

REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The Fall 2013 season was slightly cooler than average and somewhat drier. In September the average temperature in Syracuse was 61.3° F, 0.7° cooler than normal, and rainfall was down 0.5" for the month. The period's highest temperature was 94° on 11 September, but that was the only day over 90°. In Old Forge Gary Lee noted six days of frost in September, but it didn't get seriously cold in the Adirondacks until the last days of October when some lakes began to freeze over. In the heart of our Region the average temperature in October was 53.8°, 3.2° warmer than normal, and rainfall again down 0.5". A light snow accompanied strong winds on the 7th. November was cold and decidedly winter-like. The average temperature in Syracuse was only 37.7 °, close to 3° below average, and reached a brisk 7° on 30 November. The rainfall total for November was 3.84", about average, with a respectable 14.3" of snow.

The season's cold fronts were ill-timed, and, in spite of several intense wind events, the Derby Hill lakewatch was disappointing. Numbers of fall specialties like jaegers and kittiwake, although not altogether missed, were decidedly uncommon. The best flight happened on 3 September, early in the season and following passage of a cold front, with six Parasitic Jaegers. On 24 October, rare good winds brought two Parasitic Jaegers, an early Iceland Gull, and two Forster's Terns. Two days later a decent Brant flight occurred, and Bill Purcell counted 2030 flying over in 12 separate flocks. The last days of October promised good winds from the southwest but no Cave Swallows were seen and none recorded for the season. It was a poor year for the species with few reports in the northeast.

Numbers of migrant Snow Geese were low during the season, even with the early onset of winter-like weather, with the larger flocks holding out until December. While looking for migrant songbirds at the Hancock Airpark in Syracuse, Drew Weber noticed three geese flying overhead. One was smaller and had black striping on its belly and the goose's distinctive call identified it as a Greater White-fronted Goose. Following that encounter, Weber paid close attention to all subsequent flocks of geese passing over and was rewarded with a Cackling Goose among a large flock of Canadas. Judy Wright found another Greater White-fronted Goose at Van Buren Park, and Gregg Dashnau saw presumably the same bird at Beaver Lake. Ten reports of Cackling Goose for the period begs one to ask the rhetorical question, "where were all these ten years ago before being split?"

Waterfowl migration was unremarkable with low high-counts for most dabbling and diving ducks. Few good flights or large rafts were reported from the usual locations. More encouraging, four King Eiders were found this season, all away from Oswego. David Wheeler found two at the Onondaga Lake Marina for a surprising first county record. An immature male bird at Fair Haven found by Jim Tarolli remained through the last half of November and was the first at the spot in 29 years (fourth overall). A notable 166 Hooded Mergansers were counted on Otisco Lake by Ken Burdick on 13 November, and Kevin McGann tallied 3500 Red-breasted Mergansers at Fair Haven on 24 November. This fall it was reported that several hundred Common Loons died from type E botulism. Among the dead loons were lesser numbers of Long-tailed Ducks, grebes, and gulls. The DEC stated that this was the most serious outbreak of botulism affecting diving birds since 2006. Given their often stymied reproduction success, it seems we can scarcely afford to lose so many Common Loons in one season. On a more upbeat note, Gary Lee reported that a grounded Red-throated Loon in Old Forge managed to become airborne without any assistance, proving that, unlike other loon species, they don't require a long water "runway".

At Derby Hill David Wheeler saw a probable **Pacific Loon** and observed it in flight while it headed west over Lake Ontario. The bird was distant, but having it in his scope for several minutes allowed Wheeler to study the bird's shape, which he had recognized immediately as suspicious. The first Pacific Loon for our Region was reported in November 1957 by Fritz Scheider (former *Kingbird* Region 5 editor and local birding legend). At least one spring fly-by at Derby Hill has been reported in recent years, but Wheeler noted that a first photographically-confirmed record is lacking. Given the botulism outbreak, Tim Lenz's count of 220 (apparently healthy) Horned Grebes at Fair Haven on 16 November came as especially welcome news.

Single American Bitterns were reported until 15 September, and a lone Least Bittern was found at Verona Beach SP on the relatively late date of 25 September. A few Great Egrets continued to be found until the last week of October, and Green Herons also seemed to remain a little later than usual—the last one being reported on 21 October. Black-crowned Night-Herons were found at Onondaga Lake and in Volney. At the former location one remained until at least 18 October.

In Southern Oneida County during November, Matt Perry noted plentiful evidence of Wild Turkeys scratching at the snow cover and leaf litter in an effort to uncover beechnuts. Flocks of American Crows were also seen engaging in similar activity. In stands of forest dominated by American beech trees, sometimes hundreds of square feet of ground would appear as raked—evidence of widespread exploitation of that food resource. Beechnuts were reported as moderately plentiful in many deciduous forests around the Region and no doubt they were an important part of the mast produced during summer. Ruffed Grouse numbers in Herkimer County seemed good, but few were reported in other areas. Two reports of Chukars came in this fall, one from Phoenix and the other from Cold Brook. This exotic species is likely being tested in the Region as a gamebird species.

Few good northeast winds developed to facilitate viewing raptor migration. On 3 November at the Bishop Road site west of Pulaski, Bill Purcell was treated to six Golden Eagles and four Rough-legged Hawks. A few late Ospreys were reported in the Region; the last two reports came from separate areas of Madison County and occurred during the final week of November. A single Northern Goshawk near Tully was the only report. A Sora found by Andrea Wiggins on 16 November was very late and unusual along Onondaga Creek near the Carousel Center parking area. The spot was in the process of being “developed.” Could this late date be an indication of re-nesting due to early summer flooding on breeding territories?

