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Front Cover – Western Kingbird, Nickerson Beach, *Nassau*, here 7 Nov 2023,
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Back Cover – Gray Kingbird, Canarsie Beach Park, *Kings*, here 17 Nov 2023,
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REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 2020

The New York State Avian Records Committee (hereafter “NYSARC” or the “Committee”) evaluated 67 submissions involving 48 occurrences of New York State review species from 2020. Additionally, the Committee received 13 submissions of New York State review species from previous years. Reports were received from 26 of the 62 counties (there were no reports from the pelagic zone). The number of reports accompanied by photographs remains high and naturally benefits the value of the archive. The Committee wishes to remind readers that reports submitted to listservs, local bird clubs, rare bird alerts (RBAs) and even the *Kingbird* Regional Editors are not necessarily passed along to NYSARC. Doing so, therefore, remains the responsibility of the observer(s). The best way to ensure a rarity is reviewed by NYSARC is to submit a formal report to the Committee, which would include written details and possibly photographs or audio recordings. Submitting an acceptable report to eBird also works, although NYSARC review of eBird reports may lag slightly behind reviews of formal submissions. As is well-known by now, the use of the Internet and mobile phones has had a very positive impact on the timely dissemination of rare bird sightings and has made it easier for birders to locate rarities found by others. The Committee has always held that receipt of multiple independent reports provides a much fuller documentation of the sighting and can in some cases increase the likelihood of acceptance. We therefore urge ALL observers, not just the finder, to submit written reports and/or photographs. The names of the 60 contributors that submitted materials for the formal submissions (written reports, photographs, video and audio recordings, and sketches) are listed alongside accepted reports and again at the end of the formal submissions section of this document. Where possible, the name(s) of the original finder(s) is (are) included in the narratives. Production of this Annual Report is a team effort. In addition to the contributors referenced above, some *Kingbird* Regional Editors and eBird reviewers have helped observers to prepare and submit documentation.

HOW TO SUBMIT REPORTS

Advice on how to prepare and submit a report is provided on the NYSARC pages within the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) web site: <http://nybirds.org/NYSARC/index.htm>. Although it may go without saying that photographs and/or audio recordings of the reported bird(s) can be vitally important to getting a record accepted by the Committee, it cannot be emphasized enough that a thorough written description of the bird(s) and the circumstances of the observation, as well as other pertinent details, can also propel a record to acceptance. Unfortunately, eBird reports are frequently very short on details and when those reports also lack hard evidence, such as photos or audio recordings, it becomes difficult for the Committee to accept them. ***This highlights an important distinction between NYSARC and eBird.*** Some eBird reports are accepted by eBird reviewers in large part because the observer is considered experienced.

While NYSARC may consider the observer's experience, we require accepted records to have archived documentation that can be reviewed by anyone in the future. As such, some reports from very experienced observers that have few or no substantial details and which were accepted by eBird reviewers, will not be accepted by NYSARC.

Also on the NYSARC pages is a list of species requested for review by NYSARC (The Review List) as well as illustrated copies of previous annual reports. The Committee is very grateful to Carena Pooth (NYSOA Web Master) for updating and continuously improving the NYSARC web site. An on-line reporting form allows observers to compose a written report and attach up to three digital image files (maximum size 7 MB per photo). Documentation (written reports, photographs, audio recordings) and any other correspondence for the Committee can also be sent via email to the NYSARC Secretary, Gary Chapin, at: nysarc44@nybirds.org. As a last resort, you can also use regular mail to get your report to Gary:

Gary Chapin, 125 Pine Springs Drive, Ticonderoga, NY 12883

HIGHLIGHTS

There was one new addition to the state checklist in 2020—a Tropical Kingbird in Westchester County. This brought the state list to 497 species by the end of 2020. Perhaps a bigger surprise was the first inland record for New York of a Gull-billed Tern, which occurred at Iroquois NWR in Genesee County. Only the second record for the state, a Painted Redstart was a thrilling, if relatively brief, find in New York City. Also interesting was the third record of Sage Thrasher in two years, after a drought of 47 years with no records. Outstanding records from prior years included a Western Meadowlark, the first for Long Island, a Bar-tailed Godwit at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, and a state-record maximum nine Black-bellied Whistling Ducks in Brooklyn.

COMMITTEE NEWS

The 2020 annual meeting was held via Zoom on 25 September 2021. Note that the annual meeting year refers to the latest reports reviewed at that meeting. After the first round of review, 18 formal submissions were left for additional discussion and voting, with one of those sent for opinion from an outside expert. These were all settled using email discussion and voting, prior to the meeting, in addition to discussion and voting during the meeting. During the meeting the Committee decided to remove Piping Plover from the Upstate review list. Thus, documentation for Piping Plover is no longer requested for anywhere in New York. We also discussed removing Western Sandpiper from the Upstate review list, outside of spring sightings. Although there had been an uptick in records in recent years, the consensus was that the species remains rare and is likely still declining. As such, it remains on the review list throughout the year for Upstate areas and in late winter and spring for Downstate areas.

The terms of Doug Gochfeld, Derek Rogers, and Jay McGowan expired at the end of 2021. At the Committee's request, Jay agreed to stay on for another

term but Doug and Derek decided that they should step down. Doug served on NYSARC for nine years. He is known as an incredible field birder and a sought-after birding guide, which is now his professional avocation with Field Guides. His world-wide experience and contacts aided the Committee with many difficult records. Derek served on NYSARC for five years. His field experience on Long Island, where many of New York's rarities turn up, proved invaluable, along with his insightful observations on difficult records. Now living by Lake Champlain, he is gaining experience with a very different avifauna. We wish Doug and Derek the best in their future endeavors and we thank Jay for his continued service. Taking the empty slots left by Doug and Derek were Michael McBrien and Shane Blodgett. From his start as a young birder on Long Island, Mike has developed over the last 17 years into a highly accomplished birder, admired and respected statewide and beyond. His work ethic and clarity of thought, amply demonstrated during his first term on NYSARC, have made him a valuable member of the Committee. After Willie D'Anna stepped down as the Chair at the conclusion of 2023, Mike volunteered to fill his shoes and has proven extremely capable.

Shane Blodgett was one of the best of Brooklyn's several outstanding birders and also one of the best-loved. He was known for his persistence and determination and also for his kindness and helpfulness to less experienced birders. He earned the nickname, "the gull whisperer", due to his uncanny ability to turn up rare gulls in Brooklyn and elsewhere, with a particular affinity for finding Common and Short-billed Gulls. His efforts are probably the main reason that Brooklyn is now known as the Common and Short-billed Gull capital of New York State. Sadly, Shane passed away from cancer during the first year of his term, dealing an emotional blow to the Committee, as well as to so many birders in the state who knew him. The Committee extends its sincere condolences to Shane's family, and to all those whose lives he touched. Although his time on this planet was shorter than we all would have liked, his spirit lives on in Brooklyn and elsewhere. Last but not least, Curt McDermott agreed to finish up the remainder of Shane's term. Curt lives in Orange County and gets to experience a rather upstate avifauna, while at the same time enjoying many of the downstate rarities that turn up near the ocean, which is not all that far away.

The NYSARC remains caught up on formal submissions, reviewing reports within a year after the close of the previous year. We are also reviewing eBird records from the same year. Thus, this report covers formal submissions and eBird reports from 2020, as well as some formal submissions from prior years. At the time of this writing (June 2024), we have now reviewed 2019-2022 eBird records concurrently with formal submissions from the same year. In addition we have been evaluating eBird records prior to 2019, reviewing two to three additional years every year. Thus, up to now, we have completed the review of eBird records from 2010 through 2022. Accepted eBird records prior to 2019 that have been reviewed and accepted by NYSARC will appear in a special report(s) sometime in the future.

Since the annual reports have been lagging behind the reviews by a few years, readers may notice a discrepancy in the Committee members listed on the NYSARC web site and those listed at the end of this annual report. The current members of the Committee, as of August 2024, are Michael McBrien (Chair),

Gary Chapin (Secretary), Tom Burke, Patricia Lindsay, Jay McGowan, Shawn Billerman, Curt McDermott, and Tim Healy. The lead authors of this report are Willie D'Anna and Gary Chapin, with Tim Healy preparing much of the Tropical Kingbird account. Even though Willie is currently off the Committee, he has agreed to continue working on the annual reports until they are caught up.

In other news, the Committee was stunned to learn of the passing of former NYSARC member, Thomas Brodie Johnson, in July of 2023. Tom was a giant in the birding community, an outstanding tour guide who worked for Field Guides, an identification expert—he did many photo-quizzes for Birding magazine, an incredible photographer whose bird photos have sparked inspiration and awe from so many birders, a pelagic pioneer, and he was just so knowledgeable about everything birds in both New York and his home state of Pennsylvania, as well as much farther afield. It seems especially hard to lose someone who was so young and to lose the phenomenal body of knowledge that he had accumulated and so willingly shared. The Committee extends its sincere condolences to Tom's family and loved ones. The birding world is a much better place having had Tom Johnson in its midst.

2020 Formal Submissions Accepted

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)

2020-37-A One, Malone, **Franklin**, 24 Nov (Stacy Robinson, ph S. Robinson). eBird 21, 24 Nov

A little more than three years after Malone Recreation Park in Franklin County recorded a Pink-footed Goose, another was discovered at this small park by Janelle Hoh (now Janelle Jones). Or was it? That is to say, could it have been the same bird? Stacy Robinson was able to view the Pink-footed Goose in both years, and as she noted in her NYSARC report, the distinctive white markings at the base of the bill, shown clearly in her photographs, very strongly suggest that it was, indeed, the same goose! In both years, this rarity associated with Snow Geese, rather than the Canada Geese also there, and it was only seen over a four-day period each time. eBird reports for the 2017 sighting have been accepted by NYSARC and the record will be published in a future issue of *The Kingbird*. Two other Pink-footed Geese were reported to eBird in 2020 and accepted by the Committee. See the "2020 eBird Records Automatically Accepted by NYSARC" further on in this report.

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

2020-29-A/B One, Greenwood Lake, **Orange**, 25-26 Oct (Kenneth M. McDermott, Linda Scrima, ph Alayna Vreeland, L. Scrima). eBird 25, 26 Oct

2020-47-A One, Kent, **Putnam**, 10 Oct - 17 Dec (Robert P. Yunick, ph Richard Jensen)

2020-48-A One, Baldwinsville, **Onondaga**, 14 Oct 2020 to 23 Jan 2021 (Robert P. Yunick, ph Christine Rydelek, Laurie Freeman). eBird 1-8, 11, 12, 14, 27 Dec, 3, 5-7, 9-13, 17 Jan 2021

A hummingbird appeared at the feeding station of Alayna Vreeland in late October in Greenwood Lake. After she posted photos of the bird to Facebook, the

adult male Rufous Hummingbird was confirmed as this species and a few other birders were able to see it during its two-day stay. A long-staying hummingbird at the home of Susan and Richard Jensen in Putnam County was captured, banded, and measured by Robert Yunick on 20 Nov, allowing identification as a hatch-year female Rufous. Another long-staying hummer was in Baldwinsville, at the residence of Christine Rydelek. On 3 Dec, Yunick, with assistance from Laurie Freeman, was able to capture, band, and measure that individual as well. As with the Putnam bird, he identified this one as a hatch-year female. After the identification was made, many birders were able to see it.

The Committee received expert opinions about two other reported Rufous Hummingbirds in eBird. Both were aged and sexed as juvenile females. One was accepted by the Committee but the other was only accepted as the species pair, Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird. We thank Sheri Williamson and Fred Bassett for their thoughts on these records. See the "Other 2020 eBird Records Accepted by NYSARC" further on in this report.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*)

2020-13-A/C One, East Moriches, **Suffolk**, 4-27 Jun (Eileen Schwinn, George Wm. Fisher, Michael Higgiston, ph E. Schwinn, G. Fisher). eBird 22-25, 27, 29 Jun

This adult Purple Gallinule spent over three weeks at Walden Ponds in East Moriches. It was discovered by George Engel, a resident of the gated community where it was found. George Fisher, also a resident of the community, alerted Eileen Schwinn to the bird's presence and she, in turn, alerted the birding community. It was one of two adult Purple Gallinules on Long Island at the same time, the other being at Twin Lakes Preserve in Nassau County.

No formal submission was received for the Twin Lakes gallinule but the record in eBird was also accepted by the Committee. See the "2020 eBird Records Automatically Accepted by NYSARC" further on in this report. The Twin Lakes gallinule was actually discovered by a dogwalker in a tree at night in Long Beach, Nassau County. A local bird rehabilitator, Bobby Horvath, caught the bird but found nothing wrong with it. It was released the next day at Twin Lakes. The Committee expresses its appreciation to Horvath, who made a Facebook post with photos of the bird, and to the late Arie Gilbert, who alerted birders to the release location.

Normally a fall and early winter rarity, these are the first June records that have been accepted by NYSARC.

South Polar Skua (*Stercorarius maccormicki*)

2020-18-A/C One, Manhattan, **New York**, 4 Aug (Jordan Spindel, Adrian Burke, Ryan Zucker, ph R. Zucker). eBird 4 Aug

While watching the lower Hudson River in Manhattan following the passage of Tropical Storm *Isaias*, these observers saw a South Polar Skua fly north up the river, with the wind. Ryan Zucker was able to obtain distant but still quite good photos. Onshore records of this species are quite rare in New York and this appears to be the furthest away from the ocean that a bird has ever been documented in the state, even though it was only a mere ten miles or so (eBird

Dec 2023, NYSARC Online Database, Askildsen 1998). There was another of this species reported on the same day from the Delaware River in Philadelphia, PA (eBird Dec 2023), which was believed by the observers to be a first for that state.

Common Gull (*Larus canus*)

2020-44-A One, Brooklyn, **Kings**, 17, 19 Dec (Peter Paul, ph P. Paul). eBird 11, 17, 19 Dec

Although this bird was viewed before Mew Gull was split by the American Ornithological Society into Common Gull (*Larus canus*) and Short-billed Gull (*Larus brachyrhynchus*), observers identified it correctly to the proper subspecies at the time. This bird in formative plumage was discovered by Andrew Baksh on 7 Dec and relocated by the late great “gull whisperer”, Shane Blodgett, on 11 Dec. It was nicely documented for NYSARC by Peter Paul.

Sooty Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*)

2020-20-A Two, Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, **Westchester**, 4 Aug (Sean Camillieri). eBird 4 Aug

2020-22-A/B One to five, Manhattan, **New York**, 4 Aug (Adrian Burke, Patrick Shure, ph P. Shure). eBird 4 Aug (up to eight individuals)

Tropical Storm *Isaias* brought Sooty Terns to a remarkable seven counties in New York. The two birds in Westchester County, documented by Sean Camillieri, were the only terns that were not seen along the Hudson River. Although one to five birds are listed for New York County from Adrian Burke’s and Patrick Shure’s formal submissions, eight individuals were reported to eBird on the same day. All of the eBird records from that county are lumped under record 2020-22 and thus are not shown with the eBird records further along in this report.

See the “Other 2020 eBird Records Accepted by NYSARC” further on in this report for seven additional records from 2020.

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)

2020-9-A One, Iroquois NWR, **Genesee**, 25 May (Sharon Skelly). eBird 25 May
Late in the day on 24 May, Peter Yoerg noted a mid-sized tern at Cayuga Pool on the Iroquois NWR that he was struggling to identify. The bird was distant in the marsh and obscured by cattails. This experienced observer assumed a Common Tern at first, as that seemed to be the most likely species, other than the very different Black Tern. Since the bill appeared black, he thought that it was likely covered with mud. Eventually, the bird came a bit closer and while still viewing through a small gap in the cattails, he realized that the bill was not muddied and he identified it as an alternate-plumaged Gull-billed Tern, which he knew would be new for the study area of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. His post to a local birding listserv prompted Josh Ketry to get to the site early the next morning. Ketry found the bird, confirmed Yoerg’s identification, and made a post to the local text alert, allowing dozens of birders the opportunity to see this outstanding rarity on that one day. This remarkable record is the first Gull-billed Tern documented away from the coastal region in the state (Bull 1974, Skelly 1998, eBird Dec 2023, NYSARC Online Database). In addition to Sharon Skelly’s

formal submission, there are many excellent photos in eBird that fully document this unusual record.

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Hydrobates castro*)

2020-19-A/B One, Fire Island Inlet, **Suffolk**, 4 Aug (Patricia Lindsay, Shaibal S. Mitra). eBird 4 Aug

Although this species has been documented in warm offshore waters of New York on multiple occasions, now seeming to be regular in summer, onshore sightings are still exceptionally rare. As is normally the case with sightings from shore, this one was associated with the passage of a tropical storm, in this case, Tropical Storm *Isaias*, previously a hurricane. This bird occurred with Wilson's Storm-Petrels, all of which were heading into the wind, inside of and flying toward the entrance to Fire Island Inlet, just after the wind had switched from south to southwest. Lindsay and Mitra were watching the inlet from the partial shelter afforded by a building. Noting a dozen Wilson's Storm-Petrels plus the bird documented here, they studied it carefully to rule out both Wilson's and Leach's Storm-Petrels.

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*)

2020-40-A One, Fair Haven State Park, **Cayuga**, 27 Oct (Gregg D. Dashnau, ph G. Dashnau). eBird 27 Oct (**Cayuga** and **Wayne**)

Always a super rarity in New York, inland sightings such as this one are even more exceptional. Gregg Dashnau obtained relatively close photos of the bird as it flew into the bay at Fair Haven State Park. Some Committee members believed that the photos of this juvenile bird ruled out both Great and Lesser Frigatebirds. Combined with the much greater likelihood of this species, reviewers had no problem accepting the record. Dashnau submitted eBird reports for both Cayuga and Wayne Counties. Though it must be considered unconfirmed, Dashnau noted in his submission that a resident of Fair Haven reported the bird on 2 Nov, six days after he observed it.

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*)

2020-23-A/B One, Ashokan Reservoir, **Ulster**, 30-31 Aug (Andrew Block, Ken McDermott, ph A. Block). 30 Aug - 13, 15 Sep

2020-25-A One, Port Jefferson – Long Island Sound, **Suffolk**, 31 Jul (Virginia Martin, ph V. Martin)

2020-31-A One, East Quogue, **Suffolk**, 29 Oct (Eileen Schwinn, ph E. Schwinn). eBird 29, 31 Oct, 1 Nov

2020-49-A One, Inwood Hill Park, **New York**, 22 Nov (Nathan O'Reilly, ph N. O'Reilly). eBird 22 Nov

Records of this southern species in New York have been on the increase, with two more inland records in 2020, including one from the Adirondacks in eBird. The addition of the four above, plus another six records in eBird, makes 2020 a banner year for Brown Booby in the state! The Ashokan Reservoir bird was an adult, discovered by Andrew Block, while the East Quogue individual, discovered by Eileen Schwinn, was a juvenile. The Inwood Hill Park booby was also a juvenile, picked up by Nathan O'Reilly as it flew down the Hudson River. The bird on

Long Island Sound flew up to and landed on Virginia Martin's sailboat, staying for about 15 minutes before flying off. It was a subadult, with brown spotting on the mostly white belly. In all four formal submissions, the Brown Booby was clearly photographed.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)

2020-41-A/C One, Churchville, **Monroe**, 14-15 Dec (Jerri Lynn Sparks, Mike Wasilco, Arie Gilbert, ph J. Sparks, M. Wasilco, A. Gilbert). eBird 13-18 Dec

Although this was the thirteenth occurrence of this species submitted to NYSARC, less than half have been accepted. The low rate of acceptance almost certainly is due to several reported birds being observed only in flight. Brief views, especially at considerable distance, and the lack of photographs make it difficult to secure documentation which is sufficient for the Committee to accept. This was not an issue for the adult male bird seen in Churchville, as it stayed along a creek for its entire stay, allowing lengthy and often easy study and photographs. The bird was discovered by Pam Inzinna, who reported it to Facebook. As the creek began to freeze due to increasingly cold temperatures, birders became concerned about the Anhinga's well-being and it was captured and taken in by a rehabilitator (Randi Minetor, personal communication). Unfortunately, it was already in bad shape and did not survive. This sad ending illustrates the importance of acting sooner rather than later in such situations. The stress of capture can be considerable, so it is best undertaken before the bird becomes very weak. Determining when that should be can be difficult and it can also be contentious, with birders desiring to see the bird in the wild before it is captured.

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

2020-24-A/B One, Batavia WWTP, **Genesee**, 6, 10 Sep (Dominic Sherony, Arie Gilbert, ph D. Sherony, A. Gilbert). eBird 5-11 Sep

The adult Neotropic Cormorant at the renowned Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant is just the fifth record for the state (records through 2020). All five records have been in the upstate region with none further east than Monroe County, prior to the end of 2020. Incredibly, these records have occurred within a seven-year span, causing birders to speculate that more are surely on the horizon. The Batavia cormorant was discovered by Kyle Gage who quickly texted out his find to alert other birders. It was an adult, still sporting obvious white at the base of the gular, as well as some white on the ear coverts.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)

2020-15-A One, Captree Island, **Suffolk**, 3 Jul (Patrick Shure, ph P. Shure). eBird 15 Apr - 11 Jul (intermittent)

John Gluth discovered this adult White-faced Ibis at Captree Island, which was reported over a three-month period. The species has become an annual though still very rare visitor to Long Island, with birders now expecting it to show up somewhere. Upstate records are never expected, so birds in Monroe and Genesee Counties in 2020 (in eBird) were a welcome surprise. See the "2020 eBird Records Automatically Accepted by NYSARC" further on in this report.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)

2020-17-A Two, Town of Hamlin, **Monroe**, 2-3 Aug (Kathy Habgood, ph K. Habgood). eBird 9-16 Aug (**Monroe** and **Orleans**)

These two Swallow-tailed Kites were discovered by Vaughn Bates. He told Kathy Habgood about the birds, and after viewing them, she submitted the record to NYSARC. It was not until about a week later that word got out to birders, who of course were thrilled to see them and reported the kites daily to eBird for an additional week. This was the third record for Monroe County accepted by NYSARC, with the other two being flyovers at the renowned spring hawkwatch at Braddock Bay State Park. And since these birds were seen along Countyline Road, it is not surprising that eBird shows checklists in both Monroe and Orleans Counties, providing a first record for the latter county (Bull 1974, Dodge 1998, eBird Jun 2024, NYSARC Online Database).

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

2020-12-A One, Central Park, **New York**, 31 May (Deborah Allen, ph D. Allen). eBird 31 May

2020-16-A One, Hunt-Parker Sanctuary, **Westchester**, 9 Jun (Kristen Johnson, ph K. Johnson). eBird 9 Jun

The Mississippi Kite that flew over Central Park in New York City was a first cycle individual that was nicely documented by Deborah Allen. The bird in Westchester County was also photographed as it flew over Kristen Johnson but plumage details are somewhat difficult to discern in the underexposed photos. Still, the distinctive shape of this species can be seen well. It was called an “immature” by the observer but showed a contrasting off-white color in the upper secondaries, suggesting that it may have been an adult.

There were two eBird records of this species that were also accepted, one in Brooklyn (Kings County) and one in Erie County. See the “Other 2020 eBird Records Accepted by NYSARC” further on in this report.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)

2020-39-A One, Forest Park, **Queens**, 28-29 Nov (Karlo Mirth, ph Alison Mirth). eBird 28-29 Nov

As many birders are well aware, this species is most likely to occur in the downstate region. In fact, NYSARC has only accepted one formal submission of an upstate record, that being in Monroe County in 2004. In addition, all of the accepted records have occurred during fall and early winter. The uniformity of these records, both in time and place, is remarkably consistent. The bird in Forest Park found by Karlo Mirth, provided yet another record for New York City.

There were six other eBird records of this species in 2020 that were also accepted, all in the downstate region, including three in New York City! See the “Other 2020 eBird Records Accepted by NYSARC” further on in this report.

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)

2020-30-A/C One, The Landing, Dobbs Ferry, **Westchester**, 28 Oct (Carena Pooth, Richard Guthrie, John Gaglione, ph C. Pooth, R. Guthrie, J. Gaglione). eBird 27-29 Oct

While birding near the Hudson River at The Landing in Dobbs Ferry, Tom Warren noted a yellow-bellied kingbird. His brief views reminded him of the Western Kingbird (*T. verticalis*) that he saw the year previous at Croton Point Park, a few miles north along the Hudson River. His eBird checklist with photos attracted the attention of another birder, Julien Amsellem, who was interested in seeing the bird and who headed to the site a few hours later. Upon finding the kingbird, he realized that it was not a Western but a much rarer Tropical or Couch's Kingbird. His study of the visual field marks made him suspect Tropical but it was when he heard the twittering call that he knew that it could only be that species. This first record for New York lingered in the vicinity throughout the following day but periodically went missing as it moved about the area, requiring some legwork on behalf of the assembled searchers to relocate it in the chilly, drizzly weather that day. After a brief sighting on the morning of 29 Oct by the original observer, the kingbird disappeared and was not seen again.

An omnipresent and conspicuous component of the avifauna throughout the Neotropics, where birders often note its presence with the words, "another TK", Tropical Kingbird has shown a steady increase in vagrancy records across North America in recent years. Many sightings have been documented up the west coast as far north as Alaska, with fewer records along the east coast up to the Canadian Maritimes, and a smattering of observations strewn throughout the interior of the continent. This species can be distinguished from Western Kingbird by the more extensive yellow plumage on the underparts reaching further up the breast, as well as the larger bill and the lack of white edges to the outer rectrices. Cassin's Kingbird (*T. vociferans*) shows darker gray plumage on the head and breast compared to Tropical Kingbird, with a prominent white terminal band on the tail. The most visually similar confusion candidate in this genus is Couch's Kingbird (*T. couchii*), another Neotropical species that has occurred in New York just once, in the Greenwich section of Manhattan, during the winter of 2014-2015. The overall plumage aspects of both birds are strikingly similar, but the bill of Couch's Kingbird averages slightly shorter and stouter than that of Tropical Kingbird. Other subtle visual distinctions, like minor differences in the structure of the primaries, can be useful under specific circumstances, but the most consistently reliable means of discerning between these two species is by voice. The vocalizations of Couch's Kingbird have a burry, whistled quality, often given as single notes, while Tropical Kingbird's most common call is a rapid series of shrill and metallic twitters.

Tropical Kingbird has been considered rather long overdue to occur in New York and was presumed to be much more likely than Couch's Kingbird, despite that species landing within the state's borders some years prior. Indeed, Doug Gochfeld's compilations of predicted next species to be added to the state checklist by the most knowledgeable birders in and around New York State, indicate that Tropical Kingbird was third most likely on the list in 2010 and third again in 2015 (Gochfeld 2023). The Dobbs Ferry kingbird opened the floodgates, so to speak, for sightings in New York, with subsequent observations at Mount Loretto Unique Area, Richmond County, in September 2021 and Breezy Point, Queens County, in October 2022, both accepted by NYSARC. The string of consecutive years with Tropical Kingbird occurrences may have been kept up by

a July 2023 report in Prospect Park, Kings County, which is currently under review by the Committee.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*)

2020-27-A/B One, Ashokan Reservoir, **Ulster**, 18 Oct (John H. Haas, John Gaglione, ph J. Haas, J. Gaglione). eBird 17-18 Oct

This stunning adult Fork-tailed Flycatcher is only the seventh record for New York that has been reviewed and accepted by NYSARC. Apparently found independently by multiple observers on 17 Oct, it was last detected around mid-morning the following day, a typically brief stay for this vagrant to New York.

Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*)

2020-32-A One, Kissena Park, **Queens**, 3 Nov (Michael Zito, ph M. Zito). eBird 31 Oct, 2-7, 11 Nov

The taxonomy of Western Flycatcher is complex. In the continental United States and Canada, only one species was originally recognized. In 1989, a split by the American Ornithologists Union (now American Ornithological Society) led to two species—Pacific-slope Flycatcher and Cordilleran Flycatcher. Alas, in 2023, we are back to a single species, Western Flycatcher. The reasons for this reverse are beyond the scope of this report. Suffice to say that with this lump, there are now at least five subspecies recognized. eBird conveniently separates these into two—the Pacific-slope group and the Cordilleran group (Lowther, *et al.*, 2023). Despite this distinction, it cannot be assumed that anything identified previously as a Pacific-slope Flycatcher belongs to the Pacific-slope group. Similarly, anything identified previously as a Cordilleran Flycatcher cannot be assumed to belong to the Cordilleran group. Like we said, it is complex! The record under discussion, a bird found at Kissena Park in Queens County, was submitted and accepted by NYSARC as a Pacific-slope Flycatcher, based in large part on what was thought at the time to be a diagnostic character—the position call note. With the new information that accompanies the lumping back to a single species, it seems that this distinction may not be possible. As a result, this record is not accepted to the subspecies level, until such time as the Committee feels that such a determination can be confidently made. The bird was discovered by Michael Gottlieb, who posted a photo to “What’s this bird?” on Facebook. Two days later it was relocated at the park. Brendan Fogarty collected a fecal sample as well as recordings. As with this record, the 2015 record of Pacific-slope Flycatcher at Central Park is now changed to Western Flycatcher. The first record of Western Flycatcher for New York occurred in 1995, a bird submitted as Cordilleran Flycatcher but accepted as Cordilleran/Pacific-slope.

Say’s Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

2020-33-A One, Candor, **Tioga**, 23 Sep (Adam Troyer). eBird 23 Sep

Birdsong Meadows Farm is the name that Adam Troyer gave his family’s property in rural Tioga County. The name seems appropriate due to the wonderful diversity of bird species that he has documented there (see Troyer 2022). On 23 Sep, Troyer found this Say’s Phoebe on his farm, which lingered for only two hours. Amazingly, this was the second of this species that Troyer has found there.

The first, a year previous, stayed for only a brief twenty minutes and even used the same fencepost (Troyer 2022, D'Anna, *et al.*, 2023)! Naturally, Troyer wonders if the same individual graced Birdsong Meadows Farm two years in a row, something we will never know for sure.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

2020-35-A Two, Floyd Bennett Field, **Kings**, 18 Nov (John Gaglione, ph J. Gaglione). eBird 17, 18 Nov

The first record of Cave Swallow in New York did not occur until spring 1990. The second was in fall 1999. Since the second record, the species has become a near annual fall visitor, usually occurring after a weather system with strong southwest winds followed by northwest. The great majority of records involve birds seen only in flight, which is perhaps expected for an aerial insectivore. The two birds documented by John Gaglione, however, were found roosting on a hangar at Floyd Bennett Field. An eBird checklist by Doug Gochfeld documents three birds roosting at this location on the same date. On 17 Nov, Gochfeld found at least one bird flying around the hangar, causing him to correctly surmise that it might roost in the hangar that night. He also alerted other birders, giving them a chance to see this rare southern species of swallow.

NYSARC accepted seven other records in eBird, three from downstate and four from upstate. One of these was a very rare spring record, occurring at Braddock Bay, Monroe County, on 12 Apr. See the “2020 eBird Records Automatically Accepted by NYSARC” and the “Other 2020 eBird Records Accepted by NYSARC” further on in this report.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)

2020-1-A/C One, Candor, **Tioga**, 1, 4, 5 Jan (Mark Hollenbeck, Dennis Anderson, Neal Reilly, ph M. Hollenbeck, Kevin McGann, N. Reilly). eBird 1-7 Jan

Being in the habit of checking for birds in the apple tree on his property, Mark Hollenbeck was surprised when he noted one with bright orange in its plumage. An admitted casual birder, he thought perhaps it was a robin or an oriole but that did not seem quite right to him. He snapped some photos, posted them to a birding group on Facebook, and soon got an answer. It was not long before birders descended upon Candor in Tioga County to enjoy this lovely adult male Varied Thrush, which lingered at the location for a week.

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*)

2020-34-A/B One, Chatham, **Columbia**, 5, 9 Nov (Carena Pooth, Scott Stoner, ph C. Pooth, S. Stoner). eBird 4-11, 13-18 Nov

This Sage Thrasher was discovered by Barbara Sylvester at Ooms Conservation Area, where birders were able to enjoy it for two weeks. After a drought of records from 1973 to 2019, this is the second consecutive year that a Sage Thrasher has been found in the state. The now seven records in New York have occurred in Apr, May, and Oct to Jan. The Columbia County bird is the third upstate record.

“Greater” Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea rostrata*)

2020-38-A One, Braddock Bay, **Monroe**, 19 Nov (Dominic Sherony, ph D. Sherony)

This report involved a “Greater” Common Redpoll, photographed with a Hoary Redpoll by Dominic Sherony, on the barrier island at Braddock Bay in Monroe County. It is not clear if the observer noticed this bird in the field or only after reviewing photographs at home but the report appears to be based solely upon this single photo. The photo shows a larger and quite dark redpoll, with a thicker and longer bill. Sherony sent his photo to finch experts, Matt Young and Ron Pittaway. Young called the bird a “dead ringer” for “Greater” Common Redpoll but Pittaway was more circumspect, implying that it is easier to compare bird sizes in life than it is in photos. Although some on the Committee agreed with this cautious approach, most still believed the bird to be larger. Along with the very dark plumage and large bill exhibited by this redpoll in direct comparison with a Hoary Redpoll, which itself was stated to be slightly larger than the Common Redpolls present, the Committee decided that there was enough to support the record.

“Gambel’s” White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*)

2020-50-A One, Wallkill River NWR, **Orange**, 21 Apr (Linda Scrima, ph L. Scrima). eBird 21 Apr

This adult “Gambel’s” White-crowned Sparrow, discovered and nicely photographed by Linda Scrima, provides another well-documented record for the state.

Two other well-photographed birds were documented in the upstate region in 2020. See the “Other 2020 eBird Records Accepted by NYSARC” further on in this report.

Harris’s Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*)

2020-6-A One, Buckingham Pond, Albany, **Albany**, 1 Apr (Thomas Williams). eBird 22, 29, 31 Mar, 1-7, 9-15, 17, 18 Apr, 6-9 May

Brian Hardiman and Sara Hart discovered this Harris’s Sparrow in our state’s capital city. The bird was seen by many as it stayed until 9 May, by which time it was sporting breeding plumage. When first discovered, however, it appeared to be molting out of subadult plumage.

One other Harris’s Sparrow was reported to eBird in 2020, a bird in Niagara County. See the “2020 eBird Records Automatically Accepted by NYSARC” further on in this report.

Painted Redstart (*Myioborus pictus*)

2020-26-A/B One, Floyd Bennett Field, **Kings**, 18 Oct (Mike Yuan, John Gaglione, ph M. Yuan, J. Gaglione). eBird 18 Oct

This stunning find is actually the second record for New York, with the first being in Livingston County in the winter of 1979-1980. This sprightly warbler is a rare vagrant in the Eastern US and it is as stunningly beautiful as it is rare. It was discovered by Richard Payne in mid-afternoon on 18 Oct. While he knew immediately what he was seeing, understandably he could not quite believe it!

Unfortunately for many birders, the Painted Redstart was not seen after this day. eBird shows only eight records in the northeastern US and Canada (eBird, accessed Jan 2024).

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)

2020-3-A/B One, Wappingers Falls, **Dutchess**, 15, 17 Jan (Melissa Fischer, Kenneth M. McDermott, ph Stephen Fischer). eBird 15-20, 22, 28, 29 Jan, 22 Feb, 5, 6 Mar

Melissa and Stephen Fischer discovered this bird at their feeding station. Melissa initially thought it was a Scarlet Tanager but after discussion on the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club Facebook page, it was determined from Stephen's photos to be a female-type Summer Tanager. It was seen off and on for about six weeks. Due to a great increase in the number of records of this species, it has been removed from the upstate review list and thus, documentation is no longer requested for it anywhere in New York.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

2020-36-A One, Green-Wood Cemetery, **Kings**, 17-18 Nov (John Gaglione, ph J. Gaglione). eBird 13, 14, 16-23, 25 Nov

2020-42-A One, Carl Schurz Park, **New York**, 16 Dec (Jordan Spindel, ph J. Spindel). eBird 16-18, 20, 22-27, 29, 30 Dec 2020, 1-6, 11-14, 16-19, 21, 22, 30, 31 Jan, 2, 3, 8, 12-15, 18, 21, 23, 26 Feb, 2, 6-9, 11, 14, 17-24, 26, 29, 31 Mar, 2, 4, 7, 10, 12, 17, 18 Apr

The Western Tanager at the historic Green-Wood Cemetery was an adult male, documented for NYSARC by John Gaglione, and it stayed for eight days. It represents the fourth record accepted by the Committee for Brooklyn, all in a seven-year span. Tom Fiore alerted the birding community to the presence of a Western Tanager at Carl Schurz Park in Manhattan on 15 Dec. The following day, Jordan Spindel and others were able to find this female. It proved to be long-staying, with the last sighting on 18 Apr!

Three other Western Tanager records in 2020 were accepted by the Committee, including two in upstate regions, where the species is decidedly rarer. One of the upstate sightings was on 30 Jun, making for an exceptional summer record which, while surprising, is not unprecedented for the state. See the "2020 eBird Records Automatically Accepted by NYSARC" further on in this report.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

2020-8-A One, Seneca Meadows Landfill, **Seneca**, 7 May (Alyssa Johnson, ph A. Johnson). eBird 6, 9-14 May

The Montezuma Audubon Center in Savannah was alerted to this bird's presence at the restricted access Seneca Meadows Landfill in Seneca County. Alyssa Johnson, who worked at the Center, was allowed to enter the site and photograph this very rare species for upstate New York. Permission was also granted to several other birders over the course of the bird's eight-day stay. Johnson and several of the other observers were able to document this adult male bird attacking its reflection in the side-view mirrors of vehicles parked at the site!

One other Blue Grosbeak record from 2020 was reviewed and accepted by the Committee. A first-summer male was photographed on 12 May in the Adirondacks, providing an exceptional record for this northerly location. Although the observer was unable to upload his photos to the eBird checklist, the Committee was able to view them. See the “Other 2020 eBird Records Accepted by NYSARC” further on in this report.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)

2020-5-A One, Canarsie Park, **Kings**, 16 Feb (Peter Paul, ph P. Paul). eBird 16 Feb

2020-11-A One, Marcellus, **Onondaga**, 14 May (Dennis Anderson, ph D. Anderson). eBird 14-16 May

Birding alone at Canarsie Park in Brooklyn, Peter Paul found and photographed a female-type Painted Bunting on 16 Feb. Unlike so many rarities in heavily birded New York City, this bird was not to be seen again. Katie Fenlon also discovered a female-type Painted Bunting, this one at her feeding station in Onondaga County, where she allowed birders to come and see it over a three-day period.

Four other records in eBird from 2020 were accepted by the Committee, an outstanding year for this species in New York, as well as several other east coast states and Pennsylvania. See the “2020 eBird Records Automatically Accepted by NYSARC” and the “Other 2020 eBird Records Accepted by NYSARC” further on in this report.

2019 Formal Submissions Accepted

Say’s Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

2019-164-A One, Lydonville, **Orleans**, 28-29 Nov (Alice Stauffer)

This report came from Alice Stauffer, who wrote that she and her husband were not “optics and field guide birders”. Despite this, it was difficult for them to ignore the bird first seen on their porch, and then in the workshop the following day. Seizing the opportunity, Levi Stauffer closed the door to his shop and soon was able to capture the bird, in order to help them figure out its identity. Not even knowing where to start, they slowly paged through their Peterson field guide, finally reaching Say’s Phoebe. The likeness seemed very close to them but they were surprised to see that it was so far out of range. Wanting another opinion, Levi hopped on his bicycle and took the bird to show his sister, Kathryn, who was a birder. After Kathryn confirmed their identification, Levi released the bird and they watched it land on a utility wire, where it was bobbing its tail, a characteristic of phoebes that Kathryn immediately noted. Although the bird was not photographed and the description focused somewhat less on the bird itself than the circumstances surrounding it, the report seemed believable to the Committee and the consensus was that there was enough to accept the record. This is the first record for Orleans County.

Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*)

2019-166-A One, Northport, **Suffolk**, 9 Nov (Taylor Sturm, ph T. Sturm, audio T. Sturm). eBird 9 Nov

While scoping Long Island Sound at Crab Meadow Beach, Taylor Sturm heard an unfamiliar call some distance away. After putting his spotting scope in the car, he walked toward the sound, guessing that perhaps he was hearing a Northern Mockingbird, which is why he did not bother to bring along his camera. While walking along a sandy trail, he accidentally flushed the bird, which upon seeing, he immediately recognized as a meadowlark. After a moment of reflection, he realized that the call was not one that he had ever heard from an Eastern Meadowlark. Now suspecting that this could be a vagrant Western Meadowlark, Sturm checked vocalizations in the Sibley application on his cell phone and found one to be a very close match. Knowing the significance of the record, he immediately began the process of documenting it, first obtaining recordings of the bird's call, and then taking cell phone images through his binoculars. After only about a minute from when he flushed the bird, the meadowlark flew off and out of sight, never to be located again. In the report submitted to the Committee, in addition to the recording and photographs he obtained in the field, Sturm included a spectrogram of the call, as well as spectrograms of calls made by both Western and Eastern Meadowlarks. His report also discusses how he arrived at the Western Meadowlark identification and why it was unlikely to be an Eastern. The Committee admires and applauds Sturm and considers his report and his efforts in the field to be models of how one should document a rare bird. This is the first record for Long Island (Lanyon 1998, NYSARC Online Database, eBird Jun 2024).

2017 Formal Submissions Accepted

Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*)

2017-9-H One, Oswego, **Oswego**, 27 Feb (Neal Reilly, ph N. Reilly)

This submission provides additional documentation for the first-state-record Clark's Grebe in Oswego Harbor. See D'Anna, *et al.*, 2021 for a full account of this record.

Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*)

2017-8-B One, Massena, **St. Lawrence**, 22 Feb (Neal Reilly, ph N. Reilly)

This submission provides additional documentation for this record, which involved two birds at nearby Robert Moses State Park on 11 Feb. See D'Anna, *et al.*, 2021 for a full account of this record.

2016 Formal Submissions Accepted

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

2016-60-A Nine, Marine Park, **Kings**, 28 May (Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Mitra). eBird 28 May

These nine Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were found by a photographer, Charlie Spinnato, and the identification was made by Brooke Skelly. Phil Hore got the word out to birders, allowing them to race to the site for a view of the birds, which were not seen after this day. Nine individuals is a new maximum for New York State.

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)

2016-61-A One, Riverhead, **Suffolk**, 17 Jan (Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Mitra). eBird 17 Jan

Although now somewhat regular on Long Island during the winter months, there had not been any reports of Pink-footed Goose in the Riverhead area for two months, when Shai Mitra and Patricia Lindsay came upon this bird. Mitra considered whether this was the same bird from two months earlier (see the 2015 Pink-footed Goose entry, below) but he did not feel that his photos were sufficient to distinguish between individuals. There were no more reports in the area for the remainder of the winter and spring.

2015 Formal Submissions Accepted

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)

2015-75-A One, Riverhead, **Suffolk**, 26 Nov (Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Mitra). eBird 26 Nov

As with the 2016 Pink-footed Goose record listed above, Shai Mitra and Patricia Lindsay were the only observers of this goose during the winter/migration seasons of 2015-2016. Photos from the two sightings do not allow for determining if they are of the same individual. However, with the nearly two-month gap between sightings, the Committee felt that it was best to treat these as two separate records.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)

2015-74-A One, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**, 16 May (Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Mitra, Gail Benson). eBird 16 May

Shai Mitra and Patricia Lindsay noted an exceptionally low tide at the breach, caused by Hurricane Sandy, along the south dike of the west pond at Jamaica Bay. Among the shorebirds feeding there was a very rare Bar-tailed Godwit, the seventh record for the state and the fourth spring record (Levine 1998, NYSARC Online Database). Their studies were sufficient to conclude that this was of the European *lapponica* race, distinguished from the East Asian *baueri* race by its white rump. The godwit was only in view for one hour and ten minutes, just enough time for a handful of other birders to make it to the site before the bird flew off, not to be seen again.

