

## REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

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Fall of 1997 was a mixed bag of weather conditions with September bringing rainy, foggy and overcast days with a few sunny ones and mid 50 degree temperatures. The first snow and ice pellets fell in the AM on 1 October, with beautiful and warm days to follow. Temperatures rose into the 50s and 60s until 9 October when it was 79 degrees in Watertown. Sunny days and blue skies followed until 20 October when cool and overcast weather occurred daily until 22 October. Montague in Lewis Co. on Tug Hill recorded a 7 inch snowfall on 22 October, and the Adirondacks at Star Lake recorded 2 inches of snow the same day. On 23 October, Osceola in Lewis Co. received 8 inches of snow overnight followed that day by a mix of rain, snow, sunny skies and then more snow. The rest of the month was mainly overcast with rain. November saw the rain and overcast conditions continue until 14 November when the low was 14 °F at Henderson at 8 am and about 7 inches of snow fell for the day. Then back into the rain and overcast syndrome, with a few colder spells and a low of -7 ° at Highmarket in Lewis Co. on 25 November. On 26 November, a high of 45 degrees was experienced at 7 AM and then back to overcast with rain or snow until the end of the month.

The migration was speedy for many breeding species, but slow for the winter visitors, such as Rough-legged Hawk and Snowy Owl, to arrive. *Microtus* numbers were variable at the usual raptor concentration areas. Some late hangers-on were evident, such as Turkey Vulture, N. Flicker, and E. Bluebird. Some observers felt some species, such as the diving ducks and all woodpeckers away from feeders, were in low numbers. Shorebirds provided some excellent viewing, particularly at a newly constructed private marsh near Chaumont where many observers concentrated their efforts. There were some early indications of a winter finch year, at least compared to the miserable showing of last year. However the finches could not be located consistently and may have been just moving through to points south.

Highlights for the season include the following: large numbers of Tundra Swans; an immature Peregrine carrying a still struggling, probable Willet, which would be a record late date for Willet, if a positive identification had been made; the observation of Gray Partridge at a former location - Pt. Peninsula - and in good numbers; an **American Golden-Plover**; Purple Sandpiper after a long absence at Eldorado Beach Preserve; a **Red Phalarope**, a **Franklin's Gull**; outstanding numbers of Common Terns preparing to migrate; a N. Saw-whet Owl released back to the wild; Com. Ravens all over the Region; return of a **Carolina Wren** to the Kelsey Creek area in Watertown; a few Bohemian Waxwings to make one start to check out any waxwing flocks; Pine Grosbeaks

on the Lake Plain and on Tug Hill; White-winged Crossbills early in Sept on the Lake Plain; large flocks of Common Redpolls and a **Hoary Redpoll**.

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**Abbreviations:** CV- Cape Vincent; ED- Eldorado Beach, Twn Ellisburg, JEFF; Hen- Henderson; KC - Kelsey Creek, Watertown; PRWMA - Perch River Wildlife Management Area, JEFF; PtPen - Point Peninsula, Twn Lyme, JEFF; SLR - St. Lawrence River; SP- State Park; SnPt- Snowshoe Point, Twn Henderson, JEFF; Twn - Township; WBSP- Wescott Beach State Park, Twn Henderson, JEFF; WHWMA- Wilson Hill WMA, Twn Lousiville, STLA; WM - Wiseman Marsh, Case Rd, Twn Lyme, JEFF.

### LOONS-DUCKS

**Red-throated Loon:** 1 Black Pd WMA 15 Nov (GS).

**Com. Loon:** 2 Wilson's Bay 24 Oct; in lower numbers than usual.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** 4 imm WM 1 Sep; 1 French Creek WMA 19 Sep.

**Horned Grebe:** 4 Sawyer's Bay Twn Hen 17 Oct; 15 Sawyer's Bay Twn Hen 4 Nov; 20 PtPen 16 Nov; 2 Pillar Pt 29 Nov.

**Red-necked Grebe:** 1 PtPen village 24 Oct (GS); 1 ED 28 Oct (MBr); 1 Sawyer's Bay 28 Oct (GM); 2 ED 1 Nov (GS); 1 Pt Salubrious 3 Nov; 1 PtPen 29 Nov (RB).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 1 Beaver Meadow, Watertown 28 Sep; 1 Black River Bay 13 Nov.

