

Gray Catbird: last E. Syr 17 Oct., then one Syr 6 Nov. Brown Thrasher: last SP 9 Oct. Water Pipit: arr SP 8 Sept., max 180 Lysander 11 Oct., last DH 8 Nov. N. Shrike: three reported after 15 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Solitary Vireo: arr SH 27 Sept., last SP 18 Oct. Yellow-throated Vireo: last FH 22 Sept. Warbling Vireo: last FH 22 Sept. Philadelphia Vireo: max seven FH 9 Sept., last SP 1 Oct. Red-eyed Vireo: last SP 9 Oct. Tennessee Warbler: last SP 18 Oct. Orange-crowned Warbler: about ten reported 12 Sept. to 13 Oct. Nashville Warbler: last SP 9 Oct. N. Parula: last FH 8 Oct. Yellow Warbler: last SP 30 Sept. Chestnut-sided Warbler: last FH 8 Oct. Magnolia Warbler: max 33 FH 15 Sept., last FH 18 Oct. Cape May Warbler: last FH 8 Oct. Black-throated Blue Warbler: last SP 9 Oct. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 85 FH 8 Oct., last Syr 22 Nov. Black-throated Green Warbler: last FH 8 Oct. Blackburnian Warbler: last Chittenango 8 Oct. Palm Warbler: arr two sites 14 Sept., last three SP 8 Oct. included a "Yellow" Palm Warbler. Bay-breasted Warbler: max 44 FH 9 Sept., last SP 30 Sept. Blackpoll Warbler: to ten per day 6 Sept. to 13 Oct. Black-and-white Warbler: last FH 27 Sept. Am. Redstart: last Syr 29 Sept. Ovenbird: last FH 8 Oct. N. Waterthrush: last SP 4 Oct. Mourning Warbler: last FH 9 Sept. Com. Yellowthroat: last SP 9 Oct. Hooded Warbler: max 10 FH 15 Sept., last SP 30 Sept. Wilson's Warbler: last SP 30 Sept. Canada Warbler: last FH 15 Sept.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: last SP 23 Sept. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last SP 9 Oct. Rufous-sided Towhee: only migrants reported 30 Sept. to 20 Oct. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Onon Lake 25 Oct. Chipping Sparrow: last Clay Marsh 19 Oct. Field Sparrow: last Sangerfield 28 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: max and last 14 Lysander 11 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: last DH 28 Oct. Fox Sparrow: three reports 1 to 18 Oct. Song Sparrow: max 245 Lysander 11 Oct., last DH 17 Nov., early departure. Lincoln's Sparrow: to 14/day 23 Sept. to 19 Oct. Swamp Sparrow: last FH 11 Nov. White-throated Sparrow: arr SP 14 Sept. Max 350 LOL early Oct., scarce after 8 Nov. White-crowned Sparrow: arr E. Syr 23 Sept., max only 16, last Sangerfield 28 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: arr SP 30 Sept., max 113 FH 13 Oct., low. Lapland Longspur: five singles after 30 Sept. Snow Bunting: arr DH 20 Oct. Bobolink: last FH 22 Sept., only report. Red-winged Blackbird: max 30,000 DH 20 Oct., last counts > 100 10 Nov. E. Meadowlark: very few reported, but last FH 28 Nov. Rusty Blackbird: to 200/day 23 Sept. to 28 Oct. Com. Grackle: max 25,000 DH 20 Oct., last counts > 100 1 Nov. Brown-headed Cowbird: last counts > 100 1 Nov. N. Oriole: last SP 2 Sept. Purple Finch: only scattered ones and twos noted. Red Crossbill: only reports n. Herkimer Co., where regular thru season. White-winged Crossbill: ditto, about five seen for every Red Crossbill. Pine Siskin: max 125 Town of Webb 23 Nov.; scattered small flocks elsewhere 14 Oct. to 15 Nov. Evening Grosbeak: one Chittenango 13 Nov. (JL) and three Whitesboro in Nov. (MS) only reports outside Adirondacks, extraordinarily scarce!

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REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

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Mild is the adjective for this period. Summer residents lingered and winter visitors were slow to arrive. With few cold fronts to move things along, it was

a "bluebird fall." Low lake levels provided lots of shorebird habitat and a good, though late, shorebird migration. Lee Chamberlaine reports a bumper crop of fruits, berries, and mast – best in 20 years.

