandhill Cranes at Montezuma NWR in late November for a new fall season high.

Shorebird habitat was not as plentiful at Montezuma NWR as in past years. Nevertheless, a good variety of shorebirds visited the Region. A Whimbrel at Myers Point in September, a Hudsonian Godwit at Montezuma NWR in October, a Red-necked Phalarope at Montezuma NWR in September, and a Red Phalarope at Stewart Park in November were the highlights. The count of six Lesser Black-backed Gulls at the Stevenson Road Compost Piles in Tompkins County was a fall season high for the Region. The only Iceland Gull reported was a Thayer's type at Seneca Lake State Park in October.

An irruption of Snowy Owls began with one at Montezuma NWR in mid-November. At the Confer banding station in Dryden, 13 Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded 7 November for a new Region high. Observers found Red-headed Woodpeckers at four locations in September. Another appeared in Cornell University's Palmer Woods in mid-November and continued there through the end of the season.

Two Olive-sided Flycatchers at Summerhill State Forest and four Eastern Kingbirds at Taughannock Falls State Park in September qualified as seasonal high counts for the Region. Ulf Kintzel photographed a **Say's Phoebe** at the White Clover Sheep Farm in October for the Region's second record of the species. Three Yellow-throated Vireos at Montezuma NWR in September was a Regional high count for the fall season. Late October brought Cave Swallow sightings near the south end of Cayuga Lake on two different dates. Palmer Woods hosted a high count of Tufted Titmice in November, the West Elmira Riverine Forest yielded a high count of Carolina Wrens in September, and Cornell University was the site of a high count of night migrating Veerys in September.

Monitoring of nocturnal migrants at Cornell University produced high counts for Ovenbird, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Black-throated Blue Warbler. Day-time high counts of warblers were seven Hooded Warblers at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve and 12 Cape May Warblers at Summerhill State Forest. Rare warblers were a Golden-winged Warbler at Palmer Woods and a Connecticut Warbler at Monkey Run in Tompkins County.

There were no high counts of sparrows. There was a single report of Grasshopper Sparrow from Finger Lakes National Forest in September. Rare sparrows were a Henslow's Sparrow at Montezuma NWR in September and Nelson's Sparrows at the Bluegrass Lane Natural Area, Cornell Research Ponds and Montezuma NWR, all in early October.

Other high counts were 12 Scarlet Tanagers in Northeast Ithaca in September and 100 House Sparrows in the Town of Junius in November. Rounding out the rarities were a female Blue Grosbeak in Watkins Glen in November, a night migrating Dickcissel over Cornell University in September, Red Crossbills in Summerhill State Forest in September and in the Town of Dryden and at Roy H Park Preserve in October, and an Evening Grosbeak in Bear Swamp State Forest in November.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**BLNA** – Bluegrass Lane Natural Area, TOMP; **CCG** – Cornell Community Gardens, TOMP; **CU** – Cornell University; **FLNF** – Finger Lakes National Forest, SENE; **Ith** – Ithaca; **LPBP** – Lindsay Parsons Biodiversity Preserve, TOMP; **LPSP** – Long Pt SP; **MR** – Monkey Run, TOMP; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **MyPt** – Myers Pt, TOMP; **PW** – Palmer Woods, TOMP; **RHPP** – Roy H P Preserve, TOMP; **SenL** – Seneca L; **SLSP** – Seneca L SP; **SRCP** – Stevenson Road Compost Piles, TOMP; **SSF** – Summerhill State Forest, CAYU; **StP** – Stewart P, TOMP; **SW** – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; **TCar** – T Caroline, TOMP; **TCov** – T Covert, SENE; **TDry** – T Dryden, TOMP; **TFSP** – Taughannock Falls SP; **TLan** – T Lansing, TOMP.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

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

**(R3):** arr 13 MNWR 4 Nov (DDo, ph, DWh); max 16 MNWR 16 Nov (SB, JC, ph, JM, ph); last MNWR 19 Nov (JBr, RK).

**Snow Goose:** arr 40 MNWR 12 Oct.

**ROSS'S GOOSE (R3):** Savannah Mucklands SENE 29 Nov (DSh, MTe!).

**Brant:** arr MNWR 8 Oct; max 150 T Manchester ONTA 28 Oct; 150 StP 28 Oct; last 4 StP 16 Nov.

**Cackling Goose:** arr MNWR 30 Sep; max 39 SLSP 2 Nov (JM, LSa), high.

#### **BARNACLE X CACKLING GOOSE**

**(hybrid) (R3):** SLSP 12 Nov (mob, ph).

**SNOW X CANADA GOOSE (hybrid) (R3):** MNWR 24 Nov (TA, MI!).

**Tundra Swan:** arr 2 MNWR 16 Oct; max 215 MyPt 10 Nov.

**Gadwall:** max 4000 MNWR 1 Nov (DSh, MTe), high.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** max 4 MNWR 8-10 Oct (JM), high; last MNWR 11 Nov.  
**Am. Wigeon:** max 8000 MNWR 28 Oct (JM, LSa).  
**Blue-winged Teal:** max 70 MNWR 9 Sep; last MNWR 5 Nov.  
**N. Shoveler:** max 300 MNWR 1 Nov (DSh, MTe), high.  
**N. Pintail:** max 5600 MNWR 30 Sep.  
**Canvasback:** arr 6 MNWR 2 Oct; max 200 MNWR 27 Oct–11 Nov.  
**Surf Scoter:** arr 6 Cayuga L T Ledyard CAYU 8 Oct; max 14 StP 30 Oct (mob), high; last StP 18 Nov.  
**White-winged Scoter:** arr 4 Cayuga L Aurora 14 Oct; max 9 Willard T P SENE 12 Nov.  
**Black Scoter:** arr 2 StP 19 Oct; max 55 StP 29 Oct.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** arr 2 MyPt 29 Oct; max 85 StP 19 Nov.  
**Bufflehead:** arr StP 21 Oct; 5 MNWR 21 Oct; max 145 SLSP 12 Nov.  
**Com. Goldeneye:** arr 22 SLSP 1 Nov; max 32 Sampson SP 17 Nov.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** arr SenL T Torrey YATE 2 Oct; max 33 LPSP 24 Nov.  
**Ruddy Duck:** arr Allan H Treman State Marine P 16 Sep; max 300 MNWR 1 Nov.  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** max 14 Goosehaven SENE 26 Nov (DK).  
**Wild Turkey:** max 19 FLNF 10 Oct.  
**Red-throated Loon:** arr Lodi Pt SP 10 Oct; max 4 TFSP 7 Nov.  
**PACIFIC LOON:** SenL, Watkins Glen 1-6 Nov (JM!, LSa); TFSP 7 Nov (TLe!).  
**Horned Grebe:** arr MNWR 2 Oct; max 6 SLSP 13 Nov.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** arr MNWR 16 Oct; max 3 SenL, T Hector SCHU; last Severne Pt YATE 22 Nov.  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 1035 StP 3 Sep (JM, LSa), high.  
**GREAT CORMORANT (R3):** SenL, Watkins Glen 12-25 Nov (JM, ph!, LSa, mob, ph).  
**Am. Bittern:** max 3 MNWR 16 Sep (RBu, NKa), high; last T Danby TOMP 27 Oct.  
**Least Bittern:** max 3 MNWR 3 Sep (LK, KR, ST), high; last MNWR 26 Sep.  
**Great Egret:** max 59 MNWR 5 Sep; last MNWR 5 Nov.  
**SNOWY EGRET (R3):** MNWR 2 Sep (KC!); MNWR Sep 8.  
**CATTLE EGRET (R3):** 1-3 MNWR & Goosehaven SENE 27 Oct thru (DC, mob, ph).

**Green Heron:** max 10 Conell U 20 Sep, nocturnal migrants; last MNWR 15 Oct.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** max 13 MNWR 9 Sep; last Ith 16 Oct.  
**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (R3):** TDry 20 Oct (spec), 1<sup>st</sup> TOMP record.  
**Plegadis (sp):** MNWR 5 Nov (KMcGa).  
**BLACK VULTURE (R3):** Greenwood High School STEU 24 Sep (KC!); 4 SRCP 9-25 Nov (JM!, LSa, mob, ph).  
**Turkey Vulture:** max 250 SRCP 14 Oct (KMcGo), high.

#### HAWKS - LARIDS

**Osprey:** max 7 MNWR 2 Sep; last StP 15 Oct, early.  
**Bald Eagle:** max 39 MNWR 5 Sep (DSh, MTe), high.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** last Jackson Creek Dam CHEM 30 Oct, early.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** max 62 TCov 10 Sep; last 13 CU 23 Sep; 7 TDry 23 Sep; 5 Tlth 23 Sep; 2 MNWR 23 Sep.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** arr MNWR 22 Oct.  
**Golden Eagle:** arr Greenwood High School STEU 24 Sep (KC!), early; last Bear Swamp State Forest CAYU 24 Nov.  
**Virginia Rail:** last MNWR 4 Oct.  
**Sora:** last Owasco L Inlet CAYU 4 Sep.  
**Com. Gallinule:** max 85 MNWR 15 Sep; last 4 MNWR 11 Nov.  
**Sandhill Crane:** max 98 MNWR 29 Nov (DDa), high.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** last 2 MNWR 4 Nov.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** max & last 6 T Danby TOMP 28 Oct.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** max 30 MNWR 9 Sep; last 3 MNWR 26 Oct.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** last 2 SLSP 14 Oct.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** max 9 Dryden L 4 Sep; last MNWR 9 Oct.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** max 32 MNWR 1 Oct; last MyPt 21 Nov.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 110 MNWR 3 Sep; last 3 MNWR 4 Nov.  
**WHIMBREL (R3):** last MyPt 5 Sep (JM!, LSa), early.  
**HUDSONIAN GODWIT (R3):** MNWR 1 Oct (AnBu!).  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** max 20 MNWR 9 Oct; last 11 MNWR 4 Nov.  
**Sanderling:** max 4 MNWR 30 Sep; last Kershaw P ONTA 8 Oct.  
**Dunlin:** max 250 MNWR 1 Nov; last 4 MNWR 26 Nov.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** last MNWR 4 Oct.  
**Least Sandpiper:** max 35 MNWR 14 Oct; last MNWR 22 Oct.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** max 5 MNWR 27 & 30 Sep; last MNWR 28 Oct.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** max 40 MNWR 5 Sep; last 10 MNWR 5 Nov.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 33 MNWR 2 Sep; last MNWR 28 Oct.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** max 20 MNWR 30 Sep; last MNWR 2 Oct.  
**Long-billed Dowitcher:** max 17 MNWR 30 Sep; last MNWR 7 Nov.  
**Wilson's Snipe:** max 20 MNWR 28 Oct; last MNWR 10 Nov.  
**Am. Woodcock:** max 3 SW 3 Oct; last TCar 7 Nov; T South Bristol ONTA 7 Nov.  
**Wilson's Phalarope:** last MNWR 27 Sep.  
**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (R3):** last MNWR 5 Sep (DSh, MTe).  
**RED PHALAROPE (R3):** StP 16 Nov (mob, ph!).  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 36 MyPt 31 Oct.  
**ICELAND GULL (Thayer's type) (R3):** SLSP 22 Oct (TLe, ph).  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** max 6 SRCP 4 Oct (AdBu), high.  
**Caspian Tern:** max 20 MNWR 4 Sep (TLe), high; last 2 MNWR 6 Oct.  
**Black Tern:** 3 MNWR 17 Sep (MorK, JWe), only report.  
**Com. Tern:** max & last 3 MNWR 6 Oct.

#### PIGEONS - PARROTS

**Rock Pigeon:** max 300 TDry 13 Oct (KMcGo).  
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** last Newtown Battlefield SP 23 Sep.  
**Snowy Owl:** arr MNWR 17 Nov.  
**Short-eared Owl:** arr Hile School Road Wetland TOMP 22 Oct; max 2 T Phelps ONTA.  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** max 13 TCar (PMc), high.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** max 23 MNWR 3 Sep; last 3 MNWR 15 Sep.  
**Chimney Swift:** max 30 Elmira Holiday Inn CHEM 6 Sep; last 4 MNWR 8 Oct.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** max 5 PW; last TCar 30 Sep.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** MNWR 2 Sep (GD, AW); LPBP 3 Sep (DTo!); CU 14 Sep (AW!); Durland Preserve TOMP 15 Sep (JM); PW 12 Nov thru (mob!).

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** max 2 SSF (GD, LSe, AW), high; last Tlan 16 Sep (GA); TDry 16 Sep (JBa, CW), late.  
**E. Wood-Pewee:** max 7 TDry; 7 SW 10 Sep; last SW 3 Oct.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** max 3 TCar 12 Sep; last MNWR 22 Sep; TDry 22 Sep.  
**Willow Flycatcher:** last MNWR 16 Sep.  
**Least Flycatcher:** last LPBP 17 Sep; LPSP 17 Sep.  
**E. Phoebe:** max 7 T Middlesex YATE 29 Sep; last PW 14 Nov.  
**SAY'S PHOEBE:** White Clover Sheep Farm YATE 5 Oct (UK!, ph).  
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** last T Canandaigua ONTA 18 Sep.  
**E. Kingbird:** max 4 TFSP 1-5 Sep (SH, LK, TLe), high; last MNWR 9 Sep.  
**N. Shrike:** arr T Fayette SENE 9 Nov.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** max 3 MNWR 9 Sep (LK, ST), high; last TCar 20 Sep.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** max 6 PW 23 Sep; last Tlth TOMP 28 Oct.  
**Warbling Vireo:** max 6 StP; last Tlth TOMP 5 Oct.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** max 4 LPSP 17 Sep; last Tlth TOMP 10 Oct.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** max 16 LPBP 4 Sep; last SW 12 Oct.  
**Fish Crow:** max 55 Lakefront P ONTA.  
**Purple Martin:** max 420 MyPt 5 Sep; last The Shops at Ith Mall TOMP 14 Sep.  
**Tree Swallow:** max 3000 MNWR 3 Sep; last StP 31 Oct.  
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** max 60 MNWR 9 Sep; last 5 MNWR 14 Oct.  
**Bank Swallow:** max 50 MNWR 2 Sep; last MNWR 14 Sep.  
**Cliff Swallow:** max 4 StP 5 Sep; last MNWR 9 Sep, early.  
**CAVE SWALLOW:** Candlewyck Apartments TOMP 25 Oct (LSe!); 2 StP 31 Oct (mob!).  
**Barn Swallow:** max 300 Allan H Treman Marina SP 3 Sep; last MR 5 Oct.  
**Tufted Titmouse:** max 15 PW 26 Nov (MP), high.  
**Carolina Wren:** max 9 West Elmira Riverine Forest 24 Sep (BO), high.  
**Veery:** max 120 CU 14 Sep (GD, AW), nocturnal migrants, high; last 4 Prospect Hill CHEM 5 Oct.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr CU 8 Sep, nocturnal migrant; max 50 CU 20 Sep,

nocturnal migrants; last NE lth 5 Oct, nocturnal migrant.

**Swainson's Thrush:** max 220 CU 20 Sep, nocturnal migrants; last Liddel Lab TOMP 18 Oct.

**Hermit Thrush:** last MR 29 Nov (CW), late.

**Wood Thrush:** max 35 NE lth 28 Sep, nocturnal migrants; last Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 16 Oct.

**Gray Catbird:** max 30 MNWR 11 Sep; last SW 25 Nov.

**Brown Thrasher:** max 4 FLNF; last Kehoe Nature Preserve CHEM 13 Oct.

**Am. Pipit:** arr MNWR 9 Sep; max 40 T Hector SCHU 21 Oct; last 3 TDry 20 Nov.

### LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** Perry Pt YATE 4 Nov; Hog Hole TOMP 18 Nov.

**Snow Bunting:** arr 2 City Pier ONTA 4 Nov; Perry Pt YATE 4 Nov; max 15 MNWR 4 Nov.

**Ovenbird:** max 68 CU 20 Sep (GD, AW), nocturnal migrants, high; last 2 T Prattsburg 16 Oct.

**Worm-eating Warbler:** last LPBP 4 Sep (JM!, LSa), late.

**N. Waterthrush:** last Cascadilla Gorge Trail TOMP 30 Sep.

**GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (R3):** PW 1 Sep (JC!).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** max 3 Dryden L Linear Path TOMP 3 Sep; last MR 15 Sep.

**Golden-winged x Blue-winged Warbler (hybrid):** Sullivanville Dam CHEM 8 Sep (LK, TLe!); Ford Hill TOMP 10 Sep (JM!).

**“Brewster’s” Warbler (hybrid):** SSF 2 Sep.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** max 3 SW 13 Sep; Tlth TOMP 14 Oct.

**Tennessee Warbler:** max 11 FLNF 10 Sep; last SW 19 Oct (KB, AD, TSchu), late.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr Newtown Battlefield SP 23 Sep; last Sampson SP 21 Oct.

**Nashville Warbler:** max 8 RHPP 11 Sep; last Cornell Botanic Gardens TOMP 23 Oct.

**CONNECTICUT WARBLER (R3):** MR 16 Sep (mob, ph!).

**Mourning Warbler:** last RHPP 4 Oct.

**Com. Yellowthroat:** max 35 CU 20 Sep, nocturnal migrants; last BLNA 24 Oct.

**Hooded Warbler:** max 7 LPBP 2 Oct (JM, LSa), high; last LPBP 1 Oct.

**Am. Redstart:** max 25 CU 14 Sep (GD, AW), nocturnal migrants, high; last TCov 6 Oct.

**Cape May Warbler:** max 12 SSF 4 Sep (GD, LSe, AW), high; last 2 NE lth 10 Oct.

**N. Parula:** max 12 MNWR 15 Sep (SH, ST, AW), nocturnal migrants; 12 CU 20 Sep (GD, AW), nocturnal migrants, high; last NE lth 10 Oct; Hile School Road Wetland TOMP 10 Oct.

**Magnolia Warbler:** max 9 Bonavista SP Golf Course 10 Sep; 9 SW 15 Sep; 9 SW 22 Sep; last MNWR 5 Oct; SLSP 5 Oct.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** max 12 CU 21 Sep (GD, ST), nocturnal migrants, high; last Finger Lakes Community College ONTA (DDA!), late.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** max 5 CU 21 Sep; last SW 2 Oct.

**Yellow Warbler:** max 5 MNWR 2 Sep; last lth 3 Nov (DM, ph).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 6 MNWR 15 Sep, nocturnal migrants; last SW 22 Sep.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** max 6 SW 22 Sep; 6 Jacksonville 5 Oct; last CU 18 Oct.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max 30 MNWR 15 Sep, nocturnal migrants (SH, ST, AW), high; last Liddell Lab TOMP 18 Oct.

**Palm Warbler:** arr CU 4 Sep (GD, LSe, AW), nocturnal migrant, early; max 11 CU 20 Sep, nocturnal migrants; last SW 25 Oct.

**Pine Warbler:** max 7 T Newfield TOMP; last Robert Trent Jones Golf Course TOMP 13 Oct.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 80 SW 16 Oct.

**Prairie Warbler:** max 2 Arnot Forest TOMP 4 Sep; 2 CU 8 Sep, nocturnal migrants; last BLNA 1 Nov (AD!), late.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** max 9 TDry 22 Sep; last Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 15 Oct.

**Canada Warbler:** max 2 CU 8 Sep; 2 Edwards Lake Cliff Preserve TOMP 9 Sep; last PW 30 Sep.

**Wilson’s Warbler:** max 4 MNWR 9 Sep; last Owasco L Inlet CAYU 2 Oct; SW 2 Oct.

### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** max 10 LPBP 1 Oct; last T Catlin CHEM 4 Nov.

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr StP 2 Nov; max 20 T Locke CAYU 19 Nov.

**Chipping Sparrow:** max 60 Robert Trent Joes Golf Course TOMP; last NE lth 5 Nov.

**Field Sparrow:** max 22 LPSP 17 Sep; last Hog Hole TOMP 25 Oct.

**Vesper Sparrow:** max 4 T Varick SENE 5 Oct; last Mt Pleasant TOMP 15 Oct.

**Savannah Sparrow:** max 60 FLNF 10 Sep; last MyPt 10 Nov.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** FLNF 10 Sep (LK, KR, ST!), only report.

**HENSLOW'S SPARROW (R3):** MNWR 14 Sep (Cho!).

**NELSON'S SPARROW (R3):** 1-4 BLNA 2-10 Oct (mob, ph!); 1-4 Cornell Research Pds TOMP 2-11 Oct (mob, ph!); 2 MNWR 8 Oct (JM!, JC, ph).

**Fox Sparrow:** arr CCG 2 Oct; max 16 RHPP 11 Nov; last 2 SW 24 Nov.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr BLNA 12 Sep; max 3 T Lan 23 Sep; 3 CCG 26 Sep; last T Lodi SENE 20 Oct.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr CCG 20 Sep; max 9 T Lan 14 Oct; last TCov 25 Nov.

**Scarlet Tanager:** max 12 NE lth 28 Sep (KR), high; last PW 1 Oct; LPBP 1 Oct; T Enfield TOMP 1 Oct.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 30 CU 6 Sep, nocturnal migrant; last RHPP 4 Oct.

**BLUE GROSBEAK:** Seneca Harbor P SCHU 12 Nov (JM, ph, LSa, MTo).

**Indigo Bunting:** max 5 FLNF 10 Sep; last SW 13 Nov.

**DICKCISSEL (R3):** CU 22 Sep (GD, AW), nocturnal migrant.

**Bobolink:** max 80 MNWR 2 Sep; last 3 BLNA 5 Oct.

**E. Meadowlark:** max and last 11 Reynolds State Game Farm TOMP 22 Oct; Slaterville Springs 22 Oct.

**Rusty Blackbird:** arr MyPt 18 Sep; max 110 Ithaca Tompkins Airport 29 Oct.

**Baltimore Oriole:** last MNWR 13 Sep.

**RED CROSSBILL (R3):** arr 2 SSF 17 Sep (BMI, MY!), early; 3 TDry 8 Oct (JF!); RHPP 21 Oct (JM).

**Pine Siskin:** arr T Seneca ONTA 28 Sep; max 40 T Fayette SENE 10 Nov.

**EVENING GROSBEAK (R3):** Bear Swamp State Forest CAYU 24 Nov (CW).

**House Sparrow:** max 100 T Junius SENE 3 Nov (CG, ZP), high.

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## REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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September 2017 was warmer and drier than normal. In fact, September was the fifteenth warmest since 1950 and the sixth driest. October temperatures were about six degrees above average, and the month was a little drier than average. It was the fourth warmest October since recording began in 1950. November was about 1.5 degrees warmer than average and was the tenth driest.

On 9 October, the remnants of Hurricane Nate went through the Region, and on 10 October, 40 Ruddy Ducks, six Red-breasted Mergansers, one Red-necked Grebe, and three Lesser Black-backed Gulls were observed at various parks around the Whitney Point Reservoir in Broome County. There is no definitive proof that the storm front was a causal factor in these observations, but it is suggestive.

Later in the season a Greater White-fronted Goose was discovered by Catherine Murphy on Plymouth Reservoir in Chenango County amidst Canada Geese on 9 November. Then on 24 November, another (or perhaps the same bird?) was found at Dorchester Park in Broome County by Jon Weeks. Many birders were able to see and photograph this bird as it remained at the park or at

a nearby quarry for a week or so. It was in the company of a great many Canada Geese. Both birds are eBird first records for their respective counties. *Bull's Birds of New York State* (1998) says that "About 130 sightings were reported in *The Kingbird* from 1975 to 1995." It also states that it is a rare fall visitor more common in spring and winter, and the increase in sightings could be attributed to both an increase in numbers and more observers perusing the flocks of Canada Geese for geese with bands (or more recently for Cackling Geese). On 4 November, seven Common Loons were seen on Pepacton Reservoir, which was a maximum for the Region. Single sightings of Red-throated Loons were seen in a few locations in October and November.

