

REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

Lee Harper

58 Old River Road, Massena NY 13662

September was warm and dry. The first two weeks felt like an extension of summer, with warm sunny days. The arrival of Hurricane Isabel in the North Country on the 19th spelled the official end of summer weather. Some rain fell during the remainder of the month, but precipitation was light and no major storms occurred. Rainfall was, on the average, 2" below normal. The warmest areas were in the St Lawrence River Valley and the Lake Ontario Plain, which were 3°F above normal. Without any push from winds from the north, migrants drifted through in small numbers. A series of storms in the second week of October brought fall weather along with an abundance of rainfall. One day totals on 14 October resulted in 2.26" in Copenhagen, Lewis County, 1.94" in Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence County, and 1.05" in Watertown, Jefferson County. The remainder of the month had a variety of warm days as well as some days with frost. The lowest daily extreme temperature was 19° on 25 October at Massena. Average temperatures were 1.12° below normal. The total rainfall for the area was 3.2" above the normal 3", and this offset the below normal precipitation in September. November was notable for major storms, the first of which moved away rapidly and was followed by a series of low pressure systems coming from the west and northwest and creating the first of a series of lake effect snow storms

in Jefferson and Lewis counties. In between these storms, warm south winds brought the temperatures up into the 50s and 60s during the last two weeks of the month.

Highlights of the period included Wild Turkey everywhere, Hurricane Isabel waifs and good late fall numbers of mouse-eating raptors. Lowlights of the period included generally low waterfowl numbers, poor numbers of loons and grebes, very low shorebird numbers, no Snowy Owl for the second year in a row, few lingering half-hardies due to cold October and generally poor flights of migrating passerines.

CONTRIBUTORS

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

ABBREVIATIONS

BR – Black Ri, T Carthage JEFF; Bra – T Brasher STLA; Bro – T Brownville JEFF; Can – T Canton STLA; CV – Cape Vincent JEFF; ED – El Dorado Shores Preserve, T Ellisburg JEFF; FD – Fort Drum JEFF; GR – Grasse Ri, Lou/Mas STLA; HFSP – Higley Flow SP, T Colton STLA; Hou – T Hounsfield JEFF; KC – Kelsey Creek, Watertown; KPSP-Kring Pt SP, T Alexandria JEFF; Lis – T Lisbon STLA; Lou – T Louisville STLA; Lym – T Lyme JEFF; Mas – T Massena STLA; PiPt – Pillar Pt, T Brownville JEFF; Pot – T Potsdam STLA; PRWMA – Perch Ri WMA, JEFF; Pt Pen – Pt Peninsula, T Lyme JEFF; RMSP – Robert Moses SP STLA; Rut – T Rutland JEFF; SLR – St. Lawrence Ri, T Massena STLA; TMB – Three Mile Bay, T Chaumont JEFF; Wad – T Waddington STLA; WBSP – Wescott Beach SP JEFF; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA, STLA; Win – T Winthrop STLA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: 10 Philadelphia 2 Oct; 20 Mas 12 Nov; scattered small flocks of 1-10 often with Canadas late Sep-late Oct.
Canada Goose: 1000 Lou thru; flock Pot 13 Oct; 3-500 per day L Ontario Oct-Nov.
Brant: 140 SLR 2 Nov; 60 SLR 3 Nov; numbers very low on L Ontario.
Mute Swan: 2 PtPen & Long Pt SP 23 Oct.
Tundra Swan: 30-100/day PtPen late Oct thru.
Wood Duck: Win 12 Oct; Win 22 Oct; KC 30 Oct.
Gadwall: 12 WHWMA 16 Oct; 9 GR 10 Nov; 100 ED 15 Nov.

Am. Wigeon: scattered flock of less than 15 L Ontario Oct-Nov.

Am. Black Duck: Pot 13 Oct; 8 WHWMA 16 Oct; 20-50/day PtPen Nov.

Mallard: 4 SLR 14 Sep; Pot 13 Oct; WHWMA 16 Oct; 8 GR 28 Oct; 31 GR 10 Nov; 2 GR 26 Nov; 150-300/day PtPen Oct-Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: 40 Win 6 Oct; scarce elsewhere.

Green-winged Teal: 20 Win 6 Oct; scattered 1-10/day L Ontario Oct-mid-Nov.

N. Pintail: 5-15/day L Ontario late-Sep-early Nov; scarce.

Ring-necked Duck: 24 WHWMA 16 Oct.

Greater Scaup: 3 PiPt 8 Nov; 2-3000/day BRB late Nov; increasingly rare.

White-winged Scoter: 1-4/day L Ontario Nov; very scarce.

Black Scoter: 2 ED 20 Nov, only report.

Long-tailed Duck: scattered as 5-15/day L Ontario late Nov.

