

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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After a cool wet summer temperatures this September were close to normal and precipitation was greater than normal. Major cold fronts occurred on 1, 10-11, 18-19, 23-24, and 29-30 Sep, and our Region was slightly affected by the remains of hurricane Danielle on 26 and 27 Sep. October returned to the cold, wet pattern of much of 1992, especially along Lake Ontario where high water levels continued. Cold fronts occurred on 4-5, 9-12 (multiple), 16-19, 24-26, and 29-30 Oct. November continued the colder than normal weather of 1992 and precipitation continued above normal. Snowfall was recorded on several dates throughout the month and by mid November winter had arrived in most parts of the Region.

Overall this was a season of relatively few highlights as many groups, notably raptors, shorebirds and passerines were reported in low numbers. Compared to recent years, shorebird numbers were awful, largely as a result of the endless monsoon of 1992 that inundated El Dorado Beach Preserve and other good sites in this Region. Probably the highlight of the season is the increasing number of active observers in this Region that are providing more information for the Regional editors.

One notable event of the season is the continuing increase in reports of all local swans and geese, with the exception of Brant, for which there were only 2 reports during Oct. One to seven Tundra Swans per day were reported in nw JEFF during Nov. Mute Swan continues (unfortunately) to increase at Perch River WMA. Snow Goose had a banner year with several flocks reported between early Oct and late Nov. As always in recent years Canada Goose flocks were everywhere, except the Adirondacks, through the period. In contrast to Swans and Geese most duck species were present in poor numbers. Mallard was the only abundant dabbler, and the few reports of Blue-winged Teal are a far cry from the hundreds reported in the early 1980s. Every fall observers report hundreds to thousands of Lesser Scaup on Lake Ontario to this Editor. These identifications are clearly in error, as Greater Scaup predominates here.

There were few reports of Double-crested Cormorant; have they become so common as to be ignored? Killdeer was the only common shorebird this fall. Most gull species are now so abundant that most observers fail to report them. Notable gull reports were of Little Gull,

Bonaparte's Gull widespread along L Ontario and the St Lawrence River in flocks of 10-25 through the period, and Black-legged Kittiwake. In contrast, two of our three local tern species continue to decline. Terns were poorly reported, with small flocks of Caspian and Common Tern along L Ontario to 20 Sep. **No Black Tern** was reported.

This was a mediocre year for Rough-legged Hawk, and the fact that most were adult and second year individuals suggests the species had poor reproductive success. American Kestrel is much less frequent than 15-20 years ago. There was a fair echo flight of Snowy Owl after last year's incursion, with reports widespread after October, and Short-eared Owl was found in fair numbers in nw Jeff during Nov.

Amongst land birds the only highlights document the continued spread and increase of southern resident species notably: Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, and Carolina Wren. Reports of Northern Cardinal also continue to increase in more northerly parts of the Region, where the species is still uncommon. Mourning Dove numbers continue to increase along the western fringes of the Adirondacks. Winter finches, especially Evening Grosbeak, were very scarce.

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Abbreviations: BRB - Black River Bay; CH - Colwell Hill at Lakeside WMA; CV - Cape Vincent, JEFF; EDB - El Dorado Beach Preserve, JEFF; HH - Henderson Harbor, JEFF; PRWMA - Perch River WMA; PtPen - Point Peninsula; PtS - Pt Salubrious; SBSP - Southwick Beach State Park; SLR - St Lawrence River; ULLWMA - Upper and Lower Lakes WMA; WHWMA - Wilson Hill WMA.

Fall reports: **Red-throated Loon:** only report Coles Creek SP 19 Nov. **Com. Loon:** breeders on Cranberry L StLa Sep, arr CV 3 Oct, most 1-10 per day to end of Nov. **Horned Grebe:** arr several areas 14-16 Oct, widespread flight with 2-10 per day along L Ontario through period, max 20 PtPen 5 Nov (TD), best numbers in a decade (LBC). **Red-necked Grebe:** six reports of one-three/day early Oct-mid Nov. **Pied-billed Grebe:** seven reports primarily from PRWMA, ULLWMA and WHWMA, max eight PRWMA 2 Sep, last HH 15 Nov (LBC), late. **Double-crested Cormorant:** 100-125/day MSPD Sep-Oct (MB), increasing on SLR; one HH 27 Nov. **Great Blue Heron:** to five/day through mid Nov, singles regular thereafter, increasingly common in late fall. **Am. Bittern:** two reports, including three PRWMA 2 Sep. **Mute Swan:** max 15 PRWMA 23 Oct. **Tundra Swan:** intro. **Snow Goose:** max