A **WOOD STORK** was found on 2 October by Doug Amadon near East Meredith in Delaware County. To quote his eBird report, "While driving, saw and said, 'what the heck was that?' and went back and photographed." The bird was near a section of County Route 22 where Kortright Creek widens out considerably so that it looks rather like an area that a heron or other wader might consider inviting. The photographs reveal a young Wood Stork colored in black and white with a huge bill, standing on a log in the creek. The cream or brown color on its neck seems to indicate a first or second year bird. *Bull's Birds of New York State* notes there have been at least 20 records, with 5 of those coming in the nineteenth century. Eight of those records were coastal. Most were in the summer, most likely post-breeding wandering. Great Egrets were also seen in good numbers along the Susquehanna River mostly in September. However one Great Egret was seen and photographed at Cincinnatus Lake in Chenango County on 29 November.

Soaring on to raptors, Andy Mason reports that numbers from the Franklin Mountain hawk watch were somewhat down yet again this year. The total count was 3,860 raptors, which was 25% below the 16-year average of 5,178. Broad-winged Hawks were 22% below their 16-year averages with 1,159. The total number of Bald Eagles at 214 was 30% above average. Osprey recorded at 64 was greater than the last year's total of 52 but was still 45% below average. Northern Harriers, Red-tailed Hawks, Sharp-shinned Hawks, and Cooper's Hawks were all down significantly from their 16-year averages. Golden Eagles were 24% above their average, with 214 tallied. November was a particularly good month for Golden Eagles with 186 being counted, the highest number for November ever at the hawk watch. Franklin Mountain is one of the best places to spot Golden Eagles, and, in fact, Andy Mason states it led all eastern hawk watches in the total number of goldens seen this season. In addition, six Black Vultures were seen this season, while the total for all previous 28 years was just two.

Much of the decline this year at the Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch was the drop in Red-tailed Hawks. Last year 1,132 were seen, while this season only 739 were recorded. Per Andy Mason this was the second lowest amount ever recorded at Franklin Mountain. Only the initial year of the FMHW in 1989 was lower but with only 54 hours of coverage. Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania also

## PHOTO GALLERY FALL 2017



Figure 1. Corn Crane (*Crex crex*), photographed on the afternoon of 8 November 2017 along Ocean Parkway at Cedar Beach, Suffolk County, Long Island, New York. Photo © Robert DeCandido, PhD. See articles pp. 2-10.



Figure 2. Note the absence of gray feathering above and below the eye, typical of a young bird. The bird was found dead the next morning and confirmed as a Hatching-Year male. Photo © Robert DeCandido, PhD.



Greater White-fronted Goose, Dorchester Park, *Broome*, 28 Nov 2017, © George Chiu.



Barnacle Goose x Cackling Goose hybrid, Seneca Lake SP, *Seneca*, 12 Nov 2017, © Kevin McGowan.





Yellow Rail, Brockport, *Monroe*, 15 Sep 2017, © Jodie Stahl.



Figure 1. Little Egret, Goethal's Bridge Pond, Staten Island, NY. Photo © James Muchmore. See article, pp. 11-14.



Figure 2. Little Egret in flight, Goethal's Bridge Pond, Staten Island, NY. Photo © Isaac Grant.



Figure 3. Little Egret, Goethal's Bridge Pond, Staten Island, NY. Photo © Isaac Grant.

had the lowest amount of Red-tails in 82 years of coverage. What is the cause for this year's decrease? Changing migration patterns with the hawks staying north has been suggested. There does not seem to be a good answer, since as Andy Mason says, Red-tails are long-lived birds not given to sudden population swings.

In Chenango County in the Town of Plymouth three adult Sandhill Cranes were photographed in the beautiful October fields. No colts were seen. Scoping on shorebirds, many observed a Baird's Sandpiper in early September on the Susquehanna River in Johnson City. American Golden-Plovers were found in a few different locations in the Region in September and October.

A White-eyed Vireo was seen in the Binghamton University Nature Preserve on 6 October. It now seems as though we find one each fall. Warbler diversity continued to be good, with 29 species recorded. For the three preceding years, the total number of species was 27. There were two Connecticut Warblers seen in the Region, one in mid-September and the other in early October. Also in late September, 20 Tennessee Warblers were seen in Upper Lisle Park in Broome County.

On 12 November a seasonal maximum of 25 American Tree Sparrows was seen at Upper Lisle Park. A Clay-colored Sparrow was discovered on 3 September at Underwood Hill in Cortland County. A flock of 11 Rusty Blackbirds was reported from the Carantouan Greenway in Tioga County on 19 November, and there were seven other scattered reports of this declining species. There were 16 reports of Pine Siskins, some with as many as 85 birds. So far this does appear to be an irruption year. There were also a few sightings of Red Crossbills in various locations throughout the Region.

In summary, 214 species, compared with 213 last year, were reported, with some interesting rarities for the Region. I also want to acknowledge and thank Bill Ostrander who sorted eBird data to identify arrivals, last dates, and high counts.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**AqPk** – Aquaterra P, BROO; **BoPd** – Boland Pd, BROO; **BUNP** – Binghamton University Nature Preserve, BROO; **CanL** – Canadarago L, OTSE; **CannR** – Cannonsville Res, DELA; **ChenL** – Chenango L, CHEN; **DorP** – Dorchester P, BROO; **FMHW** – Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch, DELA; **GrwP** – Greenwood CP, BROO; **LHNC** – Lime Hollow Nature Center, CORT; **LPSF** – Long Pd SF, CHEN; **MHL** – Michigan Hollow L, TIOG; **OtsL** – Otsego L, OTSE; **PepR** – Pepacton Res, OTSE; **SkaL** – Skaneateles L, CORT; **SusR** – Susquehanna R, BROO; **UL** – Upper Lisle, BROO.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** max 18 Stoller Hill Rd OTSE 28 Sep.

**Greater White-fronted Goose (R4):**

Plymouth Res CHEN 9 Nov (CM); DorP 24-29 Nov (JW, ph, mob).

**Brant:** max 60 Ceresna Rd DELA 12 Oct.

**Redhead:** max 5 Allen L OTSE 21 Nov.

**Surf Scoter:** max 4 PepR DELA 4-5 Nov.

**White-winged Scoter:** max 5 DorP 30 Sep.

**Black Scoter:** 2 ChenL 30 Oct; 2 DorP 4 Nov; 2 LPSF 13 Nov; 2 SusR 27-28 Nov.

**Long-tailed Duck:** max 4 CannR 4 Nov; max 4 DorP 17 Nov.

**Com. Goldeneye:** max 47 Glimmerglass SP OTSE 25 Nov.

**Ruddy Duck:** max 40 UL 10 Oct.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 6 DorP 10 Oct.

**Red-throated Loon:** OtsL 25 Oct; PepR 12 Nov; ChenL 14 Nov.

**Com. Loon:** max 7 PepR 4 Nov.

**Red-necked Grebe:** DorP 10 Oct; Nathaniel Cole P BROO 15 Nov; DorP 15 Nov.

**WOOD STORK:** East Meredith DELA 2 Oct (DA, ph).

**Great Egret:** max 11 William Hill P Broo 6 Sep; last Cincinnatus L CHEN 29 Nov (MD, ph)

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Marshall Andrews P CHEN 14 Nov (RB, ph).

**Black Vulture:** total 6 FMHW, in the previous 28 years only 2 were counted.

**Turkey Vulture:** total 884 FMHW, 112% above avg.

### HAWKS – LARIDS

(FMHW totals cover 26 Aug to 7 Jan; averages reflect 2001-2016 data, *intro*).

**Osprey:** total 64 FMHW, 45% below avg.

**Bald Eagle:** total 214 FMHW, 30% above avg; many other rep; very widespread.

**N. Harrier:** total 23 FMHW, 65% below avg.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** total 332 FMHW, 36% below avg.

**Cooper's Hawk:** total 40 FMHW, 59% below avg.

**N. Goshawk:** total 9 FMHW, 55% below avg.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** total 22 FMHW, 58% below avg.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** total 1159 FMHW, 22% below avg.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** total 739 FMHW, 61% below avg; many other rep.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** total 2 FMHW, 74% below avg.

**Golden Eagle:** total 214 FMHW, 24% above avg.

**Virginia Rail:** BUNP 7 Oct, only report.

**Sora:** Lockheed Martin Pd TIOG 22 Sep, only report.

**Com. Gallinule:** max 5 Sherburne Railroad Marsh CHEN 17 Sep; last BoPd 28 Oct.

**Am. Coot:** max 87 OtsL 25 Nov.

**Sandhill Crane:** 3 Doing Rd CHEN 2-30 Oct.

**Am. Golden-Plover:** 1 to 2 Town of Coventry CHEN 8-19 Sep; 2 DorP 31 Oct; SusR 2-6 Sep; Chenango R Binghamton BROO 1-3 Oct.

**Sanderling:** 2 DorP 9 Sep.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** SusR BROO 2-6 Sep, ph, mob.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 45 DorP 1 Nov.

**Laughing Gull:** CannR 16 Sep (LV).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 3 UL 10 Oct.

**Greater Black-backed Gull:** Cortland CORT 29-30 Oct; Goodale L Cort 30 Nov.

**Black Tern:** UL 7 Sep.

### PIGEONS – PARROTS

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** DELA 25 Nov.

**Com. Nighthawk:** max 36 SusR 9 Sep, 16 other scattered rep.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** last DELA 26 Sep.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Taylor Valley SF CORT 16 Sep; Scott CORT 10 Oct.

**Am. Kestrel:** total 84 FMHW, 12% below avg.  
**Merlin:** total 40 FMHW, 58% above avg.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** total 15 FMHW, 7% below avg; many rep from Binghamton BROO of resident downtown pair.

#### **FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS**

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Downsville DELA 3-4 Sep.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 14 scattered rep most from early Sep.  
**N. Shrike:** 2 MHL 24 Nov; Nanticoke L BROO 31 Oct; only reports.  
**White-eyed Vireo:** BUNP 6 Oct, only report.  
**Horned Lark:** max 25 Moran Rd CHEN 27 Nov.  
**Marsh Wren:** max 4 Sherburne Railroad Marsh CHEN 22 Sep.  
**Veery:** last UL15 Sep.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** last LHNC 12 Oct.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** last UL 1 Oct.

#### **LONGSPURS – WEAVERS**

**Snow Bunting:** max 7 DorP 8 Nov.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** max 20 UL 29 Sep (DN).  
**Connecticut Warbler:** Downsville DELA 11 Sep (LV); Brick Pd TIOG 1 Oct (ST LK).  
**Mourning Warbler:** 4 scattered rep. in Sep.  
**Hooded Warbler:** McGraw CORT 3 Sep, only report.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** max 25 UL 12 Nov.  
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** Underwood Hill CORT 3 Sep.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** Oquaga Creek SP 19 Oct.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** max 11 Carantouan Greenway TIOG 19 Nov.  
**Red Crossbill:** max 4 Perkins Pond SF CHEN 14 Oct; max 4 Morgan Hill SF CORT 21 Oct; 3 AqPk 28 Nov.  
**Pine Siskin:** max 85 Tubbs Hill Rd TIOG 20 Nov; 80 N Griffin Rd CHEN 19 Nov; 14 other scattered reports.

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## **REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN**

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The fall season had a warm and dry beginning. In Syracuse the mean temperature for September was 64.5°F, 2.5° higher than normal. A high temperature of 91° was recorded on 27 September. Precipitation for the month barely exceeded 1.5", which is 2.3" lower than average. The mercury continued to surge (a relative term) in October. The average temperature for the month was 57°, 6.4° above normal. Rainfall in October amounted to 6.09", fully 2.65" above average. The highest winds for the entire period occurred on 15 October. On that day sustained winds out of the west reached 45 MPH and peak gust speeds were recorded at 54 MPH. The season's warming trend ended in November, with a mean temperature in Syracuse of 38°, 2.6° below average. Rainfall amounted to 3.65", which is slightly above normal. 5.2" of snow fell in November, which is 4.3" less than average for Syracuse.

A lack of strong fronts pushing into the Region for the better part of the

season contributed to low overall counts of most migrants. This seemed especially true in the September through mid-October time frame. The season's winds seemed to offer little assistance to migrating raptors. In late October and early November, low pressure and cold fronts responsible for dumping nearly a season's worth of rain finally ushered waterfowl by Derby Hill, including good numbers of all three scoter species.

Migrating Snow Geese began showing up in the Region in the last week of November, while the Brant flight peaked in mid-October. On Halloween, Gary Meyers observed seven Cackling Geese on Woodman Pond in Madison County. Our best counts of Tundra Swans came from northwestern Oneida Lake. 412 were reported from Constantia on 19 November. Generally, duck numbers were low this period, but a tally of 215 Wood Ducks at Delta Lake on the first day of October is respectable. Dabbling duck numbers were mixed. Continuing a lamentable trend of recent years, tallies of migrant Blue-winged Teal were very low. American Wigeon numbers were fairly high, with a maximum of 150 reported from the eastern part of Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (Cayuga County) and Fair Haven. Those observations occurred on 1 November and 28 October, respectively. 128 Northern Pintail were counted at Fair Haven on 1 November and 113 were counted at Derby Hill a couple days before. Diving duck numbers were down with few exceptions. Canvasbacks were completely missed, while Ring-necked Duck numbers peaked in mid-October. Best numbers for that species, 345 and 260, occurred in mid-November on a few small lakes in Madison County. Three **King Eider** flew past Derby Hill on 19 November. On 30 October, 40 MPH west winds facilitated a good flight of bay ducks over Derby Hill. The flight included 52 Surf Scoters, 157 White-winged Scoters, 195 Black Scoters, and 290 Long-tailed Ducks. Numbers of Hooded Mergansers were high on some of the Region's small lakes. 100 were tallied at Beaver Lake Nature Center on 21 November and 77 on Otisco Lake on 25 November. A maximum of 400 Red-breasted Mergansers was seen at Oswego Harbor on 25 November.

Wild Turkey numbers continue to be low, but perhaps the season's bountiful mast will lead to greater winter survival rates and set the species up for a more successful breeding season in 2018. Drew Weber counted 68 Common Loons over Derby Hill on 6 November. According to Gary Lee, three Common Loons tempted fate by remaining on Big Moose Lake in the Adirondacks right through the end of the period. A maximum number of 37 Horned Grebes was counted at Derby Hill on 4 November. On 16 September, a team competing in the Muckrace at MNWR found two Least Bitterns at Howland Island. That species is often missed in the fall. Single **Cattle Egrets** were found three places in the Region. Gregg Dashnau's watch at the Three Rivers confluence found a bird flying the corridor on 25 and 27 November. Other sightings included one in Madison County and another at an unlikely spot in Brewerton. At the Onondaga Lake Creekwalk Deborah Dohne kept tabs on what turned out to be a record late Green Heron. Dohne meticulously documented the bird's behavior from 24

October to the last sighting on 23 November. The bird survived 15 nights below freezing and a low of 16°F. She also noted its interactions with a group of Black-crowned Night-Herons and a gray fox. On 27 October, a second Green Heron was seen. The species has little desire to linger beyond mid-October, but exceptionally mild weather in the first three weeks of October was likely a factor. On 31 October, Dohne found a total of seven Black-crowned Night-Herons at the same location. Five Black-crowned Night-Herons were reported at Howland Island on 15 September.

Amid overcast skies, light rain, and winds out of the northeast, 454 Turkey Vultures migrated over the Bishop Road hawkwatch on 11 October. The last Osprey of the season occurred at Woodman Pond in Madison County on 9 November, which is late for the species. Although sightings were widespread, high counts of the two common accipiter species were low. A maximum of 10 Sharp-shinned Hawks was counted at Bishop on 11 October, and there was only a single report of Northern Goshawk for the period. On 9 September, winds out of the north, coupled with an eastward breeze off Lake Ontario compelled Bill Purcell to neglect his Bishop Road site in favor of his own Hastings property (well inland from Lake Ontario). There he was rewarded with a decent fall raptor flight that featured (among other species) six Bald Eagles, six Osprey, and 129 Broad-winged Hawks. Rough-legged Hawks arrived on 11 October and were reported from a total of six locations.

Virginia Rails were found at three sites. The last straggler was seen at the Clay Marsh on 19 October. The season's only Sora was photographed by Deborah Dohne while kayaking at Onondaga Lake on 14 September at an unusual location not accessible on foot. At the same site, a runner-up high count of 34 American Coots was observed on 5 November. Migrant shorebirds were unremarkable in terms of diversity and number. The last Black-bellied Plover of the season was observed at Fair Haven on 7 November. On 5 September, a maximum of nine American Golden Plovers was counted at the traditional stopover site at the Sky High Turf Farm, north of Chittenango. Greg Dashnau found one Purple Sandpiper at Fair Haven on 20 October. The species is expected annually there, although the arrival date is very early. The Purple Sandpiper continued for nine days, perhaps aware it need be in no hurry. The last Wilson's Snipe was reported from Woodman Pond on 28 November. Two Red Phalaropes flew past Derby Hill on 30 October and another on 10 November. Bill Purcell observed three Black-legged Kittiwakes at Derby Hill on 19 November. All of the expected gull species occurred in low or otherwise unremarkable numbers. Fair Haven produced a Little Gull for David Wheeler and Deborah Dohne on 28 October. A distant jaeger was seen by Wheeler at both Fair Haven and Oswego Harbor. A dark-mantled hooded gull was seen poorly after passing Derby Hill. The observers could not be sure if it was Laughing or Franklin's.

Reports of the Region's common owl species were widespread and relatively numerous. The first Snowy Owl arrived at Oswego Harbor on 21

November. Additional reports of the species came from four other locations. Two ended up with local wildlife rehabilitators after being involved in vehicle impacts. The season's first Short-eared Owl was struck by a car in North Syracuse on 17 October. A month later, on 17 November, two were reported from Three Rivers WMA. One Short-eared Owl continued at that location until at least 23 November. The only Northern Saw-whet Owl report came from Redfield on 12 November and involved yet another victim of vehicle impact. On 13 September, Maryanne Adams observed 91 Chimney Swifts entering their roost in a large chimney in Weedsport. This was fully ten days after the last swift was reported by anyone else in the Region. On 4 September, Wayne Fidler counted 45 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds as they migrated along the Sandy Pond south spit shoreline.

There were widespread reports of single Merlins. Two were observed in Brewerton on 10 September and two at Fair Haven on 6 October. Peregrine Falcons were seen at a dozen locations including Utica and Syracuse, where there continue to be territorial pairs. The Utica pair was observed defending their territory from interloping Peregrines on several occasions. Reports of Olive-sided Flycatchers came from seven locations. A high count of three was found at Sandy Pond on 1 September, and they were an easy find at Oakwood Cemetery in Syracuse. The last Eastern Wood-Pewee was found in Hastings on 20 October, a record late date for the Region. Northern Shrike arrived on 22 November, and there was a total of eight reports of singles. Numbers of Warbling Vireo reports were generally down, with only a handful of them from areas east of Oneida Lake. However, reports of Philadelphia Vireos were up. The last Philadelphia Vireo was reported by Joe Brin at Beaver Lake Nature Center on the very late date of 27 October. The bird was heard singing, likely another individual that saw no need to move on during October's "second summer". One Gray Jay was reported on 23 September in the vicinity of Old Forge in the Adirondacks. Mickey Scilingo observed migrating Blue Jays from his property on the north shore of Oneida Lake at Constantia. He counted 184 on 26 September and 427 on 29 September. Overall, the number of migrant Blue Jays at Constantia and other areas fell well short of the previous year's amazing totals. Undoubtedly there is a correlation between the number of migrant jays and the amount of mast available in forests this season.

There were relatively few reports of Horned Larks this period, although a good tally of 140 was counted at the Bishop Road Hawk Watch on 5 November. Several successive days of southeast winds at the end of October created favorable conditions for the occurrence of Cave Swallows along the Lake Ontario shoreline. Ultimately, a few were observed at Fair Haven on 1 November and 7 November. On 23 September, three Boreal Chickadees were reported in the vicinity of Old Forge, where they are expected. Reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches mainly emanated from the species' known year-round territories. No appreciable migration or irruption was detected. A late Marsh Wren was observed at Selkirk Shores State Park on 12 November. Maryanne



Adams obtained great photos of a **Sedge Wren** that visited her Cato property on 15 September, but there were no subsequent reports of the rarity. A pre-dawn visit to Oneida Shores County Park in Brewerton on 9 September yielded a fallout of thrush species. In less than 15 minutes, Tom Auer, Ian Davies and Sarah Dzielski identified the twilight descent calls of 17 Veerys, four Gray-cheeked Thrushes, and 195 Swainson's Thrushes. A maximum number of 25 Gray-cheeked Thrushes was identified by their nocturnal flight calls at Howland Island on 16 September.

The first Lapland Longspur report came from Fair Haven on 4 November. There was only one other report of the species. The general consensus among birders was that warbler migration was disappointing. High counts for most species occurred in mid-September, which is the traditional time for peak movement. Generally though, most species were found in low numbers. Tennessee Warblers again defied the trend and were found in good numbers in several locations. Orange-crowned Warblers were reported in a total of five locations. The last one was seen at Three Rivers WMA on 21 October. In Dolgeville, on 25 September, a **Connecticut Warbler** was observed by Larry Hall as it skulked in the brambles near a feeding station. The rarity was well described. Cape May Warblers were found with more frequency this season. The last one was reported on 2 November, which is fairly late. Bay-breasted Warblers were also relatively well represented during the period. However, there were surprisingly few reports of Blackburnian Warblers. In fact, the maximum daily counts of that species didn't surpass two. That was also the case with Black-throated Blue Warblers. By contrast, Palm Warblers were fairly numerous. On 8 October, 15 Palm Warblers were found at Three Rivers WMA. There was only a single report of Canada Warbler this period.

Sparrow migration was also slow and disorganized. There were very few reports of Fox Sparrows. In stark contrast to relatively imperceptible sparrow migration, blackbird migration was staggering for some observers. Blackbirds concentrated in some areas and grew into flocks of vast proportions. 17,300 Red-winged Blackbirds were tallied at the Bishop Road Hawk Watch on 4 November. On the same date a more astounding estimate of 355,000 Common Grackles were observed and videotaped by Deborah Dohne at the Onondaga Lake Creekwalk. Dohne wrote, "This was a massive river of birds that took eight minutes to pass." She analyzed still pictures and video to arrive at her estimated total. On 2 November at Constantia, Mickey Scilingo estimated the size of a mixed flock of blackbirds to contain 250,000 individuals.

