

REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

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Fall weather was generally wet but mild. There was not a killing frost until mid October. Several inches of snow fell a week before Thanksgiving, followed by several days of subfreezing temperatures when most quiet water was frozen. The larder was well stocked for fall and winter with good crops of white spruce cones, gray birch seeds, and buckthorn berries. According to Bruce Di Labio, water levels in the St. Lawrence River dropped during September, exposing many rocky islands and points where gulls and cormorants rested, but no one commented on how this affected shorebirds or waterfowl.

While 27 species of waterbirds and 9 larids were spotted, Bruce Di Labio found the lowest numbers of waterfowl and gulls at Moses-Saunders Dam in 15 years and speculated that the cause might be a scarcity of small fish. His maxima of Com. Goldeneye and gulls are an order of magnitude lower than in the past. At a hawkwatch at Westcott Beach SP the morning of 18 September with north winds of 12-15 mph, Bob Helmetsie counted nine species including

the only Bald Eagle reported, seven Sharp-shinned and 2 Cooper's hawks, 47 Broad-wings and 41 Red-tails. Numbers of N. Harrier and Am. Kestrel were low. A total of 14 shorebird species was reported, but sightings were few and numbers were mostly in the single digits. The passerine migration appears muted, partially due to fewer reports. Only 14 warbler species were reported. In spite of the mild weather, there were few late departures. Marilyn Badger's Ruby-throated Hummingbird on 4 Oct and N. Waterthrush 1 Oct, both Massena area, are noteworthy. Nick Leone sighted immature Red-headed Woodpeckers at Sackets Harbor and Henderson Harbor on 15 Sep and 3 Nov, respectively. Lee Chamberlaine reported the only Red-bellied Woodpecker on 21 Nov and heard a Tufted Titmouse on 21 Oct. There were no other southern species of note. On the boreal-arctic end of the spectrum, the first Snowy Owl appeared at Black River Bay JEFF 18 Nov and there were three other sightings in the area on 21 and 24 Nov. R. Hill (*fide* G. Smith) reported 80 Bohemian Waxwings at Pt Pen 24 Nov. The only N. Shrike was near Southwick Beach SP on 22 Nov. Winter finches were notably scarce. In all, 139 species were reported by ten observers.

Paul Kelly reported a max of 150 House Finches at his feeder in Adams 11 Nov and observed birds with eye infections through the period. On 3-12 Oct he watched an imm bird with a bill three times normal size; it was found dead on the 12th.

Although two Merlins, Lakeview WMA 4 and 12 Sep (*fide* G. Smith) can not be dismissed, most rarities were aquatic species: an unverified N. Gannet over the St. Lawrence River, a Snowy Egret, a male Eurasian Wigeon, three Ruddy Ducks, several Little Gulls, and a Sooty Tern found 12 Sep at Allendale on the Adams to Lorraine Rd, JEFF, which subsequently died (specimen to Cornell U). The latter was a first Regional record, *fide* G. Smith!

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Abbreviations: BRB -- Black River Bay T Brownville JEFF; ED -- Eldorado Shores T Ellisburg; Hen: T Henderson JEFF; HH: Henderson Harbor JEFF; HP -- Head Pond, Massena STLA; LV -- T Louisville STLA; PRWMA -- Perch River WMA JEFF; P Pt -- Pillar Pt T Brownville JEFF; PtPen -- Pt Peninsula T Lyme JEFF; Pt S-- Pt Salubrious T Lyme; RMSP -- Robert Moses SP T Massema STLA; WBSP -- Westcott Beach SP T Henderson JEFF; WHWMA -- Wilson Hill WMA STLA.

LOONS-WATERFOWL: . Red-throated Loon: singles HP 25 Oct and 2 Nov; SLR, T Morristown 10 Nov; Sawyer's Bay, Hen 11 Nov. **Com. Loon:** max 55 Pt Pen 6 Nov **Pied-billed Grebe:** max and last nine WHWMA 16 Sep. **Horned Grebe:** max 38 WBSP 12 Nov. **Red-necked Grebe:** arr MSD 26

