

erately good season, but where were the Pine Grosbeaks? At least light Red-breasted Nuthatch movements were noted in some regions. Several Bohemian Waxwings were seen in Region 2, and a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was noted in Region 4.

Honors for rarity of the period would possibly go to the Bell's Vireo banded on Long Island. The few previous sight records of this bird in the state have all been from that area. The Western Kingbird was reported from Region 2 as well as Long Island. An Eared Grebe was observed in Region 1.

REGION I—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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The latter half of August continued warm, and the month ended with its average temperature about 6°F above normal. Precipitation was also distinctly above average but fell mostly in scattered thunderstorms which left some areas still parched from the dry summer. For reasons probably other than the weather some southward bound land bird migrants arrived earlier than usual. September weather was unusual; it was the warmest in thirty-eight years and the driest September ever recorded until 2.25 inches of rain, remnants of Hurricane Gracie, fell on the last day. It was the sunniest summer on record at Buffalo. The water level of Lake Erie remained quite low. Even though good shore and mud flat conditions were present in many areas, the shorebird flight was near normal. October brought the first disturbances of the period as local windstorms occurred on the eleventh and eighteenth. It was still a rather warm month with the temperature reaching the freezing point on only one day. Rainfall was excessive during the month, the total being 2.44 inches above normal. Vegetation reflected the general rains as leaves and grass turned greener in many sections which were affected by the summer drought. Noteworthy during October were the excellent flight of Canada Geese and the widespread occurrence of Red and Northern Phalaropes in this month and September. Several species of land birds stayed to later in October than usual. In contrast to the mild month of a year ago November was the first month since March with the average temperature below normal. A minimum of 13°F on the seveneenth and eighteenth broke long standing record lows. Several moderate snowfalls in the latter half of the month left the ground covered, particularly in parts of the Allegheny Plateau. November was an outstanding month ornithologically. The number of gulls along the Niagara River was spectacular for the third successive year. But this time the species ratio was different as will be seen later. Also the occurrence of rare species among them caused considerable excitement among local observers. The migration of small land birds was fair to occasionally good, but individual species numbers appeared to be at a fairly low level.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loons and Horned Grebes were not reported in the region until October. Brockner reported one of the former on the Niagara River off Grand Island Oct 11, and a Horned Grebe was observed on Attica Reservoir in Wyoming County Oct 10 (Rosche et al). The first Red-necked Grebe was reported from Lake Ontario near Point Breeze on Oct 18 (Ulrichs), and one was seen on Lake Erie at Athol Springs Nov 3 and Nov 12 (Bourne). An Eared Grebe was noted by many observers on the Niagara River opposite Bird Island Nov 26 (Rosche, Brownstein, et al). A freshly dead Pied-billed Grebe was found in the gorge at Niagara Falls on Nov 29 (Brownstein). One Common Egret remained from Sep 6 to 26 at Burnship Creek on Grand Island (Clark, Brownstein, et al). Three were also at Oak Orchard Swamp on Oct 7 (Brockner). One of the outstanding records of the year was a Snowy Egret, well seen from Goat Island at Niagara Falls on Sep 14 (Littles). A maximum of ten Black-crowned Night Herons was noted in October at Delaware Park in Buffalo (Brockner). The last Green Herons (12) were reported on the bird count Oct 18. No bitterns of either species were recorded from the region through the period. Whistling Swans were comparatively few as usual, the only records being nine on Oct 8 off Derby on Lake Erie (Larkin) and one Oct 8 and 15 on Lake Akron in Wyoming County (Rosche, Krayna, Rubach).

Spectacular describes the Canada Goose flight which began on Oct 1; many flocks, some numbering in the hundreds, were noted during the month. On Oct 18 flocks totaling 304 Blue Geese and 76 Snow Geese were seen to the west of the region in Ontario, but only one Snow Goose was noted that day in the region. This was at Lake Ontario, just east of the Niagara River mouth (Klabundes). On Oct 22 an immature Blue Goose was at Beaver Island on the south end of Grand Island (Woldman). The only Brant reported for the period were five on Oct 30 near Shadigee on Lake Ontario (Rue rep. Andrie). Good numbers of surface-feeding ducks moved through the region in October, especially Pintail, American Widgeon, and Green-winged Teal. Three Gadwall were observed on Oct 18 in the Oak Orchard Swamp area (Ulrichs). Canvasbacks were generally low in numbers, perhaps reflecting their very poor breeding season in 1959. Other diving ducks, particularly Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, all three species of scoters, and Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, were seen in very good numbers toward the latter part of the period. Of interest were the 130 White-winged Scoters reported by Bourne on Lake Erie in the Bay View-Athol Springs area Oct 12. The first King Eider to appear was recorded on Nov 22 opposite Grand Island on the west branch of the Niagara River (Axtells). After this date several more eiders, both adults and immatures, were observed at various points on the river.