Given the fact that our Region is jam-packed with finch food, primarily in the form of spruce cones and birch seeds, it came as a great disappointment not to have winter finches taking advantage of the bounty. There were only a handful of crossbills reported. Pine Siskins were encountered in some numbers, but there were no sightings of redpolls. The only report of Evening Grosbeaks came from Old Forge in the Adirondacks, where the species has been a yearlong resident. Through much of the fall period the editors of this report fielded

questions from a great number of birders regarding the lack of songbirds visiting bird feeding stations. This is a perennial question and the standard answer is that birds are not coming to feeders because they prefer feeding on abundant wild food supplies. That answer is problematic since those of us who were spending a lot of time in the woods, meadows, and wetlands weren't seeing the birds either. Perhaps there was another reason for the birds' absence, or maybe there were multiple reasons. In November, when temperatures dropped and snow covered the ground, some birds did return to feeders, but it amounted to only a fraction of the normal clientele. At Spring Farm Nature Preserve in Kirkland, Matt Perry tried calling birds in with recorded bird song in the vicinity of three different inner-woods feeding stations. At two of the stations, following 20 minutes of playing the calls, winter foraging flocks including a familiar complement of feeder birds made brief visits to the feeders. About half of the species fed before disappearing back into the forest. Although the results of the test couldn't be considered definitive due to the small scale of the experiment, they support the conventional wisdom that songbirds are being satiated by mast and have little need to visit feeding stations.

A total of 238 species and three hybrids was reported for the season, which is two more than the recent 10-year average of 236. Highlights included: Greater White-fronted Goose, King Eider, **Cattle Egret**, Golden Eagle, Red Phalarope, Parasitic Jaeger, Black-legged Kittiwake, Little Gull, Snowy Owl, Short-eared Owl, Gray Jay, **Cave Swallow**, Boreal Chickadee, **Sedge Wren**, Orange-crowned Warbler, and **Connecticut Warbler**.

Swan Hummingbird v4.02 was used to process 35,268 eBird records from 242 contributors.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**Adks** – Adirondacks (n. HERK); **BLNC** – Beaver Lake 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; **Dolge** – Dolgeville, HERK; **FH** – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; **GB** – Great Bear Rec Area, Fulton; **GLSP** – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; **Hast** – Hastings; **HI** – Howland I WMA; **MNWR** east – Montezuma NWR, CAYU; **OF** – Old Forge, HERK; **OLC** – Onondaga L Creekwalk; **OneiL** – Oneida L; **OnonL** – Onondaga L; **OSP** – Oneida Shores P, Brewerton; **OswH** – Oswego Harbor; **SFNS** – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; **SH** – Southern Highlands of ONON & MADI; **SHTF** – Sky High Turf Farm, Chittenango, MADI; **Skani** – Skaneateles; **SSSP** – Selkirk Shores SP; **SVB** – Sylvan & Verona Beach; **Syr** – Syracuse; **TR** – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; **UM** – Utica Marsh; **VBSP** – Verona Beach SP; **WP** – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

#### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** WP 15 Oct (GM), only report.

**Snow Goose:** arr 4 Phoenix 8 Oct; arr 8 OswH 21 Nov; max 80 Tully 27 Nov; small numbers early in season likely summered nearby.

**Brant:** arr 16 WP 8 Oct; max 1400 DH 16 Oct; 326 FH 16 Oct; last 3 OswH 22 Nov.

**Cackling Goose:** arr WP 8 Oct; max 7 WP 31 Oct; 2 BLNC 31 Oct – 11 Nov.

**Canada Goose:** max 5000 Conquest, CAYU 11 Nov.

**Snow Goose X Canada Goose:** BLNC 1 – 6 Nov (GD).

**Mute Swan:** max 63 FH 14 Nov.

**Trumpeter Swan:** 6 Mallory 25 Oct; max 8 FH 11 Nov.

**Tundra Swan:** arr WP 3 Nov; max 412 Const 19 Nov; best numbers from northwest OneiL.

**Wood Duck:** 35 WP 28 Sep – 14 Oct; max 215 DL 1 Oct.

**Gadwall:** arr Brewerton 10 Sep; 8 OnonL 15 Oct; 8 FH 1 Nov; max 49 SP 30 Nov.

**Am. Wigeon:** max 150 MNWR east 28 Oct & 150 FH 1 Nov.

**Am. Black Duck:** 29 WP 15 Oct; max 48 DH 16 Oct.

**Mallard:** 244 Brewerton 10 Sep; max 249 WP 28 Nov.

**Am. Wigeon X Mallard:** TR 14 Sep (GD).

**Blue-winged Teal:** max 10 Little Falls 16 Sep; 8 HI 16 – 23 Sep; last 8 WP 17 Oct.

**N. Shoveler:** 9 DL 1 Oct; max 13 MNWR east 28 Oct; 12 UM 1 Nov.

**N. Pintail:** arr Central Square 8 Sep; 113 DH 30 Oct; max 128 FH 1 Nov.

**Green-winged Teal:** max 32 FH 10 Oct; 26 WP 12 – 26 Oct.

**Canvasback:** no reports.

**Redhead:** arr SP 11 Sep; 12 OneiL 15 Nov; max 19 Cazenovia 20 Nov; relatively few reports.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 345 West Eaton 15

Nov; 260 WP 19 Nov; best numbers from MADI.

**Greater Scaup:** 13 DL 3 Oct; 19 FH 1 Nov; max 22 SP 12 Nov.

**Lesser Scaup:** arr 2 DL 1 Oct; 78 DH 30 Oct; max 115 12 Nov.

**King Eider:** 3 DH 19 Nov (BP), only report.

**Surf Scoter:** arr 2 OswH 9 Oct; max 52 DH 30 Oct.

**White-winged Scoter:** arr 46 DH 16 Oct; max 157 DH 30 Oct; 38 FH 11 Nov.

**Black Scoter:** arr 2 DH 16 Oct; 195 DH 30 Oct; max 233 SSSP 1 Nov.

**Long-tailed Duck:** arr FH 28 Oct; max 300 DH 6 Nov; 130 SSSP 12 Nov.

**Bufflehead:** arr 2 Oswego 20 Oct; 30 SP 4 Nov; max 80 FH 2 Nov; 60 Erieville 15 Nov.

**Com. Goldeneye:** arr 14 DH 30 Oct; 20 Otisco Lake 13 Nov; max 50 West Eaton 25 Nov.

**Hooded Merganser:** 63 DeRuyter 14 Nov; max 100 BLNC 21 Nov; 77 Otisco Lake 25 Nov.

**Com. Merganser:** 230 SVB 15 Oct; max 320 West Eaton 30 Nov.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** arr 7 DH 16 Oct; 350 DH 11 Nov; max 400 OswH 25 Nov.

**Ruddy Duck:** arr WP 11 Sep; max 39 BLNC 7 Oct; 31 WP 22 Oct.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** max 4 Tully 23 – 29 Sep & 4 HI 17 Nov; reports of mostly singles from 10 locations.

**Ruffed Grouse:** max 7 SH 23 Sep; 2 SFNS 17 Oct; 2 Fairfield 5 Nov; 2 Hast 25 Nov.

**Wild Turkey:** 15 Richland 2 Sep; max 27 SH 30 Sep – 6 Oct.

**Red-throated Loon:** arr FH 28 Oct; 2 DH 6 Nov; max 4 FH 14 Nov; 2 OswH 25 Nov.

**Com. Loon:** max 68 DH 6 Nov (DWe), good number; 15 OswH 7 Nov; 19 FH 14 Nov.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** 9 SSSP 14 Sep; 10 FH 10 Oct; max 21 DeRuyter 11 Nov; 9 Cazenovia 20 Nov.

**Horned Grebe:** max 37 DH 4 Nov; 21 FH 14

Nov.

**Red-necked Grebe:** arr DL 3 Oct; max 2 FH 7 Nov; individuals at 3 other locs.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 430 OswH 5 Sep; 425 Lysander 30 Sep.

**Least Bittern:** 2 HI 16 Sep, only report.

**Great Blue Heron:** max 26 Lysander 30 Sep.

**Great Egret:** 11 OnonL 6 Sep; max 20 HI 16 Sep; 8 Hamilton 21 Sep; last OnonL 12 Nov, late.

**Cattle Egret:** TR 25, 27 Oct (GD); Poolville, MADI 3 Nov (EAS); Brewerton 4 Nov (DA).

**Green Heron:** max 25 Volney 1 Sep; 6 DeWitt 2 Sep; 4 UM 10 – 12 Sep; 2 OnonL 27 Oct, late; last OnonL 24 Oct - 23 Nov (DD), *intro*, rec late for Reg.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 5 HI 15 Sep; max 7 OnonL 31 Oct (DD); only 2 locs.

### HAWKS - LARIDS

**Turkey Vulture:** 63 DH 16 Oct; 52 Phoenix 17 Oct; 63 DH 3 Nov; max 454 BRH 11 Oct.

**Osprey:** max 6 Hast 9 Sep; last WP 9 Nov.

**Bald Eagle:** 7 DH 2 Sep; 7 SP 5 Sep; 7 MNWR east 30 Sep; 7 DH 16 Oct; Bville 3 Nov (JS), rehab case, tangled in fishing line; max 8 BRH 4 Nov.

**N. Harrier:** 2 UM 12 Sep; 2 TR 22 Oct; 2 SFNS 28 Oct; max 5 BRH 4 Nov.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 3 Hast 9 Sep; max 10 BRH 11 Oct; 3 DH 28 Oct.

**Cooper's Hawk:** 4 Const 29 Sep; max 6 BRH 11 Oct.

**N. Goshawk:** DH 28 Oct, only report.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** singles at 7 locs.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** max 129 Hast 9 Sep; 12 Syr 9 Sep; last Dolgeville 28 Sep.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 49 BRH 4 Nov; 7 DH 9 Nov.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** arr BRH 11 Oct; max 4 BRH 4 Nov; 5 other locs.

**Golden Eagle:** arr Hinckley Reservoir 26 Oct; WP 4 Nov; South Columbia, HERK 23 Nov; Lysander 28 Nov; only reports.

**Virginia Rail:** 2 Madison 15 Sep; max 3 HI 16 Sep; Madison 19 Sep; last CM 19 Oct.

**Sora:** OnonL 14 Sep, unusual loc (DD), only report.

**Com. Gallinule:** max 9 Madison 9 Sep; 8 Volney 12 Sep; 5 HI 16 Sep; last OnonL 15 Oct.

**Am. Coot:** max 40 MNWR east 28 Oct; 34 OnonL 5 Nov; 24 Skan 13 Nov.

**Sandhill Crane:** max 5 Conquest 10 Sep; last 2 DH 9 Nov; reports from 3 other locs.

**Black-bellied Plover:** max 3 SHTF 5 – 30 Sep;

2 SP 5 Sep; last FH 7 Nov.

**Am. Golden-Plover:** max 9 SHTF 5 Sep; last 3 DL 1 Oct.

**Semipalmated Plover:** max 9 SP 1 Sep; 8 SHTF 4 Sep; 8 OnonL 11 Sep; last OSP 29 Sep.

**Killdeer:** 50 SHTF 3 Sep; max 86 OnonL 15 Oct; last SP 12 Nov.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** 2 SP 1 Sep; 2 Oswego 6 Sep; 2 OnonL 10 – 14 Sep; last OF 22 Sep.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** 2 Madison 11 – 24 Sep; 2 Amboy 12 Sep; 2 OLC 27 Sep; last 2 OLC 27 Sep.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** 6 Madison 19 Sep; 6 OnonL 14 – 21 Oct; max & last 9 Port Byron 6 Nov.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 17 Madison 8 Sep; 7 Port Byron 4 Nov; last 4 Port Byron 6 Nov.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** OswH 3 – 4 Sep; SVB 14 Sep; OswH 14 – 16 Sep; only reports.

**Red Knot:** 2 SP 4 Sep, only report.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** SP 1 Sep, only report.

**Sanderling:** max 40 SP 5 Sep; 18 DL 3 Oct; 23 FH 1 Nov; last 2 FH 7 Nov.

**Dunlin:** 18 Port Byron 6 Nov; max 75 FH 31 Oct; last 2 FH 11 Nov.

**Purple Sandpiper:** FH 20 Oct – 29 Oct (GD), early.

**Least Sandpiper:** 7 SP 1 Sep; 8 Jamesville 4 Sep; max 9 Madison 14 Sep.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 2 Madison 14 – 15 Sep; last Conquest 11 Nov.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 11 DL 1 Oct; max 13 OnonL 22 Oct; last 2 Port Byron 6 Nov.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 5 SP 1 Sep; max 18 OnonL 11 Sep; 5 Madison 14 Sep; last 2 Madison 19 Sep.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** SP 2 Sep; Jamesville 7 Sep; only reports.

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** 5 MNWR east 28 Oct (AN), only report.

**Wilson's Snipe:** max 6 HI 16 Sep & 6 TR 7 Oct; last WP 28 Nov.

**Am. Woodcock:** 3 HI 16 Sep; 3 TR 7 Oct; max 4 TR 3 – 25 Oct; 3 Tully 21 Oct.

**Red Phalarope:** max 2 DH 30 Oct; last DH 10 Nov; only reports.

**Red-necked Phalarope/Red Phalarope:** DH 30 Oct.

**Parasitic Jaeger:** arr OswH 9 Oct (DW); FH 20 Oct (MG); max 4 DH 30 Oct.

**jaeger species:** FH 3 Sep (DW); OswH 4 Sep (DW); FH 20 Oct (GD); OswH 20 Oct (GD).

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** DH 30 Oct; max 3 DH 19 Nov (BP); only reports.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 250 SVB 14 Sep; 161 OLC 16 Oct; last 3 Cleveland 29 Nov.

**Little Gull:** FH 28 Oct (DW, DD, TS); FH 2 Nov (DD); DH 10 Nov (BP, KM, DA).  
**LAUGHING GULL/FRANKLIN'S GULL:** DH 6 Nov (DWe).  
**Ring-billed Gull:** max 5200 DH 10 Nov; 1500 OLC 12 Nov.  
**Herring Gull:** 140 OswH 9 Oct; max 789 DH 19 Nov.  
**Iceland Gull:** arr FH 11 Nov; DH 19 Nov; OswH 22 Nov.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** SP 12 Nov, only report.  
**Glaucous Gull:** Phoenix 8 Nov; OswH 10 Nov; FH 24 Nov.  
**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 43 SVB 10 Sep; 20 OswH 9 Oct.  
**Caspian Tern:** 32 SP 1 – 4 Sep; max 65 SVB 10 Sep; last 2 FH 17 Oct.  
**Com. Tern:** 8 OSP 10 Sep; max 150 SVB 14 Sep; last 27 SVB 15 Oct.  
**Com. Tern/Forster's Tern:** 2 Bridgeport 23 Sep.

#### PIGEONS - PARROTS

**Rock Pigeon:** 150 OswH 28 Sep; 160 Phoenix 1 Nov; max 328 n Syr 28 Nov.  
**Mourning Dove:** 74 OnonL 17 Sep; max 77 Dolge 22 Nov.  
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Mexico 11 Sep (JS), vehicle impact; last 2 HI 16 Sept & 2 Hamilton 16 Sep; only reports.  
**Black-billed Cuckoo:** max 2 Hast 7 Sep; HI 16 Sep; last Erieville 17 Sep.  
**E. Screech-Owl:** 2 HI 15 Sep; 2 Manlius 20 Sep – 17 Nov; 2 Waterville 24 Oct.  
**Great Horned Owl:** 2 Manlius 7 – 16 Sep; 2 Fayetteville 24 Sep; 2 Waterville 22 Oct – 9 Nov.  
**Snowy Owl:** OswH 21 Nov; FH 24 Nov; Utica 25 Nov; Parrish 25 Nov (JS), vehicle impact; OLC 26 Nov; only reports.  
**Barred Owl:** 3 Mexico 13 Sep; 3 HI 16 Sep; max 5 OF 23 Sep; 3 Tully 21 Oct.  
**Short-eared Owl:** n Syr 17 Nov (JS), vehicle impact; 2 TR 17 Nov.  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** Redfield 12 Nov (DS), vehicle impact, only report.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** max 12 SSSP 2 Sep; 7 BRH 2 Sep; 10 TR 3 Sep; 5 WP 3 Sep; last TR 15 Sep.  
**Chimney Swift:** max 3 Syr 1 Sep; SP 1 Sep; last WP 3 Sep. last & max 91 Weedsport 13 Sep (MA), entering roost.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 8 Stillwater Reservoir 2 Sep; max 45 SP 4 Sep (WF), good number; 6 SFNS 8 Sep; last Bridgeport 23 Sep.

**Belted Kingfisher:** 6 SP 24 Sep; max 9 HI 30 Sep; 5 DL 3 Oct.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Noyes Sanctuary 15 Sep, only report.  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** max 6 SFNS 7 Sep & 6 OSP 10 Sep & 6 Syr 24 Sep.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 3 VBSP 10 Sep; 3 Hamilton 23 Sep; 3 TR 24 Sep – 3 Oct; max 4 TR 13 Oct.  
**Downy Woodpecker:** 10 SFNS 2 – 15 Sep; max 11 OSP 10 Sep.  
**Hairy Woodpecker:** max 4 SFNS 7 – 15 Sep & 4 Dolge 11 Sep – 12 Nov & 4 HI 23 Sep.  
**N. Flicker:** 8 SH 6 Sep; 9 TR 23 Sep; 10 TR 24 – 26 Sep; max 11 CM 1 Nov.  
**Pileated Woodpecker:** 4 OSP 10 Sep; 4 OF 23 Sep; max FH 28 Nov.  
**Am. Kestrel:** 3 SHTF 5 – 10 Sep; 3 Hast 9 Sep; 3 SH 7 Sep; max 9 Deerfield 14 Sep.  
**Merlin:** 2 OSP 10 Sep; 2 FH 6 Oct; widespread reports of singles.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** resident pr in Utica thru; max 3 Syr 2 Oct; singles from 10 locs.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** max 3 SP 1 Sep (WF); 1-2 Syr 1-10 Sep (DD); 2 SFNS 4 Sep (MP); last Hamilton 12 Sep (GM).  
**E. Wood-Pewee:** 7 GLSP 9 Sep; max 10 Syr 10 Sep; last Hastings 20 Oct (BP), rec late for Reg.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Jamesville 6 Sep; OSP 10 Sep; TR 12 Sep; Dolge 13 Sep; last Tully 2 Oct.  
**Willow Flycatcher:** Hast 4 Sep; last TR 7 Sep.  
**Alder/Willow Flycatcher:** 2 TR 1 Sep; 2 HI 16 Sep; last GB 18 Sep.  
**Least Flycatcher:** max 3 SP 2 Sep & 3 SH 8 Sep & 3 SFNS 8 Sep; last 2 Hamilton 23 Sep.  
**Empidonax species:** max 8 SP 2 Sep.  
**E. Phoebe:** max 9 SP 2 Sep; 6 WP 6 Sep; 6 UM 10 Sep; last OLC 1 Nov.  
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** 2 UM 10 – 12 Sep; last 2 FH 15 Sep.  
**E. Kingbird:** 2 SP 4 Sep; last DH 13 Sep.  
**N. Shrike:** arr SH 22 Nov; 7 other reports of singles.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** 2 SSSP 9 Sep; 2 Const 10 Sep; max 3 HI 16 Sep; last Const 27 Sep.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** max 4 OF 24 Sep & 4 Bridgeport 24 Sep; last Dolge 24 Oct.  
**Warbling Vireo:** 5 FH 2 Sep; max 7 SP 2 Sep & 7 OLC 17 Sep; last TR 25 Sep.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** 2 DH 8 – 9 Sep; 2 OSP 10 Sep; 2 TR 15 Sep; 2 HI 16 Sep; last BLNC 27 Oct (JB), late.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** 11 SP 2 Sep; max 24 Brewton 10 Sep; last SH & OLC 5 Oct.

**Gray Jay:** OF 23 Sep (CW).

**Blue Jay:** 184 Const 26 Sep; max 427 Const 29 Sep; 36 TR 1 Oct.

**Am. Crow:** 3920 BRH 4 Nov; max 10000 Utica 12 Nov (DM); 2515 Syr 28 Nov.

**Fish Crow:** 3 WP 26 Oct; max 8 Syr 21 Nov; singles and small numbers at expected locs.

**Com. Raven:** 8 DH 16 Oct; max 14 Grant, HERK 19 Nov; 6 OF 29 Nov; widespread reports.

**Horned Lark:** 17 SHTF 6 Sep; max 140 BRH 5 Nov; 28 Paris 27 Nov; relatively few reports.

**Purple Martin:** max 19 TR 7 Sep; last 2 HI 16 Sep.

**Tree Swallow:** max 850 HI 8 Oct; 28 BRH 11 Oct; 75 FH 1 Nov; last 6 FH 7 Nov.

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** 2 WP 3 Sep; max & last 25 HI 16 Sep; only 2 locs.

**Bank Swallow:** 4 TR 3 Sep; max 28 HI 16 Sep; last HI 8 Oct (JM), late.

**Barn Swallow:** max 62 Mallory 3 Sep; 40 SHTF 5 Sep; 20 OLC 8 Sep; last TR 19 Sep.

**Cliff Swallow:** OswH 3 – 5 Sep; last HI 16 Sep; only reports.

**CAVE SWALLOW:** max 3 FH 1 Nov (GD); FH 7 Nov (GD, DA); only reports.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** max 24 Sterling 2 Sep & 24 HI 16 Sep.

**Boreal Chickadee:** 3 OF 23 Sep (CW, JB).

**Tufted Titmouse:** max 10 SFNS 4 Sep & 10 Syr 10 Sep.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 9 Hamilton 20 Sep; 8 OF 24 Sep; max 16 Tully 21 Oct.

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** 10 GLSP 9 Sep; 10 OSP 10 Sep; max 11 HI 16 Sep.

**Brown Creeper:** 4 FH 10 Oct; max 3 VBSP 16 Sep & 3 TR 29 Sep.

**House Wren:** 5 SP 1 Sep; 5 DH 2 Sep; max 8 TR 15 Sep; last SFNS 22 Oct.

**Winter Wren:** 4 TR 29 Sep; 4 TR 12 Oct; 4 BLNC 27 Oct; max 8 SFNS 31 Oct.

**Marsh Wren:** max 8 HI 16 Sep; 2 TR 27 Sep; SSSP 12 Nov (BP).

**Sedge Wren:** Cato 15 Sep (MA, ph).

**Carolina Wren:** 2 Marcellus 9 – 10 Oct; max 4 Fayetteville 20 Oct.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 2 SP 2 Sep; max 3 West Monroe 10 Sep; 2 TR 6 Sep; 2 TR 6 Sep; last 2 TR & Dolge 13 Sep.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 20 SFNS 10 Oct; max 25 Grant 19 Nov.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 17 FH 10 Oct; 12 SFNS 12 Oct; max 25 DH 14 Oct; last DH 11 Nov.

**E. Bluebird:** max 23 SH 8 Oct; 20 Baltimore Woods 4 Nov.

**Veery:** max 17 OSP 10 Sep (SD, TA, ID), nocturnal flight calls; last SP 5 Oct; singles at 10 other locs.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** 4 OSP 10 Sep; max 25 HI 16 Sep (RB, NK), nocturnal flight calls, great number; last 5 TR 29 Sep.

**Swainson's Thrush:** max 195 OSP 10 Sep (SD, TA, ID), nocturnal flight calls; 40 HI 16 Sep (RB, NK), nocturnal flight calls; 8 TR 16 Sep; 14 OF 23 Sep; last Tully 21 Oct.