Oct; max three 11 Nov. **Double-crested Cormorant**: max 135 RMSP 7 Oct. **N GANNET**: one Oak Pt STLA 4 Oct (J. Marrs *fide* D.Crumb). **Great Egret**: one Sandy Creek. T Ellisburg 11 Sep. **SNOWY EGRET**: one Toad Hole I 6, 9 Sep (I. Mazzocchi *fide* NL). **Tundra Swan**: 17 CV 16 Nov; 25 Pt Pen 21 Nov. **Brant**: 100 HH 3 Nov. **Canada Goose**: strong migration reported all fall; max 1000 MSD 11 Nov. **Blue-winged Teal**: max 50 ED 3 Sep. **Gadwall**: max 320 WHWMA 26 Oct. **EURASIAN WIGEON**: one male Pt Pen 9 Nov. **Am. Wigeon**: max 240 WHWMA 26 Oct. **Redhead**: max 330 WHWMA 16 Sep. **Ring-necked Duck**: max 110 WHWMA 7 Oct. **Lesser Scaup**: 4000 BRB 17 Nov. **Oldsquaw**: arr four HH 3 Nov. **Black Scoter**: 78 HP and downstream 26 Oct. **Com. Goldeneye**: arr Hen 31 Oct; max 883 HP and RMSP 16 Nov. low. **Bufflehead**: arr ten Pt Pen 10 Nov. **Ruddy Duck**: two on 16 Sep; one f 7 Oct. both WHWMA.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Bald Eagle**: WBSP 18 Sep. only report. **N. Harrier**: only three reports. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: seven WBSP 18 Sep. **Cooper's Hawk**: two WBSP 18 Sep. **N. Goshawk**: singles WBSP 13 and 18 Sep. only reports. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: one Adams 309 Sep; two Russell 8 Sep. **Broad-winged Hawk**: 47 WBSP 18 Sep. **Red-tailed Hawk**: 41 WBSP 18 Sep. **Rough-legged Hawk**: arr and max five LVWMA 20 Oct. **Am. Kestrel**: three WB 18 Sep only report. **Merlin**: singles Lakeview WMA 4, 12 Sep. **Am. Coot**: singles LV 9 Sep and WHWMA 16 Nov. **Black-bellied Plover**: max six EB 23 Sep. **Killdeer**: max 50 Hen in plowed field 16 Sep; dep one WBSP 17 Nov. **Red Knot**: max eight EB 12 Sep. **Sanderling**: max 50 Henderson 5 Sep. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: one Pt Pen 6 Sep. only report. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: one Pt Pen 6 Sep. **Stilt Sandpiper**: one EB 12 Sep. **Little Gull**: arr one ad RP 17 Aug; two SBSP 12 Sep; two ad winter plumage RMSP 16 Sep; last one 11 Nov. **Bonaparte's Gull**: 46 RMSP 27 Sep. **Ring-billed Gull**: max 213 RMSP 16 Nov. **Herring Gull**: max 1450 HP 16 Nov. **Iceland Gull**: arr and only one HP 16 Nov. **Great Black-backed Gull**: max 316 RMSP 16 Nov. **Com. Tern**: max 18 MSD 10 Sep. **SOOTY TERN**: one Allendale JEFF 12 Sep (*fide* GS), subsequently died. specimen to Cornell U, 1st Regional record. **Black Tern**: max 34 Pt Pen 6 Sep.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: **Snowy Owl**: arr Black River Bay JEFF 18 Nov; three others in area 21, 24 Nov. **Com. Nighthawk**: dep one Massena 4 Sep. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: last MB's feeder 4 Oct. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one Sackets Harbor 15 Sep; one HH 3 Nov (NL). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: only one 21 Nov (LC).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING. **Gray Jay**: four Colton. **Brown Creeper**: max eight Hen 25 Sep. **E. Bluebird**: only three singles, Hen 22 Oct. 12 Nov; Pierrepont STLA 2 Nov. **Tufted Titmouse**: one 21 Oct. **Bohemian Waxwing**:

80 Pt Pen 24 Nov (R. Hill *fide* GS). **N. Shrike**: one Southwick Beach SP 22 Nov. only report.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: **Solitary Vireo**: one LV 10 Sep. only report. **Philadelphia Vireo**: one LV 17 Sep. only report. **Red-eyed Vireo**: one 18 Sep. only report. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: four Hen 25 Sep. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: four Hen 25 Sep. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: two Hen 25 Sep. All other warbler species singles only.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Scarlet Tanager**: max three Hen 1 Sep. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: arr and max 18 RMSP 2 Nov. **Chipping Sparrow**: max 30 WBSF 13 Sep. **Field Sparrow**: max 25 LV 24 Sep. **Savannah Sparrow**: max three Massena 27 Sep. only report. **Snow Bunting**: arr five Hammond 1 Nov; max 580 Massena 11 Nov. **Purple Finch**: max ten Adams 12 Nov; few others. **House Finch**: 150 Adams 11 Nov (PK); some birds noted with eye disease. **Am. Goldfinch**: max 90 Adams 11 Nov. **Evening Grosbeak**: two LV 1 Sep; five there 31 Oct. only reports.