



Guillemot

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NEWS AND NOTES: Summer is over in case you did not notice! Snow covers much of the ground in Maine, even along the coast as this is being written. There was a distinct increase in reports sent in as the fall bird migration moved through. Most of our reporters appear to be out of their summer way of life and are settling in to the fall and winter routine. Bird reports are up of course but reports of creatures other than birds dropped precipitously as the weather cooled off. This issue will cover from Sep. 1 to about Nov. 10 but as usual any unusual sightings will be inserted as they arrive.

Three copies were returned since the last issue, one was resolved (a typing mistake by the editor sent it to a house number just one digit off but the post office did not deliver it), another is Virginia Wight of Gouldsboro, ME and Boulder, CO which was returned as "unable to forward", and Dr. Frank Moyer of Coral Gables, FL remains missing. His mail is returned as unknown but only every other issue comes back. One of the reasons that this newsletter is sent via first class mail is that it will follow a person for one year and the next issue after that usually (but not always) comes back with the addressee's new address stamped on it.

The annual Christmas bird counts will take place between now and the next issue. If you wish to participate check with the National Audubon web site to find a count near you.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS AND RENEWALS: If it is time to renew it will say so beside your name on the address label. Dues are for membership in the Sorrento Scientific Society of which the *Guillemot* is the official newsletter. Do not worry about membership obligations as we have not yet held a meeting, incorporated, elected officers, written by-laws or formed any committees. The *Guillemot* is defined as "an amateur, bimonthly newsletter concerning natural history in Maine."

We have two memberships, **Regular** which is \$5 per year and **Sustaining** which is any amount over the regular. It is the latter that allows us to have the newsletter printed and mailed as first class mail. Each issue costs about \$550 to produce and mail. We do not advertise the newsletter except by word-of-mouth, or via gift subscriptions. There have been occasional news articles about us that have also helped. A sample copy will be sent to anyone if you send along their name and address. The mailing list is never given out or used for any other purposes.

Auto stickers with the Society logo are available for \$1.50. New subscribers get one with their first issue. NOTE: we are almost out of the stickers and new ones will be printed by the first of the year. Once we run out new members will have to have a rain check for a couple of weeks.

Please consider giving a subscription/membership to the newsletter as a Christmas gift this year. It would certainly make a different gift. We will include a note that it is a gift from you.

ASTRONOMY: Mercury is far ahead of us and racing around the right-hand side of the sun through Nov. This makes it a morning "star" low in the east about 6 a.m. It will pass behind the sun Dec. 8 and start to reappear as an evening "star" very low in the west the last week of the month. The first ten days of Jan. about 45 minutes after sunset watch Mercury appear just below Venus on the western horizon. It will slowly climb up almost reaching much brighter Venus and based on the changing angle then start to quickly drop away instead of passing.

Venus went behind the sun in Oct. It slowly comes out around the left side and becomes an evening "star" in mid-Dec. It has been a bright object in the east before sunrise for almost a full year. It will appear higher and higher each evening during the winter months and should stand out to most observers after a long absence from view (except for you pre-dawn risers).

On **Earth** we reach winter solstice on Dec. 21 with the upper half of earth tilted back and away from the sun. After this evening the days will start their long, slow increase leading us to next summer.

We are slowly getting ahead of **Mars** which is behind us in orbit. It will appear to hang in the west all through Nov. and Dec. setting about 8 p.m. every night. Later in Jan. it will finally start to drop toward the horizon and soon disappear into the evening twilight.

We are also catching up with **Jupiter** which is far out and ahead of us right now. This will make it the really bright object rising in the east after 11 p.m. in Nov. and 8 p.m. at the end of Dec. It should be very noticeable in the east in the mid to late evening hours for the rest of 2014.

Saturn goes behind the sun in mid-Nov. and as it comes out around the left side it will start to become another morning "star" very low on the eastern horizon about 30 minutes before sunrise on Thanksgiving morning. It will rise a bit earlier each morning appearing at 4:15 a.m. on New Year's Day.

Uranus and **Neptune** are falling behind in orbit. Uranus disappears over the western horizon at 2:20 a.m. on Dec. 1 and just after midnight on Jan. 1. Neptune follows setting in the west at 11 p.m. on Dec. 1 and 9 p.m. on Jan. 1.

Meteors. The Leonids will have passed by the time you get this issue. The next good shower will be the Geminids which will start late in the evening Dec. 13 and run through midnight in to Dec. 14. A last quarter moon will rise about midnight and should not interfere too much. There could be between 50 and 130 per hour, medium slow and quite bright. The night of Jan. 3-4 is the Quadrantid shower, usually one of the three best of the year but a full moon should wash out all but the brightest.

Some dates to look forward to: 11/23 look for a very thin new moon just above the horizon 1 hour after sunset. 12/1 the moon is only 1 degree above Uranus is you want to try to find this distant planet. **NOTE:** At arm's length the width of your little finger is 1 deg., your middle three fingers are 5° wide, your closed fist is 10°, it is 15° between your extended little and index fingers and with your little finger and thumb spread wide it covers 25°. 12/8 is the earliest sunset of the year, 12/13 look for the Geminid meteors. 12/21 is winter Solstice. 12/22 the new moon is to the right of Venus 30 min. after sunset. 12/25 Christmas night look for the moon 5 deg. from Mars. 1/7-14 Venus and Mercury are close together 45 min. after sunset each of these nights. 1/21 the new moon, Venus, and Mercury make a triangle low in the west after sunset with Mars a bit higher at the same time. 1/23 Venus is above the western horizon the same height that Jupiter is above the eastern horizon 45 min. after sunset.