75 Ogdensburg 18 Nov (DDiT). **Brant:** *intro*. **Canada Goose:** *intro*. **Wood Duck:** few reports, max 11 Wanakena StLA 13 Oct. **Green-winged Teal:** only report three PRWMA 23 Oct. **Am. Black Duck:** scattered reports four-eight/day Oct-Nov only. **Cinnamon Teal:** escapee with plastic leg tag shot PRWMA 3 Oct (*fide* LBC). **Blue-winged Teal:** max ten/day, last two T Rutland JEFF. **Am. Wigeon:** 200 PRWMA 21 Oct, high count there. **N. Shoveler:** 30 PRWMA 21 Oct, good count. **Canvasback:** female PRWMA 24 Sep, only report. **Redhead:** only report 154 WHWMA 7 Sep (DDiT), presumably local introduced breeders. **Ring-necked Duck:** one-three/day scattered Oct-Nov, very scarce; last HH 26 Nov. **Greater Scaup:** flocks of 100-500 per day after mid Oct L Ontario, max 4500 BRB 11 Nov. **Oldsquaw:** max 1500 EDB 22 Nov (GS), very high count. **Com. Goldeneye:** 75-200 per day L Ontario in Nov. **Bufflehead:** max 40-60/day PtPen 8-15 Nov. Hooded Merganser: 10-25/day widespread Nov, good numbers; max 400 WHWMA 29 Oct (DDiT) may be a Regional record max. **Com. Merganser:** two-eight/day widespread, usual concentrations at MSPD not reported.

Turkey Vulture: max 15 CH 23 Sep, last StLA 21 Nov (TD), late. **Bald Eagle:** ten reports 2 Sep-24 Nov, most L Ontario-SLR. **N. Harrier:** four/day most lowland areas through period, max eight PtPen. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** eight reports, max six CH 23 Sep (LBC), continues decline. **Cooper's Hawk:** ten widespread reports, max two. **N. Goshawk:** only two reports Nov, definitely not an invasion year here. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** one capturing a Meadow Vole near DeGrasse StLa 2 Sep (PO), only report. **Red-tailed Hawk:** two-five/day widespread, max 15 Pt. Pen 28 Oct. **Rough-legged Hawk:** arr several areas last week Oct, max five; *intro*. **Golden Eagle:** five reports, including two Massena 25 Oct (DDiT) and imm injured from collision with powerline Rector, T Montague, LEWI, later died. **Am. Kestrel:** max six CV 20 Sep (MBW), widespread to late Oct, singles thereafter. **Merlin:** seven singles SLR and L Ontario 4 Sep-21 Oct plus one very late Wilson Bay Marsh CV 15 Nov (MBW). **Peregrine Falcon:** one near Henderson 16 Oct (GM). **Wild Turkey:** five CV 10 Nov unusual as species still uncommon in lowlands. **Com. Moorhen:** last Wilson Bay Marsh CV 20 Sep. **Am. Coot:** to six/day HH 6-29 Nov. **Semipalmated Plover:** max five Sherwins Bay, T Henderson, 16 Sep. **Killdeer:** max 45 Stony Creek Boat Launch, T Henderson 15 Sep, last 2 Nov. **Greater Yellowlegs:** to two/day Oct, scarce. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** to five/day to mid Oct. **Red Knot:** 12 Lakeside WMA 15 Sep, four SBSP 20 Sep feeding amongst dead Zebra Mussel (LBC). **Sanderling:** to 12/day L Ontario Sep-Oct. **Least Sandpiper:** probable injured bird present Sawyers Bay, T Henderson, very late. **W. Sandpiper:** one Quarry Rd CV 19-20 Sep

(MBW). **White-rumped Sandpiper**: one MSPD 27 Oct (DDiT). **Dunlin**: arr Sawyer's Bay, T Henderson, 3 Oct; max 19 EDB 11 Oct (GM). **Am. Woodcock**: still present in Tug Hill Plateau at Lorraine 20 Oct (DSL). **Little Gull**: one-three/day MSPD 21 Oct-18 Nov (DDiT). **Black-legged Kittiwake**: four singles MSPD 21 Oct-24 Nov.