**Hermit Thrush:** max 7 OF 1 Sep; 4 SFNS 28 – 29 Oct.

**Wood Thrush:** 3 SFNS 2 – 15 Sep; 3 OSP 10 Sep; max 12 HI 16 Sep; last SFNS 10 Oct.

**Am. Robin:** 93 TR 3 Sep; 89 Tully 7 Oct; max 220 SFNS 5 Nov.

**Gray Catbird:** 16 SP 2 Sep; 17 OSP 10 Sep & 17 TR 15 Sep; max 20 CM 20 Nov; last OnonL 12 Nov.

**N. Mockingbird:** max 3 OnonL 19 Sep & 3 Syr 25 Oct; only one report east of OneIL.

**Brown Thrasher:** max 3 SP 1 Sep & 3 SFNS 4 Sep & 3 GLSP 16 Sep; last DB 15 Oct.

**European Starling:** 600 HI 8 Oct; 800 Mexico 28 Nov; max 980 DH 21 Oct.

**Am. Pipit:** 40 SHTF 30 Sep; 22 Port Byron 6 Nov; max 45 Fabius 3 Nov; last 4 Fabius 21 Nov.

**Cedar Waxwing:** 40 Scriba 1 Sep; 65 SFNS 8 Sep; max 309 DH 28 Nov.

#### LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** arr FH 4 Nov; OswH 7 Nov; only reports.

**Snow Bunting:** arr FH 25 Oct; max 125 FH 5 Nov; 45 Tully 17 Nov.

**Ovenbird:** max 2 GB 3 Sep; last OF 23 Sep.

**N. Waterthrush:** SP 2 Sep; OSP 10 Sep; last SFNS 17 Sep.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** max 3 SH 4 Sep; last Hamilton 23 Sep.

**“Brewster’s” Warbler:** SSSP 2 Sep, only report.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** 2 Hamilton 4 Sep; last 2 Hamilton 24 Sep.

**Tennessee Warbler:** 4 OSP 10 Sep; 4 Hamilton 11 Sep; max 6 UM 12 Sep; 5 SFNS 15 Sep; last SH 9 Oct.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr OF 23 Sep; 2 TR 11 Oct; 2 Mexico 14 Oct; last 2 TR 21 Oct; singles at 2 other locs.

**Nashville Warbler:** max 3 OSP 10 Sep & 3 HI 16 Sep & 3 GLSP 1 Oct; last Solvay 12 Nov (DD), rec late for Reg.

**Connecticut Warbler:** Dolge 25 Sep (LH).  
**Mourning Warbler:** max 2 SHTF 7 Sep; SFNS 7 Sep; Madison 15 Sep; last SFNS 16 Sep.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** 10 OSP 10 Sep; max 11 Hast 15 Sep; last GLSP 20 Oct.  
**Hooded Warbler:** 2 BLNC 1 Sep; 2 SH 1 Sep; 2 Sterling 2 Sep; last SFNS 23 Sep.  
**Am. Redstart:** 5 Sterling 2 Sep; 5 SFNS 8 Sep; max 8 OSP 10 Sep; last BLNC 2 Nov.  
**Cape May Warbler:** 3 SH 4 Sep; 3 Oswego 6 Sep; max 6 OSP 10 Sep; last FH 1 Nov, late; many reports.  
**N. Parula:** 3 SP 2 Sep; max 4 OSP 10 Sep; 3 SP 11 Sep; 3 OnonL 3 Oct; last OnonL 17 Oct.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** 11 SP 2 Sep; 10 TR 10 Sep; max 18 OSP 10 Sep; last SFNS 10 Oct.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** max 6 SFNS 6 Sep; 4 OSP 10 Sep; 3 HI 16 Sep; last TR 8 Oct.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** max 2 Hamilton 7 Sep; last Dolge 7 Oct; relatively few reports.  
**Yellow Warbler:** 3 Oswego 6 Sep; max 6 SP 2 Sep; 2 OnonL 15 Sep; last Fabius 29 Sep.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 3 Hamilton 7 Sep & 3 OSP 10 Sep & 3 Hamilton 12 Sep.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** max 5 OSP 10 Sep; 3 SFNS 15 Sep; 3 Hast 15 Sep; last Syr 12 Oct.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max 2 Hamilton 13 Sep & 2 SFNS 21 Sep; FH 10 Oct; poor numbers.  
**Palm Warbler:** 4 Madison 19 Sep; max 15 TR 8 Oct; 4 SFNS 10 Oct; SFNS 31 Oct.  
**Pine Warbler:** 2 Dolge 16 Sep – 3 Oct; 2 OF 23 – 24 Sep; last Dolge 15 Oct.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 24 Osw 9 Oct; 30 SFNS 11 Oct; max 32 TR 22 Oct.  
**Prairie Warbler:** Hamilton 20 Sep, only report.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** max 6 SP 1 Sep & 6 OSP 10 Sep; 5 UM 10 Sep; last SFNS 12 Oct.  
**Canada Warbler:** SSSP 2 Sep, only report.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** max 5 SP 2 Sep; 3 OSP 10 Sep; 2 Osw 11 Sep; 2 UM 12 Sep; last SFNS 28 Sep.

#### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** 6 SFNS 1 – 10 Sep; max 8 TR 27 Sep; last Dolge 3 Nov.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr Dolge 2 Nov; 8 Dolge 22 – 28 Nov; max 15 TR 23 Nov.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** 20 Van Buren 6 Oct; max 39 Syr 25 Oct.  
**Field Sparrow:** 6 GLSP 16 Sep; 6 GLSP 16 Sep; max 9 TR 30 Sep; 6 Jamesville 1 Oct; last 2 OnonL 11 Nov.

**Vesper Sparrow:** 2 Prospect, HERK 11 Oct; last Lysander 27 Oct; singles at 3 other locs.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** 2 HI 16 Sep; max 8 SHTF 1 Oct; 2 Dolge 18 Sep – 21 Oct; 2 SFNS 23 Sep; last Dolge 9 Nov.  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr 2 Fulton 1 Oct; max 3 TR 21 Oct; last SFNS 22 Nov.  
**Song Sparrow:** 25 SFNS 2 Sep; max 30 TR 15 Sep; 25 HI 8 Oct.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** max 4 TR 15 Sep; 3 HI 16 Sep; 3 TR 23 Sep – 8 Oct; last Dolge & CM 21 Oct.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** 15 TR 4 Oct; max 18 HI 8 Oct; last Fayetteville 17 Nov.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** max 70 SFNS 18 Oct; 55 GLSP 14 Oct; 60 TR 21 Oct.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** max 20 TR 5 Oct; 11 Syr 7 Oct; last Manlius 6 Nov.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** 20 OnonL 31 Oct; 22 FH 1 Nov; max 40 FH 1 Nov; 20 Fabius 12 Nov.  
**Scarlet Tanager:** max 4 SFNS 1 Sep; 2 HI 16 – 17 Sep; 2 Hamilton 16 Sep; last Manlius 1 Oct.  
**N. Cardinal:** max 12 HI 16 Sep; 10 OnonL 5 Oct.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 8 SHTF 5 – 7 Sep; 6 OSP 10 Sep; 5 SFNS 21 Sep; last SFNS 5 Oct.  
**Indigo Bunting:** max 3 Salisbury 5 Sep; 2 SFNS 11 Sep; last SFNS 4 Oct; only 10 reports.  
**Bobolink:** max 37 SFNS 2 Sep; 25 Fabius 7 Sep; 28 HI 16 Sep; last OF 24 Sep.  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 17300 BRH 4 Nov; 15000 Port Byron 6 Nov; 2000 OnonL 11 Nov.  
**E. Meadowlark:** max 7 BRH 11 Oct; last SFNS 18 Oct; reports from 5 other locs.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** 15 WP 4 Oct; 16 Kirkville 10 Oct; max 62 TR 27 Oct; last 3 Waterville 25 Nov.  
**Com. Grackle:** 3300 Hast 6 Nov; max 355000 OLC 4 Nov (DD), *intro*; 3400 NSyr 8 Nov.  
**Brown-headed Cowbird:** 35 Canastota 14 Sep; max 80 MNWR east 16 Sep.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** max 5 SFNS 1 Sep; last 3 OnonL 8 Sep; few reports.  
**blackbird species:** max 250000 Const 2 Nov (MS).  
**House Finch:** 15 n Syr 12 Oct; 15 West Winfield 10 Nov; max 18 Osw 19 Nov; 15 Dolge 22 – 29 Nov.  
**Purple Finch:** 7 Mexico 14 Oct; max 8 SH 21 Oct; 6 Manlius 23 Nov.  
**Red Crossbill:** 2 OF 23 Sep; SH 21 Oct; only reports.  
**White-winged Crossbill:** 7 SH 1 Nov, only

report

**Pine Siskin:** 12 DH 22 Oct; max 30 SFNS 23 Oct; 14 SH 25 Nov.

**Am. Goldfinch:** 75 SFNS 11 Oct; 430 DH 23 Oct; 575 DH 9 Nov.

**Evening Grosbeak:** max 2 OF 22 Sep; handful of reports all from ADKs.

**House Sparrow:** 40 SFNS 2 Sep; max 50 OnonL 30 Sep.

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## REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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The season started off cool, with below average high temperatures most days during the first half of September. However, the mean temperature for the month was 1-3 degrees above average for most of the Region thanks to an unseasonable warm spell that lasted for much of the last half of September, with highs reaching or exceeding 80°F in Watertown on 11 consecutive days starting on 17 September. Relatively warm weather persisted through most of October, with temperatures cooling off during the last week of the month. Temperatures were up and down through the rest of the season, with November's average temperature being slightly cooler than normal. September was very dry, and about average precipitation fell in November, but October was very wet, especially near Lake Ontario, where many locations received more than double average precipitation for the month. Most of October's rain fell during three storms, with Watertown receiving 1.2" on 4 October, 3.7" on 9 October, and 4.4" on 29-30 October.

Waterfowl numbers were widely reported to be rather low with a few exceptions, such as at Wilson Hill WMA, where a refilling pool that NYSDEC had drained during the spring and summer attracted large numbers of dabbling ducks but very few of the diving ducks that usually gather here. For instance over the past decade peak counts of Northern Pintail and Green-winged Teal in this pool never exceeded 100 until this year, when high counts nearly reached 1000 for both species. By contrast, the raft of 2000-4000 or more Ring-necked Ducks and other *Aythya* that normally forms here never materialized, but Canadian birders reported unusually large numbers of these diving ducks a few miles to the northeast. Other noteworthy waterfowl at Wilson Hill included a Greater White-fronted Goose on 28 October and a Eurasian Wigeon found that same date and seen for a little over a week. Elsewhere, the only notable duck sightings were three King Eider, including one shot by a hunter on an island in the St. Lawrence River, where this species is rarely documented, and rafts of 63 Ruddy Ducks at Kring Point State Park and 92 Ruddy Ducks at Perch River WMA, both exceptional in a Region where double-digit counts are exceedingly



rare. Goose migration barely registered this season, with Snow Geese virtually absent, but impressive numbers of Tundra Swans congregated at the Black River Bay staging area in November.

Shorebirds were surprisingly scarce at Wilson Hill WMA in early September, where rising water did not start to cover the extensive mudflats until the middle of the month. The shorebird highlight from Wilson Hill was a Red Phalarope that made a brief appearance on 4 November, the third record on the New York side of this stretch of river since 2009. Several American Golden-Plovers were at Wilson Hill in September, but far more shorebirds used nearby mudflats along the edge of the St. Lawrence River, where power authority management led to highly variable but mostly very low water levels for much of September and early October. The bulk of the season's shorebird reports came from such areas, especially Whalen Park, within two miles of Wilson Hill and where a **Western Sandpiper** on 4 September was the most noteworthy find. Elsewhere, very high water levels throughout the season left little shorebird habitat along Lake Ontario or the St. Lawrence River upstream from the Iroquois Dam, but Nick Leone managed to find a few shorebirds near the lake, including five Long-billed Dowitchers at a wetland in Lyme on 10 October. Shorebirds were largely unreported away from these few locations.

With one exception, the songbird migration was widely considered to be lackluster, and in many areas it seemed like very few warblers moved at all. The exception was the southern part of Fort Drum, where the heavy passerine migration first seen in late August continued well into September, and migrant flocks were both larger and more numerous than usual. Some of these flocks included warbler numbers that far exceed what is normally reported in Region 6, for instance 70+ Cape May Warblers in one huge foraging flock on 8 September compared to typical maximum daily counts of ten or fewer. Other species that were unusually abundant included Tennessee, Nashville, and Bay-breasted Warblers, but, at least on Fort Drum, most warbler species passed through in excellent numbers. The very active migration was welcome after the previous two very slow fall seasons on Fort Drum, and this difference was nowhere more noticeable than in a patch of open oak woodland where Pine Warblers, Eastern Bluebirds, and Chipping Sparrows usually form the nucleus of a large, persistent foraging flock. During 2015 and 2016 the flocks at this site were very small compared with the previous seven years, but this year were the largest documented, with high counts of 60 Pine Warblers, 32 Eastern Bluebirds, and 160 Chipping Sparrows joined by a constantly changing mix of other migrants. Oddly scarce was Blackpoll Warbler, often among the most abundant fall migrants, but this year few were reported everywhere, even among the large warbler flocks on Fort Drum.

Passerine highlights included two **Nelson's Sparrows** at Fort Drum on 12 October that were almost exactly where one was found in 2014. There are only five or six records of this secretive species in Region 6, but given the abundance of habitat in Jefferson County it seems likely that Nelson's Sparrow occurs more

frequently than records suggest. A **White-eyed Vireo** in the Lewis County portion of Fort Drum on 5 October was a first county record as far as I can tell and a second record for the Army installation. Songbird highlights elsewhere seemed hard to come by, but there were a few, one being Philadelphia Vireo, as the 26 individuals reported throughout Region 6 was well above average. By the end of the season no large influx of irruptives was apparent, but a few finches were reported, including single Pine Grosbeaks on Fort Drum on 3 and 7 November and Red Crossbills at two locations, including a small group of Type 3 Red Crossbills that Jeremy Collison recorded at the Oswegatchie Education Center in Lewis County.

For the season I received reports of 223 species, about average for recent years. Probably the highlight was the very active songbird migration documented on Fort Drum, including a couple of Regional rarities. But few birders were able to witness these birds, and among the low points was the general lack of migrants in many portions of the Region. Also worth noting is a continued increase in the number of observers reporting birds to eBird throughout Region 6, including both more local residents and more birders visiting from other regions. Not many years ago just two or three observers consistently accounted for 80-90% of all first and last dates cited in this report, but for the past couple of years such sightings have been spread out among a much larger number of birders.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**AFWMA** – Ashland Flats WMA; **BI** – Barnhart Island, T Massena; **BPWMA** – Black Pond WMA; **BRB** – Black River Bay; **BRV** – Black River Valley; **CB** – Chaumont Barrens Preserve; **CCSP** – Coles Creek SP; **CV** – T Cape Vincent; **CWF** – Canton Wastewater Treatment Facility; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Installation; **GLR** – Grand Lakes Reserve, T Redwood; **HH** – Henderson Harbor; **HP** – Hawkins Pt, T Massena; **ICNC** – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton; **JCSP** – Jacques Cartier SP; **KC** – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; **KPSP** – Kring Point SP; **LWMA** – Lakeview WMA; **MM** – Massawepie Mire; **OEC** – Oswegatchie Education Center, T Croghan; **PilPt** – Pillar Pt, JEFF; **PRWMA** – Perch River WMA; **PtPen** – Point Peninsula, JEFF; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, T Massena; **RRt** – Remington Recreation Trail, T Canton; **StPt** – Stony Pt, T Henderson, JEFF; **SBSP** – Southwick Beach SP; **ULLWMA** – Upper and Lower Lakes

WMA, T Canton; **WBSP** – Westcott Beach SP; **WHWMA** – Wilson Hill WMA; **WISP** – Wellesley I SP; **WP** – Whalen Pk, T Louisville.

### **WATERFOWL - VULTURES**

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** WHWMA 28 Oct (JB), only report.

**Snow Goose:** arr SBSP 11 Oct; max 175 T Lawrence 18 Nov; no significant migration.  
**Brant:** arr BI 7 Oct; max CCSP 1 Nov; last CCSP 4 Nov.

**Cackling Goose:** BRV 11 Nov (BP), only report.

**Canada Goose:** many fewer moving than normal.

**Mute Swan:** max 17 T Clayton 11 Nov.

**Trumpeter Swan:** max 10 PRWMA 19 Sep; migrants PtPen 11 Nov & WHWMA 18 Nov.

**Tundra Swan:** max count 985 at traditional BRB staging area 24 Nov; some observers estimated as many as 2000 at same location.

**Wood Duck:** last T Canton 7 Nov.

**Gadwall:** max 160 WHWMA 4 Nov.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** WHWMA where annual 28 Oct to 6 Nov (JB, EW).

**Am. Wigeon:** max 750 WHWMA 4-5 Nov.

**Am. Black Duck:** max 150 WHWMA 4 Nov.

**Blue-winged Teal:** max 240 ULLWMA 30 Sep; last 10 WHWMA 10 Nov.

**N. Shoveler:** max 30 CWF 30 Oct.

**N. Pintail:** max 950 WHWMA 4 Nov.

**Green-winged Teal:** max 950 WHWMA 28 Oct.

**Canvasback:** no reports.

**Redhead:** max 8 WHWMA 21 Oct; large raft that normally forms WHWMA failed to appear, *intro*.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 1365 ULLWMA 7 Oct; 70 high count WHWMA 7 Oct, far below usual max of 2000-4000+, *intro*.

**Greater Scaup:** max 610 BRB 24 Nov, low.

**Lesser Scaup:** max 60 WHWMA 28 Oct.

**King Eider:** f shot by hunter Long Sault Is 4 Nov (photos!); f L Ontario of BPWMA 24 Nov (JB); y m PilPt 30 Nov (NL, RB).

**Surf Scoter:** arr CCSP 7 Oct; max 4 ED 27 Oct.

**White-winged Scoter:** arr T Ellisburg 16 Sep; max 41 CCSP 21 Oct.

**Black Scoter:** arr & max 18 CCSP 21 Oct.

**Long-tailed Duck:** arr KPSP 27 Oct; max 300 MP 24 Nov.

**Bufflehead:** arr PtPen 21 Oct; max 70 HH 24 Nov.

**Com. Goldeneye:** arr WHWMA 30 Sep; max 200 CV 12 Nov.

**Hooded Merganser:** max 42 PtPen 23 Nov.

**Com. Merganser:** max 106 CV 11 Nov.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 144 PtPen 25 Sep.

**Ruddy Duck:** 63 KPSP 27 Oct (JB); max 92 PRWMA 7 Nov (NL); double-digit counts rare R6.

**Spruce Grouse:** MM 22 Sep (MS), only report.

**Red-throated Loon:** arr CCSP 7 Oct; max 2 PilPt 4 Nov & CCSP 11 Nov.

**Com. Loon:** max 77 PilPt 4 Nov, site where high counts usually exceed 100; low numbers generally.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 61 ULLWMA 7 Oct.

**Horned Grebe:** arr ULLWMA 10 Oct; max 3 PtPen 14 Nov & CCSP 11 & 25 Nov; low.

**Red-necked Grebe:** arr AFWMA 13 Sep; max 8 JCSP 22 Oct.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 1380 JCSP 22 Oct.

**Am. Bittern:** last WHWMA 30 Sep.

**Least Bittern:** AFWMA 13 Sep (CN); last PRWMA 14 Sep (RB); rare fall reports.

**Great Egret:** max 37 WHWMA 24 Sep; last T Canton 16 Oct.

**Green Heron:** last T Watertown 19 Sep.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** last 6 PRWMA 19 Sep.

**Turkey Vulture:** T Denmark 21 Nov, only report after 8 Nov.

### **HAWKS - LARIDS**

**Osprey:** last FD 11 Oct.

**Golden Eagle:** 2 ULLWMA 14 Sep; T Hounsfield 18 Sep; PtPen 8 Oct; juv FD 11 Nov; ad FD 21 Nov.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** last T Canton 12 Oct.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** max 200 OEC 9 Sep (JC); last FD 19 Oct.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** arr ULLWMA 27 Oct.

**Virginia Rail:** last T Martinsburg 1 Oct.

**Sora:** 10+ ULLWMA 16 Sep, only report.

**Com. Gallinule:** max 6 PRWMA 26 Sep & FD 2 Oct; last PRWMA 5 Oct.

**Am. Coot:** max 100+ PRWMA early Nov.

**Sandhill Crane:** T Morristown 4 Sep (ET); 2 ad & 2 juv WHWMA 16-30 Sep (mob).

**Black-bellied Plover:** max 8 WP 14 Oct; last WHWMA 18 Nov.

**Am. Golden-Plover:** 5 reports 1-2 WHWMA 1-29 Sep; FD 8 Sep; ULLWMA 9 Sep; 2 FD 25 Sep; last T Brasher 20 Nov (HW, photos), late.

**Semipalmated Plover:** max 17 WP 10 Sep; last WHWMA 28 Oct (JB), late.  
**Killdeer:** max 41 T Lyme; last WHWMA 28 Oct.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** last WP 24 Sep.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** only 3 reports, low; last Perch L 13 Sep.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** max 17 RMSP 13 Oct; last BRV 11 Nov.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 22 WHWMA 1 Sep; last 6 PRWMA 4 Oct.  
**Sanderling:** max 4 LWMA 8 Sep; last 2 BI 29 Oct.  
**Dunlin:** max 32 CCSP 21 Oct.  
**Least Sandpiper:** max 17 WP 4 Sep; last WHWMA 29 Sep.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** CCSP 28 Oct, only report.  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** max & last 4 WHWMA 14 Sep.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** max 22 WP 15 Oct; last BI 29 Oct.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 70 WP 1 Sep; last WHWMA 19 Sep.  
**W. SANDPIPER (R6):** WP 4 Sep (JB).  
**Long-billed Dowitcher:** 5 T Lyme 10 Oct (NL).  
**Wilson's Snipe:** last T Lyme 10 Oct; many fewer than usual.  
**Red Phalarope:** WHWMA 4 Nov (JB).  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 31 PtPt 1 Nov.  
**Iceland Gull:** arr CCSP 11 Nov.  
**Herring Gull:** max 340 BI 24 Sep.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** max 8 BI 11 Nov (AB), high.  
**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 45 HP 25 Nov.  
**Caspian Tern:** last CV & PtPen 17 Sep.  
**Com. Tern:** last Ogden Is & PtPen 16 Sep.

#### PIGEONS - PARROTS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** last KC 13 Sep.  
**E. Screech-Owl:** max 4 WBSP 27 Oct.  
**Snowy Owl:** arr FD 23 Oct, early.  
**Short-eared Owl:** CV 10 Nov, only report.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** last T Canton 12 Sep.  
**E. Whip-poor-will:** last T Diana 7 Oct, flushed by hunter.  
**Chimney Swift:** last T Watertown 22 Sep.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** last CV 18 Sep.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** at least 3 ad still present FD end Nov, caching acorns.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** largely absent after 10 Oct; WBSP 15 Nov, possibly overwintering.  
**Merlin:** 23 reports.

