

REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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The fall started out cool and dry and ended warm and wet. Watertown's mean temperature for September was 61.2° F, or 1.5° below normal, with just 1.8" of precipitation for the month, about 3.7" below normal. October's temperature of 50.2° was just 0.1° below normal, but 7.8" of rain fell that month, making up most of the previous month's deficit. Wet weather continued into November, with another 6.6" of rain falling during the last month of the season. November's mean temperature of 40.4° was 1.5° above normal.

Waterfowl were generally unimpressive. Unusually, no rare geese were reported all season, and goose numbers were low. For yet another autumn the Snow Goose migration seemed to pass Region 6 by. Most dabbling ducks were

present in lower than usual numbers, with Mallard and Northern Pintail numbers seeming especially low. American Wigeon was the exception, especially at Wilson Hill WMA, where up to 1250 were present well into November. The usual *Aythya* rafts were at Wilson Hill, and the maximum Redhead count of 1525 was higher than many years, but the high count of 5400 Ring-necked Ducks was lower than usual at this site. At Black River Bay the highest count for Greater Scaup was just under 1000, a far cry from the multiple thousands that formerly gathered here every fall. As is often the case Nick Leone had the most notable waterfowl sightings of the season, including 422 Black Scoters at Montario Point on 7 October and the fall's only Barrow's Goldeneye at Pillar Point on 23 November.

Until October's rains it had been a very dry year in northern New York, and water levels were low on many streams, ponds, and lakes. Despite seemingly ideal conditions during September shorebird numbers were low throughout the Region. At the end of August the best shorebirding was on the Allen Road pool at Perch River WMA, but access to the prime vantage of this pool ended 31 August at the close of NYSDEC's annual open house. Steve Kelling reported good numbers of Semipalmated Plover and Lesser Yellowlegs here on 1 September, but he seems to have been the only birder to look for shorebirds at this pool after the access restrictions kicked in, so there is no way to know how long good numbers of shorebirds remained at this site. Elsewhere shorebirds were unimpressive throughout the Region until 19 October when Nick Leone found five Hudsonian Godwits at Sherwin Bay, a tally that is high for Region 6 but bested on 22 October when at least eight godwits were present. While looking for the godwits Brian Miller found a Wilson's Phalarope on 19 October and Bill Purcell picked out a Long-billed Dowitcher on 23 October. The excitement continued at Sherwin Bay in November, when on the eleventh Dick Brouse found an **American Avocet**, which unfortunately was only seen on this one day.

The season's noteworthy larids included a Black-legged Kittiwake Nick Leone saw off Montario Point on 7 October and two more Steve Kelling spotted from Tibbets Point on 28 October. The season's only Little Gull was at Guffin Bay on 12 November. Black Vultures seem to be annual in Region 6 now, but the three seen over Colton by Renn Tanner on 24 September appears to be the first report of multiple individuals for Region 6.

The passerine migration was lackluster throughout most of the Region, with few reports of large concentrations of migrants or heavy movements. The main exception was in a patch of successional woodland in the southern part of Fort Drum, where large warbler flocks were consistently observed throughout September and into early October, in a location that seems to routinely hold fall migrants. Some high counts among the foraging flocks here include 32 Tennessee Warblers and 62 Cape May Warblers on 6 September and 26 Bay-breasted Warblers on 14 September. Some songbirds seemed scarce everywhere, notably Orange-crowned Warbler, a species that had seemed to be increasing steadily during fall for several years through 2021, but for which there were only two

reports this fall. Similarly, following several years of near exponential growth in fall Philadelphia Vireo numbers, this year's total was unexceptional.

Several species of irruptive finch were present throughout the Region, but with the exception of Evening Grosbeak were generally scarce. A few Evening Grosbeaks had moved into the Region in August, but there were no reports this season until 2 October, and by November grosbeaks were being reported at feeders throughout Region 6, with some lucky birders reporting 30-50 in their yards. Pine Siskins were also fairly widespread but in much lower numbers, with just one or two individuals at most locations. There were just four Red Crossbill reports, including a high count of four at Whetstone Gulf State Park, and a single Common Redpoll at Coles Creek State Park on 26 November was the only report of the season.

