

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: A late Nighthawk was noted at Buffalo Oct 14 (Andrle). 200 Horned Larks were observed by Axtells on Oct 13 moving westward along the south shore of Lake Ontario near Point Breeze, an excellent migration route for a number of water and land birds. At Jamestown on Sept 1, Beal reported a great roost of 15,000 Purple Martins and several other species, which was reduced to 1000 Martins on Sept 15. Blue Jays seem to be more numerous than usual in the region this fall. A Catbird on Nov 17 at Ellery Center (Mealy, Robinson, Randell) is a late occurrence. Several Mockingbirds were still present at Westfield on Oct 4 (Mrs. Bentley), after a successful breeding cycle there.

Vireos — Warblers: A Solitary Vireo on Nov 5 at Lewiston (Klabundes) is considerably later than normal. Warblers began to arrive as usual in late August but apparently their migration through September was fairly regular with no unusual waves reported. They remained fairly late into October, six species being recorded on the 13th and several later in the month. Mrs. Smith reported a Brewster's Warbler at Gainesville on Oct 10 and 11, an important record of a hybrid which nests in our region but has been little noted in migration.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: 1000 Rusty Blackbirds at Jamestown on Sept 27 (Beal) is an exceptional number for that date. Evening Grosbeaks first were noted near Vandalia on Oct 1 (Eaton) and numerous scattered flocks were reported throughout the period after that date. Redpolls, Pine Grosbeaks, White-winged Crossbills and Snow Buntings appeared in late October and early November and were seen in many localities. Outstanding was the report of a Harris' Sparrow at a feeder in Jamestown through November (Brolins, Mealy, Parker, Beal). Three exceptionally late White-crowned Sparrows were observed, one at Hamburg Nov 23 and 24 (Avery) and two at Buffalo Nov 27-30 (Fisk). A fine record was the immature Dickcissel at Mrs. Avery's feeder at Hamburg on Nov 23 and 24. Eight Lapland Longspurs near Point Breeze on the south shore of Lake Ontario (Axtells) was the only report of this species during the period.

193 Woodward Ave., Buffalo

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

The first month of this period continued the very dry weather which had persisted since about the tenth of July. Mid-September brought general moderate rains which lessened but did not break the drought. October was dry, so dry in fact that there was talk of again closing the woods. November brought more than the normal amount of snow, but even so there is a deficiency of well over five inches in precipitation since early July. This has resulted in low water levels which made for good shore birding but reduced the areas available for the dabbling ducks. Temperatures were close to average throughout the period except for a hot spell about the middle of September and a very cool spell the last part of the same month.

The greatest difference birdwise from last year has been in the relative number of winter finches present. Last year there were exactly *none*, while this year all six species have been reported. There was a very heavy migration of Red-breasted Nuthatches and the fall migration of warblers was much better than a year ago.

Loons — Ducks: The loon flight this fall seemed about normal with the maximum count of Common Loons being 50 on Oct 20 along the west lakeshore (Haller, Listman). A Holboell's Grebe was seen Oct 5 at Webster Park (Kemnitzer) and a high count of 14 was made there Nov 30. The high count of Horned Grebes was 150 birds along the west lakeshore Oct 5 (Kemnitzer). The number of Double-crested Cormorants seemed somewhat less than usual. Three of these birds were seen migrating over Durand-Eastman Park Oct 26 and one bird was seen the same day at Manitou (Listman). A rather late Green Heron was seen at Braddock Bay Oct 5. There were **no** reports of any of the southern herons including the American Egret

in our area this year. The Whistling Swan which has been spending most of the summer at Braddock Bay was seen again on both Sept 29 and Oct 5. There was a good flight of Brant along the lakeshore with 2500 being reported Oct 19 at Hamlin Park (Kemnitzer) and 1000 at Manitou Oct 25 (Listman). A single late straggler was at Braddock on Nov 30. There were no reports of Gadwalls this fall and most of the other puddle ducks seemed down in numbers. A flock of 15 Wood Ducks were seen Sept 15 at Mendon Ponds (Whites).