The season was dismal for shorebirds. Lake Delta was not drawn down and few other Regional “hotspots” seemed to be hosting any notable concentrations. Seven American Golden-Plovers were found in the Region this fall, including one final bird that showed up at a Hamilton residence in the beginning of October. The bird was unable to fly and brought to a Wildlife Rehabilitator, but not before the well-intentioned discoverers tried placing it back into the tree that they assumed it came from! The rehabilitator discovered deep puncture wounds believed to be consistent with the talons of a medium sized raptor, possibly a Cooper’s Hawk. As of the writing of this report, the plover is recovering well and with luck will be fit for release in spring. Most of the less-common shorebirds were missed entirely during the period. There was one report each for Ruddy Turnstone and Baird’s Sandpiper, both from Lake Ontario, while Purple Sandpipers were completely missed this fall. While lakewatching at Derby Hill, Wheeler & Tarolli observed a shorebird they took to be Red Phalarope being hotly pursued by a Merlin on 22 September.

The very first white-winged gulls showed up earlier than usual, but overall movement of large gulls seemed delayed to the very end of the fall reporting period. The Madison County Landfill site continues to be a good place to find gulls, with Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous Gulls seen in unexceptional numbers. The landfill birds undertake a daily commute between the east end of Oneida Lake, and Wheeler often observed the birds atop the trash pile then later at Oneida Lake flying in to roost. Little Gulls were again seen during lakewatches at Derby Hill, and seven Black Terns were noted on 3 September. Bird-of-the-season and “holy-grail” tern species, an **ARCTIC TERN**, was picked out by Drew Weber among a small group of Common Terns at Onondaga Lake on 4 October. The first confirmed record for the Region, the bird remained for several days and was seen, studied, and photographed by many. While sometimes close to shore, observers noted many differences to separate the bird from Common and Forster’s and eventually some were even picking the bird out as it flew far out on the opposite shore of Onondaga Lake. Having said this, initial confirmation of the species at that distance would be difficult. Three Forster’s Terns were reported from Derby Hill in late October. Kittiwakes made a poor showing, with only one at Derby plus a fourth record for Oneida Lake found by David Wheeler on 3 November at Sylvan Beach while waiting for the evening gull flight to commence. The bird was being mobbed by Bonaparte’s Gulls and was the first for Oneida Lake in 30 years.

The first Snowy Owl in the Region was seen at the Syracuse airport on 24 November, and within a few days four were being seen at the location. Other Snowies soon showed throughout the Region and pointed to a huge year for the species in the northeastern US. The more commonly occurring owls were not particularly common this fall, and, unsurprisingly, Long-eared Owls were completely missed. Jean Soprano reported that a Barred Owl brought to her rehabilitation facility near Pennellville was suffering from West Nile Virus (WNV). Ken Zoller also reported from West Winfield that another Barred Owl found on 15 October with a broken wing also proved to have WNV. Wayne Fidler found a Short-eared Owl in Brewerton on 18 November, and another was found by Jim Tarolli while fishing at Sandy Creek on 28 November.

Per Gary Lee, 12 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were caught and banded on the first day of September at the Stillwater Hotel in the Adirondacks. He noted that only one of the captured birds was female. The possibility of western hummingbird strays has led to birders leaving feeders up long after Ruby-throated has departed. Expecting the much more hardy Rufous, birders checked on a feeder in Syracuse and found a very late immature female Ruby-throated. On 23 November, with the temperature plummeting fast and a significant snowstorm bearing down on the Region, the hummingbird followed the homeowner into her porch and was captured as it clung to a window screen. Jean Soprano had previously visited the bird before it declined, and the bird is now currently overwintering in her facility. It would not have survived the change in weather coming several hours later, and the authors of this report feel strongly that intervention by the homeowner was the correct decision.

In early October a single Black-backed Woodpecker was found at Big Moose Lake in the Adirondacks. Good habitat for this species exists in northern Herkimer County but the area is seldom birded. There were relatively few reports of Least Flycatcher for the period, birders apparently preferring the safety of “empidonax species,” but timing suggests many were Least. Blue-headed and Philadelphia Vireos were reported in better numbers than usual, while tallies of swallows were quite low. Neotropical thrushes were relatively scarce, with only 10 reports of Veery. On 3 November at Derby Hill, a single Bohemian Waxwing was picked out amidst a flock of Cedars. Apart from a few Northern Shrikes, that sole Bohemian was one of few winter specialties that had arrived in our Region by the end of the fall period. A pair of Marsh Wrens were found in Baldwinsville on 16 October, and an apparently healthy House Wren lingered until the second week of November at the Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary in Southern Oneida County. There’s no sign of this being an irruption year for Red-breasted Nuthatch, but, given the season’s ubiquitous food reserves, that’s hardly surprising.

Around the periphery of a developed business park (Hancock Airpark) near the Syracuse airport, Drew Weber discovered some particularly good habitat for migrant songbirds. The mix of trees and brush hosted numbers and diversity of birds and received consistent birding. Weber found an always-elusive Orange-crowned Warbler, while David Wheeler coaxed a **Connecticut Warbler** into view on a branch in the brush. The former species had a better than average

showing with 16 other reports of singles coming from around the Region. On the other hand, some common species like Blackburnian Warbler and Black-throated Green showed lackluster counts. On 9 September Bill Purcell came up with a high count of five Cape May Warblers at his Hastings residence.

