

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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After eleven consecutive months of above normal temperatures, September was about 2° cooler than normal. Major cold fronts affected our area on 10-12, 16-17 and 24-26 Sep. Precipitation for the month was near normal. October returned to the global warming pattern of recent years, with temperatures 1-2° above normal and precipitation below normal. Strong cold fronts were evident only during the middle and end of the month. November temperatures were cool at the beginning of the month and warm at the end. Overall temperatures for the month were 1° below normal, but precipitation for the month was above normal.

The highlights of the season were found primarily among the non-passerine birds. Passerines were reported in very poor numbers as the apparent decline in neotropical migrant insectivores continues. Also, given the small number of active observers in our Region, it is likely many small and/or secretive species are under reported.

Of particular interest this season are the results of Bruce DiLabio's continuing surveys at the Moses-Saunders Power dam area north of Massena. His reports regularly include the highest concentrations of many species of gulls, terns, waterfowl and water birds for the Region. Highlights this fall include the only Red-throated Loon and Red-necked Grebe for the Region. His most unusual bird was a juvenile **Northern Gannet** on 3 Nov. Other species of interest from this site include Little Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, and Great Black-backed Gull. Observations at this site by DiLabio and former area resident Joe Van Reit since the mid 1970s clearly indicate this site as an excellent birding area.

In recent years it has become clear that several sites along the east end of Lake Ontario are good for fall hawk flights during strong north-northeast winds. The best of these are the Montario Point tower at Lakeview Wildlife Management Area and the high bluffs at Wescott Beach State Park. During late October and November several flights were observed, including seasonal high counts for several hawk species. Especially notable at Lakeview were maxima for Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk and Rough-legged Hawk, a total of six Northern Goshawk and three Golden Eagle for the season and a Common Raven. In addition to these flights of raptors, invasions of Snowy Owl and Northern Shrike were noted in much of the Region. Snowy Owl was seen at many locations during November. Most reports were of 1-2 owls per day, and many individuals were present. Shrikes were widespread at 1-2 per day following their arrival at several sites during the last few days of October.

Canada Goose was very common all season near L Ontario and on the St. Lawrence River. In contrast, most other groups were reported in poor or mediocre numbers. The shorebird flight was virtually absent except at the El Dorado Beach Preserve on Lake Ontario. There species diversity was fair but numbers of individuals was low. Highlights include Lesser Golden-Plover, Semipalmated Sandpipers, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper and Red Phalarope. Other low points of the season include the aforementioned poor numbers of flycatchers, thrushes, vireos and warblers, as well as a poor flight of winter finches. All in all, the fall of 1991 was nothing to write home about.

