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The weather this autumn was much less placid and uniform across the province than in the past several years. August and September remained mild but with heavier-than-usual rainfall over most of the province, except in the northwest, where summer's very dry conditions continued into September. An extremely early, vigorous Arctic cold front swept into the Niagara region 12 October, dumping 30 cm of snow on Fort Erie and surrounding areas. Another strong storm blew in from the southwest at the end of the month, bringing more early snow to snowbelt areas around the Great Lakes. Milder temperatures returned and persisted through the first three weeks of November, allowing some late migrants to linger. November ended with another sudden cold front and high winds sweeping in from the Prairies.

Away from snowbelt areas, the season was generally unusually mild and wet. In Algonquin Provincial Park, six species provided new late departure dates, and several other species lingered much later than usual. All winter finches except redpolls were present in the Park, many in good numbers, in response to a bumper crop of seeds and fruit on nearly all tree and shrub species. This abundant food supply in the north, however, discouraged most of these finches from moving farther south during the reporting period. Mild temperatures in the Canadian Arctic contributed to a successful breeding season for many species and hence good numbers of some migrants, including jaegers and Sabine's Gulls. However, water levels in the Great Lakes remained very high, reducing habitat for south-bound shorebirds and contributing to lower-than-usual numbers in most traditional shorebird staging areas.

Hawk migration was sluggish early in the season because of continuing warm weather,

but good flights later yielded some high numbers of Turkey Vultures, Bald and Golden Eagles, and American Kestrels. Thunder Bay reported significant influxes of Gray Jays and American Three-toed Woodpeckers, and the latter also appeared in good numbers in Algonquin Park.

Some outstanding rarities included a Manx Shearwater well photographed at Van Wagners Beach (only the second for Ontario and the first seen alive), a long-staying Razorbill at the mouth of the Niagara River, a Black Guillemot on the Spanish River, a White-faced Ibis, two Northern Wheatears, and Thunder Cape's obligatory Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

Abbreviations: G.S. (Generating Station); H.B.M.O. (Holiday Beach Migration Observatory, Essex); I.B.A. (Important Bird Area); K.F.N. (Kingston Field Naturalists); L.P.B.O. (Long Point B.O., Norfolk); L.S.S. (Leslie Street Spit, Toronto); P. E. Pt. (Prince Edward Pt., Prince Edward); P.P.B.A. (Pt. Pelee Birding Area); T.C.B.O. (Thunder Cape B.O., Thunder Bay); V.W.B. (Van Wagners Beach, Hamilton). Place names in *italics* refer to counties, districts, and regional municipalities.

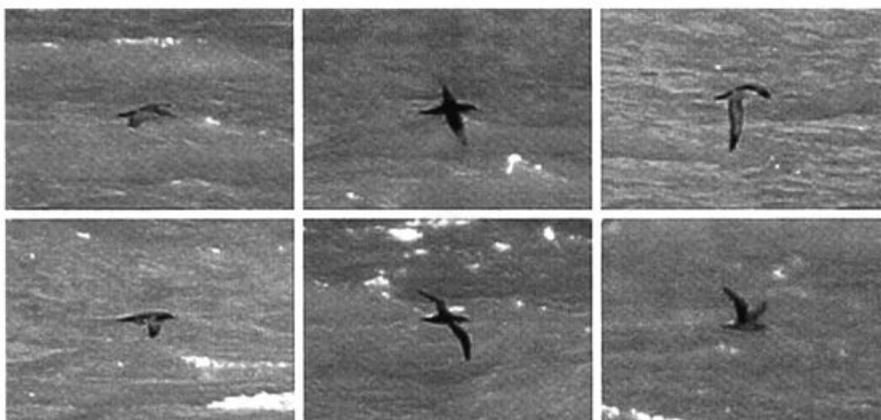
WATERFOWL

Up to 3 Greater White-fronted Geese were among hundreds of Canada Geese frequenting a large quarry pond and surrounding

Swan was n. to Dryden, Kenora in early Oct (OV). Unusual for Rainy River was a Trumpeter Swan that stayed to molt in a large marshy pond in Atikokan 7 Aug–16 Sep (DHE). Single male Eurasian Wigeons were among Americans at Kingston 12 Oct+ (BER et al.) and Erieau, Chatham-Kent 22 Oct (JTB).