2002 Formal Submission Accepted

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

2002-97-A One, Water Mill, **Suffolk**, 18 May (Shaibal S. Mitra). eBird 9, 18 May
The first record of this southern species that NYSARC voted to accept occurred in May 2010, when five individuals were found at Oneida Lake in Onondaga County. Two other records from the same year were accepted, one at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York City, in late July and August and one at Tonawanda WMA in Genesee County in August. Prior to that year, reports were not accepted by the Committee due to a concern that they could be escapes or releases (the origin uncertain category). The multiple reports in 2010, not only in New York

but elsewhere in the northeastern US and Ontario, provided overwhelming evidence that most, if not all of these, were of wild birds. The record under consideration here, a single bird seen at Water Mill on Long Island, occurred eight years earlier than New York's first accepted records. Had NYSARC reviewed this report shortly after the occurrence, it almost certainly would have been relegated to the origin uncertain category. But now, thanks to eBird, it is clear that vagrant Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were showing up in the northeastern US and Canada prior to 2002. Although it is not possible to know with certainty that the individual at Water Mill was wild, one observer reportedly noted that it was unbanded, which is helpful if not convincing. In addition, however, due to the clear evidence of expansion that was going on at that time and in prior years, as evidenced by the eBird species map (accessed June 2024), the Committee believes that it is highly likely that this was a genuine vagrant. Although there were no photos with this report, the description of this distinctive duck from an experienced observer left no concerns about the identification for Committee members.

2020 Formal Submissions Not Accepted

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

2020-28-A One, Hamlin Beach State Park, **Monroe**, 16 Oct

Lake-watchers at Hamlin Beach saw two jaegers flying west together, providing good size comparisons. They assumed that the larger bird was a Parasitic Jaeger and the smaller a Long-tailed. The viewing angle made observations of plumage marks difficult, so the identification was mainly based upon apparent size. Although not unprecedented in the state, Committee members were concerned that this was a relatively late date for a Long-tailed Jaeger, as well as with the difficult viewing conditions and the lack of consideration for these being Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers. After discussion, the Committee voted that the record could not be supported.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

2020-14-A One, Charles Memorial Park, **Queens**, 28 Jun

2020-21-A One, Lakeshore Marshes WMA, **Wayne**, 28 May

Despite considerable discussion in the report for the bird in Queens, Committee members were concerned by some conflicting details. Although there was some initial support for this record, after discussion it was not accepted. The bird in Wayne County was identified mainly based upon the size and shape, as the bird flew overhead in backlit conditions, which proved insufficient for the Committee to accept the record. Reports of Mississippi Kite are difficult for the Committee to accept, as they are aware of the many challenges that raptors in flight can present.

American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides dorsalis*)

2020-45-A One, Oneida Castle, **Oneida**, 28 Dec

This species has become exceptionally rare in New York, including in what is considered the most likely place for it to occur—boreal regions of the

Adirondacks. Sightings outside of there would need especially strong documentation, such as photos, which were not provided by the observer. Some reviewers believed the bird was much more likely to be a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*)

2020-7-A One, Clinton Corners, **Dutchess**, 7 Apr

This was a brief observation of a bird seen only in flight. Important field marks for this species, such as white in the wings and tail, were not noted and some reviewers believed this was more likely to be a Bald Eagle or even a leucistic raven with a white head and neck.

Hoary Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemanni*)

2020-43-A One, Prospect Park, **Kings**, 19 Dec

2020-46-A One, Jones Beach State Park, **Nassau**, 30 Dec

The bird at Prospect Park was photographed and while it was relatively pale on the underside, shots of the upperside were not available. The rosy wash on the breast indicated a male and there was a single thick streak on the undertail coverts. Due to considerable variation in Common Redpoll, which can show all of these features, and despite some initial support for the identification, the record was not accepted. The Jones Beach redpoll was also photographed. It was appropriately pale on the underside and appeared as though it might have a pushed-in bill that the species is known for. However, the upperparts were darker than expected and some photos suggested multiple streaks on the undertail coverts, a feature that is at odds with a Hoary Redpoll. The record was not passed after two rounds of review.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

2020-10-A One, Stillwater, **Saratoga**, 5 Jun

Although photos were included with this report of a male Blue Grosbeak, they are from a distance and somewhat soft. Perhaps as a result, rufous wingbars cannot be seen in them and some reviewers felt that this was more likely to be an Indigo Bunting. However, the report did receive some support from reviewers who noted that the bird seemed to have a stocky bill and body, but this was not enough for the record to be accepted by the Committee.

2019 Formal Submission Not Accepted

“Snyder’s” Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus scalariventris*)

2019-165-A One, New Hampton, **Orange**, 1 Dec 2019 to 29 Jan 2021

B. v. scalariventris is not recognized as a valid subspecies by eBird, Birds of the World (Artuso, *et al.* 2022), or the Clements Checklist (Clements, *et al.* 2023). However, some Canadian authorities recognize it as distinct from both the nominate subspecies, which is the expected form in New York and much of Ontario, Canada, as well as the far northern and western subspecies, *subarcticus* (Pittaway 2014, James 1991). Snyder (1961) first described this subspecies. Pittaway (2014) indicates that it breeds in northern Ontario from the Manitoba

border eastward to the Quebec border, south to approximately Thunder Bay, Sault St. Marie, and North Bay, where it intergrades with nominate *virginianus*. In winter it wanders to southern Ontario. Classic individuals of *scalariventris* are distinguished from *virginianus* by their distinctive gray coloration and general lack of rufous tones in the plumage. It is distinguished from the whiter *subarcticus* by its darker coloration and broader more regular and darker bars ventrally (Pittaway 2014, Snyder 1961). Being geographically quite close to New York, it would not seem that surprising for this form to arrive in the state. The interesting owl in this report from Orange County was reported over a 14-month period, from 1 Dec 2019 to 29 Jan 2021. It appeared paler and grayer than *virginianus* but showed a browner face than typical *scalariventris* in some photos. Although one photo showed the face as quite gray with minimal rufous, the Committee felt that the photo was overexposed and may not show the true color. Photos were sent to the late Ontario expert, Ron Pittaway, who felt that a subspecies determination could not be made from the available photos. As a result, the Committee decided that the record could not be supported.

1985 Formal Submission Not Accepted

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)

1985-49-A One, Greenville, **Greene**, 11 Jan

This old record involved a towhee that came to a feeding station between Dec 1984 and Feb 1985. Being considered a subspecies of Rufous-sided Towhee at the time, the latter now known as Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), this bird attracted little interest among birders. The few who did go to see it noted white spotting on the back, a feature of *P. maculatus*, but they did not note the pattern of white in the wings and specifically, whether or not it showed white at the base of the primaries. Unfortunately, without knowing this critical detail, it is impossible to rule out a hybrid. Eastern x Spotted Towhee hybrids have occurred multiple times in the Eastern US with eBird (Jun 2024) showing records in New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Ontario.

1983 Formal Submission Re-review

1983-35-A Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*), One, Montezuma NWR, **Seneca**, 28 Apr 1983

This old record, which was accepted by NYSARC many years ago, involved a single-observer report of an adult male Common Eider, viewed only in flight at Montezuma NWR. The request to reopen this record was based in part on the argument that we know so much more about vagrancy of this large sea duck. Although common on the Atlantic Ocean, records from the interior of the United States are very rare, with occurrences almost always restricted to deep water lakes, reservoirs, and rivers, especially the Great Lakes. The relatively shallow waters available at the Montezuma NWR are certainly not the typical habitat of this species. The request to reopen this record received the three votes necessary, which triggered the re-review. Some Committee members did not agree with the rationale used to reopen the record, believing that the Committee members who

accepted the record did, indeed, understand how exceptional this record was for this location and that their original review comments reflected this. Since the record was originally accepted, it would require four Committee members voting to not accept for it to be overturned. The description in the report of the plumage and bare parts was extremely detailed and some Committee members were skeptical that such detail could be observed on a bird viewed only in flight. Others argued that without photos or multiple observers, the Committee would likely not accept such a record today. However, at the time of the original review of this record, the Committee relied heavily upon the veracity of observers, as photographic evidence rarely accompanied reports of this era. As such, the Committee accepted many records in the past that might require photos today. Recognizing this and also understanding that the original Committee members might have had a better knowledge of the observer than the current members, there were not enough votes to overturn the original decision.

Formal Submission Contributors:

Deborah Allen, Dennis Anderson, Susan Beaudoin, Gail Benson, Andrew Block, Adrian Burke, Sean Camillieri, Gregg D. Dashnau, Melissa Fischer, Stephan Fischer, George Wm. Fisher, Laurie Freeman, John Gaglione, Arie Gilbert, Susan Glover, Richard Guthrie, John H. Haas, Kathy Habgood, Michael Higgiston, Mark Hollenbeck, Richard Jensen, Alyssa Johnson, Kristen Johnson, Susan Joseph, Patricia J. Lindsay, Virginia Martin, Kenneth M. McDermott, Kevin McGann, Jim Miles, Alison Mirth, Karlo Mirth, Shaibal S. Mitra, Karen O'Hearn, Nathan O'Reilly, Peter Paul, Carena Pooth, Neal Reilly, Stacy Robinson, Christine Rydelek, Eileen Schwinn, Linda Scrima, Ryan Serio, Dominic Sherony, Patrick Shure, Sharon Skelly, Marc Sole, Jerri Lynn Sparks, Jordan Spindel, Alice Stauffer, Scott Stoner, Taylor Sturm, Adam Troyer, Alayna Vreeland, Mike Wasilco, Thomas Williams, Glenn Wolford, Mike Yuan, Robert P. Yunick, Mike Zito, Ryan Zucker.

2020 eBird Records

The Committee began to review accepted eBird records for the first time in 2020. The 2019 eBird records were reviewed concurrently with the 2019 formal submissions in 2020 and published together in the 2019 annual report (see D'Anna, *et al.*, 2023), marking the first time that the Committee has published eBird records that we reviewed and accepted. Due to the much greater number of reviews that are necessary with the addition of eBird records, we have developed some time-saving procedures. The "auto-accept list" is a list of species reported to eBird which we will automatically accept, if the record includes an unambiguous photo, usually determined by the secretary, Gary Chapin. The species on this list are usually ones that are straightforward to identify in a photo and are not extreme vagrants. Records accepted in this manner are listed in this report under "2020 eBird Records Automatically Accepted by NYSARC". For the remaining eBird records, we have developed a procedure whereby each member only reviews three-sevenths of the records. Every eBird record is reviewed by three Committee members. If all three members vote to accept, the record is thereby accepted. Although this may seem like a lower standard than we use for reviewing formal submissions, it should be remembered that the record

has already been reviewed and accepted by an eBird reviewer. In addition, if just one member or more votes not to accept, the record is then adjudicated by the entire Committee, using the same voting procedures as for formal submissions. And finally, any decisions on eBird records can be challenged and reviewed by the entire Committee at any time, should a member request it. Records accepted in this manner are listed in this report under “Other 2020 eBird Records Accepted by NYSARC”.

This is the second annual report that includes decisions on eBird records. Only eBird records which we decided to accept are included. For eBird records for which we also reviewed a formal submission, the record is only listed with the formal submissions. Unlike with a formal submission, where an observer voluntarily submits a report to NYSARC, observers of an eBird record have not requested that NYSARC review their report. Therefore, to avoid possible embarrassment, eBird records which we did not accept are not shown. Also, to save time and space, the observers’ names for the accepted eBird records have been left out.

As with formal submissions, eBird records are given a unique NYSARC number. The number refers to all the accepted eBird reports at all of the locations and dates where and when that individual bird or birds occurred. An “e” at the end of the number distinguishes eBird records from formal submission records. Unlike formal submission reports, which may have eBird reports that also support the same record, there are no formal submissions supporting these eBird records.

The Committee would like to know about any errors and omissions found by the reader. This will enable us to keep a more accurate and complete database. Sightings can be added to eBird or removed from eBird at any time after the sighting, even years afterward. The records listed here were captured at one moment in time and may differ from the current eBird record shown online. There could be discrepancies between the dates of accepted records listed and those that currently appear in eBird. If a record does not appear here but shows in eBird, it could be because it was accepted by an eBird reviewer but not accepted by NYSARC. It is also possible that the record was added to eBird after records from that year were reviewed by the Committee. Also, if you notice a record listed here that does not show in eBird, it could be because the checklist was deleted by the observer or hidden from public view. For any of these, we would greatly appreciate hearing about them—please email the NYSARC secretary, Gary Chapin, at: nysarc44@nybirds.org.

2020 eBird Records Automatically Accepted by NYSARC

Note: These are eBird records that were accepted on the basis of an unambiguous photograph.

2020-52e Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Four, Montezuma NWR, **Seneca**, 9, 11 Sep

2020-53e Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Three, Hanley Biological Field Preserve, Canoga, **Seneca**, 28, 31 Oct. Due to proximity in location to the record

of 2020-52e, these could involve the same birds but with a six-week gap in sightings, the Committee decided to review this as a separate record.

2020-54e Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, One, Dryden, **Tompkins**, 6-11, 13-17, 19-29 Sep, 1 Oct

2020-55e Pink-footed Goose, One, Woodman Pond, **Madison**, 15, 16 Dec

2020-56e Pink-footed Goose, One, Old Fly Marsh Nature Preserve, **Onondaga**, 15-17, 20, 21 Nov

2020-58e Barnacle Goose, One, Three Rivers WMA, **Onondaga**, 10 Jun

2020-59e Barnacle Goose, One, Camel Farm, Black Dirt Region, **Orange**, 24-30 Nov, 2-4, 6 Dec 2020, 2 Jan 2021

2020-63e Tufted Duck, One, Little Sodus Bay, **Cayuga**, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 22, 23, 25 Feb, 2, 4 Mar

2020-64e Tufted Duck, One, Conesus Lake, **Livingston**, 4, 19, 20 Mar

2020-65e Tufted Duck, One, Cayuga Lake, **Tompkins**, 11, 17-22, 29 Jan

2020-66e Tufted Duck, One, Port Henry overlook, **Essex**, 5 Jan

2020-67e Tufted Duck, One, Port Kent, **Essex**, 25, 26, 29 Feb, 1, 3, 5, 7 Mar

2020-68e Tufted Duck, One, Crown Point State Historic Site, **Essex**, 14 Apr

2020-74e Eurasian Collared-Dove, One, Rome, **Oneida**, 31 Aug, 1, 2, 5, 6 Sep

2020-75e White-winged Dove, One, Portland, **Chautauqua**, 4-15 Dec

2020-83e Purple Gallinule, One, Franklinville, **Cattaraugus**, 23 Oct

2020-84e Purple Gallinule, One, Twin Lakes Preserve, **Nassau**, 24-29 Jun

2020-87e Piping Plover, One-five, Sandy Pond Outlet, **Oswego**, 23 Apr, 2, 6, 11, 13, 16, 18, 22, 25, 28-30 May, 1, 3, 5-7, 12, 13, 15-17, 19-21, 25, 26 Jun, 6, 11, 18, 20, 22, 25, 27, 29, 30 Jul

2020-101e Thick-billed Murre, One, Pelham Bay Park, **Bronx**, 26 Jan

2020-102e Thick-billed Murre, One, Jones Beach State Park, **Nassau**, 1 Feb

2020-105e Thick-billed Murre, One, Montauk Point, **Suffolk**, 2, 9, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22, 24, 29 Feb, 1-3 Mar

2020-140e White-faced Storm-Petrel, One, Pelagic (39.54, -72.453), **Suffolk**, 9 Aug

2020-147e Brown Pelican, One, Dunkirk Harbor, **Chautauqua**, 27, 29 Aug

2020-149e Brown Pelican, One, Thousand Islands, Hammond, **St. Lawrence**, 31 Aug, 1, 2 Sep

2020-150e White-faced Ibis, One, Iroquois NWR, **Genesee**, 3 May

2020-151e White-faced Ibis, One, Braddock Bay-Salmon Creek, **Monroe**, 7 Oct

2020-154e Mississippi Kite, One, Clymer, **Chautauqua**, 22 Jun. This is the first record for Chautauqua County.

2020-170e Say's Phoebe, One, Crown Point State Historic Site, **Essex**, 24, 25, 29, 30 Apr, 2, 6, 8 May

2020-171e Say's Phoebe, One, Crown Point State Historic Site, **Essex**, 15 Nov, 26-28, 30, 31 Dec 2020, 1, 2, 4 Jan 2021. Very rare in the state, spring and fall/winter records of Say's Phoebe at the same site suggest the possibility of a returning migrant. A Say's Phoebe was first found in Vermont on 15 Mar 2020, directly across Lake Champlain from this site, presumably the same bird seen here over a month later. And again, along with the fall and winter sightings at Crown Point, a Say's Phoebe was seen on the Vermont side of the lake on 1, 3 Jan 2021.

2020-180e Western Kingbird, One, Braddock Bay-East Spit, **Monroe**, 26 May

2020-182e Cave Swallow, One, Braddock Bay-East Spit, **Monroe**, 12 Apr. This is an exceptionally rare spring record of this species.

2020-184e Cave Swallow, One, Krull County Park, **Niagara**, 8 Nov

2020-185e Cave Swallow, One, Almond Lake, **Steuben**, 1 Nov

2020-186e Cave Swallow, One, Jones Beach State Park, **Nassau**, 19 Nov

2020-187e Cave Swallow, One, Breezy Point and Fort Tilden, **Queens**, 17, 18 Nov

2020-189e Townsend's Solitaire, One, Robert G. Wehle State Park, **Jefferson**, 12 Mar

2020-190e Townsend's Solitaire, One, Three Mile Harbor, East Hampton, **Suffolk**, 9, 10, 12, 15-19, 21, 22 Feb, 1, 14, 21, 24 Mar

2020-200e Lark Sparrow, One, West Barrier Bar County Park, **Cayuga**, 22 May

2020-201e Lark Sparrow, One, Pulaski, **Oswego**, 7-13, 15-21, 24-28, 31 Jan, 1-12, 14, 15, 18-23, 25, 26, 28, 29 Feb, 1, 2, 5-9, 14-18, 21-23, 25-30 Mar, 1-12 Apr

2020-208e Harris's Sparrow, One, Lockport, **Niagara**, 10 May

2020-213e Black-throated Gray Warbler, One, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**, 4 Sep

2020-214e Western Tanager, One, Point Gratiot, **Chautauqua**, 3 May

2020-215e Western Tanager, One, Henderson, **Jefferson**, 30 Jun

2020-216e Western Tanager, One, Clement Clarke Moore Park, **New York**, 6-8, 10-14, 16, 17, 28 Dec, 8 Jan, 24 Feb

2020-218e Painted Bunting, One, Plumb Beach, **Kings**, 19 Mar

2020-219e Painted Bunting, One, Salt Marsh Nature Center at Marine Park, **Kings**, 7 Apr

2019 eBird Record Automatically Accepted by NYSARC

2019-165e White-faced Ibis, One-two, Heckscher SP, **Suffolk**, 30 Apr, 1, 2, 13-20 May

Other 2020 eBird Records Accepted by NYSARC

Note: These are records, other than automatically accepted records, that were accepted after being reviewed according to the procedures outlined above under "2020 eBird Records".

2020-51e Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, One, Six-Mile Waterworks Park, **Albany**, 31 Aug

2020-57e "Black" Brant, One, Floyd Bennett Field, **Kings**, 30 Jan

2020-69e Tufted Duck, One, Crown Point State Historic Site, **Essex**, 24 Dec

2020-70e Common Eider (Northern), One, Robert Moses State Park, **Suffolk**, 16 Dec, and Jones Beach State Park, **Nassau**, 30 Dec. This record pertains to the *borealis* subspecies, for which there are very few records in the state.

2020-71e Western Grebe, One, Fort Niagara State Park, **Niagara**, 6-8 Mar. This bird spent the great majority of its time on the Canadian side of the Niagara River, near the river mouth at Lake Ontario. All of the eBird reports from Fort Niagara were of the bird on the Canadian side. However, it was sometimes seen by

observers on the Canadian side close to the Fort Niagara breakwall, which would put it in New York waters.

2020-72e Western Grebe, One, Seneca Lake State Park and Geneva, **Seneca**, 23, 24 May

2020-73e Western Grebe, One, Point Lookout, **Nassau**, 1 Jan

2020-77e Chuck-wills-widow, One, Mountain View Drive, Coxsackie, **Greene**, 4, 5 Jun

2020-78e Rufous Hummingbird, One, Clarence, **Erie**, 17-28, 30, 31 Oct, 1 Nov

2020-79e Rufous Hummingbird, One, Bayard Cutting Arboretum State Park, **Suffolk**, 31 Oct, 1, 3-8, 10, 11, 13-15, 17, 20, 22, 24, 25 Nov. Opinions provided by hummingbird experts, Fred Bassett and Sheri Williamson, led the Committee to accept this record.

2020-80e Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird, One, Georgica Cove Hollow, **Suffolk**, 3, 23, 24 Dec 2020, 19, 24, 27, 28 Jan 2021. Reviewed checklists submitted this as Rufous Hummingbird. However, opinions provided by hummingbird experts, Fred Bassett and Sheri Williamson, led the Committee to accept this record in the revised form listed here.

2020-225e Rufous Hummingbird, One, Glenwood, **Erie**, 24, 27 Oct, 4 Nov

2020-81e King Rail, One, Conesus Inlet WMA, **Livingston**, 12 Jun

2020-86e Piping Plover, One, Braddock Bay-East Spit, **Monroe**, 18 May

2020-88e Western Sandpiper, One, Allegheny Reservoir at Bone Run Road, **Cattaraugus**, 16 Sep

2020-89e Western Sandpiper, One, West Barrier Bar County Park, **Cayuga**, 3 Sep

2020-90e Western Sandpiper, One, West Barrier Bar County Park and Fair Haven Beach State Park, **Cayuga**, 13 Sep

2020-91e Western Sandpiper, One, Sandy Pond Outlet, **Oswego**, 16, 17, 19 Sep.

2020-92e Western Sandpiper, One, Nickerson Beach, **Nassau**, 15, 20, 30 Mar

2020-93e South Polar Skua, One, Robert Moses State Park, **Suffolk**, 10 Jul

2020-94e Long-tailed Jaeger, One, Buffalo State Great Lakes Field Station, **Erie**, 30 Sep

2020-95e Long-tailed Jaeger, One, Buffalo State Great Lakes Field Station, **Erie**, 7 Oct

2020-96e Long-tailed Jaeger, One, Hamlin Beach State Park, **Monroe**, 4 Sep

2020-97e Long-tailed Jaeger, One, Derby Hill Hawk Watch, **Oswego**, 25 Aug

2020-98e Long-tailed Jaeger, One, Derby Hill Hawk Watch, **Oswego**, 7 Oct

2020-99e Long-tailed Jaeger, One, Lansing and Ithaca, **Tompkins**, 8 Sep

2020-100e Long-tailed Jaeger, One, Robert Moses State Park, **Suffolk**, 23 Oct

2020-103e Thick-billed Murre, One, Port Jefferson Marina, **Suffolk**, 25 Jan

2020-106e Thick-billed Murre, One, Robert Moses State Park, **Suffolk**, 25 Nov

2020-108e Atlantic Puffin, One, Pelagic (39.8160,-72.7687), **Suffolk**, 11 Jan

2020-109e Atlantic Puffin, One, Pelagic (39.9377,-73.1431), **Suffolk**, 9 Feb

2020-110e Atlantic Puffin, One, Pelagic-Top of the Claw, **Suffolk**, 27 May

2020-111e Short-billed Gull, One, Bush Terminal Piers Park, **Kings**, 16 Dec

2020-112e Iceland Gull (Thayer's), One, Hamlin, **Monroe**, 18 Apr

2020-130e Iceland Gull (Thayer's), One, Canandaigua Lake, **Ontario**, 3 Feb

2020-131e Iceland Gull (Thayer's), One, Point Breeze, **Orleans**, 9 Feb

2020-133e Slaty-backed Gull, One, Goat Island, Niagara Falls, **Niagara**, 22, 25, 26, 28-31 Dec 2020, 2, 7, 10, 14, 17-19 Jan 2021
2020-134e Sooty Tern, One, Hudson River, **Columbia**, 4, 5 Aug
2020-135e Sooty Tern, One, Dockside Park, **Putnam**, 5 Aug
2020-136e Sooty Tern, One, Caesar's Bay Bazaar, **Kings**, 4 Aug
2020-223e Sooty Tern, One, Coney Island Creek Park, **Kings**, 4 Aug
2020-224e Sooty Tern, One, John Paul Jones Park, **Kings**, 4 Aug
2020-137e Sooty Tern, One, USMMA-Kings Point, **Nassau**, 4 Aug
2020-138e Sooty Tern, One, Oak Beach, **Suffolk**, 4 Aug
2020-141e Brown Booby, One, Jacob Riis Park, **Queens**, 10 Jul
2020-142e Brown Booby, One, Gilgo Beach, **Suffolk**, 1 May
2020-143e Brown Booby, One, Robert Moses State Park, **Suffolk**, 28 May
2020-144e Brown Booby, One, Robert Moses State Park, **Suffolk**, 4 Jul
2020-145e Brown Booby, One, Moriches Bay and Inlet, **Suffolk**, 9 Aug
2020-146e Brown Booby, One, Indian Lake, **Hamilton**, 14-16, 19-22 Aug
2020-148e Brown Pelican, One, Golden Hill State Park, **Niagara**, 21 May
2020-155e Mississippi Kite, One, Beaver Island State Park, **Erie**, 12 Sep
2020-156e Mississippi Kite, One, over Brooklyn (40.63446, -74.03637), **Kings**, 6 Jun
2020-159e Swainson's Hawk, One, Hamburg Hawk Watch, **Erie**, 15 Apr
2020-160e Swainson's Hawk, One, Crittenden, **Erie**, 25 May
2020-161e Swainson's Hawk, One, Derby Hill Hawk Watch, **Oswego**, 1 May
2020-162e Swainson's Hawk, One, Governors Island, **New York**, 26 Sep
2020-163e Swainson's Hawk, One, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**, 19 Sep
2020-165e Gyrfalcon, One, Seneca Falls to Romulus, **Seneca**, 2-5, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19-23 Jan, 1, 9, 19 Feb
2020-166e Gyrfalcon, One, North Hoster Road, Fayette, Seneca, 25, 27-29 Nov, 3, 5, 17-20, 24, 26, 27, 29, 31 Dec
2020-167e Gyrfalcon, One, Cornell Botanic Gardens, **Tompkins**, 29 Nov
2020-168e Gyrfalcon, One, Shawangunk Grasslands NWR, **Ulster**, 22 Jan
2020-172e Ash-throated Flycatcher, One, Green-Wood Cemetery, **Kings**, 14, 17-22, 24, 25, 27-29 Nov, 1, 2, 6, 13 Dec
2020-174e Ash-throated Flycatcher, One, Lido Beach Passive Nature Area, **Nassau**, 15 Nov
2020-175e Ash-throated Flycatcher, One, Jones Beach State Park, **Nassau**, 13 Dec
2020-177e Ash-throated Flycatcher, One, Bayswater Park, **Queens**, 2, 3 Dec
2020-178e Ash-throated Flycatcher, One, Conference House Park, **Richmond**, 29, 30 Nov, 4 Dec
2020-179e Ash-throated Flycatcher, One, Nissequogue River State Park, **Suffolk**, 4-7, 9 Dec
2020-181e Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, One, Conference House Park, **Richmond**, 23 Aug
2020-183e Cave Swallow, Two, Hamlin Beach State Park, **Monroe**, 6 Nov
2020-188e Cave Swallow, One, Robert Moses State Park, **Suffolk**, 14 Apr. Along with 2020-182e, listed with the auto-accept records, this is an exceptionally rare

spring record of this species.

2020-192e Bicknell's Thrush, One, Normanskill Farm, **Albany**, 18 May

2020-195e Bicknell's Thrush, One, Prospect Park, **Kings**, 16 May

2020-198e Common Redpoll (*rostrata/islandica*), One-eight, Christian Road, **Essex**, 30 Dec 2020, 2, 3, 25, 26 Jan, 13 Feb 2021

2020-199e Common Redpoll (*rostrata/islandica*), Two, Angier Hill Rd, **Essex**, 30 Dec

2020-202e Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon), One, Union Springs, **Cayuga**, 18, 19, 30 Jan

2020-205e White-crowned Sparrow (Gambel's), Two, Flint (Casella) Landfill, **Ontario**, 11 Oct

2020-206e White-crowned Sparrow (Gambel's), One, King Road, Seneca Falls, **Seneca**, 16, 18, 22, 23 Feb

2020-207e Golden-crowned Sparrow, One, Soncody Road, North Winfield, **Herkimer**, 6, 10 Mar

2020-209e LeConte's Sparrow, One, Conference House Park, **Richmond**, 25-27 Oct

2020-210e LeConte's Sparrow, One, Wolfe's Pond Park, **Richmond**, 19, 23, 28-31 Dec 2020, 2 Jan 2021

2020-211e LeConte's Sparrow, One, Croton Point Park, **Westchester**, 20-22 Dec

2020-212e Bullock's Oriole, One, Sutton Road, Lyons, **Wayne**, 8, 9 Apr

2020-217e Blue Grosbeak, One, Inlet, **Hamilton**, 12 May

2020-220e Painted Bunting, One, Cemetery of the Resurrection, **Richmond**, 16 Feb

2020-222e Painted Bunting, One, Culloden Point, **Suffolk**, 18, 19 Dec

2020 eBird Record Accepted But Origins Unnatural

2020-196e European Greenfinch, One, Floyd Bennett Field, **Kings**, 27 Dec. This is the fourth report of this species that has been reviewed by NYSARC. The origin of this individual was considered to be unnatural, most likely an escape or released bird. All four records reviewed by the Committee were considered to be of unnatural or unknown origins. The other three were in 2015 (Ulster County), 2010 (Niagara), and 2009 (Kings).

Submitted on behalf of the New York State Avian Records Committee:

Willie D'Anna (Chair), Gary Chapin (Secretary), Shawn Billerman, Thomas W. Burke, Doug Gochfeld, Jay McGowan, Patricia J. Lindsay, Derek H. Rogers

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The New York State Avian Records Committee has recently updated the List of Species to be Reported to NYSARC. See the website for these changes:

<https://nybirds.org/NYSARC/NYSARClst.htm>

Details will be published in the next issue of *The Kingbird* Vol. 74 No. 3.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—FALL 2023

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Weather conditions throughout most of the state were consistent except for the two southeastern Regions, R9 and R10. September was warmer than normal, about two degrees above average for the month. October was significantly warmer than normal, ranging from three to five degrees above average, and the month was wetter than normal. November began with warm temperatures followed by colder conditions. It ended cooler and drier than long-term averages, about one to two degrees colder overall. The exception to these trends was the appearance of the post-Tropical Storm *Ophelia* at the end of September which brought heavy rain and cooler temperatures to the two coastal Regions mentioned above.

A brief overview of the fall bird records can become clearer by looking at a spreadsheet of all the species reported in the Regional reports. A total of 331 species were reported in the state. Most of these species were distributed throughout the state, but 66 species were found in only one or two Regions. I have grouped these rarer species into several categories, using my best judgement. Regional specialties, such as boreal birds, Great Cormorant, Monk Parakeet, and pelagic species, total 22 species. All but one pelagic species occurred in Region 10. Another category, which includes seven passerine species, is lingering expected indigenous residents. A third category is extralimital species, the highest number of which came from the western or southwestern United States, with 16 species. There were 11 species from the south or southeast. In recent years, the number of southeastern birds has been increasing. This year most of these southern and western species were found in Regions 9 or 10. Other categories include eight northern or arctic species and, finally, five European vagrants.

Waterfowl counts seemed to be average to above average in the state. A total of 40,000 Snow Geese was estimated in Lake Champlain, Region 7, on 23 November. Cackling Geese were seen in every Region with a maximum report of 39 at Hamlin Beach State Park on 18 November. Ross's Goose was found in four Regions and Greater White-fronted Geese were recorded in seven Regions between 9 October and 28 November with up to five in Region 5. The last species is known in Region 10 almost exclusively as the Greenland-breeding subspecies,

Anser albifrons flavirostris, so a bird identified this fall as a “Western” Greater White-fronted Goose (subspecies *gambelli/sponsa*) was only the second such documented in the Region. Trumpeter Swans continue to expand their presence, recorded in seven Regions. Eurasian Wigeon were reported from five Regions and noted as unusual in Regions 1 and 6. A high count of 1,500 Brant were recorded on Onondaga Lake, October 29; and 12,000 Northern Pintail were seen at Montezuma NWR, 30 October. Harlequin Ducks were recorded in three Regions, among them five sightings from Region 2. The only Tufted Ducks reported were two on Lake Champlain. Very few eiders were reported, with King Eider seen only in Regions 1 and 10. Expected only in Region 10 in NYS, a Common Eider was a very unusual find at the Newburgh Waterfront on the Hudson River in Region 9. Finally, all three species of scoters were seen in every Region.

The number of Common Nighthawks at Stone Bridge, a dedicated count site in Suffolk County, Region 10, has seen a precipitous drop in annual counts from a high of 2,757 in 2017 to only 1,022 birds this year. In Region 5, David Wheeler reported on an Eastern Whip-poor-will that was radio-tagged and picked up at the MOTUS station at the Lakeshore Marshes station near Fairhaven, a bird that began its journey north of Toronto. Whip-poor-wills, rarely encountered fall migrants, were also reported from Regions 1, 4, and 8.

Two hummingbirds that are very difficult to identify, Black-chinned and Allen’s, were studied well enough in Region 10 to confirm their identification; these will be state records once NYSARC approval is finalized. The Black-chinned was at a park on Randall’s Island and the Allen’s frequented a private garden in Suffolk County and remained for some months. This will be the third record of Black-chinned Hummingbird submitted to NYSARC; the previous two were not accepted. Three Regions submitted records for Purple Gallinule—R2, R9, and R10. In Region 2, the gallinule was found on 22 November by Mitch Barry and remained at Braddock Bay until January. In Region 9, this immature gallinule was a first record for Rockland County. Remarkably, the Region 10 Purple Gallinule was the fifth for long- and well-studied Prospect Park, Brooklyn. For the second year in a row, a Limpkin was found in the state; this year’s bird occurred at Pirozzolo Park in Region 3 on 12 October and remained until November. Sandhill Crane reports continue to increase during the fall with sightings in all Regions and a maximum count of 505 in Region 3 at Montezuma NWR on 30 November.

This fall was an excellent time for shorebird migration in the western part of the state with low water levels on Lake Ontario; however, high water on Lake Champlain resulted in a poor showing in Region 7. The two rarest shorebirds reported were Ruff and Common Ringed Plover, both seen in Region 10, the latter continuing from summer when two were present, the fourth and fifth state records. There were a number of Whimbrel sightings in the western part of the state (R1, R2, R3, R5, R6), in addition to R10 where they are expected, but Hudsonian Godwits were reported in small numbers throughout most of the state (seven Regions).

Overall, there were many reports of jaegers this fall. Noteworthy were Long-tailed Jaegers seen in the three Regions along Lake Ontario, on Lake Champlain in Region 7, and on the Long Island Sound in Region 10. Rare gulls this year very

much mimic last year's results: Sabine's Gulls were reported in Region 1 with five sighting on the Niagara River, and three sightings in Region 2. Franklin's Gulls were seen in the east in Region 9 at Harbor Square Park in Westchester County, and in the west in Region 1 on the Niagara River. Black-headed Gull was again found in Region 10.

Dovekie, White-faced and Band-rumped Storm-Petrels, and Audubon's Shearwater were reported from pelagic locations off Region 10. A Brown Booby was in New York Harbor for a long stay. But the most unusual pelagic bird was a first state sighting of a Short-tailed Shearwater seen and photographed by David Wheeler at Derby Hill on 7 November.

Western Cattle Egrets were reported from five Regions. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was seen by many in Canandaigua, Region 3. A White Ibis which had been stubbornly settled in just over the border in New Jersey finally made an appearance in Region 9 on 8 September. A Roseate Spoonbill was present for some time at Willow Pond in Region 10. Most unusual was a Yellow Rail seen and photographed by M. J. Heisey on her lawn on 17 October, in the town of DeKalb, Region 6.

A total of 66,683 raptors was counted at the five fall hawkwatch sites in the state; see the Regional reports from R4: Franklin Mt, R9: Chestnut Ridge, Hook Mt., Mount Peter; and R10: Fire Island. A total of 168 Golden Eagles was reported at these sites with 85% seen at Franklin Mountain. Though Franklin Mountain's totals were lower than their long-term average, the overall total for all the watches (147) is higher than last year's. See the Region 4 report for a discussion of influences that might determine the counts of raptors at the hawkwatch site. American Goshawks continue to be poorly represented with only three birds seen at the five hawkwatch sites; a total of seven other reports came from Regions 1, 5, and 8. The Swallow-tailed Kite seen in summer in Region 5 continued at Split Rock in Onondaga County. Snowy Owls have been sparse fall visitors the last couple of years and this year continued that trend, with none reported throughout the state; a few did show up in December. Short-eared Owls, on the other hand, were seen in seven Regions.

A high diversity of passerines passed through the state in fall based on reports of 149 passerine species. Alan Wells discovered a Hammond's Flycatcher at Rockland Lake State Park, Region 9. This fifth state record was seen from 25-30 November. A Say's Phoebe was briefly seen in the Bronx, Region 10. Single Cave Swallows were seen in Regions 2 and 10. Donna Carter photographed a Bicknell's Thrush at Montezuma Heritage Park on September 25, Region 3, a rare inland sighting. Three sightings of Northern Wheatears were reported in Region 9 between 13 September and 20 October. A Bell's Vireo was seen and nicely photographed at the Welwyn Preserve in Glen Cove, Region 10 in September; to date, there is only a single Bell's Vireo accepted by NYSARC. Winter finches had mixed results. Pine Siskins were abundant, described as a massive influx and seen in all Regions, with a maximum of 587 reported from Region 2. Red Crossbills were found in nine Regions, but Pine Grosbeak was absent, Common Redpolls were reported from only two Regions, and White-winged Crossbills from four Regions—two of the reports were of passing flocks. Evening Grosbeaks were seen in seven regions but mostly single reports.

Lark, Henslow's, and Harris's Sparrows were recorded in Region 10. Three Regions (R4, R5, and R10) reported sightings of the secretive and difficult-to-find LeConte's Sparrow. Thirty-three species of warblers were seen in the state during this fall season; these include Prothonotary (R10), Connecticut (eight Regions), Kentucky (R8 and R10), and Cerulean (R2, R5, and R10), plus two sightings of Townsend's Warbler from Region 10: one on 15 September at Rocky Point in Suffolk County, the second photographed at Forest Park, Queens two months later on 19 November; the two locations are 70 miles apart.

The bird of the season is always a challenge with so many rare species to choose from. I usually like to select a species that has had many observers but this year I would make an exception and go with the Short-tailed Shearwater, no doubt a first state record and one that no one would have predicted. This species is even more remarkable since it is a Pacific Ocean procellariid. Read David Wheeler's Region 5 report for a thoughtful analysis of what routes the bird might have taken to arrive in New York State.

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REGIONAL REPORTS, FALL 2023

Much of the data in the Regional reports is sourced from eBird:
eBird Basic Dataset. Version: EBD_relNov-2023. Cornell Lab of Ornithology,
Ithaca, New York. Nov 2023.

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REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

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September 2023 was warmer and drier than usual. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 65.4° F, 2.0° above normal, with 2.67" of precipitation, 1.43" below average. The trend of pleasant weather continued into early October but then turned to a wet and cloudy month. The mean temperature was 54.9°, 3.2° above average. Precipitation was 3.74", 0.25" below average. November saw a lot of fluctuations in temperature with the highest temperature hitting 61° and the lowest 22°. The average temperature was 40.3°, 0.7° below normal. Rainfall was 2.7", 0.8" below normal. The only snowfall event for the month occurred on the 29th, when 1.9" was recorded.

Waterfowl migration consisted of a nice showing of Brant along Lake Ontario and some notable inland sightings, including an exceptional count of 370

at Cuba Lake in Allegany County. The first Snow Geese arrived in mid-October, but only a handful of reports ranging from one to six birds were made through October and November. Surprisingly there were no reports of Greater White-fronted Geese. Eurasian Wigeon is rarely found in Region 1 during the fall, making one reported by Andy Guthrie on 21 October at the Batavia WWTP more noteworthy. There were two King Eider reports, one of which lingered for a week in the Niagara River in Buffalo. One Harlequin Duck reported on 10 November was the only fall report. A single Eared Grebe was seen from 2-15 September and 17-22 October at Batavia WWTP, an historically reliable spot for this species, though less so in recent years. Given the gap in sightings, there were probably different grebes present.

Common Nighthawks made a nice fall pass-thru with up to 15 reported from Buffalo. Phil Mills found an Eastern Whip-poor-will on 29 September at Tonawanda WMA, which is rarely recorded for the Region in fall.

Fall sightings of migrating Sandhill Crane flocks have increased in recent years and this fall was no exception. Several flocks were seen throughout the Region, including a high count of 44 at Iroquois NWR on 26 September.

There were a handful of fall shorebird highlights, beginning with three American Avocet reports, all from the Lake Erie shoreline. One long-staying individual remained at Tifft Nature Preserve 7-17 October, to the delight of many local birders. Four Whimbrel sightings were a nice showing for the Region. A juvenile Hudsonian Godwit found by Jim Pawlicki and Joe Mitchell on 15 October was the most notable of the fall shorebird highlights. Though it only remained for a day, the fact that it was found early on a Sunday allowed many the opportunity to see it. The only Purple Sandpiper for the season was reported on 10 November from Olcott. While no Short-billed Dowitchers were reported in the fall, there were several Long-billed Dowitchers, including a maximum of eight found at Oak Orchard WMA (19 October) and Tonawanda WMA (23 October), by Willie D'Anna and Andy Guthrie, respectively. Batavia WWTP produced yet another highlight for the season when three Red-necked Phalaropes were spotted on 4 and 7 September by Mike Tetlow and Celeste Morien, respectively; these were possibly a continuation of the phalarope spectacle there in late August.

A strong west-southwest wind event occurred on 8-9 October that delivered several nice birds off Lake Erie to Buffalo's doorstep along the Niagara River. Notables included Parasitic and Long-tailed Jaegers, Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's Gull, and Black and Forster's Terns. The following day both Red and Red-necked Phalarope were found, likely deposits from the previous day's wind. Several other Parasitic Jaegers and "jaeger sp." were seen in fall, with most sightings along Lake Ontario. A Long-tailed Jaeger was also found at Woodlawn Beach SP on 8 October and seen by many, with identification confirmed through review of photos.

In addition to the October wind event, Black-legged Kittiwake and Sabine's Gull were reported from two other locations during October and November. Mike Morgante found the Region's only Franklin's Gull for the season on 11 October along the Niagara River in Buffalo. Overall, gull abundance remained low along the Niagara River for the fall. The first Iceland Gull of the season was reported on 8 November and no Glaucous Gulls were reported. Bonaparte's Gull numbers

were relatively low within the Niagara River with a maximum count of just 1,690 from Fort Niagara, and Little Gull counts ranged from 1-3. While the trend for later gull abundance on the Niagara River has been going on for a while, this year seemed the most pronounced to date.

On 16 November, Celeste Morien found a Cattle Egret at Iroquois NWR, the only one to be reported this fall. Up to 12 Black Vultures were reported from their typical haunt at Lewiston, with no reports coming from any other parts of the Region. There were no fall Golden Eagle reports. The first Rough-legged Hawk was reported on 20 October and November had a fairly light showing of seven reports of 1-2 birds each.