The Rosetta spacecraft successfully landed a remote probe called Philae on the comet Churyumov-Gerasimenko (abbreviated 67P...thank heavens) but the probe did not anchor itself down and bounced in the very weak gravity. It ended up against a steep cliff and one of its two solar panels is in the shade. The exposed panel gets only 90 minutes of sunlight per day and it is expected that its batteries will die quite quickly.

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WEATHER: As far as temperatures were concerned Sep. was mostly lower or unchanged from last year. Oct. was distinctly warmer than last year. Sep. precipitation was far below average while Oct. was above with a couple of storms producing 3 or more inches of rain. The hurricane season passed without any major direct hits in Maine although a couple of storms passed close enough off shore to produce some moderate ocean swells along the coast.

In the following chart we have decided to list last year's temperatures in parenthesis for comparison.

	Augusta	Bangor	Bar Harbor	Caribou	Portland	Kittery	Frenchville
Sep. temp	60 (59)	59 (59)	58 (58)	56 (57)	60 (60)	62 (61)	55 (55)
Oct. temp	52 (51)	52 (50)	52 (49)	48 (46)	55 (51)	54 (52)	45 (45)
Sep. precip	0.59 in.	0.89	0.92	2.50	0.87	1.10	2.90
Oct. precip	4.94 in.	6.85	6.99	5.79	6.57	4.01	5.00

Ocean temperatures were a bit higher in most cases. As above, last year's figures are in parenthesis where available.

	Buoy 007 (12 mi. out of Portland)	Buoy 005 (78 mi. SE of Portland)	Buoy 44034 (16 mi SW of Schoodic Pt.)	Buoy 024 (179 mi. south of Mt. Desert)	Tide station ATGM1 Bar Harbor harbor	Eastport harbor inoperative
9/30/14	59 (59)	61	54 (54)	65	57 (56)	M
10/31/14	53 (51)	55	55 (52)	60	53 (52)	M

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INVERTEBRATES: Cnidaria. Arctic **Jellyfish** (*Cyanea borealis*) most of them over 30 cm wide continued to be seen in Frenchman Bay right until the last week of Oct. Huge mats of **Hydroids**, some of them nearly a meter long were growing under our floating dock when it was pulled from the water in Bar Harbor on 11/4 (WT).

Mollusks. Gastropods. On land **Tawny Garden Slugs** had mostly disappeared by mid Oct. The large **Spotted Garden Slugs** were still being seen at a number of locations right into early Nov. This species came from Europe in the 1880s and can survive Maine winters if they can "hibernate" in unfrozen areas next to cellar walls and in deep leaf litter when the heat of decay keeps the temperature above freezing.

Cephalopods. While fishing for cod a **Short-finned Squid** was caught on 10/31 in 60 ft. of water off Great Head in Acadia NP (WT).

Arthropods. Insects. Far too many were reported to list all of them. With the lack of freezing weather along coastal areas many were still extant as of 11/10. Some last dates noted were 10/15 for **Whirligig Beetles** in Old Town (EG). Butterfly last dates were **Red Admiral** 10/13 on Machias Seal I., **White Admiral** 9/17 Steuben (RH), **Alfalfa** 9/17 Schoodic Pt., **American Copper** also 9/17 at Schoodic, **White Cabbage** 10/30 Bar Harbor, **Clouded Sulfur** 10/5 Old Town, **Great Spangled Fritillary** 9/19 at Steuben, **Inornate Ringlet** 9/17 also at Steuben. **American Painted Lady** was last noted on Machias Seal I. 10/13, **Monarch** 10/20 at Blue Hill (LC), **Question Mark** on Machias Seal 9/27, the same day and location the last **Pink-edged Sulfur** were noted. **Summer Azure** at Steuben as late as 9/20.

Dragonflies were only slightly reported with **Green Darners** and **Twelve-spotted Skimmers** being the only ones to be mentioned in reports.

Two-striped Grasshoppers were at Old Town on 9/27 and **Carolina Locust** were there on 9/28 (EG).

Moths. **Wooly Bear** caterpillars were at Steuben 9/20 and Lamoine 10/3 (DR). A **Larch Tolyte** was photographed at Bar Harbor on 10/21 (CM). Unidentified **moths** were under lights at Bar Harbor on 11/13.

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FISH: Cartilage. On 9/4 a **Blue Shark** was seen feeding on a dead whale on the Outer Schoodic Ridges (28 miles southeast of Schoodic Pt.) (ZK).

Bony. Eighteen **Ocean Sunfish** (*Mola mola*) were sighted over the same Schoodic Ridges on 9/5. The last date for this species was in that area on 9/18. Small schools of **Blue Fin Tuna** were seen off-and-on from the Bar Harbor whale watch boats during the first half of Sep.

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AMPHIBIANS: Caudata. **Red-backed Salamanders** were at Pretty Marsh on 10/4 (CP), Sunset 10/26 (KC), and Bar Harbor 10/31 (WT).

Anura. On 10/20 **Spring Peepers** were calling at Sunset (on Deer Isle) and another was after moths at an ultraviolet moth trap there on 10/30. **Green Pickerel**, and **Wood Frogs** were noted by several until the third week of Oct. All sightings were in coastal areas where there had been no frost.

An **American Toad** was seen at Pretty Marsh on 10/2 (CP).