The Airpark's brushy sandpit has excellent sparrow habitat and Lincoln's was seen most days during its window of migration, as were excellent numbers of White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows. Access may be a concern as the spot has recently been posted. Vesper and Clay-colored Sparrow are always scarce but Tony Shrimpton located a **Harris's Sparrow** in a massive woodpile on the excellent Ditch Bank Road in Canastota. Shrimpton somehow photographed this gorgeous sparrow with his mobile phone but was the only lucky observer. This is the seventh record for Region 5 and only the second for the fall season (and second for Madison County). A few Bobolinks remained longer than normal, with Joe Brin keeping tabs on a small flock in Baldwinsville until they finally departed on 8 October. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was photographed by Steve Schwab visiting a bird feeder in Elbridge through the end of November. Black-headed Grosbeak should always be considered when discovering out-of-season Rose-breasted. Winter finch reports were noticeably lacking for the period.

This season a total of 235 species was reported for the season, which is three more than the recent 10-year average of 232. Highlights included: Greater White-fronted Goose, Cackling Goose, King Eider (unusual locations), **Pacific Loon**, Golden Eagle, Red Phalarope, Parasitic Jaeger, Pomarine Jaeger, Black-legged Kittiwake, Little Gull, **ARCTIC TERN**, Forster's Tern, Snowy Owl, Black-backed Woodpecker, Bohemian Waxwing, **Connecticut Warbler**, Clay-colored Sparrow, and **Harris's Sparrow**.

Swan Swan Hummingbird v4.02 was used to process 25,003 eBird records from 130 contributors.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

Adks – Adirondacks, (n. HERK); BLNC – Beaver L Nature Center, Baldwinsville; BRH – Bishop Rd Hawk Watch, T Richland; Bville – Baldwinsville; Canas – Canastota; Caz – Cavenovia L; CM – Clay Marsh, Clay; Const – Oneida L at Constantia; CS – Cicero Swamp WMA; DB – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox; DH – Derby Hill, T Mexico; Dvl – Durhamville; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; GB – Great Bear Rec Area, Fulton; GLSP – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; GSC – Great Swamp Conservancy, n. MADI; HA – Hancock Airpark; Hast – Hastings; HF – Highland Forest, Tully; HI – Howland I WMA; HR – Hinckley Res; MCL – Madison County Landfill, T Lincoln; NH – New Haven; NSyr – North Syracuse; OF – Old Forge; OLC – Onondaga L Creekwalk; OneiL – Oneida L; OnonL – Onondaga L; OswH – Oswego Harbor; OtisL – Otisco L; Pville – Pennellville; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; SH – Southern Highlands of ONON & MADI; Skan – Skaneateles; SNC – Sterling Nature Center, Sterling; SPd – Sandy Pd; SSSP – Selkirk Shores SP; SVB – Sylvan & Verona Beach; Syr – Syracuse; TR – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; VBSP – Verona Beach SP; Volney – County Route 6 wetlands, Volney; WM – West Monroe; WP – Woodman Pd, Hamilton; WW – West Winfield, s. HERK.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: HA 23 Sep (DWe); Bville 24-30 Oct (JW, mob); BLNC 5 Nov (GD).

Snow Goose: arr Central Square 15 Sep; max 350 SFNS 29 Nov; 340 NH 30 Nov; no large movements.

Brant: arr 93 Hinckley Reservoir 4 Oct; max 2030 DH 26 Oct (BP); 400 OnonL 6 Oct.

Cackling Goose: arr HA 23 Sep (DWe); max 3 Sherrill 8 Nov (MB); 10 individuals reported.

Canada Goose: 3500 WP 17 Oct; max 5000 WW 21 Oct; 3000 Bville 2 Nov.

Mute Swan: 7 OnonL 31 Oct; max 30 FH 3 Nov; numbers build at FH.

Trumpeter Swan: max 5 Volney 15-24 Sep (WF, BP); all reports from same loc.

Tundra Swan: arr FH 1 Nov; 29 DH 8 Nov; 30 FH 16 Nov; max 220 Const 22 Nov (BP).

Wood Duck: max 32 OneiL 21 Sep; 25 Volney 25 Sep; OnonL 29 Nov.

Gadwall: arr OnonL 3 Sep; max 350 FH 18 Nov (JM); 2 OnonL 26 Nov.

Am. Wigeon: 8 FH 14 Oct; max 80 WP 6 Nov; 3 OneiL 29 Nov.

Am. Black Duck: max 88 DH 27 Oct; 38 GSC

20 Nov; 44 Const 26 Nov.

Mallard: max 800 OnonL 24 Nov; 600 FH 24 Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: max 12 Volney 25 Sep; last 4 Granby 27 Oct; relatively few reports.

N. Shoveler: arr OnonL 4 Oct; max 16 OnonL 5 Oct, Canastota 5 Nov; OLC 25 Nov.

N. Pintail: DH & GSC 4 Sep; max 92 DH 20 Oct; 2 FH 23 Nov.

Green-winged Teal: Dvl 2 Sep; max 80 OnonL 5 Oct; 25 OtisL 6 Oct; Mexico 30 Nov.

Redhead: OLCW thru 2 Sep; max 4 Skan 20 Nov; 2 OneiL 29 Nov.

Canvasback: DH 23 Nov (WF), only report.

Ring-necked Duck: arr FH 6 Oct; 160 FH 3 Nov; max 180 WP 27 Nov.