Snowy Owls have been sparse the last couple of years and this year continued that trend with none reported. The only Short-eared Owl reports were from 10 October and 30 November and there were no Long-eared Owls reported. The only Northern Saw-whet Owl reported was on 19 and 25 October from the same location in Forestville.

There was a good showing of Olive-sided (seven reports) and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers (20 reports) for the Region, the last of which were reported on 13 and 27 September, respectively. The last Philadelphia Vireo on 13 October was slightly later than normal.

The first Northern Shrike was reported on 27 October with additional reports from just a handful of locations in November. Fish Crows have become regular in Buffalo, but a count of 22 at Tift Nature Preserve on 20 November was an exceptional count for this species. A sighting from Chautauqua County on 20 November was also notable. There was a nice showing of Gray-cheeked Thrush with numerous counts of three or more birds from various locations within the Region. American Pipits showed up on 4 September and a handful of nice 30+ counts were reported in October and early November.

Good numbers of Pine Siskins moved through the Region in Fall 2023, with a high count of 340 in October. Alas, there were only a few reports of other irruptive finch species, plus no reports of redpolls or Pine Grosbeaks. The lone Evening Grosbeak report of the season was oddly early on 14 September in Dunkirk by R. Stineman. There were four Red Crossbill reports, and individual White-winged Crossbills were identified at Krull County Park on separate dates.

Clay-colored Sparrows once again continued at their Krull County Park breeding grounds into early September, while Sue Barth photographed one in migration at Woodlawn Beach SP on 19 October. Josh Ketry identified a Nelson's Sparrow at Beaver Island SP on 13 October, the only report this season. Lincoln's Sparrows were seemingly more numerous this fall, including an impressive high count of 15 in Sheridan on 28 September. Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs arrived in October, with relatively low counts of buntings. Gale VerHague documented a large mixed flock that was mostly Lapland Longspurs along the Lake Erie shoreline on 14 November, which is an unusual occurrence during fall migration.

Connecticut Warblers were identified at two locations in early September, as were two Golden-winged Warblers. These were the uncommon warbler species highlights of what was considered a good fall season for warblers, that also

included widespread Cape May Warblers. Karen Lee Lewis had the good fortune of a Baltimore Oriole appearing at a neighbor's feeder in late November.

The 88th BOS October Count was held on 14 October on a cool day (high of 50° F) with scattered rain and moderate wind throughout the area. This count, compiled by Marcie Jacklin, includes both Region 1 and the adjacent area to the west in Ontario, Canada. Participation was a little lighter compared to recent years, with a total of 184 birders contributing to tally 159 species and 91,802 birds. There were several record high counts since the first count in 1935, including Cackling Goose (11), Trumpeter Swan (25), Wood Duck (767), Green-winged Teal (819), Stilt Sandpiper (11), Bald Eagle (68), and Lincoln's Sparrow (15). Of these, Bald Eagle continues a clearly increasing trend based on October Counts and other data. There were no record low counts.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACNC – Audubon Community Nature Center, Jamestown, CHAU; **AISP** – Allegany SP, CATT; **AmSP** – Amherst SP, ERIE; **BeSP** – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **BMAC** – Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, WYOM; **BOSOC** – Buffalo Ornithological Society 14 Oct Count; **Bond L CP** – Bond L CP, NIAG; **BuffH** – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; **BuSP** – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; **BWWTP** – Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, GENE; **ChauL** – Chautauqua L, CHAU; **CSWMA** – Conewango Swamp WMA, CATT; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **EvSP** – Evangola SP, ERIE; **FLC** – Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, ERIE; **FMCSF** – Four Mile Creek SP, NIAG; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; **GHSP** – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; **HBWMA** – Hanging Bog WMA, ALLE; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **Krull CP** – Krull CP, NIAG; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **LESP** – Lake Erie SP, CHAU; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara Ri; **OOWMA** – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE/ORLE; **PB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **PG** – Point Gratiot, CHAU; **RWNP** – Reinstein Woods NP, ERIE; **TBNP** – Times Beach NP, Buffalo, ERIE; **Tift NP** – Tift Nature Pres, ERIE; **TRWMA** – Tillman Road WMA, ERIE; **TWMA** – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; **WBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; **WTSP** – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

Snow Goose: arr Oakfield GENE 13 Oct; 2 Lockport NIAG 20 Oct; 6 EvSP 10 Nov; four other single Nov reports.

Greater White-fronted Goose: no reports.

Brant: arr 9 WTSP 8 Oct; 64 FNSP 16 Oct; 110 Somerset NIAG 28 Oct; 28 BWWTP 30 Oct; 370 Cuba L ALLE 30 Oct (KSch ph!),

exceptional count for loc; Wellsville ALLE 2 Nov; 1, 6 GHSP 4, 7 Nov.

Cackling Goose: arr 6, 6 Oakfield GENE 24 Sep, 17 Oct; 6 North Collins ERIE 15 Oct; max 9 Dayton CATT 4 Nov; 5 INWR 10 Nov; BMAC 10 Nov; 5, 6 Lyndonville ORLE 11, 14 Nov.

Canada Goose: max 1550 Oakfield GENE 22 Nov.

Mute Swan: 9 WTSP 15 Sep; max 11 Waterport ORLE BOSOC; 8 Wilson NIAG 30 Nov.

Trumpeter Swan: max 10 INWR 25 Oct, 3 Nov.

Tundra Swan: arr 6 INWR 21 Oct; max 108 BeSP 14 Nov.

Wood Duck: 78 Belfast ALLE 7 Sep; 75 BWWT 30 Sep; max 80 ACNC BOSOC.

Blue-winged Teal: max 40 BWWT 2 Sep; 35 Tift NP 23 Sep; 23 OOWMA 10 Oct; last ACNC 23 Nov.

Northern Shoveler: max 165, 420, 400 BWWT 30 Sep, 21 Oct, 6 Nov.

Gadwall: max 98 Tift NP 31 Oct; 34 ACNC 24 Nov.

Eurasian Wigeon: BWWT 21 Oct (AG), few fall reports.

American Wigeon: 105 BWWT 22 Oct; max 204 INWR 24 Nov.

Mallard: max 300 BWWT 8 Nov.

American Black Duck: 20 Olcott NIAG 17 Oct; max 21 ACNC 21 Nov.

Northern Pintail: 51 Wilson 8 Oct; 55 BWWT 21 Oct; max 120 INWR 3 Nov.

Green-winged Teal: 150, 112 OOWMA 24 Sep, 18 Oct; 100, 100 Tift NP 17 Oct, 11 Nov; max 200 INWR 3 Nov.

Canvasback: arr 3 Buffalo NR 9 Oct; BWWT 26 Oct; max 200 NF 22 Nov.

Redhead: 4 BWWT 20 Sep; 3 DH 26 Sep; 2 Olcott NIAG 26, 27 Sep; 75 Buffalo NR 9 Oct; max 1500 Ellery ChauL 6 Nov; 200 NF 22 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 4 BWWT 15 Sep; 84 INWR 18 Oct; max 180, 144 Dayton CATT 22 Oct, 5 Nov; 46 Buffalo ERIE 8 Nov.

Greater Scaup: arr BuFH 7 Sep; 58 GHSP 22 Oct; 200 NFSP 29 Oct; 105 DH 12 Nov; max 300 NF 24 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: 10 BWWT 30 Sep; 46 GHSP 22 Oct; max 406 Sherman ChauL 7 Nov; 150 DH 11 Nov; 95 BWWT 16 Nov.

King Eider: arr GHSP 28 Oct (MM, DeD); Buffalo NR 10-16 Nov (JJ, mob).

Harlequin Duck: Krull CP 10 Nov (JS, mob); only report.

Surf Scoter: arr 6 BuFH 3 Oct; 50, 114 Buffalo NR 9, 18 Oct; 50 GHSP 22 Oct; 22 Silver Creek CHAU 5 Nov.

White-winged Scoter: arr 2 Somerset NIAG 24 Sep; 150 Olcott NIAG 17 Oct; max 541 GHSP 22 Oct; 100 FNSP 26 Nov.

Black Scoter: arr 5, 8 BuFH 3, 17 Oct; 23 Buffalo NR 17 Oct; 4, 4 DH 21 Oct, 2 Nov; 6 EvSP 5 Nov; 10 PB 15 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: arr Buffalo NR 9 Oct; max 300 Buffalo NR 3 Nov; 187 GHSP 5 Nov.

Bufflehead: arr BWWT 15 Sep; max 700, 775 Buffalo NR 16, 22 Nov; 280 ChauL 18 Nov.

Common Goldeneye: arr Olcott NIAG 6 Sep; max 350 NF 27 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: max 100 Cuba L ALLE 17 Nov; 70 ChauL 22 Nov.

Common Merganser: max 220 Sturgeon Pt ERIE 21 Oct; 200 Dayton CATT 4 Nov; 200 Angola ERIE 11 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: arr Olcott NIAG 9 Sep; max 18000 GHSP 4 Nov (JS, WD); 2000 TBNP 9 Nov; 1297 DH 10 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: 17, max 1250, 1000 BWWT 2 Sep, 14 Oct, 6 Nov; 325, 200 Dayton CATT 22 Oct, 4 Nov.

Northern Bobwhite: sighting of a few hunting releases.

Wild Turkey: max 22 Lockport NIAG 4 Oct.

Ruffed Grouse: max 6 Randolph CATT 6 Sep.

Ring-necked Pheasant: max 5 GHSP 24 Oct, hunting release site.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 17 N Collins ERIE 15 Oct; 15 BWWT 12 Nov.

Horned Grebe: 58 GHSP, max 110 EvSP 5 Nov; 45 DH 12 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: arr 2 Olcott NIAG 17 Oct; max 9 GHSP 5 Nov; 4 Krull CP 12 Nov.

Eared Grebe: BWWT 2-15 Sep (PM, mob); BWWT 17-22 Oct (BC, mob); likely different birds.

Rock Pigeon: max 143 Sheridan CHAU 11 Oct.

Mourning Dove: max 80 Pomfret CHAU BOSOC.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Ripley CHAU 9 Sep; last Forestville CHAU 4 Oct; only reports.

Black-billed Cuckoo: last ACNC 21 Sep.

Common Nighthawk: 9 Grand I ERIE 1 Sep; 6 New Albion CATT 2 Sep; 8 TWMA 14 Sep; max 15 Buffalo ERIE 29 Sep (KR); 6 North Harmony CHAU 1 Oct; last 10 BeSP 4 Oct.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: TWMA 29 Sep (PM), rarely reported in fall.

Chimney Swift: max 55 Amherst ERIE 22 Sep; 50 TWMA 28 Sep; last Amherst ERIE 14 Oct.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Clarence ERIE 17 Oct (KLL).

Virginia Rail: 2 Canaseraga ALLE 3 Sep; ACNC 7, 20 Sep; Tift NP 17 Sep; Kiantone CHAU 29 Sep; INWR 2 Oct; last TWMA 26 Oct.

Sora: 2 Sherman CHAU 5, 23 Sep; 2 HBWMA 22 Sep; max 5 BWWT 30 Sep; INWR 4 Oct; last BWWT 12 Oct.

Common Gallinule: max 10, last 1 INWR 10 Sep, 21 Oct.

American Coot: 184 Jamestown ChauL 15 Oct; 135 Chautauqua ChauL 30 Oct; max 234 Lakewood ChauL 8 Nov.

Sandhill Crane: 3 Conewango CATT 4 Sep; max 44, 13, 5 INWR 26 Sep (PH), 30 Oct, 22 Nov; 6 TWMA 21 Sep; 34 Alabama GENE 12 Nov (DH); 28 Granger ALLE 25 Nov (MN).

American Avocet: 4 DH 5 Sep (GB); 3 Sunset Beach CHAU 6 Oct (GB); Tift NP 7-17 Oct (SS, mob), long staying bird seen by many.

Black-bellied Plover: Elba GENE 5 Sep; max 6 BuFH 7 Sep; 2 DH 11 Sep; Somerset NIAG 1 Oct; 5, 1 Allegheny Res CATT 6, 22 Oct; BWWT 21 Oct; last Dayton CATT 23 Oct.

American Golden-Plover: 9 Elba GENE 5 Sep; max 12 Wilson NIAG 9 Sep; 2 BuFH 13 Sep; 5, last 4 Somerset NIAG 1, 15 Oct; Dayton CATT 11 Oct; BWWT 12 Oct.

Killdeer: 147 Elba GENE 5 Sep; max 150 Ransomville NIAG 14 Sep; 148 Somerset NIAG 28 Oct.

Semipalmated Plover: last Bennett Beach ERIE 22 Oct.

Whimbrel: FMCSP 5 Sep (WD); BuFH 7-19 Sep (PM, mob); Ransomville NIAG 10 Sep (PM); last BWWT 24 Sep (PM); good showing.

Hudsonian Godwit: N Collins ERIE 15 Oct (JP, JMi, mob), rare.

Ruddy Turnstone: 3 BWWT 2 Sep; 2 Barcelona CHAU 2 Sep; PB 8 Sep; last Olcott NIAG 10, 12 Oct.

Stilt Sandpiper: Ransomville NIAG 10 Sep (PM); 11 BOSOC; Dayton CATT 15 Oct (SB); last OOWMA 22 Oct (CM, MW).

Sanderling: max 19 WBSP 13 Sep; 4 Allegheny Res CATT 6 Oct, rare inland; last DH 8 Nov.

Dunlin: 45 NFSP 30 Oct; max 290 GHSP 4 Nov; 64 TWMA 5 Nov; 30 BWWT 8 Nov.

Purple Sandpiper: arr Olcott NIAG 10 Nov (WD, JS); only report.

Baird's Sandpiper: Barcelona CHAU 2 Sep (GB); 2 WBSP 7 Sep (SB); PB 8 Sep (PM); last Allegheny Res CATT 25 Sep (KB).

Least Sandpiper: last 2 INWR 25 Oct.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 1, 1, 3 INWR 24 Sep, 26 Oct, 7 Nov; 1, 1, 1 Belfast ALLE 29 Sep, 2 Oct, 6-7 Nov (IC); Allegheny Res CATT 6 Oct; GHSP 9 Oct; 2 TWMA 23 Oct; last BWWT 22 Nov.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 12 INWR 24 Sep; 5 Belfast ALLE 29 Sep; max 32, last 1 TWMA 17 Oct, 12 Nov.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 12 TWMA 1 Sep; last Alabama GENE, TWMA 23 Oct.

Short-billed Dowitcher: no reports.

Long-billed Dowitcher: Belfast ALLE 22-27 Sep (IC, mob, ph!); 5, 7, 1 INWR 3, 5, 28 Oct (CM, WD, BRoh); Dayton CATT 15 Oct (SB, mob); max 8 OOWMA 19 Oct (WD, AG), TWMA 23 Oct; good showing.

Short-billed/Long-billed Dowitcher: 9 Conewango CATT 18 Sep (BRob), photographed in flight.

American Woodcock: last 2 Belfast ALLE 15 Nov.

Wilson's Snipe: max 25 INWR 7 Oct.

Spotted Sandpiper: last TWMA 25 Oct.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 5 Springville ERIE 4 Sep; last TWMA 24 Oct.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 19 BWWT 4 Sep; 14 TWMA 19 Oct; last OOWMA, BWWT 31 Oct.

Greater Yellowlegs: 35 INWR 7 Oct; max 38 TWMA 22 Oct; 20 OOWMA 24 Oct; last 2 INWR 16 Nov.

Red-necked Phalarope: 3, 3 BWWT 4, 7 Sep (MT, CM); Buffalo NR 10 Oct (RSi).

Red Phalarope: Buffalo NR 10 Oct (RSto, RT); Barcelona Harbor CHAU 25 Nov (DB); Silver Creek CHAU 30 Nov (GV).

Red/Red-necked Phalarope: 2 Buffalo NR 10 Oct (RSto, RT, RSi).

Parasitic Jaeger: arr Buffalo NR 12 Sep (KR); LBSP 26 Sep (BC); Buffalo NR 9 Oct (AHu, mob); Olcott NIAG 17 Oct (WD); 1, 1 GHSP 22 Oct, 5 Nov (WD, JS); 2, 1 FNSP 29 Oct, 1 Nov (BS, PM); nice fall showing.

Parasitic/Pomarine Jaeger: Olcott NIAG 17 Oct (WD).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER (R1): WBSP 8 Oct (CH, mob, ph!); Buffalo NR 9 Oct (AHu, mob, ph!); rare.

jaeger sp.: 1-2 Buffalo NR 12 Sep; GHSP 28 Sep.

Black-legged Kittiwake: arr Buffalo NR 9 Oct (DoD); BeSP 11, 24 Nov (BS); Barcelona CHAU 29, 30 Nov (DB).

Sabine's Gull: arr juv WBSP 8 Oct (KR, RP, mob); juv Buffalo NR 9 Oct (AHu, mob); ad BeSP 11, 14, 18 Nov (BS; WD; BM).

Bonaparte's Gull: 300 Buffalo NR 9 Oct; 900 Lewiston NR 21 Oct; 154 Sheridan CHAU 25 Oct; max 1690 FNFP 11 Nov; 700 BeSP 14 Nov.

Little Gull: BufH 16 Oct; NFSP 22 Oct; FNFP 27 Oct; max 1-3 BeSP 11-30 Nov.

Franklin's Gull: Buffalo NR 11 Oct (MM); only report.

Ring-billed Gull: max 1000 NFSP 18 Nov.

Herring Gull: max 1000 NFSP 25 Nov.

Iceland Gull: arr Rushford ALLE 8 Nov; max 4 NFSP 27 Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1, 2, 2, 4 WBSF 4, 22 Sep, 19 Oct, 16 Nov; NF 9 Sep; 5 Olcott NIAG 22 Oct; Rushford ALLE 31 Oct; Cuba L ALLE 10 Nov; max 9 NFSP 27 Nov.

Glaucous Gull: no reports.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 5 WBSF 16 Nov.

Caspian Tern: last 2 Buffalo NR 9 Oct.

Black Tern: 4 WBSF 8 Oct; last 2, 1 Buffalo NR 9, 12 Oct.

Common Tern: max 130 Buffalo NR 9 Oct; last 10, 1 BeSP 5, 17 Nov.

Forster's Tern: 2, 1 Buffalo NR 9, 14 Oct (AHu, mob, JMc); only reports.

Red-throated Loon: arr 1, 45 GHSP 9 Oct, 5 Nov; max 53 Krull CP 10 Nov; 3 Hamburg ERIE 11 Nov.

Common Loon: Grand I NR 1 Sep; FNFP 8 Sep; 3 Somerset NIAG 12 Sep; max 236 GHSP 20 Oct; 5 Mayville Chaul 7 Nov.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 2600, 3500 BufH 5 Sep, 10 Oct; 1100, 1800 DH 13 Sep, 2 Oct.

American Bittern: Amherst ERIE 11 Sep; TWMA 14, 28 Sep; Asheville CHAU 15 Sep; INWR 2 Oct; last 2 Tift NP 6 Oct.

Least Bittern: DH 18 Sep; last Tift NP 19, 20 Sep.

Great Blue Heron: max 18 ACNC 29 Sep.

Great Egret: 37, 3 TWMA 14 Sep, 13 Nov; 43 INWR 10 Oct; last 2 Tift NP 23 Nov.

Western Cattle Egret: INWR 16 Nov (CM, mob), only report.

Green Heron: last BWWT 13 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 18 TWMA 14 Sep; 3 BufH 31 Oct; 1-3 Buffalo ERIE 1-30 Nov.

Black Vulture: max 12 Lewiston NIAG 30 Nov.

Turkey Vulture: max 60 Lewiston NIAG 30 Sep.

Osprey: last West Seneca ERIE 15 Oct.

Golden Eagle: no reports.

Northern Harrier: max 3 INWR 10 Oct.

American Goshawk: no reports.

Bald Eagle: max 9 Chaffee ERIE 15 Oct.

Red-shouldered Hawk: max 3 Jamestown CHAU 15 Sep.

Broad-winged Hawk: last Orchard P ERIE 21 Sep.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr Ransomville NIAG 20 Oct; 2 Lyndonville ORLE 26 Oct; 2

Somerset NIAG 28 Oct; seven Nov reports 1-2 each.

Snowy Owl: no reports.

Long-eared Owl: no reports.

Short-eared Owl: arr BufH 10 Oct (RSto, PM); Jamestown CHAU 30 Nov (RSti); only reports.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Forestville CHAU 19, 25 Oct (GV); only reports.

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 6 Dunkirk CHAU 9 Sep; five Oct reports 1-2 each; Angola ERIE 11, 25 Nov.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 261 BOSOC.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: only 14 BOSOC.

Downy Woodpecker: 216 BOSOC.

Hairy Woodpecker: 70 BOSOC.

Northern Flicker: 183 BOSOC.

Pileated Woodpecker: 21 BOSOC.

American Kestrel: 21 BOSOC.

Merlin: 10 BOSOC.

Peregrine Falcon: 6 BOSOC.

Great Crested Flycatcher: last Sherman CHAU 23 Sep.

Eastern Kingbird: last 2 Tonawanda ERIE 13 Sep.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: seven single reports in Sep; last AISP 13 Sep.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: last WBSF 14 Oct.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 20 single reports in Sep; last INWR, Jamestown CHAU 27 Sep.

Acadian Flycatcher: TWMA 1 Sep (PM); last Wales ERIE 3 Sep (GL).

Alder/Willow Flycatcher: last Deer Lick NS CATT 2 Sep.

Least Flycatcher: last Cassadaga CHAU 1 Oct.

Eastern Phoebe: Buffalo ERIE 15 Nov; last Rushford ALLE 20 Nov.

Yellow-throated Vireo: last Allegheny Res CATT 18 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: last East Aurora ERIE 30 Oct.

Philadelphia Vireo: last RWNP 13 Oct (SB), slightly late.
Warbling Vireo: last Cassadaga CHAU 1 Oct.
Red-eyed Vireo: last HBWMA 17 Oct.

Northern Shrike: arr BWWT 27 Oct.

Blue Jay: max 65 Krull CP 5 Oct.
American Crow: max 500, 500 Buffalo ERIE 3, 23 Nov; heading to roost.
Fish Crow: Buffalo ERIE 14, 28 Oct; max 22 Tift NP 20 Nov (KR); Forestville CHAU 20 Nov (GV).
Common Raven: max 6 Buffalo ERIE 17 Nov.

Black-capped Chickadee: 854 BOSOC.
Tufted Titmouse: 123 BOSOC.

Horned Lark: 35 Wilson NIAG 14 Sep; 35 Cambria NIAG 28 Sep; max 95 Shelby ORLE 25 Nov.

Bank Swallow: last 2 Sherman CHAU 5 Sep.
Tree Swallow: max 80 Carlton ORLE 22 Sep; last NFSP 4, 14 Nov.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: max 100, last 304 NFSP 20 Oct, 14-26 Nov.
Purple Martin: last Amherst ERIE 3 Sep;
Barn Swallow: last Buffalo ERIE 29 Oct.
Cliff Swallow: last BWWT 2 Sep.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Wales ERIE 8 Sep.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr TBNP 1 Sep.

Bohemian Waxwing: no reports.
Cedar Waxwing: max 500 BWWT 24 Nov.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 36 BOSOC.
White-breasted Nuthatch: 157 BOSOC.

Brown Creeper: 31 BOSOC.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last Fredonia CHAU 28 Sep.

House Wren: last Buffalo NR 20 Oct.
Winter Wren: arr RWNP 2 Sep.
Marsh Wren: 3, 1 INWR 16, 23 Nov; only reports beyond Oct.
Carolina Wren: 69 BOSOC.

Gray Catbird: max 30 Tift NP 29 Sep.
Brown Thrasher: last EvSP 5 Nov.

Eastern Bluebird: max 25 Andover ALLE 4 Sep.
Veery: last WBSP 27 Sep.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: 5 LBSP 20 Sep; 5, 4 GHSP 22, 26 Sep; 4 WTSP 25 Sep; 5 Forestville CHAU 29 Sep; 4 BMAC 30 Sep; 4 Dunkirk CHAU 1 Oct; 3 LBSP 2 Oct; last BMAC, PG 18 Oct; good showing.
Swainson's Thrush: 10 BuSP 13 Sep; 11 LBSP 25 Sep; 31 NFC Buffalo ERIE 26 Sep (JF); last RWNP 22 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: max 16 LBSP BOSOC.
Wood Thrush: last LESP 11 Oct.
American Robin: max 500 TWMA 3 Sep.

American Pipit: arr 3 Barker NIAG 4 Sep; 59 Sheridan CHAU 13 Oct; max 120, 180 Randolph CATT 17 Oct, 1 Nov; 60 INWR 19 Oct; 80 Somerset NIAG 28 Oct; 30 WBSP 5 Nov.

Evening Grosbeak: Dunkirk CHAU 14 Sep (RSti), only report.
Pine Grosbeak: no reports.
House Finch: max 38 BWWT 12 Oct.
Purple Finch: max 7 New Hudson ALLE 11 Oct.

Common Redpoll: no reports.
Red Crossbill: Jamestown CHAU 11 Oct (JG ph!); Mansfield CATT 18 Nov (TS); TBNP 21 Nov (KR, RP); Krull CP 26 Nov (MM); only reports.

White-winged Crossbill: 1, 1 Krull CP 24 Oct, 26 Nov (WD, BP; MM); only reports.
Pine Siskin: arr LBSP 20 Sep; 70 FNSP 17 Oct; max 340, 110 Krull CP 18, 24 Oct (WD); 100 Wales ERIE, 80 Buffalo ERIE, 60 Belfast ALLE 21 Oct; 96 GHSP 6 Nov; 260 LESP 11 Nov.

American Goldfinch: max 130 Forestville CHAU 12 Oct.

Lapland Longspur: arr 6 Sheridan CHAU 12 Oct; 2 Randolph CATT 17 Oct; 2 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 29 Oct; 4 Dunkirk CHAU 11 Nov; est 100 Eagle Bay CHAU 14 Nov (GV), large flock migrating along Lake Erie shore; 6 Shelby ORLE 25 Nov.
Snow Bunting: arr BWWT, 7 Olcott NIAG 22 Oct; 18 Sheridan CHAU 24 Oct; 19 Krull CP 10 Nov; 24 BuFH 28 Nov; 14 Dunkirk CHAU 30 Nov.

Chipping Sparrow: last Orchard P ERIE 25 Nov.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Krull CP 10, 14 Sep, regular breeding loc; last WBSP 19 Oct (SB).

Field Sparrow: last BeSP 30 Nov.

Fox Sparrow: arr Shelby 12 Oct; 5 East Aurora ERIE 30 Oct; 9 Sinclairville CHAU 4 Nov; 5 Ellicott Creek CP ERIE 5 Nov; 4 Wellsville ALLE 5 Nov.

American Tree Sparrow: arr Stockton CHAU BOSOC (KS, PB).

Dark-eyed Junco: max 140 FLC 13 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr LESP 19 Sep.

White-throated Sparrow: arr Buffalo ERIE 2 Sep; max 75 Bond L CP 28 Sep; max 75 BWWT 3 Oct; 73 Grand I ERIE 4 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: Forestville CHAU 4 Sep (GV); 2 Jamestown CHAU 20 Oct (GB); last Randolph CATT 22 Oct (JK).

Nelson's Sparrow: BeSP 13 Oct (JK), only report.

Savannah Sparrow: 2 Cheektowaga ERIE 25 Oct; last report.

Song Sparrow: max 44 Sheridan CHAU 28 Sep.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Alfred ALLE 9 Sep; max 15 Sheridan CHAU 28 Sep (GV); last Wendt Beach CP ERIE 22 Oct.

Swamp Sparrow: max 29 BWWT 12 Oct.

Eastern Towhee: last Aurora ERIE 11 Nov.

Bobolink: 12 INWR 10 Sep; last 9 Sheridan CHAU 28 Sep.

Eastern Meadowlark: 2 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 1 Nov; 3 EvSP 5 Nov; Conewango CATT 13 Nov; 2 Lockport NIAG 23 Nov; only reports beyond Oct.

Baltimore Oriole: Tift NP, EvSP 19 Sep; last East Amherst ERIE 28-30 Nov (KLL), late.

Red-winged Blackbird: 750 INWR 28 Sep; max 2000 Belfast ALLE 21 Oct; 700 TWMA 27 Oct.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 210 Forestville CHAU 11 Nov.

Rusty Blackbird: arr TWMA 21 Sep; 75 INWR 17 Oct; max 200 BMAC 17 Oct; 75 BuSP 18 Oct; 35 TRWMA 25 Oct; 38 Wheatfield NIAG 3 Nov.

Common Grackle: 400 RWNP 21 Sep; 482 BuSP 18 Oct; max 1000 Ashford CATT 18 Oct; 600 BeSP 29 Oct.

Ovenbird: last West Falls ERIE 3 Oct.

Northern Waterthrush: last 2 Chautauqua CHAU 6 Sep.

Golden-winged Warbler: Tift NP 8 Sep (SL); last North Tonawanda NIAG 9 Sep (AHe).

Blue-winged Warbler: last West Falls ERIE 16 Sep.

Black-and-white Warbler: last FLC 14 Oct.

Tennessee Warbler: 6 Tift NP 19 Sep; last LESP 20 Oct.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr BufH 15 Sep; three other single Sep reports; 2 BeSP 17 Oct; WBSP 19 Oct; East Aurora ERIE 21 Oct; last Grand I ERIE 16 Nov (AHu).

Nashville Warbler: 12 Tift NP 19 Sep; last RWNP 25 Oct.

Connecticut Warbler: arr AmSP 11 Sep (PM); Dunkirk CHAU 13 Sep (DB, BRob); only reports.

Mourning Warbler: last Krull CP 11 Sep.

Common Yellowthroat: last Fredonia CHAU 12, 18 Nov.

Hooded Warbler: last Attica WYOM 5 Oct.

American Redstart: 6 Buffalo ERIE 8 Sep; 6 Tift NP 9 Sep; last BeSP 15 Oct.

Cape May Warbler: 10 FNSP 8 Sep; 6 Ashville CHAU 29 Sep; last Tift NP 14 Oct; widespread this season.

Northern Parula: last Bond L CP 28 Oct.

Magnolia Warbler: max 12 Tift NP 26 Sep; last Randolph CATT 21 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last Cheektowaga ERIE, Tift NP 7 Oct.

Blackburnian Warbler: last Amherst ERIE, WBSP 2 Oct.

Yellow Warbler: last Jamestown CHAU 27 Sep.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: last BufH 1 Oct.

Blackpoll Warbler: 10 Bemus Pt CHAU 24 Sep; last BWWT 17 Oct.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: last RWNP 24 Oct.

Palm Warbler: 14 Albion ORLE 23 Sep; max 25 Barre ORLE 4 Oct; last CSWMA 18 Oct.

Pine Warbler: 5 Krull CP 14 Sep; 5 AISP 16 Sep; last Ellery CHAU 25 Oct.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 50 Tift NP 12 Oct; 44 Albion ORLE 13 Oct.

Prairie Warbler: LESP 10 Sep; last Alfred ERIE 13 Sep.

Black-throated Green Warbler: 6 Belfast ALLE 29 Sep; last Amherst ERIE BOSOC.

Canada Warbler: last Grand I ERIE 29 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: last Tift NP, Jamestown CHAU 27 Sep.

Scarlet Tanager: last Grand I ERIE 4 Oct.

Northern Cardinal: max 17 Stiglmeier P ERIE 17 Sep.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Jamestown CHAU 10 Oct.

Indigo Bunting: last 2, 1 Angola ERIE 21, 22 Oct.

REGION 2—GENESEE

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September 2023 was a month of exceptional weather. Temperatures averaged 64.7° F, 1.1° above average. A heatwave the week of Labor Day produced two days in the low 90s (5-6 September). After the first week of the month, a stationary high pressure near James Bay kept daytime highs in the 70s, humidity low, and delivered plenty of sunshine for the remainder of the month. Precipitation averaged 1.37", 1.81" below average—a relief from the extremely wet summer Rochester had been experiencing. Most of this precipitation fell at night in two major rain events.

The month of October was characterized by two cycles of warm and dry conditions followed by cold and wet. The first week started as a continuation of a splendid September, with highs north of 80°, but by the end of the week temperatures turned cooler and rain moved in. A 12-day cold and rainy spell followed. High temperatures rebounded towards the end of the month into the low 70s, but dropped into the 40s to finish the month. The last few days finished on the cooler side and the Region saw its first measurable snow on 31 October—0.2". Temperatures averaged 55.5°, 3.3° above average. Precipitation totaled 1.83", 1.39" below average.

Despite starting off unseasonably warm, November had an average temperature of 40.2°, 1.3° below average. Precipitation averaged 2.49", 0.27" below average. The Rochester airport recorded 3.3" of snowfall, 4.8" below average. November was marked with long periods of dryness and calm winds. Most of the precipitation accumulated in only a few events. Lake Ontario's waters fell in temperature from 57° to 45° by the month's end. The Region saw its first lake effect event on 27-28 November, but was spared the accumulations seen in Buffalo, Syracuse, and Watertown.

The general impression among birders was that migration was strong in September. The influx of jaegers (all three species) onto Lake Ontario, alongside great lakewatching days, stood out as September's highlight. The general impression, from being out in the field and talking with birders, was that October was about average for shorebirds, jaegers continued strong, but warblers cleared out faster than usual. An impressive number of birders were in the field the first weekend of November. Excellent coverage meant many good finds, which will be discussed in the appropriate sections below.

As with a typical September, waterfowl numbers and diversity increased as the month progressed. Migratory species like Northern Pintail and Green-winged Teal were tallied from traditional lakewatch spots like Hamlin Beach SP (HBSP) and the newly-popular Sodus Point Lighthouse Museum Lakewatch (SPLM-LW) alike. *Aythya* were found consistently by the middle of the month. October is often one of the best months lakewatches in Region 2, and this October held up to the precedent. The first wave of Brant peaked with 800 past the SPLM-LW on 16 October. The second large push occurred in the last few days of the month, with

a maximum of 358 passing the HBSP-LW on 28 October and many records from the inland counties in Region 2. A single male Eurasian Wigeon was noted passing Edgemere Drive on 8 October. Lakeshore-migrating Northern Pintail peaked on 16 October from the SPLM-LW. Mitch Barry reported a female Harlequin Duck from Edgemere Drive on 26 October. An adult male Harlequin Duck was found the next day at HBSP by Jennifer Lang and was observed through 28 October by many. For scoters, the high counts past the HBSP-LW were: White-winged Scoter, 459 on 22 October; Surf Scoter, 68 on 16 October, and Black Scoter, 110 on 16 October. Looking at the eBird data, 15, 16, 17, 22, 28, and 29 October stood out as good waterfowl migration days from the two lakewatches.

Waterfowl migration continued into November. The HBSP-LW continued to get almost daily coverage. The SPLM-LW seemed to get less coverage than last November. Carmen Gumina found a Ross's Goose on a pond in Penfield on 12 November. Mike Wasilco reported a single Greater White-fronted Goose at Twin Cedars Environmental Area in Avon on 13 November, which was periodically seen throughout the month. Greg Lawrence reported a male Eurasian Wigeon from the West Spit on 26 November. The strong fall for Harlequin Duck continued, with an individual reported on 10 November from Hamlin Beach SP and one, then two reported from Mill Creek Outlet in Webster Park.

Among the other water birds, Jim Miles found an Eared Grebe on Braddock Bay on 15 September. Another Eared Grebe was reported flying past Edgemere Drive on 8 October. A third Eared Grebe flew past the HBSP-LW on 29 October. The first Red-throated Loon of the season was reported on 8 October, and numbers of the species grew throughout the month. 146 Common Loons moving past the HBSP-LW on 28 October and 180 on 22 November seen from Wolcott stood out as peak counts for this species. A maximum of 203 Red-throated Loons were counted from Newco Drive in Hamlin on 22 November.

For one of the rarest birds this season, Mitch Barry found a Purple Gallinule on the evening of 26 November on the edge of the cattails between the West Spit and Braddock Bay's North Marina. The bird was observed by Rochester and Buffalo birding communities at large and even a few birders from Long Island. Viewing conditions for the Purple Gallinule were often tough, as it would spend large stretches of time hidden in the cattails, leaving observers to battle brisk winds, blowing snow, and soaking rain to catch a glimpse and a grainy photograph. The bird remained through the end of the month. This represents the fifth record for Region 2, with the last being in 2009 from Mendon Ponds Park.

Jessie and Mitch Barry reported three Glossy Ibises in flight over Buck Pond on 28 October. An extremely late Least Bittern was flushed from the marsh at Buck Pond by the Barry family on 11 November. Western Cattle Egret stood out as a miss for Region 2 this season. The large numbers of Sandhill Crane that build into October and November for the most part stayed just south of the Region 2 border.

The water level drop on Lake Ontario accelerated in September, dropping 0.72' (8.6") from 246.00' to 245.24' by the end of the month. What resulted in the local birding scene was a repeat of the mudflat conditions at Braddock Bay, only delayed a month compared to 2022. Diversity and numbers of shorebirds did not

match 2022, but observers reported most of the expected species. A Red Knot delighted many observers from 2-13 September at the East Spit.

Twenty-two species of shorebird were reported for October. The water levels on Lake Ontario fell an additional 6.72", finishing out at 244.65', just below the long-term average. This caused the mudflat at Braddock Bay to grow larger. Records that stand out as noteworthy include a flyover **Upland Sandpiper** observed at the East Spit on 1 October. Six Hudsonian Godwits were found on 25 October along Armitage Road in Savannah, which continued into early November. Joe Wing reported a Red Phalarope on the water on Lake Ontario from the Bear Creek Harbor in Ontario on 12 October.

Shorebird migration continued strong into the first week of November. Nine **Red Phalaropes** were reported from various spots along the lakeshore from 1 November through 14 November. Amazing! A late **Red-necked Phalarope** was reported from Charlotte Pier on 4 November and stayed through 14 November. Nearly 400 Dunlin moved back and forth between the mudflats of Braddock Bay the first week of the month. A single Hudsonian Godwit was mixed in with the Dunlin from 2 November through 7 November. Purple Sandpiper was reported from the usual rocky piers of Sodus Point, Irondequoit Bay Outlet, and the East Spit. A very late Baird's Sandpiper was seen from the East Spit on 21 November.

September produced at least 34 Parasitic Jaegers along the Lake Ontario shoreline. October added 17 more with numbers dwindling in November with only five, totaling to 56 for the season—a very good. The SPLM-LW produced several **Long-tailed Jaegers** in September, which is not always annual to Region 2. Dates of Long-tailed Jaegers were: 9 September by Mike Gullo, 15 September by Mike Gullo, two individuals on 18 September by Mike Gullo, and one more on 19 September by Mike Gullo and Jay McGowan. Cliff Dekdebrun and Mike Gullo reported two **Pomarine Jaegers** from the SPLM-LW on 12 October, the only record for the Region this fall. November brought two reports of Parasitic/Pomarine Jaeger, both from the HBSP-LW (10 and 13 November).

Among the gulls, Chris Wood and Jessie Barry picked out a **Sabine's Gull** heading east with Bonaparte's Gulls along the lake on 4 September from Edgemere Drive. Mike Gullo photographed another **Sabine's Gull** off the Sodus Lighthouse Lakewatch on 19 September that six other observers witnessed. Nick Kachala and Andy Guthrie photographed an immature **Sabine's Gull** flying past the HBSP-LW on 5 November, very late and generally very rare outside of the month of September. Andy Guthrie noted a **Little Gull** passing the HBSP-LW on 16 October. Another **Little Gull** passed by the Greece lakeshore on 22 October. Dan Gallagher photographed another **Little Gull** on 7 November as a flyby past Irondequoit Bay Outlet. What seemed like a promising fall for an eastward movement of Franklin's Gull turned out to largely stop in eastern Ohio, outside of two fringe reports, the first from Buffalo in early October and another from Presque Isle SP in Erie, Pennsylvania early in November.

The BBBO continued to band Northern Saw-whet Owls this year. Word of mouth indicated they had banded a few. The owl surveys led by Jim Adams at Owl Woods turned up very few Saw-whets. Jennifer Lang photographed a Long-eared Owl on an owl survey at Owl Woods on 31 October. Terry Bohling

photographed a rarer fall Golden Eagle over Hemlock Lake on 28 November. There were also no reports of Snowy Owl.

Large mixed-species migrating flocks of swallows around Van Dyne Spoor Road were the highlight of many groups participating in the Montezuma Muckrace. Thrush migration picked up in September, with several nocturnal migration enthusiasts noting high numbers of Swainson's Thrush (max 150 individuals) and Gray-cheeked Thrush (max 28 individuals) nocturnal flight calls (NFCs) in the dawn descent phase. One record of interest was that the Acadian Flycatcher summering at Hamlin Beach SP stayed until at least 2 September. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was reported from Quaker Pond Trail at Mendon Ponds Park through 29 September, one of the latest records for Region 2. Among the warblers, Chris Wood and Jessie Barry reported a **Connecticut Warbler** from Firehouse Woods on 3 September. Andy Guthrie reported another **Connecticut Warbler** from the Brickyard Trail on 9 September. There were 27 species of warblers reported, a good month overall.

October saw the departure of the majority of neotropical migrants. 8 October was noted for large movements of Tree Swallows along the lakeshore. Jim Miles reported the first Northern Shrike of the season on 27 October from Burger Park. 14 October was a day of large movement for both Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. High numbers of Swainson's Thrush and Gray-cheeked Thrush were reported by nocturnal flight call enthusiasts in the first week of the month. Jennifer Lang photographed 40 passing **White-winged Crossbills** from Owl Woods on 23 October. Pine Siskins exploded in numbers, as an irruption year for this species ramped up. The majority of checklists from lakeshore hotspots contained Pine Siskin. Andy Guthrie reported close to 600 on the morning of 27 October. George Ford found a rather unusually photogenic **Nelson's Sparrow** at LaSalle's Landing Park on 6 October, and many observers reported it through 7 October. Yellow-rumped Warbler numbers appeared to peak around 9 October. There were only a handful of credible reports of Orange-crowned Warbler around the Region. Jessie Barry reported a flyover **Summer Tanager** from the Buck Pond area in the last week of the month. There was only one report of **Dickcissel**, which was a flyover at Sodus Point reported by Mike Gullo on 6 October, during the most consistent time of the year to detect the species here.

Photographs of an extremely late Red-eyed Vireo were submitted on 4 November, representing a first November record for eBird and likely one of only a few records for the Region "pre-eBird days." The invasion of Pine Siskins continued into the first week of the month, with multiple locations along the lakeshore tallying hundreds per checklist. More uncommon winter finches also trickled in. Fall of 2023 was not expected to be a big flight year for winter finches, which became obvious by the end of the month. Nick Kachala, Roger Clark, and Linda Birkel reported a pair of **Bohemian Waxwings** that only stuck around for half an hour along Newco Drive in Hamlin on 5 November. A pair of **Bohemian Waxwings** were also observed in Wolcott on 14-17 November and another single bird was reported from Webster Park on 13 November. There was only one report each of White-winged Crossbill and Red Crossbill, both flyovers, on 3 November from Braddock Bay, and 26 November from Webster Park, respectively.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Braddock Bay, T Greece, MONR; **BB-ES** or **WS** – East Spit or West Spit at the mouth of Braddock Bay; **BB-BP** – Burger P near Braddock Bay, MONR; **BB-OW**, Owl Woods at Braddock Bay, MONR; **BuckPd** – Buck Pd, T Greece; MONR; **CL** – Conesus L, LIVI; **DEP** – Durand-Eastman P, MONR; **ED** – off Edgemere Dr, MONR; **EIP** – Ellison P, MONR; **HANA** – High Acres Nature Area, MONR; **HBSP** – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; **IBO** – Irondequoit Bay Outlet, MONR; **IB-S** – Irondequoit Bay south end, including LaSalle Landing P area; **MP** – Mendon Ponds P, MONR; **NMWMA** – Northern Montezuma WMA, T Savannah, WAYN; **NMWMA (AR)** – north side of Armitage Rd; **NMWMA (CR)** – Carnecross Rd area flooded fields; **NMWMA (MR)** – Morgan Rd marshes area; **NMWMA (MAC)** – Montezuma Audubon Center; **NMWMA (VDS)** – woods and wetlands along Van Dyne Spoor Rd; **OB** – Ontario Beach, T Charlotte, MONR; **SCNP** – Salmon Creek Nature Pres, **SPt** – Sodus Pt, WAYN; **SPLM (LW)**, Sodus Pt Lighthouse Museum, lakewatch location), WAYN; **T** – Town of; **TCEA** – Twin Cedars Environmental Area at Avon DEC offices, LIVI; **TPP** – Turning Point P, Rochester, MONR; **WP** – Webster P, MONR.