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REPTILES: All snake reports were in Sep. with **Red-bellied Snakes** at Sunset 9/22 and Old Town on 9/27 (both road-killed) and a **Green Grass Snake** at Sunset on 9/29 (KC, EG).

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MAMMALS: A **Lynx** was seen and photographed on 10/28 just north of Chesuncook L. Other carnivores reported were **Red Fox**, **Coyote**, and **Raccoons**. Most were just noted generally and through Sep. and Oct. **River Otter** were seen at Little Deer Isle (JF).

The Bear hunting referendum is over and depending on which side you were on we are either safe or about to be eaten alive by a sloth of bears.

In the rodent family all three squirrels were noted, **Flying**, **Red**, and **Gray**. **Deer Mice** and **Meadow Voles** were also reported.

Marine mammals made up the bulk of the reports. **Bottlenose Dolphins** were seen 29 miles SSE of Bar Harbor on 9/9; another southern species that is starting to show up in Maine.

Harbor Porpoise were the most commonly reported and on 9/20 there were 100s off Machias Seal Island.

A **Blue Whale**, rare for Maine waters was seen associating with **Fin Whales** 31 miles SW of Bar Harbor on 9/4. The highest number of **Fin Whales** were 10 on 9/15. One was seen on the 10/12 ferry crossing between Portland and Yarmouth, NS.

Fifty individual **Humpback Whales** were identified this summer by the Bar Harbor Whale watch boats (ZK). **Minke Whales** were reported off-and-on all through the summer and early fall.

The last date for a **Right Whale** was one from the 10/12 ferry crossing. On 9/15 there were over 100 **Pilot Whales** seen 30 miles off Schoodic Pt.

On 9/5 a **Sperm Whale** was found 28 miles SE of Bar Harbor. During one dive it remained under for 40 minutes in water that was 900 ft. deep (ZK).

Both **Harbor** and **Northern Gray Seals** were noted all summer. Counts of the latter noted over 150 at Machias Seal Island and 500 at Mt. Desert Rock.

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BIRDS: This section covers late summer and most of the fall migration. There has been a considerable shift in the fall migration dates since we started this newsletter 44 years ago. Most every species had passed by the end of Oct. November warblers were unheard of back then and several duck species listed as "rare" are now common and regular.

Don't forget to check on dates of Christmas counts in your area. We need all the help we can muster.

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS: Thirty species plus a hybrid were noted for this family. **Mute Swans** were seen at Bath 9/17 and Phippsburg 10/12 but were probably the same two birds.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was north at Limestone on 10/6 (BS) and another was seen south at North Yarmouth 11/3-10. On 10/14 a **Pink-footed Goose** was found at Fort Fairfield.

Snow Geese were not too common this fall with 1-2 birds north at Limestone and Houlton and one more southerly at Biddeford.

A **Barnacle Goose** was at the Christina Reservoir in Presque Isle on 10/15 for that day only.

Eight **Brant** at Cape Elizabeth on 10/31 were the first to be reported. **Canada Geese** were almost everywhere but the highest numbers were in the farming areas of Aroostook Count with counts of over 1000 quite common. On 10/16 there was an estimated 50,000 spread across the area (BS). Mixed with all these were a few single **Cackling Geese**.

Wood Ducks were found all across the state through mid Oct. and a few are still being found in unfrozen fresh water as of 11/10. **Green-winged Teal** were common through the last week of Oct. Highest numbers were 50+ at the Addison Marsh on 10/26 (MAA).

Black Ducks, Mallards, and their hybrids were also found almost everywhere right into Nov. Sabattus Lake had the highest number of **Mallards**

with 250+ there on 11/6. **Northern Pintails** were seen at Sabattus and Caribou in Sep. and Mount Desert on 10/18 (RM).

Blue-winged Teal were north at Collins Pond in Caribou 9/30 and at Sabattus 10/9.

Twenty **Shovelers** were at Caribou on 9/30 and a pair were at Deering Oaks in Portland 11/10. Over 50 **Gadwall** were at Lake Josephine in Easton 10/18 and one was a Falmouth on 11/6. The only **American Wigeon** noted were two at Portland on 10/17. A male **Canvasback** was at Sabattus 10/13-17. **Redheads** were more common with from 1 to 6 birds at Presque Isle 10/6, Sabattus until 10/30, Witch Hole in Acadia NP 10/27 (RM), and Freeport (5 birds) on 11/2.

Ring-necked Ducks were found from Easton in the north to Moosehorn NWR in Calais to the east and south to Sabattus in Oct. **Greater Scaup** were seen at Rome and Caribou 9/27,30, and Sabattus 10/17-11/4. **Lesser Scaup** were at Easton 10/18 and through Oct. at Sabattus where they often number over 200 birds.

Common Eiders were all along the coast with numbers increasing throughout the fall.

Harlequin Ducks were first noted at Machias Seal Island 9/27 followed by birds at Cape Elizabeth 10/27 then from the Schoodic Pt. sea watch on 10/30 (SB). On 10/21 the first **Long-tailed Ducks** were seen at Schoodic and on 10/22 one was on Sabattus Pond and they were found commonly thereafter.

Black, White-winged, and **Surf Scoters** started being seen in fair numbers the second week of Sep. All reports came from coastal areas with a few single birds inland at Sabattus and Unity.

Common Goldeneyes started being seen on 11/4 and the first **Barrow's Goldeneye** was on the Stillwater R. in Orono on 11/7 (EG).