**Peregrine Falcon:** T Leray 6 Sep; ULLWMA 9 Sep & 3 Oct; T Canton 27-29 Sep; only reports away from T Massena & T Watertown where pairs resident.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** CV 4 Sep.  
**E. Wood-Pewee:** last CCSP 29 Sep.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** last CB 17 Sep.  
**Least Flycatcher:** last FD 8 Sep.  
**E. Phoebe:** last T Hammond 27 Oct.  
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** last T Croghan 10 Sep.  
**E. Kingbird:** last T Ellisburg 15 Sep.  
**N. Shrike:** arr ULLWMA 11 Oct (JB), early; only 2 other reports.  
**WHITE-EYED VIREO (R6):** FD 5 Oct (JB).  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** last T Canton 8 Sep.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** last FD 19 Oct.  
**Warbling Vireo:** last CB 19 Sep.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** 19 reports of 26 individuals, more than usual; last ICNC 25 Sep.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** last FD 6 Oct.  
**Horned Lark:** max 132 T Lawrence 11 Nov.  
**Tree Swallow:** last WBSP 20 Oct.  
**Barn Swallow:** last RRT 10 Sep.  
**House Wren:** last WISP 8 Oct.  
**Winter Wren:** migrants arr 10 T Croghan 10 Sep; last LWMA 24 Nov.  
**Sedge Wren:** last FD 12 Oct.  
**Marsh Wren:** last PRWMA 5 Oct.  
**Carolina Wren:** T Lowellville 23 Sep; PRWMA 26 Sep; only reports.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** scarce outside Adirondacks before 21 Sep.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr T Canton 7 Sep; max 33 FD 11 Oct; last FD 3 Nov.  
**E. Bluebird:** max 32 FD 3 Oct.  
**Veery:** last T Canton 14 Sep.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** OEC 8 Sep; FD 27 & 28 Sep; GLR 1 Oct; only reports.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** last FD 10 Oct.  
**Hermit Thrush:** last BPWMA 24 Nov.  
**Wood Thrush:** last 3 ICNC 25 Sep (EW), late.  
**Gray Catbird:** RRT 9 Nov (JB); 2 KC 12 Nov (RB); late.  
**Brown Thrasher:** last FD 10 Oct.  
**N. Mockingbird:** max 3 FD 5 Sep, where I still present 25 Sep; last Sackets Harbor Battlefield 24 Oct.  
**Am. Pipit:** last WHWMA 11 Nov; no reports of more than 3 ind.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** max 90 FD 28 Sep; scarce after 4 Nov.

## LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Snow Bunting:** arr PtPen 21 Oct.  
**Ovenbird:** last FD 2 Oct.  
**N. Waterthrush:** last OEC 9 Sep.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** last 3 FD 7 Sep.  
**Blue-winged Warbler:** last FD 8 Sep.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** last FD 28 Sep; only report after 14 Sep.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** max 39 FD 6 Sep; last FD 11 Oct.  
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr StPt 10 Sep (AS); 5 FD between 28 Sep & 6 Oct (JB); last 2 WISP 8 Oct (BB).  
**Nashville Warbler:** max 21 FD 6 Sep; last T Croghan 12 Oct.  
**Mourning Warbler:** last OEC 10 Sep.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** last WBSP 14 Oct.  
**Am. Redstart:** last FD 28 Sep.  
**Cape May Warbler:** max 75+ FD 8 Sep; last FD 6 Oct.  
**N. Parula:** max 5 FD 22 Sep; last CV 6 Oct.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** max 24 FD 7 Sep; last CV & FD 6 Oct.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** max 23 FD 8 Sep; last FD 2 Oct.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** max 12 FD 6 Sep; last T Ellisburg & T Lyme 17 Sep.  
**Yellow Warbler:** last T Lyme & PRWMA 17 Sep.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** last FD 28 Sep; one of only 2 reports after 11 Sep.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** max 9 FD 8 Sep; last FD 2 Oct; fewer than normal.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** last FD 10 Oct.  
**Palm Warbler:** last FD 12 Oct.  
**Pine Warbler:** max 60 FD 3 Oct; last FD 16 Oct.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 120 FD 11 Oct; last migrants FD 8 Nov; 5 StPt 24 Nov & singles WBSP 25 & 29 Nov, likely overwintering.  
**Prairie Warbler:** last FD 11 Sep.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** max 21 FD 6 Sep; last FD 10 Oct.  
**Canada Warbler:** last FD & OEC 8 Sep.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** last FD 22 Sep.

## TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** last 2 CB 4 Nov.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr MM 28 Oct.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** max 160 FD 3 Oct; last FD, T Croghan, & T Watertown 16 Oct.  
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** last FD 3 Oct.  
**Field Sparrow:** last FD 25 Oct.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** last FD 1 Nov.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** last FD 12 Oct.  
**NELSON'S SPARROW (R6):** 2 FD 12 Oct (JB, photos!).  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr RRt 30 Sep; last FD 29 Nov.  
**Song Sparrow:** scarce after 8 Nov.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** last FD 7 Nov (JB), late.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** scarce after 15 Oct; last FD 30 Nov.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** max 125 FD 11 Oct.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr FD 22 Sep; last 6 FD 20 Oct.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** StPt 10 Sep early; next FD 25 Sep, more typical arr date; max 120 FD 3 Nov.  
**Scarlet Tanager:** last FD 10 Oct.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** last T Canton 1 Oct.  
**Indigo Bunting:** last 2 GLR 1 Oct.  
**Bobolink:** last migrants heard over FD 12 Sep.  
**E. Meadowlark:** singles FD 3, 10 & 11 Oct, only reports!  
**Rusty Blackbird:** arr FD 9 Sep; max 720 FD 3 Nov; last PtPen 11 Nov.  
**Com. Grackle:** max 1100 T Canton 6 Oct; few reports after Oct.  
**Brown-headed Cowbird:** 3 reports RRt, where last 7 Oct; no other reports.  
**Orchard Oriole:** last T Hammond 2 Sep (GS), rare fall.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** last FD 5 Sep.  
**Pine Grosbeak:** FD 3 & 7 Nov (JB), only reports.  
**Purple Finch:** max 10 FD 2 Oct.  
**Red Crossbill:** Beaver Lake 2 Sep; 6 Type 3 OEC 9-10 Sep (JC); flying over FD 29 Nov; only reports.  
**Pine Siskin:** max 22 MM 28 Oct.



## REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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East coast weather in the first half of the fall was dominated by five hurricanes. The remnants of hurricane Harvey triggered light rain in Region 7 on 2 September; Irma brought only scattered showers 14 and 15 September. Less than a week later José brushed the New England coast before turning out to sea. Maria made a hard right turn into the Atlantic on 27 - 28 September and had, at most, limited influence on the Region's weather. However, Nate's rains lasted from 8 to 10 October and raised the Lake Champlain level 0.2 feet.

Region 7 rainfall totals reflect the fact that of the five hurricanes only Harvey and Nate hit the area. Two of the others missed the Region entirely, and Irma produced only scattered showers. Except for southern Essex County, which was only slightly below normal, precipitation was one to two inches lower than normal. November's totals were near normal except for southeastern Clinton and eastern Essex Counties where they were up to two inches below average.

Temperatures for September were from three to five degrees above normal. This continued into October when from 1-24 October they ran well above normal every day. Even with the return to near normal temperatures for the last week, overall the month was at least seven degrees warmer except in Essex County, which was only five to seven degrees warmer. Temperatures in November were one to three degrees cooler than normal except in northwest Hamilton and southeastern Franklin, which were three to five degrees cooler.

At the end of August the water level of Lake Champlain had been in a steady decline. This trend continued through the first three or four days of September. The next five days of rain, described by one observer as drippy days, briefly reversed this decline. However, after that momentary increase in lake level it dropped again, reaching 95.1" by 20 September. At this level Laurin's Pool, one of the two principle shorebird sites, had essentially dried up, leaving only a minimal muddy shore line. After that only one or two peeps at a time were seen. This may also account for the lack of a single sighting of either dowitcher this fall.

Fall in Region 7 produced two firsts and was particularly good for waterfowl, and, in an embarrassment of riches, **Pink-footed Goose** was recorded twice. The first, at the Malone Rec Park, was a first for all of Region 7. Two days later the second was found along the lake shore in Plattsburgh. The second Region 7 first was the presence for two days of two **Cave Swallows**. An unbanded **Common Shelduck**, its molt to basic plumage complete, remained in the area for one last sighting in September. A female **King Eider** was present for days at Crown Point in Essex County. Immature **Great Cormorant** was seen on two separate occasions flying south over the lake. The most notable

shorebird was a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** that showed up on Labor Day. A Lake Champlain “pelagic” out of Vermont recorded **Parasitic Jaeger** and **Sabine’s Gull** that wandered into NY waters. Finally **Nelson’s Sparrow** was found at the Chazy Riverlands. Though most likely a migrant, it was seen at the spot where possible breeding of this bird was established during Atlas 2000.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**AHR** – Angle Hill Rd; **AP** – Ausable Pt; **BC** – Belmont Center; **BG** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BRR** – Bull Rock Rd; **CMt** – Cascade Mountain; **CRE** – Cemetery Rd., ESSE; **CH** – Cumberland Head; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CZ** – Chazy; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **CP** – Crown Pt; **DBM** – DeBar Meadows; **ENL** – Eagles Nest Lodge; **EAW** – Eight Acre Wood; **Es** – Essex; **EC** – Essex County; **FB** – Ferd’s Bog; **FCM** – Fort Covington Marsh; **FMt** – Fredrica Mountain; **GBk** – Gilbert Brook Marina; **HC** – Hamilton County; **ILk** – Indian L; **KN** – Keene; **KB** – Kings Bay; **LA** – Lake Alice; **LC** – La Chute; **LCl** – Lake Clear; **LCo** – Lake Colby; **LCp** – Lake Champlain pelagic; **LP** – Lake Placid; **LTL** – Little Tupper Lake; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MS** – MDM Speculator; **MRC** – Malone Rec Center; **MI** – Minerva; **MR** – Moffitt Rd; **MV** – Mountain View; **NP** – Noblewood P; **NLPT** – Northville Lake Placid Trail; **PU** – Peru; **PB** – Plattsburgh; **PBY** – Plattsburgh Bay; **PtF** – Point au Fer; **PtR** – Point Au Roche SP; **RLk** – Round L; **SB** – Sabattis Bog; **SC** – Sabattis Circle; **SR** – Sabattis Rd; **SPM** – Sand Pond Marsh; **SCK** – Scoomtion Creek; **SPo** – Shaw Pd; **TB** – Trombly Bay; **TL** – Tupper L; **WRS** – Webb Royce Swamp; **WC** – Wild Center; **WLS** – Willis Lake Swamp; **WI** – Willsboro; **WP** – Westport; **WMt** – Whiteface Mountain; **WM** – Wickham Marsh.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** 25 PR 5 Oct (BK); 20,000 CR 30 Sep (EG).

**Ross’s Goose:** MRC 4 Oct (JT); TB 12 Nov (SR); 2 MRC 11 Nov (EW).

**PINK-FOOTED GOOSE:** PBy 11 Nov (DR, MB); MRC 9 Nov (HW).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** PCB 16 Oct (SR, ED); MRC 10 Nov (S&MR).

**Brant:** AP 1 Nov (AB); 2 CP 15 Nov (JS); 30 NP 7 Oct (GC).

**Cackling Goose:** 4 RP 26 Nov (S&MS, GC); 6 NP 23 Nov (SR).

**Tundra Swan:** 2 CP 12 Nov (S&MR).

**Wood Duck:** 2 WLS 12 Nov (KC).

**Gadwall:** 2 LCo 11 Nov (AB).

**Am. Wigeon:** 6 CP 8 Oct (SR).

**Am. Black Duck:** 182 CP 28 Nov (SR).

**Blue-winged Teal:** 3 CR 4 Sep (SR, GC).

**N. Shoveler:** CP 8 Oct (SR).

**N. Pintail:** 3 CP 28 Nov (SR).

**Green-winged Teal:** 6 CP 28 Nov (SR).

**Canvasback:** 3 KB 25 Nov (SR).

**Redhead:** CR 25 Oct (BK)  
**Ring-necked Duck:** 4CP 18 Nov (SR).  
**Greater Scaup:** 65 AP 6 Sep (SR).  
**Lesser Scaup:** 46 AP 6 SEP (SR).  
**scaup sp:** 3,000 AP 6 SEP (SR).  
**KING EIDER (R7):** CP 14 Nov (SR)  
**Surf Scoter:** 10 ILk 29 Oct (JT); PB 14 Nov (BP),  
**White-winged Scoter:** ILk 29 Oct (JT); 25 PB 11 Nov (SR, ED).  
**Black Scoter:** 6 RP 2 Nov (SR); 150 PH 29 Oct (SR).  
**Long-tailed Duck:** ILk 29 Oct (JT); 15 PB 11 Nov (SR, ED).  
**Bufflehead:** 65 NP 23 Nov (SR).  
**Com. Goldeneye:** 22 BBy 14 Nov (BP).  
**Barrow's Goldeneye:** Noblewood P, ESSE 4 Nov (AB); Washington 16 Nov (SR).  
**Hooded Merganser:** 12 NP 23 Nov (SR).  
**Com. Merganser:** 12 NP 9 Sep (GC).  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** 3 AP 14 Oct (GC).  
**Ruddy Duck:** WD 25 Nov (SR, GC).  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** 4 WRS 25 Oct (SR).  
**Ruffed Grouse:** 2 SR 27 Nov (DM).  
**Wild Turkey:** 2 BC 23 Sep (NR).  
**Red-throated Loon:** PtR 20 Oct (BK).  
**Com. Loon:** 147 AP 14 Oct (GC).  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** 9 CR 25 Oct (BK).  
**Horned Grebe:** 2 AP 14 Oct (GC).  
**Red-necked Grebe:** 2 CP 18 Nov (BM)  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** 1200 NP 4 Oct (SR).  
**GREAT CORMORANT:** CH 17 Sep (BK); PtR 4 Oct (BK).  
**Am. Bittern:** LTL 1 Oct (NT).  
**Great Blue Heron:** 2 CP 28 Nov (SR).  
**Great Egret:** CR 17 Sep (BK).  
**Green Heron:** SCK 9 Sep (GC, SR); CP 8 Oct (SR).  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 5 SCK 9 Sep (GC, SR).  
**Black Vulture:** CZ 25 Sep (BK); 11 MtD 4 Nov (SR).  
**Turkey Vulture:** 14 CZ 25 Sep (BK).

### HAWKS – LARIDS

**OSPREY:** CP 4 OCT (SR).  
**Bald Eagle:** 2 LC 1 Oct (GC, SR).  
**N. Harrier:** CP 30 Nov (GC).  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 3 MtD 4 Nov (SR).  
**Cooper's Hawk:** CH 12 Nov (SJ).  
**N. Goshawk:** NP 25 Sep (SR).  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** PtR 19 Sep (BK).  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** WLS 2 Oct (KC).  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** 34 MtD 4 Nov (SR).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** 3 CP 27 Nov (SR).  
**GOLDEN EAGLE (R7):** 2 MtD 7 Nov (SR).  
**Virginia Rail:** SB 1 Oct (PA).  
**Com. Gallinule:** 6 FCM 24 Sep (JS); Co-FL, LC 1 Oct (GC).  
**Am. Coot:** 5 LC 22 Oct (MC).  
**Sandhill Crane:** 7 Nov.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** 5 AP 26 Oct (SR).  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** 2 AP 14 Oct (GC).  
**Semipalmated Plover:** 4 CR 22 Sep (BK).  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** WLS 16 Sep (KC).  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** AP 6 Sep (AB).  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** 2 AP 16 Oct (SR).  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 2 CR 7 Sep (BK).  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** 8 CR 6 Sep (BK).  
**Sanderling:** CR 4 Sep (BK), CP 28 Sep (SR).  
**Dunlin:** 5 AP 22 Oct (GC).  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** NP 5 Sep (RB).  
**Least Sandpiper:** CR 19 Sep (BK).  
**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:** CR 4 Sep (BK).  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 5 CR 4 Sep (GC, SR).  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 2 CR 7 Sep (BK).  
**Am. Woodcock:** 2 MI 8 Oct (JA).  
**Wilson's Snipe:** CR 14 Sep (BK).  
**PARASITIC JAEGER (R7):** Ip 10 Sep (SR); PH 21 Sep (AB), AP 15 Oct (GC).  
**SABINE'S GULL (R7):** LCp 9 Sep (AS).  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** 150 GB 12 Sep (BK).  
**Little Gull:** 2 AP 14 Oct (GC).  
**Iceland Gull (Thayer's type):** CH 17 Sep (BK).  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 2 NP 9 SEP (GC); AP 14 Oct (GC).  
**Great Black-backed Gull:** 10 Lap 11 Sep (AS).  
**Caspian Tern:** 4 NP 4 Sep (GC); 2 AP 6 SEP (AB).  
**Black Tern:** LCo 7 Sep (AB).  
**Com. Tern:** 55 GB 12 Sep (BK).

### PIGEONS - PARROTS

**E. Screech-Owl:** CP 12 Sep (SR), AP 14 Oct (GC).  
**Great Horned Owl:** MFR 19 Sep (NO); PtF 26 Nov (GC, SR).  
**Barred Owl:** EAW 18 Nov (GL).  
**Short-eared Owl:** 20 & 22 Nov.  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** RQR 8 Oct (AB).  
**Com. Nighthawk:** TI 7 Sep (GC).  
**E. Whip-poor-will:** EC 19 Sep (GCh); 4 MFR 24 Sep (NO).  
**Chimney Swift:** NP 4 Sep (MM).  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** EAW 21 Sep (GL).



**Belted Kingfisher:** MRC 10 Nov (AB).  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** KB 22 Oct (GC).  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** BC 23 Sep (NR).  
**Black-backed Woodpecker:** MV 20 Sep (JT).  
**N. Flicker:** BMR 6 Sep (GS).  
**Pileated Woodpecker:** 2 ILk 30 Nov (MMo)  
**Am. Kestrel:** LC 16 Sep (AB).  
**Merlin:** AP 14 Oct (GC); BRR 19 Nov (MC).  
**Peregrine Falcon:** CR 6 SEP (BK).

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** ILk 3 Sep (MMo); EC 6 Sep (SB).  
**E. Wood-Pewee:** LCo 30 Sep (AB).  
**Willow Flycatcher:** AP 6 Sep (AB).  
**Least Flycatcher:** ILk 3 Sep (MMo).  
**E. Phoebe:** 2 ILk 3 Sep (MMo).  
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** CP 12 Sep (SR).  
**E. Kingbird:** 2 SC 9 Sep (GC).  
**N. Shrike:** WP 27 Nov (SR).  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** CRE 29 Sep (J&PT).  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** 6 LCo 30 Sep (AB).  
**Warbling Vireo:** NP 15 Sep (J&PT).  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** AP 9 Sep (AB); WP 21 Sep (AB).  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** BMR 6 Sep (GS); 20 AP 6 Sep (AB).  
**Gray Jay:** 5 RLk 27 Oct (JC).  
**Blue Jay:** 12 CP 12 Sep (SR).  
**Com. Raven:** LC 1 Oct (GC, SR).  
**Horned Lark:** 30 TI 27 Nov (SR).  
**Purple Martin:** 2 NP 4 Sep (GC).  
**Tree Swallow:** 10 SB 5 Sep (SR).  
**Bank Swallow:** 3 NP 4 Sep (MM).  
**Cliff Swallow:** 3 NP 4 Sep (DR).  
**CAVE SWALLOW:** 2 CR 1 Nov (AB), 2 RPt 2 Nov (S&MR).  
**Barn Swallow:** 25 SB 5 Sep (SR).  
**Boreal Chickadee:** 11 SPM 28 Sep (JC); 10 SPo 19 Sep (PD).  
**Tufted Titmouse:** 6 LC 1 Oct (GC, SR).  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 16 BMR 6 Sep (GS).  
**White-breasted Nuthatch:** 4 LC 1 Oct (GC, SR).  
**House Wren:** CP 12 Sep (SR).  
**Winter Wren:** 2 BMR 6 Sep (GS).  
**Sedge Wren:** CR 4 Sep (BK), Co-CF.  
**Marsh Wren:** 2 AP 6 Sep (AB).  
**Carolina Wren:** WC 1 Oct (SW); CH 26 Oct (NO).  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 15 LCo 30 Sep (AB).  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** CP 28 Nov (SR).  
**E. Bluebird:** 3 PtR 25 Oct (BK).  
**Veery:** 3 DBM 9 Sep (BB).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** LPII 21 Sep (AB); SB 1 Sep (SB).  
**Bicknell's Thrush:** WMt 18 Sep (MK).  
**Swainson's Thrush:** LPI 21 Sep (AB).  
**Hermit Thrush:** 2 SPo 19 Sep (PD).  
**Wood Thrush:** CP 2 Sep (MM).  
**Gray Catbird:** 3 AP 6 Sep (AB).  
**Brown Thrasher:** BRR 11 Sep (MC).  
**N. Mockingbird:** WP 21 Nov (RB).  
**Am. Pipit:** 3 CMt 30 Sep (JP).  
**Cedar Waxwing:** 4 LC 4 Sep (AB).

#### LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** CR 14 Nov (BP).  
**Snow Bunting:** 7 NP 23 Nov (SR).  
**Ovenbird:** ENL 21 Sep (MMa).  
**N. Waterthrush:** NP 4 SEP (DR); FMT 15 Sep (RN).  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** 2 NLPT 6 SEP (BM).  
**Tennessee Warbler:** 4 LCo 30 Sep (AB).  
**Nashville Warbler:** 3 LCo 30 Sep (AB).  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** 3 LCo 30 Sep (AB).  
**Am. Redstart:** MS 30 Sep (AM).  
**Cape May Warbler:** ILk 3 Sep (MMo); HC29 Sep (LH).  
**N. Parula:** ENL 21 Sep (MMo).  
**Magnolia Warbler:** 4 LCo 30 Sep (AB).  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** NLPT 6 Sep (BM).  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** MS 30 Sep (AM).  
**Yellow Warbler:** AP 6 Sep (AB).  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** MM 13 Sep (SR).  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** MS 30 Sep (AM); WP 21 Sep (AB).  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** LCo 30 Sep (AB).  
**Palm Warbler:** 18 BMR 6 Sep (GS), LCo 9 Oct (AB).  
**Pine Warbler:** LCo 30 Sep (AB).  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 30 LCo 30 Sep (AB).  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** MS 30 Sep (AM).  
**Canada Warbler:** ILk 3 Sep (MMo).  
**Wilson's Warbler:** SCK 9 Sep (GC, SR).

#### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** WRS 10 Oct (SR).  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** 6 LC 15 Nov (AB).  
**Chipping Sparrow:** CRE 10 Oct J&PT).  
**Field Sparrow:** BC 3 Oct (NR).  
**Savannah Sparrow:** 3 AHR 25 Oct (SR); 2 CR 1 Nov (AB).  
**NELSON'S SPARROW (R7):** CR 22 Oct (GC).

**Fox Sparrow:** ILk 21 Nov (MMo).  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** SB 11 Oct (JC).  
**Swamp Sparrow:** LCo 11 Oct (AB).  
**White-throated Sparrow:** 2 CP 28 Nov (SR).  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** 2 CRE 10 Oct (J&PT).  
**Scarlet Tanager:** NLPT 6 Sep (BM).  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** CP 12 Sep (SR).  
**Bobolink:** 45 CR 6 Sep (AB).  
**E. Meadowlark:** LCo 9 9 Oct (AB).

**Rusty Blackbird:** 40 AP 14 Oct (GC).  
**Brown-headed Cowbird:** EC 20 Nov (CD).  
**Purple Finch:** 3 LC 4 Sep (AB).  
**Red Crossbill:** 26 SPo 19 Sep (PD).  
**White-winged Crossbill:** 2 SRd 27 Nov (JC).  
**Pine Siskin:** 45 LCo 11 Nov (AB).

