

REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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The fall's weather was something of a mixed bag, but was generally mild and dry. Mean monthly temperatures for September and October were within 0.5° F of normal, but November was 5.6° above normal. During a stretch from 5 to 11 November daily temperatures exceeded long-term averages by 11° to 18° each day, and reached 76° on 10 November. September and November were both relatively dry, with a combined total of 4.1" of precipitation, about 3.4" below normal and less than the 4.9" of rain that fell in October, the latter 1.2" above normal. Unlike many years winter weather did not settle in by the end of November, although there were a few chilly nights with temperatures dropping to as low as 16° on 18 November.

Waterfowl were generally unexceptional, especially the Snow Geese, which largely missed Region 6 as evident by the seasonal maximum of 12 individuals. Brant also were unusually scarce. Goose highlights included a Greater White-fronted Goose periodically seen on the St. Lawrence River in Massena for two weeks in late October and early November, and two reports of Cackling Geese. No rare ducks were observed, and duck numbers seemed generally low except at Wilson Hill WMA, where the annual *Aythya* rafts were larger than usual, with as many as 8750 Ring-necked Ducks and 2400 Redhead, with good numbers of dabbling ducks as well. Green-winged Teal were especially abundant at Wilson Hill, and the high count there of 1700, while unusually high for Region 6, was thought to be very conservative. The most unusual duck of the season was a female Red-crested Pochard among the *Aythya* rafts at Wilson Hill, surely an escapee.

Shorebird diversity was relatively high for Region 6, as was the number of locations where shorebirds were reported, but numbers of several usually common species were poor. The three juvenile **Hudsonian Godwits** that appeared at Whalen Park exceeded the total number reported in Region 6 over the previous decade. Whalen Park was among the most active shorebird sites Regionally this season, especially in October and early November, when Black-bellied Plover, Dunlin, and White-rumped Sandpiper lingered later than usual. Lewis County birders continued to enjoy the locally unusual shorebird show at the Whetstone Gulf Reservoir that included such county rarities as a Stilt Sandpiper on 9 September and American Golden-Plover 21-25 September. The El Dorado Shores Preserve and Perch River WMA also had decent numbers of shorebirds, including Baird's Sandpipers at both locations. Bill Munro photographed a Red-necked Phalarope on the St. Lawrence River on 10 September, for the only phalarope report of the season. Despite the relative abundance of shorebirds, Least Sandpipers and especially Semipalmated Sandpipers were unusually scarce, with a maximum count of the latter of two individuals.

Jefferson County has never had much of a lake watching tradition, but efforts by Steve Kelling at Tibbits Point paid off on 15 October when an immature **Black-legged Kittiwake** flew by close to shore allowing quite good photographs. The **Brown Pelican** found at Dark Island shoals in late August was last seen on 2 September. A search by boat of all of all of the shoals and rocks in the vicinity on 3 September failed to turn up the pelican, but did net the last Black Tern of the season.

The passerine migration was about average, with a few decent waves of migrants interspersed by lengthy periods of modest movement. Many species seemed to linger later in the fall than usual, especially late examples including a Least Flycatcher on Fort Drum

and a Philadelphia Vireo at Long Point State Park on 14 October, and a House Wren in Alexandria on 23 October. A Brown Thrasher on Fort Drum 23 September was late, and another that appeared in a Canton yard on 11 November looked like it was going to attempt to overwinter, as did a Baltimore Oriole that showed up at a Rodman feeder on 25 November. In contrast to these late birds, swallows vanished early, with the last Tree and Barn Swallows reports on 12 September, after which no swallows of any species were reported.

Every species of northeastern finch moved through Region 6 this fall. Evening Grosbeaks appeared throughout the Region in mid-October and were reported at many feeders. The first Pine Grosbeak of the year was heard over Fort Drum on 13 October, but the majority of reports came from northern-most St. Lawrence County, where groups of up to 13 were seen by the end of November. An early White-winged Crossbill was at Whalen Park on the St. Lawrence River on 11 September, but the bulk of the crossbill flight came in late October and November, when groups of up to 25 Red Crossbills and 18 White-winged Crossbills were reported from many locations, especially near Lake Ontario. Common Redpolls were present in good numbers by early November, with Hoary Redpolls picked out of two flocks on Fort Drum on 13 and 24 November. For much of the fall it seemed impossible to spend any time outside without hearing Pine Siskins overhead.