Bufflehead were first noted at Sabattus on 10/13 followed by birds at Lamoine 10/14 (LL), Addison 10/17 (MAA) and were common across the state after those dates.

Hooded Mergansers are still being seen as this is written on 11/16. **Common Mergansers** were found at Lamoine, Ft. Fairfield, and Seal Cove (on Mt. Desert I.) (NW) 9/25 to 10/31 with 20-50 birds counted. **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at a number of coastal locations between Schoodic Pt. and Cape Elizabeth. At the Schoodic sea watch site there were 137 that passed by in two hours on 11/5.

Ruddy Ducks, so rare 40 years ago, numbered 750 at Sabattus Pond on 10/19 and were seen at eight other locations.

GROUSE: **Spruce Grouse** were seen at North Ellsworth on 10/3 (SS) and Steuben 10/14 (JM). **Ruffed Grouse** were noted numerous times usually without comment. As usual, too many **Wild Turkey** reports to cite.

LOONS: It was 9/27 before the first **Red-throated Loons** were seen, birds off Popham. Numbers increased after 10/19 all up and down the coast. **Common Loons** have been around all summer and reports came from both fresh and marine waters. On 10/30 there 69 tallied on the Schoodic sea watch.

GREBES: **Pied-billed Grebes** were found on a number of ponds through the third week of Oct. and one was in the harbor at Bar Harbor on 10/13. On 11/3 one was seen on Prouts Pond in Scarborough.

Horned Grebes were off Monhegan I. 9/18 and their numbers increased after that day with a high of 150 in the Mt. Desert Narrows 10/26. Quite a few **Red-necked Grebes** were seen starting on 9/18 but numbers seem to be much lower so far this fall.

TUBENOSES: **Fulmars** were seen on the 9/20 MAS pelagic trip. Several were seen on the Portland-NS ferry 10/12.

Great Shearwaters were off Mt. Desert, Monhegan, and Machias Seal I. with the last dates from the Bar Harbor whale watch boats on 10/13. **Sooty Shearwaters** were noted during the same trips and dates. A **Manx Shearwater** off Mt. Desert Rock 10/13 was the only one noted (RM).

Wilson's Petrels were seen on the various offshore trips and off Machias Seal until 9/30. **Leach's Petrels** were noted at the same time usually numbering just 1 or 2 birds.

GANNETS, CORMORANTS: There were many **Gannets** this summer but most of them remained fairly far offshore. Small numbers did move in close to shore starting in mid Oct. Late Oct. seabird watches at Schoodic Pt. and Cape Elizabeth tallied 25-150 birds on some days.

Small numbers of **Great Cormorants** have been around all summer with an increase in sightings in Oct. Two birds were inland at Sabattus Pond 10/9-13. **Double-crested Cormorants** began moving south the second week of Oct. and vees of over 500 were often seen. On 10/31 several flocks totaling well over 1000 birds were passing out beyond the Cranberry Isles (WT). A few remain along the coast as of 11/16.

HERONS: **American Bitterns** disappeared by early Oct. but two were seen in Portland on 11/10.

Great Blue Herons were quite noticeable as they fed along coastal and inland streams and marshes through the last week of Oct. and a scattered few are still lingering as of 11/7.

The last date for a **Great Egret** was 10/31 at Scarborough Marsh. **Snowy Egrets** dropped out earlier with birds at Weskeag Marsh in S. Thomaston on 10/1 being the last to be noted. Two **Little Blue Herons** at Wiscasset on 10/1 were the only ones reported (RS).

The hybrid Tricolored Heron x Snowy Egret at Scarborough Marsh was last seen on 9/14.

On 10/12 a **Cattle Egret** was found at St. Agatha in Aroostook Co. Another was at Presque Isle 10/24-28. On 10/29 one was associating with cows in China for that day only. One at Moosehorn NWR Edmunds division was in poor condition and soon died.

A **Green Heron** that was a regular at the Essex Marsh in Bangor was last seen on 10/9. The latest date for a **Black-crowned Night Heron** was on at Monhegan I. 9/15. The last **Glossy Ibis** was one at Weskeag Marsh 10/1.

VULTURES: A **Black Vulture** hung around the Damariscotta - Waldoboro area 9/15-21. **Turkey Vultures** were commonly seen through Oct. Fifty-four was the largest group at Sabattus on 10/14. A total of 148 passed the Cadillac Mt. hawk watch as of 10/31.

HAWKS, EAGLES: A mixture of migrating, wintering, and resident birds were noted for this issue. A late **Osprey** passed over Cadillac Mt. on 10/27 (they had a total of 143 during the fall hawk watch) and then a very late bird was seen at Freeport on 11/10.

Bald Eagles were found all across the state and 73 non-resident birds passed Cadillac Mt. *Their hawk watch dates were 8/18 to 10/31 and pretty much limited to morning hours.*

Harriers were well reported right to the end of Oct. and there will undoubtedly be some lingering birds in to Dec. but will depend on snow cover.

Sharp-shinned Hawks were well reported with 762 counted at Cadillac. One was at Owls Head on 11/1 (JW). **Cooper's Hawks** are still being reported at scattered locations as of 11/15. Only a few **Goshawks** were noted with birds at Cape Elizabeth 11/7, New Sweden 11/8, and Skowhegan 11/9 being the latest so far.

Broad-winged Hawks are one of the most common each fall. Most seemed have passed by as of mid Oct. with 646 counted at Cadillac. A juvenile bird was seen at Phippsburg on 11/8.