Mourning Dove: max 56 at feeder Ogdensburg (PK). **Black-billed Cuckoo**: two reports L Ontario 8-15 Sep. **E. Screech-Owl**: one-two CV daily and five/day Watertown, only reports. **Snowy Owl**: arr PtPen 28 Oct, to two/day including areas of Adirondack and Tug Hill fringes, three T Lowville (BH) unusual. **Short-eared Owl**: to nine/day nw JEFF Nov, max 13 PtS 19 Nov. **Com Nighthawk**: to four/day through 6 Sep, scarce. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: five reports sw JEFF suggests establishment in this part of the Region. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: five singles 20-30 Sep. **Pileated Woodpecker**: 16 reports, max three, holding its own.

E. Wood-Pewee: one Lorraine 13 Oct, late for the Tug Hill. **E. Phoebe**: 2-6 per day widespread to 9 Oct. **Horned Lark**: max 45 Henderson 21 Nov. **Tree Swallow**: max 300-550 per day several sites Sep, last two PtPen 1 Nov. **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: two CH 20 Sep (LBC), late. **Gray Jay**: to eight/day at three Adirondack locations (PO, LBC). **Am. Crow**: 1000+ in migrant flocks JEFF mid Oct. **Com. Raven**: several reports Tug Hill Plateau, max 12 near N Osceola LEWI 1 Nov (GM) and one-four/day at other Tug Hill-Adirondack locations, still rare in lowlands, continued increase. **Tufted Titmouse**: four reports, most notable one on Tug Hill Plateau in T Lorraine 28 Sep (DSL) where virtually unknown. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: scattered singles only. **Brown Creeper**: scattered singles only 23 Sep-24 Oct. **Carolina Wren**: five reports, including one Canton 5 Oct-4 Nov (JG). **Winter Wren**: singles only 16 Sep-13 Oct. **Marsh Wren**: one PRWMA 24 Nov (LBC, GM), attempting to overwinter? **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: arr Henderson 23 Sep, max hundreds T Lorraine mid Oct (DSL). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: arr Henderson 23 Sep, hundreds Lorraine mid Oct (DSL), last CV 22 Oct. **E. Bluebird**: to six/day several areas to late Oct, max 30 CV 19 Oct, still present nw JEFF Dec, definite increase. **Hermit Thrush**: to four/day scattered 4-17 Oct. **N. Mockingbird**: one CV 20 Sep where rare(MBW). **Am. Pipit**: arr 35 Henderson 7 Oct, max 170 CV 12 Oct, high count, last T Henderson 20 Nov. **Cedar Waxwing**: 20-40 per day widespread, max 250 Cranberry L STLA 14 Oct. **N. Shrike**: arr 5 Nov, three reports, scarce. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**: one Town Barn Road, T Henderson 1 Sep (GM), first report in years.

Solitary Vireo: one-four/day scattered 20 Sep-19 Oct. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** two T Lisbon StLA 26 Sep, singles Massena area 5 and 22 Oct (DDiT), excellent flight. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** to ten/day widespread 20 Sep-16 Oct. **Palm Warbler:** two reports 20 Sep-18 Oct. **Pine Warbler:** ten Waddington and 14 Coles Creek SP StLA 12 Sep (DDiT), extraordinary count. **Com. Yellowthroat:** one Rays Bay Marsh T Henderson 28 Nov (LBC, GM), wintering?

Am. Tree Sparrow: to five/day after 17 Oct, very scarce. **Chipping Sparrow:** two-six migrants/day 20 Sep-23 Oct. **Vesper Sparrow:** five PtPen 17 Oct (RJW), four PtPen 28 Oct (LBC, GM), only reports. **Song Sparrow:** one still present Rays Bay Marsh T Henderson 28 Nov. **Swamp Sparrow:** five still present PRWMA 24 Nov. **White-throated Sparrow:** to 15/day widespread 28 Sep-27 Oct. **White-crowned Sparrow:** to six/day widespread 28 Sep-27 Oct, max 100 PtPen 17 Oct. **Dark-eyed Junco:** to 40/day widespread 5 Oct-1 Nov. **Snow Bunting:** to 30/day scattered in Nov. **Com. Grackle:** one lingering Lorraine 18-19 Nov (DSL), late. **Rusty Blackbird:** max 50 PRWMA 21 Oct. **Purple Finch:** 15 T Lorraine 28 Nov only report of more than two, scarce. **House Finch:** present at Lorraine, where rare, in mid Nov. **Pine Siskin:** very scare, max 20 near Smithville, T Henderson, Oct. **Evening Grosbeak:** only flock 31 T Lorraine 28 Nov (DSL).

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