

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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The fall weather was unsettled with only a few periods of fine weather. Temperatures for the three-month period averaged about 48°F, which is normal for the period, with the exception of Tug Hill where average readings were one degree below normal. Precipitation was slightly above normal, but showed considerable Regional variation from north to south. The southern half of the Region received about 2 inches more than normal and up to 20 inches on the Tug Hill. September was cooler and drier than normal. The first freeze in most areas occurred on 8 Sep. October temperatures were slightly below normal, and rainfall was normal. The greatest snowfall, on 28-29 Oct, was less than 1 inch. Minimum temperatures in the teens occurred on 27-29 Oct. November was warmer and slightly drier than normal. Maximum snowfall in most areas occurred on 12 Nov, with monthly total snowfall exceeding a few inches only in Lewis Co.

Do several reports of late sightings, including six Regional records for departure dates, suggest a trend in shift of seasonal distributions or just better coverage? Marilyn Badger had 25 Com. Tern at Moses-Saunders Dam on 16 Nov. Marilyn and Mary Wood spotted five late warbler species, detailed in the species accounts. P. O'Shea watched an Osprey harassed by crows at Streeter Lake, Town of Fine, on 4 Nov, and he spotted both an ad and an imm Bald Eagle at Dead Creek Flow on 27 Nov, very late for southern St Lawrence Co.

Moses-Saunders Dam continued to yield good sightings. There was no Barrow's Goldeneye, but Hollis White's **Harlequin Duck** 30 Nov is very unusual. Especially exciting for Bruce DiLabio was 15 Sep, when his list included Little and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Parasitic Jaeger, and Merlin; no less exciting were both **California** and **Sabine's Gulls** on 23 Oct. Numbers of large gulls and ducks were generally depressed.

Dick Brouse, who reported nine shorebirds from Lake Ontario, described a rapid drop in water level which left little algae and few brackish pools, resulting in low numbers of shorebirds. Dick has also added 14 acres of wetland to his property along Kelsey Creek in Watertown, a personal conservation project yielding him great satisfaction and good birding. No rails except Am. Coot were reported. Only one to three individuals of the following species were reported:

Semipalmated Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Pectoral Sandpiper, and Dunlin.

Is Cape Vincent a local Pt Pelee? Mary Wood certainly chalks up the species there: 15 species of vireos and warblers in Sep. Of course, Marilyn Badger had 16 species down the river near Massena, where males of several species were in breeding plumage. Mary also reported a peak day for Ruby-crowned Kinglet on 27 Sep with "hundreds hanging from every bush and tree", as well as dozens of Golden-crowned Kinglet on 27 Sep and 3 Oct. Flocks of both kinglet were reported from Massena about the same time, but in Jefferson Co, LBC recorded "heavy movement" 8-14 Oct. There was a concentration of 5000 Tree Swallow at Moses-Saunders Dam 15 Sep. Peter O'Shea reported flocks of N. Flicker and Am. Robin gorging on good crop of Wild Raisin and Com. Elderberry until mid October. Migratory movements of Am. Crow, Eur. Starling, Com. Grackle, White-crowned Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco were reported during the last half of October.

Range expansions continue with Red-bellied Woodpecker up in Jefferson Co; Carolina Wren and Northern Mockingbird reported from St. Lawrence Co, and N. Cardinal from the Tug Hill. Reports of Common Raven all indicate an increase in numbers and distribution. They were heard vocalizing in the Cranberry Lake region, T Clifton and near Fine, sometimes with Am. Crow, which have diminished in heavily wooded area of southern St Lawrence Co.

Of arriving winter visitors, one Snowy Owl, several Short-eared Owl and Rough-legged Hawk, and three N. Shrike give mixed signals while just one Pine Grosbeak and Evening Grosbeak signals another dismal year for winter finches.