Snow Goose: arr Turtle P, GENE 29 Sep.

Ross's Goose: arr Olmstead Rd., NMWMA 14 Oct; ad Plank Rd. T Penfield 12-15 Nov (CGu).

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr TCEA (MW) 13-25 Nov, only record

Brant: arr 25 SPLM (LW) 13-25 Nov; max 800 SPLM (LW) 16 Oct (MGU); last BB-WS 23 Nov (GS).

Cackling Goose: arr 7 TCEA 28 Sep; arr 3 Jacobs Rd. T Hamlin 28 Sep; max 39 HBSP 18 Nov (AGu)

Canada Goose: max 4000 TCEA 25 Nov.

Mute Swan: max 100 BB-ES 25 Nov.

Trumpeter Swan: max 52 NMWMA (AR) 27 Oct; 2 HANA 20 Oct thru 10 Nov.
Tundra Swan: arr Redman Rd. T Hamlin 13 Oct.
Wood Duck: max 200 Silver L WYOM 21 Oct.
Blue-winged Teal: max 254 BB-ES 6 Oct; last 4 NMWMA (VDS) 12 Nov.
Northern Shoveler: max 22 T Savannah 22 Nov (low).
Gadwall: max 115 Round Pd T Greece 4 Nov.
Eurasian Wigeon: ad m ED 8 Oct (JBa, CW); ad m BB-WS 26 Nov (GrL).
American Wigeon: max 250 Round Pd T Greece 4 Nov (JBa, CW).
Mallard: max 350 Hemlock L LIVI 19 Nov (BHo).
American Black Duck: max 94 SPLM (LW) 16 Oct (MGU).
Northern Pintail: max 900 NMWMA (AR) 29 Oct; max 246 SPLM (LW) 246 Oct 16; max 213 HBSP 8 Oct (low lakewatch counts).
Green-winged Teal: max 200 NMWMA (VDS) 8 Sep.
Canvasback: arr ED 8 Oct (JBa, CW) – very early; max 2 BB 25 Oct.
Redhead: max 100 CL 4 Nov.
Ring-necked Duck: max 295 Hemlock L LIVI 29 Nov.
Greater Scaup: arr BB-ES 16 Sep; max 150 Blind Sodus Bay WAYN 12 Nov.
Lesser Scaup: arr 2 (consistently) 13 Sep OB; max 90 BB-ES 19 Nov.
King Eider: no reports.
Harlequin Duck: arr f 26 Oct ED (MB); ad m HBSP 27-28 Oct (AGU); f WP 2 Nov (MGU), joined by ad m 26 Nov, thru Nov; ad m HBSP 10 Nov (AGU).
Surf Scoter: arr SPLM (LW) 19 Sep; max 68 HBSP 16 Oct (AGU).
White-winged Scoter: max 459 HBSP 22 Oct (AGU); (arr in Aug).
Black Scoter: arr IBO 25 Sep; max 110 HBSP 17 Oct (DSh).
Long-tailed Duck: arr 4 HBSP 10 Oct; arr SPT 10 Oct; max 497 HBSP 5 Nov (AGU).
Bufflehead: arr 4 HBSP 22 Oct; max 82 HBSP 5 Nov (AGU).
Common Goldeneye: arr HBSP 23 Oct; max 146 WP 30 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: max 210 Lake Shore Marshes WMA 22 Nov (JMcG).
Common Merganser: max 100 TPP 19 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 10385 HBSP 4 Nov (AGU).
Ruddy Duck: arr BB-ES 5 Oct; max 219 Long Pd T Greece 11 Nov.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 25 NMWMA (VDS).

Horned Grebe: max 60 Bear Creek Harbor WAYN 30 Nov.
Red-necked Grebe: max 106 HBSP 19 Nov.
Eared Grebe: BB 15 Sep (J. Miles); ED 8 Oct (JBa, CW), HBSP 29 Oct (AGU, RG).
Black-billed Cuckoo: last NMWMA (CR) 9 Sep.
Common Nighthawk: max 4 Honeoye L ONTA 4 Sep; last T Mendon 4 Oct.
Chimney Swift: max 30 EIP 8 Sep; last 2 LaSalle's Landing P MONR 9 Oct.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last 28 Oct T Bergen (MM).
Virginia Rail: last MP 15 Oct.
Sora: last BB-ES 14 Oct.
Common Gallinule: max 39 NMWMA (VDS) 14 Sep; last NMWMA (VDS) 5 Nov.
American Coot: max 165 BB-WS 14 Oct.
PURPLE GALLINULE: imm BB-WS 26 Nov (MB) thru Nov. **5th Regional record.**
Sandhill Crane: max 26 NMWMA (AR) 29 Oct.
Black-bellied Plover: max 14 T Hamlin 13 Sep; last NMWMA (AR) 20 Nov.
American Golden-Plover: arr Cranberry Pd T Greece 1 Sep (no Aug records); max 20 T Hamlin 7 Sep; last BuckPd 21 Oct.
Killdeer: max 147 T Byron 5 Sep; last BB-ES 19 Nov.
Semipalmated Plover: max 13 BB-ES 29 Sep thru 1 Oct; last BB-WS 27 Nov (late).
Upland Sandpiper: BB-ES 1 Oct (AGU, MGU, !, CW).
Whimbrel: max SPT 7 Sep; last BB-WS 17 Sep.
Hudsonian Godwit: arr & max 64 SPT 7 Sep (MGU); ar rT Hamlin 7 Sep (AGU); last 2 NMWMA (AR) 8 Nov; last BB-ES 8 Nov.
Ruddy Turnstone: max 6 Summerville Pier MONR 2&7 Sep; last 2 ED 2 Oct.
Red Knot: max 2 BB-ES 9 Sep; last BB-ES 13 Sep.
Stilt Sandpiper: max 8 BB-ES 9 Sep; last LaSalle's Landing P MONR 19 Oct.
Sanderling: max 24 BB-ES 14 Sep; last SPT 16 Nov.
Dunlin: max 388 BB-ES 2 Nov (CW).
Purple Sandpiper: arr 2 IBO 9 Nov; max 5 SPT 30 Nov (MGU).
Baird's Sandpiper: max 4 BB-ES 1-2 Oct; last BB-ES 21 Nov (AB) – very late.

Least Sandpiper: max 13 BB-ES 30 Sep; last 3 BB-ES 14 Oct.

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 17 BB-ES 2 Oct; last 2 BB-ES 26 Nov.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: no records!

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 34 BB-ES 1 Oct; last BB Salmon Creek 9 Nov.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 120 SPLM (LW) 18 Sep; last BB-ES 12 Nov.

Short-billed Dowitcher: last NMWMA (MAC) 8 Sep (only record).

Long-billed Dowitcher: no reports!

American Woodcock: last BB-BP 14 Oct.

Wilson's Snipe: max 15 NMWMA (MAC) 3 Oct.

Spotted Sandpiper: last BB-WS 27 Oct.

Solitary Sandpiper: last DEP 7 Oct.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 19 BB-ES 6 Oct; last 5 Sodus Bay 3 Nov.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 13 Round Pd T Greece 2 Nov; last 2 Lock 32 State Canal P T Pittsford 19 Nov.

Red-necked Phalarope: Ontario Beach Charlotte Pier MONR 4-14 Nov (!, RBu, GrL).

Red Phalarope: arr Bear Creek Harbor WAYN 12 Oct (J.Wing; last HBSP 14 Nov. Good season with 10 individuals.

Pomarine Jaeger: SPt 20 Sep (MGU); 2 SPLM (LW) 12 Oct (CD, MGU).

Parasitic Jaeger: max 5 SPLM (LW) 19 Sep (MGU); last WP 24 Nov (!, GrL); 56 for Sep-Nov.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: SPt 9 Sep (MGU); SPLM (LW) 15 Sep (MGU); 2 SPLM (LW) 18 Sep (MGU); SPLM (LW) 19 Sep (JMcG, MGU).

Black-legged Kittiwake: imm T Wolcott 4 Nov (W&MR).

Sabine's Gull: ad ED 4 Sep (JBa, CW); ad SPLM (LW) 19 Sep (MGU); imm HBSP 5 Nov (AGU, !).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 180 IB-S 3-4 Nov.

Little Gull: ad HBSP 16 Oct (AGU); ad ED 22 Oct (JBa, CW); ad IBO 7 Nov (DG).

Ring-billed Gull: max 2000 T Lima 23 Oct.

Herring Gull: max 1205 BB-ES 30 Nov.

Iceland Gull: arr T Wolcott 22 Oct.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 3 ED 1 Oct.

Glaucous Gull: no reports!

Great Black-backed Gull: max 13 IBO 11 Nov.

Caspian Tern: max 20 BB-ES 2 Sep; last IB-S 7 Oct.

Black Tern: last 3 SPt 8 Sep.

Common Tern: max 34 SPLM (LW) 18 Sep.

Forster's Tern: max 3 BB-ES 7 Oct; last BB-ES 15 Oct.

Red-throated Loon: arr ED 8 Oct; max 203 Newco Dr. T Hamlin 22 Nov (AGU).

Common Loon: max 180 T Wolcott 22 Nov (JMcG).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 1970 ED 28 Sep.

American Bittern: last NMWMA (VDS) 5 Nov – late, ph.

Least Bittern: last BuckPd 11 Nov (JBa) – very late.

Great Egret: last BB-BP 4 Nov.

Western Cattle Egret: no reports!

Green Heron: last T Brighton 12 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: last TPP 5 Nov.

Glossy Ibis: 3 BuckPd 28 Oct (JBa, MB).

Osprey: last T Penfield 27 Oct.

Golden Eagle: imm Hemlock L LIVI 28 Nov (TB).

American Goshawk: imm BuckPd (JBa, MB); imm T Wolcott 18 Nov (PMi).

Broad-winged Hawk: last Silver L WYOM7 Oct.

Rough-legged Hawk: arrive 2 Beechwood SP WAYN 27 Oct.

Snowy Owl: no reports!

Short-eared Owl: arrive BB-ES 18 Oct.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: arr T Walworth 27 Oct.

Great Crested Flycatcher: last T Brighton 22 Sep.

Eastern Kingbird: last Cobbs Hill P MONR 14 Oct.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last MP 29 Sep (CD) – very late.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: last T Sodus 15 Oct.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last BB-ES 22 Sep.

Acadian Flycatcher: last HBSP 2 Sep (AGU) – there all summer.

Willow Flycatcher: last Beatty Pt T Greece 3 Sep.

Least Flycatcher: last T Wolcott 2 Oct.

Eastern Phoebe: last SCNP 3 Nov.

White-eyed Vireo: 2 Oct T Wolcott (W&MR); Alder Beach T Parma 18 Nov (JMi); DEP 25 Nov (JMi).

Yellow-throated Vireo: last TCEA 22 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: last T Pittsford 2 Nov.

Philadelphia Vireo: last Maxwell Bay T Sodus 2 Oct.

Warbling Vireo: last HANA 2 Oct.
Red-eyed Vireo: last T Hamlin 5 Nov (KaH) – very late, ph.

Northern Shrike: arr BB-BP 27 Oct.

Horned Lark: max 78 T Caledonia 16 Nov.

Bank Swallow: max 200 NMWMA (VDS) 8 Sep; last NMWMA (VDS) 16 Sep.

Tree Swallow: max 5000 NMWMA (VDS) 9 Sep; last BB-BP 3 Nov.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: max 300 NMWMA (VDS) 9 Sep; last NMWMA (AR) 23 Oct.

Purple Martin: max 20 NMWMA (VDS) 9 Sep; last 2 HBSP 20 Sep.

Barn Swallow: max NMWMA (VDS) 9 Sep; last 2 IB-S 11 Oct.

Cliff Swallow: last T Hamlin 29 Sep.

CAVE SWALLOW: SPt 1 Nov (W&MR).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 30 BB-ES 14 Oct.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 50 HBSP 14 Oct.

Bohemian Waxwing: 2 Newco Dr. T Hamlin 5 Nov (L. Birkel, RCL, !); WP13 Nov (JMi); 2 Heron Rd T Wolcott 14-16 Nov (W&MR).
Cedar Waxwing: max 186 HBSP 12 Nov.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last Firehouse Woods T Greece 29 Oct.

House Wren: last T Mendon 12 Oct.

Sedge Wren: last NMWMA (MAC) 9 Sep.

Marsh Wren: last MP 17 Nov.

Brown Thrasher: last EIP14 Oct.

Veery: max 25 NMWMA (VDS) 9 Sep; last T Brighton 2 Oct.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr DEP 7 Sep; max 28 T Rush 1 Oct.

Swainson's Thrush: max 150 T Hamlin 15 Sep; max 150 T Rush 15 Sep (morning descent); last HBSP 20 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: arr EIP 20 Sep; max 23 I Cottage Woods MONR 7 Oct; last BB-WS 26 Nov.

Wood Thrush: last T Brighton 12 Oct.

American Robin: max 650 T Chili 8 Sep.

American Pipit: arr in Aug; max 85 T Hamlin 14 Oct; last T Holley 18 Nov.

Evening Grosbeak: arr 5 Sep T Parma (JMi); only three other records for season.

Purple Finch: max 15 BB-OW 10 Nov.

Common Redpoll: arr Newco Dr. T Hamlin 4 Nov; max 18 Newco Dr. T Hamlin 19 Nov; only two other records for season.

Red Crossbill: 2 Alder Beach T Parma 18 Nov; 2 WP 26 Nov.

White-winged Crossbill: 40 BB-OW 23 Oct (JLa).

Pine Siskin: arr HBSP 6 Sep; max 587 HBSP 27 Oct (AGu); excellent flight all October.

American Goldfinch: max 235 BB-WS 1 Nov.

Lapland Longspur: arr SPt 22 Sep.

Snow Bunting: arr SPt 17 Oct; max 320 HBSP 16 Nov.

Grasshopper Sparrow: last T Brighton 12 Oct.

Chipping Sparrow: last Harder Rd. T Livonia 22 Nov.

Field Sparrow: last McPherson Rd. T Caledonia 16 Nov.

Fox Sparrow: arr BB-BP 9 Oct; max 5 EIP 12 Nov.

American Tree Sparrow: arr T Brighton 12 Oct; max 25 SCNP 26 Nov.

Dark-eyed Junco: arr T Greece 15 Sep; max 115 DEP 14 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr HBSP 21 Sep; max 25 SCNP 17 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: arr HBSP 21 Sep; max 130 BB-BP 14 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: last DEP 15 Oct.

Nelson's Sparrow: IB-S 6-7 Oct (GF + mob); BB-BP 14 Oct (CW); BuckPd 14 Oct (CW).

Savannah Sparrow: max 24 Jacobs Rd. T Hamlin (AGu); last BB-BP 5 Nov.

Song Sparrow: max 30 Rush Riverside Refuge MONR 6 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Firehouse Woods T Greece 11 Sep; max 9 SCNP 29 Sep; last EIP 26 Oct.

Swamp Sparrow: max 25 BB-BP 9 Oct.

Eastern Towhee: last HBSP 23 Nov.

Bobolink: max 145 NMWMA (MR) 1 Sep; last SCNP 30 Sep.

Eastern Meadowlark: last BB-BP 5 Nov.

Baltimore Oriole: last Highland P MONR 1 Oct.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 3000 T Savannah 22 Nov.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 400 T Avon 5 Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: arr HBSP 17 Sep; max 116 BB-BP 14 Oct; some lingered to Dec.

Common Grackle: max 1500 Cornwall PresT Williamson 20 Oct.

Ovenbird: last T Brighton 12 Oct.
Northern Waterthrush: last T Brighton 12 Oct.
Golden-winged Warbler: last Alder Beach T Parma 6 Sep (JMi).
Blue-winged Warbler: last HBSP 17 Sep.
Black-and-white Warbler: last Firehouse Woods T Greece 30 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: max 8 Ganondagan State Historic Site ONTA 21 Sep; last 2 IB-S 19 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr BB-ES 15 Sep; last Abraham Lincoln P MONR 25 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: last SCNP 17 Oct.
Connecticut Warbler: Firehouse Woods T Greece 3 Sep (JBa, CW); Brickyard Trail T Brighton 9 Sep (AGu).
Mourning Warbler: last Cook Rd T Hamlin 24 Sep.
Common Yellowthroat: imm m BB-WS 11 Nov thru month (overwintering).
Hooded Warbler: last T Webster 29 Sep.
American Redstart: last T Brighton 12 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: last BB-ES 5 Oct.
Cerulean Warbler: last NMWMA West Shore Trail 2 Sep.
Northern Parula: last 2 T Brighton 21 Oct.
Magnolia Warbler: last Abraham Lincoln P MONR 21 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last BB-ES 13 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last BB-ES 30 Sep.
Yellow Warbler: max 10 BB-ES 10 Sep; last HBSP 5 Oct.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last Washington St. Spencerport 6 Oct.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 26 BB-ES 10 Sep; last BB-WS 14 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last Fairport MONr 14 Oct.
Palm Warbler: last Thousand Acre Swamp Pres MONR 21 Oct.
Pine Warbler: max 12 HBSP 12 Sep; last BB-ES 12 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 115 Lakeview Community Church Trail MONR 8 Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last HBSP 14 Oct.
Canada Warbler: last DEP 7 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: last T Wolcott 28 Sep.
Summer Tanager: BuckPd 29 Oct (JBa, MB).
Scarlet Tanager: last EIP 4 Oct.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last T Brighton 2 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: last Bronson Hill Rd. T Livonia 13 Oct.
Dickcissel: SPT 6 Oct (MGU).

REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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September 2023 had normal temperatures but was drier than normal. October was warmer and wetter than normal. November was cooler and drier than normal.

The average low temperature in September at Ithaca was 48.9° F, just 0.1° above normal. The average high temperature was 71.6° which was normal. The total precipitation was 1.23", 2.6" less than normal.

October's average low temperature was 43.9°, 5.0° above normal. The average high was 61.7°, 2.7° above normal. Total precipitation was 3.96", 0.26" more than normal. No snow fell. Normal snowfall in October is 0.2".

November's average low temperature was 28.4°, 2° below normal and the high was 45.5°, 1.3° below normal. Total precipitation was 1.55", 1.39" less than normal. Total snowfall was 0.4", 4.2" less than normal. Snow depth never exceeded trace amounts.

Apparently unrelated to weather, the last reports of Ross's Goose and Brant were both early. The former was at the Northeast College of Health Sciences in early October and the latter at Stewart Park in early November. The only dabbler

with a high count was Northern Pintail at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in late October. High counts were reported for several species of diving ducks: Ring-necked Duck at Montezuma NWR in early November, Surf Scoter on Cayuga Lake in late October, White-winged Scoter on Seneca Lake in early November, Bufflehead on Canandaigua Lake in mid-November, and Common Merganser at Montezuma NWR in late November. Another diving waterbird, Pied-billed Grebe, had a high count reported at Montezuma NWR in mid-October. The most unusual report was of four Barnacle x Cackling Goose hybrid birds at Seneca Lake State Park in early November.

A high count of Ruffed Grouse was reported at the Roy H. Park Preserve in early September and of Sandhill Cranes at Montezuma NWR at the end of November. An Eared Grebe was on Seneca Lake in late October. The Region's first and unofficially the state's second Limpkin walked out in front of a birder on a path through the West Elmira Riverine Forest at Pirozzolo Park on 12 October and was observed by many other birders through November 1.

The mild weather in October may have led to a few late records for sandpipers. A Hudsonian Godwit lingered at Montezuma NWR through mid-November. A Baird's Sandpiper was there through late October, and a Solitary Sandpiper was in the Chemung River in late October. The most unusual shorebirds were a Whimbrel at Myers Point in mid-September and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Montezuma NWR in early October.

The Stevenson Road Compost Piles attracted a high count of Lesser Black-backed Gulls in late September, a hybrid Herring x Lesser Black-backed in late September, an early Glaucous Gull in mid-November, and a Herring x Great Black-backed Gull in mid-November. The lone Forster's Tern report came from Montezuma NWR in mid-September.

Montezuma NWR produced high counts of Least Bittern, Snowy Egrets, and Black-crowned Night-Herons in early September. A late Snowy Egret was at the Refuge in mid-November. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron continued along Sucker Brook in Canandaigua until 1 September. A Glossy Ibis was at Montezuma NWR in early September.

High counts were reported for Black Vulture in Northeast Ithaca in mid-September, for Northern Harrier at Montezuma NWR in mid-November, and for Merlin at Seneca Meadows Wetland Preserve in late September. Two Golden Eagles passing by Mount Pleasant in mid-September were early.

More high counts were Belted Kingfishers at the Owasco Lake Inlet in late September, Red-headed Woodpeckers in the Town of Lansing in early September, and Red-bellied Woodpeckers at Sapsucker Woods in early October. Flycatcher high counts were for Great Crested Flycatcher at Montezuma NWR and in Ithaca in early September, Acadian Flycatcher in the Town of Van Etten in mid-September, and for Least Flycatcher at Volcano Wetlands in early September. The Acadian Flycatchers in the Town of Van Etten in mid-September were also late, as were an Olive-sided Flycatcher in the Town of Caroline in late September and a Least Flycatcher at Volcano Wetlands in late November.

A Philadelphia Vireo at the Cornell Research Ponds in mid-October was late. A White-eyed Vireo was in Northeast Ithaca in mid-September. A high count of Blue Jays was observed at Cornell University in late September. Palmer Woods

hosted a high count of Tufted Titmice in late September. A high count of Cedar Waxwings passed a vantage point in the Town of Danby in late October. The only Cliff Swallow report was of a single bird at Montezuma NWR in early September.

Nocturnal counts peaked for Veery and Gray-cheeked Thrush on 10 September and for Swainson's Thrush on 15 September. Donna Carter photographed an apparent Bicknell's Thrush at the Montezuma Heritage Park in late September.

Winter finch movement was relatively light with just a single Evening Grosbeak report in late November, a few Red Crossbill reports starting in late September, and several Pine Siskin reports also beginning in late September. Small numbers of Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings started to appear in mid-October.

Among sparrows, a high count of Grasshopper Sparrows came from the Town of Ovid in late September. A late Field Sparrow was at Buttermilk Falls State Park at the end of November. A Clay-colored Sparrow was at the Ecology House in late September. Nelson's Sparrows were reported at the Cornell Research Ponds from late September through late October. A Baltimore Oriole in Jacksonville in early November was late.

A high count of Tennessee Warblers was in the Town of Ulysses in mid-September. A high count of nocturnal migrant Mourning Warblers was at Cornell University. A Canada Warbler in the Finger Lakes National Forest in early October was late. A Wilson's Warbler at Sapsucker Woods in early November was also late. A Golden-winged Warbler was at Palmer Woods and another in the Town of Caroline in early September. Multiple reports of Connecticut Warbler concluded with one that spent four days in the Town of Ovid in late September along with the Region's last reported Dickcissel.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BL – Beebe L, TOMP; **BLNA** – Bluegrass Lane Natural Area, TOMP; **CRPd** – Cornell Research Pds; **CU** – Cornell University; **CygL** – Cayuga L; **DSF** – Danby State Forest, TOMP; **ELCP** – Edwards Lake Cliffs Pres, TOMP; **HH** – Hog Hole, TOMP; **HHSF** – Hammond Hill State Forest, TOMP; **HRW** – Herman Road Wetlands TOMP; **LPBP** – Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Pres, TOMP; **MHP** – Montezuma Heritage P, CAYU; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **MR** – Monkey Run, TOMP; **MtP** – Mount Pleasant, TOMP; **MyPt** – Myers Pt, TOMP; **NA** – F R Newman Arboretum, TOMP; **NEI** – Northeast Ithaca, TOMP; **PSP** – Park Station P, CHEM; **PW** – Palmer Woods, TOMP; **RHPP** – Roy H P Pres, TOMP; **SenL** – Seneca L; **SLSP** – Seneca L SP; **SMWP** – Seneca Meadows Wetland Pres, SENE; **SPNA** – Salt Pt Natural Area, TOMP; **SRCP** – Stevenson Rd Compost Piles, TOMP; **StP** – Stewart P, TOMP; **SW** – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; **TB** – T Bath, STEU; **TCar** – T Caroline, TOMP; **TDan** – T Danby, TOMP; **TDry** – T Dryden, TOMP; **TGro** – T Groton TOMP; **Tlth** – T Ithaca, TOMP; **TLan** – T Lansing, TOMP; **TOv** – T Ovid, SENE; **TSMP** – Allan H Treman State Marine P, TOMP; **TVE** – T Van Etten, CHEM; **VW** – Volcano Wetlands; **WERF** – W Elmira Riverine Forest, CHEM.

Snow Goose: max 250 T Cayuta SCHU 29 Oct; 250 MNWR 22 Nov; 250 TOv 26 Nov.
Ross's Goose: arr TOv 23 Sep; last Northeast College of Health Sciences SENE 8 Oct, early.
Brant: arr 37 StP 9 Oct; max 350 E Shore P TOMP 30 Oct; last 3 StP 8 Nov, early.
Cackling Goose: arr CU 23 Sep; max 7 Risser Rd Swamp ONTA 25 Oct.
Barnacle x Cackling Goose (hybrid): 4 SLSP 8 Nov (RSt!).

Canada Goose: max 6000 MNWR 3 Nov.
Mute Swan: max 4 Mud Lock CAYU 9 Sep; 4 CygL SENE 3 Nov.
Trumpeter Swan: max 24 MNWR 26-28 Oct.
Tundra Swan: arr MNWR 21 Oct; max 700 MNWR 12 Nov.
Wood Duck: max 70 MNWR 9 Sep; 70 CRPd 15 Oct.
Blue-winged Teal: max 212 StP 6 Oct; last MNWR 26 Nov.

Northern Shoveler: max 165 MNWR 16 Nov.
Gadwall: max 252 MNWR 11 Nov.

Eurasian Wigeon: arr MNWR 8 Oct; max 2 MNWR 13-25 Oct; last MNWR 6 Nov.

American Wigeon: max 1810 MNWR 22 Oct.

Mallard: max 500 MNWR 17 Oct.

American Black Duck: max 150 CgL SP 27 Nov.

Northern Pintail: max 12,000 MNWR 30 Oct (DSh!), high.

Green-winged Teal: max 1000 MNWR 29 Oct.

Canvasback: arr MNWR 14 Oct; max 300 MNWR 15 Nov.

Redhead: max 4000 MNWR 12 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: max 10,000 MNWR 4-12 Nov (mob!), high.

Greater Scaup: max 150 Muar L ONTA 1 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: max 300 MNWR 30 Nov.

Surf Scoter: arr TSMP 9 Oct; max 17 CgL SENE 25 Oct (AM, DN!), high.

White-winged Scoter: arr SenL SENE 9 Sep; max 24 SenL SENE 4 Nov (MMi), high.

Black Scoter: arr & max 60 MyPt 17 Oct.

Long-tailed Duck: arr WERF 24 Oct; max 6 MyPt 29 Oct.

Bufflehead: arr Canandaigua L ONTA 8 Sep; max 200 Canandaigua L ONTA 18 Nov (KGa), high.

Common Goldeneye: arr 2 SLSP 1 Sep; max 22 SLSP 30 Oct.

Hooded Merganser: max 50 MNWR 15 Nov; 50 MNWR 24 Nov; 50 Champlin Beach STEU 25 Nov.

Common Merganser: max 400 MNWR 22 Nov (JM!), high.

Red-breasted Merganser: arr SLSP 1 Sep; max 60 CgL SENE 14 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: arr MNWR 9 Sep (mob), early; max 250 MNWR 19 Nov.

Wild Turkey: max 23 T Enfield TOMP 16 Nov.

Ruffed Grouse: max 8 RHPP 9 Sep (TA), high.

Ring-necked Pheasant: max 5 T Romulus SENE 6 Nov.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 260 MNWR 14 Oct (JM!), high.

Horned Grebe: arr StP 3 Oct; max 5 Long Pt YATE 9 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: arr MNWR 31 Oct; max 2 SenL SENE 4 Nov.

Eared Grebe: SLSP 28 Oct (D. Kennedy, ph).

Rock Pigeon: max 120 Dutch Hill CHEM 14 Oct.

Mourning Dove: max 68 TOv 26 Nov.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: max 3 Sweedler-Lick Brook Pres TOMP 1 Oct; last SPNA 12 Oct.

Common Nighthawk: max 9 PW 10 Sep; last T Tyre SENE 25 Sep.

Chimney Swift: max 3 PSP 2 Sep; 3 TB 3 Sep; 3 NA 6 Sep; last MNWR 19 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 6 TDry 2 Sep; last Comstock Knoll TOMP 11 Oct.

Virginia Rail: max 3 MNWR 18 Sep; 3 Queen Catharine Marsh SCHU 1 Oct; last MNWR 14 Oct.

Sora: max 9 MNWR 9 Sep; last MNWR 17 Oct.

Common Gallinule: max 70 MNWR 4 Sep; last MNWR 29 Oct.

American Coot: max 350 MNWR 6 Nov.

LIMPKIN: WERF 12 Oct-1 Nov (BB, ph; mob, ph), second state report.

Sandhill Crane: max 505 MNWR 30 Nov (KiC, GG, AT!), high.

Black-bellied Plover: max 11 MNWR 16 Sep; 11 MNWR 2 Oct; last 2 MNWR 13 Nov.

American Golden-Plover: max 10 T Farmington ONTA 13 Sep; last MNWR 26 Oct.

Killdeer: max 100 T Fayette SENE 5 Sep.

Semipalmated Plover: max 30 MNWR 10 Sep; last MNWR 13 Oct.

Whimbrel: MyPt 11 Sep (EBu, ph; mob, ph).

Hudsonian Godwit: arr & max 6 MNWR 24 Oct-7 Nov; last MNWR 15 Nov (JM!), late.

Ruddy Turnstone: MyPt 2-5 Oct.

Stilt Sandpiper: max 9 MNWR 14 Sep; last MNWR 15 Oct.

Sanderling: max 6 SLSP 1 Nov; last MyPt 8 Nov.

Dunlin: arr SenL SENE 9 Sep; max 220 MNWR 4 Nov.

Baird's Sandpiper: max 2 MNWR 9 Sep; 2 MNWR 12 Oct; last MNWR 24 Oct (MTe!), late.

Least Sandpiper: max 50 MNWR 9 Sep; last MNWR 6 Nov.

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 6 MNWR 8 Sep; 6 MNWR 9 Oct; last Guthrie Corning Hospital Pd STEU 23 Nov.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: MNWR 5 Oct (PMa!).

PHOTO GALLERY
Fall 2023



Short-tailed Shearwater, Derby Hill Hawk Watch, *Oswego*, 7 Nov 2023, © David Wheeler; the first record for New York State pending NYSARC review.



Henslow's Sparrow, Prospect Park, *Kings*, 27 Oct 2023, © Jeremy Nadel.



Harris's Sparrow, Hot Dog Beach, *Suffolk*, here 29 Oct 2023, © Patrick Horan.



Bell's Vireo, Welwyn Preserve, *Nassau*, 16 Sep 2023, © Ashley Pichon.



Hammond's Flycatcher, Rockland Lake State Park, *Rockland*, here 25 Nov 2023,
© Alan Wells.



Purple Gallinule, Rockland Lake State Park, *Rockland*, 27 Oct 2023, © Stella Miller.



Limpkin, Pirozzolo Park, *Chemung*, here 1 Nov 2023, © Gary Chapin; second New York State record.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 45 MNWR 9 Sep; last 2 MNWR 11 Nov.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 55 MNWR 9 Sep; last MNWR 24 Oct.
Short-billed Dowitcher: max 15 MNWR 9 Sep; last MNWR 5 Oct.
Long-billed Dowitcher: max 20 MNWR 18 Sep; last MNWR 12 Nov.
American Woodcock: max 2 Monkey Run Casita TOMP 16 Oct; 2 TDry 20 Oct; Coyote Corner Loop TOMP 22 Nov.
Wilson's Snipe: max 50 MNWR 4 Oct; last Owasco In 19 Nov.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 4 HRW 1-11 Sep; last WERF 28 Oct.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 14 HRW 2 Sep; last WERF 23 Oct (JSn!), late.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 90 MNWR 16 Sep; last MNWR 16 Nov.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 220 MNWR 14 Sep; last MNWR 22 Nov.
Red-necked Phalarope: max & last 4 MNWR 10-11 Sep.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr MyPt 8 Sep; max 30 StP 5 Nov.

Ring-billed Gull: max 3000 Lake Street Pedestrian and Biking Bridge CHEM 30 Nov.

Herring Gull: max 3500 New York Chiropractic College SENE 22 Nov.

Iceland Gull: arr SRCP 11-18 Nov; TSMP 14 Nov; New York Chiropractic College 16 Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 8 SRCP 29 Sep (JM!), high.

Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull (hybrid): SRCP 24-29 Sep (JM!); SRCP 4-25 Nov (KMc, ph; mob).

Glaucous Gull: TSMP 14 Nov (PR), early.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 33 TSMP 30 Nov.

Herring x Great Black-backed Gull (hybrid): SRCP 15 Nov (CW!).

Caspian Tern: max 9 MyPt 11 Sep; last StP 24 Sep.

Common Tern: max 8 MyPt 11 Sep; last 2 MyPt 13 Sep.

Forster's Tern: MNWR 18 Sep (MKa!).

Red-throated Loon: arr CU 23 Oct; max 11 CU 14 Nov.

Common Loon: max 493 CU 14 Nov.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 820 StP 9 Oct.

American Bittern: max 4 MNWR 18 Sep; last CRPd 26 Oct.

Least Bittern: max 5 MNWR 9 Sep (mob!), high; last 2 MNWR 21 Sep.

Great Blue Heron: max MNWR 120 10 Sep.

Great Egret: max 261 MNWR 3 Sep; last MNWR 7 Nov.

Snowy Egret: 2 MNWR 5 Sep (CDo!), high; MNWR 14-15 Nov (mob, ph), late.

Green Heron: max 10 NEI 14 Sep, nocturnal; last MNWR 4 Nov.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 80 MNWR 9 Sep (JBa, MatC), high; last MNWR 15 Nov.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Sucker Brook ONTA 1 Sep

Glossy Ibis: MNWR 8-9 Sep (mob, ph).

Black Vulture: max 5 NEI 14 Sep (TSc!), high.

Turkey Vulture: max 213 CU 18 Oct.

Osprey: max 5 MNWR 9 Sep; last MNWR 28 Oct.

Golden Eagle: arr 2 MtP 16 Sep (EIE!), early.

Northern Harrier: max 20 MNWR 19 Nov (BW!), high.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 7 TB 22 Sep.

Cooper's Hawk: max 5 Robinvis Manor TOMP 30 Sep.

Bald Eagle: max 18 MNWR 30 Nov.

Red-shouldered Hawk: max 6 Taughannock Falls SP 3 Nov.

Broad-winged Hawk: max 350 TB 22 Sep; last PSP 3 Oct.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 19 Robinvis Manor TOMP 5 Nov.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr MNWR 15 Oct; max 3 SW 5 Nov.

Eastern Screech-Owl: max 3 TLan 4 Sep; 3 Fiddlers Ridge TOMP 20 Oct.

Great Horned Owl: max 3 TDan 29 Oct.

Barred Owl: max 3 Dry Run State Forest STEU 1 Sep; 3 VW 4-14 Sep; 3 TDry 15 Sep; 3 RHPP 18 Oct.

Short-eared Owl: arr 4 T Phelps ONTA 23 Oct; max 6 T Phelps ONTA 16 Nov.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: max 2 TCar 17 Oct; 2 HHSF 28 Oct.

Belted Kingfisher: max 10 Owasco L In CAYU 30 Sep (MaS, DaM), high.

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 3 TLan 1 Sep (RBa!), high.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 15 SW 4 Oct (AW), high.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 8 SW 16 Sep.

Downy Woodpecker: max 12 SW 17 Sep.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 7 DSF 10 Sep.

Northern Flicker: max 12 LPBP 13 Sep; 12 MHP 30 Sep.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 4 The Boyd Farm CHEM 1 Sep; 4 HHSF 2 Sep; 4 MR 24 Oct.

American Kestrel: max 10 T Ledyard CAYU 26 Sep.

Merlin: max 4 SMWP 25 Sep (mob!), high.

Peregrine Falcon: max 3 MNWR 2 Sep; 3 SMWP 25 Sep; 3 MNWR 25 Oct.

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 2 MNWR 2 Sep (DiM, SY); 2 Ithaca 9 Sep (PR), high; last TDry 19 Sep.

Eastern Kingbird: max 2 SPNA 1 Sep; last 2 MNWR 9 Sep; 2 Ithaca Farmers Market TOMP 9 Sep.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: max 2 Durland Pres TOMP 2 Sep; last TCar 22 Sep (SKE!), late.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: max 6 SW 2 Sep; 6 Newtown Battlefield SP CHEM 12 Sep; last 2 PSP 4 Oct.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last MHP 30 Sep.

Acadian Flycatcher: max & last 2 TVE 12 Sep (JCor, rec; MP), high, late.

Alder Flycatcher: last TOv 29 Sep (RSt!), late.

Least Flycatcher: max 6 VW 8 Sep (CKJ, rec), high; last VW 20 Nov (CCE, CKJ, rec), late.

Eastern Phoebe: max 13 LPBP 13 Sep; last Taughannock Falls SP 22 Nov.

White-eyed Vireo: NEI 19-20 Sep (TSc!, ph).

Yellow-throated Vireo: max 3 TDry 2 Sep; last PSP 28 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 5 DSF 12 Oct; last NA 5 Nov.

Philadelphia Vireo: max 4 MNWR 10 Sep; 4 Durland Pres TOMP 10 Sep; 4 ELCP 11 Sep; 4 Etna Fringed Gentian Area TOMP 14 Sep; last CRPd 15 Oct (SBi, ph; JM), late.

Warbling Vireo: max 8 HH 8 Sep; 8 MNWR 9 Sep; 8 SPNA 16 Sep; last SW 2 Oct.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 17 BL 10 Sep; last NA 10 Oct.

Northern Shrike: arr Finger Lakes National Forest SCHU 16 Nov.

Blue Jay: max 1068 CU 26 Sep (DB!), high.

American Crow: max 2500 T Aurelius CAYU 24 Nov.

Fish Crow: max 58 Geneva 9 Nov.

Common Raven: max 17 MtP 1 Oct.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 43 NA 30 Sep.

Tufted Titmouse: max 18 SW 17 Sep (RH!); 18 PW 23 Sep (BCC, BH), high.

Horned Lark: max 200 T Benton YATE 9 Nov.

Bank Swallow: max 300 MNWR 2 Sep; last TCar 12 Sep.

Tree Swallow: max 2000 MNWR 9 Sep; last 10 MNWR 27 Oct.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: max 110 T Tyre SENE 19 Sep; last 6 MNWR 14 Oct.

Purple Martin: max 3000 MNWR 8 Sep; last SMWP 10 Sep.

Barn Swallow: max 30 MNWR 9 Sep; last CRPd 27 Oct.

Cliff Swallow: MNWR 9 Sep (mob).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Jennings Pd TOMP 8 Sep; max 30 TDry 17 Oct; last TGro 30 Nov.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 21 TDry 17 Oct.

Cedar Waxwing: max 778 TDan 31 Oct (WEv, KR!), high.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 10 DSF 23 Nov.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 16 Buttermilk Falls SP TOMP 8 Sep.

Brown Creeper: max 6 Spencer Crest Nature Center STEU 23 Nov.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 2 SPNA 1 Sep; 2 BL 2 Sep; last HH 18 Sep.

House Wren: max 7 Hawthorn Orchard TOMP 13 Sep; 7 LPBP 13 Sep; last TGro 26 Oct.

Winter Wren: max 3 Bosque Neimi TOMP 1 Oct.

Marsh Wren: max 9 MNWR 9 Sep; last Queen Catharine Marsh SCHU 22 Nov.

Carolina Wren: max 9 Big Flats Trail CHEM 4 Oct.

Gray Catbird: max 23 PW 23-28 Sep; 23 SW 27 Sep; last SW 28 Nov.

Brown Thrasher: max 7 LPBP 13 Sep; last NA 11 Oct; VW TOMP 11 Oct.

Northern Mockingbird: max 8 T Canandaigua ONTA 28 Oct.

European Starling: max 3000 MNWR 18 Sep.

Eastern Bluebird: max 50 HRW 26 Sep.

Veery: max 50 CU 10 Sep, nocturnal; last Tlth 30 Sep.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: max 15 CU TOMP 10 Sep; last Hanley Biobological Field Pres SENE 16 Oct.

BICKNELL'S THRUSH: MHP 25 Sep (DCa!, ph).

Swainson's Thrush: max 1592 TOv 15 Sep, nocturnal; last 2 TCar 26 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: max 8 SW 17 Oct.

Wood Thrush: max 5 NEI 16 Sep; 5 TDry 28 Sep; last TCar 6 Oct.

American Robin: max 702 TDan 5 Nov.

House Sparrow: max 50 T Big Flats CHEM 31 Oct.

American Pipit: arr MNWR 7 Sep; max 125 BLNA 5 Nov; last StP 29 Nov.

Evening Grosbeak: TVE 22 Nov (JCor!).

House Finch: max 31 CU 24 Oct.

Purple Finch: max 27 TDan 31 Oct.

Red Crossbill: arr PW 26 Sep (MGi, RSa!), early; max 6 TVE 16-30 Nov.

Pine Siskin: arr PSP 28 Sep; max 70 Savanna P TOMP 14 Nov.

American Goldfinch: max 100 MNWR 28 Oct-4 Nov.

Lapland Longspur: arr T Fleming CAYU 12 Oct; max 2 TDry 7 Nov.

Snow Bunting: arr MyPt 23 Oct; max 20 T Genoa CAYU 29 Nov.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max & last 2 TOv 25 Sep (RSt!), high.

Chipping Sparrow: max 80 TDry 15 Oct; last TCar 19 Nov.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Ecology House TOMP 22 Sep (JT!).

Field Sparrow: max 11 SMWP 19 Oct; last Buttermilk Falls SP TOMP 30 Nov (SY!), late.

Fox Sparrow: arr NA 10 Oct; max 6 SW 2 Nov.

American Tree Sparrow: arr 2 VW 22 Oct; max 15 SMWP 28 Nov.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 50 TDan 30 Oct; 50 Cayuga Heights 21 Nov.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr MNWR 18 Sep; max 16 Hanley Biological Field Pres SENE 23 Oct; last T Newfield TOMP 29 Nov.

White-throated Sparrow: max 75 MR 24 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: max 2 TOv 23 Sep; last 2 Grove Street Fishing Access CHEM 30 Oct.