#### EXOTICS

**COMMON SHELDUCK:** CR 6 Sep (BK).

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## REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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September 2017 was warmer and a bit drier than normal. The second half of the month featured a three-day heat wave, with 90°F+ on the 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> and twelve days above 80° from 15 September onward. October was a remarkable 8.1° above average at Albany and produced nearly an inch below normal rainfall. Fourteen days were at least ten degrees higher than normal. November returned to near normal temperatures but was very dry, with less than an inch of rainfall for the month.

Lindsey Duval found a Greater White-fronted Goose at Hudson Crossing Park in Saratoga County in mid-October. It stayed in the area for a week before moving on. Snow Geese appeared in small numbers throughout the Region. Cackling Goose was reported in several spots around Saratoga and Washington Counties in the latter half of October. A female Canvasback was seen at Saratoga Lake for about a month, the only report of the species during the period. A pair of Redheads spent a few weeks at Loughberry Lake, Saratoga County, and as many as four were reported from Copake Lake, Columbia County. This represents the typical scarcity of these two *Aythya* ducks in the Region. Gary Chapin and Stacy Robinson discovered a male Harlequin Duck at the south end of Saratoga Lake on 18 November. It was only the second well-documented sighting in the Upper Hudson Valley in recent years. The bird stayed in that part of the lake until at least 23 November but was not reported after that date. Scoter numbers seemed a bit better than in recent years, and Long-tailed Duck was seen in above-average numbers as well. A few reports of Red-throated Loon were received during the period from the usual locations such as Lake George, the Great Sacandaga, and Saratoga Lake. Horned Grebe numbers were good. Red-necked Grebes were scarce, however.

On 14 November, a Cattle Egret was discovered by Pete Doherty at a farm property near Canajoharie in Montgomery County. A few observers were able to relocate the bird the following day. It was frequenting a drainage ditch along the

roadside at the farm. This was apparently the first report of the species in the Region since 2004.

Observations of later-migrating shorebirds included at least four reports of Black-bellied Plover. Tom Schmidt located eight American Golden-Plover in a farm field in Sammonsville, Fulton County. Three reports of Sanderling were noted, including a group of five along the Mohawk River in Montgomery County on 1 November.

A first-cycle Laughing Gull was observed resting on a dock at Brown's Beach, Saratoga Lake by Lindsey Duval on 30 October. I went to view the bird and found a second, adult Laughing Gull present among the resting gulls. Laughing Gull is rarely seen away from the coast, so to have two this far inland was quite unusual.

Rich Guthrie photographed a very late male Ruby-throated Hummingbird in his yard in Greene County on 25 October. A young Red-headed Woodpecker was observed by Marian Sole in Ancram, Columbia County, for two days in mid-September. Katie Bird had a singing and calling White-eyed Vireo in Cropsyville, Rensselaer County on 16 September.

Bob Yunick submitted his field notes for the fall season, excerpts follow:

FIELD NOTES – FALL – SEPTEMBER 1-NOVEMBER 30, 2017 – Robert P. Yunick

The following are observations from my feeding/banding operations in the Schenectady, NY area: 1) feeder in my yard (yard) at Schenectady; 2) my Adirondack feeding/banding operation at Jenny Lake (JL) at 1250 ft elevation near Corinth in northern Saratoga Co, NY... Highlights:

1) The mass exodus of feeder birds at JL was extremely disappointing. It began in August, intensified in September and the place became a vast wasteland in October-November. I conducted 3 banding sessions using 5 ½ mist nets at or near the feeders in September on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> totaling 64.7 net-hrs banding 5 new birds for an awful yield of 0.077 birds/n-hr. But, it worsened come October and November, when on 10/19 I did not open nets because of the lack of birds at or nearby the feeders. But worse yet, three banding sessions on 10/26, 11/14, and 11/24 using 2 ½ nets, one at each of the 3 feeders, for a total of 21.9 n-hrs produced not only zero captures, but zero sightings as well!!

In part, some blame may be attributed to one of the, if not **the**, greatest fall of cones from white pines at JL since my tenure there beginning in 1970. The green cones were somewhat masked by the green needles in July and August; but as they ripened and turned brown in September their super abundance became apparent especially by 9/29 as they clung in great brown bunches. Then they began to fall, many on the ground by 10/19, even more by 10/26 and thereafter. On average they were smaller in size, 3-4 in. in length, compared to less numerous crops of larger cones up to 7-8 in. in length in other years. A tree can supply a finite amount of energy for cone production, and when the number of cones increases greatly as it did this year, cone size decreases.

These cones were heavily endowed with sticky resinous pitch that adhered to boot bottoms causing boots to collect leaves and needles, tracking them everywhere, making a mess inside. These cones will greatly aid reproduction next spring of a bumper crop of woodland mice and voles to the benefit of forest raptors.

While the cone abundance can explain the lack of chickadees and nuthatches at the feeders, it does not explain the disappearance of woodpeckers and some other species. Sunflower seed consumption mirrored the lack of birds present. It dropped steadily and sharply in August from ~400 g/day to under 200 g/day and bottomed out on 11/14 at 7 g/day. A year ago, when a chickadee irruption was in the making, the August low was ~200 g/day rising to ~750 g/day by late November, a far cry from this year's 7 g/day.

2) The Ruby-throated Hummingbird season at JL was also disappointing. The last hummer banded was an HY/F on 9/4; repeated trapping on 9/8, 9/15, and 9/22 produced no captures; the last one seen was on 9/10. The season total was 41 banded (only 4 HYs) and 10 return captures for a total of 51. The last lower total was 47 in 2012, then in the 30s and 40s in 1992-98. Sugar water consumption told an even bleaker story. Only 4249 g of sugar water was consumed April-September, compared to a peak of 30,495 g in 2003, and was the lowest since the 1990s. The last hummer I banded was on 9/13 at Albany Pine Bush Preserve in Albany Co.

211 species were reported during the period.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Larry Alden, Will Aubrey, Ramona Bearor, Susan Beaudoin, Katie Bird, Mike Birmingham, Matt Brunelle, Nancy Castillo, Gary Chapin, Glen & Malinda Chapman, Steve Chorvas, Jeremy Collison, Bill Cook, Andrea Denton, Alan Devoe Bird Club recent sightings, Amanda Dillon, Pete Doherty, Craig Driggs, Bruce Dudek, Alan Dupuis, Lindsey Duval, Larry Federman, Peter Feinberg, Debra Ferguson, Mark Fitzsimmons, Brianna Gary, 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, Mike McGraw, Steve Mesick, Joyce Miller, Frank Mitchell, Frank Murphy, Jenny Murtaugh, Ellen Pemrick, Will Raup, Gregg Recer, Neal Reilly, Stacy Robinson, John Roosenberg, Jeanette Roundy, Lydia Schreen, Tom Schmidt, 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

**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** – Coxsackie Creek Grasslands Preserve, GREE; **CF** – Cohoes Flats, ALBA; **CL** – Collins L, SCHE; **CRM** – Cline Rd. Marsh, FULT; **FR** – Five Rivers EEC, ALBA; **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.

### WATERFOWL - VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** max 400 nr Greenwich WASH  
11 Nov.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Hudson  
Crossing Pk SARA 14 Oct.

**Brant:** max 65 Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial Pk WASH 3 Nov.  
**Mute Swan:** max 7 Hoosic River Access Site RENS 30 Oct.  
**Wood Duck:** max 75 VFNHP 21 Sep.  
**Blue-winged Teal:** max 20 Lockrow Rd RENS 4 Oct.  
**N. Shoveler:** max 20 Stanton Pd ALBA 28 Oct.  
**Gadwall:** max 40 Stanton Pd ALBA 25 Nov.  
**Am. Wigeon:** max 238 Stanton Pd ALBA 17 Oct.  
**Am. Black Duck:** max 100 Saratoga L SARA 19 Nov.  
**N. Pintail:** max 22 Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial Pk WASH 5 Nov.  
**Green-winged Teal:** max 200 VFNHP 17 Nov.  
**Canvasback:** Saratoga L SARA 20 Oct, 21 Nov, only reports.  
**Redhead:** max 4 Copake L COLU 3 Nov.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** max 900 Loughberry L SARA 21 Nov.  
**Greater Scaup:** max 24 Loughberry L SARA 31 Oct.  
**Lesser Scaup:** max 90 Loughberry L SARA 21 Nov.  
**HARLEQUIN DUCK (R8):** Saratoga L SARA 18 Nov- 23 Nov (GaC & SR), *intro*.  
**Surf Scoter:** max 7 AR 27 Oct.  
**White-winged Scoter:** max 37 Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial Pk WASH 12 Oct.  
**Black Scoter:** max 65 AR 27 Oct.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** max 75 Saratoga L SARA 19 Nov.  
**Bufflehead:** max 107 Saratoga L SARA 21 Nov.  
**Com. Goldeneye:** max 300 Saratoga L SARA 23 Nov.  
**Barrow's Goldeneye:** drake, Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial Pk WASH 16 Nov.  
**Hooded Merganser:** max 200 BCR 14 Nov.  
**Com. Merganser:** max 320 BCR 13 Nov.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 6 Saratoga L SARA 4 Nov.  
**Ruddy Duck:** max 572 BCR 22 Oct.  
**Wild Turkey:** max 46 SNHP 24 Nov.  
**Red-throated Loon:** max 6 Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial Pk WASH 29 Oct.  
**Horned Grebe:** max 18 Saratoga L SARA 21 Nov.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** max 3 Saratoga L SARA 26 Oct  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 931 Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial Pk WASH 4 Nov, high count.  
**Am. Bittern:** Warrick Rd WASH 23 Sep, only report.

**Least Bittern:** VFNHP 9 Sep, only report.  
**Great Egret:** max 6 Stockport Flats COLU 7 Oct.  
**CATTLE EGRET (R8):** Maring Rd, Canajoharie MONT 14 Nov (PD), *intro*.  
**Green Heron:** last Hudson R COLU 13 Oct.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Duane L SCHE 17 Sep, only report.

#### HAWKS – LARIDS

**Black Vulture:** max 71 Voorheesville ALBA 24 Nov.  
**Turkey Vulture:** max 61 Cobleskill SCHO 22 Sep.  
**Osprey:** last Burtonsville Bridge MONT 24 Nov, late.  
**Golden Eagle:** arr Stillwater SARA 24 Oct.  
**N. Harrier:** max 5 FtEG 28 Nov.  
**Bald Eagle:** max 10 BCR 23 Nov.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** max 337 John Boyd Thacher SP hawkwatch ALBA 12 Sep.  
**Virginia Rail:** max 5 BCM 30 Sep.  
**Sora:** max 3 BCM 24 Sep.  
**Com. Gallinule:** max 13 East Bay WMA WASH 14 Sep.  
**Am. Coot:** max 11 BCR 5 Nov.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** max 3 Vanderburgh Point FULT 10 Oct.  
**AM. GOLDEN-PLOVER (R8):** 8 Sammonsville FULT 17 Sep (TS), *intro*.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** max 5 CF 3 Oct.  
**Killdeer:** max 50 CF 21 Sep.  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** HP 5 Sep, only report.  
**Sanderling:** max 5 Ft Hunter MONT 1 Nov.  
**Dunlin:** max 14 Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 2 Nov.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** max 8 CF 12 Oct.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 2 Falls View Park, Cohoes ALBA 15 Aug.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 5 Mayfield T Beach FULT 1 Sep.  
**LAUGHING GULL (R8):** max 2 Saratoga L SARA 30 Oct (LD, TW), *intro*.  
**Iceland Gull:** arr CF 19 Nov.

#### PIGEONS – PARROTS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Schodack 1 SP RENN 2 Sep, VFNHP 3 OCT.  
**Black-billed Cuckoo:** max 3 North-South L Campground GREE 30 Sep.  
**Short-eared Owl:** max 4 nr Hessville MONT 23 Nov.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** max 45 Catskill GREE 3 Sep; last Slingerlands ALBA 16 Sep.  
**Chimney Swift:** last 5 Fultonville MONT 13 Sep.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** max 7 John Boyd Thacher SP hawkwatch ALBA 9 Sep; last New Baltimore GREE 25 Oct, late.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Ancram COLU 15-16 Sep.

**Am. Kestrel:** max 11 FtEG 20 Nov.

**Merlin:** max 2 John Boyd Thacher SP ALBA 16 Sep.

#### FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

**E. Wood-Pewee:** last Ancram COLU 11 Oct.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** last 2 Saratoga Spa SP SARA 20 Sep.

**Willow Flycatcher:** last VFNHP 4 Sep.

**Least Flycatcher:** last Ancram COLU 21 Sep.

**E. Phoebe:** max 13 nr Hillsdale COLU 11 Sep.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** last Sleepy Hollow L GREE 19 Sep.

**E. Kingbird:** last Livingston COLU 4 Sep.

**N. Shrike:** arr CCGP 5 Nov.

**WHITE-EYED VIREO (R8):** Cropseyville RENS 16 Sep (KB), *intro*.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** last Chatham COLU 25 Sep.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** max 9 Schodack I SP RENS 12 Oct; last Rensselaerville SF ALBA 4 Nov.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** last Washington Pk ALBA 26 Sep.

**Warbling Vireo:** max 7 VFNHP 4 Sep; last Saratoga Spa SP SARA 28 Sep.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** last Fultonville MONT 17 Oct.

**Fish Crow:** max 70 Saratoga Springs SARA 11 Oct.

**Horned Lark:** max 26 Sharon SCHO 15 Nov.

**Tree Swallow:** last 20 TR 13 Nov.

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** max 100 VFNHP 17 Sep; last 13 Lions Pk SCHE 15 Oct.

**Bank Swallow:** last 5 Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial Pk WASH 8 Sep.

**Barn Swallow:** last Athens GREE 10 Sep.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max 12 Rensselaerville SF ALBA 19 Oct.

**Brown Creeper:** max 7 Berlin RENS 21 Oct.

**House Wren:** last Guilderland ALBA 18 Oct.

**Marsh Wren:** max 15 BCM 30 Sep.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** last Schodack I SP RENS 13 Sep.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 35 Moreau L SP SARA 22 Oct.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max 19 APBP 13 Oct.

**E. Bluebird:** max 25 FR 25 Oct.

**Veery:** last FR 24 Sep.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** last BMB 14 Oct.

**Swainson's Thrush:** last Corkscrew Rail Trail RENS 2 Nov.

**Wood Thrush:** last nr Guilderland ALBA 16 Oct.

**Gray Catbird:** max 26 VFNHP 23 Sep, FR 24 Sep.

**Brown Thrasher:** last FR 9 Oct.

**Am. Pipit:** max 42 Green Acres Farm COLU 27 Oct.

**Cedar Waxwing:** max 100 BCR 1 Nov.

#### LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

**Snow Bunting:** arr Cherry Plain SP RENS 4 Nov.

**Ovenbird:** last Hudson COLU 9 Oct.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** last Saratoga Spa SP SARA 8 Sep, late.

**N. Waterthrush:** last Schodack I SP RENS 2 Sep.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** last Swyer Pres COLU 13 Sep.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** last Saratoga Spa SP SARA 7 Sep.

**Tennessee Warbler:** max 20 bird banding operations APBP 29 Sep, all-time high count; last bird banding operations APBP 11 Oct.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** APBP 18 Sep; Saratoga Spa SP SARA 25 Sep; Gray's Crossing Creek Access SARA 30 Sep; Lk George Beach SP WARR 2 Oct.

**Nashville Warbler:** max 15 bird banding operations APBP 27 Sep; last APBP, VFNHP 5 Oct.

**Connecticut Warbler:** APBP 8 Sep, 19 Sep; Saratoga Spa SP SARA 20 Sep.

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

**Com. Yellowthroat:** max 14 BCM 7 Sep; last BMB 22 Oct.

**Am. Redstart:** max 8 VFNHP 2 Sep; last FR 1 Oct.

**Cape May Warbler:** max 8 Galway L SARA 4 Sep; last Summit SCHO 2 Oct.

**N. Parula:** max 7 APBP 23 Sep; last Peebles I SP SARA 12 Oct.

**Magnolia Warbler:** max 12 VFNHP 23 Sep; last Pachaquack Pres COLU 14 Oct.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** last Saratoga Spa SP SARA 4 Oct.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** last Chatham COLU 25 Sep.

**Yellow Warbler:** last Brunswick RENS 24 Sep.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** last bird banding operations APBP 27 Sep.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** max 10 Saratoga Spa SP 22 Sep; last New Baltimore GREE 29 Oct, late.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** last North L SP GREE 10 Oct.

**Palm Warbler:** max 16 Keep Cons Pres COLU 5 Oct; last APBP 25 Oct.

**Pine Warbler:** max 9 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 22 Sep.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 54 BMB 14 Oct.

**Prairie Warbler:** last Queensbury WARR 17 Sep.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** last APBP 13 Oct.

**Canada Warbler:** last APBP 22 Sep.

**Wilson's Warbler:** last Saratoga Spa SP SARA 28 Sep.

#### TOWHEES – WEAVERS

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** max 26 Lions Pk SCHE 27 Nov.

**Chipping Sparrow:** 49 bird banding operations APBP 14 Oct, all-time high count; last Green Acres Farm COLU 9 Nov.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 52 Rensselaerville SF ALBA 4 Nov.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** max 7 Towpath Rd, Kingsbury WASH 15 Oct.

**White-throated Sparrow:** max 64 Towpath Rd, Kingsbury WASH 15 Oct.

**Vesper Sparrow:** max 2 Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial Pk WASH 12 Oct;

Towpath Rd, Kingsbury WASH 12 Oct; Green Acres Farm COLU 3 Nov.

**Savannah Sparrow:** max 68 Roeliff Jansen Pk COLU 23 Oct, high count.

**Song Sparrow:** max 40 Roeliff Jansen Pk COLU 25 Oct.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** max 3 Livingston COLU 23 Oct; BCM 30 Sep.

**Swamp Sparrow:** max 50 BCM 30 Sep.

**E. Towhee:** max 10 FR 7 Oct; last FR 28 Oct.

**Scarlet Tanager:** last 2 W. Ft Ann WASH 3 Oct.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** last T Providence SARA 2 Oct.

**Indigo Bunting:** max 10 Saratoga Spa SP SARA 1 Sep; last 5 Saratoga Spa SP SARA 10 Oct.

**Bobolink:** max 20 Green Acres Farm COLU 1 Sep; last Green Acres Farm COLU 27 Sep.

**E. Meadowlark:** max 14 Ft Plain MONT 7 Oct.

**Rusty Blackbird:** 40 Ballston L SARA 5 Nov; 28 BMB 22 Oct; 11 Towpath Rd, Kingsbury WASH 15 Oct.

**Com. Redpoll:** nr Guilderland ALBA 3 Nov, only report.

**Red Crossbill:** max 35 Rensselaerville SF ALBA 28 Oct

**Pine Siskin:** max 30 Berlin RENS 21 Oct.

**Evening Grosbeak:** Berlin RENS 21 Oct, only report.



## REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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September was warm and dry. Average temperature was 2.4°F above normal thanks to highs of 90° and 91° on 24 and 25 September. Precipitation was just 1.75", whereas the normal is 4.28". October was extremely warm. Nineteen days had highs of 70° or more. The month came in 7.5° warmer than normal. Not surprisingly, many species of warblers lingered to mid-month. Precipitation was 3.87" for Poughkeepsie but over 5" for White Plains, helped out by a coastal storm that intensified off the mid-Atlantic coast and fed by Tropical Storm Philippe off Florida. It brought heavy rains with tropical force gusts to the area on 29 October. Rain totals of 2.7-3.8" were typical. This relieved the drought level for the year. White Plains accumulated 4.62" from the storm. November

saw near normal temperatures but only received less than half of its normal 4" of precipitation.

A few Greater White-fronted and Cackling Geese were reported, suggesting that their numbers are increasing. A tagged **Whooper Swan** was found in Cornwall on 25 November.

The area hawk watches saw disappointing numbers for Broad-winged Hawks. There was an early push from 10-13 September, but remarkably each of the three watches had peaks on different days. Even the normal push a week later varied by hawk watch. Mt. Peter saw two peaks with 1140 on 17<sup>th</sup> and 1764 on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Chestnut Ridge saw no peak the third week of September, but Hook Mountain had 3164 on 22 September. Chestnut Ridge did have a banner year for Red-shouldered Hawks with counts over 100 on 4 and 8 November.

The Black-headed Gull returned to its winter haunt in Five Island Park on 25 November, but not before entertaining Bronx birders in nearby Pelham Bay Park.

A **Say's Phoebe** was discovered by Maria Loukeris off Oil City Road on 21 October. The bird was seen on Liberty Lane, across the street from the platform on Oil City Road. It was found in the late morning, but the ID was made in late afternoon and then reported. Several birders looked for it after that with no luck. It was not seen the next day.

Other notable birds include: Sandhill Crane, Long-billed Dowitcher, Northern Shrike, Blue Grosbeak, and Dickcissel.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

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



## WATERFOWL - VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Ryder P 3,6,7 Oct (DK, AL, JMcB), ph; Stone Barns Center, Tarrytown 3 Nov (VH); Amenia 3 Nov; Rockefeller SP Preserve 4, 20 Nov (VH,EG); 4 Tamarack L 5 Nov; Hunns Lake 24-26 Nov (VH,DK); Portchester Middle School 30 Nov (GB,TB).

**Snow Goose:** blue form Ryder P 7 Oct (AL, JMcB), ph

**Brant:** arr 12 EGR 4 Oct

**Cackling Goose:** Amenia 22 Oct, 3 Nov (CP, HT); 4 Tamarack L 5 Nov; Black Dirt Region 4, 21-25, 28 Nov (MF); Bronxville L 10 Nov (SC); Blue Chip Farm 13, 16-26 Nov (JH, CS, KMCD); Hamptonburgh 18 Nov (JH); Hunns Lake 25 Nov (DK); Warwick 26 Nov (KW).

**WHOOPEE SWAN:** Cornwall 25 Nov (StRa), tagged 8225, escape?

**Canvasback:** arr 1 CPP 22 Oct.

**Surf Scoter:** 4 EGR 22 Nov.

**White-winged Scoter:** 1-3 EGR 6 Oct, 1, 6, 14, 19, 22 Nov; 2-4 Ashokan Res 4, 6 Nov; 10 EGR 16 Nov; Tomahawk L, Washingtonville 24 Nov.

**Black Scoter:** EGR 30 Oct; 2-5 Ashokan Res 4, 6, 19 Nov; 2 EGR 6 Nov.

**Long-tailed Duck:** 2 EGR 30 Oct; Sylvan L 3 Nov; 20 Ashokan Res 4 Nov; 4 Abels Pond 6 Nov.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** Sylvan L 16 Oct (DK), unusual location.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** 2 Galeville 16 Nov, likely released; A few reports from SULL and DUTC.

**Ruffed Grouse:** Stanfordville Wildlife Preserve 28 Sep.

**Red-throated Loon:** max 116 EGR 16 Nov (TB).

**Horned Grebe:** 38 Ashokan Res 23 Nov (PS).

**Red-necked Grebe:** Roundout Res 7 Nov; Neversink Res 11 Nov.

**N. Gannet:** EGR 25 Oct; 34 EGR 16 Nov; 11 EGR 22 Nov.

**Great Cormorant:** DeVries P, Sleepy Hollow 16 Sep (EG), early.

**Snowy Egret:** New Hamburg 22 Sep; 2 New Hamburg 5 Oct; Kingston Pt 8 Oct - 1 Nov; Rhinebeck 10 Nov.

**Glossy Ibis:** Citco Pond, Goshen 1-9, 19-20 Sep (KM, MZ).

## HAWKS - LARIDS

**Osprey:** last Wappinger Lake 25 Nov.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 200 Hook Mt 22 Sep.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 27 Mt Peter 4 Nov; 167 Chestnut Ridge 4 Nov; 22 Hook Mt 7 Nov; 105 Chestnut Ridge 8 Nov.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** 459 Chestnut Ridge 10 Sep; 839 Hook Mt 11 Sep; 922 Mt Peter 13 Sep; 1140 Mt Peter 17 Sep; 1764 Mt Peter 21 Sep; 3164 Hook Mt 22 Sep.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** Rockefeller SP 29 Oct; CPP 12 Oct.