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Abbreviations: CV - T Cape Vincent; EDB - El Dorado Beach Preserve, T Ellisburg; LWMA - Lakeview Wildlife Management Area; MSD - Moses Saunders Power Dam; PRWMA - Perch River Wildlife Management Area; PtPen - Pt Peninsula, T Lyme; SLR - St. Lawrence River; WHWMA - Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Area; WB - Wilson Bay, Town of Cape Vincent; WDC -Wiley Dondero Canal Area, T Massena.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: 1-3 per day MSD 1-7 Nov. Com. Loon: arr MSD 4 Oct, max 14 MSD 7 Nov, most reports one-four/day Oct-Nov. Horned Grebe: arr MSD 4 Oct, max 32 Pt Salubrious-PtPen 4 Nov. Red-necked Grebe: one-four/day MSD 4 Oct-7 Nov. **N. Gannet:** *intro*. Double-crested Cormorant: continued increase, max 600 EDB 3 Sep, 100-200 per day several locations Sep, declining to last Three Mile Pt T Lyme 7 Nov (JRW). Great Blue Heron: max seven MSD 22 Sep, 1-2 per day through period. Great Egret: one Rushville StLA 18 Sep (KC). Am. Bittern: one Grasse R Massena 14 Oct (MB), only report. Tundra Swan: influx nw JEFF 3-5 Nov, five-ten/day through period, max 23 PtPen 9 Nov (LBC). Mute Swan: PRWMA population has grown to 20 (RB), should be eliminated soon by NYSDEC before they spread to become a serious pest. Brant: scarce, two reports; 150 MSD 4 Oct and 200 plus Henderson (LA). Canada Goose: max 2000/day many sites Oct-Nov. Wood Duck: scarce, scattered, mostly one-two/day, max six w Massena 4 Sep. Green-winged Teal: two-three/day only at EDB 6 Oct to 12 Nov, very scarce! Am. Black Duck: most reports two-six/day, max 60 PtPen 17 Nov. Mallard: mostly 10-50/day, max 130 PtPen 17 Nov. N. Pintail: two MSD 7 Nov, only report! Blue-winged Teal: max and last 60 EDB 22 Sep, very scarce compared to a decade ago. Gadwall: one-three/day, scattered sites SLR and L Ontario, max 30 EDB 10 Nov. Am. Wigeon: max 21 WHWMA 1 Nov (PK), scarce w of e SLR. Canvasback: three WHWMA 23 Oct, pair PRWMA 23 Nov, only reports. Redhead: max 293 WDC 3 Nov and 500 WDC 7 Nov, unreported w WHWMA. Ring-necked Duck: arr five EDB 30 Sep; max 350 WDC 7 Nov, exceeds all other counts by an order of magnitude. Greater Scaup: 2,000-10,000/day SLR e village of Cape Vincent 10 Oct-2 Nov (M&BW), 2000/day Henderson Bay 10-17 Nov. Lesser Scaup: arr 74 MSD 11 Oct, max 85 WDC 7 Nov, reports of thousands dubious. Oldsquaw: arr late Oct, most reports 15-50 per day L Ontario, max 1000 EDB 30 Nov. Surf Scoter: scarce; four MSD 11 Oct, unusual site. Com. Goldeneye: arr widespread first week of Nov, max 250 Wescott Beach SP 17 Nov. Bufflehead: arr three PtPen 4 Nov, max 47 PRWMA 10 Nov. Hooded Merganser: 8-10 per day w Massena all period, max 30 there 4 Nov, scarce elsewhere. Com. Merganser: max 2500-3500/day MSD 7-24 Nov (BDL). Red-breasted Merganser: very scarce, one-four/day only.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: mostly one-three/day, max 16 LWMA 28 Oct; ten T Lorraine 7 Oct (DSL). Osprey: none reported! Bald Eagle: four singles SLR and L Ontario 30 Sep-3 Nov. N. Harrier: one-three/day scattered entire period; max 12 Lakeview 28 Oct. Sharp-shinned Hawk: nine singles 2 Sep to 12 Nov, scarce and declining, a species to be watched. Cooper's Hawk: total five 20 Sep to 4 Nov. N. Goshawk: *intro*. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Harrisville LEWI 14 Sep (BMW), one