For the season I received reports of 221 species, five below the most recent ten-year mean for the fall season. Surely the highlight of the season was the American Avocet at Sherwin Bay, along with the flurry of late season shorebirds at this location. The abundance of Evening Grosbeaks was another high point enjoyed more broadly across Region 6.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AFWMA – Ashland Flats WMA; **BPWMA** – Black Pd WMA; **BRB** – Black Ri Bay; **CCSP** – Coles Creek SP; **CV** – T Cape Vincent; **ED** – El Dorado Shores Pres, T Ellisburg; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Reservation, JEFF & LEWI; **GPSP** – Grass Pt SP; **HH** – Henderson Harbor; **ICNC** – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton; **JEFF** – Jefferson Co; **KC** – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; **LWMA** – Lakeview WMA; **MM** – Massawepie Mire, T Colton & Piercefield, STLA; **MP** – Montario Pt, T Ellisburg; **PilPt** – Pillar Pt; **PRWMA** – Perch Ri WMA, JEFF; **PtPen** – Pt Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF; **RLT** – Richard's Landing Trail, T

Massena; **RRT** – Remington Recreation Trail, T Canton; **RWSP** – Robert G. Wehle SP; **SBSP** – Southwick Beach SP; **ShBy** – Sherwin Bay; **SLR** – St. Lawrence Ri; **TP** – Tibbets Pt, T Cape Vincent; **ULLWMA** – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; **WBSP** – Westcott Beach SP; **WHWMA** – Wilson Hill WMA; **WP** – Whalen P, T Louisville.

Snow Goose: singles T Croghan 9 Sep, T Watertown 24 Sep to 2 Oct, FD 28 Sep; max 550 T Canton 26 Nov, only report of more than 55.

Brant: arr TP 8 Oct; max 1360 TP 27 Oct.

Canada Goose: max 9500 T Oswegatchie 1 Oct.

Mute Swan: max 56 GPSP 27 Oct.

Trumpeter Swan: max 20 PRWMA 28 Nov.

Tundra Swan: max 250 BRB 26 Nov; up to 30/day WHWMA 25 Nov thru; increasing Lake St. Lawrence.

Wood Duck: max 193 ULLWMA 4 Sep; scarce after 31 Oct.

Blue-winged Teal: max 100 PRWMA 21 Sep; last report 76 ULLWMA 16 Oct.

Northern Shoveler: max 150 PRWMA 25 Sep (C. Tiemann, high); last 2 PRWMA 13 Nov.

Gadwall: max 34 WHWMA 6 Nov.

American Wigeon: max 1250 WHWMA 13 Nov.

Mallard: max 390 ShBy 29 Nov.

American Black Duck: max 125 PilPt 12 Nov.

Northern Pintail: max 140 WHWMA 8 Oct.

Green-winged Teal: max 268 WP 24 Sep; last 11 ShBy 13 Nov.

Canvasback: TP 28 Oct (S. Kelling); 1-2/day WHWMA 4-12 Nov (mob); max 10 SLR T Hammond 23 Nov (E. Buckler); only reports.

Redhead: max 1525 WHWMA 13 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: max 5400 WHWMA 6 Nov.

Greater Scaup: max 990 BRB 12 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: max 62 PRWMA 12 Nov.

Surf Scoter: max 11 WBSP 27 Oct.

White-winged Scoter: max 58 WBSP 24 Oct.

Black Scoter: max 422 MP 7 Oct.

Long-tailed Duck: max 80 SBSP 12 Nov.

Common Goldeneye: RWSP 1 Oct (mob) only report before 27 Oct.

Barrow's Goldeneye: PilPt 23 Nov (N. Leone) only report.

Hooded Merganser: max 45 CCSP 6 Nov.

Common Merganser: max 600 SLR T Hammond 25 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 45 SLR T Massena 30 Oct.

Ruddy Duck: max 10 WHWMA 6 Nov where 3 lingered to 13 Nov; 5 additional reports 1-2 each.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 95 ULLWMA 16 Sep; last FD 17 Nov.

Horned Grebe: max 6 Pt. Salubrious 29 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: max 5 RWSP 29 Oct.

Common Nighthawk: max 7 T Carthage 27 Sep.

Virginia Rail: last AFWMA & PRWMA 8 Oct.

Sora: last 2 ULLWMA 13 Oct.

Common Gallinule: last 4 PRWMA 12 Oct.

American Coot: max 115 WHWMA 6 Nov; only loc with more than 7 ind.

Sandhill Crane: 8 reports 1-2 each; last T Watertown 11 Nov.

AMERICAN AVOCET (R6): ShBy 11 Nov (R. Brouse, mob, photos!).

Black-bellied Plover: max 2 ED, WHWMA, WP 24 Sep & LWMA 5 Oct; 6 additional reports of singles to 8 Oct; scarce.

American Golden-Plover: ED 7 Sep;

Killdeer: max 48 RLT 5 Sep; last MP 21 Nov.