**Am. Bittern:** 2 WM 1 Sep; 1 WM 6 Sep.

**Great Blue Heron:** 1 Adams 15 Nov; 1 PtPen 29 Nov.

**Great Egret:** 2 Massena 1 Sep.

**Green Heron:** 1 WM 1 Sep.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 1 Beaver Meadow 27 Sep; 3 Beaver Meadow, Watertown 28 Sep; two Beaver Meadow 19 Oct.

**Turkey Vulture:** 47 WBSP Overlook 11 Oct; 25 WBSP Overlook 16 Oct; 1 Hen 20 Oct; 2 Adams 23 Oct; 2 PtPen 19 Nov.

**Snow Goose:** 1 with Canada's Lakeview WMA 16 Sep; 1 PRWMA 29 Oct; 11 Sackets Harbor 9 Nov; max 60 Lorraine 9 Nov.

**Brant:** moving thru 3 flocks appx 200 25 Oct (fide Louie Cook); 1 ED 30 Oct.

**Tundra Swan:** 12 Three Mile Pt, Twn Lyme, JEFF 7 Nov; 7 ED 8 Nov; 6 PtPen 10 Nov; 16 PtPen 12 Nov; 18 PtPen 16 Nov.

**Am. Black Duck:** 100+ with Mallards in field Hen 20 Nov.

**Mallard:** 400+ in field Hen 20 Nov.

**Blue-winged Teal:** 20 WM 10 Nov.

**N. Shoveler:** max 24 WM 15 Sep.

**Redhead:** max 150+ WHWMA, STLA 8 Nov.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 56+ PRWMA 30 Sep.

**Greater Scaup:** arr 8 PtPen 27 Oct; 500 Pillar Pt 4 Nov; 65 SLR Ogdensburg 8 Nov; 900+ Black River Bay, Sackets Harbor 9 Nov; max approx 10,000 Pillar Pt 29 Nov.

**KING EIDER:** 1 imm male ED 22 Nov (GS).

**White-winged Scoter:** arr 30 SnPt 27 Oct; 1 ED 30 Oct; 1 Colwell Pd, Lakeview WMA 13 Nov.

**Black Scoter:** 1 ad m Sackets Harbor 9 Nov.

**Oldsquaw:** arr 40 PtPen 27 Oct; 15 ED 30 Oct; 15 Sawyer's Bay 15 Nov.

**Bufflehead:** arr 30 PtPen 25 Oct; 6 ED 30 Oct.

**Com. Goldeneye:** arr 1 SnPt 27 Oct.

**Hooded Merganser:** max 200+ WHWMA 8 Nov; 20 Crystal Lk Twn Hen 13 Nov; 10 PtPen 24 Nov.

**Com. Merganser:** 100 Sawyer's Bay Hen 22 Oct.

### HAWKS-ALCIDS

**Osprey:** 1 ED 14 Sep; 2 ED 16 Sep.  
**Bald Eagle:** 1 imm Lakeview WMA, Colwell Hill 4 Sep; 1 first year bird Lakeview WMA 16 Sep; 1 imm Ray's Bay, Twn Hen 4 Oct; 1 imm Lakeview WMA 19 Oct; 1 juv WBSP Overlook 11 Oct; 1 imm Alder Acres, Twn Lorraine, Tug Hill 20 Nov (DL).  
**N. Harrier:** 10 Lakeview WMA, Colwell Hill 16 Sep; 15 PtPen 18 Sep; 7 PtPen 24 Sep.  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 21 ED 8 Sep; 2 ED 14 Sep; 1 Hen, a regular visitor to feeders - caught Am. Goldfinch 12 Nov.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** 3 ED 16 Sep; 1 Hen 21 Nov.  
**N. Goshawk:** 1 Stony Pt, Twn Hen, Wehle Property 11 Nov; 1 imm Sawyer's Bay 20 Nov.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 3 Twn CV 5 Oct; 1 imm WBSP Overlook 11 Oct.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** 216 in group Lakeview WMA, Colwell Hill 16 Sep; 1 ad being harassed by pair of ravens JEFF-LEWI Co. Line 23 Sep.  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** 22 ED 8 Sep; 21 ED 16 Sep; 21 WBSP Overlook 11 Oct; 25 WBSP Overlook 16 Oct; 12 WBSP Overlook 7 Nov; 9 PtPen 18 Nov; 11 PtPen 28 Nov.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** arr 1 Twn CV 6 Oct; 7 PtPen 18 Nov; 10 PtPen 28 Nov.  
**Am. Kestrel:** singles in Sep and Oct; 5 together CV 9 Oct; 3 PtPen 24 Nov; in low numbers.  
**Merlin:** 1 Lakeview WMA, Colwell Hill 16 Sep; 1 PtPen 26 Sep; 2 (1 ad & 1 imm) ED coursing and playing 29 Sep; 1 NY Rt 3, Twn Piercefield, STLA 30 Sep; 1 in yard Potsdam 8 Oct; 1 Ray's Bay Twn Hen 4 Oct; 1 Town Barn Rd, Twn Hen 16 Nov.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** 1 ED chasing a Redtail 8 Sep; 1 imm ED 26 Sep; 1 WM 3 Oct (NL&BH); one Ray's Bay Twn Hen 4 Oct; 1 imm carrying struggling prey, a probable Willet, Pillar Pt 3 Nov (GS).  
**Gray Partridge:** 12 Twn CV 9 Oct; 16 Twn CV 12 Oct; 6 PtPen 12 Nov (GS) - not seen here in some years; 6 Mason Rd Twn CV 18 Nov.  
**Ruffed Grouse:** 4 Tug Hill WMA 22 Sep.  
**Wild Turkey:** 18 (3 ad with mixed age young) Gardner Rd Twn Montague LEWI 22 Sep; 43<sup>+</sup> Lorraine 9 Nov.

