

counts below 60 per day mid Jul to mid Sep, max 435 on 6 Aug, a light-moderate flight. W. Sandpiper: one EDB 29-31 Aug only report. Least Sandpiper: arr EDB 1 Jul, to 20 per day July-Aug, max 74 on 6 Aug, last 16 Sep, good flight. Baird's Sandpiper: arr EDB 25 Aug, max 12 high, last 7 Sep, good flight. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr EDB 18 Jul, to two per day late Jul, few in Aug, to three per day first 10 days Sep; six Pillar Pt 24 Oct. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr eight EDB 8 Jul, to three per day through Jul, few thereafter, last 17 Aug. Am. Woodcock: one on shoreline EDB 20 Aug is very unusual location; two Stockholm 21 Oct. Little Gull: one to three per day MSD 30 Aug 30 Sep (BdiL, mob), probably to be expected there in fall. Bonaparte's Gull: 31 MSD on 21 July had increased to max of 500+ by 7 Nov. Iceland Gull: arr im MSD 30 Oct, early. Black-legged Kittiwake: two im MSD 27 Nov are no longer unexpected at this mecca for gulls. Caspian Tern: max 21 EDB 6 Aug, last there 27 Sep. Com. Tern: highest numbers from eastern SLR where breeding population is most numerous with lesser counts farther west; excellent max of 450 MSD (BDiL, RB) 10 Sep; last there 19 Oct. **Arctic Tern:** *intro*. Black Tern: decline continues locally, last 30 Aug. **Razorbill:** *intro*.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Great Horned Owl: only resident owl reported. Snowy Owl: *intro*. Com. Nighthawk: four Massena 1 Sep only report. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Stockholm 16 Sep. Belted Kingfisher: last 22 Oct. Red-headed Woodpecker: two ad, one im along S Grass R Rd, Massena, 30 Aug (BDiL).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Gray Jay: three S Colton 17 Nov. Sedge Wren: three singing males N side of S Grass R Rd, Massena, 21 July (BDiL). E. Bluebird: good numbers to 26 Oct. Bohemian Waxwing: one with 20 Cedars Henderson 1 Nov. N. Shrike: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Bay-breasted Warbler: max 20 Henderson 16 Sep.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Pierrepont 4 Nov. Field Sparrow: one Massena 10 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: one Watertown 11 Oct. Fox Sparrow: one Massena 6 Oct, two Stockholm 20 Oct. White-crowned Sparrow: frequent reports 26 Sep to 22 Oct unusual for Fall. Snow Bunting: arr Pierrepont 27 Nov. Rusty Blackbird: three ULL 8 Oct, six Stockholm 24 Oct, 60 Henderson 25 Oct. N. Oriole: one Massena to end of period.

KLC — RD 4 Box 97, Canton, New York 13617

GAS — P.O. Box 498, Mexico, New York 13114

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M.C. PETERSON

Although observer activity seemed low, and there were several admissions of difficulty in maintaining fall departure records for *The Kingbird* or in sustaining weekly Operation BirdWatch reports, there were a number of rarities among the 130 species reported. In addition to the Olympic loon and other rare finds, excitement was provided by an active sprinkler and a white woodpecker. And if only the coverage of Franklin County's Indian Lake provided by Jan Trzeciak could be expanded to include all of the 50 Adirondack lakes with at least one square mile of surface area, not to mention some of the 2,700 smaller lakes and ponds! Our understanding of migrant waterfowl away from Lake Champlain seems in its infancy, given past and present coverage of this Region.

The late-summer drought persisted, and September began and ended on a cold note, with Elizabethtown recording 37°F on 3 Sep and Newcomb registering 28°F on the 25th. A storm to the south on 4 Oct largely bypassed the Region, although the mountains were left with their first layer of snow. An inch or more of snow fell 11 October, followed by a temperature drop to 19°F at Newcomb on the 14th and again 19°F at Ray Brook on October 26. Elizabethtown received 1.8 inches of much needed rainfall overnight 27-28 Oct. The following month began with Newcomb a nippy 17°F on 2 Nov, but a late Indian Summer then pushed thermometers to 70°F at Plattsburgh on 4 Nov. By the 20th, however, it was snowing in the Sara-Placid region and the first major cold wave of the season sent the temperature in Plattsburgh plummeting to 8°F on 21 Nov, with windchill factors of -30°F across the Region.

A grounded and distressed **Red-throated Loon** taken to Drs. Craig and Suzanne Russell at Westport for rehabilitation unhappily died 9 Nov. However, a second **Red-throated Loon** that grounded 21 Nov at the Olympic bobsled run was successfully rehabilitated by the Russells, banded and released on North West Bay, L. Champlain, on 22 Nov. A weakened adult Broad-winged Hawk found near Elizabethtown in late August was also rehabilitated at the Westport Veterinary Clinic, banded and released near Elizabethtown on 1 Sep.