September weather was cool and dry; temperatures ran about 3 degrees below normal, and rainfall was about one inch below normal in lowland areas. There were only 13 days with any precipitation, and sunshine was abundant. Maximum temperatures in the high 70's occurred on the 9th-10th and 24th-26th. Only on the last few days of the month did temperatures fall below freezing to the high 20's, with the first frost 27 September. The first week of October was cool and wet, with the first killing frost in most areas occurring then. The mercury fell to the mid-teens on the 6th, the lowest temperatures of the month. The middle two weeks of the month were glorious Indian Summer. Temperatures reached a peak in the mid-70's on the 28th. There were 15 days with rain, and only two with temperatures below 32° in Canton. November weather was seasonable, but dry, especially the second half of the month. There were no cold waves or major snow storms. Monthly high temperatures in the low 60's came late in the month on the 28th, while extreme lows in the single digits fell on the 19th. The first and largest snowfall in Canton was 5 inches on 13 November. Most areas received 5-10 inches snowfall during the period, with a maximum of 22.6 inches at Boonville.

Despite a dearth of observers, 150 species were reported – far more than the past two falls. Included were resident species such as common woodpeckers, both nuthatches, and Brown Creeper and many others which will not be cited below. Absence of reports for Red-throated Loon and Red-necked Grebe may be attributable to few observers; but neither were there reports for Red-shouldered Hawk, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, phalaropes, jaegers, Black Tern, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, or Northern Mockingbird. Numbers were down for Horned Grebe, Mallard, American Wigeon, Canvasback and scoters, some of these reflecting the 1984 NYS Waterfowl Count. Also sparse were records of Broad-winged Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, and Common Tern. Noticeably rare were northern visitors – few Rough-legged Hawks and winter finches and no shrikes as yet.

On the other hand, it was a good year for Snow Goose, Wood Duck and several shorebirds, including Black-bellied Plover and Whimbrel. The Region's most frequently reported raptors were Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, and American Kestrel. LC reports large numbers of resident and migrating House Finches in Jefferson County, and asks whether this may account for the virtual absence of House Sparrows at his feeder. We had a few "good birds" including a single Bohemian Waxwing, but can claim no rarities.