Hawks—Owls: No unusual hawk flights were observed during the period. The first Rough-legged Hawk was noted on Oct 18 in northeastern Cattaraugus County, an unusual locality (Bourne et al). Nine were seen on Nov 8 along Lake Ontario between Fort Niagara and Point Breeze (Axtells). Bald Eagles were not reported. The last Osprey of the season was at Delaware Park Lake Oct 25 (Brockner, Thill). On Aug 27 a Turkey nest and 12 eggs were found in Humphrey Township in Cattaraugus County (Charles rep. Eaton). Two Common Gallinules, the last of the season, were reported from Java on Oct 24 (Rosche). American Coots were considerably below average in number in October.

It is interesting to observe that American Golden Plovers were absent from the plowed fields in which they are usually found on Grand Island in September and October. Yet they appeared in above normal abundance in Ontario along the north shore of Lake Erie. The first migrant of this species was reported on the mud flats at Delaware Park Lake in Buffalo Sep 13 (Brockner). Fourteen were seen near Basom in Genesee County Sep 27 (Drobits, Webb). They are seldom found far inland in our region. As many as 11 Ruddy Turnstones were on a gravel jetty off Bird Island in the Niagara River in late October. Three were last seen there Oct 31 (Nathan et al). Noteworthy was a Whimbrel reported from Cowlesville in Wyoming County on Sep 3 (Rosche, Krayna). The last Spotted Sandpiper to be seen was on Squaw Island, Buffalo, on Oct 17 (Andrie). A Solitary Sandpiper, very few of which have been seen this fall in the region, was reported by Brockner in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, on Oct 3 and 4. An interesting observation was the Purple Sandpiper which remained at Hamburg Park on Lake Erie Nov 20 to 22 (Bourne et al). This bird was so tame that the writer obtained some excellent photographs from about six feet distance. The last Pectoral Sandpipers (2) were reported from Java Lake Oct 24 (Rosche, Krayna). A White-rumped Sandpiper was at Hamburg Park on Oct 3 (Bourne). Bourne also saw 91 Sanderlings, an unusually large number for this shore, at the same place on Oct 8. The last migrant to be seen was at this park on Nov 26, a somewhat late date (Axtells et al). The phalarope flight was remarkable in the region this fall. Two Northern Phalaropes were on Langford Pond in southern Erie County Sep 20 and 21 (Rochester rep. Bourne); two others were on Chautauqua Lake Sep 21 (Raistrick rep. Beal), and one was in the gorge at Niagara Falls Nov 1 and 5 (Brownstein, Axtells). Several more of this species had been in this latter locality during the latter half of October. A Red Phalarope was in Delaware Park, Buffalo, from Oct 9 to 16 (Clark et al); one was on Langford Pond Oct 15 (Bourne), and another Red Phalarope was at Bay View on Lake Erie Oct 19 (Bourne). In addition several others were with Northerns in the gorge below Niagara Falls in mid-October. Other phalarope reports came from adjacent Ontario. An immature Parasitic Jaeger, apparently in poor condition, was seen by Bourne at Bay View Oct 15. Some of these birds which appear casually on Lake Erie seem to be in a weakened state, and several have been found dead.