The Delephantys were treated to quite a sight on 6 Sep while watering drought-parched flower beds at Tupper Lake. Dashing through the spray, bathing, and sitting in the shrubbery enjoying the fine mist were a Least Flycatcher, 4 Blue Jays, 3 Gray Catbirds, a Solitary Vireo, Magnolia Warbler, 6 Yellow-rumped Warblers, a Black-throated Green Warbler, 3 Scarlet Tanagers, and 9 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.

Larids were well reported. Westport had 3 Bonaparte's Gulls on 8 Sep. The Tupper Lake landfill still had 50 Ring-billed and 75 Herring Gulls on 13 Nov, late and high numbers inland. Richard Guthrie found a first-winter Iceland Gull at the Lake Placid landfill 9 Nov, after spotting a second-winter **Lesser Black-backed Gull** on Mirror Lake on 7 Nov. Also noteworthy inland were a first-winter Great Black-backed Gull Robert Hagar found on Lake Flower on 7 Nov and perhaps the same gull seen by Guthrie at the Lake Placid landfill two days later. One wonders what the effect of mandated landfill closings will be. Only three owls were reported, but all interesting. A Snowy Owl at North West Bay on 8 Nov was the only Regional report, but apparently part of a larger movement in the St. Lawrence, Champlain, and Hudson Valleys. Barred Owls were in courtship at Paradox by 7 Sep. Dick Guthrie found a **Short-eared Owl** along Riverside Drive, Lake Placid, on 6 Nov — an unexpected location.

Bob Hagar was hunting off Forest Home Road, Saranac Lake, toward Shingle Box Mt. on 5 Nov when he encountered a leucistic male Hairy Woodpecker. The bird was creamy white with some indistinct brownish barring on the wing coverts and secondaries, giving a slightly cream brown color to the upper wings when at rest. In flight, "It looked like a white moth flopping around the woods," traveling with a Downy Woodpecker, chickadees, and nuthatches.

Details of several seasonal rarities, including Harlequin Duck and Brewer's Blackbird, are to be submitted to NYSARC. The Regional bird of the season,

however, was the **Black-headed Grosbeak** at the Frank Gauthier feeder, 13 Payville Road, Saranac Lake, 20-22 Nov, identified by Bob Hagar as a first-fall male. Details and color photograph have been submitted to NYSARC; if accepted, this would be a first Regional record, as well as a first for Essex County and the Adirondack Park. By the end of the season, the mouse and vole population was high. This was reflected in an influx of Rough-legged Hawks and several Northern Shrikes. The spruce cone crop was only fair at best, but a heavy crop of eastern hemlock cones was apparently enough to draw in numbers of Pine Siskins. The lack of a beech-oak mast crop may have caused the disappearance of many Blue Jays during the autumn. If not a great winter, it might yet prove to be an interesting one, especially for conifer-eating finches willing to subsist on an abundant supply of hemlock.