Bufflehead: 53 PiPt 8 Nov; 2 GR 18 Nov; 51 CV 21 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: 8 GR 3 Nov; 12 GR 10 Nov; 50 SLR 14 Nov; 22 CV 21 Nov; 4 GR 24 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: 3 SLR 14 Sep; flock Pot 11 Oct; 4 GR 28 Oct; 2 GR 3 Nov; Pot 21 Nov; 28 SLR 23 Nov; 30 SLR 28 Nov.

Com. Merganser: 4 Clayton 4 Oct; 2 GR 18 Oct; 2 PtPen & Long Pt SP 23 Oct; 10 Pot 26 Nov; 200+ Wad 28 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: CV Oct; 2 GR 23 Nov.

Gray Partridge: 8 Hardscrabble Rd near PtPen late Oct; scarce.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Piercefield 14 Sep; 2 Win 6 Oct; 2 Bra 8 Nov; 2 Mas 28 Nov.

Ruffed Grouse: Fine thru; Pot 12 Oct; 2 Bro 17 Oct; 2 Lou 19 Oct; 2 Rut 17 Oct; 4 Lou 24 Nov; 2-6/day THP thru.

Wild Turkey: 6 Lou 3 Sep; 11 Mas 29 Sep; 5-15 Fine Oct; Pot 13 Oct; 5 N of Watertown 18 Oct; 30 Lou 21 Oct; 3 KC 30 Oct; 18 PiPt 8 Nov; 22 PRWMA 12 Nov; 50+ Mas 28 Nov; flocks of 20-100 everywhere on L Ontario plain; becoming abundant.

Com. Loon: BR 17 Sep; 2 Chaumont 17 Oct & 21 Oct; 2 SLR 25 Oct; 1-5/day L Ontario Nov.

Pied-billed Grebe: none!!

Horned Grebe: 5 PtPen 20 Nov; 1-3/day L Ontario Nov; very poor.

storm-Petrel sp.: probable Wilson's off Pt Salubrious JEFF 20 Sep, the 2nd day of Hurricane Isabel; bird was flying out of the bay at a distance of 200 yards and observer (GS) not sufficiently versed in this group to be sure of positive id.

Am. White Pelican: ad near Stony Pt JEFF 19 Sep, soaring and heading southbound into roaring south gale from Hurricane Isabel.

Double-crested Cormorant: 2 SLR 14 Sep; 10 SLR 19 Oct; 8 SLR 21 Oct; 5 SLR 28 Oct; 12 Wad 22 Oct; numbers on L Ontario much reduced from fall peaks in mid 1990s, most 1-3/day to late Nov.

Great Blue Heron: GR 1 Sep; SLR 14 Sep; Fine regularly Oct; Pot 12-13 Oct; GR 18 Oct; GR 5 Nov; Mas 8 Nov; KC 9 Nov; TMB 21 Nov; cold late Nov weather pushed most of them out.

Great Egret: Win 10 Oct.

Green Heron: none.

Turkey Vulture: Lou 2 Sep; Fine 4 Sep; Mas 9 Oct; Pot 12 Oct; 3 KC 14 Oct; 6 Rt 12 18 Oct; 3 Bro 20 Oct; 10 Clayton 4 Nov; 13-50/day as migrants along L Ontario Oct; singles lingered several areas to late Nov.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: Philadelphia 2 Oct; GR Lou 14 Nov.

Bald Eagle: total 8 singles L Ontario & SLR.

N. Harrier: Mas 29 Oct; Rut 17 Oct; 3 Bro 18 Oct; Chaumont 19 Oct; Philadelphia 25 Oct; 2 Can 17 Nov; 2 PiPt 18 Nov; CV 21 Nov; GR 24 Nov; 25 CV 18 Nov; good numbers NW JEFF Oct-Nov.

Sharp-shinned Hawk Lou 16 Oct; Watertown 17 Oct; KC 20, 25 Oct; Lou 31 Oct.

Cooper's Hawk: Can 16 Oct; Bra 15 Nov.

Northern Goshawk: Mas 20 Sep.

Red-tailed Hawk: Mas all fall; 25 Watertown to SLR 3 Oct-21 Nov; Lis 23 Nov; 15-25/day NW JEFF Nov.

Rough-legged Hawk: 4 PtPen & Long Pt SP 23 Oct; Can 23 Oct; Mas 30 Oct; PRWMA 12 Nov; 3 CV 21 Nov; 15-25/day NW JEFF by mid Nov; 40/day by end Nov.