The first Glaucous Gull was noted by Brownstein and King on Nov 24 at Niagara Falls, and the first Iceland Gull (*glaucoides*) was on the Niagara River at Buffalo Nov 26 (Woldman et al). Ring-billed Gulls remained through November in above

average numbers, and Herring Gulls had increased considerably as usual by the end of the month. But the highlight of the fall in this regard was the unprecedented concentration of Bonaparte's Gulls on the Niagara River between the Peace Bridge at Buffalo and the south end of Grand Island, several miles downstream. They began to increase markedly about the first week in November, and by the eleventh there were at least 10,000 in an impressive close-packed flock in the bay at the north end of Bird Island. Their chief food seemed to be the Emerald Shiner, a small fish which appears to have become very abundant at present in the river. By the latter part of the month a conservative estimate placed the numbers of Bonaparte's at 30,000 with the major concentration shifting downstream about a mile or so from Bird Island to the foot of Austin Street; below this many floated in large rafts downstream mostly nearer the Canadian shore of the river to the vicinity of the southern tip of Grand Island. From Nov 10 to 17 one to two immature Franklin's Gulls were noted at Bird Island and on the Niagara River below the Peace Bridge. On Nov 28 an immature Laughing Gull was reported on the river opposite Squaw Island (Brownstein, Schaffner, Clark). An adult Black-headed Gull was well observed by the Axtells on the Niagara River Nov 22 about opposite the foot of Austin Street, Buffalo. This bird was seen by many observers in the same vicinity and slightly farther downstream through the end of the period. The first Little Gull was seen Sep 14 on Lake Erie off Angola (Bourne). Thereafter none was seen until Bourne again reported one off Hamburg Town Park on Lake Erie Nov 6. From then on this species was a conspicuous sight among the great flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls on the Niagara River below the Peace Bridge and also opposite Lewiston on the lower river. Among them were at least two in first winter plumage, a very rare sight in the region. An estimate for numbers of Little Gulls in the region on the Niagara River in November would be about seven with very possibly one or two more present. Another outstanding record was an immature Sabine's Gull in approximately the same locality as the Black-headed Gull and on the same day — Nov 22 (Nathan et al). This bird was well seen by many observers to the end of the period. Two immature Black-legged Kittiwakes appeared on the river opposite Squaw Island on Nov 24 (Andrle, Byron, Brownstein, King), were seen again on the next day, and one was noted by several observers to the end of the period. The first Forster's Terns, two individuals, remained at the foot of Austin Street from Oct 17 to 23 (Andrle et al). Common Terns remained late, the last being two immatures on Nov 29 in the Niagara River opposite Squaw Island (Brownstein, Rosche, Andrle). Also a solitary Black Tern was in the same vicinity to Nov 13 (Schaffner, Rosche et al). A late Yellow-billed Cuckoo was recorded at Hamburg Oct 21 (Bourne). Short-eared Owls, usually found in November, were not present in their usual haunts in the region.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Eleven Common Nighthawks on Oct 8 at Hamburg were the last noted in the region. On the same day the last Chimney Swift was seen at the Peace Bridge (Clark, Miller). In spite of the warm September and October, flycatchers such as the Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, and the Wood Pewee seemed to leave at normal times or even sooner than usual. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was observed on Sep 8 thru 10 in Delaware Park, Buffalo (Clark, Miller). Another was seen Sep 3 near Java in Wyoming County (Rosche, Krayne). Two Horned Larks (*alpestris*) were noted Nov 22 near Java Lake (Rosche et al), and five were reported on Grand Island Nov 30 (Greene). On Aug 26 there were an estimated 1,000 Barn Swallows and 35,000 Purple Martins in the roost at Jamestown (Beal). Blue Jays appeared to be less numerous than usual in the region. Red-breasted Nuthatches also continued to be somewhat scarce. Carolina Wrens were reported from several localities and seemed to be regaining their numbers. A Mockingbird was observed on three occasions in Kenmore just north of Buffalo between Nov 10 and 27 (Dietrich). A very late record of a Catbird was one seen on Bird Island Nov 29 (Mitchell). Brown Thrashers were more common than usual in the fall migration in the region. There were an estimated 5000 Robins in the roost at Jamestown Aug 26 (Beal). Fairly good numbers of Swainson's Thrushes occurred in September and individuals were noted to mid-October. A late migrant Ruby-crowned Kinglet was reported at Springville Nov 27 (True). The first Northern Shrike was seen Oct 31 at Athal Springs (Scont).