**Com. Moorhen:** 5 Wilson's Bay Marsh 16 Sep.  
**Am. Coot:** 14 PRWMA 24 Oct; 19 Chaumont 25 Oct; 39 SLR, Ogdensburg 8 Nov.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** 1 ad breeding plumage ED 13 Sep; 4 ED 26 Sep; max 5 ED 13 Oct.  
**AM. GOLDEN-PLOVER:** 1 ED 29 Sep (GS).  
**Semipalmated Plover:** 6 WM 4 Sep; 4 ED 17 Sep.  
**Killdeer:** 3 ED 3 Sep; 1 Sawyer's Bay 15 Nov.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** 5 WM 27 Sep; 2 Chaumont 16 Nov.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 8 WM 1 Sep; 3 ED 3 Sep; 1 WM 1 Oct.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** 2 ED 3 Sep.  
**Sanderling:** 25 ED 7 Sep; max 30 ED 21 Sep; 25 ED 26 Sep.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 30 WM 1 Sep; 20 WM 4 Sep; 17 ED 17 Sep.  
**Western Sandpiper:** 1 WM 7 Sep.  
**Least Sandpiper:** 1 WM 4 Sep.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 1 WM 2 Oct; 6 ED 28 Oct; 1 ED 30 Oct.  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** 1 ED 3 Sep.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** max 16 WM 16 Oct - a hard species to find in fall in this Region.  
**Purple Sandpiper:** 1 ED 28 Oct (Mbr), absent from this location for at least five years, used to be a regular there.  
**Dunlin:** 1 WM 15 Sep; 18 WM 15 Oct; max 100 ED 28 Oct; 1 Black Pd outlet ED 25 Nov (GS).  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** 2 WM 15 Sep.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 7 WM 1 Sep; 1 WM 4 Sep.  
**Com. Snipe:** 7 Calcium Pd 19 Oct; 1 Chaumont 16 Nov.  
**Am. Woodcock:** 1 in backyard in Hen village 13 Sep.  
**RED PHALAROPE:** 1 ED 23 Oct (GS).  
**FRANKLIN'S GULL:** 1 first winter plumage Southwick Beach SP 18 Oct (GS).  
**Little Gull:** 1 PtPen village 24 Oct (GS).  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** 75 Southwick Beach SP 3 Sep; max 96 ED 12 Sep; 14 Sawyer's Bay 22 Oct; 28 Sawyer's Bay 15 Nov.  
**Caspian Tern:** 1 over Hen village 6 Sep.  
**Com. Tern:** max approx 500 feeding ED 3

Sep (NL&BH); 17 ED 8 Sep.

**Black Tern:** 3 Southwick Beach SP 3 Sep.

#### DOVES-WOODPECKERS

**Mourning Dove:** had a good nesting year, large flocks everywhere; 80 in flock CV 11 Nov.

**E. Screech-Owl:** 1 calling Hen 13 Sep; 2 heard CV village 23 Sep; 1 Twn CV 15 Nov.

**Great Horned Owl:** 2 Twn CV 15 Nov.

**Snowy Owl:** arr CV 28 Nov, later than normal.

**Barred Owl:** 1 Potsdam 29 Nov (SC); 1 Louisville STLA thru.

**Short-eared Owl:** 3 on back rds CV 15 Nov.

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** 1 Barnes Corners 20 Nov (GS), hit window while attempting to catch Deer Mouse (mouse tracks seen on porch next day), released none the worse.