Am. Kestrel: Lym 3 Oct; 2 Clayton 4

Oct; 2 Pot 11 Oct; Mas 25 Oct; 3-6/day NW JEFF mid-Oct thru.
Merlin: HFSP 26 Sep; FD 29 Sep.
Peregrine Falcon: Can 1 Oct.
Com. Moorhen: 3 Win 6 Oct.
Killdeer: 9 Mas 2 Sep; 3 Lou 9 Oct; last 10 Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: 1-4/day ED & L Ontario shore Sep-Oct.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 2-10/day L Ontario Sep.
Sanderling: 10-30/day L Ontario beaches Sep-early Nov.
LAUGHING GULL: ad basic & 1st year ED 19 Sep (GS); ad basic near Coles Creek SP 23 Sep (GS, LH), flying strongly downriver.
Am. Woodcock: Mas 26 Sep; KC 20 Oct; KC 20 Oct; 8 Win 22 Oct.
Bonaparte's Gull: WHWMA 23 Nov; 100 PtPen 26 Nov, good count.
Ring-billed Gull: Pot 12 Oct; "hundreds" 20 Oct; 80 Mas 15 Nov.
Herring Gull: RMSP 14 Sep.
Great Black-backed Gull: 8 RMSP 14 Sep; SLR 16 Nov; 32 PiPt 18 Nov; WHWMA 23 Nov.
Caspian Tern: Chaumont 9 Sep.
Com. Tern: 6 RMSP 14 Sep.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: 12 Lou 29 Sep; 6 Mas 29 Sep; 4 Lou 6 Nov; 5 Mas 27 Nov; 54 Mas/Lou 28 Nov.
Black-billed Cuckoo: Mas 5 Sep.
E. Screech-Owl: RMSP 8 Sep; KC 25 Oct; Lou 8 Nov.
Great Horned Owl: Mas 9 Nov.
Barred Owl: Clare 1 Sep; Lou 2 Sep.
Com. Nighthawk: 25 BR 6 Sep; 6 KC 6 Sep.
Chimney Swift: 2 Mas 6 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Lou 3 Sep; Mas 7 Oct.
Belted Kingfisher: Pot 13 Oct; Upper and Lower Lakes WMA 23 Nov.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: KC 17 Oct-5 Nov; CV thru.

Downy Woodpecker: 4 Mas 2 Sep; Pot 12 Nov; 2 Bra 18 Nov; 33 Mas/Lou 28 Nov.
Hairy Woodpecker: 2 Mas 2 Sep; Fine 12 Oct; 2 Lou 18 Nov; 24 Lou/Mas 28 Nov.
N. Flicker: Lou 28 Sep; 35+ in one field FD 30 Sep; flock Fine Sep-Oct; Lou 31 Oct; 2 Lou 3 Nov.
Pileated Woodpecker: 2 Mas thru; Chaumont 18 Oct; WHWMA 22 Oct; Fine Nov; 2 Lou 23 Nov; RMSP 23 Nov; ULLWMA 23, 25 Nov; Bra 28 Nov; Mas 30 Nov.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: Lou 2 Sep; Clare 11 Sep; uncommon in STLA highlands.
Least Flycatcher: Lou 8 Sep.
E. Kingbird: Mas 14 Oct.
E. Phoebe: KC 28 Sep, 20, 28 Oct; Pot 11 Oct; Rut 17 Oct.
Great Crested Flycatcher: Lou 3 Sep.
N. Shrike: FD 24 Oct; singles PtPen mid-Nov.
Warbling Vireo: Chaumont 8, 9, 13 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: Lou 2 Sep.
Blue Jay: 12 CV 25 Sep; 30 Mas 29 Oct; 10 Lou 16 Nov; 57 Lou/ Mas 28 Nov.
Am. Crow: Fine Oct; 10 Lou 29 Oct; 28 Lou 25 Oct; 22 Mas 28 Nov.
Com. Raven: 2 Mas 28 Nov; 1-5/day THP thru; singles & prs PtPen & Stony Pt Nov; becoming regular on L Ontario plain.
Horned Lark: Hou 22 Oct; 13 CV 8 Nov; 150 CV 26 Nov.
Tree Swallow: 2 RMSP 14 Sep; 1300 CV 7 Oct; 30-50/day PtPen to 20 Nov.
Black-capped Chickadee: 45 Mas 29 Sep; 50 Lou 22 Oct; 30 Bra 11 Nov; Pot 12 Nov; 23 Mas 25 Nov; 30 Lou 26 Nov; 45 Lou 28 Nov; 20 Bra 30 Nov.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 2 Bra thru; Pot 12 Nov; 2-6/day L Ontario Sep, migrants.
White-breasted Nuthatch: 10 Lou 29 Sep; 8 WHWMA 22 Oct; 4 Bra 8 Nov; Pot 12 Nov; 52 Lou Mas 28 Nov.