Nelson's Sparrow: arr CRPd 25 Sep; max 4 CRPd 15 Oct; last CRPd 26 Oct.

Savannah Sparrow: max 33 TOv 20 Sep; last 2 CRPd 15 Nov.

Song Sparrow: max 65 CRPd 2 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: max 5 TOv 25 Sep; last Cornell Botanic Gardens TOMP 4 Nov.

Swamp Sparrow: max 34 SMWP 15 Oct.

Eastern Towhee: max 16 The Boyd Farm CHEM 12 Oct; last TGro 18 Nov.

Bobolink: max 35 MNWR 2 Sep; last BLNA 3 Oct.

Eastern Meadowlark: max 30 TDry 6 Sep; last 3 MNWR 5 Nov.

Baltimore Oriole: max 2 PW 1 Sep; 2 Tlth 10 Sep; 2 T Covert SENE 21 Sep; last Jacksonville 8 Nov (E. Fogarty!), late.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 10,000 MNWR 9 Sep.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 250 Painted Bar SCHU 29 Sep.

Rusty Blackbird: arr MNWR 22 Sep; TDry 22 Sep; max 146 MNWR 6 Nov;

Common Grackle: max 1800 MtP 30 Sep.

Ovenbird: max 6 HHSF 2 Sep; last TDry 13 Oct.

Northern Waterthrush: last Ridgeway Road Rail Trail TOMP 23 Sep.

Golden-winged Warbler: PW 10 Sep; TCar 10 Sep.

Blue-winged Warbler: max 2 BLNA 1 Sep; 2 Tlth 10 Sep; last Duemling Meadows TOMP 27 Sep.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 3 Slaterhouse TOMP 11 Sep; 3 PW 25 Sep; last BL 19 Oct.

Tennessee Warbler: max 32 T Ulysses TOMP 24 Sep (JM!, LSan), high; last MR 27 Oct.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Whitney Cemetery ONTA 27 Sep; last SW 21 Oct.

Nashville Warbler: max 4 TCar 10 Sep; 4 TDan 11 Sep; 4 VW 24 Sep; 4 TOv 25 Sep; 4 CRPd 25 Sep; last Cayuga Heights 19 Oct.

Connecticut Warbler: arr VW 3 Sep; last TOv 22-25 Sep.

Mourning Warbler: max 3 CU 11 Sep (RR, JSa!), high, nocturnal; last PW 23 Sep.

Common Yellowthroat: max 20 CU 11 Sep, nocturnal; last Jennings Pd TOMP 18 Nov.

Hooded Warbler: max 3 Kashong Conservation Area TOMP 1 Sep; last Monkey Run Casita TOMP 4 Oct; Salo Drive Conservation Area TOMP 4 Oct.

American Redstart: max 4 ELCP 11 Sep; 4 Hawthorn Orchard TOMP 13 Sep; last TCar 28 Oct.

Cape May Warbler: max 8 RHPP 8 Sep; last 2 StP 9 Oct.
Northern Parula: max 6 NA 26 Sep; last CU 11 Oct.
Magnolia Warbler: max 18 SW 25 Sep; last MNWR 14 Oct; Genung Nature Pres TOMP 14 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: max 10 ELCP 11 Sep; last T Hector SCHU 6 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 6 TDry 1 Sep; last PSP 4 Oct.
Yellow Warbler: max 9 SPNA 1 Sep; last LPBP 3 Oct.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 3 T Barrington YATE 9 Sep; 3 ELCP 11 Sep; 3 TDry 11 Sep; 3 Slaterhouse TOMP 22 Sep; 3 Ecology House TOMP 23 Sep; last T Hector SCHU 29 Sep; Ridgeway Road Rail Trail TOMP 29 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 10 TDry 11 Sep; last NA 19 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 2 HHSF 2 Sep; 2 TCar 4 Sep; 2 NA 24 Sep; last Tlan 14 Oct.

Palm Warbler: max 12 TOv 25-27 Sep; last Tlth 27 Oct.
Pine Warbler: max 3 Harris Hill P CHEM 24 Sep; 3 Harris Hill P CHEM 2 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 68 HH 20 Oct.
Prairie Warbler: last Ithaca Res TOMP 30 Sep.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 12 PW 23 Sep; last Duemling Meadows TOMP 21 Oct.
Canada Warbler: last Finger Lakes National Forest SCHU 9 Oct (MF!), late.
Wilson's Warbler: max 4 SPNA 1 Sep; 4 Liddell Lab & Pds TOMP 10 Sep; last SW 9 Nov (DW!), late.
Scarlet Tanager: max 35 CU 10 Sep (RR!), high, nocturnal; last SW 3 Oct.
Northern Cardinal: max 20 SW 4 Oct.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 15 NEI 12 Sep; last Mark Twain SP CHEM 7 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: max 5 Hile School Road Wetland TOMP 9 Sep; last SW 16 Oct.
Dickcissel: arr MyPt 12 Sep; last TOv 25 Sep.

REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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September 2023 was warmer and somewhat drier than normal with an inch less rain than the mean. October was about four degrees warmer and a bit wetter than the norm. November was normal in regards to temperature and much drier than average. These statistics are based on the data provided by the Binghamton office of the National Weather Service.

This year's Golden Eagle total of 143 for the fall migration at Franklin Mountain was somewhat lower than the long-term average with the highest counts coming in mid to late November. The high counts were on 11 and 24 November with eighteen Golden Eagles being tallied on each day with another fourteen seen on 14 November. The total Broad-winged Hawk count was 1,430, which is 14% below average. The Bald Eagle count of 169 was also lower than the mean, and the Red-tailed Hawk total of 838 had greatly increased from last year's number of 596-but was still 47% below the long-term norm. This is, of course, very puzzling since Red-tailed Hawks and Bald Eagles seem relatively common. In his summary of the hawk watch from the 2021 season Andy Mason reported, "Red-tailed Hawk numbers continue to be low. This does not appear to be a conservation concern. These adaptable raptors look to be wintering further north resulting in lower migration." However, he reports that this there is another factor which affected migration counts—wind. Or more precisely the lack of days with

moderate northwest winds. The February 2024 newsletter *The Kingfisher* from the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society states in this regard: “Light NW winds move birds, but don’t concentrate them here.” [at FMHW]. Of course, there is another problem—some raptor species’ populations do seem to be decreasing according to the Raptor Population Index referenced in the newsletter. The question is how much is attributable to each factor—wind, warming climate, or actual declining populations of raptors. In total, 3,876 raptors were counted, which is below average for the FMHW. FMHW ran from 26 Aug to 1 Jan for a total of 714 hours of hawk-counting this season, and hosted many visitors and students. If you need more statistics regarding raptors, you can refer to the species list following the narrative and to the chart showing maximums and first arrival dates.

In Tioga County Adam Troyer was also counting migratory birds that flew over Birdsong Meadows Farm. On 12 September he counted 2,000 Broad-winged Hawks, and then saw 300 Northern Pintails and 70 Brant fly over on October 22.

Black, Surf, and White-winged Scoters were all reported in the Region in October and November. The Whitney Point Reservoir in Broome County had good counts of Common Mergansers, Red-breasted Mergansers, and Ruddy Ducks, and a Greater White-fronted Goose was also spotted there on 9 October by Jon Weeks. It was thereafter seen and photographed by many—the last time one had made an appearance at the reservoir was in the fall of 2018. There were two Cackling Geese photographed on Mead Pond in Chenango County in October and November. Also in Chenango County in the Sherburne area were maximum counts of six Blue-winged and 39 Green-winged Teal. A huge flock of 600 Ring-necked Ducks was reported on Allen Lake in Otsego County by Ted Buhl.

In Chenango County, Sandhill Cranes were seen and photographed in a few different locations feeding in marshy areas and farmlands. Three were seen together at McCall Pond by Mike DeWispelaere, but they appeared to be all adults—probably breeding was not successful at that spot. On 24 November a flyover flock of 27 Sandhill Cranes was first photographed over Chenango County then on the next day the same number were photographed in flight over Broome County. Most likely the same flock, but in any event, a large number for the Region.

Regarding shorebirds, in Cortland County a Baird’s Sandpiper (probably continuing) was seen and photographed at Cornell Lane from 2-3 September. Also seen at this spot at the same time were Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers in maximum numbers for our Region. In the Sherburne area in Chenango County Mike DeWispelaere observed and photographed White-rumped Sandpipers, Long-billed Dowitchers, Pectoral Sandpipers, Lesser and Great Yellowlegs, and a Semipalmated Plover. Dunlin were reported from several spots mostly in November. Sam Heinrich saw 20(!) Wilson’s Snipe foraging on the mudflats in Cincinnatus Lake on 18 November.

Pine Siskins and Purple Finches were seen in good numbers with both seemingly having an irruption year. The Pine Siskins seemed to start coming through in October while the Purple Finches’ arrivals (or at least observations) started in September. There were no reports of Evening Grosbeaks, Red Crossbills, or Common Redpolls.

Horned Larks, American Pipits, and American Goldfinches were all seen in good numbers in the Edward Hill Road area in Broome County by Glenn Wilson and others. Also seen there was a Lapland Longspur among the Horned Larks. This area has many cornfields and other agricultural lands which field birds seem to favor.

A **LeConte's Sparrow** was seen at Brick Pond by Derek Green on 16 October. Derek describes it as follows: "At first I thought that it was a Savannah Sparrow due to the very bright yellow stripe above the eyes, but then I noticed the bright yellow below the eyes. The yellowish color was more like a golden yellow to almost orange and went all the way down the throat. The top of the head was black and it had a small bill. Back was brownish with some dark streaking. The belly was white with dark streaking. There was a lack of bluish-grey on the bird which made me rule out Nelson's "Interior."'" This is a very rare sighting for the Region. In another rare sparrow sighting Dan Watkins saw a Nelson's Sparrow on 13 October at Upper Lisle Park.

Warbler diversity was about average this season, with 29 species recorded. The highlight was again Connecticut Warblers. At Upper Lisle Park in Broome County Dave Nicosia encountered three Connecticut Warblers on 21 September. At Birdsong Meadow Farm in Tioga County, two Connecticut Warblers were seen—one immature on 2 September and one adult on 11 September.

A **Western Tanager** was spotted by Karen Miller at her feeder in Afton, and stayed from 6 November to 11 November. It was seen and photographed by many, and is a rare sighting to say the least. It is the first eBird record in Chenango County.

In summary, 215 species vs. 211 last year, were reported, with some interesting rarities for the Region. The number of observations in eBird was 40,472 which was 93% of last season's total. I also want to acknowledge and thank Bill Ostrander, who sorted eBird data to identify arrivals, last dates, and high counts.

Sadly, Glenn Wilson, a dedicated and intrepid birder, died in May 2024. Glenn birded despite snow storms (in search of Tundra Swans during a particularly heavy storm, for example), despite the unleashed dogs which always caused him grief at local parks, and despite the diagnosis of brain cancer in 2019. We will miss his posts of photographs taken with his "super camera" of local birds, plants, and insects with a query that said "What's this?" When I told Glenn I did not know how he kept going he simply said, "What else can I do?"

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AqPk – Aqua Terra P, BROO; **BMF** – Birdsong Meadows Farm, TIOG; **BPd** – Boland Pd, BROO; **BrPd** – Brick Pond, TIOG; **CannR** – Cannonsville Res, DELA; **CG** – Carantouan Greenway, T Barton, TIOG; **CornellLa** – Cornell Lane, T Harford, CORT; **DorP** – Dorchester P, Whitney Pt, BROO; **FMHW** – Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch, DELA; **KiebelRd** – Keibel Rd, BROO; **LHNC** – Lime Hollow Nature Center, T Cortlandville, CORT; **MHL** – Michigan Hollow L, TIOG; **NFC** – nocturnal flight calls(s); **OtsL** – Otsego L, OTSE; **SHM** – Sherburne Railroad Grade Marsh, CHEN; **StPd** – Stupke Pd, T Cortlandville, CORT; **ULCP** – Upper Lisle CP, T Triangle, BROO.

FRANKLIN MOUNTAIN HAWKWATCH TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture				0
Turkey Vulture	10/4	85	10/23	557
Osprey	8/29	3	9/9	41
Golden Eagle	10/15	18	11/11, 11/24	143
Northern Harrier	9/4	3	9/26	46
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8/26	27	10/12	347
Cooper’s Hawk	8/30	6	10/13	74
American Goshawk	10/11	1	10/17	2
Bald Eagle	8/30	13	9/14	169
Red-shouldered Hawk	8/27	9	11/2	46
Broad-winged Hawk	8/26	709	9/14	1430
Swainson’s Hawk				0
Red-tailed Hawk	8/30	125	11/08	838
Rough-legged Hawk	11/12	1	11/12	1
American Kestrel	8/30	12	9/15	85
Merlin	8/29	3	10/2	29
Peregrine Falcon	9/28	1	9/28	10
Unidentified				58
Total incl unidentified				3876

Snow Goose: DorP 16 Nov, ph; Day Hollow Rd Pd TIOG 21 Oct-19 Nov.
Greater White-fronted Goose: DorP 9-10 Oct, ph, mob, (JWeeks).

Brant: max 120 MHL 29 Oct; 100 Chenango L CHEN 30 Oct; 70 BMF 22 Oct.
Cackling Goose: max 2 Mead Pd CHEN 26 Oct & 28 Nov.

Canada Goose: max 2000 KeibelRd 8 Nov.
Trumpeter Swan: BPd thru.
Wood Duck: max 93 BrPd 11 Sep.
Blue-winged Teal: max 6 SHM 21 Sep, ph.
Northern Shoveler: max 8 BPd 9 Nov.
Gadwall: max 13 OtsL 19 Nov.
American Wigeon: max 24 Allen L OTSE 16 Nov.
Mallard: max 125 Millbrook T P CHEN 30 Oct.
American Black Duck: max 56 CannR 26 Oct.
Northern Pintail: max 300 BMF 22 Oct, flyover (ATroyer).
Green-winged Teal: max 39 North Sherburne fields & pond CHEN 2 Nov.
Redhead: max 3 OtsL 28 Nov.
Ring-necked Duck: max 600 Allen L OTSE 30 Nov, (TBuhl).
Greater Scaup: max 5 CannR 22 Oct.
Lesser Scaup: max 31 KeibelRd 3 Nov.
Surf Scoter: max 3 KeibelRd 14 Oct, ph.
White-winged Scoter: max 6 CannR 29 Oct; 6 OtsL 9 Nov.
Black Scoter: max 16 Pepacton Res DELA 29 Oct.
Long-tailed Duck: max 39 FMHW 14 Nov, flyover, ph.
Bufflehead: max 60 OtsL 14 Nov.
Common Goldeneye: max 25 OtsL 15 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: max 64 Chenango L CHEN 25 Nov.
Common Merganser: max 185 KeibelRd 29 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 47 KeibelRd 22 Oct.
Ruddy Duck: max 39 KeibelRd 7 Oct.

Pied-billed Grebe: most reports were of single or pairs in Oct and Nov in AqPk, BPd, BrPd, OtsL, ULCP.
Horned Grebe: max 3 KeibelRd 7 Oct; 4 other reports from the same vicinity in Oct.
Red-necked Grebe: KeibelRd 25 Nov, ph, (DNicosia).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Heiberg Memorial Forest Tully CORT 20 Sep; MHL 1 Oct; only reports.
Black-billed Cuckoo: Stoller Hill Rd OTSE 19 Sep, only report.

Common Nighthawk: just 3 scattered reports in early Sep.
Eastern Whip-poor-will: Cooperstown OTSE 1 Sep, only report.

Chimney Swift: last Nowlan Rd BROO 23 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last T Bovina DELA 26 Sep; Tubbs Hill Rd TIOG 26 Sep.
hummingbird species: Delhi DELA 5 Oct, probable Rufous, (KDavino).

Virginia Rail: max 4 MHL 1 Sep; 2 SHM 12 Sep; last MHL 14 Sep.
Sora: MHL 13 Sep, ph.
Common Gallinule: max 10 SHM 8 Sep, ad and juv, ph; most sightings at SHM in Sep.
American Coot: max 52 OtsL 10 Nov.

Sandhill Crane: max 27 North Norwich CHEN 24 Nov, flyover, ph; 27 KeibelRd 25 Nov, flyover, ph; 2 SHM 5 Sep-4 Nov, ph; 3 McCall Pd CHEN 16 Oct, all ad, ph, (MDeW)

Semipalmated Plover: SHM 8 Sep, ph, (MDeW).

Dunlin: max 7 Cincinnatus L CORT 2 Nov; 4 StPd 4 Nov, ph; 4 Plymouth Res CHEN 2 Nov; 4 DorP 10 Nov.

Baird's Sandpiper: CornellLa 2-3 Sep, ph.
Least Sandpiper: max 6 CornellLa 2 Sep.
White-rumped Sandpiper: 4 SHM 14 Nov, ph, (MDeW).

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 3 SHM 16 Oct, ph, (MDeW); 3 StPd 16 Oct; 3 Cincinnatus L CORT 18 Nov, ph.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 3 CornellLa 3 Sep.

Long-billed Dowitcher: 5 North Sherburne fields & Pond CHEN 2 Nov, ph, (MDeW), only report.

American Woodcock: 9 scattered reports.
Wilson's Snipe: max 20 Cincinnatus L CORT 18 Nov, foraging on mudflats, ph, (SHeinrich).
Spotted Sandpiper: max 3 OtsL 1 Sep; 29 reports all in Sep.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 2 CornellLa 2-3 Sep; LHNC 19 Sep; BMF 22 Sep, flyover; StPd 1 Oct; last ULCP 10 Oct.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 4 SHM 8 Sep, ph, (MDeW)

Greater Yellowlegs: max 22 SHM 2 Nov, ph, (MDew).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 5 KeibelRd 5 Nov.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: DorP 9 Nov.

Red-throated Loon: Pepacton Res DELA 22 Oct.

Common Loon: max 5 Pepacton Res DELA 29 Oct.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 250 KeibelRd 5 Nov, flyover, ph.

American Bittern: BrPd 17 Oct, only report.
Great Blue Heron: max 6 ULCP 16 Sep.
Great Egret: max 2 ULCP 1 & 9 Sep; last StPd 21 Oct; 22 reports most of singles in Sep.
Green Heron: max 12 BrPd 2 Sep.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: BrPd 21 Oct, only report.

NOTE: FMHW totals cover 26 August to 1 January; averages reflect 2001 to 2022 data, *intro*.

Black Vulture: total 0 FMHW; 6 scattered reports.

Turkey Vulture: total 557 FMHW, 8% above avg.

Osprey: total 41 FMHW, 59% below avg.

Golden Eagle: total 143 FMHW, 19% below avg.

Northern Harrier: total 46 FMHW, 22% below avg.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 347 FMHW, 28% below avg.

Cooper's Hawk: total 74 FMHW, 15% below avg.

American Goshawk: total 2 FMHW, 88% below avg; Bainbridge OTSE 25 Nov:

Bald Eagle: total 169 FMHW, 6% below avg; many other rep; very widespread.

Red-shouldered Hawk: total 46 FMHW, 4% below avg.

Broad-winged Hawk: total 1430 FMHW, 14% below avg; max 2000 BMF 12 Sep (ATroyer).

Red-tailed Hawk: total 838 FMHW, 47% below avg; many other rep.

Rough-legged Hawk: total 1 FMHW 83% below avg; arr KeibelRd 8 Nov.

Eastern Screech-Owl: max 2 LHNC 30 Nov; 29 reports.

Great Horned Owl: max 6 MHL 26 Oct, at nest; 23 reports other than MHL nest.

Barred Owl: max 3 T Smyrna CHEN 1 Sep, calling; 78 reports but many from the same locations.

American Kestrel: total 85 FMHW, 12% below avg.

Merlin: total 29 FMHW, 7% above avg.

Peregrine Falcon: total 10 FMHW 39% below avg; also reps from Binghamton BROO of resident downtown pair.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: FMHW 9 Sep; BMF 9 Sep; only reports.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 2 LHNC 4 Sep; ULCP 9 & 14 Sep, ph; BMF 14 Sep.

Acadian Flycatcher: Hubert Hollow Dirt Rd TIOG 7 Sep, singing, only report.

Eastern Phoebe: max 15 BMF 15 Sep (ATroyer).

Philadelphia Vireo: 3 ULCP 9 Sep, ph.

Northern Shrike: Titus Lake Rd DELA 29 Oct, ph; Searles Hill Rd CHEN 6-11 Nov, ph; Cooper Schoolhouse Rd CHEN 8 Nov, ph; Rathbun Rd bridge OTSE 17 Nov.

Horned Lark: 150 Smith Hill Rd BROO 19 Nov (GWilson).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 35 KeibelRd 14 Oct.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 40 Chenango Valley SP BROO 26 Oct.

Winter Wren: max 3 IBM Glenn BROO Oct 23; 3 Griggs Gulf SF CORT 27 Oct; 3 MHL 28 Oct; 3 KeibelRd 9 Nov.

Marsh Wren: last MHL 12 Oct.

Eastern Bluebird: max 26 FMHW 11 Nov.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: max 6 Oxford CHEN (NFC) 30 Sep (MDeW).

Swainson's Thrush: max 530 BMF (NFC) 12 Sep (ATroyer); 29 Oxford CHEN (NFC) 14 Sep (MDeW).

American Pipit: 37 Edwards Hill Rd BROO 19 Oct. (GWilson).

Evening Grosbeak: no reports.

Purple Finch: max 30 Heiberg Memorial Forest CORT 11 Oct; 118 reports though most with small numbers.

Common Redpoll: no reports.

Red Crossbill: no reports.

Pine Siskin: max 80 Heiberg Memorial Forest CORT 23 Oct; 50 KeibelRd 28 Oct; 50 Evergreen Cemetery Owego TIOG 21 Oct; 40 SHM 18 Oct; 67 reports in Oct and Nov, an irruption year.

American Goldfinch: max 50 Edwards Hill Rd BROO 29 Oct (GWilson).

Lapland Longspur: Edwards Hill Rd BROO 16-19 Nov.

Snow Bunting: max 22 Worcester OTSE 15 Nov; 10 Cincinnatus L CHEN 29 Nov; 8 Dog Kennel Rd OTSE 20 Nov; 13 other reports all in Nov.

American Tree Sparrow: max 10 Cincinnatus L CHEN 29 Nov.

Vesper Sparrow: max 2 Sunset Dr CHEN 28 Oct, ph.

LeCONTE'S SPARROW: BrPd 16 Oct (DGreen).

Nelson's Sparrow: ULCP 13 Oct (DWatkins).

Lincoln's Sparrow: max 6 BMF 24 Sep (ATroyer); 2 ULCP 28 Sep, ph; 2 FMHW 28 Sep.

Rusty Blackbird: max 11 CG 28 Oct; 8 MHL 23 Oct; 6 Cannon Hole TIOG 28 Oct; last Edwards Hill Rd 19 Nov; 20 other sightings with small numbers.

Tennessee Warbler: max 14 LHNC 26 Sep.

Orange-crowned Warbler: ULCP 1 Oct; AqPk 3 Oct; Dunn Rd Oxford CHEN 26 Oct; BPd 25 Nov.

Connecticut Warbler: max 3 ULCP 21 Sep, ph; BMF 2 Sep, imm; AqPk 6 Sep, audio recording; BMF 11 Sep, ad.

Mourning Warbler: Heiberg Memorial Forest CORT 12 Sep; LHNC 19 Sep.

Hooded Warbler: six scattered reports of singles in Sep.

Cape May Warbler: max 21 Riverview Cemetery Hancock DELA 2 Sep.

Yellow Warbler: BMF 23 Sep.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: last BMF 19 Nov.

WESTERN TANAGER: Afton CHEN 6-11 Nov, ph, mob; (KMiller).

Dickcissel: BMF (NFC) 19 Sep, (ATroyer).



REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Fall 2023 began with a September average maximum of 75.6° F, 2.5° above normal. Overnights came in at 55.4°, 2.7° above. At 2.0" rain was 1.4" less than expected. Twenty days were partly-sunny or better. October began with a new record high for the month of 89° on the 4th. Average temps reflected a warm month with 64.7° for the maximum (+4.6°) and 42.4° for the minimum (+6.4°) and none below freezing, four fewer than usual. Climate normal is based on a recent 30 years period, 1991-2020. Twenty days were characterized as cloudy, a reversal from September, and the month finished as sixth warmest on record (1902-2023). November temperatures were average with a touch less rain and snow. Only nine days were partly-sunny and none fair.

Small numbers of early-arriving Snow Goose were seen in November, while at Woodman Pond Richard Cohen found a Ross's on 26 October. Lonnie Mast found one near Peterboro on 20-21 October. Brant put on a good show at Onondaga Lake with 1500 seen there on 29 October. David Wheeler found Greater White-fronted Goose at Sylvan Beach on 6 November and Port Byron on 18 November. Ducks arrived/departed on time and in typical numbers. Both species of cuckoo were reported, unusual for the Fall season. An excellent count of 64 Sandhill Crane were seen from the Loop Rd. overlook at Montezuma on 9 November by Joe Brin and Renee Kittleman, unusual for the Region 5 side of the Seneca River floodlands.

A Whimbrel was seen from Constantia by Mickey Scilingo on 3 September with several other reports from Sandy Pond through the 26th. Two Hudsonian Godwit were seen by Matt Brown at Sandy on several dates in mid-October. Brown also contributed 1-3 Long-billed Dowitcher from there between 29

September and 6 October. Three Red-necked Phalarope made an appearance on 20 September while Red Phalarope was seen at Fair Haven on 12 November and a flock of five reported from Derby Hill on 3 November. The two species are very similar in plumage and bill details may be hard to discern at a distance. In addition, cursory review of historical records for the Region (which may or may not be entirely accurate due to ID difficulties) imply a much longer temporal overlap than birders may realize, stretching through September and October. Common birding perception has Red-necked earlier in the season and Red later, the former preferring inland shorebird hotspots and the latter big water such as Lake Ontario. The exact limits of these factors is not well known and many existing records of poorly-seen birds may derive from assumptions about timing or habitat. Though the two species may form mixed flocks on the ocean during winter, it seems unlikely they migrate together so detailed analysis of well-documented records might be insightful.

Ruddy Turnstone was represented by only a single record this Fall, Keith Lea finding one at Sandy Pond on 4 September. Kennedy Sullivan and Matt Brown contributed Red Knot there on several dates in mid-September. Sullivan found an excellent count of eight Stilt Sandpiper on 29 September. Paul Shanahan found two Buff-breasted Sandpiper at the Lakeport Rd. turf farm on 2 September, Brown adding one from Sandy later in the month. Purple Sandpiper were found at Sandy, Port Ontario, and Fair Haven between 16-30 November. Finally, a Western Sandpiper was seen by Brown on 10 September at Sandy Pond.

All three jaeger species were noted during lakewatches at Derby Hill, including Long-tailed on two dates in mid-September by Reuben Stoltzfus. Most lakewatch conditions in November produced Black-legged Kittiwake. The only report of Little Gull came on 16 September at Sandy Pond. Bonaparte's Gull numbers on the east end of Oneida Lake peaked in the first half of October. Lesser Black-backed Gull were seen at typical locations. Stoltzfus observed two Black Tern on 14 September from Derby, the species often going unreported during Fall in the Region, while Forster's put in a good showing at Sandy between early-September and mid-October.

While lakewatching at Derby Hill on 7 November, David Wheeler picked up a dark shearwater approaching Mexico Bay and alerted others to its presence and the need for photos. The bird made several close passes and was subsequently confirmed as a **Short-tailed Shearwater** rather than the very-similar Sooty Shearwater, potentially a first state record pending acceptance by NYSARC. The species is found in the Pacific Ocean and nests on islands off the southeast coast of Australia, undergoing a long migration to spend austral winter in the north Pacific to the Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean before returning south for another breeding season. Two paths to reach the Great Lakes seem possible: birds could move east through the Canadian arctic and Northwest Passages to reach Hudson Bay, followed by an overland flight to one of the Great Lakes. Alternately, the bird could take a similar route but reach the Atlantic Ocean by way of the Canadian maritime provinces, then make its way up the St. Lawrence River into Lake Ontario. Strong west-northwest winds brought it to the southeast corner of the Lake where observers assemble under these weather conditions. Recent reports of substantial numbers of Short-tailed Shearwaters reaching waters north

of the Northwest Territories and as far east as Nunavut support this species and could refer to either proposed route. Neither Atlantic nor Pacific populations of Sooty Shearwater are known from the Arctic regions of northern Canada and the Atlantic birds seem to have little propensity to go upriver beyond the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Black-crowned Night-Heron were reported from three unusual locations plus Onondaga Lake. **Western Cattle Egret** made a good showing with a bird near Skaneateles found by Laurie Michelman on 5 November and another flying by Sandy Pond on 8 November for Matt Brown. Two birds near Canastota were seen by many after being found by Andy Miller on 7 November. The Split Rock **Swallow-tailed Kite** continued from Summer. At his farm near Peterboro Lonnie Mast counted 1500 Broad-winged Hawk passing between 10:30 and 12:30 on 12 September, most of them during the first hour. As often happens with hawk flights, the birds began low then got higher as the morning progressed with Mast noting they were heading directly into a southwest wind. Skywatching from his farm yielded more goodies: two Peregrine Falcon on 18 November, four Golden Eagle on 20 November (one adult, three immature), and 27 Sandhill Crane on the 25th heading in the direction of Montezuma and seen the same day by Lydia Loan and Martin Cain passing Onondaga Lake. Thomas Facchine found a Black-backed Woodpecker at the Third Lake Creek Trail on 9 September. Though known to be a resident of the area it is seldom reported. Olive-sided Flycatcher made its expected early-September appearance. Keith Pflieger found an Acadian Flycatcher at Beaver Lake on 1 September, barely qualifying it for a rare appearance on the Fall report. The species was known to have bred there, aiding identification. Aidan Perkins found a **White-eyed Vireo** at Oakwood Cemetery in Syracuse on 9 November. Santos Rodriguez photographed a very late Red-eyed Vireo on 18 November along Onondaga Lake's West Shore Trail. A late Barn Swallow at Fair Haven on 3-5 November gave temporary hope of Cave.

An excellent count of 210 American Pipit were logged from the Fabius farm fields by Aidan Perkins and Peter Roy on 14 October. Only one Common Redpoll was reported all season. Pine Siskin, however, enjoyed a big irruption year with 300-bird counts not uncommon on the Lake Ontario shoreline and peaking at 1150 going past Derby Hill on 17 October counted by Courtney Jett and Caleb Centanni. Will this mean a big Spring 2024 flight on the Lakeshore? Rarely making the Fall report, Grasshopper Sparrow was reported three times. Kevin Topping found a **LeConte's Sparrow** on his farm near Salisbury on 14-15 October. This is a fourth Regional record and first for the Fall season. Prior records of this secretive, difficult-to-find species were all on the Ontario Lakeshore and include birds in Scriba on 7 May 1992 and 12 May 1997 and another at SUNY Oswego on 28 April 1993.

Eastern Meadowlark are hard to find in Fall but this year noted through the first week of November. Gregg Dashnau had good counts up to 25 from the airport in Fulton during late September and early October. Another species seldom making the report for this season, Golden-winged Warbler was found on 11 September by Aidan Perkins. One of our rarest passage migrants, Connecticut Warbler was reported by John Garrett and Bryce Robinson from Howland Island on 17 September, the Onondaga Lake Creekwalk on 24 September by Deborah

Dohne, and in Salisbury also on the 24th by Kevin Topping. A very late Cape May Warbler was found by Santos Rodriguez on 18 November amidst an unusual morning at Onondaga Lake. Bay-breasted was well-represented by 48 individuals at Oakwood Cemetery on 10 September. Finally, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak was photographed by Betsy Berglund at her feeders in Baldwinsville on 27 November.

Region 5 currently has five operating MOTUS stations located at Derby Hill, Three Rivers WMA, Rome WMA, Utica Zoo, and a site four miles south of Williamstown known as 'Fassler'. These register radio-tagged birds that fly through their 15-mile-diameter circle of detection. Highlight of the Fall season was an Eastern Whip-poor-will picked up at the Lakeshore Marshes station just west of Fair Haven on 8 October. It had begun its journey south from the Carden Alvar north of Toronto the previous day, having been tagged as a nester there on 26 May. The Montreal Urban Forests project tagged Hermit Thrush, Magnolia Warbler, and Yellow-rumped, several of these checking in from our stations. Other 'usual suspects' detected include White-throated Sparrow, Swainson's Thrush, and Horned Lark. Finally, a Golden-winged Warbler tagged on 17 May at Fort Drum was heard by Three Rivers on 10 September.

This season a total of 255 species and one hybrid were reported, which is 13 above the recent 10-year average for the Region. Highlights included: **Ross's Goose, Greater White-fronted Goose**, Sandhill Crane, Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, Long-billed Dowitcher, Red Phalarope, Red-necked Phalarope, Red Knot, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Purple Sandpiper **Western Sandpiper, Long-tailed Jaeger**, Parasitic Jaeger, Pomarine Jaeger, Little Gull, Forster's Tern, **Short-tailed Shearwater, Western Cattle Egret**, Black Vulture, **Swallow-tailed Kite**, Black-backed Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, **White-eyed Vireo**, Evening Grosbeak, American Pipit, Lapland Longspur, Grasshopper Sparrow, **LeConte's Sparrow**, and Golden-winged Warbler. Expected species missed this Fall include Snowy, Long-eared, and Saw-whet Owl plus Northern Waterthrush.

Fall 2023 produced 74,848 eBird records on 6516 checklists for Region 5, and were processed by Swan Swan Hummingbird v6.2. Reports were submitted by 595 people. With so many submitting to eBird, the Editor would like to share how the 'Contributor' names below are compiled. Names appear in the list if at least one of the following four criteria are met: (1) a person's initials are used in the 'Synopsis' section; (2) a person submits a written list of sightings to the Editor; (3) a person is the only one contributing from a part of the Region that would otherwise have no reports; or (4) a person submits above a 'participation threshold' number of eBird records which varies by season and was set at 200 for this report. Most listed below qualified under (4) but rest assured that all submissions contribute to this report.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADK – Adirondacks, n. HERK; **BRH** – Bishop Rd Hawk Watch; **BW** – Baltimore Woods, Marcellus; **BLNC** – Beaver L Nature Center, Baldwinsville; **Bville** – Baldwinsville; **Const** – Oneida L at Constantia; **DB** – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox, MADI; **DC** – Deer Creek Marsh, T Richland; **DH** – Derby Hill, T Mexico; **FH** – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and West Barrier Bar; **Fult** – Fulton area including Oswego R, Indian Pt, L Neatahwanta; **Fville** – Fayetteville; **GLSP** – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; **GSC** – Great Swamp Conservancy, Canastota; **HI** – Howland I WMA, CAYU; **Jville** – Jamesville; **LH** – Labrador Hollow Unique Area; **Lont** – L Ontario; **LoopR** – Loop Rd, Montezuma NWR, CAYU; **MCL** – Madison County Landfill; **MH** – Morgan Hill State Forest, Fabius; **OakC** – Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse; **OneiL** – Oneida L; **OnonL** – Onondaga L; **OLP** – Onondaga Lake P (east and west shore); **OSP** – Oneida Shores P, Brewerton; **OswH** – Oswego Harbor; **PB** – Port Byron north of Rte 31, incl Maiden Ln & Towpath Rd fields; **RCFS** – Rice Creek Field Station, Oswego; **SBP** – Sunset Bay P, Scriba; **SFNS** – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; **SHTF** – Sky High Turf Farm, Chittenango; **Skane** – Skaneateles; **SNC** – Sterling Nature Center, Sterling; **SP** – Sandy Pd and vicinity; **SSSP** – Selkirk Shores SP; **SVB** – Sylvan & Verona Beach areas/ e end Oneida L; **Syr** – Syracuse; **TR** – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; **UM** – Utica Marsh; **VBSP** – Verona Beach SP; **WH** – Whiskey Hollow, Memphis; **WP** – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

Snow Goose: Peterboro 11 Sep; arr var locs late Oct; max 60 BLNC 6 Nov.

Ross's Goose: Peterboro 20-21 Oct (LMA); WP 26-27 Oct (RCO).

Greater White-fronted Goose: 2 SVB 6 Nov (DWh); 3 PB 18-19 Nov (DWh).

Brant: arr 25 DH 8 Oct; max 1500 OnonL 29 Oct; last 120 Pulaski 20 Nov.

Cackling Goose: arr 3 Waterville 24 Sep; max 4 BLNC 16 Nov; 1-2 var typ locs.

Canada Goose: max est 7000 Verona 30 Oct.

Mute Swan: most reps OnonL, SP, & FH areas; max 80 FH 29 Sep.

Trumpeter Swan: 1-6 var expected locs; max 17 PB 22 Nov.

Tundra Swan: arr 4 OneiL 29 Oct; max 82 OneiL 27 Nov.

Wood Duck: max 55 WP 28 Sep.

Blue-winged Teal: max 106 SP 6 Oct; last SP 1 Nov.

Northern Shoveler: max 12 OnonL 12 Nov.

Gadwall: max 60 FH 20 Oct.

American Wigeon: max 150 FH 20 Oct.

Mallard: max 300 FH 12 Nov.

American Black Duck: max 84 DH 28 Oct.

Mallard x American Black Duck (hybrid): sev reps/locs.

Northern Pintail: max 425 PB 22 Nov.

Green-winged Teal: max 212 SP 26 Sep.

Canvasback: arr VBSP 29 Oct; max 12 SP 18 Nov.

Redhead: arr 5 SP 19 Sep; max 100 OnonL 25 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 3 WP 10 Sep; max 850 WMonroe 19 Nov, good num.

Greater Scaup: arr OnonL 1 Sep; max 300 SP 22 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: arr 5 DH 19 Sep; max 200 FH 3 Nov.

Greater/Lesser Scaup: max 400 VBSP 29 Oct.

aythya sp: max 600 SP 4 Nov.

Surf Scoter: arr DH 19 Sep, early; max 31 DH 7 Nov.

White-winged Scoter: arr 6 DH 19 Sep; max 93 DH 28 Oct.

Black Scoter: arr DH 19 Sep, early; max 38 DH 9 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: arr 3 DH 20 Sep, early, next OneiL 17 Oct; max 530 DH 7 Nov.

Bufflehead: arr FH 11 Oct; max 320 OnonL 5 Nov.

Common Goldeneye: arr OneiL 13 Oct; max 53 Mexico Pt 19 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: max 72 BLNC 29 Nov.

Common Merganser: max 200 SP 26 Sep & FH 8 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: arr 2 SP 17 Sep; max 1130 FH 19 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: arr UM 20 Sep; max 30 WP 30 Oct.

Wild Turkey: max 32 Poland 4 Sep.

Ruffed Grouse: small nums var locs.

Ring-necked Pheasant: small nums var locs, most pres released by state.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 18 OnonL 20 Oct.

Horned Grebe: arr Otisco L 13 Oct; max 16 FH 8 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: arr DH 19 Sep; max 6 OLP 12 Nov.

Rock Pigeon: flocks widespread.

Mourning Dove: widespread; max 70 TR 30 Sep.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: HI 9 Sep; OakC 12 Sep; last LH 14 Sep; only reps.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Salisbury 2 Sep & last 23 Sep; only reps.

Common Nighthawk: Const 3 Sep; OLP & OakC 12 Sep; Osw 14 Sep; HI 18 Sep; last 2 Pennellville 12 Oct, late; only reps.

Chimney Swift: 1 – max 3 var locs thru 17 Sep; last Pennellville 2 Oct, late.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 7 Cazenovia 8 Sep; last Skan 6 Oct.

Virginia Rail: Syr 12 Sep (SRo), window collision taken to rehab; Verona 15 Sep; only reps.

Sora: 3 HI 9 Sep; OLP 28 Sep; only reps.

Common Gallinule: max 10 HI 9 Sep; last 3 Manlius 14 Oct.

American Coot: max 58 OLP 27 Oct.

Sandhill Crane: 27 Peterboro (LMa) & OLP 25 Nov (LLO, MCa), likely same flock; max 64 LoopR 9 Nov (JBr, RKi), exc num, unusual loc; 2 SP 14 Oct.

Black-bellied Plover: max 31 SP 6 Oct; 5 FH 29 Oct; 28 SP 1 Nov, good num; last SP 18 Nov.

American Golden-Plover: max 8 SHTF 18 Sep; last Fult 10 Oct.

Killdeer: max 68 Pennellville 8 Sep; last Syr 23 Nov.

Semipalmated Plover: max 35 Pennellville 3 Sep; last SP 17 Oct.

Whimbrel: Const 3 Sep (MSc); SP 10, 25, 26 Sep; only reps.

Hudsonian Godwit: 1-2 SP 6, 14, 16 Oct (MBr); only reps.

Ruddy Turnstone: SP 4 Sep; only rep.

Red Knot: 1-2 SP 10 Sep – last 13 Sep; only reps.

Stilt Sandpiper: 1-5 SP 10 Sep – last 6 Oct; max 8 SP 29 Sep (KSu), good num; only reps.

Sanderling: max 22 SP 8 Sep; last FH 29 Nov.

Dunlin: arr SP 12 Sep; est 300 DH 7 Nov; max 318 SP 4 Nov; last FH 29 Nov.

Purple Sandpiper: arr SP 16 Nov; 2 Port Ontario 21 Nov; 1-2 FH 26 Nov thru.

Baird's Sandpiper: FH 9 Sep; SHTF & SP 15 Sep; SP & OLP 19 Sep; last SP 26 Sep; only reps.

Least Sandpiper: max 12 OLP 2 Sep; last 2 SP 6 Oct.

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 8 SP 17 Sep; last DB 8 Nov.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 2 SHTF 2 Sep (PSh); SP 25-26 Sep (MBr); only reps.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 26 SP 6 Oct; last 6 DB 8 Nov.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 38 SP 18 Sep; last SP 19 Oct.

Western Sandpiper: SP 10 Sep (MBr).

Short-billed Dowitcher: OLP 1 Sep; SP 26 Sep & last 6 Oct; only reps.

Long-billed Dowitcher: 1-3 SP 29 Sep – last 6 Oct; only reps.

American Woodcock: max 3 TR 26 Oct; last Salisbury 5 Nov.

Wilson's Snipe: max 25 SSSP 3 Oct; last OLP 26 Nov.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 4 OLP 9 Sep; last FH 11 Oct & FH 5 Nov (DWh), late.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 6 SHTF 9 Sep; last SNC 5 Oct.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 20 HI 21 Oct; last Skan 1 Nov.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 16 SP 29 Oct; last PB 18 Nov.

Red-necked Phalarope: 3 SP 20 Sep (MBr); only rep.

Red Phalarope: 5 DH 3 Nov (MBr); FH 12 Nov (JGa, TBr); only reps, *intro*.

Pomarine Jaeger: DH 8, 19 Oct; 2 DH 28 Oct.

Parasitic Jaeger: 2 DH 14 Sep; 6 DH 19 Sep; SP 19 Sep; DH 20 Sep; 5 DH 8 Oct.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: DH 14 Sep (RSt); 3 DH 19 Sep (RSt).

jaeger sp: 2 FH 1 Nov.

Black-legged Kittiwake: 3 DH 7 Nov; DH 9, 10, 14, 28 Nov; OswH 24 Nov (DWh).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 350 SVB 11 Oct.

Little Gull: SP 16 Sep (MBr); only rep.

Ring-billed Gull: max est 3000 OnonL 27 Sep, 15 Nov.

Herring Gull: max est 4000 MCL 29 Nov.

Iceland Gull: arr MCL 8 Nov; max 3 MCL 29 Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 3 SVB 29 Sep & SP 25 Sep.

Glaucous Gull: arr SP 29 Oct; SP 20 Nov; only reps.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 60 MCL 29 Nov.