**Com. Nighthawk:** 1 over CV village 4 Sep; 1 CV 7 Sep; 1 Twn CV 27 Sep.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** max 8 PtPen 18 Sep; 1 Hen 29 Sep.

**Belted Kingfisher:** 1 Wilson Bay Marsh 22 Sep.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 1 imm PtPen 26 Sep (NL&BH).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** 1 male Twn CV 3 Sep; 1 female KC 22 Nov thru (RB); 1 Hen thru.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 1 Twn CV 3 Oct.

**N. Flicker:** 1 Sackets Harbor 13 Nov.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** 1 Hen 11, 13 Sep; pair around freshly worked nest-hole Smithville, JEFF 20 Nov.

#### FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

**E. Phoebe:** 4 Pt Salubrious 5 Oct.

**N. Shrike:** 1 ad Twn CV 3 Nov; 1 Adams 9 Nov; 1 Rodman 25 Nov; 1 PtPen 28 Nov.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** 1 Lakeview WMA 6 Oct; moving thru Hen 11 Oct.

**Warbling Vireo:** 1 singing Hen 7 Sep; 1 singing Hen 10 Sep.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** 1 CV 8 Sep.

**Blue Jay:** 6-700 moving along Lake Ontario shoreline, Ray's Bay Twn Hen 4 Oct (GM).

**Am. Crow:** 300<sup>+</sup> Twn Hounsfield JEFF 17 Nov; 3-500 at roost on I-81 near Watertown 30 Nov.

**Com. Raven:** 2 Nash Rd Twn Ellisburg 3 Sep; 1 ED 21 Sep; 1 Sixberry Lk Twn Theresa JEFF 21 Sep; 2 NY 177 LEWI 22 Sep; 1 Southwick Beach SP 27 Sep; 1 Potsdam village 6 Nov; 2 Stony Pt, Wehle Property 11 Nov; 1 McKeever Rd Twn CV being harassed by and harassing two N. Harriers 24 Nov; 1 S. Hammond STLA 26 Nov.

**Horned Lark:** 50 CV 15 Nov; max est 100 Outer Massey St Watertown 29 Nov.

**Tree Swallow:** 600<sup>+</sup> Pt Pen 24 Sep; max 4-5000 PtPen 26 Sep; 200<sup>+</sup> Twn CV 12 Oct; 7 near Wilson's Bay 31 Oct.

**Barn Swallow:** 200<sup>+</sup> total ED moving south in small groups 8 Sep.

**Tufted Titmouse:** pair at feeder CV village 18 Oct thru (MW); 1 KC 31 Oct, 2-5 Nov (RB); 1 Sawyer's Bay 20 Nov (fide GM); 2 Louisville STLA 28 Nov; pair Massena 30 Nov (MB).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 4-6 daily at feeder early Sep; 1 Hen 9 Sep; 1 CV village 22 Oct; tough to find in Nov.

**Brown Creeper:** 1 Twn CV 3 Sep; daily at feeder CV thru Oct; 1 yard CV 11 Nov; in low numbers.

**CAROLINA WREN:** 1 KC 21 Oct thru (RB).

**House Wren:** 1 Twn CV 10 Oct.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 20 back rds Twn CV 2 Oct.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 10 back rds Twn CV 2 Oct; moving thru Hen 10 Oct.

**Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher:** 1 CV yard 3 Sep.

**E. Bluebird:** 4 Wellesley 1 SP 2 Oct; 3 Hen 15 Oct; 6 males feeding on Multiflora Rose near Adams 19 Nov; 3 males Twn Rossie STLA 26 Nov.

**Swainson's Thrush:** 1 Twn CV 8 Oct.

**Hermit Thrush:** 1 Pt Pen 16 Nov.

**Am. Robin:** 1 male feeding imm CV yard 16 Sep.

**European Starling:** many large flocks thru.

**Am. Pipit:** 2 Twn CV 1 Sep; 15 WM 2 Sep; 5 Twn Cv 18 Oct; 100<sup>+</sup> PtPen early Nov (mob).

**BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS:** 5 with Cedar Waxwings Wilson's Bay 6 Nov (FM); 3 PtPen 16 Nov (mob).