The warbler migration was about average, with reasonably good numbers but no especially large pulses noted. On 5 September, while hiking the Cranberry Lake 50, Chris Wood found a Connecticut Warbler near Glasby Pond. Connecticut Warblers are rarely detected in Region 6, although a few probably sneak through most years, perhaps including in the Adirondacks. A Golden-winged Warbler on Fort Drum 8 September was a few days later than is typical, and surprisingly came from a location where no Blue-winged Warblers were found after August, unlike most recent years when the latter species has been fairly common through at least the first week of September. The 11 Orange-crowned Warblers seen between mid-September and mid-October is an above average tally, but not surprising given the number of birders afield.

The 233 species reported this fall is about nine above the most recent ten-year average, and the second-highest autumn tally in at least 15 years. The number of birders reporting to eBird in Region 6 continues to increase, which no doubt is the primary reason for this season's relatively high species tally. The continuing **Brown Pelican** was the highlight of the season, although this author wishes it would have stuck around for at least one more day. More cooperative were the Regionally rare **Hudsonian Godwits** at Whalen Park, including at least two that remained long enough for many St. Lawrence County birders to see it.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AFWMA – Ashland Flats WMA; **BPWMA** – Black Pd WMA; **CCSP** – Coles Creek SP; **CV** – T Cape Vincent; **CWF** – Canton Wastewater Treatment Facility; **DIS**—Dark Island Shoals; **ED**—El Dorado Shores Pres, T Ellisburg; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Reservation, JEFF & LEWI; **ICNC** – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton, STLA; **JEFF** – Jefferson County; **KC** – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; **KPSP** – Kring Pt SP; **LBSF** – Lonesome Bay State Forest, T Hammond; **LEWI** – Lewis County; **LPSP** – Long Pt SP; **LWMA** – Lakeview WMA; **MM** – Massawepie Mire, T Colton & Piercefield, STLA; **MP** – Montario Pt, T Ellisburg; **PilPt** – Pillar Pt, JEFF; **PRWMA** – Perch Ri WMA, JEFF; **PtPen** – Pt Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF; **RLT**—Richard’s Landing Trail, T Massena; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, T Massena; **RRT** – Remington Recreation Trail, T Canton; **RWSP** – Robert Wehle SP; **SBSP** – Southwick Beach SP; **SLR** – St. Lawrence Ri; **STLA** – St. Lawrence County; **StPt** – Stony Pt, T Henderson, JEFF; **TP** – Tibbits Pt, T Cape Vincent; **ULLWMA** – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; **WBSP** – Westcott Beach SP; **WGR** – Whetstone Gulf Res; **WHWMA** – Wilson Hill WMA; **WISP** – Wellesley I SP; **WP** – Whalen P, T Louisville.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: only 16 reports 18 Sep thru; max 12 T Lowville 4 Nov (low).

Greater White-fronted Goose: RLT 23 Oct to 7 Nov (JB, mob).

Brant: arr TP 14 Oct; max 200 TP 25 Oct; only 2 other reports; low.

Cackling Goose: T Canton 9 Oct (NK, photos!); 3 FD 24 Nov (JB!); only reports.

Canada Goose: max 10880 FD 24 Nov heaviest flight of season.

Mute Swan: max 19 T Clayton 31 Oct.

Trumpeter Swan: max 10 PRWMA 25 Oct & Chippewa Bay 30 Oct.

Tundra Swan: arr TP 14 Oct; max 375 PtPen 27 Nov.

Wood Duck: max 136 LBSF 6 Sep; last LBSF 27 Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: max 340 WHWMA 27 Sep; last 4 WHWMA 17 Oct.

Northern Shoveler: max 10 CWF 14 Sep; last WHWMA 15 Nov.

Gadwall: max 40 WHWMA 9 Nov.

American Wigeon: max 1800 WHWMA 24 Oct; scarce after 15 Nov.

Mallard: max 1595 WHWMA 14 Nov.

American Black Duck: max 150 WHWMA 17 Oct.

Northern Pintail: max 510 WHWMA 11 Oct.

Green-winged Teal: max 1700 WHWMA 11 Oct, high.

Canvasback: f WHWMA 6-11 Nov only report.

Redhead: max 2400 WHWMA 24 Oct.

Ring-necked Duck: max 8750 WHWMA 7 Nov.