Semipalmated Plover: max 35 PRWMA 1 Sep; last CCSP 9 Oct.

Hudsonian Godwit: 5 ShBy 19 Oct increased to max 8 same loc 22 Oct & where last 30 Oct (N. Leone, high).

Ruddy Turnstone: 2 ED 7 Sep where 1 still present to 9 Sep; only reports.

Sanderling: 3 RLT 4 Sep; max 10 ED 7 to 9 Sep; only reports.

Baird's Sandpiper: ED 9 Sep (J. Bolsinger) only report.

Least Sandpiper: max 4 WP 5 Sep low.

White-rumped Sandpiper: ED 7-8 Sep & CCSP 8 Sep only reports.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 9 WP 24 Sep; last ShBy 19 Oct.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 19 ED 10 Sep.

Long-billed Dowitcher: ShBy 23 Oct (B. Purcell, B. Miller) possibly same ind reported as Short-billed Dowitcher 19 Oct.

Spotted Sandpiper: last ED 17 Sep.

Solitary Sandpiper: last ULLWMA 23 Sep.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 75 PRWMA 1 Sep; last 3 ShBy 24 Oct.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 6 T Louisville 18 Sep & ShBy 20 Oct; last CV 2 Nov.

Wilson's Phalarope: WHWMA 15 Oct (JSB); ShBy 19 Oct (B. Miller); only reports.

Black-legged Kittiwake: MP 7 Oct (N. Leone); 2 TP 28 Oct (S. Kelling).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 28 Guffin Bay 30 Oct.

Little Gull: ad Guffin Bay 12 Nov (JSB).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: ad RLT 24 Sep (JSB); TP 8 Oct (mob).

Caspian Tern: last CV 26 Sep.

Common Tern: last T Hammond 23 Oct.

Red-throated Loon: max 19 PilPt 23 Nov (N. Leone) high.

Common Loon: max 26 CCSP 4 Nov.

Double-crested Cormorant: scarce after 13 Nov.

American Bittern: last T Theresa 27 Oct.

Great Egret: max 76 ULLWMA 11 Sep; last 7 T Potsdam 23 Oct.

Green Heron: last Sherwin Bay 24 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 19 ULLWMA 11 Sep; last 5 ULLWMA 13 Oct.

BLACK VULTURE (R6): 3 T Colton 24 Sep (R. Tanner) rare but increasing throughout.

Turkey Vulture: 19 HH 12 Nov high for so late; last T Lowville 20 Nov.

Northern Goshawk: FD 14 Sep.

Red-shouldered Hawk: last T Alexandria 26 Oct.

Broad-winged Hawk: last ICNC 15 Oct.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr T Brownville 25 Oct.

Eastern Screech-Owl: 5 reports all N JEFF.

Snowy Owl: T Lyme 17 Nov only report.

Long-eared Owl: Pinckney SF 4 Oct (R. Spahn).

Short-eared Owl: ShBy 24 Oct (R. Brouse); T. Denmark 22 Nov (M. Roggie).

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 9 FD 8 Sep where last 20 Sep.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last KC 20 Nov.

Merlin: 35+ reports.

Peregrine Falcon: T Lyme 22 Sep; PRWMA 8 Oct; T Croghan 24 Oct; 7

additional reports from sites where virtually resident.

Great Crested Flycatcher: last ED 17 Sep.

Eastern Kingbird: last ICNC 11 Sep.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: FD 1 Sep.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: last BPWMA 2 Oct.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: FD 14 Sep.

Alder Flycatcher: last 2 MM 10 Sep (V. Rojas, J. Donovan).

Least Flycatcher: last WHWMA 30 Sep.

Eastern Phoebe: last FD 31 Oct.

Yellow-throated Vireo: last ULLWMA 11 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: last ED 16 Oct.

Philadelphia Vireo: max 5 FD 14 Sep; last RLT 24 Sep; many fewer reports than the previous fall.

Warbling Vireo: last FD 12 Sep.

Red-eyed Vireo: last RRT 4 Oct.

Northern Shrike: arr FD 28 Oct.

Canada Jay: max 4 MM 15 Oct; additional reports from High Falls Loop Trail, Horseshoe L & Dead Creek Flow.

Common Raven: max 24 ShBy 30 Oct.

Horned Lark: max 150 T Lawrence 20 Nov.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr FD 8 Sep; max 51 FD 3 Oct; last T Montague 3 Nov.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr FD 16 Sep; max 28 T Fine 17 Sep.

Cedar Waxwing: max 32 T Brownville 11 Nov.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: T West Turin 2 Sep only report.