A flock of 100 Canvasbacks was seen Nov 3 off Durand (Tanghe, Mitchell). The flock of Scaup usually present in the same area had built up to an estimated 2500 birds on Nov 11. This flock moves into the Genesee River later in the season and is composed mostly of Greater Scaup, although some other species such as Baldpates, Redheads, Ring-necks and Buffleheads are found in it. An estimated 3000 Old Squaws were seen Nov 30 well off the Irondequoit Bay outlet (Kemnitzer). An immature Harlequin Duck was seen Nov 9 at Webster Park by Kemnitzer but was not observed subsequently. No Eiders have been reported for the period. There was a good Scoter flight this fall, with the peak numbers being 1000 White-winged, 10 Surf and five American off Lighthouse Beach Oct 19 (Listman). One Surf Scoter was seen east of Summerville Nov 23. Hooded Mergansers seemed rather common.

Hawks — Owls: No Goshawks were reported this fall. An immature Red-shouldered Hawk was seen Oct 15 in Genesee Valley Park (Schmanke) and an adult Broad-winged Hawk was seen Sept 29 over Durand (Miller). Both of these species are seldom reported in the fall here, although the former is fairly common and the latter very common during the spring hawk flights. The Red-tailed Hawk has seemed less common than usual this fall, while the opposite is true of the Rough-legged Hawk; six or more of the latter birds were seen on many trips west of Rochester during November. An immature Bald Eagle which had been frequenting the parkway west of Rochester was shot and seriously wounded by a hunter. The bird is now in the Seneca Park Zoo, probably crippled for life. A migrating Peregrine Falcon was seen over Shore Acres on Oct 12.

A single Piping Plover was seen Sept 16-17 at Manitou (Listman) and the same or another bird was again present Sept 23 in the same place. The first Golden Plover was seen Aug 25 at Shore Acres and a fair number were present there until well into October. A very late straggler was seen at Salmon Creek on Nov 30 (Listman et. al.) The Black-bellied Plover occurred in fairly good numbers all fall both at Braddock and Shore Acres and two birds were still present at Braddock Nov 23. Up to 15 Knots were observed in one day along the west lakeshore during September. Fairly good numbers of both White-rumped and Baird's Sandpipers were present from late August to mid-October, 10 of the latter being recorded Sept 1 along the west lakeshore by Listman. An apparently partly crippled Lesser Yellowlegs was seen Nov 30 at Salmon Creek. 500 Red-backed Sandpipers were seen Nov 5 along the west lakeshore (Listman). Dowitchers and Stilt Sandpipers were also more common than usual. A Long-billed Dowitcher was carefully identified by appearance and call notes in direct comparison with Eastern Dowitchers on Sept 1 at Manitou (Miller, Rising). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was seen at Braddock Sept 1 (Listman) and two more birds of this species were seen Sept 5 along the parkway by the same observer. This is our first record in four years of this species. A Hudsonian Godwit appeared at Salmon Creek Oct 26 (Listman). This bird shortly moved to the mud flats at Long Pond where it remained until Nov 4, being seen by several observers. This is also our first record in four years. A Northern Phalarope was seen at Shore Acres Sept 1 (Miller, Rising) and another bird of the same species was observed at Charlotte Pier Nov 19 (Schmanke).

The Parasitic Jaeger was recorded eight times this fall at Manitou (Listman): the extreme dates being Sept 14 and Nov 24, a single bird being seen on each occasion. The first fall report of the Glaucous Gull was of one bird at Summerville Nov 29 (Listman). One of the most noteworthy records here in a long time was that of an adult **Black-headed Gull**, first seen under favorable conditions on the east spit of Braddock Bay Sept 25 by Listman. This bird was again seen under excellent conditions Oct 5 in the same place and another observation was Oct 20 at Webster Park (both Kemnitzer). We are indeed fortunate to have had two such experienced observers record this bird independently and each time under very favorable conditions. (The writer missed the bird — cuss the luck!) A Franklin's Gull was seen Sept 1 at Braddock Bay (Listman) and another was seen Aug 26 at Irondequoit Bay (Kemnitzer). A Little Gull was seen at Charlotte Oct 12 (Starling, O'Hara,

