

REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

Lee Harper

58 Old River Road, Massena NY 13662

September was very hot, with temperatures averaging 3° to 5°F above normal. The first frost occurred on 29 September at Highmarket on Tug Hill, with a reading of 29°. Rainfall for the month was slightly below average on the Ontario Lake plain, which had a deficit of 1.0". Above average temperatures continued through the first week in October, with a heat wave during the first three days. Several locations recorded temperatures in the high 70s. The remainder of October saw below average temperatures and freezing temperatures during the last week. The first snowfall occurred in the Tug Hill on 25 October with a few inches. Migration of many species in September was dispersed due to the lack of cold fronts. In October, major movements of geese, ducks and hawks began with the first cold spells on north and northwest winds. November was cold throughout, with temperatures 2° to 4° below average. A major lake-effect snowfall developed late in the month, mainly involving the Tug Hill and parts of Jefferson County. Despite average rainfall for the season, Lake Ontario was 7" below level by mid November. This was due to low levels of precipitation in the watershed of Lake Erie, creating a much lower inflow to Lake Ontario. The St. Lawrence River Board of Control allowed more water out of the dams to create an adequate level for the Port of Montreal. The last five days of November were more like the beginning of winter, with daily temperatures at or below freezing and snowfall occurring throughout much of the area.

Highlights included the observation of good hawk flights from a ridge at Wescott Beach State Park overlooking Lake Ontario and good numbers of Tundra Swans. On the down side, observers reported a general scarcity of loons and grebes, migrants appeared to have left earlier than usual and fewer Northern Cardinals and House Finches were reported at feeders.

CONTRIBUTORS

Marilyn Badger, Jeff Bolsinger, Marion & Richard Brouse, Carol Cady, Sheila Cerwonka, Lee Harper, Jerry and Judi LeTendre, Bob Long, Tom Lord, Peter O'Shea, Dave Prosser, Gerry Smith, Tony Zappia.

ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Blackstone Bay JEFF; BR – Black Ri JEFF; BRB – Black Ri Bay JEFF; CV – Cape Vincent (T or Village) JEFF; ED – El Dorado Shores Preserve, T Ellisburg JEFF; FD – Fort Drum JEFF; GR – Grasse Ri STLA; KC – Kelsey Creek, Watertown; KPSP – Kring Pt SP, T Alexandria JEFF; Lou – T Louisville

STLA; Mas – T Massena STLA; PiPt – Pillar Pt, T Brownville JEFF; PRWMA – Perch Ri WMA JEFF; PtPen – Pt Peninsula, T Lyme JEFF; PtSa – Point Salubrious JEFF; RMSP – Robert Moses SP, T Massena STLA; SLR – St. Lawrence Ri JEFF/STLA; THP – Tug Hill Plateau; ULLWMA – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA STLA; WBSP – Wescott Beach SP, T Henderson JEFF; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA STLA.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: Mas 2 Oct; 37 PiPt 26 Nov.

Horned Grebe: 2-4/d L Ontario late Nov.

Pied-billed Grebe: Mas 2 Oct; 4 PRWMA 21 Oct.

Double-crested Cormorant: 3 SLR Mas 2 Oct; 28 SLR Waddington 20 Oct; RMSP 24 Nov; 2-5/d L Ontario Sep-mid Oct, numbers way down from mid-1990s.

Am. Bittern: Wanakena 1 Sep.

Great Blue Heron: new rookery Streeter L Sep; Brasher Sep; GR Lou 7 Oct; 2 GR Lou 30 Oct; few Fine 5 Nov; Potsdam 23 Nov; Barnes Corners THP 23 Nov, late date.

Great Egret: Winthrop 2 Oct.

Green Heron: 2 KC 5 Sep.

Turkey Vulture: 14 ED 14 Sep; 2 Lou 14 Sep; 6 PRWMA 17 Sep; 8 Brownville 13 Oct; 298 WBSP 4 Oct, high count; 612 WBSP 12 Oct, Reg record high count.

Snow Goose: flock Potsdam 17 Nov; PtPen 26 Nov.

Canada Goose: 200+ GR Mas 26 Sep; 4250 WBSP 4 Oct; 520 SLR Lou 19 Nov; 285 Lou 29 Nov; 500 Lou 24 Nov.

Mute Swan: 2 WHWMA 4 Oct.

Tundra Swan: 230 PtPen 4 Nov; 24 PtPen 26 Nov; now regular in substantial numbers around PtPen well into mid-winter most years.

Brant: 2 SLR Mas 2 Oct.