Greater Scaup: arr OnonL 4 Oct; max 15 DH 23 Nov; 12 OneiL 29 Nov; 11 OswH 30 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: arr DH 22 Sep; 50 FH 1 Nov; max 520 OneiL 29 Nov.

scaup sp: max 300 FH 24 Nov.

aythya species: max 150 OnonL 25 Nov.

King Eider: 2 OnonL 6-8 Nov, one thru 9 Nov (DW, ph, mob), 1st ONON record; FH 15-28 Nov (JTa, ph, mob); 2 FH 16 Nov (TL, ph).

Surf Scoter: arr WP 6 Oct, unusual loc (RC);

max 14 DH 18 Oct; 4 SB 2 Nov; few reports.

White-winged Scoter: arr OnonL 5 Oct; 84 DH 27 Oct; max 129 DH 8 Nov (BP).

Black Scoter: arr OnonL 6 Oct; max 27 DH 25 Oct; 5 OneiL 29 Nov; relatively few reports.

Long-tailed Duck: arr 75 DH 22 Oct (DW); 299 DH 27 Oct; max 300 Rainbow Shores 29 Nov.

Bufflehead: arr Skan 11 Oct; 42 SkanL 8 Nov; max 100 OnonL 11 Nov; 32 OtisL 16 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: Skan 3 Sep, continuing; 68 OtisL 21 Nov; 110 OneiL 29 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: max 166 OtisL 13 Nov (KRB), good number; 60 OnonL 29 Nov; 61 SSSP 30 Nov.

Com. Merganser: 100 Tuscarora Lake 14 Nov; 68 OtisL 21 Nov; max 150 SVB 30 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: arr OnonL 4 Sep; max 3500 FH 24 Nov (KM); 300 DH 24 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: arr OnonL 10 Oct; 307 BLNC 21 Oct; 40 WP 24 Oct.

Ring-necked Pheasant: 2 Tully 21 Sep; 2 DH 3 Nov; 2 Poland 15 Nov; about 15 other singles.

Ruffed Grouse: max 5 Ohio 3 Sep; 4 Dolgeville 16 Nov; relatively few reports.

Wild Turkey: max 27 WM 22 Nov; 18 New Haven 28 Nov; relatively low numbers.

Red-throated Loon: arr DH 20 Oct; max 6 FH 16 Nov (TL); OF 25 Nov (GL), *intro*.

PACIFIC LOON: DH 22 Oct (DW, NYSARC), *intro*.

Com. Loon: 11 Fourth Lake, Adks 19 Sep; max 38 DH 24 Oct; 24 SVB 31 Oct; hundreds dead from botulism, *intro*.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 10 Volney 25 Sep; 6 WP 5 Oct; 6 Caz 15 Nov; OLCW 25 Nov.

Horned Grebe: arr OnonL 15 Sep; 41 DH 18 Oct; 220 FH 16 Nov (TL), good number; 42 OneiL 22 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: arr DH 4 Sep; 7 DH 1 Nov (BP); max 8 OnonL 6 Nov.

Double-crested Cormorant: 350 Const 4 Sep; max 2000 OLCW 6 Oct; 810 DH 24 Oct.

Am. Bittern: singles OneiL, Fairfield, & Williamstown; none after 15 Sep.

Least Bittern: VBSP 25 Sep (AM), only report.

Great Blue Heron: max 11 OLCW 2 Sep; 7 OswH 3 Sep; 8 FH 14 Oct.

Great Egret: max 5 DB 15 Oct; 2 GSC 15-18 Oct; last DB 23 Oct.

Green Heron: max 22 OneiL 4 Sep (BP), good number; last Camden 21 Oct (RL), late.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 3 OnonL 19 Sep (DWe); Volney 15 Sep; OLCW 5-18 Oct (KB, MN, mob).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Turkey Vulture: 94 Const 7 Oct; max 400 DH 24 Oct (RD, KB); 2 Fayetteville 28 Nov.

Osprey: max 5 DH 5 Sep; singles Hamilton & Fayetteville 22 Nov, late; 9 Nov reports.

Golden Eagle: 6 BRH 3 Nov (BP), good number; Syr Airport 30 Nov (JM, ph); only reports.

Bald Eagle: max 8 DH 22 Sep; 6 BRH 30 Nov; 5 Rome mid-Nov thru; widespread reports.

N. Harrier: 2 OLCW 5 Oct; 2 WW 9, 11 Oct; 2 BRH 3, 28 Nov.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 3 NH 7 Oct; widespread reports of singles and pairs.

Cooper's Hawk: 2 CM 9 Sep; 2 GB 13, 16 Sep; many reports of mostly singles.

N. Goshawk: Tully 3 Oct (GA), only report.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Camden 3–28 Sep; last Const 25 Nov; only six reported.

Broad-winged Hawk: 10 Hast 14 Sep; max 19 SH 17 Sep; last Mexico 26 Sep; relatively few reports.

Red-tailed Hawk: Hannibal 8 Sep, tests positive for West Nile Virus (JS); max 52 BRH 3 Nov.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr Marcellus 29 Oct; max 4 BRH 3 Nov (BP); 2 Syr Airport 26 Nov (DN).

Virginia Rail: Volney 26 Sep (WF), only report.

Sora: HI 7 Sep; last OLCW 16 Nov (AW).

Com. Gallinule: 5 WP 1 Sep; max 34 Volney 24 Sep (BP), good number; last 2 Volney 9 Oct (WF), relatively late.

Am. Coot: arr 2 Volney 25 Sep; 75 FH 27 Oct; max 83 Skan 20 Nov.

Sandhill Crane: 2 HI 7 Sep; 2 Canas 8 Sep; 2 DB 15 Oct; last & max 4 CS 23 Nov (BG), only reports.