Red-tailed Hawks were seen all fall with most sightings in Oct. Much less common were **Rough-legged Hawks** with single birds seen at North Ellsworth, Calais, and S. Thomaston between 10/26 and 11/9. On 10/10 a **Golden Eagles** was seen at Rangeley.

Most **Kestrels** were gone by the end of Sep. but there were a few early Oct. sightings. Cadillac Mt. reported a total of 481. **Merlin** were regularly seen in Oct. One was seen at sea on 9/9 and on 10/21 two were seen from the Schoodic Pt. sea watch site.

A statement that would be incredible 40 years ago: "there were too many **Peregrine Falcon** reports to cite for this issue"! On 9/26 there were 12+ on Monhegan I. and on 9/27 another 12 on Machias Seal Island. On 11/6 the Schoodic sea watch people watched as a **Peregrine** exchanged a live **Woodcock** back and forth three times in the air with another **Peregrine** (SB).

RAILS, COOTS: The only **Sora** and **Virginia Rail** reports came from Monhegan I. 9/24 and 10/6 respectively. **American Coot** were more obvious with birds at Sabattus Pond, Caribou, York, Skowhegan, Rockland (40 birds), Scarborough, and Acadia NP, this latter a single bird on 11/10 (RM).

CRANES: A number of **Sandhill Cranes** were found this fall. Three at Raymond, 3 at Pittsfield, 9 at Fryeburg, and on 11/7 an amazing 27 at Norridgewock.

SHOREBIRDS: As usual this is the most extensively reported family. Most expected species were well represented through Aug. into early Sep. and this issue will cover some of the last reported sightings toward the end of autumn.

Black-bellied Plover lingered until at least 11/2 at Brunswick. A few **Golden Plover** were around in Aug. with a bird at Biddeford Pool on 10/17. On 9/26 there were 250 **Semipalmated Plover** at Harrington but number dropped rapidly. Two were north at Easton on 10/18 and birds at Pine Pt. in Scarborough on 10/28 seem to be the last.

Single **Killdeer** were still being reported the last day of Oct. at several locations. An apparent family group of four **American Oystercatchers** were at Biddeford Pool on 10/26 while both **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were being found from Steuben to Wells the first week of Nov.

Single **Hudsonian Godwits** were at Spurwink Marsh 11/3 and Sebasticook Lake in Newport 11/6. **Ruddy Turnstones** were east at Schoodic Pt. 9/18 and 33 at Saco on 10/26 was the last "flock". All **Red Knot** sightings came from the south at Biddeford Pool and Saco 10/17-26.

Sanderlings are still around as of 11/10. Some last dates: **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at Wells 11/10, **White-rumped Sandpiper** at Scarborough 10/31, **Baird's** at Popham 10/12, **Pectoral** (good numbers this fall) at Harpswell 10/26. A **Western Sandpiper** was at Roque I. back on 10/2 (GH).

A single **Purple Sandpiper** arrived on Machias Seal I. 9/27 which is very early. The next were seen at Hills Beach in Saco on 10/26. **Dunlin** are still around in small numbers but there were flocks of over 100 birds the last week of Oct.

In Nov. there were five **Wilson's Snipe** at Brunswick on the 5th (CJ) and one was at Sipayik in the Indian Nation the 9th (MAA).

On 10/12 **Red Phalaropes** were seen on the Belfast Bay bird census and from the Portland ferry.

GULLS, TERNS, JAEGERS: Unusually high numbers of **Laughing Gulls** lingered into early Nov. this fall. On 11/9 there were still 35 (down from 148 on 10/13) at the Seawall section of Acadia NP the same day that one was at the Sanford Sewer ponds. **Bonaparte's Gull** numbers were low this fall but a few were scattered up and down the coast until the last week of Oct.

Ring-billed, Herring, and Great Black-backed Gulls were literally almost everywhere.

From one to eight **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were seen at Monhegan, Popham, Lubec, and Ft. Fairfield. The first **Glaucous Gulls** were found inland at Caribou and Ft. Fairfield on 11/9. **Iceland Gulls** were also at those locales but had shown up earlier at Schoodic Pt. 10/1 (NF) and Scarborough 10/24. **Kittiwakes** were seen from Schoodic Pt. (earliest on 9/18), Machias Seal I., on various whale watch trips and Quoddy Head SP.

Five **Caspian Terns** were at Schoodic Pt. on 9/18 (SB) and four also there on 9/21 (MAA). The last **Common Tern** was a bird off Eagle I. on 9/29.

Pomarine Jaegers were was noted off shore on 10/13. A single **Parasitic Jaeger** 10/12 from the Portland ferry was the latest to be noticed. **Great Skua** were seen off Mt. Desert Rock 9/19 and on the Maine Audubon trip 9/21. Between 7/19 and 9/19 there were seven **South Polar Skua** seen from the Bar Harbor whale watch boats and one was seen during the Maine Audubon Pelagic trip 9/21.

CUCKOOS: Single **Yellow-billed** were at Monhegan I. 9/27 and Cape Elizabeth 10/13.

OWLS: Will it be another winter of **Snowy Owls**? More have been found already than are usual for some entire winters. We already have sighting of birds at Metinic I. on 10/20, Frenchville 10/30, Cadillac Mt. 11/9, Augusta 11/10, and Union 11/11.

Great Horned Owls were at Roque Bluffs 10/12 (CM) and Ft. Fairfield 10/21. A female **Barred Owl** was heard giving its "solicitation call" at North Berwick on 10/26. A **Saw-whet** in Harrington on 10/10 was the only one noted.