Greater Scaup numbers peaked at 50,000 off Wolfe I., Kingston 15 Oct (K.F.N.). Harlequin Ducks were widely reported: 2 yearling males were off L.S.S. 12-23 Sep (AMD, DD, JJ, m.ob.); an ad. male was off Stoney Creek, Hamilton 28-29 Oct (BSC, m.ob.); a female was at nearby Bronte 3-27 Nov (MWJ, m.ob.); Northumberland had an imm. male at Presqu'île P.P. 5 Nov (BDL); 2 females were in Cobourg harbor 23 Nov (CEG); and an ad. male frequented the Deschênes Rapids on the Ottawa R., Ottawa 25 Nov+ (DWP, m.ob.). L. Ontario off Stoney Creek held 500 Surf Scoters 29 Oct (RC, GJS) and 398 Black Scoters 5 Nov (WJC et al.); an estimated 100,000 Long-tailed Ducks were off V.W.B. 5 Nov (WJC et al.).

An ad. male Barrow's Goldeneye was off Stoney Creek 12 Nov+ (KAM, WDA, BP, m.ob.), and there were 2 males there 23 Nov (BSC); a male Common Goldeneye × Barrow's Goldeneye hybrid was also off Stoney Creek 12-30 Nov (KAM, WDA, BP, m.ob.), with a Common Goldeneye × Hooded Merganser hybrid there 23-24 Nov (BSC, m.ob.). Above



This Manx Shearwater seen by a lucky few off Van Wagners Beach, Hamilton, Ontario 31 August and (here) 1 September 2006 was the second for Ontario and the first seen alive in the province. Photographs by Brandon Holden.

fields at Nepean, Ottawa 27 Oct–14 Nov (m.ob.). Single ad. white-morph Ross's Geese were at Elmstead, Essex 12 Nov (RAH) and Port Stanley S.L., Elgin 19 Nov (MC, JA), and an apparent Ross's Goose × Snow Goose hybrid was at Kingston 17 Oct–6 Nov (BER et al.). Cackling Geese were widely reported in small numbers, with high counts of 7 at Nepean 17 Oct–14 Nov (m.ob.) and 11 at Sturgeon Creek, Essex 19 Oct (IMR). A Mute

the Remic Rapids on the Ottawa R., there was an ad. male Barrow's Goldeneye 18 Nov (PM, BDL) and a male Common Goldeneye × Barrow's Goldeneye hybrid 19 Nov+ (BDL, RB) likely the same bird that spent the previous winter there.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES

Ottawa saw a major fallout of 222 Red-throated Loons on the Ottawa R. between Remic



This adult White-faced Ibis, the first for the Long Point Bird Observatory area, was with 10 Glossy Ibis in wet fields near Big Creek, Ontario 2 (here) and 3 October 2006. Photograph by Ron Ridout.

Rapids and Shirley's Bay 13 Nov (TFMB, BDL), with at least 104 remaining the following day (BDL). A Pacific Loon was off P. E. Pt. 5 Nov (K.EN.), and one was at the Tip of Pt. Pelee 18 Nov (BRH), the latter the 5th fall record for the P.P.B.A. A flyby Yellow-billed Loon at Thunder Cape 14 Oct (JMW, T.C.B.O.) would constitute a first record for *Thunder Bay* if documented and accepted.

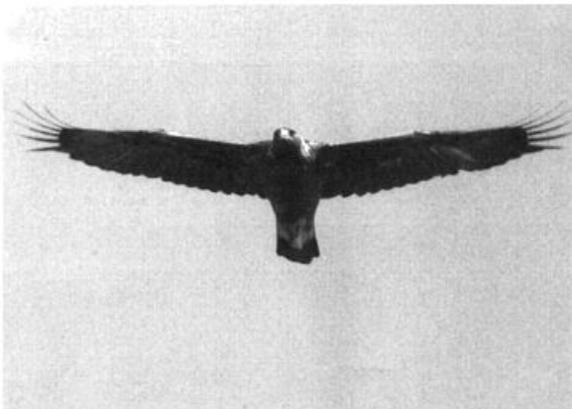
Red-necked Grebes on Wolsey L. and L. Manitou, *Manitoulin* peaked at 515 on 26 Sep (CB); a Red-necked Grebe at L. of Two Rivers 30 Nov (RGT) was very late for Algonquin P.P. An ad. Eared Grebe was off Burloak Park, Burlington 9 & 10 Sep (MWJ et al.), and one flew s. at the Tip of Pt. Pelee 4 Oct (AW, KAM). T.C.B.O. had a Western/Clark's Grebe 5-6 Sep at Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (JMW); a Western Grebe was off Pinery P.P., *Lambton* 18 Nov (BAM), and another was in *Kempfenfelt Bay*, *Simcoe* 29 Nov (JPC, NS).