**Golden Eagle:** 2 Black Dirt Region 5 Nov.

**Clapper Rail:** 3 MC 26 Sep, 6, 14 Oct; 2 MC 2 Nov.

**Sora:** MC 1, 3 Oct.

**C. Gallinule:** Round Pond 5 Oct.

**Sandhill Crane:** Rockefeller SP 16 Nov (VH).

**Am. Oystercatcher:** 2 EGR 6 Sep.

**Am. Golden-Plover:** 3-4 Hurley 1-3 Sep; 4 Pine I 3 Sep; 10 Morningside P 4 Sep; 12 Hurley 5 Sep (DO); 2 Black Dirt Region 4 Nov.

**Semipalmated Plover:** Strever Farm 1, 2 Sep, 7 Oct; Great Vly 21 Oct; Piermont Pier 20, 21, 24, 26 Oct.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** EGR 27 Oct.

**Sanderling:** Morningside P 1-3 Sep.

**Dunlin:** Saugerties 15, 24 Sep; 1-3 MC 16, 22, 23, 26 Oct, 1 Nov; Kingston Pt 11 Nov.

**Purple Sandpiper:** 3-4 EGR 23, 29 Nov.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** Nannahagan Park in Pleasantville 2 Sep; Pine I 3 Sep; Morningside P 26 Sep, 6 Oct.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** max 5 Skinner's Lane 8 Sep.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 9 Saugerties 16 Sep; 8 Saugerties 15 Oct;

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** Walkill R NWR 15, 27 Oct (StRo), ph.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** Ashokan Res 21 Oct; EGR 30 Oct; Strauss Marsh 31 Oct; Neversink Res 1 Nov; 7 Ashokan Res 4 Nov.

**Black-headed Gull:** Five Island P 25 Nov (TG, JR).

**Laughing Gull:** 150 EGR 16 Nov (GB), large number for so late in the season.

**Iceland Gull:** EGR 28 Nov.

**Glaucous Gull:** Kingston 15 Nov.

**Com. Tern:** Morningside P 4, 5 Sep.

**Forster's Tern:** Morningside P 4-5 Sep (JF, SB); 2 MC 4, 11 Sep.

## PIGEONS - PARROTS

**Barn Owl:** Mohonk 27 Sep.

**Snowy Owl:** Ulster 15 Nov (JCI).

**Short-eared Owl:** arr SGNWR 16 Nov; 4 SGNWR 26 Nov.

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** 1-2 Woodstock 17, 21 Oct, 19 Nov; Willow 16-18 Oct; Kenneth Wilson Campground 21 Oct; 3 Ellenville 14 Nov.

**Com. Nighthawk:** 80 MC 1 Sep; 101 Wawarsing 4 Sep; 87 Dover 15 Sep.

**E. Whip-poor-will:** Rochester 18 Sep.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** last Hartsdale 16 Oct.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** max 9 Weston Rd Marsh 17 Sep.

**Monk Parakeet:** 10 Larchmont 3 Nov; 3 New Rochelle 13 Nov; 3 Nyack 28 Nov.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** MC 2 Sep; Hurley 3 Sep; 3 Bashakill 8 Sep; Minnewaska 12 Sep.

**Least Flycatcher:** Red Wing Recreation Park 29, 30 Nov (MSo,DK), calling, video.

**SAY'S PHOEBE:** Oil City Rd 21 Oct (MLO).

**N. Shrike:** SGNWR 25-26 Nov (MG, MD); Galeville P 26 Nov (KeMcD).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** Depot Hill 4 Sep; Kingston 8 Sep; Bashakill 9, 21 Sep; Rochester 10 Sep; 2 Saugerties 12 Sep, 16 Oct; MC 13 Sep; 2 Minnewaska 12, 14 Sep; .

**Tree Swallow:** lingered PP thru 7 Nov.

**Marsh Wren:** 1-2 MC 1, 12, 26 Sep; 3 MC 1 Oct, 1 Nov.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** CPP 28 Oct.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Bashakill 1 Sep (SB), early.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** Nuclear L 20 Sep; Buttercup Sanc West 26 Oct; Pocatico L 9 Nov.

**Wood Thrush:** Hunt-Parker Sanctuary 2 Nov (TJ).

#### LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

**Snow Bunting:** 16 EGR 2 Nov; 14 EGR 18, 21 Nov

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** Esopus 30 Sep; MC 11, 12 Oct, 2, 4, 6, 7 Nov; EGR 8, 9, 19 Nov; Cross R Res 16 Nov.

**Connecticut Warbler:** Bashakill 9, 25 Sep (JH, SB); Wallkill R NWR 12, 15, 16 Sep (RS, LS, GB); Peach Hill P 16 Sep (MR); Steward SF 28 Sep (AL).

**N. Parula:** Kingston Pt 6 Nov.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** last Hillview Res 6 Oct (SC)

**Palm Warbler:** 1-2 MC 12-14, 17 Sep (JS, GB, TB), early.

**Pine Warbler:** CPP 25 Nov.

**Wilson's Warbler:** CPP 22 Nov (J&SF).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Wallkill R NWR 7 Sep (LS, MLo); CPP 24, 25 Oct (TJ).

#### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** 2 Town of Ulster 18 Sep; MC 21 Oct; CPP 23, 24 Nov.

**Vesper Sparrow:** 2 Pine Plains 5 Sep; Stony Kill 9 Sep; Ulster 18 Sep, 22, 28 Oct;

Marbletown 18 Oct; 2 Bashakill 17 Oct; EGR 23 Oct.

**“Ipswich” Sparrow:** CPP 24 Nov (PH).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** 2 Greig Farm 16 Sep.

**Nelson's Sparrow:** Wallkill R NWR 2 Oct; max 4 MC 20 Oct; 1-3 MC 1 Oct -1 Nov.

**Saltmarsh Sparrow:** MC 14 Oct.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** Depot Hill 4 Sep (CP), early; max 5 Stonykill 26 Sep.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** arrived Rockefeller SP 12 Sep (MSt), early; Depot Hill 21 Sep.

**Blue Grosbeak:** 2 Rockefeller SP Preserve 2 Sep (MSt), ph; Scarsdale 21 Oct (SMo).

**Dickcissel:** Marbletown 8 Sep (PS); CPP 5 Oct; MC 11 Oct (GB).

**Bobolink:** last Marbletown 14 Oct.

**Pine Siskin:** 2 Bashakill 7 Nov.

#### EXOTICS

**Chukar:** Galeville 16 Nov (KeMcD).

**Mandarin Duck:** Six and a Half Station Rd. Sanctuary 16, 20 Nov (KA).

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## REGION 10 - MARINE

**Seth Ausubel**

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The fall season was once again warm and dry. Temperatures in September were roughly 2.5-3.5°F above normal, ranging from an average of 68.9° at Islip to 70.5° at Central Park. 2" of rain fell at Central Park in September, a deficit of 2.28", but rainfall was close to normal at Islip, 3.99", 0.41" above normal. October was extremely warm across the Region. The average temperature at Central Park was 64.1°, 7.2° above normal. The temperature anomaly was even greater at Islip—7.6° above normal. The average temperature is 61.9°. Total rainfall for the month of October was near or above normal, but almost all of the rain fell at the end of the month. Monthly totals ranged from 4.18" in Central Park, 0.22" below normal, to 6.67" at Islip, 2.88" above normal. This included 3.19" at Central Park and 4.02" at Islip during a deluge on 29-30 October. November continued dry, but temperatures were near normal. For example, rainfall at Islip was 1.80", 1.5" below normal, and the average temperature was 45.4°, 0.3° above normal. Tropical Storm José passed well southeast of Long Island on 19-20 September, with little to show bird-wise.

It was a decent season at the Fire Island Hawk Watch. Despite weather conditions that did not produce a good flight day throughout almost the entire month of October, a total of 3248 hawks were recorded, 2.5% below the average of the previous 20 years. 21 and 22 September were the big days with 429 and 782 hawks, respectively. Among the bright spots were the counts of Osprey (836) and Bald Eagle (12), both all-time highs. The 712 American Kestrels counted was 17% below the 20-year average, a modest increase after four years of record low counts. Numbers of Cooper's Hawks (49) and Peregrines (216) were 38% and 14% above the 20-year averages, respectively. The season's results included a Red-shouldered Hawk on 10 November and a Rough-legged Hawk on 11 November. Unfortunately, Sharp-shinned Hawks were at an all-time low. Only 92 birds were counted, 73% below the 20-year average. It was another bad year for Northern Harrier. 146 birds were counted, 36% below the 20-year average. Investigation is warranted as to the causes.

An abundance of late-season records of neotropical migrants was one of the season's notable phenomena and may reflect phenological changes in migration patterns caused by warm fall weather and underlying climate change. For example, at least 16 species of warblers were recorded in Central Park on 30 September and 15 species on 6 October. As the season progressed, a number of observers noted species present past their normal departure dates. For example, on 6 November at Robert Moses State Park, Suffolk County, the following late migrants were noted by one observer: two White-eyed Vireos, two Northern Parulas, Indigo Bunting, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. There are many other

examples of species lingering well into November. Remarkably, at least 15 species of warblers were still being reported in the Region in the last week of November, including Prothonotary, Black-and-white, Northern Parula, Blackpoll, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Canada, and Wilson's, and more expected late-season species such as Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Nashville, Common Yellowthroat, Palm, and Pine.

Consistent with the changing climate, peak abundance of migratory waterfowl has shifted beyond the end of the fall season. Observed waterfowl numbers generally reflect this change. With the exception of several species of sea ducks, seasonal maxima were modest or low. A nice concentration of migratory waterfowl once again occurred on the East Pond at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, including the seasonal maxima for eight species.

It was the sparsest fall season for irruptive winter finches in the author's memory. There were only four reports of Pine Siskin, with a maximum of two, and approximately 15 reports of Purple Finch. The maximum of American Goldfinches was a paltry 72.

In a season full of great rarities, certainly the most outstanding was a Corn Crake, found along the side of the Ocean Parkway at Cedar Beach, Town of Babylon, Suffolk County by Ken and Suzy Feustel. The bird was found on 7 November and stayed in this unlikely spot through the 8<sup>th</sup>, affording many birders the opportunity for extended looks at this normally secretive species. Unfortunately, birders arriving on the morning of 9 November found the bird dead. The specimen was delivered to the American Museum of Natural History, where it was concluded that the bird had been struck by a car. See articles and photos elsewhere in this issue.

Pink-footed, Ross's, and Barnacle Geese were all seen in the Region in the second half of November. A Pacific Loon was spotted at Montauk Point on 12 November. A Northern Fulmar, extremely rare from shore, was seen at Robert Moses State Park on 15 November. An extremely obliging adult Brown Booby stayed around Lake Montauk from 27 September to 5 November. There were two American White Pelicans, one at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on 29-30 September and the other at Jones Beach West End on 11 November. Also on 11 November, a juvenile Golden Eagle was seen in Southampton, Suffolk County. Three Sandhill Cranes were fly-overs at St. George, Staten Island on 8 November. A Franklin's Gull was seen at Miller Field, Staten Island on 13 September. A Bridled Tern was present at Great Gull Island, Suffolk County from 2-5 September. Photos were obtained. An immature male Calliope Hummingbird was a spectacular visitor at a feeder in Baiting Hollow, Suffolk County on 1 October.

A Hammond's Flycatcher, only New York's third record, was a very popular bird in Central Park from 26 November through the end of the season. Initially spotted by Linda LaBella, the challenging identification was confirmed through the power of digital technology and significant input from many birders. Other rare flycatchers in the Region included a Say's Phoebe at Hecksher State

Park, Suffolk County on 8 November and an Ash-throated Flycatcher at Mt. Loretto Unique Area, Staten Island on 23 November. There was a lone Cave Swallow report, at Breezy Point, Queens on 24 November. A Townsend's Solitaire showed up at the Suffolk County Farm in Yaphank, Suffolk County on 26 November, joining a couple of other good birds—a Prothonotary Warbler and a Clay-colored Sparrow—at this under-birded and intriguing location.

Brent Bomkamp discovered a Lark Bunting at Robert Moses State Park on 28 September, and it stayed to the 29<sup>th</sup>. A LeConte's Sparrow was seen and photographed at Pelham Bay Park, Bronx on 28 October. Two Western Tanagers were found. A female-type bird was discovered by Eric Miller at East Alley Marsh, Bayside, Queens on 12 November. It was present there at least to 28 November and seen by many. The second was at Stony Brook, Suffolk County on 17 November. Finally, Heydi Lopes found an adult male Yellow-headed Blackbird at Floyd Bennet Field on 24 September. It was also seen on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Four Harbors Audubon Society conducted an organized count of Common Nighthawks at Frank Melville Park, Setauket, Suffolk County. The site had been noted by local birders for large numbers of Common Nighthawks gathering to feed over Setauket Mill Pond during past migrations. The count was conducted on 40 evenings from late August to early October. By recent standards, the numbers of Common Nighthawks tallied were large, including a maximum of 573 on 8 September among a season total of 2046 birds. Additional documentation is forthcoming, and hopefully the effort will continue in future years using a standard methodology.

The fourth Seatuck Birding Challenge was held on 9 September, from 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. under good weather conditions. A flight overnight resulted in many nocturnal migrants arriving under calm morning conditions. 184 species were found, exceeding last year's record of 166. Nine teams competed this year despite a scheduling conflict that made it impossible to include high school teams. A new team, All Wings Considered, finally succeeded in dethroning the three-time champion Pteam Ptarmigeddon by recording an astonishing total of 139 species, demolishing the previous record of 118 set last year. The Captree Counters were second with 131, and Pteam Ptarmigeddon was third, also well ahead of the old mark, with 124 species. There were many highlights, including American Bittern, Broad-winged Hawk, two American Avocets, American Golden-Plover, Marbled Godwit, Baird's and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Olive-sided and Acadian Flycatchers, Western Kingbird, Connecticut and Yellow-throated Warblers, multiple Yellow-breasted Chats, and Clay-colored and Lincoln's Sparrows. More information about the Challenge and full results can be found at the Seatuck website: <https://www.seatuck.org/index.php/2017-birding-challenge-results>

An astonishing 328 species were recorded in Region 10 this season. To the author's knowledge, this is an all-time record for the Region in any season.

The author mourns the passing of Robert J. Kurtz on 26 September, 2017. Bob was a dedicated birder and hawk watcher, who touched many with his infectious sense of humor. He was a frequent contributor to this report, reliably submitting his own detailed seasonal report that the author found very useful for his bird observations and other insights, especially on weather and climate patterns. The death of Holly Wilson-Camhi on 7 November was another painful loss for our community. Holly birded Brooklyn with her husband Phillip and more widely on Long Island and in upstate New York with Patricia Lindsay, her aunt, and Shai Mitra, both long-time Regional Editors for Region 10. Her vibrancy and enthusiasm for birding were recorded too briefly in these pages but will be remembered by those who knew her.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**APP** – Alley Pd P, QUEE; **BLSP** – Belmont L SP, West Babylon, SUFF; **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 P, 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 P, QUEE; **FP** – Forest P, 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:** Deep Hollow Ranch, Montauk, SUFF 28 Nov (BH).  
**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Calverton, SUFF 10 Nov (RBA); BLSP 16-29 Nov (JSt, mob).  
**Snow Goose:** max 250 JBWR 18 Nov (JDi, et al), low num.  
**ROSS’S GOOSE (R10):** CRSP 25Nov (B. Marrs), ph.  
**Brant:** max 10,000 JBWE 25 Nov (GL).  
**BARNACLE GOOSE:** Old Town Pd, Southampton, SUFF 15 Nov (RBA).  
**Cackling Goose:** Hendrickson P, Valley Stream, NASS 10 Nov (TH); 2 Hendrickson P 11-22 Nov (TH, mob); PP 19 Nov (fide RJ); 2 PP 20-23 Nov (RJ, mob); 7 Calverton 24 Nov (DLM), large num; Grant P, Hewlett, NASS 30 Nov (KR).  
**Mute Swan:** max 250 JBWR 30 Sep (P. Markee), more than recent years.  
**Tundra Swan:** 21 JBWE 8 Nov (RBA), large num.  
**Wood Duck:** max 39 MP 3 Sep (AnW), large num.  
**Gadwall:** max 450 JBWR 9 Oct (DG, SS).  
**Eurasian Wigeon:** JBWR 5 Oct thru (KF, SF, AB, CF); Eastport Pd, Eastport, SUFF 4 Nov thru (RBA); Fresh Pd, Ft. Salonga, SUFF 15 Nov thru (RBA); Mill Pd, W. Sayville, SUFF 29 Nov thru (JT).  
**Am. Wigeon:** max 260 JBWR 9 Oct (DG, SS).  
**Am. Black Duck:** max 900 JBWR 9 Nov (T. Lenz, et al.).

**Blue-winged Teal:** max 50 JBWR 5-19 Sep (CF).  
**N. Shoveler:** max 551 JBWR 23 Oct (AB).  
**N. Pintail:** max 75 Mass 26 Nov (EMu).  
**Green-winged Teal:** max 350 JBWR 18 Oct (AB).  
**Canvasback:** max 14 Tung Ting Pd, Centerport, SUFF 29 Nov (M. Jensen), low num.  
**Redhead:** max 25 Baisley Pd P, QUEE 30 Nov (CCo), low num.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** max 100 Eastport L, SUFF 12 Nov (AC), low num.  
**Greater Scaup:** max 250 Gardiner CP, SUFF 19 Oct (S. Muntchnick), low num.  
**Lesser Scaup:** max 60 Eastport L 12 Nov (AC).  
**King Eider:** fem JBWE 18 Nov (KF); Ditch Plains, Montauk, SUFF 18 Nov (AiP).  
**Com. Eider:** max 1500 MP 23 Nov (KF, SF), large num.  
**Harlequin Duck:** max 6 Pt. Lookout, NASS 25 Nov (GL).  
**Surf Scoter:** max 800 RMSP 29 Oct (BBo, PMo).  
**White-winged Scoter:** max 1900 MP 24 Nov (KF, SF), large num.  
**Black Scoter:** max 13,500 RMSP 29 Oct (BBo, PMo), large num.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** max 77 Orient, SUFF 6 Nov (J. Milton), low num.  
**Bufflehead:** max 252 Bush Terminal Pier, KING 12 Nov (AB).  
**Com. Goldeneye:** max 4 Sammy’s B, East Hampton, SUFF 21 Oct (P. Markee); max 4

Stehli B, Lattingtown, NASS 18 Nov (B. Garriel); low num.

**Hooded Merganser:** max 125 Unqua L, Massapequa, NASS 25 Nov (EMU)

**Com. Merganser:** 2 SMSP 18 Nov (A. Angelis, I. Angelis); 2 JBWR 26-29 Nov (GL, A. Bartow); only reps.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 40 MLUA 25 Nov (ACi), low num.

**Ruddy Duck:** max 500 JBWR 3 Nov (SC), large num.

**N. Bobwhite:** 12 Greentree Estate, Manhasset, NASS 7 Oct (SP), released; 5 Dam Pd Pres, East Marion, SUFF 15 Oct (JSe), unusual loc.

**PACIFIC LOON:** MP 12 Nov (AC).

**Red-necked Grebe:** 2 MP 12 Nov (KF, SF), only rep.

**N. Fulmar:** 6 mi. s. Amagansett, SUFF 6 Nov (RBA); RMSP 15 Nov (RBA), rare from land.

**Cory's Shearwater:** 20 MB 17 Sep (SSM, PJL); 11 MP 4 Oct (RBA); BPt 9 Oct (RBA); 2 RMSP 8 Oct (RBA); Shinn 22 Oct (MC); East Hampton, SUFF 29 Oct (AnW).

**Great Shearwater:** 2 RMSP 5 Nov (TH); 8 mi. s. Amagansett 6 Nov (RBA); 2 MP 12 Nov (TH); BPt 19 Nov (MB).

**Sooty Shearwater:** 2 East Hampton 3 Sep (AnW), late.

**Manx Shearwater:** RMSP 29 Oct (TS).

**BROWN BOOBY:** ad L. Montauk, SUFF 27 Sep – 5 Nov (*fide* DR, mob, BBo).

**N. Gannet:** 8300 BPt 19 Nov (MB), large num.

**Great Cormorant:** L. Montauk 30 Sep (AnW), early.

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (R10):** JBWR 29-30 Sep (EG, mob); JBWE 11 Nov (KR), ph.

**Brown Pelican:** 2 Jones Inlet, NASS 24 Sep (TH); 6 JBWE 15 Oct (TWB, GB).

**Am. Bittern:** Marine Park, KING 28 Oct (RBA); 2 Gligo B, SUFF 1 Nov (RBA); Dune Rd., Hampton Bays, SUFF 5 Nov (BBo).

**Least Bittern:** River Rd., RICH 22 Sep (IG); GBP 11 Oct (JRG).

**Snowy Egret:** max 153 JBWR 4 Sep (CF).

**Tricolored Heron:** MNSA 15-17 Sep (MF); JBWR 1-7 Oct (A. Angelis, I. Angelis, L. Cafuoco).

**Cattle Egret:** Bridgehampton, SUFF 19 Nov (VB, AnW).

**Black Vulture:** 5 Moses Mtn., RICH 21 Oct (CB); 5 Ft. Washington P, NEWY 20 Nov (NS).

**Turkey Vulture:** 26 CP 17 Oct (DA, *et al.*), large num.

## HAWKS - LARIDS

**Osprey:** 836 FIHW (*fide* DP), all-time max and 140% above average of previous 20 years; 201 FIHW 22 Sep (*fide* DP), all-time max; Great Neck, NASS 15 Nov (JT), late.

**GOLDEN EAGLE (R10):** juv Southampton, SUFF 11 Nov (AC).

**Bald Eagle:** 12 FIHW (*fide* DP), all-time max and +172% 20-yr avg.

**N. Harrier:** 146 FIHW (*fide* DP), 36% below average of previous 20 years.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 92 FIHW (*fide* DP), all-time minimum and -73% 20-yr avg.

**Cooper's Hawk:** 49 FIHW (*fide* DP), +38% 20-yr avg.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** FIHW 10 Nov (*fide* DP), rare on barrier island.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** 18 Bronx Zoo, BRON 29 Sep (TO).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** FIHW 11 Nov (*fide* DP), only rep.

**CORN CRAKE:** Cedar B, Babylon, SUFF 7-9 Nov (KF, SF, mob), *intro*.

**Virginia Rail:** Greentree Estate 11 Sep (SP); CHP 8 Nov (EJ); 48<sup>th</sup> St. & park Av., NEWY 8 Nov (*fide* L. Trachtenberg), found on hood of car, taken to rehabber; VCP 19 Nov (NS, *et al.*); up to 3 released by rehabber CP late Nov (*fide* TF).