Black-bellied Plover: 2 OswH 3 Sep; only report.

Am. Golden-Plover: OnonL Sep 1-18; max 3 Bridgeport 10 Sep; 2 FH 6 Sep; last Hamilton 2 Oct, *intro*.

Semipalmated Plover: max 10 FH 5 Sep; 3 OnonL 19 Sep; last 2 FH 25 Sep; relatively few reports.

Killdeer: max 125 OnonL 10 Sep (KM), good number; 60 Bridgeport 10 Sep; last Jamesville 15 Nov.

Spotted Sandpiper: last FH 14 Oct; only 12 records.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 6 DB 1 Sep; last OLCW 10 Oct; relatively few reports.

Greater Yellowlegs: 3 Bville 16 Oct; max 4 FH 28 Oct; last HI 1 Nov; relatively few reports.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 5 OnonL 1 Sep; 2

SSSP 19 Oct (BP); last TR 28 Oct; around 10 reports.

Ruddy Turnstone: OswH 8 Sep (DW), only report.

Sanderling: 6 DH 4 Sep; max 15 FH 6 Sep; 3 OswH 8 Sep; last SVB 4 Nov; around 10 reports.

Dunlin: juv (rare) OnonL 5 Oct; max 70 DH 24 Oct (DW); 5 FH 28 Oct; last OLCW 25 Nov (DW, JTa).

Baird's Sandpiper: FH 5 Sep (KB), only report.

Least Sandpiper: max 18 DB 1 Sep; 4 OLCW 2 Sep; last SVB 8 Oct (BB); relatively few reports.

White-rumped Sandpiper: no reports.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 13 FH 5 Sep; 10 HR 4 Oct; last 10 DB & 2 Mohawk 2 Nov.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 10 DH 4 Sep; 5 FH 5 Sep; last 3 OnonL 8 Sep; only 4 reports.

Wilson's Snipe: HA 10 Sep; Volney 25 Sep; Camden 23 Oct; last Mohawk 2 Nov (JW); only reports.

Am. Woodcock: 3 Erieville 26 Sep; max 6 TR 12 Oct; last TR 10 Nov; widespread reports.

Red Phalarope: DH 22 Sep (DW, JTa), chased by Merlin; DH 24 Oct (BP, RD); only reports.

Pomarine Jaeger: DH 22 Oct (DW), only report.

Parasitic Jaeger: max 6 DH 3 Sep (DW); total of 13 DH 3 Sep – 24 Oct.

Pomarine/Parasitic Jaeger: max 2 DH 24 Oct (DW).

Parasitic/Long-tailed Jaeger: DH 24 Oct (DW).

Black-legged Kittiwake: SVB 3 Nov, mobbed by Bonaparte's Gulls (DW); DH 10 Nov (DW); both 1st winter.

Bonaparte's Gull: 5 DH 4 Sep; 135 SVB 13 Sep; max 162 SVB 6 Nov (BP); most records from Oneida Lake.

Little Gull: DH 3 Sep (DW, JTa); 6 reports of singles DH 3 Sep – 7 Nov.

Iceland Gull: arr DH 24 Oct (DW), very early; SVB 3 Nov (MS); 4 MCL 16 Nov (DW); 2 SP 18 Nov (BP); 3 DH 24 Nov (DW).

Ring-billed Gull: 820 Skan 11 Oct; 1500 SVB 23 Oct; max 2000 DB 11 Nov.

Herring Gull: max 750 MCL 15 Nov; 200 VBSP 16 Nov; 300 DH 24 Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: arr MCL 15 Nov thru (DW, JTa, mob); DH 24 Nov (DW); only reports.

Glaucous Gull: arr DH 20 Oct (WF), very early; max 2 FH 23 Nov (MM, JB, mob); 2 MCL 30 Nov (DW); around 10 reports.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 75 SVB 23 Oct; 25 MCL 15, 20 Nov; 19 SP 18 Nov.

gull species: 1000 MCL 13 Sep; max 2000 OnonL 18 Nov; 500 OneiL 30 Nov.

Caspian Tern: 9 OLCW 2 Sep; max 10 Const 4 Sep; 6 DH 4 Sep; 6 FH 5 Sep; last OnonL 6 Oct (DWe, AW), late.

Black Tern: 7 DH 3 Sep (DW), only report.

Com. Tern: max 122 OneiL 1 Sep; 44 DH 3 Sep; last 2 OLCW 10 Oct.

ARCTIC TERN: OnonL 4-6 Oct (DWe!, mob, ph, NYSARC), first Reg record.

Forster's Tern: DH 18 Oct (DW, BP); max and last 2 DH 24 Oct (DW).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Rock Pigeon: max 300 Brewerton 21 Sep, Bville 8 Oct; 240 Belgium 14 Oct.

Mourning Dove: 59 Cicero 1 Sep; 53 Mexico 16 Sep; 150 Cana 9 Nov; max 336 Caz 9 Nov.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: HI 7 Sep; Elbridge 25 Sep; last Camden 26 Sep; only reports.

Black-billed Cuckoo: HI 7 Sep; Waterville 30 Sep, late; only reports.

E. Screech-Owl: 2 HI 7 Sep; 2 Clinton 27 Sep, has atypical call; few singles.

Great Horned Owl: SFNS 30 Sep, mobbed by vireos & jays; max 3 TR 9 Oct; 2 NSyr 2 Nov.

Snowy Owl: arr Syr Airport 24 Nov (TL); Bville 27 Nov (JB); max 4 Syr Airport 28-29 Nov; SVB 29 Nov (GH); 2 other reports.