Greater Scaup: max 180 CV 14 Oct.

Lesser Scaup: max 18 WHWMA 24 Oct.

Surf Scoter: max 25 BPWMA 19 Nov; 3 other reports 1-2 each.

White-winged Scoter: max 125 ED 27 Nov.

Black Scoter: max 23 MP 27 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: arr TP 4 Oct; max 1540 MP 27 Nov.

Bufflehead: arr WHWMA 17 Oct; max 80 PtPen 22 Nov.

Common Goldeneye: 3 arr Little Hammond Point 19 Sep (GS) early; next RLT 17 Oct; max 110 WBSP 27 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: max 75 Coles Creek T Louisville 10 Nov.

Common Merganser: max 148 Little Sucker Brook T Waddington 22 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 197 StPt 27 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: SLR T Massena 21 Sep; WHWMA 9-11 Nov; only reports.

Spruce Grouse: 2 MM 26 Sep (BB) only report.

Wild Turkey: max 54 T West Turin 28 Sep.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 47 ULLWMA 12 Oct; last WHWMA 15 Nov.

Horned Grebe: arr CV 6 Sep; max 4 WBSP 7 Nov.
Red-necked Grebe: arr WHWMA 20 Sep; max 2 RLT 23 Oct.
Mourning Dove: max 76 T Lyme 27 Nov.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last CV 22 Sep.
Black-billed Cuckoo: last Cranberry L 3 Sep.
Common Nighthawk: max 15 LBSF 15 Sep; last CV 16 Sep.
Eastern Whip-poor-will: last FD 1 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last T Massena 21 Sep.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: last FD 21 Sep.
Sora: last WHWMA 27 Sep.
Common Gallinule: max 20 PRWMA 4 Sep; last FD 21 Sep.
American Coot: max 171 WHWMA 31 Oct; singles RLT 17 Oct & AFWMA 14 Oct only other locations.
Sandhill Crane: 4 ULLWMA 19 Sep; T Croghan 2 Oct; only reports.
Black-bellied Plover: max 18 WP 7 Nov; last ED 27 Nov (JB) late.
American Golden-Plover: max 3 RLT 20 Sep; WGR 21-25 Sep (GC, RiR, RoR) rare LEWI; 10 additional reports JEFF & STLA.
Semipalmated Plover: max 24 PRWMA 3 Sep; last WHWMA 25 Oct.
Killdeer: max 74 WGR9 Sep.
Hudsonian Godwit: juvs WP 20 Sep (JB), 3-4 Oct (BD, JB, mob) & 9 Nov (NK, TW, EW); excellent showing.
Ruddy Turnstone: 3 DIS 19 Sep (GSe) only report.
Stilt Sandpiper: PRWMA 3 Sep; WGR 9 Sep (GC) rare LEWI; only reports.
Sanderling: max 57 ED 25 Sep; last ED 7 Nov; 35 additional reports more than usual.
Dunlin: max 75 LWMA 10 Nov; last WP 29 Nov.
Baird's Sandpiper: PRWMA 4 & 23 Sep; ED 19-21 Sep; WHWMA 20 Sep.
Least Sandpiper: max 14 PRWMA 4 Sep.
White-rumped Sandpiper: 3 WP 8-11 Nov where last 14 Nov.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 28 WP 24 Sep; last ED 7 Nov.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: about 12 reports 1-2 each JEFF; low.
American Woodcock: last FD 22 Sep.
Wilson's Snipe: last 3 Little Sucker Brook Park 19 Oct.
Spotted Sandpiper: last ICNC 28 Sep.