Vireos — Warblers: Several species of warblers arrived early. The first migrant Black-and-White Warblers (3) were seen in Delaware Park, Buffalo, on Aug 22 (Schaffner, Clark). Parula Warblers appeared in better numbers than for the past several years. Three Magnolia Warblers in Delaware Park on Aug 17

(Schaffner) were the first migrants of this species. The only Connecticut Warbler of the season was reported by Bourne Sep 19 near Chestnut Ridge Park. Several species of warblers remained into mid-October (Nashville, Cape May, Blackpoll) and were last reported on the Bird Count Oct 18. An Orange-crowned Warbler, uncommon in the region, was reported from Hamburg Oct 2 (Bourne) and another from near Java Oct 10 (Rosche et al). Three Magnolia Warblers were at Gainesville Oct 19 (Smith). A late Northern Waterthrush was observed by Eaton near Vandalia Oct 18, and the last Ovenbird was noted Oct 3 by him in the same locality. A Palm Warbler was at Bird Island on the remarkably late dates of Nov 13 (Brownstein et al) and Nov 27 (Mitchell, Andrie). A Yellowthroat was still at Burntship Creek on Grand Island Oct 25 (Clark).

B'ackbirds — Sparrows: A late record for Bobolink was two seen by Rosche and Blowers near Varysburg Sep 26. On Aug 26 there were an estimated 25,000 Red-winged Blackbirds at the Jamestown roost (Beal). The last Baltimore Oriole to be recorded was seen Sep 11 at Athol Springs (Csont). Four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks Aug 16 in Delaware Park were the first migrants reported (Brockner). Evening Grosbeaks (5) were first seen Nov 1 near Java (Wendlings). Thereafter from one to 30 were reported in many places in the region. Common Redpolls appeared in the first week of November and were noted in widespread localities after that. Approximately 250 were seen Nov 8 between Fort Niagara and Point Breeze along Lake Ontario (Axtells). Pine Siskins were recorded in small groups or singly from various places. A very early date for Red Crossbill was Sep 23 and 24 when one appeared at a feeder in Springville (Trues). One was again seen at the same feeder Oct 25 and 29 and also Nov 6 and 7. Eleven Red Crossbills were at Youngstown Cemetery Nov 8 (Axtells, Andries). Coggeshall reported a Grasshopper Sparrow Sep 12 and one Sep 14 near Elma. A very late? Henslow's Sparrow was well seen near Lake Akron in Wyoming County Oct 17 (Rosche, Krayna). Bourne observed a Sharp-tailed Sparrow at the pond near Langford in southern Erie County on Oct 2. This is the first record for the region in many years. Slate-colored Juncos were unusually numerous in October, over 10,000 being reported on the Oct 18 Bird Count. Four Field Sparrows seen Nov 25 at Wilson (Brownstein, King) was an interesting record. A White-crowned Sparrow was reported from Jamestown Nov 8 (Beal) and another Nov 29 at Hamburg (Averys). Several White-throated Sparrows were also seen late in November at various localities. A Fox Sparrow was at Hamburg Nov 30 (Averys). The first Snow Buntings (10) appeared Oct 28 at Hamburg-on-the-Lake (Csont, Bourne). On Nov 8 some 4500 were seen in a number of flocks between Fort Niagara and Point Breeze (Axtells). On Nov 22 at Java Lake in Wyoming County 1000 were recorded by Rosche and other observers.

Corrigendum: The published account (*Kingbird*, Vol. 8, No. 4, page 114) of a Grasshopper Sparrow at Elma on Oct 1, 1958, should read Henslow's Sparrow.

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

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Temperatures continued sharply above normal during the last half of August and the first ten days of September, with the year's high of 98 being recorded on Sept. 9. The next ten days produced temperatures much below average with a minimum of 32 on Sept. 17. Close to overage temperatures then prevailed until the middle of November. A cold wave which set in then produced a record low of 14 on the 18th. Rainfall was very light during the first six weeks of the period, but the "tail end" of a tropical hurricane produced heavy rain from Sept. 30 through October 2, and this brought a sharp temporary rise in the water level. October and most of November were drier than usual, with little snow during the latter month until the period of the 27th-29th when most of the month's eleven and a half inches fell.

The period birdwise was marked by a very good Canada Goose and Brant flight, a scarcity of Redheads, Canvasbacks, and Ruddy Ducks, and a good fall shorebird migration. The rarest birds recorded were the Marbled Godwit on Oct. 4 and 11 and the Western Kingbird on Sept. 6.