Barred Owl: 2 Camden 28 Sep; 2 Mexico 29 Sep; 2 with West Nile Virus, *intro*; 15 other reports.

Short-eared Owl: Brewerton 18 Nov (WF); Sandy Creek 28 Nov (JTa); only reports.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Brewerton 20 Nov (JS), injured, euthanized, only report.

Com. Nighthawk: max 8 TR 1, 2 Sep; 2 SH 2 Sep; 3 WM 4 Sep; last Camden 10 Sep; only 10 reports.

Chimney Swift: 6 HI 7 Sep; max & last 10 Weedsport 9 Sep; few reports.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 12 banded Adks 1 Sep; max 6 Manlius 2 Sep; (f juv) Syr 19-23 Nov (KC, mob, ph), very late, *intro*.

Belted Kingfisher: 5 OnonL 2 Sep; max 7 Oswego River 21 Sep.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 9 CM 25 Sep (DN); 4 Skan 29 Oct; 5 GLSP 9 Nov.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2 CM 25 Sep; 3 HA 25-26 Sep; 3 Hast 25 Sep; last HI 28 Nov (BM).

Downy Woodpecker: 6 GLSP 7 Sep; 6 HA 10 Oct; 6 HI 28 Nov.

Hairy Woodpecker: 3 HA 6 Sep, 10 Oct; 3 Dolgeville 11 Sep.

Black-backed Woodpecker: Big Moose Lake, Adks 3-4 Oct (GL, VD).

N. Flicker: 9 SH 8 Sep; max 10 Cicero 26 Sep.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 4 GLSP 23 Nov (WG).

Am. Kestrel: 2 Fairfield 2 Sep; 2 DH 4 Sep; 2 GLSP 7 Sep; 2 Hast 5 Sep; 2 Manheim 6 Oct.

Merlin: DH 5 Sep; DH 23 Sep (DW, JTa), chased Red Phalarope; over 20 records of singles.

Peregrine Falcon: max 2 Utica 15 Sep thru; singles Syr thru mid Oct; more than 12 reports.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: singles Hast, Trenton, HI, Clay, Tully, & HA 2–18 Sep.

E. Wood-Pewee: max 5 GLSP 4 Sep; 5 HI 7 Sep; 3 SFNS 16 Sep, ad feeding juv; last Camden 8 Oct, late (RL).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: HA 5 Sep, singing “chebunk” song; last SFNS 30 Sep; about 10 reports.

Acadian Flycatcher: HA 12 Sep, calling (DA), unusual in fall.

Alder/Willow Flycatcher: HI 2 Sep, only report.

Least Flycatcher: max 3 HA 6 Sep; 2 SFNS 4 Sep; last HA 28 Sep; relatively few reports.

empidonax species: over 30 reports.

E. Phoebe: 6 Marcellus 22 Sep; max 8 TR 23 Sep; 6 Kirkville 29 Sep; last CM 13 Nov.

Great Crested Flycatcher: 2 GLSP 7 Sep; 2 Marcellus 8 Sep; Mexico 15 Sep; last CM 25 Sep.

E. Kingbird: max 5 Trenton 3 Sep; last WP 17 Sep; 5 reports.

N. Shrike: arr Coldbrook 11 Nov; about a dozen reports.

Yellow-throated Vireo: OF 2 Sep (MN); last Lake Neatahwanta 27 Sep; 10 reports.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 6 HA 26 Sep; 6 SFNS 30 Sep; last SFNS 25 Oct; good numbers.

Warbling Vireo: 9 OnonL 2 Sep; max 10 Barry Park 16 Sep; last HA 27 Sep; relatively few reports.

Philadelphia Vireo: 3 TR 12, 24 Sep; max 4 HA 15 Sep; SFNS 22 Sep, eating fruit from Virginia Creeper; last TR 8 Oct; over 40 records.

Red-eyed Vireo: 7 Tully 6 Sep; 7 Mexico 15 Sep; max 10 HA 15 Sep; last 2 WW 24 Oct.

Blue Jay: 40 VBSP 22 Sep; max 70 OnonL 6 Oct.

Am. Crow: 1000 SFNS 3 Nov, fly to Utica Roost; 1151 Pulaski 3 Nov; max 3500 OnonL 21 Nov.

Fish Crow: OneiL 2 Nov (TS); max 5 OnonL 9–26 Nov, most records from same loc.

Com. Raven: 7 Skan 8 Oct; max 13 Newport 15 Nov; 6 Dolgeville 16 Nov (LH); widespread

reports.

Horned Lark: max 45 Pulaski 3 Nov; 29 Tully 22 Nov; 44 Caz 29 Nov; relatively few reports.

Purple Martin: 2 WM 4 Sep; max & last 3 HI 7 Sep; only 4 reports.

Tree Swallow: max 12 TR 1 Sep; 10 DH 3 Sep; 5 HI 7 Sep; last Pville 6 Nov; low numbers.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 8 HI 7 Sep; Mexico 15 Sep; only reports.

Bank Swallow: DH 4 Sep; max 4 HI 7 Sep; last Volney 15 Sep; 2 other records.

Cliff Swallow: no reports.

Barn Swallow: max 30 OLCW 4 Sep; 18 WM 4 Sep; 7 Hast 8 Sep; last FH 12 Oct.

Black-capped Chickadee: 22 SFNS 12 Sep; 21 Hast 19 Sep; max 23 HI 28 Nov.