**Sora:** JBWR 18 Sep (AL, CF).

**Com. Gallinule:** juv Mill Pd, Bellmore, NASS 18-23 Sep (J. Landesberg, mob); PP 14-21 Nov (JM, mob).

**SANDHILL CRANE (R10):** 3 St. George, RICH 8 Nov (IG), fly-over.

**Am. Avocet:** JBWR 8 Sep – 10 Oct (CF, mob); CCP 9 Sep (AC, BBo, BF).

**Am. Oystercatcher:** max 565 JBWE 15 Oct (RBA).

**Am. Golden-Plover:** few; Miller Field, RICH 3 Sep (ACi); Wading R, SUFF 3 Sep (TH); JBWR 8 Sep (CF); 2 Plumb B, KING 3 Sep (RBA); 2 MB 14 Sep (RBA); 2 Sag 14 Sep (RA); max 9 Riverhead 17 Sep (A. Ratay), low num; CR 23 Sep (ACi); CIC 20 Sep (DG); 2 BPt 21 Sep (AB); 6 JBWR 24 Sep (AB); JBWR 3 Oct (TF); JBWE 2-6 Oct (mob); 2 JBWR 5-7 Oct (KF, SF, AB); HSP 7 Oct (SF); JBWE 25 Oct (DD, *et al.*); 2-3 HSP 29 Oct – 3 Nov (GQ, SSM, KF, SF); 4 JBWE 17 Nov (PH).

**Piping Plover:** CCP 25 Nov (LO), late.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** Bush Terminal Pier, KING 28 Oct – 25 Nov (AB), late.



**Greater Yellowlegs:** 274 Broad Channel, QUEE 10 Oct (MB), large num.

**Upland Sandpiper:** Hulse Landing Rd, Wading River, SUFF 3 Sep (TH).

**Whimbrel:** PBP 9 Sep (MB); 3 PBP 10 Sep (MB); JBWE 24 Sep (TH).

**Hudsonian Godwit:** 2 JBWR 2 Sep (KM); JBWR 3 Sep (DG); JBWR 21 Sep – 8 Oct, PJJ, *et al.*, mob); 3-4 HSP 2-6 Nov (KF, DF, SSM, PJJ), one with tumors on head and leg; HSP 7-19 Nov (mob); JBWR 4 Nov (CF).

**Marbled Godwit:** 3 Old Inlet, Bellport, SUFF 2 Sep (RBA); JBWE 4 Sep (AL, *et al.*); Little Egg Marsh, Broad Channel, QUEE 14 Oct (MB).

**Red Knot:** max 155 JBWE 10 Sep (BF, TH).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** Timber Pt., SUFF 7 Sep (JSt), unusual loc; max 25 JBWR 19 Sep (CF); 9 JBWR 6 Oct (AB); JBWE 5 Nov (AB), late.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** Wading River 2 Sep (MSch); JBWR 8 Sep (mob); Miller Field 9-11 Sep (EL, JRG); 2 Miller Field 13 Sep (HF, JRG); JBWE 3 Nov (RBA), late.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** max 15 JBWR 11 Sep (CF); JBWR 22 Oct (SW), late.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** few; Rockaway, QUEE 1 Sep (CF), unusual loc; max 4 Riverhead 2 Sep (MY, *et al.*); Wading River 2 Sep (MSch); 2 Wading River 3 Sep (TH).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** max 41 JBWR 6 Oct (AB), large num.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** max 35 CCP 15 Sep (KF, SF), low num.

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** max 13 Santapogue Cr, Lindenhurst, SUFF 27 Sep (AL).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** JBWR 5 Sep (CF); JBWR 17 Sep (KF).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** 5 Kenny's B, Southold, SUFF 1 Sep (L. Normandia, R. Kedenburg), ph!, unusual loc.

**Pomarine Jaeger:** BPT 9 Oct (RBA), rare from land.

**Parasitic Jaeger:** 3 CCP 19 Sep (SSM); 2 RMSP 20 Sep (SSM); Oakwood B, RICH 20 Sep (ACi); MP 4 Oct (RBA); FT 7 Oct (CF, *et al.*); FT 9 Oct (SA, CF); 2 RP 9 Oct (SA, CF); 15 BPT 9 Oct (RBA), large num; 2 Coney I, KING 9 Oct (RBA); 3 RMSP 29 Oct (RBA); 3 RMSP 15 Nov (RBA); JBWE 25 Nov (TH); **Dovekie:** MP 18 Nov (AiP).

**Razorbill:** 2 East Hampton 24 Oct (AnW), early; 2 MP 12 Nov (AC); max 12 RMSP 16 Nov (KF); 2 JBWE 18 Nov (KF).

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** CCP 17 Sep (SSM, PJJ); PBP 5 Nov (JR, mob); 2 Camp Hero SP, Montauk, SUFF 5 Nov (BBo); 4 RMSP 15

Nov (RBA); BPT 19 Nov MB; RP 25 Nov (AB); max 12 RMSP 26 Nov (PMo, TS, *et al.*).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 1500 RMSP 25-26 Nov (BBo, PMo, TS, *et al.*).

**Black-headed Gull:** PBP 3-12 Nov (RBA, AB, JR, AR).

**Little Gull:** MP 23 Nov (KF, SF).

**FRANKLIN'S GULL (R10):** Miller Field 13 Sep (HF, JRG).

**Iceland Gull:** Old Inlet, Bellport 2 Sep (RBA); SPCP 21 Sep (RA, JHr), 3 cy; early; City I, BRON 11 Nov (RBA); BPT 18-19 Nov (RAR, MB); RP 25 Nov (AB).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 9 Old Inlet, Bellport 2 Sep (RBA); 2 SPCP 8 Sep (RBA); juv JBWE 10 Sep (SA); 4 Sag 14 Sep (RBA); ad CCP 17 Sep (SSM, PJJ); BPT 17 Sep (AB); 6 SPCP 19 Sep (JHr); 12 RMSP 19 Sep (BB); 13 JBWE 19 Sep (BB); 8 juv RMSP 20 Sep (SSM); Arden Av., RICH 27 Sep thru, returning ad (mob); 18 JBWE 16 Oct (*vide* AB); 23 JBWE 24 Oct (RT); max 48 RMSP 29 Oct (SSM, PJJ, MC); Maratooka L, Mattituck, SUFF 19 Nov, SA, MN, 1st win; BPT 19 Nov (MB); 2 RP 25 Nov (AB).

**BRIDLED TERN:** Great Gull I, SUFF 2-5 Sep (JDi, *et al.*), ph.

**Gull-billed Tern:** Leeds Pd Pres, Pt. Washington, NASS 14 Sep (CCo), only rep.

**Caspian Tern:** 2 JBWR 9-10 Sep (CF, SA, MN, SP); 3 Pike's B, Westhampton Dunes, SUFF 3 Sep (RBA); JBWR 16 Sep (Suff); 3 JBWR 19 Sep – 9 Oct (CF, TWB, GB, mob); 2 BPT 21 Sep (AB); 2 MP 4 Oct (RBA); 2 MB 5 Oct (RBA); max 6 RMSP 8 Oct (KF, SF, PMo); 2 FT 10 Oct (DG).

**Black Tern:** 2 Pike's B 3 Sep (RBA); max 64 JBSP 7 Sep (KF), large num; 2 MB 14 Sep (RBA); 7 MB 17 Sep (SSM, PJJ); Nickerson B, NASS 18 Sep (AB); 7 JBSP 19 Sep (RT).

**Roseate Tern:** max 300 Great Gull I 6 Sep (JDi), large num.

**Royal Tern:** appx. 30 reps. incl: 150 Old Inlet, Bellport 2 Sep (RBA); 241 Midland B, RICH 20 Sep (IG); 31 Pike's B 4 Oct (RBA); 34 MB 5 Oct (RBA); 42 FT 7 Oct (CF, *et al.*); 270 Midland B 25 Oct (CB); 107 Midland B 27 Oct (RV); max 280 Midland B 28 Oct (TH); 57 Midland B 2 Nov (RV); 2 RMSP 15 Nov (RBA); 3 BPT 18 Nov (RAR, MB); 4 BPT 19 Nov (MB), last.

## PIGEONS - PARROTS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Cedar B, RICH 7 Nov (RV), late.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** Caumsett SP, SUFF 12 Nov (DK, BR), late  
**Great Horned Owl:** max 4 Greentree Estate, 1 Sep (SP); FT 7 Oct (CF, *et al.*), unusual loc.  
**Snowy Owl:** Bush Terminal Pier 12 Nov (RBA), unusual loc; max 5 Fire I, SUFF 23 Nov (DR).  
**Long-eared Owl:** KP 9 Nov (CCo).  
**Short-eared Owl:** 2 reps.  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** 2 reps.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** 164 Setauket, SUFF 4 Sep (JT, PDI, *et al.*); 307 Setauket 7 Sep (JT, PDI, *et al.*); max 573 Setauket 8 Sep (JT, PDI, *et al.*); 134 Setauket 13 Sep (JT, PDI, *et al.*); large nums; *intro*.  
**E. Whip-poor-will:** Coney I Cr P 23 Sep (mob), rare in fall.  
**Chimney Swift:** 1625 FT 1 Sep (DG, SB), 7-hour watch.  
**CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD:** Baiting Hollow, SUFF 1 Oct (RBA), imm m, ph.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** RMSP 9 Sep (TH); Oakland L, QUEE 10 Sep (AG); imm CLP 13 Sep (EJ); CP 17 Sep (DA, *et al.*); RMSP 30 Sep (RBA); imm FT 7-10 Oct (CF, *et al.*, DG); GwC 5 Nov thru (PD, RBA).  
**PILEATED WOODPECKER (R10):** CLP 9 Sep (EJ); Jayne's Hill, Huntington, SUFF, 3 Oct (*fide* PPa).  
**Am. Kestrel:** 712 FIHW (*fide* DP), -17% 20-yr avg.  
**Merlin:** 1177 FIHW (*fide* DP), -10% 20-yr avg.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** 216 FIHW (*fide* DP), +14% 20-yr avg.  
**Monk Parakeet:** max 40 Santapogue Cr 18 Nov (BBo, PMo, TS).

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** 3 PP 1 Sep (K. O'hearn); CLP 2 Sep (EJ); CP 2 Sep (DA, et al); CP 12 Sep (ABi).  
**HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER:** CP 26 Nov thru (Linda LaBella, mob).  
**"Empidonax" sp.:** CP 25 Nov (DA, et al.), late.  
**SAY'S PHOEBE:** HSP 8 Nov (PJL).  
**ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER:** MLUA 23 Nov (EJ, DE).  
**Western Kingbird:** RMSP 6 Sep (PA); RMSP 9 Sep (TH); JBWE 10 Sep (TH); Governor's I, NEWY 15 Sep (BC).  
**N. Shrike:** JBWE 10 Nov (PH), ph.  
**White-eyed Vireo:** 2 RMSP 6 Nov (SSM); BPt 29 Nov (AB); late.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** CP 17 Sep (DA, et al); Old Westbury, NASS 23 Sep (EM, et al); CIC 19-29 Nov (RBA), late.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** 2 RP 11 Nov (AB), late.  
**Com. Raven:** 2 CP 9 Sep (J. Spindel); 2 Forest Hills, QUEE 10 Sep (MN, SA); Park Slope, KING 7 Oct (M. Wohl); 2 Tiffany Pres., Oyster Bay Cove, NASS 14 Oct (PM); 10 Moses Mtn 4 Nov (CB), large num; 3 Merrick, NASS 4 Nov (PM); 2 Frick Estate, Roslyn, NASS 5 Nov (PM); 2 CP 19 Nov (DA, *et al.*); 2 Van Name Cove, RICH 27 Nov (EJ); widespread and under-reported.  
**Purple Martin:** 11 FT 1 Sep (DG, SB), 7-hour watch.  
**Bank Swallow:** 76 FT 1 Sep (DG, SB), 7-hour watch.  
**Cliff Swallow:** 13 FT 1 Sep (DG, SB), 7-hour watch.  
**CAVE SWALLOW:** BPt 24 Nov (J. Gyekis, L. Snavely).  
**Barn Swallow:** 1315 FT 1 Sep (DG, SB), 7-hour watch.  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** very few; appx 10 reps, max 2.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 31 Greentree Estate 17 Oct (SP), large num.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 86 Greentree Estate 17 Oct (SP), large num.  
**TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE:** Suffolk County farm, Yaphank, SUFF 26 Nov (R. Haines, *fide* JGI).  
**Am. Pipit:** 5 JBWR 5 Oct (KF, SF), unusual loc.

#### LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** PBP 4 Nov (RBA); RMSP 18 Nov (SA, MN, PJL, SSM), migr; FIHW 26 Nov (RBA).  
**Ovenbird:** thru (RBA).  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** CP 2 Sep (J. Sepulvida), rare in fall.  
**N. Waterthrush:** CP 26-28 Nov (DA, *et al.*; J. Keane, B. Inskeep), late; present thru (RBA).  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** APP 1-9 Sep (EM, JR, mob); 2 APP 16 Sep (EM, MZ).  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** thru (RBA).  
**Prothonotary Warbler:** Suffolk County Farm, Yaphank, 24 Nov thru (*fide* RP, mob).  
**Tennessee Warbler:** CP 15 Oct (DA, *et al.*); Owl's Head P, KING 6 Nov (RM); late.  
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** appx 30 reps incl: CP 1 Sep (DA, *et al.*), early; 2 PP 17 Oct (SS); 2 PBP 2 Nov (RBA); 3 CP 11 Nov (DA, *et al.*); 3 E. Alley Marsh, QUEE 14 Nov (AB, mob);

BRY 19 Nov (J. Keefer); 2 CP 25 Nov (DA, et al.); 3 Hendrix Cr/Canarsie P, KING 30 Nov (DG, SS).

**Nashville Warbler:** thru (RBA).

**Connecticut Warbler:** PP 4 Sep (K. O'Hearn, JM, mob); Uplands Farm Pres, Cold Spring Harbor, SUFF 8 Sep (BBo); CP 8 Sep (*vide* TF); APP 9 Sep (EM, JR); Sands Pt. Pres, NASS 9 Sep (GQ); Brooklyn Bridge P, KING 15 Sep (H. Wolf); CP 15 Sep (KFu); KP 20 Sep (EM, *et al.*); APP 22 Sep (EM, *et al.*); CP 23 Sep (ACi); Snug Harbor, RICH 23 Sep (IG);

**Kentucky Warbler:** CP 10 Sep (D. Mullins), rare in fall.

**Com. Yellowthroat:** thru (RBA).

**Hooded Warbler:** appx 25 reps incl: CP 7 Sep (P. Pollock); 4 CP 30 Sep (DA, *et al.*), large num; Gardiner's P, Bayshore, SUFF 27 Oct (N. Laviola), late; PP 16 Nov (RBA); APP 17 Nov (RBA); PP 19 Nov (M. Brawer).

**Am. Redstart:** CP 29 Nov (B. Elbert), late.

**Cape May Warbler:** 17 FT 1 Sep (DG, SB), 7-hour watch; max 32 Coney I Cr P 9 Sep (DG), large num.

**N. Parula:** 2 RMSP 6 Nov (SSM); CP 26 Nov (DA, *et al.*); BPT 29 Nov (AB); Hendrix Cr. 30 Nov (DG, SS); thru (RBA).

**Magnolia Warbler:** CP 27 Oct (DA, *et al.*); RMSP 7 Nov (BBo); PP 23 Nov (C. McRae); late; thru (RBA).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** CP 15 Oct (DA, *et al.*); Stuyvesant Town, NEWY 20 Oct (AL); late.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** Coney I Cr P 20 Nov (K.O'hearn, K. Toomey), late.

**Palm Warbler:** 64 Greentree Estate 17 Oct (SP), large num.

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** Snug Harbor 30 Sep (IG); CLP 4 Oct (HF); CP 28-30 Oct (RBA).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** VCP 19 Nov (NS, *et al.*); VCP 25 Nov (MB, RAR); late.

**Canada Warbler:** CP 29 Nov (E. Ratner), late; thru (RBA).

**Wilson's Warbler:** IHP 15 Nov (RBA); CP 23 Nov (DA, *et al.*); CP 26 Nov - thru (DA, *et al.*, S. Robinson); late.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** 3 FT 9 Sep (SA, MN, JGI, *et al.*).

#### TOWHEES \_ WEAVERS

**Chipping Sparrow:** 99 Greentree Estate 17 Oct (SP), large num.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** 3 RMSP 5 Sep (SF, AG, *et al.*); GwC 10-11 Sep (RJ, mob); JBWE 17 Sep (PM); MP 17 Sep (SSM, PJJ); CP 24 Sep (ACi); CP 23 Sep (mob); Tiana B, Hampton Bays, SUFF 1 Oct (MC); RMSP 11 Oct (RBA); JBWE 16 Oct (RBA); PP 17 Oct (SS); KP 31 Oct (PR, *et al.*); MLUA 23 Nov (EJ, DE), late; Hither Hills SP, SUFF 24 Nov (KF, SF), late.

**Vesper Sparrow:** PBP 1 Oct (JC); KP 10 Oct (SA, MN); WPP 16 Oct (ACi); Ft. Wadsworth, RICH 18 Oct (IG); KP 21 Oct (PR); 2 PBP 25 Oct (MB); KP 30 Oct (PR, *et al.*).

**Lark Sparrow:** RMSP 9 Sep (TH); FIHW 10 Sep (MN); GwC 9-10 Sep (RJ, mob); Miller Field 18 Sep (ACi); JBWE 1 Oct (RBA); RMSP 22 Nov (RBA), late.

**LARK BUNTING:** RMSP 28-29 Sep (BBo, mob).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** RMSP 11 Oct (PJJ, DF); KP 27 Oct (*vide* PR).

**LE CONTE'S SPARROW:** PBP 28 Oct (PR, MB), ph.

**Nelson's Sparrow:** 7 PB 14 Oct (JM); Big Egg Marsh 14 Oct (MB); JBWR 15 Oct (CF); FT 21 Oct (RZE, AL, *et al.*); max 8 Dune Rd., Hampton Bays 22 Oct (MC); Cedar Grove B, RICH 25 Oct (RV), *nelsoni*; 4 PBP 25 Oct (MB).

**Song Sparrow:** 216 Greentree Estate 17 Oct (SP), large num.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** appx 35 reps fr. 19 Sep incl: 5 RP 30 Sep (AB); 3 Greentree Estate 7-8 Oct (SP); 5 Greentree Estate 17 Oct (SP); 5 Cedar Grove B 18 Oct (RV).

**Swamp Sparrow:** 139 Greentree Estate 17 Oct (SP), large num.

**White-throated Sparrow:** 227 Greentree Estate 17 Oct (SP), large num.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** 4 Greentree Estate 17 Oct (SP).

**Summer Tanager:** GwC 1 Oct (RBA), ph.

**WESTERN TANAGER:** E. Alley Marsh 12-28 Nov (EN, mob); Stony Brook, SUFF 17 Nov thru (RBA).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** RMSP 6 Nov (SSM), late.

**Blue Grosbeak:** FIHW 10 Sep (MN); 2 FIHW 12 Sep (MN, SA, CF); Greentree Estate 7 Oct (SP); JBWE 5 Nov (PJJ), late.

**Indigo Bunting:** 22 Greentree Estate 7 Oct (SP), large num; RMSP 6 Nov (SSM), late.

**Dickcissel:** FT 1 Sep (DG, SB); RMSP 4 Sep (S. Gilbert); JBWE 22 Sep (TH); 2 MLUA 30 Sep (RV); CHP 30 Sep (RV); PBP 1 Oct (JC); JBWE 7 Oct (DF); CSP 18 Oct (RA); JBWE

25 Oct (DD, *et al.*); PBP 2 Nov (RBA); 2 Cedar Grove B 15 Nov (RV); RMSP 22 Nov (RBA).

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** ad m FBF 24-25 Sep (HL, mob)

**Rusty Blackbird:** 7 Twin Lakes Pres., Wantagh, NASS 15 Nov (PM).

**Boat-tailed Grackle:** CP 25-26 Nov (RBA), unusual loc.

**Orchard Oriole:** RMSP 1 Sep (SSM, BBo, TS), rare in fall.

**Purple Finch:** few; appx 15 reps; max 16 FBF 18 Nov (R. Bumbry).

**Pine Siskin:** only 4 reps; max 2 SMSP 20 Oct (KF, SF)

**Am. Goldfinch:** few; max 72 RMSP 23 Nov (MMcB).



Bob Kurtz at the Fire Island Hawkwatch, *Suffolk*, 5 Nov 2011.

## STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

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

## REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

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

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

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

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

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.

## REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

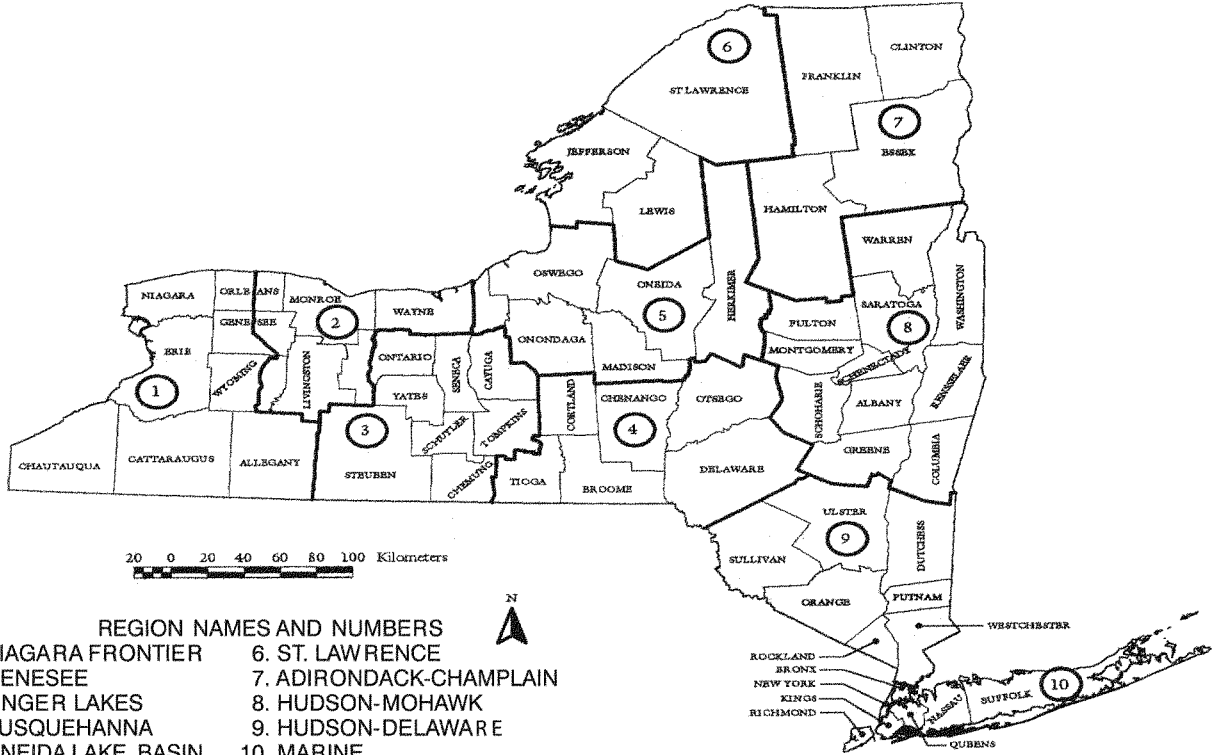
Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



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

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