Caspian Tern: max 30 SP 4 Sep; last 2 SP 30 Sep.

Black Tern: 2 DH 14 Sep; only rep.

Common Tern: max 60 OSP 1 Sep; last OnonL 21 Oct.

Forster's Tern: 1-4 SP var dates 7 Sep - last 16 Oct; DH 8 Oct; only reps.

Red-throated Loon: arr 2 SP 27 Oct; max 7 FH 12 Nov.

Common Loon: max 21 Syr 14 Nov.

SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER: DH 7 Nov (DWh, ph, mob), 1st state rec if approved by NYSARC, *intro*.

Double-crested Cormorant: max est 2200 SP 19 Oct.

American Bittern: OLC 25 Sep; BW 9 Oct; Pompey 8 Nov; last Cazenovia 9 Nov (DMc, ph), late; only reps.

Least Bittern: Pulaski 6 Sep; Syr 10 Sep (DWe), NFC; only reps.

Great Blue Heron: max 20 HI 9 Sep & SP 26 May.

Great Egret: max 217 HI 23 Sep; last OnonL 5 Nov.

WESTERN CATTLE EGRET (R5): Woodland ONON 5-6 Nov (LMi); SP 8 Nov (MBr); 2 Canastota 7-10 Nov (AMi, mob).

Green Heron: max 4 N Hartford 2 Sep; last Poolville 17 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Cross L 3 Sep; Phoenix 4 Sep; last LH 28 Sep, unusual locs; 2 SP 25 Sep; 1- max 8 OLC 21-27 Sep; only reps.

Black Vulture: singles/small groups known locs Jville, Oneida, Little Falls; max 9 Fville roost site 29 Nov (TSh).

Turkey Vulture: max 276 BRH 31 Oct.

Osprey: max 3 OLP 2 Sep; last SP 30 Oct, late.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Split Rock 1-9 Sep, cont from Aug.

Golden Eagle: DH 8 Oct; 2 Fairfield 23 Oct; BRH 12 Nov; 4 Peterboro 20 Nov (LMa); Cazenovia 29 Nov; only reps.

Northern Harrier: max 8 BRH 31 Oct.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 3 SP 14 Oct.

Cooper's Hawk: max 3 Split Rock 2 Sep.

Northern Goshawk: Hastings 11 Oct; MH 15 Nov; only reps.

Bald Eagle: max 12 SP 14 Oct.

Red-shouldered Hawk: singles few typ locs 1 Sep – last 11 Nov.

Broad-winged Hawk: max 1500 Peterboro 12 Sep (LMa); last Salisbury 25 Sep.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 27 BRH 31 Oct.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr SP 29 Oct; singles var locs thru.

Eastern Screech-Owl: singles/pairs typical locs.

Great Horned Owl: widespread resident.

Snowy Owl: no reports.

Barred Owl: widespread resident.

Long-eared Owl: no reports.

Short-eared Owl: OLP 12 Nov; Pulaski 19 Nov; only reps.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: no reps.

Belted Kingfisher: widespread; max 6 Phoenix 4 Sep.

Red-headed Woodpecker: reps from established locs.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: widespread resident.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 6 SVB 16 Sep & FH 11 Oct; singles thru.
Black-backed Woodpecker: Third L Crk 9 Sep (TFa), N HERK.
Downy Woodpecker: widespread resident.
Hairy Woodpecker: widespread resident.
Northern Flicker: max 12 RCFS 30 Sep.
Pileated Woodpecker: widespread resident.

American Kestrel: max 15 Remsen 19 Sep.
Merlin: 1-2 typ locs thru.
Peregrine Falcon: mig singles noted sev locs; nesting pairs known locs; 3 SP 6 Oct; 2 Peterboro 18 Nov.

Great Crested Flycatcher: 1-2 var locs thru 22 Sep; last HI 25 Sep.
Eastern Kingbird: 2 Split Rock 3 Sep; FH 10 Sep; only reps.
Olive-sided Flycatcher: singles 7 locs thru last Jordan 16 Sep.
Eastern Wood-Pewee: max 10 HI 9 Sep; last Syr 21 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1-2 sev locs thru last Pulaski 23 Sep.
Acadian Flycatcher: BLNC 1 Sep (Kpf), known loc; only rep but rarely rep Fall.
Alder Flycatcher: no reps.
Willow Flycatcher: BLNC 2 Sep; only rep but rarely rep Fall.
'Traill's' Flycatcher: 2 TR 4 Sep; only rep.
Least Flycatcher: max 4 OakC 9 Sep & TCicero 17 Sep; last Hastings & SBP 25 Sep.
empidonax sp: 1-2 few locs thru 29 Sep.
Eastern Phoebe: max 7 sev locs 4 Sep – 4 Oct; last NSyr 11 Nov.

WHITE-EYED VIREO (R5): OakC 9-11 Nov (APe, mob, ph).
Yellow-throated Vireo: max 12 HI 9 Sep; last SFNS 22 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: max 6 Syr 12 Oct; last 2 OakC 10 Nov.
Philadelphia Vireo: max 16 HI 17 Sep, exc num; last Bridgeport 1 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: max 7 WP 3 Sep & HI 17 Sep; last NSyr 3 Oct.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 15 HI 9 Sep; last Syr 17 Oct & OLP 18 Nov (SRo, ph), very late.

Northern Shrike: arr Fult 29 Oct; Fabius, Mexico, RCFS, Rome 8-12 Nov; only reps.

Canada Jay: no reps but presumed resident N HERK.

Blue Jay: max 6092 Const 25 Sep (MSc), mig flight.
American Crow: max est 3000 Skan 1 Nov.
Fish Crow: max 18 OLP 9 Sep; reps typ locs.
Common Raven: max 22 DH 7 Nov; widespread reps.

Black-capped Chickadee: widespread resident; max 44 BLNC 31 Oct.
Boreal Chickadee: no reps but presumed resident N HERK.
Tufted Titmouse: widespread resident except N HERK & N ONEI.

Horned Lark: max 85 Pulaski 4 Nov.

Bank Swallow: DC 2 Sep; 4 HI 5 Sep; HI 9 Sep; last 5 HI 23 Sep; only reps.
Tree Swallow: max 450 HI 23 Sep; last 8 Fult 15 Oct.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: max 65 HI 17 Sep; last HI 24 Sep.
Purple Martin: 3 DC 2 Sep; max 15 OLP 8 Sep; HI 9 Sep; only reps.
Barn Swallow: max 23 Jordanville 3 Sep; last 3 HI 24 Sep & FH 3-5 Nov (DWh), late.
Cliff Swallow: Split Rock Sep 1; last 5 HI 9 Sep; only reps.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr HI 9 Sep; max est 106 Bridgeport 1 Oct (MGi), good num; last OLP 27 Nov.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 80 Bridgeport 1 Oct (MGi), good num.

Cedar Waxwing: max 143 Syr 24 Oct.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: small groups typ locs; max 25 Twitchell L 2 Sep.
White-breasted Nuthatch: widespread resident.

Brown Creeper: max 7 BLNC 31 Oct.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: singles var locs thru last Jville 23 Sep.

House Wren: max 4 TR 2 Sep & Jville 8 Sep; last sev locs 18 Oct.
Winter Wren: max 5 FH 11 Oct.
Sedge Wren: no reps.
Marsh Wren: max 4 HI 9 Sep; last OLP 29 Oct.
Carolina Wren: typ locs southern part of Reg.

Gray Catbird: max 20 RCFS 30 Sep; last Clinton 26 Nov but small num winter.
Brown Thrasher: max 3 SFNS 8 Sep; last Syr 17 Oct.

Northern Mockingbird: singles/pairs typ locs, mostly ONON.

European Starling: max est 5000 Cazenovia 18 Nov.

Eastern Bluebird: max 25 BW 13 Oct.

Veery: max 20 HI 9 Sep; last Pulaski 27 Sep.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 8 HI 9 Sep; max 11 SNC 4 Oct; last Syr 12 Oct.

Swainson's Thrush: arr Columbia Center 3 Sep; max est 100 HI 9 Sep; last Const 26 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: max 15 FH 11 Oct; last Clay 16 Nov but small num winter.

Wood Thrush: max 40 HI 9 Sep; last Const 15 Oct.

American Robin: widespread; max est 600 Pulaski 1 Nov.

House Sparrow: flocks widespread resident.

American Pipit: arr FH 1 Sep; 150 Pennellville 8 Oct; max 210 Fabius 14 Oct, exc num; last Lenox 29 Nov.

Evening Grosbeak: Sterling 25 Oct; Hastings 26 Oct; max 2 Const 28 Oct; Rome 19 Nov; only reps.

House Finch: widespread resident; max 45 DB 8 Nov.

Purple Finch: max 8 Bridgewater 1 & 20 Nov.

Common Redpoll: Syr 16 Nov (SDe); only rep.

Red Crossbill: 5 MH 10 Nov; 3 MH 12 Nov; only reps.

White-winged Crossbill: no reps.

Pine Siskin: mig flocks arr early-Oct incl 22 Const 3 Oct; best nums mid-Oct to mid-Nov; flights along LOnt incl est 300 DH, FH 8, 12, Nov; max est 1150 DH 17 Oct (CCe, CJe); flocks 30-50 inland var locs incl 100 Syr 17 Oct; 28 Eagle Bay ADK 23 Nov; irruption year, strong lakeshore flights, exc nums, *intro*.

American Goldfinch: flocks common & widespread; max 149 DH 12 Nov.

Lapland Longspur: arr SP 20 Sep; max 9 SP 14 Oct (DWe), good num; FH 17 Oct; SP 27 Oct; OLP 12 Nov; only reps.

Snow Bunting: arr 3 FH 17 Oct; max 80 Pulaski 31 Oct.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Split Rock 3 Sep; 2 Camillus 13 Sep; Bridgewater 15 Sep & last 1 Oct; only reps, rarely rep in Fall.

Chipping Sparrow: max 20 SNC 17 Sep & Pennellville 29 Sep; last Syr 12 Nov.

Field Sparrow: max 6 Split Rock 10 Oct & OLP 19 Oct; last 2 Perryville 16 Nov.

Fox Sparrow: arr Bville 10 Oct; max 14 GLSP 8 Nov; last BW 30 Nov but occ lingers into Dec.

American Tree Sparrow: arr 2 OLP 25 Oct; max 26 OLP 22 Nov.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 84 SP 29 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr 2 SNC 17 Sep; max 15 Skan 1 Nov; last DH 12 Nov but small num winter.

White-throated Sparrow: max 110 DH 3 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: 2 Navarino 13 Oct; OLP 13-14 Oct; 2 HinckleyR 16 Oct; 2 Schroepfel 22 Oct; only reps.

LECONTE'S SPARROW: Salisbury 14-15 Oct (KTo, ph), 4th Reg rec & 1st county & Fall.

Savannah Sparrow: max 5 Pulaski 3 Oct; last Bridgewater 13 Nov.

Song Sparrow: max 42 OLP 1 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr HI & Salisbury 9 Sep; max 5 HI 25 Sep; last 2 OLP 21 Oct.

Swamp Sparrow: max 17 HI 25 Sep.

Eastern Towhee: max 7 Cazenovia 8 Sep & GLSP 1 Oct; last OLP 14 Nov.

Bobolink: max 155 TR 4 Sep, good num; last Split Rock 5 Oct.

Eastern Meadowlark: max 25 Fult 22 Sep & 10 Oct; last 2 Canastota 9 Nov.

Baltimore Oriole: 1-2 sev locs thru 21 Sep; last Fville 12 Oct, late.

Red-winged Blackbird: max est 1400 Pulaski 31 Oct.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 15 BLNC 31 Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 2 HI 24 Sep; max 140 BLNC 31 Oct; last Waterville 26 Nov.

Common Grackle: max est 6200 Hastings 1 Nov.

blackbird sp: max 8000 Const 19 Oct.

Ovenbird: max 5 Third L ADK 9 Sep; last Cazenovia 14 Oct.

Louisiana Waterthrush: no reps.

Northern Waterthrush: no reps.

Golden-winged Warbler: Syr 11 Sep (APe, SDe); only rep.

Blue-winged Warbler: singles 5 locs; last Earlville 18 Sep.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 7 Syr; last Syr 12 Oct.

Prothonotary Warbler: no reps.

Tennessee Warbler: max 20 HI 17 Sep; last OLP 17 Oct.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr 2 Pulaski 14 Sep; 1-2 sev locs thru last Hastings 18 Oct.

Nashville Warbler: max 8 OLC 26 Sep; last Salisbury 27 Oct.

Connecticut Warbler: HI 17 Sep (JGa, BRo); OLC 24 Sep (DDo); Salisbury 24 Sep (KTo); only reps.

Mourning Warbler: singles 8 locs thru last Syr Oct 11, late.

Common Yellowthroat: max 15 Jville 23 Sep; last MH 13 Nov.

Hooded Warbler: 1-2 var locs thru last 28 Sep.

American Redstart: max 12 Syr 10 Sep; last GSC 15 Oct.

Cape May Warbler: max 10 Syr 12 Sep; last SP 4 Oct; OLP 18 Nov (SRo, ph), very late.

Cerulean Warbler: Forestport 3 Sep; HI 9 Sep; only reps.

Northern Parula: max 8 OLP 29 Sep; last Syr 19 Oct.

Magnolia Warbler: max 21 OakC 10 Sep; last OakC 12 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: max 48 OakC 10 Sep, exc num; last Mexico 12 Oct.

Blackburnian Warbler: max 5 OakC 10 Sep; last SFNS 12 Oct.

Yellow Warbler: max 8 OLP 9 Sep; last Syr 27 Sep & OLP 12-22 Nov, very late.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 6 Syr 11 Sep; last NSyr 30 Sep.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 7 HI 17 Sep; last Syr 12 Oct.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 3 OLC 25 Sep; last Syr 12 Oct.

Palm Warbler: max 8 Salisbury 30 Sep; last UM 23 Oct.

Pine Warbler: max 4 Sandy Crk 27 Sep; last DH 4 Nov.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 43 Const 26 Oct; last OLP 18 Nov; small num winter.

Prairie Warbler: Little Falls 28 Sep (EFr), late; only rep.

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 10 TR 16 Sep; last 1-4 Syr var locs 12 Oct.

Canada Warbler: 1-2 sev locs thru last Salisbury 23 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: max 3 Syr 10 Sep; last Perryville 27 Sep.

warbler sp: 50 sev locs Syr 10 Sep.

Scarlet Tanager: max 5 HI 9 & 17 Sep; last 3 Syr 12 Oct.

Northern Cardinal: widespread resident.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 11 Syr 12 Sep; last GLSP 4 Oct; Bville 27-29 Nov, very late.

Indigo Bunting: max 4 Mohawk 3 Sep; last Mexico & Pulaski 12 Oct.

REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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The first week of September in Watertown was warm, reaching a high of 85° F on 7 September, but cooler weather prevailed for the next few weeks, and September's mean temperature was 62.1°, 0.6° below normal. Temperatures rose into the 80s again during the first week of October, reaching a high of 83° on the 5th, and the month was warm overall, with a mean temperature that was 2.8° warmer than average. November was cool again, with a mean temperature that was 2.2° cooler than average. Despite the cool temperatures the month saw just 2" of snowfall on the last day of November. All three months were drier than normal, especially September when Watertown received just 1.3" of rainfall, and seasonal precipitation was 71.6% of normal.

Waterfowl numbers were modest with few rarities. In what is becoming a regular autumn occurrence, the southbound Snow Goose migration largely bypassed Region 6, with few reports and no large flocks. Cackling Geese reports came from Canton, Fort Drum, and Wilson Hill, representing the only rare geese of the season. Typically large concentrations of American Wigeon and *Aythya* were at Wilson Hill WMA, but otherwise maximum numbers for many duck

species were lower than usual, with especially low numbers of Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, and Mallard. Among ducks the clear highlight of the season was a Eurasian Wigeon that was at Wilson Hill on 5 November, but unfortunately was only seen on one day and was likely the same individual that was across the St. Lawrence River in Canada for more than a week.

For the third consecutive year the St. Lawrence River between the Iroquois and Moses-Saunders Dams was maintained at a high level and there were virtually no exposed mudflats all season. Consequently, shorebirds were very scarce along the river, with an American Golden-Plover at Richard's Point being the only notable sighting of the season. Prior to 2021 water levels routinely dropped in August or September, and the exposed mud flats at Whalen Park and Richard's Point often had some of the best shorebirding in the Region. Conditions were better at Lake Ontario, and while shorebirds were not abundant, a modest variety of species were reported, including another American Golden-Plover and a Whimbrel at El Dorado from 29 September to 3 October, and a Hudsonian Godwit at Sherwin Bay on 8 November. Amazingly, Least Sandpiper, often the most abundant shorebird species in fall, was not reported anywhere in Region 6 this season.

Very few rarities were reported, by far the most unusual species being a **Yellow Rail** that showed up on a lawn in DeKalb on 17 October. Reportedly, the Yellow Rail was very tame and allowed the home owner to walk up to it a take a photo from directly overhead, which eventually made it to some local birders who identified it, but not in time to see it. Not especially rare but still noteworthy were two double-digit reports of Sandhill Crane: a group of 15 in Cape Vincent on 25 October and 18 over Canton on 24 November. High counts for Sandhill Crane in Region 6 have previously been no more than 4-6 individuals.

Based on radar the passerine migration was fairly active, although through much of the season birds seemed to mostly pass over the Region with few concentrations of migrants noted. By far the largest flight of the season came on the night of 12-13 October, and on the following day large numbers of migrants were observed on Fort Drum, including several species that are rarely observed in Region 6 so late in the season, including Philadelphia Vireo, American Redstart, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and Indigo Bunting. Many other species seemed to linger later into the fall than usual, a few examples including Ruby-throated Hummingbird at a Cape Vincent feeder to 2 October, Tennessee Warbler and Black-throated Green Warbler to 18 October, and Red-eyed Vireo to 19 October.

For the season I received reports of 216 species, slightly more than nine species below the most recent ten-year average. The Yellow Rail was certainly the bird of the season, although it was apparently seen by just a single observer. There really weren't many other candidates, as it was a season largely without rarities. After a stretch of several years during which the number of observers in Region 6 seemed to steadily increase, it seemed that few birders were active this fall, which may at least partly explain the paucity of rare birds as well as the low seasonal species tally.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BI – Barnhart I, T Massena; **BPWMA** – Black Pd WMA; **CCSP** – Coles Creek SP; **CV** – T Cape Vincent; **CWF** – Canton Wastewater Facility; **ED** – El Dorado Shores Pres, T Ellisburg; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Reservation, JEFF & LEWI; **GPSP** – Grass Point SP; **HH** – Henderson Harbor; **ICNC** – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton; **JCSP** – Jacques Cartier SP; **KC** – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; **KPSP** – Kring Point SP; **LBSF** – Lonesome Bay State Forest; **LPSP** – Long Point SP; **LWMA** – Lakeview WMA; **MM** – Massawepie Mire, T Colton & Piercefield, STLA; **MP** – Montario Pt, T Ellisburg; **PilPt** – Pillar Pt; **PRWMA** – Perch Ri WMA; **PtPen** – Pt Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF; **RLT** – Richard’s Landing Trail, T Massena; **RRT** – Remington Recreation Trail, T Canton; **RWSP** – Robert G. Wehle SP; **SBSP** – Southwick Beach SP; **SH** – Sacketts Harbor; **ShBy** – Sherwin Bay; **SLR** – St. Lawrence Ri; **StPt** – Stony Pt, T Henderson; **ULLWMA** – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; **WHWMA** – Wilson Hill WMA; **WP** – Whalen P, T Louisville.

Snow Goose: only 11 reports, max 60 T Potsdam 4 Nov.

Brant: arr T Hammond 28 Oct; max 120 GPSP 31 Oct; last CCSP 5 Nov.

Cackling Goose: 2 CWF 8 & 10 Oct (B. Dixon, H. Ellingsen); WHWMA 9 Oct (JSB); FD 12 Oct (JSB); 2 T Canton 12 Nov.

Mute Swan: max 38 GPSP 27 Oct; 36 Chippewa Bay 3 Nov; dozens reports all from SLR & L Ontario.

Trumpeter Swan: reports from 21 loc JEFF & STLA.

Tundra Swan: max 350 PtPen 25 Nov.

Wood Duck: max 43 ULLWMA 10 Sep low.

Blue-winged Teal: max 21 ULLWMA 8 Oct low.

Northern Shoveler: max 20 CWF 6 Sep.

Gadwall: max 46 WHWMA 5 Nov.

Eurasian Wigeon: WHWMA 5 Nov (JSB, B. Dixon) only report.

American Wigeon: max 1120 WHWMA 5 Nov.

Mallard: max 100 PilPt 22 Nov, low.

American Black Duck: max 65 ShBy 6 Nov.

Northern Pintail: max 113 WP 18 Nov.

Green-winged Teal: max 365 WP 1 Oct.

Canvasback: Dexter Marsh 8 Nov & WHWMA 11 Nov only reports.

Redhead: max 1700 WHWMA 18 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: max 6740 WHWMA 5 Nov.

Greater Scaup: max 300 WHWMA 3 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: max 57 Black L 15 Oct.

Surf Scoter: arr ED 8 Oct; max 10 MP 26 Oct.

White-winged Scoter: max 30 MP 26 Oct.

Black Scoter: arr Little Sucker Brook P T Waddington 14 Oct; max 60 ULLWMA 23 Oct; 12 Indian L FD 23 Oct, scarce LEWI.

Long-tailed Duck: arr Black L 15 Oct; max 43 HH 18 Nov.

Common Goldeneye: arr Black L 16 Oct; max 183 PilPt 22 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: max 75 Black L 25 Nov.

Common Merganser: max 200 Black L 23 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: arr JCSP 22 Oct; max 351 BI 26 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: max 36 WHWMA 5 Nov.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 64 ULLWMA 15 Oct.

Horned Grebe: arr RLT 1 Oct; max 12 PilPt 12 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: arr Black L 15 Oct; max 3 Rabbit I SLR 8 Nov.

Black-billed Cuckoo: last RWSP 18 Sep.

Common Nighthawk: 4 KC 12 Sep only report.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: last CV 8 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last CV 2 Oct (R. Booth, photos!) late.

Virginia Rail: last 3 Tracy Rd swamp T Lisbon 20 Oct.

Sora: last 3 ULLWMA 24 Sep.

Common Gallinule: last FD 23 Oct.

American Coot: max 111 WHWMA 5 Nov.

YELLOW RAIL: T DeKalb 17 Oct (M.J. Heisey, photos!).

Sandhill Crane: 15 CV 25 Oct (J. Fowler); last & max 18 T Canton 24 Nov (S. Willson); 4 other reports 1-2 each.

Black-bellied Plover: max 14 Pt. Salubrious 5 Nov where last 12 Nov.

American Golden-Plover: ED 29 Sep & 1 Oct; RLT 1 Oct; only reports.

Semipalmated Plover: last 3 ED 3 Oct.

Whimbrel: ED 29 Sep (R. Lewis, R. Brouse) & 3 Oct (J. LeClaire) only reports.

Hudsonian Godwit: ShBy 8 Nov (JSB) only report.

Ruddy Turnstone: SBSP 14 Sep (R. Spahn) only report.

Sanderling: max 15 SBSP 14 Sep; last JCSP & KPSP 3 Nov.

Least Sandpiper: no reports!

White-rumped Sandpiper: WHWMA 29 Oct (JSB, B. Dixon) only report.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 4 ED 29 Sep; WHWMA & 2 RLT 1 Oct only other report.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 4 PilPt 3 Sep & last ED 3 Oct.

American Woodcock: last reported by birders SUNY ESF Ranger School 6 Nov; reported by hunters thru "mid-Nov".

Wilson's Snipe: last GPSP 12 Nov.

Spotted Sandpiper: last ED 3 Oct.

Solitary Sandpiper: last T Canton 28 Sep.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 4 RLT 1 Oct; last Five Ponds Wilderness & LPSP 3 Oct.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 16 ShBy 8 Nov where last 12 Nov.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 26 ED 25 Sep.

Little Gull: SBSP 22 Sep (R. Spahn) only report.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: SBSP 29 Sep (R. Spahn); 2 BI 26 Nov (JSB); only reports.

Caspian Tern: last Pt. Salubrious 22 Sep.

Common Tern: last LPSP 18 Sep.

Red-throated Loon: max 2 multiple loc 8 Nov thru.

Common Loon: max 27 Guffin Bay 8 Nov.

American Bittern: last T Potsdam & WHWMA 14 Oct.

Least Bittern: T Potsdam 4 Sep only report.

Great Egret: max 23 ULLWMA 8 Sep; last WP 29 Oct.

Green Heron: last Sissy Danforth Trail T Clayton 5 Oct.

Turkey Vulture: last PtPen 12 Nov.

Osprey: last T Alexandria & FD 23 Oct.

Golden Eagle: 2 ad, 1 juv FD 31 Oct; ad T Watertown & ad T Lisbon 10 Nov; juv T Canton 14 Nov; good showing.

Red-shouldered Hawk: last FD 31 Oct.

Broad-winged Hawk: last T Potsdam 26 Sep.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr Pt. Salubrious 11 Oct.

Eastern Screech-Owl: 9 reports, more than usual.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: T Canton 28 Oct only report.

Red-headed Woodpecker: last FD 2 Oct.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: scarce after 12 Oct; last SBSP 11 Nov.

Black-backed Woodpecker: 2 MM 12 Oct only report.

Merlin: at least 22 ind from 32 loc.

Peregrine Falcon: T Lowville 19 Sep; T Rutland 5 Oct; T Hammond 20 Oct; ICNC 12 Oct; several more reports from known nesting areas SLR.

Great Crested Flycatcher: last BPWMA 22 Sep.

Eastern Kingbird: last T Martinsburg 11 Sep.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: FD 7 Sep only report.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: last ED 1 Oct.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last ICNC 18 Sep.

Willow Flycatcher: last T Potsdam 4 Sep.

Least Flycatcher: last FD 25 Sep.

Eastern Phoebe: last FD 25 Oct.

Yellow-throated Vireo: last FD 26 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: last FD 19 Oct.

Philadelphia Vireo: 12 reports; last FD 12 Oct.

Warbling Vireo: last FD 26 Sep.

Red-eyed Vireo: last T Potsdam 19 Oct.

Northern Shrike: arr T Clayton 10 Nov.

Canada Jay: max 3 MM 22 Sep.

Fish Crow: T Clayton 1 Sep (M. Mau) rare but increasing R6.

Horned Lark: just 4 reports; max 3 FD 12 Oct.

Tree Swallow: max 80 StPt 8 Oct; last FD & T Lowville 10 Oct.

Barn Swallow: last PRWMA 12 Sep.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr FD 11 Sep; max 72 FD 12 Oct; last FD 31 Oct.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: obvious migrants arr FD & GPSP 21 Sep.

Cedar Waxwing: max 120 ICNC 30 Sep.

House Wren: last FD 13 Oct.

Winter Wren: T Hammond 25 Nov (E. Truskowski) only report after 31 Oct.

Sedge Wren: 2 T Potsdam 9 Sep (JSB).

Marsh Wren: last T Potsdam 4 Nov.

Carolina Wren: reports from 14 locations mostly W JEFF.

Gray Catbird: scarce after 19 Oct; last SH 11 Nov (R. Brouse).

Brown Thrasher: last FD 18 Oct.

Northern Mockingbird: 2 SBSP 15 Sep (R. Brouse, R Lewis) & T Leray 4 Nov (B. Hoover) only reports.

Eastern Bluebird: max 15 T Canton 29 Sep.

Veery: last 2 RRT 10 Sep.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: SBSP 22 Sep only report.

Swainson's Thrush: last FD 12 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: T Watertown 5 Nov (B. Miller) and 2 WHWMA 18 Nov (JSB) only reports after Oct.

Wood Thrush: last T Potsdam 26 Sep.

American Pipit: max 75 T Canton 20 Oct; last PilPt 21 Nov.

Evening Grosbeak: 3 singles at feeders between 2 Oct & 4 Nov

Common Redpoll: T West Turin 24 Nov only report.

Red Crossbill: max 11 SUNY ESF Ranger School T Fine 13 Nov; reports from 8 other loc.

Pine Siskin: arr RRT 10 Sep but scarce before Oct; max 120 FD 16 Oct.

Lapland Longspur: FD 13 Oct & WHWMA 14 Oct only reports.

Snow Bunting: arr LWMA 18 Oct.

Chipping Sparrow: last SUNY ESF Ranger School 28 Oct.

Field Sparrow: last FD 19 Oct.

Fox Sparrow: arr FD 10 Oct; max 11 FD 31 Oct; last T Potsdam 18 Nov.

American Tree Sparrow: arr T Canton 20 Oct.

Dark-eyed Junco: first obvious migrant RWSP 18 Sep.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr T Potsdam 21 Sep; last 2 RRT 5 Nov.

White-throated Sparrow: max 150 FD 27 Sep.

Vesper Sparrow: last 3 T Lowville 3 Nov.

Savannah Sparrow: last T Lowville 26 Oct.

Song Sparrow: few after 31 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: last FD 13 Oct.

Swamp Sparrow: last 3 Kanik Nature Trail 14 Nov.

Eastern Towhee: last FD & JCSP 25 Oct.

Bobolink: last CV 17 Sep.

Eastern Meadowlark: last T Waddington 29 Oct.

Baltimore Oriole: last RRT 10 Sep.

Red-winged Blackbird: scarce after 5 Nov.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 180 T Louisville farm 26 Nov.

Rusty Blackbird: arr LBSF 24 Sep; max 113 FD 13 Oct; last KC 13 Nov.

Common Grackle: scarce after 1 Nov.

Ovenbird: last T Parishville 8 Oct.

Northern Waterthrush: none.

Golden-winged Warbler: last T Gouverneur 3 Sep.

Blue-winged Warbler: none.

Black-and-white Warbler: last ED 27 Sep.

Tennessee Warbler: max 33 FD 27 Sep; last FD 18 Oct.

Orange-crowned Warbler: 10 reports of 11 ind between 16 Sep & 23 Oct.

Nashville Warbler: last FD 16 Oct.

Mourning Warbler: last FD 25 Sep.

Common Yellowthroat: last T Theresa 23 Oct.

American Redstart: last FD 12 Oct (JSB), late.

Cape May Warbler: max 32 FD 1 Sep; last FD 10 Oct.
Northern Parula: last RRT 4 Oct.
Magnolia Warbler: last FD 12 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: max 36 FD 14 Sep; last T Parishville 8 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last FD 29 Sep.
Yellow Warbler: scarce after 7 Sep; last KC 22 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last FD 12 Oct (JSB) late.
Blackpoll Warbler: last FD 19 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last FD 12 Oct.

Palm Warbler: last RWSP 17 Oct.
Pine Warbler: FD 31 Oct, late; only report after 13 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: last FD 31 Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last FD 18 Oct.
Canada Warbler: T Gouverneur 3 Sep only report.
Wilson’s Warbler: last FD 26 Sep.

Scarlet Tanager: last FD 27 Sep.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last ICNC 30 Sep.
Indigo Bunting: last FD 13 Oct.

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REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

Derek H. Rogers
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	Plattsburgh Area, NY			Saranac Lake Area, NY		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Sep	62.5°	59.7°	+2.8°	57.6°	54.4°	+3.2°
Oct	53.0°	48.0°	+5.0°	47.9°	43.3°	+4.6°
Nov	35.4°	37.2°	-1.8°	29.9°	31.9°	-2.0°

Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Sep	2.73"	3.11"	-0.38"	1.57"	3.47"	-1.90"
Oct	6.44"	3.04"	+3.4"	4.54"	3.85"	+0.69"
Nov	1.62"	2.33"	-0.71"	2.09"	2.84"	-0.75"

The fall season began with a much-desired stretch of warm, dry weather following one of the wettest summer seasons in recent memory. Relentless summer rains produced abnormally high water levels in Lake Champlain with September beginning at 97.49', some 3.09' above average. This was enough to completely flood most of the lake shoreline, resulting in recognizably low shorebird diversity and numbers, as essentially all of the known shorebird hotspots in the Lake Champlain region were completely underwater. As September progressed, conditions remained generally dry, and precipitation totals were just 0.38" below normal. However, despite the lack of rain, these conditions were still not enough to open up key shoreline habitat for migratory shorebirds and the skies opened up again in early October. The precipitation total for October was 3.4" above normal according to the Plattsburgh Area weather station, the bulk of which came during a massive rainstorm on 7 October when locations throughout the Champlain Valley received between 4.0"-5.0" of rain in less than 24 hours. Conversely, precipitation totals recorded at the Saranac Lake weather station were much closer to normal in October with a deviation of only 0.69" above normal. November had

the least amount of variance in temperature with deviations below normal, bucking the warming trend displayed by the previous two months. Precipitation totals in November were also below normal.

The Malone area and its surroundings held the most goose diversity, maintaining its status as ground zero for migratory geese in Region 7. In addition to hosting the Region's high count of Canada Geese, additional less common species like **Greater White-fronted Goose**, **Ross's Goose**, and **Cackling Goose** were found in this area. The Snow Goose high count of the season consisted of 40,000 individuals, seen just west of Kings Bay Wildlife Management Area in the northern reaches of Lake Champlain. This section of lake from Monty Bay north to Rouses Point consistently attracts high numbers of Snow Goose during the fall and winter seasons, as does the Malone area in Franklin County. A pair of **Trumpeter Swans** on Townsend Road in Franklin County represented the fourth fall season record for Region 7.

It was an interesting season for ducks. Compared to prior years, Common Goldeneye seemed scarce in both distribution and numbers. A species that is usually faithful in late fall at established fall/winter staging areas were in fact absent from these areas. Despite the poor showing of Common Goldeneye, the Region still managed to host a **Barrow's Goldeneye** on Lake Champlain in Port Kent, just east of Wickham Marsh Wildlife Management Area. This location is known for larger numbers of goldeneye, as well as Greater/Lesser Scaup where a high count of 10,000 individuals was observed on 13 October during a "lake pelagic" trip. Unlike the low numbers of goldeneye, Lake Champlain and smaller inland bodies of water received a generous, more widespread showing of the three regularly occurring scoter species. The rarity highlights of the waterfowl season included two **Tufted Ducks**, a drake seen in Port Kent at the above-described location from 2-4 November and an apparent juvenile on 4 November at Noblewood Park in Willsboro. It's possible that the uneven distribution of waterfowl was influenced by the high-water levels, requiring birds to locate new sites rather than utilize their traditional foraging areas. A historic record Region 7 high count of 93 **Red-breasted Mergansers** was recorded along the Stony Point Jetty in Clinton County on 2 November.

The shorebird highlight of the season involved a flyby **Red Phalarope**, observed and photographed on 17 September along the north facing beach at Ausable Marsh Wildlife Management Area. This represents the second Clinton County record, and only the third record for Region 7. The first record came from the same location nearly 20 years ago on 21 September 2005 (B. Krueger, C. Mitchell) and the second from Little Clear Pond in Franklin County from 8-9 September 2014 (mob, ph). Aside from this exciting find, total shorebird numbers were low given the high lake levels. Baird's Sandpiper was completely absent from known migratory stopovers and was nearly missed for the first fall in over 10 years until 22 September when two individuals were discovered along Trimble Road in a farm field puddle. Despite the many thousands of acres of farmland in the Region, there are no known flooded shorebird sites amongst them other than the fields at Dead Creek, also known as Scotion Creek, in Beekmantown, Clinton County. Unfortunately, this location is barely visible from public vantage points. An indicator of the season's low shorebird numbers, Least Sandpiper was

only reported four times, and just one individual Semipalmated Sandpiper was found. But despite the paltry total numbers of individuals, the Region still managed to attract a total of 16 shorebird species. An **American Golden-Plover** found along the beach at the Ausable River Mouth on 20 September complemented this total.

For the first time since 2019, jaegers were documented in Region 7 on Lake Champlain. A series of organized “lake pelagics” out of Burlington, Vermont successfully connected with an adult **Parasitic Jaeger** and a juvenile **Long-tailed Jaeger** on 18 and 20 September, respectively. Both of these sightings took place in NY waters in Essex County near the Four Brothers Islands. On 22 September, a smaller boat out of Westport successfully attracted a juvenile **Parasitic Jaeger** just east of the Town of Essex while chumming gulls with cubed beef fat and menhaden oil. The jaeger season ended with a photographed Parasitic/Long-tailed Jaeger on 26 September and a much later jaeger sp. on 28 October. Both of these later records involved sightings from land at Hatch Point, which is the very northern tip of Willsboro Point. All of the above jaeger sightings took place in the widest and deepest sections of Lake Champlain. However, this has also historically been the most explored part of the lake during jaeger migration.

Birders continued to feel the absence of Bonaparte’s Gulls in the Essex County portion of Lake Champlain. Once a recognized post breeding stopover during summer and fall, the species dramatically declined from Essex County following the 2020 summer and fall seasons. Chazy’s Gilbert Brook Marina, located in northern Clinton County, remains as the final reliable summer/fall staging area for this once lake-wide abundant species. Despite the lack of Bonaparte’s Gulls, the Region still managed to host two **Little Gulls** on Lake Champlain in Essex County. Like Little Gull, Common Terns have historically proven to be highly associated with Bonaparte’s Gulls, and as a result their presence was also notably absent from southern sections of Lake Champlain. Therefore, it was no surprise that the high count for Common Terns also came from Gilbert Brook Marina in Chazy, amongst the Bonaparte’s Gulls.

For only the third time, a **Northern Gannet** was found in Region 7. The bird, identified as a juvenile, was spotted on 30 November during a lakewatch along the Lake Champlain shoreline in Willsboro, just south of the Boquet River mouth. Coincidentally, a juvenile gannet was recovered in nearby Region 8 on 29 November and taken in by a wildlife rehabilitator prior to being released on 2 December. The timeframe of both sightings is interesting and suggests a possible overland movement during that period.

The **Western Cattle Egret** found in Chazy on 29 October represents only one of a small handful of fall season records of this species. This rather cooperative bird provided excellent views for many observers as it remained close to public roadways though 19 November.

Four reports of Eastern Screech Owl were all from the Champlain Valley region. And a total of nine **Short-eared Owls** was observed between five different locations in Clinton, Essex, and Franklin Counties. Usually limited in geography, this provided for a more widespread, Regional showing of this magnificent grassland owl. At least 23 Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded this season from across three banding locations.

The **White-eyed Vireo**, discovered and photographed at Crown Point State Historic Site on 5 October represents the fifth Region 7 record. It has been 13 years since this species was last detected in the Region (Intervale Lowlands, ESSE 16 May 2010, Ted Mack).

A massive influx of **Pine Siskins** provided for the most memorable event in terms of this season's finch activity. Huge numbers descended into the Region beginning in late October and persisted throughout the season. Multiple high counts involving 100+ individuals were recorded across the Region with a max of 250 on 23 November in Franklin County. The birds heavily targeted White Cedar cones, at least as noted in the Champlain Valley region. Crossbills were reported in modest numbers but with Red Crossbill clearly outperforming White-winged both in terms of geography and in total numbers. No unique Red Crossbill types were reported, aside from the expected Northeastern or Type 12.

The sparrow highlight of the season involved a **Nelson's Sparrow**, found, and photographed on 27 September along the marsh impoundment trail at Ausable Marsh Wildlife Management Area. There are only two prior fall records in Clinton County. While considered scarce to rare, this secretive species may be under-detected given the expansive, yet largely inaccessible migratory habitat throughout the Region. This was, however, the only 2023 fall record of Nelson's Sparrow throughout the entire Lake Champlain Basin. This includes the State of Vermont which has previously detected this species annually each fall since 2015.

218 species were reported in the Region this season.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AMWMA – Ausable Marsh WMA, CLIN; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog, FRAN; **BBB** – Bulwagga Bay Beach, ESSE; **BMRd** – Blue Mountain Rd, FRAN; **CBch** – Cadyville Beach, CLIN; **CH** – Cumberland Head, CLIN; **CPSHS** – Crown Pt State Historic Site, ESSE; **CRi** – Chazy Riverlands, CLIN; **CuB** – Cumberland Bay, CLIN; **CV** – Champlain Valley; **CZ** – Chazy, CLIN; **FBI** – Four Brothers Islands, ESSE; **GBM** – Gilbert Brook Marina; CLIN; **HBO** – Hoisington Brook Outlet, ESSE; **KB** – Kings Bay, CLIN;

KBWMA – Kings Bay WMA, CLIN; **LPl** – Lake Pleasant, HAMI; **MMRP** – Malone Memorial Recreation P, FRAN; **NE** – North Elba, ESSE; **NP** – Noblewood P, ESSE; **OB** – Oseetah Bog, ESSE; **PH** – Port Henry, ESSE; **PK** – Port Kent, ESSE; **PLk** – Piseco L, HAMI; **PSC** – Paul Smiths College, FRAN; **PtAR** – Point Au Roche SP, CLIN; **Spt** – Stony Pt, CLIN; **SRWF** – Split Rock Wild Forest, ESSE; **SSRd** – Sulphur Spring Rd, FRAN; **TFBL** – Ticonderoga Ferry & Boat Launch, ESSE; **Ti** – Ticonderoga, ESSE; **TRd** – Trimble Rd, ESSE; **WBRd** – Whallons Bay Rd, ESSE; **WiPt** – Willsboro Pt, ESSE; **WMWMA** – Wickham Marsh WMA, ESSE; **WRF** – Willsboro Research Farm, ESSE.

Snow Goose: max 40,000 Champlain CLIN 23 Nov (StR).

Ross's Goose: max 4 MMRP 19-20 Oct (StR).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Constable FRAN 19 Oct (StR); Coopersville CLIN 21 Nov (M. Blauvelt, L. Lackey, R. Slagle, ph), juv.

Brant: 2 reps, 49 CPSHS 22 Oct (StR); 52 WiPt 6 Nov (DHR).

Cackling Goose: 2 CLIN; 12+ FRAN; reported from 6 Oct - 26 Nov.

Canada Goose: max 10,000 Malone-Dufort Airport FRAN 3 Nov (NM).

Trumpeter Swan: 2 Townsend Rd FRAN 6 Sep (H. White), 4th fall season record, *intro*.

Wood Duck: max 25 PLk 19 Oct (GD).

Blue-winged Teal: max 5 AMWMA 23 Oct (StR).

Northern Shoveler: 2 GBM 1-7 Sep (DHR, mob), only rep.

Gadwall: 7 ESSE.

American Wigeon: 11 ESSE; 2 FRAN; 7 HAMI.

Mallard: max 150 Tupper L FRAN 12 Nov (A. Siford, M. Siegmann).

American Black Duck: max 75 FBI 20 Sep (mob).

Northern Pintail: max 55 SSRd 13 Oct (NM).

Green-winged Teal: max 240 SSRd 13 Oct (NM).

Canvasback: only 1 rep, PK 4 Nov (ABe).

Redhead: all reps from Lake Champlain; 8 CLIN; 5 ESSE.

Ring-necked Duck: max 250 AMWMA 14 Oct (L. & L. Cain).

Tufted Duck: PK 2-4 Nov (StR); juv NP 4 Nov (DHR), *intro*.

Greater/Lesser Scaup: abundant throughout Lake Champlain, max 10,000 Port Kent ESSE 13 Oct (M. Gibson, BK, StR, DHR), *intro*.

Surf Scoter: many reps, max 9 CPSHS 22 Oct (StR).

White-winged Scoter: many reps, max 53 CPSHS 18 Nov (DHR).

Black Scoter: many reps, max 75 BBB 8 Nov (StR, DHR).

Long-tailed Duck: max 32 BBB 5 Nov (H. Ye).

Bufflehead: max 90 BBB 5 Nov (H. Ye).