Brown Creeper: 2 Lou 25 Sep; CV Oct; Mas 22 Oct; Mas 24 Nov; 2 Bra 8 Nov.
House Wren: 2 KC 20 Oct.
Winter Wren: 3 Mas 3 Oct.
Sedge Wren: singing FD 29 Sep (JB), late for recent years.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 12 Lou 2 Oct; 20 Lou 5 Oct.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 4 Lou 2 Oct; Lou 5 Oct; CV Oct.
E. Bluebird: 3 Bra 15 Oct; 6 CV 18 Nov.
Veery: Mas 1 Sep.
Hermit Thrush: Lou 5 Oct; KC 20 Oct.
Wood Thrush: 2 Mas 1 Sep; 3 Mas 26 Sep; Mas 6 Oct; last 7 Oct.
Am. Robin: 20 Mas 18 Sep; 60 WHWMA 22 Oct; 10 Lou 29 Oct; 2 Lou 20 Nov.
Gray Catbird: 4 Mas 6 Sep; 3 Lou 25 Sep; KC 10, 19 Oct.
N. Mockingbird: Bro 5 Sep; Mas 5 Oct.
Am. Pipit: 34 Bro 21 Oct.
Cedar Waxwing: 12 Lou 6 Sep; 60 KC 20 Oct; 14 Lou 25 Oct; Pot 26 Nov; 8 Lou 28 Nov.

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler: KC 3 Nov.
Nashville Warbler: Lou 5 Sep; 2 Lou 2 Oct.
Yellow Warbler: Lou 5 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: Lou 3 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: Mas 5 Sep.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 4 Lou 2, 3 Oct; 6 Bro 17 Oct; 14 Mas 22 Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: Lou 2 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: Lou 18 Oct.
Pine Warbler: Lou 17 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: 2 Lou 18 Oct.
Black-and-white Warbler: Lou 1 Sep; Lou 5, 8 Oct; Pot 10 Oct.
Ovenbird: Lou 5 Sep.
Canada Warbler: 5 Lou 2 Oct.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: Lou 3 Oct.
Am. Tree Sparrow: 2 Mas 31 Oct; 10

Lou 28 Nov; 2-5/day NW JEFF Nov; very scarce.

Chipping Sparrow: 30+ Mas 6-7 Sep; 2 KC 26 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: Lou 4 Sep.

Fox Sparrow: Mas 29 Sep; KC 22-23 Oct; 2 KC 27 Oct; Bra 8 Nov.

Song Sparrow: 10 Lou 6 Sep; 5 Lou 29 Sep; 12 Mas 30 Sep; 24 Lou 6 Oct; 12 Lou 8 Oct; Pot 10 Oct; last Lou 23 Oct.

Swamp Sparrow: Mas 6 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: 8 Lou 3 Sep; CV Oct; 14 Mas 2 Oct; Mas 16 Oct; Lou 23 Oct; Watertown 26 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: CV Oct.

Dark-eyed Junco: 15 Lou 22 Oct; Watertown 26 Oct; Pot 16 Nov; Lou 25 Nov; 42 Lou/Mas 28 Nov; Lou 30 Nov.

Snow Bunting: 9 Lou 22 Oct; 2 Piercefield 5 Nov; 5 Clare 5 Nov; 4 Clifton 9 Nov; 6 PRWMA 12 Nov.

N. Cardinal: 6 Mas thru; 49 Lou/Mas 28 Nov.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Lou 4 Sep.

Red-winged Blackbird: 6 Lou 26 Sep.

Rusty Blackbird: 10 Lou 11 Oct; 27 KC 20 Oct.

Com. Grackle: 6 Lou 3 Sep; 7 KC 28 Oct; Lou 12 Nov; KC 17 Nov.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 2 Lou 14 Oct; 153 Rut 17 Oct; 50 PtPen 26 Nov.

Baltimore Oriole: Lou 2 Sep.

Purple Finch: 2 Lou 6 Sep; 8 Lou/Mas 28 Nov.

House Finch: 4 Lou 6 Sep; 8 Lou 31 Oct; 3 Mas 25 Nov; Pot 27 Nov; 16 Lou/Mas 28 Nov.

Com. Redpoll: arr 5 PtPen 26 Nov.

Pine Siskin: 15 WHWMA 23 Nov; 60 Upper & Lower LakesWMA 23 Nov.

Am. Goldfinch: common Fine Sep; 6 Lou 17 Oct; 3 Lou 19, 29 Oct; 30 KC 8 Nov; 22 KC 10 Nov; 8 Bra 12 Nov; 50 Mas 25 Nov; 34 Lou/Mas 28 Nov.

Evening Grosbeak: 3 Bra 8 Nov; 2 Morristown 22 Nov; 8 Lou 28 Nov; 3 Sep-Oct Barnes Corners LEWI are probable local breeders (GS).