A *Manx Shearwater* photographed and seen by many off V.W.B. 31 Aug-1 Sep (BSC, m.ob.) was the 2nd for Ontario and the first seen alive in the province. Although nearly matching the dates of passage of Tropical Storm *Ernesto* far to the southeast, its occurrence was clearly not associated with any hurricane activity but did follow five days of strong easterly winds, which may have assisted its flight up the St. Lawrence R. (Interestingly, another *Manx* was in se. L. Ontario 23 Oct, off Derby Hill, NY [*vide* JMP].) Fish Pt., Pelee I., Essex recorded 12,000 Double-crested Cormorants 13 Aug (GG), and a record 600+ were tallied along the Ottawa R. 3 Sep (RAB, CL) following Ottawa's first breeding record in the summer, when at least six pairs successfully fledged young on a small islet near Lemieux I. A first-year bird lingering on L. Opeongo 20 Oct-8 Nov (AL, TH) gave Algonquin P.P. a new late date.

The 79 Great Egrets at an overnight roost at Muddy Creek 11 Aug (DM, GF) made a record-high count for the P.P.B.A. It was a good season for rarer herons: single Snowy Egrets were at Mitchell S.L., *Perth* 1 Sep (TTu) and at *Blenheim*, *Chatham-Kent* 3 Oct (KJB); a juv. Little Blue Heron near *Casselman*, *Prescott-Russell* 14-20 Aug was enjoyed by many (JB, m.ob.). A Tricolored Heron along the *Niagara R.* above the Falls 6 Aug (RZD, BNC, m.ob.) was joined by another 13 Aug (GMN), with

both birds reported through 27 Aug (m.ob.) and one through 3 Sep (ph. JR). One of these was likely the Tricolored Heron at Pt. Abino, *Niagara* 5-11 Oct (MJO; MLJ, IAS; WW). A Cattle Egret frequented the *Casselman S.L.* 3-7 Oct (MD, JB, m.ob.), one was in a pasture near *Brighton*, *Northumberland* 20 Oct (FMH), one was n. of *Cornwall* 29-31 Oct (JB et al.), and one was at *Hagersville*, *Haldimand* 5 Nov (BDJ, GP, RD). A Black-crowned Night-Heron at *Gravenhurst* 19-24 Aug (JH) was rare for *Muskoka*.

A flock of 11 *Plegadis* ibis found in wet fields near Big Creek, *Norfolk* 2-3 Oct (SW)



A record 15 Golden Eagles tallied at Hawk Cliff Hawkwatch, Port Stanley, Ontario on 28 October 2006 included this magnificent immature. Photograph by Alfred Rider.

contained 10 Glossy Ibis and one ad. White-faced Ibis (RR, m.ob.), the latter furnishing the first record for the Long Pt. area. Long Pt. also had 6 dark ibis at Old Cut 6 Oct and 3 at the Tip 9 Oct (L.P.B.O., JRA).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

Warm weather delayed raptor movement somewhat, but flights eventually picked up, and several hawkwatch stations produced excellent counts. Turkey Vultures passed through in large numbers: H.B.M.O. tallied

35,665, its second-highest season total. Ospreys lingered, with the latest birds over *Sturgeon Creek* 19 Nov (IMR) and 29 Oct-3 Dec at *Erieau*, *Chatham-Kent* (JTB et al.). Bald Eagles provided a record one-day total of 62 at Hawk Cliff Hawkwatch, Port Stanley 10 Sep, in a record season total of 362. Hawk Cliff also posted a record season total of 1090 Red-shouldered Hawks. The Broad-winged Hawk flight was good but not exceptional, as wind direction in Sep kept many birds n. of most lakeshore hawkwatch sites. A remarkable 8 Swainson's Hawks were identified this season: an intermediate-morph juv. at Port Alma, *Chatham-Kent* 9 Sep (AW); a light-morph juv. at *Blenheim*, *Chatham-Kent* 26 Sep (IMR; a first for the *Rondeau Area* checklist); a dark-morph juv. at H.B.M.O. 15 Sep (TSm et al.); a dark morph over *Hamilton Mt.* 1 Oct (DC); a light-morph juv. at *Seacliff* 5 Oct (ph. BRH, EWH; the 7th fall record for P.P.B.A.); a light-morph juv. at Port Stanley, *Elgin* 15 Oct (*vide* DJB); a light-morph juv. at Toronto 25 Oct (DP); and one dark morph at Hawk Cliff 26 Oct (DJB). Golden Eagles had one of their best years ever: Hawk Cliff had 15 on 28 Oct and double-digit counts on several other days for a record season total of 146; P. E. Pt., which rarely sees any Golden Eagles, had 10 circling overhead 2 Nov (DO); *Chatham-Kent* had 22 birds 25 Oct-17 Nov (AW). Hawk Cliff had a record one-day count of 1187 American Kestrels 20 Sep in a record season total of 5076. A very dark Gyrfalcon flew over *Cobourg harbor* 28 Oct (CEG, JEG), furnishing the earliest record for *Northumberland*; another dark morph was over the grounds of *Collins Bay Penitentiary*, *Kingston* 1 Nov (CH), and a gray bird passed L.S.S. 11 Nov (ALA). A juv. Peregrine Falcon in the *Onion Fields* 6 Aug (AW) was record early for the P.P.B.A.