Common Goldeneye: notably lower numbers, max 85 PK 4 Nov (ABe).

Barrow's Goldeneye: PK 2-4 Nov (StR), *intro*.

Hooded Merganser: max 50 Plk 20 Nov (StR).

Common Merganser: max 33 CuB 9 Sep (CW).

Red-breasted Merganser: max 93 SPt 2 Nov (StR), record high count for R7, *intro*.

Ruddy Duck: max 6 BBB 7 Nov (StR), less common north of this loc.

Wild Turkey: max 62 Gabriels FRAN 8 Nov (NM).

Ruffed Grouse: max 5 BB 20 Sep (E. Grant).

Spruce Grouse: BMRd 3 Sep (J. Heintz, D. Schlaepfer); BMRd 11 Sep (M. Gullo); BMRd 30 Sep (P. Roy).

Ring-necked Pheasant: max 6 Keene ESSE 21 Sep (LM), NYSDEC release site.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 5 W Chazy CLIN 16 Sep (J. Heintz).

Horned Grebe: max 33 PK 12 Oct (StR).

Red-necked Grebe: 1 CLIN; 7 ESSE; 10 FRAN; 4 HAMI.

Common Nighthawk: max 16 PSC 1 Sep (NM); last BB 3 Sep (GS, SM).

Chimney Swift: last PH 3 Sep (StR).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last WiPt 27 Sep (DHR).

Virginia Rail: 1-2 inds. AMWMA 3-30 Sep (KMc, ABe).

Common Gallinule: AMWMA 11 Oct (JP).

American Coot: AMWMA 23 Oct (StR).

Sandhill Crane: reps at known breeding locs 4 Tupper L FRAN 8 Sep (N. Griffin); 3 OB 1-2 Oct (JB).

Black-bellied Plover: one report: SPt 7 Sep (BK, GaCh, StR, MR, DHR).

American Golden-Plover: AMWMA 20 Sep (MBo).

Killdeer: very low numbers, max 4 HBO 5 Sep (DHR); 4 BBB 5 Oct (StR).

Semipalmated Plover: 7 Spt 7 Sep (BK, GaCh, StR, MR, DHR); 7 GBM 7 Sep (BK, GaCh, StR, MR, DHR); only reps.

Sanderling: 3 Spt 7 Sep (BK, GaCh, StR, MR, DHR); 2 BBB 12 Sep (StR); CPSHS 11 Nov (StR).

Baird's Sandpiper: one report 2 TRd 22-23 Sep (StR), *intro*.

Least Sandpiper: only 4 reps: TRd 3-9 Sep (StR); 3-5 GBM 7-21 Sep (BK, GaCh, StR, MR, DHR); 2 PtAR 15 Sep (mob); 3 Spt 26 Sep (NP).

Pectoral Sandpiper: TRd 16 Sep (StR).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: only reported from 4 locs: max 13 Spt 7 Sep (BK, GaCh, StR, MR, DHR).

American Woodcock: 4 CLIN; 3 ESSE; 1 FRAN; 4 HAMI.

Wilson's Snipe: 2-4 TRd 3-12 Sep (StR), HBO 5 Sep (DHR); 2 Mooers Forks CLIN 21 Sep (T. Sturm); Chubb Ri ESSE 23 Sep (ABe); CPSHS 11 Oct (StR).

Spotted Sandpiper: max 3 Spt 9-26 Sep (NP).

Solitary Sandpiper: 4 FRAN; 10 ESSE; 9 HAMI; absent in CLIN.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 10 Dead Creek CLIN 21 Sep, (StR).

Greater Yellowlegs: max 6 AMWMA 23 Oct (StR).

RED PHALAROPE (R7): AMWMA 17 Sep (DHR, ph), rare, *intro*.

Parasitic Jaeger: adult FBI 18 Sep (mob, ph); juv Essex, ESSE 22 Sep (DHR, D. Munro, C. Abramo, ph), *intro*.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: juv FBI 20 Sep (mob, ph), *intro*.

Parasitic/Long-tailed Jaeger: WiPt 26 Sep (DHR, ph), *intro*.

jaeger sp.: WiPt 28 Oct (DHR, ph), scarce from land.

Bonaparte's Gull: CLIN max 130 GBM 21 Sep (StR); ESSE max 25 WiPt 1 Sep (DHR), *intro*.

Little Gull: CuB 12 Oct (StR); BBB 8 Nov (StR, DHR), *intro*.

Ring-billed Gull: max 600 CB 30 Nov (BMc).

Herring Gull: max 1250 CB 30 Nov (DHR).

Iceland Gull: adult CuB 29 Nov (DHR); juv CB 30 Nov (BMc, DHR), scarce in fall.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 3 CB 30 Nov (BMc, DHR), all ad-types.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 17 FBI 20 Sep (mob).

Caspian Tern: 2 reps: 3 TFBL 2 Sep (GaCh); 3 GBM 3 Sep (KMc).

Common Tern: max 102 GBM 1 Sep (DHR).

Red-throated Loon: max 4 CPSHS 22 October (StR).

Common Loon: max 49 Lake Clear FRAN 6 Oct (NM).

NORTHERN GANNET (R7): Willsboro ESSE 30 Nov (DHR), 3rd R7 record, *intro*.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 2797 FBI 18 Sep (mob).

American Bittern: last 4 Moose River Plains HAMI 12 Oct (B. Webster).

Great Blue Heron: max 9 AMWMA 17 Sep (C. Sears).

Great Egret: last 2 AMWMA 12 Oct (StR).

Western Cattle Egret: CRi 29 Oct - 19 Nov (T. Fuller, mob, ph); *intro*.

Black Vulture: max 6 Ti 6 Oct (GaCh); 2 PH 15 Sep (StR), rare outside of Ti.

Turkey Vulture: max 30 CPSHS 16 Sep (BMc, CV); last Ti 30 Nov (M. Gahbauer).

Osprey: last CPSHS 11 Oct (StR).

Golden Eagle: BB 28 Oct (KT); 1-2 MMRP 4 Nov (mob).

Northern Harrier: max 4 WBRd 22 Nov (StR).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 7 ESSE; 4 FRAN; 7 HAMI.

Cooper's Hawk: 3 CLIN; 6 ESSE; 1 FRAN; 1 HAMI.

American Goshawk: no reps

Bald Eagle: widespread, max 5 NYS Rte 458 FRAN 6 Oct (NM), deer disposal site.

Broad-winged Hawk: last Black Brook HAMI 22 Sep (RH).

Red-tailed Hawk: widespread, max 3 Plattsburgh CLIN 4 Nov (T. O'Leary); 3 Westport ESSE 22 Nov (StR).

Rough-legged Hawk: first Wells HAMI 16 Oct (GD).

Eastern Screech-Owl: KBWMA 21 Sep (StR); CH 23 Sep (BK); WiPt 23 Sep (DHR); Essex ESSE 13-14 Oct (D. Miller).

Great Horned Owl: 2 CLIN; 4 ESSE; 4 FRAN.

Barred Owl: widespread, at least 36 reps.

Short-eared Owl: AMWMA 29 Oct (CM); 3 WBRd 12-23 Nov (DHR); 4 Malone-Dufort Airport FRAN 20 Nov thru (JaSt); BB 20 Nov (J. Jones), *intro*.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: 7 Dickinson FRAN 13 Oct (banded); 3 Piseco HAMI 18 Oct (GD); 6 North Elba ESSE 20 Oct (banded); 10 Inlet HAMI 24 Oct - 4 Nov (G. Lee, banded).

Belted Kingfisher: last HBO 25 Nov (BMc, JaSt).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 3 CPSHS 25 Sep (ABe, MBo, BeM, JaSt); 2 Keene ESSE 13 Sep (A. Bloom, L. Bloom); PSC 20 Sep (A. Wells); scarce outside of the CV.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last BBB 14 Oct (StR); Long L HAMI 14 Oct (GrL).

Black-backed Woodpecker: max 3 BB 11 Nov (M. Tetlow).

Northern Flicker: max 7 Oregon Plains Rd FRAN 12 Sep (M. Gullo).

American Kestrel: reps in all 4 counties, max 7 Santa Clara FRAN 14 Sep (JP).

Merlin: 3 CLIN; 13 ESSE; 9 FRAN; 9 HAMI.

Peregrine Falcon: 3 CLIN; 3 ESSE.

Great Crested Flycatcher: last PtAR 12 Sep (KA, MBo, BeM).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last PH 15 Sep (StR).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: last AMWMA 21 Sep (StR).

Alder Flycatcher: CPSHS 9 Sep (StR, recorded).

Least Flycatcher: last Coot Hill ESSE 16 Sep (StR).

Eastern Phoebe: last AMWMA 23 Oct (StR); MMRP 23 Oct (RH).

WHITE-EYED VIREO (R7): CPSHS 5-6 October (StR, ph), rare, *intro*.

Blue-headed Vireo: last AMWMA 23 Oct (StR).

Philadelphia Vireo: 6 ESSE; 2 HAMI.

Warbling Vireo: last TFBL 27 Sep (GaCh).

Red-eyed Vireo: last LPle HAMI 17 Oct (GD).

Northern Shrike: 4 ESSE; 1 FRAN; 1 HAMI.

Canada Jay: max 11 BB 11 Nov (M. Tetlow).

Blue Jay: max 23 Uihlein Farm ESSE 2 Sep (E. Jones); 23 AMWMA 21 Sep (StR).

American Crow: max 1600 Malone FRAN 24 Nov (JaSt).

Fish Crow: no reps.

Common Raven: max 18 Keene ESSE 28 Nov (LM), deer disposal site.

Boreal Chickadee: max 10 Rocky Peak Ridge ESSE 23 Sep (L. & L. Cain, S. Calzada).

Tufted Titmouse: max 10 WMWMA 4 Nov (ABe).

Horned Lark: max 20 Chazy Landing CLIN 23 Nov (StR).

Tree Swallow: 20 TRd 20 Sep (StR); SPt 26 Sep (NP).

Barn Swallow: 2 Sabattis Bog HAMI 1-2 Sep (mob); 2 GBM 1 Sep (DHR); BB 2 Sep (SM, GS).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 12 Lake Placid ESSE 25 Sep (ABe, J. Sausville, MBo).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 24 Rocky Peak Ridge ESSE 23 Sep (L. & L. Cain, S. Calzada).

Bohemian Waxwing: 4 KBWMA 4 Nov (M. Baran).

Cedar Waxwing: max 42 CPSHS 31 Oct (StR).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 21 Sabattis Bog HAMI 1 Sep (J. Stetson).

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 12 AMWMA 21 Sep (StR).

Brown Creeper: 6 Pharaoh Mtn ESSE 6 Nov (E. Myskowski).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: WMWMA 8 Sep (CW), scarce, especially in fall.

House Wren: last MMRP 9 Oct (RH).

Winter Wren: max 8 Paul Smiths FRAN 2 Sep (RH).

Marsh Wren: max 6 AMWMA 27 Sep (DHR).

Carolina Wren: max 3 Ti 11 Oct (B. Roemer).

Gray Catbird: last LPle 17 Oct (GD).

Brown Thrasher: Newcomb ESSE 23 Sep (C. Grant).

Northern Mockingbird: Ti 4 Nov (GaCh), rare outside of Plattsburgh.

Eastern Bluebird: widespread, multiple max counts of 12 inds.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Algonquin Mt ESSE 29 Sep (RH).

Bicknell's Thrush: last Algonquin Mt ESSE 29 Sep (RH).

Swainson's Thrush: last Keene Valley ESSE 5 Oct (DYII).

Hermit Thrush: max 15 Lake Placid ESSE 28 Sep (ABe).

American Robin: max 92 PSC 1 Nov (NM).

House Sparrow: 5 CLIN; 39 ESSE; 22 FRAN; 1 HAMI.

American Pipit: max 200 Bangor FRAN 24 Oct (ABe, MBo, BeM).

Evening Grosbeak: 2 HAMI, only reps.

House Finch: three max counts of 5 in ESSE in CV.

Purple Finch: max 6 NE 20 Oct (ABe); overall limited numbers.

Red Crossbill: max 20 Ensign Pd ESSE 25 Oct (StR), reps in all 4 counties, *intro*.

White-winged Crossbill: max 50 BB 21 Nov (CV), otherwise mostly single digit reps and limited.

Pine Siskin: widespread irruption, max 250 Belmont FRAN 23 Nov (RH), *intro*.

American Goldfinch: max 100 Angier Hill Rd ESSE 18 Oct (DHR); 100 WMWMA 4 Nov (ABe).

Snow Bunting: first NP 20 Oct (M. Gibson); max 55 Lake Alice WMA CLIN 16 Nov (StR).

Chipping Sparrow: last 12 Saranac L FRAN 6 Nov (RH).

Field Sparrow: 4 CLIN; 5 ESSE; 3 HAMI.

Fox Sparrow: 24 reps across all 4 counties.

American Tree Sparrow: first 2 AMWMA 23 Oct (StR).

Dark-eyed Junco: max 65 Duane FRAN 14 Oct (E. Myskowski).

White-crowned Sparrow: max 10 Lake Placid ESSE 23 Oct (ABe).

White-throated Sparrow: max 35 Westport ESSE 8 Oct (NM).

Vesper Sparrow: PLk 12 Oct (CK); 2 TRd 22 Oct (StR); 2 Ti 24 Oct (GaCh); Norman Ridge Rd FRAN 30 Oct (BeM).

Nelson's Sparrow: AMWMA 27 Sep (DHR, ph); scarce, *intro*.

Savannah Sparrow: last WBRd 28 Oct (ABe).

Song Sparrow: max 22 WRF 14 Oct (DHR).

Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 CLIN; 12 ESSE; 3 FRAN; 2 HAMI.

Swamp Sparrow: last Harrietstown FRAN 27 Oct (NM).

Eastern Towhee: last Harrietstown FRAN 22 Oct (JP).

Bobolink: Fort Covington FRAN 9 Sep (BeM, JB, JaSt), only rep.

Eastern Meadowlark: CZ 21 Sep (StR); Ti 12 Oct (GaCh); 5 WRF 14 Oct (DHR).

Red-winged Blackbird: max 170 AMWMA 23 Oct (StR).

Brown-headed Cowbird: only 2 reps, PtAR 28 Sep (BK); Schuyler Falls CLIN 14 Oct (L. Hardcastle).

Rusty Blackbird: max 30 AMWMA 27-30 Sep (DHR, ABe).

Common Grackle: max 250 Altona CLIN 30 Sep (J. Heintz).

Ovenbird: last Elizabethtown ESSE 2 Oct (K. Bartek).

Black-and-white Warbler: last Keene Valley ESSE 24 Sep (E. McIlvain).

Tennessee Warbler: last NE ESSE 18 Oct (DHR).

Orange-crowned Warbler: Angier Hill Rd ESSE 18 Oct (DHR, ph); Plattsburgh CLIN 18 Oct (T. Sturm).

Nashville Warbler: last BB 12 Oct (JP).

Mourning Warbler: LPlE 2 Sep (CK); John Brown Farm ESSE 28 Sep (ABe), late.

Common Yellowthroat: last Lake Colby FRAN 13 Oct (NM).

American Redstart: 5 ESSE; 2 FRAN; 3 HAMI; last NE 18 Sep (ABe).

Cape May Warbler: last PH 2 Oct (StR); max 8 NE 3 Sep (NM).

Northern Parula: last SRWF 9 Oct (N. Reid).

Magnolia Warbler: last PSC 3 Oct (NM).

Bay-breasted Warbler: last Jay ESSE 1 Oct (DYII).

Blackburnian Warbler: last 2 OB 2 Oct (JaSt).

Yellow Warbler: CPSHS 2 Sep (StR); AMWMA 8 Sep (CW).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: last 2 PSC 18 Sep (NM).

Blackpoll Warbler: last PSC 3 Oct (NM).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: last Minerva ESSE 2 Oct (DYII).

Palm Warbler: last AMWMA 23 Oct (StR).

Pine Warbler: last NE 20 Oct (ABe).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 35 PSC 24 Sep (NM); last Duane FRAN 3 Nov (RH).

Black-throated Green Warbler: last SRWF 9 Oct (N. Reid).

Canada Warbler: Saranac L FRAN 12 Sep (M. Gullo); CPSHS 14 Sep (StR).

Wilson's Warbler: 3 ESSE; 1 FRAN; 1 HAMI; last CPSHS 17 Sep (P. & J. Demko).

Scarlet Tanager: last 2 Art Farm Trail ESSE 23 Sep (StR).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Sacandaga Campground HAMI 2 Oct (D. Baird, ph).

Indigo Bunting: last John Dillon P FRAN 5 Sep (CK).

REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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	Albany			Glens Falls		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Sep	66.3°	63.5°	+2.8°	62.6°	59.8°	+2.8°
Oct	57.2°	51.4°	+5.8°	52.6°	48.0°	+4.6°
Nov	39.5°	38.4°	-1.0°	35.2°	37.2°	-2.0°

Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Sep	3.97"	3.73"	+0.24"	1.89"	3.30"	-1.41"
Oct	3.39"	3.85"	-0.46"	3.47"	3.68"	-0.21"
Nov	1.85"	2.99"	-1.14"	2.62"	3.01"	-0.39"

Temperatures in Region 8 were above normal during September, well above normal in October, and cooler than average in November. Precipitation totals were slightly below normal for the three-month period. There was a three-day heat wave in early September, and another well-above-normal temperature spell in early October, which seemed to hold fall migrants thereafter for longer than would normally be expected. The first below-freezing temperature occurred on 1 November at Albany, and the first measurable snowfall occurred there on 21 November, with 1.7 inches of snow recorded.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was mixed in with a group of Canada Geese on the Hudson River in Mechanicville, Saratoga County on 28 November. Scoters are infrequently observed in the Region, typically making brief stopovers on their way to the ocean. Rather significant influxes occurred on 23 and 29 October, with good local numbers of **Black Scoter** present. A **Barrow's Goldeneye** spent the last two weeks of November moving around Saratoga Lake among the Common Goldeneye rafts.

An **American Golden-Plover** was well-photographed at Cohoes Flats in early October, in the company of a **Black-bellied Plover** at times for comparison. A **Red-necked Phalarope** was spotted at Brown's Beach on Saratoga Lake on 21 November. During a morning-long lake watch on Lake Champlain, two immature **Black-legged Kittiwake** were seen and photographed, heading south down the lake from Putnam Station in Washington County.

A well-described observation of a **Black-backed Woodpecker** was reported on 14 October from Forest Lake, north of Warrensburg in Warren County. While inside the Adirondack Park boundary, the location is southeast of the typical boreal habitat range for this species. It is the first report for Warren County in eBird, and no other Region 8 reports were found in NYSARC records.

An early **Lapland Longspur** was seen and well-photographed at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve in Albany County on 9 October.

225 species were reported during the period.

CONTRIBUTORS

Susan Beaudoin, Gary Chapin, Jeremy Collison, Bill Cook, Brianna Denoncour, Alan Devoe Bird Club recent sightings, David DiSiena, Craig Driggs, Lindsey Duval, Cindy Edwardson, Scott Fackenthall, Debra Ferguson, Mark Fitzsimmons, Marianne Friers, Rich Guthrie, HMBirds Groups.io, David Halm, David Harrison, Julie Hart, Ron Harrower, John Hershey, John Kent, Nancy Kern, Cheyenne Lee, Naomi Lloyd, Tristan Lowery, Kyle Majid, Thom McClenahan, Brian McKay, Frank Mitchell, Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen, Robert & Rita Reed, Stacy Robinson, John Roosenberg, Jeanette Roundy, Daniel Schlaepfer, Kathy Schneider, Kate Schnurr, Zach Schwartz-Weinstein, Marian Sole, Scott Stoner, Alison Van Keuren, Rich White, Tom & Colleen Williams, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick. Also, checklists from other eBird users.

ABBREVIATIONS

APBP – Albany Pine Bush Pres, ALBA; **B&BCMP** – Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial P, WASH; **BCR** – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; **BMB** – Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail, SARA; **CF** – Cohoes Flats, ALBA; **DLSCA** – Drowned Lands Swamp Conservation Area, COLU; **RoundL** – Round L, SARA; **FR** – Five Rivers EEC, ALBA; **SL** – Saratoga L, SARA; **SNHP** – Saratoga National Historical P, SARA; **SPd** – Stanton Pd, ALBA; **TR** – Tomhannock Res, RENS; **VFNHP** – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Pres, SARA.

Snow Goose: max 110 Buskirk WASH 9 Nov.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Mechanicville SARA 28 Nov (TM).

Brant: max 209 B&BCMP 9 Nov.

Cackling Geese: max 6 Bethlehem ALBA 9 Nov.

Canada Goose: max 2500 Bethlehem ALBA 11 Nov.

Mute Swan: max 3 mult loc.

Wood Duck: max 108 Halfmoon SARA 28 Sep.

Blue-winged Teal: max 9 SPd 7 Sep.

Northern Shoveler: max 12 VFNHP 29 Nov.

Gadwall: max 100 SPd 12 Nov.

American Wigeon: max 211 SPd 28 Oct.

Mallard: max 200 SL 29 Nov.

American Black Duck: max 100 SL 29 Nov.

Northern Pintail: max 119 B&BCMP 23 Oct.

Green-winged Teal: max 80 Great Vly WMA GREE 4 Oct.

Redhead: max 9 BCR 18 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: max 1020 BCR 5 Nov.

Greater Scaup: max 75 SL 26 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: max 430 Loughberry L SARA 10 Nov.

Surf Scoter: max 10 SL 23 Oct.

White-winged Scoter: max 7 SL 5 Nov.

Black Scoter: max 60 Yankee Hill Lock MONT 23 Oct (MFr).

Long-tailed Duck: max 4 BCR 29 Oct; 4 Cossayuna L WASH 4 Nov.

Bufflehead: max 400 SL 5 Nov.

Common Goldeneye: max 400 SL 30 Nov.

Barrow's Goldeneye: SL 17-30 Nov (JoH).

Hooded Merganser: max 325 SL 27 Nov.

Common Merganser: max 600 Nassau L RENS 13 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 21 B&BCMP 9 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: max 1800 BCR 5 Nov.

Wild Turkey: max 40 Sprakers MONT 27 Sep.

Ruffed Grouse: max 7 Hague WARR 20 Sep.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 29 SL 10 Nov, high count.

Horned Grebe: max 6 SL 10 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: max 4 SL 2 Nov; 4 Hague WARR 19 Nov.

Rock Pigeon: max 300 SP 19 Nov.

Mourning Dove: max 46 Saratoga Springs SARA 30 Sep.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last North Creek WARR 21 Sep.

Black-billed Cuckoo: last Schaghticoke RENS 17 Sep.

Common Nighthawk: max 36 Consaul Rd, Colonie ALBA 4 Sep; last Cossackie Crk Grassland Pres GREE 2 Oct.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: last Chatham COLU 5 Sep.

Chimney Swift: max 11 FR 1 Sep; last 3 Kinderhook COLU 20 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 6 Garnsey P SARA 2 Sep; last Guilderland ALBA 12 Nov.

Virginia Rail: max 2 VFNHP 21 Sep.

Sora: last VFNHP 23 Sep.

Common Gallinule: last VFNHP 19 Oct.

American Coot: max 5 Stockport COLU 19 Nov.

Sandhill Crane: 3 Charlton SARA 24 Nov, only report.

Black-bellied Plover: 2 Lions P, Niskayuna SCHE 12 Nov.

American Golden-Plover: CF 1-3 Oct.

Killdeer: max 25 W Cocksackie GREE 8 Oct.

Semipalmated Plover: max 6 Peebles I SP SARA 14 Oct.

Ruddy Turnstone: 3 Germantown COLU 10-11 Sep.

Sanderling: CF 5 Sep; CF 27 Sep; CF 5-7 Nov.

Dunlin: max 20 Schoharie Crossing Boat Launch MONT 5 Nov.

Least Sandpiper: max 25 Peebles I SP SARA 5 Sep.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 3 Schaghticoke RENS 29 Oct.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 4 Knickerbocker L COLU 14 Oct.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 2 CF 4 Sep.

American Woodcock: max 2 Livingston COLU 27 Oct.

Wilson's Snipe: max 3 Schaghticoke RENS 31 Oct.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 5 Germantown COLU 10 Sep; last Bethlehem ALBA 28 Oct.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 4 Canajoharie MONT 2 Sep.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 5 Wrights Loop SARA 23 Sep.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 10 Peebles I SP SARA 19 Sep.

Red-necked Phalarope: SL 21-22 Nov.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (R8): 2 B&BCMP 5 Nov (GC), *intro*.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 20 B&BCMP 5 Nov.

Ring-billed Gull: max 600 B&BCMP 6 Nov.

Herring Gull: max 100 Waterford SARA 11 Nov.

Iceland Gull: 3 SL 23 Nov.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 18 Waterford BL SARA 2 Nov.

Common Tern: Alcove Res ALBA 30 Sep; Athens GREE 8 Oct.

Red-throated Loon: SL 12-15 Nov; TR 18-19 Nov.

Common Loon: max 36 TR 18 Nov.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 370 B&BCMP 5 Nov.

American Bittern: no reports.

Least Bittern: last 2 VFNHP 14 Sep.

Great Blue Heron: max 8 TR 15 Oct.

Great Egret: max 32 Cheviot P COLU 11 Sep; last Schaghticoke RENS 12 Nov.

Green Heron: max 9 VFNHP 11 Sep; last Ghent COLU 23 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Nassau L RENS 6 Sep; VFNHP 15 Sep.

Black Vulture: max 80 Copake COLU 26 Nov.

Turkey Vulture: max 200 Cobleskill SCHO 21 Sep.

Osprey: max 3 Stockport COLU 24 Sep.

Golden Eagle: max 2 St. Johnsville MONT 2 Nov; 2 Mine Kill SP SCHO 6 Nov.

Northern Harrier: max 3 mult loc.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 5 Helderberg Hawk Watch ALBA 16 Sep.

Cooper's Hawk: max 2 mult loc.

American Goshawk: Minden MONT 9 Nov; Hillsdale COLU 14 Nov; Schodack RENS 25 Nov.

Bald Eagle: max 20 Mine Kill SP SCHO 9 Oct.

Red-shouldered Hawk: max 2 mult loc.

Broad-winged Hawk: max 357 Helderberg Hawk Watch ALBA 14 Sep.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 15 Helderberg Hawk Watch ALBA 14 Sep.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr 2 Brunswick RENS 5 Nov.

Eastern Screech-Owl: singletons mult loc.

Great Horned Owl: max 3 Knox ALBA 26 Sep.

Barred Owl: max 2 mult loc.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Bolton WARR 1 Oct; APBP 13 Oct, banded; Hunter GREE 28 Oct.

Belted Kingfisher: max 5 Clemons Marsh WASH 4 Sep; 5 Fish Creek SARA 11 Sep.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 14 Anchor Diamond P SARA 1 Oct.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 4 mult loc.

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER:

Warrensburg WARR 14 Oct (KM), *intro.*

Downy Woodpecker: max 14 Peebles I SP SARA 1 Sep.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 7 Anchor Diamond P SARA 1 Oct.

Northern Flicker: max 14 APBP 11 Sep.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 4 mult loc.

American Kestrel: max 7 mult loc.

Merlin: max 2 mult loc.

Peregrine Falcon: max 2 mult loc.

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 4 VFNHP 3 Sep; last Bethlehem ALBA 25 Sep.

Eastern Kingbird: max 3 Ghent COLU 4 Sep; last Hoosick RENS 20 Sep.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last Glenville SCHE 26 Sep.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: max 9 Colonie ALBA 4 Sep; last Ghent COLU 11 Oct.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Queensbury WARR 30 Sep.

Alder Flycatcher: max 2 Kingsbury WASH 4 Sep; last Troy RENS 14 Sep.

Willow Flycatcher: last 2 VFNHP 2 Sep.

Least Flycatcher: max 4 VFNHP 11 Sep; last Waterford SARA 3 Oct.

Eastern Phoebe: max 17 VFNHP 22 Sep; last B&BCMP 6 Nov.

Yellow-throated Vireo: max 10 Ballston SARA 3 Sep; last APBP 24 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 8 Bethlehem ALBA 25 Sep; last Queensbury WARR 28 Oct.

Philadelphia Vireo: max 3 Garnsey P SARA 23 Sep; last BCR 30 Sep.

Warbling Vireo: max 21 Peebles I SP SARA 6 Sep; last Glenville SCHE 27 Sep.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 10 Garnsey P SARA 3 Sep; last Clermont COLU 28 Oct.

Northern Shrike: arr Putnam Sta WASH 9 Nov.

Blue Jay: max 75 APBP 16 Sep.

American Crow: max 4000 Troy RENS 19 Nov.

Fish Crow: max 100 Waterford SARA 22 Oct.

Common Raven: max 15 Petersburg RENS 13 Oct.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 112 BMB 8 Oct.

Tufted Titmouse: max 39 Peebles I SP 5 Sep.

Horned Lark: max 100 Hoosick RENS 20 Nov.

Bank Swallow: max 7 Niskayuna SCHE 8 Sep; last 3 Clifton P SARA 27 Sep.

Tree Swallow: max 200 Nassau L RENS 1 Sep; last 2 RoundL 31 Oct.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: max 100 VFNHP 14 Sep; last 2 Stillwater SARA 8 Oct.

Barn Swallow: max 15 Ooms Cons Area COLU 20 Sep; last Cossackie Boat Launch GREE 16 Nov, late.

Cliff Swallow: last 3 Schodack RENS 25 Sep.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 21 VFNHP 12 Oct.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 25 Hunter GREE 3 Sep.

Cedar Waxwing: max 90 BMB 25 Oct.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 16 New Lebanon COLU 8 Sep.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 23 Anchor Diamond P SARA 1 Oct.

Brown Creeper: max 20 Anchor Diamond P SARA 1 Oct, high count.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last Colonie ALBA 28 Sep.

House Wren: max 15 Valatie COLU 9 Sep; last Cossayuna L WASH 5 Nov.

Winter Wren: max 5 mult loc.

Marsh Wren: max 9 VFNHP 22 Sep; last 2 VFNHP 11 Nov.

Carolina Wren: max 18 VFNHP 19 Nov.

Gray Catbird: max 50 VFNHP 11 Sep.

Brown Thrasher: last B&BCMP 26 Nov, late.

Northern Mockingbird: max 10 Stuyvesant COLU 13 Sep.

European Starling: max 3000 Sprakers MONT 19 Oct.

Eastern Bluebird: max 30 APBP 19 Nov.

Veery: max 4 VFNHP 29 Sep; last Delmar ALBA 8 Oct.

Swainson's Thrush: max 8 VFNHP 23 Sep; last VFNHP 26 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: max 21 Garnsey P SARA 21 Oct.

Wood Thrush: last FR 28 Oct.

American Robin: max 600 Greenport COLU 4 Nov.

House Sparrow: max 60 Albany ALBA 14 Oct.

American Pipit: max 60 mult loc.

Evening Grosbeak: max 6 T Bolton WARR 1 Oct.

House Finch: max 40 Saratoga Springs SARA 29 Sep.

Purple Finch: 6 Stephentown RENS 14 Oct.

Red Crossbill: max 12 L George WARR 24 Sep.

Pine Siskin: max 115 New Lebanon COLU 14 Oct.

American Goldfinch: max 60 Cambridge WASH 9 Nov.

Lapland Longspur: APBP 9 Oct.

Snow Bunting: arr B&BCMP 31 Oct; max 30 mult loc.

Chipping Sparrow: 40 The Crossings ALBA 18 Oct.

Field Sparrow: 23 SNHP 9 Sep.

Fox Sparrow: arr Bolton WARR 14 Oct; max 8 Stephentown RENS 7 Nov.

American Tree Sparrow: arr Albany ALBA 15 Oct; max 14 Niskayuna SCHE 15 Nov.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 50 mult loc.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 7 E Greenbush RENS 14 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: max 200 Bethlehem ALBA 22 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: max 2 Livingston COLU 17 Oct; 2 B&BCMP 24 Oct.

Savannah Sparrow: max 20 SNHP 15 Oct.

Song Sparrow: max 50 Glenville SCHE 14 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: max 4 Normanskill Farm ALBA 27 Sep.

Swamp Sparrow: max 23 VFNHP 20 Sep.

Eastern Towhee: max 22 Garnsey P SARA 8 Oct; last Kinderhook COLU 28 Nov.

Bobolink: max 33 Halfmoon SARA 9 Sep; last VFNHP 22 Sep.

Eastern Meadowlark: max 10 Hoosick RENS 6 Oct.

Baltimore Oriole: last Troy RENS 26 Sep.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 7000 SL 12 Nov.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 1000 Glenmont ALBA 4 Nov.

Common Grackle: max 8000 Garnsey P SARA 7 Oct.

Ovenbird: last 2 Niskayuna SCHE 8 Oct.

Northern Waterthrush: last 2 APBP 16 Sep.

Blue-winged Warbler: last Bender Melon Farm ALBA 12 Sep.

Black-and-white Warbler: last RoundL 15 Oct.

Tennessee Warbler: max 6 Guiderland ALBA 20 Sep; last Overmountain Cons Area COLU 22 Oct.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Johnstown FULT 19 Sep; last Albany ALBA 9 Nov.

Nashville Warbler: max 4 APBP 24 Sep; last The Crossings ALBA 18 Oct.

Connecticut Warbler: APBP 22 Sep, only report.

Mourning Warbler: last RoundL 30 Sep.

Kentucky Warbler: Sand L RENS 22 Sep, late.

Common Yellowthroat: max 19 Kingsbury WASH 4 Sep; last VFNHP 7 Nov.

American Redstart: max 5 VFNHP 11 Sep; last FR 15 Oct.

Cape May Warbler: max 15 New Lebanon COLU 8 Sep; last Bethlehem ALBA 22 Oct.

Northern Parula: max 6 Peebles I SP SARA 27 Sep; last Halfmoon SARA 7 Oct.

Magnolia Warbler: max 10 VFNHP 23 Sep; last Garnsey P SARA 12 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: max 10 APBP 16 Sep; last RoundL 29 Sep.

Blackburnian Warbler: max 7 Saratoga Springs SARA 17 Sep; last Glen MONT 8 Oct.

Yellow Warbler: last Glen MONT 4 Oct.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 7 Saratoga Springs SARA 17 Sep; last DLSCA 1 Oct.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 6 Saratoga Spa SP SARA 26 Sep; last Kinns Rd P SARA 17 Oct.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 4 Hague WARR 2 Sep; last Wilson M Powell Wildlife Sanc COLU 8 Oct.

Palm Warbler: max 12 Michael Pitney Trl SARA 24 Sep; last Charlton SARA 5 Nov, late.

Pine Warbler: max 7 Michael Pitney Trl SARA 17 Sep; last Hague WARR 20 Oct.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 79 VFNHP 1 Oct.

Prairie Warbler: max 5 APBP 16 Sep; last VFNHP 23 Sep.

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 32 VFNHP 22 Sep; last Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trl ALBA 2 Nov.

Canada Warbler: max 3 Peebles I SP SARA 5 Sep; last Rotterdam SCHE 26 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: max 3 mult loc; last Glen MONT 26 Sep.

Scarlet Tanager: max 4 mult loc; last Garnsey P SARA 1 Oct.

Northern Cardinal: max 26 VFNHP 19 Oct.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 8 mult loc; last Bolton WARR 15 Oct.

Indigo Bunting: max 4 Kingsbury WASH 4 Sep; last B&BCMP 11 Oct.

REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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September was warm and wet. There was a high of 93° F on 6 September and a low of 40° on 27 September for an average of 65.3°, 1.4° above normal. There was a total of 7.66" of precipitation, 4.33" above normal. October was cooler and drier than usual with a high of 85° on 4 October and a low of 34° on 24 and 31 October, for an average of 56.8°, 4.6° below normal. These numbers did not reflect the widespread frost with freezing temperatures that occurred in Sullivan and Ulster Counties on both low temperature dates. There was a total of 3.3" of precipitation, .43" below normal. November was cooler but drier than usual. There was a high of 68° on 7 November and a low of 19° on 21 November for an average of 40.2°, 1.3° below normal. There was a total of 2.07", 1.2" below normal.

On 7 November Ronnie DiLorenzo found the first **Greater White-fronted Goose** of the season at Thomas Bull Memorial Park in Orange County. On 15 October Larry Scacchetti had a flyover Cackling Goose in Rockland County, the first of many reports. On 26 November Linda Scrima found a flock of **16 Cackling Geese** in the Orange County Black Dirt Region. This is a record high number for Region 9 and the birds were well photographed. Though they were still present the following day, they couldn't be relocated thereafter.

On 13 November Scotty and Paula Baldinger found a flock of ten **Trumpeter Swans** on Swan Lake. The birds were unfortunately deliberately flushed by fisherman with only a few birders getting to see them before they flew out. Kevin McGowan was able to confirm the identity of this difficult to discern species. This is a record high count for Region 9.

Sullivan County Audubon conducted its annual Wood Duck count, led by Renee Davis at the Bashakill WMA on 26 September and 3 October, tallying a total of **2375** Wood Ducks.

Yet another amazing find by Bruce Nott on the Newburgh Waterfront occurred on 1 November when he spotted a **Common Eider** swimming among the docks. This is not only the first record for Orange County, but the first inland record of the species for Region 9. Unfortunately, the bird disappeared shortly after it was found.

On 26 September Scott Graber was scanning Rondout Reservoir when he spotted a **Red-necked Grebe**. This is the earliest sighting on record for Sullivan County and there has been only one earlier record for the Region.

On 25 October Deborah Wallace photographed a juvenile **Purple Gallinule** at Rockland Lake State Park. The bird continued for several days and was a first record for the county. Another, or perhaps the same, Purple Gallinule was found on 13 November by Steve Rappaport at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Westchester County. The bird was not in good health and was taken to a rehab center.

There was an extensive late showing of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds this fall with a total of 77 reports 1-15 October. There was one extremely late report in Dutchess County on 17-18 November confirmed to be a Ruby-throated Hummingbird by Anthony Macchiarola; this bird was reported again on 25 November.

Following three unsuccessful nesting attempts this year, the sudden disappearance of one of the Sandhill Cranes at the end of August has raised concern among local birders. This pair has been inseparable for years and a single bird remaining on site for the following month does not seem to bode well for the pair.

On 18 September a front moving in from the southwest brought heavy, continuous rain overnight. The storm met winds out of the northwest, and the combination ultimately dropped a significant number of shorebirds across much of the Region. The remnants of Tropical Storm *Ophelia* came through almost immediately thereafter, 23-25 September, bringing even higher numbers of shorebirds to the Region. Pectoral Sandpipers were reliably counted to at least **263** individuals in Orange Counties black dirt fields, an unprecedented number for the Region. Linda Pistolesi observed eight Hudsonian Godwits at Piermont Pier in Rockland County on 18 September, but they didn't linger long.

On 22 October Matt Zeitler spotted a **Long-billed Dowitcher** along the edge of a ditch at Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge on Oil City Road in Orange County. The bird remained for an entire week. On 2 October a **Red Phalarope** was photographed on Lake Superior in Sullivan County. This was a first record for the county. Unfortunately, word didn't get out until late in the day and the bird was gone by the time local birders tried to find it. On 2 September Larry Trachtenberg discovered a **Franklin's Gull** sitting on the dock at Harbor Square Park in Westchester County. The bird remained just long enough for several people to see it before disappearing. On 28 November, Patrick Landewe discovered a Purple Sandpiper at the Saugerties Lighthouse. This well-inland record was a first for Ulster County.

On 10 November Duncan Woolston spotted an adult Glaucous Gull on the Ashokan Reservoir. The bird was seen by many over the course of next week. This was the only report for the season.

The long staying **Neotropic Cormorant** continued well into the fall, moving between Newburgh and Beacon Waterfronts. It was last reported on 11 October.

Great Egrets were reported throughout the Region during both the summer and fall periods but in the lowest numbers I've noted in the six years of my reporting. The high count was less than half the usual number.

A **Little Blue Heron** first spotted by Linda Scrima on Oil City Road on 3 September was likely the bird that had spent considerable time in the Wallkill River NWR on the New Jersey side prior to the sighting. This is also likely the same bird that later turned up at Six and a Half Station Road in Goshen. It remained there through 7 November.

Six **Western Cattle Egrets** were well photographed flying down the Hudson River from Sand Dock Road Trail in Dutchess County by Chris Chappell on 13 October. These birds may be the source of several individuals reported in the Region later in the season.

On 8 September Linda Scrima photographed the immature **White Ibis** at the platform on Oil City Road. This long-staying bird had spent its entire time on the New Jersey side of the refuge not budging until that date.

On 25 November Alan Wells discovered a flycatcher at Rockland Lake SP that showed all the characteristics of a **Hammond's Flycatcher**. Recorded and well photographed, the bird was seen through 30 November. This is the fifth record of the species for New York state and the second year in a row one has been found in Region 9.

On 14 September Maryangela Buskey was leading a bird walk at the Shawangunk Grasslands NWR when she spotted a shrike. Thanks to her photos, it was possible to confirm the bird as a **Loggerhead Shrike**, perhaps the same individual that overwintered last year. Though it remained in the area the entire period, it was often difficult to find.

On 13 September Steve Rappaport and Katherine Moon found a **Northern Wheatear** at Croton Point Park. It was already well into the evening and the bird could not be found the following day. On 19 October, Larry Trachtenberg found yet another Northern Wheatear at CPP. This bird was more easily seen, and many birders were able to view it during its three days stay. Yet a third bird was found by Linda Scrima in the Orange County Black Dirt Region, but it departed almost immediately.

Red Crossbills continued throughout the Region in low numbers and were again confirmed breeding during the period.

On 16 September, Sean Camillieri and Kyle Bardwell were birding Glynwood Farm checking the many sparrows when a pale sparrow flew to the fence line. It was a **Clay-colored Sparrow**, the first record for Putnam County, one of several reports around the Region. On 6 October Peter Schoenberger spotted the first Nelson's Sparrow of the season on Posquiello Creekside Road in Ulster County, the first of just a few reports this fall.

On 6 September, Ruogu Li photographed a **Summer Tanager** in Rockland State Park. Unfortunately, the bird could not be relocated.

On 5 October Tom Burke and Gail Benson found a brown **Blue Grosbeak** at the Westchester Airport. The bird was still present the following day. More surprising was a Blue Grosbeak found in Sullivan County by Natasza Fontaine on 26 November. This bird disappeared almost immediately.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AR – Ashokan Res , ULST; **BCF** – Blue Chip Farm, ULST; **BSWMA** – Bashakill State WMA, SULL; **BW** – Beacon Waterfront, DUTC; **CPP** – Croton Pt P, WEST; **EGR** – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, WEST; **EMLHP** – Esopus Meadows Lighthouse P, ULST; **GF** – Greig Farms, DUTC; **GlynF** – Glynwood Farm, PUTN; **GV** – Great Vly WMA, ULST; **MC** – Marshlands Conservancy, WEST; **MNSP** – Mills-Norrie SP, DUTC; **MP** – Morningside P, SULL; **NR** – Neversink Res, SULL; **NW** – Newburgh Waterfront, ORAN; **OCBDR** – Orange County Black Dirt Region, ORAN; **OMRLMSP** – Ogden Mills and Ruth Livingston Mills SP, DUTC; **PITN** – Pine Island Turf Nursery, ORAN; **PP** – Piermont Pier, ROCK; **RLSP** – Rockland L SP, ROCK; **RR** – Rondout Res, SULL; **RSP** – Rockefeller SP, WEST; **SFSP** – Sterling Forest SP, ORAN; **SGNWR** – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR, ULST; **SHSR** – Six and a Half Station Rd, ORAN; **SL** – Swan L, SULL; **WPFP** – West Point Foundry Pres, PUTN; **WRNWR** – Wallkill Ri NWR, ORAN; **ws reps** – widespread reports.