House Wren: last ED 11 Oct.

Winter Wren: 1st obvious migrant RRT 24 Sep; migrant numbers seemed low.

Sedge Wren: last FD 29 Sep.

Marsh Wren: PRWMA 12 Nov (JSB) & T Lisbon 27 Nov (JSB) only reports after 13 Oct.

Carolina Wren: reports from 5 loc.

Gray Catbird: last FD 2 Nov only report after 24 Sep.

Brown Thrasher: T Pamela 20 Nov (J. Harvill) only report after 2 Oct.

Northern Mockingbird: T Henderson 12 Nov (JSB) only report.

Eastern Bluebird: max 25 T Lowville 25 Oct.

Veery: last CV 9 Sep.

Swainson's Thrush: last FD 4 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: T Dekalb & SUNY ESF Ranger School T Fine 11 Nov; MP 21 Nov; only reports after Oct.

Wood Thrush: last FD 22 Sep.

American Pipit: max 60 MP 21 Nov.

Evening Grosbeak: arr T Canton 2 Oct; max 50 T West Turin 18 Nov; good flight.

Common Redpoll: CCSP 26 Nov (JSB) only report.

Red Crossbill: 4 widely scattered reports between 8 Oct & 6 Nov; max 4 Whetstone Gulf Rese 4 Nov.

Pine Siskin: arr ULLWMA 17 Sep; widespread in low numbers; max 5 T Croghan 9 Nov.

Lapland Longspur: T West Turin 2 Nov only report.

Snow Bunting: arr WHWMA 27 Oct; max 52 CV 19 Nov.

Chipping Sparrow: max 70 FD 6 Sep low at this site; last T Alexandria 21 Nov.

Field Sparrow: last 2 WHWMA 27 Oct.

Fox Sparrow: arr FD 4 Oct; last T Champion 24 Nov.

American Tree Sparrow: arr FD 28 Oct.

Dark-eyed Junco: arr FD 16 Sep; max 210 RWSP 8 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr T Canton 25 Sep; last T Croghan 10 Nov.
White-throated Sparrow: max 128 FD 4 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: max 37 FD 2 Sep; last T Clayton 9 Nov.
Savannah Sparrow: last T Hounsfield 24 Oct.
Song Sparrow: scarce after 31 Oct.
Lincoln's Sparrow: last T Alexandria 23 Oct.
Swamp Sparrow: scarce after 12 Oct.
Eastern Towhee: last T Clayton 23 Oct.

Bobolink: last FD 21 Sep.
Eastern Meadowlark: last 10 T Lyme 22 Oct.
Baltimore Oriole: last FD 8 Sep.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 5700 ULLWMA 11 Sep.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 120 T Waddington 20 Nov.
Rusty Blackbird: arr RRT 23 Sep; max 1910 PRWMA 8 Oct; last KC & T Dekalb 11 Nov.
Common Grackle: max 1200 CV 3 Oct.

Ovenbird: last 2 T Potsdam 25 Sep.
Northern Waterthrush: last LWMA 9 Sep.
Golden-winged Warbler: last FD 2 Sep.
Blue-winged Warbler: last FD 8 Sep.
Black-and-white Warbler: last FD 20 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: max 32 FD 6 Sep; last T Croghan 18 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: FD 5 Oct (JSB); RWSP 8 Oct (mob); only reports.

Nashville Warbler: last PtPen 11 Oct.
Mourning Warbler: last FD 15 Sep.
Common Yellowthroat: T Lisbon 26-27 Nov (JSB) only report after 8 Oct.
American Redstart: last FD 20 Sep.
Cape May Warbler: max 62 FD 6 Sep; RRT 16 Oct (JSB) only report after 28 Sep.
Northern Parula: last PRWMA 8 Oct.
Magnolia Warbler: last Saddlemire Trail T Canton 7 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: max 26 FD 14 Sep; last FD 29 Sep.
Blackburnian Warbler: last FD 26 Sep.
Yellow Warbler: last FD 12 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last Saddlemire Trail T Canton 18 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: last T Colton 14 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last FD 4 Oct.
Palm Warbler: max 28 FD 12 Sep; last T Croghan 26 Oct.
Pine Warbler: FD 14 Nov only report after 6 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 313 FD 28 Sep; last T Norfolk 2 Nov.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last ED 10 Oct.
Canada Warbler: only FD report 8 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: last LWMA 18 Sep.

Scarlet Tanager: last T Heuvelton 1 Oct.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: ICNC 12-15 Oct only report after 28 Sep.
Indigo Bunting: last T West Turin 10 Sep.

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