

REGION 3--LAKE ONTARIO

The fall migration to date--mid-October--appears to be proceeding rapidly with most species reaching peaks of abundance considerably earlier than in the preceding year or two. This early and rapid movement has more or less characterized the migration of all species and seems to be the most outstanding trait of this year's southward movement. This can be clearly seen in the brief summary of reports for this area given below.

1. Loons and Grebes:

No migration to date except for first report of Horned Grebe in early October. A Common Loon apparently spent the summer on Canadice Lake in the hills south of Rochester.

2. Cormorants:

A few scattered reports of Double-crested Cormorant in September and early October.

3. Herons:

Last dates for all species except Great Blue are in first or second week of October. Am. Egrets have been fairly common, no other southern species noted.

4. Swans and Geese:

No Swans to date; except for a few at Oak Orchard in late September, first flights of Geese were not noted until mid-October. Good numbers reported late October with some Brant.

5. Ducks:

Fair flight of early species; Teal, Baldpate, Pintail, etc., appeared to have reached a peak by early October. One very early Gadwall in early September stayed for a couple weeks and one Old Squaw noted on August 30. Diving Ducks almost unreported to date except for Lesser Scaup. About 60 of these appeared on usual lakeshore raft on October 7. By October 14, this raft had grown to over 500.

6. Hawks and Owls:

No unusual reports. A few wandering Eagles and Osprey along lake shore, small numbers of Broadwings; Cooper's and Sharp-shinned, and one early Duck Hawk in August. These birds have seemed comparably scarce this summer and fall. No migrant Owls reported.

7. Grouse and Pheasant:

Ruffed Grouse reported breeding at Ling Rd.--most unusual. Pheasants appear on upgrade after several good summers and light winters.

8. Rails, Gallinules and Coots:

Coots appearing in some numbers. Gallinules still present. Rails reported commonly in September.

9. Shorebirds:

Good flight but unusually early. Golden and Black-bellied Plover reached peak in early September. Hudsonian Godwit August 17-19; Marbled Godwit, August 19 and October 7. Northern Phalarope--one stayed for two weeks in late September. Good numbers of almost all species including Knots, White-rumped, and Red-backed. Very good early flight of Stilt Sandpiper, Dowitchers, Yellowlegs and common "peeps" also Hudsonian Curlew. One Buff-breasted Sandpiper in late August. All had disappeared by mid-October except for Red-backed Sandpipers, and a few Killdeer, Semi-palmated Plover, and "peeps."

10. Jaegers:

One Parasitic Jaeger reported off lakeshore first week in October--rare in this area. Two were seen October 15 on G.O.S. hike. One wounded bird picked up Oct. 22, died 3 days later. Now in Rochester Museum.

11. Gulls:

Flocks of Herrings and Ring-bills had greatly increased by early October. Bonaparte's still present but becoming less common. One Black-backed in late September; two in mid-October. No White-winged Gulls to date.

12. Terns:

Caspian scarce this summer. Last Black Tern reported in late September; last Common Tern in early October.

13. Perching birds and allies:

The migration of smaller species seemed at least normal with regard to numbers. Late August found good-sized groups of warblers passing through. The first Juncos appeared in late September, along with White Th. and White-crowned Sparrows, Kinglets, Creepers and other similar species. On October 14th, Robins, Bluebirds, Blackbirds, Sparrows, Myrtle Warblers and a few Catbirds, Hermit Thrushes and Phoebes were noted among migrating groups. Migration appeared well advanced by this comparatively early date and normal winter species present in some numbers.--

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