CHESTNUT RIDGE HAWKWATCH TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture	10/5	44	10/5	202
Turkey Vulture	9/30	488	10/31	6248
Osprey	8/26	38	9/19	361
Golden Eagle	10/2	3	11/11	17
No. Harrier	8/27	20	10/15	240
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8/26	431	10/15	3663
Cooper’s Hawk	9/1	50	10/15	582
American Goshawk	11/13	1	11/13	1
Bald Eagle	8/26	19	9/19, 9/21	334
Red-shouldered Hawk	9/27	82	10/31	931
Broad-winged Hawk	8/26	8829	9/19	25,833
Red-tailed Hawk	8/26	17	11/12	112
Rough-legged Hawk	10/16	2	10/16	2
Am. Kestrel	9/1	37	10/2	377
Merlin	8/28	7	9/16, 9/26, 10/26	144
Peregrine Falcon	0/4	4	9/30, 10/2, 10/8	45
Unidentified				200
Total incl unidentified				39,292

HOOK MOUNTAIN HAWKWATCH TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture	9/11	14	10/19	110
Turkey Vulture	8/27	364	10/21	1963
Osprey	8/27	27	9/8	206
Golden Eagle	10/28	2	11/6, 11/12	7
No. Harrier	8/27	15	10/15	146
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9/1	209	10/13	1722
Cooper's Hawk	8/30	36	10/15	273
American Goshawk	0	0	0	0
Bald Eagle	8/27	14	9/14	167
Red-shouldered Hawk	8/30	421	10/12	827
Broad-winged Hawk	8/30	3645	9/17	10,171
Red-tailed Hawk	9/19	16	11/12	92
Rough-legged Hawk	10/24	1	10/24	1
Am. Kestrel	8/31	51	9/27	302
Merlin	8/31	6	9/27	76
Peregrine Falcon	9/20	4	10/5	16
Unidentified				13
Total incl unidentified				16,092

MOUNT PETER HAWKWATCH TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture	9/27	12	10/10	42
Turkey Vulture	9/8	636	10/15	1282
Osprey	9/5	12	9/22	42
Golden Eagle	10/31	1	10/31	1
No. Harrier	9/6	3	10/8, 10/15	26
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9/5	72	10/15	444
Cooper's Hawk	9/5	8	10/15	38
American Goshawk	0	0	0	0
Bald Eagle	9/8	11	9/19	107
Red-shouldered Hawk	9/13	8	11/8, 11/11	63
Broad-winged Hawk	9/5	438	9/22	1477
Red-tailed Hawk	9/12	45	11/11	135
Rough-legged Hawk	0	0	0	0
Am. Kestrel	9/5	5	10/15	45
Merlin	9/13	1	9/13	4
Peregrine Falcon	9/16	3	10/10	14
Unidentified				12
Total incl unidentified				3732

Snow Goose: Stony Kill Farm EEC DUTC 19 Sep; BCF 12 Nov; Montgomery ORAN 17 Nov.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Thomas Bull Memorial P ORAN 5 Nov; EGR/Bowman Ave Pd WEST 27-30 Nov, *intro*.

Brant: 29 Dockside P PUTN 17 Oct; Lake Jefferson SULL 19 Oct; 873 Dockside P 31 Oct; ws reps.

Cackling Goose: Suffern ROCK 15 Oct; Westtown ORAN 19 Oct; OCBDR 24-30 Oct; Lake Osiris ORAN 3 Nov; 3 Thomas Bull Memorial P ORAN 12 Nov; 16 OCBDR 27-28 Nov, many reps, *intro*.

TRUMPETER SWAN: 10 SL 13 Nov; 4 Rifton ULST 20 Nov, *intro*.

Wood Duck: 1004 BSWMA 26 Sep; 1371 BSWMA 3 Oct, *intro*.

Blue-winged Teal: 12 WRNWR 19 Sep; ws reps.

American Wigeon: 7 Dockside P PUTN 30 Sep; ws reps.

Northern Pintail: max 23 SL 1-6 Nov; ws reps.

Green-winged Teal: max 150 GV 9 Oct; ws reps.

Canvasback: Reg max 12 RSP 15 Nov; max 6 PP 14-16 Nov.

Redhead: 2 AR 20 Nov; Chadwick L ORAN 27-28 Nov; Brown's Pd ORAN 30 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: 143 McAuley's L SULL 21 Oct; ws reps.

Greater Scaup: 10 Wickham L ORAN 30 Oct; ws reps.

Lesser Scaup: 33 Rhinecliff Landing P DUTC 31 Oct; ws reps.

COMMON EIDER: NW 1 Nov, *intro*.

Surf Scoter: max 4 Kensico Res WEST 11-31 Oct; The Landing Dobbs Ferry WEST 17 Oct; Cross River Res WEST 31 Oct.

White-winged Scoter: 20 AR 30 Oct, ws reps in low numbers.

Black Scoter: 4 Rye Town P WEST 23 Sep; 4 NR 17 Oct; max 10 AR 17 Oct; 16 Croton Falls Res WEST 23 Oct; ws reps.

Long-tailed Duck: 5 Plum Pt ORAN 29 Oct; West Branch Res PUTN 3 Nov; 7 PP 20 Nov.

Bufflehead: max 37 NRes 31 Oct; ws reps.

Common Goldeneye: max 56 RR 3-30 Nov; max 12 River Rd ULST 30 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: max 17 SL 20 Oct-6 Nov; max 21 Haverstraw Bay County P ROCK 1 Nov; ws reps.

Common Merganser: max 118 SL 1 Oct-6 Nov; ws reps.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 5 PP 1 Sep-30 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: max 46 Sylvan L DUTC 9 Oct; 21 Middletown Res ORAN 12 Oct; ws reps.

Ruffed Grouse: Neversink SULL 30 Sep; 2 Slide Mt ULST 1 Oct.

Pied-billed Grebe: 2 Orange L ORAN 10 Oct; ws reps.

Horned Grebe: max 16 AR 17 Oct-30 Nov; Rhinecliff Landing P DUTC 30 Oct; 3 Sylvan L DUTC 1 Nov; Plum Pt ORAN 30 Oct; Lake Oscawana PUTN 21 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: RR 26 Sep; Kensico Res WEST 27 Oct; 2 Croton Falls Res WEST 1-2 Nov; max 3 AR 13-23 Nov, *intro*.

Common Nighthawk: max 50 OCBDR 1 Sep-11 Oct; 9 MC 12 Oct; ws reps.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 77 reports Region wide 1-15 October; DUTC to 25 Nov, *intro*.

Clapper Rail: MC 5 Nov.

Virginia Rail: 2 Iona I ROCK 11-18 Nov; 2 Manitou Point Pres PUTN 12 Nov; Constitution Marsh PUTN 17 Nov; CPP 19-21 Nov.

Common Gallinule: 2 WRNWR 2-6 Oct; SHSR 10-11 Oct.

American Coot: max 4 SHSR 7-12 Oct; max 71 Sylvan L DUTC 16 Oct-30 Nov; ws reps.

PURPLE GALLINULE: RLSP 25-27 Oct, *intro*.

Sandhill Crane: max 5 OCBDR 1 Sep - 19 Oct; 28 Chestnut Ridge Hawk Watch WEST 11 Nov, *intro*.

American Oystercatcher: 3 MC 15-27 Sep; 4 Five Islands P WEST 1 Oct.

Black-bellied Plover: max 7 MP 18-19 Sep; max 25 OCBDR 18 Sep -30 Oct; AR 5 Nov.

American Golden-Plover: max 37 OCBCR 2 Sep-30 Oct; MP 8-22 Sep; Posquiello Creekside Rd ULST 9 Sep.

Semipalmated Plover: max 9 PP 7 Sep; PP 23-24 Oct; PP 5-14 Nov; ws reps.

Upland Sandpiper: CPP 14 Sep.

Hudsonian Godwit: 8 PP 18 Sep, *intro*.

Stilt Sandpiper: PP 21 Sep.

Sanderling: PP 4 Sep; MP 9 Sep; OCBDR 13 Sep; PP 18-19 Sep; PITN 24 Sep; PP 2 Oct; OCBDR 7 Oct.

Dunlin: Iona I ROCK 7 Sep; CPP 9 Sep; PP 21 Sep; OCBDR 25 Sep; max 64 MP 30 Oct; max 140 OCBDR 30 Oct; ws reps.

Purple Sandpiper: max 3 EGR 1-13 Nov; max 2 PP 13-18 Nov; 4 Rye Town P WEST 9

Nov; Saugerties Lighthouse ULST 28 Nov, *intro*.

Long-billed Dowitcher: WRNWR 22-27 Oct, *intro*.

RED PHALAROPE (R9): Lake Superior SULL 2 Oct, *intro*.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 10 PP 27-31 Oct; 16 Plum Pt ORAN 29 Oct; 29 NW 30 Oct; 10 SL 1 Nov.

Laughing Gull: NW/BW 6-13 Oct; max 11 PP 1 Sep-9 Oct; max 4 Harbor Square P WEST 2 Sep-19 Oct; MC 20 Nov.

FRANKLIN'S GULL (R9): Harbor Square P 2 Sep, *intro*.

Iceland Gull: Sand Dock Rd Trail DUTC 14 Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: BW 20 Sep; max 3 NW 6 Oct-9 Nov; max 8 BW 1 Nov.

Glaucous Gull: AR 11 Nov, *intro*.

Caspian Tern: max 2 PP 1 Sep-1 Oct; Dutchess Mall DUTC 15 Sep.

Common Tern: 2 MC 4 Sep.

Forster's Tern: EGR 11 Sep; 2 Mill Harbor Town Pier 18 Sep.

Red-throated Loon: 2 Steamboat Riverfront P WEST 18 Oct; EGR 19 Oct; CPP 23 Oct-30 Nov; PP 4 Nov; max 3 AR 24 Oct-30 Nov; 2 OMRLMSP 23 Nov.

Common Loon: max 5 CPP 23-26 Sep; max 11 AR 17 Oct; ws reps.

Great Cormorant: Harbor Square P 18-19 Oct; max 4 EGR 19 Oct-30 Nov; ws reps.

Double-crested Cormorant: ws resp.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT: NW/BW 1 Sep-11 Oct, *intro*.

American Bittern: Winding Waters Trail ORAN 1 Sep.

Great Egret: 17 EMLHP 2 Sep, ws reps in low numbers, *intro*.

Snowy Egret: Silver L Pres WEST 27 Sep; ws reps coastally.

Little Blue Heron: WRNWR 8 Sep, 3, 6 Oct; SHSR 13 Oct-11 Nov.

Western Cattle Egret: 6 Sand Dock Rd Trail DUTC 13 Oct; BCF 28 Oct; Camel Farm ORAN 7 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Congers L Memorial P ROCK 1-3 Oct; max 4 EGR 10 Oct-18 Nov.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: max 5 Five Islands P WEST 1-10 Oct.

WHITE IBIS: WRNWR 8 Sep, *intro*.

Raptors: see also hawk watch charts above.

Osprey: ws reps.

Golden Eagle: Huguenot ORAN 19 Oct; 2 Ten Mile River Pres DUTC 12 Nov; ws reps.

Bald Eagle: ws reps.

Eastern Screech-Owl: 2 CPP 6 Oct; ws reps.

Great Horned Owl: 2 Gibson Hill Rd ORAN 21 Sep, SGNWR 13 Nov; ws reps.

Barred Owl: 2 SGNWR 26 Sep; ws reps.

Short-eared Owl: Hillview Res WEST 2 Nov; max 4 SGNWR 12-30 Nov; RSP 25 Nov.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Jeffersonville SULL 17 Oct; **83** Sullivan Co. Owl Banding Station 13 Oct-15 Nov; max 3 Cooper L ULST 10-30 Nov; 4 Woodstock ULST 20 Nov.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 Harriman SP ROCK 4 Sep; WPPF 15 Sep; OCBDR 20 Sep; max 2 CPP 27 Oct-12 Nov.

Monk Parakeet: max 21 Five Islands P WEST 1 Sep-30 Nov.

Eastern Kingbird: George's Island P WEST 25 Sep; WPPF 27 Sep; West Hurley ULST 28 Sep.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Kendridge Farm ORAN 10-15 Sep; River Front P ORAN 14 Sep; Mills-Norrie SP DUTC 15 Sep; ws reps.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Stony Kill Farm EEC DUTC 1 Sep; GlynF 3 Sep; Clifdale Farm WEST 2-5 Sep; Winding Waters Trail ORAN 14 Sep; Kakiat County P ROCK 16 Sep; ws reps.

HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER: RLSP 25-29 Nov, *intro*.

White-eyed Vireo: Dennings Pt SP DUTC 11 Oct. Very late.

Blue-headed Vireo: ws reps.

Philadelphia Vireo: CPP 6 Sep; ws reps.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: SGNWR 14-15 Sep, 23 Oct, 5-30 Nov, *intro*.

Horned Lark: max 50 Kukuk Lane ULST 5 Nov; ws reps.

Sedge Wren: Southlands Farm DUTC 8 Sep, continuing from summer.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Harriman SP ROCK 16 Sep; BSWMA 28, 30 Sep; GlynF 3 Oct.

Swainson's Thrush: 7 BSWMA 30 Sep; ws reps.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR: CPP 13 Sep;
CPP 19-21 Oct; OCBDR 20 Sep, *intro*.

American Pipit: 45 GF 10 Oct; ws reps.

House Finch: max 30 Vassar Farm and
Ecological Pres DUTC 4 Oct - 4 Nov; ws reps.

Purple Finch: 15 Sand Dock Rd Trail DUTC
31 Oct; ws reps.

Red Crossbill: max 5 Forestburgh SULL 1-7
Sep; max 3 Stone House Beaver Pd ULST;
max 21 Merriewold SULL 10 Sep; ws reps.,
intro.

White-winged Crossbill: Saugerties ULST 7
Sep.

Pine Siskin: 40 GlynF 14 Oct; 110 RR 15 Oct;
ws reps.

Lapland Longspur: Clarkstown Landfill
ROCK 23-29 Oct; CPP 29 Oct; 2 Sand Dock
Rd Trail DUTC 6 Nov; 2 OCBDR 12 Nov;
EGR 18-19 Nov.

Snow Bunting: Minnewaska SP ULST 23 Oct,
2 Nov; Hunter Rd SULL 1-2 Nov; 8 NR 12
Nov; ws reps.

Grasshopper Sparrow: CPP 12, 14 Sep, 3, 26
Oct; OCBDR 21 Oct; GF 22 Oct.

Clay-colored Sparrow: 2 CPP 8 Sep; GlynF
16 Sep; Backwoods ROCK 19 Sep; PP 16 Oct;
MC 31 Oct-7 Nov; CPP 3 Nov, *intro*.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 4 GF 24 Sep -
10 Oct; ws reps.

Vesper Sparrow: max 3 CPP 21 Sep - 30 Oct;
4 Clarkstown Landfill ROCK 29-31 Oct; 3
BSWMA 30 Oct; ws reps.

Nelson's Sparrow: Posquiello Creekside Rd
ULST 6 Oct; CPP 21 Oct; MC 22 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: 2 GF 8 Sep; ws reps.

Yellow-breasted Chat: GlynF 9 Sep; CPP 21
Sep; RSP 11 Oct.

Bobolink: ws reps.

Rusty Blackbird: Stony Kill Farm EEC
DUTC 18 Sep; ws reps.

Golden-winged Warbler: WFPF 15-16 Sep.

Tennessee Warbler: Minnewaska SP ULST 1
Sep; ws reps.

Orange-crowned Warbler: North Highland P
PUTN 27 Sep; CPP 30 Sep; MP 17 Oct; Ulster
P ULST 14-15 Oct; Long Dock P DUTC 31
Oct.

Nashville Warbler: 4 GF 19 Sep; ws reps.

Connecticut Warbler: GF 5 Sep; Backwoods
ROCK 8-10 Sep; WRNWR 15 Sep; SFSP 16
Sep; GF 16 Sep; Ulster P ULST 21 Sep - 1
Oct.

Hooded Warbler: Harriman SP ORAN 12
Oct.

Cape May Warbler: BSWMA 1 Sep; ws reps.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Harriman SP ORAN
1 Sep; ws reps.

Blackpoll Warbler: NW Trail ORAN 26 Sep -
4 Nov; ws reps.

Wilson's Warbler: Tarrytown Lakes P WEST
2 Sep; WFPF 17 Oct; ws reps.

Summer Tanager: RSP 6 Sep, *intro*.

Blue Grosbeak: Westchester Airport WEST 5-
6 Oct; Brisco SULL 26 Nov, *intro*.

Dickcissel: GlynF 3 Sep; WFPF 20 Sep; GF 26
Sep; CPP 20, 22, 29 Sep; Staatsburg DUTC 4
Nov; ws reps.

REGION 10—MARINE

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NOAA did not provide a monthly report for October. The most remarkable aspect of the weather by a wide margin was that the remains of Tropical Storm *Ophelia* were entrained in another low pressure area over Region 10 at the end of September. The city received nearly ten inches of rain over two days, which is about double what it expects in the entire month of September. The month ended with 3.3 times the expected rainfall. The month also began with much less significant remnants of Hurricane *Idalia*. This system dropped American

Flamingos all over the eastern half of the United States, but none were discovered in our area during this period.

	Central Park			Islip		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Sep	69.4°	69.2°	+0.20°	68.6°	66.9°	+1.7°
Oct		57.9°			55.7°	
Nov	46.7°	48.0°	-1.3°	43.5°	45.6°	-2.1°

Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Sep	14.25"	4.31"	+9.94"	6.78"	3.60"	+3.18"
Oct		4.38"			3.97"	
Nov	2.95"	3.58"	-0.63"	2.01"	3.41"	-1.40"

This season produced a few species that are more commonly encountered in spring. In September, this included a **Kentucky Warbler** in Forest Park. There were **Prothonotary Warblers** and a **Summer Tanager** during this time as well, but both of those species were also seen again much later into the season. Remarkable for their volume this season were **Golden-winged Warblers**, which were recorded no fewer than ten times. In Brooklyn, **Wild Turkey** is unexpected in any season, yet one was observed in the Marine Park neighborhood. Although they have shunned densely urban environments in the past, they are doing very well in nearby suburban areas and may be looking for more territories. **Least Bittern** tend to slip away unnoticed in the fall, but a survey of one marsh in western Staten Island turned up a remarkable eight individuals.

Reports of seabirds are increasing during this period in general as offshore areas are accessed more by scientific and pleasure vessels. This season had two research boats traverse the deep waters, one in September and one in November, as well as one organized pelagic on the American Princess in September. Highlights from September activities included **White-faced** and **Band-rumped Storm-Petrels**, **Long-tailed Jaegers**, **Audubon’s Shearwater**, and **Red-necked Phalaropes**. **Red Phalarope** was encountered in November. The only unexpected alcid was inshore, a **Black Guillemot** that perished near Shinnecock two days after its discovery.

In terms of migrants that are tabulated at dedicated sites, seasonal totals varied. The **Common Nighthawk** count at the Stone Bridge in Setauket recorded its lowest total in its seven year run. Starting in 2017, the first two years saw totals near two thousand individuals, and that number increased to a peak of 2,757 in 2019. Every year since then has had a lower total than the year before. The largest jump was between 2022 and this season, which recorded 1,022 individuals. Conversely the hawkwatch on Fire Island enumerated more hawks than the previous season, with almost all species showing increases and no major decreases. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** and **Osprey** showed particularly strongly. Despite the apparently favorable conditions in the western part of the Region, **Broad-winged Hawks** were not observed in numbers higher than double digits. The other end of the season didn’t produce any major finch flights, with **Pine**

Siskin being the only migrant observed in larger flocks, and most rare species absent entirely.

This season had a good diversity of the more regular rarities. The New York State Young Birder's Club discovered an **Eared Grebe** on an outing to Jones Beach. A single **Cave Swallow** over Robert Moses was a seasonal save. A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was observed near the Ponquogue Bridge, and a **White-winged Dove** visited a home in Shirley. A **LeConte's Sparrow** graced Planting Fields Arboretum in East Norwich for a day. A **Say's Phoebe** was seen briefly on the landfill at Pelham Bay Park, a great record for the Bronx. A couple of **Sandhill Cranes** were noted flying over in Kings and Richmond Counties.

Several vagrants that have been increasing in recent years showed well this season. **Western Tanager** seems to be a consistent winter visitor, and one was encountered at Sunset Park in Brooklyn in this period, perhaps on its way to become even more lost before settling down for the cold. Prospect Park has now had no fewer than five **Purple Gallinules**, two in the last five years. I am tempted to type that two **Painted Buntings**, one at Central Park and the other at Montauk, seems like a low total for the season. The last and perhaps most notable in this category, however, is **Townsend's Warbler**, which has been recorded in R10 in fall and early winter on a shocking number of occasions lately. There were records this season from Forest Park and Rocky Point in Suffolk.

The remnants of Hurricane *Ophelia*, which were previously noted to have provided heavy rainfall, did not bring any tropical seabirds, but did disrupt the migration of several species of shorebird and produced predictably high counts of Lesser Black-backed Gull along the ocean coast. Single flocks of **American Golden-Plover** and **Hudsonian Godwit** were both seen at Robert Moses. **White-rumped** and **Pectoral Sandpiper** were greatly affected; a flock of 70 of the former was seen at Heckscher in East Islip, and a flock of 380 of the latter on the sod in Eastport!

There were still some more regular species that had unexpected circumstances worth noting. An **American Bittern** spotted in appropriate habitat in early September makes one wonder how close they really breed to our Region, or how frequently they are overlooked. While this bird was heading south, other waders and water-loving species were making their way northward. **Brown Pelican** has recently become entirely normal to see in the southern half of New Jersey, but they are still irregular here, but increasing dramatically. On the first of October observers documented a flock of 40 individuals flying by, which shatters the previous state high count of around 20. **Cattle Egrets** are normally encountered dispersing presumably north in fall, but an encounter of five individuals along the Cross Island Parkway in Bayside was extra remarkable. **Ash-throated Flycatcher** is a similar reliable rarity of autumn, but it was reported no fewer than eight times, and two birds were detected at two sites. Lastly, and barely appropriate for this category, Nassau County's third **Roseate Spoonbill** in as many years spent a long time at Willow Pond in the residential area called Hewlett Bay Park, and on the first day it was absent, an individual was photographed soaring over Flax Pond in Old Field.

The last cohort of rarities were the least expected. While R10 did not see any single species that was extremely rare for eastern North America, there were a

number that had been dodging us or even the whole state that finally fell. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** in Valley Stream turned out to be of the subspecies grouping called “Western”, which had only been documented in R10 once before. A **Bell’s Vireo** at the Welwyn Preserve in Glen Cove was the first in the Region in ten years. **Black-headed Grosbeak** has proven very difficult to find in migration in the East despite a strong showing at feeders in winter, but one was seen briefly at Willowbrook Park on Staten Island. A **Harris’s Sparrow** at Hot Dog Beach along Dune Road was a great and overdue additional record for the island. A **Gray Kingbird** at Canarsie Park in Brooklyn kept a surprising tradition alive: it represents the sixth consecutive year that one appeared in R10.

It was discovered before the period began, but a **Common Ringed Plover** continued into the first week of September at Old Inlet, west of Smith Point County Park in the wilderness area. Although this individual was first reported on 3 September, it was later determined that it was likely in the area at the end of August, when an observer photographed it during a successful twitch for a different individual Common Ringed-Plover! Two is a high count for the Lower ‘48 that was matched in California a few weeks after. But perhaps the most remarkable thing about the fall 2023 season was the hummingbirds. Late season flowering gardens attract a number all across the Region. Park staff at Randall’s Island documented a hummingbird in one of their gardens, and thankfully they were able to help the birding community relocate it, as it turned out to be a **Black-chinned Hummingbird**. This species has been within 50 miles of New York State on at least four prior occasions, in multiple neighboring states and Canada. And in a similar vein with a more coastal vagrancy proclivity, a *Selasphorus* was finally studied well enough to be called as an **Allen’s Hummingbird**. It appeared in a private garden in October and stayed until early March.

321 species were reported in the Region this season, nine fewer than last autumn.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AMNHGrp – American Museum of Natural History Bird Group; **APP** – Alley Pd P, QUEE; **BPt** – Breezy Pt, QUEE; **CP** – Central P, NEWY; **FIHW** – Fire I Hawk Watch, Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **FKP** – Fresh Kills P, RICH; **FP** – Forest P, QUEE; **FT** – Fort Tilden, QUEE; **GKP** – Great Kills P, RICH; **GwC** – Green-Wood Cemetery, KING; **HSP** – Heckscher SP, SUFF; **IHP** – Inwood Hill P, NEWY; **JBSP** – Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWR** – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; **MLUA** – Mt. Loretto Unique Area, RICH; **MP** – Montauk Pt SP, SUFF; **OMNSA** – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, NASS; **OP** – Orient Pt CP, SUFF; **PBP** – Pelham Bay P, BRON; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **PtL** – Point Lookout, NASS; **RanI** – Randall’s I, NEWY; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **Shinn** – Shinnecock In, SUFF; **SPCP** – Smith Pt CP, SUFF.

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr Arthur Hendrickson P NASS 19 Nov (T. Healy Sr., mob), second record of *A. a. gambelli/sponsa* for R10.

Cackling Goose: many singles in all counties except BRON and RICH.

Eurasian Wigeon: arr JBWR Oct 9 (PPau).

Canvasback: arr 19 Nov; CP 25 Nov (H. Cordero, mob); otherwise only reports from traditional sites at Eastport, Centerport SUFF.

Redhead: max 50 Fort Pd Montauk, SUFF 26 Nov (mob), small flocks elsewhere in KING, QUEE, SUFF. Generally declining in R10.

King Eider: arr Shinn 11 Nov (S. Jones, mob).

Harlequin Duck: arr OP Oct 31 (JSep, mob); Sunset Cove P QUEE 18-24 Nov (eBird user “L. Sea”, mob), unusual loc; only others in traditional PtL area.

Northern Bobwhite: several reports in SUFF and NASS from known reintroductions.

Wild Turkey: Marine P KING 17 Sep (B. Forbes), unusual outside of RICH, BRON, and SUFF.

Ring-necked Pheasant: individuals from BRON, RICH, KING, and SUFF only.

Red-necked Grebe: max 4, Culloden Pt SUFF 26 Nov (SFe, KFe); otherwise singles KING, NASS, and SUFF.

EARED GREBE (R10): JBSP 14 Oct (TH, mob).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: Shirley SUFF 4 Sep (J. Lewis), ph.

Common Nighthawk: max 99 Stone Bridge Nighthawk Watch SUFF 10 Sep (PDom, *et al.*), season total of 1,022, lowest ever for the count.

Chimney Swift: max 486 Upper E Side NEWY 2 Oct (B. Cacace), roost.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD: Ranl 17 Nov thru end of period (B. Davaros), *intro*.

ALLEN’S HUMMINGBIRD: Baiting Hollow yard SUFF 22 Oct thru end of period (M. Zilnicki), *intro*.

SELASPHOROUS SP.: Southold yard SUFF (H. Bohné).

KING RAIL: Timber Pt CP SUFF 17 Sep, second year at this location.

PURPLE GALLINULE: PP 15 Oct - 5 Nov (J. Dahren, mob).

SANDHILL CRANE (R10): flyovers 3 BPt, FT 11 Nov (MAck, CF, N. Pascuzzi); FKP 20 Nov (A. Ferino, M. Silber).

American Avocet: only 2 JBSP 11 Oct (J. Landesburg).

American Golden-Plover: another year without larger flocks in the SUFF sod: max 9 RMSP 23 Sep (P. Horan, C. Cammarota), flyby flock after storm; singles in all counties.

COMMON RINGED PLOVER: SPCP Old Inlet beginning of period thru 12 Sep (JMcG, mob), *intro*.

Hudsonian Godwit: max 24 RMSP 23 Sep (P. Horan, C. Cammarota); flyby flock after storm; singles in all counties except NEWY and BRON.

Marbled Godwit: max 18 SPCP Old Inlet 3 Sep(mob); last 11 JBSP 8 Nov.

Red Knot: max 148 RMSP 4 Sep (P. Horan).

RUFF: OMNSA 27 Sep (M. Friedman), juv.

Baird’s Sandpiper: singles/pairs KING, QUEE, NASS, SUFF.

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 70 HSP 23 Sep (L. Nasta); 47 RMSP 25 Sep (SSM); *intro*.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: max 4 Eastport sod farm SUFF 9 Sep (E. Schwinn, T. Moran), smaller groups from KING, QUEE, NASS, SUFF.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 380 Eastport sod farms, SUFF 26 Sep (J. Ran), *intro*.

Wilson’s Phalarope: none reported.

Red-necked Phalarope: none from shore; max 20 pelagic coordinates (multiple, closest to land: 40.240362, -73.475205) 5 Sep, mob; 2 Hudson Canyon area, SUFF 6 Oct (D. Ruz), loc unknown.

Red Phalarope: 16 pelagic coordinates (40.7593, -72.0126) 3 Nov (L. Waters).

Pomarine Jaeger: pelagic coordinates (39.4764, -72.3680) 29 Oct (L. Waters).

Long-tailed Jaeger: pelagic coordinates (39.4595, -72.2224; 39.4571051, -71.9523486) 5 Sep (mob), 2 juvs from American Princess.

Dovekie: arr MP 24 Nov (APe).

Black Guillemot: Shinn 24-26 Nov (S & M B Billerman, mob).

Black-legged Kittiwake: IHP, Bush Terminal Piers P KING, Vets Mem Pier KING 7 Nov (E. Leonardi, G. Willow, A. Ferino), presumed same individual, unusual loc.

Black-headed Gull: arr Ranl 12 Nov (TH, ACu).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 314 RMSP 24 Sep (DF), *intro*.

Caspian Tern: max 9 Timber Pt CP SUFF 14 Sep (J. Collison, B. Woo).

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL: pelagic coordinates (39.4051, -71.9512), SUFF 5 Sep (B. Fo, mob).

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: max 5 pelagic coordinates (39.2631, -71.8662), SUFF 5 Sep (mob).

Audubon's Shearwater: multiple in SUFF pelagic waters 20 Sep (B. Murtha); closest to land: 40.4613, -71.7665.

BROWN BOOBY: New York Harbor RICH/KING throughout period (mob); long-staying ad; Coney I KING 7 Oct (JMal).

Brown Pelican: max 40 FT QUEE 1 Oct (A. Ferino, A Taboada), doubling state high count.

American Bittern: arr Wertheim NWR SUFF 10 Sep (B. Moldashel).

Least Bittern: max 8 River Rd marshes RICH 9 Sep (ACi, C. Barron).

Western Cattle Egret: max 5 APP 28 Oct (M. Abrahams, mob), along shoulder of Cross 1 Pkwy; singles RICH, QUEE, NASS.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: Willow Pd NASS 2 Sep – 8 Oct, (M. Redstone, mob), juv; Flax Pd SUFF 9 Oct (L. Pilgrim), possibly same juv, flyover.

Raptors: see also hawk watch chart below.

Black Vulture: multiple in all counties.

Osprey: season total 1,199 FIHW (mob), *intro*.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: season total 229 FIHW (mob), *intro*.

Broad-winged Hawk: max 90 Seton P BRON 23 Sep (J. Batista), *intro*.

Rough-legged Hawk: only one: JBSP 17 Oct (EBe, MNo).

Snowy Owl: none reported.

Long-eared Owl: none reported.

Short-eared Owl: arr Hempstead Plains Pres NASS 16 Sep (eBird “CLI Birding”), early, ph.

PILEATED WOODPECKER (R10): away from RICH only: Planting Fields Arboretum NASS 26 Nov (R. Levy).

Peregrine Falcon: banded m Hallock SP Pres SUFF 3 Oct (MLL, ph); see p. 115 for this wanderer’s interesting story.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: *intro*, CP 19 Oct (M. Schefflen, ph); 2 GwC 21 Oct – 5 Nov (R. Fleming, mob), most reports of just one; Suffolk County Farm and Edu Ctr SUFF 9 Nov (G. Quinn, mob); 2 Owls Head P KING 8 Nov thru end of period (R. Manion, mob); Most Holy Trinity Cem KING 14 Nov (J. Schiavone); Bayswater P QUEE 15 Nov (I.

Resnick, CF); Clay Pit Ponds SP RICH 18 Nov (ACi); Shirley Chisolm SP KING 18-20 Nov (M. Fischer, mob).

Western Kingbird: Caumsett SP SUFF (J. Galletto), ph; GKP 3 Oct (H. Fischer); GwC 8 Oct (JMal, mob); Governors I NEWY 11 Oct (R. Fleming, E. Leonardi, mob); North Sea SUFF 21-25 Oct (C. Pretorius, mob); Nickerson Beach NASS 7-14 Nov (JW-P). **Tyrannus sp.:** Idlewild P QUEE 28 Oct (CF), probable Western Kingbird.

GRAY KINGBIRD: Canarsie Beach P KING 14-17 Nov (DGo, mob).

SAY’S PHOEBE: PBP 12 Sep (D. Empfield, mob).

BELL’S VIREO: Welwyn Pres NASS 16 Sep (A. Pichon), ph.

Philadelphia Vireo: dep MLUA 7 Nov (RVe).

Northern Shrike: Freshkills P RICH 10-26 Nov (S. Beltrao, mob).

Common Raven: max 28 Suffolk County Farm and Edu Ctr SUFF 17 Sep (B. Moldashel).

Tree Swallow: max 5000 SPCP 25 Sep (DF).

Barn Swallow: max 400 Fire I Watch Hill 4 Sep (AMNHGrp).

CAVE SWALLOW: RMSP 14 Nov (PJL).

American Pipit: max 220 Riverhead Sod Farms SUFF (K. Munroe).

Red Crossbill: only Floyd Bennett Field KING 6 Sep (I. Bell), audio.

Pine Siskin: max 165 FIHW 11 Nov (SSM); 55 Hallock SP Pres SUFF 14 Oct (MLL), max single flock.

Lark Sparrow: at least one report from each county except BRON.

Clay-colored Sparrow: many, all counties.

HARRIS’S SPARROW: Hot Dog Beach SUFF 28-30 Oct (M. Cooper, mob).

Vesper Sparrow: max 36 FKP 13 Oct (JRG).

LECONTE’S SPARROW: Planting Fields Arboretum NASS 30 Oct (A. Leidig, mob).

Nelson’s Sparrow: max 16 Tiana Beach SUFF 14 Oct (T. Mansfield).

Henslow’s Sparrow: PP 27 Oct (J. Nadel, mob).

Savannah Sparrow: max 850 FKP 13 Oct (JRG).

Yellow-breasted Chat: singles, all counties.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (R10): Ponquogue Bridge SUFF 19 Sep (P. Lauber).
Rusty Blackbird: max 15 FT 11 Nov (CF).

Golden-winged Warbler: FP 1 Sep (N. Pascuzzi); PP 1 Sep (M. Silber, mob); m Northville SUFF 4 Sep (MLL); CP 11 Sep (E. Leonardi); PP 13 Sep (eBird “Jeff G”, mob); FBF 16 Sep (HLo); Rocky Pt SUFF 15 Sep (Jran, L. Sherman); GwC 15 Sep (mob); CP 17 Sep (KFu); Greentree Estate NASS 8 Oct (SPe, APe).

Prothonotary Warbler: Bryant P NEWY 1 Sep (D. Ricci; mob); Frank Melville P SUFF 11-28 Sep (PDom, mob).

Connecticut Warbler: singles, all counties.

Kentucky Warbler: FP 4 Sep (N. Pascuzzi).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 21,000 FIHW 23 Oct (PJJ, SSM, MNo).

TOWNSEND’S WARBLER: Rocky Pt SUFF 15 Sep (Jran); FP 19 Nov (N. Pascuzzi), ph.

Summer Tanager: CP 16, 19 Sep (S. Holleran; E. Leonardi); RMSP 1 Oct (V. Drozdoff); Crab Meadow Beach SUFF 30 Nov (F. Rodriguez, TSt).

WESTERN TANAGER: Sunset P KING 18 Nov (N. Dawson), ph.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK:

Willowbrook P RICH 28 Sep (SSM).

PAINTED BUNTING: Morningside P NEWY 4 Nov (eBird “O. Vischer”), m; MP 19 Nov (PMo, BFo, TSt).

Dickcissel: reports from all counties.

EXOTICS

Eurasian Eagle-Owl: CP throughout period (mob), “Flaco”.

European Goldfinch: only in KING.

CORRECTION:

In the Region 10 summer 2023 report (Vol. 74 No. 1), it was incorrectly stated in the narrative that Sandwich Tern was recorded from Coney Island Creek, Kings County. Records were, however, correctly listed in the species accounts section of that report.

FIRE ISLAND HAWKWATCH TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture				0
Turkey Vulture				0
Osprey	8/31	352	9/15	1199
Golden Eagle				0
No. Harrier	9/12	46	10/15	257
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9/15	44	10/16	229
Cooper’s Hawk	8/31	4	10/15	32
No. Goshawk				0
Bald Eagle	9/14	4	10/31	22
Red-shouldered Hawk				0
Broad-winged Hawk				0
Red-tailed Hawk	10/13	1	10/13; 10/15	2
Rough-legged Hawk				0
Am. Kestrel	9/14	148	10/13	634
Merlin	8/31	153	10/15	1218
Peregrine Falcon	8/31	12	10/8	103
Unidentified				5
Total inc unidentified				3701



Peregrine Falcon, Hallock State Park Preserve, *Suffolk*, 3 Oct 2023, © MaryLaura Lamont. Banded in New Paltz, NY as a juvenile in summer 2022, this bird was found injured in Kings County, was rehabbed and released in upstate NY in fall 2022, then photographed on Long Island this fall, 2023.

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REPORTING YOUR OBSERVATIONS

Observers are strongly encouraged to report their findings directly to the Regional Editors, to help identify significant trends. Summary reports of observations; impressions of notable patterns in the weather, timing of migration, unusual scarcity or abundance of particular species, etc.; and notable individual records are highly valued. For maximum usefulness, send in reports no later than the 15th day of the month following the end of each season:

15 March, 15 June, 15 September, and 15 December.

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; **arr** – arrival or first of season; **BBA** – Breeding Bird Atlas; **BOTS** – bird of the season; **CBC** – Christmas Bird Count; **Co** – County; **I** – Island; **imm** – immature; **intro** – see introduction to report; **juv** – juvenile; **L** – Lake; **max** – maximum; **mob** – multiple observers; **Mt** – Mountain; **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; **Pres** – Preserve; **Pt** – Point; **Res** – Reservoir; **Ri** – River; **SP** – State Park; **spm** – specimen; **subad** – subadult; **T** – Town of; **thru** – throughout period; **Twn** – township; **WMA** – Wildlife Management Area; **y** – young.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS CODES

These codes are listed in ascending order to highest breeding codes.

POSSIBLE: H – in appropriate habitat; S – singing bird.

PROBABLE: S7 – singing male present 7+ days; M – multiple (7+) singing males; P – pair in suitable habitat; T – territorial defense; C – courtship, display, or copulation; N – visiting probable nest site; A – agitated behavior; B – woodpecker/wren nest building.

CONFIRMED: PE – physiological evidence; CN – carrying nesting material; NB – nest building; DD – distraction display; UN – used nest; ON – occupied nest; FL – recently fledged and precocial young; CF – carrying food; FY – feeding young; FS – carrying fecal sac; NE nest with eggs; NY – nest with 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.

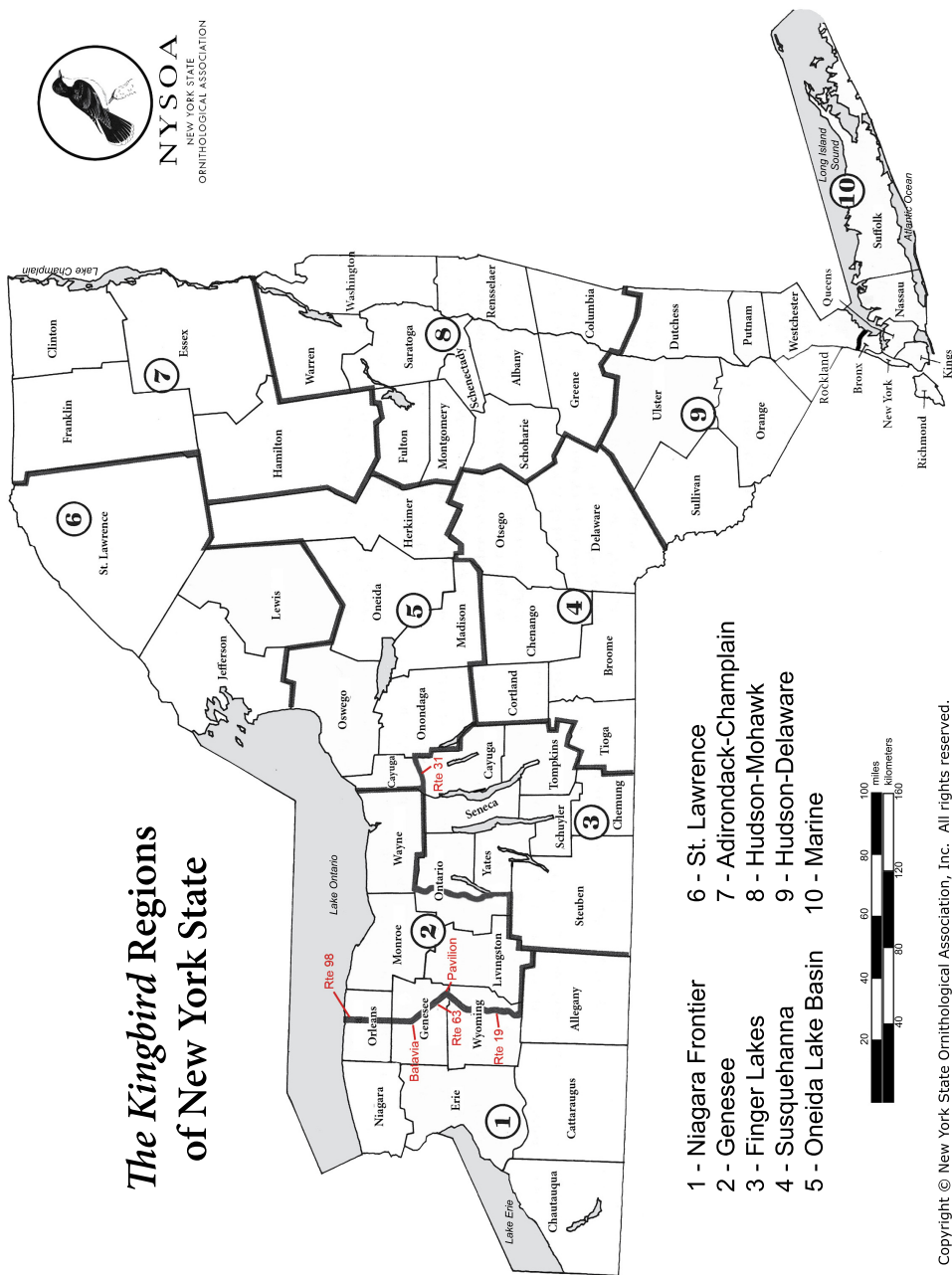
Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

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.

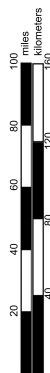
Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.

The Kingbird Regions of New York State



- 1 - Niagara Frontier
- 2 - Genesee
- 3 - Finger Lakes
- 4 - Susquehanna
- 5 - Oneida Lake Basin
- 6 - St. Lawrence
- 7 - Adirondack-Champlain
- 8 - Hudson-Mohawk
- 9 - Hudson-Delaware
- 10 - Marine



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