Numbers of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks seemed up, with six reports of the latter; but Peter O'Shea saw the only one N. Goshawk at Dead Creek Flow 1 Sep. Peter also reported Broad-winged Hawk numbers to still be low. Small numbers of spot-breasted thrushes were reported, and there were no grassland sparrows but several Field Sparrow. Single reports of neotropical migrants such as Swainson's Thrush, Scarlet Tanager are alarming. R. Brouse writes, "numbers were down for resident species such as N. Oriole, Indigo Bunting, and Great Crested Flycatcher. It was the first year I did not have Warbling or Red-eyed Vireo".

Total species was 150, a fall record, with 19 ducks and geese, 12 larids, 11 hawks and four owls, and 73 passerines including 16 warblers.

Of the rarities, **California Gull** is a first Regional record and Carolina Wren a county record, while **Sabine's Gull** and Merlin are also significant.

Contributors: Marilyn Badger, Richard Brouse, Sheila & Bob Cerwonka, Lee Chamberlaine, Ken Crowell, Bruce DiLabio, Paul Kelly, Brian Kirby, Debbie & Steve Litwhiler, Peter O'Shea, Jeff Thayer, Hollis White, Mary & Brian Wood.

Abbreviations: CV - Cape Vincent; EDS - El Dorado Shores, T. Henderson; HP - Hawkins Pt, T. Massena; MSD - Moses-Saunders Dam, T. Massena; PtPn - Pt Peninsula, T Brownville; SLR - St. Lawrence River; WH - Wilson Hill WMA.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: singles CV 18 and 19 Nov. Red-necked Grebe: 27 MSD 11 Oct, high. Horned Grebe: three MSD 23 Oct. Double-crested Cormorant: max 250 MSD 24 Sep; last PtPn 21 Oct. Canada Goose: max MSD 1500+ 30 Sep, 2000 Henderson Pd 7 Oct. Brant: just two Millens Bay, CV 18 Nov. Snow Goose: many more than usual for fall; 41 white and three blue morph above MSD 30 Sep; ten Henderson 2 Oct; two, plus one probable blue, Canton 9 Oct. Canada Goose: max 2000 Henderson Pd 27 Oct. Am. Black Duck: max 42 HP 18 Nov. Gadwall: max 500 WH 30 Oct. Canvasback: five flocks of a dozen migrating over CV 7 Oct. Oldsquaw: large rafts off EDS 1 Nov. White-winged Scoter: arr four MSD 7 Sep, max 38 23 Oct. Com. Goldeneye: arr MSD 23 Oct. Bufflehead: none. Com. Merganser: max 5000 MSD 18 Nov; "combined brood" of 25 Streeter L, T Fine 4 Nov. Red-breasted Merganser: three females MSD 11 Oct, only report.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: *intro*. N. Harrier: good numbers in JEFF, max nine PtPn 18 Nov and Pt Salubrious 29 Nov. N. Goshawk: *intro*. Red-shouldered Hawk: none. Rough-legged Hawk: arr PtPn 21 Oct and Massena 24 Oct, max 55 PtPn 18 Nov. Merlin: single females HP 9 and 15 Sep. Gray Partridge: two coveys of nine and 13 Wilson's Bay, CV 4 Oct. Wild Turkey: no large flocks reported. Am. Coot: 11 WH 30 Oct, unusual. Black-bellied Plover: max six EDS 28 Sep. Killdeer: max 30 EDS 9 Sep. Sanderling: max 14 EDS 16 Sep. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 15 EDS 3 Sep. Am. Woodcock: one Lorraine 2 and 5 Nov, very late. Parasitic Jaeger: imm MSD 15 Sep. Little Gull: arr three MSD 7 Sep, max eight (one imm, three 2nd winter, four ad) 30 Sep. Bonaparte's Gull: max MSD 1200 23 Oct. Ring-billed Gull: max 1200+ MSD 11 Oct. **California Gull**: ad winter plumage MSD 23 Oct (BD). Herring Gull: max 2500+ MSD 21 Nov. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: ad MSD 15 Sep (BD). Great Black-backed Gull: max MSD 350 23 Oct. Black-legged Kittiwake: one first winter MSD 18 Nov; two 21 Nov. **Sabine's Gull**: ad with hood MSD 23 Oct (BD). Com. Tern: *intro*, max 215 MSD 5 Oct.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: singles CV 9 and 24 Sep. E. Screech-Owl: one Henderson 6 Sep; one to two heard CV 4 Sep to 7 Nov. Snowy Owl: one MSD 21 Nov, only one. Short-eared Owl: one Henderson 26 Nov; two CV 29 Nov. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: several reports of migrants 9-17 Sep.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: LBC reports several new locales, one Henderson Harbor 21 Oct, one near E. Hounsfield 2 Nov, one Carrying Place, PtPn 18 Nov, all near wetland. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: three reports, last Henderson 19 Oct. N. Flicker: good numbers from several areas 15 to 23 Sep; last 13 Oct. Pileated Woodpecker: reports from several observers indicate numbers are up.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: E. Wood-Pewee: six Cape Vincent 27 Sep. E. Phoebe: migrants in Henderson 28 Sep. Tree Swallow: *intro*. Cliff Swallow: 17 MSD 15 Sep only report. Am. Crow: 200+ E. Hounsfield 22 Oct; large flock Canton 24 Oct; several hundred Massena 1 Nov. Com. Raven: one Lorraine 6 Sep, two Mt. Arab, T Piercefield, and five Fowlersville, Lewis Co 27 Oct ; *intro*. Brown Creeper: reported by five out of eight regular observers; max four Cape Vincent 27 Sep, one singing. **Carolina Wren**: pair seen frequently in Canton after mid Nov. Winter Wren: last two Massena 1 Oct. Golden-crowned Kinglet: *intro*. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: *intro*. E. Bluebird: reported by five observers; max 4 PtPn 9 Oct; last Lorraine 21 Nov. Veery: none. Swainson's Thrush: only one Louisville 16 Oct. Hermit Thrush: abundant in forest of St Law, last late Oct. Wood Thrush: total of six reported by three observers, last two Watertown 13 Oct. N. Mockingbird: one singing at night Louisville 1 Sep. Am. Pipit: eight CV 23 Sep, only report. N. Shrike: arr imm CV 16 and 18 Nov. European Starling: 200+ Canton 26 Oct.