Solitary Sandpiper: last 2 LWMA 23 Oct.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 10 WP 24 Sep; last 3 AFWMA 14 Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 10 WGF 17 Sep; last T Louisville 20 Nov.
Red-necked Phalarope: T Clayton 10 Sep (BMu, photos!).
Black-legged Kittiwake: imm TP 15 Oct (SK, photos!).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 30 PilPt 4 Oct.
Iceland Gull: T Henderson 29 Nov only report.
Lesser Black-backed Gull:
Great Black-backed Gull: max 41 T Lyme 25 Nov.
Caspian Tern: last 2 RLT 24 Sep.
Black Tern: last DIS 3 Sep.
Common Tern: last 2 RLT 24 Sep.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: max 3 CCSP 15 Nov; 6 additional observations L Ontario & SLR 31 Oct thru.
Common Loon: max 24 SLR Massena 18 Oct.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 2000 DIS 6 Sep;
BROWN PELICAN: juv found late Aug DIS continued to 2 Sep (mob, photos!).
American Bittern: last WP 24 Sep.
Least Bittern: last live LWMA 6 Sep; fresh carcass BPWMA 4 Nov (JC, photo!).
Great Egret: max 14 T Canton 28 Sep; last T Canton 28 Oct.
Green Heron: last WP 27 Sep.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: last 5 ULLWMA 19 Sep.
Turkey Vulture: last T Leray 8 Nov.
Osprey: last WISP 3 Oct.
Golden Eagle: 2 Frech Creek WMA 19 Sep (DD); Low's Ridge-Upper Dam trail 31 Oct (BB); ad FD 12 Nov (JB); WGR 13 Nov (MR).
Northern Harrier: many reports 5-10/day NW JEFF thru; mostly 1-3/day elsewhere thru.
Northern Goshawk: Dead Creek Flow trail 5 Sep.
Red-shouldered Hawk: last 2 RMSP 24 Oct only report after Sep.
Broad-winged Hawk: last 2 T Massena 21 Sep.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr FD 15 Oct.
Eastern Screech-Owl: Cranberry L 3 Sep (CW) unusual location; 3 reports NW JEFF where regular.
Snowy Owl: arr FD 13 Nov; 2 T Lyme 21-25 Nov & T Parishville 25 Nov only other reports.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: CV 14 Oct only report.
Red-headed Woodpecker: max 6 FD 4 Sep; 3 T Ellisburg 18 Sep high for anyplace away from FD.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 100+ reports expansion continues.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: T Potsdam 8 Nov & KC 21 Nov only reports after 14 Oct.
Black-backed Woodpecker: 2 Cranberry L 3-4 Sep & Horseshoe L 16 Oct only reports.
American Kestrel: more than usual lingering at end Nov.
Merlin: 50 reports of which only 5 in Nov.
Peregrine Falcon: 20 reports from 11 locations.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: last T Hammond 15 Sep.
Eastern Kingbird: max 15 FD 4 Sep; last FD 10 Sep
Olive-sided Flycatcher: Cranberry L 4 Sep only report.
Eastern Wood-Pewee: last ICNC 28 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last T Henderson 24 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: scarce after 23 Sep; last FD 14 Oct (JB) late.
Eastern Phoebe: last KC & T Canton 23 Oct.
Northern Shrike: arr FD 29 Oct.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last Clarkson Univ & FD 22 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: widespread departure 14 Oct; last Bog River Falls T Piercefield 22 Oct (JVG) late.
Philadelphia Vireo: max 8 T Hammond 12 Sep (GSm) high; 44 additional reports more than usual; last LPSP 14 Oct (SK) late.
Warbling Vireo: last ICNC 28 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: last Red Barn Preserve T Morristown 4 Oct.
Canada Jay: max 8 MM 8 Nov.
Blue Jay: conspicuous migration 15-26 Sep.
Horned Lark: arr FD & T Canton 14 Oct; max 67 FD 12 Nov.
Tree Swallow: max & last 105 ULLWMA 12 Sep; unusually scarce.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: last ULLWMA 12 Sep.
Bank Swallow: last LWMA 6 Sep.
Cliff Swallow: last LWMA 6 Sep.
Barn Swallow: last 10 ULLWMA 12 Sep.