Miller) and another was seen at Braddock by Listman Oct 31, and again at the Irondequoit Bay outlet Nov 23 by Kemnitzer. Forster's Terns have been more numerous here this fall than in most years, four being seen on Braddock Bay Sept 16 (Listman). 500 Common Terns were present the same day on Braddock (Listman). A Snowy Owl was seen Nov 27 at Braddock (Listman) and was again seen Nov 29-30. A Long-eared Owl was seen near the Rochester airport Oct 27 by Listman.

Swifts — Shrikes: A flock of about 20 Chimney Swifts was seen at Durand Sept 29 (Miller). An Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker was seen at Durand Nov 7 (L. Moon) and has been seen two or three times since, but up to now at least the wide-spread invasion of last fall has not been repeated. As last fall, this bird is feeding almost entirely in recently killed elms. Another interesting sidelight on this elm disease is the change in the relative numbers of the Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers. Before this disease became widespread the Downy was much the commoner of the two birds in the city during the winter. Now the reverse is true, there apparently being some factor involved which makes the dead elms more attractive to the Hairy.

Three Eastern Kingbirds along the lakeshore Sept 29 constitute a rather late date for these birds. A very late Rough-winged Swallow was reported at Shore Acres Oct 20 (Listman). Four Tufted Titmice were seen Nov 30 at Durand, and this species seems to be slowly establishing itself in our area, especially along the east lakeshore. The first fall Red-breasted Nuthatch was reported at Manitou Aug 17 (Listman) and for a while in early September the bird fairly swarmed through this area in contrast to its relative scarcity a year ago. By the end of the period the numbers had been reduced to the usual wintering individuals present in the coniferous growths. Reports of Carolina Wrens have increased this fall, and single birds have been reported from several new localities. The Mockingbird nested at Webster this year and the three young birds raised were present for some time in the general area (Kemnitzer). A single bird was seen Nov 28 at Sea Breeze (Miller).

A very late Wood Thrush was carefully observed at Mendon Oct 27 (Whites) and a still later Ruby-crowned Kinglet was at Manitou Nov 24 (Listman). Two Bohemian Waxwings were seen Nov 17 at Durand (Starling) and three birds were recorded in the same place the next day (Listman). At least one bird was still present Nov 28 (Miller). There has been a good flight of Northern Shrikes again this fall, three or four being recorded in one day west of Rochester.

Vireos — Sparrows: The Philadelphia Vireo which strangely was not recorded during the whole spring migration finally was recorded Sept 7 near Manitou when two birds were seen by Listman. The fall warbler flight was much better than a year ago, when it was very poor. On some days this fall warblers were abundant but most of the time these days did not come on weekends. An Orange-crowned Warbler was reported Oct 5 in Irondequoit (Miller). About 15 Myrtle Warblers were still present in Durand Nov 28 (Miller). A very late Ovenbird was seen Oct 26 in Durand (Miller). A dead Yellow-breasted Chat was found Nov 11 in Fairport (Zeitler).

The Western Meadowlark was last seen and heard at Manitou Sept 7 (Listman). The first Evening Grosbeaks reported this year were a flock of about eight birds seen Oct 13 at Durand (Miller). Scattered reports have come in since that time, the largest flock reported consisting of 28 birds on Nov. 16 at Webster (Kemnitzer). Pine Grosbeaks first appeared in late October and were well distributed by the end of the period; 100 being present on Nov 11 in Durand alone (Haller, Listman). Four Redpolls were reported Oct 20 and flocks of about 50 birds were seen Nov 10 and 16 in Durand. Smaller groups have been observed during the last month in scattered localities. Pine Siskins were first reported Sept 14 (Listman) and were fairly well distributed in small numbers for about a month. They became very scarce toward the end of the period. A single Red Crossbill was seen at Durand Nov 18 by Listman and one White-winged Crossbill was seen in the same place on Nov 5 and 11 by the same observer. The rather poor cone crop makes the stay of these two species uncertain.