VIREOS-WARBLES: Solitary Vireo: max two, one singing, CV 23 Sep. Warbling Vireo: only one. Red-eyed Vireo: max 8 CV 13 Sep, few others. Orange-crowned Warbler: one CV 10 Sep, rarely reported. Nashville Warbler: last 9 Nov, Regional record late. Chestnut-sided Warbler: last 18 Oct, Regional record late. Magnolia Warbler: good numbers reported along SLR. Cape May Warbler: last 27 Sep, Regional record late. Bay-breasted Warbler: last 18 Oct, Regional record late. Ovenbird: last 17 Oct, Regional record late. N. Waterthrush: none.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: just one CV 13 Sep. N. Cardinal: one near Sear's Pd, Tug Hill, Lewis 30 Oct. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: just one female Louisville 2 Sep. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Ogdensburg 3 Oct. Fox Sparrow: three Louisville 17 Oct, only report. White-crowned Sparrow: arr Henderson 27 Sep; max 50 CV 3-7 Oct. Snow Bunting: arr 10 Massena 14 Oct. E. Meadowlark: max 20 Woodville 15 Oct. Rusty Blackbird: 50 Watertown 17 Oct. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 100+ Watertown 25 Oct; one Lorraine 18 Nov, late. Pine Grosbeak: just one Louisville 17 Sep. Purple Finch: small numbers from Henderson, CV, Lorraine, Ogdensburg and Massena 1 Oct through 20 Nov. House Finch: far outnumber Purple Finch with flocks of 50-70 reported from lowland; but none from Tug Hill. Pine Siskin: small numbers, max ten, 30 Oct to 12 Nov. Evening Grosbeak: arr Henderson 20 Oct, max 78 Lorraine 19 Nov. House Sparrow: two reports of high numbers, with 25-60 in a flock, JEFF.

Corrigendum: Ad Little Gull reported from MSD on 8 July in Summer report was actually seen 6 Aug.

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