Wood Duck: GR 30 Oct; SLR Mas 24 Nov.

Gadwall: 4 WHWMA 24 Nov; 2 RMSP 24 Nov; 7 PtPen 26 Nov, 8-30/d PtPen Nov.

Am. Wigeon: 3 PtSa 13 Oct; 4 PRWMA 18 Oct.

Am. Black Duck: 153 PiPt 12 Oct; 10

PtPen 18 Oct; 128 PiPt 21 Oct; 30 SLR Mas 24 Nov; 23 PtPen 26 Nov.

Mallard: 2 GR 2 Sep; 17 ED 14 Sep; 6 GR Mas 17 Oct; 250 WHWMA early Oct; 426 PiPt 12 Oct; 23 PiPt 22 Oct; 16 KC 24 Oct; 4 GR 4 Nov; 66 PiPt 24 Nov; 44 PtPen 18 Oct; 71 PtSa 18 Oct; 180 Mas 24 Nov; 203 Chaumont/PtPen 26 Nov; 150-250/day PtSa Oct-Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: 2-5/day L Ontario Sep; scarce.

N. Pintail: 3 ED 14 Sep.

Green-winged Teal: 16 THP 24 Sep.

Redhead: 2 PiPt 12 Oct.

Ring-necked Duck: 30 WHWMA 14 Oct; 11 PRWMA 18 Oct; 6 GR 30 Oct; 10 GR 24 Nov.

Greater Scaup: 128 PiPt 21 Oct; 1500 PiPt 24 Oct; 2000 BRB Nov.

White-winged Scoter: PiPt 21 Oct.

Bufflehead: 7 GR Lou 30 Oct; 10 Mas 24 Nov; 32 PiPt 24 Nov; 230 PtPen 26 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: 100 SLR Mas 24 Nov; 32 PtPen 26 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: 16 THP 24 Sep; 4 Tupper L 2 Oct; 4 GR Lou 22 Oct; 8 KC 24 Oct; 4 GR 30 Oct; 17 RMSP 24 Nov.

Com. Merganser: 45 ED 14 Sep; 10 SLR Mas 4 Oct; 2 PtSa 13 Oct; 7 PiPt 22 Oct; 41 RMSP 29 Nov; 25 SLR Mas 27 Nov; 8 GR Mas 27 Nov.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: Cranberry L 5 Sep; 3 WBSP 4 Oct.

Bald Eagle: 2 WBSP 16 Sep; imm PRWMA 17 Sep; imm WBSP 12 Oct; RMSP 20 Nov.

N. Harrier: 10 Grenadier I CV 2 Sep; PiPt 17 Sep; 10 WBSP 4 Oct; Rutland 13

Oct; Brownville 13 Oct; 2 PiPt 22 Oct; Chaumont 26 Oct; 1-4/day PtPen Nov.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 9 WBSP 16 Sep; 2 KC 19 Sep; Lou 3 Oct; 36 WBSP 4 Oct; 8 WBSP 12 Oct; daily KC Nov; Mas 24 Nov.
Cooper's Hawk: 9 WBSP 4 Oct; 8 WBSP 12 Oct; Lou 20 Oct; KC Nov.
N. Goshawk: arr ad & imm WBSP 12 Oct; Lou 24 Nov; Limerick 26 Nov; KC Nov.
Broad-winged Hawk: 24 WBSP 16 Sep; 3 WBSP 4 Oct, late; 4 WBSP 12 Oct (GS), very late.
Red-shouldered Hawk: imm WBSP 4 Oct.
Red-tailed Hawk: 14 Grenadier I CV 2 Sep; 12 WBSP 16 Sep; 51 WBSP 4 Oct; 39 WBSP 12 Oct; Lou daily Oct; Fine 18 Nov; 2 Lou 24 Nov; 3-6/day PtPen 20 Oct thru.
Rough-legged Hawk: ULLWMA 20 Oct; 2 PtPen 26 Oct.
Golden Eagle: imm WBSP 12 Oct.
Am. Kestrel: 9 WBSP 16 Sep; 12 WBSP 4 Oct; 2 Fine 14 Oct; 9 CV 21 Nov.
Merlin: 2 ED 14 Sep; PtPen 18 Oct; 1-3/day L Ontario Sep-Oct.
Peregrine Falcon: KC 17 Sep; imm WBSP 4 Oct.
Gray Partridge: Mas Sep.
Ring-necked Pheasant: PRWMA 14 Oct.
Ruffed Grouse: 4 Rutland 29 Sep; PRWMA 21 Oct; 3 Fine Nov; 4 Lou 10 Nov; 2 Mas 24 Nov.
Wild Turkey: 4 Adams 6 Sep; 8 Rutland 29 Sep; 16 Brownville 12 Oct; 8 PtSa 13 Oct; 22 PiPt 22 Oct; 6 Fine 25 Oct; 25 Pitcairn thru; flock Potsdam 24 Nov; 13 Lou 24 Nov; 7 Mas 24 Nov; 15 Mas 27 Nov; 8 Lou 27 Nov.
Killdeer: 2 Mas 26 Sep; 3 Lou 28 Sep; last 17 Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: 3 PiPt 17 Sep; 2 THP 24 Sep.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 PtPen 2 Sep; 4 ED 14 Sep; 10 THP 24 Sep; 8 PiPt 12 Oct; 2 PtSa 13 Oct; PRWMA 18 Oct; Champion