Tufted Titmouse: 6 SFNS 1, 12, 26 Sep; 6 Syr 14 Oct; max 8 GB 10 Oct.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 3 SH 3 Sep; 3 Waterville 30 Sep; max 6 HF 23 Nov; relatively few reports.

White-breasted Nuthatch: 6 HA 1, 22 Sep; max 8 SH 7 Sep.

Brown Creeper: max 4 GB 10 Oct, 4 BLNC 11 Nov; 3 Camden 14 Nov.

House Wren: max 8 TR 14 Sep; 5 HA 14 Sep; last SFNS 6–11 Nov (MP), very late.

Winter Wren: 6 SFNS 8 Oct; max 9 TR 28 Oct; SFNS 29 Nov.

Marsh Wren: max & last 2 Bville 17 Oct; 7 other reports.

Carolina Wren: max 3 HI 7 Sep; 3 Otisco Lake 24 Sep; 3 Dewitt 11 Nov; many reports.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: HI 5 Sep; Chittenango 7 Sep; Const 9 Sep; last TR 19 Sep.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 25 SFNS 7 Oct, 26 Oct; max 52 FH 14 Oct; good numbers.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 17 TR 8 Oct; max 30 Camden 9 Oct; last DH 3 Nov.

E. Bluebird: 16 CM 2 Nov; max 36 Camden 27 Oct; 14 TR 10 Nov.

Veery: max 2 Sangerfield 3 Sep; 2 HI 7 Sep; last HA 27 Sep; only 4 other reports.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Labrador Hollow 6 Sep (CW), early; HA 24–27 Sep; Const 25 Sep; last Bridgeport 15 Oct; less than 10 reports.

Swainson's Thrush: arr HA 5 Sep; max 4 HA 25 Sep; last 3 GB 10 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: 5 SFNS 8 Oct; max 9 TR 15 Oct; OLCW 30 Nov.

Wood Thrush: max 4 HA 5 Sep; 3 HI 7 Sep; 3 Mexico 15 Sep; last OLCW 8 Oct.

Am. Robin: max 250 Otisco Lake 1 Oct; 112 Dolgeville 1 Nov; 60 Hast 17 Nov.

Gray Catbird: 20 Syr 16 Sep; 20 HA 20 Sep; max 22 CM 25 Sep; last SFNS 13 Nov.

N. Mockingbird: 2 OLCW 2 Sep & 3 Oct; max 3 HA 6 Sep, 3 GLSP 15 Nov.

Brown Thrasher: 4 SFNS 1 Sep; max 5 TR 23 Sep; last Clinton 30 Nov (IR), late.

European Starling: max 1750 Cicero 10 Oct; 1000 MCL 16 Nov.

Am. Pipit: 33 Fabius 27 Sep; 45 GLSP 28 Sep; max 90 Mexico 27 Oct; last OswH 3 Nov.

Bohemian Waxwing: DH 3 Nov (DWe), only report.

Cedar Waxwing: max 88 SH 12 Sep; 75 Otisco Lake 1 Oct; 75 SFNS 22 Oct.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: Caz 29 Nov (BW), only report.

Snow Bunting: arr DH 25 Oct; 185 Dolgeville 4 Nov; 450 NH 8 Nov; max 500 VanBuren 28 Nov.

Ovenbird: max 5 Mexico 9 Sep; last Mexico 29 Sep; about 20 reports, mostly singles.

N. Waterthrush: SFNS 2 Sep; TR 6 Sep; Mexico 7, 15 Sep; last Manlius 8 Oct (CB), late.

Blue-winged Warbler: 2 Oneil 6 Sep; 2 Mexico 15 Sep; last SFNS 22 Sep; 7 other reports of singles.

Black-and-white Warbler: 2 SFNS 12–15 Sep; 2 HA 17, 18 Sep; last Dvl 3 Oct; low numbers.

Prothonotary Warbler: SH 12 Sep (BW), only report.

Tennessee Warbler: max 5 Hast 5 Sep; 3 HA 5, 25 Sep; 3 TR 23 Sep; last 9 Oct; good numbers.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr HI 7 Sep; last TR 28 Oct; 17 total records of singles.

Nashville Warbler: 6 HA 5 Sep; 8 HA 25 Sep; max 10 GLSP 28 Sep; last Marcellus 15 Oct.

Connecticut Warbler: juv HA 23 Sep (DW), only report.

Mourning Warbler: singles Caz, Verona & Tully; last Dvl 18 Sep, only reports.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 17 Labrador Hollow 6 Sep; 12 SFNS 14, 15 Sep; last DB 23 Oct.

Hooded Warbler: 2 Mexico 9, 15 Sep; last GLSP 28 Sep; 8 other reports.

Am. Redstart: max 7 HA 5 Sep; 3 SFNS 3, 13, 14 Sep; last Camden 8 Oct; generally low counts.

Cape May Warbler: 3 GB 4 Sep; max 5 Hast 9 Sep (BP), good number; last Nelson Swamp 28 Sep.

Cerulean Warbler: 2 HI 2 Sep, only report.

N. Parula: 3 TR 6 Sep; 2 SFNS 15 Sep; 2 OLCW 26 Sep; last OLCW 12 Oct; about 20 reports.

Magnolia Warbler: max 14 HA 5 Sep; 4

VBSP 29 Sep; last HA 9 Oct; generally low counts.

Bay-breasted Warbler: 2 SFNS 1, 13 Sep; 2 Hast 1, 5 Sep; 2 DH 15 Sep; last Dewitt 11 Oct.