GOATSUCKERS: The tail-end of the migration of **Nighthawks** were birds at Popham Beach and Kittery Pt. both on 9/23.

HUMMINGBIRDS: The last of our **Ruby-throats** were at Falmouth and Blue Hill on 10/16 (LC) and Rockland 10/24.

KINGFISHERS: Still a few around open streams and tidal marshes as of 11/15.

WOODPECKERS: A **Red-headed** was on Monhegan I. 9/18. There were too many **Red-bellied** to list with 29 sightings from 25 locations and many are still present as of 11/15. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were found only until 10/14. **Downy, Hairy, and Pileated** are resident. Outside of the north woods area there was a **Black-backed Woodpecker** seen at Frankfort 9/17. Single **Flickers** were being seen at a number of places until 11/10 but the rapidly freezing ground will drive them south (or kill some) very soon.

FLYCATCHERS: Some last dates: **Olive-sided** at Monhegan I. 9/17, **Eastern Wood Pewee** also there on 9/28, **Least Flycatcher** on Machias Seal I. 10/13, **Eastern Phoebe** at S. Waldoboro (RS) and Portland 10/19, **Great Crested Flycatcher** on Bailey I. 10/11, **Eastern Kingbird** on Machias Seal 10/6.

SHRIKES: The first **Northern Shrike** was one at Ft. Fairfield 10/21.

VIREOS: Single **White-eyed Vireos** were at Cape Elizabeth 10/6, Kittery 10/14, Gorham 10/15 and Portland 10/25. **Blue-headed** were seen until 10/19 while the last **Yellow-throated** was one at Sanford back on 9/27. The last **Warbling Vireo** was reported from Monhegan on 9/28 and the latest report of a **Philadelphia** was one at Frazier Pt. in Acadia NP on 10/19. Most **Red-eyed** were gone by 9/30 but one was at Bar Harbor 10/24 and another at Portland as late as 11/10.

CORVIDS: Nothing notable in this group this fall. A **Gray Jay** was on Roque I. 10/2 (GH), **Crows** were beginning to gather in some roosting flocks of over 100 birds in early Oct. **Blue Jays** and **Ravens** were mentioned on casually.

LARKS: **Horned Larks** were here-and-there through mid Oct. but after that some numbers started showing up. Twenty-five were at the summit of Sargent Mt. in Acadia NP on 10/19 (RM), 150 at Gray 1030.

SWALLOWS: On 9/27 a gathering of 35 **Tree Swallows** at Cape Elizabeth were the last to be seen.

TITS: Migrating groups of **Black-capped Chickadees** were crossing from Cousins I. to Yarmouth with a high count of 62 on 10/12.

Tufted Titmice were scattered from Bar Harbor to Yarmouth in both Sep. and Oct.

NUTHATCHES: **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were just generally mentioned in reports. Some were hawking insects at Harrington on 9/27. Several of these little fellows stopped to rest on Machias Seal I. several times in Oct.

White-breasted were also mentioned by many reporters. It was commented that numbers seemed to be higher than usual north at Aroostook County.

CREEPERS: **Brown Creepers** were also just mentioned as part of observers daily bird lists. A pair were singing at Harrington back on 9/5 (MAA).

WRENS: There were no Aug. reports of **Carolina Wrens** but on 10/7 one was in W. Farmington, another was at Capisic Pond in Portland 10/28, another at Blue Hill 11/9 (LC) and one is at the editors feeder in Bar Harbor as this is written.

A 10/6 **House Wren** out on Monhegan was the latest date noted. **Winter Wrens** were on Machias Seal I. 10/6, 13. One was at Otter Pt. in Acadia NP on 11/1 (WT).

On 11/9 a **Sedge Wren** was found at Sipayik while **Marsh Wrens** were at Popham Beach 9/17 and Monhegan 10/6.

KINGLETS: **Golden-crowned** were crossing from Cousins I. in mid Oct. with a high of 31 on 10/12. **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were crossing at the same time with 421 counted on the same day. Others were listed at ticks on trip lists all through Oct. and several were at Falmouth on 11/6.

GNATCATCHERS: A couple were found east of Casco Bay this fall with one at the Essex Marsh in Bangor on 10/24 and another on Gorham Mt. in Acadia NP 10/30.

THRUSHES: A **Northern Wheatear** was seen at Rangeley and was associating with robins on 9/29. **Eastern Bluebirds** were widespread through Sep. and Oct. from Portland to Fryeburg and east to Machias Seal I.

A **Townsend's Solitaire** was at Hermit I. in Phippsburg 10/25 (CJ *et al*) but was not found on 10/27. **Swainson's Thrush** had left the area by 9/30 but a single bird was found in Portland on 11/1. **Hermit Thrush** were being seen through the end of Oct. with one as Orono on 11/9 (BO). Some will probably remain until the bird counts in Dec.

A wave of 100s of **Robins** went through the state on 10/19-20 and there was another wave passing through 11/13-15.

MIMICS: There were quite a few **Gray Catbirds** that lingered through the fall. Toward the very end there were birds at Frazier Pt. in Acadia NP on 10/27, Cape Elizabeth 10/29, Kennebunk 10/30, and one at Crescent Beach SP on 11/7. **Mockingbirds** were seen at Monhegan, the U of M campus at Orono, and Cape Elizabeth. **Brown Thrashers** moved out quickly and the last sighting was one at Wells on 10/20.