In early Sep, low water levels from a dry summer, combined with a bumper crop of wild rice, attracted some 500 rails to Miller's Creek in the town of *Rainy River*, mostly Soras but also many Virginia Rails (LH). In the *Chelmsford S.L.*, two pairs of Common Moorhens providing the first confirmed nesting of this species for *Sudbury* remained with several young through mid-Sep (JL). High counts of American Coots included 200 at *Rainy River S.L.* 3 Oct (DHE) and 200 at *Kingston* 15 Oct (PJG). Sandhill Crane counts carried out by the *Manitoulin Nature Club* yielded a record 2606 cranes 6-7 Oct, a significant increase over the previous high of 2045 on 16 Oct 2004; all but 200 of these cranes were at the *Spring Bay I.B.A.*

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH JAEGERS

The 250 American Golden-Plovers in fields s. of Hillman Marsh, Essex 7 Oct made a high count for such a late date (STP, BH). A very late Semipalmated Plover lingered at Hillman Marsh 1-6 Nov (JMT et al.), and a juv. Piping Plover there through 1 Oct-12 Nov (STP et al.) was record late for the P.P.B.A. Single American Avocets were at Holland Landing S.L., York 29 Aug-4 Sep (DW, m.ob.) and Gull I., Presqu'île P.P. 28 Sep (DB). At least 12 Willets were reported in the s., all singles except 2 at V.W.B. 30 Aug (BRH et al.) and 2 at the Tip of Pt. Pelee 8 Sep (AW, R&SM). Presqu'île P.P. had a remarkable *breeding-plumaged* Spotted Sandpiper 12 Nov (MR); one in basic plumage remained there 30 Nov+ (FMH, m.ob.). There were 4 Hudsonian Godwits at Dundas Marsh, Hamilton 9-10 Oct (KWi et al.), with a few singles noted elsewhere in the south. Single Marbled Godwits were at Holland Landing S.L. 24 Aug (DW), at Rock Pt. P.P., Haldimand 24 Aug (GJ, JM), and at Old Cut, Long Pt. 29 Aug (RWW, SAM). Few Western Sandpipers were reported this fall: single ads. were at Presqu'île P.P. 18-20 Aug (DPS et al.) and at Rock Pt. P.P. 26 (JMP) & 28 Aug (SOD, m.ob.), and a juv. was at Shirley's Bay, Ottawa 4 Sep (RAB, CL, BL). There were 6 Purple Sandpipers at Port Weller, Niagara 12 Nov (KJR, JEB, BRA, JMP); 2 were at Fifty Point C.A., Hamilton/Niagara 14 Nov (RLW), and at least 7 more singles were reported along L. Ontario 12-30 Nov, including one at the Tip of Pt. Pelee 19 Nov and one at Wheatley Harbour 22 Nov (both ACP). The Dunlin flight was light in many locations, but a very active flock of 520 birds was on West Bay beach, Manitoulin 31 Oct (CB), and there were 1200 at Hillman Marsh 8 Nov (AW); 30 birds flying over Lively, Sudbury 18 Nov (JL) were late for the area. Red-necked Phalaropes were widely reported in small numbers, with 6 juvs. at Blenheim S.L. 3 Sep (BAM, JTB, WMK) and a juv. at Emo S.L., Rainy River 13 Aug (K&MB). Single Red Phalaropes were off Confederation Park, Hamilton 3 Sep (DRD) and the Tip of Pt. Pelee 22 Sep and 27 Oct (both AW); one in Cobourg harbor 15 Oct (MJCB, m.ob.) was probably the same bird seen at Presqu'île P.P. 18 Oct (FMH); and 3 were noteworthy at Pt. Edward, Lambton 11 Nov (BAM, PAW).