Blackburnian Warbler: 3 Syr 6 Sep; max 4 HA 22 Sep; low counts.

Yellow Warbler: max 5 OLCW 4 Sep; last SFNS 26 Sep (MP), late; 12 reports.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 4 Camden 15 Sep; 4 HA 15 Sep; last TR 6 Oct.

Blackpoll Warbler: 4 HA 17 Sep; max 15 OLCW 26 Sep, good number; last OLCW 17 Oct.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 5 Mexico 9 Sep; 3 TR 17 Sep; last Clay 17 Oct; relatively few reports.

Palm Warbler: arr 2 Syr 6 Sep; max 12 HA 25, 26 Sep; 6 OLCW 26 Sep; last 3 SFNS 27 Oct.

Pine Warbler: max 3 Oneil 6 Sep; 2 VBSP 19 Sep; 2 Camden 19 Sep; last VBSP, TR, GB 29 Sep.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 65 Fulton 27 Sep; 50 OLCW 8 Oct; last Sunset Bay Park 24 Nov.

Black-throated Green Warbler: 8 SFNS 17 Sep, 1 Oct; max 9 GLSP 28 Sep; last 2 OLCW 13 Oct; generally low counts.

Canada Warbler: 2 HA 6 Sep; last 2 VBSP 9 Sep; only 7 reports.

Wilson's Warbler: max 3 Hast 5 Sep & TR 6, 12 Sep & HA 17 Sep; last Waterville 29 Sep.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: 7 TR 6, 19 Sep; max 12 Hast 23 Sep (BP), good number; 8 GLSP 28 Sep; last SNC 1 Nov.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr TR 29 Oct; 30 VBSP 4 Nov; 23 DB 11 Nov; max 32 NH 30 Nov.

Chipping Sparrow: 22 Ohio 6 Sep; max 25 Camden 7 Oct; 23 Hast 27 Oct; last Syr 15 Nov.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Dvl 4 Oct (BB), only report.

Field Sparrow: max 15 TR 23 Sep; 6 WW 24 Oct; last TR 28 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: Pompey 15 Sep (DN); max 2 Rome 27 Oct (DC); 2 DH 27 Oct (JT); last Verona 30 Oct (BB); 9 reports.

Savannah Sparrow: max 30 Bville 8 Oct (JB), good number; 9 Mexico 7 Oct; last Canas 3 Nov.

Fox Sparrow: arr 10 Oct, max 11 TR 3 Nov; 4 Rome 14 Nov; last Dolgeville 13 Nov; relatively few reports.

Song Sparrow: 30 TR 23 Sep; 30 Bville 3 Oct; max 65 DB 23 Oct; 33 WM 23 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr TR 14 Sep; max 3 HA

17-20 Sep; last Verona 17 Oct.

Swamp Sparrow: max 30 Tully 13 Oct (SK); 17 WM 17 Oct; 14 TR; last 4 TR 28 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: 70 WM 26 Sep; 85 GLSP 28 Sep; max 120 HA 9, 24 Oct (DWe); 95 DB 23 Oct (BP).

HARRIS'S SPARROW: Canas 9 Nov (TS!, ph, NYSARC), 2nd fall record.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr 24 Sep; 19 Dolgeville 26 Sep; max 25 TR 7 Oct; last Bville 10 Nov.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 32 Hast 29 Oct; 30 Camden 4 Nov; 30 SH 10 Nov.

Scarlet Tanager: max 3 TR 6 Sep & Hast 19 Sep & SFNS 15, 26 Sep; last multi locs 7 Oct.

N. Cardinal: 9 BLNC 18 Sep; 10 Marcellus 22 Sep; max 12 SH 18 Nov.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 6 Canas 10 Sep; 3 TR 14 Sep; last Elbridge 24 Nov (SS! ph), very late.

Indigo Bunting: 2 SFNS 6, 17 Sep; max 3 Van Buren 24 Sep; last Bville 8 Oct; relatively few reports.

Bobolink: max 30 HI 7 Sep; 25 Bville 20 Sep; last 5 Bville 8 Oct (JB), late.

Red-winged Blackbird: 7000 Brewerton 26 Oct; max 10,000 OnonL 30 Oct, 2000 DB 9 Nov.

E. Meadowlark: 5 Tully 15 Oct; 7 Verona 17

Oct; max 30 Brewerton 22 Oct (WF), good number.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 5 CM 19 Sep; 40 Marcellus 13 Oct; max 300 HA 24 Oct (DWe); 65 NSyr 30 Oct; last Const 24 Nov.

Com. Grackle: 9600 Hast 30 Oct; max 22000 Cicero 31 Oct (BP); 5500 Central Square 31 Oct.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 20 OLCW 22 Sep; max 35 Whitestown 23 Sep; 21 Mexico 26 Sep.

Baltimore Oriole: max 2 HA 9 Sep; last CM 19 Sep; about a dozen reports.

blackbird species: max 20000 CM 29 Oct.

Purple Finch: max 14 Dolgeville 3 Sep; 6 Bville 2 Nov; mostly singles and low numbers.

House Finch: 14 TR 15 Oct; 10 CM 2 Nov; max 19 SH 12 Nov; 10 NSyr 28 Nov; generally low counts.

Pine Siskin: no reports.

Am. Goldfinch: 60 Mexico 27 Oct; max 85 DH 17 Nov; 58 Dolgeville 23 Nov; generally good numbers.

House Sparrow: max 120 Liverpool 26 Nov; 82 Syr 28 Nov.

EXOTICS

Chukar: Phoenix 22 Sep (ADG); one other report.

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