PIPITS: There were good numbers of **American Pipits** through Oct. some flocks of considerable size. There were 50 at Bowdoinham on 10/14, over 60 at the Christina Reservoir at Ft. Fairfield 10/29 and 75+ at Gray 10/30.

WAXWINGS: Our winter residents from the west, **Bohemian Waxwings**, started arriving a bit early this fall when eight were seen in Bangor on 9/24. These were followed by small flocks at Lamoine SP 10/20, Schoodic Pt. 10/21, and north at Van Buren on 10/30.

Cedar Waxwings were making the Cousins I. crossing on 9/19 when 515 were counted. One came aboard a whale watch boat off Mt. Desert I. the same day.

WARBLERS: The two month period covered in this issue included virtually all of the warbler migration period. With the good weather at the end of Oct. and into Nov. we had many lingerers. We will cover the last dates up to the time this is being composed.

A **Blue-winged Warbler** at Searsmont on 10/12 was the only one reported. **Tennessee Warblers** were seen at Georgetown 10/28 and Falmouth 11/6.

The number of **Orange-crowned Warblers** were at an all-time high this fall. There were 18 birds seen between 10/12 (Unity) to 11/10 (Cape

Elizabeth). Most were coastal ranging from Schoodic in the east to Kittery in the south.

Nashville were at Saco on 11/10. A **Parula** was at Cape Elizabeth 11/10. A **Yellow Warbler** was seen 30 miles at sea south of Mt. Desert I. on 9/27.

A **Cape May** was seen on Monhegan 9/28. **Yellow-rumped** are still around in very small numbers. On 10/20 461 were counted on the Cousins I. crossing. The last **Black-throated Blue** were on Mt. Desert I. one at Bar Harbor 10/26 and another at the Wonderland section of Acadia NP on 11/9. The last **Black-throated Green** was one far downeast at Perry 10/4.

Pine Warblers were last at Milbridge in Washington County on 10/7 while the final date for a **Prairie Warbler** was one at York on 11/10. Thirty-six **Palm Warblers** were making the Cousins I. crossing on 10/6 and four were out on Machias Seal I. on 10/13.

The only **Cerulean Warbler** of the fall was a bird found on Monhegan I. 9/18.

Late lingering **Black and White Warblers** were Cape Elizabeth 10/24 and another at Old Town on 11/1 (*fide* EG). **Blackpoll Warblers** were at Quoddy Head SP on 10/23, Cape Elizabeth 11/7 and Saco 11/10. Fifty-two made the Cousins I. crossing on 10/12.

After a **Redstart** was on Machias Seal I. 9/30 none were seen until one showed up at Saco on 11/10. The only **Protonotary Warbler** was one at Cousins I. on 9/13.

Ovenbirds were at Cape Elizabeth on 9/27 and several stopped at Machias Seal I. 9/30. **Northern Waterthrush** were also on Machias Seal that day but another was seen on Bailey I. 10/11 and a final one at the Essex Woods in Bangor 10/24.

A **Connecticut Warbler** was caught and banded at West Falmouth 9/23 and one was on Monhegan I. 9/28. **Common Yellowthroats** had a migratory "drop-out" onto Machias Seal I. 9/30 when dozens appeared overnight. The last bird so far was one at Cape Elizabeth 11/7.

Yellow-breasted Chats were at West Falmouth 9/24, Monhegan I. 9/26, and Richmond 10/2.

Last year we had a number of warbler species that lingered into Dec. and the Christmas count period. With the early snow cover this fall it remains to be seen if any last until Dec. this year.

TANAGERS: **Scarlet Tanagers** slipped away relatively unseen this fall. Three were at Cousins I. 9/19, one was on Monhegan I. 9/24, and another at Lamoine SP 10/15.

SPARROWS: This family is always one of the more widely reported during the late summer - fall period with this year being no exception.

Eastern Towhees were not quite as common as usual. A couple were noted back in Aug. with the last date found in any reports was a bird at Scarboro on 11/2.

The first **Tree Sparrows** of the winter showed up at Cousins I. on 10/25. The next day one was at Cape Elizabeth. Several small flocks were found around Frenchville in Aroostook County on 10/30 (BS). There was a wave of **Chipping Sparrows** that moved through 10/13-19 with many reporters noting "swarms" of them along roadsides across the state. **Clay-colored Sparrows** were more common this fall with birds at Monhegan, Bernard, Biddeford Pool, Metinic I., Cape Elizabeth, and Wells, the latter spot on 11/10.

A **Vesper Sparrow** on Monhegan I. 10/14 was the only one found in reports. Two **Lark Sparrows** were out on Monhegan I. 9/18 and one was still there on 10/14. One was on Machias Seal I. 10/13 and as this is written 11/17 there is one in Southwest Harbor on Mt. Desert I.

There were over 100 **Savannah Sparrows** on Machias Seal I. on 10/6 and they were a common sight at many locations right through the end of Oct. Numbers have dropped but they are still being seen as of 11/10. The *Ipswich* form were seen at the Nubble and Little Moose I. off Schoodic Pt.

The only **Grasshopper Sparrows** were island birds at Monhegan and Machias Seal, both on 10/6.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were at Tremont, Portland, and Wells through 10/25 and several were at Sipayik 11/9. A relatively rare **Seaside Sparrow** was out on Monhegan 10/6.

Fox Sparrows first appeared up north at Presque Isle 10/6, then at Caribou 10/12. The first week Nov. found dozens spread across the state.