MSD 12 Oct (BDL), only reports. Broad-winged Hawk: one Star L StLA 14 Sep, only report! Red-tailed Hawk: max 62 Lakeview 28 Oct. Rough-legged Hawk: arr w Massena 6 Oct, one-three/day widespread thereafter, max 13 Lakeview 28 Oct. Golden Eagle: *intro*. Am. Kestrel: one-three/day widespread all period. Merlin: imm EDB 2 Sep, two Henderson 12 Sep, only reports. Gray Partridge: max 12 CV 12 Sep (MBW). Am. Coot: max 17 Henderson Bay 10 Nov. Black-bellied Plover: one/four day EDB, max 14 EDB 17 Oct. Lesser Golden-Plover: one EDB 27 Sep (RJW); two juv EDB 10-12 Nov, late. Semipalmated Plover: 1-2 per day EDB to 9 Oct. Killdeer: 12-20 per day EDB to 12 Nov; max 27 EDB 13 Oct. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 10 EDB 2 Sep. Upland Sandpiper: one Sand Bay CV 9 Sep (MBW). Sanderling: most 10-20/day EDB through Oct. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 23 EDB 2 Sep; three EDB 10 Nov, late. Least Sandpiper: none reported. White-rumped Sandpiper: four EDB 10-12 Nov. Baird's Sandpiper: one EDB 20 Oct, very late. Pectoral Sandpiper: 3 EDB 9-12 Nov. Dunlin: arr two EDB 9 Oct, max 105 EDB 19 Oct, last two EDB 26 Nov. Com. Snipe: max 12 WB 13 Oct, last one MBay 3 Nov. Am. Woodcock: one-two/day w Massena until 24 Oct. Red Phalarope: one EDB 19 Nov. Parasitic Jaeger: one EDB 6 Oct (GS). Little Gull: one-three/day MSD to 7 Nov, max six on 25 Sep. Bonaparte's Gull: 300-500/day MSD to 7 Nov, max 750 on 11 Sep; most reports away from MSD two-ten per day 2 Sep-18 Nov. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: ad MSD 3 Nov. Great Black-backed Gull: max 410 MSD 3 Nov, 5-20/day away from MSD. Caspian Tern: one-two/day to last EDB 17 Sep, early. Com. Tern: 40-75/day MSD in Sep, few elsewhere.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: max 65-75/day Sep-Oct several sites. Black-billed Cuckoo: one CV 13 Sep (MBW). E. Screech- Owl: one CV after 9 Sep, two Henderson 26 Oct. Great Horned Owl: max four T Louisville 29 Sep. Snowy Owl: arr MSD 1 Nov, *intro*. Com. Nighthawk: last two T Brownville and T Lyme 2 Sep. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: singles only. Belted Kingfisher: singles all period. Red-bellied Woodpecker: increasing slightly, three reports Henderson and CV Oct-Nov. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one-two/day, scattered, last w Massena 8 Oct. Pileated Woodpecker: one Watertown (RB), unusual site.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Phoebe: one-two/ day. Horned Lark: mostly 5-20/day scattered, max 40 PtPen 17 Nov. Tree Swallow: max 500 MSD 25 Sep. Bank Swallow: last MSD 25 Sep, late. Cliff Swallow: last MSD 25 Sep (BDL), very Late. Com. Raven: one moving s Lakeview 28 Oct (LBC), definitely increasing in Region, five reports of 8 birds include two-three/day T Lorraine 13-19 Oct (DSL). Black-capped Chickadee: to 20+/day. Boreal Chickadee: one near Ogdensburg 28 Oct (PK), rare outside Adirondacks. Tufted Titmouse: one Watertown 20-22 Oct and one Brownville 14-15 Oct, slight fall incursion? Red-breasted Nuthatch: one CV Sep-Oct only report. White-breasted Nuthatch: max six CV 24 Sep. Carolina Wren: one CV 7 Sep and 10-27 Oct, two Watertown 7-12 Oct. Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 36 CV 24 Sep. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: only one-four/day to last CV 12 Oct. E. Bluebird: one-six/day, max 12 Harrisville LEWI 14 Sep. Gray-cheeked Thrush: two w Massena 8 Oct (MB), only report. Swainson's Thrush: max and last four w Massena 15 Oct. Hermit Thrush: one-two/day during the first half of October. Am. Robin: flocks to

25 still present in mid Nov. N. Mockingbird: one CV 9 Nov. Am. Pipit: arr five CV 12 Sep, max 30 EDB 9 Nov, last EDB 12 Nov. Bohemian Waxwing: three MSD 24 Nov (BDL). Cedar Waxwing: scarce except near MSD where flocks in Nov, max 275 on 3 Nov. N.Shrike: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Solitary Vireo: singles only. Red-eyed Vireo: max five CV 22 Sep. Yellow-rumped Warbler: five-ten/day 30 Sep-27 Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: max five CV 24 Sep. Palm Warbler: two-three/day scattered 8 Sep-9 Oct.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: arr T Lorraine 7 Oct, mostly 5-12/day after 20 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: two reports. Song Sparrow: max 24 MSD 25 Sep. Swamp Sparrow: max six WB 13 Oct. White-throated Sparrow: arr away from breeding areas CV 10 Oct, max only ten/day, very scarce. White-crowned Sparrow: arr three MSD 25 Sep, max six/day scarce, last during last week of Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: 25-50/ day everywhere late Sep-early Nov, max 175 MSD 11 Oct. Snow Bunting: 20-60/day many locations Oct/Nov. Red-winged Blackbird: max 150,000 LWMA roost mid Sep. Rusty Blackbird: 5-30 per day scattered Oct. Purple Finch: one-four/day scattered 24 Sep-26 Nov. House Finch: continued expansion with first ever in T Lorraine in the wooded Tug Hill Plateau 7 Oct (DSL), max 234 Ogdensburg 22 Nov (PK). Com. Redpoll: 28 MSD 1 Nov, 85 there 3 Nov (BDL). Pine Siskin: arr w Masseno 16 Oct, max 12-15 there 16 Oct-16 Nov, primarily scattered singles. Evening Grosbeak: poor flight, to ten/ day scattered after 10 Oct.

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