A second-winter Laughing Gull was at the Tip of Pt. Pelee 12 Sep (AW, MBR) and another on the Niagara R. at Fort Erie 17 Sep (PY, m.ob.). A juv. (an unusual plumage for Ontario) Franklin's Gull was in the Onion Fields of the P.P.B.A. 18-20 Aug (AW), a first-winter was at the Tip of Pt. Pelee 12 Sep (AW), a first-winter was below Niagara Falls 29 Oct

(WDA, BP), and an ad. was at Wheatley Harbour 19 Nov (IMR). An ad. Black-headed Gull was in the Onion Fields on 2 Sep (AW). Up to 8 Little Gulls accompanied a blizzard of Bonaparte's Gulls along the Niagara R late Oct-30 Nov (m.ob.), with an estimated 20,000 Bonaparte's Gulls there 29 Oct (WDA, BP); 12,000 Bonaparte's were in the Onion Fields 28 Aug (AW). An ad. California Gull was on the Niagara R. at Adam Beck G.S. 11 Nov+ (BRH, LR), joined by another on 18 Nov (WDA, BP); and one ad. was at Wheatley Harbour 6 Oct (ph. BRH, EWH). An impressive 21 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, mostly ads., were at the Deschênes Rapids on the Ottawa R. 21 Sep (BDL). A total of 16 juv. Sabine's Gulls flew by V.W.B. 24 Aug-11 Sep (RZD, m.ob.), with a peak of 7 on 11 Sep (MWJ, RZD et al.); a juv. Sabine's Gull was well photographed at Port Stanley 13 Oct (SR, DJB). Black-legged Kittiwakes were well reported: V.W.B. birders tallied 13 juvs. 25 Aug-11 Nov; at least 3 frequented the Niagara R. 29 Oct-26 Nov, including 2 ads. 18 Nov



Part of a wider influx to northeastern North America was this immature Northern Wheatear seen in Thunder Bay, Ontario on 10 September 2006. Photograph by Nicholas G. Escott.

(WDA, BP et al.); Presqu'île P.P. had single juvs. 31 Oct (DPS) and 9 Nov (DPS, MR); one was at P. E. Pt. 31 Oct (DO); a juv. flew over Dundas Marsh 5 Nov (RZD, CEE); 3 juvs. were at Pt. Edward 11 Nov (AMB, NG, EE et al.); and the Tip of Pt. Pelee had first-winter birds 27 (AW) & 30 Oct (Adam J. Hall) and 9 Nov (KAM, BRH).

Record late for Hamilton were an ad. and a juv. Caspian Tern in Hamilton harbor through 29 Oct (RC, GJS). The Niagara R. still held 5 Common Terns 29 Oct (WDA, BP). An ad. Arctic Tern was off V.W.B. 22 Sep (RZD, CEE, DRD). The 330 Black Terns flying past the Tip of Pt. Pelee 8 Sep (AW, KAM) made a high count, especially for the late date.

It was a good fall for jaeger-watchers. Presqu'île P.P. had an ad. Pomarine Jaeger 3 Sep (RIS), possibly the same bird seen at



One of a few Sabine's Gulls reported on Lake Erie in autumn 2006, this juvenile visited Port Stanley, Ontario harbor 17 October 2006. Photograph by Dave Brown.

Cobourg harbor two hours earlier (CEG), and a juv. off Gull I. 29 Oct (DPS, MR), while Pt. Edward had single juvs. 1 Oct (TSn) and 12 Nov (SJ). A light-morph ad. and 2 intermediate-morph juv. Pomarine Jaegers were off the Tip at Pt. Pelee 3 Oct (AW), and a juv. was off Windsor, Essex 11 Nov (AJR et al.). The Hamilton area recorded single Pomarine Jaegers off V.W.B. 7 (DJM) & 27 Oct (BSC) and a light-morph ad. 11 Nov (DRD, CEE), with singles also off Bronte 1 Nov (TO et al.) and Stoney Creek 5 Nov (WFS et al.). A Pomarine Jaeger was off the Tip of Long Pt. 23 Nov (SAM, TB). A total of 24 Parasitic Jaegers was reported off V.W.B. 24 Aug-27 Oct; Northumberland saw 13 from 3 Sep-29 Oct, and the Tip at Pt. Pelee had 13 from 7 Sep-11 Oct, including 5 on 4 Oct (AW, KAM). Single Parasitic Jaegers were reported from a handful of other sites, and a further 13 jaegers off V.W.B. were not identified as to species. V.W.B. had an ad. and a juv. Long-tailed Jaeger 26 Aug (KAM, BSC, LC), 3 juvs. 29 Aug (BRH, KAM, BSC), one dark juv. 30 Aug (RZD et al.), and one juv. with a subad. 10 Sep (RZD, KAM et al.); a Long-tailed Jaeger was off the Tip of Long Pt. 29 Aug (L.P.B.O.), and the Tip of Pt. Pelee had a juv. 18 Sep (R&SM, AW, MBR) and a possible ad. 11 Oct (AW, JMT).

ALCIDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Razorbill was found at the mouth of the Niagara R. off the New York shoreline near Ft. Niagara 19 Nov (NP, BS). It then spent much of its time feeding in the current rip off the Ontario shore, proving to be a long-staying bird enjoyed by many through to the New Year. (A Razorbill had been seen flying nw. from Derby Hill, NY 21 Oct [fide JMP].) A well-photographed first-winter Black Guillemot was discovered on the Spanish R. at Massey, Sudbury 14 Nov (CMG) and seen by many through 25 Nov, in spite of several close encounters with Bald Eagles. Because of the extreme whiteness of this bird's plumage it was presumed to be of the e. Arctic subspecies

ultimus rather than the nw. North Atlantic subspecies.

Thunder Bay had three reports of White-winged Dove: the first at a feeder in Nipigon mid-Jul, then at a Rosspoint feeder early Sep (DS), and lastly at Thunder Cape 13 Oct (JMW). A Mourning Dove at Atikokan 28 Oct (WK) was rare for fall. Snowy Owls started to move into s. Ontario in small numbers in mid-Nov (m.ob.). The Great Gray Owl seen three times 19 Sep–11 Nov in Algonquin P.P. was likely part of the small resident population rather than a migrant (*fide* RGT); another was near Bonfield, *Nipissing* 27 Nov (ph. VR). Short-eared Owl numbers on Amherst I. peaked at 21 on 22 Nov (BDL). Northern Saw-whet Owls moved through in good numbers, with a record 140 banded 20/21 Oct at P. E. Pt. (DO). Common Nighthawk numbers were somewhat encouraging, with high counts of 100 at Wheatley 24 Aug (BP) and 387 over Toronto 27 Aug (GC); one at Leamington 31 Oct (GRT) was record late for the P.P.B.A. There was a strong flight of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at Port Alma 6 Sep, with 45 passing in just 10 min., or 270 birds per hour (AW). A Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird was noted 30 Oct at Belleville, *Hastings* (ph. PS, PD).

Red-bellied Woodpeckers continued their northward expansion with multiple sightings in *Manitoulin* and *Thunder Bay*. American Three-toed Woodpeckers started appearing at Thunder Cape 4 Oct, and by the end of the month T.C.B.O. had seen or banded 53, with high daily counts 12 on 5 Oct and 10 on 23 Oct at Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay*. Algonquin P.P. had 16 sightings 7 Oct–28 Nov; most were single birds, but a male and female were on Barron Canyon Rd. 27 Oct (MWPR), and there were 2 females at Wolf Howl Pond 7 & 12 Nov (BDL). The Ottawa area had at least 3 birds, a male along the Kerwin Rd. Trail near Kenata 4–25 Nov (DM, m.ob.), another male in Dunrobin 8 Nov (BDL), and a female on the Kerwin Rd. Trail 24 Nov (PM). A female American Three-toed was on the Fingers Trail in Presqu'île P.P. 12 Nov (FMH). More expected were Black-backed Woodpeckers seen as singles and pairs in Algonquin, *Manitoulin*, *Ottawa*, *Kingston*, and *Presqu'île* (m.ob.).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

An Acadian Flycatcher was banded at Old Cut, L.P.B.O. 10 Sep (SAM). Single imm. Western Kingbirds were n. of Rainy River 14 Aug (K&MB) and at Cayuga, *Haldimand* 25–30 Sep (M&NF, m.ob.). An imm. Eastern Kingbird was record late at Bronte 31 Oct–4

Nov (MWJ, m.ob.). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at the dam on Marie Louise L. in Sleeping Giant P.P., *Thunder Bay* 1 Oct (SB). *Thunder Bay* city experienced a major influx of Gray Jays in early Oct, the birds going on down the L. Superior shore as far as Duluth, MN. Gray Jays appeared in urban neighborhoods, industrial wastelands along the waterfront, and in the Marina Park (*fide* NGE).