Our only record this year of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow was of one bird seen at Manitou Sept 23 (Starling, Miller). Three very late Field Sparrows were seen in Durand Nov 18 (Listman). The Lapland Longspur first appeared Oct 12 when eight birds were seen at Shore Acres (Listman). Good numbers were seen for about a month with the maximum count being 55 birds Oct 26 at Webster (Kemnitzer). They

had decreased very sharply by the end of the period. Snow Buntings also first appeared Oct 12 when three birds were seen around Braddock. They were present in rather small numbers for the rest of the period, no large flocks being reported.

61 Richland Street, Rochester 9

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

Although November brought some rain and snow, in general the Region shows the effects of the long drought. Many small ponds have been dried up, and mud flats exposed in other places, yet in the Keuka area, for example, shore-bird populations did not seem to increase any.

Everyone has remarked to me that natural food is extremely scarce. "What are the birds going to do later in the winter, when they are already eating 'emergency foods' such as barberry?" is the frequently-asked question. Even sumac is scarce. Weed seeds are abundant, but will soon be covered or gone.

The most striking feature of the season has been the early arrival, in numbers, of Evening and Pine Grosbeaks. Other winter finches are slow in showing up. Rough-legged Hawks are having their second big season locally, in succession.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loons have been scarce, or perhaps just slow in showing up. Keuka Lake has more Horned Grebes than usual this fall (Guthrie), and they are in good numbers on Cayuga. An immature Double-crested Cormorant spent two weeks in October in the Branchport Basin (C. Spiker). Great Blue Herons were in usual numbers at Montezuma Refuge, and 11 were seen flying over Elmira on Oct 16 (K. Fudge). The final early fall count of American Egrets at Montezuma showed approximately 100, somewhat below last year's number. One appeared at Stewart Park and on the south shore of Cayuga Lake on Nov 7 and stayed for almost a week. It had a broken upper mandible. Four Black-crowned Night Herons remained in Elmira on Oct 19 (Harvey), and one Sept 16. Numbers of Green Herons were seen at the Brick Pond (K. Fudge). American Bitterns and Green Herons were in better than usual numbers at Montezuma Refuge (J. Morse).

Canada Geese passed through the area somewhat early and in lower numbers. The last ones left Montezuma on Dec 4, where the count had been much lower this year than in the past (see below). American Brant continue to increase in this area in the fall migration. Flocks of up to 200 were reported passing over Ithaca, with smaller groups stopping briefly on the lake. Three were killed at the north end of Cayuga on Oct 23 (Walker). Five appeared at Lakeside Park at the south end of Seneca on Oct 30 (H. Mitchell, L. Helfer). One individual has joined the tame Mallards at Stewart Park, Ithaca, again this year. Six Blue Geese, which kept to themselves (3 ad., 3 imm.) were at Montezuma from Oct 2 into December.

Baldpates and Canvasbacks were in fair numbers at the north end of Cayuga in November (Walker). Six Blue-winged Teal appeared on the Rhodes Pond at Elmira on Sept 15 (M. Welles) and five Green-winged Teal at the Horseheads Dump on Oct 9 (K. Fudge). Four Ring-necked Ducks were on the Chemung River on Oct 27 (K. Fudge). A female King Eider was shot on Oct 24 on the north end of Cayuga, taken to Montezuma, and then turned over to the Cornell collection. Few Scoters of any species have been reported this fall.

John Morse, Assistant Manager of Montezuma Refuge, has been making careful counts of the waterfowl there this fall, and his report seems worthy of lengthy quotation or excerpting.

From a count of 11 geese and 3810 ducks on Aug 17, the numbers increased