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Abbreviations: EDB-Eldorado Beach Preserve; Jeff. Co.-Jefferson Co.; L. Ont.-Lake Ontario; MSPD-Moses-Saunders Power Dam; PRWMA-Perch River Wildlife Mgt. Area; St. Law. Co.-St. Lawrence Co.; SLR-St. Lawrence River; THP-Tug Hill Plateau, Lewis Co.; ULL-Upper & Lower Lakes WMA; WHWMA-Wilson Hill WMA.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: none reported. Com. Loon: arr not noted away from SLR and Adirondacks breeding areas until early Oct.; max two to six per day; scarce at EDB through period (GAS); present to early Nov. in the Adirondacks and late Nov. along L. Ont. Pied-billed Grebe: seven Indian Creek, Canton, St. Law. Co. 16 Sept. (MEH) and three ULL 22 Sept. (KC) are only reports. Horned Grebe: scattered singles in Nov. along L. Ont. are only reports; scarce. Red-necked Grebe: none reported. Double-crested Cormorant: two reports totalling seven on the SLR are the only non-L. Ont. sightings; 2-12 per day EDB Sept.; one-three per day to mid-Oct. dep. Am. Bittern: two ULL 28-29 Sept. (KC) and one LWMA 24 Oct. (LBC) are the only reports. Great Blue Heron: two to six per day in many areas during Sept.; one to three per day scattered in Oct.; singles primarily in lowland areas through Nov. Green-backed Heron: one EDB 25 Sept. only report. Black-crowned Night-Heron: none reported. Mute Swan: family group of seven at PRWMA on 11 Oct. (LBC) reduced to six but still present 30 Nov. (SH). Snow Goose: 60 EDB 7 Oct.; 12 Champion, Jeff. Co. 12 Oct.; one PRWMA 24 Oct. (JL); 400+ EDB 27 Oct. (GAS); 75 PRWMA 28 Oct. (CD) suggest a rapid passage of larger flocks through the Region; a few scattered reports of 10-40 per day noted along L. Ont. during the first week of Nov.; a cripple at EDB 14 Nov. Canada Goose: arr several flocks of 20-60 in mid-Sept.; max 500 per day late Sept.-early Oct. at several locations; substantial numbers persisting thru period with several large flocks noted migrating in So. Jeff. Co. in early Dec. Wood Duck: good numbers present at WMAs from late Sept. through mid-Oct.; 40 ULL 28 Sept. (KC) and 120 at Perch Lake in PRWMA 11 Oct. (LBC). Green-winged Teal: six PRWMA 11 Oct.; all other reports EDB two to six per day 1-19 Sept., max 16 on 20 Sept.; three to ten per day to 4 Oct. Am. Black Duck: max is 100 each ULL 28 Sept. and PRWMA 11 Oct. and 200 Pillar Pt., Jeff. Co. 18 Nov. (SH); scarce at EDB one to three per day 1 Sept.-19 Nov., 15-32 per day 21-25 Nov. Mallard: most counts 15-40 per day EDB thru, max 71 on 2 Oct., counts lower than the last couple of years. N. Pintail: scarce at EDB with one to six per day Sept. to early Oct. only; 60 PRWMA 24 Oct. (LBC) is the only report of a substantial flock. Blue-winged Teal: most counts at EDB 15-30 per day Sept.; max 53 12 Sept.; dep 20 Oct.; regional max 100+ ULL 28 Sept. N. Shoveler: one PRWMA 28 Oct.; two reports including max of 15 on 15 Nov. from regional epicenter of this species at the pools off the Wiley-Dondero Canal, Massena. Gadwall: max 20+ PRWMA 11 Oct. (LBC). Am. Wigeon: arr one EDB 12 Sept., scarce EDB with only scattered reports of 4-8 Sept.-early Oct.; max 65 WHWMA 4 Nov. (SG). Canvasback: no reports from traditional concentration areas in the western SLR; one pools off the Wiley-Dondero Canal 24 Nov. (JVR) only report. Redhead: no reports from traditional concentration areas in the western SLR; 700 in the pools off the Wiley-Dondero Canal 4 Nov. (SG) is a good count for the eastern SLR. Ring-necked Duck: two Southwick Beach SP. Ellisburg 27 Sept. (LBC); 15 ULL 29 Sept. (KC) are only reports. Greater Scaup: usual flocks of hundreds to several thousand present in northeastern L. Ont. in Nov. Oldsquaw: a breeding plumage adult male present at EDB 30 Sept.-9 Oct. (GAS) is probably an early migrant; small flocks of 10-25 per day present L. Ont. last Oct. through. Black Scoter: scarce at EDB with a few scattered singles and small groups in Nov.; not reported elsewhere. Surf Scoter: arr eight EDB 27 Sept.; five to ten per day there Oct.-Nov. are the only reports. White-winged Scoter: scattered reports of one to five per day at EDB 7 Oct. through Nov.; unreported elsewhere. Com. Goldeneye: arr very late during the last week of Nov. EDB, 100-200 per day average there through period; max 27 EDB 7 Nov. Bufflehead: one to five per day EDB late Oct.-Nov. Hooded Merganser: six along the Oswegatchie R. at High Rocks, St. Law. Co. 2 Oct. (P.O.'s) and two sightings at EDB are the only reports. Com. Merganser: max 10,000 at traditional late fall evening roost on the SLR below the RMPD 24 Oct. (JVR). Red-breasted Merganser: max 200 Pillar Pt. Jeff. Co., 1 Nov. (SH). Ruddy Duck: one PRWMA 21 Oct. (LBC) and 9 WHWMA 4 Nov. (SG) only reports.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: one to three per day scattered throughout lowland sectors through third week of Oct. Osprey: eight reports of singles and one report of two