A Blue-headed Vireo lingered at the Tip of Pt. Pelee 19 Nov–1 Dec (STP et al.). L.P.B.O. tallied 1010 Purple Martins at Breakwater 16 Aug and 900 at the Tip 24 Aug. The only Cave Swallow reported was one at Clear Creek, *Norfolk* 12 Nov (FIN). Carolina Wrens n. of their usual range included a pair with young in Nepean until at least 17 Sep (L&NL), one at feeders in Kagawong, *Manitoulin* 8–9 Nov (R<), one at suet in Port Sydney, *Muskoka* 9 Nov and 2 Dec (JG), and 2 at Lively 7–27 Oct and 16 & 20 Nov (CBo), the 4th occurrence for *Sudbury*. On 5 Oct, L.S.S. was inundated with 1500 Golden-crowned and 700 Ruby-crowned Kinglets (m.ob.).

Ontario had 2 Northern Wheatears to add to this fall's widespread influx in e. North America. One frequented Lakehead University campus in *Thunder Bay* 6–9 Sep (KWa, m.ob.) and the other was at Nepean, *Ottawa*



An unexpected visitor to a North Bay, Ontario feeder was this female Summer Tanager from 25 (here 30) November into early December 2006. Photograph by Stephen O'Donnell.

19 Oct (m.ob.). *Thunder Cape*, *Thunder Bay* had single Townsend's Solitaires 20 & 28 Oct (JMW, T.C.B.O.); another was at Little Bluff C.A., *Prince Edward* 5 Nov (PJG). A Gray-cheeked Thrush banded at Fish Pt., Pelee I., *Essex* 8 Aug (GG) was extremely early; one at Atikokan 8 Sep (DHE) was a rare fall migrant there. Night flights of Gray-cheeked Thrushes over Kingston peaked at 700 calls per hour 24/25 Sep, with the high count of Swainson's Thrushes 7200 calls per hour 16/17 Sep (RDW); the numbers of birds involved are difficult if not impossible to discern but indicate birds in the hundreds and thousands, respectively. A second-year male Varied Thrush was banded at Old Cut, Long Pt. 26–27 Oct

(SAM), and another male was at Vinemount, *Hamilton* 5 Nov (GL, GH). A Northern Mockingbird was near Shirley's Bay, *Ottawa* 25 Sep–8 Oct (DM, m.ob.), and one was in *Thunder Bay* city 22 Nov (BM). Flying s. off the Tip at Pt. Pelee 7 Nov were 1990 American Pipits (AW, STP, KAM, HTO).

High Park, Toronto had a late Nashville Warbler 22 Nov+ (SMF, m.ob.), and a very late Northern Parula was at Queenston, *Niagara* 16–18 Nov (SAM, YSA, m.ob.). Pt. Pelee held a record 5000 Magnolia Warblers 28 Aug (AW, IE). Rondeau P.P. had 2 Yellow Palm Warblers 15 Oct and one 21 Oct (BAM). Single Yellow-throated Warblers were at Bronte 10 Sep (CEE) and 28 Oct–6 Nov (MWJ, m.ob.), at the Long Pt. Tip 14 Oct (YSA, ZDK), and near Murray Canal, *Northumberland* 26 Nov+ (NQ, m.ob.). Single Prothonotary Warblers at L.P.B.O. 8 & 30 Aug and in the Hendrie Valley, *Hamilton* 28 Aug (TTh) were rare fall migrants, as were single Worm-eating Warblers at Pt. Pelee 25 Aug (RAH, MH) and 2 Sep (R&SM, P&MR).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A female-type Summer Tanager visited a North Bay feeder 25 Nov–3 Dec (ph.VR, m.ob.). An unexpected find at the Hawk Cliff Hawkwatch 14 Sep was a late-nesting pair of Scarlet Tanagers with at least one young still in the nest (DJB). A female-type Western Tanager was n. of Rainy River 15 Aug (K&MB), and a male was at Minnitaki, *Kenora* 17 Aug (CE). A male Spotted Towhee was present late Sep+ at *Kenora*, *Kenora* (ph. CG, m.ob.). Pt. Pelee N.P. held 235 Chipping Sparrows 7 Nov (AW), very late for such a high number. Single Le Conte's Sparrows were at the Old Airfield, Algonquin P.P. 29 Sep (PH) and at the Long Pt. Tip 20–21 Oct (SAM, CAF). Fox, White-throated, and White-crowned Sparrows were all in very high numbers in *Rainy River* mid-Sep–mid-Oct, with up to 20 Fox Sparrows frequenting some feeders (DHE). A first-winter Harris's Sparrow visited a feeder in *Manitouwadge*, *Thunder Bay* 15 Nov (ph. TH). Pt. Pelee N.P. held a record 4200 Dark-eyed Juncos 27 Oct (AW). Single Dickcissels were near Harrietsville, *Middlesex* 21 Sep (DAM, LW) and on L.S.S. 21 Oct (DD).