Contributors: Bartlett Bailey, Merry Baker, Beverly Brown, Geoffrey Carleton, Dean Cook, Marnie Cook, Charlie Delehanty, John E. Delehanty, Gregory Furness, Frank Gauthier, Bob Gillis, Richard Guthrie, Robert Hagar, Betty Hedges, Anne Hungerford, Elsbeth Johnson, Kitty Kellas, Bruce Landon, Theodore Mack, Brooke Meislohn, Edith Mitchell, Marty Peal, John Peterson, Craig & Suzanne Russell, Karen Smith, Jan Trzeciak, Armand Vaillancourt, Jackie Vientz, Maurice Villeneuve, Hollis White.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Red-throated Loon:** Indian L 20 Sep, early, same lake 26-30 Oct (JT), *intro*. Com. Loon: max 12 Lower St. Regis L 12 Nov. **Pied-billed Grebe:** max three Charlie Pd, FRAN, 9 Sep. **Horned Grebe:** arr Indian L 29 Oct. **Double-crested Cormorant:** last Mt View L 5 Oct. **Great Blue Heron:** Elizabethtown 29 Nov, late. **Canada Goose:** thousands Malone Recreation P 11-12 Nov, packed so closely no water showed. **Harlequin Duck:** female Indian L, FRAN, 30 Oct-4 Nov (JT!, NYSARC). **Oldsquaw:** 10 on choppy Indian L after storm 25 Oct only report. **Black Scoter:** arr seven Indian L 25 Oct, max 20 there 31 Oct. **White-winged Scoter:** arr female Essex harbor 22 Nov (EJ). **Bufflehead:** arr nine Indian L 26 Oct.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Bald Eagle:** ad Raquette L 6-7 Sep (BH), im Bay Pd 20 Nov (BL), ad Tupper L 22 Nov, 27-28 Nov (CD) seemed a healthy showing. **Peregrine Falcon:** ad 9 Oct Tupper L Marsh only report. **Gray Partridge:** eight Hogansburg 29 Sep only sighting. **Ring-necked Pheasant:** no reports from Champlain Valley stocking areas, two at Tupper L feeder 28 Oct only report. **Wild Turkey:** no reports. Could gamebird dollars be better directed? **Black-bellied Plover:** last ad in Alt plumage Bulwagga Bay 9 Sep (GC). **Killdeer:** last Teboville Rd, FRAN, night of 5 Oct. **Greater Yellowlegs:** Westport 16 Sep, Saranac Lake 10 Oct, Hogansburg 22 Oct, a wide showing. **Solitary Sandpiper:** last Hogansburg 17 Oct, late. **Com Snipe:** Westport 8 Sep only report. **Phalarope (sp.):** five sitting and spinning St. Regis R 13 Aug (HW). **Bonaparte's Gull:** three Westport 8 Sep only sighting, suggests general lack of lakeshore coverage. **Iceland Gull:** *intro*. **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** *intro*. **Great Black-backed Gull:** *intro*.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **Black-billed Cuckoo:** last Tupper L 19 Sep. **Snowy Owl:** *intro*. **Barred Owl:** *intro*. **Short-eared Owl:** *intro*. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** road-killed male Chasm Falls 1 Oct (JT). **Hairy Woodpecker:** *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **Horned Lark:** max 300 Goodman Rd, FRAN, 10 Nov (JT). **Cliff Swallow:** last Tupper L 2 Sep. **Com. Raven:** many reports. **Boreal Chickadee:** two Giant Mt 8 Nov only report. **Tufted Titmouse:** two Port Henry 5 Nov only report. **E. Bluebird:** departed quickly, last Owls Head 18 Oct. **Hermit Thrush:** last Tupper L 12 Oct. **Am. Robin:** often winters in numbers at lower elevations, but one at Saranac Lake 25 Nov was unusual. **N. Shrike:** *intro*. **European Starling:** im Westport beach 8 Sep appeared larger than and about 1.5" longer than nearby Am. Robins — a case of gigantism (GC).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Pine Warbler: last Saranac L 6 Oct. Palm Warbler: last Saranac L 23 Sep. Mourning Warbler: last Saranac L 4 Oct.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: squeaky song Paradox 11 Sep (MB). **Black-headed Grosbeak:** *intro*. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Four Brothers Islands 17 Oct (MP). Fox Sparrow: arr Cadyville 16 Oct, Tupper L 22 Oct, Saranac L 7-9 Nov, last Tupper L 20 Nov a good showing. White-crowned Sparrow: arr Saranac Lake 20 Sep. Snow Bunting: small flocks after 29 Oct. Rusty Blackbird: nine feeding on cracked corn at Tupper L feeding station 11 Oct, one there 11 Nov. **Brewer's Blackbird:** 1-3 Owls Head area Oct-Nov (AH, JT! NYSARC). Purple Finch: absent after Oct. White-winged Crossbill: summer flock still feeding in dirt road Owls Head 17 Sep, last 18 there 29 Nov. Pine Siskin: first flocks 30 Lake Placid 7 Nov, 16 Giant Mt. 8 Nov, 50 Tupper L 10 Nov, 11 Essex 22 Nov, by Dec flocks of 50+ widespread, *intro*. Am. Goldfinch: also widespread, but not as numerous as siskins. Evening Grosbeak: arr at feeders from early Oct, max 150 Tupper L 27 Nov suggests a good winter.

Discovery Farm, RD 1, Elizabethtown, NY 12932

REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

LINDA ARMSTRONG

Region 8 was an excellent place to birdwatch this fall. Surely the most impressive sights were the geese — large flocks of Canada Geese and smaller but striking V's of Snow Geese. Birders counted thousands on corn fields in Rensselaer and Albany Cos.

Tomhannock Reservoir seemed reminiscent of the Tule-Klamath area as one V after another appeared in the sky. In the Albany area Thanksgiving was particularly memorable for the almost continual honking of geese overhead.

Birders are all too familiar with confusing fall warblers. The warblers were even more confusing this September because our binoculars were often dripping with water! This was the wettest September on record. There were three major storms and the month as a whole was cool. If the record breaking rainfall didn't get birders' attention, then the beginning of October did. An amazing storm on 4-5 Oct brought strong winds and heavy snowfall to much of our Region. Many deciduous trees were not able to bear the weight of the snow and a great deal of tree damage resulted. Instead of bird song filling the air there was the constant cracking and banging of limbs breaking. Lots of birding hours were spent cleaning up property damage. The weeks that followed continued colder than normal, with more than average precipitation. Another storm, much less severe, struck on 27 Oct. November seemed almost calm by comparison, although there were a number of small storms. Except for two periods of warm temperatures, 3-4 and 17-18 Nov, the month was generally cold with very low temperatures on 20-21 Nov.