Sept. to dep. 19 Oct. Bald Eagle: adult and imm PRWMA 27 Sept. (SH); adult Jeff. Co. 11 Oct. (LBC); two adults Jeff. Co. 24 Oct. (LBC). N. Harrier: one to three per day many areas thru. Sharp-shinned Hawk: six reports of singles from lowland areas in Sept; two imm actively migrating at EDB 19 Nov. which seems late for active migration of imms. Cooper's Hawk: one Southwick Beach 27 Sept. (LBC) and one EDB 12 Oct. are only reports. N. Goshawk: one Moose R, Lewis Co. 19 Sept. may be a breeder; imm at EDB 1 Oct. (GAS) is a probable migrant as the species is not known to breed there. Red-shouldered Hawk: no reports. Broad-winged Hawk: two EDB 3 Sept. is the only report. Red-tailed Hawk: one to three per day throughout in Sept.; two to four per day scattered Oct. and Nov.; numbers down from the last two years in southern and western Jeff. Co. (GAS). Rough-legged Hawk: arr EDB area 12 Oct.; none thereafter to early Nov.; scattered singles in Nov. in the L. Ont. lowlands; unreported elsewhere, scarce. Am. Kestrel: one to two per day scattered in most areas; scarce, numbers increasing slightly in southwestern Jeff. Co. at the end of the period (LBC, GAS). Merlin: no reports. Peregrine Falcon: no reports. Ring-necked Pheasant: one report (SH) virtually extirpated from our area; most reports now are probably of recently stocked birds. Ruffed Grouse: scarce in most areas with a few scattered reports of one-two; exception is a count of six at ULL Canton 18 Oct. (MEH). Sora: one WH 28 Sept. (KC), only rail reported. All of the following data on shorebirds and gulls are from EDB by GAS unless otherwise stated. Black-bellied Plover: one to four per day 1-15 Sept.; five to ten per day 16 Sept.-10 Oct.; ten to 25 per day 16-30 Oct., including max of 50 per day on two dates; 20 per day first week of Nov.; one to three per day to dep 23 Nov.; an excellent flight. Lesser Golden-Plover: singles 10 Oct.; 7 Oct., 5-7 Nov.; the latter sighting is very late; an average year at EDB is one per year. Semipalmated Plover: five to 15 per day in Sept.; max 25 16 Sept.; two to eight per day to mid-Oct. dep. Killdeer: two to five per day 1 to 20 Sept.; rapid increase to max 57 on 23 Sept.; a pulsating flight in Oct. with 5-20 per day at irregular intervals, dep 18 Nov.; 35 PRWMA 11 Oct. (LBC) 40 Watertown 28 Nov. (LBC) is very late for a large flock. Greater Yellowlegs: one to two per day at scattered intervals 21 Sept. to 31 Oct. more than usual. Lesser Yellowlegs: two to six per day through Sept., an excellent Sept. flight. Solitary Sandpiper; none. Spotted Sandpiper: one to two per day to dep. 30 Oct. Whimbrel: singles 7-9 Sept., 16-17 Sept., four 14 Sept., very good flight. Ruddy Turnstone: three to eight per day 1 to 22 Sept.; dep a single imm 9 Oct. Red Knot: good Sept. flight of imms; one to four per day to dep 22 Sept. Sanderling: 25-50 per day Sept.; max 66 on 8 Oct.; lesser numbers thereafter to dep 18 Nov. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 25-50 per day Sept.; one to five per day through first third of Oct. Western Sandpiper: three singles in Sept.; scattered singles thereafter to early Oct. dep. White-rumped Sandpiper: a very good flight; one to four per day scattered through Sept. and Oct. Baird's Sandpiper: a very poor flight, in contrast to white-rumped, scattered singles only during the first half of Sept. Pectoral Sandpiper: one to three per day during the last half of Sept.; max of 31 on 7 Oct. is very high; two to four per day to mid-Oct. Purple Sandpiper: one 14-15 Nov. is only report. Dunlin: arr one 19 Sept. one to two per day through the first week of Oct.; 50-180 per day through the rest of Oct.; 20-40 per day to dep. 16 Nov. Com. Snipe: eight PRWMA 28 Oct. (LBC) is only report., Am. Woodcock: dep one Jeff. Co. 9 Nov. (SH). Phalaropes: none. Little Gull: one at MSPD 20 Oct. thru (MG, JVR). Bonaparte's Gull: 6-20 per day Sept.-mid-Oct., a fair but brief flight; 200 MSPD thru Nov. Ring-billed Gull: 100-200 per day Sept., max 37 24 Sept., 15-30 per day through the period. Herring Gull: two-ten per day through period. Glaucous Gull: five MSPD mid-Nov. thru (JVR). Great Black-backed Gull: two-seven per day thru. Black-legged Kittiwake: two imm MSPD 20 Oct. (MG); then one thru (JVR). Caspian Tern: one to four per day Sept. Com. Tern: scarce; a few sightings in Sept., EDB and SLR; max and dep 15 EDB 14 Sept. Black Tern: none reported.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: E. Screech-Owl: one Henderson 16 Oct., first in two years (LC). Snowy Owl: one Ellisburg 19 Nov. thru (GS), only report. Barred Owl: two reports of calling in late afternoon near Olmstead Pond and Dead Creek Flow south of Cranberry