Song Sparrows are still around as of 11/10. On 10/19 there were 565 counted along the Eastern Promenade in Portland. **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at Yarmouth 9/18, Searsmont 9/30, Bailey I. 10/26 and Portland 11/10. There were 46 **Swamp Sparrows** counted at Portland on the "sparrow day" 10/19.

Oct. 19 was the day of several overlapping waves of migratory sparrows. There were 2150 **White-throated Sparrows** counted along the Portland promenade that day. Many are still at feeders across the state as of 11/16. Arrivals of **White-crowned Sparrows** were noted in Caribou on 9/18, Rangeley and Augusta on 9/24.

Dark-eyed Juncos began increasing in numbers the third week of Sep. On 10/22 several thousand were estimated to be along roadsides between Farmington and Rangeley.

Lapland Longspurs were seen at Scarboro Marsh 10/6 and at Biddeford Pool 10/26.

The first **Snow Buntings** were south at Kennebunkport on 9/28. The next were at Rangeley on 10/12, Pittsfield 10/23 then on 10/27-28 they arrived in numbers with sightings from Lubec to Ellsworth to Chesuncook Lake.

CARDINALIDAE: Cardinals were wide spread with birds noted from most of the state. A pair with immatures were at Sullivan on 9/16 a fairly late date.

The only autumn **Blue Grosbeak** was a bird on Monhegan I. 9/28.

Indigo Buntings were at Monhegan 10/14, Biddeford Pool 10/26, Bar Harbor 10/29, and Cape Elizabeth 10/7.

Monhegan was also the location of a **Dickcissel** that hung around 9/26-10/14. Another was at a feeder in Winterport 11/3 and another at Cape Elizabeth 11/7.

BLACKBIRDS: Bobolinks moved out early and were gone by the first week of Oct. A single late bird was at Cape Elizabeth 10/24.

Red-winged Blackbirds moved through in Oct. and a few are still scattered about as of 11/10.

A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was on Monhegan I. 9/24-28, another at Machias Seal I. 10/9 and a bright male was at Bar Harbor 10/14-15 and was seen and photographed by many. A few **Rusty Blackbirds** were around with sightings at Machias Seal 10/13, Montville 10/14, seven at the Cousins I. crossing 10/19 and Blue Hill 11/9 (LC).

There were many **Grackles** around in Oct. An estimated 1000 were at Yarmouth on 10/17, 200 at Pownal 10/23, and over 300 at Topsham 10/30. **Cowbirds** were much less common however with 12 in Wells on 10/14 being the most noted.

Baltimore Orioles were seen during the entire reporting period. Twenty on Monhegan was the highest concentration on 9/18. Some were still being seen around the state as of 11/9.

FINCHES: A **Pine Grosbeak** at Frenchville on 11/9 was the first to be reported...so far. **Purple Finches** started arriving at feeders during the second week of Oct. and had to compete with resident **House Finches** already there.

Red Crossbills were seen on Penobscot Mt. in Acadia NP on 10/19. **White-winged Crossbills** were seen on Cadillac Mt. 10/31 and Portland 11/10.

A pair of **Common Redpolls** at Newcastle on 10/21 were early. Were they a forerunner of more to come remains to be seen.

Pine Siskins started being seen mixed with American Goldfinches at feeders the second week of Sep. There was a wave that moved through on 10/12-14 with many arrivals noted on that date and large numbers accumulating on the offshore island, Machias Seal and Monhegan. Eighty-seven made the crossing from Cousins I. the morning of 10/12.

Goldfinches were around all fall but there was a notable increase across the state the night of 10/10-11.

Evening Grosbeaks were at Nashville Plantation 10/27, Bowdoinham and Brooklin 10/30. The first week of Nov. found birds at Liberty and Montville.

REPORTERS: Anyone may send in reports for the newsletter. Please understand that not all reports are cited individually but all of them are necessary for interpreting and understanding the natural history covered in each issue. Everyone is busy and the editor appreciates the time spent writing and sending the reports. Initials of reporters are not used all of the time due to space limitations and some have asked that their initials not be used. The following people made this issue possible: MAA Merle & Anne Archie, SB Seth Benz, TB Tom Bjorkman, LC Leslie Clapp, KC Ken Crowell, JF Jean Flanders, NF Norm Famous, EG Ed Grew, MG Mike Good, GH George Herrick, FH Fred Hartman, LH Lois Hatch, RH Richard Hildreth, SH Susie Highland, CJ Carol Jack, AK Alice Kelley, CK Craig Kesselheim, KK Kate Kleber, ZK Zack Klyver, JL Jerry Longcore, LL Lawrence Libby, AM Ann McCann, CM Carol Muth, DM Dot McMahan, JM John Manter, PM Peg Myers, RM Rich MacDonald, WWM Wendy & Winston Moody, SN Susan Nergaard, BO Brian Olsen, CP Charlie Pugh, TM Tammie Packie, DR Dartha Reid, BS Bill Sheehan, RS Rick Skoglund, SS Shirley Smith, WT Bill Townsend, CW Chuck Whitney, JW Jeanie Wilson. ANP Acadia National Park, MAS Maine Audubon Society, NWR National Wildlife Refuge, Plt Plantation, SP State Park, TWP Township. *fide* means on the word of, second-hand, unconfirmed.

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The next reporting period is November – December 2014. Reports are due by **January 10, 2015**. **MAIL** reports to 12 Spring St., Bar Harbor, ME 04609, **PHONE** them to 207-288-5654, or **eMAIL** them to wtownsend@roadrunner.com

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