20 Oct; 5 PiPt 22 Oct.
Solitary Sandpiper: KC 15 Sep.
Spotted Sandpiper: 2 GR Lou 20 Nov.
Sanderling: 15 ED 14 Sep; 17 PiPt 21 Oct.
Least Sandpiper: 6 PtSa 16 Sep.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2 PtSa 16 Sep.
Pectoral Sandpiper: 2 PtSa 13 Oct; Burrville 20 Oct.
Dunlin: 50 PtPen 24 Oct.
Wilson's Snipe: 2 Burrville 20 Oct; 3 PiPt 22 Oct.
Am. Woodcock: Lou 1 Sep; BB 7 Sep; Lou 17 Sep; Mas 28 Sep.
Red Phalarope: 4 PiPt 22 Oct.
Bonaparte's Gull: 17 PtPen 18 Oct; 3 PiPt 24 Oct; 23 PtPen 26 Nov.
Ring-billed Gull: 200 Mas 10 Sep; 20 GR 10 Oct; 150 SLR Mas 24 Nov; 50 RMSP 24 Nov.
Herring Gull: 3 RMSP 24 Nov.
Great Black-backed Gull: 3 ED 4 Sep; GR 27 Sep; 3 PtSa 13 Oct; 300 RMSP 24 Nov; 10 SLR Mas 24 Nov; 3 PtPen 26 Nov.
Com. Tern: 3 Grenadier I CV 2 Sep.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: 30 Lou Oct; 95 Lou/Mas 27 Nov; 6 Lou 27 Nov; 40 KC daily Nov.
Great Horned Owl: Lou 20 Oct thru; RMSP 25 Oct; Potsdam 23 Nov.
Barred Owl: Lou 5 Oct; Mas 24 Nov; 1-2/day THP thru.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Lou 2 Oct.
Com. Nighthawk: 9 KC 8 Sep; 12 KC 9 Sep; 2 KC 10 Sep; 3 KC 13 Sep; 5 KC 14 Sep; KC 18 Sep; 5 KC 19 Sep.
Chimney Swift: 14 Mas 2 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 4 Lou 3 Sep; 2 WHWMA 16 Sep.
Belted Kingfisher: GR Lou 24 Sep; several Fine thru Oct; PiPt 12 Oct.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 1/day scattered JEFF lowlands (GS).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2 Lou 27 Sep.
Downy Woodpecker: 2 KC daily Nov; 24

Lou/Mas 27 Nov.

Hairy Woodpecker: 3 KC daily Nov; 22 Lou/Mas 27 Nov.

N. Flicker: abundant Fine Sept; Lou 18 Sep; Mas 26 Sep; 4 KC 29 Oct.

Pileated Woodpecker: Lou 2 Sep; 2 Lou 23 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: Lou 10 Oct; PtSa 13 Oct; KC 17 Oct; PRWMA 18 Oct; KC 31 Oct.

Great Crested Flycatcher: Lou 1 Sep.

N. Shrike: Lou 18 Nov.

Philadelphia Vireo: Lou 26 Sep.

Red-eyed Vireo: Lou 1 Sep.

Gray Jay: 5 Lou 1 Sep; family of 3 Massawepie 14 Sep.

Blue Jay: 3 KC daily Nov; 132 Lou/Mas 24 Nov; 8 Lou 27 Nov.

Am. Crow: 25 Lou 10 Sep; 22 Lou 24 Nov; 8 RMSP 24 Nov; 5 Lou 27 Nov.

Com. Raven: 2-5/day THP thru; 2 WBSP 12 Oct, may be migrants.

Tree Swallow: 2 Lou 1 Sep; 24 PiPt 24 Oct; 100-500/day PtPen thru; dozens persisting into Dec despite cold and snow.