Tufted Titmouse: several dozen reports from about 24 locations; gradually increasing away from W JEFF stronghold.
House Wren: scarce after 5 Oct; last T Alexandria 23 Oct (ML) late.
Winter Wren: 3 T Ellisburg & Henderson 27 Nov good tally for so late.
Marsh Wren: last WHWMA 3 Oct.
Carolina Wren: 18 reports from 9 locations most in any one season during ebird era; max 3 T Hammond 30 Oct.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last ICNC 10 Sep (EW) late.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: migrants arr T Croghan 12 Sep.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Peavine Swamp trail 5 Sep possible breeder (CW); migrants arr T Hammond 11 Sep; last RRT 8 Nov.
Eastern Bluebird: max 18 RWSP 8 Oct;
Veery: 1st FD 17 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: last ICNC 9 Oct.
Swainson's Thrush: last Clarkson Univ 16 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: scarce after Oct.
Wood Thrush: last WHWMA 3 Oct.
Gray Catbird: scarce after 6 Oct; last FD 29 Oct.
Brown Thrasher: scarce after 23 Sep; last T Canton 11 Nov thru.
Bohemian Waxwing: arr FD 13 Nov; 11 T Lawrence 25 Nov only other report.
Cedar Waxwing: max 77 FD 17 Sep.
American Pipit: max 260 T Canton 9 Oct (NK) high; last WBSP 4 Nov.
Evening Grosbeak: widespread arr 18 Oct; max 40 T Canton 19 Oct.
Pine Grosbeak: arr FD 13 Oct; max 13 RLT 14 Nov.
House Finch: max 10 CV 15 Nov.
Purple Finch: scarce after mid-Nov.
Common Redpoll: arr RRT 25 Oct; max 390 FD 12 Nov.
Hoary Redpoll: FD 13 & 24 Nov (JB) only reports.
Red Crossbill: max 25 PtPen 7 Nov (SK); 20 other reports
White-winged Crossbill: arr WP 11 Sep (JB) only report before mid-Oct; max 18 ED 7 Nov (JT); 11 other reports.
Pine Siskin: max 78 FD 14 Oct.
American Goldfinch: max 150 T W Turin 9 Sep; only report > 40.
Lapland Longspur: arr RLT 23 Oct.
Snow Bunting: arr RLT 23 Oct; max 130 RLT 31 Oct.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: last PtPen 24 Oct.
American Tree Sparrow: arr T Canton 14 Oct.
Chipping Sparrow: scarce after 26 Oct; T Canton 26 Nov (BB) overwintering bird.
Clay-colored Sparrow: last WISP 19 Sep.
Field Sparrow: last FD 14 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: last FD 29 Oct.
Savannah Sparrow: last T Lyme 25 Oct.
Fox Sparrow: arr ICNC 19 Sep (JB) early; max 19 FD 29 Oct; last CV 22 Nov.
Lincoln's Sparrow: last FD 14 Oct.
Swamp Sparrow: scarce after 23 Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: max 150 FD 22 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr RRT 19 Sep; CV 22 Nov (KR) only report after 29 Oct.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 140 FD 29 Oct.
Bobolink: scarce after 8 Sep; last FD 22 Sep.
Eastern Meadowlark: max 24 RLT 17 Oct; last AFWMA 25 Oct.
Baltimore Oriole: no reports after 5 Sep except T Rodman feeder 25 Nov thru (HH, photos!).
Red-winged Blackbird: max 1650 ULLWMA 11 Oct.
Brown-headed Cowbird: scarce after Oct.
Rusty Blackbird: max 120 T Canton 4 Nov.
Common Grackle: max 3000 KPSP 15 Sep.
Ovenbird: last T Rodman 29 Oct.
Northern Waterthrush: last LPSP 26 Sep (SK) late.
Golden-winged Warbler: last FD 8 Sep.
"Brewster's" Warbler: FD 8 Sep only report.
Black-and-white Warbler: last ICNC 28 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: last FD 22 Oct (JB) late.

Orange-crowned Warbler: 11 between 22 Sep & 22 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: last FD 15 Oct.
Connecticut Warbler: Glasby Pond 5 Sep (CW!) rarely seen R6.
Mourning Warbler: T Clayton 19 Sep (DD) only report.
Common Yellowthroat: last FD 29 Oct.
American Redstart: last Hitchins Pond 28 Sep.
Cape May Warbler: last Hitchins Pond 4 Oct.
Northern Parula: last FD 5 Oct.
Magnolia Warbler: last FD 6 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last CV 4 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last LPSP 28 Sep.
Yellow Warbler: last FD 28 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last CV 22 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: last T Lyme 14 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last SBSP 11 Oct.
Palm Warbler: last RWSP 11 Oct.
Pine Warbler: last FD 5 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: last WBSP 4 Nov.
Prairie Warbler: FD 1 Sep only report.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last CV & FD 14 Oct.
Canada Warbler: last T Lyme 23 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: last RRT 6 Oct.
Scarlet Tanager: last FD 2 Oct.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last T West Carthage 7 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: last RRT 1 Oct.

EXOTICS

Red-crested Pochard: f WHWMA 17-25 Oct then RLT 31 Oct (JB, BD, NK, mob).