**Cedar Waxwing:** 8 Hen 2 Nov; max 40 Wilson's Bay 6 Nov; 8 Hen 19 Nov; 5 Hen 20 Nov; 14 Hen 21 Nov, in low numbers.

### WARBLERS

**Nashville Warbler:** 5 back rds CV 1 Oct.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** 1 CV 3, 8 Sep; 1 KC 8 Sep.  
**Cape May Warbler:** 1 CV 28 Sep.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 10 CV 8 Sep; 1 KC 23 Sep.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 20 CV 8 Sep; heavy movement thru Hen 11 Oct; 6 Hen 2 Nov.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** 6 CV 3 Sep.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** 1 CV 3 Sep; 1 KC 8 Sep.  
**Pine Warbler:** 1 Sixberry Lk Twn Theresa JEFF 21 Sep.  
**Palm Warbler:** 1 CV 3 Sep.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** 1 CV yard 3 Sep.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** 3 CV 8 Sep.  
**Am. Redstart:** 10 CV 18 Sep.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** 1 CV on 4 Sep; 1 CV 8 Sep.

### TANAGERS- WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** 2 CV 8 Sep; last 2 PtPen 18 Sep.  
**E. Towhee:** 1 Limerick Cedars, Twn Lyme JEFF 5 Oct.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr Hen 7 Nov; 11 Wellesley I SP 21 Oct; increasing in Oct then decreasing in Nov.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** 1 Hen 22 Oct; 1 KC 5 Nov (RB), late.  
**Field Sparrow:** 2 CV 22 Sep.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** 1 CV 2 Sep; 1 WM 6 Sep; 1 Town Barn Rd Twn Hen 19 Nov.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** 6 WM 1 Sep; 2 WM 27 Sep.  
**Fox Sparrow:** 1 Potsdam 11 Oct; 1 KC 21 Oct; 1 Alder Acres, Twn Lorraine, Tug Hill, JEFF, 25 Oct.  
**Song Sparrow:** 6 CV 21 Oct; 1 CV 24 Oct; 1 Hen 25 Oct; 3 Hen 7 Nov.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** 4 CV 16 Sep; moving thru Hen 19 Sep; 1 CV 2 Nov.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** 1 CV 12 Oct; 4 CV 25 Oct; 1 CV 1 Nov; moved thru

rapidly.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** arr CV 16 Sep; 1 *Oregon*-type fem ED 5 Oct (BH); 40 at feeders CV 21 Oct.  
**Lapland Longspur:** 4 CV 16 Nov; 4 Mason Rd Twn CV 18 Nov.  
**Snow Bunting:** arr 14 Twn CV 25 Oct; 200+ Hen 19 Nov.  
**Bobolink:** 2 WM 1 Sep.  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** 4000<sup>+</sup> Valley Rd Twn CV 25 Oct.  
**E. Meadowlark:** 1 CV 15 Nov; 2 PtPen 18 Nov.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** 45 KC 7 Oct; 6 CV 8 Oct; 24 Calcium 19 Oct.  
**Com. Grackle:** 1 PtPen 16 Nov (mob); 1 KC 25 Nov.  
**Brown-headed Cowbird:** 100 in a group, mostly imm CV 5 Sep; 25 PtPen 16 Nov (mob); 7 PtPen 24 Nov.  
**Pine Grosbeak:** 2 juv Barnes Corners 30 Oct; 4 ad Hen 11 Nov; 4 Hen 24 Nov; 24 Twn Worth, JEFF Tug Hill 30 Nov.  
**Purple Finch:** 3 (2f & 1m) CV feeder 26 Oct; hard to find in Nov.  
**House Finch:** 40-50 CV feeder 26 Oct, 3 with eye disease.  
**White-winged Crossbill:** 1 or 2 feeding on Juniper (Red Cedar) berries ED 8 Sep (LC); 1 fem at feeder CV village 22-25 Oct (MW).  
**Com. Redpoll:** 1 at feeder KC 8 Nov; first large flock 100<sup>+</sup> Pt Pen 10 Nov; 120 PtPen 12 Nov; 200 back rds CV 16 Nov; 300 Mason Rd Twn CV 24 Nov.  
**HOARY REDPOLL:** 1 PtPen 26 Nov (MW).  
**Pine Siskin:** 1 Hen feeder 9 Sep; 3 Hen 14 Oct; 12 Hen feeder 21 Oct; 12 CV feeder 26, 27 Oct; 10 CV feeder 6 Nov, decreasing thru.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** two Barnes Corners, LEWI 26 Sep; 3 Hen 12 Oct; 22 Hen 14 Oct; 50-60 CV 29 Oct; 150 Barnes Corners 1 Nov; 60<sup>+</sup> No. Osceola LEWI 9 Nov.