L., Clifton (PO's). Com. Nighthawk: one Louisville 2 Sept. (MB). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one Pierrepont 10 Sept.; two Canton 18 Sept. Belted Kingfisher: last Canton 30 Oct. Black-backed Woodpecker: seen almost daily in mixed forest in Clifton-Fine area, one in aggressive bout with Hairy Woodpecker on dead hardwood (PO's). N. Flicker: many migrating Henderson 17-18 Sept., last 24 Nov. (LC). Pileated Woodpecker: over ten sightings throughout region.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: singles Louisville 4 Sept. and 9 Oct. (MB). E. Phoebe: dep. Pierrepont 13 Oct. Horned Lark: migrating first two weeks of Oct. Tree Swallow: 12 PRWMA 24 Oct. Cliff Swallow: 25 Canton 10 Sept. Gray Jay: two near Five Ponds, Clifton 5 Oct. (PO's). Am. Crow: flocks of 60 Canton area 27-30 Oct. Com. Raven: almost daily thru with max four Tooley Pond Rd. near Cranberry L. Dump, Clifton (PO's); two Mt. Arab, Piercefield 13 Oct. (SG). Black-capped Chickadee: seem way down after two banner years. Boreal Chickadee: flock with Red-breasted Nuthatches and Golden-crowned Kinglets near Tupper L. 24 Oct. (PO's). Tufted Titmouse: two to three Henderson thru; one unconfirmed Canton 8 Oct. (KC), only reports. Marsh Wren: two WHWMA 28 Sept. Golden-crowned Kinglet: four 13 Oct., two 26 Nov. both Henderson; several Clifton 22 Oct. E. Bluebird: one to five Pierrepont 27 Sept. thru 15 Oct., no other reports. Hermit Thrush: one Massena 19 Oct. (MB). Am. Robin: heavy migration mid-Sept.; flocks in Fine into early Nov. eating winterberry; ten Henderson 27 Nov. (LC). Gray Catbird: one Pt. Peninsula 8 Nov. (SH). Water Pipit: small flocks Canton 1-13 Oct., max 30. Bohemian Waxwing: one Canton 1 Oct. at bird bath with 27 Cedar Waxwings. Cedar Waxwing: first three 27 Sept., max 60 Pierrepont 6 Nov. Shrikes: none.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Warbling Vireo: two Louisville 4 Sept., only Vireo. Tennessee Warbler: five Massena 3 Sept. (MB); one Henderson 6 Oct. Chestnut-sided Warbler: two Louisville 6 Oct. Yellow-rumped Warbler: first flocks Henderson 3 Sept. Pierrepont 27 Sept.; many Henderson 5, 6, 13 Oct.; last Pierrepont 23 Oct., one PR 28 Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: eight Henderson 15 Sept. Black-and-white Warbler: singles ULL and Canton 16 Oct. Canada Warbler: singles ULL and Canton 16 Oct. (MEH).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: female Canton 28 Nov. (MEH). Rufous-sided Towhee: dep Henderson 6 Oct. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Louisville 10 Oct. and THP 4 Nov., then common thru. Chipping Sparrow: last Canton 30 Oct. Field Sparrow: last one Henderson 13 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: one Henderson 6 Oct. Song Sparrow: one singing Pierrepont 29 Sept.; last Massena 2 Nov. White-throated Sparrow: movement first two weeks of Oct. (MB, LC, KC), last 6 Nov. White-crowned Sparrow: several reports 5 thru 16 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: many mid-Oct. (MB, MEH, KC, LC). Bobolink: arr Canton 17 Sept., last 13 Oct., max 60 on 28 Sept. Red-winged Blackbird: flocks of 2000 in Canton area on 17 Sept. (JW) and 10,000 on 21 Oct., "biggest flock I've ever seen" (JG). E. Meadowlark: four Canton 13 Oct. Pine Grosbeak: two N. Lawrence 14 Nov. (JW), only report. Purple Finch: four Louisville 4 Sept.; only two Henderson thru 26 Nov.; three Canton thru period (MEH). House Finch: 14 Canton thru period; "everywhere in Jeff. Co." (LC); 20 per day Henderson at feeder; 70 Henderson in migration 24 Nov. Pine Siskin: one Canton 14 Sept.; max 20 THP 9 Nov., feeding on yellow birch catkins; last one Pierrepont 4 Nov., max 20 Henderson feeding on hemlock cones 26 Nov. (LC). Evening Grosbeak: few and far between; four THP 9 Nov. only ones for period (LC); first Pierrepont 3 Nov.; max 19 Canton 19 Nov. House Sparrow: almost none at feeder in Henderson where House Finch abundant (LC); good numbers in Canton-Pierrepont area.

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