The 20 Western Meadowlarks n. of Rainy River 14 Aug (K&MB) were a possible indication of a population rebound after several years of decline. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was n. of Port Hope, *Northumberland* 3 Aug (EB), an imm. male was at Little Current S.L., *Manitoulin* 27 Aug (CB), and 3 were at the Tip of Long Pt. 2 Nov (SAM). Abundant food

crops in the n. of the province supported good numbers of most winter finches, though Purple Finches and both crossbills were absent from *Rainy River* (*fide* DHE), while redpolls were missing farther east. In Algonquin P.P., small flocks of White-winged Crossbills were regular throughout the period, with recently fledged young observed twice in Aug, though breeding numbers were likely small (*fide* RGT). Very few winter finches had moved s. by the end of the period.

Corrigenda: A first-winter Laughing Gull reported on 6 & 14-23 Oct at Point Pelee (*North American Birds* 60: 61-65) should have been: a second-winter bird 6 Oct (AW, Kevin A. McLaughlin) and a first-winter bird 14-23 Oct (AW et al.)

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Eastern Highlands & Upper Ohio River Valley



Victor W. Fazio, III | Rick Wiltraut

Cool fall weather in late August offered an early impetus for migration. Heavy rainfall amounts early in the season left much potential shorebird habitat inundated. However, Tropical Storm *Ernesto* accounted for several remarkable shorebirds and terns in Pennsylvania 2-3 September, as well as two species of storm-petrel (see the Special Inter-regional Report, in this issue). Across most groups from shorebirds to songbirds, the first half of the season was fairly typical, lacking

dramatic fallouts. October weather was moderate, offering up mild conditions for stragglers into early November. Strong southerly winds during the last week of October may have influenced some late sightings, including a fallout of swifts. However, winter arrived in earnest by mid-November, perhaps contributing to some astonishing loon and grebe concentrations, and coinciding with a superb fallout of sea ducks on Lake Erie. Rare species were distributed across the Region, with a Swallow-tailed Kite in Ohio, a state-first Black-chinned Hummingbird in West Virginia, and four Yellow Rails, one of them in Pennsylvania.

Abbreviations: B.E.S.P. (Bald Eagle S.P., Centre, PA); B.S.B.O. (Black Swamp B.O.); B.M.L. (Blue Marsh L., Berks, PA); B.C.S.P. (Buck Creek S.P., Clark, OH); C.F.R. (Clear Fork Res., Morrow/Richland, OH); Conneaut (Conneaut Harbor, Ashtabula, OH); Deer Creek (Deer Creek S.P., Fayette/Pickaway, OH); D.R. (Delaware R., Delaware, PA); Green Bottom

(Green Bottom W.A., Cabell, WV); H.M.S. (Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Berks/Schuylkill, PA); Headlands (Headlands S.P., Lake, OH); Hoover (Hoover Res., Franklin/Delaware, OH); J.H.N.W.R. (John Heinz N.W.R., Philadelphia, PA); L.B.L. (Little Blue L., Beaver, PA); L.M. (L. Marburg, Codorus S.P., York, PA); Longbrakes (Longbrake wetlands, Hardin, OH); M.W.W. (Miami-Whitewater Wetlands, Hamilton, OH); O.D.N.R. (Ohio Department of Natural Resources); Metzger (Metzger Marsh W.A., Lucas, OH); O.N.W.R. (Ottawa N.W.R., Ottawa/Lucas, OH); P.N.R. (Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland, PA); P.W.T. (Penn Warner Tract, Bucks, PA); S.R.C.F. (Susquehanna R. at Conejohela Flats, Lancaster, PA); Y.C.S.P. (Yellow Creek S.P., Indiana, PA).

WATERFOWL

Only 3 Greater White-fronted Geese in Ohio supplemented an equally weak Snow Goose flight in the w. led by 12 at Hoover 22 Nov (A. Sewell). An early Snow Goose in Wood, OH 24