Black-capped Chickadee: 40 Lou 10 Sep; 184 Lou/Mas 27 Nov.

Boreal Chickadee: 2 Massawepie 14 Sep.

Tufted Titmouse: 2 Lou 10 Oct; 2 Lou 24 Nov.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 2 KC daily Nov; 2 Lou thru; 2 Brasher thru; very low year.

White-breasted Nuthatch: 68 Lou/Mas 24 Nov; 4 Lou 27 Nov.

Brown Creeper: 2 Lou 1 Sep; Lou thru.

House Wren: Lou 1 Sep; Lou 22 Sep.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Lou 1 Sep, local breeder; Lou 26 Sep; 10 Lou 14 Oct; 12 Lou 18 Oct.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 8 Lou 10 Oct; 4 Lou 14 Oct; 2 Lou 18 Oct.

E. Bluebird: 2 Mas 20 Sep; Chaumont 13 Oct; several BR 18 Oct; Lou 11 Nov; flock Potsdam 24 Nov; 2-5/day PtPen Nov.

Veery: Lou 1 Sep.

Hermit Thrush: Lou 27 Sep; 4 Lou 14

Oct; PRWMA 18 Oct; KC 25 Nov.

Wood Thrush: 5 Lou 1, 8 Sep.

Am. Robin: 10 Lou 1 Sep; 18 Mas 27 Sep; 12 Mas 23 Oct; 2 Lou 20 Nov; 36 Lou/Mas 24 Nov; 2 Potsdam 24 Nov.

Gray Catbird: 4 Lou 1 Sep; 6 Lou 20 Sep; 6 Lou 26 Sep.

Am. Pipit: 100s CV 26 Oct.

Cedar Waxwing: 10 Lou 1 Sep; 8 Lou 12 Oct; 35 Mas 24 Oct; 30 RMSP 24 Nov.

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler: 2 Lou 27 Sep.

Nashville Warbler: 3 Lou 27 Sep.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Lou 26 Sep.

Magnolia Warbler: Lou 27 Sep; Lou 9 Oct.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Lou 10 Oct.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Lou 23 Sep.

Black-throated Green Warbler: Lou 2 Oct.

Blackburnian Warbler: 2 Lou 10 Oct.

Pine Warbler: Lou 10 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Lou 4 Oct.

Black-and-white Warbler: Lou 25 Sep.

Ovenbird: 2 Lou 23 Sep.

Com. Yellowthroat: Lou 2 Oct.

Canada Warbler: 4 Lou 28 Sep; 3 Lou 9 Oct.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: 2 Lou 1 Sep.

Am. Tree Sparrow: 18 RMSP 24 Nov; 7 KC daily Nov.

Chipping Sparrow: 32 Mas 6 Sep.

Vesper Sparrow: Mas 14 Oct.

Fox Sparrow: arr WBSP 12 Oct; 2 Lou 25 Oct; Watertown 29 Oct.

Song Sparrow: 4 Lou 1 Sep; 2 Mas 8 Sep; 3 Lou 14 Oct; Lou 18 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: 2 Lou 18 Sep; 2 Mas 14 Oct; 16 Mas 18 Oct; Potsdam Nov 18; 6 KC daily Nov.

White-crowned Sparrow: 7 Lou 23 Oct.

Dark-eyed Junco: 8 Lou 14 Oct; 6 Mas 23 Nov; 2 RMSP 24 Nov; 14 Lou 27 Nov; 10 KC daily Nov.

Snow Bunting: 3 CV 25 Oct; Antwerp 26 Oct; Clifton 30 Oct; Brownville 26 Nov.

N. Cardinal: 4 Mas 10 Oct; 54 Lou/Mas 27 Nov; 2 KC daily Nov.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Lou 23 Sep; Mas 19 Oct.

Red-winged Blackbird: 35 Lou 1 Sep; 10 Mas 20 Oct; Mas 4 Nov.

E. Meadowlark: Champion 20 Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: 38 KC 28 Oct.

Com. Grackle: 4 Mas 15 Oct.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 10 Lou 28 Sep.

Baltimore Oriole: 2 Lou 1 Sep.

Purple Finch: 2 Lou 27 Sep.

House Finch: 4 Mas 26 Sep; Mas 24 Nov; 2 Lou 24 Nov; 10 KC daily Nov.

Am. Goldfinch: 5 Lou all Sep; 30 Lou 30 Oct; 124 Lou/Mas 24 Nov; 12 KC daily Nov.